

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

Spring Cleanup

The annual neighborhood spring cleanup is this Saturday, April 6, from 10:am- noon.

Once again the Paddock Hills Assembly Environmental committee has arranged to have up to few dozen students from the University of Cincinnati help with the task as part of the The Clean Up Cincy program at UC. It has become the largest student led beautification program in the region sending volunteers into Cincinnati communities in the spring and fall to help with sustainability efforts.

To compliment this wonderful student workforce, Paddock Hills volunteers are needed to lead and organize the students. "We need PH folks to lead the UC students on various projects," said Lynne Stone, Beautification Chair. "Everything will be provided—gloves, tools, trash pickers and bags."

Work will focus on flower planting in gardens (Benken's has donated flowers), picking up trash on Paddock/Reading/Tennessee, cutting back bushes and honeysuckle from sidewalks on Paddock Road and readying the Avon Woods picnic area.

Please RSVP to Lynne (stonelynne58@gmail.com) or show up at the Avon Woods Nature Center. Your efforts will be rewarded with a pizza lunch.

Note: The clean-up was originally scheduled for 4/13 but moved up a week to take advantage of the UC students.



Spring Cleaning Tips

- **Yard waste pickup** from the City of Cincinnati resumes for Paddock Hills April 9 and will continue to the end of the year. Yard waste pickup is the same week as recycling.

Yard waste should be placed in clearly marked cans with handles; paper bags designed for yard waste or bundled with heavy twine or cotton rope.

Yard waste placed in city garbage carts, recycle bins or plastic bags will not be collected.

Sticks and branches may be tied into bundles of no than 3' lengths and 2' in diameter.

- A reminder that the city sends street cleaners through our neighborhood on the first Wednesday of every month.

Street sweeping plays a critical role in keeping Cincinnati's streets and water clean. A clean street keeps storm drains clear of debris and helps prevent street flooding due to clogged catch basins and prevents pollutants from reaching waterways. Street sweeping works best when the sweepers can sweep from curb to curb. Vehicles, and trailers left in the street prevent the sweeper from hugging the curb and performing the most effective sweeping possible. Residents should circle those dates and try not to park on streets those Wednesdays.

- You can schedule for the city to **remove bulk items** such as old furniture and appliances at no extra charge. The best way to schedule a pickup is to download the city's 311cincy app or visit [311cincy.com](https://www.311cincy.com) . We have found it to be an efficient, user-friendly app to access a number of city resources.
- Consider the **Paddock Hills/North Avondale Facebook Free or Trade** if you have items you don't need any more and would like to offer to neighbors who might have a use for them (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/245307956815508>).

Don't Dump the Nati

Don't Dump the Nati was started by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful in April of 2023 as a pilot program "to see if we could lower the amount of illegal dumping by providing a place for people to drop off waste for free. During this time over 500 loads were dropped off, totaling over 50 tons of waste. We saw a 20% decrease in the amount of illegal dumping complaints during this time."

KCB is continuing the Don't Dump the Nati program in 2024!

The monthly event will be located at 2121 State Ave, a fenced in lot situated between the Western Hills Viaduct and South Fairmount fire station.

The dates are March 29th, April 26th, May 24th, June 28th, July 26th, August 30th, September 27th, and November 1st. We will be there from 9am - 1pm.

Hazardous waste such as oil, gasoline, batteries, and wet paint will not be accepted.



Landscape Award

A reminder that the annual Beautification Landscape Award will be presented in July.

More details will be available in the June Paddock Press.

Pot Sponsorship - Thank You

Thanks to contributions we are able to keep the six flower pots that decorate entrances to the neighborhood. The pots are located at the entrance of Egan Hills, Clearbrook, Paddock Hills Ave., Sunnyslope, Avon Drive and Egan Court. The cost is split with the city which maintains the displays and changes the plantings seasonally.

But the city raised its costs for the partnership this year and the PH Assembly asked residents to consider sponsorships. Two pots were already covered by donations. Two other pots received sponsorships, with remaining costs funded by the Assembly:

Julie and Mauricio Peredo of Egan Hills are sponsoring a pot in honor of Fredy Rueda (1962-2023).

Several families on Egan Hills have contributed to remember long time neighbor Iris Silverblatt (1938-2024),

including the Fox, Lowry, Galvin, Lucas, Ziccardi, Watson & Jackson families.

The pots will be marked with “in memoriam” stakes.



Residents Worry: How Will New Zoning Proposal Impact Distinctive Character of Paddock Hills

The Paddock Hills Assembly Trustees voted at the March 25 community meeting to express opposition over several aspects of the proposed zoning changes known as the Connected Communities proposal. After extensive discussion among trustees and residents at the meeting, it was clear there are many worries that the changes could affect the integrity and character of Paddock Hills.

The Connected Communities proposal is designed to make it easier for the private sector to build new units and renovate existing buildings to create duplexes, townhouses and small apartment buildings in the 2-4 unit range, referred to as the “missing middle.” The theory is more mid-range housing would lower rents throughout the city and the city would gain more density critical to building vibrant economic infrastructures. It also reduces regulation and allows for increased density, additional height and less parking in the multi-family areas of our neighborhood.

The changes would apply to all of Paddock Hills. At the meeting residents expressed a number of concerns about how the neighborhood might be affected:

- Residents worried the character of the neighborhood, with its distinctive, historical architecture, could be diminished, since the new zoning would apparently permit the removal of single-family homes to construct units of 2-4 apartments.
- Some wondered if two lots could be torn down and combined for an apartment dwelling.
- The proposal could stress already cramped parking. Unlike previous zoning requirements, new apartment construction would not have to provide off street parking.
- There was a feeling that any proposal should deter or limit ownership by private equity, real estate investment trusts, hedge funds, etc.
- Another significant concern is whether infrastructure— sewer, water, electric— are able to handle the increased density.

Next Steps: Zoning Proposal

At the end of the meeting, the Board voted to send a letter from our Community Council to the City of Cincinnati Council members and Mayor's office in strong opposition to the proposal.

A small team will be assembled to draft the letter using arguments presented in the meeting. If you have a strong interest in participating in the letter's writing, please contact PH President Steve Munday (paddockhillssassembly@gmail.com).

For information on the Connected Communities zoning proposals we recommend checking out a highly useful and interactive website <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/connected-communities/> .

It's expected city council will vote on the proposals in June following a series of public hearings this spring.

Trustees Wanted

The April Community meeting (4/22) is designated as the "annual meeting" and is an important one when new trustees are elected. The PH Assembly Board of Trustees has 11 trustees serving three-year staggered terms. This year four trustees need to be elected.

Two trustees (Pierrette Wallace, Robert Fecher) will run for another term. Two are leaving the Board (Julie Stallworth, Steve Munday.)

Please consider serving as a trustee. The time requirement is minimal—a meeting a month— but what's most import is the need for fresh ideas and inspiration to make Paddock Hills a vibrant community.

If becoming a trustee is not your thing, committee chairs and volunteers are needed on various committees.

If interested, please contact paddockhillssassembly@gmail.com with any questions.

The Return of Rubber Ducks and Wispy Thin Pancakes

After a 14-month closure, Paddock Hills residents can once again get their Sugar n' Spice fix. We asked Dianne French, long time PH resident and former Cincinnati Enquirer editor, to check out the renovated restaurant for us.

The family asked for “the pancake booth” by name. A server gave the go-ahead, and the two little ones rushed to the orange benches with mom and dad close behind.

Sugar n' Spice is back.

Startlingly bright yellow and blue diamonds in the entry welcome diners; double shelves of rubber duckies line three walls; and a spacious front room with giant windows offers plenty of tables and chairs. The aging kitchen has been replaced.

Unchanged are the delicious Wispy Thin Pancakes, made-to-order omelets, and the heaping Breakfast Platter.

Paddock Hills' legendary coffee shop at 4381 Reading Rd. closed more than a year for major remodeling and to expand by 30 seats from the original 39. Sugar n' Spice, founded in 1941, reopened in February, and regulars are returning to claim a favorite booth or a seat at the counter and mix with new friends.

Open daily from 7 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., Sugar n' Spice orders can be placed online as well as at 513-242-3521, with a new pickup window.



New restrooms meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. Now on the ground floor, the restrooms are bright and spacious. After years of carrying little ones down the awkward cellar stairs to the potty, I don't miss the original facilities at all.

The corner "Pancake Booth," dominated by a cartoon on the wall of towering pancakes dripping with butter and warm syrup and a goofy, grateful kid, was preserved – even the little pullout table extender which always allowed family and friends to crowd in close to a table loaded with food from a Cincy Omelet with goetta to stacks of pancakes with fat fresh blueberries rolling around.

Also preserved is the friendly, "stop in" ambience. On a recent rainy morning, a regular took his seat at the counter. Before his coffee could arrive, he called out to a server who greeted him with a hearty "How have you been?" and a hug. A few seats down, another server introduced herself as she put menus in front of a just-seated couple. They responded with their names and smiles that lasted through a leisurely breakfast and chats with people on both sides.

As I headed out, longtime server Patty helped a new server work the shake machine, grabbed a carryout container, and called out "see you soon." The coffee's flowing.

Poetry Reading

Pauletta Hansel, Paddock Hills', "poet -in-residence" and a former Poet Laureate for the City of Cincinnati, is inviting neighbors to a poetry reading and book launch.

The event, 2- 5 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at the home of Pauletta and Owen Cramer, 1266 Avon Drive, will feature readings from poets Richard Hague and Katerina Stoykova along with Hansel debuting works from her new book, "Will There Also Be Singing?"

The work is Hansel's tenth collection. She describes the project as "poems of witness and protest, including those living and working in my native Appalachia, as well as those exploring this nation's current racial, political and class injustices and divisions."



Pauletta says husband Owen (AKA Mr. Santa Claus at the Holiday Stroll)) "will be serving up his homemade brew."

Remembrance

Iris Silverblatt, a lifelong Paddock Hills resident, was found dead in her home on January 27 at the age of 86. Iris' long-time neighbor, Paula Jackson, sent in this remembrance:

Iris was not very active in recent years, but had been quite a presence on Egan Hills Drive for many decades. She was known to have said that she was born in that house and always lived there; she intended to die there too. She resisted all attempts to get her into an assisted living or other type of facility. It was clear that she knew what she wanted!

In her final years, poor health and anxieties took their toll on her inquisitive and outgoing spirit. But some of us remember the earlier years, when Iris would stop and talk to everyone on the street as she walked her beloved dog. There was nobody on the block she hadn't made it her mission to welcome and get to know.

And she would bring challah to her neighbors to celebrate Rosh Hashanah.

Egan Hills neighbors are sponsoring a corner flower barrel in memory of Iris. We hope the flowers blooming through spring, summer, and fall will bring a smile to all, whether they knew Iris or only heard of her.

May her memory be for blessing."
Paula M. Jackson



Save The Date: Block Party

Please plan on attending the annual Paddock Hills Block Party, 4-8 p.m. **Saturday, June 1** (rain date, June 8).

The PH Assembly will provide a fully catered meal with hamburgers, hot dogs, brats and all the fixins'.

There will be a DJ and games for the kids.

Coming this Spring: Paddock Hills T-shirts

It's been a minute since the last coveted Paddock Hills T shirts were available.

New Shirts will be available at the June Block Party.

The cost will be \$15 if you pre-order; \$20 if you buy them at the Block Party.

Available sizes and information on how to pre-order will be sent out in the next few days.



Submissions

Please send your contributions for the June Paddock Press by the last Monday in May.

We would like to welcome new neighbors, celebrate our neighbors accomplishments and milestones and share some of your spring projects.

Calendar/Upcoming Events

Saturday April 6	10:00 - 12:00 Noon	Neighborhood Cleanup	Avon Woods Nature Center
Monday April 22	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Community Meeting Annual Meeting	Avon Woods Nature Center
Monday May 20	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Community Meeting	Avon Woods Nature Center
Saturday June 1	4:00 - 8:00 PM	Block Party	The In Between Paddock Hills Lane

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

513 569-8600

Officer Anthony Hill Neighborhood Officer

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>

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