

uptown tempo

Fall 2008

Uptown Cincinnati includes these neighborhoods

Avondale, Mt. Auburn, Clifton, Corryville, Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview (CUF)

Uptown Cincinnati in the midst of a rebirth

Summer flowers and trees aren't the only things blooming in Uptown. Four of Uptown's communities, Avondale; Clifton; Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview; and Corryville are currently in the midst of exciting revitalization projects that will breathe new life into their business districts.

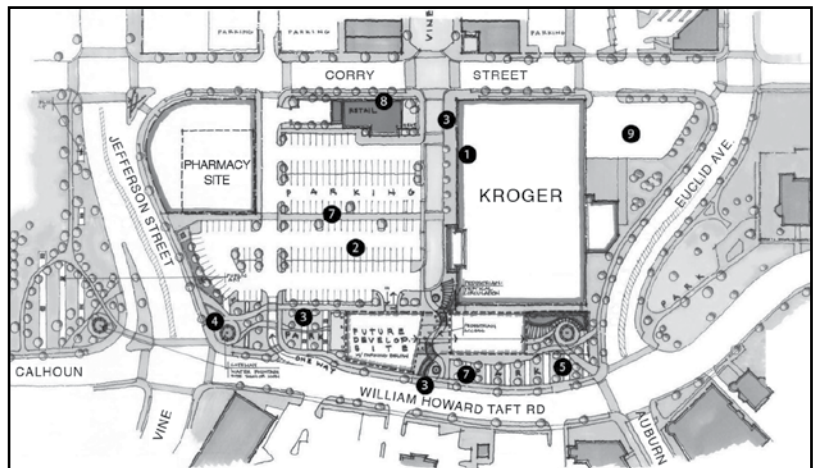
"This is a very exciting time," said Tony Brown, president and CEO of the Uptown Consortium. "The work and extensive planning efforts of many community partners are coming together at one time to help create a bold, new Uptown. We're reaching a level of activity that is getting noticed by others who want to invest in Uptown. Our catalytic investments will help drive additional private investment."

Short Vine redevelopment becoming a reality

The Short Vine redevelopment project, which is still in the conceptual stage, includes redeveloping University Plaza and planning for hotel and retail development along Martin Luther King Drive. In recent months, the Uptown Consortium purchased a portfolio of properties around Short Vine from the Vine Street Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation. In total, there is \$100 million in the development pipeline for projects slated to redevelop properties on or near Short Vine, with \$30 million of that coming through the Uptown Cincinnati Development Fund.

"We have a tremendous opportunity here to create a village and reinvent an area by taking the Corryville momentum created with Stetson Square and extending it to Short Vine," said Brown.

(story continued on page 2)



Anchor Properties' proposed plan for University Plaza.

Camera surveillance system will bolster crime prevention

Watchful eyes in a neighborhood have long been considered an effective crime deterrent. In a continuing effort to reduce crime in Uptown, the consortium's public safety committee is putting more "eyes on the street." According to Ron Morris, chairman of the public safety committee, a planned camera surveillance system will create a "win-win" situation for all Uptown neighborhoods.

"For those neighborhoods already experiencing lower crime rates, the cameras will reinforce this positive momentum," said Morris. "And for those neighborhoods struggling with increased crime, the cameras will be essential in deterring crime and providing positive avenues for crimes to be solved."

It's worth noting that there were significant decreases in both violent crimes and property crimes in most Uptown neighborhoods in 2007 (see related story, page 4). "This is great news," said Morris. "But the fact is any crime is too much crime."

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Towne Properties selected

The Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (CHCURC) and the Uptown Consortium have chosen Towne Properties to partner in the development of the area commonly known as Blocks 4 and 5, on Calhoun Street in Clifton Heights.

“Towne Properties has great experience when it comes to urban redevelopment,” said Matt Bourgeois, director of CHCURC. “Our next step is to negotiate a partnership agreement and refine the project’s development plan and financing strategies.”

Plans call for a mixed-use project consisting of office, retail, market-rate rental apartments, a hotel, and parking to support the project. Groundbreaking could occur as soon as spring 2009.

Burnet Avenue revitalization moving forward

Have you driven down Burnet Avenue lately? The community’s commitment to “Take Back Burnet Avenue!” is well underway with the first phase of more than \$85 million in new development under construction at Burnet and Northern Avenues.

Construction has started for nearly 200,000 square feet of new office space, including the *Cincinnati Herald* building, an office building for Cincinnati Children’s, and a parking garage. Development needs and construction timing dictated that the commercial phase of the project be tackled first. Site preparation — including infrastructure work like sewers and utilities — is complete, and now the new buildings are taking shape.

The housing component is moving forward as well. In an area bounded by Harvey and Erckenbrecker Avenues, a residential development will feature more than 30 new units. The housing component — currently known as Harvey Place — is moving forward. The houses will



Artist rendering of new Burnet Avenue residential development.

be contemporary in design while conforming to the principles of the Burnet Avenue Revitalization Plan and fitting within the overall feel of the neighborhood.

The residential development has been boosted by a \$13 million award in Low Income Housing Tax Credits and a \$100,000 grant by Fannie Mae to the Uptown Consortium to expand affordable housing in Uptown. The grant was used to determine housing needs in Uptown and communicate housing options to neighborhood residents.

“The Uptown Consortium is committed to making sure the neighborhood benefits from the projects in the development pipeline,” said Brown. “Ensuring that residents can afford the new housing is key to that mission. The Fannie Mae grant will help us, and the developer, find the best ways to do that.”

The Model Group has been retained to manage the housing phase of the Burnet Avenue project. They will produce a site plan, construction schedule and streetscape strategy. “The current conditions in the housing market are requiring us to take a more cautious approach,” commented Brown.

Ludlow Avenue is getting a makeover

An exciting renaissance has also begun in Clifton. The proposed Ludlow revitalization project will consist of new sidewalks and curbs, more and brighter gas lamps, new street furniture, replacement of dead or diseased trees, and a new gathering place on Telford Avenue. The project will extend from Whitfield to Clifton Avenue on the south side of Ludlow and from Middleton past the fountain on the north side of Ludlow.

The project is a joint venture of Clifton Town Meeting and the Clifton Business and Professional Organization. Funding for the project (\$1.8 million) has been provided by the City of Cincinnati. Art will be incorporated into the design so that it will reflect Clifton’s unique identity.

“The residents of Clifton appreciate the City of Cincinnati’s investment in our traditional, pedestrian-oriented business district,” said Linda Goldenhar, president of Clifton Town Meeting. “Their involvement of community members and business owners in the planning is going to allow us to showcase Clifton’s unique atmosphere.”



Federal Reserve Governor visits Uptown

Kroszner explores foreclosure crisis, sees application of tax credits

Federal Reserve Governor Randall S. Kroszner, PhD, visited Uptown in May to see first-hand the impact of foreclosures on community development. In particular, he addressed the unique risks of lending in urban areas, particularly areas of high crime and a history of disinvestments and blight. Dr. Kroszner also spoke at a NeighborWorks® network symposium on foreclosures.

Dr. Kroszner has been a member of the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors since March 2006. He oversees the Federal Reserve's Consumer Advisory Council (CAC), which advises the Board on its responsibilities under the Consumer Credit Protection Act and on other matters in the area of consumer financial services.

"I serve with Dr. Kroszner in my capacity as chairman of the CAC," said Tony Brown, president and CEO of the Uptown Consortium. "I can tell you that he is extremely engaged."

Brown noted that in light of the mortgage crisis, representatives from the Home Ownership Center, the group Working in Neighborhoods and Xavier University's Community Building Institute were on hand to explain the devastating impact of housing foreclosures to both families and neighborhoods.

"Dr. Kroszner learned how we are using New Markets and the Low Income Housing Tax Credits to attract private capital to low income, urban and minority areas," explained Brown. "All told, we have attracted more than \$60 million in private capital from these two programs, which is the catalyst for leveraging more than \$200 million in new housing and commercial projects. Having someone of Dr. Kroszner's stature come to Uptown is really a testament to the growing importance of this area. We are proud that he came to see how hard this community is working to reinvent itself."



Federal Reserve Governor Kroszner (left) talking with Tony Brown (right).

(continued from cover page)

That is why I am so passionate about implementing a camera surveillance network in Uptown."

Headed by Morris, the consortium's team of security professionals determined that a total of 39 cameras would be needed to provide a level of coverage that could significantly reduce crime in Uptown.

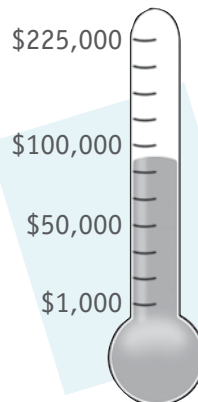
"The cameras will be strategically placed throughout the business districts in Avondale, Clifton and Corryville," said Morris. The cost to implement a first phase of the system is \$225,000.

To date, a total of \$82,000 has been raised to support this endeavor. The consortium will provide annual funding to keep the system operating and maintained once it is installed.

It should also be noted that the Department of Justice has given the Cincinnati Police Department a congressionally mandated appropriation of \$2 million for a separate initiative to install surveillance cameras throughout the entire city. The Uptown Consortium and the Cincinnati Police are working together to coordinate these two

separate initiatives. It is not yet known how much of this money will be allocated to the Uptown area.

"We need the support of the entire community — businesses, civic organizations and individuals to bring the camera surveillance system to Uptown," said Morris. Individuals and organizations that would like to know more about how they can support the camera surveillance initiative can call Lajuana Miller, Neighborhood Services Executive, at 513-861-8726 or lmiller@uptownconsortium.org.



Uptown surveillance camera fund raising goal is \$225,000.

Funds pledged to date, \$82,000.

Public Safety Update

Uptown neighborhoods working to reduce crime

The Uptown Consortium, in cooperation with the University of Cincinnati Policing Institute, has prepared comprehensive crime analysis reports for each Uptown neighborhood. These reports are intended to help community councils develop neighborhood-specific strategies for reducing crime, such as the proposed Uptown camera surveillance system.

According to Captain David Bailey, Cincinnati Police District 5 Commander, innovative, place-based approaches are critical to crime prevention. For example, Cincinnati Police began partnering with Avondale residents when some violent crimes increased sharply in 2007. Statistics available for the first half of 2008 suggest that the cooperation is having a positive effect. "I'm encouraged that violent crimes have seen decreases in some neighborhoods," said Captain Bailey. "We realize, though, there is still much work to be done. That's why Cincinnati Police are committed to working with community organizations, local businesses, the media and the University of Cincinnati to continually educate people about how not to be a victim of crime."

One current effort that is gaining support is CeaseFire Cincinnati, a community-based movement to reduce gun-related homicides in Avondale. The central message to the community from the CeaseFire program is let's "Stop the shooting! Stop the killing!" now. The mission of CeaseFire Cincinnati is to reduce violence through street-level outreach, collaborations with criminal justice, public education, community mobilization, and the leadership of the faith community. More information is available at www.ceasefirecincinnati.com.

"Light Up Clifton" program helping make the neighborhood safer

In response to a crime analysis report for Clifton, which reflected an upward trend in burglary and thefts in early 2007, the Clifton Town Meeting instituted the "Light Up Clifton" program. The program received a \$4,000 grant from the Uptown Consortium.

"Clifton Town Meeting worked with Cincinnati Police District 5 to put together a packet of proven crime prevention tips to improve security in and around the Clifton area," explained George Bishop, chairman of the Clifton Town Meeting Safety Committee. The packets were distributed and residents were encouraged to turn on their porch lights and keep them on all night. Effective exterior lighting on homes is considered an important deterrent to property crimes.

Uptown violent crime statistics

Avondale	2006	2007	Jan-June 2008
Murder	4	11	2
Rape	11	22	6
Robbery	151	138	71
Aggravated Assault	95	83	31

Clifton	2006	2007	Jan-June 2008
Murder	2	0	0
Rape	18	13	5
Robbery	58	37	18
Aggravated Assault	13	12	6

Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview

	2006	2007	Jan-June 2008
Murder	3	0	0
Rape	16	14	7
Robbery	113	96	48
Aggravated Assault	24	29	11

Corryville	2006	2007	Jan-June 2008
Murder	1	1	1
Rape	6	2	2
Robbery	67	51	34
Aggravated Assault	14	16	8

Mt. Auburn	2006	2007	Jan-June 2008
Murder	1	1	2
Rape	5	4	2
Robbery	28	42	27
Aggravated Assault	29	34	15

Uptown property crime statistics

Avondale	2006	2007	Jan-June 2008
Burglary	224	288	128
Larceny	580	574	255
Auto Theft	126	104	34

Clifton	2006	2007	Jan-June 2008
Burglary	129	103	50
Larceny	423	412	139
Auto Theft	55	58	16

Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview

	2006	2007	Jan-June 2008
Burglary	309	347	76
Larceny	629	683	115
Auto Theft	96	95	19

Corryville	2006	2007	Jan-June 2008
Burglary	86	83	51
Larceny	301	300	153
Auto Theft	46	27	12

Mt. Auburn	2006	2007	Jan-June 2008
Burglary	108	116	33
Larceny	266	272	108
Auto Theft	85	62	14

Questions & Answers

featuring James Anderson *President of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center*

Each issue of *Uptown Tempo* features an interview with an Uptown community leader. For this issue, *Uptown Tempo* talked with James Anderson, President and CEO of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and Vice Chairman of the Uptown Consortium Board of Directors.

What impact do you hope the revitalization of Burnet Avenue will have on the residents of Avondale and Uptown as a whole?

It is my hope that the revitalization of Burnet Avenue will lead to a deeper sense of community pride for all Avondale residents.

I believe the successful revitalization of Burnet Avenue will motivate more people to participate in the civic process and support the community-building efforts of the Avondale Community Council and the Uptown Consortium. There are many concerned residents, organizations and businesses working together and doing fantastic things to improve the quality of life in Uptown, but more help is needed.

I also hope that the revitalization of Burnet Avenue will spark a community-wide economic turnaround, complete with increased employment, higher home ownership rates, better performing schools, safer streets, increased entrepreneurship and greater opportunity for everyone.

What do you hope to achieve through your personal involvement with the Uptown Consortium?

Since becoming involved with the Uptown Consortium, I've gained a better understanding of the Uptown community beyond the Cincinnati Children's campus and the boundaries of Avondale. I have a deeper appreciation for both the challenges confronting this community and its many assets.

I think this is a very exciting time for the entire Uptown community. We have a wonderful opportunity to build on the area's strengths and make Uptown an ideal destination to live, work and play.

Community involvement has been key to Burnet Avenue's rebirth strategy, particularly the efforts of the Burnet Avenue Revitalization Team (BART).

Who is this team comprised of and what role have they played?

BART is an active work group comprised of Avondale community leaders and business leaders organized for the purpose of ensuring that the Avondale community has a voice in the



*James Anderson, President and CEO,
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center*

development of Burnet Avenue. The group reviews and comments on development plans and proposals, advising architects and developers through the four stages of the Burnet Avenue revitalization plan. Cincinnati Children's, Avondale residents, Avondale Community Council members, the Uptown Consortium, and Local Initiatives Support Cooperation are represented on BART.

How are Cincinnati Children's, the Uptown Consortium and DNK Neyer working together to ensure that small and minority-owned businesses have opportunities to work on the revitalization project?

Both Neyer, the project contractor, and DNK Architects, a minority owned business, have strong track records providing opportunities for minority owned businesses. Not only do they design and build quality development projects, both Neyer and DNK understand the importance of investing in the fabric of a neighborhood and being sensitive to the concerns of neighbors during a development project. They have worked closely with Cincinnati Children's and the Avondale Community Council to recruit and hire Avondale residents to work on the project. They've also shown their commitment to Avondale families by establishing an Adopt-a-School partnership with Rockdale Academy.

Does your group or organization want to publicize an upcoming event?

If so, please email your information to info@uptownconsortium.org. Your information will be included in the "events" section on our Web site.

Avondale youth making a difference!

Members of the Avondale Youth Council are working hard to make their neighborhood a better place to live.

As part of an Anti-Litter and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) grant funded by the Uptown Consortium, Avondale's youth are helping make its streets both safer and cleaner for its residents.

Better yet, the young people are learning valuable skills that will last a lifetime.

Local Initiatives Support Cooperation (LISC) is in charge of overseeing the grant money given to the Avondale Community Council. "We're using the grant money to get Avondale's young people involved in their community," said LISC program officer, Ozie Davis. "The result has been several highly-successful, ongoing youth initiatives."

To date, the Community Police Partnering Center has trained 15 young people to evaluate homes for CPTED. After evaluating a home, the kids and experts work together to make the appropriate recommendations to homeowners on how to make their property safer.

Each homeowner who takes part in the program receives \$500 to make the necessary improvements and Avondale Youth Council members can earn money by assisting with installation.

Another initiative of the Avondale Youth Council is an anti-littering campaign called "Trash Cans Poppin', Litterin' Stoppin'," which focuses on cleaning up central Avondale. As part of the program, the kids made two field trips, one

to the city dump and one to the city recycling center to learn the importance of proper waste disposal and recycling. Since then, the Youth Council has held three separate clean-up events which won them the "Large Project Award" from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.



Avondale youth council members with Cincinnati Police Chief Tom Streicher.

Youth Council members are also participating in CeaseFire Cincinnati. CeaseFire is a neighborhood-based program where citizens, police and supporting agencies work together to create a safer community. Youth Council members participate by canvassing streets with CeaseFire staff, handing out literature about stopping gun violence. The council also participated in "National Night Out," a community relations program with the Cincinnati Police, which earned them another award from the police partnering center.

"These programs provide an avenue to keep kids off the street," said Davis. "They are learning important life skills like how to be organized, how to complete tasks and how to be leaders."

Johnay Brazzle, president of the Avondale Youth Council, agrees. "These programs have been a positive learning experience."

Resident Spotlight:

No challenge is too big for Uptown resident Maureen France

"It's about taking notice and wanting to make a difference," said Maureen France, long-time resident of Fairview. France, who is vice president of the CUF* Community Council, teaches photography at the University of Cincinnati School of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning. She has been actively involved in the improvement of her neighborhood for nearly two decades.

France tackled her first project around 18 years ago when she took it upon herself to save the historic Brighton Overpass. "The overpass was slated for demolition," explained France. "So I sat on the overpass day after day and did car and pedestrian counts. I wanted to be able to prove the need of the overpass, especially for children walking to school in the West End." Her hard work paid off. The City of Cincinnati found money in its infrastructure fund and renovated the beautiful, historic bridge, which has since won notable historic preservation awards.

Her next challenge focused on tackling neighborhood blight. France identified three long-vacant, single-family



Fairview resident, Maureen France.

houses on McMicken Avenue that had been a neighborhood hazard for quite some time. "They were beautiful structures of historic significance and a part of the streetscape that I didn't want to disappear," said France. "I contacted the City of Cincinnati and worked with them to have the properties renovated." France was even instrumental in

finding new owners for the renovated homes. Since then, several other buildings in the neighborhood have been renovated.

"CUF is a neighborhood filled with opportunities, great neighbors and beautiful parks," said France. CUF is also home to people like Maureen France, whose commitment to the community make it a great place to live.

*CUF consists of the neighborhoods of Clifton Heights, University Heights and Fairview.

Community Collaborative

“Learn and Earn” program helping residents find jobs

Sixty-five residents from nine Empowerment Zone (EZ) neighborhoods have found employment through a workforce development program called “Learn and Earn.” The program is the result of the creativity and determination of the Mt. Auburn Community Council and its president, Stanley Broadnax, M.D., who designed the program.

The program was made possible by a \$60,000 grant from the Cincinnati Empowerment Corporation and a matching \$60,000 grant from the St. Joseph Development Corporation. The program has also benefited from funding by the Uptown Consortium, Cincinnati Police Department and the University of Cincinnati. Four of the EZ neighborhoods involved are located in Uptown: Avondale, Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview, Corryville and Mt. Auburn.

“Learn and Earn” uses direct financial incentives to encourage area employers to hire residents who live in the EZ neighborhoods. “Learn and Earn” business participants receive a stipend that covers hourly wages (up to \$7.50 per hour) for newly employed residents during their job orientation and training period.

“In some instances, the program will even provide stipends to defray the cost of special work apparel,” explained Dr. Broadnax. “I applaud the willingness

of the new Dunkin’ Donuts/Baskin Robbins (435 E. Martin Luther King Drive) and Taco Bell (intersection of McMillan and Highland Avenues in Mt. Auburn) to focus on hiring neighborhood residents.”

Since the “Learn and Earn” program was launched in 2005, it has served more than 400 youth and adults.

Uptown businesses interested in learning more about the “Learn and Earn” program, can call Dr. Stanley Broadnax at 513-390-1245.

Neighborhood	Taco Bell	Dunkin’ Donuts/ Baskin Robbins
Avondale Clifton Heights/ University Heights	6	7
Fairview	5	3
Corryville	5	4
Mt. Auburn	10	5
Evanston	4	2
Over-the-Rhine	3	0
Walnut Hills	3	4
West End	3	1
Total EZ and Uptown residents	39	26

Dunkin’ Donuts supports the “Learn and Earn” program

If you ask Dunkin’ Donuts/Baskin Robbins owner Mike Rielly what makes his store so special, he’ll quickly tell you it’s his staff. “My staff and crew are committed to making your visit to our store a pleasant experience,” said Rielly. Rielly heavily recruited workers who live in Uptown neighborhoods to staff the new store on Martin Luther King Drive. In fact, 26 members of his staff received employment training through the Mt. Auburn Community Council’s “Learn and Earn” program.

According to Rielly, he chose Uptown for the location of his new store because of all of the new business and residential developments that are coming to the area. “There are a lot of wonderful things happening in Uptown,” said Rielly. “This area is about to explode in terms of a revitalization. I truly believe in this community.” The new store features the traditional coffee, donuts and pastries that Dunkin’ Donuts is famous for, as well as a new anytime snack menu.

“We’re offering the expanded menu because we want to give people who live and work in the area other lunchtime options,” said Rielly. The snack menu features three cheese, ham and Swiss, or turkey, bacon and cheddar flatbread sandwiches and grab-n-go pizza. The store also has an anytime breakfast menu that includes hash browns and a choice of your favorite breakfast items served on an English muffin, croissant or bagel.



Dunkin’ Donuts manager Tom Rielly with his crew.

Burnet Avenue Gateway Center study receives \$35,000 grant

A small business incubator that will help empower low-income individuals to start new businesses is being fueled by a \$35,000 grant from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF). GCF has underwritten a feasibility study for the Burnet Avenue project that will be known as the Gateway Center.

"The Gateway Center represents a great opportunity for Uptown's entrepreneurs," said Patricia Milton, president of the Avondale Community Council.

"The urban environment poses unique challenges for existing and emerging small businesses. It is critical we provide access to the resources necessary to maximize the formation, growth and success of running a small business in an urban neighborhood. The talent and potential are here, and this project lets us tap that potential. The GCF grant will go a long way in helping us do that."

The Gateway Center project will also focus on recruiting and sustaining small businesses, with a particular focus on minority-owned businesses. It will provide services ranging from job training and credit counseling to business planning and marketing.

Uptown Consortium Mission

The Uptown Consortium is a non-profit community development corporation dedicated to the human, social, economic and physical improvement of Uptown Cincinnati. Uptown is located just north of downtown and the Consortium's areas of focus generally include the neighborhoods of **Avondale, Clifton, Clifton Heights, Corryville, Fairview, Mt. Auburn** and **University Heights**. The Consortium will undertake a variety of investment and program activities in Uptown to help provide housing, health care and job opportunities.

Avondale Community Council

President: Patricia Milton

(513) 281-4414

avondalecouncil5@aol.com

Meeting Place: Avondale Community Pride Ctr., 3520 Burnet Ave.

Meeting Time: Third Tuesday/Except July and August, 6:30 pm

www.avondalecommunitycouncil.org

Clifton Community Council

President: Linda Goldenhar

(513) 961-5516

ctm@cliftoncommunity.org

Meeting Place: Clifton Community Ctr., 320 McAlpin Ave.

Meeting Time: First Monday, 7:30 pm

www.cliftoncommunity.org

Corryville Community Council

President: Clyde Nowlin

(513) 751-2427

clyde@clydenowlin.com

Meeting Place: Corryville Recreation Ctr., 2823 Eden Ave.

Meeting Time: Second Tuesday, 6 pm

www.corryville.org

Clifton Heights/University Heights/Fairview Community Council

President: Linda Ziegler

(513) 946-8648

zieglerL@fuse.net

Meeting Place: Deaconess Hospital, 311 Straight St.

Meeting Time: Third Tuesday, 7:30 pm

www.cufna.org

Mt. Auburn Community Council

President: Stanley Broadnax, MD

(513) 241-5043

stanleybroadnax@fuse.net

Meeting Place: Senior Citizens Building, 2010 Auburn Ave.

Meeting Time: Third Monday, 7 pm

www.neighborhoodlink.com/cincinnati/mtauburn



Uptown Tempo is distributed to Uptown residents and businesses by the Uptown Consortium, Inc. If you have comments, suggestions or story ideas, please contact:

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