

Anthem Site Redevelopment

As many of you know, the former Anthem site, consisting of over 7 acres, sits between William Howard Taft, Woodburn, McMillan and Bell. This site is being developed by Fortus, Al Neyer and Vandercar Holdings and this large-scale development will have a significant impact on our community. A stakeholder's committee was formed last spring consisting of community residents, ESHA members and business members. The goal of this group is to work with the developers and the City to ensure that the developers were getting the best use out of this large parcel of land and that it fits the character of our neighborhood.

We had an incredible turnout at our September council meeting from members of the community who reviewed a presentation from the developers and voted to allow them to move forward with Phase 1 of the project and to change the zoning of the site from Office Limited (OL) to a Planned Development District (PD). The City has commended this process and is using it as an example of how development should occur around

the City with all parties working together to create a better outcome.

Now that Phase 1 has been approved, which locked in the buildings uses, where buildings are sited, setbacks, massing, height and density, etc. the developers have begun working on the detailed architectural plans for this first phase. Once those plans are complete, the developers will come back to the community with specific construction drawings for the second approval. The stakeholder's committee, the developers and the City are continuing to meet through this next phase to ensure the best solutions for integrating a new complex of buildings into an existing neighborhood with historic character and unique architecture.

You can find additional information and the developers detailed proposal on the East Walnut Hills website: http://eastwalnuthills.org/home/anthem_redevelopment/.



Sign up @ eastwalnuthills.org to receive the newsletter by email



The Newsletter is Back!

On July 4th, 1989 my family moved to East Walnut Hills. My husband and I raised two boys (now 25 and 30 years old) in this neighborhood and we are planning to stick around for another 20 odd years. Not long after we moved in, we received a simple newsletter from the East Walnut Hills Assembly telling us what the Assembly was doing and providing news of the neighborhood. And from time to time after that, we received further newsletters that we shared with our neighbors and talked about what we read. The newsletter was a quick and easy source to discover interesting things about what was going on in East Walnut Hills.

Today, we get much of our news from social media. The East Walnut Hills Assembly has a Facebook page. I encourage you to 'like' our Facebook page and follow the updates that we post. I hope you are aware of the Assembly's website. The link to our website is: www.eastwalnuthills.org. Detailed information about the Assembly's organizational structure, the Assembly public monthly meetings, opportunities to volunteer in the community, and pertinent news can be found on the website.

And now the Assembly Board has decided to reinvent the newsletter. In this issue you'll find a summary of the early history of East Walnut Hills. Did you know that the current site of the St. Francis de Sales Church was not the original location in the neighborhood? You can read a brief summary of the status of the redevelopment of the approximately 7-acre Anthem site south of the main part of the business district. Do you want to know details about the upcoming Assembly meeting - it's in the newsletter. We are very pleased to profile one of our most valuable citizens: Sister Sally. I suggest that when you're finished reading the newsletter you share it with your neighbors.

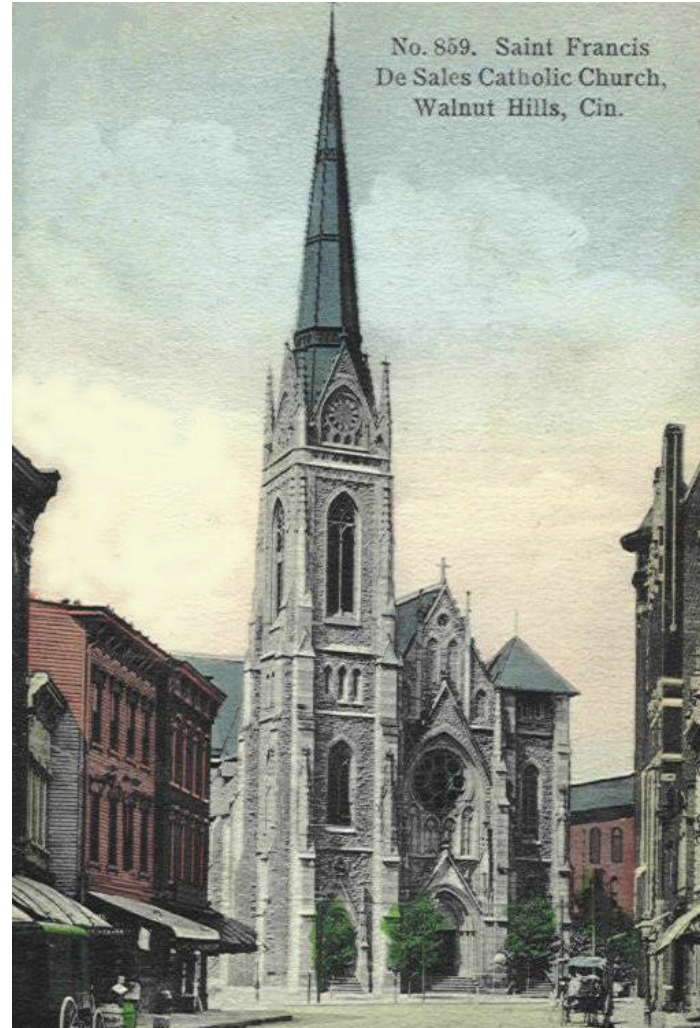
Please attend our monthly Assembly meetings that take place on the first Wednesday of the month in the St. Francis de Sales School cafeteria at 7:00 pm.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Drew Gores, President, East Walnut Hills Assembly



History of East Walnut Hills



East Walnut Hills started as a small German Catholic community, along with adjoining rural estates of a number of Cincinnati businessmen, clustered around St. Francis de Sales Church, in the mid- 19th century. Their original stone church, built about 1850, was located at the southwest corner of Hackberry and Taft Road. Beginning in the 1830's, these prosperous Cincinnati businessmen established residences in the suburban area, most of them east of the German community with panoramic views of the Ohio River. A remarkable number of these buildings survive from the 1850's.

An 1883-84 map of the area reveals changes that took place in little over a decade. The west side, where the streetcar lines ran, was becoming filled with frame and brick houses and commerce and was evolving into a cohesive district. Although the large estates were still intact at this time, a series of dotted lines crisscrossing them indicated the proposed new streets- among them Fairfield, Annwood and Wold Avenues--which would be nearly developed by the turn of the century. Single-family homes were the predominant mode of housing in the area, although many duplex-type residences are also found here, particularly in the western portion along Cleinview, Hackberry and Woodburn, where many working-class residents lived.

Handsome residences continued to be erected, along with more modest single family and some multiple-family buildings, on the older streets in the early 20th century. New, but small, streets or lanes were carved out of the remaining open estates on the eastern side of the community. Most of the houses were designed in the extremely popular Tudor or Colonial Revival style, with a few suggesting a more Modern inspiration. Despite some losses to commercial or large-scale apartment development, East Walnut Hills retains to a remarkable extent its early 20th-century flavor.

Upcoming Events

East Walnut Hills Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, December 13th, 7 pm
St. Francis de Sales School, 1602 Madison Ave. (in the cafeteria)

Please join us for the monthly assembly meeting in the cafeteria at St. Francis de Sales school. The meetings are open to the community and include updates on the neighborhood, new development plans, safety reports from the Cincinnati Police and Fire Departments, upcoming events and all the work that the beautification committee puts into keeping East Walnut Hills looking good! Assembly members may vote on important issues at these meetings. You can join the assembly by visiting our website or by attending a monthly assembly meeting and signing up.

Neighbor Spotlight



In this section of the newsletter, we plan to highlight different people from around the neighborhood who help to make East Walnut Hills such a great place to live. In this edition, we introduce you to Sister Sarah Marie Sherman, a Sister of Mercy, affectionately known as “Sally” or “Sister Sally”. She’s “retired” and lives with 4 other sisters in the former Geier Estate overlooking the Ohio River.

When did you move to East Walnut Hills?

I've lived in EWH most of my adult life—except for two times when I lived and worked in Chicago and also lived and taught on the West side of town. I first moved to EWH back in 1962! Back then, the Sisters of Mercy original motherhouse, which had withstood 2 devastating floods, including the one in 1937, was too expensive to repair. Thus, building began for a new motherhouse. The beautiful building that resulted served a number of purposes over the years, the most recent being the fabulous Mercy Montessori School.

The Sisters of Mercy were successful in acquiring all the property on the southwest block of Grandview, either through donation or other means. Sisters continue to reside in the residences in groups of 1—6. Personally, over time, I have lived in every one of the residences at one time or another.

The last time that I moved to EWH, I was working as a faith-based community organizer on the south side of Chicago. This was great ecumenical work where I worked regularly with Lutherans, Jewish, Episcopalians, etc. But, the Sisters of Mercy were looking for an Executive Director for the new outreach we were opening in the neighborhood (Mercy Connections), so I came back. We opened Mercy Connections in 1996 and had wonderful years of service on the corner of Woodburn and Locust, until we happily merged with 2 other Mercy-sponsored organizations to become Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, Inc. in 2007.

What's your favorite part of living here?

The people are so friendly and involved in community. Scenery can't be beat.

Do you have a favorite business or park?

Well, for businesses for me, you have to go to restaurants: Brew House, Parkside and Skyline are top of the line for me. There are also many more exceptional eateries—makes me hungry just to think of them. We are so blessed with Eden Park, the Mirror Lakes, etc., but nothing can beat the view from our side porch.

What's the biggest change that you've seen since moving here?

I had the privilege to serve on the EWH Board for a long time. That has been awesome—the people are so dedicated. I can't imagine anyone who's given more time to building this community than Ed Pfetzing. When I first joined, we did not have 2 nickels to rub together. Over time and with good planning the Board has built a strong financial and operational base. I am very proud of what they have accomplished.

What would you like to see happen in the future?

More of the same and more coming together across racial and financial divides.