

[View this email in your browser](#)

September newsletter only sent via email



## INVITATION TO (VIRTUAL) COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Join us for a virtual community gathering to connect and engage!

Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 pm

Virtual SGV Community Council Meeting

**[Zoom \(https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88501549784\)](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88501549784)**

Meeting ID: 885 0154 9784

OR call in (no video): 312-626-6799

Questions/comments/suggestions/feedback?

Contact 513-542-1750 or [springgrovevillage@gmail.com](mailto:springgrovevillage@gmail.com).

If you need help with using Zoom, just let us know.

## Hello Gary,

It looks like COVID-19 is still around...! We hope everyone is staying safe, especially teachers, parents, and children preparing to go back to school. **We will host another online meeting on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00pm.** Last month it was a great chance to talk with neighbors about goings on in the neighborhood. At this month's meeting, we will have a guest speaker from City Hall join us to discuss the 2020 census. We will also have a guest speaker from the Health Department to discuss COVID-19 locally, food security programs, and other programs the department is implementing across the city. Join us!

Also, we are not producing a paper newsletter for September. We hope to return to our regular newsletter soon.

**No winners to announce yet from last month's Street Name Jumble.** Wondering if it was too difficult? The offer still stands for free gift cards to the first 5 winners.

We hope to see you all again soon. Stay safe.

Spring Grove Village Community Council  
513-702-7029

---

## **Report from Community Council Meeting: AUGUST**

**by Liz Virgo, Community Council Secretary**

Four community members gathered virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, August 12 for our monthly Community Council meeting. We discussed what kind of guest speakers we would like to have at future meetings. Ideas included a dog warden, the health department, and the Board of Elections.

Clifton Area Neighborhood School (CANS) is remaining completely closed until at least September 15 in response to local COVID-19 case numbers. Northside Preparatory Academy (formally Winton Preparatory Academy) begins classes on Wednesday, September 2.

Samantha McLean, the Cincinnati City Planner that helped us develop our SGV 2.0 neighborhood plan, is back to work and is planning on picking our plan back up where we started when we are ready.

We are not presently having police officers at our meetings. We will provide the police report ourselves based off of the CPD website.

---

## **New Director of WPYC**

by Sue Hagedorn, WPYC Board President

Winton Place Youth Center has a new Executive Director. **We are proud to introduce Ms. Allison Todd—an energetic, imaginative and generous young woman.** Allison came to the Youth Center as a Work Study student from the University of Cincinnati, where she has been studying Pre-Law. After a time, she joined the board and last summer she pitched in to manage the summer program. Subsequently, she has taken on the job of Executive Director and has been working relentlessly to get the building in order and design a

program for elementary school children who will be working virtually, at least to begin this school year.

Allison has two children of her own. She is an avid hiker and rock climber. She likes to play basketball and design obstacle courses with the children. Whatever she does, she gives it all she has got.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
**Election Day is Tuesday, November 3**

[REGISTER TO VOTE](#)  
(or update your registration)

[SUBMIT APPLICATION TO  
VOTE-BY-MAIL](#)

[EARLY VOTING OPENS OCTOBER 6!](#)

---

### **Banning Plastic Bags—Food For Thought**

by Jerry Carrico, Chair of Environment & Development

As the Cincinnati City Council is about to ban single use plastic bags (Kroger bags, etc.)

and require customers to bring reusable tote bags, many are celebrating an environmental victory. After all, we are all tired of “ghost bags” floating around the neighborhood and getting caught on everything or going into a landfill where they will remain for thousands of years without decomposing. Replacing them with sturdy cloth bags (preferably organic cotton) seems like the eco-friendly solution.

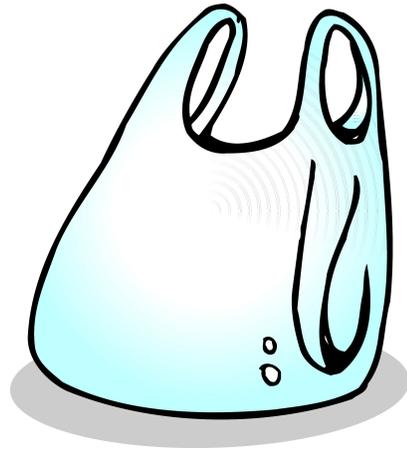
Before we pop the champagne, there is a downside. According to [Discover Magazine May 2020 issue article “It’s Not That Easy Being Green,”](#) the Denmark EPA conducted an extensive study in 2018 on the

environmental impact of producing single use plastic bags versus the alternatives. Discover does a very good job of researching and citing its sources. Denmark is considered the gold standard among nations in environmental circles with its geothermal heating and electric vehicles, etc. I would trust their EPA more than our own (especially now). According to their study, in order to equal the environmental impact of producing a single use plastic bag you would have to use a paper bag 35 times and a reusable plastic tote bag 84 times. For a cotton tote bag it was 7,100 times and organic cotton goes up to 20,000 times. So if you used your organic cotton bag twice a week it would equal out in 192 years. Kind of hard to believe, isn’t it?

The reason is because cotton is far more resource-hungry. It requires lots of water (which is often pumped from the water table or diverted from rivers which serve wildlife and other needs as well) and, due to soil depletion, it requires lots of fertilizer (which can cause toxic algae, etc.) This is why most cotton is now grown in second and third world nations. There is also the pest problem of bollworms. We call them boll weevils here. Conventional cotton has been bioengineered to resist the pest which increases the yield between 60% and 100%. However, organic cotton cannot use the GMO variety or the pesticides, so it requires a lot more acreage and consequently more water. All of this information needs to be taken into account when determining how this ordinance will affect the environment long-term.

Now, I am not saying that I oppose the ban but we should know the facts as we proceed. Polyethylene products like plastic bags are produced from ethane which was an unusable waste product of hydraulic fracturing until science learned how to turn it into ethylene. According to the [2020 summer edition of Audubon Magazine](#), the stuff has now become so abundant that it is becoming cheaper to produce polyethylene from the raw material than to recycle it. So we may need to approach this problem from the demand side of the equation in order to reduce the amount going into the environment. In short, we may need to do it anyway.

People always want simple solutions to complex problems. The trouble with that approach is that simple solutions usually fix one problem while creating a different one. I have said many times over the years, “Most problems are the result of a solution.” The truth is that there are advantages and disadvantages to both sides. I simply want us to approach this issue with our eyes and minds open, not shut.



---

## **80 Acres Farm Is Hiring!**

by Gary Robbins

Ever wanted to work on a farm? Like to get your hands dirty? Here's your chance! **80 Acres Farms, one of our many local business neighbors (located at Chickering and Este Avenue), is hiring for a Packer and Modern Farmer.**



See the [80 Acres website job listings](#) and how to apply. If you are interested, contact Liz Warren-Novick (513-604-2757).

---

### **SGV 2.0 Update**

by Gary Robbins



# SGV 2.0

THE **SPRING GROVE VILLAGE**  
NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

Our active neighborhood planning work was cut off by COVID-19 back in

February. Samantha McLean, from the City Planning department, was furloughed until recently. We are hoping to continue some of our work even though it will all have to be done remotely. **We have an online Zoom meeting planned for Wednesday, September 2 for the Steering Committee (this includes anyone who wants to learn more or just be updated on what's going on).** If you have an interest in participating as we start back up, please let us know or join the Zoom meeting.



### **Join the VDC & Help Our Neighborhood Thrive!**

by Sarah Maguire, VDC Vice President

**The Village Development Corporation (VDC) and our community need you!** We are looking for some passionate new board members to join the VDC and help determine the future of our neighborhood. As our community development corporation, the VDC is focused on ensuring affordable and accessible housing for all residents, developing local business, and responding to community needs. If you are interested in these aspects of our neighborhood, we'd love to hear from you.

You don't need to have any particular skills or experience to serve on the board but interest in construction, housing/real estate, community engagement, business development/entrepreneurism, volunteerism, and/or city and state law are always appreciated. We know it's a crazy moment in history right now but it has also been a chance for many of us to rethink our priorities and determine how we want to invest our time. We'd love for you to be a part of Spring Grove Village's development and ensure that our community has everything its residents need to be happy and healthy. **Please contact us to let us know your interest and to set up a time to learn more:**

[villagedevelopmentcorp1@gmail.com](mailto:villagedevelopmentcorp1@gmail.com).

---

### **New Online Council Legislative System**

by Gary Robbins

Have you ever wanted to follow a project making its way through Cincinnati City Council from beginning to end? If so, the process just got a lot easier. **Beginning with projects on July 1, 2020, a NEW city website will provide the ability to view upcoming City Council and Committee meetings and to view/download meeting agendas and minutes.** This is a big improvement over the previous system.



---

### **Community Budget Request 2022-23**

by Gary Robbins, Community Council President

Do you have an idea for something that you would like the City to invest in our neighborhood? Maybe street paving, street lights, blight removal, park upgrades? How about funding a youth coordinator or security cameras? **Every other year the City of Cincinnati gives all Community Councils the opportunity to submit up to three budget requests for the City's consideration in the FY 2022-23 budget.** These requests can be for capital improvements or for programs and services. This year's Community Budget Requests are due on October 23.

In the past we've gotten our tennis courts upgraded and requested a new gateway entrance sign for I-75 (coming very soon). **We're looking to hear from anyone with ideas throughout September.** Call 513-542-1750 or email [springgrovevillage@gmail.com](mailto:springgrovevillage@gmail.com) with your ideas. At our October council meeting we will host a community vote on any projects to be submitted.

---

### **COMMUNITY FEATURE: SGV Community Garden Work Day**

**Join your fellow SGV community gardeners for a work day on Saturday, September 12 from 9:00-11:30 am!** Anyone interested in doing some socially-distanced gardening is welcome to join. If you've never been, the SGV Community Garden is located on Chickering Avenue at E. Epworth.

Check out some recent photos of the beautiful garden in bloom below!



---

***Thank you for opting in to receive this eNews!***  
*Know a neighbor who isn't getting the email? Forward this along or let us know.*

**Questions?** Contact SGV Newsletter Editor Sarah Maguire ([sgvnewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:sgvnewseditor@gmail.com))

*Copyright © 2020 Spring Grove Village Community Council, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

