



*MerryBeth, Kate, Suellyn and Kim have been elected to the Ecovillage's 2016 board.*

## NEW ECOVILLAGE BOARD ELECTED

At its fourth quarter membership meeting, after a great potluck, the ecovillage membership chose the following members for the 2016 ecovillage board executive committee:



**President:** Kate Reidel

**Vice-President:** Kim Brown

**Secretary:** Suellyn Shupe

**Treasurer:** MerryBeth McKee

They will take office on Jan. 1, 2016.

The rest of the board is made up of the chairpersons of the ecovillage committees.

This was followed by a party thanking Mark Carper,

who served on the board, for his service to the ecovillage. Mark is moving to New York the first of December to take a planning job there.

There was also appreciation offered to the 2015 Board: MerryBeth McKee, Elizabeth Doshi, Lindsay Simmons and Mark Carper.

## DECEMBER ECOVILLAGE TOUR

The December ecovillage tour will be on Saturday, Dec. 26, 2015, from 10 am to noon. The tour starts at the Imago Earth Center. The cost is \$10 per person, free for ecovillage members (regular or associate) and people they specifically refer. If you or someone you know would like to get to know more about the Enright or McPherson ecovillages, it's a nice way to spend a morning. Reservations required: (513) 921-1932 or e-mail [jschenk@imagoearth.org](mailto:jschenk@imagoearth.org). Check [www.enrightecovillage.org](http://www.enrightecovillage.org) for more information.

## EVENTS

### Winter Solstice Celebration

6 to 8:30 pm, Friday, Dec. 18

Join Imago for our most popular celebration, the Winter Solstice! We will reflect on the gifts of the past year and look forward to the coming year and the return of the sun. We'll start with a potluck at 6 pm followed by the celebration at 7 pm. The celebration involves reflection, storytelling, art-making and a history of Solstice celebrations from around the world. Folks can stay after the celebration for a night hike and to enjoy each other's company. Families welcome, we'll have activities to keep young ones entertained.

### Winter community potlucks

Winter potlucks are now in session! Wednesdays will be held at the General Store and we will need folks to sign up for set-up and clean-up weekly. Please contact Kate Reidel at kreidel@imagoearth.org to help.

Sundays will be rotating between the Simmon's home, Suellyn's home, and the Schenk's home, as listed below.

Dec. 13: Simmons

Dec. 20: Schenk

Dec. 27: Suellyn

Jan. 3: Simmons

### Film series in the works

There are plans to offer films on sustainable ways of living at the Imago Earth Center. Such films as "Bag It" which deals with plastic and "Trees in Trouble" about the Emerald Ashe Bore affects on Cincinnati trees. Sponsored by the Ecovillage Green Group, Community Earth Alliance and Imago. Dates to be announced.

## ESTABLISHING A STABLE COMMUNITY

The following quote is from the book, "We Need Each Other, Building Gift Community," by Zoe Alowan and Bill Kauth. We had a one day workshop on Oct. 31 with Zoe and Bill around their idea of the Gift Community.

"Our current culture and its systems are rooted in premises (beliefs or memes) that no longer serve us. We believe that the following premises to be necessary in establishing stable community:

- Humans most want love, family friends and community.
- We come to love and trust those with whom we are most transparent and spent the most time.
- Commitments help build enduring relationships and community
- Staying in place is essential to the possibility of authentic community.
- We can effectively choose the tribe we feel best with.
- A relationship with energies of the Great Mystery informs our work.
- It is now possible for women and men to be safe with each other, practicing transparency and observing clear boundaries.
- We prefer fewer deep, close friends rather to many casual acquaintances.
- Knowing and bonding with each other in part depends on the amount of quality time spent together.
- Current social and economic uncertainty suggests we will be well served by forming mutual safety nets.
- Once authentically happy, each of us will move towards creating the new work.
- We see the need, and feel called to serve, in the co-creation of a new culture that honors all life."

## SUSTAINABILITY IN THE VILLAGE

### A progress report

Harvesting water is a preventative effort, as we look ahead to dealing with possible draught and shortages. Although Cincinnati has had a generous rainfall annually, there is a worldwide threat that demands our attention and community effort to curb waste and develop habits of wise use.

Nancy Sullivan in 2006 discovered that Hamilton County Water and Soil Conservation District was offering a great opportunity to construct raingardens. She researched the project, decided we could do it in the ecovillage and received the funding. Nancy stayed with the project, marketed the opportunity among residents. She also assisted willing residents and found other volunteers to construct the raingardens. Over a period of several years, 11 raingardens were completed. This included all the houses purchase by the housing alliance that installed gardens during the rehab process.

A raingarden involves drawing rainwater off the roof of the house and diverting it from the sewer

system. The water was directed to gardens with deep rooted plants that also kept the water from running off. The soil and water district remains connected to rain gardens, and the ecovillage offers new people help in creating this method of conserving water.

Matt Troken, an ecovillage member and director of the Sierra Club for this region, has conducted numerous workshops about water harvesting. Some of these have been installing rain barrels. He was also able to award rain barrels to participants of his workshops.

Trees are also a vital element in preserving water. Eileen Schenk and her tree committee, in the late 1980s, planted many street trees on Enright and McPherson avenues, and throughout East Price Hill. Although that group has disbanded, Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Department recently assessed McPherson Ave. and provided us with ornamental trees for that area. Matt Troken, with volunteers, planted 60 additional trees in the Imago woods.

Though we have done much work in preserving water in the ecovillage, our practices in our homes can save even more water. Purchasing low flow toilets, water faucets and shower heads are good steps as are fixing any leaks in fixtures and learning habits of turning off water rinsing dishes and brushing teeth.

## TRANSITIONS

*Introducing new residents*

**Tim, Jenn and Eliza Gruenhagen** moved into 748 McPherson Ave. I talked to Tim and Eliza.

**Where did you hear about the ecovillage?** We went to the Pollination Festival in Rabbit Hash, KY, this past summer where Jim Schenk gave a talk about Enright Ridge Urban Ecovillage.

**Why did you move to the ecovillage?** After looking at rural properties where we could have animals we realized that we would be isolated. We came and took a tour of the ecovillage and saw two houses for sale next to each other on McPherson. We bought one and our daughter bought the other.

**How have things gone so far?** We have been in transition, selling one house, buying another, and moving between the two, so we haven't had much time to do much of anything yet in the ecovillage. However, we plan to get involved over the winter time.

## *Farewell Mark!*

The Ecovillage bids a sad farewell to **Mark Carper** and his faithful sidekicks, Timmy and Trigger. Most locals know him for his regular walks with the dogs and his gentle humor and ready willingness to help on projects. Mark is taking a great new job in New York State after adding a Master's in Planning from DAAP to his already-shiny PhD.

## *GoFundMe for DJ Harvination (or donate carpentry skills)*

Many of us know **DJ Harv**, who has lived at the end of Enright for a number of years, after a brief stint on McPherson and then the Bur Oak Building. She MC'd the Ecojam several times and was instrumental in getting some cool artwork, etc., and even donated the cob oven-build which she won back to ERUEV (subsequently built on Terry Street).

Harv is one of those people that others just gravitate to — you always see children swarming around along with her myriad friends. If you don't know her, you are sure to recognize her fantastic colored mohawk hairstyle and impressive piercings, which belie her gentle, but determined soul. Diagnosed a few months ago with ALS, (Lou Gehrig's Disease), and given a window of perhaps 18 months, Harv has put her whole energy into a series of fundraisers around ALS research and awareness, which she has titled "Kick My ALS."

Harv hopes to continue living in the Ecovillage, but her house (which she rents) needs specific improvements: a ramp, wider hall doorway and bathroom modifications. (Her landlord is fine with these changes). Needless to say her medical expenses aren't trivial, as well. She has an army of caregivers who help her with daily chores of bathing, dressing, transportation, etc., but they don't have the financial resources or carpentry skills to take care of everything.

Take a moment and think if you can help with any of the carpentry or bathroom adaptations. Contact Nancy at badgmur@gmail.com if you can lend a hand. If not, maybe you can contribute to her GoFundMe account at <https://www.gofundme.com/harvination>

## TIP OF THE MONTH

Freshly ground coffee will absorb odors if left in an area for a day or so.



### **CORV Guide**

The local CORV (Central Ohio River Valley) 2015 Local Food Guide is available. It can be downloaded from their website at <http://www.eatlocalcorv.org/>.

### **Farm Project-CSA**

We'll let our share members and farm stand customers know information for the 2016 Farm Project's CSA season soon. We thank you for your support as a share member or as a customer at the farm stand and hope you enjoyed eating locally this summer and fall.

You can track our progress and news on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/enrightcsa>.

We are always looking for volunteers, if interested, send us an email at [csa@enrightecovillage.org](mailto:csa@enrightecovillage.org).

### **LIVING IN NATURE**

(This piece was written for the October issue)

Fall starts in two days, on the autumn equinox. I've been noticing the waning light as the sun's arc drops southward, and the days shorten. Tonight when I got home from my walk at 8:10, it was dark.

We've been pulling up spent tomato plants and squash vines, getting the ground ready to sow buckwheat, rye and vetch to hold and build the soil. It's the least we can do, along with spreading the ready compost, for what we have received.

Some tomatoes have been canned, others still ripening, and squash and potatoes are stored in the basement. I think I have enough wood split and stacked for the stove to get us through most of the winter.

The kids returned to school way back in August. The leaves will start turning in maybe two weeks. I'll lower the windows again tonight, leaving a crack so we can still hear the crickets. Soon enough we'll see the hills and valleys around our ridge through bare trees, as the year turns and we settle into a more indoor winter life.

— Bill Cahalan

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

*The Ridgerunner is produced by the ERUEV Communications Committee. Our purpose is to promote the Enright Ridge Urban Ecovillage (ERUEV), invigorate the sense of community and increase the knowledge and practice of sustainable living with in the ecovillage. We also promote the concept of an urban Ecovillage to the Greater Cincinnati Community and beyond.*

*Members of the committee are: Jim Schenk and Jessica Gaitan, co-chairs, Michelle Savoti, Sharon Wilson, Mark Carper, Petra Hostetler, Nancy Sullivan, Eileen Schenk, and Rikki Dennis.*

### **ENRIGHT RIDGE URBAN ECOVILLAGE MEMBERSHIP FORM**

(Membership year: January 1- December 31)

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

Associate \$10 Single \$15 Household \$25  
Sustaining \$500

Amount attached: \$

Cash

Check#

Mail Dues to P.O. Box 5206, 45205 or drop off at the Imago Earth Center.

Thank You from the Membership Committee!

Questions? [josephine.e.watson@gmail.com](mailto:josephine.e.watson@gmail.com)

**ENRIGHT RIDGE URBAN ECOVILLAGE  
SEEKS TO BE AN ECOLOGICALLY  
RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY SHARING  
IDEAS, RESOURCES, AND A REVERENCE  
FOR THE EARTH.**