



# Cherokee Triangle Association Newsletter

## After the Fair is Gone: The Triangle in a Time of Pandemic

On this verdant spring afternoon, as I ventured out of my house to walk Chauncey, I met an acquaintance from a non-profit board we both served on. He and his family recently moved onto the street. We greeted each other with big smiles; he from his porch; I from the sidewalk. I welcomed him to the neighborhood, and he said he was happy that if he had to be quarantined it was here.

From our doorsteps, Cherokee Triangle residents can access Louisville’s original Restaurant Row (by delivery or take-out) and can amble over to enjoy the vistas of the Olmsted-designed Cherokee Park. We can look out from our yards at venerable 100-year-old trees (and some newer replacements) arching over our Landmark district. We are truly fortunate to live in proximity to the amenities of the city—and to have a real sense of history and community. I know that neighbors are checking on neighbors—and meeting for drinks in the alley— even while we respect the new norm of social distancing.

Once we have passed through this trying season, Triangle residents will gather friends together again, on front and back porches, at the Willow Park Concert Series (in whatever abbreviated form it may take), at our potluck dinners, and cocktail parties. The Art Fair Chairs will activate all of the tremendous volunteers, and we will celebrate the annual Art Fair in its glory again next spring. 2021 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Fair! Brats will sear, and beers will flow again!

The Cherokee Triangle Association has suffered a blow—both psychically, in missing our traditional spring festival—and financially, in losing the income the organization relies upon from the Fair. Our Trustees have been good stewards, and the board has laid up reserves to help us to continue the programs of the Association. In the coming year, we will need to both curtail expenses and get creative in raising funds. We will need your help to accomplish the CTA’s goals.



We are a hardy bunch! We will stick together and work it out. Best wishes to all—Leslie Millar, CTA President

Pictured are Louisville Collegiate Upper School Students pitching in around the neighborhood during their March volunteer day. Thank you to 1st VP Bob Picken for coordinating the effort.



## Whitney/Strong

By Nancy Moore

On the morning of September 6, 2018, Whitney Austin was headed into Fifth Third Bank in Cincinnati for a routine meeting. The morning calm was shattered when she was immediately hit by bullets. Worried she might not survive to tell her husband and children how much she loved them, she tried to reach for her phone. The movement led the gunman to fire on her again. She decided her only hope for survival was to play dead as she slumped down in the revolving door.

And survive Whitney did, despite being shot twelve times. Miraculously, not one of the bullets hit a major organ or artery. Others in the bank weren't as lucky. The mass shooting resulted in four dead, and two seriously wounded, including Whitney and the gunman who was shot down by police.

In the months spent recovering from her injuries and three surgeries, Whitney tried to make sense of the randomness of her survival, when several others had died. She felt a powerful need to try to stop the senseless violence.



Out of her determination, a new non-profit, Whitney/Strong was born, with the mission to “realize fewer lives impacted by gun violence by advocating and executing responsible gun ownership.” Barely 18 months after the shooting, Whitney has established a formidable organization that is making a difference in all kinds of gun violence. Their strategic priorities include:

- Implement on proven suicide prevention solutions
- Ensure existing firearm laws are effectively enforced
- Champion new laws and funding to keep guns away those who are a danger to themselves and others

Whitney invites her Triangle neighbors to get involved through volunteer services, donations and networking with others across the state. The Save A Life Series provides community-based training quarterly—the next is March 21. Offering practical and concrete information, these programs will save lives and benefit from your support:

- “Stop the Bleed” teaches shooting bystanders how to quickly act to prevent the victim from bleeding out
- Safety Skills Training promotes safe gun storage and gun handling techniques, reducing accidental deaths

Learn more on the website: [whitneystrong.com](http://whitneystrong.com)

## Charitable Contributions

By Wes Cobb, CTA Treasurer

The Cherokee Triangle Association supports charitable causes (like the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy) as a part of its mission to better the neighborhood and immediate surroundings. While the CTA has contributed to a variety of non-profits over the years, the neighborhood association primarily seeks out charities that are headquartered in or near the Triangle, whose activities have a direct impact on the Triangle or adjacent areas, or whose mission aligns with the CTA's broader focus on historic preservation and neighborhood improvement.

In fiscal 2020, the CTA has made three gifts. First, in August, the CTA made a donation to the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association in support of its fundraising effort to repair the four main tennis courts in the park; Metro government had originally included this project in its broader Tyler Park rehabilitation effort, but the city ultimately cut the funding in the wake of pension-driven budget cuts last year.

In January, the CTA made a donation to Volunteers of America Mid-States Chapter, a charity supported by the neighborhood association for many years. Volunteers of America is a behavioral health organization that provides support for individuals contending with addiction, homelessness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and other challenges. The Mid-States chapter is headquartered in Shelby Park and works throughout the 40204 ZIP code.

In February, the Association approved a donation to Highland Community Ministries, its longest-supported charity. While HCM sponsors a variety of programs – including childcare and youth sports – our CTA donations directly support HCM's Community Assistance Program, which includes a food pantry, financial assistance, and practical education offerings.

The CTA is honored to support organizations that enhance the quality of life in the Highlands and looks forward to continuing to support such worthy causes in the future.



T-shirt available from Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy

## Our Neighbor, Andy Blieden

By Susan Rostov, the Roving Reporter



Ah yes! Andy Blieden! The same Andy Blieden you read about in *LEO*. The same Andy Blieden you read about in *The Courier Journal*, *Business First*, and *The Voice*. The same Andy Blieden you read about in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. The same Andy Blieden you interact with in the Highlands or at one of his properties in Butchertown, like Work the Metal. THAT Andy Blieden.

What can the Roving Reporter say that hasn't already been said? Let's begin by examining events in Andy's early years that led to his creativity and that remain integral to his success.

Andy's values and his risk-taking can be traced back to his parents. In previous interviews, Andy has referred to the influence of his father, Bert Blieden, a successful commercial real estate developer. While Andy listened to his father's advice, he valued cultivating projects on his own. His father (now deceased) and Andy's mother Ann Leah have been a tremendous influence on his decision-making process. Andy talks to his mom every day, and he says Ann Leah is very bright, has good

instincts, and is someone he can totally rely on. Some creative people may stray from the matter at hand, but Ann Leah helps keep her son focused. Andy knows that she's in his corner. He credits her for his drive.

Bert and Ann Leah provided opportunities for their sons, both Andy and his brother Mark, to express their interests. They expected the boys to try their hardest, but they also allowed them to fail without chastising them.

Andy's parents enhanced their sons' personal growth by exposing them to adventures like riding the train to Nashville (while passenger service still existed in Louisville), attending Stage One and other cultural events, and participating in sports and theater. According to Ann Leah, Andy was creative from the get go. He demonstrated his artistic talent by drawing caricatures on a wall in their basement. He has always had a keen sense of humor, like his father. These examples represent his outside-of-the-box thinking—in other words—creativity. According to Andy, his parents taught by example: emphasizing family, love, and community responsibility. Andy incorporates these values in his daily life.

Even though Andy grew up in the East End, he, his wife Katie, and their daughter Addison, a student at Collegiate, have chosen to live on Cherokee Road. His older son Jake is a student at the University of Kentucky.

Early on, Andy found a love for the assets of our neighborhood. For starters, the Cherokee Triangle is a neighborhood in the traditional sense of the word. Lovely, well-maintained historic structures, walkability, all kinds of shopping, schools, Cherokee Park plus small parks, coffee houses and restaurants galore, and diversity. The Triangle offers a welcoming home. Andy, with his gregarious presence, his sense of community, and his altruistic nature, fits in to this eclectic place. He aspires to contribute whatever he can to maintain this neighborhood, in his roles as a resident and as an entrepreneur.

Still, many find areas of concern in the Highlands—like an increase in drug use, more evidence of homelessness, and empty storefronts along the Bardstown Road corridor. Facing these challenges, especially in a time when government funding is exhausted, requires innovative solutions and the kind of energy Andy exhibits with each of his business endeavors.

Some may see a neglected building and think—the best thing to do is tear it down. Not Andy. He looks at the potential for saving and rehabbing spaces into more useful, often multi-purpose facilities. Examples: Fall City Eye Care on Bardstown Road, the former Mellow Mushroom on Bardstown Road, Holy Grale and Grale Haus on Baxter Avenue, the drive through at B B & T on the corner of Cherokee Parkway and Bardstown Road. In addition to his projects in the Highlands, Andy has participated in many development projects around Butchertown.

Renovation alone is not enough! The buildings need entrepreneurs. With online shopping increasing in volume, small businesses have trouble surviving. Many examples of successful retail establishments are strongholds in the Triangle. Andy will be the first to identify what could succeed on the Bardstown Road corridor. He will also be indefatigable in brokering a deal and bringing disparate parties to the table.

Andy leads by example just as his parents did. His charm, wit, and creativity are great assets for new development in The Highlands. In other words—build it and they will come. So say I! The Roving Reporter.

### Cherokee Triangle Preservation District: True or False

By Savannah Darr, Louisville Metro Planning & Design Coordinator, Architectural Review Committee

**Design Guidelines only apply to the front of the house, so a retaining wall is exempt.**

False: Any alteration that modifies or adds to the outside of an existing structure (and any new construction or demolition on the property) must be reviewed and approved by the Landmarks staff or Architectural Review Committee (ARC). Design guidelines apply to the front, back, and sides of structures. Site changes, like retaining walls, tree removal, fencing, and parking areas, require review as well.

**Other buildings have replacement windows, so mine can too.**

False: Every building is reviewed on a case by case basis. Before historic windows can be replaced, they have to be determined by Landmarks staff to be severely deteriorated. If existing windows cannot be repaired, then an appropriate replacement can be reviewed. Vinyl windows are not permitted on front facades.

**Brick buildings that have never been painted before can be painted now.**

False: Painting original brick, stone, or stucco that has not already been painted is not permitted by the guidelines. Painting unpainted brick covers existing problems and automatically creates more maintenance down the road.

**Everyone should contact the Landmarks staff before starting any exterior work to determine whether a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required.**

True: Any work completed without a COA could lead to fines and/or penalties.

For more information visit the Planning & Design Services website (<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/planning-design>) or contact Landmarks Staff at (502) 574-6230.

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### CTA Winter Potluck

A giant THANK YOU to Trustee Deirdre Seim for organizing the Cherokee Triangle Association’s annual Potluck dinner! On the evening of Friday, January 17th, approximately 120 Triangle residents enjoyed entrees (including fried chicken, ham, and, vegetable lasagna) provided by the CTA. Association members brought delicious homemade side dishes and desserts like caramel cake, while others brought offerings from a favorite bakery or shop. The CTA’s winter social event was hosted at Gilda’s Club. Residents, please take the opportunity to tour this great asset to our neighborhood.

