

HIGHLANDS

The Original Highlands Neighborhood Association Newsletter - By Neighbors for Neighbors



StreetCar Rails at the Corner of Baxter & Highland 1925 , University of Louisville Photo Archives

STREETCARS DEVELOPED LOUISVILLE & THE HIGHLANDS

by Tess Collins

Streetcars once ran along Baxter/Bardstown Road and Barret Avenue. This early form of transportation was responsible for the development of the Highlands. Streetcars helped the city expand as developers would advertise new “subdivisions” and their proximity to streetcar lines. Yes, the Highlands were once considered the burbs!

Streetcar Fun Facts:

Louisville’s first street cars were pulled by horses. However, during the Civil War many horses were seized. Thus, the use of mules began.

Initially, there were no “stops” for streetcar pick-up. People would step out onto the street and signal the streetcar to stop anywhere along the route. Of course, horse and mule streetcars only went about 3-4mph.

In 1872, streetcar lines were shut down due to influenza that affected horses and mules. Known as The Great Epizootic of 1872, this outbreak increased efforts to develop more reliable and efficient sources of transportation – electricity!



The first electric streetcar ran along Green Street (now Liberty Street) to Baxter Avenue. People lined the streets to watch a test run on June 13th, 1989.

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HAVE AN EPIPHANY

Electrification of more lines followed from 1890 to 1901. The Bardstown Road line, Highland to Longest, was electrified in 1893.

The last streetcar was used during the 1948 Kentucky Derby.

Bibliography

Biemer, Martin E, James B Calvert, George H Yater, and Ernest K Gibson. Louisville's Street Railways and How They Shaped the City's Growth. Louisville, KY: Butler Books, 2018.



Bardstown Road at Bonnycastle Ave. University of Louisville Photo Archives

OHNA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Original Highlands Neighbors, as we begin 2024, I would like to ask you all for some support. As you all may know, our Association Board is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization, and our members are unpaid volunteers. We are chartered to promote social welfare in our neighborhood. In the last few years, our volunteers have hosted annual town hall events to assess neighbor concerns. Safety, noise, and litter ranked highly. We used that feedback to advocate for the following real improvements to the neighborhood: we've seen the implementation of a zero-tolerance noise policy by Metro Alcohol Beverage Control; we monitor late night liquor license applications and have coordinated on formal protest; we helped advocate for the Ambassador Program, the ordinance-recognized Best Practices for Public Safety at Late Night Businesses, and the ordinance to address reckless driving; we worked alongside some very dedicated neighbors for implementation of speed humps on Highland,



Ralph Melbourne,
President,
OHNA Board

Hepburn, and Rufer; we continue to work closely with Metro Council and LMPD to find long-term solutions to violence and reckless driving; we revived circulation of this newsletter to keep you all informed; and we fought through policy changes and grant reductions to maintain a consistent level of tree planting and remain one of the strongest programs in the district.

Donations help us continue this work. Although we are not a 501(c)(3) and you cannot receive a tax deduction on any donations to our Association Board, our status as a 501(c)(4) allows us advocate neighborhood concerns more directly. So, if you believe you've benefited from any of these initiatives and have the means to offer financial assistance, our Association Board would be grateful for any level of donation. Please either contact me at OHNAPresident@gmail.com to learn more or donate directly using the QR Code, here. Thank you in advance and have a great St. Paddy's Day!

Please Donate Today!

Just point your camera at this QR Code to access go to link. After you choose your donation amount the ap will also ask for a donation to help keep the ap free, you can choose to, or you can simply choose \$0 and check out. Thanks!



NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY EVENTS

February 19th, Original Highlands Neighborhood Association General Meeting , Highland Community Ministries, 6:30 pm.

March 3rd, Highlands Parent Group (HOP) meet-up, Paterson Playground on Morton (weather permitting), 4pm-5pm

March 9th, PRE-Parade Party, 10am to 2 pm. Highland Avenue between Baxter Avenue and Rubel Avenue (see next page for details)

March 9th, St. Patricks Parade, This is one of the premier and best attended parades in Louisville. Come see all of the amazing floats and make a day of it by visiting one of the amazing sponsors for delicious food or drinks. 3-6pm



BLOCK PARTY!

**Join us for The Original Highlands
St. Patricks Day Parade PRE-GAME
on March 9th from 10am to 2 pm**

We know you wouldn't miss the famous St. Patricks Day Parade from the Ancient Order of Hibernians, but why don't you join us at our block party before the parade gets going. It's a great opportunity to meet your Highlands Neighbors!

This is a family friendly event so bring the entire family.

PARTY LOCATION

1500 Block of Highland Avenue
between Baxter Avenue and Rubel Avenue.



GLOW WORM CAFE & PLAY

by Tess Collins



Two years ago, I moved to the neighborhood with an infant. If you are a parent, you know how difficult it can be to find safe and nonjudgmental spaces for your child to be a child, especially places where you can also have a coffee and socialize with other parents. I was elated to find Glow Worm in walking distance!

My family has enjoyed Glow Worm Play Cafe so much (we have even had two birthday parties there) that I wanted to highlight this amazing business for families right here in the Original Highlands! I asked the owner, Katie, to answer a few questions for our newsletter so other families can learn more about why Glow Worm Play Cafe is such a wonderful addition to our neighborhood.

What is Glow Worm Cafe & Play?

We are a coffee shop, low-impact indoor playground, party venue and retail shop geared toward children 6 and younger and their caregivers. We have 4 scheduled play sessions per day on weekdays, and 3 scheduled play sessions per day on weekends (unless we have a party booked, which is only a max of 1 party per weekend day so we can still accommodate our regular customers). We clean and reset the play area in between sessions to keep things safe and tidy for our littlest customers.

Do you offer other services or goods outside of play sessions?

Aside from offering play sessions Tuesday through Sunday, we also offer a free support group for parents (every Tuesday from 9:30am-11:30am and the first Saturday of the month from 9am-10:30am), party rentals, private playdates, and ethically made, organic children's clothing from around the world. We also offer memberships (unlimited play!) and gift certificates (online and in store).

How can you benefit our local community?

Play cafes are important because they bring together local parents and caregivers in a fun, safe space for younger children. We also have the opportunity to help parents connect with one another, make friends, and talk with others about their relatable experiences. It's all about community and connection for us. We are working to bring Glow Worm to more parts of the city and region, as we

have discovered that our customers find us to be a valuable resource for parents and children in our community.

What is unique about Glow Worm Cafe & Play?

Our play cafe is a unique concept because we aren't just focused on the experience of the children like so many other kid-friendly establishments. We are focused on the caregivers as well, which is such a rarity for parents. As parents, we are so used to being forgotten about and we are always putting our children first – but at Glow Worm, children and adults are both at top of mind throughout the entire experience. We provide an environment where adults can enjoy themselves just as much as the children, with an aesthetically pleasing and cozy environment, delicious hand-crafted coffee, lattes, smoothies and teas, and amazing food from our in-house bakery partner, Staggeringly Delicious. Children can socialize and play in a safe, clean space, while their caregivers can enjoy some coveted "me time" nearby, or play with their children in a unique environment with child-led activities.



Why did you pick the Original Highlands area?

I grew up shopping vintage stores on Barret Ave and in the Highlands in general. I have always loved the Highlands, specifically the Barret Ave corridor. After Lynn's moved out years ago, the block lost a lot of life, and there were a few businesses that stayed and held it down and helped to reshape it into what it is today. We wanted to be a part of the revival of Barret Ave and bring folks back to shop here, eat here, and just spend time in an area that deserved to be loved again.

Have you seen improvement on Barret Avenue since opening?

The biggest improvement we've seen is having the block full of businesses again! We've had some turnover in the shops in the last couple of years, but we are all super communicative with one another on the block and do our best to work together on events, specials, and fun activities we can all participate in together. We would love to see some beautification on the block by the city and not have to handle everything ourselves as business owners. We also collectively agree that Barret Ave needs to be safer for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. More crosswalks with flashing lights, parking restrictions to help clear the view for folks walking or pull their vehicles out of side streets – things like that. We want our neighborhood to be safe and welcoming for all.

How can someone visit Glow Worm Play Cafe?

The best way to ensure a spot to play is to book ahead of time on our website (www.glowwormplaycafe.com). We have capacity limitations in place for the safety and comfort of all our guests. We take walk-ins when we have the

space, but it's not always guaranteed – so book a spot online or follow us on social media (@glowwormcafeandplay) and check our FB and IG stories for daily availability!



GLOW WORM CAFE & PLAY

962 Barret Avenue / 502.690.4633

Tues - Fri: 9am - 4:30pm / Sat - Sun: 9am - 4pm

Check website for Play Sessions

www.glowwormplaycafe



THE DYNAMIC DUO

by Marian Cochiasue-Avery

Meet Bessie Lee and Gunner. They're an unlikely duo of besties that hang out regularly and manage a security check point on St. Anthony Place. They inspect each passerby for treats and love. Upon completion of security check, you will most likely be serenaded with a duet of barking.

Bessie Lee is an adopted 10yr old Bluetick Coonhound. In her former life, she was raising babies while living on a chain. She is now a bona-fide diva with an extensive wardrobe. She loves digging holes, dressing up, and singing to the neighborhood and to her owner, Kelly Eggleton.

Gunner is a 10yr old Alaskan Malamute who was an escape artist in his former life. Gunner eventually found his forever home with Bruce Furnish on St. Anthony Place. Gunner loves nothing more than taking brisk walks through the Original Highlands with his lady friends, Julie and Kara. In his down time, you will usually find him relaxing on the porch and visiting with neighbors.



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If you have any questions for the Board, please contact us at:
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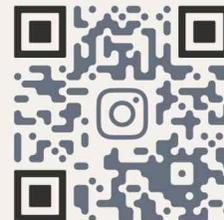
Original Highlands Neighborhood Boundaries



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THEY HAD AN EPIPHANY

by Doug Jefferson

Nestled discreetly behind the bustling streets of Bardstown Road and Highland Avenue, Epiphany stands as a remarkable establishment that goes above and beyond the typical craft cocktail bar. This visionary farm-to-table concept, founded by Ivor & Abby Chodkowski, Nicholas Clark, and Kelley Spillson, is dedicated to using locally sourced ingredients, particularly fresh produce from nearby farms. With a focus on sustainability and community, Epiphany sets itself apart from the rest.

When you think of farm-to-table, a cocktail bar might not be the first thing that comes to mind. However, Kelley Spillson, one of the founders, explains Epiphany's philosophy: "What Farm to table means to us is having farm fresh ingredients that are sourced locally and are the starting point for the cocktail, the inspiration, rather than an afterthought." In fact, Epiphany even operates a farm stand during the summer months, allowing customers the opportunity to purchase the same fresh produce used in their cocktails.

Initially they did not think we would be lucky enough to find a spot in the Highlands that would work for their concept. However, fate smiled upon them when their realtor showed them this vacant space behind the post office. Inside, they discovered a diamond in the rough with an exposed brick facade, original windows, and a rich history waiting to be unveiled. Abby Chodkowski fondly recalls, "The moment we set foot in this space, we were captivated by its character and potential. It was our 'aha' moment, and we knew this was the place where Epiphany would come to life."

Epiphany strives to offer a sanctuary of enlightenment and discovery for its patrons. "Epiphany signifies illumination and the joy of discovery. We wanted to bring that essence into this space," says Kelley. Through their offerings and the ambiance they provide, Epiphany aims to create moments of discovery on multiple levels, whether it's through trying unique cocktails, unfamiliar vegetables, or forging new connections.

The owners have successfully created a warm and inviting atmosphere with their eclectic style, vibrant colors, and Mexican-inspired tiles that adorn the bar. These elements are a reflection of the owners' love for Mexico, a place close to their hearts. Every aspect of Epiphany's design, from the lighting and furniture to the intricate tile work, fabrics, and captivating artwork, was carefully thought out. Abby takes pride in providing an inviting space where family and friends can gather and truly feel at home.

Having recently celebrated its one-year anniversary in December, Epiphany is now entering its second year with plans to elevate the experience for its guests. One significant change is transitioning from customers



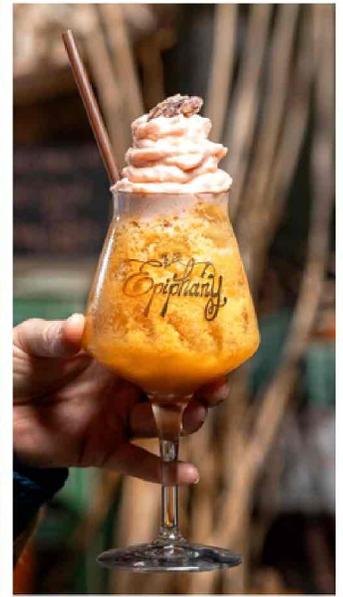
Owners; Ivor & Abby Chodkowski, Nicholas Clark and Kelley Spillson

ordering at the bar to having servers cater to their needs at the tables. Additionally, Epiphany has obtained its brewing license and has plans of getting that up and running in the near future. And don't forget their seasonal snacks, particularly the popular Kentucky Queso. Rest assured that all the ingredients used in Epiphany's menu are sourced from local farms and trusted purveyors.

Kelley recognizes the privilege of being situated in the Highlands neighborhood, surrounded by iconic establishments. Epiphany aims to create a safe haven for all members of the community and establish strong bonds with neighboring businesses, contributing positively to the Original Highlands district.



Don't let the paid parking lot behind the post office discourage you. Epiphany has your back with parking validation for their esteemed patrons. So why wait? Immerse yourself in the enlightening atmosphere and indulge in the extraordinary farm-to-table offerings at Epiphany. A truly transformative experience awaits you.



Epiphany

1525 Highland Avenue (Behind the Post Office)

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Sunday - Thursday: 4pm - 10pm

Friday + Saturday: 4pm - 12am

Contact: hello.epiphanyky@gmail.com

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ARE YOU A PARENT? COME JOIN THE HIGHLANDS ORIGINAL PARENTS (HOP)

HOP is a social group for parents in the Original Highlands! We meet once a month for children to play and parents to mingle. HOP also occasionally meets for kid-free social time at local establishments.



If you are a parent with young children, and would like to meet other parents that live in your neighborhood, please email Tess at highlandsoriginalparents@gmail.com.

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Epiphany

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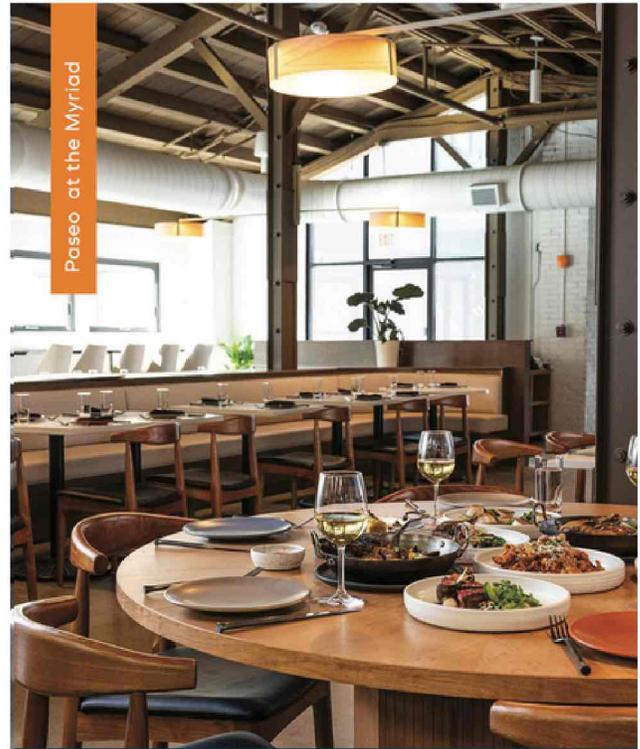
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WE ARE A 501C4 NON-PROFIT. CONTACT DJ@GOTOFOCALPOINT.COM

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Original Highlands Neighborhood Association (OHNA) is a 501c4 non-profit organization established in 1975 that represents the Original Highlands neighborhood in Louisville, KY. Our intention is to unite property owners, tenants, neighborhood business, and others that have an interest in the Original Highlands neighborhood. We encourage and support civic improvements and betterments within our unique neighborhood that will maintain and enhance our neighborhood's traditions, character and diversity. We are always looking for volunteers, but if you prefer to support financially you can use the scan code below.



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