



Westwood Civic Association

WESTWOODS

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, 2014

w.www.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 44, Issue 8

President's message:

Happy August! We have been having much cooler than normal weather, so I hope you have been able to get out and about to enjoy Westwood more than ever this summer.

This month, and for several months to come, WCA will be working on the land use amendments to the Cincinnati Zoning Code. We will discuss zoning in depth at both our Steering Committee meetings on second Tuesdays, and General meetings on third Tuesdays. This is a great opportunity for Westwood, as we already have a plan in place that addresses these issues. Let's all get involved with this process, and undo decades of poor zoning choices in Westwood. The saying goes- "Plan your work, and work your plan." We've got our Strategic Plan- now this is the time to take action, and make real changes happen for Westwood.

Also during our August 19 General meeting, we will explore options for our improving business district. You have probably heard about a possible "square" along Harrison Ave. Some preliminary drawings will be on display- you might like some options, or parts of some, or none at all. Let's talk about it. We hope to have representatives from the city on hand to join in the discussion and help us with technical questions. As you might have noticed, our business district is gradually filling with new businesses. Let's see what we can do to plan for continued growth and prosperity.

We still need a volunteer for the position of Recording Secretary. Will it be you?

Please report tall grass to 591-6000 or 5916000.com. We now have a Grass Czar, Catherine Ross, who has been following through with the reports, and working with city leaders to get them abated. But nothing will happen until they are reported, and that is up to YOU! So Happy Hunting. Keep a pad of paper in your car, and note the address or nearest intersection of grass or weeds over 10". Then don't forget to report it.

Don't forget the James N. Gamble event on August 9!

Please sign up for our email list at westwoodcivic.org

I'll see you around the neighborhood-
Jim McNulty

Yard of the Month

Westwood is proud of the gardening expertise of its residents. Many years ago the Yard of the Month program was created to reward the homeowner(s) who have expended their time and energy creating a beautiful front yard.

The Yard of the Month Committee is composed of WCA Board Members and residents of Westwood. Each month they drive around the neighborhood and select the yards they consider the most attractive from many nominations. If you have any suggestions for recipients of this award email sinstallworth@cincinnatiastate.edu.

July

2671 Montana
3273 Montana
3435 Hazelwood
2189 Harrison
3246 Glenmore
3016 Verdin

August

3015 Hull Ave.
3195 Epworth
3720 Boudinot
3300 Parkcrest Lane - Newcomer
Funeral Home
2927 Westbrook
2893 Dirheim
3320 Dartmouth Dr.
2917 Ratterman
3459 Craig

These people have all worked really hard to make Westwood beautiful and it is so nice to acknowledge them!

Notice: WCA Constitution Amendment

This constitutes notice that a vote of the membership will be taken.

A motion was passed that called for adding the Westwood boundaries to the WCA constitution. In order to make this amendment, we intend to vote on the following wording during the August 19, 2014 General Meeting. Passage requires a two-thirds vote of the membership present. We will have reference maps available during the meeting.

Physical boundaries of Westwood

Westwood, the largest neighborhood in the City of Cincinnati, is located in the Northwest portion of the city and is bounded as follows:

Traveling northwest on Harrison Avenue, Westwood begins at Hansford place and extends south through the wooded area to Queen City Avenue. Westwood includes the streets of Carnes, Champlaign, High and Tille which run north off Queen City. The boundary includes the north side of Queen City Avenue and extends west on Queen City Avenue to Sunset Avenue. The border then runs south on Sunset Avenue, including the west side of the B & O railway (since removed) and extends south and west to include the Dunham Recreation Complex. As the B & O railway crosses Boudinot, the Westwood boundary extends south on Crookshank Avenue, and includes the west side of Crookshank Avenue to the city limit boundary with Green Township. Westwood borders Green Township and the city of Cheviot on its western extremity. Westwood's northern border continues from the city limit, through Mt. Airy Forest, to the west fork of the Mill Creek, where it is separated from the neighborhoods of Mount Airy and Northside, on the "north side" of the creek. From the intersection of Montana and the west fork of the Mill Creek, Westwood encompasses the west side of Montana Avenue then extends due south through the wooded area toward the intersection of Westwood Northern Boulevard and McHenry Avenue. The eastern border of Westwood extends from McHenry and Westwood Northern Boulevard in a southern direction to include the streets of Cavanaugh, Atlin, Costello, Ruberg, Baker, Robert, Pickmeyer, St. Leo Place and North & South Teralta. From Baker and Harrison, the boundary then joins Harrison and Hansford to complete the border.

Coalition Presents Square Options

August 19

Mary Jenkins

Westwood Civic Association has invited Westwood Coalition representatives to present Westwood Square options at the August 19 general meeting as a continuation of the community discussion begun on June 12 and attended by more than 110 people. The June presentation, including images and community input, are available at revitalizewestwood.com and serve as recommended reading before the August 19 meeting. The Coalition will offer more comment on each option, continuing to invite public comment in person, via email to revitalizewestwood@gmail.com, or via the website.

Have you seen drug activity on your street? In addition to contacting the Cincinnati Police Department you can contact the Hamilton County Regional Narcotics Unit.

Regional Narcotics Unit (RENU)

The Regional Narcotics Unit is a multi-jurisdictional drug task force that is comprised of Narcotics Agents from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Cincinnati Police Department, Green Township Police Department and Anderson Township. This unit is designed to investigate criminal organizations and individuals primarily responsible for the illegal trafficking of controlled substances in the Greater Cincinnati area through the operation of investigative programs, including but not limited to, drug intelligence, drug interdiction and undercover operatives. The Regional Narcotics Unit also assists local, state and federal law enforcement agencies when requested.

The Regional Narcotics Unit can be contacted in regard to drug related tips in the following ways:

Email: RENU@sheriff.hamilton-co.org

Text a Tip: (513) 808-4500

Phone: (513) 352-3673

Anyone providing information to the Regional Narcotics Unit may remain anonymous.

The Westwood Civic Association appointed a member to communicate with the City of Cincinnati about the tall grass and weed situation in our community. You can register a complaint about tall grass and weeds by the following methods:

- Online: <http://cagismaps.hamilton-co.org/csrcincinnati/>
- Mobile phone (download): <http://cagismaps.hamilton-co.org/cagisportal/online/cincinnati>
- Phone: 513-591-6000 Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Check complaint status at <http://cagisperm.hamilton-co.org/cincsr/search/address.aspx>

In the process of filing a complaint you must identify:

1. Private Property – the Health Department follows up.
2. Publicly Owned Property – the Public Services Department follows up.

To speed up the complaint process and eventual mowing:

- Make your complaints as soon as the errant property approaches 10 inches of tall grass/weeds.
- Please try to properly designate the property type (Public or Private)

Our volunteer uncovered the following interesting facts:

- 17% of all complaints in the 6 months ending 7/15/14 have been mowed by the owner (40).
- It is unclear how many have been mowed by the City of Cincinnati's Contractor (looks like 3 but told closer to 15).
- It appears that Public Services may not be following appropriate procedures for the paperwork e.g. for the 6 months ending 7/15/14 every Property designated as Public (45) still carries a "NEW" designation complaint 5/6/2014). Of these many are Private Property (12).
The Health Department is now following up on the Private Properties and informing Public Services of their duties to process the Public Property complaints, which may or may not be in the queue for mowing (more next month).
- Many of the complaints are duplicate because, no surprise, there may not be enough of a budget to keep up with mowing by the City Contractor in a timely manner if the property owner remains negligent.
- While there are quite a few properties still to be mowed, Westwood has the City's ear on this issue. We have been assured that the next list of properties to be mowed by the contractor will include a good portion of Westwood properties.

In conclusion, Westwood Civic will continue to work with appropriate city officials, and if needed, City Council, to address this issue in our community. We pledge to start earlier in 2015 to remind our citizens of the complaint process and do official follow ups with city officials.

New Arbors and Gates at Westwood Community Gardens **Mary Jenkins**



Thanks to the generous support of Harvest Home Foundation, Westwood Works, Westside Subs, and a gift-in-kind from Albanese Concrete, the Westwood Community Gardens' entrance gateways are complete. The two arbors, at the entrances along Talbott Avenue, are made of cedar, with trellises and arched metal gates. The gardens' organizing team will pick a vining plant to grow along the arbors in the coming year. Several gardeners, led by Fred Leymann, made significant contributions of time and talent to design and build these lovely arbors. Please see photos on the Gardens' Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/westwoodcommunitygardens> or stop by in person at the intersection of Harrison and Talbott Avenues.

Gamble Montessori High School Celebrates Renovation with Community Ribbon Cutting on Tuesday, September 30th at 6 PM

Have you ever wondered what was happening with all of the work at the Gamble School Building? Did you attend school at Gamble and wanted to reacquaint yourself with the building? Here is your opportunity to check out the building and program of one of the gems in Cincinnati Public Schools. Westwood resident Jack M. Jose, Principal of the James N. Gamble Montessori High School, invites the community to the official ribbon cutting ceremony at 6 PM on Tuesday, September 30th. After the ceremony, you are encouraged to stay for tours of the school and performances of the musical groups.

Officials from the School District, the school, the City of Cincinnati and Westwood will be participating in the ribbon cutting to commemorate the conclusion of a two year, \$6 million renovation that concentrated on utility efficiencies. The work also included important infrastructure updates including replacing the curbing and increasing the parking at the school, improving school safety and security, and providing state-of-the-art technology in the classrooms including wireless internet and integrated computer access. Community members, staff, students and families also embarked on a renovation of the auditorium seats that required no taxpayer dollars, and helped prepare the auditorium for another half century of use.

James N. Gamble Montessori High School is entering its tenth year of educating Montessori students, having been started as part of Dater Montessori nine years ago. The school moved back to Westwood, into this building for the 2013-14 school year while the building was still undergoing the renovation.

Some interesting facts about James N. Gamble Montessori High School include:

- * Gamble was rated **Excellent** by Ohio Department of Education in 2012, making them one of the **top two high schools** in Cincinnati Public Schools in **academic performance** (Walnut Hills and Gamble Montessori)
- * Gamble was one of two CPS high schools to have a **National Merit Scholar** in 2012 (Walnut Hills and Gamble Montessori) and the **ONLY** high school in Greater Cincinnati to have a **Gates Millennium Scholar** in 2012
- * Gamble proudly serves students who have a **wide range** of abilities and challenges, including learning disabled, autistic, and academically gifted students; core high school classes are advanced (**AA**) classes
- * Gamble students regularly participate in field experiences that include travel, community service, intensive learning, and meaningful reflection. 8th graders travel to Pigeon Key Florida for an 8-day immersive marine biology experience.
- * Gamble students have access to AP classes and are eligible for the state of Ohio's Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, allowing them to earn both high school AND **free college credit** for classes taken at UC or Xavier University



Gamble asks you to join in the celebration on September 30th. Parking is available onsite with overflow parking a short walk away at the Ryan Field CRC lot. The school is located at 2700 Felicity Place.

Questions can be directed to Tom Haid, GMHS Resource Coordinator at haidtom@cps-k12.org or 513.363.2607.

Upcoming Westwood Civic Association Meetings & Events

8/12/14 Steering Meeting	8/19/14 General Meeting
9/9/14 Steering Meeting	9/16/14 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

Article in July's newsletter (Waiting for a Square) was written by Bruce McClung from Westwood Citizen's on Patrol

Westwood's White Rabbit

When replying to the question *What is Westwood's Number 1 Problem?*, some might guess "foreclosed properties" or "crime." Others might say "absentee landlords" or "poor zoning." Still others might say the 2010 HUD Community Challenge Grant with its twin goals of "high density" and "affordable" housing that the City is using to plan and fund Westwood Square. After fourteen years of patrolling with Westwood Citizens on Patrol, my answer is "complacency."


While Westwood's community infrastructure is robust with the Westwood Civic Association, Westwood Historical Society, Westwood Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, and Westwood Works, the total number of members or volunteers in these organizations is less than 1,000 people. With Westwood's population topping out at 29,950, that means that only 2.9% of its residents are involved in making their neighborhood a better place to live. That statistic defines *complacency* or "a feeling of contentment or self-satisfaction, especially when coupled with an unawareness of danger, trouble, or controversy."

Getting involved, however, doesn't necessarily mean joining an organization or running for office. It means picking up the litter on your street, calling in suspicious activity to the Cincinnati Police Dept. (765-1212), notifying Duke Energy for burned-out streetlights, and adopting a vacant lot or abandoned property. It might also mean starting up a Block-Watch in your neighborhood, holding a block party, or organizing a litter cleanup.

Lewis Carroll lampooned the problem of complacency in *Alice in Wonderland*. The White Rabbit gets so excited and confused when Alice grows so tall that she breaks through the roof of his house, he says to a bystander, "Don't just do something, stand there!" We laugh, knowing he meant to say, "Don't just stand there, do something!"

Interested in "doing something" with 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 P.O. Princess Davis at (513) 352-3533.

bruce mcclung
Administrative Coordinator
Westwood Citizens on Patrol

West Side Subs -- West Side Owners, West Side Employees, Proudly serving West Siders!

Subway	Subway	Subway	Subway	Subway
5301 Glenway Avenue	5659 Rapid Run Road	3795 Shady Lane	6391 Bridgetown Road	3134 Harrison Avenue
Across from West High Fields	Next to La Rosa's	Shady Lane Plaza	Eagle Saving Plaza Next to JF Dulles	Close to Westwood Town Hall
513-510-4054	513-922-6333	513-467-6800	513-598-6075	513-407-6220

David, Carol, Melissa, Taylor and Michael Pickere!



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**Westwood Civic Association Monthly
Statement June, 2014**

Revenue

Westwood Community Gardens	\$500.00
Donation	50.00
Membership	20.00
Miscellaneous	.43
Total Revenue	\$570.43

Expenses

Newsletter	\$574.77
Westwood Town Hall Clean-Up	30.00
Total Expenses	\$604.77

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE \$8,814.08

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE \$8,945.36

Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer

**Westwood Civic Association Monthly
Statement July, 2014**

Revenue

Westwood Town Hall Yard Sale	\$268.00
Donation	50.00
Banners	50.00
Westwood Community Gardens	50.00
Membership	20.00
Miscellaneous	.43
Total Revenue	\$438.43

Expenses

Westwood Banners	\$600.00
Newsletter	494.00
Business District Flower Pots	334.95
Westwood Community Gardens	82.34
Buddy LaRosa Tribute	70.00
Town Hall Yard Sale	30.00
Total Expenses	\$1,611.29

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE \$7,641.22

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE \$8,945.43

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

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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

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Term: April 2014 - April 2015

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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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