

The Vintage

Publication of the Madeira Historical Society
August - September 2025 madeirahistoricalsociety.org 513-561-9069



Miller House Museum

The end of August is closing in, and the society has much to be proud of; including this year's yard sale, a special program presented by members of the African American Spaulding family, the 4th of July celebration, and the annual street dance (this year held at McDonald Commons), our second annual raffle, this year's second annual membership appreciation picnic, and the re-marking signage of our trees, just to name a few events.

The Garage sale is held in our driveway every year as part of the “city wide” event. Decades ago, society member Jan Smith started our participation in the yard sale and more recently society member Carol Heck has overseen the event including the work required prior to, during, and after the yard sale. Carol, like Jan, organized the many volunteers needed for a successful fundraiser. The photo at right shows how early “buyers” show up for early deals.



“The Spaulding’s of Madeira, Ohio” was the captivating story presented by society member Kamia Jackson, unveiling her family’s deep-rooted connection to Madeira. Kamia’s great grandparents, Samuel and Lena Spaulding, settled in the village of Madeira around 1905, becoming pioneers among it’s early African American residents. As a child, Kamia visited her grandmother on Camargo Road, unaware that one day she would be sharing the remarkable journey of her ancestors who had once walked the same land. Kamia is a Cincinnati native who grew up in Bond Hill and graduated from Walnut Hills High School. She relocated to Indianapolis in the early 90’s.

We participated in the annual 4th of July parade held on July 3rd. The society participants included left to right in photo at right, Mia Stutzman, Mia’s friends Rosey and Mary, Matt Brockhage, as Benjamin Franklin, Caroline Brockhage, Jana Widmeyer, Mike Widmeyer, as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln portrayed by John Stutzman. Patrick Stigler, Thomas Stigler, and Andrew Stigler. Our “cast” walked from Madeira High School ending at St. Gertrude. The society provided thousands of candy pieces for those in attendance along Miami Avenue, plus they entertained the crowds. The society has been in every parade since 1973.



“Decorate Your Bike” Contest Winner...

Ten-year-old Vincent Calonge was the winner in our bicycle decorating contest. Vincent was awarded a \$50.00 cash prize and a 1-year family complimentary membership to the Madeira Historical Society. Vincent rode his bike in the 4th of July parade along with his mom and younger sister who walked with the historical society, distributing candy to the thousands of people watching the parade. Former Madeira mayor and society member, Mary Anne Christie, donated the prize money for the contest winner. Vincent worked hard decorating his bike while getting support from his entire family.



The Street Dance was held at McDonald Commons this year, rather than on Miami Avenue. The street dance was our last chance to sell raffle tickets this year. This was the second year that we held our major raffle, our biggest most successful fundraiser. The proceeds from this year's raffle were sufficient enough to allow for the purchase of additional technology that will be used by volunteers working at the Miller House. The photo at right shows our booth at the “street dance” at the park, including volunteers, Carol Heck, Kathy Laumann, and Mike Widmeyer. Photo bottom left, Lieutenant James Roy drawing the winning raffle tickets and photo bottom right shows society President, Doug Oppenheimer, standing with the first-place winners, Burt and Amy Stine. Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased tickets. All five prizes have been picked up and we are looking forward to next year.



After more than twenty years, our tree and plant identification tags are being replaced. When the project was first conceived, society member, (now deceased) Art Adamson, donated the required funds covering the entire project cost. Spring Grove Cemetery staff members assisted the society with the initial project as their staff identified the trees and plants, and had the plaques made. Cemetery staff also designed and printed the paper guide that was handed out to museum visitors. Proceeds from this year's annual basket raffle funded the current project. You, your family, and friends are invited to visit our museum and surrounding grounds. Photos below, left, & middle show new tags attached to trees, photo at right show's tag attached to stake.

(See next page)



Dates to Remember

*Miller House Open House - First Saturday and third Sunday of each month 1-4 PM now through December 2025.

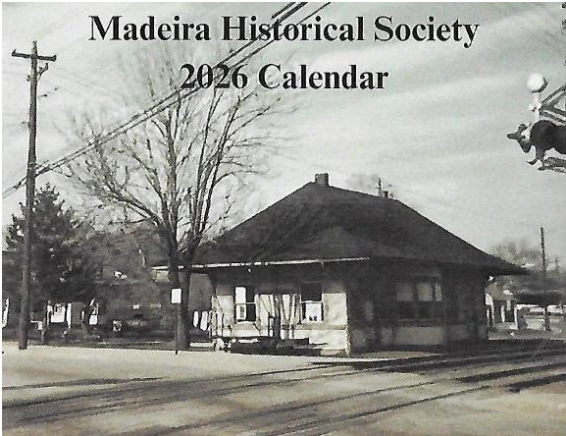
*Membership meeting – Saturday, September 20, followed by program at 1:00 PM; “Winold Reiss Union Terminal Murals from 1931”. Meeting & program held at Madeira Library, Meeting begins at 12 PM

*Program “A Cincinnati Body Snatcher”, October 29, 7:00 PM by Joyce Lovins Browning as she portrays Mary Cunningham.

*Membership meeting – Saturday, November 15, followed by program at 1:00 PM; “Chester Amusement Park History from 1930’s”. Meeting & program held at Madeira Library, Meeting begins at 12 PM

*Madeira Historical Society Christmas Dinner and Annual Business meeting including elections – December 17th beginning at 6 PM. Invitations will be sent out in November.

*Volunteers are needed; grounds, museum, all positions. Call to leave a message, 513-561-9069.



2026 Madeira Historical Society calendar, is a benefit of being a member of the society. Member’s in good standing will be gifted a 2026 wall calendar unless a member advises the society to delete them from receiving the gift. The calendar is a limited-edition calendar that was first offered to society members in 2025 as part of their perks. In addition to their gifted calendar, members can order additional calendars at \$15 ea. plus \$3.50 mailing if applicable.

Bethesda Hospital volunteers were recently hosted by Madeira Historical Society volunteers at the Miller House Museum. Jana Morford Widmeyer, member of the Madeira Historical Society, wife of our treasurer Mike Widmeyer, and Bethesda Hospital Foundation Officer, accompanied two of her hospital volunteers, enjoying the private tour of the Miller House Museum and grounds. Hosting private museum tours isn’t unusual, in fact the society may have as many guests for private visits as we have for the planned weekend tours, (open houses). Did you know that every Madeira first grade student visits the Miller House Museum learning about what it was like in Madeira without electricity, bathrooms, and when water came from a well. If you would like to volunteer let us know, 513-561-9069.



We hope to see you at our annual backyard picnic on Sunday, September 14, 2025 from 1:00-6:00 PM. Lunch will be served at 2:00PM. Hurry and get your reservations in by September 10th so we can get enough food.

From the president:

Today is September 5, 2025, a comfortable 60 degrees, a far cry from the 90's that we experienced through some summer months. I'm hoping to see many of our members at the membership appreciation picnic this month on Sunday the 14th. It has been a whirlwind year, never busier. A shout out to the efforts from board members and to members for making our year a whopping success. We still have two programs to be held at the library, our Christmas party and annual business meeting in December. Elections will be included at the business meeting and the presentation of the Florence V. Hoffmann service award. The award is presented every two years to someone that has gone beyond the expectations found in the society constitution. In the past the award has been presented to members of the society and also to non-members.

I am deciding who to appoint as chairman of the important nominating committee. I am required to make the appointment in early October. The first order of business for the committee, will be to determine which current board members are willing to serve another two-year term. Current members have done an excellent job and it is hoped that they will continue to serve the society.

Our next newsletter in November will be the last that you will receive in 2025 and will include the story of how two family's became responsible as keepers of the chickens and were leased the use of our chicken coop at no cost. The society along with providing the coop, also provides the electricity and water. One family resides in Madeira on Camargo Road and the second family resides on Hosbrook Road. Both family moms are school teachers. Our November newsletter will include "their story" written by the two families.

Our November newsletter will also include an introduction of our planned involvement in events that are being planned for America's 250-year celebration. We will be partners with the Madeira Public Library; details are still in the planning stage. The Madeira Historical Society will be celebrating our 54th year in 2026. I have had the pleasure of serving as a member of the society since 1972, serving as president, multiple times. Board positions that will be on the December ballot are as follows, President, Vice President, and 4 board positions. If you would like to discuss your interest serving as a board member, please call me at 513 – 240- 4348.

Doug Oppenheimer

Madeira Historical Society

Madeira Historical Society would like to endorse one of our newest local business owners, Michael Morris, who donated to our 2025 raffle.

One of our lucky raffle winners received a \$100 gift certificate to Plant Cincinnati!

We hope they will soon take advantage of this nice gesture.

Plant Cincinnati is located at 7915 Euclid Ave. Madeira, OH 45243

Phone: [\(513\) 610-5177](tel:5136105177)

