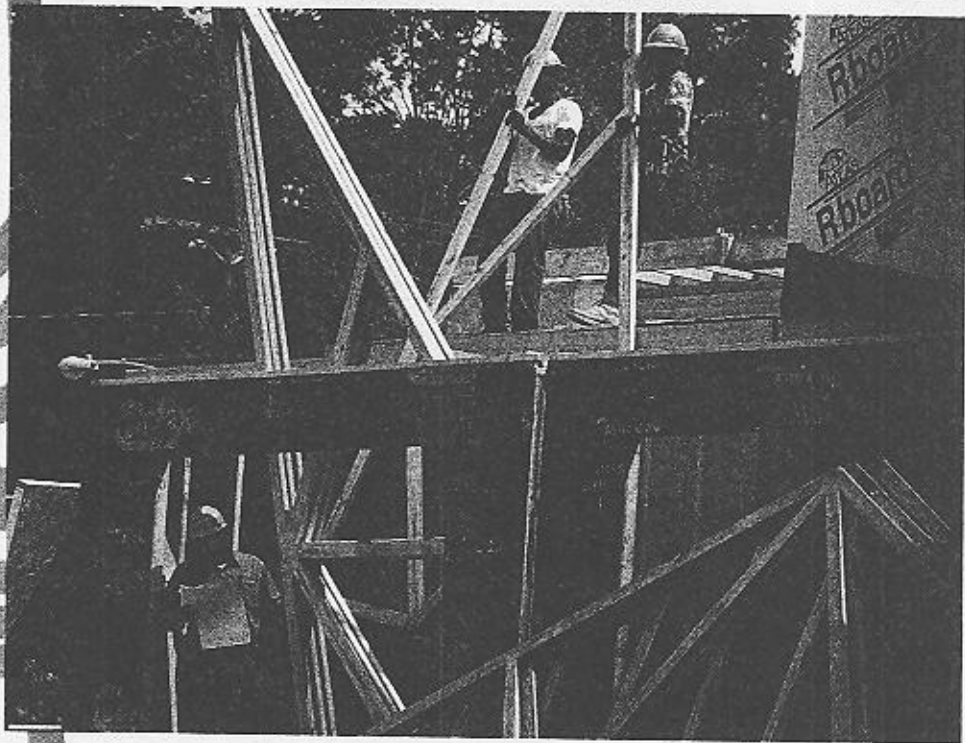


AVONDALE'S VISION PLAN 2005



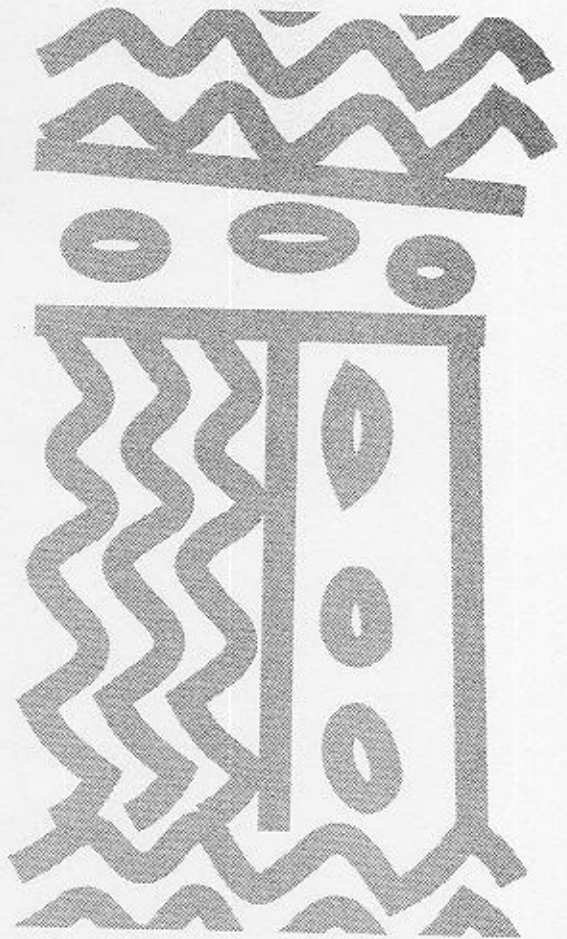
*"Work without vision is drudgery.
Vision without work is dreamery.
Vision with work is destiny."
- Author Unknown*

AVONDALE VISION PLAN 2000

Avondale 1995

Avondale is a neighborhood that is located three miles from downtown Cincinnati. It enjoys close proximity to Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati. A major hospital district, which includes the Jewish Hospital, Bethesda Hospital, Shriners Burns Institute, University Medical Center and Hospital, and Childrens Hospital Medical Center, is within Avondale's borders. Avondale is also home to the nation's second oldest zoo, the famed Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens. The boundaries of Avondale follow Clinton Springs on the north, then to Victory Parkway on the eastern side. The southern boundary follows Oak Street up to Burnet Avenue on the west, back to Erkenbrecher on the southern side, and Vine Street on the western side.

After nearly a century of being one of Cincinnati's most prosperous neighborhoods, Avondale's decline began with the gradual migration northward of its middle and upper income residents. This change was accompanied by a growth in absentee ownership of housing and its inherent problems. There are 8,549 housing units in the Avondale community - 11% are vacant. The housing stock is mainly from the turn of the century... large and stately homes which have long since been changed into multifamily homes that are overcrowded and in disrepair. Most owners are absentee landlords who charge minimum rents and perform minimum maintenance. Only 23% of the housing units in Avondale are owner-occupied compared to 38.3% across the City. The civil riots of the mid-60's were the final blow, having a more devastating and long-lasting impact in



Avondale than on any other neighborhood in Cincinnati.

The Avondale community has a population of approximately 18,900 with nearly 91% of its residents African American; 17% of its residents are senior citizens. There are 7,579 households in Avondale with 35% at/or below the poverty level - almost twice that of the entire City of Cincinnati. Unemployment in Avondale is about 17% which is three times that for the City of Cincinnati and the nation as a whole.

There are approximately 100 businesses in Avondale, most within its three business districts: the Reading Road - Town Center Business District, the Burnet Avenue Business District, and the Martin Luther King Drive Business District.

AVONDALE VISION Introduction

What is the "Avondale Vision Plan 2005?"

The "Avondale Vision Plan 2005" was developed by the Avondale Vision Planning Task Force. The task force was formed by the Avondale Community Council to develop a vision for the community of Avondale and a mission for the community council to act on. The mission statement will provide direction for the council so that it can accomplish the vision of the community. The vision plan addresses the issues of housing, economic development, land use, human services, public facilities, and public safety.

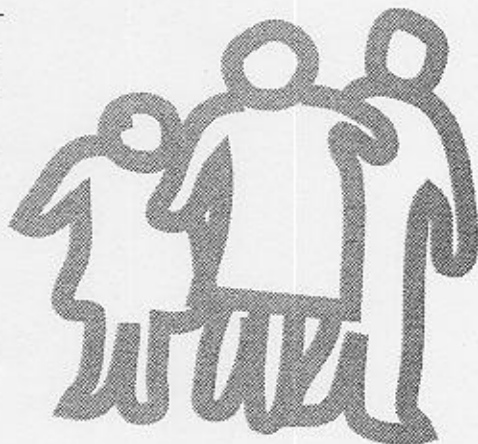
Who is the Avondale Community Council?

The Avondale Community Council (ACC) is a non-profit community organization consisting of Avondale residents, which acts as a representative for the neighborhood of Avondale when addressing community issues. The ACC's purpose is to work for the general betterment of the Avondale community by stimulating interest in and coordinating efforts for the social and economic welfare of the Avondale community.

The ACC promotes good community relationships through various inter-group projects sponsored by the council for both youth and

adults. It also promotes cooperation with other civic / community groups, sound planning and research as it relates to the needs of the community, and assists in the alleviation of hardships for families in the community.

The ACC works for the general betterment by determining goals and establishing programs to accomplish the goals. The ACC evaluates programs to determine their effectiveness, efficiency, and consistency with goals. The ACC is officially recognized by the City of Cincinnati Council as the representative for the neighborhood of Avondale.





The "Avondale Vision Plan 2005" was developed under the premise of some very basic and essential beliefs of what is expected by every resident, and by what should be provided to all residents regardless of their status or position in the community. These beliefs which form the foundation of this document are:

- All residents of Avondale should have access to a quality education.
- All residents should have an opportunity and access to employment that can provide an adequate standard of living.
- All residents in Avondale should have affordable, safe and sanitary housing.
- All residents of Avondale should feel safe from crime.
- All residents of Avondale should have access to quality health care.
- All residents should hold a basic level of moral respect for the elders, family, youth, and neighborhood by appreciating their likes and differences amongst the community.
- All residents of Avondale have the responsibility to vote.
- All residents should feel that they are a viable and integral member of the City of Cincinnati.

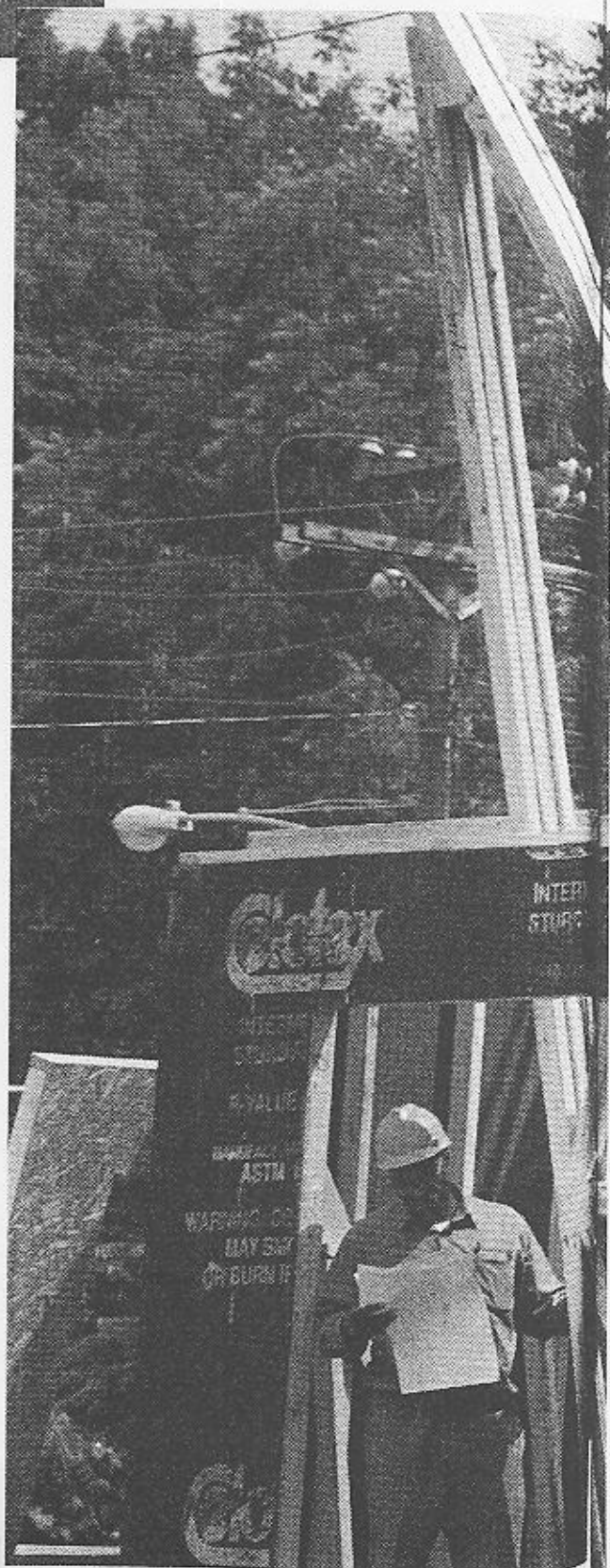
AVONDALE'S VISION PLAN 2005

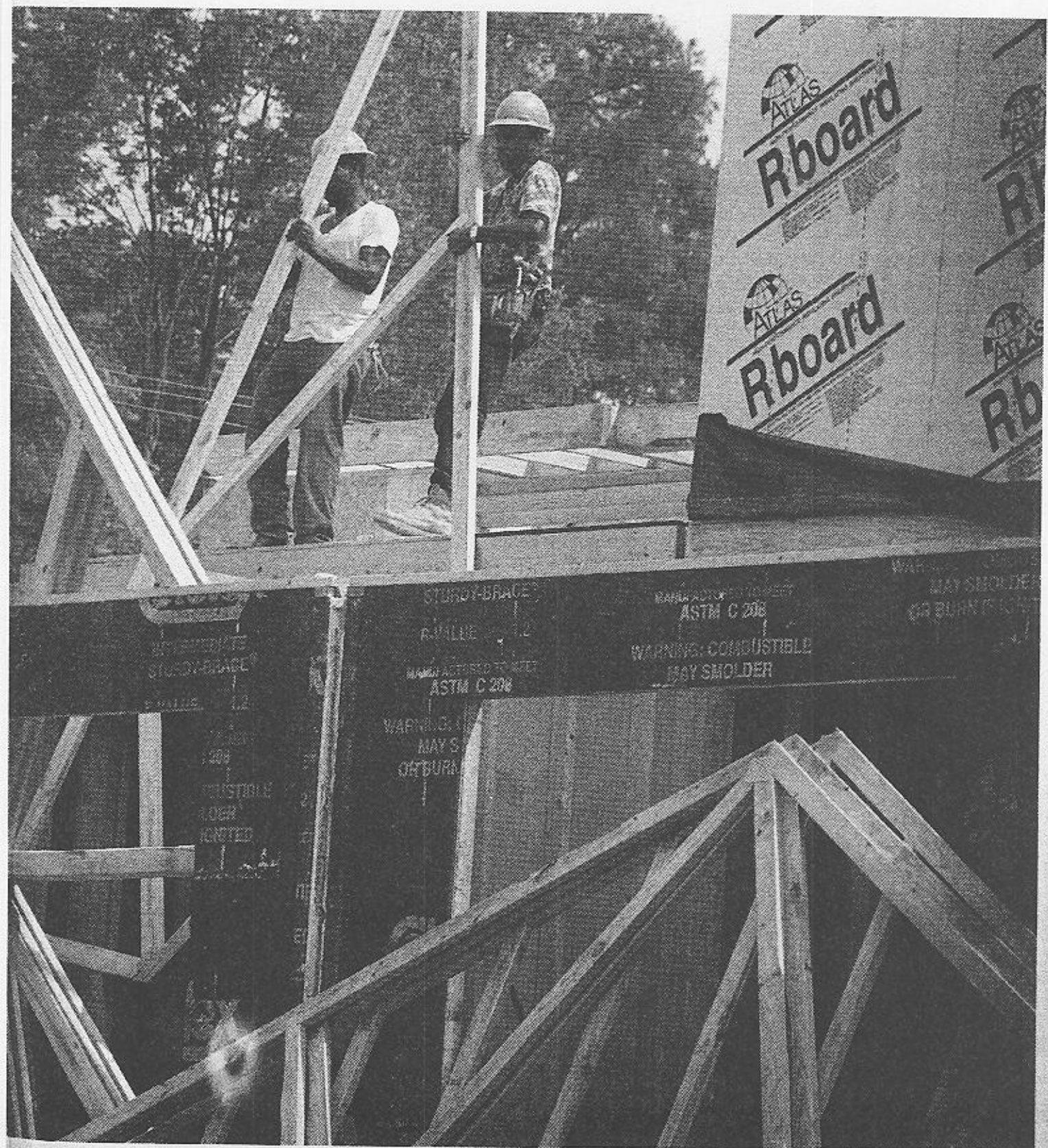
THE VISION

It is Avondale's vision to be a safe, healthy, attractive, educated, caring community with a sense of pride and respect which will provide an opportunity to build strong individuals and families, and strong organized leadership that will assure political and economic empowerment for all its residents.

THE MISSION

To represent and promote the community of Avondale and to provide the leadership, direction and support to have a safe, attractive, healthy, politically and economically viable community.



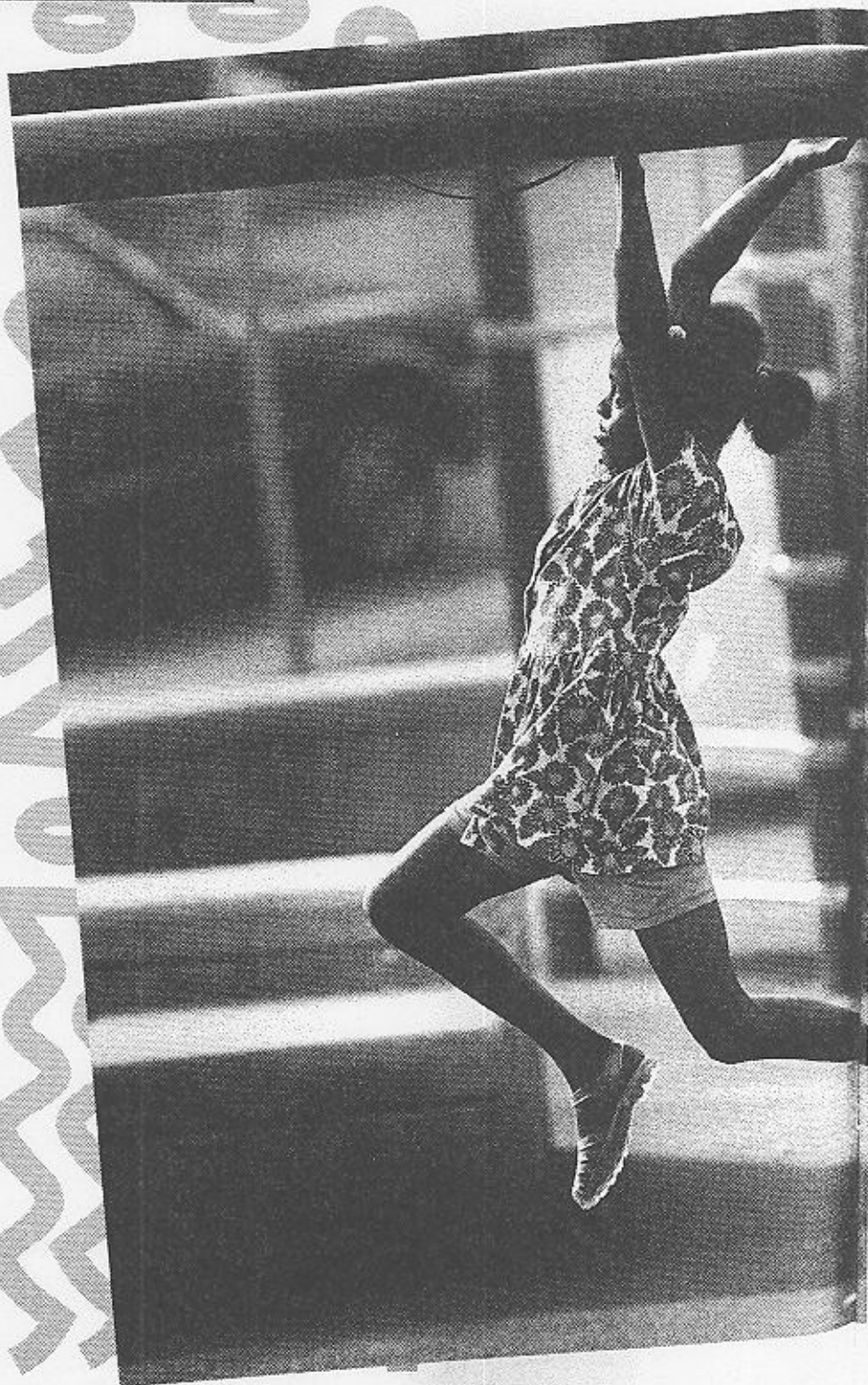


Economic Development

Economic Development is an ongoing self-perpetuating process which is defined by the level of economic activity taking place in a local, regional or national economy. Although economic development is self-perpetuating, it can be influenced to have a positive effect on our community. Economic development can be used as a tool to assist people in finding employment, financing businesses, starting businesses, or assisting people with social problems concerning housing and other basic human services.

Economic Development can also be defined by the cash flow produced by the community in regards to the goods and services being offered in a community, jobs available for employment, and tax dollars generated from property values.

The Economic Development Committee for the Avondale Vision Planning Task Force has entertained and discussed ideas and strategies that will enhance and stabilize the economic conditions and opportunities for the residents of Avondale.



GOAL 1

Develop the Avondale Town Center, Burnet Avenue, and Martin Luther King Drive into viable business districts providing excellent investment and job opportunities and increasing goods and services to the residents of Avondale.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop a business marketing study for the business districts.
- Develop a business development plan for the business districts.
- Develop a marketing campaign which promotes a positive perception of Avondale throughout the community and City via print and electronic media, computer, and community projects.
- Develop a business district security plan for each business district.
- Protect businesses from loss due to theft, and provide a secure environment for patrons.
- Develop a plan that prevents the sell and use of drugs in the stated business districts.
- Survey existing businesses to determine the need for business group insurance programs.
- Examine the potential for developing seasonal Afro-Centric market villages.

GOAL 2

Increase the net worth of Avondale families, and raise the family income to the city median.

OBJECTIVES

- Assure training for technical job opportunities.
- Assure the availability of educational courses for technological skills for employment opportunities.
- Increase homeownership to 51%.
- Educate and promote the use of credit unions and banks by residents and families.
- Develop budget counseling programs for families and individuals.

GOAL 3

Develop partnerships to generate employment, business development, and investments.

OBJECTIVES

- Collaborate with the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University and all of the neighborhood hospitals to develop job and training opportunities for Avondale residents.
- Develop and promote partnerships with businesses to educate children to compete in a technological society.
- Encourage the strategic location and development of credit unions and banks within the community.
- Educate business owners and potential business owners about the opportunities of exporting and importing goods and services.
- Develop an employee pool for existing community businesses.
- Assess and indentify potential business and neighborhood partnerships.
- Collaborate with companies within the industrial areas of Avondale to develop job and training opportunities for Avondale residents.

GOAL 4

Create an Avondale economic business philosophy.

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage and promote the spending and investment of community dollars within the community.
- Increase voter participation and improve voter education.

Housing

Housing is a basic staple in living a quality life. Housing is important to the community in a social, economical, and physical sense of life. It can define neighborhoods and individuals. In regards to social issues, housing can be viewed as a status position based on the size and location of the house. It can also address social problems, such as unaffordable housing and homelessness.

Economically, the housing industry is used as one of the leading economic indicators in determining the condition of the national and local economies. It also makes up a large portion of a family's wealth. Having an adequately safe and sanitary house is basic to our standard of living.

The Housing Committee of the Avondale Vision Planning Task Force has developed goals and objectives that will provide a stronger and thriving housing stock within Avondale.



GOAL 1

Ensure that all properties meet structural, environmental, health and safety codes and community standards.

OBJECTIVES

- Define and develop Community Property Standards.
- Assure that all properties are inspected on a regular basis.
- Support training for property maintenance and management of multi-unit housing.
- Support training and provide information on property maintenance for new homeowners.
- Support tenant training and counseling.
- Ensure that the community receives its fair share of special needs housing relative to city-wide services.
- Identify and market funding programs for existing homeowners to participate in to make home improvements or bring property up to code.

GOAL 2

Increase homeownership to meet the national average.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase awareness and provide information on opportunities for homeownership and mortgage financing.
- Promote Avondale as a place to own a home and raise a family.
- Promote, identify and maintain a list of available homes and properties for sale.
- Encourage the development of quality, affordable housing.
- Develop and promote alternative forms of homeownership.

GOAL 3

Eliminate all vacant buildings and vacant lots by removal or reuse.

OBJECTIVES

- Determine the potential use of vacant buildings and lots.
- Market to secure potential owners and developers for vacant buildings and lots.
- Identify and market funding sources for the development of vacant property.
- Develop and maintain a list of all vacant buildings and property.

GOAL 4

Develop and implement a special housing needs plan for Avondale.

OBJECTIVES

- Survey and assess existing "special needs" housing to determine if Avondale has its fair share of these types of housing.
- Monitor Avondale's current and proposed "special needs" housing.



Human Services



Planning to serve human services needs begins by defining the social values of a community, and the goals that are to be achieved. The Human Services Committee has examined the values that individuals should receive versus the community values. Human Services generally addresses issues relating to providing good health care and educational services. Health and educational issues can sometimes expand into issues such as drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and job training.

The Human Services Committee of the Avondale Vision Planning Task Force has discussed and debated various strategies that will enhance the educational and health care facilities for Avondale.

GOAL 1

Develop a working plan of community-wide collaboration for sound delivery of social services and human services to individuals, families, children and senior citizens.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and distribute database of services provided by neighborhood churches.
- Develop and distribute database of social services offered by human service providers.
- Educate and treat individuals with substance abuse problems.
- Educate teen boys and girls to the perils of unplanned pregnancies.
- Identify and remedy duplication of human services.
- Educate residents to available social, educational, and human services.
- Identify and develop new social and human services.
- Identify and implement appealing programming and activities for the old and young resident.
- Schedule programs, services and activities for the convenience of seniors, i.e. adult day care, home care, weekend care, evening care.
- Create educational, recreational and employment opportunities for youth.
- Assure services for residents with physical, mental health and mental retardation problems.

GOAL 2

Assure a system of quality, accessible, affordable health care for all residents.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide health care information targeted to senior citizens.
- Develop and support health fairs offering free screenings and referrals.
- Develop a family-oriented, preventive health care program.
- Provide health care information to residents with

physical, mental health, and mental retardation problems.

- Provide support to neighborhood nursing homes encouraging the development and implementation of long-range goals of advocacy for quality assurance and compliance with city and state guidelines.

GOAL 3

Ensure employment opportunities for all residents in Avondale.

OBJECTIVES

- Inform the community of employment opportunities.
- Develop traditional and nontraditional educational and training opportunities for individual empowerment and growth.
- Collaborate with the companies located in the zoned industrial areas to develop job and training opportunities for Avondale residents.

GOAL 4

Provide the leadership as the source for all social service/human service information and activities.

OBJECTIVES

- Sponsor community-based information forums.
- Establish a viable, thriving volunteer base representing 10% of the community.
- Encourage participation of senior citizens in all events.
- Provide shuttle service for seniors to and from events and other residents as appropriate.
- Develop a mechanism for consistently keeping all residents informed.
- Plan and implement an annual day of celebration and recognition for the community.
- Conduct voter registration events to accomplish a goal of 100% participation by Avondale residents.

GOAL 5

Assure that the neighborhood schools comprise a network which collaborates and offers a quality, educational experience.

OBJECTIVES

- Participate in the planning to develop, revise and update the instructional curriculum and extra curricula activities for each neighborhood school to ensure that all Avondale schools are rated as merit schools with programs to address dropout rate and improve proficiency test scores.
- Participate in each school's PTA and PTO organization.
- Develop a continuing education program.
- Assure tutoring opportunities for students on an ongoing basis.
- Update and expand the services, titles and technologies available in the community's branch of the public library.
- Establish a scholarship fund for Avondale residents.
- Develop a program to reduce the student dropout rate.

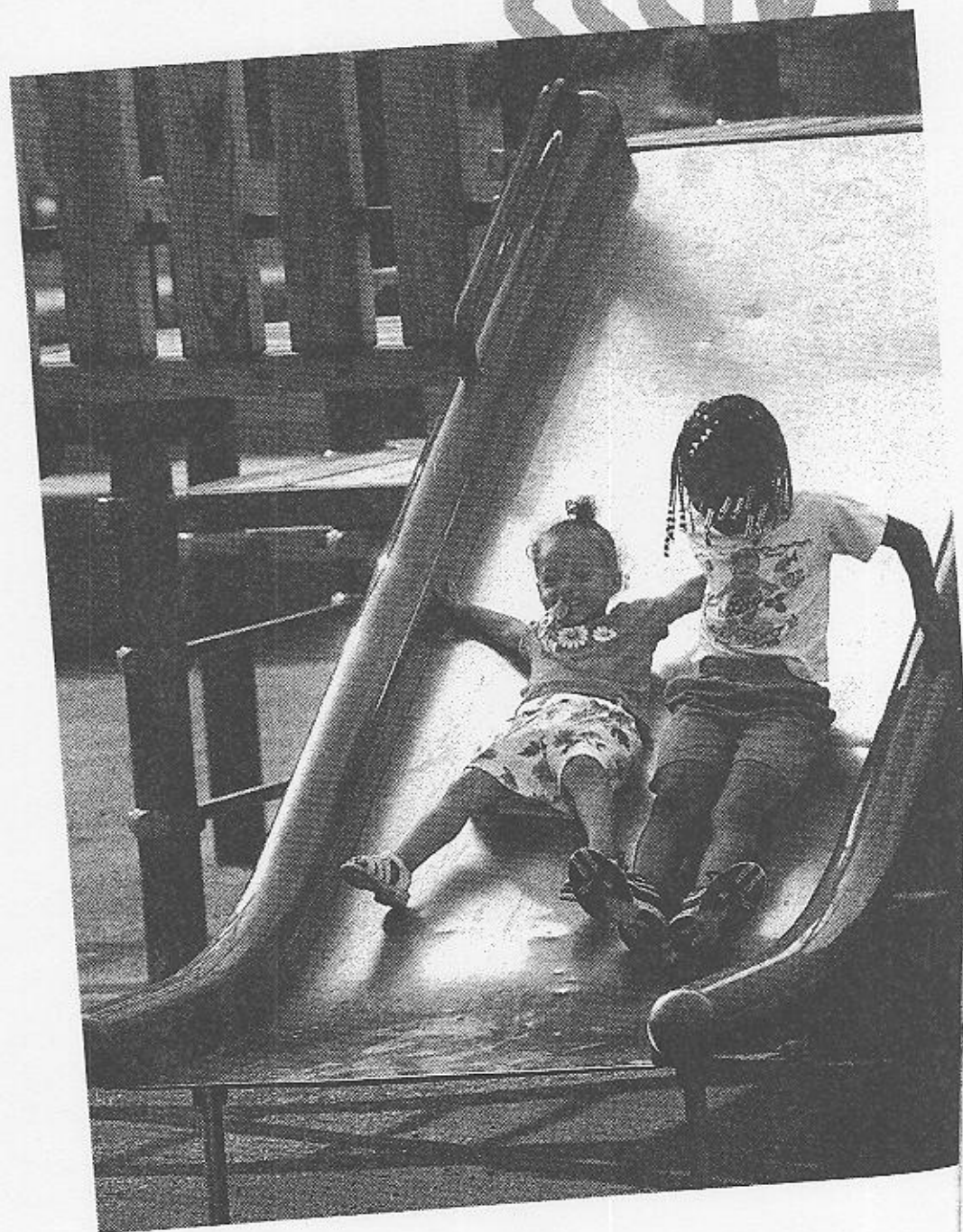


Land Use / Zoning

Land Use / Zoning regulations and policies have been designed with the purpose of protecting the citizens and the community's property investments. These regulations are designed for governing property relative to building heights, property setbacks, housing design, housing type, and many other property concerns.

The policies developed through land use plans and zoning regulations can act as an impetus to commercial and residential development. The policies protect citizens from adverse property developments.

The Land Use / Zoning Committee has discussed the issues concerning land use and has developed logical and reasonable goals and objectives.



GOAL 1

Develop a comprehensive land use plan for the year 2005 which will identify the specific uses of properties in residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational areas.

OBJECTIVES

- Support the development and promotion of a comprehensive land use plan.
- Define the location and boundaries of business districts within the community.
- Define the location and boundaries of residential land uses for the community.
- Define the location and boundaries of recreational spaces and facilities.
- Define the location and boundaries of industrial land use areas for the community.

GOAL 2

Encourage and determine land use development.

OBJECTIVES

- Monitor land use development and proposals.
- Promote vacant and available properties for development.
- Collaborate with property owners on petitioning for zone changes.
- Petition City Hall concerning development issues facing Avondale.
- Collaborate with the hospitals, University of Cincinnati, Xavier University and the Cincinnati Zoo on future development in Avondale.
- Increase voter education and participation.
- Promote the development of the zoned industrial areas of Avondale.

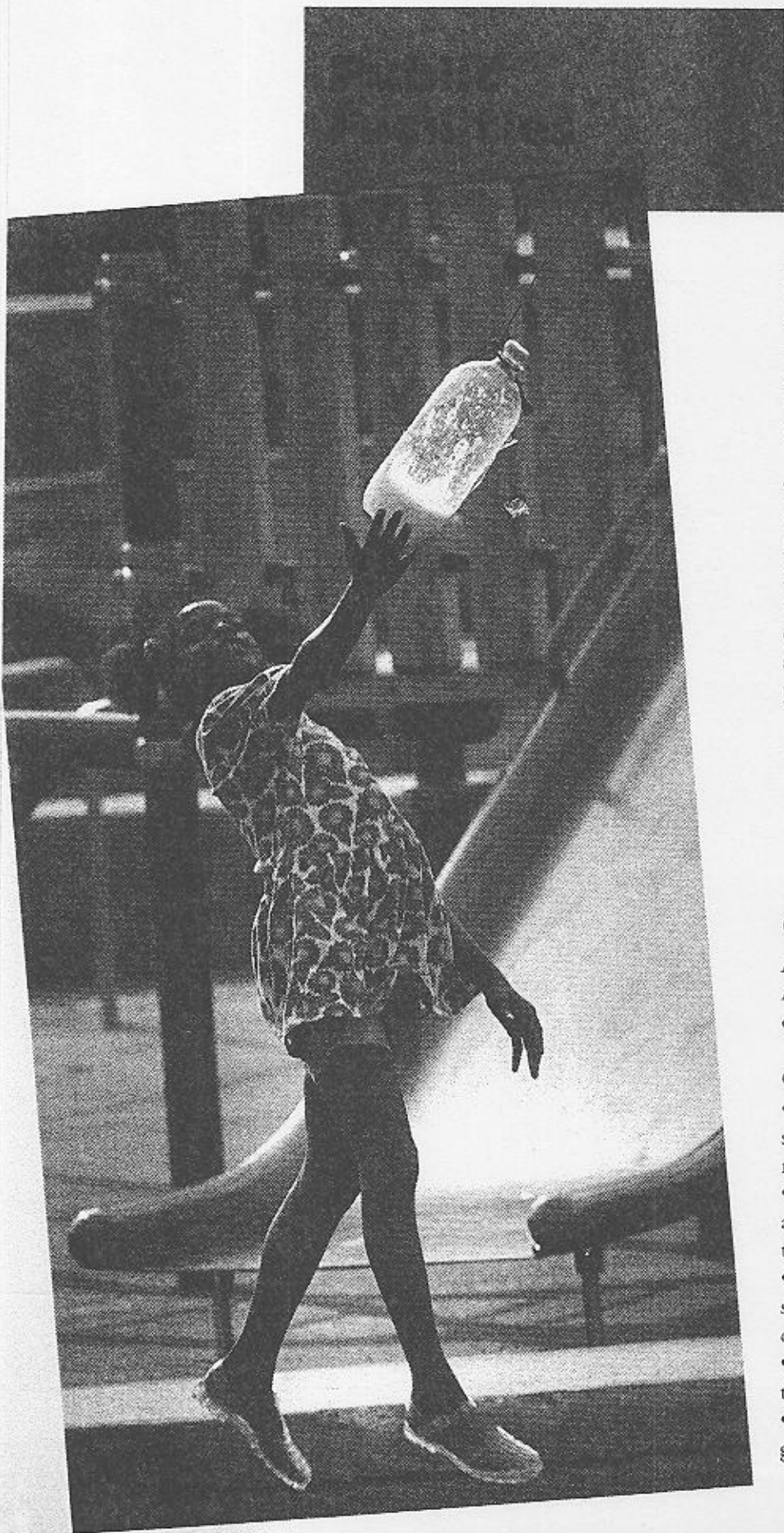


GOAL 3

Create an aesthetically pleasing and environmentally safe community.

OBJECTIVES

- Monitor industrial area waste disposal procedures.
- Monitor waste removal throughout the community.
- Monitor zoning code violations.
- Distribute information on contacting city officials concerning waste and zoning violations.
- Develop urban design guidelines for businesses and residents which contribute to established community standards.



Public Facilities can be simply defined by the facilities that are provided to the community by municipal, state, and federal agencies or a facility which serves the community. Public facilities address concerns regarding recreational centers, school buildings, park services, and transportation services.

The Public Facilities Committee has worked under the premise that Avondale should receive its fair share of services, and that its public facilities are maintained in an adequate condition for public use. The committee has developed goals and objectives that enhance, increase, and educate the public as to the function of public and recreational facilities.

GOAL I

Assure that the public facilities serving Avondale fulfill the needs of the community.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure regular maintenance of the sewer system in the community and renovations as needed.
- Ensure the availability of an adequate, safe, accessible public transportation system to serve the community.
- Ensure regular maintenance of the public streets, sidewalks, lawns, and curbs serving the community.
- Ensure a safe, practical flow of traffic through the community.
- Ensure practical placement of consistent good street lighting.

GOAL 2

Assure that the recreational facilities meet and serve the needs of the community and have an adequate operating budget.

OBJECTIVES

- Support the renovation, remodeling, and refurbishing of existing recreation centers, playgrounds, and swimming pools.
- Initiate the development of additional recreational centers as need dictates
- Develop a plan for a neighborhood shuttle or trolley to and from recreational facilities.
- Petition City Hall and other appropriate funders to assure an adequate operating budget for the recreation centers.

GOAL 3

Assure that the facilities identified for use by senior citizens meet and serve the needs of senior citizens and have an adequate budget.

OBJECTIVES

- Support the renovation, remodeling, and refurbishing of existing senior citizen highrise complexes.
- Support the development of additional senior citizen complexes as need dictates.
- Support the provision of a shuttle service to assist seniors with personal needs.
- Conduct a study and produce a plan for independent or shared housing for senior citizens.

GOAL 4

Assure that the neighborhood schools and branch library meet the needs of the community and have an adequate operating budget.

OBJECTIVES

- Support the renovation, remodeling, and refurbishing of the elementary neighborhood public schools.
- Ensure the construction of a high school, technical school or alternative school in the neighborhood to meet the needs of the students graduating from the neighborhood's elementary schools.
- Support the renovation, remodeling, and refurbishing of the community's branch of the public library.

GOAL 5

Protect and maintain the community's greenspaces and active and passive parks on a regular basis.

OBJECTIVES

- Refurbish all existing greenspaces and parks as needed.
- Develop and implement a tree planting program and other beautifications by the year 2005.
- Develop a program to convert appropriate vacant land into greenspace.
- Provide park benches and resting places for residents to enjoy greenspaces.

GOAL 6

Assure the availability of a cultural center and theatre in the community for the education, entertainment and enjoyment of all residents.

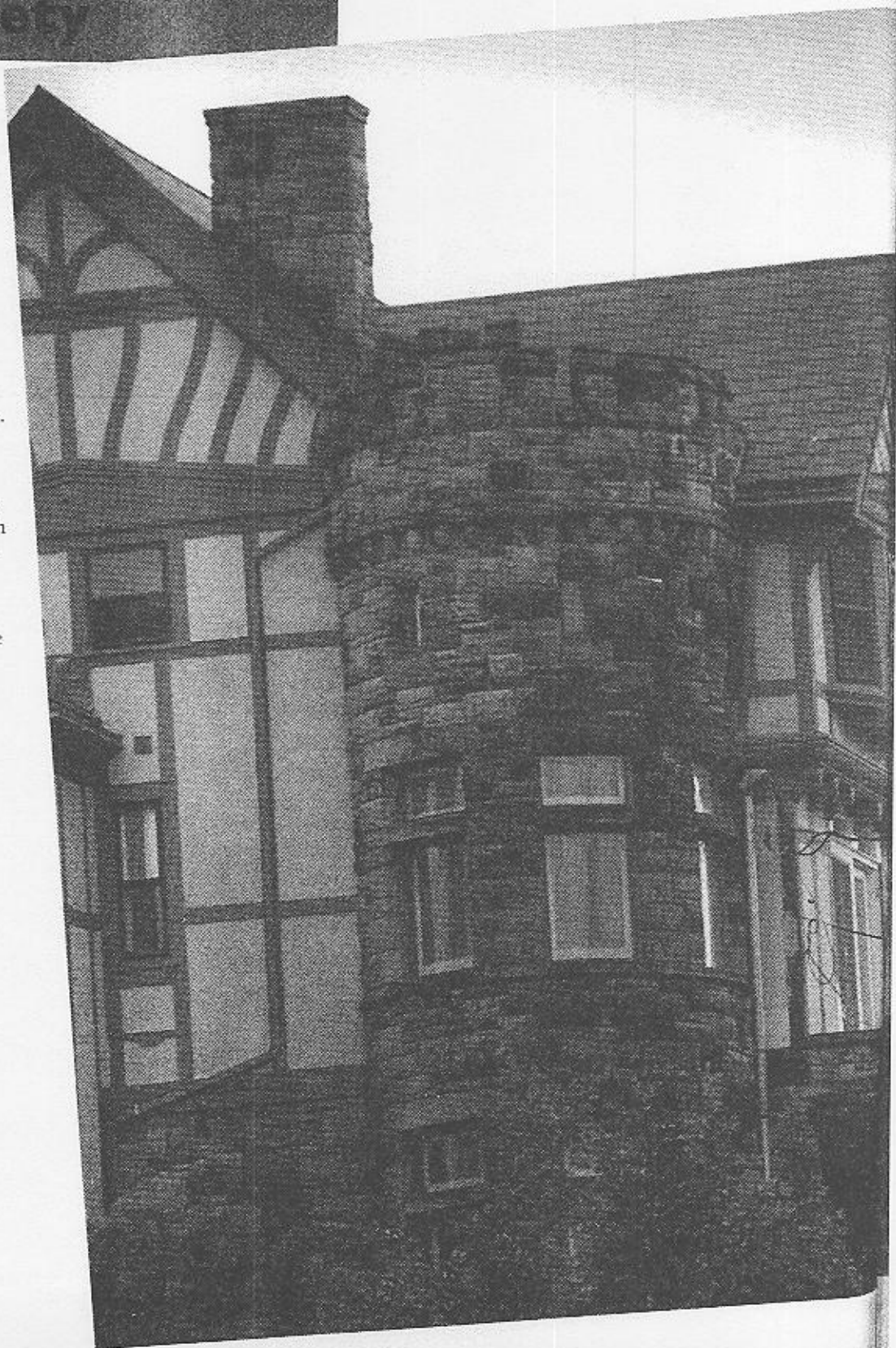
OBJECTIVE

- Structure a plan for the development of a cultural center and theatre.
- Identify the location for a cultural center and theatre.

Public Safety

Public Safety is a basic and literal concept of providing the community with a safe environment in which they live or providing a sense of security for Avondale citizens. Public Safety is concerned with various elements of crime, environmental protection, and public agencies such as the Fire and Police departments.

The Public Safety Committee has developed goals and strategies that will foster and enhance a secure and safe environment for all residents of Avondale.





GOAL 1

Have a safe community by eliminating the illegal sale, use and distribution of prescription, over-the-counter, and street drugs in Avondale.

OBJECTIVES

- Educate against the use of drugs.
- Develop an Avondale "Crime Hotline."
- Develop parenting and family relations programs to strengthen the family.
- Identify and eliminate known sites for drug sales and drug use.
- Increase police presence in the community.

GOAL 2

Create a safety network that will provide information, resources and training to combat all crime in Avondale.

OBJECTIVES

- Establish safety programs for youth.
- Establish neighborhood block watch clubs.
- Establish block clubs throughout Avondale.
- Develop a network of safe houses and safe businesses.
- Identify all safety programs available to residents through a media promotion, community newsletter, etc.
- Expand Citizens Advisory Committee to work with District #4 of the Cincinnati Police Division and Engine #32 of the Cincinnati Fire Division.
- Promote a sense of community and personal safety through the community newsletter, Citicable, events, etc., on a regular basis.

GOAL 3

Develop an environmental task force to monitor the environmental impact of existing conditions and future development in and around Avondale.

OBJECTIVES

- Assess current environmental conditions throughout the community.
- Develop an environmental action plan upon completion of assessment

GOAL 4

Ensure adequate protection by District #4 of the Cincinnati Police Division and Engine #32 of the Cincinnati Fire Division.

OBJECTIVE

- Assure fire safety inspections of all structures in the community by Engine #32 of the Cincinnati Fire Division on a regular basis.
- Assure adequate protection for all persons and property in Avondale by District #4 of the Cincinnati Police Division.

Fundraising

GOAL I

Identify funding sources to implement the goals to schedule.

OBJECTIVES

- Petition the city, county and state government for funding.
- Solicit funding from private companies, major institutions, churches, and fraternal organizations within and outside the community.
- Implement a capital fundraising campaign initiated by the Avondale Community Council (ACC).





The Avondale Vision Planning Task Force thanks the Procter Fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio for its financial support of this community planning effort. The administrator of this fund had the foresight to see the importance of providing assistance to neighborhoods that are striving to be action-oriented instead of reactionary to its environment. The planning process used in the Avondale Vision Plan can be duplicated to assist other neighborhoods in doing the same. Thank you once again to the Procter Fund of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio.

This document is also the result of efforts put forth by the Avondale Community Council (ACC) in formulating a plan for community change. The ACC has shown much foresight and thought as to how Avondale should prepare and act for the future of the community. The "Avondale Vision Plan 2005" is a document which states the goals and objectives for addressing the key issues and concerns in the Avondale community such as economic development, housing, human services, land use/zoning, public safety, and public facilities. Thank you Avondale Community Council for your vision.

The Vision Planning Task Force also thanks the Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) for their financial assistance to the Avondale Community Council. Thank you NSP.

In closing the Vision Planning Task Force would like to say thank you to all of its volunteers, organizations, companies, churches, and individuals who gave their time to assist the Task Force and the community. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Avondale Vision Planning Task Force

Avondale Vision Planning Task Force

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