



# WESTWORDS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



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March, 2010

[www.westwoodcivic.org](http://www.westwoodcivic.org)

Volume 40, Issue 3

## JAMES N. GAMBLE HOUSE FACES POTENTIAL DEMOLITION

The grand Victorian home located at 2918 Werk Road, fondly referred to as the Gamble House by local residents, is being scheduled for potential demolition, perhaps as early as March of this year. Various efforts are underway, fueled by massive public support to stop the demolition and the situation seems to change daily. Part of that effort is the process that is underway to have the home receive a local historic landmark designation (a City of Cincinnati designation which is taken into consideration when owners apply for demolition permits). By the time this reaches your mailbox, much may have already happened - hopefully to secure a future for the house. An amazing number of people have been following the progress of this situation through the Westwood Concern website and a Facebook account.



Ownership of the property was transferred in August 2009 from the Louise Dieterle Trust to the Greenacres Foundation. Faced with two minor city code violations (peeling paint and a sidewalk in need of repair), the owners of the property have decided not to comply with the orders against the house and have begun taking bids for its demolition because the house was not part of their overall plan to use the property and outbuildings for nature education programs.

Although the history of the property dates back to the early days of the village of Westwood, it is most often associated with James Norris Gamble, son of the co-founder of Procter & Gamble, who lived in the house from 1875 until his death in 1932. Some of Mr. Gamble's accomplishments during his time of residence at 2918 Werk Road include the invention of Ivory Soap, helping to found the United Way, funding the construction of Nippert Stadium at the University of Cincinnati, overseeing the construction of Ivorydale, funding Christ Hospital and financing the construction of its world-class Institute of Medical Research, modernizing the Cincinnati & Westwood Railroad, helping to construct the Westwood Town Hall and the Westwood School, helping connect the Western Hills with the city proper, funding the construction of the Methodist Church in Westwood (and playing a role in the financing of nearly every church constructed in the Western Hills during his lifetime), and hiring Thomas A. Edison to develop the forerunner of the teletype machine. One of the first telephones to ring in the village was Mr. Gamble's. The first sidewalks in Westwood were laid in front of the home at 2918 Werk Road. Mr. Gamble was the last mayor of the Village of Westwood before its annexation into the City of Cincinnati. He fought in the Civil War, and helped found the Freedmen's Aid Society after the war. Well-loved and respected by all, Mr. Gamble collected several fond nicknames during his lifetime of work, including "Builder of Churches," "Patriarch of the Western Hills," and "Cincinnati's Grand Old Man."



Olivia Gamble, daughter of James N. Gamble and Margaret Penrose Gamble, was the last family member to live in the house full-time. Olivia died in 1961; from that time until 1992, the house was perfectly preserved due to the efforts of Louis & Louise Nippert, even earning the couple an award for historic preservation in 1991 from the Miami Purchase Association. It is clear from research and the recollection of local residents that the home continued to receive proper maintenance at least until 1997 - perhaps even as recent as 2000-2001, due to the continued efforts of Mr. Cecil Harry, the long-time caretaker for the house and grounds. At sometime prior to 2006, the maintenance and repairs on the house stopped and the once-grand structure has been in a state of decline ever since.

*Cincitalia!*  
*The Cincinnati Italian Festival*



This fabulous Italian Festival proudly brought to you by St. Catharine of Siena Church and School  
Cincitalia! The Cincinnati Italian Festival Cincinnati's 1st Annual Italian Festival with lots of great food and music. Come and see the cultural displays, Italian Car show, folk dancing and much more. Bring the whole family for rides, games and crafts for the kids, games of skill and chance for the adults. Grab an espresso, watch the Italian Fashion show, attend a wine tasting and take a free Italian lesson. There's something for everyone at Cincitalia! Festival!

**Friday, May 14 - Sunday, May 16**  
**Harvest Home Park in Cheviot**

Don't forget to check us out on Facebook for more goodies!!

[www.stcfestival.org](http://www.stcfestival.org)  
[www.cincitalia.org](http://www.cincitalia.org)

**Troop 177/Pack 188 Scout Spaghetti Dinner**

The scouts at St. Catharine know how to put on a Spaghetti Dinner. Enjoy a generous portion of pasta with your choice of 3 homemade sauces; our slow-simmered Marinara made with red wine, the spicy Forte with crushed red pepper and extra garlic or the creamy San Lucia with sun-dried tomatoes, chicken and artichokes. Served with hot Italian bread and roasted garlic, salad, dessert and drink and unlimited coffee for only \$8.50. Discounts for Seniors and children under 12. Bring Mom for an early Mother's Day treat.



Family, friends, music and some really good food.

**St. Catherine of Siena**  
**Saturday, May 8 - 5:00 PM**

**Members!**

Is it time for you to renew?  
Please check your mailing label on this newsletter. **If the year above your name is 2009, you are due to renew.** Dues are based on the calendar year, and our membership list will be purged next month. You will find an application in this newsletter. Just mail it with \$10 to the PO box on the form.



Membership forms are also available online at [westwoodcivic.org](http://westwoodcivic.org) Invite your friends and neighbors to join!

**NSP Funds**

**Joel Kimmett**

The Westwood Civic Association will be deciding on our 2010 Neighborhood Support Program (City NSP) spending categories during the



regular March 16 meeting. The NSP money has been \$7000 per neighborhood in the past, but has been lowered to \$4700 for 2010. A vote will be taken at this meeting concerning Westwood 2010 NSP spending categories. All Westwood residents are eligible to vote on the way we use this money, within program guidelines, of course. In past years, we have used NSP funding to create and mail this monthly Newsletter, as well as Neighborhood Improvement Projects and Membership Promotion Projects. Please come, let your voice be heard, and help us improve our Neighborhood."

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

<b>Revenue</b>	
Membership	\$350.00
Donations	95.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$445.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Newsletter	\$409.98
Bureau Worker's Comp	50.00
Miscellaneous	25.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$484.98</b>
 CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	 \$12,179.03
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$3,936.02
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	\$5,000.00

**Submitted by: Valerie Baumann, Treasurer**

**WCA OFFICERS**  
Term: April 2009 - April 2010

- PRESIDENT-**
- \*John Sess.....481-1957
- VICE PRESIDENT-**
- \*Brian Lee.....379-9208
- VICE PRESIDENT-**
- \*Jim McNulty.....662-8560
- RECORDING SECRETARY-**
- \*Kathy Bach.....470-5019
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- \*Valerie Baumann.....
- MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY-**
- \*Irene McNulty.....662-8560

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Neighborhood Support Program,  
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For information on placing an ad, contact:  
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bmimmy@aol.com or

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

**Congratulations Mercy Girls!!!**  
**Lisa Mahon Fluegeman**

Recently, in welcoming scholarship winners from the 8th grade, Mercy President Kirsten MacDougal said, "the amazing accomplishments of the students of Mother of Mercy High School are starting to capture the attention they deserve and people are realizing there exists an institution for girls, like no other, right here on Werk Road in Westwood. Many new families have been thinking Mercy now and many others have been asking, "What have we been missing?!" Mercy, itself, has simply continued this year to do what it has always done – provide the very best Catholic girls' high school education and produce outstanding results in every arena. As a single-sex school with a student body of 495, it is quite impressive to be able to write that Mercy currently has two National Merit Finalists and four Semi-Finalists; nine of our seniors are being sought by the prestigious College of DAAP at U.C.; two seniors at Mercy are among 40 finalists from more than 9,000 applicants nationwide for a full-ride to the University of South Carolina; Mercy is again the only all-girls school advancing to Regionals in Mock Trial; and likely, this senior class will impress us as well with continuing such statistics as 100% continuing on to higher education and scholarship offers well over \$7 million." Mercy is truly a gem, right in the heart of Westwood!



**Westwood Historical Society**

**Liz Kissel**

**The Rookwood Pottery Story**

Christopher Rose, CEO of Rookwood Pottery, will speak at the March 10, Westwood Historical Society meeting. He will tell the story of how the company started and evolved to become one of the most successful art pottery companies before its subsequent decline. We will hear the latest chapter that started in 2002 when he began his quest to bring Rookwood Pottery back home to Cincinnati where it belongs and his plans for the future of Rookwood.



The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Westwood Library (3345 Epworth Avenue). All are welcome to attend.

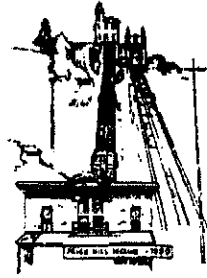
**Home tour info:2010 Westwood Home Tour:**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 25. You will not want to miss the 5th Westwood Home Tour when we will once again feature a selection of great homes.

The tour starts at Mother of Mercy High School (3036 Werk Road). Hours are 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm.

Tickets are \$12 on the day of the tour. Presale ticket vouchers will be available for \$10 beginning April 1 at Henke Winery (3077 Harrison Avenue) and the Westwood-Cheviot US Bank branch (3168 Harrison Avenue).

If you'd like to volunteer, or be sponsor, or have questions, call 662-1156.



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- Site preservation and restoration
- Speaking to your garden club or other group meeting

**Ash trees on your property?**

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**Call Arbor Doctor Before Your Tree Gets Too Sick to Curb the Problem!**



OH 5177A

# Cincinnati Recreation Commission

Westwood Town Hall 3017 Harrison Avenue  
662-9109

**MADCAP PUPPETS:** "Marco Polo & The Silk Road"  
Saturday, March 20 at 2 pm. Still a real bargain at ONLY \$5/pp.  
Advance tickets available in March.

**BUNNY RUN EASTER EGG HUNT:** Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>  
-- 2 pm -- \$3/child. "Rain or shine" Ages 10 & under. Lots  
of loot for the youngsters! Please bring a basket or bag.  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.



**The Drama Workshop:** returns in March with the play "Comic  
Potential". Tickets can be purchased on line by going to  
[www.thedramaworkshop.org](http://www.thedramaworkshop.org) or by calling: 598-8303. Show dates are  
March 5, 6, 11, 12, & 13 at 8 PM and March 3 & 13 at 3 PM.

**Pilates:** returns Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 pm. \$8/person/class.

**ZUMBA CLASS STARTS:** Mondays & Thursdays, March 29 from 6:30-  
7:15 pm and only costs \$4/class/person. Latin Beat, high energy fitness  
class. All the rage now!

**GUITAR CLASSES:** Mondays & Wednesdays, starting March  
29<sup>th</sup> -- 5:30-6:15 pm. \$80 for 8 weeks of lessons—limit of 10  
students per class. Ages 8 & older. Class will end in a Stage  
Performance for family members. Mark Deppenbrock of Guitar  
Club USA is the instructor. [www.guitarclubusa.org](http://www.guitarclubusa.org) for more  
information.

**SUMMER DAY CAMP:** Open Registration begins March 8<sup>th</sup>. \$200 + \$10  
membership/pool pass/child is due at Registration. Camp starts Wed.,  
June 9 and runs thru Friday, August 13. Camp Hours: 7am-6pm. A  
bargain at about \$100/week/child.

**CROCHETING:** Wednesdays, beginning January 20 at 6:30 – 8:00 pm.  
Only \$2/class. Learn how to crochet or work on your projects while chat-  
ting with friends.

**AFRICAN DRUM CLASS COMING:** Tuesdays 6:30pm. More details as  
they become finalized.  
Youth to 12 years \$5/class; 13-17--\$7/class & Adults--\$10 class.

**CRC MEMBERSHIPS:** Go on sale March 1<sup>st</sup>. New this year, they are  
good at ALL CRC Centers. No longer do you have to have a membership  
to each center. Junior Memberships, age 17 & under, and Senior Mem-  
berships, age 50 +, are only \$10 and include admittance to all CRC  
Pools also, except the Dunham Complex. Adult Memberships cost \$25  
for both center and pool admittance or \$20 if you opt out on the pools and  
only want the 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.

Check out our full program guide at [www.cincyrec.org](http://www.cincyrec.org). New classes have  
been added for youth and teens. Don't forget about our standards either:  
Sewing, Magic, Afterschool Camp, Homeschool Art, Double Dutch, vari-  
ous Arts & Crafts, and Passport to Fishing.

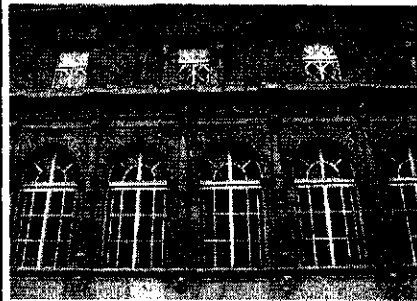
Marlene Trapp - Service Area Coordinator

Update from WestCURC  
Sr. Ann Rene McConn & Kathy Bach

**A building – residential or commercial**  
Is it a commodity or a resource – or both, in  
proportion?

What do you think?

1. Why do the "owners – donor" of the  
Gamble building think it is just a  
commodity?



2. Why is it  
important to  
preserve, improve,  
and promote the  
use of the Bell  
building?

3. Is a house purchased out of  
foreclosure, rehabbed to like-new status,  
and sold to a prepared homebuyer a  
commodity or a resource? Or both?



4. What makes a building a resource?

*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

Follow us on twitter: <http://twitter.com/westcurc>

This has been such a long Winter and I am so, so ready for Spring! Who's with me? March is here and Westwood Library is **Going Green!** Check out our display of "All Things Irish." Listen to Celtic music from Cincinnati's own **Foley Road** (named after the street in Delhi)! Come to one of our green programs! We're having a whole Green series. First, join us for **Save Energy, Save Green** with Westwood's own Susan VonderHaar. Then, come back for our **Window Restoration Workshop** brought to you by Cincinnati Preservation Association. Bring the kids to **The Lorax** with the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District. Get details on all these green programs below.

**Tax Time:**

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.

**Volunteer Opportunity:**

Do you want to help out in your community? We could use a volunteer on Tuesdays mornings to help us keep the library in good order for our customers. If interested contact Kathy at 369-4474.

**FOR FAMILIES**

**Tunes for St. Paddy!**

Celtic/folk band **Foley Road** returns with seasonal favorites. Get your green on & bring the family.

Saturday, March 13, 2:00 p.m.

All ages

**Save Energy, Save Green**

Join environmental scientists and educators for this workshop full of games and fun learning exploring home energy usage, the cost to consumers, and to our natural environment. Learn about the impact of your personal consumption, the science of climate change, and steps to take for reducing your energy bills and impact with Westwood resident Susan VonderHaar from SaveEnergyCincy. Interesting and enjoyable for homeowners, renters, and their families. Prizes and refreshments

Saturday, March 6, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Adults : 12 & Up

**FOR ADULTS**

**Westwood Threads Returns!**

Bring your needlework projects and join us for fiber arts and needle crafts.

First Monday of every month, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Teens & Adults

**Evening Book Club: *The Mistress's Daughter* by A.M. Holmes**

Holmes

Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Adults

**Wood Window Restoration Workshop**

Learn more about the art of wood window repair & restoration with this hands-on demonstration with award-winning restoration contractor Ken Hughes of Decorative Restorations. Learn how to rebuild deteriorated sashes and frames, re-rope weights in double-hung sash, and replace broken glass, as well as a demonstration of the art of glazing. There will be a brief discussion on different window types, including art glass, and various kinds of window hardware—latches, pulls—and their uses. Suggestions will be provided on improving the thermal performance of windows, including weather-stripping and appropriate storm windows.

Adults

Saturday, March 27 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**FOR KIDS:**

**Movers & Shakers!**

Music, Movement & Fun!

every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Ages 1-3

**BINGO for Kids**

Play for fun and fabulous prizes!

Thursday, March 25 at 3 p.m.

Ages 6-12

**The Lorax**

Learn more about the story behind Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* and how industrialization affects our environment with Gwen Roth from the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Tuesday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Ages 8 & under

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

Westwood Branch Library

Hours of Operation:

3345 Epworth Avenue

Mon./Tues./Thurs. - 12-8

513-369-4474

Wed./ Fri./Sat. - 10-6

[www.cincinnatiilibrary.org](http://www.cincinnatiilibrary.org)

**Upcoming  
Westwood Civic Association  
Meetings & Events**

- 3/9 Steering Meeting
- 3/16 Regular Meeting
- 4/12 Steering Meeting
- 4/19 Regular 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.*

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## Westwood Citizens on Patrol

A COMMUNITY BASED DIVISION OF THE CINCINNATI POLICE



For a membership application  
or to report issues of concern

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



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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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Email: [lterry@gccu.org](mailto:lterry@gccu.org)

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owner

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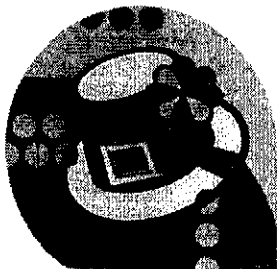
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