



# WESTWORDS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



The Westwood Civic Association Celebrated Our First Hundred Years 1911- 2011 and We're Still Going Strong!  
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October, 2012

w.ww.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 42, Issue 10

## From The President's Desk

Greetings Westwood Residents! Throughout 2012, in this column, I have been highlighting each of Westwood Civic Association's several Committees.

This month, the "Committee Spotlight" is on the **Infrastructure Committee**. This Committee has two co-chairpersons, Valerie Baumann and Melva Gweyn. I recently took a look at this Committee and found out that they have many goals, projects and activities that occur on an on-going basis to keep Westwood looking great. The Infrastructure Committee members to date are: Valerie Baumann, Melva Gweyn, Jill Minor, Tom Minor, Mary Jenkins, Michelle Conda, John Sess and Joel Kimmet.

This Committee's responsibilities include: Infrastructure Improvements, the Westwood Gateways improvements and beautification, Westwood Clean-Up days, Westwood Town Hall Clean-Up days, the Westwood Yard of the Month program, Westwood Flags, Rocks, and Gardens projects, and finally the Westwood Community Gardens.

So, have you ever wondered what is "Infrastructure"? Well, according to the Oxford Dictionary, Infrastructure is "The basic structural foundations of a society or an enterprise; a substructure or foundation; roads, bridges, tunnels, permanent installations, etc., regarded as a country's economic foundation." This is a monumental task in Westwood. According to Valerie Baumann, "It is a lot of work!" As you drive around Westwood, there are many projects that the Infrastructure Committee is working on or has already accomplished that you may not realize was done by Westwood Civic Association. This Committee also works with the City of Cincinnati to keep our neighborhood clean, welcoming and safe, by reporting litter, sidewalk or landscaping problems, and issues that are causing blight to the neighborhood or streetscapes.

**American Flags:** As you travel up Harrison Avenue, in both the residential district and business district, you may notice the American Flags that are on display, on the power poles, from March through October. This is a WCA project and an Infrastructure Committee Project! In fact, WCA has just approved \$800.00 to replace and repair many of the flags. They are expensive to maintain. They take quite a beating in the weather, storms, and wind. If anyone would like to assist our organization, we are looking for donors to financially help out with the flag project, and the annual replacement and repair of the American Flags. They really do make our neighborhood look festive, inviting, and welcoming.

**Westwood Gateways:** As you enter Westwood from many different directions, you may notice the "Welcome To Westwood" signs, rocks, landscaping, and flowers projects, which we call our "Gateways". Many of the Gateways contain small "triangles" of grass, landscaping and shrubs. This Committee handles the clean-up, mowing, trimming, landscaping, promotion and restoration of all of Westwood's "gateways", another worthwhile and time-consuming project! Looking to volunteer? This in an area where volunteers are welcome! Our member, John Sess, handles many of these Gateway projects.

**Westwood Yard of The Month Program:** The Yard of the Month program was started many years ago by WCA as a way to promote good stewardship and good citizenship in our neighborhood by promoting great yards and landscaping by our neighbors. Individual yards can be nominated on a monthly basis based on creativity, eye appeal, cleanliness, beautification and original landscaping ideas. The monthly winners are chosen by a panel of volunteers, and the winners receive a fancy "Yard Of The Month" sign which is posted in their front yard as a small token of our appreciation, and to "show-off" their yard for a whole month! Tom and Jill Minor handle this valuable and worthwhile project.

Our own member, Melva Gweyn, is often seen, walking on her own, up and down Harrison Avenue, taking care of the 2 or 3 dozen large flower pots and planters which are located around the Town Hall, and various other locations along Harrison Avenue. No small task! Melva is always being creative with the flowers, plants and various types of grasses that she plants within these pots. This has been a great project in Westwood which also promotes a welcoming, cheery atmosphere along Harrison Avenue.

**Westwood Community Gardens:** The Westwood Community Gardens, located at 2163 Harrison, is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of operations. I could write a whole page on this project. Our Gardens Coordinator, Mary Jenkins, does a spectacular job keeping the projects, the volunteers, and all garden related activities on schedule, and coordinated to the fullest extent! Visit the Gardens on Facebook.

As with all our Committees, we need more help and volunteers to make it all work. Please take time to attend a Westwood Civic Association Meeting to find out more about our Committees, how they work, what needs to be done, and how you can volunteer.

"Look to the West for the Best" (It's a great day in Westwood)  
Joel Kimmet, President

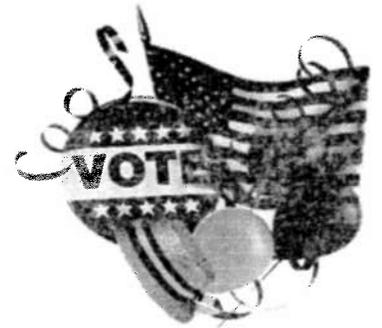
# CANDIDATES NIGHT

Thursday, October 18 - 6:30 - 9:00 pm.

Westwood Town Hall  
3017 Harrison Ave.

Candidates running for these offices have been invited:

- ✓ U.S. Representative to Congress
- ✓ United States Senator - each candidate surrogates will speak for each candidate
- ✓ State Representatives - 30th District  
32nd District



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- ✓ County Prosecutor
- ✓ County Recorder
- ✓ County Coroner
- ✓ County Treasurer
- ✓ County Sheriff
- ✓ County Clerk of Courts
- ✓ Court of Common Pleas
- ✓ Court of Common Pleas - Juvenile Division
- ✓ Justice - Ohio State Court of Appeals; District 1
- ✓ Discussion of important ballot issues

All candidates for these offices have been invited to attend.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. to meet the candidates.

Sponsored by: West Price Hill Civic Club and the  
Westwood Civic Association



On August 31, 2012, Madcap became the new owners of the historic Bell Building on Harrison Avenue in Westwood. This building was generously gifted to Madcap from Westwood Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (WestCURC), a neighborhood development group. There are many renovations to be done, so we have a long process ahead of us but we look forward to opening our new space in a few years!

To celebrate this exciting milestone, Madcap Puppets and WestCURC invite you to join them as the keys are handed over. This ceremony will take place on Sunday, October 21st at 1:00 p.m. at the corner of Harrison & Urwiler Avenues in Westwood. Please join us!

**Mary Sturk**

## WCA October General Meeting

Guests:

Charlie Winburn  
Cincinnati City Council

Ben Frech  
Office of Councilmember  
P.G. Sittenfeld

Mr. Frech will be there to discuss a new pilot program in Westwood: The vacant foreclosed property registration pilot program. Come and find out how this new program will effect our neighborhood.

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### Westwood's Citizens on Patrol An Age-Old Debate

Are porch lights, motion lights, and flood lights a good deterrent to crime or a waste of electricity? Proponents say that a well-lit home or business is much less likely to be a target for burglars, while detractors claim that such lighting is like throwing money to the wind. With the days getting shorter and nightfall occurring in the early evening, what's a Westwood homeowner to do?

The FBI reports that a burglary occurs in the United States every 15.4 seconds. Most burglaries happen during the daytime when children are at school and most adults are at work. Common entry points include a back door or an open window, and the most desirable items are cash, jewelry, guns, watches, laptop computers, and electronics. The issue of night lighting becomes moot for the majority of burglaries that happen in broad daylight.

For nighttime burglaries, would exterior lighting have made a difference? After studying the data, Marcus Felson, a criminal justice professor at Rutgers University and co-author of *Crime and Everyday Life*, concluded that lighting *is* effective in preventing crime "if it enables people to notice criminal activity as it's taking place, and if it doesn't help criminals to see what they're doing."

Given Felson's findings, bright unshielded floodlights mounted on the house often shine in the wrong direction: toward the neighbors instead of at the house. Instead, well-placed infrared motion detectors force a burglar to use a flashlight but then once the sensor has been tripped allow neighbors to see that the criminal activity is taking place. Remember that most burglars enter homes from the rear, so motion-activated lighting is even more important in the backyard than in is in the front.

Leaving a porch light on for company or to see who might be at the door is a good idea, but remember to turn it off in the morning. Leaving porch lights on during the day is like putting out the welcome mat for burglars. During the evening hours, having lights *inside* your home on timers is money well spent and creates the impression that someone is at home even if you are not.

Interested in joining Westwood Citizens on Patrol and making the neighborhood an even safer place to live? Email our unit and leave your name and address, and we'll mail you a brochure and application: [WestwoodCOP@aol.com](mailto:WestwoodCOP@aol.com); or call P.O. Princess Davis at (513) 352-3533.

Bruce McClung  
Administrative Coordinator  
Westwood Citizens on Patrol



## Westwood Branch Library

Kathy Bach

October is here and we've got everything you need to scare up a great Halloween! Check out some books on how to make Halloween costumes. Check out some spooky music CDs to play for your Halloween party. Check out some scary stories to share in the dark.

### **Westwood Haunted Tour Wednesday, October 24 6 - 9 pm**

The Westwood Library and Town Hall team up for a special haunted tour of the Town Hall (and maybe a visit from the resident ghost?). Explore library resources for doing research on your house and neighborhood. Discover who lived there before you (and may be making things go bump in the night?).

### **Adult Book Club – Thursday October 25 at 7:00 p.m.**

#### ***This month's selection is Cleopatra: a Life by Stacy Schiff***

*In "Cleopatra: A Life," Ms. Schiff strips away the accretions of myth that have built up around the Egyptian queen and plucks off the imaginative embroidering of Shakespeare, Shaw and Elizabeth Taylor. In doing so, she gives us a cinematic portrait of a historical figure far more complex and compelling than any fictional creation, and a wide, panning, panoramic picture of her world.*

#### **Meet Author of Westwood Mystery, Patricia Gligor! - Thursday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m.**

"Mixed Messages" by Cincinnati author, Patricia Gligor. A serial killer is on the loose in Westwood. Is it someone close to Ann? With all the mixed messages she's been getting, she can't be sure it's not. Join us for a book discussion and book signing.

#### **Game On! - Saturday, October 6 at 2:00 p.m. - Teen**

Play games with friends at the library! (Sponsored by the Kersten Fund)

#### **Anime Club - Thursday, October 11 at 4:00 p.m. - Teens *Registration Required***

Come watch Anime with fellow otaku, draw and have some fun!

#### **Library Babies - Tuesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. - Ages 6-18 months**

Fun for you and your baby with songs, rhymes, stories and movement!

#### **Read to Reel Movie - Wednesday, October 17 at 3:00 - All ages**

Join your friends, have some popcorn, and enjoy a fun Halloween feature! Call branch for title.

#### **Teen Spirit - Wednesday, October 24 at 4:00 p.m. - Teens**

Join our teen librarian for Westwood's Teen Advisory Board. Plan teen programs, make displays, and help out with your opinions!

#### **Westwood Haunted Tour - Wednesday, October 24 at 6:30 - All ages**

Is the Westwood community haunted? Join us and various community sponsors in a ghost hunting tour of the Westwood area!

#### **Get Ready For Halloween! - Thursday, October 25 at 2:30 p.m. - Children**

Stop by and make a cool Trick or Treat bag!

### **The Minesweeper - Ray Wissel's Experiences in World War II -- Thursday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m. - Adults, 55+**

The Minesweeper is the true story of 18-year-old Ray Wissel, who served in Italy in the Ammunition & Pioneer platoon of the Army during World War II as a minesweeper. His daughter, Kathy Kitts, wrote a book about his experiences during the War. Ray and Kathy will both be on hand to recount this amazing story.

#### **'THE MYSTIQUE YOG' is Back! -- Saturday, November 3 at 10:30 a.m. - Adults**

Yoga Instructor, Usha Luhadiya returns for a 5 week yoga session. Participants will learn about diet and exercise and how to integrate this ancient practice in to their daily lives.

#### **Game On! - Saturday, November 3 at 2:00 p.m. - Teen**

Play games with friends at the library! (Sponsored by the Kersten Fund)

#### **Movers & Shakers - Every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. - Ages 1-4**

You and your child shake it together for music, movement, and fun!



## Gamble House Update

As a result of the city's appeal of the ruling by Judge Robert Winkler in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas in favor of Greenacres Foundation, a merit hearing was held on September 11. Oral arguments were made before Judges Hildebrandt, Hendon, and Cunningham in the First Appellate District of Ohio Court of Appeals. It is unknown when the decision will be handed down.

## Westwood Historical Society

Liz Kissel

### History in Our Own Backyard

People frequently ask the Westwood Historical Society or the librarians at the Westwood Library where they can find information about their home or a family home. Many resources are now available to do the research. There will be several opportunities in the next couple of months to become acquainted with some of these resources.

### **Present and Accounted For**

At the Wednesday, October 10 meeting of the Westwood Historical Society, Jim Bodle will give us a lowdown on the US Census. He will fill us in on the type of information that can be found (or not found) in the Census records and how to access them. The Census records can be a gold mine for people doing genealogical research or trying to piece together the history of their house or neighborhood. Even those not doing research should find it interesting since we are all accounted for somewhere in the records! (Westwood First Presbyterian Church, 3011 Harrison Ave., 7:00 pm)

### **Westwood Haunted Tour**

The Westwood Library and Town Hall are teaming up on Wednesday evening, October 24, for a special haunted tour of the Town Hall (and maybe a visit from the resident ghost?). As part of the evening's offering you will have an opportunity to see some of the library's resources for doing research on your house and neighborhood to discover who lived there before you (and may still be hanging around making things go bump in the night?). Check the library's programs for details.

### **If the Walls Could Talk**

At the November 14 meeting of the Westwood Historical Society we will trace a couple of old Westwood homes back in time. You might be surprised by some of the interesting stories (and people) connected to Westwood homes. Watch for more details next month.

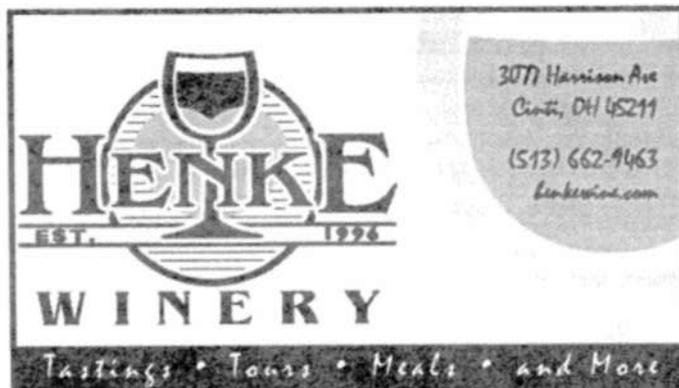
## Westwood Community Gardens: We Howled at the Harvest Moon

Mary Jenkins

Gardeners and friends enjoyed an evening of good company and good food at the Westwood Community Gardens on September 29. The Howl at the Harvest Moon party was an opportunity to show off WCA's community garden at 2163 Harrison Avenue, to celebrate a bountiful harvest, and to enjoy one another's company. Approximately 30 people gathered for a potluck feast and toured the garden. Teachers Missy Fugate and Louie Ratterman from Westwood School brought a telescope so that attendees could get a look at the harvest moon and other wonders in the sky. The clouds broke periodically for good viewing. It was an evening of civic pride and fellowship and a good opportunity to see the advancements and to discuss future projects for the Westwood Community Gardens. If you are interested in gardening with us in 2013 or just learning more about the Gardens, please see our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/westwoodcommunitygardens](http://www.facebook.com/westwoodcommunitygardens) for photos, news, and upcoming events. Additional information is available at <http://westwoodcommunitygardens.wikispaces.com>.

### **Block Watch News**

Westwood Civic Association is pleased to welcome the newest Block Watch in Westwood: Epworth Avenue between Feltz and Temple. Officer Minella from Cincinnati Police District 3, along with WCA board members Karen Strasser and John Sess, offered advice and words of welcome to the Epworth residents at a meeting on September 24 at Grace Lutheran Church. Neighbors were overwhelmingly supportive of the formation of the group. This Block Watch is a spin off of an established group on Verdin Avenue, creating a solid group of alert, informed citizens. We hope to support the formation of other official Block Watches in the coming month. Please contact [info@westwoodcivic.org](mailto:info@westwoodcivic.org) if you would like to learn more about what block watches are, how one could help your neighborhood, and how to start a recognized block watch in Westwood.



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[cbws.com/holly.finn](http://cbws.com/holly.finn)

**Westwood Civic Association Monthly  
Statement August, 2012**

**Revenue**

Invest In Neighborhoods	\$1,066.24
Keep Cincinnati Beautiful	1,050.00
WW Community Gardens T-shirts	60.00
Membership	20.00
Miscellaneous	1.04
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,197.28</b>

**Expenses**

WW Community Gardens	\$2,427.00
Newsletter	398.32
WW Town Hall Gardens	259.65
Westwood Art Sale	100.00
Bureau of Worker's Comp.	50.00
WCA Website Renewal	33.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,267.97</b>

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE \$10,420.12

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE \$8,943.84

**Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer**

**Westwood Civic Association Monthly  
Statement September, 2012**

**Revenue**

Invest in Neighborhoods	\$1,928.33
Westwood Art Show	1,028.50
Invest in Neighborhoods AIG	649.00
Westwood Art Show Beer Refund	220.27
Advertising	120.00
Westwood Community Gardens	90.00
T-Shirts	50.00
Membership	20.00
Miscellaneous	1.03
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,127.13</b>

**Expenses**

Westwood Community Gardens	\$1,300.37
Westwood Art Show Insurance	678.00
Westwood Art Show Supplies	574.21
Newsletter	399.14
Westwood School/Town Hall Open House	46.62
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,998.34</b>

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE \$11,548.91

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE \$8,943.91

**Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer**

**Upcoming  
Westwood Civic Association  
Meetings & Events**

10/9 Steering Meeting	11/13 Steering Meeting
10/13 Candidate's Night	11/20 General Meeting
10/16 General 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.*

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



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or to report issues of concern

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OR  
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\$25.00.....	Quarter Page
\$10.00.....	Business Card
\$50.00.....	Insert

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For information on placing an ad, contact:  
Becky Weber , Editor  
bmimmy@aol.com or

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

**WCA OFFICERS**  
Term: April 2011 - April 2012

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VICE PRESIDENT-

\*Mary Kuhl. *[Signature]*..... 678-5119

VICE PRESIDENT-

✓ \*Mary Jenkins.....746-5385

RECORDING SECRETARY-

✓ \*Karen Strasser.....604-1167

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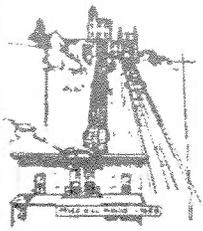
✓ \*Valerie Baumann.....

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY-

\*Jill Minor.....

**\*WCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ *Michelle Conda   | *Irene McNulty <i>[Signature]</i> |
| *Nick D'Angelo      | *Tom Minor ✓                      |
| *Melva Gweyn        | *John Sess ✓                      |
| ✓ *Joe Henke        | *Becky Weber ✓                    |
| ✓ *Jerry Hildebrand | <i>[Signature]</i>                |



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E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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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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**WHO HAS THE BEST DECORATED YARD  
FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!!**

The Westwood Civic Association (WCA) encourages residents and businesses to decorate their properties for the holidays. Each week, from Sunday, November 18 through Saturday, December 29, 10 of the best decorated will be designated with WCA Yard-of-the-Week signs posted on those properties nominated and chosen.



We encourage residents to nominate who they feel have the best decorated property. Nominations can be made by emailing [bmimmy@aol.com](mailto:bmimmy@aol.com) Nominations must be properties within the boundaries of Westwood.

\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*SCH 5-DIGIT 45211 11 1