



Westwood Civic Association

WESTWORDS

The Westwood Civic Association Celebrated Our First Hundred Years 1911 - 2011 and We're Still Going Strong!
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October, 2014

w.www.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 44, Issue 10

President's Message:

We are gearing up for another active month at the WCA. We have scheduled a candidate's forum for the end of the month. Come meet the candidates and folks supporting or opposing ballot initiatives. We also invite candidates to speak briefly at our regular October meeting.

The membership passed two constitution amendments last month; one dealing with neighborhood boundaries, and another creating term limits for board members. Meanwhile, we are in the process of completely rewriting our constitution. There are many issues with the current version that need clarification or change. So please try to attend the meetings for the next few months, so that you can vote on the changes.

Our zoning committee is coming together. Thanks to Bill Spetz for volunteering to lead the process. We can take this opportunity to undo some of the zoning blunders that have hurt Westwood for so many years. We plan to have a progress report soon.

After Mayor Cranley's strong commitment to Westwood and the West side during his State of the City address, we will be working with him to make some of those plans a reality. Also, what do you think of the idea of a restaurant at WTH? If you like it, what kind of establishment would you want to see there?

Repairs to Westwood Town Hall are in the works. New siding, foundation repairs and bell tower fixes all needed. Only the siding is funded at this point. The recreation department is working with our neighborhood and preservation experts on selecting the replacement siding material.

Don't forget that we have TWO breweries opening in Westwood soon; one across from Westwood Town Hall and one on Crookshank Ave.

I can't end this message without addressing the elephant in the room, Crime. We must all do our part to face the issue and come up with solutions. Sometimes it means implementing processes that are already in place, like the

Chronic Nuisance Ordinance. We will be working with District 3 Commander, Captain Gerard, to address issues specific to Westwood. When I say "we" that means you, too. The police can help us to deal with crime, but WE are the ones who pay the price when crime and disorder are allowed to fester. How would you feel about a training program for citizens to prevent or protect against crime? Would you attend and participate?

Like I said, things are busy in Westwood.

I'll see you around the neighborhood-

Jim McNulty



WCA Constitution Overhaul

The Westwood Civic Association is in the process of completely revamping our Constitution. In fact, we are even proposing that we change it from a "Constitution" to "Bylaws".

Some of the proposed changes arose from the need to clarify murky language. Some were found by researching other community council's bylaws.

It is a large undertaking, and we want to get it right. We have decided to present sections of the document for approval as we complete them. This will give us time to discuss changes and hopefully keep it from being overwhelming.

So in this newsletter, there is a DRAFT version of the changes so far. We will discuss it in detail at the October General WCA meeting and present the results for a VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP during the November meeting. Also, at the November meeting we will present the next draft section and continue that process until we have a completely new document.

Remember that all members in good standing may vote on Constitution/Bylaw changes. (Please see WCA Constitution for details).

(Proposed changes are located on page 2, 3 and 4 of this newsletter) .

DRAFT

BYLAWS OF THE WESTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1.01. Name. The name of the organization shall be “The Westwood Civic Association, Inc.,” hereinafter referred to as “WCA” or the “Association.”

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Section 2.01. Purpose. The WCA is a nonpartisan civic organization that functions as the official representative of the Westwood neighborhood to the City of Cincinnati. The Association has for its purpose the general welfare of the community. The Association will concern itself with housing and neighborhood development, code and ordinance enforcement, infrastructure, facilities, business districts and commercial development, safety and services (quality of life), schools, historic preservation and marketing, and all measures designed to preserve and upgrade the neighborhood as outlined in the Westwood Strategic Plan.

ARTICLE III ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Section 3.01. Anti-Discrimination. The Association will not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, military status, or political affiliation in any of its activities or operations.

ARTICLE IV ADDRESS AND GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES

Section 4.01. Address. The post office address of the principal office of WCA is P.O. Box 11466, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211.

Section 4.02. Boundaries. Westwood, the largest neighborhood in the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, is located in the North-west portion of the city and has geographic boundaries 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, Champlain, 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 C & O Railway (since removed) and extends south and west to include the Dunham Recreation Complex. As the C & O Railway crosses Boudinot, the Westwood boundary extends west on Crookshank Avenue, and includes the north 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.

ARTICLE VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 6.01. Authority of the Board of Directors. Except for any matter upon which a vote of the membership is required by these bylaws or applicable law, the Board of Directors shall, by a majority vote of the Directors present, determine all matters affecting the welfare of the Association, authorize all expenditures and the incurring of obligations, and fill all unexpired vacancies for Director positions. Any matter upon which Directors are called upon to vote may be presented at the regular monthly General Membership meeting or at the regular monthly Steering meeting.

Section 6.02. Vacancies. Vacant Director positions shall be filled from the list of names in the most recent election in order of their finish. If the list of Director candidates has been exhausted, then vacant Director positions shall be filled by a vote of the majority of Directors present from a list of all WCA members in good standing. The term of each Director so elected shall expire at the same time as that of the Director who has been replaced.

Section 6.03. Absences as Cause. Absence of a Director from any three General Membership or Steering meetings between elections without adequate excuse presented to the President prior to each meeting shall be cause for the Board of Directors to declare the position held by such member to be vacant.

Section 6.04. Removal for Cause. A member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office for cause by a vote of four-fifths of the full Board.

Section 6.05. Size of Board and Term Limits. The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen Directors elected for a three-year term. Provision shall be made for the election of one-third of its Directors each year. Any member of the Board of Directors, including Officers, who has served on the Board for two consecutive terms or more, i.e. six years or more, is not eligible to run for reelection or to be reappointed to the WCA Board for a period of at least three years.

ARTICLE X ELECTIONS

Section 10.01. Eligibility for Election. Candidates eligible for election shall be members in good standing, shall have attended a minimum of three meetings, and shall not be in the class of Directors subject to the term limits provision (Section 6.05).

Section 10.02. Nominating Committees. At the November General Membership meeting, the Board of Directors shall appoint one nominating committee consisting of three to five members in good standing. The nominating committee shall by a majority vote select no more than ten candidates for the Board of Directors and present its selections at the January General Membership meeting. As soon as the committee reports, it is discharged from its duties.

Section 10.03. Nominations from the Floor. Nominations shall be allowed from the floor following the report of the nominating committee at the January General Membership meeting.

Section 10.04. Election Supervisor. The Board of Directors shall select an Election Supervisor at the first regular meeting in December. The Election Supervisor shall be responsible for the printing, mailing, counting of ballots and presenting the results to the membership. This person shall retain in confidence for one year the complete results of the election for possible use by the Board of Directors for filling vacancies on their Board during the ensuing year.

Section 10.05. Observers. Any members in good standing may serve as election process observers.

Section 10.06. Ballots. A ballot consisting of all nominated candidates shall be mailed to all members in good standing, no less than fourteen days prior to the March General Membership meeting for the purpose of secret voting. The Election Supervisor shall determine by random drawing the ballot position of the names of the candidates.

Section 10.07. Those Elected. Those five candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected. Should there be a tie vote which results in more than the requisite number of candidates chosen, the tie shall be broken by a flip of the coin by the President at a meeting in the presence of the membership.

Section 10.08. Election of Officers. The Board of Directors at the April Steering meeting, or prior thereto at a special meeting, shall elect, by secret ballot, the Officers of the Association from the members of the Board of Directors, except the Recording Secretary and Membership Secretary who can be any member in good standing.



Candidates Forum Tuesday, October 28, 2014

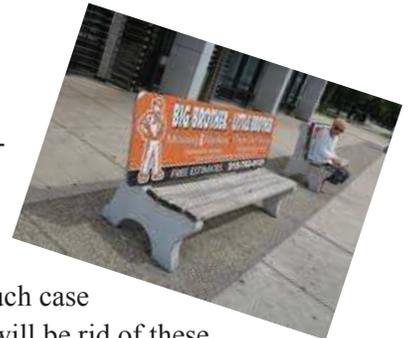
**Doors open at 6:15 pm and event will start promptly at 6:30 and end at 8:30 p.m.
Held at the newly renovated Westwood School at the corner of Harrison and Montana Ave.**

This event is for Candidates in the upcoming November 4th election. We will be focusing on not only statewide races but paying close attention to Westside races AND Hamilton County Judicial races too. Our event will be one of the last prior to election day.

Please feel free to share and invite friends and neighbors to this event.

Illegal Advertising Bench Removal John Sess

Five years ago, WCA notified the City of 55 locations in Westwood where advertising benches had been illegally placed. The owner, BENCH BILLBOARD COMPANY has been cited and ordered to remove the benches. They appealed the City's orders to Common Pleas Court. A hearing was held in early June, 2014 before Magistrate Michael Bachmann. A ruling is expected in early October since much case law is being reviewed to ensure solid legal footing. Hopefully, after five years we will be rid of these eyesores and replace them with more aesthetically pleasing benches for folks to sit and await the bus.



Upcoming Westwood Civic Association Meetings & Events

10/14/14 Steering Meeting	10/21/14 General Meeting
11/10/14 Steering Meeting	11/18/14 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

Westwood Town Hall Clean-Up

Peg Rhein schools in the area to keep them focused on the jobs needing to be done.

Plan to join us at the Westwood Town Hall Gardens on Saturday October 25, from 9am to noon.

Be a part of our big annual fall cleanup at the Westwood Town Hall as we join with others across our country by participating in **Make A Difference Day** in our community.

We will be distributing a couple of truckloads of mulch around the gardens, trees & shrubs on the grounds as well as raking leaves, pruning, weeding and picking up litter around the Westwood Town Hall and the surrounding neighborhood.

We need more adult volunteers to help with mentoring any student volunteers from Mercy and from other

Wear old clothes, work gloves- (if possible, bring rake with your name on it). We hope to have some refreshments but you are welcome to bring water with you.

This is my 12th year of coordinating cleanup and gardening efforts year round at the Westwood Town Hall. Thanks to all of you who have helped out along the way. We really need more volunteers going forward.

It is a rewarding experience and a positive way to contribute to your community.

Send me your email address to get updates on WTH garden work dates. *Let me know if you will be able to help us by emailing me - paperpeg@gmail.com*



Slice of the Pie. FUNDRAISING EVENT

Westwood Historical Society

Help Raise money for James Gamble Ohio
Historical Marker

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**October 13, 2014
11:00AM – 9:00PM**

Please present your flyer to a Team Member to participate.

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David, Carol, Melissa, Taylor and Michael Pickere l

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**A Report from the Safety Committee
Chairman John Sess**

Several years ago, the Westwood Civic Association (WCA) addressed the traffic situation on Montana Avenue with respect to speed and accidents. An extensive study was launched by the Cincinnati Traffic Engineering department, with input from neighbors in the area. **Mary Kuhl** spearheaded the effort for WCA. The City favored widening the thoroughfare to four 10-foot lanes, thereby allowing more room for vehicles to maneuver. This plan required moving the curbs and encroaching on residents' front yards. More room to maneuver would have increased speeds through this picturesque residential area.

Using an idea proposed by WCA president Jim McNulty called "The Road Diet", Mary organized a walk from Boudinot to Farrell along Montana Avenue. Several city officials and WCA members participated in the walk and saw firsthand how widening the street would have been detrimental to the neighborhood. The "Road Diet" plan called for fewer lanes and reduced speeds, without moving the existing curbs. With the exception of improving the Montana-Westwood Northern intersection, the curb line remained essentially the same.

Thanks to Mary's focused determination, the WCA prevailed and I'm happy to report that accidents have been reduced almost 40% in comparing 2010 (225 accidents) to 2013 (138 accidents). Fewer accidents for the police to investigate means more time for preventative patrol. With an average of 1½ man hours per accident, the time adds up. So despite the short-sightedness of a few detractors, the "Road Diet" plan has proved to be a significant move toward making Westwood safer and more livable.

Due to Veterans' Day falling on a Tuesday, the November Steering meeting will be held on Monday, November 10 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

**Unsolved Westside Homicide: the Bricca Murders
Liz Kissel**

Anyone living on the westside of Cincinnati in 1966, automatically thinks "murder" when they hear the name, "Bricca." The 48 year old unsolved triple homicide happened at a very unsettled time in Cincinnati - a city gripped with fear over the Cincinnati Strangler.

J.T. Townsend, true crime historian and author of *Queen City Gothic*, has done extensive research on the murders and will give an update on the investigation at the Wednesday, October 8 meeting of the Westwood Historical Society. He will spell out what is known and unknown, and who remain prime suspects.

The back story of the murder and investigation is full of twists and turns worthy of a made for TV movie. JT is hopeful the Bricca murder case can be solved by its 50th anniversary.

The meeting begins at 7 pm at Westwood First Presbyterian Church, 3011 Harrison Avenue (entrance off of Koenig Avenue). All who are interested are welcome to attend and judge for themselves which way the evidence points.

**Westwood Historical Society Fundraiser
LaRosa's
Monday, October 13
11 am to 9 pm**

2411 Boudinot Avenue

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors -- and your appetite.
The more you eat, the more we make!

Dine in, carry out, and delivery from the Boudinot restaurant

You must present the event flyer (found on page 5)

Proceeds will help cover the cost of the James Norris Gamble Historical Marker at Westwood Town Hall

Monthly Ad Rates

\$100.00.....Full Page
\$50.00.....Half Page
\$25.00.....Quarter Page
\$10.00.....Business Card
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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 2014 - April 2015

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*Mary Kuhl..... 678-5119

VICE PRESIDENT-

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*Irene McNulty.....662-8560

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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
P.O. Box 11466
Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

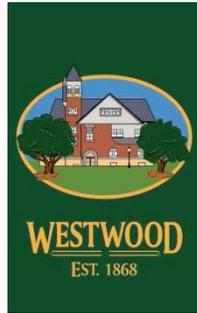
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Westwood Branch
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Fax: 513-661-1116

Email: lterry@gccu.org