



March 27 @ 10AM

The American Sign Museum

Followed by Lunch at Camp Washington Chili



Please join your fellow Ohio Valley Early Birds members on **FRIDAY**, March 27, for a visit to the American Sign Museum. Since we last visited this unique Cincinnati gem in 2012, the collection has doubled in size. There is much more to see at Cincinnati's expanded American Sign Museum.

Tour: American Sign Museum
10:00am – 11:00am (Please arrive by 9:45AM)
1330 Monmouth Street, Cincinnati OH 45225

Lunch: Camp Washington Chili (11:30am)
3005 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45225

RSVP: Click Here to Send your RSVP for this fun event:
<https://oveb.org/php/rsvp-form.php?eid=3>



The American Sign Museum

"Signs and sign making are a fascinating reflection of America through the years. If your experience at the American Sign Museum causes you to be more aware of signs in your travels and of their value to businesses and communities, we've done our job." - Tod Swormstedt, Founder

A towering McDonald's sign with fast-moving neon lights simulates a chef on the run to grab a 15-cent hamburger. First displayed above a Huntsville, Alabama McDonald's restaurant in 1963, the museum spent nearly \$25,000 to buy, transport, assemble and restore the iconic sign. Today, it's a hallmark of the new and expanded American Sign Museum, the only of its kind in the nation, celebrating art, design, technology and the history of one of this country's oldest industries.

Tod Swormstedt, former editor and publisher of the industry trade magazine, *Signs of the Times*, believed that signs and the sign industry had their own stories to tell, but he lamented that they were being lost to redevelopment and 'beautification' projects everywhere. Tod wanted to capture these stories before they were lost forever, so he founded the American Sign Museum in 1999 as his self-proclaimed "mid-life crisis project."



The American Sign museum, already touted as the largest public sign museum in the country, just got even bigger.

The Camp Washington staple recently opened a 20,000-square-foot expansion which has almost doubled the museum's size. Additions

include a storefront of the Maisonette – Cincinnati's former fine-dining treasure that closed in 2005 – a 21.5-foot Johnny's Big Red Grill sign sourced from Ithaca, New York, and a marquee from the century-old, now-closed, Ioka Theatre in Exeter, New Hampshire.

Museum Highlights Include:

- A huge collection of restored signs, artfully arranged in a timeline of technology ranging from the pre-electric era to early incandescent, neon and modern plastic signs.
- A faux Main Street with storefronts simulating periods of American history and acting as display cases for memorabilia. Included on Main Street is the red neon sign, red and white porcelain panels and front door of Rohs Hardware Store, an Over-the-Rhine institution that closed in 2010.
- NeonWorks, a neon sign repair shop, occupies a space on Main Street and affords museum visitors a picture window view of neon tube fabrication and bending.
- A series of cardboard Las Vegas showcards hand-painted and written by the late artist and designer, Bob Harper.





Camp Washington Chili

A Cincinnati Tradition for 75 Years

Since 1940, Camp Washington Chili has been proudly serving “chili-heads” from Cincinnati and all over the world from the corner of Hopple and Colerain Streets, in the heart of Cincinnati’s Camp Washington neighborhood. While their secret chili recipe speaks for itself, there are other ingredients that help make Camp Washington Chili the premier chili parlor in Cincinnati.

It all starts with quality food and quality service. Their entire team strives daily to serve this award-winning tradition to each of you, whether it’s grinding the government-inspected beef, preparing your food to order, or working the counter and ladles 24 hours around the clock — like clockwork — six days a week. And Johnny Johnson, the patriarch of the Camp Washington Chili family, has been a constant part of that routine since 1951 when he immigrated to the United States from Greece and began working at Camp Washington Chili. Johnny hasn’t worked anywhere else since the day he arrived — a testament to his lifetime commitment to “chili-making.” The dedication of Johnny, his wife Antigone, and their family has earned Camp Washington Chili an important place in Cincinnati’s famed chili history.

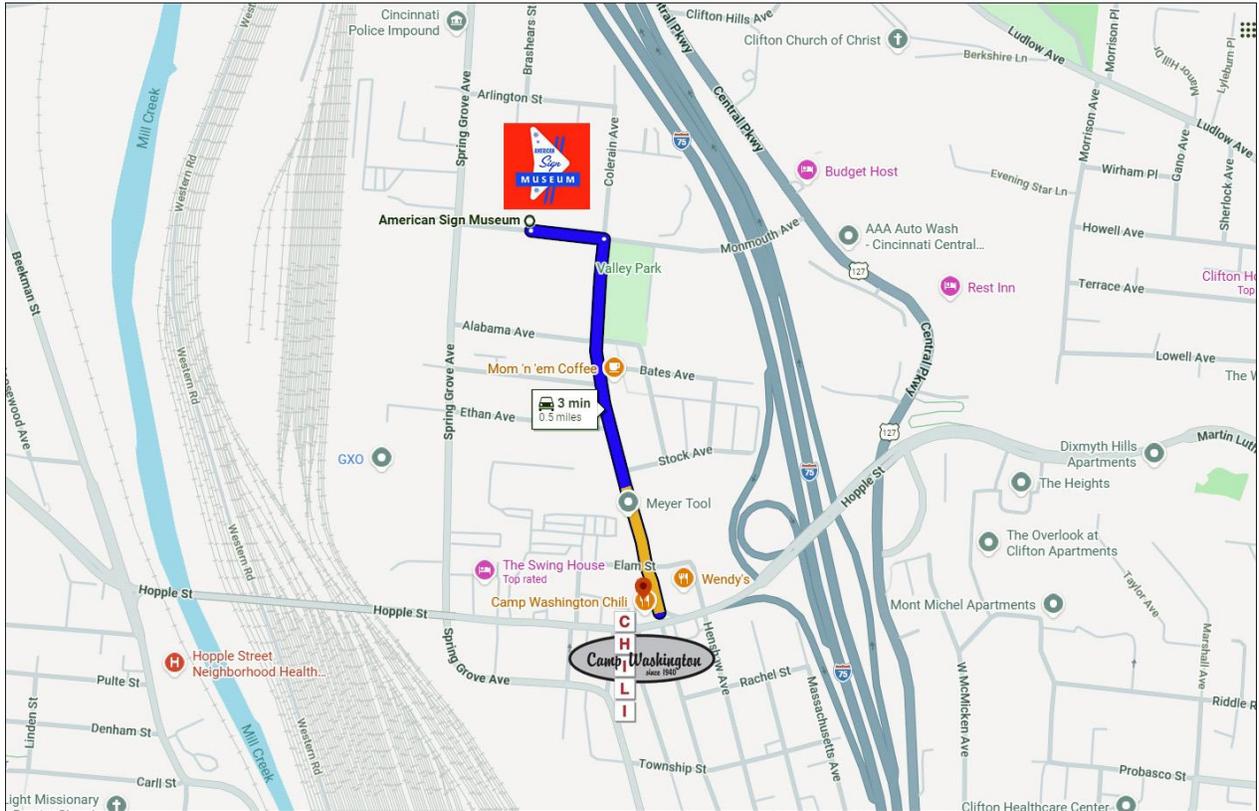
Whether this is your first visit ever or your first of many visits for the week, you are the reason they are passionate about what they do.

Over the years, Camp Washington Chili has distinguished itself as a true Cincinnati classic. And, although the original parlor was razed to make way for street widening, its timeless appeal and commitment to quality are still the cornerstone of the new parlor. But don’t just take our word for it. Sit back and enjoy a truly unique Cincinnati tradition. And, with each bite, take in not only the rich chili taste but the even richer tradition behind it.

Soups, salads, double-deckers, hamburgers and a wide variety of other food is offered in addition to the famous Camp Washington Chili. You can view the complete menu at this link:

<https://campwashingtonchili.com/our-menu/>

Map – American Sign Museum to Camp Washington Chili



It is a short three-minute drive from the American Sign Museum to Camp Washington Chili.