



WESTWORDS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



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April, 2010

www.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 40, Issue 4

My fellow Westwoodians,

I'd like to bring you up to speed on some recent events in our neighborhood.

We are expecting the large dilapidated apartment building at Harrison and Talbott to be razed in mid-April. **Joel Kimmett** and **Jim McNulty** have been pursuing this property for many months and it looks like they've finally succeeded. Some results are being seen with the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance. Irresponsible landlords of multi-unit apartment buildings are now being billed for repeat calls for police service. A big shout-out goes to **Becky Weber** and **Chris Kearney** for their diligent efforts.

If you're seeing fewer yard signs in the public right-of-way, our treasurer and neighborhood sign collector **Valerie Baumann** deserves a pat on the back.

An important meeting is scheduled for May 5th 6:30 PM at Midway school. The group **Citizens for Civic Renewal** will be hosting a citizen forum to discuss the 2011-2012 budget for the City of Cincinnati. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend to provide input as to how your tax dollars are to be spent. Don't wait till the last minute and complain! Here's your opportunity to have input in advance. **Nicholas Hollan** will be presenting the annual student awards at the May meeting. The principals of our Westwood schools will pick one deserving student for recognition.

We welcome our two new board members, **Joe Henke** and **Mitch Neeld** as we thank our outgoing members, **Randy Hammann** and **Dick Finn**. We are fortunate to have energetic folks volunteering to make our neighborhood a great place to live.

John Sess, President
Westwood Civic Association

5th Westwood Home Tour

Sunday, April 25

1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mother of Mercy High School

3036 Werk Road (Epworth Avenue entrance).

The featured homes uniquely capture the diversity of houses found in Westwood from small and simple to grand and ornate. They reflect the different tastes and lives of their original owners as well as those of the current owners.



Most of these nineteenth century and early twentieth century homes were built during the time when Westwood growth was booming. Over time, most of the homes have been altered and thoughtfully renovated to update them while at the same time, preserving their character. Architectural details range from whimsical to practical. Also featured on the tour is Grace Lutheran Church, one of the churches built during the same era.

Tickets are \$12 on the day of the tour. They will be available at the school starting at 12:30 p.m. (homes will not be open until 1:00 p.m.)

Advance sale tickets are \$10. They are available at Henke Winery (3077 Harrison Avenue) and US Bank Westwood-Cheviot Office (3168 Harrison Avenue). For more information, go to www.westwoodhistorical.org, or (513) 533-6760.

The tour has received generous financial support from Presenting Sponsor US Bank, as well as Home Sponsors, including Cagney, Weisker & Associates, Rick and Holly Finn of Coldwell Banker West Shell, Henke Winery, Hoeting Realtors, George Keller Woodworking, Pete and Mark Minges of Neidhard Minges Funeral Homes, Player Piano Shop, Adam Sanregret of Huff Realty, and Westwood Concern /Westwood Citizens on Patrol.

2010 Best of Cincinnati (CityBeat)

WESTWOOD

"Best City Neighborhood With the Most Misconceptions"

To a lot of outsiders, Cincinnati's largest neighborhood, Westwood, is considered a somewhat low-income, high-crime "ghetto" type area. Yet residents take pride in the diversity of their neighborhood and get behind programs to help improve it, assigning a blight prosecutor who addresses neighborhood issues such as trash, graffiti, loitering and crime. Residents also recently protested the possible tearing down of the historic Gamble estate on Werk Road. The Westwood Civic Association regularly encourages residents to take pride in their property by sponsoring 'best lawn' and 'flag' contests. www.westwoodcivic.org

James N. Gamble House Update
Liz Kissel

We are cautiously optimistic about the future of the James N. Gamble house. Things are moving forward on several different fronts at the same time:



- 1) The local historic designation is still being sought. It was unanimously approved by the Historic Conservation Board and then the City Planning Commission. The next step involves going to City Council for approval (after making a stop first in the Livable Communities Committee). A date for these sessions have not yet been established, but they will offer opportunities for community members to again be visible and show support (this last step is the most political since we will be dealing with elected officials). This designation helps to delay the issue of a demolition permit. It is also very important when applying for grants to help pay for restoration work.
- 2) Members of the Westwood community along with Cincinnati Preservation Association (CPA), and other interested parties are working on a proposal to present within the next couple of months to the Greenacres Foundation regarding the future of the house. CPA is experienced at this type of process and is taking the lead in crafting the plan. A critical part of the proposal will be pulling together all the financing needed not only to restore the house, but also possibly to acquire it, and very importantly, to establish an endowment that will help sustain the building in the long haul. They are exploring various grant opportunities.

A community fund raising effort has also started in order to have money available by the time the proposal is presented to the Foundation. Feel free to contact CPA (721-4506 or www.cincinnati-preservation.org) or Greg Kissel (662-1156) if you have specific questions about donations or are interested in talking about a pledge versus giving a donation at this time. You can make donations through www.SaveTheGambleHouse.org or can send a check to Cincinnati Preservation, 342 West Fourth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (be sure to designate it for the James N. Gamble House). Donations are tax deductible.

- 3) Greenacres Foundation is continuing to pursue a demolition permit to keep their "options open." As a result, they have continued with the lawsuit they originally filed against the City, alleging that their permit was unfairly being held up. The second court hearing took place on March 26. After 5 hours, the judge decided to take all of the information under advisement and is making arrangements to visit the house. He will not make any decisions at least until early May.

Hi Westwood Garden Volunteers,

Westwood Town Hall Spring Cleanup



Please mark your calendars for **April 24th 9am - 12pm**, the big city wide 2010 Great American Cleanup cosponsored by The Cincinnati Park Board and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.

This is our 8th year of participating and we need your help. This year we especially need adult supervisors to help with our great student volunteers from our local schools. We will be focusing on the grounds of the Westwood Town Hall and the neighborhood surrounding it.

We will be spreading lots of mulch, raking, picking up litter, pruning, planting spring flowers and anything else that needs to be done.

The plan is for pizza and refreshments around 11:45am to be finished hopefully by 12pm.

Please remember to bring work gloves to wear, old shoes that will protect your feet and wear old clothes. It would be very helpful if you could bring your own leaf rakes, shovels and wheelbarrows to help with the mulch. Please write your name on your tools with permanent marker.

If it is actively raining Saturday morning we will cancel and reschedule for the following day, Sunday, April 25, 9am - 12pm. I will send out an email that morning about the status so if you would like to be added to the garden volunteer email list please send me your email address to paperpeg@cinci.rr.com

Email me if you can help us. I really need adults to help instruct and guide our volunteers to make the best use of everyone's time. Look forward to your help in beautifying the grounds of the Westwood Town Hall.

Peg Rhein
Westwood Town Hall
Volunteer Coordinator

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There was no election for WCA Board of Directors again this year, since we had five nominations for five slots. We have two new directors- Joe Henke and Mitch Neeld.

Now it is time to select our officers for the coming year.

The board of directors will select the new officers during the steering committee meeting on April 13 at 7:00 pm.

The offices are-

President

Vice President (2)

Recording Secretary

Treasurer

Membership Secretary

The officers must be members of the board of directors, except for the Recording Secretary and Membership Secretary, who can be any member in good standing.

During this meeting we will also select our committees, including the steering committee, and the Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC) representatives for our public schools.

Please attend, or contact info@westwoodcivic.org if you are interested in any of these positions.

Westwood Historical Society Meeting
Lifestyles Then and Now or What is Old is New Again
Wednesday, April 14
7:00 PM
Westwood First Presbyterian Church
(3011 Harrison Avenue)

The Betts House in the Betts-Longworth Historic District was built in 1804 and is the oldest surviving brick building in Cincinnati. Julie Carpenter, Executive Director of Betts House, will take us back to early 19th century Cincinnati and compare the lifestyles of the early settlers to our own including a look at eco-friendly behavior. Were they more "green" or are we? She will also look at the notion of "progress" and how we now seek solutions to modern lifestyle problems by looking at how people lived in the past. (This program was originally scheduled for the February meeting that got snowed out.)

SAVE THE DATE:
WESTWOOD ART SHOW
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

DATER MONTESSORI RETURNING TO WESTWOOD

OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14
5 PM - 7 PM

Update from WestCURC

by Sr. Ann Rene McConn



Ann Rene McConn attended the conference hosted by the Cincinnati Chapter of the Urban Land Institute March 26 and 27. The conference focused on "workplace housing" and walk-able neighborhoods. By next month the talks given by the speakers will be available on the website ULI.org. For now, here's something to think about. When we speak of housing costs, we usually think of mortgage, taxes, and insurance. Studies done of the costs of housing related to foreclosure have revealed another "cost of housing -- the cost of transportation to and from work. In many suburbs, the total cost of housing and transportation (that is cars) equals 54% of earned income. That's why locations more than 15 miles from the city center have the greatest rates of foreclosure. Westwood, indeed, most neighborhoods in the City were built to provide easy access to the city center. Civic groups can work together to strengthen those ties, thereby promoting prosperity.

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>

SUMMER DAY CAMP - Some spaces remain in our popular Summer Day Camp Programs. We still have openings in our Sports Camp and our regular Day Camp—ages 6-12 years. Registration is only \$210—(\$200 + \$10 membership/pool pass/child). Camp starts Wed., June 9 and runs thru Friday, August 13. Camp Hours: 7am-6pm. A bargain at about \$100/week/child.

PRESCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMS (ages 3-5) Two Sessions: \$40 each session

Wednesdays—Animal Adventures:

Session 1 – June 16 - July 7th & Session 2 – July 14 - Aug. 4.

Thursdays—Fun in the Sun

Session 1 – June 17 - July 8 & Session 2 – July 15 - Aug. 5

Registration begins April 20 and continues until sessions are full. Payment is due at time of registration.

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!

STEP AEROBICS will move to Wednesdays from 6:30-7:15 and is still only \$4/class. We're cheaper than Fitness Clubs. You might want to check out our Fitness programs.

GUITAR CLASSES: Mondays & Wednesdays, Starting March 29 - 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 for more information. Another session may follow if you missed this one.



CRC MEMBERSHIPS: Have been on sale since March 1. 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.

Our full program guide is available at www.cincyrec.org. New classes have been added such as another session for Sewing Class, Afterschool Camp, Double Dutch, various Arts & Crafts, and Passport to Fishing.

"CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF" -- The Drama Workshop
April 30 – May 8


This Tennessee Williams Classic is brought to life this April on stage at Westwood Town Hall.



As Big Daddy lies dying, the saga of Maggie and Brick takes a downward spiral as Brick prefers to stay in a mild alcoholic daze their entire visit to the plantation. Adult content.


TDW-598-8303 for tickets—or www.thedramaworkshop.org to order on line. Matinees on May 2 & May 8 at 3 pm. Evening performances on April 30, May 1, 5, 7 & 8. Evening performances begin at 8 pm. Refreshments available at intermission. If you aren't already a patron, this might be a great one to start with.

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



For a membership application
or to report issues of concern

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Email: lterry@gccu.org

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

Revenue

Advertising \$160.00
Membership 70.00

Total Revenue \$230.00

Expenses

Newsletter \$410.94
Beerslide 294.00
Westfest 2010 Booth 275.00
OH Secy of State 25.00

Total Expenses \$1,004.94

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE \$11,404.09

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

TREASURER-

*Valerie Baumann.....

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY-

*Irene McNulty.....662-8560

***WCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- *Rick Boyd
- *Dick Finn
- *Melva Gweyn
- *Randy Hammann
- *Nick Hollan
- *Joel Kimmel
- *Mary Kuhl
- *Trent Lewis
- *Sr. Ann Rene McConn
- *Becky Weber

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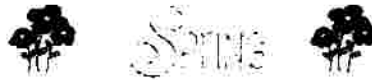
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\$100.00.....Full Page
\$50.00.....Half Page
\$25.00.....Quarter Page
\$10.00.....Business Card
\$50.00.....Insert

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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

**Spring is in the air!**

Do you need some fresh ideas for your garden? Check out our excellent collection of gardening books. We also carry magazine subscriptions to *Fine Gardening*, *Herb Companion*, and *Better Homes & Gardens*. You can check out books and magazines for 3 weeks and renew them if you need more 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.

Done with your taxes? Reward yourself. Not finished yet? Fortify yourself with a **Tax Time Massage**. Deanna Lewis returns to discuss and demonstrate the soothing power of massage on **Wednesday, April 14 at 4 pm.**

Displays:

Spring is full of new beginnings. To celebrate, we have a fun new **display of baby pictures** in our display case. See if you can guess who's who!

We also have fun spring displays of books, such as **baseball**, and **National Turn off your TV week**.

Self Check-Out is coming!

April 29 you will be able to check out your own materials. 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

Join us at the Westwood Branch Library for these exciting programs!

Programs:

For information on any of our programs, please contact us at 369-4474.

Reverse Mortgage with Howard Haskins-Monday

April 12 at 2:00 p.m.-Adults

Westwood native Howard Haskins of VanDyk Mortgage explains the basics of this important tool for financial flexibility.

Adult Book Club 4th Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

April 22--*Save Fish From Drowning* by Amy Tan
Copies available for checkout at our front desk.

Westwood Threads - First Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. - Adults & Teens

Bring your needlework projects and join us.

**Tax Time Massage** - Wednesday April 14 at 2:00 p.m. - Adults

Done with your taxes? Reward yourself. Not finished yet? Fortify yourself. Deanna Lewis returns to discuss & demonstrate the soothing power of massage.

GED Practice Test - Thursday April 29 at 12:30 p.m.

- Adults

Determine if you are ready to take the Official GED test. Call (513) 369-4570 to register

Movers & Shakers - Every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

- Ages 12 - 36 months



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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./Thur.: 12-8
Wed./Fri./Sat.: 10-6

**Upcoming
Westwood Civic Association
Meetings & Events**

- 4/13 Steering Meeting
- 4/20 Annual Dinner
- 5/10 Steering Meeting
- 5/17 General Meeting/Student Awards

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: _____ ACTIVITIES _____ 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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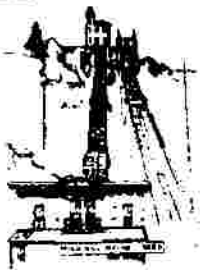


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WCA ANNUAL DINNER Tuesday, April 20, 2010

6:30PM - SOCIAL TIME AND APPETIZERS

7:00PM - DINNER

Choice of Spaghetti & meat balls or
Marinara with salad & bread stick

\$9.95



Everyone's welcome

Reservations requested

Call Joe Henke - 662-9463

Come and join the fun!!!

.....AUTO**SCH 5-DIGIT 45211 109 2

