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# ridge runner

LATE SUMMER 2007

newsletter of the enright ridge urban ecovillage community

## Street Cookoff Competition a Success!

By Eileen Schenk

We did it! Finally after many months of planning the Enright neighborhood picnic, it was held at the Imago Earth Center's picnic grove on Saturday July 7. In hopes of bringing more residents together, the promotions committee came up with the idea of a chili cookoff and a dessert competition. The chili cookoff was to be for men and desserts for women. There were some tongue and cheek objections to the gender specific guidelines. A few brave souls **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



**HOUSE ON  
ENRIGHT AVENUE  
INCLUDED ON  
OCTOBER 6  
SOLAR OHIO  
TOUR!**

**SPONSORED BY GREEN ENERGY  
OHIO. 534 ENRIGHT WILL BE  
PART OF THIS TOUR. CONTACT  
NANCY SULLIVAN FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT THIS  
EXCITING UPCOMING EVENT!**

## A SHORT CHAT WITH DENNIS COSKIE Interview by Nancy Sullivan

Dennis is the kitchen manager for Cincinnati Cooks!, a free, 10 week, job training program of the Freestore Foodbank and the cornerstone of the Rosenthal Community Kitchen. He has trained more than 250 people who have gone on to restaurants and other jobs around the Cincinnati area.



DENNIS IN HIS CHEF GARB.

**So where did your intense interest in food come from?**

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

I started working in a hotel kitchen at 14. I was impressed with the professionalism of the chef and the experience opened up the world of food as more than fuel.

### **What was the best part about judging the chili and dessert contest?**

The most fun was getting to taste everyone's creations.

### **What was the hardest part?**

It is tough to judge them and make final distinctions.

### **What do you look for in a perfect chili?**

Sure, I like either an all-bean or all-meat chili. One thing which surprised me this evening was that no one presented a traditional Cincinnati chili.

### **What about the desserts? Are there seasonal desserts you thought you'd see?**

Yes, definitely. I would have expected more fresh fruit pies this time of year.

### **What is the challenge about your job with Cincinnati Cooks?**

The challenge with students is trying to mold and push them in particular directions and give them more guidance.



## **A PERSONAL VIEWPOINT**

### **By Jeanne Staas**

At the risk of sounding like someone's mother (or grandmother) neither of which I am, I am going to offer a lecture, sermon, a diatribe about trash and waste.

Point #1 - I have walked up and down Enright nearly daily for the last 22 years, many times picking up your or your family's trash, dropped or thrown carelessly out the car window. I

don't do it because it's fun or because it gives me pleasure. I do it because it depresses me to live in a trashy neighborhood. I wish others felt the same.

Point #2 - I think we should treat those who pick up our trash/waste with respect. They are doing a dirty, thankless job & deserve that respect. If you can't pick up the overfilled trash can with waste falling out of it -- they can't either.

Point #3 - Follow The Rules. See the accompanying article -- "Do Your Part Cincinnati." Call the number listed if you need a green bin. Cardboard and boxes should be flattened and folded into sizes no bigger than 2 x 2.

Point #4 - Rugs need to be cut up and rolled into sizes no bigger than 4 x 2. If you can't pick them up, neither can they. Tape or tie them into rolls. That's the rules.

I was going to go on now about bottled water but I will restrain myself. That's the end of my lecture for today.

**JEANNE STAAS**  
**740 ENRIGHT**

## **ECOVILLAGE PURCHASES 636!**



The Housing Committee is growing and growing as the months go by!!! The ecovillage has purchased **636 Enright Avenue**, which suffered some fire damage. We are planning to rehab it

using sustainable and green techniques to make it a real asset to the community.

As we get further along we will let you know how you can help with this house. Keep your eye out for additional information!



**ABOVE: RESIDENT TIM MCDONALD DONS THE BIG ENCHILADA COSTUME TO PRESENT THE CHILI AWARD. PHOTOS COURTESY OF LYDIA STEC.**

jumped into the plan with several women bringing chili, and men creating sumptuous desserts.

We had great participation - 12 chili dishes and 14 desserts that braved Dennis Coskie's final call. Coskie is a professional chef and executive director of Cincinnati Cooks. He took his task very seriously, and told us afterwards the criteria he used for judging. He awarded **MICHAEL AND CARLA HAYES** first place for chili and **SANDY LETT** the dessert winner.

Both are fairly new residents to the neighborhood. Resident Tim McDonald and Americorps VISTA Amanda Johnson designed and made the trophies which were clever and

artistic. To start a tradition, it was decided that the trophies are to be passed down each year at the annual picnic to the new winners.

Sharon Wilson took charge of the games which were a great success. The water balloon toss was so popular that more than one contest had to be held. New resident Nancy Sullivan and Amanda Johnson handled publicity for the event and were responsible for the rhyming signs along the street and the invitations. The PR effort was very successful as we met many new people at the picnic and some residents brought family members and friends from outside the community. Eileen and Jim Schenk took charge of grilling - hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, and drinks were in abundance along with the competing dishes. We also had a taste of the chilis and finished with desserts.

As we look back, it was a very successful picnic. The question on the table is do we want to do it again? Who else might have the time and ideas to join the promotions committee in this effort next year?

**BELOW: RESIDENT SANDY LETT POSES WITH HER TROPHY FOR THE DESSERT COMPETITION.**



# gratitude

Please take a moment when you see the following people to thank them for their contributions to making the neighborhood healthier, safer and more fun. Many thanks to everyone who contributed !

**JERRY ROPP** - I would like to thank Jerry Ropp for being the community fix it guy! Never has he asked for one red cent and has always been there to help! He has helped me get into my home on numerous occasions, has helped fix my faucet, dishwasher, garage, etc..., so much I can't even remember everything! He is dedicated to helping our lovely neighbor Blanche Underwood and is always on the lookout for things going on in the neighborhood. We love having a neighbor like Jerry and just want him to know how much we so appreciate him and all he does. He can take our newspaper anytime...

**JIM SCHENK** - I'd like to thank Jim Schenk for putting as much time as he does into the street, for deeply caring, and for getting things done. Jim's the glue that holds this thing together by the sheer amount of time he puts in and by his diversity of contacts accumulated over decades of doing environmental education . He's tapped significant amounts of money that have made buying and renovating property possible, and without which ERUEV wouldn't have a chance to develop an eco-community. If he hadn't had the connections with foundations, we'd all be too busy putting out fires from more investor properties on the street to do the kind of creative, constructive things we have done. I think he's also good at dealing with lots of different personality types, and we all do have our personalities here ;-). But let's not make things too easy for him...We don't want to see a new book, "Conversations with God, aka Me" by Jim Schenk! Thanx for all the good work Jim.

**JIM SCHENK** - has gone way beyond for LaVette, from driving her around to lots of other things.



**PAT DOLAN** - was wonderful about taking Joyce meals and checking on her when the Schenks were away.

I would like to thank my neighbors on both sides of me, **LISA & LORI; RUTH & ROCK**, for keeping my lawn mowed last summer while I was unable to do it myself.

**JEANNE STAAS** - Thank you for your time & effort in putting the street directory together for everyone, and for your newsletter submissions!

**ALLEN FEIBELMAN** - For moral support & helping out Deborah and Amanda with the sewer grate labeling.

**TYLER, DYLAN AND JOEY** - Thanks for helping out & putting the door hangers up!



# WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE SEWER GRATE FISH?

**BY DEBORAH JORDAN**

On July 10th, with a hint of rain in the air, eight ERUEV folks labeled storm sewers and handed out literature door-to-door on several Price Hill streets. Later, with welcome help from neighborhood youth, we completed the project on Enright.

Have you seen the decals on Enright stormwater drains? They read "Keep Cincinnati Clean, Drains to waterways". The fish in the middle of the decal reminds us that our storm water and sewer pipes combine so that when there's a heavy rain, the overflow often goes into the Ohio River (where a few fish hopefully survive), rather than the wastewater treatment plant. Actually, Enright Avenue's combined sewers dump out at a "combined Sewer Overflow" in Baldface Park down on River Road.

That means anything in our pipes, including raw sewage, yard run off, (dog poop and lawn chemicals included), oil from the street, etc. ends up near a kids' ball field. Whether it goes in the Ohio River



**FROM LEFT: RESIDENTS LAVETTE ROWLAND, DEBORAH JORDAN, NANCY SULLIVAN (AND LAD THE DOG), MURRAY SULLIVAN, AMERICORPS VISTA AMANDA JOHNSON AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS.**

or a park, it is a big health risk and citizens have sued the Metropolitan Sewer District, which has signed a Consent Decree to address it. There are ways we can and will be encouraged by the city to help.

## **HERE'S WHAT WE WE CAN DO:**

1. Not dump oil, waste water etc., chemicals into the storm drain, (whether or not it is raining).
2. Redirect roof water run off into rainbarrels: there are some on Enright now.
3. Build raingardens in roof runoff or streetside spots: coming soon to Enright!
4. Not use yard chemicals.
5. Use natural landscaping to absorb the rain: already on Enright.

Thanks to Kari Klug of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation Department for overseeing this project. Participants had a good time, learned about the storm sewer issue, and had a few interesting encounters. Here's to reclaiming our beautiful Ohio River.

## **SAVE YOUR HOME - AVOIDING FORECLOSURE.**

**Miss a payment? Bank harassing you? Can't catch up? DON'T WAIT! Call now and avoid losing your home. You will be glad you did!**

**Call EMILY SNYDER at 557-2710, ext. 514 at Santa Maria Community Center. You may be eligible for Emergency Mortgage Assistance.**



# Do Your Part Cincinnati Recycling Tips

Recycling is a simple, easy thing we can all do to help conserve resources. Anyone can do it and it's not difficult. If you don't already recycle, you can get a free bin from the City & start. Here are some basic tips about recycling with your GREEN BIN.

## YOU CAN RECYCLE:

- \* Newspapers, Old Telephone Books & Magazines.
- \* Brown Paper Grocery Bags

Paper grocery bags filled with newspaper can be set to the side of your bin. You can also flatten cardboard, smash cans & plastic to make more space.

## OTHER ITEMS THAT ARE RECYCLABLE

- \* Clear, Green, Blue & Brown Food & Beverage Glass only
- \* Aluminum Soda Cans
- \* Steel Food Cans
- \* Empty Steel Aerosol Cans
- \* Plastic with a 1 or 2 on bottom or side of container. Usually soda, milk, shampoo, detergent, and small mouth drink bottles.

**PLACE YOUR BIN OUT THE CURB ON YOUR REGULAR TRASH COLLECTION DAY.**

**NO JUNK MAIL, CEREAL BOXES, OIL CONTAINERS, PLASTIC BAGS, OR OPEN MOUTH CONTAINERS (COOL-WHIP, BUTTER TUBS, ETC).**

## OTHER TIPS:

- \* Holidays - Collections will be delayed one day.
- \* Most residents with 9 units or less are eligible for FREE recycling bins.
- \* Please don't use cardboard boxes to hold

recyclables. They break easily, especially when they're wet.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO RECYCLABLES ONCE THEY'RE COLLECTED?

The materials are unloaded at the Rumpke recycling facility located at 5535 Vine St. in St. Bernard. Automated and manual sorting processes are used to sort materials into appropriate categories. Once sorted, materials are bailed or put in containers to be shipped to paper mills or reprocessing facilities to make new items.

If you have any questions, need a green bin, or would like to request a sticker detailing acceptable materials, see below:

## TO GET A FREE GREEN BIN:

**Recycling Hotline: 513-242-4600**  
**Monday-Friday 8am-5pm**

## OOPS! CORRECTIONS TO STREET DIRECTORY!

**There are two errors in the Enright Ave. Street List. Grace and Tim McDonald at 554 Enright can be reached at 471-2284, NOT 471-0693.**

**Also, there is an addition to 538 Enright for Apartment #4 - Modesto B. Peres, 244-2131.**

