

Paddock Press

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Tis the Season to Stroll in Paddock Hills

Please join us for the
Third Annual Paddock Hills Holiday Stroll, 5:30- 7 p.m. Sunday, December 11.

Started in 2020 as a way to safely counter months of being cooped up with Covid, the event has become a neighborhood tradition after two years. “We hope to see families safely wander the streets taking in our spectacular holiday decorations, renewing friendships, and enjoying the wonder of neighborhood children while sipping hot cocoa,” said Emma Kitzmiller, chair of this year’s event.

The Stroll will be centered on the axis running along Paddock Hills Lane from Westminster to Paddock Hills Avenue, but residents are encouraged to wander widely to take in the holiday decorations.

The Paddock Hills version of the Polar Express—a four-car, a trackless train will make runs through the neighborhood.

Other Stroll festivities include:

- An arts and crafts station for kids to make decorations and holiday cards.
- Plenty of cookies and gallons of self-serve hot chocolate at stations
- Santa Claus will be in attendance for pictures with the kids
(Note: Our Paddock Hills Santa is not one to sit upon his throne—You will find him likely wandering and dancing in the streets).
- And those motorcycle Santas will return.
- A letters to Santa mailbox will be installed in the Paddock Hills Avenue Cull-de-sac.
- Thanks to Chris Ruthemeyer, a special light show in front his house make the Paddock Hills Avenue cul-de-sac a magical experience.



Traffic Note:

No streets will be closed for the Holiday Stroll, but residents are strongly urged to voluntarily restrict vehicular traffic during the event, especially along Paddock Hills Lane and the Paddock Hills Avenue and Westminster cul-de-sacs.

Travel through the neighborhood will be congested with people and children in the streets and the train giving rides through the area.

Holiday Lights Competition:

This year the lights competition will be decided with a community vote!

If you would like your home to be in the competition please email a picture of your house (preferably at dusk) in all of its decorated holiday glory to paddockhillholidaystroll@gmail.com by Friday, December 9, 2022.

On the day of the stroll a google form will be sent out with pictures and addresses. You can vote on the google form and also use it as a guide to see all of the homes in the competition!



Volunteer Opportunities

This event is not possible without the help of volunteers.

We are looking for community members to help with shifts of 30-45 minutes for the following roles:

- Hot Chocolate and Cookies Station - filling and passing o hot chocolate and cookies to community members,
- Children's Holiday Train Monitor - helping to ensure a safe experience for our little riders
- Traffic Control - being a presence near the intersections of Paddock Hills Avenue and Paddock Hills Lane and Avon Drive and Paddock Hills Lane.

Please email paddockhillsholidaystroll@gmail.com if you would be willing to volunteer.

Victory Vistas

Since last summer the Paddock Hills trustees have held several discussions and expressed multiple concerns over the proposed Victory Vistas development.

The proposed project from Kingsley and Company, a minority-owned real estate development firm, would include a 50-unit apartment building on Asmann, across from Ledgewood, and near the Victory Parkway intersection, wedged into the side of the hill in an area once used as a service garage by the National Guard armory.

Technically the site is within the Paddock Hills neighborhood, but, residentially, it impacts North Avondale. The Paddock Hills Assembly has joined forces with the North Avondale Neighborhood Association (NANA) to express several concerns about the development before the zoning board.

The concerns include:

- It's feared the site has contaminated soil that may include human carcinogens and pesticides from the armory days. It's claimed the builder has not provided environmental assessments for clean-up plans.
- The project impacts a Hillside Overlay District and is unable to support adequate parking under city code. The developer requests a variance for 16 cars less than the code requires. This means that any extra cars end up on North Avondale streets. This area already has nine apartment building that are grandfathered with inadequate parking. No traffic study has been supplied to study traffic parking impacts on Ledgewood.

The developer has told the PH Assembly the project meets a growing need for modestly priced housing, but some who have studied the issue say the environmental and parking issues are troubling.

“This isn't about affordable housing. This is about a building too large for the location on a hillside that is dangerous,” said Maureen Mello, the Paddock Hills resident who has done invaluable research for the Assembly on filing a complaint with the zoning commission. “They are trying to force it into a location where it can't fit.”

The PH Assembly and NANA have asked the zoning commission to delay approval of the project so the developer can more fully respond to the neighborhood concerns.

Mural Plus Update

Artist Tammy Stephens has finished decorating three utility boxes as part of the extended public art campaign that began with the “Welcome to Paddock Hills” mural.

Tammy replicated her “Birdies” theme on the boxes owned by Alta Fiber.

The additional art project was made possible when the Assembly was able to secure additional Covid relief funding from the city designated for projects that further neighborhood cohesiveness.

Still to come is a commemorative plaque to be installed at the Paddock road mural saluting Tammy and others who made the project possible.



Sugar 'n' Spice Closed For Now

The owners of iconic Paddock Hills eatery Sugar 'n' Spice have not yet disclosed when the restaurant may reopen. The breakfast spot closed in November with a message on its web site that said, "We are taking this time to restaff and retrain in order to regain the level of service you've grown accustomed to. We apologize for any inconvenience."

So far, the owners have not shared any more details about the future of the restaurant other than the web site posting. We will keep you notified of any developments.

Sugar 'n' Spice opened at the location in 1941 and has been a part of the fabric of the Paddock Hills community ever since. The restaurant was purchased in 2019 by Adam Mayerson, vice president of The Mayerson Company.

The previous owner, Steve Frankel, established the eatery's quirky rubber duck theme. In 2020 Mayerson opened a spin-off Sugar 'n' Spice at the site of the former Diner restaurant at 12th and Sycamore in Over-the-Rhine. Early this year, Mayerson announced plans for a third location in Blue Ash, which has not yet opened.

Paddock Hills Food and Home Care Drive

Another Paddock Hills Strong effort that has caught on is the annual December food and home care drive organized by resident Jamie Stoneham. Last year Paddock Hills folks filled an SUV with donations. Jamie says she could handle two SUVs if donations pour in!



P A D D O C K H I L L S

FOOD PANTRY & PERSONAL CARE DRIVE

Please consider donating food pantry and personal care items to be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

Some examples of the most needed items are:

- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Laundry detergent pods
- Dish soap
- Cooking oil
- Spices
- Peanut butter
- Canned protein (such as tuna/chicken)
- Cereal
- Low sodium/lite syrup
- Diced tomatoes
- Macaroni and cheese

Drop off Items between Dec 1st - Dec. 18th to:
1344 Westminster Dr.

For a complete list of most needed items (scroll to the bottom of the page):
www.svdpcincinnati.org/drives-events/host-your-own-drive/



Fall in Paddock Hills

The community gardens and fall canopy provided another beautiful fall in Paddock Hills.

Neighbors pulled out their sweaters and jackets, for The Fall Cookout and Neighborhood Cleanup as we readied ourselves and our neighborhood for the arrival of winter.



Paddock Road Speed Thrills

Many a Paddock Hills Community Council meeting has heard from residents worried about the speeding down Paddock Road. Finally, some speed calming measures have been installed, including speed cushions and caution lights. We came across an ironic slice of history when, once upon a time, autos raced UP Paddock Road, some 14 years before the Paddock Hills residential development began.

The following story is reprinted from the blog Cincinnati Curiosities, compiled by Greg Hand who is dedicated to “working overtime to keep alive the weird soul of the Queen City.” (<https://handeaux.tumblr.com>)

Reckless (But Not Wreck-less) Speedsters Attacked Paddock Road Hill In 1905

Speed demons terrorizing a public street. Pedestrians scattering. Out-of-control vehicles swerving at the last second. A precious little dog killed by motorists achieving unprecedented speeds of ... 45 miles per hour!

The date was 17 May 1905. The location was Paddock Road between Bond Hill and Avondale. The event was the first annual hill climb of the Automobile Club of Cincinnati.

Fact is, Paddock Road is not much as Cincinnati hills go. It's not the sort of breath-taking incline that inspires a thoughtful reluctance like Straight Street or Ravine Street. The slope up Paddock is actually known as Rose Hill and tops out at 740 feet above sea level, mid-range for local elevations.

And yet, “fright” and “daring” and “shock” were among the words employed to describe the Automobile Club hill-climbing competition. The race earned national attention for Cincinnati. Motor Age magazine reported on the event in its 25 May 1905 issue. Among the revelations, Paddock Road wasn't even paved yet. The surface was macadam – basically compressed, crushed rock.

“The course began in the sag near the B. & O. S. W. railway depot at Bond Hill, a suburb, and continued up a hill averaging 25 per cent, it is said, for 3,975 feet or 15 feet less than ¾-mile, almost to Reading road, an automobile thoroughfare.”

In 1905, there were so few automobiles in Cincinnati – fewer than two hundred – that throngs turned out to watch a dozen flivvers try to climb a hill. More than 500 spectators crowded the finish line near the Reading Road intersection, with hundreds more lining the almost rural slope of Paddock Road.

“Spectators came on street cars, in automobiles, in carriages, on bicycles and on foot. They strung all along the course, but the largest crowd was at the curve near the finish, where the possibility of spills added interest to that particular spot. Handsome women in motor veils and their friends perched on the grassy hillside well up on the bank on the outside of the curve, while those eager for a nearer view lined the gutter on the most dangerous spot on the course.”



Motor Age 25 May 1905

Dr. H.C. Wendel's automobile appears to be speeding up Paddock Road, but his fastest time for the 1905 his climb was just over 20 miles per hour.

The spectators certainly included a lot of socially prominent Cincinnatians, because automobiles back then were affordable only to the wealthy – costing the equivalent of \$50,000 to \$70,000 in today's dollars.

None of the vehicles entered in the 1905 race represented a manufacturer still producing cars. There were Franklins, Autocars, Orientals, Whites, Nationals, Reos, and Pope-Toledos.

Timing of the races was accomplished by telephone line between the starting line and the finish. Official scorer was Cincinnati Mayor Julius Fleischmann, himself an auto enthusiast. The event began with vehicles of increasingly more powerful engines carrying one to four passengers. After two dozen runs, ranging from 14 miles per hour to nearly 30 miles per hour, officials announced the main event, known as the free-for-all. In this race, the only object was speed.

According to the Cincinnati Post: "Women shrieked and men fled during the free-for-all, when the 30-horsepower Pope-Toledo of Andrew Hickenlooper, rounded the turn at a speed of 45 miles an hour, skidding into the crowd, which got away not an instant too soon. Hickenlooper, a son of the late General Hickenlooper, gas magnate, was in the car, but it was driven by Chauffeur Charlie Schiller, who righted it without slackening speed and dashed over the tape in good form, covering the course in 1:00 3/5."

The Automobile Club organized hill climbs for several years, eventually moving on to the somewhat steeper grade of Stanley Avenue in Columbia-Tusculum.

Snow Shovelers

Two Paddock Hills young adults are available for snow removal jobs.

India Nichols can be reached at 513-384-9648.

Andrew Sanker may be reached through his mother, Shannon, at s.yarbsanker@gmail.com.

If any other teens or young adults are looking for snow shoveling work please contact us at the Paddock Press and we will pass your info along to the community (newsbird1@icloud.com)

Calendar / Upcoming Events

Sunday December 11	5:30 - 7:00 PM	Holiday Stroll	The In Between Paddock Hills Lane
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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/>

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Paddock Press

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