

# The Rainbow Building

1528-1538 Madison Road is a historic, low-rise structure sandwiched between The Growler House and Suzy Wong's. This building consists of five small retail bays. It is fondly referred to around the neighborhood as the Rainbow Building, due to the distinctive rainbow mural on the façade.

The property has been vacant for as long as many residents can remember. Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation (WHRF) purchased the property last year, on behalf of the EWH, using the East Walnut Hills development fund. Josten Construction is in the process of restoring the facades of the five bays. It is their intent to preserve the original storefront look.

WHRF will complete a white-box build-out of the property in order to market it to a suitable end user. Money for the initial design and construction work came from a CNBDIP grant.



Join us for our monthly assembly meetings. Please check the website calendar for meeting dates. We typically meet the first Wednesday of every month in St. Frances DeSales Cafeteria at 7 P.M.

**\*Sign up @ [eastwalnuthills.org](http://eastwalnuthills.org) to receive the newsletter by email!\***



## Message from the President

In May, I ended a two-year term as President of the East Walnut Hills Assembly (EWH). At the June Assembly meeting, the new President, Tony Fischer, will welcome attendees and lead the meeting. I'll attend those meetings and will continue to support the neighborhood. However, it's time for others to lead.

It's been an eventful two years. With the strong support and advocacy of the Burdett and Myrtle Avenue residents, the Assembly rallied to protect the historic residential nature of East Walnut Hills and prevented yet another parking lot being built on Myrtle and subsequently requested and received a change of the zoning on Myrtle and abutting streets to prevent more parking lots from being built. Today, there are developers interested in improving two properties on Myrtle – both residential projects.

EWH residents, property owners and business owners responded “yes” to the EWH Board's request for participants in a stakeholder committee to work with the developer of the former Anthem site. They thoughtfully discussed and persuaded the developer to make important improvements to “Phase 1” of the new development. We watch now as the demolition of the former Anthem buildings continues and await the groundbreaking on Phase 1. The stakeholder committee continues to work to solve the riddle of two-way parking on McMillan, Woodburn and WH Taft with the City.

And, it would be remiss of me not to mention what became known as #parkingwars. This was a difficult time for the EWH Board and a time of upheaval for Business Association. It was painful for concerned community members to watch. The Board and the Business Association came out of this time stronger and are working together on a number of shared goals. More people are engaged in improving our community. The Business Association's monthly meetings are well attended, productive and focused

on promoting the business district. WoW attendance is up. The September 2018 Assembly meeting, where the Anthem development was publicly discussed and voted on, was attended by over 130 people – close to a record attendance.

There's a common theme here. We are fortunate to live in EWH and have so many engaged community members. In January and February, when the weather should have guaranteed low attendance at the Assembly meetings, we had over fifty attendees at each meeting. From my perch, at the front of the room, I see new faces each month. And so many people are speaking up, asking good questions and, more importantly, volunteering their time on committees and at events to help make East Walnut Hills a more vibrant and inclusive neighborhood.

I end with a “shout-out” to the incredible people on the EWH Board. Eighteen dedicated volunteers spend many hours each month on beautification, communications, development issues, blight problems, events, parking issues and much more. Three Board members are moving on: Jason Blake ably led the Business Association for many years and showed grace under fire that he did not deserve; Mark Nelson, as Secretary, kept track on everything that took place at Assembly meetings and Board meetings – his notebook grew alarmingly large over time; and John McHugh, who served for three years as President before me, was my sounding board and my biggest cheerleader when I needed both. They will be missed. However, we have the luxury of choosing from a number of good candidates for their replacements – a byproduct of working with all those engaged community members.

It's been an honor to serve as your President.

Drew Gores  
President, East Walnut Hills Assembly



# Did You Know?

East Walnut Hills is home to the “Madison and Woodburn Historic District” listed in the National Register of Historic Places -- June 3, 1983 (No. 83001983). The District extends along Woodburn Avenue between Madison Road and Burdette Avenue (East Walnut Hills).

The Madison-Woodburn Historic District is significant as a grouping of late 19th and early 20th century historic urban architecture composed of examples of Italianate, Gothic, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, and Art Deco styled buildings. Most of the buildings were constructed during a period of rapid suburban expansion from 1875-1910 and are located in our neighborhood business district known historically as “Woodburn”.

By the 1880s and 1890s. a cohesive district had formed including a grocery store, drug store, saloon, livery, hay and feed store, blacksmith and such industrial enterprises as a cornice works and a wagon works. East Walnut Hills, as a whole, retains to a remarkable extent its early 20th century flavor.

Today our thriving eclectic business environment makes us one of Cincinnati's most diverse neighborhoods.

Follow eastwalnuthills on Instagram and Facebook to recieve history updates and photos of many of the neighborhood architectural gems!



# Upcoming Events

**EWB Neighborhood Sign Up/Practice**  
Saturday, June 9th at 6:30  
Owl's Nest Park

**Cincinnati Neighborhood Games**  
Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Yeatman's Cove

An Olympics-style event that includes the 52 Cincinnati neighborhoods competing in cool games and races like trivia, tug-of-war, corn hole and more. It kicks off this May with neighborhood qualifiers and the finals will be held at the end of July. The goal is to bring Cincinnati residents together through this completely volunteer program. And this year, there will be a Torch Bike Relay through every neighborhood! Visit [www.cincygames.com](http://www.cincygames.com) to learn more. To sign up early for additional information, please contact our neighborhood captain, Angela White, at [awhite@fox19now.com](mailto:awhite@fox19now.com)

## Walk on Woodburn

Attend the Walk on Woodburn events to experience the best local art, shopping, dining, and more in our charming business district. Visit <http://walkonwoodburn.com/> for more information on dates and times!

# 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 Sue Fullen.



## How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

I lived here for over 24 years.

## What’s your favorite part about living in the neighborhood?

I am really impressed with the friendliness of the residents. There is nothing ordinary about the architecture which makes it a wonderful place to walk.

## What is/was your day job?

I am a retired Cincinnati Public special education teacher. I worked with children with behavior disorders, and my last assignment was as a classroom teacher for the residential patients at Children’s Hospital.

## How long have you headed up the Beautification Committee for the community?

I took over beautification around 2010.

## How many flower pots do you maintain?

There are 40 pots in the business district that my volunteers helped plant and water. That is until the Park Board offered to do it for us on a split the cost basis. This was a HUGE benefit to us. Recently, we have added more pots that we care for ourselves: at the fountain behind the San Marco building, in the Woodburn parking lot, 4 pots in front of DeSales Church, and one in front of Indigenous.

## What’s your favorite traffic island? How many are there?

The most beautiful one is at the corner of Taft and Woodburn, but it is very difficult to maintain. So I would say my favorite one is at McMillan and Taft. That one is actually 2 islands very close together. In all there are 5 traffic islands in our neighborhood. The small one at E.McMillan and Taft is the newest one and we were able to redesign it due to a donation from a generous resident who lives nearby. We also take care of the kiosk plantings at DeSales corner.

## How many “welcome to East Walnut Hills” signs are there?

There are 3 large wooden signs, each one placed at a main entrance to EWH. Then there are 7 metal signs that are attached to telephone poles at the secondary entrances.

## What’s the most bizarre thing that’s happened since you were running the committee?

That would be cars running over the islands at McMillan and Woodburn. This has happened at least 3 times on my watch. There is still a piece of a metal fender lodged in the honey locust there.

## Do you garden at home too?

Yes, but I spend more time in the neighborhood green spaces because that is more fun.

## Are you looking for help?

I am always looking for help, mostly with weeding and trimming. I have several tenacious volunteers who are helping to maintain the islands...Jeff and Marybeth Butterbaugh and Walter Banach. And I must mention the hardest worker of all, Suzanne Fischer. She does far more of the physical work than I do and she has great ideas. Her husband, Mike, also pitches in when asked. I couldn’t do this without all of them. (Sue's husband, Tom, does a ton too! Including replacing our damaged welcome signs.)