

THIS FALL IN WESTWOOD

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 Number 1

FALL 2004

NEWS from the Local Emergency Planning Committee **Westwood's LEPC Receives Provisional Certification**

The Westwood Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is pleased to announce that, after a two-year process, it has received provisional certification from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. The LEPC was established to facilitate the Town of Westwood's ability to effectively plan for, and minimize, the impact of emergency situations that have the potential of creating adverse impacts on the community. Activating the LEPC became very important after the events of September 11, 2001.

Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act

In October 1986 the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) was enacted into law. One part of the SARA provisions is Title III: The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA). Title III establishes requirements for Federal, State and local governments and industry regarding emergency planning and community right-to-know reporting on hazardous and toxic chemicals. EPCRA establishes Local Emergency Planning Committees and requires them to evaluate hazardous chemicals in storage, use, or transportation in the community and to develop plans to respond to emergencies involving these hazardous materials. Westwood adopted an emergency plan and created the Westwood Emergency Management Agency (WEMA) in 1992. WEMA primarily met to plan and discuss serious traffic or weather events and to review and update the emergency plan.

Westwood Forms a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

In June 2002 the Westwood Board of Selectmen received information pertaining to new LEPC certification requirements. The LEPC became an extension of the Westwood Emergency Management Agency. In July 2002 a group of government and non-government organizations met to form the Westwood LEPC. The committee consists

of 13 membership categories: elected state/local officials, law enforcement, emergency medical services, emergency management, firefighting, health, local environment, hospital, transportation personnel, broadcast/print media, community groups, owners and operators of facilities using hazardous materials and public works. Individuals representing these categories were appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Over the past two years the committee has fulfilled all of the requirements for provisional certification and expects to achieve full certification over the next year. The committee has adopted bylaws, appointed officers and applied for grant money. The LEPC received a planning grant in 2003 to purchase a laptop computer and appropriate hazardous materials software to be used by the fire department. The current emergency plan was reviewed, revised and practiced in a tabletop exercise in January 2003. The LEPC completed needs assessments for the Executive Office of Public Safety and the Department of Public Health.

Emergency Preparedness Booklet Available to Westwood Residents

In continuing its readiness to respond to an emergency and to educate the public about emergency preparedness, Westwood's LEPC and the Westwood Board of Health have teamed up to provide a basic emergency preparedness booklet for Westwood residents. The booklet was created by the Boston Public Health Commission and paid for through a grant from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

The booklet helps the public understand emergency preparedness and provides the facts about chemical, biological and nuclear agents. It contains information from many different sources — both government and non-governmental organizations. It is not meant to be an exhaustive source of information but rather a starting point.

Continued on next page

Did You Know . . .

• **Information about the Public Library's recently completed Feasibility Study** is now available on the Library's web page www.westwoodlibrary.org. The link is titled Library Expansion Plans and includes parts of the report and pictures of current building conditions at the Main Library.

• **Benefits Coordinator Barbara Moore successfully organized a wellness challenge for town and school employees** to walk 25 miles in 30 days. The challenge began on May 24th with 90 employees registering for this health benefit. A t-shirt, a walking log with suggested walking routes, and pedometers were given to the first 40 employees who registered. Thirty-three employees completed 25 to 72 miles by June 25 and were entered into a raffle. Winners were Susan Daly, Pat Conley, Kevin Smith and Janice Polin. The Employees Benefits Committee encourages everyone to participate in a wellness program on a regular basis whether it is a walking routine or other form of exercise.

• **Westwood Youth and Family Services is pleased to introduce a new Youth Counselor, Danielle Sutton, M.S.W.** Danielle, a native of Syracuse, New York, is a graduate of the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. She has worked with pre-school and school age children, to adult and geriatric clients. In addition to providing individual and family counseling services, Danielle will be responsible for continuing the WY&FS programs for school-age children. She replaces Kristen Vander Stucken.

• **Past practices of a one day delay due to holidays for solid waste and recycling pickup will now only affect the following holidays:** Labor Day, Sept 6; Veteran's Day, Nov 11; Thanksgiving, Nov 25; Memorial Day, May 30. All other holiday collections will be a normal Monday through Friday schedule.

Leaves and grass clippings will be collected the weeks of Sept 20, Oct 18, and Nov 3 through Nov 29. Leaves must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on each resident's regular collection day and must be in barrels or biodegradable paper bags — no plastic.

• **The Town of Westwood is planning to conduct a Housing Lottery to generate a list of applicants for any affordable houses that come up for resale in Chase Estates and Cedar Hill Estates.** The original lottery for these developments was held in September 1995 and generated a list of almost 1400 applicants. Since this list is almost nine years old and many of the original applicants are no longer qualified for the program, it is necessary to hold a new lottery. There are not any affordable houses currently available in either Chase Estates or Cedar Hill Estates, but the Town is creating an updated list to be prepared when a unit comes up for resale.

Both of these housing developments were constructed in the mid to late 1990s under the guidelines of the Local Initiative Program. This program was designed to encourage developers to build home ownership projects with twenty-five percent being affordable units. In return for building the affordable units, the developer was allowed to build more units

than was permitted under conventional zoning. Chase Estates has one hundred houses and Cedar Hill Estates has fifty-five houses. All of the thirty-eight affordable houses have Deed Restrictions that limit the price of the house if it is sold and requires the Town of Westwood to find a new qualified affordable buyer.

The new lottery will adhere to the current guidelines for the Local Initiative Program. All applicants must be income eligible as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The income limits vary according to household size. All applicants must also be first-time homebuyers with a household size that is appropriate for the number of bedrooms in the units. Minimum household size will be three persons for the three bedroom houses and four persons for the four bedroom houses.

Resale units will be distributed equally among local residents and general applicants as they become available. Local preference will be given to current Westwood residents, children or parents of current Westwood residents, and municipal or town employees. Anyone can apply for the general applicant list. Local residents will be included on both the Local and the General lists.

The lottery application period will start in the middle of September 2004. After the required advertising and outreach phase is completed, a lottery drawing will be held to rank the applications. More information will be available on the town's website and in local and regional advertisements as soon as plans are finalized. □

News from the Local Emergency Planning Committee (Continued from page 1)

Topics covered in the booklet include:

- **Emergency Preparedness Planning:** What you can do now to prepare yourself and your family for the unexpected.
- **Coping with Disasters:** Dealing with the stress and feelings that can occur when disaster strikes.
- **Information on Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Agents:** Basic overview of agents you may have seen or read about in recent news coverage.
- **Additional Resources:** Links to more information on the topics covered in the booklet.

Booklets are available at the Westwood Board of Health located at the Carby Street Municipal Office Building, the Westwood Town Hall, the Public Libraries, and the Council on Aging. For information about the booklets please call the Westwood Board of Health at (781) 320-1026. For information about the Westwood LEPC, please call the Board of Selectmen's office at (781) 326-4172. □

Send all correspondence to:
Westwood Community Newsletter
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
Barbara M. Friedman, Editor

Dollars & Sense

A Look at the Town's Revenue . . .

Revenue Sources Include

Real Estate Taxes — revenue raised from real estate taxes.

State Aid — primarily education and lottery receipts.

Free Cash — any remaining balance of prior year budget.

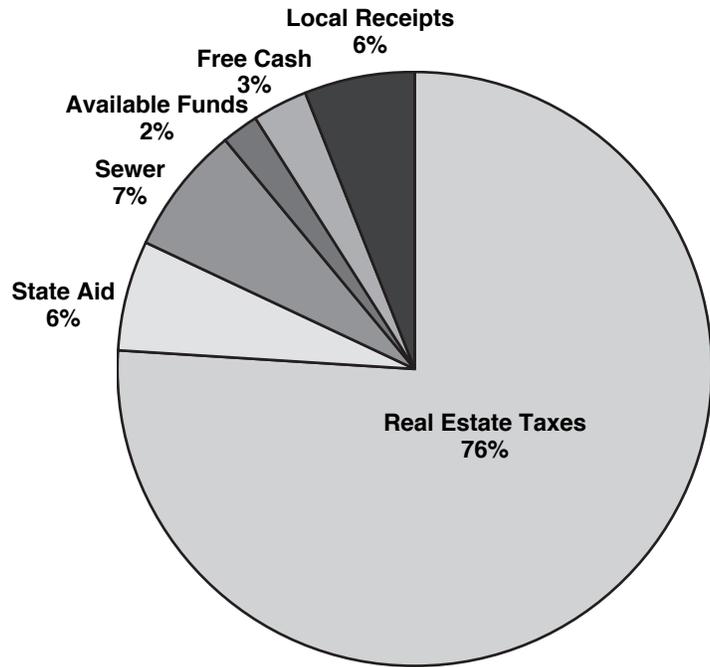
Sewer Funds — sewer rates fully cover cost of sewer services.

Local Receipts — primarily motor vehicle excise tax and licenses/permits.

Available Funds — ambulance receipts, cemetery lot sales, etc.

As the **FY2005 Budget Revenue** pie chart indicates, the primary source of Westwood's revenue (76%) is real estate taxes. This picture is very typical for a residential suburban community. A similar chart for a large, urban city in Massachusetts would look very different, with a much greater reliance on state aid, perhaps 50-60%.

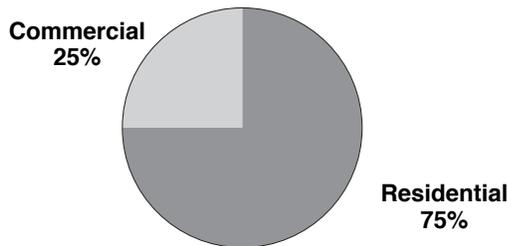
FY2005 Budget Revenue



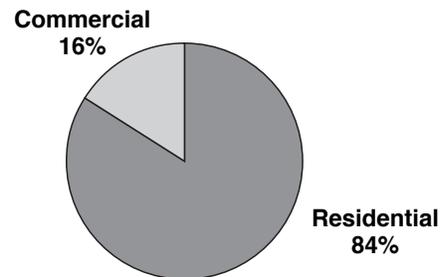
And the Importance of Commercial Property . . .

The Town's commercial property is an important component of the Town's overall tax base. Westwood taxes its commercial property at a higher rate than residential (\$23.36 vs. \$12.96).

**Percent of Total Town Taxes
Fiscal Year 2004**



**Percent of Total Town Value
Fiscal Year 2004**



As shown by the charts, in FY04 commercial value represented 16% of the Town's total value; however they paid 25% of the total taxes. This reflected an average savings of \$767 or 12% to the average home. Town officials recognize the importance of maintaining this residential tax savings. They have and will continue to undertake positive initiatives to strengthen our commercial tax base. At the 2004 Annual Town Meeting, several zoning bylaw changes were passed that are intended to attract new businesses to our community.

Comments and/or suggestions for future articles? Contact Pam Dukeman at: PDukeman@Townhall.Westwood.MA.US

TOWN BULLETIN BOARD

TOWN AND SCHOOL EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS

Sept 16 Schools Closed — Rosh Hashanah
Sept 20 League of Women Voters Fall Kick-Off Program
7 p.m. desserts
7:30 p.m. Nancy Ryan, Pres Bd of the MA American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) will speak on “Civil Liberties and the Patriot Act: How Does It Affect Citizens”
Call Jane Nash for more information —
781-769-1185

Oct 2 Hazardous Waste Collection Day
9 a.m. – 12 noon
Westwood Public Works Highway Yard,
50 Carby Street
Oct 11 Schools and Town Hall Closed — Columbus Day
Nov 11 Schools and Town Hall Closed — Veterans Day
Nov 12 Schools Closed — All Day in Service for Teachers
Nov 25, 26 Schools and Town Hall Closed — Thanksgiving

PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Main Library Programs for Preschoolers

Sept 13-Oct 18 **Terrific Twos** - Ages 2 & up with caregiver
Nov 8-Dec 13 Mondays, 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Sept 14-Oct 19 **Parent/Child Storytime** - Ages 2½ and up with caregiver
Nov 9-Dec 14 Tuesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Sept 15-Oct 20 **Storytime** - Ages 3½ and up
Nov 10-Dec 15 Wednesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Sept 17-Oct 22 **Babies & Books** - Under 2 years with caregiver
Nov 12-Dec 17 Fridays, 10:10-10:30 a.m. & 11:10-11:30 a.m.

Children must be the appropriate age by the first day of each session. These sessions of storytime will be drop-in, no registration is required. There are no sessions during public school vacations or holidays or snow days.

Main Library Programs for School Age Children

Sept 14-Oct 19 **Wishing Well** - Ages 5 and up
Nov 9-Dec 14 Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Registration begins Aug 15th

Special Programs at Main Library

Oct 2, Nov 6 **Storytelling Saturdays** -Ages 2½ and up with families.
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Registration begins 1 month prior.

TBA **A Story for Every Season** - All ages
An Early Childhood Council, Council on Aging and Library CPC Program
Registration will be required, please call the COA.

Oct 16 **Author Illustrator Scott “Skip” SanGiacomo**
Meet author and illustrator of books including Curious George Adventure books.
Saturday 10:30 a.m. Registration begins Sept 15. All ages.

Oct 26 **Halloween Storytime and Costume Parade**
Tuesday, 10:30 - All ages, costumes welcome. Registration is not required.

Oct 28 **HOWLARIOUS Halloween**
Halloween stories with Mary Jo Maichack
Spooky? YES! For children ages 6 and up.
Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Costumes welcome. Registration is required.

Main Library Social Hours

Sept 9, Oct 7 **Early Childhood Council/Library Program**
Nov 4, Dec 2 Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Social and educational event for families.
Registration begins two weeks prior to programs.
*Social Hours are also held at the Recreation Department.
Call 461-0070 for dates and times.*

Islington Branch Programs

Sept 16-Oct 21 **Storytime** - Ages 3½ and up
Nov 18-Dec 16 Thursdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Registration required.

Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 **Young Readers Book Club** - Grades 2-4
Tuesdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Snacks provided!
Registration begins Sept. 7.

For further information, please call the Main Library Children’s Department at 781-320-1042 or the Islington Branch at 781-326-5914 or visit the web site at www.westwoodlibrary.org/home.

This Fall in Westwood
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Westwood, MA 02090

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Westwood, MA 02090

News From Westwood High School

Westwood Seniors Excel

Westwood High School seniors have done well in their college placement results. Of the 163 graduates in the Class of 2004, 149 intend to enroll in a four-year college/university, 5 students will be attending a two-year college, 2 students will attend prep school, 1 student will be entering the City Year Program, 1 student will be attending a beauty academy, and 5 students are entering the work force. (97% of our students will be continuing their education, 92% at a four-year college/university.)

The 2004 College Decision Profile is available in each guidance counselor's office for students and parents to review. The information reported here is derived from student requests for transcripts, from letters we receive from college admissions offices, and from data reported on senior exit surveys. The Class of 2004 College Decision Profile is designed to be a guide for members of the Class of 2005 and their parents as they begin the college planning process.

Admission To Most Competitive and Highly Competitive Colleges Westwood High School Class of 2004

<i>Class of:</i>	<i>Students in Class</i>	<i>Acceptances to Most Competitive Colleges</i>	<i>Acceptances to Highly Competitive Colleges</i>
2004	163	86	114
2003	155	60	82
2002	160	43	56
2001	143	29	59
2000	130	55	65
1999	130	39	60
1998	118	29	62
1997	108	42	66
1996	129	38	58
1995	111	17	39
1994	119	18	61
1993	106	16	22
1992	131	29	49
1991	144	19	50
1990	138	15	37

COMMENTARY: For the purposes of this profile, we have used the Barron's Profiles of American Colleges as a basis for assigning specific colleges to admissions categories.

NEWS from the Residents in the Armed Services Committee

Veterans' Database Nearing Completion

The Westwood Residents in the Armed Services Committee is nearing completion of a database of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam War veterans who went on active duty from a Westwood address. Currently, a similar list of veterans, who served from 1941-1975 and who entered the Service from another community and subsequently moved to Westwood after discharge, is currently being completed.

If you wish to be listed in our project, please complete the following questionnaire and mail to:

**The Westwood Residents in the Armed Services Committee
Westwood Town Hall
High Street
Westwood, MA 02090**

NAME OF VETERAN _____

PRESENT ADDRESS _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

DATES OF ACTIVE DUTY _____

ADDRESS WHEN ENTERED SERVICE _____

CONTACT PERSON:

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE _____
