

FELLOW WESTWOODIANS,

It's election day! No. Not that one. It's March! This means it's time to select board members for the Westwood Civic Association. The election is being conducted online and in-person this year. You can find information about this process in this issue.

As a reminder, voting is open to current members of the Westwood Civic Association. Board members serve for a term of three years. The role of board members is to manage the Association and serve as a point of communication and representation of the neighborhood with the City of Cincinnati and other government bodies. We have a great suite of candidates this year and I am looking forward to working with those that are elected.

After the new board is seated in April, we will work to form committees and continue the work of the Association. It's an exciting time! Good luck to all of our candidates.

Sincerely,

Thomas Sauter
WCA President



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Westwood Civic Meetings

- **All meetings are currently being held online via Zoom. See p. 5 for access information**
- *General Membership Meetings* are held at on the **third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m**
- *Steering Committee Meetings* are held at **7:00pm**, on the second Tuesday of Jan, April, July, & October
- ALL meetings are open to the public. EVERYONE is welcome!

Purchase your new Westwood flag today! \$30



Join us for our next WCA Community Meeting on Tuesday March 16 at 7:00 via Zoom! Log-in ID: 859 4046 9773 PW: 1868

Election of WCA Board Members

Eight candidates have stepped forward to be considered for five open WCA Board positions. Members will receive an email on March 7 which will include a link to vote online. Members can vote for up to five candidates. Online voting will be open from March 7 through March 13. Check your e-mail spam folder if you did not receive a ballot link. The online voting results will be combined with in-person voting which will take place at the March 16 WCA meeting that will start at 7:00 p.m. Since the meeting will be by Zoom, in-person voting will be made available during the meeting under the tent at Muse Cafe in Westwood Town Hall Park. Contact board member Stephen Schramm if you have any questions: steve.schramm.wc@gmail.com

Get to know the Candidates! Here are brief bios of the 8 candidates running for the 5 board member openings:

Wendy Clark

"I am a 17-year Westwood resident who is humbled and grateful to belong to such a community. Being a part of Westwood Civic is an opportunity for me to give back to the community that helped me as a young mother raise my daughter; my Westwood neighbors truly are a family for me. As a community member, I am engaged with and frequently patron our local businesses. I have participated and volunteered at Westwood Works events.

I have a diverse work background, including for profit, non-profit, and state employers. I worked several years for a Cincinnati based private company (Paycor) and currently work for a Monroe based private company (Baker Concrete Construction). Working for these companies, I understand and appreciate the value that a business has on the community in which they are based.

I am excited to be a part of Westwood's growth. It is vitally important to me that we are a community that is engaged and more importantly that we are inclusive and welcoming. I would be grateful to serve on Westwood Civic and welcome the opportunity to be of service to the community."

Katie Frazier

"I chose Westwood to buy my first home in February of 2019. I am originally from the South, but grew up in Mariemont. For the past seven years, I have worked as the Program Director at ChangingGears, a local nonprofit organization that removes transportation barriers for people who are working their way out of poverty. I was recently appointed to the board of Everybody Rides Metro by the SORTA board, and I am looking forward to helping more people in Cincinnati get to where they need to go. I am currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership at Xavier University, and I am also an amateur potter.

My favorite things about Westwood are my amazing neighbors, being close to great local businesses, and the active neighborhood organizations."

Kelsey Harlow

"My name is Kelsey Harlow and I moved to Westwood in spring of 2019 with my husband, Anthony. I was immediately drawn to this neighborhood because it felt like a true community and a place to grow. Living here is a unique experience because we've gotten to know our neighbors and learn more about the history of the community, something that I feel can be lacking in modern city living. I have worked as a social worker in Cincinnati and Butler County for about five years. My professional experience has led me to recognize the power of communities when they come together to take care of their own and take responsibility for one another. This can be done in a variety of powerful ways, both through civil and governmental action.

When I learned of the Westwood Civic Association, I recognized that this would be an opportunity to contribute to my neighborhood in a meaningful way as we grow our family here, using both my personal and professional experience as a social worker."

Lindsey Huhn

"I purchased a house in Westwood in 2014. I volunteer with Impact 100 and have led the Young Philanthropist program for 3 years. I am part of the Westwood Youth Council. I am dedicated to my community. I work in construction.

Westwood has been a big part of my life for many years. From going to grade school at Grace Lutheran to running around in the warehouse of Wullenweber Motors/Contractors Choice to now enjoying beers in that same show room. Westwood needs driven members and I believe I'm a great candidate to keep the drive going."

Nick Jackson

"I am a Major Incident Manager for Great American Insurance Group. I also spent eight years as a Lieutenant in the KY National Guard. Originally from Falmouth, KY, I moved to Cincinnati after high school to attend UC on an ROTC scholarship, where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. I fell in love with Cincinnati, and have lived and worked in this beautiful city my entire adult life. I'm a huge Bearcats and FC Cincinnati fan and will still admit publicly to being a Bengals fan! My girlfriend and I recently purchased our first home here in Westwood because we can easily see this neighborhood is undergoing a revitalization and we wanted to be a part of the transformation.

I am running for a seat on the Westwood Civic Association because I believe that Westwood is a thriving and bustling neighborhood for both its citizens and local businesses and I want to do my part to help the neighborhood continue to realize that potential. I feel that the business district is key to the revitalization and will seek to make Westwood attractive to both existing and local businesses. Just as important to me are community events and outreach, and I feel that bringing people together is key to building a strong community. Finally, since I have not lived in Westwood for very long, I would bring the benefit of a fresh perspective to the Westwood Civic Association. I look forward to the opportunity to serve Westwood in this capacity."

Katie Query (Shriver)

"Hey, neighbors! My name is Katie, and I'm a 30-year-old Cincinnati transplant from Portland, Oregon. When my husband and I moved here in 2018, we were looking for a neighborhood that valued community as much as we do, and wow, did we find that in Westwood! A little about me - In my professional life, I design civic engagement & service learning programs at Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. Outside of work you can find me gardening, at the dog park with my Brittany Spaniel, Hugo, or sipping a beer at Westside Brewing.

I am running for a seat on the Westwood Civic Association Board because I want to give my time and talents to a community that I love. If elected, my number one goal would be to help create a more inclusive Westwood for all residents. I am excited about the transformations I've seen in my short time in Westwood, and I will work to ensure that the trajectory of our neighborhood considers the needs of all our neighbors. I look forward to serving you."

Jon Thompson

"Originally from North Carolina, I went to UNC Chapel Hill before moving to New York City in 2009. For the past 10+ years, I have worked in marketing and advertising for companies like the United States Tennis Association, Snapchat, M&M'S, and Kroger. Recently, I became the Director of Social Strategy at Ogilvy, one of the largest advertising agencies in the world.

I also have a love for nonprofit work that supports youth initiatives. In 2010, I connected with three other young professionals in NYC to start a 501(c)(3) called Kings County Tennis League. As a founding board member, I facilitated the community organization by supporting fundraising efforts, volunteer efforts, and program development necessary to reach over 130 children from low-income families in public housing communities in Brooklyn, NY.

I moved to Westwood over 2 years ago and live with my wife, a life-long westside Cincinnati native, his 2.5-year-old daughter, and 4-year-old dog. We are expecting our second child in May 2021."

John Kerr

"I am an incumbent WCA board member who was appointed to fulfill an unexpired term of a retiring board member and am seeking my first elected term. I have lived in the Greater Cincinnati Area since '83 and have resided in Westwood for 5 years. I am a registered professional (civil) engineer, and in my career have been involved in 100's of engineering and construction projects. These include many public works, including for the City of Cincinnati. Prior to moving to Westwood, I lived in Colerain Township, where I served on the township's zoning commission, board of zoning appeals, finance advisory committee and master plan committee. While a member of the WCA board I have served on the Properties, Infrastructure, Beautification, Zoning (PIBZ) committee. Recent and current volunteer activities include those for the Great Miami River Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring program, Boy Scouts of America, Salvation Army, the WCA's Adopt-a-Pot program and Westwood Works Second Saturdays.

I am extremely pleased to be residing in Westwood, and am immensely enjoying these exciting times in our neighborhood. Much has been accomplished these past few years, but as always, there is still much to do. I would very much like to continue my involvement not only as a resident, but as member of the WCA board. I am particularly interested in infrastructure, development and zoning issues and wish to continue my service on the PIBZ committee, and believe my background can be of assistance with these."

Thanks to all of these candidates for stepping up to serve and represent Westwood!



COVID Vaccine Opportunity in Westwood

Oak Hill Health, which opened relatively recently at 2429 Harrison Ave (at McHenry and Harrison), is offering vaccination appointments in Westwood. They are very interested in offering appointments for those in the neighborhood. If you know anyone who is eligible and still needs an appointment, they can reach out Natavia Howell, at 317-760-9935, and she can help with the scheduling. Please feel free to share with any others in the area who may be interested in scheduling an appointment. Currently they are focused on vaccinating those 60 years of age or older. If anyone has had trouble finding an available appointment at Walgreens, CVS, Kroger, etc. this could provide you with an available option.



Daylight Savings Time—It's time to Spring Forward!

Set your clocks forward 1 hour on March 14. This is good time to also replace the batteries in your smoke detectors.





Thanks to the efforts of John Lewandowski, Core Team member, our Westwood Community Garden has been awarded a generous grant from the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund to help us purchase and build a storage shed, materials for rebuilding some of our raised beds and straw for mulching the beds. The Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund under the administration of Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, was established in 2007 to supply matching support for community-led initiatives that improve safety in Cincinnati neighborhoods. Over \$500,000 has been awarded for Safe and Clean Projects including; lighting, security cameras, landscaping, murals, public art, water fixtures, community gardens and more!

We had an insightful pruning lesson from Joshua Jones from the Common Orchard Project on Saturday, 2/27. There was a great turnout from our gardeners interested in learning about how to prune fruit trees at our garden. Thanks to Joshua for his patience, his clear directions on techniques and for his passion on helping trees look their best to produce bountiful fruits.

There are still many raised garden beds available for renting this year- this is the application form link - <http://westwoodcivic.org/westwood-community-gardens/wcg-application/>

Established in 2011, the Westwood Community Gardens is a place that is inclusive and allows all people, regardless of age or ability, to share in the joy of gardening. WCG gives back to the community by providing education to Westwood residents about gardening. Most importantly, the WCG will be a beautiful space that all neighbors can feel proud of and enjoy. Volunteers from the Gardens' core team plan the Gardens' development and work projects. All gardeners commit to twelve hours of work at the Gardens per year, helping with improvements, weeding, promotion, and other activities. Developed and supported by Westwood Civic Association, the Gardens are an initiative to enhance the quality of life in Westwood, in addition to the aims of providing green space and fresh produce in the neighborhood. Funded initially with the support of a Safe and Clean grant from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and with the resources of the Civic Garden Center, the Gardens also receive affordable plot rental fees from its gardeners and welcome donations.

Westwood Community Garden Members Receiving a Lesson in Pruning Fruit Trees



Adopt-A-Pot—Calling all potters!

It's that time of year to make your New Year's resolution a reality. You know, the one where you determined you would do a little something to beautify our neighborhood?

I need to know by the end of April which pots in the business district have been adopted and by whom. Past adopters get first dibs to either keep their current pot, request a change, or may request an additional pot to plant and maintain during the growing season. But YOU (and your family?) can request to be a part of the program; we have a few extras!

So if you would like to exercise that green thumb, please contact me at 481-3910 and leave a message, or email me at: majones711@gmail.com for more information and a pot assignment. Spring IS coming!



Westwood Branch Library

by Travis Castleberry



Spring is here at the Westwood Branch Library!

- Now open Monday – Saturday 10am-6pm.
- All visitors are required to wear a mask.
- Computers available for two hour sessions.
- Free printing for up to 50 pages!
- Free faxing and scanning!
- We are now fine free!

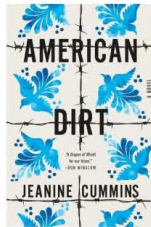
Free kids snack and frozen meal giveaway every Monday at 3pm – 5pm

Outdoor story times begin on Wednesday, March 17th at 10am – Ages birth to preschool.

Library playdate outdoor story time begins Friday, March 26th at 10:30am – Ages birth to preschool.

Westwood Book Club Thursday, March 25th - 6:30-7:30 pm via Zoom

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummings



An urgent, blistering, unforgettable book. In her portrayal of Lydia and Luca, a mother and son forced to leave their Mexican home, Jeanine Cummins has given face to migrants everywhere who flee violence and near-certain death in search of only one thing: a chance at life.


For information on any of our programs, please contact us at 369-4474.

Programs made possible by the Friends of the Public Library and the Kersten Fund.

Westwood Branch Library
3345 Epworth Avenue
513-369-4474
www.cincinnatilibrary.org

Hours of Operation:
Monday-Saturday: 10am-6pm

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



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WESTWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION

**GUESS WHAT? YOU CAN ATTEND
WESTWOOD CIVIC MEETINGS FROM YOUR HOME!**

Our meetings are still **the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.**, but they've gone digital.

You can join us on Zoom either from your computer or on the phone.

Meeting ID: 859 4046 9773
Password: 1868

Here are some directions:

- To join online, go to Zoom.com, click 'Join a Meeting,' and enter the Meeting ID. Follow the instructions.
- To call in, dial (929) 205-6099 and follow the directions. You will need to dial in the Meeting ID and Password, which are listed above.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to
info@westwoodcivic.org

WCA Board		April 2020—April 2021
<u>Officers</u>		
President	Thomas Sauter	
Vice President	Abe Brandbury	
Vice President	Karen Strasser	
Treasurer	Steve Beckman	
Recording Secretary	Sara Overstake	
Membership Secretary	Stephen Schramm	(513) 346-9944
Board of Directors		
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that help ward off the emerald ash borer!



Westword's Monthly Ad Rates

Published ~12 times a year by WCA with funds supplied by the Neighborhood Support Program, local advertisers & membership dues. WCA has 322 active memberships. For information about placing an ad: info@westwoodcivic.org

\$100—Full Page; \$50—Half Page; \$50—Insert;
\$25—Quarter Page; \$10—Business Card