

New year brings capital funds for Mill Creek

The nonprofit Groundwork Cincinnati/Mill Creek (*formerly Mill Creek Restoration Project*) will receive two capital grants from the Clean Ohio Fund in 2013.

The first grant, in the amount of \$245,479, will come from the Clean Ohio Trail Fund and will underwrite construction of Phase 4 of the City's Mill Creek Greenway Trail. The new hike and bike trail segment will extend over half-of-a-mile from the current southern terminus in Camp Washington and connect to the intersection of Beekman Avenue and Fricke Road, where the Ethel M. Taylor Academy (*a Cincinnati Public School*) is located.

Groundwork Cincinnati/Mill Creek (*GWC*) will collaborate on the project with the South Cumminsville and Millvale neighborhoods; the property owners, the City of Cincinnati and Mill Creek Valley Conservancy District; and Mill Creek students and community volunteers.

To be eligible for trail construction reimbursement by the Clean Ohio Trail Fund, GWC must raise an additional \$115,000 in local matching funds to support project management, due diligence, engineering design, environmental improvements, and signage.

The second grant in the amount of \$219,420, approved



Children working along the Mill Creek Greenway Trail

by the Hamilton County Natural Resources Advisory Committee, will come from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. The grant will help underwrite floodplain restoration along West Fork Creek, an

important tributary to Mill Creek. The project is located in the Northside neighborhood, along West Fork Road, and between Mt. Airy Forest and Interstate-74.

GWC will work closely with

the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (*MSD*) and the Northside Community Council on plans to reforest the land along the stream and to divert stormwater runoff from West Fork Road and surrounding property into a shallow bio-infiltration basin with a storage volume of about 500,000 gallons. The project will improve West Fork Creek water quality by using Ohio native plants and amended soils (*called "Green Infrastructure"*) to filter pollutants carried by the stormwater, and by preventing combined sewer overflows (*CSOs*) that currently discharge untreated sanitary

sewage to West Fork Creek during heavy rainfall.

"This Clean Ohio Conservation Fund project is especially exciting" said GWC Executive Director Robin Corathers, "because it will serve as a catalyst for launching a longer-term, multi-objective strategy by the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (*MSD*), GWC, the City Park Board, Mill Creek neighborhoods, and other partners. Strategy objectives include reclaiming and restoring all of West Fork Creek, reducing and eliminating *CSOs* to the tributary, and linking Mt. Airy Forest to Mill Creek via the

See *Grants*, Page 3 Col. 1



Johnson Property

Share ideas about Myron Johnson site

Milhaus Development, developers of the Myron Johnson Property, will hold a community charrette on Tuesday, February 19, from 4-7 p.m. at McKie Recreation Center.

The charrette will be a

time for the community to ask questions and share their ideas for the development.

All are invited, and if you know you will be coming, please e.mail Jake Dietrich at jake.dietrich@milhausdevelopmentby

Wednesday, February 17th to help in the planning of this event. Please contact Martha at 513-542-8940 with questions.

Make it a point to be there!

Northside



Northside Community Council

By Martha Dourson
President

Elections 2013

Make it one of your goals to attend a Northside Community Council meeting?

We meet the fourth Mondays in January and February; we meet for the remaining months of the year on the third Monday. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. at McKie Recreation Center on Chase Avenue. You can discover new neighbors and residents, businesses and restaurants, trends, activities, committees, opportunities and so much more when you take interest in your neighborhood. It's fun and worthwhile, so join us! To give you just a taste of what is happening, consider this:

Kirby Lofts (*the former Kirby Road school*), recently purchased by developers Bloomfield and Schon, is the future site of market rate housing. Local historic designation is underway as well as changes in zoning. There is a Kirby Road School Committee, so contact me if you want to attend.

The former Myron Johnson Property is being developed by Milhaus Developers, Indianapolis. Their plan is to attend our meetings to give us updates on progress. They are currently working with a steering committee representing several interests: Bruce Demske, president of the

Northside Business Association, Stefanie Sunderland, executive director of CNCURC (*Cincinnati Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation*), Michael Wizer, resident of and representative for Moline Court residents, and me, representing Northside Community Council.

Pallet 23 just opened at 3932 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45223. Pallet 23 is a large, private flexible event space featuring a beautiful noncommercial kitchen and can be rented by the week, day, evening or hour for a la carte rentals for up to 125 people accommodating a wide range of

budgets, from BYO potlucks to fully produced, catered events – photo shoots, video productions, castings, food classes, demos, recipe testing and dinner parties for chefs, emerging chefs, local food artisans and foodies. Pallet 23 will act as a platform for the food community and will also be private Sunday Suppers with a chef. Check it out for corporate meetings, off-site brainstorming and marketing sessions, art shows, movie screenings, dance parties, benefits and community outreach. Owner is Northsider Laura Chenault, www.pallet23.com.

See *Council*, Page 3 Col. 2

Northside Community Council Committees

Education Committee - Sue Wilke and Jeni Jenkins jointly co-chair. If interested in participating contact Sue at suewilke@cinci.rr.com or Jeni at visionforchange@gmail.com.

Northside Safety & Livability Committee—Safety and Livability Committee - this committee is undergoing revision and will be updated as soon as information becomes available. In the meantime, should you be interested in serving on this committee or have questions, please contact Martha Dourson at 542-8940, or e-mail at mcdourson@gmail.com.

Youth Soccer Committee - Currently NCC funds and sponsors two youth teams in both the spring and autumn. Contact Oliver Kroner for details, olliekroner@yahoo.com or 513-284-0899 cell. Visit www.northsidesoccer.com

Skate Park Committee — Currently not meeting but still working! Contact Tim Jeckering at 513-542-2500, or e-mail Tim at timjeckering@fuse.net. Visit www.skatenorthside.com.

House Tours/Porch Tours are usually the second weekend in October, on alternating years, House Tours are on even numbered years, and Porch Tours are on odd numbered years.

Porch Tour - Contact Tim Jeckering, 513-542-2500 ext. 1#) or timjeckering@fuse.net

House Tour - Contact Louise Watts, 513-541-7563 or louisewatts77@email.com.

Event Committees

4th of July — Chuck Brown at chuckb75@aaahawk.com
4th of July Committee works at planning, recruiting, getting permits and community participation for the 4th of July Parade. This Committee also coordinates w/organizers of the Festival in Hoffner Park after the Parade.

Affiliates

Citizens On Patrol (COP) — meets 3rd Thursday of month at 6 p.m. at Ella.net Studio (*above Northside Tavern*). Contact Mollie Brumm at mollie.brumm@fmr.com

Cincinnati Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (CNCURC) — Stefanie Sunderland, executive director, 513-542-4709

METRO Northsider

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Grants—from Page 1
City's Mill Creek Greenway Trail Program. GWC students and community volunteers will assist with planting vegetation at the project site.

Groundwork Cincinnati/Mill Creek is a boots-on-the-ground, community-based nonprofit that focuses on revitalizing economically distressed Mill Creek neighborhoods; building capacity through environmental education and training; serving as a green jobs site for youth and adult employment; improving the health of Mill Creek and other vital natural resources within the Lower Mill Creek watershed in Cincinnati; promoting healthy living; and engaging the public in all of its work. In 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and two national nonprofits River Network and Groundwork USA appointed GWC as one of ten National Urban Waters Fellows in recognition of the nonprofit's accomplishments and its ability to serve as a national model for reclaiming valuable urban water resources.

This is American Heart Month

Council—from Page 1
By the time you read this, Northside will be well on its way to establishing a new logo. Almost a year in the making, the new logo will eventually be implemented in letterhead signs, and banners. This will be a big change for Northside, as the "arch" used by Council is outdated and not used very much outside this arena. It is not only the hope, but one of the goals, that the new logo will be a unifying tool for all of Northside!

Martha Dourson, 513-542-8940, mcdourson@gmail.com

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Meeting about parking meter lease plan set for February 28

City Economic Development Director Odis Jones will meet with community representatives and members of the public to discuss details of the pro-

posed parking facilities lease plan at 6 pm Thursday Feb. 28 at Invest in Neighborhoods, 315 W. Court St. (*Fire Museum*). To date, no agreement

has been reached with a private operator, so the impact on parking and businesses across the city is unknown. By late February, however, many

of these details should be worked out. All are welcome to this meeting.

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Northside-College Hill Kiwanis

Robert Cohom

We hold our weekly meetings at noon on Tuesdays at Twin Towers in College Hill. Learn more about Kiwanis, join us for lunch. RSVP: Don Beimesche, 513-542-7800 or 271-2814

The Rising of the Women is the Rising of Us All

On Saturday, March 2 at 8 p.m., MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir, the Walnut Hills High School Women's Ensemble and the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus will unite their voices to celebrate Women's History Month and International Women's Day with compositions by eight living women composers, with three women conductors on the podium, and three wonderful women's choirs.

Through the songs, the audience will get a glimpse into women's history as you learn the stories of daring women who've gone before us and the struggles of women to achieve equality and justice in the hard fought battles for peace, for bread and for roses. The poetry and texts, especially the many by women, express the emotions, desires, and dreams

of those who have gone before us.

MUSE will also perform the world premiere of "Forever Changed," music by Elizabeth Haskins, Professor of Music at Wilmington College with text by Teresa Schrieber Werth. Nearly 150 choir members will join together for two pieces and each ensemble will perform alone as well.

Women's history is inextricably tied to those who have lived before us. To sing songs that have carried women through hardship and struggle, though not necessarily popular today, are part of a tradition that recognizes their place on the continuum of souls who strive for a more peace-filled world. "All our mothers sang before us, all our children sing the chorus, come on sisters lift your voices, carry it on, carry

it on."

Concert Facts:

Saturday, March 2, 8 p.m.

Location:

St. Monica – St. George Newman Parish Center, 328 W. McMillan St.

Tickets can be purchased online www.musechoir.org. \$20 Suggested Price; Sliding Scale \$8-\$50

Ticket outlets:

Clifton: St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

College Hill: College Hill Coffee and Casual Gourmet

Northside: Shake It Records
Yellow Springs: Sam and Eddies Open Books

MUSE - Cincinnati's Women's Choir is raising the curtain on season 30. Founded and directed by Dr. Catherine Roma, MUSE is a choir dedicated to musical excellence and social change.

70-voices strong, MUSE represents women of diverse backgrounds who sing to honor the enduring spirits of all people. Whether performing on courthouse steps or in a performing arts auditorium MUSE makes more than 25 concert appearance annually responding to life experiences through song.

MUSE Philophocy:

MUSE is a women's choir dedicated to musical excellence and social change. In keeping with their belief that diversity is strength, they are feminist women of varied ages, races, and ethnicities with a range of musical abilities, political interests, and life experiences.

They are women loving women; they are heterosexual, lesbian and bisexual women

See **MUSE**, Page 5, Col. 1



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Three women's choirs to perform

MUSE—from Page 4
 united in song. They commission and seek out music composed by women, pieces written to enhance the sound of women's voices, and songs that honor the enduring spirit of all peoples. In performing, they strive for a concert experience that entertains, inspires, motivates, heals, and creates a feeling of community with our audience.

Walnut Hills High School Women's Ensemble, Lisa Peters, Director

Walnut Hills High School is nationally recognized as one of America's top public high schools. Walnut Hills offers an advanced, accelerated curriculum for all students in grades seven through 12, including more Advanced Placement courses than any other school in the nation. Walnut Hills students are accepted into the finest universities and colleges in America, with more

than 95 percent enrolled prior to graduation. Along with high academics, Walnut Hills offers an outstanding fine arts program in music, art and theater.

The music program involves more 800 students and offers a wide variety of instrumental and choral ensembles as well as AP music theory. The Walnut Hills choral program, under the direction of Lisa Peters, has an ongoing reputation for excellence at all levels. The top choirs are always in demand for numerous events around the Cincinnati area. Walnut Hills Women's Ensemble is comprised of 61 members and focuses on great choral singing while performing high level literature for treble voices. Mrs. Peters and the Women's Ensemble would like to express their utmost gratitude for being included in this very special MUSE anni-

versary event.

Grand Rapids Women's Chorus, Lori Tennenhouse, Artistic Director
 The Grand Rapids Women's Chorus is dedicated to singing music that celebrates and honors the diversity of women's lives. Drawing on music from many cultures, the Chorus strives to educate and inspire its community to promote justice, peace, and equality.

GRWC is a diverse, volunteer group of fun-loving women who are passionately devoted to musical excellence and using the power of music to delight, to uplift, and to advance the cause of social justice. The chorus is committed to commissioning new works for women's voices, and has commissioned eight works from women composers in the past ten years. The chorus is valued for its connections to com-

munity groups and the opportunities it provides for women of varying skill levels to develop their musical capabilities. Two major concerts are presented annually in addition to appearances in a variety of community events and venues. Members of the chorus are inspired and energized by their collective musical experience and the camaraderie and supportive environment they create for each other.

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United Way tax prep volunteers help low, moderate-income workers avoid tax prep fees

Hardworking local families can get a leg up on tax season by taking advantage of FREE in-person tax preparation services. There are 34 sites that are open in the region. Filers with an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less can take advantage of free tax prep at sites.

Locations include:

Cincinnati and Hamilton County:

American Red Cross
2111 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45207

Feb 13, 20, 27
Wednesday: 4 – 7 p.m.

Feb 16, 23
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cincinnati-Hamilton County

Community Action Agency
1740 Langdon Farm Road, Cincinnati, OH 45237

To April 15

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
By appointment only: 513-569-1840 x 1031

Tuesday – Thursday: 4 – 6 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Healing Center
11345 Century Circle West, Cincinnati, OH 45246

Spanish, American Sign Language
To Apr 13

By appointment only: 513-346-4080
Thursday: 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. – noon
The Houston Conference Center
3310 Compton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45251

Feb 16, 23
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Mercy Health – St. John
1800 Logan St., Cincinnati, OH 45202
Feb 16, 23; Mar 2, 9; Apr 6, 13

Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Millvale Recreation Center
3303 Beekman St., Cincinnati, OH 45225

Feb 23; Mar 9, 23; April 6
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

North Avondale Recreation Center
617 Clinton Springs, Cincinnati, OH 45229

Feb 23; Mar 9, 23; Apr 6
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Northminster Presbyterian Church
703 Compton Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45231

To Apr 10
Wednesday: noon – 4:30 p.m.
SmartMoney Community Services

City Link Center, 800 Bank St, Cincinnati, OH 45214

Feb 26; Apr 6
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Jan 28 – Apr 8
Urban League of Greater Cincinnati

3458 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45246

Feb 19, 26; Mar 5, 12; Apr 2, 9
Tuesday: 4 – 7 p.m.

Feb 20, 27; Mar 6, 13; Apr 3, 10

Wednesday: 4 – 6 p.m.

A list of all locations, their opening dates and hours of operation can be found at www.makeworkpay.com/.

In addition to free state and federal tax preparation and online filing, filers will receive help determining eligibility for

and claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The Internal Revenue Service estimates one in five eligible taxpayers fail to claim the credit. EITC is the largest federal program benefiting low-earning workers. If you worked in 2012 and earned between \$13,980 (*single with no children*) and \$50,270 (*married filing jointly with three or more qualifying children*), you may be eligible for the credit.

United Way of Greater Cincinnati teams up with regional sponsors, including AARP, Hamilton County, IRS, Ohio Benefit Bank and others to develop and staff sites, train volunteer preparers, and promote the effort. A full list of partners is available at www.makeworkpay.com.

Filers with internet access with an AGI of \$57,000 or less can also take advantage of free online filing at www.myfreetaxes.com/gcnk. The free online service is sponsored through a partnership between United Way, the Walmart Foundation Goodwill Industries International, and National Disability Institute.

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February is National
Weddings Month



PEACE (hopefully)

By Steve Sunderland

The work ahead

"I believe the thing you can do is make up your mind that you will be living in an unpleasant world for much of your lives.

This is not pessimism; it is maturity—the beginning of wisdom. And once you make up your mind to this, you will realize that it involves a total awareness and total involvement. The best thing you can do for your country is treat with contempt the fellows who are offering simple solutions."

Pete Seeger In his own words, edited by P. Seeger and R. and S. Rosenthal(2012)

Reelecting President Obama to a second term should inspire those of us who voted for him. We can, instead, feel a rising sense of frustration at the power games in Washington and the failure to use the federal government as a role model for all government in our society. Working with young people who do not sense that our community wants to employ them in exciting and important jobs adds to their frustration about the quality of what passes for "education" in our schools and colleges. Something vital is being lost, the young people tell me, when the future looks economically

bleak and the responsibilities for building a learning community in the 21st century seems dragged down by institutions that are called "too big to fail."

The voices of youth at all levels are being stifled and regulated to internship positions that lead to little prospect of a job or the kind of learning that makes sense. More rigid and uninteresting requirements at the high school and college levels warns the young people that the future will be a time and place of conformity to simplistic approaches.

Attacking teachers and schools is but a prelude to the assault that is building on colleges and universities. The real goal of this attack on the education sector is on a practice of caring. The definitions of caring that our society has come to expect to be maintained and expanded has undergone a slap, a rejection and a concerted effort to make believe that a society without care is all we can have as citizens.

Caring use to involve a recognition of each child as a valuable gift to the community. Over time, with patience, with sensitivity, and with good heartedness, the child would become transformed into a citi-

zen, a young adult of worth.

There is no question that this goal was missed for too many in our schools. Schools were often baffled by the learning needs of some children who seemed to ask for something more. The inspiring teacher saw this quality in the child, recognized that something we know as caring was needed within the school, and often provided a kind of compassionate relationship that just beautifully touched the child.

The "silent" child found a voice. The "hurt" child felt like healing was an invisible part of what coming to school could mean. The child "artist" was brought into connection with other gifted and delighted young people, seemingly without plan. Somehow "reading" happened, math was coped with, and interests in "life" was sparked. The teacher felt these children's successes and failure, realizing that not every need could be directly helped. But, and this is the point, a blanket of caring covered the experience of schooling, a warm and necessary feeling embraced those children who were confused.

Colleges and universities had pockets of caring, too. Jumping into adult like learning meant that an unspoken challenge was issued to young people: "What you choose to do will matter. Choose often, choose in ways that open life to you. And, choose for happi-

See **Peace**, Page 8, Col. 2

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Peace—from Page 7
 ness.” This kind of offering turned some students into learners, raised possibilities into actions, kept alive a belief in the self and the learning community, and replaced coldness, “I could care less,” with an invitation for exploration.

Learners, learning the “rules of self care,” changed their subject matter interests, experimented with wild ideas, and often found community in totally new relationships and subjects. This freedom to care has been one of the unspoken gifts given in the last three or four decades to more and more people who have come to colleges and universities to find a different kind of ladder into adulthood. This situation has changed.

Caring, now, is to care to oppose these changes in the forms of learning and in the key relationships that matter in learning. The “Occupy Movement”

caught the spirit of the opposition to the dehumanizing of the learning experience at the high school and collegiate levels. Little learning communities sprang up in many cities, often tent cities, and very often with “libraries” and with nightly seminars on how to participate, how to expand involvement, and how to invite the homeless into the conversation. Rejection of the rigid rules governing the lives of young people became a stamp of consciousness as young and old people joined together to learn, sometimes for the first time, in non-segregated communities of caring.

I was at an Occupy encampment in Memphis last year and heard a powerful discussion about the ways in which homeless and hungry people could be partners in sharing donated food. The spirit of the discussion was how to welcome people irrespec-

tive of economic need and difficulty.

The job ahead is not easy. Opposing the rapid rise of the anti-school and the anti-college will not be easy or “pleasant.” Testing of young children has become an addiction for those in charge of our schools and the impact on teacher quitting is significant. Online education is the parallel blight falling on college programs as colleges seek to move from face to face education to internet driven experiences. The community is shocked by these propaganda efforts to remake education a care-less experience for young people, their teachers, and their future applicants. But caring has deep and important roots in the American experience, indeed is part of our break with colonial perspectives on human relationships. The seeds of caring can and will be nurtured. By “we the people.”

Going, Going, Green.



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