

Paddock Press

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The Paddock Hills Mural: Meet the Artist

All systems are go for the exciting Paddock Hills mural project after residents voted overwhelmingly to approve an art installation that features a diversity of birds fluttering among the trees in a design featuring the official neighborhood colors.

The mural will be installed late this summer on the retaining wall on the eastern side of Paddock Road near Tennessee.

The artist creating the mural is Tammy Stephens, a native of Covington, Ky., who has a rich track record the last 20 years of doing large scale commercial and public art projects in her photo realist style. Her installations include the schoolhouse mural in Wyoming, and murals at the Campbell County Library, Sawyer Point and the Clermont County airport. For seven years she worked for ArtWorks mentoring student artists and helped restore the Cincinnati mural at Vine and Central Parkway.

For the Paddock Hills mural, Tammy said she was inspired by the symbolism of birds representing the neighborhood's diversity. "I noticed at some artist workshops birds seemed to be popping up more in art," she said. "So, I started thinking about what a diverse population of birds we have in the area and I've looked at what birds live in our natural habitats, from owls to eastern bluebirds. They speak to everyone. Everyone loves birds."

The project manager for the Paddock Hills mural is Kip Eagan, an art curator who has been involved the last 20 years with numerous public art ventures, most recently painting utility boxes in Clifton to resemble every day objects. "I looked at your retaining wall and it seemed like a perfect location as an introductory to the neighborhood," said Kip. "It has a lot of foot traffic and a lot of vehicular traffic." Eagan has been one of the area's leading advocates of the idea that art doesn't have to be confined to galleries and museums. Eagan is passionate that public art engages people in ways that traditional gallery art does not. "Public art can add a lot of joy to the environment. It adds some hope and some light. It touches people's lives. You are just walking down the street and you see a painted utility box or something else and you smile. It can be powerful. It's a sense of discovery and surprise. For Paddock Hills, I think it will have a great impact and add a lot of color to the community."



Meanwhile, Tammy Is scaling up her “birdies” art work, no small task for a ‘canvas’ of this size.

“It’s a unique challenge scaling up to get some real detail. The wall is 150 feet and seven feet at its highest.”



Tammy Stephens

The mural design must still be OK'd by the planning commission and approved by city council in a timely fashion so work can begin this summer.

When finished, it will be another reason for a Paddock Hills party as an unveiling bash will be held perhaps in late August .

Funding for the project, budgeted at \$10,000, is made possible by grants the city made to all 52 neighborhoods channeling money from the Covid relief bill passed by Congress in 2021.

President's Letter

Hello Neighbors,

A lot has happened in my first three months on the job. Cathi Lowry orchestrated a major neighborhood clean-up with the help of 20 neighbors and 45 UC students. Lynne Stone and Stephanie Schlagel navigated hoops and hurdles to get our neighborhood mural project several steps closer to fruition. Thanks to the efforts of Faraz Rizvi and Lina Orr, we have received our NSP monies to help fund our events this year. And much more.

April's monthly Community meeting will see our annual Trustee elections. Due to the pandemic, as well as a couple other factors, we actually have seven of our eleven seats up for election this year. But, thanks to the willingness of some Trustees to continue for a second term, thanks to the efforts of our Nominating Committee, Don Swain, Ellie Johnson, and Pierrette Wallace, and thanks to neighbors responding to my email appeal a week ago, we now actually have more people than we need to fill those seats. This is yet another testimony to our neighborhood's commitment to participate.

So what do the Trustees do for our neighborhood? A lot. We generally meet monthly at the Avon Woods Nature Center at 6:00pm on the fourth Monday of each month. The first hour is the Trustee Meeting, where we address new and ongoing business and coordinate for the annual events in the neighborhood. The second hour is the Community Meeting, where we report out on the Trustee meeting, and we take in feedback and issues from members of our community. Anyone is welcome to attend and observe the Trustee meeting, so if you'd like to see the sausage being made, join us, but we will always report out during the Community meeting at 7:00.

During my time on the board this last year, as well as my time on the board a few years back, I've seen all sorts of issues get addressed. We've worked with the city to get traffic and street flooding issues addressed. We've actively discouraged drug dealing in our neighborhood.

We've worked to resolve issues with derelict properties. We've beautified our neighborhood with small garden areas. We've arranged help for some of our aging neighbors. We've promoted safe and fun events for our young families. All of the coordination and decision making around these sorts of issues is handled by our Board of Trustees.

In addition to our Trustees, we also have several committee chairs that focus on different areas of interest for our neighborhood. But, ...I'll save that for a future letter...

In the meantime, enjoy the slowly improving weather! I hope to see more of you out and about as Spring springs.

-Steve Munday

Trustees Elections

The April Community Meeting (April 25 , Avon Woods Nature Center) is an important one, identified in the Paddock Hills Assembly by-laws as the “Annual Meeting.” It’s when we elect new trustees, who will guide our community in coming years and elect officers every two years.

Because of Covid disruptions, term limits and some unexpected resignations from current board members, there are seven spots to fill on the 11 member board of trustees. Several people have stepped forward in the last month expressing their interest in serving. But more are needed to volunteer.

If becoming a trustee is not your thing, committee chairs and volunteers are needed on the social, security and beatification committees.

If you're interested, please contact paddockhillsassembly@gmail.com with any questions.

Wanted : Web Help

The Paddock Hills Assembly is in need of a volunteer with web design and maintenance skills to help keep the neighborhood web site up to date (paddockhills.org).

It's expected the time commitment would be minimal. If you're interested please contact PH Assembly President Steve Munday (paddockhillsassembly@gmail.com).

Community

Communities like Paddock Hills don't “just happen”. Whether it is racial diversity, attractive walkable streets, a feeling of welcome and being at home, a sense of safety, working together to solve problems or living in a place that meets changing needs, it does indeed “take a village”.

Diverse representation on the Paddock Hills Assembly and committees helps our community grow and prosper. We usually think about diversity as race, religion or nationality (important to be sure), but it also includes the abundance of diverse experiences, perspectives, and talents that reside in our neighborhood.

We are at our best when we consider the perspectives and input of all members of our community. We invite you to consider a role in the Assembly.



Save the Date - Ain't Nothing But a Street Party

Planning is underway for the annual Paddock Hills Block Party to be held 4- 8 p.m., Saturday, June 4. This year the event will be held at the “In -Between” along Paddock Hills Lane. Plans are in the works to have a DJ along with burgers and brats. Please reserve the date as a great chance to hopefully put the pandemic behind us and mingle with old and new neighbors.



Paddock Hills Play Days

The Paddock Hills Play Days will return on Wednesday evenings this summer beginning 6 p.m. June 15 at the Donte Evans Brown & Darrel Lane ball fields. Last summer's Play Days were a big hit.

“There are so many opportunities to meet other families in the neighborhood through all the great social events planned by the PH Assembly, but the Play Days really gave us a way to make better connections with the families on the other side of the neighborhood. Our whole family really enjoyed and looked forward to them each week last summer,” said Emily Fox of Egan Hills Drive

Plan to bring a frisbee or a ball or just show up to watch and enjoy the good outdoors and neighbors having fun!



Beautification Award

The Beautification Landscape award will be presented this summer in July. The beautification award takes in to account weeded landscape, edged lawn, manicured flowerbeds, trimmed shrubs (which are free of vines), vibrant coordinated colors of plants and flowers and no visible trash cans.

Last year's winner was Denise O'Neal and John Rushing of Westminster Drive.

This year if you have a favorite or favorites while walking our lovely neighborhood, please email Cathi Lowrey with the street address, joca.lowry@gmail.com.
Happy gardening!

New Neighbor

Bill and Terry Bartl have moved in to 1239 Avon, after living in Miamiville. Both are from Greater Cincinnati.

In fact, Bill lived for awhile on Paddock Hills Ave. when he was in his 20's.

"Bill always talked about what a cool neighborhood it was," said Terry. "We were excited when we saw this house pop up on a listing. I know there aren't a lot of homes that go up for sale here."

Bill and Terry are unconventional newlyweds. "We're both in our 60s, but we just got married on 2/22/22 in Las Vegas," said Terry. "Our kids from previous marriages are adults and married."

Bill is retired after a 30-year career in sales with Snap-on Tools.

Terry works as a project manager for Dell Technologies. "I actually have a walking challenge through work coming up so, I'll be out and about," Terry said.

PH Artists in Residence

Color of Music

Grace Haggard of Westminster, a self-described abstract impressionist, has a solo exhibit running now through April 23 at the Sharonville Cultural Arts Center. Inspired by her love of jazz, Grace uses a variety of materials (acrylic paints, canvas, granite, limestone and Styrofoam) to create mosaics with melodic themes under the title “The Color of Music.”

PH Native Daughter Publishes Children’s Book

Deanna Brooks Barnes, daughter of James and Deborah Brooks of Avon Dr., has published her first book, “A Very Good Helper,” the first in a children’s book series.

Deanna was inspired by watching her own daughter wash dishes unsupervised in an attempt to “help” as she weaves a story of a young independent girl confident that she makes her mom’s life easier by lending a helping hand. Or does she? Avery sets out with different tasks around the house. Parents and kids can relate to the little girl who makes more mess than help, all done in love.

Raised in Paddock Hills, longtime residents may remember Deanna from the babysitting business with Emma Kitzmiller. She graduated from Florida A&M University and has worked for Oprah Winfrey, ESPN, Walgreens and currently is a Senior Client Partner at DoubleVerify. She lives in Oak Park, Ill. with her husband, daughter and two sons.

The book is available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Walmart, Books-A-Million, Bookshop, and local bookstore, Smith and Hannon.

New Book From Our Poet Laureate

Pauletta Hansel, of Avon Dr., has been named the 2022 Writer-in-Residence by the Library Foundation of the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Library, serving as an ambassador to the local literary arts scene and helping to teach the writing craft.

Pauletta was the inaugural poet laureate for the City of Cincinnati from 2016-2018 and was the winner of the 2017 Weatherford Award for best Appalachian Poetry. She has been a writer-in-residence at Thomas Moore University and is a poet, memoirist, teacher and author of nine poetry collections. Her latest is “Heartbreak Tree,” released last month, described as “a poetic exploration of the intersection of gender and place in Appalachia.”

Successful Cleanup

Beatification Chair Cathi Lowry reports the March 26 cleanup was a huge success thanks to the some 20 neighborhood residents who braved the chilly day joining with the 45 University of Cincinnati volunteers to remove litter from the streets.

“Your efforts are much appreciated by all of Paddock Hills,” Cathi says. “We are grateful for you taking the time to build community in a clean up activity which benefits us all!”

Cathi emphasizes that this needs to be an ongoing effort. As you walk our lovely neighborhood, continue to pick up litter to keep our streets clean. Please consider signing up for Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (KCB) program, **Adopt-A-Spot**, which tracks monthly cleanup of our Cincinnati streets and sidewalks. KCB will provide you with trash bags, tongs, and gloves.

(<https://www.keepcincinnatibeautiful.org/programs/great-american-cleanup/adopt-a-spot.html>)”



When you signup online: click the link above, click for VOLUNTEER, then Adopt-A-Spot. For the question, “Adopting Organization or Business:” enter PADDOCK HILLS ASSEMBLY and for “Name Desired on Sign:” enter NONE/NO SIGN and enter “N/A” in the last question regarding a sign. The goal is to have all PH streets claimed by residents and businesses in 2022!

Intrepid volunteers
Joe and Mary Ayers
with Reese and Addy

Plant Sharing

From time to time, the neighborhood has had a plant sharing program, depending on interest. If you are thinning your garden this spring, please consider sharing some plants, and getting some in return.

Cathi Lowry has agreed to coordinate “I will see if we have enough interest to have a plant swap. To start, I always have hostas, lilies and black eyed-susan’s to share. LMK if you would like some!” joca.lowry@gmail.com.

Trustee's Meetings are open to members of the community; agenda items discussed and voted upon in the Trustee's Meetings are announced and recapped at the Community Meeting.

Calendar / Upcoming Events

Monday April 24	6:00 - 7:00 PM 7:00 - 8:00 PM	Trustees Meeting Community Meeting	Avon Woods Nature Center
Monday May 23	6:00 - 7:00 PM 7:00 - 8:00 PM	Trustees Meeting Community Meeting	Avon Woods Nature Center

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

Cincinnati Police

District 4
569-8600

Officer Anthony Hill Neighborhood Officer
anthony.m.hill@cincinnati-oh.gov
569-8678

Avon Woods Nature Center

861-3435

Paddock Hills Media

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

Nextdoor Paddock Hills <http://paddockhills.nextdoor.com>

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

Paddock Hills Assembly Officers

President - Steve Munday
Vice President - Lynne Stone
Treasurer - Lina Orr
Secretary - Pierretti Wallace

Paddock Hills Assembly Trustees

Bruce Bowdon	Robert Fetcher
Kim Gordon	Paul Jones
Emma Kitzmiller	Cathi Lowry
Steve Munday	Lina Orr
Lynne Stone	Liz Swain
Pierretti Wallace	

NSP Grant Manager

Faraz Rizvi

Committee Chairs

Safety, Security and Traffic - Luekiucius Brown
Security Cameras - Robert Fetcher
Environment - Paul Jones
Beautification - Cathi Lowry
Economic Development - Ellie Johnson
Social - Liz Swain
Welcome - Emma Kitzmiller
Membership - Joyce Coleman
Youth Programs - Robert Fetcher
Little Libraries - Kim Gordon

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