



April 2011

Volume 12, Issue 1

**General Meeting
Tuesday
April 26th, 2011
@ 7:30 p.m.
At the
Lindner Center in the
Lunken Playfield**

Happy Spring, Linwood!

It has been a few months since my last column, and since our last newsletter. We are in a new year – 2011. And if you have been following the news, this is a year for cutbacks and attempts to reign in spending.

Our community – as well as the neighborhoods of Cincinnati – have been advised that our NSP (Neighborhood Support Program) funding has been cut again. We will now receive only one-third of the monies we had been getting just 2 years ago.

These funds enable for the printing of our newsletter, our neighborhood cleanup efforts and beautification, as well as funding help to Police Night Out and other community-based activities.

Our largest expenditure has always been the Linwood Lantern, our newsletter, which we can now only publish four times in 2011. So in order to maintain the communication channel with our residents and businesses, we will have to rely more on electronic means.

The Council has renewed and revised our website. You can now access our web pages at www.linwoodcommunitycouncil.org. There is an area on the website where you can submit your ideas and comments for the website and/or the members of the Council.

I also have an e-mail list I recently started, to be used for notices and reminders of events to occur in your community. If you would like to be included on the e-mails, please contact me and I will add you to the list.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the members and trustees of the Linwood Community Council. We are made up of your neighbors and friends, who do a great job in improving the conditions of our community.

As with any volunteer organization, what we can accomplish is directly related to the volunteer help that we enjoy. Won't YOU please give a bit of your time to help make Linwood a better place in which to live and work?

JOIN THE LINWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL and have your voice heard!

Regards,

Tom Salamon
President

Dear friends and neighbors,

After many years as your volunteer newsletter editor this will have to be my last issue. I hope that someone can find the interest and the time to take over this task. It can be very rewarding and is an important tool for keeping your neighborhood alive.

I have enjoyed my time and will continue to volunteer for Linwood, as much as I can.

Sincerely,

Jenny O'Donnell

P.S. I will definitely help whomever wants it for the transition.

CONTACT US

**Linwood Community Council –
P.O. Box 9374, Cincinnati OH 45209**

**Send your Linwood Lantern story, photos or ad
copy to Jenny at JenR_O@yahoo.com**

Find us on the internet
www.LinwoodCommunityCouncil.org

Thank you to Cindy McMorris for organizing the 2011 Keep Linwood Beautiful cleanup.

Volunteer in Linwood

2011 Meeting Calendar

Linwood Community Council normally meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month:

April 26th	August 23rd
May 24th	September 27th
June 28th	October 25th
No July Meeting	November 22nd
	December 27th

The council meets in the Lunken Playfield at the Lindner Tennis Center.

Meeting times are 7:30—9:00 for the general meeting.

The Board meets at 6:45 on the same night as the General Meeting.

BACKYARD COMPOST

18% of the trash that ends up in our landfills comes from yard waste and other biodegradable items. An item that is biodegradable can be broken down by the actions of living microorganisms, oxygen, heat and moisture. Examples of biodegradable items include grass clippings, apple cores, coffee grounds, leaves, and shredded newspaper. Download US EPA's Parent's Guide to Composting at http://www.groundwater.org/kc/docs/compost_teacher_sheet.pdf.

Materials Needed

- Shovel or pitchfork
- Compost bin construction materials (refer to step 2)
- Biodegradable materials (refer to step 5 and 6)
- Water

Procedure

1. Choose a location for your compost pile. The location should be on a level, well-drained surface of pavement or bare earth.
2. Build a bin for your compost pile. Options include chicken wire, cinder blocks, bales of hay, wooden pallets and lumber. In addition, compost bins can be purchased from your local garden or hardware store. Build or purchase your compost bin as large or as small as you wish. Because it can be dry here in the summer, you will need a cover for your bin to retain or keep out excess moisture.
3. After your bin has been constructed, wet the ground under the bin. Add two inches of wet dirt to the bottom of your bin if it is located on pavement or has a sealed base. Proper moisture is key to a good compost pile.
4. Lay a four to six inch layer of twigs and branches at the bottom of your bin. This will allow for air circulation.

5. Now add thin layers of biodegradable materials like fresh grass clippings, leaves, twigs, coffee grounds, potato peelings, animal waste, water, etc. You want the different items to mix and come in contact with one another. This will allow bacteria to grow and produce heat causing the items to decompose.
6. Continue adding biodegradable items over the next few weeks. Examples include fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, stale bread, and yard waste. Avoid adding food items that contain meat, fat, or processed sugars as they are slow to break down and may attract unwanted wildlife. Be sure to stir your pile with a shovel or pitchfork once a week to keep things mixed and ensure that everything remains moist. Add water when necessary.
7. When individual materials can no longer be identified and the pile resembles dark, rich soil, the compost is completed (this may take six weeks to two years depending on various factors including moisture, oxygen, volume of material, and temperature). Use this composted material in your garden as a fertilizer or pile it around the base of trees to help retain moisture in the soil.

Source :

The Groundwater Gazette, published by The Groundwater Foundation: <http://www.groundwater.org/kc/activity3.html>

Linwood Baptist Church

For information about the upcoming events, call 226-4828 or 871-8642 or check out the website:
www.linwoodbaptist.org

"We will pray for you!"



NO Yard Waste Pickup In 2011

City of Cincinnati Release Date: January 04, 2011

YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE OPERATIONS UPDATE:

The City of Cincinnati has suspended curbside collection of yard waste from homes and businesses.

Beginning January 17, 2011, yard waste will no longer be collected as a separate service. Garbage collection will continue to occur on regularly scheduled days. This service remains unaffected.

Citizens are encouraged to engage in alternate, environmentally-friendly uses for their yard waste, such as composting and mulching whenever practical. [See Backyard Composting article in this newsletter issue.]

Yard waste that is mixed with regular garbage will be collected as part of the regular garbage collection, but citizens are encouraged to opt for greener methods of disposal.

Basic information about composting and a downloadable brochure for beginners are available from Hamilton County's Backyard Composting page.

Several yard waste drop-off sites are in operation across Hamilton County. Residents are strongly encouraged to utilize these free sites to supplement their regular yard waste collection service.

FREE Yard Waste Drop-off near Linwood:

BZAK Landscaping , 3295 Turpin Lane (off Rt. 32), Anderson Township

Please call 591-6000 for more information.

Credit Card Costs Cut Into Already Small Profits

You may see signs "Cash preferred, Checks Accepted, Credit Cards if necessary." Or your local small business might have a minimum charge for you to be able to use your debit or credit card. That is because the costs of you using your credit card at their business has gone up dramatically and is cutting into their already reduced profits. Credit card use charges cost as much as 3% of the sale and could have a minimum charge (often 25 cents) per transaction. American Express is the most expensive card for a business to transact. For example, if you purchase a \$2.00 cup of coffee with an Amex credit card, 51 cents goes to the credit card company, that significantly cuts into the profit your local business is relying on.

One solution is to buy a company's rechargeable cards. That is why you are seeing more and more businesses going to pre paid company held accounts (like the Coffee Emporium rechargeable card). Large companies can negotiate down those costs. Other companies are passing along the costs to their customers, and some will even give a discount for cash sales. Visa and MasterCard expressly forbid businesses from adding a surcharge for the use of credit cards, and threaten the vendors with losing their "privilege" of using Visa and MasterCard if businesses are found to be charging more to use a credit card. You might also find a business asking that you do not use your credit or debit card unless you make a minimum purchase of more than \$10 in an effort to keep their costs as low as possible.

Another way around this is to use cash and checks. More and more businesses are again accepting checks as a way to get around the costs. Ask your local business about this issue and think about what works best for both of you.

