

Mt. Adams

Grapovine

Spring 2025

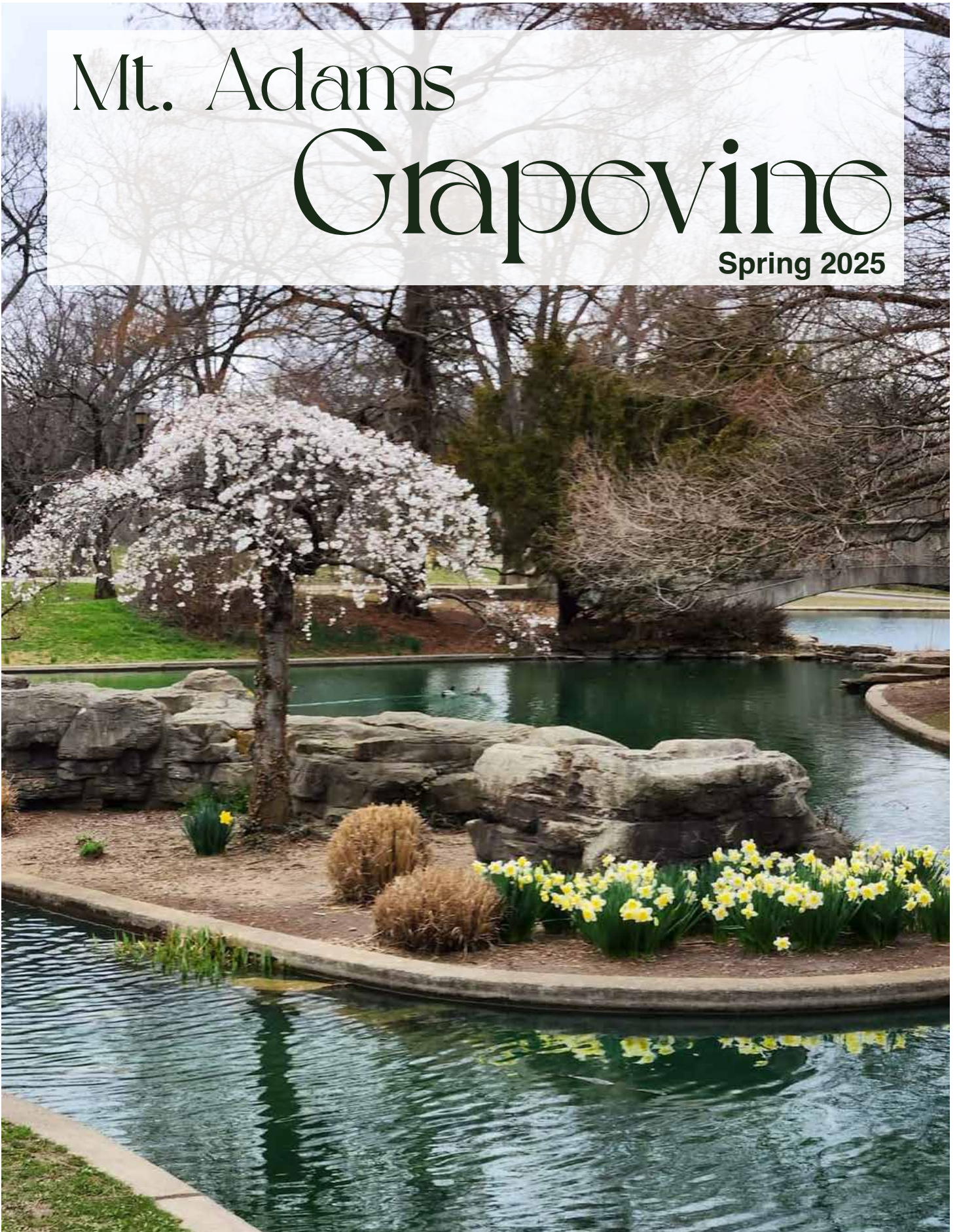


Photo credit: Ginny Corsini



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

- 4th **Mt. Adams Civic Association Meeting**
7 pm Holy Cross Immaculata Community Room
- 11th **Mt. Adams Beautification Association Monthly Meeting**
Home of Deborah Weinstein, 384 Baum St., 6:30 to 8pm
- 13th **Mt. Adams Yacht Club**
St. Patrick's Day Party, Crowley's, 5:00 to 7pm
- 31st **Mt. Adams Dems**
6:30 social time, 7pm meeting, Hi-Fi

APRIL

- 1st **Mt. Adams Civic Association Meeting**
7pm Holy Cross Immaculata Community Room
- 8th **Mt. Adams Beautification Association Monthly Meeting**
The Hilltop Bar, 6:30 to 8pm
- 9th **Mt. Adams Yacht Club**
Spring Fling, The Hilltop bar, 5:30 to 8pm
- 12th **MABA Clean Up Event**
Meet at Bow Tie at 9:30am for supplies and assignments
- Art on the Hill**
1 to 6pm in the Business District
- 18th **Holy Cross Immaculata Church**
Good Friday "Praying the Steps" and related events
- 19th **Easer Egg Hunt Hosted by MACA**
10am Eden Park Hinkle Magnolia Garden
- 28th **Mt. Adams Dems**
6:30 social time, 7pm meeting, Hi-Fi

MAY

- 4th **Mt. Adams Walking Tours (May 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th)**
Every Sunday, begins at 1pm in front of the Bar & Grill
- 6th **Mt. Adams Civic Association Meeting**
7pm Holy Cross Immaculata Community Room
- 8th **Jazz on the Plaza**
Live music at the Monk Fountain Plaza. Check mtadamscincy.org for details
- 10th **Art on the Hill**
1 to 6 pm in the business district
- 13th **Mt. Adams Beautification Association Monthly Meeting**
6:30 pm social time, 7 pm meeting, location TBD
- 14th **Mt. Adams Yacht Club**
Exact date and location TBD
- 19th **Mt. Adams Dems**
6:30 social time, 7 pm meeting, Hi-Fi



MT. ADAMS LUXURY RENTALS

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HILL YES!

By: Jim Steiner

HILL YES! PRAYING THE STEPS

By: Jim Steiner

Good Friday is a special day on Mt. Adams. It's the Good Friday Pilgrimage at Immaculata Church, a 150 year plus tradition that draws people from the tri-state area and beyond. It lasts the 24 hours of Good Friday and is attended by 8,000 to 10,000 people. Doesn't matter what the weather is, people come to pray up the 94 steps at the front of the church.



Father Martin Moran blessing the steps at midnight at the beginning of the 2005 pilgrimage. Photo: Cincinnati Enquirer.

It begins at midnight when a priest blesses the steps, which are already filled with pilgrims. Why do they come? To remember the Passion and Christ's death on the cross. Who comes? All are welcome. How do you do it? Some pray the rosary, some ponder Jesus's death, some ask for help, some pray for family and friends. There are many ways. It's quiet and spiritual on the steps. It takes about 45 minutes to complete the climb and once at the top, most stop and pray at the Wayside Crucifix outside the front door and then go inside to sit quietly and reflect. In the morning, coffee and pastries are available and there is an evening fish fry at 5:00. If you've never done it, this is a good year to start. It's the only such pilgrimage like it in the world. Read on to learn about its history.

Cincinnati Archbishop John Purcell was on a ship returning from Europe in 1843 where he had gone to recruit German speaking priests to come to America and serve in his Archdiocese. A group of Precious Blood Priests and Brothers he had recruited from their mother house in Mariastein, Switzerland accompanied him. Several weeks into the trip, the captain assembled the passengers and warned them the ship was entering

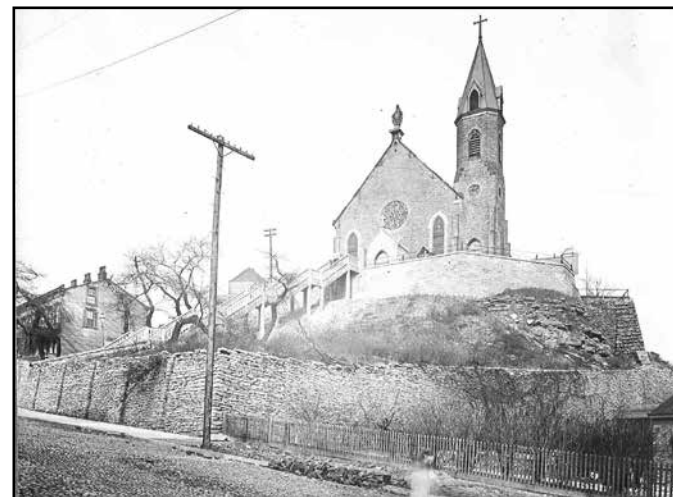
a strong storm and might sink. Purcell prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary asking her to protect the ship. He promised he would build a shrine for her in a prominent Cincinnati location if he and his fellow passengers returned safely. The ship arrived safely in America three weeks later.



The Wayside Crucifix circa 1900. The pilgrims were mostly women and children pausing for prayer before entering the church. Photo: Holy Cross Immaculata Archives.

Purcell kept his promise. In 1848 he purchased – using his own money - a plot on the brow of Mt. Adams for \$4,750 and in 1859 laid the corner stone for the Church of the Immaculate Conception. He had hired the architect, the contractor, paid for the limestone for the church, and donated \$10,000 toward the project, again using his own money. He visited the site weekly to monitor progress and asked Catholics living in the city to come up to the church and pray for the project's success. They did and wore a path up the hill. Purcell noticed the difficulties people had walking up the path after rain and had wooden steps constructed from the Cincinnati bottoms to ease their climb. The church was completed in 1860, and the first Mass was said December 9, 1860, four months before the Civil War began.

Purcell preferred to call his church Immaculata, but many referred to it as Purcell's German Roman Catholic Church. It was also listed that way on maps of the day. Its official name is the Church of the Immaculate Conception.



The Church of the Immaculate Conception in 1912. The steps in the photo replaced the original wooden steps in 1911. The portico at the front door was added in 1912. The statue of Mary on the roof was placed in 1903. Photo: Holy Cross Immaculata Archives.

The first mention of the Good Friday Pilgrimage in church records is in 1873 but it likely began before then. There have been four sets of steps over the years. The first were the wooden steps Purcell built in 1859, concrete steps followed in 1911, another set of concrete steps in 1958, and the current steps, with a large viewing platform at the top, in 2009. There are many families - grandparents, parents and children - who come as a group. When I've had a chance to ask the grandparents why they come as a family, most say it's a family tradition: my grandparents brought me when I was a child, and I wanted to continue. Back then, all Mt. Adams businesses closed from noon to 3:00 pm, a tradition which ended sometime in the 1970s.



The steps on Good Friday in the early 2000s. The steps in the photo are the 1959 version. Note the glass cross in the facade of the church. It was replaced in 2005 with the rose window from the decommissioned Saint Bonaventure Church. Photo: Cincinnati Enquirer.

I've interviewed many people who grew up on Mt. Adams who shared their childhood memories of the pilgrimage. Here are a few:

Marcia Merritt Hauenstein shared this memory: "Good Friday on Mt. Adams had many sights and smells. Praying the steps was the main event and we would try to be the first ones on the steps at midnight. Roos Bakery was open late on Holy Thursday to sell hot cross buns. The pretzel man with his cart at the intersection of Pavilion and Guido selling his small bags of hot, salty, doughy pretzels. After the steps, going to the grotto at Holy Cross for a vial of Lourdes Holy Water. Wonderful memories."

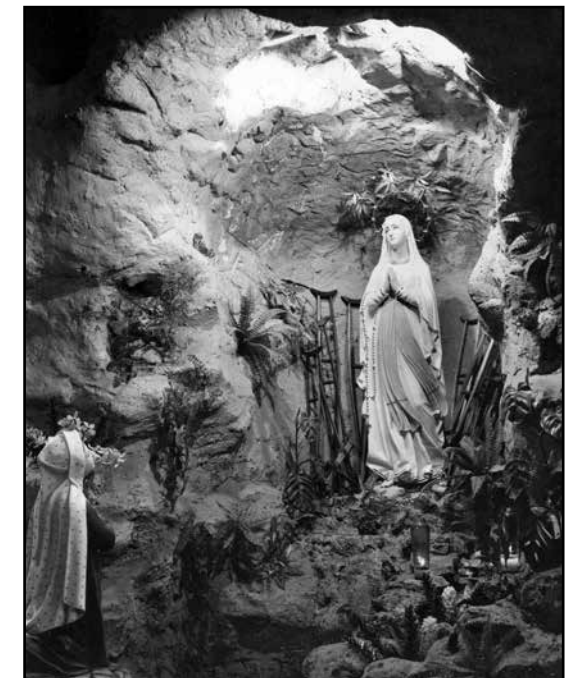
Betty Kloecker lived on Mt. Adams most of her life and shared this memory: "Climbing the steps on Good Friday was a hot time on the Hill. Many people came and parked their cars on the streets and the local boys made money by "watching cars" for the owners. They charged 10 cents. Nothing would have happened to the cars anyway, but it was a good way for the kids to make money."

Sister Cookie Crowley, whose family owns Crowley's Highland House across the street from Immaculata

shared this memory: "On Good Friday, the businesses hung purple signs in their windows that said they were closed from noon to 3:00. It was quiet on the Hill because of the steps. Everyone did the steps, prayed in Immaculata and then went to the grotto at Holy Cross Church to be blessed by the relic and receive Lourdes Holy Water. After 3:00 we would go to Crowley's to see our dad." There were always a lot of older men inside and Cookie figured out that they were coming in the back door while their wives and children were praying the steps. My friend Bob Gottmer, a fourth generation Hill resident, believes the men were praying the three steps to Crowley's.

Holy Cross Church, two blocks west of Immaculata, closed in 1970. Before then, the pilgrims, after praying the Immaculata steps, would visit Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in the Holy Cross basement to be blessed and receive a bottle of Lourdes Holy Water. The Lourdes water is believed to have healing properties. The Grotto was moved to Immaculata in the mid 1970s when Holy Cross closed its doors and the congregations combined to form the current HCI parish.

I'd encourage you to pray the steps if you've not done so. It's a unique and spiritual experience. Each year, the Mt. Adams Beautification Association does a large-scale Hill clean up several days before the climb and the Hill sparkles for our visitors. Many Hill residents volunteer to work two-hour shifts on Good Friday. You can too. Just check the Immaculata website, hcuparish.org, or call the parish office at 513 721 6544 as the event nears for more information and volunteer to help. You'll feel good.



Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in the basement of Holy Cross Church. Note the crutches behind Mary. They were left behind by visitors who no longer needed them after their visit. Photo: Passionist Fathers Archive.

GARDENING

By: Roberta Teran, Master Gardener Hamilton County

Spring Gardening: Preparing Containers and Your Garden for Planting

As the days grow longer and the weather warms up, it's time to embrace the joys of spring gardening! Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting, getting your containers and garden beds ready for planting can set the stage for a successful growing season. Here's a guide to help you prepare.

Clean and Organize

Start by cleaning your gardening tools, containers, and any old pots. Remove debris, dead plants, and weeds from your garden beds. This not only helps with aesthetics but also prevents pests and diseases from lingering in your garden.



Inspect Containers

Check your containers for any damage. Look for cracks or holes, especially in clay pots, which can affect water retention. If needed, repair or replace them. Ensure that all containers have adequate drainage holes to prevent waterlogging.



Choose the Right Soil

Invest in high-quality potting mix for your containers. Look for blends that contain organic matter and provide good drainage. For garden beds, consider enriching your soil with compost to improve its structure and nutrient content.



Plan Your Garden Layout

Think about what you want to grow. Consider the sunlight and space requirements of each plant. Group taller plants towards the back (or center, if it's a circular bed) and shorter ones towards the front. For containers, mix different plants that complement each other in terms of color, height, and care needs.



Start Planting Seeds or Seedlings

Once you've prepared your containers and garden beds, it's time to plant! If you're starting from seeds, follow the instructions on the seed packets for planting depth and spacing. For seedlings, gently remove them from their nursery pots, being careful not to disturb the roots too much, and plant them at the appropriate depth.

Water Wisely

After planting, give your new plants a thorough watering. For containers, ensure the water drains out of the bottom. Keep an eye on moisture levels, especially as temperatures rise. Containers may need more frequent watering than garden beds.



Mulch for Moisture Retention

Apply a layer of mulch around your plants in the garden to help retain moisture and suppress weeds. For containers, a layer of decorative stones or organic mulch can enhance aesthetics while providing the same benefits.



Monitor and Maintain

As your plants begin to grow, keep an eye on them for signs of pests or disease. Regularly check moisture levels and adjust your watering routine as needed. Fertilizing with a balanced fertilizer can also give your plants a boost.



Enjoy the Process

Gardening is a rewarding endeavor. Take time to enjoy your efforts as you watch your plants flourish. Don't hesitate to experiment with different plants or arrangements.



With these steps, your containers and garden will be well-prepared for planting this spring. Embrace the fresh air, get your hands dirty, and enjoy the beauty of nature as you create your own little slice of paradise. Happy gardening!



PARENTING, HILL STYLE

By: Alison Taylor

(Editor's Note: Alison Taylor has been sharing her perspective on life in Mt. Adams as a parent with young kids. In her article for this Spring issue, Alison shares the charming views of many of the young people who are being "parented" on the Hill. In this issue, we also introduce Ellen Douglas, a teenager who has recently moved to the Hill and shares what she loves about her new neighborhood.)

Spring brings all of Mt. Adams out of hibernation. Pansies fill window boxes and geese fill Mirror Lake. The first snow drops pop their little heads up along the flower trail in Eden Park. Tom Jones Commons officially turns to mud, which is a positive for all the kids and none of the parents. And there is nothing in the world like the flowering trees lining Eden Park in April, the shade of purple that encapsulates spring, a bright green so rich it looks like it's drawn with marker. Kids are back at it on their scooters heading to the playground or bike riding around Mirror Lake while neighbors picnic on the lawn. Everything comes alive.

As we crawl out of our cocoons, Mt. Adams is making us fall in love with her all over again. Some of our younger Mt. Adams residents even wanted to tell you what they love about Mt. Adams. Thirteen-year-old Clara said, "My favorite part of living in Mt. Adams is the scenery, the community, and definitely all the parks and great places to walk." Max, age 11, said, "I like the wildlife: the deer and the foxes. I like all the history. I like to go up to the woods and find really old things." Nine-year-old Nina said, "I like how it's a small neighborhood and we all kind of know each other; it's a great community." The eight-year-olds love the scootering and our parks. Emma says her favorite part of our neighborhood is the climbing wall at Tom Jones Commons. Raegan loves that she can ride her scooter to get ice cream and that there are so many fun people around. And Claire said, "I love being able to walk to the sledding hills in the winter, pools in the summer, and Tom Jones in the spring." Gideon, who is seven, said "It's really safe and there's a lot of fun places to meet up." Patrick, who is six, said, "I like going to Bowtie. I like the food." Six-year-old Frances loves that she can walk to all her friends' houses. Evan, who is four, said he loves the Mt. Adams Playground and El Barril. Three-year-old Ben says, "I like to play, and I like the park." Bellamy, who is three, said, "Umm, my mom lives here." I can't disagree with him; his mom is pretty cool.

Even the younger Mt. Adams residents love our access

to green space and understand that it's nice to live in a small neighborhood filled with wonderful people and establishments. What a joy it is to live in a place like this as all the flowers come into full bloom, trees regain their green and kites start flying in Eden Park once again. The kids also want me to remind you that the best

puddle for jumping is behind Holy Cross Immaculata near the steps, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt is happening on April 19 at 10:00 am in the Hinkle Magnolia Garden. And if you're looking for the kids, they will be playing in the mud at Tom Jones until the pool opens.



A YEAR ON THE HILL

By: Ellen Douglas

One year. That is how long I have lived in Cincinnati. That is also how long I have loved the Queen City. My name is Ellen Douglas. I am 13 years old and formerly a Californian, now a proud Midwesterner! I moved to Mt. Adams from California about a year ago and I have loved every second of it. Whether it be the luminaria event, the familiar dogs I see when walking, the Mt. Adams Bar & Grill, or the wonderful conversations I have with my gracious neighbors, I am constantly reminded of the beautiful close-knit community I am a part of. I love living in Mt. Adams, so I am here to share and celebrate a few of my favorite things about my favorite hill in Cincinnati.

When I moved here, one of the first people I met was a neighbor just a few houses away. My mom and I were out walking my dog, and we ran into a woman out for her daily walk. We stopped to talk to her, and she immediately made us feel at home. She was warm and welcoming, and over the past year we have had many conversations about everything from the snowstorm in 1977 to Skyline Chili. Another neighbor—who likes to make jokes and go to Bengals games—has paused his continuous work on his house, numerous times, to chat with me about my dog, how school is going, or how my parents are doing. Then there are the salon stylists who always wave through the windows with shears in hand, the walkers who smile even though my dog continuously pesters their dog, the UDF employees who feel like friends, and the restaurants and cafes that feel like second kitchens. All of these people are my neighbors and all of them are the reason I feel so connected to this community.

Since moving to Mt. Adams, I've had the opportunity to observe and experience the many Mt. Adams events, traditions, and activities like walking the steps, setting up our own luminaria lanterns, seeing performances at Seasingood Pavilion and shows at the Playhouse, witnessing the magnificent Reindog Parade, and relaxing at the Mt. Adams pool (if you need a place to chill or escape the summer heat, this is the spot!). I have also lived through my first Ohio snowstorm, during which concerned neighbors dropped off salt and shovels, since we had absolutely no idea how to prepare for the harsh winters that weren't part of life in the valley of California. I shoveled driveways with neighbors while school was closed and sledged for the first time on Hill Street! I enjoyed the snow, but I think we are all grateful for its only temporary presence.

How could I forget to mention the incredible views we have here in Mt. Adams? Everywhere you turn, you can see the Ohio River, the unique Mt. Adams architecture, the housetops of Bellevue across the winding water, the city skyline, stained glass windows, and of course, a staircase. (So many staircases in Mt. Adams...) I enjoy

running the steps of the Immaculata Church and one day while I was sprinting up and down the staircase, I got caught in a rainstorm! I took shelter underneath the balcony of the second set of steps leading to the church building. From there I could see the mist rising off the river from the early morning rain and the foggy building tops of Downtown Cincinnati. It was stunning. Eventually I was tired of waiting for the rain to stop, so I ran home through the downpour. Although sopping wet, I felt so much love for my city and the views our hill provides. Even through the rain, I could see the beauty of this community.

Mt. Adams is a wonderful place to grow up and I can't wait to spend the rest of my adolescent years here. Yes, the activities are fun, and the views are great, but really what makes Mt. Adams shine is the people. As a teen growing up in a world filled with screens and digital connections, I am grateful for the conversations and interactions I have with my fellow "Hillians" (as one neighbor states). There are countless generous and kindhearted individuals with unique qualities you'll uncover if you just pause a minute for an afternoon chat. I am grateful for this Queen City community, and I am happy to be a part of it.





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 SAT 10AM-7PM
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MT. ADAMS 35th ANNUAL REINDOG PARADE RECAP

By: The Reindog Committee

What a day! The weather gods were good to us this year! As most Grapevine readers know, this marked the 35th year of the Mt. Adams Reindog Parade. Our sincere thanks to our generous top sponsors: Towne Properties, North Side Bank, Monastery Event Center, The Blind Lemon and The Mt. Adams Civic Association.

Our thanks to John London (Channel 5 reporter and resident) and Tommy Thrall (Reds Broadcaster) who helped judge and emcee the event. The Cincinnati Circus Company and The Walnut Hills High School Drumline were also great additions to the festivities. Also, a shout out to Molly Evans and Mike Twombly (Hi Fi Cincy) for all the social media and website set up.

A special thank you to all our raffle contributors who help make the event a success. The League for Animal Welfare -Batavia registered almost 300 dogs and all the local businesses appeared to have a great day. The Mt. Adams Business Guild, along with Tito's, were able to give The League for Animal Welfare -Batavia over \$6,200 from this year's parade.

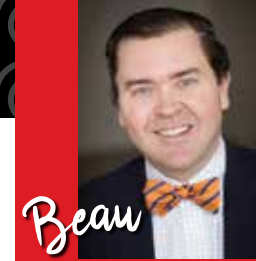
The parade started off with a blessing from Pastor John Pohlman of Pilgrim Chapel. Santa and the WHHS drumline led the parade through the streets of Mt Adams that were lined with spectators from near and far.

The Business Guild has some Mt. Adams tee shirts, hats, blankets and cloth bags that we are selling for half price. Everything is going for \$10, except the hats, which are \$5. Please stop by the bank if you want to make a purchase.

Thank you all for your continued support!



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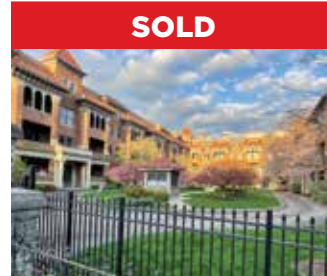




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Also Selling Around Town...

Sources: MLS of Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky MLS, Dec 2023-Jan 2025. *Listing agent in KY.



MEET MABA'S NEW PRESIDENT – TONI WILLIAMS

(Editor's Note: Toni Williams was elected as the new President of the Mt. Adams Beautification Association, effective January 1, 2025. Get to know Toni, in her own words!)

I'm a Cincinnati native who moved to Mt. Adams in late 2020 with my husband Tom Williams. We have two kids and four grandkids. Our son lives on the Hill with his young family.

My favorite hobby is hiking the neighborhood parks and hills. I grew up with gardens and woods all around and learned early the pleasure and peace that gives an individual. My father grew prize-winning dahlias. It was hard, rewarding work for us and when I had a family of my own, gardening was always part of my life.

As MABA celebrates its 30th year on the Hill, I would like to thank our legacy members whose hard work has brought us to this place. Our rakes and blowers will be busy this spring cleaning the six gardens we tend. Pansies will soon bloom on the Ida Street Bridge, then a riot of color will fill the numerous pots, planters and boxes throughout the neighborhood until Christmas greens and decorations replace them late in the year.

I invite you to join our community of fun, industrious members ... NO experience required! Please contact me if you are interested, or visit the MABA page under the "About MACA" tab on the mtadamsincy.org website. Your time and treasure are greatly appreciated.



SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP, SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH

By: Dave Zimmerman



Fire up to clean up the Hill! Meet with other volunteers at the Monk's fountain at the corner of St. Gregory and Pavilion Streets around 9:30 am. Sign up for a street(s), collect your supplies and sign up for an optional lunch. Then, head off to your street(s) to collect litter then deposit your filled bags at the nearest corner. Another volunteer will pick them up and take them to a central location. If you wish, you can also gather leaves and other yard waste that accumulates in some areas.

Cleanup supplies are provided by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. You can bring your own gloves, broom and dustpan if you plan to sweep up around the sewer grates. We also have volunteers to remove graffiti, so if you come across any please report it to Dave Zimmerman.

The Bow Tie Café donates coffee and MABA provides donuts, muffins, etc. to get everyone fueled up at the start. An optional pizza lunch will be provided by MABA at UDF around 11:30 am. A prize for the most unique find will be awarded. If you have any questions or want to pre-register for a street, send an email to Dave Zimmerman at zimmdave@aol.com.

HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

The Mt. Adams Beautification Association is thrilled to announce the winners of the 2024 holiday house decorating contest. The annual event, which encourages residents to adorn their homes with festive decorations, brought an abundance of holiday cheer to the neighborhood. This year's contest was marked by an impressive display of creativity and community spirit. Homes across Mt. Adams were transformed into winter wonderlands, each showcasing unique and enchanting decorations. The judges had a tough time choosing the winners, but after much deliberation, they are excited to reveal the results

- Most Artistic - Steve Vogel at 1136 Fort View. Steve's artistic flair and attention to detail truly set his home apart, earning him the title of 'Most Artistic'.
- Most Traditional - Cynthia Henderson at 1016 Celestial, Cynthia's decorations beautifully captured the classic holiday spirit, making her home a nostalgic and heartwarming sight for all who passed by.
- Biggest Wow Factor - The Strohmaier Family at 1224 Ida St. The Strohmaier family's display was truly over the top, earning them the award for 'Biggest Wow Factor'. Their extravagant decorations left everyone in awe.
- Merriest Street of All - Paradrome St. (between Loudon and Wareham St.). The residents of this section of Paradrome Street displayed an outstanding level of neighborly team spirit, transforming their block into the merriest of all.

The Mt. Adams Beautification Association extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and helped spread holiday cheer. Your creativity lit up our neighborhood in the most magical way! As we look forward to next year's contest, the Association encourages everyone to start planning now. Let's make the next holiday season even more dazzling and spread the joy of the season throughout Mt. Adams once again. Congratulations to all the winners and participants. We can't wait to see what festive wonders you'll come up with next year.





Dinner off The Hill

By: Kim and Chuck Curran

When you cross the Ida Street bridge and look to the west at the skyline of downtown Cincinnati, you can see the Kroger corporate tower with the new logo on top. Just one-half block west of the Kroger corporate building is Sudova, a fantastic restaurant that serves Eastern European food.

Chef and owner Sarah Dvorak first brought Eastern European food to Cincinnati when she opened Babushka's Pierogis at Findlay Market, which she still runs today. Many of you may remember her next venture on Main Street in OTR, Wodka Bar, where she served her pierogis and a few other Eastern European dishes. She closed the Wodka Bar to focus on her newest and larger restaurant, Sudova. Sarah's inspiration for her cooking, entertaining and hospitality comes from her grandmothers. At Sudova, she has traditional Eastern European dishes on the menu and has blended them very well with her own contemporary flair.

We've been to Sudova a couple of times and can't wait to return to try different things and order our favorites again. When you walk into the restaurant, you instantly get an old world feel. The first thing you may notice is the vintage family photos hanging on the wall to the left. There is beautiful dark wood paneling halfway up the walls and tile flooring. The lighting is cozy and dim. The skylights will provide more light in the spring and summer months. Also, in warmer weather, they can seat more tables on the patio in the front of the restaurant. A contemporary component to the décor of the dining room is the large glass garage door that allows light into the dining room and can be opened in nice weather. The dark wood bar was built around stained glass from the Wooden Nickle. If you sit at the bar, you can peek into the kitchen from the small window at the end of the bar. The music playing in the background enhances the atmosphere, but we must be too old to recognize the genre. The service we've had has always been very helpful, knowledgeable and friendly.

Our most recent visit was on a bitter cold winter

night, perfect weather for Eastern European comfort food. We started with drinks. She could not wait to get back to Sudova to order her favorite cocktail, the Axe of Perun, a pepperoncini-infused vodka with vermouth and pickle brine, a touch of spice as it goes down your throat. It warms you up on a cold night! He was surprised she ordered it again, since he knows she doesn't like spicy. He had a pinot noir blend from the Loire Valley that was smooth and light. The glass pours from the wine list are predominately old-world wines and they have a few non-alcoholic wines to choose from. We find the wine list very reasonably priced.

We perused the menu and decided our strategy on this visit was to order several things and share them. On our first visit, we didn't share. We had the Tvorog, farmer's cheese, on the first visit and it was awesome. This time, we wanted to try the Khachapuri, as it was highly recommended to us by friends who had been to Sudova. Our server explained it to us and told us it would take about 20 minutes to prepare. It is a bread with a few kinds of mild cheeses baked into the bread that makes it stringy and gooey and an egg yolk on top makes it runny and yummy. We thought we would not eat all the bread, and she told us we could easily take home what we didn't eat. We ate the whole thing! While we waited for the Khachapuri, we shared Halushki and Rye Varenyky from the small plate portion of the menu. Halushki is cabbage, onions, brown butter and spaetzle, comfort food like your grandmother used to make. Varenyky is a Ukrainian dumpling stuffed with potato, sauerkraut, and caramelized onion and served with a dill sour cream. You get 2 dumplings per order, perfect for sharing. We decided to split the Kotleta as our entrée. It was a great idea! Our server explained it as the chicken version of pork schnitzel, the chicken pounded very thin, breaded and fried to be crispy and served with a dill sauce, peas, and topped with a salad of fresh greens in a light vinaigrette. It tasted light and satisfying all at the same time.

We thought we had a complete meal but could not leave without dessert. On our first visit, we were encouraged by the bartender, because we sat at the bar to eat, to try the Kolachi Trio

for dessert. We had never heard of Kolachi, but since we have become big fans! Kolachi is an Eastern European delicacy of a butter dough pastry that is filled with a sweet and creamy filling of a variety of flavors. The trio of flavors currently at Sudova are walnut, poppy seed and apricot. Now, we know most people would not consider those sweet dessert flavors, but we trusted our servers and they did not steer us wrong. The Kolachi Trio is a perfect dessert, just sweet enough and light enough. Our server told us that her grandmother makes Kolachi every year for Easter and it is what she looks forward to most every year.

Sudova changes the menu slightly and frequently. The menu has a small plates section and a large plates section. We find it easy to share from both sections. On our first visit, in addition to the farmer's cheese that we shared, she had the Holubsti, stuffed cabbage rolls. She still talks about how velvety the tomato sauce was and how delicious the meaty stuffing was all wrapped inside the cabbage. He had the short rib stroganoff, which was a special that night that is now on the menu. He will almost always order

stroganoff if it is on a menu as it is one of his favorite meals from his childhood.

Sudova is a Ukrainian word that means judicial. It is a very appropriate name for a restaurant whose address is 22 West Court Street. They serve dinner Tuesday – Saturday from 5-10pm. You may make reservations on Opentable.com or by calling Sudova at 513-407-7974. The restaurant is rather small, so we recommend reservations. They also serve dinner at the bar and will take a reservation for bar seating to eat dinner. There is plenty of parking on the many surrounding streets and the metered spaces on Court Street.

For a style of cuisine that was unfamiliar to us, we were very pleased with the choices we made, and we have had wonderful dining experiences at Sudova. And yes, they have borscht on the menu, but we will never share it. She loves beets and he can't even tolerate the smell of beets when she roasts them at home. We will both gladly go back for all the other wonderfully delicious offerings on the menu at Sudova. We like it and we hope you do too!

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MACA NOTES: SPRING 2025

By: The Mt. Adams Civic Association Board of Directors

Honoring Julie Dietz: A Beloved Neighbor and Friend

Mt. Adams lost a truly wonderful neighbor and community advocate with the passing of Julie Dietz on February 4, 2025. Julie was an active and devoted member of our neighborhood, contributing her time and energy to MACA, the Mt. Adams Yacht Club, and many civic causes. Her warmth, generosity, and enthusiasm for bettering our community will be deeply missed. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her husband Marc, her family, and all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Volunteer Recognition

Mutt Mitt Hero – A special thank-you to Lori Petty who has helped keep our Mutt Mitt stations filled for years, ensuring our community stays clean for dog walkers and pedestrians alike. Your quiet contributions do not go unnoticed!

Community Events – The Mt. Adams Business Guild hosted a very successful Reindog Parade, bringing the community together for a festive and fun celebration. Additionally, the Luminaria event and the home decorating contest sponsored by the Mt. Adams Beautification Association were highlights of the season, with neighbors showcasing their holiday spirit in creative and beautiful ways! Thank you to all who contributed their time and effort!

Board Member Transitions

We again extend our deepest gratitude to Judi Cettel and Dan Weinstein, who have completed their terms on the MACA Board. Their years of service have made a lasting impact on our community, and we truly appreciate their dedication. Welcome to our newest Board members, Doug Kinney and Lee Taylor! We look forward to their contributions as they join us in continuing to support and improve our neighborhood. Note that Lee took over for just-elected Abdiel Acevedo, whose work required him to move out of state.

Public Safety & Community Updates

• **Baum Street Incident** – Many of you have heard about the unfortunate incident late last year. Thanks to the swift and dedicated efforts of Detective Barney Blank and the Cincinnati Police Department, a suspect was identified and apprehended. The victim is on the road to recovery, and our thoughts remain with him.

• **Traffic Safety on Ida Street** – Following two serious accidents, the Cincinnati Police Department has increased monitoring of Ida Street, deploying officers during peak hours to analyze traffic patterns and address speeding

concerns. Additional measures are under review to improve safety.

• **Snow Removal Challenges** – The early January snowstorm had a particularly significant impact on Mt. Adams, making street conditions difficult for residents. We expressed our concerns regarding snow removal challenges to the City, advocating for better preparedness in future severe weather events.

Neighborhood Initiatives & Improvements

• **New Tree Planting Project** – Thanks to the leadership of Zand Walters and Katherine Augustin, Mt. Adams will soon see new trees planted along sidewalks and public spaces. MACA is proud to support this effort!

• **Water Main & Street Work** – The City of Cincinnati has announced plans for water main replacements and repaving projects in our area over the next two years. Expect more details at upcoming MACA meetings.

How to Stay Involved

• **Join MACA Meetings** – Held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Holy Cross-Immaculata Parish Center. Stay informed and engaged in neighborhood discussions!

• **Subscribe to the MACA Bulletin** – Get the latest community updates and event reminders straight to your inbox. Sign up at mtadamsincy.org.

• **Volunteer** – Whether it's helping with clean-up efforts, event planning, or civic advocacy, there's always a way to get involved. Email mtadamsca@gmail.com to learn more.

• **Read the MACA Meeting Minutes** – For more in-depth information about community discussions and decisions, be sure to check out the monthly MACA meeting minutes, available through our email distribution or on mtadamsincy.org.

Special Thanks

• A huge "thank you" to our good neighbor, Towne Properties, for giving Mt. Adams residents free access to the St. Gregory Parking Garage during the January snow-pocalypse.

• A "thank you" to Max Linder and Emi Randall from Metro for presenting at our February meeting.

• We also sincerely appreciate Officer Chris Loreaux, Captain Adam Hennie, and Sergeant Lisa Dotson for their ongoing commitment to keeping Mt. Adams safe and for their informative reports at recent MACA meetings.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community. Wishing everyone a bright and beautiful spring season on the Hill!



SPECIAL MT. ADAMS OFFER

Mt. Adams residents can park downtown for free every Saturday & Sunday in March, April & May. Just use an eligible ParkCINCY lot. The location of the eligible ParkCINCY lots are as follows:
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INDUSTRIAL HEMP: A SUSTAINABLE MARVEL FOR THE FUTURE

By: Vinni Brown, Realtor / Interior Designer / Aging-In-Place Specialist

As the world grapples with increasing climate-related disasters, from the devastating fires in LA to rising global temperatures, the search for sustainable solutions has never been more urgent. One solution that has been on my radar for nearly two decades is industrial hemp—a plant I first discovered during my design school years while researching sustainable materials. Although my initial focus was on its textile applications, I've recently shifted my attention to the booming potential of industrial hemp in the homebuilding industry. With the increasing urgency for eco-friendly housing, hemp could be the key to a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future.

Over the last few years, industrial hemp has experienced a renaissance, emerging as a beacon of sustainability. It's capturing the attention of environmentalists, entrepreneurs, and conscious consumers worldwide. Yet, despite its promise, the United States has been slow to embrace its full potential. In this article, I'm going to take you down my hemp rabbit hole—exploring the plant's rich history, its versatile uses, the challenges it faces, and the exciting future that awaits it. If we can continue to push lawmakers to accelerate its de-regulation, we can further allow our farmers to grow this revolutionary plant, and our builders can begin to build more affordable, safe, and sustainable homes.

A Rich History. Industrial hemp is far from a new crop. Its cultivation dates back thousands of years, originating in Central Asia. Ancient civilizations, including the Chinese and Egyptians, were among the first to use hemp fibers for ropes, fabrics, and paper. By the Middle Ages, hemp

had become a crucial crop in Europe, essential for shipbuilding and trade.

In the United States, industrial hemp was once so vital that in some colonies it was illegal not to grow it. In fact, many of America's founding fathers, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, were hemp farmers. In 1920, the ten-dollar bill was printed on hemp paper, featuring an illustration of a hemp farm on the back—a reminder of how deeply this plant was woven into the fabric of our nation's history.

However, the 20th century saw a dramatic shift. The rise of synthetic materials, oil-based plastics, pesticides, and restrictive regulations pushed hemp farming to the brink of extinction. In 1937, the 'Marihuana Tax Act' effectively criminalized hemp cultivation, casting a shadow over this valuable crop for decades. For history buffs, this is fascinating!

Versatile Uses. Despite its tumultuous history, industrial hemp is experiencing a revival, thanks to its diverse range of applications. From textiles to construction materials, hemp is proving to be a powerhouse of sustainability:

- **Textiles:** Hemp fibers are stronger and more durable than cotton, and they naturally resist mold and UV rays, making them ideal for upholstery, and eco-friendly fashion.

- **Building Materials:** One of the most exciting innovations is Hempcrete, a sustainable building material made from a mixture of hemp hurds and lime. Hempcrete is lightweight, highly insulative, fire-resistant, anti-microbial, and carbon-negative. It can even filter the air inside homes, making it a healthy option for building eco-friendly, sustainable housing.

- **Bioplastics:** Hemp can be processed into biodegradable plastics, offering a sustainable alternative to petroleum-based products. Automotive giants like Mercedes-Benz and BMW are already incorporating hemp plastics into their vehicles.

- **Food and Health Products:** Hemp seeds are a nutritional powerhouse, rich in protein, omega-3 fatty acids, and other essential nutrients. They're commonly found in health foods, supplements, and plant-based protein powders.

- **Paper:** Hemp fibers produce high-quality paper that requires fewer chemicals and less water than traditional wood pulp—an eco-friendly alternative to deforestation. **Bio-fuel:** Hemp can also be converted into renewable biofuels like biodiesel and ethanol, offering a cleaner alternative to fossil fuels.

The versatility of hemp is truly astonishing. Its applications are only growing as research expands and more industries recognize its potential.

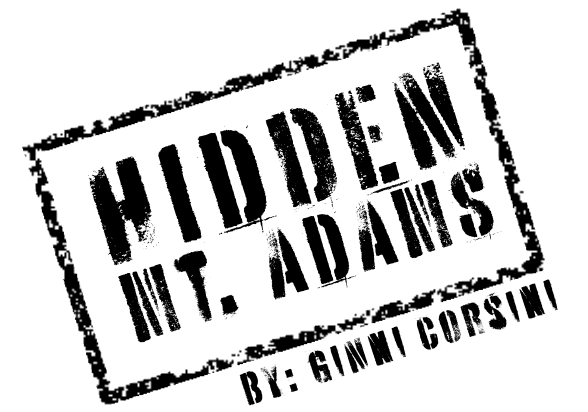
Challenges to Overcome. Despite its many benefits, industrial hemp still faces significant obstacles in the U.S. The most pressing challenge is regulation. Although the 2018 Farm Bill legalized hemp production, state regulations remain inconsistent, and the stigma associated with marijuana still complicates matters. Farmers often face bureaucratic red tape and legal uncertainties when attempting to grow hemp.

In addition to regulatory challenges, market volatility is another issue. The hemp industry is still emerging, and price fluctuations, along with unpredictable demand, create instability for both farmers and manufacturers. Moreover, there's a lack of infrastructure to process and distribute hemp products, making it difficult for businesses to scale up production.

A Promising Future. The future of industrial hemp looks brighter than ever. As consumers become more environmentally conscious, the demand for sustainable products continues to rise. Industries—from fashion to construction—are increasingly turning to hemp as a viable alternative to harmful materials.

Environmental advocates argue that hemp could play a crucial role in mitigating climate change. Its rapid growth and ability to sequester carbon make it an attractive crop for regenerative agriculture. Hemp's ability to produce a wide range of sustainable products means it could significantly reduce our reliance on synthetic materials and fossil fuels, contributing to a more eco-conscious economy.

Several states, including Colorado and Oregon, are already leading the charge in building hemp-based homes. I'm hoping that Ohio—specifically, Cincinnati—will be next to embrace this innovative building material. The journey of industrial hemp is just beginning. As we move forward, let's honor its ancient legacy while embracing its potential to create a healthier, more sustainable world. If you want to learn more about this powerful plant, feel free to reach out to me.

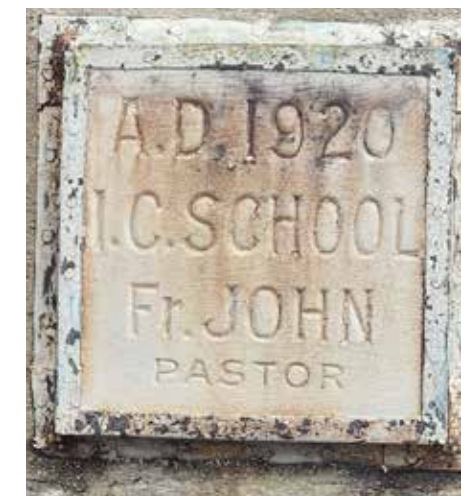


Congratulations to Daniel Bird who correctly identified the Hidden Mt. Adams photo in the Winter 2024 issue of the Grapevine. It's one of the light fixtures behind the Monastery. These lovely lampposts light the rear parking area and are visible from the hillside walking trail.



In 1843, in his last public speech, President John Quincy Adams presided over the opening of a new observatory on the property now occupied by The Monastery. To memorialize this visit, the neighborhood previously known as Mt. Ida received its new name: Mt. Adams. By 1873, the observatory had to be moved to escape the excessive pollution coming up from the city. Following the removal of the observatory, The Holy Cross Monastery and Chapel were built on the property, and the light fixtures were installed.

The next 'Hidden Mt. Adams' challenge is pictured here. When you find where it's located, post your answer on the Mt. Adams Facebook page.



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IN MEMORIAM

(The following tributes to Mary Margaret and Julie are based largely on their obituaries)

Mary Margaret Kindel

Mary Margaret Kindel passed away on December 5, 2024. Long a resident of Mt. Adams and Siesta Key, FL, Mary Margaret was a proud alumna of the Academy of the Sacred Heart ('63) and Edgecliff College ('67). She also earned the degrees of M.Ed. (Xavier University) and Doctor of Education Administration (University of Kentucky). Mary Margaret devoted her working life to students as a high school math teacher and guidance counselor.

Hers was that rich and rare life that escapes brief elaboration. A devout Catholic, Mary Margaret was a parishioner at Mother of God Church in Covington. Her faith and character informed her many other spiritual and philanthropic pursuits, ranging from gardening in Mt. Adams, where she served as President of the Mt. Adams Beautification Association for four years, to fundraising for faculty and student research through Xavier's Women of Excellence. Mary Margaret was also a patron and student of the arts. She practiced stained glass and enameling in a kiln she set up at home. She also endowed an annual Kindel Concert held in Montgomery in commemoration of her parents.

Mary Margaret was an inveterate traveler, having visited five continents. She had recently returned from trips to Europe (a favored destination) and Alaska and joyfully looked forward to more adventures. She loved to entertain, hosting such regular gatherings as fireworks-viewing parties after Reds' games and Christmas brunches. She nurtured an immense, caring, and beloved group of friends. Mary Margaret was interred at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Memorials may be made in her honor to Mother of God Catholic Church at 119 W. 6th St., Covington, KY 41011.

Julie Dietz

Julia "Julie" Dietz (nee Gebhart), age 65, passed away peacefully at her home, surrounded by her loving family, on February 4, 2025. Julie grew up in Pacific Palisades, CA. She was an exceptional and unique woman with a heart of gold. Her warmth, kindness, and generosity touched



everyone who knew her. Her family and grandchildren meant everything to her, and she dedicated her life to their well-being and happiness. She was beloved by her husband, daughters, and grandchildren.

Julie moved to Mt. Adams in 2017. She was a devoted member of the Mt. Adams Yacht Club, where she served most recently as Steward and before that as Vice Commodore. She was active in the Mt. Adams Civic Association, where she managed the Civic Association's participation in the City of Cincinnati Neighborhood Support Program, and she was a member of the Mt. Adams Democrat Club.

Julie was a lifelong tennis player, competing at the highest level of interclub tennis in Cincinnati. As a teenager, she was city-wide Los Angeles High School Tennis Champion. As an adult, she loved walking 5k's with her grandkids.

Julie received her undergraduate degree from University of California - Irvine, where she was a Division 1 college tennis player. She then completed a Masters of Education from Stanford University and an MBA from UCLA. Julie utilized her fluent Spanish to teach English as a second language in inner city Los Angeles.

Professionally, Julie was a Certified Public Accountant and recently retired from Silverlode Consulting, where she was highly respected for her expertise and dedication. Her colleagues admired her work ethic and the positive energy she brought to the workplace. From 2008-2010, Julie was the Director of the American Red Cross in Dearborn and Ohio Counties, Indiana and was on the board of the United Way of Cincinnati from 2013-2016.

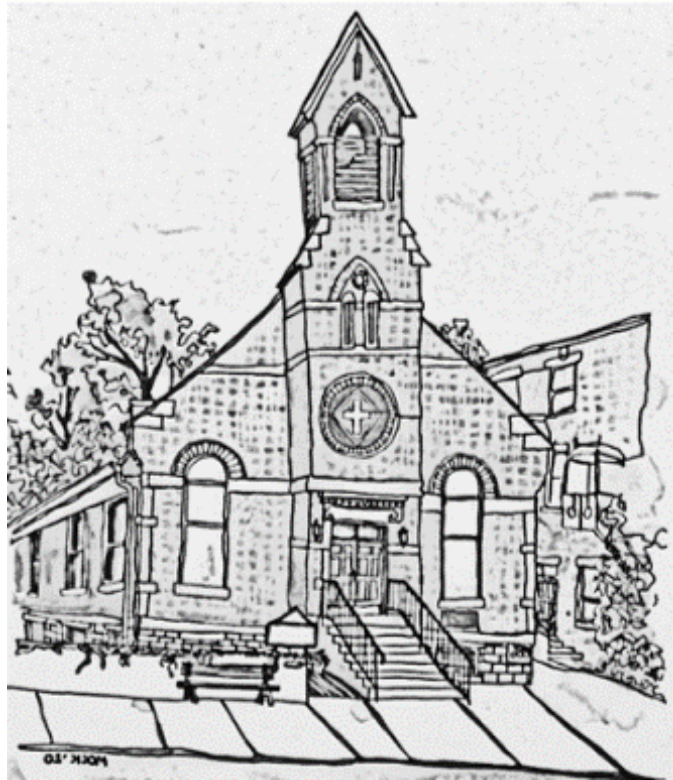
Julie is survived by her devoted husband, Marc Dietz; her beloved daughters, Gwen (David Fischhoff) Seamon, Courtney (Kyle) Moore, and Meredith (Josh) Bentz; and her cherished grandchildren, Theodore, Ari, and Oliver, who brought immense joy to her life. Julie's sisters, Elizabeth (late Dave Hardin) Gebhart, Peggy McFarland, and Isabel (Paul) Mullin, along with many nieces, nephews, and friends, will forever remember her loving spirit. In addition to her parents, Julie was preceded in death by her mother-in-law, Dorothy Dietz.

Julie always had a way of making everyone feel special, whether it was through her warm smile or her thoughtful gestures. A celebration of Julie's life was held on February 7, 2025. The family asks that you consider donating in Julie's honor to the Freestore Foodbank or the American Cancer Society, two causes that were close to Julie's heart.

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PILGRIM CHAPEL NEWS

By: John Pohlman, Pastor

As I write this article, we are welcoming a much-needed thaw here in Mt. Adams. We can finally see the sidewalks, streets, and green spaces again. Some of the big snow piles may be with us quite a while longer! The layers of snow and ice interrupted some of our Worship services and outreach efforts in January.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. We will commemorate the start of our 40-day period of preparation for Easter with a multi-church soup supper and worship service at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 3001 Queen City Ave, in Westwood. Dinner is at 5:30 pm and worship at 7:00 pm.

On Maundy (Holy) Thursday, we plan a dinner and worship service beginning at 5:30 pm. You are invited to have a meal at 5:30, then stay for a contemplative commemoration of the Last Supper and Holy Communion beginning at 7:00 pm.

On Easter Sunday, April 20, we'll have special music and our Easter Resurrection worship service at 10:30 am. Stay after for a nice brunch.

On Tuesday May 13, we will be sponsoring the Community Dinner at our mission church, Washington United Church of Christ, located at 2950 Sidney Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45225. We will begin preparing the meal there at 4:00 pm and serving at 5:30 pm.

I also wanted to mention that we have a brief Prayer Time on Zoom at 7:30 am every Wednesday. We have a brief devotional offered by Pastor John, then everyone has a chance to offer individual prayer concerns, then end with a prayer together. If you need prayer, or want to be part of a small group of caring, not-so-serious prayer warriors, plan to tune in at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75202914916?pwd=a8CBxGoa5cjEcDIEQaizaiCkhEQmwf.1>

Everyone is warmly invited to attend these events. You are always welcome at Pilgrim Chapel, whether you're a seeker, or curious, a "lapsed" church attender, or just want to know more about a safe and accepting place to worship and pray. Here at the Chapel, it's not about "religion," but relationships—with each other, in serving others, and of course with Jesus Christ. Come and visit; never any pressure; and you can even bring your dog.

I hope you will allow me to welcome you soon!



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HOLY CROSS-IMMACULATA CHURCH UPDATE

By: Amy Obermeyer

Beacons of Light Progress. Now that Riverview Catholics parishioners and visitors have gotten used to the combined bulletins and social media pages to find out about our shared resources and events, our combined website riverviewcatholics.org is set to expand this spring too. While the site currently operates only as a launch pad for each website of the parishes in our family, it is being built out to be the main source for information at each of the four parishes, Holy Cross–Immaculata, St. Rose, St. Stephen, and Christ the King. All of this is being set up in support of our vision statement: *deeply encountering Jesus Christ and reflecting Him to others.*

Also, building upon our combined committees, an "Events Team" was created last fall. Working together is a necessary step if we are going to build and strengthen the sense of community within each parish, as well as among the four parishes. In response to that, a priority has been placed on creating events for parishioners to gather *socially*. St. Stephen kicked off the scheduled cycle of events with a predictably delightful Breakfast with Santa event in December; and we look forward to a parish wide event on Palm Sunday at Christ the King. Their social committee will host an Egg Hunt for Riverview Catholic families!

Successful Giving Tree Campaign. Thanks to everyone who donated to our annual Giving Tree in December, we were again able to add extra Christmas joy for many individuals and families supported by St. Leo's Church and Tender Mercies. We also delivered an abundance of diapers, toddler clothes, and umbrella strollers to Old St. Mary's Pregnancy Center to restock their shelves used to support neighborhood mothers throughout the year. And thanks to a parishioner here at HCI, we continued the giving beyond the Christmas season: a basket was placed in the back of church through January to collect toiletries for Mauritanian migrants settled in the Lockland area. Thanks to collaboration with the other parishes in our family, we collected four large bags to give to the Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center that is supporting them.

Successful Giving Tuesday Campaign. Thanks to everyone who donated to our annual Giving Tuesday in November and December, we raised the funds for a new roof over the oldest section of the rectory – the side facing Guido Street. We also raised the funds for our second priority request: the two paintings in the church that are sagging will be stretched back into place! Both projects are expected to begin this spring.

Weddings at Holy Cross-Immaculata Church. Mt. Adams continues to draw young couples to our beautiful church, with nearly 40 weddings last year, and over 50 already scheduled this year. Many couples that marry here later return to baptize their children at HCI, which

we see as another way that Archbishop Purcell's vision for this church is working - the "beacon star over the city." We hope the sound of the wedding bells ringing reminds you of our commitment to creating a welcoming environment for the young couples beginning their lives together in the church. Thank you for making this easier by being great neighbors!

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter at HCI. Lent, Holy Week, and especially Good Friday, will again be busy in Mt. Adams and at HCI. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, with Mass here at HCI at 6:00 pm. There will be a Lenten penance service for our family of parishes at St. Stephen Church this year on Tuesday, April 8 at 6:00 pm. All are welcome.

Our Family's Lenten Soup Supper returns to Holy Cross Immaculata on March 11, and will continue each Tuesday during Lent with the location rotating through the Family of Parishes: March 18 at St. Stephen; March 25 at St. Rose; and April 1 at Christ the King. The evenings begin with a soup dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by a spiritual reflection from our pastor Fr. Adam or parochial vicars, Fr. Eric or Fr. Jeremy. This year, Dr. Samuel Johnson, the Dean of the School of Theology at Mount St. Mary's, will close the soup season with a talk about the veracity of Scripture. Our prayer groups have been working their way through the "Genesis to Jesus" Bible Study. We are grateful to Fr. Jeremy for arranging this speaker! All are welcome.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on Sunday, April 13. Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper is on April 17 at 7:00 pm, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight. At midnight, the steps will be blessed to *officially* begin the pilgrimage of Good Friday. Pilgrims continue to "pray the steps" from midnight to midnight on Good Friday, April 18, (unofficially, pilgrims pray the steps throughout Holy Week.) Services on Good Friday will be at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm here at Holy Cross-Immaculata Church. Priests from the Seminary and throughout the Archdiocese come to HCI every year, as their busy schedules allow, to hear confessions throughout the day. Coffee and bagels will be available in the parish center in the morning, and we offer a Fish Fry from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

Many volunteers are needed during Holy Week. If you would like to offer your time or talents, please call the parish office at 513-721-6544 or email parishoffice@hcuparish.org.

Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, April 19 will be celebrated in our family at Christ the King Church this year where six adults will be confirmed as Catholics. Easter Mass is at Holy Cross-Immaculata Church at 11:00 am on Easter Sunday, April 20. You can check out Riverview Catholics' website and social media for Mass times in the other churches, of course! We wish you and your family a very happy and blessed Easter!

PS - Save the dates for our Festival: Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2!

NAMELY: FRANK OBERMEYER

By: Jim Steiner

I met Frank at his home on Belvedere Street on a cold, snowy Saturday morning in January. I found a parking spot almost directly across the street from his front door, not easy with all the snow we'd received. That's parking Karma. I was early so I planned to wait until the appointed time before ringing the doorbell. Frank must have seen me waiting in my car and came out to greet me. We proceeded inside and, after pleasantries, began the interview.

Frank was born in Mt. Lookout on July 20, 1972, the oldest of 8 children. His family moved to Withamsville, Ohio a year later, where they stayed until he was 13. They then moved to Bethel, Ohio. He attended grade school at Thomas Moore Elementary on the east side of Cincinnati and high school at McNicholas High School in Mt. Washington. He got his drivers license when he lived in Bethel and made the half-hour each way drive to McNicholas.

Amy Miller, his future wife, was a student at McNicholas and a year behind Frank. They started dating when she was a senior and Frank was a freshman at Xavier University. Amy attended the University of Cincinnati DAAP program and received a degree in Architecture. Frank graduated from Xavier with degrees in accounting and information systems and was hired by The Ohio Casualty Group as a software engineer.

Amy and Frank married on Labor Day in September 1994. Frank received four days of vacation from Ohio Casualty, so they added the three-day Labor Day weekend to the four days of vacation and took a weeklong honeymoon to Delray Beach, Florida. They first lived in Madisonville and then moved to Mt. Washington, followed by Anderson.

Frank was hired by Deloitte and Touche in 1998 and rose to senior manager over his time there. While with Deloitte, Frank attended night classes to earn an MBA with a concentration on finance from Xavier and then passed the CPA examination.

Deloitte offered Frank an opportunity to go to Zagreb, Croatia and work at their office there as part of their Global Development Program. The Obermeyers were there for two years, arriving in Zagreb in 2005 with their three children, ages seven years, four years, and two months. They lived in a community on a hill with great views of the city, an active bar and restaurant scene, and a lively vibe. It was a ten-minute walk to the central city where there was a market like Findlay Market. Amy volunteered as the secretary of the International Women's Club, was active in the American International School PTA, and was treasurer of the ex-patriot Catholic Parish. In her spare time, she learned to drive a manual transmission car, a feat Frank described as "truly amazing" considering the hilly cobblestone streets and aggressive city drivers. They moved to a different Croatian community their second year in Zagreb but missed their first neighborhood and agreed to eventually look for something similar when they returned to the states.

They initially settled in Anderson after their time in Croatia. In 2010, Frank joined the Cincinnati Financial Corporation and was promoted to Vice President in 2014. They decided not to wait until the kids – there were now four - were grown and gone before starting to look for the Ohio version of their Croatian neighborhood. They also wanted to be in or near downtown. They scoured downtown, OTR, and northern Kentucky, looking for the right home. They chose Mt. Adams. Amy wanted a home with a door that opened onto the street and Frank wanted nothing to do with a lawn. They moved to their home on Belvedere in 2014 and went from five to three bedrooms. It was two children per bedroom. Frank now refers to their neighborhood in Croatia as the Croatian Mt. Adams.

Amy and Frank decided they wanted to be involved in their new neighborhood. Frank saw a sign about an upcoming Mt. Adams Civic Association meeting and decided to attend. He met Jim McCarthy, the MACA president at the time, and Jim encouraged him to volunteer as a MACA director, which Frank did beginning in 2015. When Jim died, Kurt Meier, moved from MACA vice president to president and asked Frank to take the open VP job. When Kurt later stepped down as president, Frank was encouraged to become MACA president. He had reservations but finally decided to accept the job. He reasoned it needed to be done, he was asked to do it and, he felt he could do a passable job. He continues to lead MACA today, far surpassing the "passable job" bar.

I asked Frank what he would like his Hill neighbors to know about MACA. His response: "MACA supports the interests of the residents of Mt. Adams. I hope that residents see MACA as being there for them and encourage them to participate by attending monthly meetings and volunteering. We want the City to be aware of the needs of Mt. Adams. We want to work with Mt. Adams businesses, the Playhouse, Art Museum, and

Krohn Conservatory. We want to know how we can help them. If they do well, Mt. Adams does well. I live next to a vibrant Art Museum, Playhouse, and Park. They are great institutions, and when they do well Mt. Adams does well." He believes that Mt. Adams is a community of leaders. When our community is well-informed, good things happen.

In his spare time, Frank is teaching himself Spanish and enjoys connecting with his siblings. Frank earned his pilot's license in 2023, one of his prouder accomplishments. Frank and Amy have one child living at home, 15-year-old Trent.

Thanks for your Mt. Adams leadership, Frank.



Frank Obermeyer in 2025. Photo: Amy Obermeyer.



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CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

By: CAM Staff

Shahzia Sikander: Collective Behavior, through May 4, 2025. Ticketed. Free for members.

The Cincinnati Art Museum presents *Shahzia Sikander: Collective Behavior*, a career-spanning exhibition of the internationally renowned, New York-based artist. For more than three decades, Shahzia Sikander (born 1969, Lahore, Pakistan) has been reframing South Asian visual histories through a contemporary feminist perspective. Working in a variety of mediums—painting, drawing, print, digital animation, mosaic, sculpture, and glass—she reimagines the past for our present moment. Throughout her practice, she considers diasporic experiences, histories of colonialism, and Western relations with the global south and the wider Islamic world, often through the lens of gender and body politics.

Rather than proceeding chronologically, *Collective Behavior* follows Sikander's primary ideas and inquiries throughout her work, rooted as they are in a recurring lexicon of forms, figures, and ideas. The exhibition explores Sikander's role as an American artist, a Pakistani artist, a Muslim artist, a feminist artist, and—perhaps most significantly—as a global citizen engaging with a disrupted historical narrative. *Shahzia Sikander: Collective Behavior* premiered as a Collateral Event of the 60th International Art Exhibition—La Biennale di Venezia, co-organized by the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Cleveland Museum of Art. After Venice, complementary iterations of the exhibition opened across Ohio. CAM's iteration of *Collective Behavior* is the largest and most comprehensive presentation of Sikander's remarkable career.

Cycle Thru: The Art of the Bike, April 4 to August 24, 2025. Ticketed. Free for members.

Gear up to see a cast iron velocipede designed in the mid-1800s, a 1901 Wolf-American Ice Bicycle engineered to traverse a frozen course, a seafoam green 1950s Huffly Radiobike designed so riders could cruise to their tunes of choice, and Pee-Wee Herman's customized 1953 Schwinn DX Cruiser starring in Tim Burton's 1985 film, *Pee-Wee's Big Adventure*. These are just a few of the highlights waiting for you to discover in *Cycle Thru! The Art of the Bike*, an exhibition featuring the bicycle as a way to explore intersections of history, popular culture, design, and modern and contemporary art.

Spanning the 1860s to today, over 20 bicycles from The Bicycle Museum of America in New Bremen, Ohio, illustrate the design innovations—both functional and aesthetic—marking the vehicle's development. Paired with contemporary art by Jarbas Lopes, Bas Jan Ader, and Bari Kumar—as well as selections from the Cincinnati Art Museum's collections of photographs, fashion, posters and paintings—visitors can pedal thru and ponder the role of the bicycle as an evolving icon,

a connector of cultures, and a vehicle for autonomy and freedom to all, regardless of age, gender, and geography.

Tintoretto's Genesis, April 18 to September 1, 2025. Free admission.

In the early 1550s, Jacopo Tintoretto (1518–1594) made a series of large paintings depicting scenes from the Book of Genesis for the Scuola della Trinità, a charitable organization in Venice. Painted just as the artist was coming into his maturity, these canvases display a fusion of Michelangelo's forceful conception of the figure, Titian's renowned colorism, and Tintoretto's own vigorous brushwork, dynamic compositions, and command of the workshop system. The paintings mark the beginning of Tintoretto's rise as the powerhouse of Venetian Renaissance painting, a position he would hold for the next four decades.

Tintoretto's Genesis is the culmination of a research and conservation project undertaken by the Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia, and supported by the Foundation for Italian Art and Culture and the Cincinnati Art Museum. The exhibition in Cincinnati will debut three paintings from Tintoretto's Trinità cycle—*Cain and Abel*, *The Temptation of Adam*, and *The Creation of the Animals*—following a year-long campaign of imaging, technical analysis and restoration in the conservation facilities of the Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice. The museum will publish a book detailing the results of the project, including an enriched understanding of this important period in the career of the great Renaissance artist.

Art in Bloom, April 24 to 27. Exhibit is free; some related programs are ticketed.

The 2025 event will feature floral displays throughout the museum, interactive workshops, and exclusive programming.

Hours & Visitor Information. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm and Thursday, 11 am to 8 pm. Members have special access each Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 11 am. Please visit cincinnatiartmuseum.org for more information.



Elgin Bluebird, 1936, John "Jack" Morgan (American, b. Guatemala, 1903–1986), designer, Sears, Roebuck & Co. (American, est. 1893), retailer, Westfield Manufacturing Company (American, est. 1916), manufacturer, steel with leather saddle, Bicycle Museum of America, New Bremen, Ohio



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These dates were gathered by Grapevine volunteers, so we appreciate your understanding if there are any discrepancies. Please check the website of the sponsoring arts organization for exact locations, times and dates. If you are an arts organization who would like to be included in future Arts Calendars, please contact us at macagrapevine@gmail.com. If you are a reader who would like to suggest other arts events to include, we invite you to contact us as well.

March 2025

Cincinnati Art Museum

- Family and Kids programs, various family-friendly programs throughout the day, March 1
- Yoga in the Gallery, March 27, 6:30 pm
- Art After Dark, March 28, 5 to 9:00 pm
- Shahzia Sikander: Collective Behavior*, through May 4
- Cycle Thru! The art of the Bike*, April 4 through August 24

Cincinnati Ballet

- The Wizard of Oz*, March 1 and 2

Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra

- We are One: Water*, programs March 21 through 25 at various venues

Cincinnati Shakespeare Theatre

- Macbeth*, through March 23

Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestras

- Conrad Tao Recital, March 5
- Fountains and Pines of Rome*, March 8 and 9
- Classical Roots, March 15
- American Originals: Harlem Renaissance*, March 21, 22 and 23.
- Sheherazade*, March 28 and 29

Ensemble Theatre

- I Need That* by Theresa Rebeck, March 1 and 2

Krohn Conservatory

- Emerge*, a celebration of Spring, through April 20

Playhouse in the Park

- English* by Sanaz Toosi, March 1 through 30
- The Book Club Play* by Karen Zacarias, March 22-April 20

Taft Museum of Art

- Mystery and Benevolence: Masonic and Odd Fellows Folk Art*, through May 11
- J.M.W. Turner: Watercolor Horizons*, March 1 through June 15

April 2025

Cincinnati Art Museum

- Family and Kids programs, various family-friendly programs throughout the day, April 5
- Art after Dark, April 25, 5 to 9 pm
- Shahzia Sikander: Collective Behavior*, through May 4
- Cycle Thru! The art of the Bike*, April 4 through August 24
- Tintoretto's Genesis*, April 18 through September 1

Cincinnati Ballet

- Snow White*, April 24-27

Cincinnati Shakespeare Theatre

- The Tempest*, April 11 through May 4



Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestras

- Romantic Strings*, April 1
- Strauss Alpine Symphony*, April 5 and 6
- Ben Folds with the Pops*, April 15
- Beethoven Symphony No. 3*, April 18 and 19
- Mahler Symphony No.6*, April 25 and 26

Contemporary Arts Center

- Tour 21c Museum Hotel Galleries and the CAC, April 25, 5:30 to 6:30 pm
- Vivian Browne: My Kind of Protest*, through May 25

Ensemble Theatre

- The Sound Inside* by Adam Rapp, April 5 through 27

Know Theatre

- Blerds*, April 4 through 19

Krohn Conservatory

- Emerge*, a celebration of Spring, through April 20
- Daffodil Show, April 12 and 13

Playhouse in the Park

- The Book Club Play* by Karen Zacarias, through April 20
- Birthday Candles*, by Noah Haidle, April 19 through May 18

Taft Museum of Art

- Mystery and Benevolence: Masonic and Odd Fellows Folk Art*, through May 11
- J.M.W. Turner: Watercolor Horizons*, through June 15

May 2025

Cincinnati Art Museum

- Family and Kids programs, various family-friendly programs throughout the day, May 3
- Yoga in the Gallery, May 29, 6:30 pm
- Art after Dark, May 30, 5 to 9 pm
- Shahzia Sikander: Collective Behavior*, through May 4
- Cycle Thru! The art of the Bike*, through August 24
- Tintoretto's Genesis*, through September 1

Cincinnati Ballet

- Director's Vision: No Boundaries*, May 1 through 4

Cincinnati Shakespeare Theatre

- The Tempest*, through May 4
- Mrs. Dalloway*, May 23 through June 15

Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestras

- Mandy Gonzalez, La Vida Broadway*, May 2, 3 and 4
- Grieg and Ellington*, May 9 and 10

Contemporary Arts Center

- Tour 21c Museum Hotel Galleries and the CAC, May 30, 5:30 to 6:30 pm
- Vivian Browne: My Kind of Protest*, through May 25

Ensemble Theater

- Jaja's African Hair Braiding*, by Jocelyn Bioh, May 31 through June 22

Playhouse in the Park

- Birthday Candles* by Noah Haidle, through May 18

Taft Museum of Art

- Mystery and Benevolence: Masonic and Odd Fellows Folk Art*, through May 11
- J.M.W. Turner: Watercolor Horizons*, through June 15



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MT. ADAMS COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Mt. Adams Civic Association (MACA)

President: Frank Obermeyer

Secretary: Chris Kendall

Treasurer: Deborah Weinstein

Directors: Ginny Corsini, Nick Covey, Doug Kinney, Tina Russo, Lee Taylor, and Steve Vogel

You can contact the Civic Association at mtadamsca@gmail.com

MACA Membership

Annual membership - \$10 per person

Lifetime membership - \$100 for up to two people in a household

Contact: johncorsini@gmail.com

mtadamscincy.org

Neighborhood website for information about upcoming events, walking tour registration, Mt. Adams Beautification Association news, recent issues of the Grapevine and other useful information pertaining to Mt. Adams. Please do not use this email to contact the Grapevine. See below for that!

Mt. Adams Beautification Association

Annual membership - \$25 per person. Go to the MABA tab under "About MACA" at mtadamscincy.org.

The Grapevine

You can reach us at macagrapevine@gmail.com.

Monthly Meetings

Business Guild	1 st Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Location TBA
Civic Association	1 st Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Location TBA
Beautification Association	2 nd Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Location TBA

City of Cincinnati Contacts

Cincinnati Police: Emergency services: 911
Non-emergency services, Central Business Section: 513-352-5420
Community Liaison Officer: Chris Loreaux (513) 352-5422
christopher.loreaux@cincinnati-oh.gov

Fire Department, District 1: Emergency services: 911
Non-emergency services: 513-352-2303
www.cincinnati-oh.gov/fire/about-fire/cfd-fire-districts/

Cincinnati Parks: www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cincyparks/

City Service Request: Dial 311 or 513-765-1212
www.311cincy.com
or use the 311Cincy smartphone app

Events: www.visitcincy.com 513-621-2142

Recycling: www.cincinnati-oh.gov/recycling

Trash Collection: www.cincinnati-oh.gov/public-services/garbage-collection/

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