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Westwood Civic Association

WESTWORDS

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March 2013

www.wv.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 43, Issue 3

From the President's Desk

Busy Times for Westwood Civic Association

Greetings Westwood Residents! This is a busy month for Westwood Civic Association! I will highlight a few items below. It seems like we are gearing up for a very busy Spring, with lots of meetings, activities and events happening around our neighborhood. We hope you will join us and get involved!

WCA Board of Director Elections - March and April bring about our annual Director Elections. If you receive this Newsletter before March 11th, there is still time to nominate yourself or someone else to become a WCA Board Member. Any WCA member may become a Board Member. The term is for 3 years, it is a volunteer position, and you get to work very closely with the 14 other Board Members on all our exciting projects, events, planning, voting on and implementing many important activities and issues which affect our neighborhood. You will get to serve first-hand on many WCA Committees, and help us with projects like the upcoming Westwood Art Show, getting blighted buildings demolished, zoning issues, working with our schools and our Business District, helping us create more Community Gardens and green spaces, and working with issues to enhance our quality of life and safety within our neighborhood. Five Board of Director positions are up for election at this time, and if you are interested, please contact our Nominating Committee: Jim McNulty at 513-662-8560, or Mary Jenkins at 513-746-5385 by March 11th. If you come to our WCA Steering Meeting on March 12th, there will be Nominations allowed from the floor. Otherwise, if we have more than 5 candidates, a ballot will be mailed to you by March 25th, that needs to be mailed back to the Elections Supervisor by April 8th. Instructions will come with the ballot. Questions? Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee listed above.



Westwood Community Gardens - We are preparing

the Gardens for another exciting Spring! Now is the time, if you are interested, to become a gardener! We still have plots available for the Spring 2013 season! Contact our Gardens Coordinator, Mary Jenkins at jenkinswestwood@gmail.com if interested. This year, we will complete our toolshed, a chain-link rear perimeter fence, flower gardening areas, and begin work on rain collection barrels and new composting bins. We need help and volunteers. Working in the gardens is fun, and a worthwhile community service project. Look for announcements of free educational classes that will be offered at the Gardens later this summer! We are also making plans to expand the Gardens into two new sites along Harrison Avenue! Look for more news about that in the upcoming months! Westwood has one of the more active Community Gardens in Cincinnati, and it is all because of our volunteers! For more information, see our website: www.westwoodcivic.org.

Building Demolitions - Your Board of Directors have been very busy attending City Demolition Hearings concerning several bad, blighted buildings along Harrison Avenue and Bracken Woods Lane. Look for many demolitions to occur this Spring. Bracken Woods Lane is going to significantly change! This is exciting, but hard work. Again, we need help and volunteers to assist us with this work, as it is important for the future of our neighborhood, our quality of life, and the safety of our neighborhood.



What Can You Do - Become involved. Become a volunteer! Attend a WCA Meeting (2nd and 3rd Tuesdays, at 7pm at the Westwood Town Hall) to sign up, join a Committee, and become involved. We never turn volunteers away! You will be assigned to an exciting project or event that impacts our neighborhood! We hope to see you around the neighborhood, and at many of our projects and events!

Sincerely,
Joel Kimmert, President

**WCA Position on Cincinnati Police District 3
Police Headquarters Location
Mary Jenkins**

WCA members may be aware that City Council has allocated \$16M for a new Police District 3 headquarters. District 3 serves fourteen neighborhoods, with the highest number of customers and calls for service being in Westwood. The current headquarters on Warsaw Avenue was built in 1908 and is no longer suitable for the needs due to its small size and other inadequacies. Cincinnati Police, Planning and Buildings, and the Assistant City Manager are engaged in a process with District 3 communities to identify the most suitable location for the new district headquarters. You can read about the criteria for the site and the sites currently under consideration at <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/linkservid/ECCA5B8B-B3CA-9BF3-3B366D357DC2DEB4/showMeta/0/>. At a public meeting on February 6, eleven sites were identified as possibilities, with five sites named as most suitable. These five locations are Considine, Dunham, Ferguson, Hawthorne, and the former Midway School. Other sites may emerge through the process of community engagement.

At this point, Westwood Civic Association is supportive of the site that meets the most requirements, as identified via the planning process. These criteria include the following: central location within district, utilities infrastructure, construction ready or minimal demolition required, clear sightlines and minimal congestion, access to major roads, about four acres, in the business district walkshed, minimal shed, near to high call areas, and appropriately zoned. Based on

information available about sites currently under consideration, Westwood Civic Association believes that the Ferguson Road site is well suited to meet the needs identified by the police and city planning officials. Other sites may emerge with similar qualities so WCA will continue to watch developments closely.



The WCA Board urges its membership to review the presentation, referenced above and prepared by police and city planners. It provides excellent information about site requirements and sites under consideration. Additionally, we ask our members to share comments on the site set up for this purpose: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/districts/district-3/police-district-3-headquarters/> as well as the city's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CityOfCincy>. And finally, we ask you to send word to the City Manager using the enclosed postcard, noting the suitability of the Ferguson Avenue site and asking for adherence to the identified criteria and the opinion's of District 3's most populous neighborhood, Westwood, when selecting a site. You may also want to contact city officials and councilors directly using the contact information available at <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/council/council-members/> and <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/>. Please be in touch with any Westwood Civic board member with your questions and suggestions.

Legislation to Protect Citizens Committed to Reducing Blight

Westwood Civic Association is pleased to see that State Senator Joe Schiavoni (D-33rd) has reintroduced his bill (S.B. No. 16) on abandoned properties. cosponsored by Senators William Seitz, Eric Kearney, and others, and with pledged support from Rep. Denise Driehaus when it reaches the House. Mr. Schiavoni's bill is intended to combat blight on abandoned properties by amending current trespassing law to exclude people from civil and criminal liability should they enter an abandoned or blighted property with remediation in mind. This bill would amend section 2911.21 and to enact section 2305.117 of the Revised Code. It has been referred to the Committee on Civil Justice. We will report on developments but we encourage our readers to write their elected officials in support of this bill and to read its full text at http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_16.

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Equal Housing Opportunity

Get the Dirt on Backyard Composting

Mary Jenkins

Interested in learning more about composting? Now is the time! On April 15, 2013 at 6:30 pm, the Westwood Civic Association and the Westwood Town Hall Recreation Center will be co-hosting a guest speaker from the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District for an hour-long evening seminar focusing on the basics of backyard composting. You will learn how to balance a compost bin, what materials are compostable, and some troubleshooting. There will also be time to answer your composting questions. At the end of the hour, you will receive a free kitchen collector, as well as a \$20 coupon redeemable at partnering stores toward the purchase of a compost bin. **Get the Dirt on Backyard Composting** will be held at the Westwood Town Hall (3017 Harrison Ave, Cincinnati, 45211). Call 946-7734 to register. Space is limited.

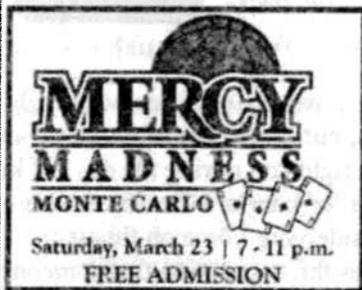


Can't make this date? Other communities are hosting Get the Dirt on Backyard Composting, too. Call 946-7734 or visit www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org for exact times and locations. Residents can also register by emailing susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org

Mercy Madness

Jenny Jackson

Mother of Mercy High School Dads Club invites members of the community to their 3rd Annual Mercy Madness & Monte Carlo on Saturday, March 23 from 7 - 11 p.m. Catch NCCA Second Round - Round of 32 action live on multiple TV's, try your luck at Monte Carlo games including poker, buy your Reverse Raffle ticket for a chance to win \$10,000 cash and enjoy beer, soda and delicious food grilled by Mercy dads. Admission is FREE and Reverse Raffle tickets are now being sold online. Visit www.motherofmercy.org/MercyMadness for full details. Sponsorship opportunities are also still available. Please contact Nancy Jamison at 513-661-2740 ext. 402.



Get Growing: Spring at the Westwood Community Gardens

Mary Jenkins

Welcome to another growing season! The Westwood Community Gardens is at 2163 Harrison Avenue at the intersection with Talbott. We still have some 4'x8' raised beds available for 2013 so be sure to complete the application soon if you have been thinking of renting a plot. Our application is online at <http://westwoodcommunitygardens.wikispaces.com>. Some gardeners overwintered hardy greens, garlic, and more, but most of us are just beginning to plan our early spring gardens. There are many vegetables that work well when started as seeds in your garden but if you are inclined to start plants from seed inside, it's high time to do that. The university cooperative extensions posted loads of helpful tips and charts, as does the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati. See any of these sites: <http://extension.osu.edu/> or <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/ces/> or <http://www.civiggardencenter.org>.



It's also time to work your garden bed, turning under any green manure that you planted like winter rye or pulling out cover crops like winter peas. Many scrumptious veggies are ready for direct planting from seed in your garden bed in early to mid-March. These include beets, brussels sprouts, chard, kale, peas, turnips, radishes, peas, onions, cabbage, potatoes, and collards. If you've got transplants, cauliflower and broccoli can be planted in March. People tend to think of Mothers' Day as the time when we can safely garden in southwest Ohio, but remember that's the typical last frost date; many veggies are frost-tolerant and thrive in cool weather so eager gardeners certainly don't have to wait until May. And even if you're only interested in growing tomatoes and peppers or other warm weather crops, this is the time to prepare your garden bed by cleaning out beds, pruning, and adding compost.



We welcome new gardeners and experts alike to the Westwood Community Gardens. Please contact WCG coordinator Mary Jenkins at 513.746.5385 with any questions or suggestions. Remember: there are multiple times to start growing vegetables throughout the year so it's never too early or too late to plant something. Happy gardening!

The Tale of Madcap Puppets

The Wednesday, March 13, Westwood Historical Society meeting will be held at Westwood Library (3345 Epworth Avenue) at 7:00 pm. John Lewandowski, artistic and executive director for Madcap Puppets, will tell the story of this wonderful troupe of puppets who are headquartered in Westwood. He will describe who they are, what all they do (you might be surprised!), and how they do it. He will also share the plans for turning the historic Suburban Bell Building in the heart of Westwood into their new home. John is internationally known, having worked in puppet theater throughout Europe as well as in the US. The program is free and open to the public.



Westwood Home Tour



The sixth Westwood Home Tour is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, from 1 until 6 pm. As in the past, the tour will highlight homes reflecting the wide range of home styles that Westwood is known for. In addition, Westwood School and the Bell Building will be featured. Advance sale ticket vouchers will be available beginning April 1 at Henke Winery and the Westwood-Cheviot branch of US Bank. Help us spread the word! This is one of our best events to market Westwood.

If you would like to volunteer or be a sponsor, contact Liz (662-1156, info@westwoodhistorical.org), Adam (Adam@sanregret.com), or Dave (dzelman@frch.com). A volunteer meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17.

**To Turn On or Leave Off?
Bruce McClung, Administrative Coordinator
Westwood Citizens on Patrol**

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 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: Westwood-COP@aol.com; or call P.O. Princess Davis at (513) 352-3533.

March is here...will it come in like a lion or a lamb?

Tax season is here! We've got the information and resources you need. YES, we finally have the 1040 instructions. Tax forms are available in our lobby or we can print them for you from the IRS website.

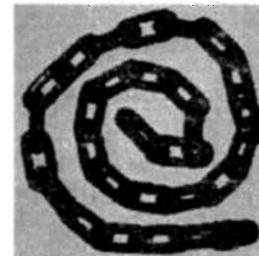
Bible Sticks!



Join us on Thursday March 14 at 7:00 pm for an informative and educational program—Bible Sticks!

Bible sticks are artistic carvings depicting biblical stories for a fun and visual way to learn about the Bible.

Ron Vance is the Associate Minister at Western Hills Church of Christ. He has been carving bible sticks since 1988. He will share the history of his unique carvings and pass around the artwork.



Ron's bible sticks will be on display in our case throughout the month of March

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

Yu-Gi-Oh!—Wednesday, March 6 at 3:00 p.m.—Teens
Attention all players of card games! Want to hang out with friends after school and play Yu-Gi-oh, Magic the Gathering, Bakugan, or any other card game? Come play at the Westwood Library the first Wednesday of every month!

Live Clue—Friday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m.—Teens
Come play Live Clue after hours at the Westwood Library! Will your team be able to solve the crime?

After-school Awesome!—Monday, March 11, 25 at 3:00 p.m.—Ages 8-14
Westwood Library is partnering up with Heartprints to build, inspire, empower, and engage tweens ages 8-14 to explore a world of learning fun.

Read to Reel Movie—Wednesday, March 13 at 3:00 p.m.--Children
Join your friends, have some popcorn, and enjoy our feature presentation: Brave (PG).

Anime Club – Thursday, March 14 at 4:00 p.m. – Teens
Registration Required
Come watch Anime with fellow otaku, draw and have some fun!

Bible Sticks—Thursday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m.—Adults
Bible sticks are artistic carvings depicting biblical stories for a fun and visual way to learn about the Bible. Ron Vance is the Associate Minister at Western Hills Church of Christ. He has been carving bible sticks since 1988. He will share the history of his unique carvings and pass around the artwork.

Westwood Talent Show—Saturday, March 23 at 2:00 p.m.—All Ages

Want to show off your talent? Our meeting room stage is waiting for you! Dance, sing, act, or play a musical instrument, you get up to 10 minutes in the spotlight! We provide the stage, you bring the talent and the props. Please keep language and lyrics appropriate for this all-ages program. Sign up today!

Bingo for Kids—Thursday, March 28 at 2:30 p.m.—Ages 6-12
Play for fabulous prizes! Ages 6-12

Westwood Book Club—Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.—Adults

This month's selection is End of Your Life Book Club by Schwalbe. Meets Fourth Thursday of each month. Newcomers welcome!

Movers & Shakers – Every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. – Ages 1-4
You and your child shake it together for music, movement, and fun.

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.library.org/programs/calendar.html>

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

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

**Westwood Civic Association Monthly
Statement February, 2013**

Revenue

Membership	\$180.00
Westwood Community Gardens	125.00
Miscellaneous	1.05
Total Revenue	\$306.05

Expenses

Newsletter	\$400.00
Website	126.00
Bureau of Worker's Comp	50.00
Westwood Community Garden	22.95
Total Expenses	\$598.95

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE \$11,210.46

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE \$8,944.26

**Neighborhood Support Program - (NSP)
Joel Kimmet**

Please come and attend the Westwood Civic Association (WCA) March General Meeting, on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at 7pm, to discuss and vote on the Annual Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) Fund for the Westwood neighborhood for 2013. Historically, WCA has used NSP funding for specific projects and programs, such as 75% of the annual funding for this Newsletter, Neighborhood Improvement Projects such as the Westwood Community Gardens, the American Flags along Harrison Avenue, the green Westwood porch banners, the "Welcome-To-Westwood" signs, Membership Promotion Projects, and Blight Elimination Projects in our neighborhood. Our neighborhood will receive \$5,000 during 2013, and all Westwood residents will be able to discuss this issue, decide where the funding will be used, and vote on the NSP categories for the 2013. We are proposing (3) NSP categories for 2013: 1. Newsletter Production (\$3,000); 2. Community Gardens (\$1,000); and 3. Neighborhood Improvement (\$1,000). Please join us on March 19th to discuss the NSP funding and vote on which categories you support for the improvement of our neighborhood. All Westwood residents who attend the meeting will can cast one vote. For more information, please contact our WCA NSP manager, Joel Kimmet at 513-200-4235, to learn more about the NSP, approved categories, and what the NSP has supported in prior years.

**Upcoming
Westwood Civic Association
Meetings & Events**

3/12/2013 Steering Meeting	3/19/2013 General Meeting
4/9/2013 Steering Meeting	4/16/2013 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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bmimmy@aol.com or

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P.O. Box 11466
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WCA OFFICERS
Term: April 2012 - April 2013

PRESIDENT-

*Joel Kimmert.....200-4235

VICE PRESIDENT-

*Mary Kuhl..... 678-5119

VICE PRESIDENT-

*Mary Jenkins.....746-5385

RECORDING SECRETARY-

*Karen Strasser.....604-1167

TREASURER-

*Valerie Baumann.....

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY-

*Jill Minor.....

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| *Melva Gweyn | *Tom Minor |
| *Jerry Hildebrand | *John Sess |
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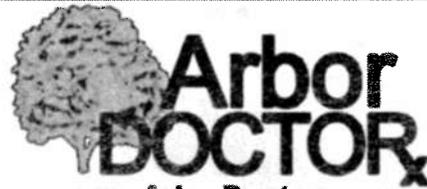
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- Site preservation and restoration
- Speaking to your garden club or other group meeting



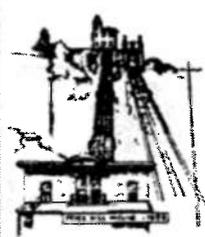
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**WESTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION
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NAME(S): _____

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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Members!

Is it time for you to renew?

Please check your mailing label on this newsletter. If the year above your name is 2012, renewal is now due.

Dues are based on the calendar year. 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. Invite your friends and neighbors to join!



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