



WESTWORDS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

November 2008

www.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 38, Issue 11

Presidents Message-

Well, I guess I should just come right out and say it—*demolition*. Most people in Westwood who know me also know that I can't go very long without bringing up that topic. I know that there is much more to life than watching blighted buildings be smashed by a

huge piece of wrecking equipment. But the reason I can't stop talking about it is that there has never been a better time to undo some serious wrongs that have been foisted on our neighborhood. The current housing crisis has a silver lining for Westwood. Properties that have been in the control of the property flippers for years have reached the end of their economic rope and are now available for unbelievably low prices. Here is an example—Gobel/Bracken Woods has been deteriorating for decades. With so many multi-family units in Westwood, any plans to revitalize these streets always came to the same dead end. There simply is no market for so many apartments, and dumping money into them could not be justified. A huge redevelopment plan was rejected by the city in 2002 as too expensive. But now some of those properties can be had for less than \$10,000. The solution is to take out as many of these properties as possible, while they are cheap. As we get rid of the worst of them, the surrounding properties will have a better chance to have success with their investment. And we will be gradually chipping away at the blight. Instead of waiting for a grand redevelopment scheme, let's just take advantage the opportunities that are right in front of us.



(Continued on page 2)

WCA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY SURE TO BE A GREAT TIME

This year we will be heading downtown to enjoy an evening on Fountain Square. No Westwood business this night—just time to relax and enjoy the company of your neighbors in a different setting.

Friday, December 5, 2008

8:00 p.m.

Rock Bottom Brewery
10 Fountain Square

Join us for Happy Hour

Palomino's Restaurant, Fountain Place, 505 Vine St.

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

RSVP by Nov. 21st (or as soon as you get this newsletter) to Mary Kuhl at 481-2733 or email Becky Weber at bmimmy@aol.com Check out Rock Bottom Brewery's menu at www.rockbottom.com

It's almost time to renew your membership. Our mem-



berships are based on the calendar year, so please complete the enclosed form and send your check before Jan. 1. Also, feel free to make a copy of the form and pass it along to a friend or neighbor. Any new memberships will be good through 2009.

WE ARE IN IT TO BIN IT!



The Mayor's recycling challenge has been extended until **December 15** and Westwood is still winning, but the competition is gaining. The neighborhood with the most new bins wins cash!

Sign up for a free bin— even if you want to upgrade from the old smaller bin to a larger new one.

Sign up a neighbor! (TIP— walk your neighborhood on trash day, and see who is not recycling, and tell them about the program.)

Lets get recycling!

Lets win the Mayor's challenge!

Call 591-6000 to request a bin.

Westwood Branch Library

Take a break from raking the leaves and join us at the Library for books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, downloadable books, and programs. Economic crisis got you down? All our programs and services are FREE! It's YOUR LIBRARY, USE IT!

Saturday, November 29 is our Customer Appreciation Day. Wake up to the Celtic sounds of Galligher's Ramble at 10 a.m. and then join us upstairs for a hot cup of coffee and some holiday cookies!

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

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS!

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Weekly: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 3-6

DDR for Tweens! (NEW!)

Join us afterschool and get moving with Dance Dance Revolution! Now on the second Monday each month! Mondays, 11/10/08, 12/8/08 3:00-4:00 p.m. Ages 8-12

READ to REEL MOVIES

3rd Wednesday each month at 3:30 p.m. This month's feature: *Little Princess (G)* Wednesday, November 19

3:30 p.m.
Ages 9 and up

BINGO FOR KIDS

Play for fabulous prizes!
Tuesday, November 25
3:00-4:00 p.m.
Ages 6-12

PRINCESS PARTY!

Meet Cyndy Driehaus, author of *The Royal Adventures of Princess Darcy and Princess Daisy*
Copies of the book available for sale. A great holiday gift!
Cupcakes and princess crafts
Tuesday, December 2
6:30 p.m.
All ages

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS!

All Teen programs are for ages 12-18.

TEEN SPIRIT

Share ideas and help make the library a place where teens want to be!
Wednesday, November 26
3:00-4:00 p.m.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS!

Evening Book Club:

November title: *Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson

Thursday, November 20
7:00 p.m.

Customer Appreciation Day

Wake up to the Celtic sounds of Galligher's Ramble at 10 a.m. and then join us upstairs for a hot cup of coffee and some holiday cookies!
Saturday, November 29
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Light Up Your Holiday!

Glass Block Craft (Sign up required). Makes a great holiday gift!
Thursday, December 4
6:30 p.m.

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 Hours of Operation:

3345 Epworth Avenue

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday:
12-8

513-369-4474

Wednesday/ Friday/Saturday:
10-6

www.cincinnati.library.org

(Continued from page 1)

So now you are wondering where the money comes from, and that is the point of this article.

Every year, the City gets millions from the feds that can be used for this purpose. It is our job to make sure that our city council understands that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to turn back the blight. So call them, email them, go to city meetings and let them know- THIS IS THE TIME TO GET RID OF BLIGHT. This should be the prime budget priority for the next several years. (After basic city services such as Police and Fire, Sanitation, Water and Sewer, and Roads). We can come out of the housing crisis ahead of other cities. Then when the economy turns around, we will be sitting pretty, with plenty of development opportunities for upscale developers. It's called *Land Banking*, and we should be salting away as much land as we can while the window of opportunity is open.

And here is my favorite reason to take out blighted apartments- our great old single family homes. Most homeowners in Westwood live in older homes. Old homes take plenty of time and money to maintain and upgrade. There isn't enough government money in the world to fix up all these homes. It will only be done by thousands of homeowners using their own money to live the American dream. And we cannot attract self-sufficient motivated homebuyers with all the blight surrounding them. If we want people to invest their life savings in Westwood, they need to have a reasonable expectation that our neighborhood will be moving forward.

And that's why I can't stop talking about demolition...

Please make that call to city council soon. Blight removal should be priority one for Cincinnati.

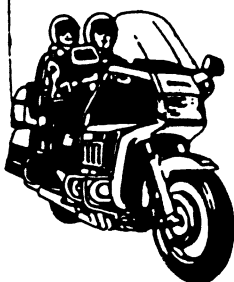
Enjoy the holiday season, and I hope to see you at the Christmas party, if not, I'll...

See you around the neighborhood-
-Jim McNulty



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Your Discount Motorcycle Dealer

WCA MONTHLY STATEMENT
October 2008

REVENUE

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful	\$1,276.00
Westfest	707.00
Advertising	420.00
T-shirt Sales	323.00
Membership	50.00
Misc.	10.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2786.00

EXPENSES

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful	\$1092.18
Newsletter (Sept & Oct)	774.95
Westwood Gateways	226.02
Candidates Night	129.18
Misc.	95.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,317.33

Checking Account Balance:	\$11,216.32
Savings Account Balance:	\$1471.16
CD Balance:	\$7000.00

Submitted by:
Valerie Baumann, Treasurer

Quote of the Month

"Sometimes we stare so long at a door that is closing, that we see too late the one that is open."
- Alexander Graham Bell



**Upcoming
Westwood Civic Association
Meetings**

Upcoming Meetings-
November 18, 2008 **7:00** pm WW Town Hall

December meetings-
12/9- Steering Committee
12/16 - Regular meeting

Steering Committee Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month. **7:00 PM WTH**

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

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



WCA OFFICERS
Term: April 2008- April 2009



PRESIDENT-

*Jim McNulty.....662-8560

VICE PRESIDENT-

*Melva Gweyn.....481-0761

VICE PRESIDENT-

*John Sess.....481-1957

RECORDING SECRETARY-

*Joel Kimmet..... 389-0858

TREASURER-

*Valerie Baumann.....

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY-

Irene McNulty.....662-8560

***WCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Kathy Bach

*Rick Boyd

*Dick Finn

*Randy Hammann

*Mary Kuhl

*Brian Lee

*Trent Lewis

*Sr. Ann Rene McConn

*Becky Weber

Monthly Ad Rates

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

WESTwords

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WCA,
with funds supplied by the
Neighborhood Support Program,
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For information on placing an ad, contact:
mrmcnulty@fuse.net or-

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

Western Hills Design Technology High School
2144 Ferguson Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45238
513-363-8700
Virginia L. Rhodes, Ed.D.
Principal

Oct. 23, 2008

Western Hills Revives Mock Election Tradition Today

To bring the election process closer to students and the community, Western Hills Design Technology (a pre-Engineering High School) will revive the Mock Election that predicted Congressional, Gubernatorial, and Cincinnati City Council and other winners in years past. The Mock Election at Western Hills began in 1976 by well-known West Side resident and social studies teacher Charlie Beaty, but was discontinued when the school was reorganized 5 years ago.

Current Principal Virginia Rhodes and Social Studies teachers Brad Smith and Jennifer Lewis-Thornton are reviving the tradition by having students organize a Mock Election during the school day on Thurs., Oct. 23. They have planned, will conduct, oversee the election, count the ballots, and announce the results.

West High students accurately predicted Charlie Luken's victory over Ken Blackwell in the 1990 Congressional race for District 1, and George Voinovich's election as Governor over Tony Celebrezze in the same year.

Will students predict for Steve Chabot to keep his seat in District 1, or throw their support to Steve Driehaus, the challenger? Will the school still mirror the Cincinnati electorate by correctly predicting the outcome of the presidential race?

"It's an election year that can really help students connect with the process of active citizenship," said Principal Virginia Rhodes, "and we believe student leadership development is critically important." Western Hills Design Technology High School is a 9-12 STEM school, featuring a pre-Engineering program that prepares students for post-secondary opportunities in Engineering and other STEM-related programs.

UPDATE: West High Students Revive Mock Election Tradition, Accurately Predicting Results the students missed on the Goering/Brinker race, and on the payday loan issue, but otherwise their vote outcomes mirrored that of the actual voting population.)

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@
@ The Westwood Civic Association Email list is Back!
@ If you have been receiving emails lately from WESTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION, then you have been getting the latest updates and fast-breaking action alerts. Join our list by emailing-
@ info@westwoodcivic.org
@ with "subscribe" in the subject line.
@@@@@@@@@@@@@@



SINCE 1939
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Our Motto-

"Get involved, stay involved, make a difference"

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LISA WILLIAMS-TERRY
BRANCH MANAGER



Westwood Branch
3287 Werk Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

Phone: 513-559-1234 Ext. 1212
Fax: 513-661-1116
Email: lterry@gccu.org

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Deer repellants	Speaking to your garden club or other group meeting
Deer repellent applications	
Tree Risk Assessment	



How to double our membership- Step 1- Everyone renews their membership by using the form below. Step 2- Everyone finds one more new member to join. Easy!

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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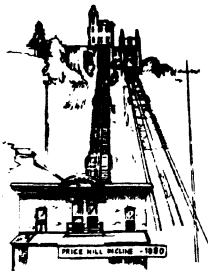
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**WCA
Christmas Party
December 5.
Details on
Page 1.**

