

FROM YOUR ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT



In May I was elected President of the East Walnut Hills Assembly. My primary goal was to continue the positive momentum in our neighborhood and I'm happy to say that improvements in our community continue.

Several new businesses have opened recently in historic DeSales Corner: Urbana Café; hat boutique, Chapeau Couture; accessory shop, The Genesis Collection; Woodburn Games, where you can purchase and play board & role-playing games; and Lovely Bride, a modern bridal shop. There are few similar compact, walkable business districts in the City where someone has as many different and unique places to go.

Our neighborhood continues to be a center for new residential investment. The DeSales Flats III is renting strongly; the new townhomes at Sanctuary Court are fully sold; and Urban

Sites is refurbishing and adding apartments in two buildings in our business district. I am particularly pleased that we encourage well-placed increased density, adjacent to public transit and within short walking distance to the business district.

The East Walnut Hills Assembly has been busy. Our Events Committee continues to offer events for neighbors of all ages. Our Infrastructure Committee is reaching out to the community to work on improvements to our streets and sidewalks to increase safety in our neighborhood. Our Stakeholder Committee has been working on an important plan that's detailed separately in this publication.

Engaged and active neighbors make East Walnut Hills one of the City's most desirable communities. I'm impressed by the number and variety of folks who attend our Assembly meetings each month. Please continue to support the East Walnut Hills Assembly by joining this fall as a member and by attending and voting at our monthly meetings. Make your voice heard in your community.

*Sincerely,
Tony Fischer*

WILLIAMS YMCA

The historic East Walnut Hills YMCA is being renovated into approximately 25 units, comprised of studios, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments, including two-level loft style residences. There will also be an intimate courtyard and rooftop deck overlooking our historic community. The apartments will retain a historic imprint which will add to the uniqueness of East Walnut Hills.

It is evident that the owner/developer of City Center Properties, Chris Frutkin, made a conscious effort to maintain and emphasize the integrity of the original building in the intricate designs of the new construction.



NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT RECAP

It's been an exciting year for community events in East Walnut Hills. In May, we hosted the 18th Annual Clay Alliance Pottery Fair in the Madison parking lot. June brought us to Owl's Nest Park, where we organized a free screening of Disney's "Moana" along with the Cincinnati Neighborhood Games qualifiers and other activities with community partners. This event brought together about 150 neighbors from East Walnut Hills and Evanston. In August, our dog show and free screening of "Best in Show" brought dogs and their owners from all over the city to the Woodburn parking lot.

October's Candidates' Night in the St. Francis De Sales School cafeteria brought neighbors and over 20 candidates running for local, state or federal office together to discuss important issues. We also hosted our first Owl's Nest Fest in Owl's Nest Park,

featuring live music by Push Play, the J Dorsey Band and members of the Music Resource Center. Also in October, Engine 23 participated in the city-wide Open House Day, offering fire safety tips and a glimpse into its facility on Madison Rd.

The DeSales Corner business district is also home to Walk on Woodburn, our recurring neighborhood celebration, which follows Manifest Gallery's exhibition schedule. This signature event continues to draw visitors from all over the region to revel in our charming architecture and eclectic businesses.

The Events Committee is always looking for volunteers to help with planning, fundraising, promotion, and to staff our events. Please get in touch at EWHeventscommittee@gmail.com if you'd like to help!

This newsletter is a production of the Communications Committee on behalf of the East Walnut Hills Assembly, your official neighborhood council. Questions? Please get in touch:

info.eastwalnuthills@gmail.com
P.O. Box 68050
Cincinnati, OH 45206

2-WAY CONVERSION

The proposed 2-way conversion plan will enhance walkability and safety, and create a more pedestrian-friendly experience by restoring the original 2-way street design along E. McMillan St. and William Howard Taft Rd. from May St. to the west all the way to Columbia Pkwy. to the east, as well as return the entirety of Woodburn Ave. to 2-way use.

At the December 5th Assembly meeting, the neighborhood will have a chance to discuss and vote on the proposed plan that has been approved by the EWHA Board and the Stakeholder Committee. If approved by the neighborhood, the plan will also need City Council approval.

You can view a schematic design of the plan at eastwalnuthills.org, along with a detailed summary.



Push Play performing at Owl's Nest Fest



Dog show contestant arriving at "Best in Show"

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: WALTER BANACH

You've seen this gentleman picking up litter in the business district, watering neighborhood traffic islands, and at East Walnut Hills Assembly meetings. His name is Walter Banach. Here is his story in his own words:

I'm originally from Easton, PA, where I was a sports and news editor for my high school newspaper and sports editor for the yearbook. I worked at our local cable TV station after they hired me to run camera and do grunt work when I was our high school news reporter. I played trumpet in the marching band, orchestra and jazz band. Originally, I wasn't sure if I wanted to study music or science in college, but I was told to go into science. "You need a day job!" I still play the trumpet sometimes.

I attended the University of Pittsburgh in the 70s, where I met my wife Christine. Junior year in college, I started working on the biosynthesis of fungal metabolites, and I continued working on that with my mentor in graduate school. After receiving my Masters in Biochemistry, I got a job in Cincinnati and we moved here.

I worked at Children's Hospital as a research assistant, eventually becoming a lab supervisor, handling research, lab diagnostics and lab administration. I was in the Division of Endocrinology, and we studied growth disorders, diabetes, thyroid disorders, and the like in children. I ran diabetes testing from 1980 to 2011. We measured the effects of human growth hormone, insulin and adrenal problems. I retired in 2011.

When we first moved to Cincinnati, Christine and I spent a year and a half in Mt. Auburn, 2 ½ years in Walnut Hills and then moved to East Walnut Hills in 1985. 35 years; that's hard to believe! We both like old houses and fell in love with the house we now live in. It's an 1890s Queen Anne that's part of the historic district.

I like all the people in the neighborhood. We all look out for each other. There are a lot of dogs around here now. I love dogs, but I don't want the full-time responsibility, so I sometimes take care of my neighbor's dog. I like to walk him through the business district.

I volunteer with the Beautification Committee, and we do a lot of work. We pick up litter and clean up Woodburn Ave. before every Walk on Woodburn. One day a week, I water the traffic islands at McMillan and Taft and Taft and Woodburn, and sometimes also the one on Victory Parkway. I want to give a special shoutout to Sue Fullen and Suzanne Fischer, who are the real driving forces of beautification. They handle all the plantings, and I just do the grunt work.

I'm now also involved with the Infrastructure Committee, looking into crosswalks, parking and issues like that. It's a lot of work, but somebody needs to do it.

I haven't missed a single Assembly meeting in two years. Civic engagement is important to me because I grew up in a real neighborhood, a small borough of Easton, where my family lived in the same house since 1927. I knew everybody growing up, so I always try to patronize all the area businesses and get to know everybody to maintain that same sense of community.



LEGACY MURAL

In 2007, inspired by a similar program in Philadelphia, the now-former Mayor Mark Mallory challenged the public art nonprofit organization ArtWorks to create a mural in each of Cincinnati's 52 neighborhoods.

Today you can find ArtWorks murals in 36 Cincinnati neighborhoods and 7 nearby cities. The Legacy Mural, located at 2701 Woodburn Ave., was commissioned through ArtWorks and created by professional artists working alongside teen apprentices.

ArtWorks selected Schulhoff Tool Rental for a summer mural project in 2008. The 190' long Woodburn Ave. wall is the site for fourteen separate, 5 by 12-foot renderings of various East Walnut Hills landmarks. Lead artist Tim Parsley oversaw the project that included three teaching artists and 15 student artists.

This mural added to the ongoing revitalization and preservation of East Walnut Hills. Imagery and color schemes alternate to create visual interest and highlight historical photos of the neighborhood. The historic photos are presented in sepia and juxtapose green copper-toned images of nearby architectural rooflines bringing balance and beauty to the street. Wander into Schulhoff's small store to see some of the original historic photos that inspired this mural.



**Facebook & Instagram:
@EastWalnutHills**

BANK BUILDING UPDATE

The Art Deco building on the corner of Woodburn Ave. and Madison Rd., formerly a bank, is being renovated by the developer South Block Properties and the owners of the Littlefield into two distinct spaces. Both are scheduled to open this winter.

Branch will be a restaurant and bar on the main floor. It will feature "New American" food from Shoshanna Anderson (formerly of Honey and currently chef at the Littlefield). The menu will include unexpected modern twists in a nostalgic atmosphere. The menu will be more substantial than the one at the Littlefield. To start, the owners are planning on a nightly dinner service and Saturday and Sunday brunch.

Night Drop will be a bar located on the lower level. This space will contrast nicely with the upstairs restaurant space: the upstairs is a voluminous space with high ceilings and huge windows, while the downstairs space will be cozy and more intimate, with original artwork and a beautiful bar made out of salvaged marble and brass.

