



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

July, 2014

www.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 44, Issue 7

President's Message

Summer is in full swing, but that doesn't mean neighborhood activity slows down.

We will be very busy this summer with major city-wide zoning issues, developing a plan of attack for crime issues, the Westwood Town Square project, Westwood Town Hall up-keep and repair needs, The Giant Yard Sale, and a new event to promote our great housing. Don't forget the Art Show in September.

- I hope you were able to attend the June 17 meeting. We honored Buddy LaRosa with the first "Key To Westwood". A personalized key, carved from mahogany, in a custom maple case. The one-of-a-kind key and case were made by Matt Spetz, a Westwood resident, and the beautiful cake came from Diane's on Harrison Ave. It was a memorable Westwood event for a 60 year Westwood business and its founder, Mr. LaRosa. (see pictures on page 3)
- The LaRosa event was followed by a brief introduction to the sweeping zoning changes proposed for Westwood and the city neighborhoods. Please note that these changes were drawn without consulting WCA. WCA (that means you) will need to jump into this process with both feet, and start learning and advocating for the future of our neighborhood. The city plans to implement these changes in August, so time is tight. Early reports say that the new zoning scheme greatly increases housing density in Westwood. This is wrong for Westwood. Our Westwood Strategic Plan calls for reducing density in Westwood, and working toward a goal of 60% single family housing. (We are currently at 60% multi-family). Other neighborhoods are looking into the changes, too. It cannot be stressed too strongly how important it is for our neighborhood to turn lemons into lemonade; and to reverse decades of Westwood zoning blunders. I consider the city's throwing open the zoning to be our window of opportunity to implement a key goal of our plan. We all need to get involved. We will be discussing this at all meetings (and possible special meetings) until it is resolved. The city mailed cards, to every address, which in

cluded links to the preliminary information. Let's seize this opportunity!

- Also at the last meeting- CPD Captain Dan Gerard was on hand to listen to our concerns about crime issues. There were many stories told, and many more issues that need to be addressed. We didn't have time at that meeting to start working on solutions, but did discuss the fact that everyone will need to get involved. We can't just sit around and hope the CPD fixes all the problems. There are things we can do to protect ourselves, our families and property. However, CPD can't expect us to keep living with the crime as it is. They will need to change their tactics and policies. And we all need to join together to make a solid plan, and advocate for the things we decide we need- Cameras? More walking patrols? More enforcement of quality-of-life issues? Less blight? Closer scrutiny of parolees? Let's keep at it until we have a solution. We have what it takes to eliminate the negative and accentuate the positive. Speaking of which...
- July 19 is the date for our first showcase of Westwood homes. The event doesn't even have a name yet, but the idea is to let realtors who don't normally show Westwood homes, and buyers who don't think of buying in Westwood, see what we love about living here. Potential results? Shorter listing times. More positive exposure for Westwood. Higher housing values. New neighbors. Fewer vacancies. Again, we will be talking about this in meetings.
- Westwood Town Hall is 125 this year. The Westwood Historical Society will unveil a historical marker dedicated to James N. Gamble at WTH August 9.
- There is so much more to talk about, but I've taken enough space here. Please watch for emails, and attend meetings. It's shaping up to be a hot summer in Westwood.

I'll see you around the neighborhood-
Jim McNulty

Local Subway Makes Gift to Community Gardens Mary Jenkins

At a recent WCA steering meeting, David Pickerel, representing his family and the Subway restaurant they own in Westwood, announced a gift of \$500 to the Westwood Civic Association for the community gardens. Two days later, he presented Westwood Community Gardens coordinator Mary Jenkins with a check for \$500, a restricted gift to the Westwood Community Gardens for materials to build the arbors at the gateways into the Gardens. Paired with previous donations from Harvest Home Fair and Westwood Works, this generous gift completes the funding we need to build the arbor gates. Westwood residents, when you visit the Pickerel family's Subway at 3134 Harrison Avenue (or any of their six westside Subways), be sure to say thanks to David, Carol, Melissa, Taylor and Michael – all Pickerels – for their meaningful contribution to supporting the growth of produce and community in Westwood.



Waiting for a Square

On June 12 at a meeting of the Westwood Coalition, Cincinnati's Department of Planning and Buildings presented six designs for a Westwood Square. They ranged in expense from a rotary around Town Hall to what city representatives termed "the nuclear option," demolishing all Harrison Ave. businesses between Henke Winery and Walgreens and taking several streets of homes south and north of the business district by eminent domain.

Depending on whom you talk to, this project will either be Westwood's white knight or its black hole. Those in favor, imagine a Hyde Park Square with boutique shopping, coffee shops, and cafés with outdoor seating. Those against, see another public housing debacle since, according to a Department of Planning and Buildings official, HUD is providing the funding and subsidized housing will be included as part of the design.

Rather than waiting for a square, here's how we can all get involved *now* in saving Westwood by

Reducing crime on our streets by starting a Neighborhood Watch program. Call District 3 Neighborhood Police Officer Richard Minella at 352-3927 and ask him to make a presentation to you and your neighbors about starting a Neighborhood Watch.



Cleaning up litter by adopting several blocks on your street. You can purchase a litter grabber at Bed, Bath, and Beyond and with a bucket and a weekly routine, you can make a big difference.

Improving the beauty of Town Hall by joining the Westwood Town Hall Garden Volunteers. If you can mulch, plant, or weed, contact Peg Rhein at paperpeg@cinci.rr.com or (513) 662-9382.

Watching out for Westwood's zoning by getting involved with the Cincinnati Planning and Building's Department project to make citywide zoning changes. There will be a public meeting about the zoning changes at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8 (Hartwell Recreation Center, 8275 Vine St.) or Thursday, July 17 (Corryville Recreation Center, 2823 Eden Ave.).

Beautifying our streetscapes by adopting a traffic median and planting flowers. For an example, see the median

triangle at Epworth, Urwiler, and Harrison Aves., which been planted and maintained by a couple of Westwood residents.

Addressing tall grass by notifying the City of Cincinnati at 591-6000 or on the web at <http://cagismaps.hamilton-co.org/csrcincinnati/>.

Creating a profile of drug dealing by answering the following questions: what day(s) of the week does it occur?, what time of day does it happen?, what are the license plates of cars involved?, and what are the descriptions of those involved? Once you have a profile, report it to Cincinnati Police's Street Corner Unit at 352-3715.

Reporting malfunctioning or burned-out street lights to Duke Energy at <https://www.duke-energy.com/ohio/service/streetlight-outage.asp>. This is the only way that Duke Energy knows that these lights need to be repaired or replaced.

Attending Westwood Civic Association meetings to find out what is happening and how you can volunteer. The Civic Association is the officially recognized neighborhood organization for Westwood.

Attacking crime and blight by joining Westwood Citizens on Patrol. Email our unit and leave your name and address, and we'll mail you a brochure and application: WestwoodCOP@aol.com; or call Cincinnati Police Officer Princess Davis at (513) 352-3533.



**Congratulations Buddy LaRosa
for 60 great years!!!!**



**Upcoming
Westwood Civic Association
Meetings & Events**

7/8/14 Steering Meeting	7/15/14 General Meeting
8/12/14 Steering Meeting	8/19/14 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

OR
Call: 513-352-3533

Birthday Celebration at Town Hall Join us!

Saturday, August 9
11 am – 2 pm
Westwood Town Hall

**Celebrating the Birthday of
James Norris Gamble
and the
Dedication of Westwood Town Hall
125th Anniversary**

Dedication of an Ohio Historical Society Marker
Commemorating James N. Gamble
On the grounds of Town Hall at noon

Plans are being finalized but there will be activities for all ages in and around Town Hall, including hopefully, food trucks. Stop by and bring your family. Help celebrate Mr. Gamble's birthday and mingle with your Westwood neighbors. Supposedly over 300 Westwood neighbors showed up to wish him well on his 85th birthday. Wouldn't it be great if we had over that number to help dedicate a marker to him? We will have displays detailing some of his many contributions, including his influence on Westwood.



July Westwood Historical Society Meeting

The Local Boys: Hometown Players for the Cincinnati Reds

The Cincinnati Reds and summer go together like mom and apple pie in these parts. With baseball being such a tradition in this town, many boys have dreamed of playing for the Reds some day. According to a new book by westside authors Joe and Jack Heffron, *The Local Boys: Hometown Players for the Cincinnati Reds*, many did in fact get to put on the uniform. Some were more successful than others.

The Wednesday, July 9, meeting of the Westwood Historical Society will feature the Heffrons who thoroughly researched these players and interviewed a number of them or their families. Among the players they discuss will be a number of westside players. The meeting begins at 7 pm at Westwood First Presbyterian Church, 3011 Harrison Avenue. All who are interested are welcome to attend.

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David, Carol, Melissa, Taylor and Michael Pickerei



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Term: April 2014 - April 2015

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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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Community Input on Westwood Square Mary Jenkins

The Westwood Coalition for the revitalization of the historic business district held a widely attended community meeting on June 12 to report on the Department of Transportation and Engineering's Westwood Square feasibility study and to invite public comment. The images of the six options, along with notes from the meeting and a preliminary report on comments received thus far, is available on the Coalition's website: revitalizewestwood.com. WCA encourages its members and other Westwood residents to look at the options and submit comments.

Gary's Westsider



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