



WESTWORDS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



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May, 2010

www.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 40, Issue 5

Gamble House Update Liz Kissel

Once again, things have been changing on a regular basis. You may have already heard that when Judge Nadel paid a visit to the Gamble House on Wednesday, April 21 (it had originally been scheduled for April 23), he and the others found that the house was being dismantled...



woodwork was being removed although much of it appeared to still be in the house. The neighbors had been reporting for weeks that it sounded like major construction (or deconstruction) was going on inside so it

wasn't a surprise. As a result, the community's confidence in Greenacres Foundation's willingness to work with Cincinnati Preservation Association (CPA) to find a solution to save the house was severely compromised. A number of Westwoodians took a road trip to Indian Hill to hold a "Save the Gamble House" rally on Thursday, April 29. That same day, CPA submitted a proposal to Greenacres to buy the house. There is no word at this date on their response.

In the meantime, Tuesday, May 11, is the hearing for the local historic designation for the house in front of the Livable Communities Committee of City Council and from there it goes to the full City Council for a vote on Wednesday, May 12. If this reaches your mailbox before then, please consider coming to one or both of the hearings since a show of support in front of the elected officials is essential. Both meetings take place at 2:00 pm in Council Chambers in City Hall.

CPA is looking for grant and foundation money to help acquire and renovate the building. Often those money sources want to see community buy-in which means we need to do some serious fund raising. If you feel strongly that the house should be saved, consider making a donation – the reality is that purchasing, restoring, and sustaining the house long term will take a lot of money that Greenacres had clearly decided not to invest. Tax deductible donations and pledges are being accepted at Cincinnati Preservation Association (www.CincinnatiPreservation.org).

Fellow Westwoodians,

Thank you for electing me again to be president of the Westwood Civic Association. I believe we have tackled some important issues in the past year and I'm looking forward to working with the board and you to address more issues in the upcoming year. We have a dedicated core of folks working to organize people to save the Gamble Estate from the wrecking ball. Thanks to their efforts, meetings and courtrooms have been packed with supporters, not to mention taking the action to Indian Hill for a peaceful protest. Conversely, the wrecking ball was welcome at the 18-unit slum on Harrison Avenue at Talbott, where a perpetual problem property was eliminated. Westwood is looking to replace our small, 101-year-old, single bay fire house. A more suitable location is needed where a state of the art building can be erected to better serve the residents of our neighborhood. This year's first Good-Guy Loitering event, held at Glenmore & Daytona, was a huge success. It was attended by well over 25 residents and a good time was had by all. There is no better way to meet and greet your neighbors. I'm looking forward to a fun and constructive new year with Westwood Civic.

John Sess
President

YARD OF THE MONTH

Joan McLean

The Westwood Civic Association is continuing its efforts to encourage residents and businesses to beautify the landscaping in yards of residences and the properties of offices, apartments and churches.



Each month this summer, from June through the end of September, the association will post "Yard of the Month" signs in about 10 of the most outstanding landscapes within the boundaries of Westwood.

Residents are encouraged to nominate yards and gardens they think are works of outstanding beauty. Nominations can be made by calling Joan or Gil McLean, the chairpersons for the award competition, at 661-6017.

Chronic Nuisance Enforcement Update

For those of you not familiar with Westwood Civic's effort to identify and abate chronic nuisance premises, I want to provide an overview and an update. Over the past year the topic of chronic nuisance enforcement was introduced explaining the effort that Westwood Civic has put forth to identify and abate nuisance premises in accordance with City of Cincinnati Municipal Code Chapter 761 – Chronic Nuisance Premises. The ordinance deals only with *behavioral* nuisances and not *physical* nuisances (better known as blight). Furthermore, the ordinance only deals with multi-family residential properties. This ordinance went into effect in January 2007 and was immediately challenged by the Greater Cincinnati Northern Kentucky Apartment Association and the Real Estate Investors Association of Cincinnati in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas with Judge Dennis Helmick presiding over the lawsuit.

In December 2007, Judge Helmick offered the plaintiffs and the city the option of mediating a settlement as an alternative to trial. In the meantime the law is to be enforced.

In 2008 Mr. Chris Kearney, a resident of Westwood, offered his volunteer assistance in identifying potential chronic nuisance premises and introduced Westwood Civic to Xavier University's Dr. Kam Wong, Professor in the department of Criminal Justice. Dr. Wong developed an approach to fighting crime and disorder called "community-driven crime control" that was adopted by the board of Westwood Civic. Becky Weber was appointed as the committee chair for chronic nuisance enforcement to work collaboratively with Mr. Kearney, District 3 and property owners.

During 2009 twenty properties in Westwood were identified as chronic nuisance premises as corroborated by District 3. Becky and Chris subsequently put together a tracking system to monitor progress on abating the nuisance activities. The effort was not without some frustrations as you can imagine whenever bureaucracy and politics are involved. But our perseverance is paying off!

Capt. Kim Frey, District 3 Commander, sent billing notices to 5 properties in District 3, amounting to \$12,943.03 in invoices for nuisance calls as of March, 2010. One property owner has appealed those bills and we are awaiting a ruling from the magistrate as to whether those bills will stick. We should know by mid-May.

Subject: Charlie Winburn Motion: Take Back Our Neighborhoods from Irresponsible Landlords.

On April 7, 2010 Charlie Winburn presented a motion (Council Item #201000510) to Cincinnati City Council making chronic nuisance premises enforcement a high priority. His motion was approved with a 6-3 vote: Winburn, Ghiz, Monzel, Berding, Bortz and Cole voting "Yes". Qualls, Thomas and Quinlivan voting "No".

Councilmember Winburn's motion has two parts:

Part One: A report from the City Manager to answer questions regarding enforcement policy, progress and the ongoing lawsuit.

Part Two: Implement chronic nuisance enforcement progress tracking and a requirement to partner with the community in the enforcement effort. The motion requires a monthly progress update for the Top-50 chronic nuisance premises city wide (based on the Top-10 per police district).

We will let you know what the City Manager reports back and which nuisance premises in Westwood make the Top-10 list in District 3.

Update from WestCURC McConn & Kathy Bach

by Sr. Ann Rene

The house at **3655 Boudinot** is ready for showings. Bill Cook from StarOne Realty here in Westwood is the listing agent. If you know someone who is looking for a three-bedroom, two-bathroom house, this is a beauty. Listed at \$114,900. New upgrades and updates:

- New roof, gutters, and trim
- Updated bathrooms
- New plumbing
- Updated electric service
- New insulated attic, second floor sidewalls and basement
- New furnace with air conditioning
- New hot water heater
- New windows
- Refinished first floors
- New kitchen, Energy Star appliances
- New paint inside and out.



Our next house is also on Boudinot. An 1870 farmhouse in great structural condition: When finished it will have 4 bedrooms, 2 (or 3) bathrooms and second floor laundry, new roof, new plumbing, and HVAC, updated kitchen, and refinished floors. Should be ready for sale by early September. Stay tuned as our third house is coming up soon!

WestCURC is working to market Westwood as a green community! We are excited about a new program, the "Low Carbon Diet." Get the book, *The Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5,000 Pounds* by David Gershon at the Westwood Library to learn more. More info to come! Check out our website for further details.

The Westwood Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation's (WestCURC) mission is to actively facilitate economic, social, and cultural development in our community. We work closely with residents, community leaders, business owners, and city officials to promote investment in Westwood. We focus on real estate development, beautification, promotion, and collaboration.

Check out our NEW website online at: <http://westcurc.com>

Become a fan on facebook! Search "WestCURC" from your facebook page.

Great American Clean up Peg Rhein

Westwood Town Hall Garden Volunteer Coordinator

When you drive by the Westwood Town Hall in the coming months think of the efforts of the following people who have helped in this ongoing commitment.

Thanks to a big effort from the **students at LaSalle High School** - Greg Walden, Vince Milano, C.J. Davis and Brandon Mere with the assistance of Gary Weber, Becky Weber and my husband, Stuart Golder. They all moved two big piles of mulch that were delivered from the Parks Dept. and with many other helping hands distributed around the gardens, trees and shrubs. This group also reworked the corner gardens by the library which needed a lot of work.

Mary Dorn, our wonderful Westside Park Horticulturalist, brought us a couple hundred daffodil, tulip and hyacinth bulbs from the Parks from the dismantled Spring Flower show at the Krohn. Under her guidance a few of the Mercy students help prepare the new bed and plant all these bulbs so look for a new burst of color next spring by the

Harrison side of the front of the building next to the sidewalk. They also reworked the garden by the front entrance around the sign which is now graced with spires of Blue Salvia and colorful pansies.

Thanks to our new volunteer, Donna Bruce, who helped with student sign up and was happiest planting and weeding. It is always great to get new volunteers as we have so much to do and not enough help.

The following students from **Mercy High School** should get extra bonus points for showing up in the rain and pitching in to help with weeding, planting, mulching:
Liz Kenkel, Megan Mitchell, Anna Lynd, Sydney Gordon, Chelsea Jansen, Tina Schmidt, Rebecca Klapper, Sarah Wenke and Marissa McPhillips.

John Sess, another long time volunteer in beautifying Westwood was busy cleaning up streets and public right of ways throughout the community all morning as well.

Thanks especially for my core workers who showed up and also make the effort to work throughout the year in maintaining the gardens- Valerie Bauman, Mary Fichter, Ken Tarvin, Stuart Golder and Melva Gweyn.

Thanks again to all of our wonderful volunteers!

Westwood Home Tour...a Success! Liz Kissel

Now we know what happens when it rains for the Westwood Home Tour...people still come! Attendance was down somewhat but we still had over 550 people with Home Tour tickets on the streets of Westwood on Sunday, April 25 (including both paid, complementary, and volunteer tickets).

The surveys showed that people are coming from throughout Greater Cincinnati, including Northern Kentucky and Southwestern Indiana, many of them repeat customers. As in the past, we received many compliments about the homes, the volunteers, and the event. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped, from the homeowners, to the sponsors, to the volunteers, and to Westwood Citizens on Patrol and all the others who helped clean up Westwood the Saturday before and on the morning of the Tour. The signs, banners, and notes are packed away for another 2 years but our search for home tour homes is ongoing. If you know of a house that should be on the 2012 next tour, let us know!

Mother of Mercy News Lisa Mahon Fluegeman

Mother of Mercy High School wishes Principal Sr. Nancy Merkle RSM all the best as she retires at the end of the school year. Sr. Nancy has given 20 years of outstanding service to the Westwood school. Sr. Nancy was honored by the entire Mercy community at an open house at the school on May 3, which was declared Sr. Nancy Merkle Day by the mayor of Cincinnati. Mercy's President and Board of Trustees have appointed Diane Laake to the principal post, effective July 1. Ms. Laake is currently Assistant Principal and has spent her entire career at Mercy.





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Westside tavern at the corner of Glenmore and Applegate for 17 years.

**Westwood Civic Association Monthly
Statement April, 2010**

Revenue	
Neighborhood Support Program	\$ 2,644.86
Membership	360.00
Advertising	150.00
Donation	90.00
Total Revenue	\$3,244.86
Expenses	
Newsletter	\$411.99
Election Dinner	158.40
P.O. Box Fee	70.00
District 3 Resource Dues	15.00
Total Expenses	\$654.49
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$13,994.46
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$3,938.45
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	\$5,000.00
Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer	

WCA OFFICERS
Term: April 2010 - April 2011

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*John Sess.....481-1957

VICE PRESIDENT-

*Melva Gweyn..... 481-0761

VICE PRESIDENT-

*Becky Weber.....661-3216

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*Mitch Neeld.....891-4546

TREASURER-

*Valerie Baumann.....

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY-

*Irene McNulty.....662-8560

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Tastings • Tours • Meals • and More

The Westwood Historical Society
Liz Kissel

The Westwood Historical Society meeting on May 12, will feature Phil Nuxhall, historian for Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum, and author of *Beauty in the Grove*. He will discuss the history, art, architecture and landscape of Spring Grove Cemetery. Spring Grove is America's second largest and most beautiful cemetery, an officially sanctioned arboretum, as well as a National Historic Landmark. Mr. Nuxhall will give an armchair tour of beautiful statues, magnificent mausoleums, fascinating historical figures, and the internationally renowned landscape. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Westwood First Presbyterian Church (3011 Harrison Avenue). All are welcome.

Monthly Ad Rates

\$100.00.....	Full Page
\$50.00.....	Half Page
\$25.00.....	Quarter Page
\$10.00.....	Business Card
\$50.00.....	Insert

Published 12 (more or less) times
a year by WCA,
with funds supplied by the
Neighborhood Support Program,
local advertisers, and membership dues.

For information on placing an ad, contact:
Becky Weber, Editor
bmimmy@aol.com or

Westwood Civic Association
P.O. Box 11466
Cincinnati, OH 45211

Westwood Town Hall 3017 Harrison Avenue 662-9109

PRESCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMS (ages 3-5) Two Sessions: \$40 each session
Wednesdays—Animal Adventures:
Session 1 -- June 16th--July 7th and Session 2 -- July 14th -- August 4th

Thursdays—Fun in the Sun
Session 1 -- June 17 -- July 8th and Session 2 -- July 15th --August 5th

ZUMBA & STEP AEROBICS Continues: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 6:30-7:15 pm and only costs \$4/class/ person. Latin Beat, high energy fitness class or Cardio perfect Step class.

SUMMER Enrichment Mini Camps: Mixed Media Art—\$90 Ages 7-12 yrs old—Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am-noon. Clay Handbuilding: Fridays, 3/2-8/6 ages 8-13 years old 12:30-2 pm \$45/child
Summer Spanish Classes: Mondays & Wednesday June 21-July 28 11 am-noon \$60/6 weeks Ages 6 & up
Guitar Classes June 7-July 28th 5:30-6:15 pm \$80/8 weeks. Ages 9 & older. Guitar rental available.
TaeKwonDo: Still only \$35 month for twice weekly classes: Mon & Wed 6:30 or 7:30 pm. Uniform only \$40.

CRC MEMBERSHIPS:

New this year, they are good at ALL CRC Centers. No longer do you have to have a membership to each and every center. Junior Memberships, age 17 & under, and Senior Memberships, age 50 +, are only \$10 and include admittance to all CRC Centers and Pools also, except the Dunham Complex Aquatic Center. Adult Memberships cost \$25 for both center and pool admittance or \$20 if you opt out on the pools and only want the CRC Centers. They are good for one year from date of purchase. You will have to show it at all centers and pools you visit and fill out emergency cards at each site you use.

Ryan Pool Memberships are included in all Junior and Senior Center Memberships. Adults have the options listed above or just a POOL ONLY pass for \$10. These can be purchased here at the center and NOT at the pools.
The pool memberships are open to all pools except the Dunham Aquatic Center.

Giant Yard Sale—Saturday, July 17th, 10 am-3 pm. 10' x 10' Spaces for rent: \$15, New! 15' x 10' spaces: \$25 (limited number), Double spaces remain at \$30. Registration begins May 17. Call 662-9109 for additional info.



Our full program guide is available at www.cincyrec.org. Additional Summer programs will be added to the web site. Please check regularly.

Soapbox Derby

Mitch Neeld

Mayor Mallory's office has announced that it will once again be holding the Mayor's Cup race as part of this year's Cincinnati Soapbox Derby. The Mayor's Cup is a friendly competition between the 52 Cincinnati neighborhoods. Each neighborhood can field a car and a racer in the Soapbox Derby and, thereby, participate in the Mayor's Cup. The top finishing car from the participating neighborhoods will win a large cash prize for it's community council. Last year's winning community council took home \$5000.


Westwood will be fielding it's Soapbox Derby car again this year. The race will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2010. We are in the process of getting the car into tip-top shape and are actively recruiting a driver and sponsors. Please plan on coming out on the 19th to support the best neighborhood in Cincinnati.



Westwood Citizens on Patrol
A COMMUNITY BASED DIVISION OF THE CINCINNATI POLICE

For a membership application

WestwoodCOP@aol.com
OR
Call: 513-352-3533



Westwood Branch Library

by Kathy Bach

Self Check-Out is here!

Self-service checkout machines have been installed at the circulation desk. It's fast, easy, confidential and even allows you to pay your fines with cash or credit card. Our new checkout will be the BEST!

- Bring your card
- Enter your PIN (last 4 digits of your phone number)
- Scan your item
- Take your receipt



New Services! More convenience!

- As an added convenience, these machines accept credit cards so you don't have to worry about paying overdue fines with cash or a check.
- You can pick up your materials from the Express Holds shelves instead of waiting in line at the Circulation Services desk!



Displays:

We also have fun displays of books, such as gardening, Mother's Day, and Spring titles.

Programs:

Join us at the Westwood Branch Library for these exciting programs! For information on any of our programs, please contact us at 369-4474.



Adult Book Club 4th Thursday each month at 7 p.m.
May 22-- For Whom The Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway
Copies available for checkout at our front desk.

Bingö For Kids – Tuesday May 11 at 6:30 p.m. – Ages 6-12

Summer Reading Kick-off Party—Saturday May 29 at 2:00 p.m.—Ages 12 & under

Movers & Shakers - Every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. - Ages 12 - 36 months



The Library will be closed on May 31, 2010 in observance of Memorial Day

Programs made possible by the Charles H. Dater Foundation, The Friends of the Public Library, and the Kersten Fund. For more programs at other library locations, check out our program calendar: <http://www.cincinnati.library.org/programs/calendar.html>

Westwood Branch Library
3345 Epworth Avenue
513-369-4474
www.cincinnati.library.org

Hours of Operation:
Mon./Tues./Thurs.: 12-8
Wed./ Fri./Sat.: 10-6

SAVE THE DATE!

**WEST SIDE PRESERVATION SUMMIT:
Saving the Heart of the West Side**

Cincinnati's first-ever forum for West Side stakeholders on historic preservation as a revitalization tool. Morning sessions will focus on challenges facing West Side communities, and afternoon sessions on solutions. An invitation will follow closer to the date. We hope you will be a part of this historic event!

Date: June 5, 2010
Time: 10:00 – 4:00
Place: Westwood Branch Library
3345 Epworth Avenue
Admission: Free: includes box lunch

Sponsored by Cincinnati Preservation Association
RSVP: 513-721-4506 or
info@cincinnati.preservation.org

**Memories of an Historic Home in Westwood
Art Baumann**

In looking over the brochure from the recent Westwood Home Tour, one of the featured houses was the stone and stucco house on Lischer Avenue.



For almost eighteen years I lived on Lischer Avenue not far from this house. As a result, I got to know most of the neighbors. That particular house was built by the Rookstuhl family (not sure of the spelling of that name) Mr. Rookstuhl owned and operated a sand and gravel business on East Miami River Road a few miles north of Harrison Avenue.

The Rookstuhls were members of the Presbyterian Church on Harrison Avenue and would frequently pick me up as I walked to Sunday school.

The Rookstuhls were great neighbors, especially for kids like me who might be selling candy bars, cookies or, as in my case, Liberty Magazines, which sold for five cents each. They had no children of their own, but they never closed their door on neighborhood kids.

It was great to see that fine house on the tour. It is a reminder of the wonderful people who built it, and in doing so, enhanced the neighborhood of Westwood.

**Upcoming
Westwood Civic Association
Meetings & Events**

- 5/11 Steering Meeting
- 5/18 General Meeting/Student Awards
- 6/8 Steering Meeting
- 6/15 General Meeting

Steering Committee Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, Westwood Town Hall.

Regular meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, Westwood Town Hall.

All meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Herschel Benkert
owner

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**WESTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER OF ADULTS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD (VOTING MEMBERS): _____

CALL ME FOR: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES _____ FUND RAISERS _____

Annual dues are \$10.00 per household. Make your check payable to "Westwood Civic Association" and mail to:
WCA, P.O. Box 11466, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211
Or you could save a stamp and bring this with you to the next meeting- we'd be happy to see you!



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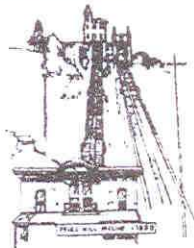
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Show your pride in Westwood!!!

**WESTWOOD CIVIC BANNERS ARE
NOW AVAILABLE**

The banners are now available from our contest held this past winter.

The cost of a banner is a very low \$20.

To purchase one of Westwood's banners, please email your request to bmimmy@aol.com.

Or come to our next general meeting on May 18 and make your purchase.

45211@9998