



WESTWORDS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION



The Westwood Civic Association Celebrated Our First Hundred Years 1911- 2011 and We're Still Going Strong!
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August, 2012

ww.westwoodcivic.org

Volume 42, Issue 8

From The President's Desk:

Greetings Westwood Residents! For the next several months, in this Newsletter Article, I will highlight one of Westwood Civic Association's Committees. If you read the June, 2012 Issue of WestWords, you saw our list of 9 Committees in the President's Article, and the responsibilities of each Committee outlined on page 3. I will be visiting and interviewing each Committee Chairperson, over the next few months, and writing about each Committee's goals, plans, and accomplishments throughout our great neighborhood. We are very busy at Westwood Civic Association, working to make our neighborhood a better place! As you also noticed in the June Issue of WestWords, we need volunteers, so please feel free to join a Committee of your choice. You do not have to be a WCA Board Member to be on a Committee, as you will see in this first issue of "Committee Spotlights".

Our first "Committee Spotlight" is the Properties, Buildings and Development Committee. This Committee has a famous Chairman. The Chairman is former WCA President and former Board Member Jim McNulty. Even though Jim is no longer on the WCA Board, he continues to work hard and serve his neighborhood by not only serving on this Committee, but being the Committee Chairperson! I recently interviewed Jim about this important Committee, and also visited a very recent Committee meeting. To no surprise, this Committee is very busy, hard-working, involved, energetic and optimistic!

The Properties, Buildings and Development Committee is Chaired by Jim McNulty, and the committee members are currently: Mary Kuhl, Becky Weber, Jerry Hildebrand, Irene McNulty, Nick D'Angelo, Melva Gweyn, Michelle Conda, and Joel Kimmet.

The Committee's responsibilities include: eliminating blight, focusing on problem properties, zoning issues, re-zoning/ redevelopment Issues, city building code violations, demolitions, building safety and health hazards, TIF District Redevelopment, land banking, and working closely with the City Buildings and Inspections Dept, and the Port Authority of Cincinnati on the above listed issues. All of this is done in furtherance of the goals listed in the new Westwood Strategic Plan. The Westwood Strategic Plan guides this Committee's work, goals and plans.

Recently, this Committee met and reactivated the "Top-20 Worst Buildings" in Westwood List. This list focuses on the worst of

the worst, and to make it on the List, a building has to have several serious issues, to include: blight, neglect, hazardous or unsafe conditions, public health hazard, multiple code violations, a foreclosure, or excessive unpaid property taxes, or property tax liens, or any combination of the above. The entire list is too large to print here, but the Top-10 are the following: 2210 Harrison, 2280 Harrison, 2604 Harrison, 2614 Harrison, 2201 Harrison, 2880 Harrison, 2329 Harrison, 3207 Harrison, 3037 Bracken Woods, and 3069 Bracken Woods. Rounding out the Top-20 include several properties in the 3100 block of Bracken Woods Lane, which includes the WCA 2012 TIF Redevelopment Project, in conjunction with WestCURC. A main focus of this Committee will be working with the City to have the above listed properties condemned, boarded up, prosecuted and declared a public hazard, and eventually demolished.

This will make our neighborhood a safer, cleaner, brighter neighborhood, free of blight, neglect and potential crime havens. The owners of the above listed properties have long ago left our neighborhood, or left the State, have given up on taking care of their properties, or have just abandoned the properties, leaving them to scar, pollute and disrupt our neighborhood. Basically, they are no longer responsible property owners, and have abandoned our neighborhood.

The Top-20 List will be revised and updated monthly, as buildings are demolished, removed, re-zoned, or in some cases cleaned up. Our goal and dream is to have no Problem Properties in Westwood, and to have no need for such a list, but to get to that point, we have a lot of work to do!

This Committee also recently took a large map of Westwood, and re-drew the zoning within the neighborhood, with the intent on expanding large areas of Single-Family zoning to include SF-6 and SF-10 and eliminating large areas of Multi-Family zoning. It is the hope of this Committee that as property becomes available in several "key areas", the zoning will be changed from Multi-Family to Single-Family, in conjunction with the Westwood Strategic Plan.

Chairman Jim McNulty is very excited with the prospect of working closely with the new Port Authority of Cincinnati on land banking.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

A representative of the Port Authority, Mr. William Weber, will be attending our August Steering Meeting, on August 14th. Mr. Weber will explain the goals, objectives, responsibilities and capabilities of the Port Authority, and how the Port Authority can help us. He will talk about acquiring, accepting and demolishing bad, blighted buildings in Westwood, just like those listed above in the Top-20 list. In a nutshell, the Port Authority can help acquire blighted buildings that have serious property tax delinquency or property tax liens for failure to pay property taxes. Several of the Top-20 buildings listed above fall into this category. We are excited about using this new tool to make our neighborhood a safer, cleaner place.

Finally, this Committee has a goal to recruit and attract new developers to come into Westwood, and begin building new single-family homes, parks, community gardens and new businesses, and to encourage redevelopment of areas that are re-zoned to Single-Family Zoning. This goal is also outlined in the Westwood Strategic Plan. One accomplishment is the new Westwood Firestation, at 2487 Harrison, a 3.94 acre site! The groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 26th, and this long-awaited new development project has finally started, due in great part to the efforts of this Committee over the past 3 years. We are very excited to have our new Fire station in Westwood, as it will be expanded to include an ambulance company and rescue/ command company. Please drive by and view this address in the coming months, the construction and clearing has already started!

In closing, if you would like to be a member of this Committee, or any other Committee, please attend a Westwood Civic Association Meeting. The meetings are always on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, at the Town Hall, 3017 Harrison Avenue, at 7pm. You are always welcome! We hope that we'll see you there!

"Look to the West, for the Best"....It's a Great Day in Westwood!

Sincerely,

Joel Kimmet

President, Westwood Civic Association

SAVE THE DATE!!!

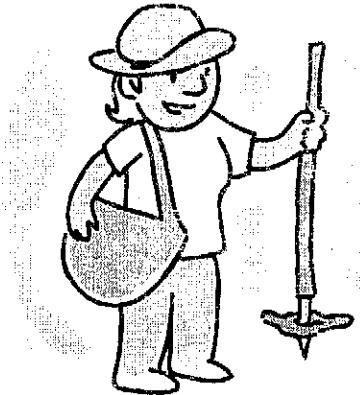
WESTWOOD ART SHOW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

11AM - 5PM

Turning a Corner in Westwood

Many of us choose not to see the litter in Westwood. We turn a blind eye or close the drapes. If someone mentions litter, we quickly change the topic—or turn the page of this newsletter.



Litter may make us angry. We fume to our neighbors and friends, and blow off steam at neighborhood meetings. "It's the city's responsibility to clean it up!" We threaten to call the realtor.

Or maybe we see litter as part of the landscape of a city neighborhood. We relish being so close to downtown, and litter is a small price to pay for such convenient access to Finley Market, Great American Ballpark, and the Aronoff.

Perhaps we see the litter and feel helpless. The overwhelming amount of it paralyzes us. Doing anything would be futile, so we curl up on the couch in front of the television.

Or just maybe we see the litter and the unnecessary blight that it causes on our neighborhood. Things don't have to be this way. So we buy a litter grabber and make picking up litter part of our routine.

Denial...anger...bargaining...depression...acceptance: the "Five Stages of Grieving" from Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's landmark book *On Death and Dying*. Her work changed the way the medical establishment cares for the terminally ill and has since become a model for understanding how we respond to loss.

In the case of litter, drawing our drapes or changing the topic is denial. If we don't acknowledge it, then maybe it doesn't exist. Blowing off steam is anger: it's an important stage as long as we don't get stuck there. Rationalizing litter as the price for living so close to downtown is bargaining. And feeling paralyzed and hopeless about the neighborhood is depression. Becoming a steward of Westwood is the acceptance that you have the power to make a difference.

Bruce McClung
Administrative Coordinator
Westwood Citizens on Patrol

Where to Recycle Odd Items

Recycling is a great way to improve the quality of our environment. However, not all materials can be recycled by Hamilton County residents in curbside recycling programs. Even some items with the recycle symbol cannot be recycled in your curbside bin or cart.

Items such as plastic tubs, polystyrene, aluminum foil, pie pans, takeout food trays, plastic bags and yogurt cups currently cannot be recycled in curbside recycling programs. While some materials are not acceptable through the curbside program, there are other recycling outlets available.

Many of these items can still be recycled at a variety of outlets.

- Plastic bags can be recycled at area stores such as Kroger, Meijer, Lowe's, Wal-Mart, Remke Biggs or other locations
- #5 plastic tubs (including yogurt containers) can be recycled at Whole Foods Market
- Light bulbs-you are using CFL bulbs, right? CFL bulbs can be recycled at Lowe's, Home Depot, Park + Vine, Environmental Enterprises and USA Lamp and Ballast of Ohio.

Please refer to the Outlets for Odd Items page on our website or call the Hamilton County Recycling Hotline at 946-7766 for a complete list.

Below is a list of items that are recyclable in curbside bins/carts or at a community recycling drop-off:

Plastic – Bottles and jugs only. Lids are OK if left on bottles

Pop/water bottles
Shampoo bottles
Condiment bottles
Milk jugs/juice bottles
Contact solution bottles
Laundry detergent jugs

Glass – Remove lids

Food jars
Beer/wine bottles

Paper

Newspapers and inserts
Magazines-dull or glossy
Phone books
Catalogs
Cardboard boxes (flatten)
Brown paper grocery bags
Paperboard boxes
Junk mail
All envelopes
Office paper
Cores of paper towel/toilet paper rolls
Beverage carriers

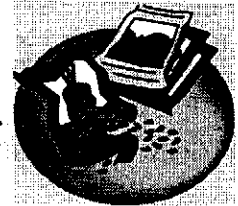
Metal

Soup cans
Pop cans
Beer cans
Fruit and vegetable cans
Meat cans
Juice cans
Coffee cans
Empty aerosol cans (lids and tips removed)

We're Growing at the Westwood Community Gardens

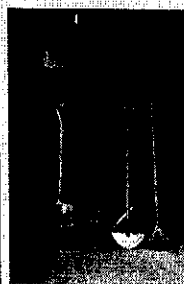
Mary Jenkins

Westwood Civic Association's community gardens at 2163 Harrison Avenue are thriving. Gardeners are tending forty plots as well as herbs, microgreens in raised beds, hills of squash and cucumbers. The fruits of our labor include tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant, beans, basil, peppers, and so much more. We established a Plant a Row for the Hungry program to offer excess produce to people in need. All of our raised beds are rented for the current growing season but we welcome inquiries and applications for the 2013 season, when we will have another twenty plots available.



While gardening is the most obvious activity on the site, we also have several projects underway. We continue to lay down cardboard and wood chips between the plots as a weed deterrent. Thanks to the generosity of the Cheviot Westwood Kiwanis Club, we are moving forward with the retaining wall as a foundation for a fence that will go up late summer. Mike Rece, a volunteer who cleared and leveled the lot last spring, is back with his heavy equipment, digging the trench for the wall. Next step: volunteers will build the wall in the coming weeks, followed by the installation of the chain link fence by our friends at Mills Fence.

This fall, WCG volunteers will erect a tool shed which will make it much easier to provide tools and supplies for gardeners' use. We will also build the arbor gates at the entrances along Talbott Avenue, with funds donated by Westwood Works. By spring, we'll have more raised beds. We have a long to do list for 2013, too. Community groups and individuals are welcome to help us with our site improvement. Contact the coordinators at info@westwoodcivic.org to volunteer. From our major work days to the everyday effort of watering and weeding, we have plenty to do.



The Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District is a division of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services which also encompasses the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency. For more information, visit the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District online at www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org or interact with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Lots of new things are happening at the Westwood Library! Come over and say hi to our newest staff member, Teen Librarian, Angie Lewis! Ms. Lewis is a native West-sider, a graduate of Mother of Mercy, Mt. St. Joseph and received her Masters of Library Science at Indiana University. Look for many exciting new programs coming soon!

New Library Catalog! Some of the great features in our new catalog:

On August 1, an exciting new Library catalog will make its debut! Here are some of the great features you can look forward to on August 1:

- Smarter keyword search technology that makes it easy to find *exactly* what you're looking for
- Refinement "facets" that can be used to expand or narrow your search and browse for related items
- Spelling correction (*did you mean?...*) to help you find what you're looking for even if you misspell a word
- Colorful icons that easily identify the title's format
- "Preferred search" feature will allow you to be notified when a new item is added to our catalog that matches your search
- New sharing features: add tags, reviews, comments, and ratings to books, movies, and music
- Carts allow you to place holds on multiple items at once
- "Reading History" feature to keep track of all the material you've checked out in the past

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

**Adult Book Club – Thursday, August 23
7:00 p.m.**

This month's selection is *The Reading Group* by Elizabeth Noble



What starts out as a lark of an idea, born from a glass of wine and a need to socialize, turns into a forum for five very different women who walk complicated paths—but soon discover the power and importance of friendship.

National Night Out – Tuesday August 7th at the Ferguson Road Kroger at 5:00 – 8:30 pm – All Ages. See your library out in your community!

- This event will feature free food and drinks, fun and games for kids, exhibits by the police and fire departments, information booths for local agencies and associations, door prizes, entertainment, and more. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Wii Party – Saturday, August 4 at 2:00 p.m. – Teens

- Stop by and play your favorite video games!

GED Practice Test – Thursday, August 9 at 12:00 p.m. – Adults *Registration Required*

- Determine if you are ready to take the official GED test. Call (513) 369-4570 to register.

Spending, Saving, Sharing For Kids! – Friday, August 10 at 10:30 a.m. – Ages 3-6

- A special edition of Preschool Storytime that incorporates books and activities to help children learn the basics of spending, saving, and sharing.

Wii and More – Monday, August 13 at 2:00 p.m. – Ages 8-12

- Stop by and play your favorite video games!

Read to Reel Movie – Wednesday, August 15 at 2:00 p.m. All Ages

- Stop by and enjoy a showing of *The Adventures of TinTin* (PG) and some snacks!

Library Babies – Tuesday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m. – Ages 6-18 months

- Fun for you and your baby with songs, rhymes, stories and movement!

Preschool Storytime – Every Friday at 10:30 a.m. – Ages 3-6

- Enjoy books, songs, activities and more while building early literacy skills.

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

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.org/programs/calendar.html>

Westwood Branch Library	Hours of Operation:
3345 Epworth Avenue	Mon./Tues./Thurs: 12-8
513-369-4474	Wed./ Fri./Sat.: 10-6
www.cincinnati.org	

WESTWOOD TOWN HALL RECREATION CENTER
3017 HARRISON AVENUE 45211 662-9109

Dina Hanks, Director

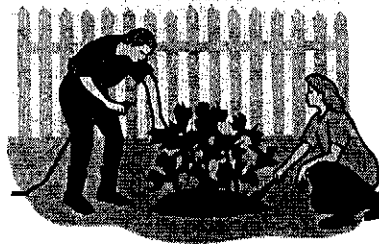
Westwood Town Hall is gearing up for a wonderful fall lineup of programs. Please save the date for our Fall Open House Saturday, Sept 29th from 1-4pm. Demonstrations and displays from classes as well as tours of the building. Fun Food and More. Free to all. Looking for something for your child to do after school? Maybe consider our After School Day Camp or one of our many enrichment classes. Also this fall we have our guest instructors who offer: Taekwondo, Yoga, Guitar Lessons, Zumba and Clogging. Our Program guide and registration will begin Monday, August 6th from 10am-6pm Monday through Friday. Don't forget to get your CRC memberships Juniors \$10, Adults - \$25 and Seniors - \$10. For more information feel free to call us at 513-662-9109.

Westwood Yard of the Month

The goal for the Yard of the Month program is to recognize the efforts of Westwood residents who take pride in their home and landscape and inspire others to do the same. Please submit your nominations to westwoodyards@gmail.com.

July

- 2759 Eugenie
- 2916 Four Towers
- 2501 Homestead
- 3023 Hull
- 2960 Timbercrest
- 3553 Epworth
- 3202 Glenmore
- 2830 Morningridge
- 3031 Sandra



August

- 3139 Pershing
- 3103 Pershing
- 3161 Ramona
- 2730 Morningridge
- 3040 Penrose
- 2945 Timbercrest
- 2687 Shaffer
- 2932 Feltz
- 3246 Glenmore
- 2906 Woodrow

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**Westwood Civic Association Monthly
Statement June, 2012**

Revenue

Westfest	\$703.00
Westfest Sponsor	200.00
Membership	60.00
Banner	20.00
Miscellaneous	1.05
Total Revenue	\$984.05

Expenses

Newsletter	\$403.40
Total Expenses	\$403.40

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE align="right">\$11,138.92

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE align="right">\$8,943.70

Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer

**Westwood Civic Association Monthly
Statement July, 2012**

Revenue

Newsletter Advertising	\$540.00
Westwood Town Hall Yard Sale	344.00
Westwood Community Gardens	60.00
Banner	20.00
Membership	10.00
Miscellaneous	.99
Total Revenue	\$974.99

Expenses

Newsletter	\$398.32
Flowers, Street Pots	177.98
Gateway Maintenance (Glenmore, Glenway)	46.80
Total Expenses	\$623.10

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE align="right">\$11,490.81

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE align="right">\$8,943.77

Submitted by Valerie Baumann, Treasurer

**Upcoming
Westwood Civic Association
Meetings & Events**

8/14 Steering Meeting	9/11 Steering Meeting
8/21 General Meeting	9/18 General Meeting

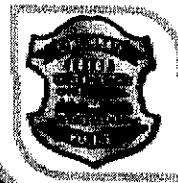
Steering Committee Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, Westwood Town Hall.

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

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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bmimmy@aol.com or

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P.O. Box 11466
Cincinnati, OH 45211

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Term: April 2011 - April 2012

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*Mary Kuhl..... 678-5119
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*Mary Jenkins.....746-5385
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*Jill Minor.....

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- Site preservation and restoration
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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!

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Westwood Civic - Westfest Update Mary Jenkins

Westwood Civic Association participated in WestFest again this June, offering games of skill and chance with its Mugslide. Participants slid a mug along a very smooth, level board toward a circle at the other end. When a mug landed completely in the circle, the winner split the pot. Several lucky people went home with winnings. We are most appreciative of the support from the booth sponsors, Vitor's, Bonsai Sushi Bar, and Tom Bonhaus Automotive. Please visit these fine Westwood businesses and express your thanks for their support of WCA and their community. Proceeds from the 2012 Mugslide booth totaled \$704, just under the 2011 total earnings. WCA is thankful for the many hours of volunteer labor that fueled the booth and for the business community's support.

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