

Westwood Civic Association WESTWORDS

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

Join our email list by contacting- info@westwoodcivic.org

May, 2013

w.ww.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 43, Issue 5

Greetings Westwood Residents!

May begins a new year for the Westwood Civic Association (WCA) Board of Directors! As with any "New Year", this gives us an opportunity to look back on what we have accomplished in the past year, and to look to our future plans and projects for the next year. We will be very busy in the next 12 months. I will highlight some of the upcoming large projects and events in the next 2 or 3 issues of this Newsletter.

Upcoming Meetings

Our next 4 meetings are: May 14, May 21, June 11, and June 18. All the meetings are from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at the Westwood Town Hall, 3017 Harrison Avenue, and are always open to the public. We encourage everyone to come to the meetings. There, you will learn about our upcoming events, projects and plans, and which projects and events need help with additional volunteers. We never turn down volunteers. Some of our projects and events are only successful with volunteers like you! We need you!

Demolitions of Blighted Multi-Family Buildings

Since November, 2012, the WCA Board has been busy attending City Demo Hearings concerning several bad and seriously blighted multi-family buildings in Westwood. I am happy to report, that in the next 30-90 days, the following buildings will be demolished by the City, as Hazardous, Unsafe and Unsanitary: 2280 Harrison Ave., 2210 Harrison Ave., 2321 Dautel Ave., 3162 Saffer St., 3138 Saffer St., 2680 Shaffer Ave., 3111 Bracken Woods Ln., 3118 Bracken Woods Ln., 3143 Bracken Woods Ln., 3157 Bracken Woods Ln., 2614 Harrison Ave., and 3073 Bracken Woods Ln. According to the Westwood Strategic Plan, approved by City Council in 2010, blighted multi-family apartment buildings in Westwood, that have become obsolete, condemned, and have outlived their useful life will be demolished, making way for parks, green spaces, community gardens and open spaces. If you see a badly neglected, blighted or decrepit multi-family apartment building in Westwood, that has serious issues happening, please notify WCA, so we can make the City aware of the problem, and start to address the issues at that building.

Single Family homes in Westwood

As you can see by the above list, the WCA is committed to removing bad, blighted multi-family buildings from Westwood. We are committed to making our neighborhood safer and cleaner. The WCA refuses to demolish any single-family homes in Westwood. We hope for and encourage new homeowners coming into Westwood, increasing the amount of single-family housing that we currently have!

Here is a challenge for all of you: As evidenced by TV shows such as "This Old House", it is becoming "trendy" and "a new fad", all around the USA, for people to buy older homes, fix them up and restore them to their original glory, along with all the antique furniture, woodwork, and hard-wood floors. If you know a newly married couple, or a college grad looking for their first home purchase, or a young family moving into Cincinnati for the first time..... Encourage them to, "Buy a home in Westwood!" Westwood has many wonderful single-family homes currently for sale, in all price ranges. Some of them need a little TLC, but many first-time buyers are looking for these types of homes, and Westwood has much to offer! There are some realtors out there who specialize in Westwood homes. Let's welcome new families, students, newlyweds, and business professionals into the beautiful Westwood neighborhood!

Student Awards - May 21st

On the evening of May 21st, at the General Meeting of WCA, we will be sponsoring the Annual Westwood Student Awards, called the "Wayne Brinkman Civic Leadership Awards". At this annual event, we honor and congratulate Westwood students who excel in civic spirit and leadership through community involvement, and/or volunteerism, in civic minded endeavors. Come join us, and meet several future Westwood leaders and their proud parents!

We'll see you all at an upcoming Meeting!

Sincerely, Joel J. Kimmet, WCA President

Mark your calendar!!!

Plan to join us for a special meeting about the revitalization of our business district



Tuesday, May 28th 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Westwood Town Hall 3017 Harrison Ave.

You may have seen stories in the paper about plans for this area, come and find out what it's all about.

WESTWOOD YARD OF THE MONTH

Jill and Tom Minor

As we are walking or driving through Westwood, we see many yards that stand out because they possess some of the following components: beautiful trees and flowers, interesting landscaping, imaginative design — something that makes you want to stop, smile, and admire. Please help us to recognize the outstanding yards of our neighborhood.

Nominate your yard or someone else's for Yard of the Month! Help keep Westwood beautiful and recognize those who work hard to keep the community attractive. Each month up to 10 yards are cho-



sen as representative of attractive, well-maintained residential or business properties in Westwood. Interested neighbors, volunteers, and the Yard of the Month nominating committee choose the houses for Yards of the Month. Please email westwoodyards@gmail.com or info@westwoodcivic.org.

April Yard of the Month Recipients 2910 Lischer 3148 Epworth

Westwood Home Tour – A Success! Liz Kissel

What started out looking like a rainy day turning into a pleasant spring afternoon that saw about 600 people walking the streets of Westwood checking out our great homes. As in past years, In addition to being impressed with the homes, a number of people indicated on their surveys that they were impressed by the friendly people. A big **Thank You** to everyone who participated in any way to make the 2013 Westwood Home Tour such a success!

3077 Harrison Ave Ciril, OH 45211 (513) 662-9463 berhewine.com EST. 1996 WINERY Tastings - Town - Meals - and More

Westwood Town Hall Garden Clean Up

Peg Rhein

It was a beautiful day and we had a wonderful turnout Saturday 4/27/13 thanks to the 25 students from Mercy High School who helped all morning to rake leaves, pick up sticks, garbage, weed, plant new flowers, move mulch to form a pathway by the playground and pick up numerous gumballs and give the hundreds of Lirope plants a haircut to remove the winter brown tops.

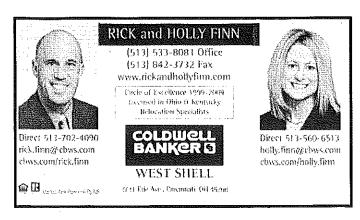
Thanks to the following Mercy students who got up early on a Saturday morning and helped beautify Westwood: Madison Boeing, Meggie Schmidt, Sara Hoesi, Kathleen Anderson, Jaylah Mason, Kameron Daniels, Megan Corso, Ron Cuthbertson, Heidi Sohnger, Ashley Sullivan, Gabby Reinstatler, Molly Grayson, Bailey Wills, Margo Wates, Hannah Kemble, Lexie Carey, Kaitlyn Reid, Hope Smith, Amara Sydnor, Lynn Vormbrock, Kate DiCecco, Emily Ramsey, Memen Aklilu, Morgan Merritt, Megan Ridder.

Thanks also to Nick Tilley, a new volunteer and to the core volunteers who guided the students efforts and who have helped maintain the gardens during the growing seasons for many years- Jim Hoog, Valerie Baumann, Melva Gwyen, Stuart Golder.

There also was a large group of student volunteers from Elder High School who under the direction of John Sess and other adult volunteers picked up many bags of litter along the Montana Ave. corridor into Westwood and other areas in our neighborhood. Thanks for all of their efforts in beautifying our community.

Thanks to the efforts of Papa John Pizza, the Parks Dept., Westwood Civic, Melva Gweyn & Valerie Baumann for the refreshments for our volunteers of pizza, drinks, pretzels, candy as a token of our appreciation for their hard work.

As you drive by the grounds of the Westwood Town Hall and see the beautiful blooming trees, bushes, and flowers know that a lot of effort goes into keeping them looking good. We need more volunteers ongoing to make that happen. If you are interested in joining our efforts email me your email address paperpeg@cinci.rr.com and I will add you to the notification list of upcoming work dates.



Harrison Avenue Closed:

The DOTE roadway project is on track to close Harrison Ave. from Memorial Day Monday, May 27th until Labor Day Monday September 2.

The detour will be signed from Queen City Ave. to Lafeuille Ave. for this duration. The detour will allow the Contractor to place large utility lines across the road in a timely manner and there will be rock excavation behind the S-curve wall. Please contact Andrea Henderson at 513-352-6236 with any questions or concerns.

The Passion of Individuals

Bruce McClung Westwood Citizens on Patrol

The American cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead wrote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." One doesn't need to travel to Samoa or New Guinea, as Mead did, to see how this has played itself out in our neck of the woods.

Westwood Community Gardens began in 2011 with a couple of Master Gardeners and a dream. What was once a blighted property had been demolished by the city, which resulted in an empty lot of weeds and litter. Volunteers cleared the lot, and it now boasts an active and thriving community garden with raised beds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables.



A few historically minded residents founded Westwood Historical Society in 2003. As the 6th Westwood Home Tour demonstrated last week, that organization is not only educating residents about Westwood and its rich history but also showcasing the neighborhood's diverse styles of homes: Queen Anne, American foursquare, colonial revival, English Tudor, mid-century modern, and more!

Westwood Citizens on Patrol began in 2001 with just two residents interested in establishing a unit of the Cincinnati Police Department program here in Westwood. Using police radios and cell phones, team members communicate directly with officers and report crimes in progress as well as addressing quality-of-life issues. Twelve years later, Westwood Citizens on Patrol is the largest and most active unit in the city.

In 2000 two women, who wanted to live in a clean, safe neighborhood, started the grass-roots organization *Westwood Concern* to address crime, blight, and drugs—issues that no organization at that time wanted to talk about much less do anything about. Melva Gwyn's and Mary Kuhl's advocacy of Westwood helped galvanize residents to take back their neighborhood and to get involved.

Westwood Civic Association? That began as Westwood Improvement Association in 1896 after the City of Cincinnati annexed the village. A few Westwood residents wanted to make sure, in the words of one of the founders, that "the interests of this part of the city should be looked after closely." 117 years later, the Board Members of Westwood Civic Association are still actively fulfilling that mission.

What this brief history of Westwood organizations has shown is how, in Mead's words, small groups of thoughtful, committed citizens have changed our neighborhood. Now we need even more citizens to address other issues, such as

- A *unified website* for the neighborhood that would "sell" Westwood, both literally and figuratively. We need a web-based presence to welcome potential residents and businesses to Westwood. The site could list properties for sale and outline the business potential of the neighborhood.
- A brochure that could be presented to new homeowners with information about the neighborhood, community organizations, and city policies. This could be mailed to new residents or presented by a welcome committee.
- A litter-grabber listserv that could publicize to interested residents flash-mob cleanups. On the morning of the Westwood Historical Society Home Tour, Westwood Citizens on Patrol sponsored the "long-walk cleanup" of Harrison Ave. Nine residents picked Harrison Ave. clean of litter from Hansford Place to Motor Lane!

In "thinking large" about our future here in Westwood, we should not wait for the City of Cincinnati to address our needs or to promote our neighborhood. As Margaret Mead cautioned, "Never depend upon institutions or government to solve any problem. All social movements are founded by, guided by, motivated and seen through by the passion of individuals."

Interested in banding together to fight crime in Westwood with Citizens on Patrol? Email our unit and leave your name and address, and we'll mail you a brochure or application: WestwoodCOP@aol.com; or call Cincinnati Police Officer Princess Davis at (513) 352 -3533.

Westwood Town Hall Dina Hanks

Reds Rookie Success League is a coed, character-building, introductory baseball program for kids 6-12 years old. The program meets twice a week for four weeks in June.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Westwood Town Hall participants attend on Wednesdays and Thursdays. June 12 -July 5th 10am- 1pm (No Program on July 4th. Make up date July 5th.) Transportation is provided to Schmidt Fields.

Children receive a character-based curriculum and are taught the fundamentals of baseball/softball from volunteer coaches.

To find out how you can get involved, contact Cortnei Weaver at (513) 765-7041 or cweaver@reds.com or Westwood Town Hall Recreation Center, 513-662-9109.

Summer Day Camp Registration has begun! Looking for something for that school age child, ages 6-12yrs old to do this summer? Join us for Camp CRC at Westwood Town Hall June 10-Aug 16th. Camp runs 7am - 6pm Monday through Friday (except July 4th). Our camp offers games, trips, arts and crafts, swimming, nature, so much more! The cost for this year's program is \$1050 per child and we offer 10% off on each additional child. Stop by to pick up a registration packet at the center or check us out on the web at www.cincyrec.org.

Join us for the Annual Westwood Yard Sale. July 20, 2013 from 9am - 2pm. Register now for a booth at this year's sale. A 10x10 spot is only \$15. Some larger spots are available for \$25. If you would like a registration packet stop by the center or call us at 513-662-9109 and we will gladly send one out. Mark the date so you can come and find some new treasures.



Computer and TV Recycling Drop-Off Opens May 4

Do you have old electronic equipment collecting dust? Take it to Hamilton County's free Computer and TV Recycling Drop-Off, opening May 4 at two new locations.

Cohen Cincinnati (4538 Kellogg Avenue) and Cohen Norwood (5038 Beech Street) will be open on Saturdays from May 4 through October 26, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Acceptable items include monitors, CPUs, printers, televisions, fax machines, main frames, laptops, mice, keyboards, speakers, scanners, personal copiers, cables, chips, circuit boards, back up batteries, cell phones, cameras, CD/DVD players, video game consoles, GPS units, telephones, video equipment and PDAs.

For more information, call the Recycling Hotline at 946-7766 or visit www.HamiltonCountyRecycles.org.

Expanding Clean Up Efforts Melva Gweyn

Cleanups: Anticipating our fourth Westwood Home Tour, April 27 was chosen as one of our major spruce up and beautify Westwood days. Many groups and organizations including Mercy and Elder High Schools, Westwood Citizens on Patrol, and other residents gave their all on the Town Hall grounds: planting, weeding, removing winter and spring debris.

Another group removed litter and debris along Montana Ave at the 1-74 exit. Litter removal and plantings started well before April 27 in the business district and at McHenry and Harrison Ave.

Join with us and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful so we can continue to expand this effort throughout Westwood this summer. Nothing will change if there is not a groundswell of Westwood residents who love Westwood enough to dedicate ourselves through personal actions to the improvement of Westwood.

Improvements in our control depend on property maintenance, beatification of green spaces, special care given to major street corners and street pots, no tolerance of litter or crime. We have to show city leadership how important these conditions are to us. Our earned reward is a beautiful neighborhood we earned and everyone can enjoy with pride.

Street pots: City leadership due to its created deficit has cut back on support of neighborhoods. This includes the allotment of several thousands of dollars that each neighborhood previously received. The majority of street pots we have enjoyed along Montana and Harrison Ave. will no longer be cared for by the Cincinnati Park Board at no additional charge to us.



In order to maintain our pots the city/Park Board have proposed that each pot they maintain this year will cost us \$300 over and above 15 pots. Remaining 15 pots, we will be charged \$150. Starting next year the cost will go up to \$400 a pot above 15 pots, 15 pots will be \$200 each. Initially cost per pot might sound high yet the cost includes 3 plantings, spring, summer, fall, replacement of vandalized or damaged plants throughout the season, watering and fertilizing. Watering alone takes half a day or longer. Watering in summer has been almost a daily job.

Westwood has had street pots for twelve years and the last seven years the Park Board thankfully stepped in to help us. They have always done an outstanding job. Due to disappearance and damage we presently have around 50 pots scattered along Harrison Ave. Our business district twelve years ago had a lingering empty feel. Since that time the simple act of pots and flowers has changed it dramatically. This is a time when everyone is struggling, which includes small businesses, so this effort has to be shared. Please contribute your ideas/ time/ financial support to this project. An idea proposed by our newest Board member, Leslie Rich, is organizing your street to contribute/ share/ adopt a pot.

Westwood Branch Library

Coming this summer: Power Up: READ! Children, teens, and adults can have a Super time reading and earning prizes! More details to come.



College Planning for Teens...and their Parents
Presented by Ester Hall, Professional College and Career Coach

Thursdays in May 6:30-8 pm

May 9 - The College Application Process

May 16 - Presenting yourself to colleges

May 23 - Applying to colleges

May 30 - Financial Aid and Scholarships



Adult Book Club- Thursday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m.

This month's selection is <u>The Day the Falls Stood Still</u> by Cathy Buchanan

A magical story about a young woman named Bess, a riverman named Tom, and the history of the Niagara Falls.

Bess meets Tom at the beginning of World War One when her family has fallen on hard times.

Library Receives National Recognition - The Public Library is the proud recipient of the National Medal for

Museum and Library Service, our nation's highest acknowledgement. We're even more proud to serve the community that so wonderfully supports our efforts to innovate and elevate. This belongs to all of us. Thank you



Check out these programs coming to Westwood Library in May for children, teens, and adults!

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

Yu-Gi-Oh!—Wednesday, May 1 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!

<u>Game On!</u> – Saturday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m. —Teens Play games with friends at the library! (Sponsored by the Kersten Fund)

<u>Read to Reel Movie</u>—Wednesday, May 8 at 3:00 p.m.--Children Join your friends, have some popcorn, and enjoy our feature preentation: *The Muppets' Wizard of Oz* (TV-PG).

<u>Anime Club</u> - Thursday, May 9 at 4:00 p.m. - Teens Registration *Required*

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

College Planning for Teens and their Parents—Thursdays: May 9, 16,23, 30 at 6:30 p.m.—Teens Registration Required. Presented by Ester Hall, Professional College and Career Coacn. May 9 - The College Application Process, May 16 - Presenting Yourself to Colleges, May 23 - Applying to Colleges, May 30 - Financial Aid and Scholarships.

<u>Pop Tab Fab</u>—Friday, May 10 at 4:00 p.m.—Teen You'll pop your top for these funky crafts! Create one for yourself or as a Mother's Day gift! Teens 12-18. Sponsored by Kersten Fund. Westwood Photo Contest/Artists' Reception—Saturday, May 11, 10 am-1 pm—All Ages

Westwood Works presents "Spring Through Westwood" Photo Contest and Art Show.

After-school Awesome!—Monday, May 13, 20 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.

Westwood Book Club—Thursday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m.—Adults This month's selection is Day the Falls Stood Still by Cathy Marie Buchanan. Meets Fourth Thursday of each month. Newcomers welcome!



The Main Library and all Branches will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2013 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. We thank all of our fallen soldiers for their dedication to this country.

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.cincinnatilibrary.org/programs/calendar.html

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

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

Upcoming Westwood Civic Association Meetings & Events

5/14/2013 Steering Meeting

5/21/2013 General Meeting-

Student Awards

5/28/2013 Special Meeting - Revitalization of Business District

6/12/2013 Steering Meeting

6/19/2013 General Meeting

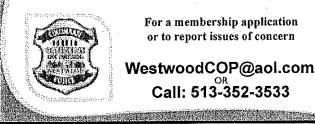
Steering Committee Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, Westwood Town Hall.

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



For a membership application or to report issues of concern

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

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Phone: 471-8434



Westwood Civic Association Monthly Statement April, 2013

Revenue

Invest in Neighborhoods \$644.01 Westwood Community Gardens 275.00 Membership 240.00 Banner 20.00 Miscellaneous 1.02 Total Revenue 1,180.03

Expenses

\$408.03 Newsletter 153.00 Westwood Art Show 88.00 P.O. Box Renewal 50.00 Westwood Home Tour Advertisement \$699.03 **Total Expenses**

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE \$11,141.78

\$8,944.39 SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE

Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer

Monthly Ad Rates

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

Published 12 (more or less) times a year by WCA, 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

WCA OFFICERS

Term: April 2012 - April 2013

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- *Irene McNulty
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- Preservation of trees during construction
- Site preservation and restoration
- Speaking to your garden club or other group meeting

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WESTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S):	
	PHONE NUMBER:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
NUMBER OF ADUL	TS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD (VOTING MEMBERS):
CALL ME FOR:	VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FUND RAISERS
WCA, P.O. Box 1146	00 per household. Make your check payable to "Westwood Civic Association" and mail to: 6, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211 stamp and bring this with you to the next meeting—we'd be happy to see you!

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

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Westwood Civic Association wants you!

Join us at our next meeting Tuesday, May 21. 7 PM Westwood Town Hall

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Herschel Benkert

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