



WESTWOOD
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Westwood Civic Association

WESTWORDS

The Westwood Civic Association - Serving Westwood Since 1911

March, 2015

www.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 45, Issue 3

Westwood Citizens On Patrol Celebrates 15th Anniversary



Westwood Citizens on Patrol marks its 15th Anniversary this month. Members will celebrate with an annual meeting and banquet at Henke Winery with Mayor John Cranley as guest speaker. That evening members will receive certificates with the number of hours they have patrolled during the past year, and a special award, the "golden grabber," will recognize the member who has shown extra effort. In honor of this anniversary and milestone, a brief history of Westwood's unit follows.

Founded in February 2001, Westwood Citizens on Patrol began out of Westwood Concern, a grassroots, neighborhood organization founded by Melva Gweyn and Mary Kuhl. At one of Westwood Concern's early meetings, Mary suggested that the time had come for Westwood to join the citywide Citizens on Patrol program. She asked for volunteers who might be interested in participating. That evening two residents responded that they would be willing to form a unit here in Westwood.

After background checks and twelve hours of training at the Cincinnati Police Academy, sixteen Westwood residents began patrolling. Acting as extra eyes and ears of the Cincinnati Police Department, members never

(Continued on page 2)

The Westwood Civic Association Annual Meeting and Dinner



Please join us for the WCA annual meeting/dinner at the award-winning Henke Winery this year.

The WCA constitution calls for an Annual Meeting to announce the winners of the board of directors election. As we reported last month, there were only five nominations for five positions, so an election was not needed. But that's not enough to stop us from having a good time! Come meet the new board members, mingle, relax and enjoy an evening at Westwood's own winery.

Special menu for this event:

1. Corned Beef and Cabbage
2. Spaghetti and Meatballs
3. Baked Cod

There will be a vegetarian option, too. If you have special dietary needs, please call Joe Henke ahead of time, and he will try to work something out for you.
Henke Winery- 513 622 9463



Henke Winery
3077 Harrison Ave 45211
Date: **Tuesday March 17 2015** (Saint Patrick's Day)
Happy Hour- 6:30 pm
Dinner/ (brief meeting) 7:ish

In order to plan ahead and set up our reserved spot,
RSVP to Joel Kimmet at
jjkimmet@yahoo.com or 513-200-4235 by Sunday afternoon 3/15/15
Questions? Call Joel.



get involved, but radio in to the police what is seen and heard. On our very first patrol, we addressed issues small (a neighborhood collie with a fishing lure stuck in its hind leg) and large (a car break-in in progress). Of the original sixteen members, five are still volunteering today.

Since that first walking patrol, Westwood Citizens on Patrol has expanded its reach to include stationary patrols, bicycle patrols, and vehicle patrols. All patrols result in written reports that are shared with police personnel. We address both quality-of-life issues (illegal dumping, downed stop signs, abandoned vehicles, burned-out streetlights, etc.) and crimes-in-progress (hit-and-run accidents, domestic violence, drug dealing, assaults, truancy, etc.). Four members have received official commendation for radioing in a detailed description of the perpetrator of a shooting, which led to an arrest and a conviction.

Westwood members also regularly participate in service projects, such as litter pickups of the I-74–Montana Ave. interchange, clearing Westwood’s hidden walkways, bringing plates of cheer to District 3 officers for the “12 days of Christmas,” participating in the Harvest Home Parade, holding “long-walk cleanups” of Harrison Ave., marching in the Cincinnati Police Memorial Parade, and scheduling round-the-clock patrols for four days when a member’s home burned.

The 91 Westwood residents who have served Citizens on Patrol defy stereotypes. The youngest member has been 18, and the oldest 88. The political spectrum has ranged from Tea Party members and Republicans to Democrats and ultra liberals. Of the five Civilian Coordinators who have led the unit, three have been women and two have been men. Our membership has been and continues to be enriched by race, ethnicity, class, disability, gender, and sexual orientation. The unit truly represents a cross section of the neighborhood: from apartment dwellers to homeowners, from restaurant bussers to business owners, and from Westwood natives to out-of-state newcomers.

As a civilian unit of the Cincinnati Police Department, we have worked closely with police personnel from District 3. Today, our patrols are governed by crime patterns and Captain Gerard’s weekly briefings. We are part of the wider strategy of Community-Oriented Policing, promoting organizational strategies, systematic partnerships, and problem-solving techniques. Our patrols also serve as deterrent, preventing crime from happening by our presence on neighborhood streets, business corners, and shopping plazas.

Since the beginning our unit has had a simple motto: “Get involved. Stay involved. Make a difference.” In the past fifteen years, Westwood Citizens on Patrol has made a difference, both by empowering its members and in improving our neighborhood. As we look to the future, our effectiveness could be increased with even greater participation. If you are interested in joining Westwood Citizens on Patrol, please e-mail our unit and leave your name and address, and we’ll mail you a brochure and application: Westwood-COP@aol.com; or call Police Officer Princess Davis at (513) 352-3533.



bruce mcclung
Administrative Coordinator
Westwood Citizens on Patrol



WCA is looking for the worst of the worst properties. If you see a seriously blighted property in Westwood, report it to 591-6000 or 5916000.com, and let us know at info@westwoodecivic.org. We will compile a list and submit it to the city for blight abatement.





New trash collection schedule starts April 5.

Here is a handy link to find out when your trash and recycling will be collected-

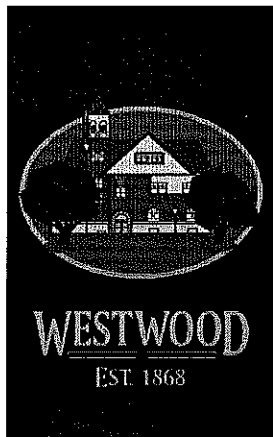
<http://cagismaps.hamilton-co.org/cincinnatiServices/ServiceSchedules/>

WESTWOOD FLAGS ARE BACK IN STOCK!

\$25

Order Yours today-
info@westwoodcivic.org

Flags will also be available for purchase at our meetings.



**Upcoming
Westwood Civic Association Meetings**

Tuesday 3/10/2015 Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday 3/17/2015 ANNUAL MEETING (at HENKE WINERY- details page 1)

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

General Membership 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.



President's Message-

Crime and Zoning have been front and center this month. First- Crime.

On February 16, the WCA public safety committee along with Westwood COPP representatives met with Cincinnati Police Chief Jeffrey Blackwell and District 3 Captain Dan Gerard. We had a very good discussion about many issues affecting Westwood, including:

- High overall crime and perception of crime.
- House break-ins.
- Thefts from autos.
- Lack of enforcement of the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance.
- Constant "Code Zero" issues, where there are no officers to respond to calls.
- Lack of follow through and investigations of reported property crimes.
- Lack of "police visibility" on the streets, due to officers chasing calls for service.
- Drug dealing and associated violence.
- Juvenile truancy and curfew issues.
- Problems with the call center and "customer service" issues.

Chief Blackwell seemed to be genuinely interested in working on some of these issues. We also discussed the new police recruits, and the need for most of them to come to district three.

Captain Gerard attended our February meeting the next night, and we discussed these issues at length.

We will follow up with Chief Blackwell, and continue to work to systematically reduce the crime problems.

Zoning- Bill Spetz and the zoning committee have been meeting almost every week, and are making headway. Maps of zoning change suggestions for two large sections of Westwood were presented to WCA. The board approved them, and the city is now digesting the information. The requested changes are mostly to reduce density of housing; that is, more single family zoning, and less (or less dense) multi-family zoning. The various business districts will be slated for mixed-use "walkable" development. This is a potential problem area, as it seems that all newly proposed commercial zoning categories allow multi-family development. This could hurt Westwood in our goal to achieve 60% single family home ownership. We need to ask the city to create a "clean" commercial zoning option without the burden of additional multi-family housing. The committee also decided not to touch the recently adopted "Form Based Code" areas of Westwood. Thank you to Bill and the team for working tirelessly to try to make some sense out of the new zoning scheme.

While we're on the topic of zoning, you probably know that I am not a big fan of Form Based Codes or other high density zoning for Westwood. Westwood's roots are suburban, not urban. The very reason Westwood became so

popular in the early days was that it was a refuge from the crowded, noisy, smelly, crime-ridden urban environment downtown. We have been working to reverse the blight and crime issues resulting from ill-conceived high density zoning decisions made in Westwood decades ago. I don't know how most folks in Westwood feel, but I know that many of the people who show up to meetings recently are enamored with the city's "New Urbanist" plans for Westwood. It's sold as something new, but is really just remaking the same mistakes and expecting different results. High density multi-family development is the flavor of the day in the City Planning Department, and if folks don't object, it's what we will get. Short term excitement then long term decline.

The question many have asked when they see all those sideways apartment buildings slid in between single family homes along Harrison Ave is- "What were those people thinking about years ago, and why did they let these destructive zoning changes happen?" You don't have to wonder- just go to a meeting or two. It's happening all over again right now.

That's how I see it. You might hope it's going to just go away or maybe "not be too bad". If you don't get involved, you will be disappointed with the results of the "new" old zoning schemes being promoted right now. And 50 years from now, people will be wondering what the heck *we* were thinking...

And now here's something we hope you'll really like!

Come join us March 17 for the WCA annual meeting/ dinner at Henke Winery. (Details pg. 1) I promise that the meeting portion of the evening will be minimal, and that dining and conversing with neighbors will be the priority. This will be a good opportunity for you to meet your new board members.

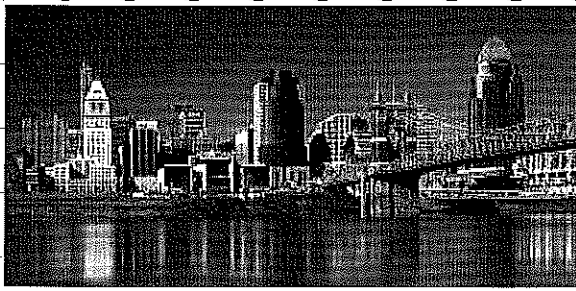
On April 21 during our regular meeting, The newly elected WCA board will vote for its officers for the coming year.

I hope you took the time to read the excellent Citizens on Patrol article by Bruce McClung on page 1. And I hope you will consider joining Westwood COPP. It takes just a small commitment of time, and gives a large return- both for our neighborhood and you. Important mission, great friendships, and we really do have a lot of fun- honest! Think about it, won't you?

For WCA updates, please sign up for our email list at: Westwoodcivic.org



I'll see you around the neighborhood,
Jim McNulty



www.cincinnati-oh.gov/finance/budget | twitter.com/CityOfCincy | facebook.com/CityOfCincy

CINCINNATI OPEN BUDGETING

brought to you by the City of Cincinnati

Your City. Your Money. Your
Voice.

Monday, March 23, 2015
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Refreshments provided
Clifton Recreation Center
320 McAlpin Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45220

How can we make
budget choices that
reflect our diverse
community values?

Join us for a collaborative
conversation to explore:

1. What information do people need to understand the budget and provide good budget input to City Council;
2. What are the current needs of our City and its diverse neighborhoods; and
3. What questions, agreements, and trade-offs must we reach to set the budget?

Plan to attend? RSVP NOW

If you would like to be included in future Open Budgeting events or would like to provide feedback, please email Budget@cincinnati-oh.gov or call 513.352.3229.

One of President Ronald Reagan's favorite quotes-

*IT IS AMAZING WHAT
YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH
IF YOU DO NOT CARE
WHO GETS THE CREDIT.*

-HARRY S TRUMAN

I Remember When ...

By Carl Guckenberger

In the summer of 1927, when standing in the garden of the family home at 2886 Harrison Avenue, I was startled by the sound of a very low-flying airplane. Airplanes were not too common in areas not near airports in those times, so we paid particular attention, people coming out of their houses, pointing into the air and shouting "airplane". It appeared that the plane was looking for a place to land; it was just overhead, very low.

Much to our surprise, it did land at the Westwood Commons. It was piloted by one of the Waltz brothers of the family who subsequently operated the Waltz bowling lanes which were next to the present Westwood post office.

City stepping up efforts to abate tall grass, litter and blight issues.

News is swirling about new ways to deal with nagging quality-of-life issues in Cincinnati. WCA's Tall Grass Czar, Catherine Ross is keeping up with the changes, working with the city, and will have a full report on implementation next month, as the tall grass starts getting tall again.

**WCA Financial Statement
February 2015**

REVENUE

Membership	\$ 600.00
Westwood Community Gardens	375.00
Donation	5.00
Miscellaneous	.34
Total Revenue	\$ 980.34

EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$ 676.40
Kiwanis	175.00
Bureau Worker's Comp.	50.00
Westwood Gateways	36.70
Westwood Gardens	27.52
Ohio Secretary of State	25.00
District 3 Resource	20.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,010.62

Checking Account Balance	\$ 6,170.35
Savings Account Balance	\$ 8,945.92

Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer



Want to know more about WCA?

www.westwoodcivic.org

Our shiny new web site is packed with information, and it's very easy to navigate! You can find-

- ☺ The WCA Constitution
- ☺ The Westwood Strategic Plan
- ☺ Westwords Newsletter Archives
- ☺ Meeting information
- ☺ Minutes
- ☺ Fast-Breaking News from our Facebook Page
- ☺ Local/Government Information and links
- ☺ Membership forms
- ☺ Email signup- and much more...

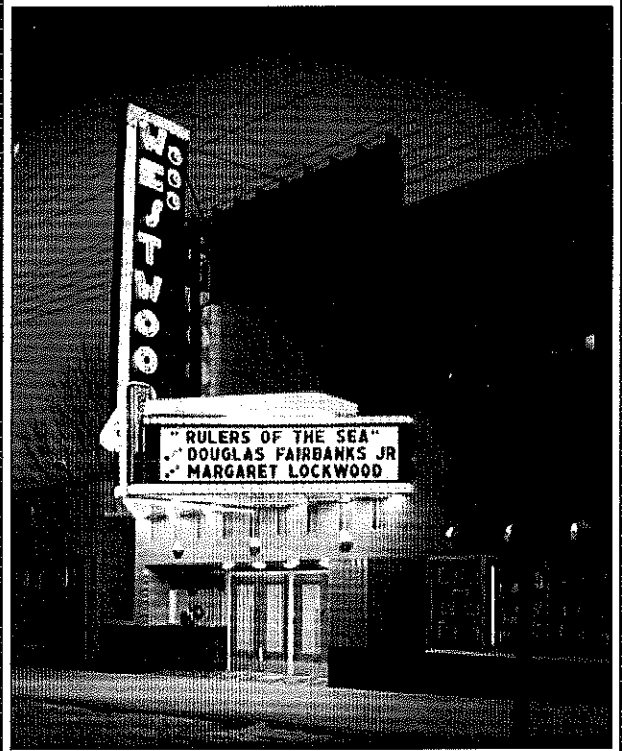
Give it a spin! www.westwoodcivic.org

Like Us on Facebook!

Remember this Photo from Last Month?



John and Lu Ann Zeszut knew that it was taken at Western Hills Honda/ Westwood Theatre. There were no other responses. Too easy? Too hard? Let us know if you are interested in making this a contest: info@westwoodcivic.org



**Westwords
Monthly Ad Rates**

\$100.00.....	Full Page
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\$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: info@westwoodcivic.org

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

WCA OFFICERS

Term: April 2014 - April 2015

PRESIDENT-

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VICE PRESIDENT-

*Mary Kuhl..... 678-5119

VICE PRESIDENT-

*Michelle Conda.....

RECORDING SECRETARY-

*Joel Kimmet

TREASURER-

*Valerie Baumann.....

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY-

*Irene McNulty.....662-8560

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*Mary Jenkins

*Ken Tarvin

*Emily Reynolds

*Trinette Zawadzki

*Steven Schramm

**WESTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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!

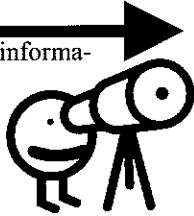
Westwood Civic Association
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LAST CHANCETO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please look at your mailing information to the right.



Above your name you should see a four digit number indicating the year your membership expires. It should say **2015** or later. If not, it's time to renew! You may use the form in this newsletter, or find one at www.westwoodcivic.org
Questions?
Call Membership Secretary Irene McNulty:
513 662-8560.

