Art Fair Time

By Peggie Elgin

The Cherokee Triangle Art Fair—a harbinger of spring even when the weather isn’t “springy”—will be held the weekend of April 27 and April 28.

Encompassing the area from Willow Park to the traffic circle, the fair feels compact for a show that accommodates more than 200 artists. Sellers and patrons describe the fair as of a manageable size, and many return year after year. The intimacy of the event makes it one of the most popular art fairs in the country.

The Cherokee Triangle Art Fair was named to the top one hundred art shows by The Sunshine Artists Magazine for a second year. Rankings are determined by artists’ votes, and our neighborhood event made the list at number fifty two.

The Cherokee Triangle creates a party atmosphere for neighbors who have been holed up in their homes through the winter months and offers a reunion for those who have moved away and want to reconnect with the neighborhood.

Aside from the camaraderie, people come for the art. Some come to reconnect with artists they have patronized in years past. Some come to see who is new to the scene. Some look for a special painting or creation. Some seek jewelry for an occasion. And some come to be surprised by a new trend: a unique piece. They all feel confident they will succeed in their quests.

Many make the plant booth their first stop to find herbs and perennials to replenish neighborhood gardens. Parents and grand-parents make the children’s activities tent a must-visit for creative youngsters.

Heading up the neighborhood organization’s efforts is long-time volunteer and familiar face, Jerry Lyndrup, who has helped at the local event since 1991 when, not long after arriving in the neighborhood, he started pouring beer. This year marks the 48th anniversary
of the CTA Art Fair. Lyndrup thinks back three decades and notes that he has “never missed a year.”

Lyndrup calls the months of preparation for the annual weekend “a thrill to be involved in. It has it all—great artists, great patrons, great volunteers, and great fun.”

In good weather and in bad, volunteers make up the biggest factor in the success of the fair. “Just the right number of people step up to the plate and pitch in each and every year,” says Lyndrup. CTA neighbors direct traffic, provide morning donuts for the artists, and guide seekers to just the right booth. Attendees can always count on a helpful attitude. Volunteers also operate food and beverage booths, providing tasty meals and snacks, including the fair’s signature brats—cooked by a dedicated team of grill-masters.

As for 2019 high points, Lyndrup says be prepared to find Cherokee Triangle logo items—from t-shirts to wine glasses—and the opportunity for good bargains.

Entertainment at the Willow Park gazebo begins on Saturday with No Tools Loaned (Bluegrass) from 1-3:00 p.m. and the Saints (Old Style R &B) from 4 to 8:00 p.m. On Sunday, Louisville Brass and Electric (Rock and Soul Review) will play from 1-3:00 p.m., and Paloverdi (Kreki! Rock) from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

The Cherokee Triangle Association uses proceeds from the Art Fair to support activities in the neighborhood, like sponsoring the popular free summer concert series in Willow Park, the annual fall membership party, and the winter potluck dinner. Financial support also goes to Willow Park improvements, the Olmsted Parks Conservancy, the Shelby/Highlands Branch Library, and Highland Community Ministries. The money raised by the show provides funds for a range of needs in the community.
Castleman Statue Removal Stalled

By James Millar

Because the John B. Castleman statue is located within a historic preservation district, Mayor Greg Fischer’s decision to move it required approval from the Cherokee Triangle Architectural Review Committee [ARC]. Public Art Administrator Sarah Lindgren represented Louisville Metro Government at a hearing on January 23rd at the Old Jail Building. The six-member ARC committee consists of Chair Michael Gross, (a development company manager), Christopher Fuller (an architect), Tamika Jackson (a real estate broker), Dave Marchal (Assistant Director of Develop Louisville), Gail Morris (a community volunteer), and Monica Orr (a realtor). Some of the committee members reside in the Cherokee Triangle.

The application asked for the statue and plinth be moved to an undeclared location and for the roundabout site to be replanted “to compliment the existing landscape design.”

Historic Preservation Officer Cynthia Elmore presented Landmark staff’s report, beginning with early twentieth-century maps and photos depicting the original landscaping of the the traffic circle. Elmore declared that the application met preservation guidelines regarding alterations to the site and streetscape, since “the roundabout will remain unchanged in terms of the design, materials and circulation pattern.”

The traffic circle, then used by horse and carriage, “was intended to serve as an organizing feature for a principal Cherokee Park entrance,” not as a site for public art. The historic preservation officer noted that “the statue is a focal point but not original” to the design. The application also met Demolition Design Guidelines since “the objects themselves will remain intact” and will be relocated.

Elmore stated that Landmarks believes the “significance of the district is based on architecture” not the public art located in its bounds, noting the statue is only “obliquely mentioned” in original documents: “The Cherokee Triangle Designation report references the Castleman statue in terms of its location but does not specifically identify it as a contributing element of the District.” Gross pointed out that in a later version of the report, it was described in a sidebar as a “landmark.”

When Lindgren opened the floor for public comment, one individual spoke in support of the application for removal and nearly a dozen, including several Triangle residents, voiced opposition. Comments ranged from “nobody’s perfect” to the statue is “nice looking” to several saying it only mattered to a “small offended group” or a “misinformed minority” and “hardly any African-Americans have attended the meetings.” One spoke as a member of a local militia, saying “bringing this issue to the fore creates hate; before people did not care.” Another protesting the relocation threatened “litigation for years.”

ARC member Morris lamented the “dearth of public monuments,” suggested removing the signage, and implied that things were better when people did not know who Castleman was. Marchal sought to narrow the question to the guidelines and concurred with Elmore’s recommendation, saying the removal “will not change the fabric of neighborhood.” Jackson also supported staff’s opinion, stating that “history can’t be erased,” and made the motion for approval. Orr, who seconded the motion, said it pains her to see the statue vandalized. Orr regards the monument as “a focal point of frustration” and “a target for anger” that will be repeatedly damaged; therefore, Orr believes the statue should be moved “to protect the art and the man.” Orr hopes that a place could be found at nearby at Cave Hill Cemetery, where Castleman is buried and where the monument would be publicly accessible and safe. Fuller identified with the object as a “defining feature” of the neighborhood and noted the “discord” in Landmark documents describing the monument. Gross said that “the statue is in essence the neighborhood,” as it has been represented on the CTA logo. He noted that it was “time for education” and that there was “more than one side” to the story.

The Cherokee Triangle Architectural Review Committee voted: three were in favor of the application for removal (Jackson, Marchal, and Orr) and three were opposed (Fuller, Gross, and Morris).

In seeking compromise, Gross suggested alternative approaches, such as additional signage or “interpretive installation art” as mentioned in the Public Art and Monuments Advisory Committee report.
Lindgren responded that additional contextualization would not impact the criteria developed by the Committee (and applicable to all public artwork) upon which the Mayor made his decision for removal.

Gross also took issue with the fact that an alternative site has yet to be finalized and that there was no talk of a replacement. Lindgren repeated the possibility of relocating the statue at Cave Hill Cemetery and stated that the city has no plan or specific funds for another artwork at the roundabout. The Committee on Public Art remains open to proposals. She noted that even if loaned to another site, the “venerable work of art” would not be deaccessioned from city’s collection (just as the Confederate monument moved to Brandenburg is still part of Louisville’s holding of public art.) Any new artwork would need to be approved by the Commission on Public Art and the ARC.

The tie vote rendered the application denied. The city will appeal the decision to the full Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission. Fuller and Jackson also serve members, but will not vote.

Olmsted Parks

By Meghan Robinson, Olmsted Parks Conservancy

Olmsted Parks Conservancy’s Team for Healthy Parks was busy restoring and maintaining Cherokee Park last year. During the winter months, Biological Technicians treated more than 100 acres of woodland for fig buttercup (*Ficaria verna*). If left untreated, this aggressive exotic plant would invade the damp ground of the Beargrass Creek corridor and negatively impact the higher elevation woodlands. Fig buttercup treatment will continue in 2019.

The Team for Healthy Parks completed the Baringer Hill meadow installation and chose a native warm season grass called prairie dropseed. A very low rate of wildflowers was combined with the mix, which will result in a short warm season grass meadow that is dappled with spring and summer wildflower color.

Olmsted Parks Conservancy has recently adopted the maintenance of Baringer Spring and the storm water management basins in Cherokee Park, increasing its oversight of this beloved Olmsted Park. Natural Areas Manager Evan Patrick says, “You’ll see the Team for Healthy Parks out working in Cherokee Park. Don’t be shy—feel free to stop and say hello as you bike, run or walk by—we’re always game to chat and let you know what we’re doing and why.”

Interested volunteers can visit [olmstedparks.org/events](http://olmstedparks.org/events) to register for regular Tuesday afternoon projects in Seneca Park through the end of February. Cherokee Park volunteer events will be scheduled for the spring and summer months.

Olmsted Parks Conservancy’s mission is to restore, enhance, and forever protect Louisville’s Olmsted-designed parks and parkways, connecting nature and neighborhood while strengthening the community’s well-being. The Conservancy will host many events in the Olmsted Parks to celebrate their 30th anniversary in 2019, including a music festival, neighborhood bike-ins, one-of-a-kind progressive dining, and entertainment experience, and the return of Hayride on the Hill in Cherokee Park. Subscribe to Olmsted Parks Conservancy’s e-newsletter at [olmstedparks.org](http://olmstedparks.org) to receive updates.
Neeli Bendapudi

By The Roving Reporter Susan Rostov

My interview with Dr. Neeli Bendapudi and her family took place on a sunny, brisk December afternoon when the door at Amelia Place opened. Both Drs. Bendapudis, Neeli and her husband Venkat, smiled and immediately shook hands. Amelia Place felt warm, and warmth and energy emanate from the hosts. The Roving Reporter immediately felt at ease.

Located at 2515 Longest Avenue, Amelia Place is owned by the University of Louisville Foundation. Purchased in 1981 for $250,000 with donations from David Jones, it was decorated by designer Don Allen. (Today the home's estimated worth is $2,000,000.) The Bendapudis are the first family to live in Amelia Place in seventeen years, but during the absence of residents, the lovely structure set in the historic Highlands served as a place of entertainment and special events for the University.

The attached carriage house, Annsley House, was purchased for $750,000 in 2007 with funds provided by Louisville philanthropist Owsley Frazier. Annsley House was renovated by Bittners and Rateau Construction. Today, Annsley House hosts guests who visit U of L’s campus.

The Bendapudis are pleased to reside in the Cherokee Triangle. The charms of the Highlands enhance their lifestyle. Both enjoy living close to where they work. Neeli Bendapudi is the first female president of the University of Louisville; Venkat is in the Executive MBA program at Bellarmine. Both walk, with or without a destination. They enjoy the choices of coffee houses, restaurants, and entertainment that the Highlands offers.

The Bendapudis frequently entertain. Amelia Place offers the perfect setting for a gracious event. Gracious Dr. Neeli comes across as a good listener and makes guests feel very special. Maya Angelou said that what people remember is how you make them feel. Dr. Neeli has that skill mastered. The Roving Reporter feels that her warmth will go a long way in making her a success as President of U of L.

Dr. Neeli expresses a dogged determination and decisiveness to fix the many challenges in front of her. When she arrived in Louisville, she inherited a mess. Whether it was athletic scandal, resignations, or dwindling foundation funds, Dr. Neeli has faced each crisis with certainty and moral clarity. Her upbeat persona provides Louisvillians the longed for optimism that they crave. She has already demonstrated her ability to act quickly without regret or hubris.

Toward the end of the interview, Dr. Neeli’s mother joined us. Mrs. Padma Thippavajjala lives with the Bendapudis at Amelia Place. She has two other daughters, one in Athens, Georgia and the other in Austin, Texas. Very quietly dignified, Mrs. Thippavajjala appears to be a proud mother. And well she should be! The Bendapudi’s daughter and son-in-law Sirisha and Kyle Ladd have settled in eastern Louisville.

When the Roving Reporter departed, it was with a feeling of hopefulness for the future of U of L!

Make no mistake—when residents are walking this spring they will surely see both Drs. Bendapudi enjoying the Highlands. Hopefully, CTA neighbors will have a chance to talk briefly, and see for themselves that Louisville is lucky to have this family join in moving our city forward!
WILLOW GRANDE PROJECT – REMAINING LAWSUIT UPDATE

By John Fendig

Developments continue in the remaining legal proceeding involving the Cherokee Triangle Association, Inc. and the developer of the Willow Grande, a potential 15-story condominium tower at Willow Ave. and Baringer Ave.

In rulings during December 2018 and January 2019, the Jefferson Circuit Court ruled in favor of the CTA, its individual board and committee members, officers, residents and its attorney on their motion to dismiss the Willow Grande developer’s counter-suit against them. The developer had alleged that the CTA’s and the individuals’ prior legal challenges and appeals of the project’s approvals were improper and unreasonable under law and caused harm or damage to the developer. The judge concurred with the CTA’s and the individuals’ defense that their actions were permitted exercises of the rights of citizens and groups to petition public officials and administrative agencies, including the statutorily granted right of appeal regarding zoning decisions. Among other considerations, the judge found that the defendants’ actions had an objective basis and were not unreasonable or without merit. The Jefferson Circuit Court proceedings before Judge McKay Chauvin commenced in October 2016 with docket number 16-CI-05124.

In February 2019, the Willow Grande developer appealed the lower court’s dismissal of the case to the Kentucky Court of Appeals, where it awaits initial briefings and further proceedings. The appeal phase has Kentucky Court of Appeals docket number 2019-CA-000208.

As previously reported, the CTA’s legal challenges to the Willow Grande developer’s zoning changes, variances/waivers, and site plan approvals ended in September 2018, when the Kentucky Supreme Court denied a CTA request for discretionary appeal of lower court rulings upholding the project’s authorizations and permits. These included a December 2017 Kentucky Court of Appeals ruling sustained earlier court findings that the Louisville Metro Council and government agencies were within their authority in approving the building’s development plans, waivers and zoning changes. The Kentucky Supreme Court request had docket number 2018-SC-00275.

The CTA believes that the Willow Grande case involved and presented a number of legal and regulatory concerns in the areas of land use regulation, included questions of appropriate regulatory interpretation or agency actions regarding “infill” property, use of waivers and exemptions, and suitableness of code standards or staff findings. The CTA remains concerned that the proposed building could represent a weakening of the existing and binding neighborhood plan and related zoning change standards and land development code principles, which seek to prohibit inappropriate changes to a neighborhood’s character or property usage.

The CTA strongly believes that upholding historic preservation, the neighborhood plan, and zoning and land-use standards and procedures are vital in protecting the special character of the Cherokee Triangle and other neighborhoods throughout Louisville, to the benefit of all city residents. The CTA encourages other members and parties to participate in this process and to express their views to the subcommittee.
Happenings in the Highlands

By Nick Morris

The Highlands is well known for its cultural charm and historic nature. The Bardstown Road and Baxter Avenue Overlay District help to preserve these attractive features. The Overlay District enhances the appearance and maintains the economic vitality of the Highlands business corridor. If a property owners wants to make physical changes to the exterior of a building, they must first file an Application with the Metro Planning and Design Services. A set of guidelines that serves as a checklist has been established to help facilitate this review process. This process is intended to encourage development that contributes to the overall design quality of the District. Property owners should seek to receive an Overlay Permit and then proceed with the proposed building improvements.

A recent case that came before the Overlay Committee involves the property located at the corner of Baxter Avenue and Broadway—the former Bader Gas/Food Mart. The owners filed an Application with Metro Planning and Design, seeking a Permit for major redevelopment of the property. The new business venture, Goodfellas Pizzeria, seeks to remove the existing food mart and gas canopy structure. The former Smith Auto Repair, a two story brick building at the rear of the property, would be totally renovated and serve as the focal point for this proposed endeavor. This Application remains in the review phase and should be decided very soon.

In other Highland’s news, Gilda’s Club is making progress on its move to the Triangle at the corner Grinstead and Ray Avenues. Renovation work is proceeding steadily, and the move in date is expected in June. The 35,000 square-foot property will more than double the current clubhouse, allowing Gilda’s to serve more families. Onsite parking will mean medically fragile members will no longer have to park on the street.

A number of restaurants on the corridor are changing hands. North End Café and the adjoining Slice have recently closed. The good news is that the long-time chef will take over the space and transition it into a new restaurant. Unfortunately, Yang Kee Noodle at the busy intersection of Bardstown Road and Baxter Avenue has closed. Yang Kee’s two other Louisville locations will continue serving their Pan-Asian specialties. The Mellow Mushroom, across the street from Yang Kee Noodle, has been closed since January of 2018 and is currently for lease. Just a few doors down, Buffalo Wild Wings has sat vacant since November of 2018. This unique venue once held the Airway Theater, a popular movie house. The Homemade Ice Cream & Pie Kitchen at 1041 Bardstown Road is undergoing a complete remodeling and will open soon as a Spectrum Store offering all of Spectrum’s services including the sale of mobile phones.

Only in the Highlands can you find this ever-changing, ever-evolving dynamic that continues to make it a popular destination for locals and visitors alike.
Farmer’s Market

By Ivor Chodkowski

While many know me as a long-time farmer at the Bardstown Road Farmer’s Market, or maybe as the founder of Harvest, folks may not know that I grew up in the Cherokee Triangle, on little Baringer, as we used to call it. I remember walking through the lot of the Bonded gas station, between Edgeland and the Baringer alley, on the way to Bloom, past the Arthritis Foundation and Dedden’s Highland Fling, on to Convenient Food Mart where I’d buy Twinkies and Dorito’s with change I rummaged from my parents various stashes.

As the new Board President at the Bardstown Road Farmer’s Market, I want to tell you how happy I am celebrating a different kind of food from what I wanted when I was growing up in the Triangle. The market is in a renaissance, harkening back to when there were few chefs who cared to bother about local food, except for Kathy Cary. (Kathy is one of my personal heroes.)

In 2019, we will celebrate the second year of the Bardstown Road Farmers Market Chef’s Tasting Series, with the returns of such local greats as Bruce Ucan and Patrick Roney. We’re also delighted to have world famous cheese maker, Judy Schad, along with a new local seafood producer and lots of your returning local favorites, including Wild Carrot Farm, Groce Family Farm, Stan Gentle, and the Jacksons. On my own place, Field Day Family Farm, the plants are just beginning to wake, the garlic is peeking out, and we’re gearing up for another great season at the market. We look forward to seeing all of you out at Louisville’s only year-round and farmer-run farmer’s market!
The Cherokee Triangle Association Wants You!

The Cherokee Triangle Association will soon elect members to six open seats on the Board of Trustees. Eighteen Trustees serve on the Board, and six members are elected each year from the membership of the Association. Each Trustee serves a three-year term and may serve for two consecutive terms.

The CTA sponsors a wide variety of neighborhood events, including the Cherokee Triangle Art Fair, the Willow Park Concert Series, the Membership Appreciation Cocktail Party, the Fall Family Fun Festival and the Mid-Winter Potluck Dinner. Trustees help to oversee and coordinate these events, and they work to ensure our neighborhood stays a vibrant and safe community. Trustees also regularly participate in a variety of community discussions and make decisions about issues that directly affect our historic neighborhood.

In order to serve as a Trustee, applicants must meet the following criteria:

• Be a current member in good standing of the CTA;
• Reside within the boundaries of the Cherokee Triangle;
• Agree to attend CTA meetings (meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, except for July and December, at the Highlands-Shelby branch library in the Mid-City Mall from 7-9 p.m.);
• Participate in discussions and serve actively on committees;
• Commit to a three year term.

Applications may be printed from our website at www.cherokeetriangle.org, or interested candidates can call the CTA office at 502-459-0256. Return your application, in an envelope marked “Trustee Application,” to the CTA office (P.O. Box 4306, Louisville, KY 40204). All applications must be received in the CTA office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2019. For questions about serving as a Trustee, please contact Jim Gibson at jgibson@wwnorton.com.

If the number of applications exceeds the number of vacancies, a general election will be held. Ballots will be mailed to all current members of the CTA, with one ballot allowed per household. New Trustees will be announced at the May meeting and will be invited to attend the June meeting. Trustees officially begin serving their term on the CTA Board in August 2019.

The CTA is recognized as one of the most active neighborhood associations in our city. We need members with energy, ideas, and commitment to our neighborhood. We hope you will consider joining this vital group.

Legal Aid Society invites you to preview artists at the Sixteenth Annual Brush, Bottle, and Barrel of the Bluegrass

In its sixteenth year, The Brush, Bottle, and Barrel of the Bluegrass will be held on Friday, April 26th, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at Atria Senior Living (300 E. Market St., #100) in downtown Louisville. A fundraising event for Legal Aid Society, the Brush, Bottle, and Barrel of the Bluegrass brings together great art, great food, and great spirits, featuring tastings of Kentucky’s finest wines, bourbons, and beers, catering by Chef Chad Welch of Atria, a silent auction, and the awarding of the Brown-Forman Spirit of Justice Award. Tickets are $100 (including Kentucky sales tax), with $45 being tax deductible. To learn more about the event or purchase tickets, visit www.laslou.org.
2018 Holiday Decorating Winner

By Jim Gibson

The December holidays can be a hectic time, but busy schedules did not keep residents of the Cherokee Triangle from decorating for the season. Bright lights adorned the exteriors of homes and businesses throughout our historic neighborhood. The Cherokee Triangle Association sponsored the sixth annual Holiday Decorating Contest, and judges toured every street in order to make a selection.

The first-place prize was won by Maria Bowling, MD. Her beautiful Craftsman-style home at 1443 Willow Avenue was even lovelier decked out for the holidays. White lights covered the shrubbery, candles lit the windows, and wreaths and garland hung on the door, windows, and railings. As the winner of the contest, Dr. Bowling may choose a $100 gift certificate to any CTA Newsletter Advertiser.

Congratulations to our winner, and many thanks to everyone who decorated their homes.

As the incoming editor, I would like to thank Peggie Elgin for her many years of service to the newsletter and for the professionalism she has carried into the job. I am grateful for the crew of contributors Peggie has brought together, and I look forward to continuing the work of informing and delighting the Cherokee Triangle neighborhood.

—Leslie Millar

2019 CONCERT SCHEDULE
SPONSORED BY THE CHEROKEE TRIANGLE ASSOCIATION
SUNDAYS 7 - 9 PM

JUNE 2 - DECADES (60’S – 80’S Rock)
JUNE 9 - DA MUDCATS (Blues/R&B)
JUNE 16 - SPEED LIMIT (Classic Rock)
JUNE 23 - APPALATIN (Caribbean/Appalachian/Latin)
JUNE 30 - RICK BARTLETT BAND (Soul & R&B)
JULY 7 - UPTOWN BAND (Rock, Pop & R&B)
JULY 14 - JOE DEBOW (Blues, R&B, Rock, Jazz & Pop)
JULY 21 - NERVOUS MELVIN (High Energy Dance)
JULY 28 - WILL CARY (Nightcrawler Rock)
AUGUST - RESERVED FOR RAIN DATES
SEPTEMBER 1 - OVATION ORCHESTRA (Swing)

NO ALCOHOL - NO PETS - NO SOLICITING

EVENT IS FREE BUT PLEASE BRING CANNED GOODS, SOAP, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, PAPER TOWELS, DISHWASHING LIQUID, DEODORANT, AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO SUPPORT THE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES’ DARE TO CARE FOOD PANTRY.
January Potluck Continues a Tradition of Good Food and Good Company

By Deirdre Seim

On a cold winter’s night, members of the Cherokee Triangle Association gathered together for warmth, food, wine, and camaraderie at the annual membership potluck. Held on January 18th at the Church of the Advent, over one hundred Triangle residents enjoyed a variety of dishes, some prepared by talented local cooks, some picked up from caterers, delis, or bakeries in an after-work stop—all happily devoured by the eager crowd.

The association provided main dishes of fried chicken, ham, and vegetable lasagna. Members brought side dishes ranging from healthy, colorful salads to decadent, homemade chocolate cakes. The dessert table was particularly loaded with homemade cookies and pies, along with offerings from several local bakeries.

Beer and wine were served along with soft drinks and water for the designated drivers. Many in attendance had not viewed the inside of the historic Church of the Advent and were happy to see the original woodwork and lovely windows of the fellowship hall. (Photos by John Elgin)