

February 2016

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Articles, editorials, or calendar items should be e-mailed to Voice@EastRow.org

Submissions must be signed to be considered for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject submissions due to length, content, or appropriateness.

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Advertising: Deborah Duple

Contributors to this issue:
Tom Fromme.

Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month.

Next Meeting:

Joint meeting for Gateway and Mansion Hill neighborhoods is 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, at The Sanctuary (Monroe and 6th Streets.)

East Row Historic Foundation Officers:

Chair:
Angela Siddall
Chair@EastRow.org

Secretary:
John Robson

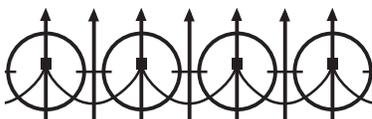
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Jeff Richardson

Mansion Hill Representative:
Elizabeth Robson

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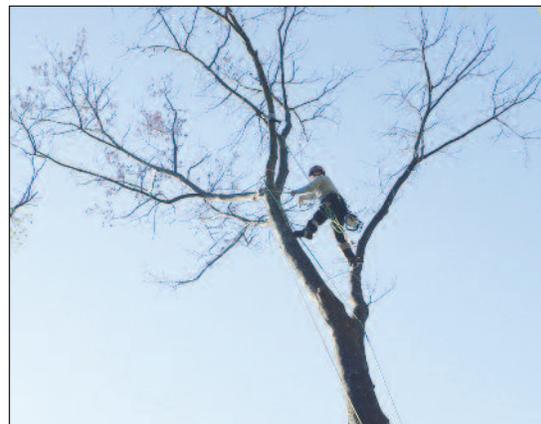
EastRow.org



Join us Feb. 16 for “Trees in Trouble: Saving America’s Urban Forests”

Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at The Sanctuary Event Center (417 E 6th St., Newport) for a special viewing of the Cincinnati-based documentary “Trees in Trouble: Saving America’s Urban Forests.”

After a jog through Burnet Woods where she noticed that many of the trees were dead or dying and was told that it was because infestation by a foreign pest, Cincinnati documentary director Andrea Torrice decided to develop this documentary. “Trees in Trouble” tells the story of America’s urban and community forests and the threats they face. It follows Cincinnati Parks’ Dave Gamstetter and his team as they deal with the social and environmental impacts that threats like emerald ash borer bring, as well as the seemingly endless costs of solving this serious issue. It was recently featured in an Enquirer article: <http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2015/11/04/trees-trouble-documentary-cincinnati-oakley/75156822/>



CET first aired this 30-minute documentary locally this past November and PBS will run it nationally on Arbor Day this year. The East Row Garden Club is fortunate to be able to host a local showing thanks to a copy provided by Davey Tree. Attending will be a few of those individuals interviewed in the film who will be available for questions afterward. Come learn more about the crisis facing trees in urban areas!

Space is limited. If you are planning on attending please let us know you are coming by [clicking here to register on our website](#).

Please join us!

East Row Listserv – How Do I Sign Up?

For those who may know about it, but may not know how to sign up to be part of it, here is the information on the East Row Listserv.

Just as an aside, a listserv is an electronic mailing list software application, consisting of a set of email addresses for a group, in which the sender can send one email and it will reach a variety of people.

To subscribe to the East Row Listserv, send an email to east_row-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. The group is moderated and you will receive an email when you have been accepted.

State of the City 2016

by City Manager Tom Fromme

As we enter into 2016, it is time to examine the condition of the city and the list the accomplishments of 2015, along with the goals for 2016. We have been fortunate to have stable leadership over a long period of time. This stability has allowed us to "keep our eye on the ball" and steadily work toward accomplishing a shared vision. This vision is to make Newport a great place to live, work, shop and play through enhanced quality of life.

During the past year a whirlwind of positive activity has occurred within Newport. In 2015, we saw the continuation of the annual street and sidewalk repair program, with more than \$900,000 spent on these improvements. In addition to the street program, the Newport Pavilion was completed and fully occupied. The \$80 million Aqua on the Levee project saw a considerable amount of development with a planned opening in late 2016. Groundbreakings for a new Hampton Suite, to replace the old Travel Lodge, and for the new Route 9 along the Licking River took place.



We had considerable citizen involvement with the installation of four Red Bike stands, improvements to Buena Vista Park and an aggressive tree planting effort. Forty new businesses made Newport their home and more than 300 new jobs were created, which made this an extraordinary year for economic development. Since 2006, Newport has experienced more than \$200 million in new developments, making this period one of the most successful in the 221-year year history of Newport.

In the foreseeable future, we project several new developments to occur. Many of these potential developments are mixed-use, with both residential and commercial. There are also some developments such as an office building and the SkyWheel that we are diligently working toward.

There are many other opportunities, as well. The Route 9 Corridor will spur new development - including residential. The departure of the Baptist Convalescent Center, while creating a short term loss of payroll, will allow us to re-develop that area in a way that will benefit the surrounding neighborhood.

If economic conditions stay favorable, I project the total value of developments to exceed \$1 billion dollars, over the next ten years!

While we have been successful in new developments, we will continue to face many challenges as we move into the future. We are still dealing with an aged infrastructure that requires a significant amount of maintenance and repair. During the next

few years, we anticipate spending several million dollars on infrastructure-related projects. Some of the other maintenance issues that we deal with, on an ongoing basis, include street sweeping, snow removal, handicap sidewalk ramps, sidewalks, trees, floodwall and gates, street signs and markings, municipal complex and city-owned property and equipment. Other challenges will include the improvement of the quality of housing within some neighborhoods, increasing the city revenue stream and keeping up with ever-changing technology. Perhaps the biggest and most continuous challenge for Newport, and surrounding cities, is addressing the question of how to pay for the delivery of public services to our residents. The cost of service continues to grow, mainly due to increasing personnel costs. These costs make up a considerable amount of our annual budget. With many cities having their own police, fire and public works departments, consolidation of these services must be examined and potentially implemented.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, Newport ended with a General Fund Balance of \$2,552,414. During the current fiscal year, we anticipate spending several hundred thousand dollars in street repairs. A list of streets scheduled for work will be posted on our website at www.newportky.gov. Additionally, other capital improvements for the year include mast arm replacement at several intersections, rebuilding the intersection at Third and Washington, slippage repairs on Grandview Avenue and repairing the Barrel Vaults under the Purple People Bridge. We continue to operate with a very small staff and make every effort to provide a high quality of service at a reasonable cost.

Our goals continue to be further redevelopment (both residential and commercial), working on quality-of-life issues (such as parks and recreation) and maintaining a safe walkable community. From a fiscal perspective, we will continue to work on growing revenues, keeping our expenses reasonable, reducing and eliminating the use of Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN), reducing the amount of debt service and continuing improvement of the City credit rating of A- by Standard & Poor's.

Thanks for your efforts to continue to make Newport a great place to live, work, shop and play. Things are happening in Newport! 🍷

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Newport Independent School District partnering with The Christ Hospital to provide school nurse

Services provided free of charge to students

The Newport Independent School District is partnering with The Christ Hospital to provide a nurse practitioner that will care for the district's students.

Laura Huss, a nurse practitioner and Newport resident employed by The Christ Hospital, will provide health and wellness services to all four schools in the Newport Independent School District.

As of Feb. 1, Huss began providing health and wellness services to students that include school and sport physicals, immunizations and sick visits. All services are provided free of charge to students."

"Laura Huss is an experienced Family Nurse Practitioner who can see our staff as well as all of our students," said Kim Weaver, the district's school nurse. "She will be working three full days a week, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in the health clinic at Newport Middle School beginning in February. Laura lives in Newport and is very excited to become part of the Newport team." The school nurse will support the instructional programs within Newport Independent Schools by creating a climate of health and well-being in the district schools and by addressing the health needs of the school consistent with the goals set forth by the Board of Education.

"It is our mission to improve the health of the community and to bring wellness services to neighborhoods around the Greater Cincinnati area," said Joseph Bateman, MD, of The Christ Hospital. "We are excited to partner with Newport Independent Schools to provide a much needed service to Northern Kentucky youth and their families."

Parents of Newport Independent School students can make an appointment with the nurse practitioner by calling 859.760.5034.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook at Newport Independent School District and each school's Twitter page. You can also download our app, Newport ISD or visit our webpage at <http://www.newportwildcats.org/>. Our goal is to keep you informed about the great things happening at Newport Independent Schools. 

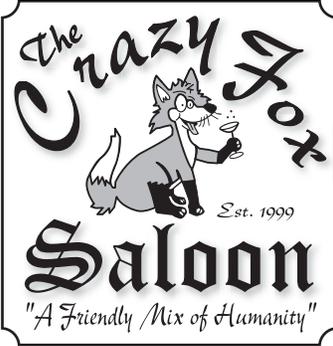
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Angie's list

Become a **Garden Mentor** for the **Ann Street Community Garden!**



This ongoing volunteer position is perfect for experienced gardeners with a passion for community involvement.

- ✓ **Help new gardeners learn to grow their own vegetables**
- ✓ **Coach, encourage and answer questions**
- ✓ **Garden with us in your own 4' x 8' plot**

Mentors volunteer once a week during the growing season – pick a day and time that works for you!

To sign up, contact Molly Saks:
859-491-8303 ext. 2318
msaks@brightoncenter.com

