



NEWSLETTER ^{WNTR} 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Letter..... 1
- Happy Holidays from the FABA..... 2
- CHCC Annual Calendar..... 2
- Holiday Open House in Crescent Hill..... 3
- Happy Holidays from the Peterson-Dumesnil House..... 4
- The Story of Birchwood continued..... 5
- Crescent Hill Garden Club News..... 7
- Crescent Hill Library Happenings..... 8
- Louisville as a Blindenstadt..... 9
- Thank You To Our 2023 Sponsors!..... 11



President's Letter

by Cynthia Thomas



ing. I have many blessings I am thankful for. Living in and being involved with neighbors in Crescent Hill is definitely one of them. My first apartment was a very inexpensive one on Kennedy Ave. When I got married and we started looking for a house, I never dreamed I would be able to buy one in Crescent Hill, but we got lucky and have now been here for 25 years. I don't take it for granted that we live in such a great neighborhood, and I appreciate that it takes some effort by the residents and businesses to make it so.

In my last article, I talked about the goings on with the Council. We have since closed the entry window for our Curbing Gun Violence Idea Competition –

having received over 220 entries! The judges have met a couple of times and will be picking a winner soon. Look for the announcement of the winner in January. Since the last newsletter, we have held our first (hopefully annual) Health Fair. It was a resounding success. We also hosted our annual Chili Supper, and a good and tasty time was had by all. Our **Holiday Open House is coming up on Thursday, December 7th at the Peterson-Dumesnil House.** Please stop by to visit with neighbors and enjoy some refreshments.



As we head into the new year, I am grateful for the neighbors who are joining the Board – some for the first time and others are re-upping. We'll get to making plans for 2024 soon. We still have some spots available on the board and are always looking for committee members. Reach out if you're interested: cynthiathomas01@gmail.com.



CHCC Annual Calendar

All paid members of the CHCC will receive an E-Blast with the details of upcoming events – IF we have your email address! All events are free, open to the public, and take place in Crescent Hill. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of the events, please contact Diana at dianag60@bellsouth.net.

Happy Holidays from the FABA

Fa La La Frankfort

Saturday, December 2

Join us for live music, entertainment, and activities at the small businesses all along the avenue. Enjoy Winter specials from many of your favorite restaurants and businesses. Happenings you don't want to miss!

FunOnFrankfort.com/falala

Come join the fun!

- January 4 7:00 CHCC Board Mtg.
- February 1 7:00 CHCC Board Mtg.
- March 7 7:00 CHCC Board Mtg.
- March 30 Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Parade
- April 4 7:00 CHCC Board Mtg.
- May 9 7:00 CHCC Board Mtg.
- June 6 7:00 CHCC Board Mtg.
- July 4 4th of July Festival
- August 1 7:00 CHCC Board Mtg.
- September 5 Spirit Awards & Dessert with Mayor
- October 3 7:00 CHCC Board Mtg.
- October 17 Chili Night Out
- November 7 CHCC Annual Community Meeting
- December 5 Holiday Open House



Holiday Open House in Crescent Hill

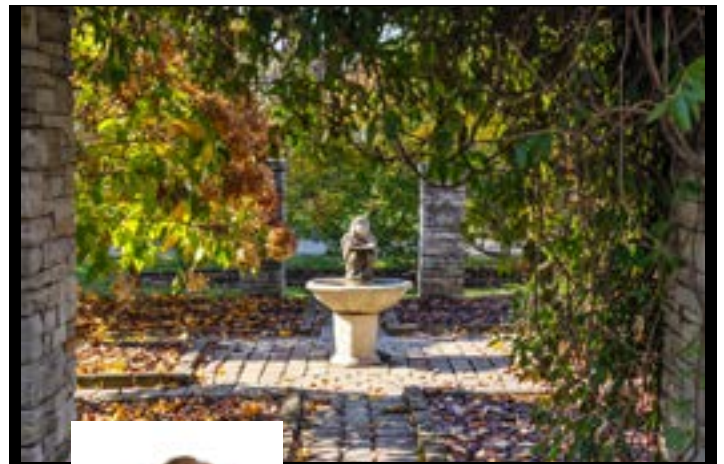
by Diana Gautier

Mark your calendar! Thursday, December 7th!

Just a reminder the Holiday Open House event is fast approaching on December 7. The Crescent Hill Community Council sponsors this free event each year, and we hope you plan to attend! The hours are from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Peterson-Dumesnil House, 301 S. Peterson Ave.

The CHCC will provide refreshments in the dining room. The Louisville Mandolin Orchestra ensemble will be playing Christmas tunes in the living room. The kids will be given an opportunity to write a letter to Santa with the help from teenage elves on the front porch. The highlight of the evening is the arrival of Santa Claus! The kids will have an opportunity to read their short letter to Santa and then deposit the letter in a red mailbox to be delivered to the North Pole! We will have a photographer taking photos of Santa and each child.

Please join us for this fun and festive gathering! And if you have a desire to bring your favorite dessert, we will make room for it! We'll be looking for you on this special night!



Lisa Tyler

502.727.6893

Consistent GLAR Top Producer

Among the top 100 GLAR agents + teams

Helping families buy and sell 20+ homes per year, past 37 years

EXPERIENCE IN:

Single-family homes

Townhomes

Condos/lofts

Historic properties

Land sales

Multi-family housing

Investment properties



Happy Holidays from the Peterson-Dumesnil House

What a beautiful fall it was in Crescent Hill! We saw many beautiful weddings and events at the House, which we love because seeing the property used as a gathering place breathes new life and energy into our 154-year-old home.

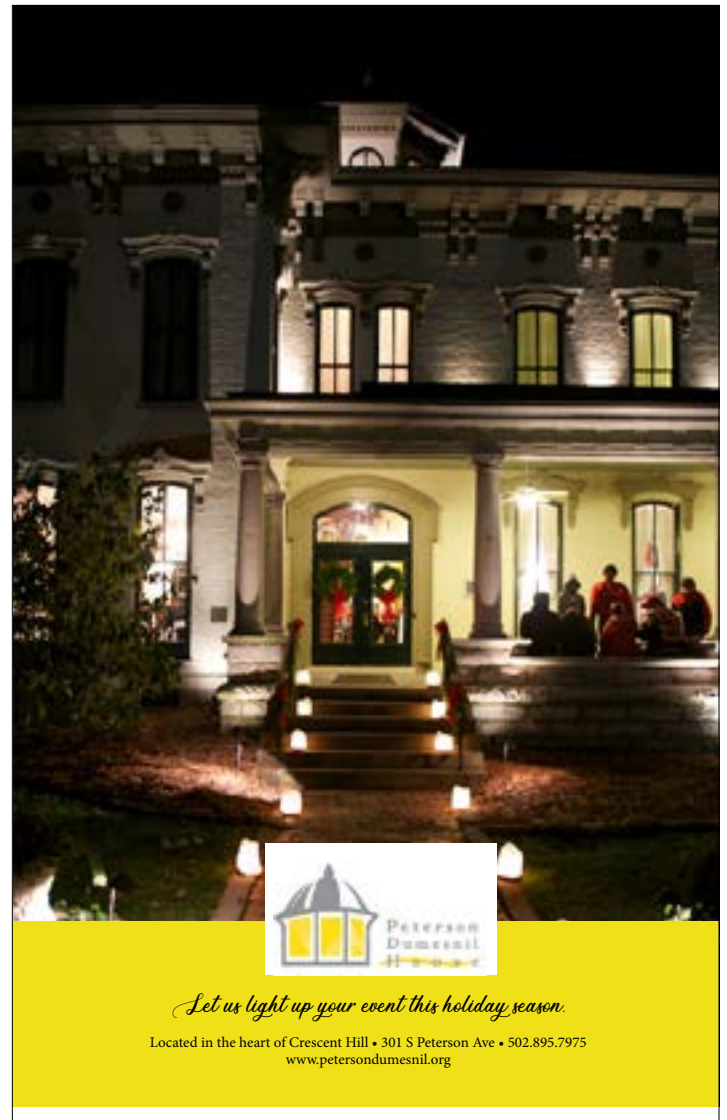
Save the date for the 2023 Holiday Shopping Nights at Just Creations, 2722 Frankfort Avenue. From Monday, Dec. 4 - Saturday, Dec. 9, mention the Peterson-Dumesnil House when checking out and a percentage of the sale will be donated to the PD House Foundation. Online purchases at shop.justcreations.org also qualify by leaving a note in the comment section at checkout. This is a great chance to get holiday gifts and support Crescent Hill's fair-trade store AND historic home at the same time!

Speaking of holiday shopping, we have two stocking stuffer gift ideas for you. Back by popular demand are the wooden ornaments featuring Bri Bowers' illustration of the House. We also have three different sets of beautiful notecards featuring photos by John Nation. Visit petersondumesnil.org to order today.

The House is proud to host the 9th District Mammogram Breast Cancer Screenings in partnership with UofL and the Brown Cancer Center on Wednesday, December 13th. To make an appointment, please call (502) 852-6318. This is another one of ways the House is utilized to give back and create a positive impact in the community.

Lastly, we ask that you consider making a year-end tax-deductible donation to the PD House Foundation. The House belongs to and is cherished by the community. We need the community's help to ensure that critical upkeep of the property continues, so it is preserved in all its beauty for future generations to enjoy. Thank you so much for your continued support of this beloved historic treasure.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday season and a healthy New Year!
~ Peterson-Dumesnil House Board of Directors



The Story of Birchwood continued

By Barry Creech

The history of South Birchwood has been traced in this series of articles. In the most recent issue, the May 1903 acquittal of George Birch Cooper on charges of trying to poison his grandmother, Nancy Jane Birch, was featured. Racist rhetoric from his defense counsel, against two household workers who had testified against Cooper, had been persuasive with the jury.

What happens in a family when a grandson is acquitted of charges of attempting to poison the family matriarch? Even though all the evidence was circumstantial, all the circumstances pointed at Cooper, and the grand jury felt there was enough probable cause to go to trial.

Immediately following the acquittal, the Commonwealth Attorney said that new evidence had appeared which would lead him to consider bringing the case to a new grand jury for prosecution. But additional charges were never filed.

On the day after the trial, Birch Cooper visited his grandmother and told her that he knew who had attempted to poison her, but he would not divulge the names unless his grandmother came to the office of his attorneys. Nancy Jane Birch declined, and referred the matter to her son, G.A. Birch.

Newspaper accounts over the following weeks trace vacation trips taken by family members. Son G.A. Birch travelled up the Kentucky River. Daughter Laura Birch Feaman visited friends in Owensboro. Nancy visited family in Washington Co, KY, before returning to live with G.A. Birch. In August, lightning struck the family business, the Bourbon Stockyards, and burned fifteen acres, destroying the entire facility, and damaging some surrounding buildings. Damage was estimated at \$225,000. G.A. Birch indicated that insurance would cover \$125,000 (the stockyards themselves were valued at \$900,000).

In the spring of 1904, Nancy Jane Birch returned to long-held plans to sub-divide and develop Birchwood (some lots had been developed by her deceased husband, George Birch, 10-15 years prior, for use by family and friends, but several remained unimproved). Notice of the proposed auction appeared in newspaper advertisements for several weeks.

The “residence” mentioned in the notice was the family home where the poisoning had occurred. Nancy Jane Birch had moved out as soon as her health had allowed, had buried all household furnishings (for fear that something else might also be poisoned), and lived with her son, G.A. Birch, in his home, which sat in

BIRCHWOOD CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Crescent Hill Community Council

YOU ARE CRESCENT HILL

Your membership makes a difference!

Get to know your neighbors

Opportunities to get involved

Grow your community

Have your voice heard in the neighborhood and city:
Development, Traffic, Beautification, & More...



Crescent Hill Community Council Membership

1 year \$20 | 5 years \$100 | 10 years \$190
Lifetime Membership \$335

Join online:
www.crescenthill.us



Or Mail form below and check:
Crescent Hill Community Council
c/o Membership
301 South Peterson Ave
Louisville, KY 40206

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Referred by: _____

Extra donation: _____ Check #: _____

what is now the Crescent Hill Library parking lot. Without need of the home, it could be put up for sale along with the other three lots, each with one hundred feet of land facing the east side of South Birchwood, just south of the intersection with Graham Court.

However, before the auction could be held, two of Nancy Jane Birch's granddaughters filed lawsuits to prevent her from selling Birchwood. In an additional lawsuit, they petitioned the court to set aside provisions of the will of their grandfather, George Birch, which had named his widow, Nancy Jane Birch, as the executor of the will. They alleged that she had mental incapacity and was under the undue influence of their uncle, G.A. Birch.

These granddaughters were Sallie (age 14) and Laura (age 19) Birch, the children of William T. and Florence Birch. William died in 1900, the same year as his father, George Birch. The lawsuits brought plans for the sale to a halt, so that the allegations could be adjudicated.

AUCTION SALES.

By S. S. MEDDIS CO.

Fanciers of Crescent Hill Property,
Wait for the Great Beechwood Sale
The Most Beautiful and Attractive of This Grand Suburb

Consisting of the beautiful home of the late George Birch, with large grounds and about 1,500 feet of beautiful building lots on both sides of Birchwood avenue, between the residence and Long avenue. Also in front of residence between it and Shelbyville turnpike, lots 15, 16 and 17, of 100 feet each, on east side of Beechwood avenue.

AT PUBLIC AUCTION
Monday, May 16, 1904, at 3 p. m.

This is by far the handsomest of all the boasted Highland subdivisions. Every lot is a "paragon" of beauty, abounding in forest and shade trees unrivalled. Electric cars in front of the subdivision. City water through it and all up-to-date facilities.

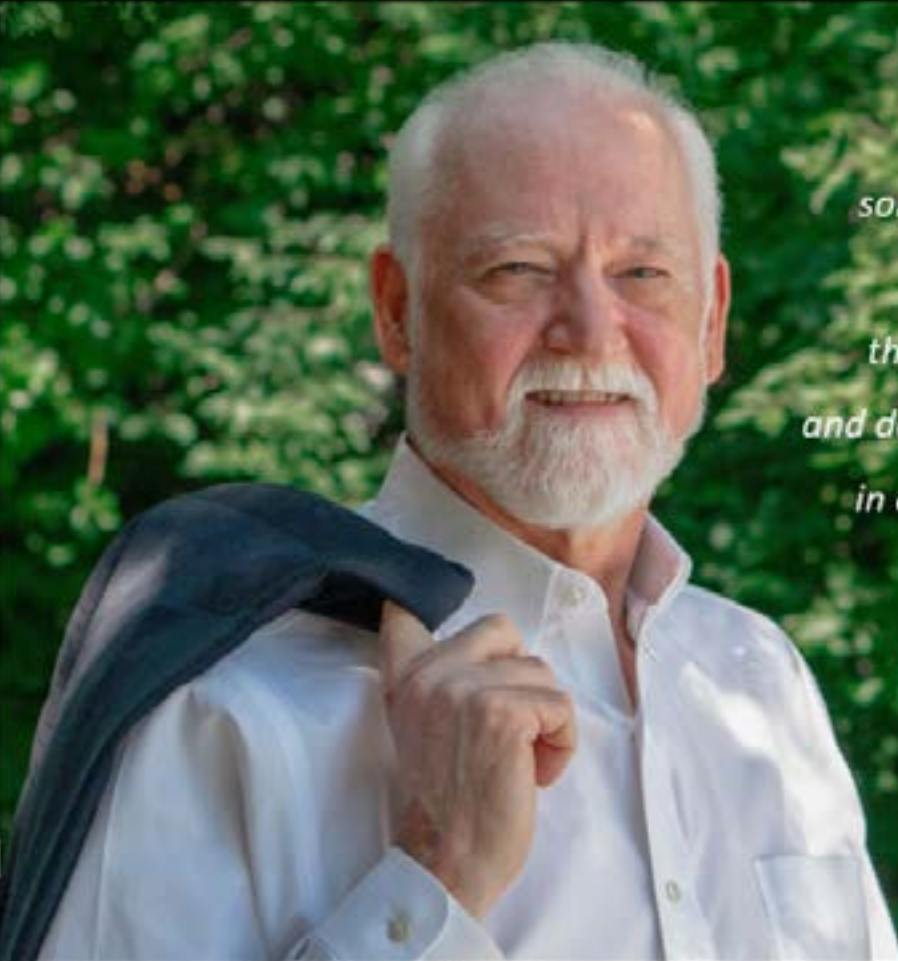
THE RESIDENCE

Is a large two-story brick, all modern improvements, the grounds around it charming. One of the most desirable homes in Louisville's suburbs.
Maps will be ready by 1st of May for distribution.

S. S. MEDDIS CO., Auctioneers.


Advertisement from the Courier Journal on April 17, 1904

Recently widowed? Are you feeling lost or overwhelmed with financial decisions?



"Working with widows is something I am passionate about, making sure they understand their available financial resources and developing a plan that puts them in control of their financial future."

- Greg Smith, CFP®

CENTRIS 
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

11802 Brinley Ave, Suite 201
Louisville, KY 40243
P: (502)888-1185
centriswealth.com

Securities and Advisory Services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor. Member FINRA / SIPC

Crescent Hill Garden Club News Gateway Urns Refurbished

by Denise Peterson

Back in 2005, the Crescent Hill Garden Club installed two 68-inch-high cast-iron urns at the gateway to the neighborhood, at Grinstead Drive at Interstate 64. Longtime Crescent Hill resident, the late Martha Elson wrote at the time, in her "Heads-Up" column for the Courier Journal, "The club ordered the new reproductions of classical urns - costing a total of \$3,000 and weighing about 750 pounds each - from Architectural Salvage on East Broadway. The club bought them with proceeds from garden tours, and they are meant to reflect the neighborhood's historic character, club member Judy Gogan said." The article included a photo of Judy standing next to the urns.

Eighteen years later, the urns were really showing their age. They are bolted into concrete pads and are too heavy to move. Any work on them would have to be done in situ.

Now their refurbished surfaces can be enjoyed by passersby.

The new finishes were applied by painters Jason Skaggs, Nathan Skaggs and artist Monica Mahoney. First Jason cleaned, sanded and repaired. Then a copper colored, rust and weather resistant paint was applied. Lastly, using a pigment with a verdigris patina, artist Monica Mahoney highlighted the details of the urns. THE URNS HAVE BEEN RESTORED! Quite a challenging job. The results should last 15 years. Our thanks go out to Jason, Nathan, and Monica for their fine work.

The result is lovely and will be enjoyed by the community for many years. This is another example of the garden club using the proceeds from our garden tours to benefit the community.

Please support us by attending our garden tour, on the 1st Saturday in June.



Make someone's Holiday Season special with a gift from

THE WINE RACK

Gift a membership to Otto's Wine Club.
Giftcards are available.
We also do Gift sets!

Have your gift delivered!
check out our online shop and set up an order today!
shop.wineshoplouisville.com
2632 Frankfort Ave 502.721.9148

A festive holiday scene with a bottle of wine, wrapped gifts, and a small Santa Claus figurine. The background is a soft, snowy or misty white.

FOX Insurance & Investments

(502) 777-7995
Contact us today for a personalized quote!

2920 Frankfort Avenue, Suite 102
(At the corner of Silz and Frankfort)
WWW.FOXIANDI.COM

HOME
AUTO
BUSINESS
LIFE

Erie Insurance



Crescent Hill Library Happenings

December 2023 – February 2024

Adult

Crescent Hill Friends of the Library December Book Sale

Sat., Dec. 2, 10 – 4

Bring Ye Olde Holiday spirit inside from the cold and peruse the book sale for your enjoyment or those on your gift lists.

Meeting of the Minds

Wed., Dec. 6, 7 pm – 8:45 pm

Wed., Jan. 3, 7 pm – 8:45 pm

Wed., Feb. 7, 7 pm – 8:45 pm

Join members of the community as they think about and discuss current topics. Contact the branch for full details.

Saturday Morning Book Discussion

Sat., Dec. 9, 10:30 am – 12 pm

Please join us for a lively discussion of *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Copies of this book are available at the Crescent Hill Library circulation desk. There are a limited number of digital copies of this book available for download from the library's website.

Sat., Jan. 13, 10:30 am – 12 pm

Please join us for a lively discussion of *The Authenticity Project* by Clare Pooley. Copies of this book are available at the Crescent Hill Library circulation desk. There are a limited number of digital copies of this book available for download from the library's website.

Sat., Feb. 10, 10:30 am – 12 pm

Please join us for a lively discussion of *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin. Copies of this book are available at the Crescent Hill Library circulation desk. There are a limited number of digital copies of this book available for download from the library's website.

Crescent Hill Afternoon Book Discussion

Wed., Dec. 27, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Pianos and Flowers: Brief Encounters of the Romantic Kind, by Alexander McCall Smith

In *Pianos and Flowers* we are invited, through the medium of sepia images, to glimpse a world long departed. In these sto-

CARMICHAEL'S BOOKSTORE

Louisville's Independent Since 1978

2720 Frankfort Ave.
502-896-6950

1295 Bardstown Rd.
502-456-6950

1313 Bardstown Rd.
502-709-4900

www.carmichaelsbookstore.com

ries, inspired by long-lost photographs, the lives of the people in the frame are imagined and then explored, layer by layer. What must it have been like to be them? We share the lives of three sisters, brought up in Penang. We read of what happened to them, and to their Chinese neighbors caught in the tides of war. We see a group of small boys in a Glasgow slum, their young lives stunted by poverty, and hear how life worked out in contrasting ways for them. We follow a young woman's search for love in the unlikely realm of Egyptian antiquities. And through all these photographs, and all of these stories, there runs the same refrain: the possibilities of love, of friendship, of happiness lie before us.

Wed., Jan. 31, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

True Grit, by Charles Portis

True Grit tells the story of Mattie Ross, who is just 14 when the coward Tom Chaney shoots her father in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and robs him of his life, his horse, and \$150 in cash. Filled with an unwavering urge to avenge her father's blood, Mattie finds and, after some tenacious finagling, enlists one-eyed Rooster Cogburn, the meanest available US Marshal, as her partner in pursuit, and they head off into Indian Territory after the killer. Copies of this book are available at the Crescent Hill Library circulation desk. There are a limited number of digital copies of this book available for download from the library's website.

Wed., Feb. 28, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963, by Christopher Paul Curtis

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963. Copies of this book are available at the Crescent Hill Library circulation desk. There are a limited number of digital copies of this book available for download from the library's website.

Milk Jug Germination

Wed., Feb. 21, at 6 pm.

This outdoor form of seed starting is becoming extremely

LIBRARY 1 CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

popular due to the number of gardeners finding success in the practice. We'll discuss how the process works and what types of seeds are the most successful. Participants should bring 1 or 2 empty and clean gallon milk jugs, a utility knife and a roll of duct tape. Also, bring any excess seed you'd like to share for a seed exchange.

Children

Baby Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:05 am -10:40 am

Baby storytime focuses on developing your baby's pre-literacy, motor, sensory, and social skills through librarian led, parent participation activities. Introduce your baby to a love of literature through books, songs, movement, rhythm, and rhyme followed by a short period of playtime. Ages 0 to 24 mos.

Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays

10:45 am -11:00 am

Foster a love of reading in your toddlers through this engaging storytime! Join us for books, songs, movement, and art activities that encourage the development of early learning skills. Ages 2-3

Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays, 3:00 pm -3:45 pm

Foster a love of reading in your preschooler through this engaging storytime! Join us for books, songs, movement, and art activities that encourage the development of early learning skills. Ages 3-5

Toddler Art + Play

Fri., Dec. 8, 10:15 am – 11:15 am

Fri., Jan. 19, 10:15 am – 11:15 am

Fri., Feb. 2, 10:15 am – 11:15 am

Make art, play, and socialize! Ages 2-3

Tactile Holiday Art with the American Printing House for the Blind

All Ages/Family

Sat., Dec 9, 10:30 am – 12:00pm

Staff from the Dot Experience at APH will share art created by people who are blind or have low vision for our InSights Arts competition, and we'll talk about how people can "see" art with their fingertips. Then we challenge you to craft your own tactile artwork, perhaps--considering the season--an ornament, card, or holiday decoration. Admission is free but registration is required. Best for adults and children aged 6 and up. (Limit 25 participants)

Louisville as a Blindenstadt

by Councilman Andrew Owen



As the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet puts the finishing touches on the resurfacing and restriping of Frankfort Avenue, I would like us to turn our attention toward a few specific, tangible projects that will prioritize pedestrian safety along the Frankfort Avenue corridor. For example, I have received numerous complaints and some resulting suggestions of ways to improve pedestrian accessibility and safety at the intersection of Frankfort and Stilz Avenues in Crescent Hill. Neighbors have also requested that we focus on improving pedestrian safety and access to the Reservoir Park neighborhood at Frankfort and Blackburn Avenues. In Clifton, we have a very challenging intersection, in and around New Main Street, Weikel Avenue and the railroad tracks; but as we all know, any project that involves CSX is extremely difficult and overly complicated. We also have the misaligned intersections at Frankfort and State Street and Frankfort and Haldeman Avenue that could certainly benefit from intentional traffic calming measures. If anyone has any specific ideas or additional locations, they think we should focus on for pedestrian accessibility and safety, please contact our office.

It might also make sense to simply focus our time and resources on continued sidewalk repair and improvement. In either case, after exchanging a series of emails with long time Clifton resident Bill Lieshoff, I want to publicly recommit to the pedes-

DISTRIC 9 CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Don't sweat the small stuff. That's our job.

Ben Tyler's Handyman Plus!
502-583-4626
info@bentylers.com

Trusted, skilled, superior service

The advertisement features a close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a yellow spirit level against a wall. The person is wearing a plaid shirt and a tool belt filled with various tools like wrenches, pliers, and screwdrivers. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting.

trian safety of all 9th District residents, but particularly our visually impaired neighbors. In one of our email exchanges, Bill shared a link to a British Broadcasting Corporation article that describes how the city of Marburg, Germany prides itself on being a “Blindenstadt.” According to the article, a Blindenstadt is “a city adapted to make life for the blind and partially sighted as easy as possible.” Marburg, the articles continues, “owes this reputation and inclusive social structure to a particularly innovative educational institute for the blind, Blindenstudienanstalt.” Now that is a mouthful. I have included a link to that article: [bbc.com/future/article/20210916-the-school-that-change-a-city-into-a-place-for-the-blind](https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210916-the-school-that-change-a-city-into-a-place-for-the-blind)

Bill also pointed out that the American Printing House (APH) and the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) were established

in Louisville long before the school and infrastructure were created in Marburg, Germany that led to its social transformation. It has simply been a matter of Marburg deciding to be intentional about leveraging that infrastructure and committing to accessibility as part of its “city identity.”

Considering Clifton already has one of the largest populations of visually impaired people of any neighborhood in the country, and is home to the APH and KSB, it only makes sense for the 9th District in particular, and the City of Louisville more broadly, to fully embrace the idea of Louisville as a Blindenstadt. The first step I am going to take in this endeavor is to reach out to my counterparts on the City Council in Marburg about information sharing and other ways that we can learn from one another. I will keep everyone in the loop as we take the first steps toward fully embracing accessibility for all.

WALTON JONES REALTORS, INC.

1730 Historic Frankfort Avenue
502-896-4262

203 Pleasantview Avenue

Architecturally unique and charming brick home on one of the quintessential Crescent Hill streets. Gorgeous remodeled kitchen and 2 full baths finished with class in 2021. First floor living area was opened up, new hardwoods added plus gas fireplace. Home can be used as a 3-4 bedroom, depending on your needs. Asking 459K



Call **Michaelle Warner**
502-419-6159

Past President and Vice President
Frankfort Avenue Business Association (FABA)

Call a Real Estate Broker who is in with the “In Crowd”! The Grinch, Santa and Rudolf always list with Michaëlle!



*Have a
Happy
And
Safe
Holiday!*

UNDER CONTRACT IN 2 DAYS

114 Crescent Avenue, #A1
Adorable 2 bedroom condo with gleaming hardwood floors. Great location, off-street parking
All appliances remain including washer and dryer.
Sold over asking for \$147,500

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!

We would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations that allow us to hold community events throughout the year. Please be sure to stop by and thank these sponsors for supporting our neighborhood!

If you'd like to become a sponsor or would like more information go to crescenthill.us and click on "Join Us" and then "Sponsorship."

GOLD



Citizens of Louisville's
District 9



Peterson-Dumesnil
House

SILVER



Centris Wealth
Management



Louisville Water
Company

BRONZE

- Carmichael's Bookstore
- Fox Insurance & Investments
- Got2bebaths
- HomeCraft Gutter Protection
- LeafFilter
- R&B Roofing/Remodeling
- Renewal by Andersen

Call For Articles

Have an idea for an interesting article about our neighborhood? Let's talk! Articles for the Summer electronic issue are due February 15. Shoot us a line to enewcomgregory@yahoo.com.

For more information about the Crescent Hill Community Council, visit crescenthill.us.

Follow us on Social Media



Follow us on Instagram at
[@crescenthillcommunitycouncil](https://www.instagram.com/crescenthillcommunitycouncil)



Follow us on Facebook at
[facebook.com/crescenthillcommunitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/crescenthillcommunitycouncil)