

HIGHLANDS DOUGLASS NEIGHBOR

PUBLISHED BY THE HIGHLANDS-DOUGLASS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BREAKING GROUND!

By Sherry Cornell

Finally! After seven years of meeting and planning and fundraising, work on the Douglass Community Center has begun! Thank you, thank you to councilperson Cassie Chambers Armstrong who was able to work her way through the red tape and make this happen. Those of you who have been following this story know that the city almost let this community gem slip away starting in 2014. Since that time, the HDNA has worked with three councilpersons, three Parks Department directors, the Louisville Parks Foundation, and countless citizens of Louisville to get to this point.

Over the years, HDNA has raised over \$54,000 for the effort and coordinated innumerable volunteers to donate their time and professional expertise to keep the hope alive. Beginning in 2014 when then Councilman Tom Owens and the late Councilman Jim King were able to secure funding for an integrated fire alarm system, continuing through the years of mold remediation and structural analysis, the HDNA strove to bring to public awareness the plight of this stuccoed public servant.

The HDNA has unearthed its significant history both as one of the earliest homes in "Douglass Park" in the horse and buggy days, as well as its stint as Kentucky Home School for Girls which challenged its students to meet levels of academic achievement not generally expected of little girls and young women in the first three-quarters of the 20th century.

The Douglass Community Center served as a home away from home for many of its differently-abled users providing a place where they could gather to enjoy activities and fellowship in a safe, adapted environment. It is part of the childhood memories of thousands of Louisville's citizens who attended summer camp, art classes, dances, and athletic activities there, and it is a bright spot in the week of seniors who participate in Silver Sneakers classes or book clubs.

Now that the first floor will be supported to meet modern codes for assembly usage, the historic home can open to the community again. Art classes, square dancing, movie nights, stay tuned to see what's in store! Interior renovations are in the works as well, so it should be a bright new space inviting to everyone just in time for its 50th anniversary!



Work begins on DCC renovations.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbor,

It's been a great year in the H-D! Despite an ongoing pandemic, we have planted over 60 trees, published two newsletters, created tasks forces to improve mobility in the neighborhood per our Neighborhood Plan, raised \$10,000 for the Douglass Community Center, aaaannndddd (drumroll, please) begun those long-awaited renovations at the DCC!

There are many kudos to be shared for these accomplishments. The HDNA's vice president, Barbara Berman, spearheaded the tree planting again this year and did a fabulous job thanks to Josh White and a team of volunteers as well as many DIY homeowners. We thank you, and the Earth thanks you!

HDNA board members Stu Miles, Jonathan Hartson, and Brandt Ford have done a lot of behind the scenes work with independent professionals and city agencies on plans to improve pedestrian pathways throughout our neighborhood. The goal on all accounts as defined in our Neighborhood Plan is "to enhance and expand the existing system for all forms of transportation to connect the neighborhood both internally and to its surroundings." Stay tuned to The Neighbor for updates.

There are so many backs to pat for progress at the Douglass Community Center! Councilperson Cassie Chambers Armstrong has represented community interest and support by holding the city's feet to the fire. Barbara Berman initiated the successful effort to obtain and auction a Lakeside sponsorship which raised over \$10,000 for the Center. Many volunteers distributed those fliers, and HDNA Treasurer Brandt Ford managed the money ins and outs. Brooke Pardue, CEO of Louisville Parks Foundation (now Parks Alliance of Louisville) has bolstered fund raising efforts over the past three years and negotiated ongoing communications with Metro Parks, and finally, the effort has been maintained by a team including myself, Herb Shulhafer, Joyce van Berk, and Brandt Ford. The hours we've invested are too numerous to count. (Just ask our families!)

*Sherry Cornell,
President*



It is exciting to do good work and see the fruition of those efforts benefit others. I invite you to get involved. Email info@highlandsdouglass.org to see how you can be a part of something bigger.

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METRO COUNCIL UPDATE

By Cassie Chambers Armstrong
District 8 Metro Council Representative

Dear Highlands-Douglass Neighbors:

This holiday season, I am grateful for many things that happened in 2021. I had the honor of beginning my term as your council representative. I had the privilege of working with neighborhood associations, including the HDNA, on wonderful projects in our district, such as tree plantings, crosswalk improvements, and community events. I have been able to sponsor legislation that I hope will make a real impact in our community—ordinances that do things like provide paid parental leave for city workers, provide legal protections for children at risk of eviction, and change zoning laws to allow for more childcare centers. I am thankful for the opportunity to do meaningful work, and to work with all of you all to do it.

It has been a real honor to hear from so many of you, and I hope that if you haven't yet reached out, you will consider getting in touch. My job is to represent you in local government, and I know that I can only do that if I am hearing from you about your priorities and concerns.

The end of the year is also a time to look forward and set goals for the next year. I have lots of things I want to accomplish in 2022—from ensuring the Bardstown Road redesign (scheduled for spring 2022) is successfully completed, to making sure that the next round of our American Rescue Plan funding includes money to support struggling kids and families in our community. But my most important goal is to be as accessible and transparent as I can be as your representative. I will continue to have my in-person Saturday office hours, host town halls on topics you are interested in, and make sure that you all know how to reach me when problems arise (or if you just want to chat about what's on your mind!). There's a lot of great work to be done in 2022, and I look forward to doing it together.

Warm wishes to you and your families,
Cassie

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TAKE A DEEP, DEEP BREATH

By Karen Cairns

Ah, the beauty of the flame! We like fires, especially outdoor ones. I remember toasting marshmallows, making s'mores, and drinking cocoa around a fire. Those were good times!

But times have changed. There are more people and the air we breathe is more polluted. The rates of asthma are climbing, especially in metro areas such as Louisville. More attention is being paid to indoor pollution and what we each can do to have our homes be more healthy. But we also can take action to reduce outdoor air pollution.

Yes, factories and other businesses, such as coal-fired power plants like the one across the Ohio River from Louisville that was decommissioned in June 2021, add to air pollution, but our individual actions do, too. And this is something we can control and do our part.

Wood burning, outdoor fire pits- burning anything outdoors- is a major cause of air pollution! Fireplaces and stoves (even really good ones!) are a factor in indoor air pollution. Likewise, burning anything outside is a major cause of outdoor air pollution.

Fine particulates are irritating to our lungs and a factor in asthma and other respiratory ailments. Burning, even burning nice, clean wood, releases fine particulates into the air. Mulching leaves (mowing and chopping leaves) is another culprit causing fine particulate air pollution. It is better to leave those leaves on the ground or rake them and use them whole as mulch in the garden.

Burning wood and leaves not only causes fine particulate air pollution, burning also releases toxic gases, such as carbon monoxide, which reacts with sunlight to form harmful ozone. Backyard burning also produces dioxins, chemicals harmful to human health.

Finally, burning outside occurs at the ground level (as opposed to releases from businesses which tend to release toxic gases and materials much higher up). Burning at ground level is especially harmful to human health as more is inhaled, and the harmful gases and chemicals also go into the food chain. I grow vegetables and herbs, so I don't want that!

There's so much we cannot personally affect and control, but this is an action, like recycling, that we can easily do. Don't burn anything outside! One of my teachers says that we are hardwired to want to look at something bright, a flame (maybe this explains constantly looking at the bright cell-phone screen?). Instead, light an unscented beeswax candle for a while on those dark mornings and gaze at that healthy, peaceful light. And throughout your day, breathe easy!



HDNA TREE PROJECT UPDATE

by Barbara Berman
barbaraberman2@gmail.com

In October 2021, HDNA planted 63 trees in 37 private yards and easements with 25 volunteers. Many thanks to those who helped. Fifty-eight of the trees were native canopy trees which will provide shade, water absorption, beauty and food for birds, butterflies and bees to our neighborhood. Since 2014 we have planted more than 1100 trees but need about 1500 more to get to our goal of 45% canopy per property.

Unfortunately, we are losing about 120-180 trees in our neighborhood each year to disease, old age, construction and

drought. It is so important to water our trees during the growing season, especially when we don't get even an inch of rain per week. This prevents old and young trees from being susceptible to disease and death.

Mulching with wood chips is recommended for all trees as it helps keep moisture and soil temperatures more even. However, too much mulch can severely decrease the life of your trees and shrubs. Follow the 3x3x3 rule: mulch should always be at least 3 inches away from the trunk. This prevents decay of the bark through moisture and insects. The mulch should also be no more than 3 inches thick. Otherwise the roots start growing up in the mulch where there is no soil and water has a hard time percolating down to deeper roots. Lastly, spread the mulch to 3 feet in diameter.



Vines should be kept off trees by carefully making a cut near the base of the tree and then a few feet up. Be careful not to nick or cut the bark of the tree. Then just let the vine that is up in the tree die on its own as pulling it off can inadvertently pull bark off the tree. If you need help, please reach out to me.

Our Fall planting for 2022 will occur on the weekend of Oct 7-9th. We will start actively pursuing properties in March but feel free to reach out to me before then. If you are a member of HDNA, you can get 1 or more 6-foot trees for \$25 each which includes planting, mulching and a water bag.

HDNA ANNUAL MEETING

January 23, 2022

HDNA will be holding our Annual Meeting via ZOOM on Sunday, January 23, 2022. We invite everyone in the neighborhood to join us for this important meeting at which we will elect HDNA Board Members and Officers for the coming year(s). As the date draws near, check our website at www.highlandsdouglass.org for detailed instructions on how to join this ZOOM meeting. We look forward to your participation!





HDNA CHARITY DRIVES

By Pam Sullivan Masters

The food drive, held on November 13 and 14, was a great success! Thanks to all those who donated to ease food insecurity for many families in our area! Three carloads were dropped off on the following brisk and sunny Monday morning. Troy Burden, Executive Director at the Highland Community Ministries (HCM), said this was such a blessing as there had been no recent food drives. Charities have, instead, been gearing up for Thanksgiving food drives so families in need could also celebrate the holiday!

Highland Community Ministries serves residents in zip codes 40204 and 40205; this is verified through proper identification and proof of address. They are currently open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Clients receive food orders monthly and fresh produce weekly.

If you find yourself in an emergency food situation, please call HCM at (502) 451-3695 ext. 260 so an appointment can be scheduled to address your needs.

HDNA's next drive will focus on items to help the homeless keep warm during the coldest months of the year. We will be collecting sterno cans, sleeping bags, etc. Feed Louisville will distribute the items. The drive will be in the usual place at Douglass Boulevard Christian Church, either the end of January or beginning of February. Keep an eye out for mailbox flyers and a posting on our website for more details. Thank you in advance for continuing the legacy of a Compassionate city by sharing your abundance with others.

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- Gaining exposure at HDNA events and activities.

For details on becoming an HDNA Business Member, email us at: info@highlandsdouglass.org

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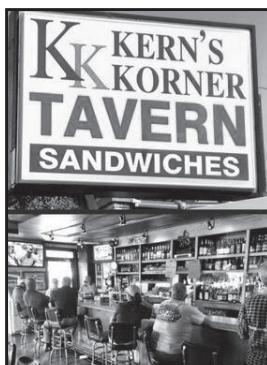
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THE MAGNIFICENT SHAGBARK HICKORY

By Pam Sullivan Masters

The shagbark hickory tree, native to Kentucky, is an ancient tree from preglacial ages. The bark pulls back from the tree, thus giving its name shagbark hickory. This tree is a true survivor as it can thrive in dry and wet locations. Geological studies indicate that the shagbark and other hickories were used by humans at least 8000 years ago and it continues to this day. Today, most of the shagbark hickory trees are cultivated. There are wild ones, but they are a rarity.

This magnificent tree can grow over 100 ft tall, though most are around 80' in height at maturity. Although this is a very slow-growing tree, with only two feet per year, the shagbark can live up to 350 years. The slow growth makes leads to a very useful hardwood and a beautiful tree that children can watch grow as they do. It is a tree that multi generations can enjoy. Trees may start bearing nuts at about age 15, though some may not bear nuts until age 40. Typically, there is a three-year cycle of nut production throughout the tree's lifetime. A tree may produce a bounty one year, less the second year, and very few if any the third year. The leaves of the Shagbark hickory range from around 8-12" grouping of five leaflets. In autumn, the leaves turn to a yellow green, golden, or a copper brown. The tree really shows its beauty in late spring when the buds open to display the new foliage. The tree also produces slender catkins in clusters of three, ranging from 2-4" for females and 4-6" for males. Since the shagbark hickory is deciduous, a good place for the tree is in the back yard; there is an abundance of beautiful, colorful leaves in the fall. Shagbark hickories have a multitude of uses. This tree is known for its

sweet nuts. Native Americans relied on the nuts to make a milk. The trees were also tapped by Native Americans to make a sweet syrup from the sap. Both nuts and the syrup are now sold commercially for those who are not fortunate to have their own tree. The shagbark hickory's wood is prized for sporting equipment due to its flexibility. Curing of meats with hickory has been used for centuries and continues to this day. Due to its hardwood nature, it is prized for keeping fireplaces burning longer.

Humans are not the only ones who have used the shagbark hickory for survival. Foxes, squirrels, and other four-legged animals devour the nuts. Birds also feed off the nuts, including the red-bellied woodpecker, blue jay, and yellow-bellied sapsucker. Certain moths and butterflies are dependent on the shagbark hickory for survival as they feed exclusively on this tree. One butterfly, named after the shagbark hickory, is the hickory hairstreak.

This beautiful tree is an asset to a back yard if you have the space and patience for growth. You will increase the survival of pollinators and birds. It provides beauty in the winter with its bark, iconic spring blooms in late spring, and medium shade in the summer with its large leaves. I am so glad that I planted one. I did not plant one just for myself, but for the enjoyment of generations who come after I am long gone.



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HCM - FIFTY YEARS AND BEYOND

Rev. Ron Loughry, retired
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As 2021 ends, Highlands Community Ministries (HCM) finishes its 50th year of service to the community while planning for the next decade. Executive Director Troy Burden, observing his 10th anniversary with HCM leads the organization through the challenges of Covid while maintaining a hopeful outlook toward the future. Some programs that had been put on hold have reopened, while staff and volunteers strategize for moving ahead.

Embracing the popular truism that it “takes a village” HCM appreciates the outpouring of support that has enabled them to provide vital services to our neighbors. HCM’s Dare To Care Food Pantry serves Louisville residents in zip codes 40204, 40205, and parts of 40218 (Courageously expanding to cover an area left without service after the closing of another community ministry.). While the bulk of the food comes from Dare To Care, other supplemental sources make a significant difference in how many individuals and families they can serve.

For example, customers fill donation barrels at the Highlands Kroger and ValuMarket that goes directly to HCM. Kroger and ValuMarket also provide near-expiring produce, meats, fresh foods, and baked goods. Breadworks and Wiltshire Pantry donate near-expiring breads, pastries, and desserts. Member congregations, as well as several neighborhood associations (including the Highlands/Douglass Association which also encompasses the Cherosen Hills neighborhood) host food and supplies drives regularly throughout the year. HCM averages providing over 400 food orders per month, in addition to 80 Senior Commodities boxes.

The challenges of the Covid pandemic resulted in an unprecedented amount of emergency relief. HCM administered nearly one-half million dollars to clients with their rent and utility bills since the start of the pandemic. Typically funded through grants, congregational support, and private donations, this unprecedented amount of relief was garnered through the CARES Act, FEMA, and other community foundations. HCM served over 1,050 clients with covid-related assistance. Additionally, in 2020, the Association of Community Ministries (grouping the 13 various community ministries organizations—including HCM—throughout Louisville Metro) established the StopMyEviction.org website, which has become Metro Louisville’s primary source for accessing rental assistance. HCM

has been a hard-working partner in this effort to help our neighbors through these most challenging times.

HCM’s motto is “Grow, Heal, Play”. In addition to the services already mentioned, this vision also speaks to the other services provided in the areas of Senior services, HYR Youth Sports, Child Care, Community Classes, and Meals On Wheels. Childcare Centers have returned to nearly full enrollment. While having to forego spring and summer sports, Highlands Youth Recreation returned to fall soccer. Tai Chi, Yoga, and Watercolor classes resumed with appropriate precautions. Back to School supplies efforts resumed with tremendous support from the community.

Executive Director Troy Burden (while observing his 10th anniversary) recently commented on “the amazing generosity of [the community] throughout the pandemic.” He deeply appreciates everyone who has helped ensure HCM’s ability to provide services to those who have needed it. Troy, in their HCM Fall/Winter newsletter, additionally noted that they are seeking additional Board Members as well as new partnerships beyond the 20 supporting congregations, hoping to expand support with partnerships from all faiths, as well as with businesses and organizations wishing to give back to the community through a well-established, local non-profit.

Due to the pandemic, HCM was unable to hold two signature fundraising events in 2021 – A Taste of Highlands and Empty Bowls. Staff and Board members are strategizing on how to reimagine these and other efforts moving into 2022 and beyond. Financial donations are much needed and appreciated. As HCM Board President Tom Coursen noted in HCM’s recent newsletter, “It takes a village to do the work of a community ministry. And we are so grateful for our village: our friends, neighbors, and supporters in the Highlands and beyond.”

While celebrating 50 years serving the community, HCM is preparing to serve the community for another 50 years. Visit hcmlouisville.org for more information and resources regarding Highlands Community Ministries.

*Sources: hcmlouisville.org & Spring/Summer 2021 HDNA Newsletter.



STRAY CATS AND LOST PETS?

By Karla Spencer
luckycatcafe502@gmail.com

Many of us see cats loose in the streets of Louisville. It's hard to know what to do. What if it is someone's pet? What if it's a stray cat? Should I try to catch it? Here are the answers.

If the cat has an ear-tip (top corner of one ear is missing), that means it has been spayed/neutered. This cat is okay to live outside - It is a community cat. These cats are used to living outdoors, and they know how to protect themselves. It is best that you leave it alone because very likely, there is a caretaker who is feeding and watching over that cat.

Community cats are protected by local laws. If you see someone actively abusing or trying to hurt an outdoor cat, that is an emergency. Call 911. To report an ongoing problem, call Louisville Metro Animal Services (Animal Control) 502-473-7387 or send an email to animals@louisvilleky.gov .

If the cat is NOT ear-tipped, it could be a lost pet. See if you can coax the cat into a garage or porch to check for a collar. If no collar or tag and it is tame, you can take the cat to any veterinary office, and they will scan for a microchip. If there is no microchip, you can take photos of the cat and try to locate to locate the owner by posting them on Lost Pets social media. You should also complete an online Found Pet Report with LMAS. You can also surrender a stray cat (or dog) at the LMAS Shelter, 3528 Newburg Rd. The shelter is open Mon-Sat, Noon to 6:00pm. (Info: www.louisvilleky.gov/government/animal-services)

If the lost cat/dog has a license tag, call LMAS dispatch at

(502) 473-PETS (7387) with the tag number and receive the owner's name, address and phone number. They may ask if you want to reunite the pet with its owner. If you don't want to, they will handle it. Local law states that owners may not let their pet cat or dog run loose, or they can be fined.

If you find a lost cat/dog with no name or collar, "finders-keepers" is not the rule. Residents are obligated to contact LMAS or surrender the pet at the shelter within a day or two of being found. Pet owners should check with LMAS every two days to see if their lost pet is at the shelter. By law, there is a 5-day stray hold on lost pets, then they can be placed for adoption or transferred to a rescue group. LMAS is a no-kill shelter, located at 3528 Newburg Rd. (Email: animals@louisvilleky.gov)

If the cat is an unowned, unaltered stray, contact Alley Cat Advocates (ACA) at (502) 634-8777. ACA is a nonprofit organization that has a partnership with LMAS. They work together to manage the city's community cat program. ACA has the resources to help get stray cats fixed at no cost to caretakers who watch over them. Please leave a message for ACA and wait for a return call.

If you have a cat you cannot keep or kittens born under a porch, contact Lucky Cat Café and ask for a list of rescue local groups that can help. Lucky Cat Café is an adoption program only, and they work with rescue groups. They cannot take unwanted cats from the general public. (Questions: LuckyCatCafe502@gmail.com)

Thank you to Teeya Barnes of LMAS, who helped edit the content.

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HDNA BOARD MEETINGS (Subject to Change due to Pandemic)

We welcome everyone in the neighborhood to join us at one of our monthly Board Meetings. There is no better way to keep abreast of what is happening in the neighborhood, and we invite all neighbors to participate. Meetings are held at 6:30PM on the first Wednesday of each month (EXCEPT JANUARY) at the Douglass Community Center, 2305 Douglass Blvd. You are invited to drop by anytime to help us plan neighborhood activities and to present/discuss any topics that pertain to our area.

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HDNA IS ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, NEXTDOOR, INSTAGRAM AND THE WEB

You can keep up to date with events and news from the Highlands-Douglass Neighborhood on Facebook.com/highlandsdouglass, on Twitter@HDNA40205 or Instagram www.instagram.com/highlandsdouglass. You can also find a wealth of information about our neighborhood on our web page at www.highlandsdouglass.org. On our website you can find information about:



- HDNA as an Organization
- Committees and Meetings
- Our Bylaws
- Douglass Community Center
- Events and Activities
- The Neighborhood Plan
- Much More

*****ECRWSS*****

Local Postal Customer

JOIN HDNA TODAY!

For just \$20 per household per year, you can become a member of the Highlands-Douglass Neighborhood Association. Your membership will help us serve our community by:

- Working with your Metro Council representative to improve our neighborhood.
- Promoting safety and security in our area.
- Bringing neighbors together by sponsoring events and activities such as the Big Rock Jazz & Blues Fest, Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social, Speakers Series and Reforesting the neighborhood.

To join, please mail your check for \$20 to the Highlands-Douglass Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 5194, Louisville, KY 40255 or go on line to highlandsdouglass.org/membership and pay with PayPal.

