

WESTWOOD
EST. 1868

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

August, 2013

w.ww.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 43, Issue 8

From The President's Desk:

Joel Kimmet

Greetings Westwood Residents! Happy August and Happy Late-Summer to all! Here is a list of a few things happening around our neighborhood:

WCA Meetings

Our upcoming meeting dates are August 13th and 20th, and September 10th and 17th. Starting in August, the WCA will begin using the monthly Steering Meetings (second Tuesday of the month) for updating our Constitution and Bylaws, and focusing on clerical and house-keeping issues such as creating a more up-to-date "Mission Statement", and preparing paperwork to apply for a 501c3 tax status. The General Meetings (third Tuesday of the month) will be set aside for guest speakers, discussions of upcoming events, planning for activities, and discussion of important issues and news in the neighborhood. All the WCA Meetings are open to the public, but if you are looking for one-single meeting to attend each month, we would encourage you to attend the General Meetings on the third Tuesday of each month.

August 20th

At the General Meeting on August 20th we will have guests from the Port Authority of Greater Cincinnati to discuss the Proposed Neighborhood Parking Plan for Cincinnati. The Port Authority representatives will bring a Power-Point presentation, hand-outs, and other materials. Please come attend this meeting for a lively discussion, and come prepared to ask some good questions about the proposed parking plan that will affect all of us. At this same meeting, we will also have representatives from the Metropolitan Sewer District present to discuss changes proposed for the "Lick Run Watershed" as it applies to Westwood. This will be an exciting meeting as we hear about projects affecting our neighborhood.

Get Involved!

We need neighborhood participation! Whether it is attending meetings, or volunteering, we need your help! Whether it is volunteering at the Westwood Town Hall Gardens, the Westwood Community Gardens, picking up trash along your street, joining Citizens on Patrol, creating a Block Watch Group, or volunteering to help the WCA with some of our upcoming events, we invite everyone to join us; and to help us make our neighborhood friendlier, cleaner, safer and more active!

Yard of the Month

The purpose of the Yard of the Month is to recognize Westwood neighbors who demonstrate above-average efforts in maintaining their property, thereby contributing to the overall appearance of the community at large.

All award winners receive an official *Westwood Civic Yard of the Month* lawn-sign, placed on their property for the duration of their award month.

The WCA congratulates all "Yard of the Month" award selections and encourages all neighbors to join the efforts of these homeowner's in keeping their yards and homes beautiful.

Thank you.

July Award Winners

- 3030 Lischer
- 2939 Urwiler
- 2914 Kling
- 2907 Eggers
- 2865 Ratterman
- 3043 Hull
- 3040 Coral Park
- 3170 Ramona
- 3252 Werk
- 3232 Epworth

Jill and Tom Minor



Would you like to join one of Westwood Civic Association Committees?

We are actively seeking volunteers from the neighborhood to help us on these committees. You do not have to be a Board Member of Westwood Civic Association to serve on a committee. Any Westwood resident, who is a member of this Association may serve on a committee. Please find below a list of our committees and their responsibilities. To inquire about a specific committee, either come out and attend one of our meetings, or send us an email at info@westwoodcivic.org. We will gladly sign you up to serve on a committee, and get you started with some great volunteer service!

Buildings, Properties & Development Committee

- Identify problem properties
- Blighted buildings
- Land Banking
- Recruit developers
- Zoning/Re-zoning

Infrastructure Committee

- Infrastructure improvements
- Gateways
- Clean up days
- Yard of the Month
- Flags, rocks, gardens
- Community gardens

Business District Committee

- Collaborate with WestCURC
- Attract business
- Establish Architectural Review Board
- Seek funding to support business
- Zoning issues

Public Safety

- Fire
- District 3
- Support COPP's
- Court Watch
- Block Watch
- Good Guy Loitering
- Liquor licensing

Promotion and Membership Committee

- Promote Westwood Civic to the community through canvassing and Block Watch
- Seek funding for marketing to various media
- Newsletter—advertisements
- West Fest
- Annual Dinner, Christmas Dinner

Preservation Committee

- Advocate for buildings in the historic core be renovated in an historically sensitive manner.
- Oversee renovations of historical buildings

- Make resources available for homeowners who wish to renovate their homes in a historically sensitive way.
- Build a database of information about homes and structures in Westwood

School Enhancement Committee

- Award dinner for students
- Work with Westwood and Midway to become premier schools
- School board decisions effecting Westwood
- Support fundraising efforts

Outreach Committee

- Reach out to churches and social programs in our neighborhood.

Finance Committee

- Maintain all the financial records for the Westwood Civic Association.

Westwood Town Hall Committee

Historic Business District: Next Steps

Mary Jenkins

Hats off to the 150+ people who attended the Westwood Coalition community meeting on July 27. Attendees spent three hours learning about research done to date and engaged in dialogue about their hopes for the historic business district along Harrison Ave. Please mark your calendar for the next Coalition community meeting, focused on the form-based code and its potential application in Westwood.

Westwood and the Form-Based Code

August 22, 2013

7:00-9:00 pm

Westwood First Presbyterian Church



Please visit and comment on the Westwood Coalition's website at revitalizewestwood.com or send your remarks via email to revitalizewestwood@gmail.com. See the website for a reading list and for FAQ.



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Lick Run - MSD Deb Leonard

U.S. EPA Approves MSD's Lower Mill Creek Solution

The U.S. EPA has approved the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati's (MSD) remedy for removing 1.78 billion gallons of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) annually from the Mill Creek.

This Lower Mill Creek solution – officially approved on May 30, 2013 - will be implemented in place of a deep, underground storage tunnel. All projects must be constructed by 2018, during Phase 1 of Project Groundwork, MSD's Consent Decree program.

This sustainable remedy will improve water quality, create new jobs and provide opportunities for neighborhood revitalization. It focuses on reducing the amount of stormwater in MSD's combined sewer system through the use of stormwater detention basins, new storm sewers, and restoration or daylighting of stormwater and natural drainage flows, among other projects.

The total cost is estimated at \$244 million (in 2006 dollars), which is about \$200 million less expensive for ratepayers than the deep tunnel.

The remedy includes projects in the Lick Run, Kings Run, West Fork and Bloody Run watersheds.

Focus on Lick Run Project

MSD's Lick Run project focuses on removing stormwater from the combined sewer system to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) at CSO 5 into the Mill Creek.

The Lick Run project includes an urban waterway in South Fairmount to convey stormwater to the Mill Creek and 11 other projects to bring stormwater from the watershed to the urban waterway. The following projects will eliminate about 624 million gallons of CSOs each year:

- *New storm sewers along Harrison Avenue, White Street, Queen City Avenue, Sunset Avenue, Wyoming and Minion avenues and Quebec Road. These projects are located in South Fairmount, Westwood, East Price Hill and West Price Hill. Construction of new storm sewers along Harrison Avenue began this year; construction of the*

other projects is anticipated to begin in 2013, 2014 or 2015.

- *Daylighting of natural drainage flows (that were enclosed in a combined sewer) through wooded ravines behind Judson Village and in Glenway Woods. These projects are located in Westwood and East Price Hill. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2014.*
- *Construction of bioswales and new storm sewers at Rapid Run Park. This project is located in West Price Hill. Construction is anticipated to start in 2013.*
- *Urban waterway (or valley conveyance system) that will convey stormwater to the Mill Creek. This project is located in South Fairmount. Construction is anticipated to start in 2016.*

MSD will keep you informed through various forms of communication, including emails, public meetings, website and updates at community council meetings.

For more information, visit <http://www.projectgroundwork.org/lickrun>.

Taking Action

Bruce McClung

In 1965 the United States was galvanized by the story of Andrew Morille, a seventeen-year-old youth from Brooklyn, who was stabbed in the stomach as he rode the A train home from Manhattan. Eleven of the other passengers watch the boy as he bled to death. No one came to his assistance even though his attackers had left the subway car.

What is it about human nature that causes us not to get involved? Psychologists who have studied the phenomenon report that if witnesses are aware that other people are present, they will be less likely to notice the emergency and less likely to get involved. Psychologists call this the "diffusion of responsibility" or "bystander effect." In short, a person is less likely to take responsibility when others are present.

In the past year, Westwood Citizens on Patrol has had the opportunity to witness the "bystander effect" here in our neighborhood. Last winter we wrote up a vacant property on Harrison Ave. with the door open. We called for an officer to inspect the property for squatters. As the officer was going through the house, a neighbor came over and told us that the month before several men had carried a mattress in the building and had taken a young woman in there. Shocked, we asked if he had called 911, but he said that he hadn't, because he assumed that another neighbor would report it.

This spring a resident called over a Westwood Citizens on Patrol unit and pointed to a car that had been parked on her street for over a month. It showed all the signs of being stolen: a broken driver's-side window with a popped ignition. When we asked the resident if she had called District 3 to report the vehicle, she replied that she hadn't, but had been waiting for the next time she saw a Citizens on Patrol unit.

Recently a Westwood resident called a member of Citizens on Patrol to let him know that someone had dumped a pile of hypodermic needles at the end of his street. The resident had gotten a description of the person who left the items, but had waited until the Citizens on Patrol member got home from vacation to report what had happened.

Unfortunately, these are all true stories. Instead of these neighbors calling 911 (in the case of the suspected gang rape) or District 3 (in the case of the stolen car or hypodermic needle stash), these neighbors assumed that someone else would take care of the problem— all examples of the "diffusion of responsibility" or "bystander effect."

We all see things in Westwood that don't look right: a day-care center running out of a foreclosed property, persons approaching customers at a gas station and making transactions, an ice-cream truck at 2:00 a.m., or teenagers dressed alike blocking a street. Instead of assuming that someone else will take care of these things, here are five steps to follow:

- Notice what isn't right.
- Define what is going on.
- Take responsibility.
- Plan a course of action.
- Take action.

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

Westwood Priorities

Becky Weber

On June 18, Westwood Civic Association hosted city council's public safety meeting. WCA made a presentation that informed the city council committee members of the safety issues in our neighborhood.

After the presentation Ms. Simpson and Mr. Smitherman suggested that WCA send our list of priorities to the safety committee members. Mr. Smitherman also suggested that we send each council person a priority for them to work on for our neighborhood.

The priority list that we sent to city council includes:

1. **Drug dealing on neighborhood streets** - In Westwood we have lovely walkable streets like Glenmore Ave. However, now we find drug dealers walking and driving the streets, using cell phones to make deliveries, pickups and exchanges and the drug dealings are now on several of our side streets.

This priority was given to Chris Seelbach.

2. **Code 0 - No cars available for a police run** - Westwood Citizens on Patrol frequently observes Code 0 in effect from 2p.m. through late in the day or evening. Officers are back logged multiple hours on calls for service. Often times residents feel their calls to 911 are ignored.

Priority given to Charlie Winburn.

3. **Social Service Agencies in Westwood** - A disproportionate number of social service organizations exist in close proximity, creating unintended consequences. Social service agencies need to be proactive with regard to the management of clients utilizing their services.

For Westwood, it's not a matter of not having enough quality social service agencies, including non profit agencies. We would like to see the city explore ways in which the balance and density of social service agencies is regulated and managed in our neighborhood.

Priority given to Yvette Simpson.

4. **Chronic Nuisance Premises Enforcement** - The city's FY 2014/2015 budget has eliminated the Law Department's Community Prosecution Program effective July 1. Who will now be driving chronic nuisance enforcement?

Priority given to Wendell Young - Mr. Young has already responded. This position has been reinstated at the Law Department.

5. **Repeat Offenders** - CIRV & Westwood Civic Association involvement with Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence Police Component. The Community Police Partnering Center has only enough resources for five neighborhoods to implement CIRV's Moral Voice and Westwood is not one of those neighborhoods.

Priority given to Chris Smitherman.

6. **Demolitions** - There has only been one demolition of a blighted multifamily housing unit in Westwood in the past 2 years while other neighborhoods continue to have many buildings demolished.

Westwood continues to have many multifamily buildings on the demolition list, however, the actual demolition seems to be halted. We know the funding is there, but, it seems to take entirely too long to get the buildings down.

Priority given to Laure Quinlivan.

7. **Blighted properties** - Abandoned properties with tall grass and/or broken windows, etc. are unsightly and encourage crime, littering, disrespect, nonsense and vagrant activity. Neighbors call 591-6000 and it often yields no results. Cases are reported to CAGIS, opened and closed by building inspectors with nothing being done or accomplished.

Property owners and landlords need to be held accountable for keeping their property up to code and up to the standards of the community. The city should explore ways to hold owners of blighted properties to the same standards as foreclosed properties.

Priority given to P.G. Sittenfeld.

8. **Litter control** - Unsightly litter can be found throughout our neighborhood. The litter is on city streets, city property as well as privately owned property. Budget cuts have all but eliminated this department. We would like to see more emphasis on this problem.


Priority given to Pamula Thomas.

9. **Preservation of Westwood Town Hall** - Each time city council talks about budget cuts, for some reason, the closing of Town Hall is mentioned as one of the cuts.

WCA sees the Town Hall as the focal point of our neighborhood and it should never be on a list to be closed.

Priority given to Roxanne Qualls.

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



For a membership application
or to report issues of concern

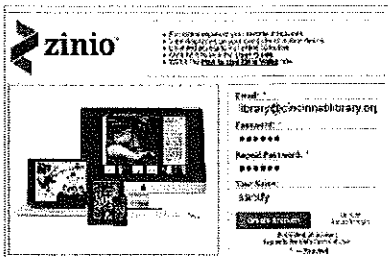
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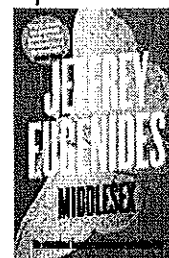
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Adult Book Club - Thursday August 22 at 7:00 p.m.
This month's selection is Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides

So begins the breathtaking story of Calliope Stephanides and three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family who travel from a tiny village overlooking Mount Olympus in Asia Minor to Prohibition-era Detroit, witnessing its glory days as the Motor City, and the race riots of 1967, before they move out to the tree-lined streets of suburban Grosse Pointe, Michigan. To understand why Calliope is not like other girls, she has to uncover a guilty family secret and the astonishing genetic history that turns Callie into Cal, one of the most audacious and wondrous narrators in contemporary fiction. Lyrical and thrilling, *Middlesex* is an exhilarating reinvention of the American epic.



Programs:

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

Technology Appointments—Interested in one-to-one computer training? Schedule a convenient appointment with us to learn basic computer skills and help with downloading library materials.

Bingo for Kids (Back to School Edition)—Thursday, August 1 at 2:00 p.m.--Children

Play and win school supplies for the coming year!

Smart Investing @ Your Library—Friday, August 2 at 1:00 p.m.--Teens

Join us for an afternoon of hands-on activities, games, and materials that lead to a better understanding of personal finance topics. Pizza and giveaways for all makes it even better!

Game On!—Saturday, August 3 at 2:00 p.m.--Teens

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

T-Shirts to "Dye" for!—Tuesday, August 6 at 2:00 p.m.—Ages 8+

Bring a clean, white, pre-washed T-shirt and make your own tie-dye creation! Program will be held outside unless bad weather. For ages 8 and up. Wearing old clothes is strongly recommended.

Yu-Gi-Oh!—Wednesday, August 7 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!

Anime Club - Thursday, August 8 at 4:00 p.m. - Teens
Registration Required

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

Super Summer Movie—Wednesday, August 14 at 2:00 p.m.—All Ages

"Power Up" with your friends and enjoy our feature presentation! *Hercules* (G)

Wii and More for Tween—Monday, August 19 at 2:00 p.m.—Ages 8-12

Join your friends and come play with us! Ages 8-12

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

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

BeTWEEN the Pages - Every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. - Ages 8-16

Looking for something to do? Want to hear some good stories? Join us for the weekly tween and teen story hour and get caught up in a good book!

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 June, 2013**

Revenue

Art Show	\$920.00
Advertising	300.00
Westwood Community Gardens	75.00
Membership	30.00
Miscellaneous	.67
Total Revenue	\$1,325.67

Expenses

Westwood Community Gardens	\$1,475.00
Newsletter	414.23
Art Show	150.00
Town Hall Gardens	140.97
Business District	104.62
Donation	100.00
Town Hall Yard Sale	30.00
Total Expenses	\$2,414.82

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$11,218.53
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$8,944.53

Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer

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

Revenue

Art Show	\$1,670.00
Westwood Town Hall Yard Sale	347.80
Membership	120.00
Donation	10.00
Miscellaneous	.52
Total Revenue	\$2,148.32

Expenses

Westwood Art Show	\$417.50
Newsletter	408.72
Business District	175.00
Miscellaneous	8.00
Total Expenses	\$1009.22

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$12,357.63
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$8,944.60

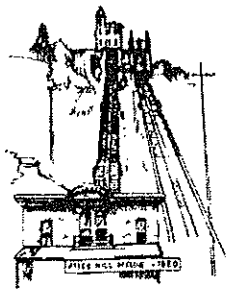
Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer

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P.O. Box 11466
Cincinnati, OH 45211

WCA OFFICERS

Term: April 2012 - April 2013

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*Mary Kuhl..... 678-5119

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*Mary Jenkins.....746-5385

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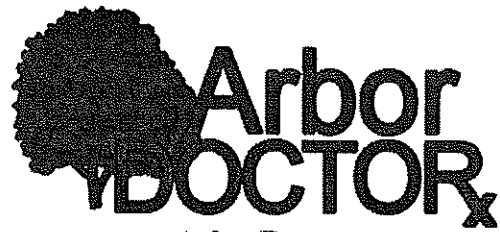
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ZIP CODE _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

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:
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**Upcoming
Westwood Civic Association
Meetings & Events**

8/13/2013 Steering Meeting 8/20/2013 General Mtg.
9/10/2013 Steering Meeting 9/17/2013 General Mtg.

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.

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Email: lterry@gccu.org