

#### JANUARY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 8 Taft's Brewpourium 4831 Spring Grove Avenue 6:00 p.m. | Pizza & Presentation 7:00 p.m. | Council Meeting (adjourn by 9:00 PM)

# **INVITATION TO COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

You are invited to SGV's next Community Council meeting featuring:







#### RON MILLER, SOUTHWEST OHIO AIR QUALITY AGENCY

The Cincinnati Enquirer recently reported on air quality concerns in Winton Terrace and complaints of foul odors and asthma from residents. Ron Miller, Director of Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency, will speak to us about what's going on and answer questions. Read the article: https://tinyurl.com/wtairquality

Air quality complaint? Call 513-946-7777 or go to http://www.southwestohioair.org/

#### JEFF PASTOR, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

Jeff is newly elected to City Council and Chairs the Neighborhoods Committee, which focuses on community councils, neighborhood corridors, business districts, and enhancement as well as public services. Come out and welcome Jeff and bring a few good questions.

Contact Jeff: 513-352-5243 or https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/pastor/

#### JOHN HEBENSTRIET, LOCAL SCULPTOR

Come early (6:00 PM) for pizza and to meet our local sculpture artist, John Hebenstriet! We'll learn about his newest work, Ezzard Charles. His final sculpturing work will be done on-site at Taft's over the next few months with public placement downtown in the fall.

Learn more: www.ezzardcharles.org



#### LOCATION: TAFT'S BREWPOURIUM

Growing more popular every day, this new neighborhood business is very supportive of our community. Taft's Brewpourium will host our January Community Council meeting. If you've never visited (or even if you have), come and check it out! Learn more: http://taftsalehouse.com/brewpourium/

Each monthly Community Council meeting is a great opportunity to learn about what's happening around the city and the neighborhood. From reports by police and fire officials to presentations from guest speakers to community conversations, you will have a chance to hear input and ask questions. More importantly, it's a great place to meet new people and catch up with those you already know. Your presence and participation make this a stronger, friendlier community.

### SAVE THE DATE • UPCOMING EVENTS

### **REPORT FROM COMMUNITY COUNCIL: DECEMBER**

BY SARAH MAGUIRE, COMMUNITY COUNCIL SECRETARY

The festive lights adorning AJ Rahn Greenhouses welcomed us to December's meeting! We are grateful the entirety of District 5. to the Rahn family for hosting us in their lovely space. Many AJ Rahn neighbors attended this meeting for the important discussion of traffic safety concerns on Gray Road. Several residents shared their first-hand stories and Bryan Williams (Department of Transportation and Engineering) was in attendance to listen to residents and suggest possible solutions. Bryan agreed that some changes are needed now, including more speed limit signage. He encourages anyone who witnesses accidents to report them (513-591-6000) and to send photos/descriptions of problem areas to him: bryan.williams@cincinnatioh.gov. This information will help determine future projects and funding. Gary encouraged concerned residents to get involved with SGV's Transportation Safety Committee.

District 5 Captain Doug Wiseman listened to the stories about Gray Road and shared that other communities are reporting increased speeding and accidents as well. He believes some of this is in response to decreased violent crime and changing driving behaviors. Capt. Wiseman wants to ensure SGV residents that officers with laser devices are out and giving out tickets but they can't be everywhere,



especially since there are only two laser devices for the entirety of District 5.

Michelle Dillingham (Community Shares) spoke about the tax abatement agreement between the City and Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) that expires in 2019. This agreement, implemented in 1999, allows tax exemption for new business development in exchange for an annual payment of \$5 million to CPS. Michelle and the group she works with, Cincinnati Educational Justice Coalition (CEJC), wants this agreement updated. Since 1999 there has been increased development and many more abatements, leading to lost funds needed to improve the CPS education system. The CEJC is taking these issues to City Council and encourages SGV residents to reach out to council members and the CPS Board as well. Peter Huttinger shared about the many agricultural businesses in our neighborhood and some history about the role of growing and farming in SGV, including how it has changed over the years. Joe Rahn shared the history of the greenhouses that once filled the northern part of SGV, their different specializations, and how they worked together to get produce to grocery stores. Joe and Peter both remarked on the economic viability of running successful small farms and that the industry constantly changes. Peter believes there has been a recent surge of interest in small, local farms because of concerns about food security, health, and ethical means of production. Melisa Jenkins would like to form a Sustainability and Environment Committee that can advocate to the city and make sure they are a part of our neighborhood's future. Please contact Melisa if you'd like to join the committee (m.jenkins1105@gmail.com, 859-466-1105).

## **MEET SGV'S WEBMASTER: JILL GIBBONEY**

#### BY GLORIA O'BRIEN, FEATURE WRITER

I would like to introduce you to our amazing behind the scenes webmaster: Jill Gibboney! Exactly what does the SVG webmaster do? Jill maintains and provides content for our community website, https://www.mysgv.org/, as well as the SGV Facebook page. That is not all Jill is about: she and her family, husband Michael and son Graham, have been residents of the community since 2009. They have a home on Station Avenue. Working at the University of Cincinnati in Marketing and Promotions, Jill also attends classes and will be receiving her BA in Communications shortly. What better person to keep us informed and to promote the benefits we enjoy as residents of this diverse and friendly community!



Jill with son, Graham, and husband, Mike

Jill represents the next generation of contributors to this neighborhood. We are so fortunate to have so many people to contribute their time and effort to make SGV a community that is thriving and growing. These people work, have families and many are in school yet they give of their time! They represent what is valuable in SGV and the direction we will continue to grow. **Interesting fact:** Jill is licensed to perform wedding ceremonies!