



WESTWORDS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



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March, 2011

www.westwoodcivic.org

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GAMBLE HOUSE

On December 6, the Historic Conservation Board denied a request by the Greenacres Foundation to get permission for a demolition permit. (The house now has a special zoning designation because it is historic so they needed the Board to award them a *Certificate of Appropriateness* to get the permit.) Greenacres appealed the decision. The hearing for the appeal took place February 28 in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals voted to stand behind the original decision by the Historic Conservation Board - the Foundation was not awarded the *Certificate* needed for a demolition permit.

On March 2, a hearing takes place in front of the Housing Board of Appeals. The Greenacres Foundation filed an appeal objecting to the need to follow through with the requirements spelled out for a VBML (Vacant Building Maintenance License).

The Foundation can (and likely will) go the next step and continue to attempt to get the permit.

GREENACRES FOUNDATION ZEALOUSLY PURSUES THE DESTRUCTION OF CINCINNATI HISTORY

Bob Prokop

The Greenacres Foundation has relentlessly pursued demolition of the Historic James N. Gamble house for over 12 months now. Most recently, Ohio's wealthiest non-profit organization re-



jected two offers from the community to purchase the home. The first offer, worth in excess of \$700,000 represented an attempt to preserve the Gamble Estate in its entirety: all 23 acres plus outbuildings and main house. The offer was \$80,000 more than the appraisal Greenacres received in November of 2009, for the

"...historic Gamble estate." The Greenacres Foundation rejected it verbally, without even reviewing any documents or financials. The final offer of \$250,000 presented to the Foundation's attorney, C. Francis Barrett, was made by the Cincinnati Preservation Association. The offer was seeking only the main house and just a portion of the home's 3-acre lot, which is now a protected historic overlay district. The price was far more than market value, for either the land or the house. Greenacres Foundation rejected it, and declared their intent to pursue demolition through the courts. It became clear that if Westwood wished to protect this irreplaceable national treasure, it needed to have its voice heard in the courts as well.

Liz Kissel

WESTWOOD JOINS LAWSUIT

On December 2, 2010, the Westwood Civic Association, Westwood Historical Society, and several Westwood residents whose properties abut the historic James N. Gamble estate hired Attorney Timothy G. Mara to represent the community's interests in the preservation of this national treasure. On December 3, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio granted Mr. Mara's request to Intervene on behalf of the community with regard to the lawsuit Greenacres Foundation filed against the City of Cincinnati. As a result, Westwood now has a clear voice in the courtroom.

The Historic James N. Gamble House Legal Fund has been established to help defray the costs associated with defending our City's history. Your donation could mean the difference between demolition today or restoration tomorrow.

RECENT INSPECTION BY CITY OFFICIALS REVEALS FURTHER DISMANTLING OF HISTORIC LANDMARK

A recent inspection by the City of Cincinnati's Building & Inspections Department revealed the extent of de-construction overseen by Carter Randolph. Among the items removed from the home: 34 interior doors, 15 interior chandeliers, 2,909 feet of interior trim, 122 balusters, and 51 feet of handrail. The act of stripping an historic structure of its interior elements is a tactic often used to discourage those who disagree with the owners' decision to demolish rather than preserve. Do not let it dishearten you. Instead, channel those feelings into action: make a donation to the Historic James N. Gamble House Legal Fund.

DONATE ONLINE

Visit www.savethegamblehouse.org/legal-fund and use the secure PayPal donation screen to make your contribution towards the preservation of this historic landmark structure.

DONATE BY MAIL

Please make checks payable to Timothy Mara. Write "Gamble House" in the memo line, and mail to:

Attorney Timothy Mara
1600 Scripps Center
312 Walnut Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202



President's Message

John Sess

The Westwood Civic Board of Directors is currently short a member. If you would like to volunteer to be a member of the board, please contact me at info@westwoodcivic.org with your request. There's lots to do in many areas of civic involvement. So if you're between 18 and 118, please consider being a part of your board.

The Great American Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th from 9:00 AM till noon. Once again, we will meet at the historic Westwood Town Hall and disperse from there. We need groups of three or four to spruce up our Westwood Gateways, selected spots for litter patrol, spreading mulch and planting flowers at the Town Hall. Please mark your calendar for this fun-filled day, followed by pizza and drinks from the Westwood Civic Association.

Westwood Civic Association Board Of Directors Election News:

Again this year there was no need for an election, since there was not more than the maximum of five nominees. We will now have 13 of the 15 board positions filled. The remaining positions can be filled at anytime during the year, from the membership list. The new term will begin at the April meeting.

We welcome two new board members:

Karen Strasser and Mary Jenkins.

Trent Lewis, Kathy Bach, Nick Hollan, and Rick Boyd have decided not to serve another term. So here is how our new board will look as of April 2011.

Term expiring	Term expiring	Term expiring
APRIL 2012	April 2013	APRIL 2014
Jerry Hildebrand	Valerie Baumann	Joel Kimmet
Mary Kuhl	John Sess	Karen Strasser
Sr. Ann Rene McConn	Joe Henke	Mary Jenkins
Jim McNulty	Melva Gweyn	Becky Weber
(VACANT POSITION)	Mitch Neeld	(VACANT POSITION)

WCA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

KAREN STRASSER:

With a hand on the pulse of our community, Westwood resident Karen Strasser has been involved in the heart of our community for nearly 20 years. Karen has been instrumental in organizing Westwood Block Watch and continues to expand this vital organization while managing the group's activities. Focusing on the area of social responsibility, Karen serves as both the Board Chair and Annual Fund Drive Chair for the Gamble-Nippert YMCA and is a Board of Trustee member for the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati Association.

Having resided on Hildreth Avenue for 19 years, Karen and her husband Jim are the owners of the Albert-James Company, offering sales and service for commercial espresso machines in the Tri-State area. They have a daughter, Anna, a first grader at Dater Montessori, and a son, Will, an eighth grader at Walnut Hills High School. Karen's goal in becoming a Board Member of Westwood-Civic encompasses continued strengthening of our community while serving as a liaison between the YMCA and Westwood Civic, as both organizations promote the greater good of Westwood.

MARY JENKINS:

Mary has lived in Westwood for 3-1/2 years. She moved here from New Hampshire and got married a few years ago and took a position as Hamilton County's Law library director. Before that, Mary was a college librarian & director in her native state of NH for 18 years where she was active with the New England Center for Civic Life. Mary has 2 young adult children and a stepson in middle school. Mary is the block captain for the new Verdin Av. block watch. As a long-time resident of a NH town, Mary was engaged in civic activities, political campaigns, and youth sports. Here in Cincinnati, she is looking forward to building her community involvement.

As a block watch captain, Mary is becoming more aware of the issues that challenge Westwood and the people who are committed to working on them. Mary is committed to the notion that people who are willing to listen to each other's points of view and willing to set aside personal agendas for the good of community will be able to solve problems together. Mary hopes that her own modest involvement in community affairs might encourage her neighbors to take pride in and invest in their neighborhood.

Cincinnati's Incomplete Subway Westwood Historical Society

Liz Kissel

Author and photographer Jake Mecklenborg will discuss research he did for his recently published book, Cincinnati's Incomplete Subway: The Complete History. His talk will include details and graphics dating from various proposals to build commuter rail and subway lines - including links to West Side neighborhoods. The meeting takes place on Wednesday, March 9, at the Westwood First Presbyterian Church (3011 Harrison Avenue), at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Restoration of the Historic Village of Westwood School Bell and Clockworks

In 1870, the first Westwood School building was built. It had a bell and clock tower with four clock faces operated by mechanical clockworks. In 1894, Casimir Werk purchased a bell for the tower.

When the current Westwood School was built in 1909, the bell was moved to the roof, and the clockworks and one clock face were incorporated into the east side of the building facing Harrison Avenue.

After more than 100 years, the bell and clockworks are in need of restoration. A fundraising effort is underway to restore these artifacts of the Village of Westwood. They will then be placed on displayed in the new foyer of Westwood School. Please consider making a donation. A check made out to the Westwood Historical Society, can be sent, along with the form, to:

Westwood Historical Society
PO Box 11095
Cincinnati, OH 45211-0095



Please make checks payable to: Westwood Historical Society. The Westwood Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information contact John at (513) 853-4854 or visit: www.westwoodhistorical.org

Name: _____
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e-mail address: _____

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 \$50 \$250 \$1000



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Westwood Branch Library by 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.

Displays

Origami: from *ori* meaning "folding", and *gami* meaning "paper"; is the traditional Japanese folk Art of paper folding, which started in the 17th century AD and was popularized in the mid-1900s. It has since then evolved into a modern art form.

Check out our beautiful paper-folding display in the glass display case courtesy of Westwood resident, John Eby. John is an electrical engineer by trade, but has had a life long passion with the Japanese Art of Origami and Kirigami. He was introduced to Origami and Kirigami while visiting his sister, Pat Eby, an artist in Saint Louis in the early 1970's. Origami was the perfect art form to allow John to explore, express and expand upon his left-brain love for Mathematics/engineering and his right-brain passion for art. He is self-taught and utilizes many resources from the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County!



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

Book Club – Thursday March 24 at 7:00 p.m. – Adults



"Little Bee" by Chris Cleave

From the author of the international bestseller "Incendiary" comes a haunting novel about the tenuous friendship that looms between two disparate strangers—one an illegal Nigerian refugee, the other a recent widow from suburban London.

Introduction to E-Books – Thur, March 10 at 7:00 pm

– Adults *Registration Required*

Do you have an eReader? Learn how to use the Library's downloadable collection to borrow eBooks. This presentation will teach you how to use your home computer to search, borrow and download free eBooks from the Library's website.

Teen Tech Week Wii—Saturday March 12 at 2:00

p.m.— Ages 12-18

Join your friends for some Wii action.

Astronomy For Kids – Tues, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. –

Ages 6-12 *Registration Required*

Mitch Katz will show a brief film about the solar system; then we will go outside with a high-powered telescope and see planets and stars!

John Simerlink Plays Piano For You -- Wednesday

March 30 at 2:00 p.m. – All Ages

John Simerlink returns to play his trusty keyboard in front of the fireplace.

Introduction to eAudiobooks – Thur, March 31 at

7:00 pm *Adults Registration Required*

Learn how to download audiobooks to your smartphone or MP3 player. This presentation will teach you how to search, borrow and download free audiobooks from the Library's website.

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

– Ages 1-4

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.cincinnati.org/programs/calendar.html>

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

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

Citizens on Patrol - COPP Michelle Conda

February marked ten years for our Westwood COPP group! We have 7 people who have been with us all ten years—congratulations, you guys! We celebrated with a wonderful dinner at Henke's Winery.

As the ground thaws, we are finding lots of "junk" scattered through Westwood. We have been reporting some of the worse eyesores, picking up some of the trash on our own, and ecstatic when we see our fellow Westwood residents help in this process.

Junk cars are also a concern. Did you know you could have junk cars removed from private property as well as the streets? This is called the **nuisance junk motor vehicle** ordinance. It is code number 12.275
For private property, these four items must be followed:

(cont. on page 5)

(cont. from page 4)

1. It has been left on private property for more than 72 hours
2. It is three years old or older
3. It is extensively damaged (Use these items to help—doesn't have to be all of them or limited by these). This is considered an "inoperable vehicle"
 - a. Deflated, wrecked or missing tires or rims
 - b. Missing or wrecked body parts
 - c. Broken or missing headlights, taillights or brake light
 - d. Missing, cracked or broken windows or windshields
 - e. Missing motor or transmission
 - f. Missing or invalid license plate
 - g. Apparently inoperable
4. Worth less than \$1500 (fair market value)

Any vehicle that remains parked in one location for more than 30 days is presumed to be an inoperable vehicle.

There is a special number to call: 564-CARS (1780). This is part of the health department. You can be anonymous. You can also go to: <http://cagismaps.hamilton-co.org/csrcincinnati/>

To report junk cars on the street, call 591-6000 or go online to <http://cagismaps.hamilton-co.org/csrcincinnati/>.

WESTWOOD TOWN HALL RECREATION CENTER
3017 Harrison Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

Marlene Trapp
662-9109

Spring C'ass Announcements

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER FOR ANY CLASS PLEASE CALL 662-9109

New FITNESS & ARTS Classes starting at Westwood Town Hall Recreation Center:

YOGA--Michelle Ward, Instructor.

Starts Tues., Beginning Feb 15 -- 6:30-7:40 pm \$8/class or pass of 5 classes/\$38 or 10 classes for \$70.

Also a class on Thursday morning from 10:30 am - 11:40 am --- same fees.

A beginner class consisting of Traditional Flow designed to develop strength and flexibility, relax and purify the body and mind and find balance in our bodies and daily life.

ZUMBA -- Stacy Reverman, Instructor

Starts Thurs., March 3rd -- 5:45-6:30 pm \$8/class or a pass of 5 classes for \$38 or 10 classes for \$70

High energy dance based fitness workout class featuring Latin rhythms with easy to follow moves. Really burns calories. No experience necessary.

ARABIAN DANCE-- Irene Mirci, Instructor

Starts Monday, March 14--6:30-7:30 pm \$40/four week pass or \$12/class. Sessions start monthly.

Classic Egyptian & Baladi Style. Appropriate for pupils of any age who have some coordination and flexibility and who want to learn "La Dance Oriental". No experience necessary.

We also are starting **SPRING YOUTH ART CLASSES**: (ages 7-13 years) Mike Raterman, Instructor

HOME SCHOOL ART: Starts Tuesday, March 15 at 10:30 am-noon (\$40/6 weeks)

FUN WITH ART: Starts Wednesday, March 9 from 4-5:30 pm (\$40/6 weeks)

CLAY HANDBUILDING: Starts Friday, March 11th from 4-5:30 pm (\$40/6 weeks + \$10 materials fee)

SUMMER DAY CAMP OPEN REGISTRATION: Begins March 7th--10 am. 10 week program for \$1000 + membership and pool fee. \$260 due at registration. Full schedule of summertime activities including, but not limited to: arts, sports, nature, life skills, swimming, field trips and special events.

MADCAP PUPPET SHOW: Saturday, March 5th at 2 pm \$5/pp advance tickets or at the door. "Annie Oakley's Wild West Show" Giddyup! The Wild West is back--Madcap Style! Hilarious characters, tall tales and spine-tingling stunts bring American history to life like never before.

CHECK www.cincyrec.org for a complete list of programs.

**Westwood Civic Association Financial Statement
- will be combined for February and March and
will be included in next month's newsletter.**

Mother of Mercy News **Jenny Jackson Kroner**

Mercy Recognizes Academic Scholars of 2015

Mother of Mercy High School would like to congratulate the Academic Scholars of the Class of 2015. Thirty-five eighth graders from 13 area schools were recognized for receiving academic scholarships based on their test scores from the High School Placement Test taken in November. A ceremony and reception was held in their honor on February 9, 2011.



Mercy Madness & Raid the Halls Event

It's not too late to purchase your ticket's for the 1st annual Mercy Madness & Monte Carlo event hosted by Mercy's Dads Club on March 19 from 8:00 p.m. – midnight. Live NCAA basketball tournament action, monte carlo games and a reverse raffle with a grand prize of \$8,925 (cash value of tuition for 2011-12 school year). The event is open to current Mercy parents, past parents, alumnae, faculty, staff and friends of the school. Proceeds will support the Mercy Fund.

For more details and to purchase event and raffle tickets please visit www.motherofmercy.org/MercyMadness.

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