



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

GERMAN-PARISTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

GERMANPARISTOWN.COM



GPNA Endorses New Proposal for Urban Government Center Property

The German-Paristown Neighborhood Association recently voted to support a new plan for redevelopment of the Urban Government Center site on Barret Avenue. This plan, proposed by developer Thomas Woodcock, would see the existing building converted into a senior living center, surrounded by public space, including a public park, dog park, playground, and farmers market.

Louisville Metro Council is currently considering a proposal from Paristown Preservation Trust, for luxury apartments, a parking garage, and a boutique hotel. This proposal falls well short of the potential for community good this property, our property, could bring us. The developers involved in this proposal are also asking the city for \$20 million in tax credits, also known as a TIF (tax increment financing), and have replaced our neighborhood representatives on the “Community Benefits” committee, required to secure the TIF, with their own hand-picked representatives.

GPNA feels that the Woodcock plan is the superior plan, and additionally, this new plan does not rely on a TIF. Other benefits of the new plan include:

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City Seeking Suggestions for Street Hump Placement

You may have noticed shiny new speed humps in some Louisville neighborhoods!

These are great for making walking and biking safer for families, neighbors, the elderly, and children, and for slowing drivers.

Requesting speed humps used to require gathering a lot of signatures, but as of Spring 2024 a new, easier speed hump policy is in effect, in which you only need 5 signatures or a neighborhood association member to start the evaluation process. To that end, the GPNA board is collecting suggestions for roads in our neighborhood to be considered by Public Works for new speed humps.

We can all benefit from improved walkability and safer ways to travel with our families to our parks, shops, and other community destinations!

If you would like to see speed humps added to your street, please contact GPNA at gpnavep@gmail.com.

Why a Neighborhood Association?

Would you like to see more trees on your street? Or how about measures to slow traffic and add some bike lanes? Where can you report crime concerns to actual city officials? Would you like to have neighborhood events like block parties?

Whether those sound realistic or not, a neighborhood association is the place where ideas for improving a neighborhood can become a reality.

First, a neighborhood association like GPNA offers an avenue for residents to effectively advocate for their neighborhood. One voice can be overlooked, but hundreds or thousands of voices united together are heard. You likely have some great ideas for how to improve our community, and a neighborhood association is the most effective way to pool those ideas, have a direct line of communication with city officials, all the while strengthening the foundations of democracy.

Second, a neighborhood association is also where neighbors can come together to foster community. With loneliness now considered an epidemic, we need each other more than ever. Neighborhood events like block parties connect us to neighbors we might not meet otherwise and help build the social connections that make a neighborhood feel like home.

GPNA has served the Germantown/Paristown neighborhoods for decades, and we plan to keep at it for decades to come. And we'd love to have you join us!

If you're interested in keeping up on neighborhood news and discovering ways you can participate, join us for our monthly GPNA meetings, the third Monday of every month at 6 PM at 1000 Swan Street (old Hope Mills building). See you there!

Urban Government Center *continued*

1. No major new structures are planned, so current neighborhood scale is maintained.
2. The intended use as an apartment for senior citizens will fit into the existing physical pattern of the neighborhood, similar to the nearby Altenheim.
3. Much of the property not covered by the building itself is dedicated to park-like space, featuring a playground, a dog park, walking paths, and trees.
4. A significant amount of currently paved surface area is to be returned to green space for the park.

Alleviation of the eyesore that is the UGC property can't come soon enough for the neighbors who have been

watching the property deteriorate for over a decade. But the impatience this willful neglect arouses is not a valid reason to conclude this long drawn out process by throwing in with an inferior plan when a plan with wider support and greater benefit to the surrounding neighborhoods, and the City of Louisville, is being proposed by a different developer.



If you would like to let the mayor and city council know that you support the new Woodcock plan, please scan the QR code and sign the petition!

Small Business Spotlight: Seidenfaden's



Seidenfaden's bar has been a part of the German-Paristown neighborhood for over 100 years. The building was built in 1890 and first served as an A&P Grocery store until it closed, and was purchased by Charles Seidenfaden in 1921.

According to local legend, Seidenfaden tried to continue the business as a grocery but quickly learned that there was more money to be made by bootlegging liquor out the back door during Prohibition. It eventually evolved into a bar from there.

Current owner/operator Jimmy Heck noted that the business has always maintained something of a neighborhood corner-store vibe, and the bar still sells package beer, soft drinks, and chips & candy.

Heck took over Seidenfaden's shortly after COVID lockdowns were lifted. "It's been great for me to get back to my roots and run this place with my family again. We've reconnected with old friends and made many new ones along the way. It was

never in my plans to come back and run it again, but it just felt like the right thing to do after the unexpected passing of (previous owner) Alex Cosby."

Heck is a life-long Louisvillian, and previously ran the business with his father from 2002 to 2012, before moving into beer and liquor distribution. "My dad and Alex both passed away in 2021 and I was left with the decision to either sell it, find another tenant, or try running it again myself," said Heck. "My sister Emily and

son Casper also work here, so it's a true family-run business and we're all having fun working together to make this a fun place to be."

"We just want to be a place that everyone feels welcome to come down and meet their neighbors over a cold, cheap beer."

Weekly events include:

Sunday Night Movies: "Sunday Sinema" - two cult classic movies every week starting at 8pm with free popcorn, shown in the back lounge with sound or closed captions in the main room.

Ridenfaden Wednesday: "The Crazy Ridenfaden" cyclists meet up at Seidenfaden's to ride each Wednesday. Food trucks or other pop-up food is available. It's a great community to check out for anyone who is interested in getting serious about cycling.

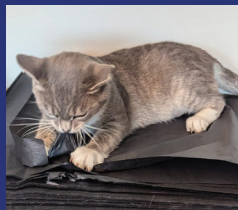
Thursday Karaoke: Starts at 8 PM with \$3 "Iceberg" cocktails all night

Friday & Saturdays always have Live Music and/or DJs.

German-Paristown Parade of Pets



Ringo



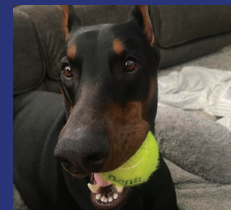
Squeak



Mr. Willie



Louie



Jake



Ms. Charley