

# Paddock Press

A publication for the neighborhood of Paddock Hills, Cincinnati, Ohio. Funded by the Neighborhood Support Program.  
Newsletter address: PO Box 16028, Cincinnati, Ohio 45216-0028

Volume 30 Issue 4 August 2024

## National Night Out

Please join us 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, August 6 for our Annual National Night Out, Ice Cream Social and Weenie Roast at the In-Between (Paddock Hills Lane between Avon and Paddock Hills Avenue).

National Night Out, in its 41st year, is designed to give neighborhoods a chance to build partnerships with the police and fire departments that serve them in thousands of American communities.

This year's event will feature ice cream, hotdogs and metts. There will be plenty of activities for kids, including games, face painting and magician Brett Sears, who has been entertaining at this event since 2011 (Please see feature on Sears in this issue).



Representatives from District 4 and Engine 9 Firehouse will be on hand with various displays and to talk about their work and hear your questions and concerns.

Please note that anyone who ordered T-shirts may pick them up at the event (cash or check).

The Paddock Hills Assembly also uses the event as a collection point for annual dues. (Please see dues form below, or in flyer that was recently delivered to homes).

**Traffic Note:** Paddock Hills Lane will be blocked off from 6-9 PM Tuesday.

The Paddock Hills Assembly membership year runs  
August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025.

Dues can be paid at National Night Out, mailed to Paddock Hills Assembly,  
PO Box 16028, Cincinnati, Ohio 45216

Or through PayPal at the Neighborhood Website

If using PayPal please make note of the information below.

Suggested dues:

Single Membership \$20 ☐

Family Membership \$40 ☐

Other Donation

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Name(s)

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Address

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Preferred email

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Preferred phone

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Membership dues

support community improvement projects, website, flyers, postcards and signs,  
beautification efforts, social activities and events.

## Beautification Award

This year's Beatification/Landscape Award was given to Christopher and Lindsey Florea  
of 4530 Paddock Road, adjacent to the community garden and Paddock Hills rock.

The winners were chosen by a committee that toured the neighborhood  
under the guidance of Beautification Chair Lynne Stone.

The judges comments:

"The Florea's home received the award for  
their unique and creative front yard wave garden.

They are creating a natural privacy barrier.

The plants and flowers used in their yard are color coordinated  
and placed in perfect symmetry.

Clean front with no trash cans or yard waste in view.

The Paddock Hills garden on Paddock Road is directly next to this home  
and it complements our neighborhood garden."



2024 Paddock Hills Beautification Award  
Christopher and Lindsey Florea

4530 Paddock Road

Lynne Stone  
Beautification Committee  
Chair presents the  
PH Beautification Award  
to the Floreas.



Five homes were also selected for honorable mention:

1. 4515 Perth Lane - Marc and Bea Katz
2. 1319 Avon Drive- Linda Conley
3. 1075 Sunny Slope Drive —Charlotte McEnery
4. 925 Egan Hills Drive – Scott Lucas
5. 919 Egan Hills Drive – John and Cathi Lowry



4515 Perth Lane - Marc and Bea Katz



1319 Avon Drive- Linda Conley



1075 Sunny Slope Drive- Charlotte McEnery



925 Egan Hills Drive- Scott Lucas



919 Egan Hills Drive – John and Cathi Lowry

# Community Budget Request - Ideas Welcome

What project would you like to see the city spend money on in our neighborhood?

The Paddock Hills Assembly is asking for your ideas as trustees prepare to submit CBR proposals to the city for its 2026-2027 biennial budget.

At this point trustees are planning to submit a proposal for a sidewalk/bike path down Victory Parkway, which would open up another route for walkers and it would make it easier for bikers to connect with the Wasson Way Bike Trail which ends at Xavier.

Also being considered is a proposal for a community garden development at the golf course.

Any and all ideas are welcome.

“Ideas are more likely to be approved if they affect a large number of individuals,” said Robert Fecher, Assembly treasurer. “They also need to be a one time expense that won't require ongoing funding. Things related to safety and beautification tend to get funded more than other issues.”

Please bring your ideas to the next community meeting, 7 p.m., August 26 at the Avon Woods Nature Center, or email them to [paddockhillsassembly@gmail.com](mailto:paddockhillsassembly@gmail.com) .

## Save the Date - Fall Cookout/New Neighbor Welcome

Make a plan to come to the Fall Cookout  
at Avon Woods on Sunday September 22, from 5:00 - 7:30 PM.

The annual event is an opportunity to meet and welcome new neighbors, catch up with old friends, enjoy Avon Woods and take a night off cooking during a busy time of year.

Typical cookout fare and water are provided.  
Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Rain date September 29.

See you there.

# President's Letter

Hello Neighbors,

When our dear Rick asked me to submit "a letter from the president" I thought, I'd already introduced myself in our June newsletter, but I guess that's a little different.

For my first letter, it will be more like a quick memo. I'll point out some of Paddock Hill's pros and cons.



I'll start with the pros and what I love - I love the consistent care of the community. People out walking, kids in their yards playing, neighbors picking up trash and manicuring their lawns. Running into neighbors at the laundromat or Sugar 'n Spice and exchanging a friendly smile. I love the participation in our community gatherings, like our block party, community clean up and upcoming National Night Out.

Cons..... PARKING! At least on my beloved Clearbrook, it seems every address has at least 3-4 vehicles. That's including mine. The other con, raking leaves in my yard from seven houses down the block.

What can we do about the pros and the cons? We can keep speaking to our neighbors, engage in conversations. Keep an eye out for each other and caring for our community. Attend the community meetings. The next one will be August 26 at 7PM. Find out what's going on in PH and issues around the city that affect us as residents. As far as the parking, try to park in your driveway if you have that luxury and report abandoned vehicles. As far as the leaves, get some lawn bags and take care of your yard...It's yours. And when we take care of our yards, our neighbors will follow.

This summer has flown by, and we are quickly approaching back to school schedules and routines. But before the weather and the leaves change and start to fall, I hope we all have time to sit outside with friends and family and enjoy the sunshine and heat.

Be sure to participate in our National Night Out, August 6th at the "In-Between." You will have an opportunity to connect with neighbors, eat great food, hear some great music as well as visit and talk with our first responders. There will be entertainment and crafts for kids and hopefully good weather to match. You will also have an opportunity to purchase a PHA T-shirt and pay your dues.

Thank you neighbors for keeping Paddock Hills the hidden jewel. Safe, beautiful as well as diverse, these are three necessary ingredients to a thriving community. I am grateful to be a part.

Pierrette C Wallace,  
President PHA

# Brett Sears: A Magical Fixture at National Night Out

Neighborhoods rarely have an “official magician.”  
If Paddock Hills did, it would be Brett Sears.

The veteran Cincinnati magician has been performing card tricks and other sleight-of-hand deceptions at our National Night Out celebration since 2011. “I always look forward to it,” said Sears. “What’s been wonderful working with you guys for so many years is I’ve watched some of the kids grow up. I get to see them once a year. It’s been fun.”

Sears, one of the area’s most sought after magicians, has done magic professionally since he was a teenager. He does some 300 gigs a year, ranging from stage shows for 600 people at corporate events to “strolling magic” at birthday parties and other family and community gatherings. “I call myself a general practitioner,” Sears said. I do a lot of walk around magic. I like being up close interacting with people. That’s my favorite.” Sears said the only type of magic he doesn’t do is the grand illusions where you have tigers and show girls. “When I got married my wife said, ‘No show girls,’” Sears said with a laugh.



Brett hit rough times, like many entertainers, during Covid. “Struggling doesn’t begin to explain it. There was a period of months where I had nothing booked.” He said the only “highlight” was when NPR interviewed him for a story on struggling entertainers.

But he says bookings have come roaring back. He also says Cincinnati has a rich history as a magicians’ town, in part thanks to the long time presence of U.S. Playing Card previously in Norwood. “They manufactured a lot of things for magicians and were tied to local magic shops and became internationally known,” Sears said. “Most (Cincinnati) magicians know each other and get along and help each other. We’re pretty close. In bigger cities, it gets more cutthroat with egos.”

Sears grew up in Forest Park, a second generation magician. He says his father, who had a career in the hotel world, wandered into a magic store one day and became smitten. He became a self-taught, “part-time pro,” with 12-year-old Brett tagging along to shows.

“I would help set up. I would watch him perform and see what to do if there was a heckler or things went wrong. I absorbed all that. We spent a lot of time together going to lectures and magician conferences. It was really great.”

“I did my first paid show when I was 12. Later, I started doing some of his over flow work. By high school I was doing a lot of paid shows.”

Sears used his magic income to help pay his way through the University of Cincinnati where he took courses to help his magic career in communications, acting and business.

Is there a third generation magician blooming in the Sears family?

“I have a 12-year-old daughter. She thinks magic is cool, but is unlikely to follow in my footsteps.”



# The Jazz Godmother of Paddock Hills

This year's It's Commonly Jazz series celebrates 40 years of bringing the outstanding Cincinnati jazz scene out of the clubs and into an open air, family-friendly setting.

The free series kicked off August 1 and will continue every Thursday in August at the Seabrook Pavilion in Eden Park.

The legendary jazz series is the brainchild and labor of love for Carolyn Wallace, a lifelong Paddock Hills resident. In the mid '80s, when Wallace was the manager of Swifton Commons in Bond Hill, she decided to take advantage of the mall's cozy outdoor courtyard and put on some free jazz concerts. The series was appropriately called, "It's Commonly Jazz".

Four decades later Wallace is still putting on the annual four-week series that showcases the breadth of local jazz talent.

Wallace says she was literally raised on jazz. "I remember doing my homework when I was nine and listening to jazz on our family radio in the kitchen to Oscar Treadwell. I didn't realize what a love for the music I was developing. I purchased my first jazz album, Yusef Lateef, with my first paycheck. I went to my first jazz concert at the Living Room when I was 17 to see Ramsey Lewis."

By the late '90s Swifton Commons, which had opened as Cincinnati's first mall in 1956, had fallen on hard times and the shopping center passed through a couple owners and became Jordan Crossing.

Wallace moved on, starting her own catering business, and thought her jazz series had run its string. It's Commonly Jazz would not go so quietly. After a decade the series was such a summer fixture, people were accustomed to showing up at the Swifton courtyard on Thursdays in August.

On that first Thursday in August, 1997, Wallace got a call. "It was the Jordan Crossing manager saying, 'There are people showing up in our courtyard with lawn chairs expecting to hear some jazz. I'm not sure what to do,'" Wallace said. "I agreed to help them continue the series."

Wallace was able to move the series to Eden Park and able to keep it free, thanks to numerous corporate sponsors, especially Fifth Third Bank. For the complete August lineup, please visit, <https://www.itscommonlyjazz.com> . Also check out the monthly Final Friday jazz concerts Wallace promotes at Findlay Market.



# Submissions

Please send your contributions for the October Paddock Press by the last Monday in September.

We would like to welcome new neighbors, celebrate our neighbors accomplishments and milestones and share some of your summer activities.  
Submit to ( [newsbird1@icloud.com](mailto:newsbird1@icloud.com) ).

## Calendar/Upcoming Events

<b>Tuesday August 6</b>	<b>7:00 - 9:00 PM</b>	<b>National Night Out</b>	<b>The In Between Paddock Hills Lane</b>
<b>Monday August 26</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Community Meeting</b>	<b>Avon Woods Nature Center</b>
<b>Sunday September 22</b>	<b>5:00 - 7:30 PM</b>	<b>Fall Cookout New Neighbor Welcome</b>	<b>Avon Woods Nature Center</b>
<b>Monday September 23</b>	<b>7:00 - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Community Meeting</b>	<b>Avon Woods Nature Center</b>

### Frequently Called Numbers

Unattended, abandoned cars, litter, overgrown weeds, snow removal, pot holes, dead animals, sidewalk repair and graffiti, etc.

To report concerns or request services from the city:  
Cincinnati Public Works 591-6000  
[www.5916000.com](http://www.5916000.com)

#### Cincinnati Police

District 4  
513 569-8600  
Officer Anthony Hill Neighborhood Officer  
[anthony.m.hill@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:anthony.m.hill@cincinnati-oh.gov)  
513 569-8678

#### Avon Woods Nature Center

513 861-3435

#### Paddock Hills Media

Paddock Hills Neighborhood website <http://www.paddockhills.org>

Nextdoor Paddock Hills <https://nextdoor.com/g/crf4af6be/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Paddock-Hills-266186546751105/>

Paddock Hills/North Avondale Free or Trade

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/245307956815508>

### Paddock Hills Assembly Officers

President - Pierrette Wallace  
Vice President - Lina Orr  
Treasurer - Robert Fecher  
Secretary - Emma Kitzmiller

### Paddock Hills Assembly Trustees

Luekiucius Brown	Robert Fecher
Chris Fries	Emma Kitzmiller
Kyle McGrath	Suresh Nirody
Lina Orr	Annie Stephan
Liz Swain	Pierrette Wallace
Greg Watkins	

### NSP Grant Manager

Lina Orr

### Committee Chairs

Beautification - Lynne Stone  
Housing/Economic Development - Ellie Johnson  
Safety, Security and Traffic - Luekiucius Brown  
Security Cameras - Robert Fecher  
Social - Julie Stallworth  
Special Projects - Lynne Stone  
Welcome - Emma Kitzmiller  
Youth Programs - Robert Fecher

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