

Roselawn Community Council Newsletter

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

(as of January 1, 2004)

Alycia Boggs

Lorie Buxton (Secretary)

Tricia Davis (NSP Manager)

Habtu Ghebre-Ab

Tamara Johnson

Clifford Jones

Dan Joyner

Steve Kirschner (Exec. V.P.)

Charles Lewis (Treasurer)

Rick Menefield

Hogarth Merrick

Ruby Metts

Paul Probst (President)

Maureen Royle

Cynthia Shafer

Nancy Sunnenberg

Maurice Taylor

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Reginald Boggs - Law & Safety

Mary Donaldson - Newsletter

Ed Moser - Business

Sonya Kirkland - Newsletter

Gary Moffett - Litter

Maureen Royle - Membership

Cynthia Shafer - Law & Safety

Ed Moser - Beautification

**Roselawn Community
Council meetings are
held on the 2nd
Thursday of each
month at 7:30 p.m. in
the library of Our
Mother of Sorrows
School. There is no
meeting in August.**

It's a new year and time to renew your RCC membership on the convenient form on the back of this newsletter. For just \$5 for an individual membership, \$10 for a family, or \$3 for a senior citizen, you can be a voting member at monthly Community Council meetings. Make your voice heard!

What is the Community Council, and what does it do? The RCC is a group of individuals and residents of Roselawn, who meet monthly to talk about neighborhood improvements, hear from our area law enforcement and safety officers, local speakers (such as community council members and other organizers) and stay in touch with each other and the goings on in our very special neighborhood.

Who pays for everything? The RCC receives funds from the City of Cincinnati, and uses it to fund a youth program, beautification of the streets and Roselawn Park (flowers, trees, and other plantings), and other things like this newsletter. Your membership dues help defray costs too.

We meet monthly, on the second Thursday, in the library at **Our Mother of Sorrows** School. If you've never been to a meeting, there is no better way to find out what is going on around you and your family in Roselawn.

May will be here before we know it, and with it, the annual election of RCC officers. If you would like to find out more about how you can be involved in your community, serve on a committee, or become part of the Executive team through elected office, please call the RCC office and leave your name and telephone number.

Paul Probst, President

Sonya Kirkland, who has played a major role in producing this Newsletter for the past few years, has tendered her notice. We will all miss her and want to say a big **"Thank you, Sonya, for a job well done!"** Please join the RCC in wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

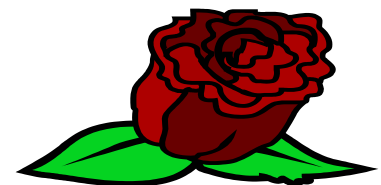
If you wish to report litter, trash or overgrown grass and weeds:

Occupied Property	352-
Vacant residential building.....	352-
Vacant lot.....	564-
Vacant Commercial Property.....	352-3267/352-
Abandoned Vehicles.....	352-

(provide address, license plate number, if any, and description of vehicle. Ask that the report be put in the **overtime parking book.**)

The RCC Phone number is 821-8918.

www.roselawn.org



What's Goin' On?

We have some good news for Roselawn -- or at least interesting news!

First, the crime statistics for January through November 2003 have been posted, and Roselawn experienced a reduction in Part I crimes of almost 10% compared to the first 11 months of 2002! That reduction compares favorably to the 1.2% reduction for the City as a whole and the 2.3% reduction for District 4. That follows a reduction of 4.4% in Part I crimes in Roselawn from 2001 to 2002, when the City as a whole experienced an 11.8% increase.

Second, the City's budget for 2004, recently approved by City Council, includes several items of particular interest for Roselawn. The budget includes (a) \$13+ million for the City to purchase and assist in the redevelopment of Huntington Meadows, with the expectation of developing single-family homes; (b) \$10,000 for each of the 34 neighborhood business districts, the funds to be administered by Cincinnati Neighborhood Business Districts United; and (c) an additional \$2,000 for each of the City's 52 community councils, to be administered through the longstanding Neighborhood Support Program.

Although details and implementation remain to be seen, this is probably the most exciting budget news Roselawn has seen in many years!

About eleven (11) representatives from Roselawn attended the **Neighborhood Summit** put on by the City on January 31, 2004. Held at the Cintas Center at Xavier University, there were many mini seminars to choose from on issues that impact our community. Examples include Arts and Culture, Mayor's Forum, Law and Safety, and City-funded initiatives, just to name a few. Those who attended will have information of interest to share.

Ed Moser has sought and been awarded the Chairmanship of the Beautification Committee as of January 1, 2004. Ed's focus will concentrate attention on the Reading Road corridor of the neighborhood. Former Chair Nancy Sunnenberg (9/99 – 12/03) publicly introduced Mr. Moser as incoming Chair to the general membership at the December RCC meeting, welcoming his enthusiasm and unique ideas, and encouraging member support through participation. Commenting on the closing term Nancy writes, "Our efforts, which often incorporate an environmental stance, are financed through NSP funds, donations, grant awards, and city programs like Urban Forestry's Spring ReLeaf."

Did you know that there are 3 community gardening sites in Roselawn?

- Travelers on Reading Road, in cars and at the bus stop, enjoy the **garden at Reading and Summit** where colorful annuals compliment the laid stone wall and the anchor plantings there.
- Hundreds of daffodils and bluebells trumpet the arrival of Spring at the **Arches at Reading and Rosecliff**, followed by the wisteria and Zephirine Drouhin climbing roses on the gray stone gateway. Squirrels and birds provide Winter interest and color at the birdfeeders, while year-round, Ben Meyer's "designer" bench invites you to rest, or play "Wave and Honk."
- **The Eastlawn Garden** transformed the terminus of Eastlawn Drive in Summer 2001 through a Neighbor Network Merit Grant. Make this a destination to share a cup of coffee with a friend or read the Sunday paper, or simply enjoy some quiet time outdoors in our park!

Roselawn Community Notes

Law & Safety: We had our first meeting of 2004. Is anyone interested in joining the Law & Safety Committee? If so, please call the RCC office at 821-8918 and leave a message. Your call will be returned and the address of the next meeting location will be given to you. If you are not sure what the Law & Safety Committee does, feel free to come to the meetings for the answer.

Wanted: Box Tops for Education: Please continue to support this program benefiting Roselawn Condon. Save your box tops – with program decals – from General Mills products (cereals, fruit snacks, Lloyd's, Betty Crocker & Yoplait products). Drop them off at school or bring them to the RCC meetings. This helps buy computers, learning materials and sports equipment.

Roselawn Condon School: Important Dates to Remember:

Friday, Feb. 13th District Release Day: No school

Monday, Feb. 16th President's Day: No school

Wednesday, Feb. 18th PTA Mtg. @ 6:00 pm (Auditorium)

Monday, Feb. 23rd Instructional Leadership Team Mtg. @ 3:30 pm

Thursday, Feb. 26th Local School Decision Making Committee Mtg. @ 4:30 pm

A New Vision for Roselawn – by Dan Joyner

Have you heard about the Columbia Tusculum Town Square Project? If not, check out the website http://www.enquirer.com/editions/2003/12/29/loc_loc1acolumb.html.

The Roselawn Community Council Trustees participated in a strategic planning session several years ago. We decided that the town square & boulevard idea was so good that we made it the **Vision** for the Community Council. The Columbia Tusculum Community Council had the same idea. You must read what's about to happen in that East Cincinnati community - They have nearly realized their vision!

Roselawn Community Council can do the same thing. We have to first make our vision the driving force behind all that we do. We sometimes have difficulty grasping abstract concepts like "Vision", "Mission" and "Strategic Planning". The Columbia Tusculum Project is proof positive that **our vision of a Roselawn Town Square and The Reading Road Boulevard** are highly possible. We have to organize our current piecemeal efforts into a unified focus that will change the current direction of our community. When we accomplish that, our vision will start to crystallize - then more and more people get on board... Once we reach that stage, the momentum increases exponentially and before long Roselawn becomes exactly what it deserves. "On the other hand, if we don't do something different, Roselawn will become exactly what it deserves".

We have a good start; **we have a Vision** (we need to use it). Remember last year's Roselawn city council candidates forum? One of the questions candidates responded to was "Will you support Roselawn's Vision for a Town Square Plan?" We now have elected officials in office who said, in writing, **I'll support your vision**.

What's it going to be? (a) the current failing dirty vision of Roselawn or (b) the future bright thriving vision conceived several years ago. The time is right for us get on with our plan.

Garden District Block Watch: Mark your calendar now – the next block watch meeting will be held on Saturday, March 13, at 10:00 a.m. Please note our NEW meeting location – the Police Substation located at the rear entrance to Franklin Savings & Loan on Reading Road (at the Valley Shopping Center). This is across the parking lot from our old meeting location at the Roselawn Library. One of the topics will be plans for the **Blockwatch Blockparty** in June. Other safety issues will also be addressed. Everyone is encouraged to come.

A note from **Block Watch** : Please turn on your porch lights in the evening. Criminals are deterred by brightly lit areas. Leave the lights on until daylight to ensure that our children leaving for school in the dark are illuminated. Thank you!

The RCC needs the following items: Microsoft Office 2000 upgrade (or full version), and locks for the office file cabinets (and someone to install them). If you are able to donate any of the above please call the office at 821-8918 and leave a message.

Community Council – Opportunities to Serve

RCC Leadership Positions: Elections for Officers and Trustees of the RCC will be held in May. The current President and Treasurer are not running for re-election. If you are interested in these, or any other elected offices, please call the RCC office or attend a monthly meeting for details.

Newsletter - If you would like to be involved in producing the newsletter or if you have an item for an upcoming issue, please contact Mary Donaldson via the RCC office or email mdonaldson@fuse.net.

Beautification - If you are interested in taking up the gauntlet (or hoe) by getting involved as one of the many gardeners needed to maintain and improve our sites, contact the RCC office, and leave a message for Ed Moser, Committee Chair.

Youth Consultant - This position is part-time and it assists the Youth Program Committee to secure resources to support our programs. This involves contacting funders, writing grants and attending the Program Committee meetings. The consultant advises the Committee on program plans, reports to ongoing funders and shares pertinent, helpful information. The position pays \$2500 annually. If interested, please send your resume to RCC, P.O. Box 37087, Cincinnati, OH 45222 by February 28, 2004.

Are you and your family new Roselawn residents? If so, you have joined a vibrant community. We would love to meet you. Please attend a monthly RCC meeting and introduce yourself so we may welcome you personally.

Would you like to be included on an informational Roselawn email listserv? Please email Cindy Shafer and put "Roselawn List" in the subject line. Her email address is: cashafer@vssp.com

It's time to fill out your 2003 **Membership Form**. Joining the Roselawn Community Council is quick, easy and a bargain. Either mail the form in with your check or bring it to a meeting. We invite you to attend— your input is encouraged. This is a lively, congenial event and you'll hear all the latest news about your community. Take part actively, or just sit back and listen – you'll be welcomed. Find out why Roselawn is regarded as an engaged and organized neighborhood by City Hall. If you are a new member, we'd love to meet you. If you're a renewing member, we welcome you back, and thanks to all!