

Avondale Community News

Volume 1/Issue 4

August 2009

The Development of the Avondale Neighborhood Support Organization (ANSO) Update from the Avondale Community Council

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There is a need for the development of a comprehensive community development organization in Avondale at this time. This entity will be a leader in the development and implementation for efforts and strategies designed to address the range of human capital, community and programs working in the neighborhood, effort are taking place in either a siloed or fragmented fashion. However, even with the involvement in the community these efforts do not necessarily reflect the vision of the community. Moreover, there are other needs completely unmet for which solutions are desperately needed. The presence of a comprehensive development organization to represent the vision of Avondale would mitigate these issues.

The Avondale Community Council (ACC) has expressed an interest in the creation of a comprehensive community development organization to serve well beyond the efforts provided by the leadership of the ACC in the neighborhood since 2005. It was evident to the leadership that an organizational infrastructure was needed to respond to the significantly increased level of engagement required of the ACC to engage with various stakeholders from the broader community. The physical landscape of the community was rapidly changing and existing conditions related to physical infrastructure and human capital needs abounded. This has had particular implications for those in leadership roles who were spending disproportionate amounts of time relative to others on the council, and doing so on a voluntary basis. There was a keen understanding among the leadership of the ACC of the serious capacity issues in terms of the availability of resources to get work completed.

Further, the ACC developed a strategic plan to guide the future of the community, the Avondale Vision Plan 2015. They have been anxious to fully implement this plan however, it is understand that without an organizational infrastructure, the ability to accomplish this is at best severely limited, if not unlikely. Thus the combination of these factors has

given the ACC a sense of urgency around the need to create an organizational infrastructure that will provide the community stakeholders with the capacity to complete the work necessary to make Avondale a more viable community.

Whether referred to in terms of a Neighborhood Support Organization (NSO), a Comprehensive Community Development Corporation, or a Neighborhood Center, work began with the ACC to begin to shape the vision for the creation of this infrastructure. We have taken some steps to date:

- The ACC worked with Dr. Esther Erkins, director of the University of Cincinnati's Institute for Community Partnerships. We applied for a grant from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation to provide initial support staff to engage in community capacity-building and assist the ACC in the more immediately needed coordination efforts. This funded position was to be the foundation that would begin the process of building a larger staffing infrastructure to assist the council in implementing the Avondale 2015 Plan, as well as those other projects that were current and potentially emerging. This position was subsequently funded in 2006 by the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.
- We thought it important to include in the process inquiry of the various other models that existed in similarly situated communities. Site visits were made to these communities organizations in other cities to explore best practices. There is an understanding that good models are out there so "why re-invent the wheel"? Visits were made to several community-based organizations and NDC's / CDC's in Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Chicago to collect information from successful organizations that will be useful to the ACC.

Continued on page 5

Wesley Education Center Desperately Needs Your Help!

Wesley Education Center for Children and Families is part of Avondale history. Due to the current economic climate, they have found themselves in a desperate financial shortfall.



Wesley Education Center was the area's first nursery and kindergarten programs and the first one to accept

African American children. 98% of the parents fall below the poverty guidelines and receive assistance from Hamilton County and/or the State of Ohio. These parents, most of them single heads of household, must work to continue receiving public support, but need a safe place to send their children while doing so.

An organization bases on Christian values, Wesley is devoted to strengthening the urban Cincinnati community. At full capacity they support 130 children ages 4 weeks to 13 years old. They provide infant and toddler childcare, preschool appropriate education, summer enrichment and before/after school support. More than a place where parents drop off their children for the workday, Wesley Education Center is a nurturing, engaging and secure learning environment where children gain the awareness, skills and confidence necessary for day-to-day situations and to succeed in school and life.



Wesley Education Center is in jeopardy of not reaching its 90th anniversary in 2010. In fact \$100,000 must be raised to keep Wesley Education Center open for children and families. This amount covers the shortfall in revenues due to the low rates supported through voucher reimbursement and falling enrollment rates based on many parents losing their jobs. The Board of Directors has taken extensive measures to reduce the expenses since December 2008, including staff reductions, changes in vendors and benefit reductions.

Would you please consider supporting this historically significant organization and the many families and children impacted by its services? The Board is hopeful that the money they receive now will give them the time needed to reach a break even operating status once the school year begins.

Mail your gift to Wesley Education Center for Children and Families at 525 Hale Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229. Direct questions to Janice Kinney at (513) 861-9865.

Paid Advertisement



Urban League of Greater Cincinnati

Youth

Improve your child's future by enrolling them in our after school program

Jobs

Seek economic security by preparing yourself for a new or better job

Justice

Create opportunity and equality by engaging yourself in the political process

We are here with you.

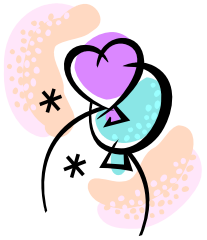
513-281-9955
www.gcul.org



3458 Reading Road
Cincinnati, OH 45229

SO-ACT CELEBRATES SIXTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE!

Join SO-ACT (Serving Older Adults through Changing Times) as we celebrate 16 years of service to the senior community of Cincinnati.



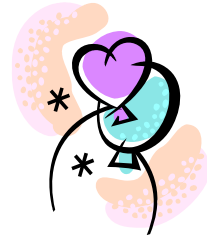
Jazz music
Ballet dancers

SO-ACT 16th Anniversary Celebration

August 22, 2009

12—5 p.m.

Cincinnati—Hamilton County Community Action Agency
1740 Langdon Farm Road



Light refreshments

RSVP by August 15th
to SO-ACT at 861-2790

Thank you for your support through the years!

For Sale

Real Estate & More!

Paid Advertisement

3973 Ardmore, N. Avondale 4br, 1ba, \$145,000
Move-in cond., \$2,000 pd cl costs, new roof

38 Parkwood Pl, Avondale 2br 1ba \$25,000
SHORT SALE, BEST OFFER! Needs TLC!

2916 Gilbert Ave, Walnut Hills Comm'l bldg \$225,000
6270sf, 12+pkg, seller financing

789 N. Fred Shuttlesworth Cir. N. Avondale \$28,000
Vacant lot 100x200 flat/buildable

2428 Kremer Ave, Westwood 5br, 2ba \$88,000
split level, move in cond, fenced yard

1527 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine Comm'l bldg \$95,000
Retail / Apts. Needs complete rehab

680 S. Crescent, N. Avondale, 5br, 2ba, \$25,000
needs total rehab, aka S. F. Shuttlesworth

3641-43, 3645-47 Reading Rd. Avondale, \$36,000
Two 5-unit bldgs, needs complete rehab

914 Findlay Ave., West End, 2+br, 1ba, \$25,000,
Brick, needs TLC & rehab work, near 1-75

1545 St. Leger Pl., Evanston, 5br, 2.5ba \$75,000
Brick, lg bk yd, need TLC & upgrades

****IMPORTANT NEWS****

Contact me today for information on how you can apply for the \$8,000 Homebuyer Tax Credit & FHA 203K rehab loan.

United First Financial www.payitfaster.com/sheila

Eliminate your mortgage and all debt in 1/2 to 1/3 the time without increasing your mortgage payments or refinancing current mortgage.

Use the **Money Merge Account System (MMA)**, it mathematically calculates how you can eliminate thousands in interest payments. This is not a debt roll down or bi-weekly plan.

Take advantage of the **FREE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT**. It will show how you can get out of debt faster than you could ever imagine!! Go to my website and watch the video or just contact me for more details.

My personal analysis report states I will pay off my 25 year mortgage and all my debt in 6.3 years eliminating \$45,000 in interest payments...**What will your analysis report say???**

Sheila Holmes Howard
ABR, CTM, Realtor®, UFF Consultant

OWNERLAND REALTY
513-543-2333-cell 513 842-8834-efax

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www.sheilaholmeshoward.com

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Avondale Youth Council Newsletter

Joseph Malek, Assistant Editor

Summer is still here and let's enjoy it before the weather becomes cool and children return to school. Here is an update on the AYC committees:

Marketing team— Currently working with the Cincinnati Police Department to raise awareness of car vandalism. The team is planning a forum featuring our school board candidates to discuss students ideas on how to improve education. This event is one of a series of youth conversations researching the "Achievement Gap", sponsored by a grant from the Kettering Foundation.

Garden crew—The gardens are flowing with produce. The crew is taking gardening and cooking classes, learning to eat healthy. Look for the Farmers Market at St. Michaels and All Angels Church (3626 Reading Road) on Saturdays.

CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design)—worked with Community Coordinator Carla Butler to create a Tenants Rights Forum. The CPTED team surveyed homes and passed out flyers promoting the event.

The Youth Council has been attending Rites of Passage classes to learn African culture. They also teamed up

with volunteers from General Electric and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful to clean up areas on Blair Court and Lossing . The combined hard work made a difference in the Avondale community.

The female members of the AYC will participate in the Fleet Feet 5K on August 1st. They are being mentored by the women of the Avondale Running Club. The more members they have on the team, the greater the chance of winning the \$850 prize.

The AYC has reached membership capacity. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list fill out an application at the Pride Center (3520 Burnet Avenue).

AYC Spotlight

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Joseph Malek assistant newsletter editor and assistant garden supervisor. I have been in the AYC for more than a year. At first I joined to have a job but then I realized the kind of work the Youth Council was doing in the community and now I enjoy helping to make Avondale a better place.



2009 Annual Black Family Reunion Parade Coming to Avondale Saturday August 15th @10:00 a.m.



The Black Family Reunion Parade will be coming right through our neighborhood on Saturday August 15, 2009.

There will be street closures and route changes that will affect your morning commute on Saturday August 15th.

The parade route will start at the Avondale Town Center, turn right on Forest, left on Wilson, left on Rockdale and end at Knott Street. The reviewing stand will be at Forest and Burnet Avenues. Any vehicles parked along this route must be moved by 8:30 a.m. on the 15th or risk being towed!

Avondale Summer Legal Clinic

All legal questions, issues and disputes are welcome. No appointment is necessary.

- August 8, 2009
- August 15, 2009
- August 22, 2009

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. each Saturday



Cincinnati Public Schools School Board Candidate Forum

Sponsored by
The Avondale Youth Council
with a grant from the Kettering Foundation

Youth asking questions about their education and
the *Achievement Gap*

All ages welcome
Saturday August 29, 2009
10:00—12:00 p.m.

Children's Hospital MERC Building
620 Oak Street, Cincinnati 45206

Featuring new candidates as well as current board
members.

Call 281-5999 for more information

Avondale ANSO (continued from page 1)

- We began to look at organizations in the Avondale community to explore whether the best approach was to attempt to join this structure to an existing organization or be a newly established separate entity. In other words, should the ACC get the currently operational organizations to expand the work to be inclusive of Avondale's organizational infrastructure needs or attempt the creation of a standalone entity. The ANSO has to be an independent entity that is connected to and reflects the community goals and objectives. The ACC is the officially recognized leadership of the community and will continue to work to articulate the community vision and would work with the ANSO to support their implementation of the work.

The work plan to develop the ANSO should include the following:

- Exploration of best practices and programmatic models locally and nationally would be most appropriate for the Avondale community. This information is important for informing the development of the structure for the ANSO. Some initial information collection has been done on this through the site visits completed in 2006, 2007 & 2008, as referenced in the introduction to this document. The group should collect additional information and distill it down for use in informing the recommendations for the structure of the newly proposed ANSO.
- Develop final recommendations for the structure and work program for the ANSO with broad consensus among stakeholders. The final recommendations should include a structure, organization, and budget implications for the new organization.
- The development of a longer term sustainability plan for the newly created ANSO. A plan should be developed that considers the long term viability of the ANSO. While at the inception of the organization, the cornerstone of programming and funding will be based upon the Place Matters initiative, the community must simultaneously work to create other funding streams and expanded programmatic efforts to maximally serve the community in the longer term. The ANSO needs to be poised to continue once the Place Matters effort has sunset. This planning should include a strategy for creating new funding streams, whether grant-writing, commitments of institutional support or other funding sources. The sustainability planning should consider additional programming needs to best and adequately serve the diverse population of the Avondale Community.

The planning is ongoing and now includes Xavier University's Community Building Institute, community and institutional stakeholders and Place Matters funders.



Check this out!

IRS Alert

Due to recent changes in tax laws you made need a withholding “check up” to keep you from having to pay additional income taxes.

You may need a check up if you are:

- An employee with multiple jobs
- A married couple and both husband and wife work
- A retiree who receives a pension and does not have any wage income
- An employee who does not have a valid social security number
- An employee who can be claimed as a dependent on someone else’s return
- An employee who receives Social Security, SSI, Railroad Retirement or Veteran’s Disability payments

If you fall into one of the above categories, the tax being withheld from your pay or pension under the *Making Work Pay Credit* may not be enough

Not having enough tax withheld may reduce your refund or you may owe tax when you file your income tax return. Complete your withholding “check up” by following the steps below.

Step 1

Gather your stubs and a copy of your most recent tax return.

Step 2

Review Publication 919, *How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?* Or access the withholding calculator on IRS.gov or call the local IRS at (513) 263-3333

Step 3

Give your employer a revised Form W-4. Pensioners can adjust their withholding by giving the pension payer a revised Form W-4P.

Energy Saving Tips



- Turn off lights and computers when not in use
- Wash clothes in cold water if possible, wash only full loads and clean the dryer’s lint trap after each use.
- When using a dishwasher, wash full loads and use the light cycle. If possible use the rinse cycle only and turn off the high temperature rinse option. When the regular wash cycle is done, just open the dishwasher to allow the dishes to air dry.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights

Back to School Dates

August 4, 2009

South Avondale Academy

636 Prospect Place

363-5520



Rockdale Academy

August 18, 2009

335 Rockdale Avenue

364-4700



Dates To Remember
Avondale Council/Pride Center
3520 Burnet Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45229 (513) 281-4414

ACC
 Avondale Community Council
 Board meeting
August 4, 6:30 p.m.

General Body
No meeting in August
 Pride Center



AYC
 Avondale Youth Council
August 4 & 18, 4:30
 Pride Center

District 4
 Community Meeting
August 27, 6:30
 District 4



Ceasefire
Steering Committee
August 13, 9:30 a.m.
 Church of the Living God
 430 Forest Avenue

IFC
Injury Free Coalition
April 11, 1:00
 Kasota Building
 (corner of Kasota & Burnet)



Every Child Succeeds
Steering Committee
August 18, 10:00
 Carmel Presbyterian

Meeting Space Available
At the
Avondale Community
Pride Center
 3520 Burnet Avenue
 (Corner of Burnet & Forest)



\$25.00 an hour
 (minimum 2 hours)

Open Space for evening
meeting s
 (50 people maximum).

Meeting must conclude by 9:00pm

Conference room available
during the day seats 15 people

Payment due in advance
NO EXCEPTIONS

Call 513-281-4414 to make a reservation.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission *do eat move live right!*
North Avondale Recreation Center
 617 Clinton Springs Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45229
 Phone: 513-961-1584



HEALTHY ACTIVITIES

Participants must have Center memberships

Adults \$15 Senior/Teen/Youth \$5

Senior Line Dancing

Mondays & Wednesdays 10-11:30 am
 FREE with membership

YOGA

Mondays & Wednesdays 6-7 pm
 FREE with membership



Tai Chi

Thursdays 6pm
 FREE with membership

Sauna

FREE with membership



Weight Room

\$10 per quarter with membership



Karate

T & Th 5-7:30 pm
 Monthly fee & membership

Aerobic Workout Party

T & Th 5:45-7:30 pm, Saturdays 12-2 pm
 \$25 per month or \$5 per class, with membership

Recreation programs and facilities are open to all citizens regardless of race, sex, color, religion, nationality, or disability. CRC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to supporting the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please call if you require any special accommodations.

**AVONDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
PRIDE CENTER
3520 Burnet Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID Cincinnati, OH Permit #3455
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FOR CURRENT RESIDENT OR

**Phone: 513-281-4414
513-281-5999
Fax: 513-281-0884**

**E-mail: avondalecouncil5@aol.com
avondalebusiness@aol.com
avonyouthcouncil@aol.com**

Web-Site: www.avondalecommunitycouncil.org

Board of Trustees & Committee Chairs

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Vice-President	Gayle Harden-Renfro	221-8475
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City Council Directory

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Vice Mayor David Crowley 801 Plum St. Rm 352 Cincinnati, OH 45202 Phone: (513) 352-2453 Fax: (513) 352-2365 david.crowley@cincinnati-oh.gov	Chris Bortz 801 Plum St. Rm 348 Cincinnati, OH 45202 Phone: (513) 352-3255 Fax: (513) 3264 chris.bortz@cincinnati-oh.gov

Avondale Community Council Staff

Community Organizer	Carla Butler	281-5999
Major Projects Consultant	Bill Witten	646-8944

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District 4 Police	CPOP Supervisor	368-1720
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Jeff Berding 801 Plum St. Rm 350 Cincinnati, OH 45202 Phone: (513) 352-3283 Fax: (513) 352-3289 jeff.berding@cincinnati-oh.gov	Leslie Ghiz 801 Plum St. Rm 354 Cincinnati, OH 45202 Phone: (513) 352-3499 Fax: (513) 352-3277 leslie.ghiz@cincinnati-oh.gov
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Important City Phone Numbers

Better Business Bureau	421-3015
Crimestoppers	352-3040
Liter Control	564-1750
Poison Information	558-5111
Senior Program	352-4026
Street Cleaning	591-6000
Weed Property	564-1750
Abandoned Vehicles	564-2277
Building Decay	352-3275
Snow Removal	591-6000
Waste Collection	591-6000
Discrimination, rental/leasing	721-4663

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