#### WESTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION



## WESTWORDS





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April 2009

www.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 39, Issue 4

#### Letter to Cincinnati Public School Board regarding Westwood School

Dear CPS Board Members:

I am writing in regard to a notice of appeal we received from Frost Brown Todd.

As you are aware, there has been much discussion regarding the placement of the new gym and administration buildings at Westwood School. The position of Westwood Civic Association (WCA) is that our historic district should be protected, while still developing a campus that is functional and safe for our school children. We felt that we had reached a good balance of those factors when we chose the Epworth Avenue build as the best all-around option.

WCA has worked closely with the CPS facilities staff and their design team since we first became aware of the project. It has not always been easy. We have had to insist on maintaining an open, honest, and inclusive process to make sure that everyone had an opportunity to have input. Even though we had to restart the process several times as CPS staff attempted to shield the process from public input, we were able to keep it open, and work out a reasonable plan for completing the project. Our goal is to do the best thing for our entire neighborhood. CPS seems to portray this issue as pitting the neighborhood against the students. I hope you will keep in mind that the students are part of the neighborhood, and will be the future leaders. What will the children say years from now, if they knew that today's leaders made a bad decision and used them as the justification?

From Frost Brown Todd appeal-

Furthermore, as part of its community engagement process and at the specific request of the community, CPS examined the possibility of putting the addition on the western side of the site, adjacent to Epworth Avenue, as opposed to the preferred location on the eastern side of the Site adjacent to Harrison Avenue. After careful study of the proposal to put the addition on the western side of the Site, the architects and planners contracted by CPS have concluded that the Site simply does not work from functional, safety and budget perspectives if the addition is placed on the western side of the Site. Therefore, the decision jeopardizes CPS's plans to move Westwood School back into the Building and ultimately the long-term preservation of the Building.

This is not the way the process actually unfolded, and I believe that the attorneys might be confused about the process. Both sides of the building were always considered options, and it was never discussed that the Epworth option "jeopardizes CPS's plans to move Westwood School back into the Building and ultimately the long-term preservation of the Building."

That sounds as if CPS was threatening to stop the project if they do not like the option selected by the community. WCA is in favor of completing this project as soon as possible. The "no-build" option was never on the table.

We will continue to deal with all issues using a forthright, open, and honest approach. We have gone to great lengths to insure that as many people as possible were included in the process. That is the best way to make sure that this project is completed in the best interests of everyone involved.

You may have heard about a small group of vocal opponents to the WCA's position on this issue, concerning the potential effect this project might have on one street in Westwood. They were invited to our last meeting, and were given ample time to express their views. We will continue to work closely with all of our neighbors, and will be happy to discuss this aspect with you as well. Their concerns reflect one part of the overall project, but we need to consider what is best for the entire neighborhood of 35,000 residents, which of course includes the students.

Please consider reviewing your decision on the placement of the addition, and allow WCA to explain our process and reasons for our decision for this project. We would be happy to address any concerns you might have about our position, and discuss some points of disagreement with the CPS facilities team. We feel confident that we can address all of the concerns raised by CPS, and find a way to get this project back on track.

The legal process uses up precious time and money that could go toward completing this project. Taxpayers will be paying all expenses. We ask that you consider all the costs of this unprecedented appeal, and take another look at the project with an eye toward completing it and moving on to the critical task of educating our future leaders.

Thank you for your support of our schools and our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Jim McNulty
President
Westwood Civic Association

#### President's message

Spring has definitely sprung in Westwood. The daffodils are blooming (Those yellow-flower bulb things are daffodils, right? Or are they jonquils?) and lawns are starting to green up. It is a season of hope and renewal, and there are more of us venturing out every day. It's great to see that our neighborhood is still here after a long, cold winter indoors.

Unfortunately, it's also the time when graffiti, litter, blight, and other quality of life issues start to get ahead of us. We need to take the time to report these problems to 591 -6000- immediately! The city admits that their departments are mostly complaint-driven, so if you don't report it, it is unlikely to get any attention. We determine the quality of life in Westwood, and we will get what we tolerate.

As usual, things are very busy in Westwood. We are nearing completion of our Strategic Plan. You will have plenty of opportunity to see it and comment before we submit it to the city for passage. We need your input. Also, Montana Avenue planning should be completed soon. After a long, sometimes heated process, we are all now on the same team, and the Transportation and Engineering Dept. is now using the new Montana Ave. planning process as the model for working with neighborhoods on future projects. What a difference two years make! Next- Harrison Ave. The Westwood School issue is still percolating, with CPS appealing the city's decision on the location of the additions. We are asking the city to build a new District 3 Police headquarters in Westwood. Somewhere in or near Glen Crossing would be a great location. Our web site is evolving, and contains more and more useful information each week.

During the April meeting, the WCA board of directors will elect it's new officers. During the May meeting we will hold the Student of the Year Award Ceremony. If you haven't been to a WCA meeting lately, you will be amazed at all the activity. We have to work hard, since we are the "Capital of the West Side".



See you around the neighborhood-Jim McNulty

#### Helping our neighbors

John Sess

Evelyn Freeman, a long time Westwood Concern member, expressed her frustration with the City at a WCA meeting in February. The issue involved a blighted building which had been torn down near her home, and the workers apparently threw tree branches and other debris into her neighbor's back yard at 3311 Gamble Avenue. To add insult to injury, this neighbor, who is in a nursing home, was subsequently cited by the city for having debris in her yard! Ms. Freeman was visibly upset as she explained how she tried in vain to get the City to come out and clean up the mess they made.

Since I enjoy yard work anyway, I volunteered to take a look at the situation to see if there was something I could do. I contacted the City and was able to have a large dumpster delivered to the site. Melva Gwen, Sr. Ann Renee McConn, my big brother Joe (an east-sider, no less) and I met at 10:00 AM Saturday morning with gloves, rakes, shovels, chainsaws and good cheer. After four hours of honest work, we had completely filled the 30 cubic yard dumpster with leaves and branches. We also filled a large trash can with garbage and litter. Ms. Freeman was very happy to see us and helped a bit with the clean-up.

#### Westwood Historical Society Liz Kissel, President

Westwood Library (3345 Epworth

Avenue). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sue Walpole of the Fernald Preserve will speak about the unique role that western Hamilton County played in the Cold War at the April 8 meeting of the Westwood Historical Society. Hear about the quiet farming community that was disrupted when the land was acquired by eminent domain in the early 1950s. Learn how a massive physical plant was built and operated for nearly four decades to process uranium in secret operations before eventual problems surfaced, resulting in a cleanup of the site. Fernald is now the home of a nature preserve and museum operated by the Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm and will be held at

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Westwood Civic Association P.O. Box 11466 Cincinnati, OH 45211 First, I would like to say greetings to my fellow citizens of Westwood. I hope you are enjoying the featured business in this series of articles. Any feedback would be welcome. This month we will be focusing on another of the masterful mechanics that do business in our community.

Angelo Cassaro is the proprietor of Angelo's Auto service, located at 3091 Glenmore Avenue. I have known Angelo for about a decade and a half, and was impressed with the revelation that he has been serving the Westside for over forty years. As a young man of seventeen, he worked at Century Tire Store, located at the time on Glenway Avenue, at a location that is a bowling supply store. In August of 1974, Angelo was hired to work at Yass Garage, where he worked until he established his own business. In addition, he would be hired for repair jobs from Miller's Auto Service. When Miller's proprietor was prepared to retire, the business was bought and Angelo's Automotive was established September 14, 1996 with an entrepreneurial philosophy of treating a customer the way you would want to be treated.

During our interview, Mr. Cassaro expressed a story to me of a life changing time in his life that would guide him to his lifetime vocation. At the young age of twelve, he broke his leg and was severely limited in ways to occupy his time, while having more than enough free time on his hands. His wise mother gave her son car magazines to read as well as model cars to put together. This inspired an interest in automotives, which is still a part of him today. At the age of fourteen, Angelo got his first car. He repaired and maintained it until he was able to drive.

Angelo describes his business as a small family owned business offering complete auto repair at a reasonable price. While this reflects the main core of the business, it overlooks the strong sense of family within the establishment. Angelo has employed his son, Nick at his business for the past eleven years. Customers had the privilege of seeing a young high school kid develop into a first rate family man. In addition, Randy Ellis, the son-in-law to the proprietor has been working there for the past six years.

Mr. Cassaro possesses an excellent reputation for his mechanical ability and knowledge. A since retired professional contact of mine in Columbus knew of him by both name and expertise. This contact had learned of him not through customer feedback, but instead by information relayed to him by Angelo's peers in the field of automotive repair.

In my years of knowing him, I have always seen Angelo Cassaro as a straight shooting type of guy that you know where he stands. A honest, hardworking man that does the best he is able for the customers that he serves.

This article is presented not as an advertisement or endorsement, but for informational purposes only.

Five questions with Angelo Cassaro:

- 1. Favorite Restaurant: Sakura's Steak House
- 2. Favorite Movie: Saving Private Ryan
- 3. What is your greatest accomplishment: Raising six kids with the help of his wife, and is proud of every one of them.
- 4. Favorite Dessert: Crown Royal
- 5. Favorite car that you have owned: 1967 Chevell SS396 The first fast, quality car he owned.

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NAME(S):					
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NUMBER OF ADULT	'S IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD (VOTING MEMBERS):				
CALL ME FOR: VO	LUNTEER 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 452II				
Or you could save a star you!	up and bring this with you to the next meeting—we'd be happy to see				

#### JOIN US FOR EARTH DAY! Saturday, April 18 Noon - 6:30 pm Sawyer Point

Join HCDOES in celebrating Earth Day 2009, hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition.

This year's Earth Day event, themed "One Earth....One Chance," will actively involve environmental groups, government agencies, businesses and citizens of all ages in demonstrating their contributions to the beauty and quality of life through their positive actions. Guests can enjoy the return of many fun features this year, including a climbing wall, the Ohio River Fish Tank, a meet and greet with cheetahs from the Cincinnati Zoo, craft sales and more. New to the event this year is kayak and canoe water safety pool, guaranteed to be a fun time! For more information, visit www.cincinnatiearthday.org Pg. 3

Why I like Westwood

John Sess

Most of the people I worked with were moving to Harrison. Land was cheap, wide open spaces, the smell of country air and chances were you wouldn't run into the guy you locked up last week. After work, you could hang your hat in your locker and forget about the ugliness till the next day. The vast majority of Cincinnati cops no longer lived within the city limits after the residency law was eliminated. However, I did not get caught up in the mass exodus, even though I supported their right to live where they wanted to live. Which is exactly my point; I wanted to live in Westwood.

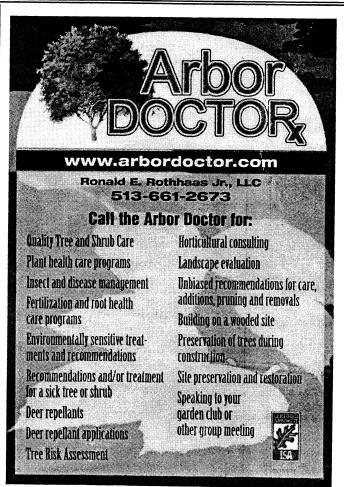
Janet and I have lived on Hildreth Avenue since January, 1979. Everything is close for us including shopping, entertainment, schools, home repair stores, restaurants etc. Our library and church are within walking distance. Our house was affordable and offered enough room to raise two kids, who have since moved on. Aside from these amenities, we really enjoy our neighbors and the neighborhood setting. Our street had the look of driving through a long, covered bridge with the maple trees holding hands high above the roadway. While walking our dogs we would enjoy chatting with those neighbors we knew and those we had just met. We went from being the "new kids on the block" with few children for our kids to play with, to empty nesters in a neighborhood filled with kids.

We have seen many changes over the years, most detrimentally of which was the influx of the *non-caring* portion of subsidized folks from the West End. Crime and blight increased significantly as neighbors moved away rather than staying and trying to stem the decline. Fortunately, our neighborhood remained relatively unscathed compared to other areas of Westwood. It was when I heard about a group called **Westwood Concern** and met the two dynamic women who dared to take a stand, that I knew I would remain and volunteer to make things a little better. I have never regretted my decision.

Westwood will endure thanks to those who get involved and volunteer their valuable time and talent. For those who care to volunteer, there are many niches available. These include Citizens on Patrol, Good Guy Loitering, Litter Patrol, Court Watch, Great American Clean-up and others. The turnaround will be realized sooner if YOU add your efforts to the cause. I know you won't regret it!

#### Westwood Civic Association Monthly Statement February, 2009

Revenue	
Membership	\$330.00
Donations	180.00
Misc.	10.00
Total Revenue	\$520.00
Expenses	
Newsletter	\$631.35
Election Dinner	80.00
Total Expenses	711.35
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	13,734.43
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$3,926.19
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	5,000.00
Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer	



#### **Westwood Branch Library**

Kathy Bach

Tax season is here! We've got the information and resources you need. Tax forms are available in our lobby or we can print them for you from the IRS website. Done with your taxes? Reward yourself. Not finished yet? Fortify yourself. Deanna Lewis returns to discuss and demonstrate the soothing power of massage on Tuesday, April 14 from 630-8 pm. Registration required!

Check out our historical photos of the old Westwood School in the display case. We need your help in identifying some of these students. These photos are on loan courtesy of the Westwood Historical Society.

Check out our "Great Cincinnati #amilies" Exhibit on display during the month of April at the Westwood Library.

The first half of this extensive exhibit on loan from the Betts House Research Center features the following prominent families from Cincinnati's rich history:

- Hauck
- Huenefeld
- Probasco-Rowe
- Taft

Thank you to the Betts House for loaning us this beautiful and informative exhibit

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

Author Visit: Popular local romance author Kemy will talk about her books and sign copies of her newest novel, Moonlit Terrace.

Saturday, April 18 from 2-4 pm

Evening Book Club: The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 pm

Tax Time Massage Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 pm

#### For Kids:

Preschool Storytime Story fun with Ms. Nancy! every Wednesday at 10:30 am Ages 3-6



#### **Westwood Wii for Tweens!**

Westwood Library now has its very own Wii!!!! Be one of the very first to try it out!!! Join your friends for the hottest games around and snacks, too.

Monday, April 13 3:00-4:00 pm Ages 8-12

#### **BINGO for Kids**

Join your friends after school and play for cool prizes! Fourth Thursday each month from 3-4 pm

Ages 6-12

Next BINGO: April 23



#### Read to Reel Movie!

Third Wednesday every month at 3:30 pm

Ages 9 and up

April 15 feature: Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (Rated PG)

#### **Teen Comic Book Drawing Series**

Teens will learn the art and business of drawing comics and create their own comic book in this eight week series with local artists Ken Henson and Matt Wright. All tools are provided. Teens are expected to make every effort to attend all sessions.

Fridays, April 10-May 29 at 3:30 pm

Ages 12-18.

Registration is required.

#### **DIY Spa Day**

Come make your own lipgloss, lotion, and more! Thursday, April 16 at 3:30 pm

Ages 12-18

Registration is required.

#### Teen Spirit

Come have your say in the Westwood Library! 4th Wednesday every month at 4:00 pm

Ages 11-18

Next Teen Spirit is April 22

Food provided.

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.cincinnatilibrary.org/programs/calendar.html

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

Hours of Operation:

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday: 12-8 Wednesday/ Friday/Saturday: 10-6

http://www.westwoodcivic.org/library/index.php



#### Westwood Encourages Well Groomed Yards Joan McLean

Spring flowers are beginning to bloom. The Westwood Civic Association has decided to continue its efforts to encourage residents to make their yards as beautiful and attractive as possible.

Starting in June the Association will be making awards to residents, businesses, apartments and churches whose

landscaping is considered to be especially outstanding and attractive. The awards will be made through September.

Residents are encouraged to nominate yards, which they

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consider worthy of consideration by calling Joan or Gil McLean at 661-6017 and, yes, you may nominate your own yard. The committee for this award cautions that all nominations will be considered however, some do not result in an award for various reasons such as: the owner does not give permission to post a sign designating the award; the award has been made to the same yard a number of times in the immediate past; or the yard nominated does not quite come up to the standards of other yards which have been nominated for that month.

Nominations must be within the boundaries of Westwood.



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#### Westwood Town Hall Center

Marlene Trapp, Service Area Coordinator

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<u>Family Fun Nights</u>: 6:30 – 8:30 pm every other Friday at the Center (3017 Harrison Avenue) Games, Crafts, Corn Hole—Free with membership. Every other Friday—call for dates.

#### **SUMMER CAMP OPEN REGISTRATION:** remains open until camps are full.

Summer Camp (Ages 6-12), Outdoor Adventure Camp (Ages 10-12), June 10<sup>th</sup> -Aug 14<sup>th</sup> -7 am -6 pm Mon-Fri - \$865 + \$8 center Membership and \$5 Pool Token) and Teen Camp (Ages 13 & 14 only) 9 am - 5 pm - Tu, Wed, & Th. Two 4 week sessions - \$450/session or \$850 for both (Plus \$8 Center Membership & \$5 Pool Token). \$275 DUE AT REGISTRATION FOR ANY CAMP.

Family Night Outdoor Movies: Fridays, April 24th (Milo & Otis) and May 22 (Toy Story). 7:30 pm Bring the family & a blanket and an appropriate toy to represent the movie. (children must be accompanied by an adult.) Free. Refreshments available for a reasonable charge. Weather permitting.

#### The Drama Workshop Production: "Messiah On The Frigidare"

May 1 through May 9th. Please call 513-598-8303 for show dates, times, and ticket information. \$13 Advance Purchase, \$15 at the door.

MadCap Puppet Theater: Saturday, May 16th, 2:00 pm \$5/per person — "Aesop's Fables" Using their world famous puppets, some of our most beloved tales are retold.

GIANT YARD SALE: Saturday, July 18 - 10 am - 3 pm - Spaces are \$15 per 10" by 10'—or \$25 for NEWLY added, larger spaces (At least 15' by 10') on lower Harrison and around the Performance Circle Venue. Regular double spaces are still \$15 each—(\$30). Registration will begin in early May.

New Classes For Adults & Seniors: Video Aerobics—\$10/month—Wednesday evenings—6:30-8 pm, Open Studio Painting: Wednesdays 10:30 am-12:30 pm \$3/class—Not an instructional class, but an opportunity for knowledgeable artists to get together and paint—MFA Certified Instructor—bring own supplies; and Wii Fun for Seniors! Most Wednesday mornings 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Wii Fit and other Wii games. Great way to exercise! Call for schedule of times.

For Youth: Home School Art/Phys Ed, Clay Handbuilding, Jewelry Making, Cooking With Vikki and much, much more!

Please call 662-9109 for further information or for a full schedule of events.

#### WCA OFFICERS

Term: April 2009- April 2010

#### PRESIDENT-

*Jim McNulty.				662-8560
*Jim McNulty.	ICE PI	RESI	DENT-	
*Melva Gweyr	1			481-0761
V	ICE P	RESI	DENT-	
*John Sess				481-1957
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TREASURER-

\*Valerie Baumann....

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\*Kathy Bach

\*Rick Boyd \*Dick Finn

\*Randy Hammann

\*Nick Hollan

\*Mary Kuhl \*Brian Lee

\*Trent Lewis

\*Sr. Ann Rene McConn

\*Becky Weber

#### Discount Compost Bins Available

Want to turn your old coffee grounds and banana peels into a valuable soil amendment for your garden? You can by starting your own backyard compost pile. On Saturday, May 2nd at Harvest Home Park in Cheviot, residents can purchase an Earth Machine backyard composter for only \$35 (cash or check only). This user friendly bin usually retails for \$100 and is the top-selling bin in North America.

The one-day only sale of backyard compost bins will take place on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 3pm at Harvest Home Park, 3961 North Bend Road, in Cheviot. A limited number of bins are available and the event sold out last year. For more information, call the Composting and Yardwaste Hotline at 946-7755 or visit www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org.

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LISA WILLIAMS-TERRY BRANCH MANAGER



Westwood Branch 3287 Werk Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

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GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Meet at Westwood Town Hall

Bring your gloves and be sure to wear old clothes.



