

THIS SUMMER IN WESTWOOD

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 Number 4

SUMMER 2005

Michael A. Beaumont

Recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award



Nancy Hyde, Mike Beaumont, Mrs. Cronin and John Cronin, Jr.

Each year, the John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee awards this high honor to an individual who has served the Town of Westwood. John J. Cronin, Town Treasurer for many years, selflessly gave of his time and expertise for the betterment of the community both as an elected official and in numerous volunteer activities. In recognition of that spirit of community involvement, the John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee chose Michael A. Beaumont as its third recipient.

Michael Beaumont displays exemplary service, dedication and commitment to the Town of Westwood. His contributions are numerous, including those in local government and on a personal level. Michael is presently a Director of Patterson Insurance Agency in Westwood.

Michael has served on multiple governmental committees including:

- Finance Commission from 1987 to 1990, and as Chairman in 1989.

- Public Works Study Committee from 1991 to 1992 spearheading the effort to create a Department of Public Works and participating in the selection of the first DPW Director in 1992.
- Board of Selectmen for two consecutive terms from 1992 to 1998, and as Chairman in 1993 and 1996 where he strove to build a positive community spirit.
- Business Development Task Force which he established in 1993 and served as Chairman from 1998 to 2004, promoting the need for comprehensive master planning and establishing sound tax policies.
- Council on Aging from 2000 until the present time.

- Supporter of the Islington reconstruction project of the town clock and the municipal parking lot.
- Involved in the purchase of the land from the YMCA.
- Supported the development of Affordable Housing including collecting a fee from the sale of market homes in the Chase Estates project to create an Affordable Housing Fund.

Michael also contributes to community life through:

- Olde Home Day Fair
- Islington Community Church, where he served as Treasurer and Moderator
- Westwood Youth Hockey
- Westwood Varsity Girls Hockey
- Westwood Rotary Club
- Westwood Educational Foundation
- President of the Norfolk Golf Club after serving on the Board of Directors for 4 years.

As an exemplary citizen of Westwood, Michael A. Beaumont has earned this coveted award. □

Development Opportunity at University Avenue

On May 2, 2005, Town Meeting voted to approve the Mixed Use Overlay District zoning articles for University Avenue Business Park. The following explanations will help to answer residents' questions about that zoning regulation as well as what this opportunity entails.

What Will Mixed Use Overlay District Zoning Do?

This type of zoning allows Westwood to attract comprehensive development that includes a beneficial mix of housing, jobs, and tax revenues. It will allow a developer to plan a project to the Town's satisfaction while giving him the ability to respond to market conditions. The three overlay districts — called MUOD (Mixed Use Overlay Districts 1, 2, and 3) — do NOT change the *underlying* industrial zoning as it presently exists. But *if* a developer comes in with 50 or more acres under control, he/she can present an Area Master Plan, to which an alternative set of regulations (the *overlay* zoning) will apply. Under overlay zoning rules:

- residential development will be permitted in those areas closest to the train station (MUOD 2 and 3);
- greater height will be permitted in the area directly opposite the train station (MUOD 3).

But nothing — no use, no dimension, nor provision — will be allowed automatically. Every aspect of a Master Plan requires a Special Permit that is subject to the discretion of the Planning Board.

The Planning Board will evaluate the Area Master Plan in terms of its potential:

- to create economic value and tax revenues;
- to protect groundwater quality and quantity;
- to meet identified housing needs;
- to provide increased goods and services.

The Planning Board will also evaluate and demand alleviation of the Plan's undesirable impacts

- on the local existing neighborhood,
- on public safety and educational facilities;
- on traffic patterns.

Why is Mixed Use Overlay District Zoning Needed at University Avenue?

This zoning approach will generate meaningful commercial tax revenues for Westwood. The Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB), which was established by the Board of Selectmen to encourage appropriate economic growth in Westwood's

commercially zoned areas, tried for many years to bring office development to University Avenue Park. But the office market has lagged while land prices have soared. In spite of best efforts, University Avenue has a vacancy rate approaching 40%. With its large stock of existing but vacant warehouses, University Avenue is not positioned well to rely primarily on office development. Even retail is difficult to attract without a substantial University Avenue population, unless "big box" mega-malls are considered, which is something not desired in Westwood.

Residential development has been the strongest sector in the market over the longest period; residential development also attracts retail and restaurants to an area, which will help attract office development when that segment of the market recovers. The residential development, which is never allowed to be more than one-third of the total development and cannot exceed the amount of commercial footage being built at any particular phase, will be permitted as predominantly studio, and one and two bedroom units. It will be designed to cater to "empty nesters" whose children have grown, and to young commuting professional people, who do not yet have children. It will include a 12 percent affordable housing requirement to keep the town ahead of the threshold for "40B" projects. It will also include an additional 5 percent affordability consideration to assist those who exceed "low and moderate" income guidelines, but whose means still render them poorly served by the Boston area real estate market.

Why Is it Necessary to Pass This Zoning Now?

The EDAB has long sought an opportunity to put together many properties for a thoughtfully planned development at University Avenue, especially in the area closest to the train station. As that land has become available, the Town has moved quickly to take advantage of an extraordinary opportunity to create a multi-use, pedestrian-oriented environment that provides easy access to transportation and produces new commercial taxes. The rigorous Special Permit process, which will provide ample opportunity for the community to have a voice in the Planning Board decisions, is designed to protect Westwood against undesirable development consequences and enable the town to benefit from realizing the long latent potential of University Avenue. □

Dollars & Sense

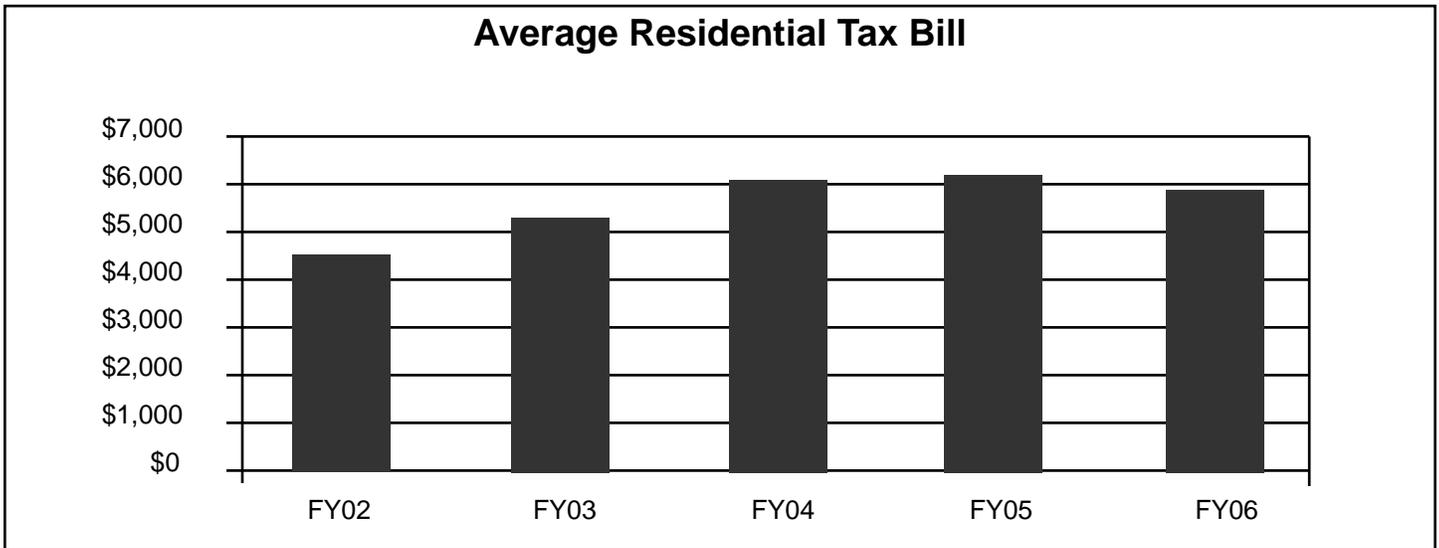
The Town will collect less in total taxes in FY06 than it did in FY05 and FY04.

	FY04	FY05	FY06
Total Taxes Collected	\$43,112,384	\$43,092,347	\$42,376,383

While general tax revenue increases by 2 1/2%, the exempt debt (debt approved outside the limits of Proposition 2 1/2) portion will significantly decline by approximately \$2 million due to:

- * Receipt of state share of High School construction project.
- * Receipt of state share of Martha Jones and Downey construction projects.
- * Completion of 1994 road improvement bond.

What does this mean for the average home?



	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06
Average Tax Bill Increase	3.74%	15.57%	13.2%	0.67%	(-2.5%)
Average Tax Bill	\$4,637	\$5,359	\$6,066	\$6,107	\$5,952
Average Home Value	\$334,339	\$468,075	\$468,075	\$510,202	\$510,202

The average annual tax bill will decrease by 2 1/2% in FY06.

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

June 23 Schools close for summer
July 4 Town Hall closed for Fourth of July

Sept 5 Town Hall closed for Labor Day
Sept 6 Schools open for 2005-6 academic year

PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Children's Department

Massachusetts 2005 Statewide Summer Reading Program:
"GOING PLACES @ YOUR LIBRARY."
Sign-up for summer reading begins the last day of school.

Main Library Weekly Summer Programs – 2005 Registration is NOT required for most summer programs.

Jul 11-Aug 15 Preschool Literacy Adventures. Ages 2 and up.
Mondays, 10:30-11:00 p.m.

Jul 12-Aug 16 Wishing Well – Grades K-3.
Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Jul 12-Aug 16 Bedtime Storytime. All ages.
Tuesdays, 7:00-7:30 p.m. Wear PJs!

Jul 13-Aug 17 Storytime – Ages 3-5 years.
Wednesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Jul 16-Aug 20 Babies & Books – Under 2 years old.
Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

Special Summer Programs at Main Library

July TBA Kick off the summer reading program with
Storyteller Diane Edgecomb.

July 18 HARRY POTTER PARTY
All ages celebrate the newest Harry Potter
book!
Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Wear the costume of your favorite character!

July 25, Aug 8, 22, 29 CHECK IT OUT!
Activities for Grades 3 and up!
Games, Nature Printing, Spooky Campfire
Stories & more.
Mondays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Aug 10 Library Scavenger Hunt
Grades K and up.
Wednesday 2:00-3:15 p.m. Prizes!

Aug 23 Crafts Day
Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. All ages.

Aug TBA Summer Reading Program Celebration
with Mime Robert Rivest.

***Coming this summer:
THE WESTWOOD KIDS'
LIBRARY BLOG!***

LSTA Grant Programs

July 23 & Aug 20 Susie Magoozy's Music
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.

Islington Branch Summer Programs

Jul 14, 21 & 28 Storytime – Ages 3¹/₂-5.
Aug 11, 18 Thursdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Aug 4 Frank Karpo's Magic Show
Thursday, 9:30 a.m.
5 years and up, registration is required.

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

This Summer in Westwood
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Westwood, MA 02090

Did You Know . . .

- **The Westwood Community Chest Campership Program has offered camp scholarships to local children since 2001.** Summer day and overnight camps provide children and teenagers wonderful opportunities for physical, social and emotional growth, as well as providing needed child care for working parents. Campership applications are available at the Westwood Recreation Department on Carby Street, and at the Westwood Youth and Family Services Office, located at the Islington Community Center. Confidential information may be left on voice mail for the Westwood Community Chest at 781-326-3217, or contact MaryAnne Carty of Westwood Youth and Family Services at 781-320-1006.
- **Westwood's Customer Service Campaign, "Dedicated to Service" was launched in January, 2005.** Nancy Hyde, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, initiated this campaign and a committee was formed to pursue methods of educating town employees in the art of providing the best customer service.

Town staff took part in a customer service training session that encouraged interaction with customers in an efficient and professional manner. In various departments, the slogan, "Dedicated to Service" is displayed as a constant reminder to staff and residents of the commitment to providing effective customer service to all.

Each month, a new customer service related topic is selected and all campaign efforts are geared toward this topic. For example, the focus in February was phone service. The phone system was changed to make it easier for residents and customers to locate a specific department. Despite limited resources and the strain this has put on all departments, town employees are going the extra mile to try and maintain services.

If any resident wishes to acknowledge any individual, he/she is asked to do so at Town Hall. Residents may also be asked to fill out a short survey that will enable the town to determine if the best customer service possible is being provided.

- **Town Meeting recently adopted the following rule concerning dog ownership** to protect town residents and maintain a pleasant environment for all park users: dogs shall be restrained on public property at all times and any defecation must be collected and removed by the owner.
- **The Assessor's office will be conducting a full field review of all residential parcels during the month of July.** The town has contracted with Vision Appraisal Technology to assist the Assessors. This type of field review will be conducted at street level so, in most instances, there will be no need for the Assessors to gain access to the interior of homes. This is the first step in the mandated recertification process from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. In the future, it may be necessary for the Board of Assessors to perform an interior inspection program and, if that becomes necessary, town residents will be asked to voluntarily allow the Assessors to enter their homes.

HAVE A NICE SUMMER!

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

Westwood Residents in the Armed Services Committee News

In November 2002, the Westwood Board of Selectmen authorized a committee to develop a database of Westwood residents who served in the armed services.

The committee includes:

Thomas Brown	Joseph D. Clancy (Chairman)
Timothy Foley	Christopher C. Henes
William E. Holbrook	Michael A. Jaillet
Paul E. Mullen	Lura S. Provost
Joseph F. Sheehan	Paul J. Sheehan
James M. Sullivan (Veterans Agent)	

One of the committee's objectives was to list the individuals who entered each war/conflict from a Westwood address. Individuals who moved to the town after military service will be on a subsequent list.

The report of World War II veterans was published in December, 2003. The veterans of the Korean conflict and the Vietnam conflict were published in March, 2005. Below are some additions to veterans of the Korean conflict and the Vietnam conflict. Another list includes the Veterans who served from 1975-2000. This period included Beirut, Grenada, Panama and the first Gulf War.

These honor rolls were completed from various state and local lists of veterans during that period. It would be greatly appreciated if the general public would review this material and send any corrections to the Westwood Residents in the Armed Services Committee c/o Westwood Town Hall, 580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090.

WESTWOOD HONOR ROLL ADDITIONS TO THE REPORT OF THE KOREAN CONFLICT 6/25/50-1/31/55

Albee, Peter	Lowry, Donald G.
Balbanis, Frederick J.	Pruyn, Frederick D.
Delaplace, Louis R.	Soderstrom, Rolf

WESTWOOD HONOR ROLL ADDITIONS TO THE REPORT OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT 2/1/55-5/7/75

Abel, Burton F.	Lowry, Steven
Bent, Arthur	MacMahon, Edward
Balbanis, Theodore A.	Mitchell, Phillip
Balbanis, Raymond F.	Mordini, Joseph
Begley III, Thomas J.	Morley, Peter I.
Crawford, Edwin	Nelson, Paul
Crowe, J. Leo	Patterson, Donald
Everts, Kenneth	Poreda, Christopher
Fields, Harry H.	Prichard, John L.
Gibbons, Paul	Pruyn, Frederick D.
Hayden, Arnold	Richenburg, Frederick K.
Hennessy, Peter E.	Silva, John R.
Hunt, Stephen L.	Smith, David
Kelly, James M.	*Thurston, William
Lally, James J.	Tripp, John C.
Louvaris, Anthony C.	*Van Hall, Arthur
Lowry, Donald G.	Youlden, Jr., Richard H.

*Died in Service

WESTWOOD HONOR ROLL CONFLICTS 1975-2000

Beaton, Theodore E.	Leonard III, Kenneth C.
Burr, Robert	Lopez, Thomas C.
Carter, Joseph	Lynch, William
Clancy, Mark	Maher, Brian
Clark, Lawrence	McElroy, John F.
Cogavin, Dennis C.	Malloy, Gerald
Dettbarn, Robert	Monaghan, Gregory J.
*Devlin, Michael J.	Monaghan, James B.
Farren, Edward	Naughton, Shawn
Foley, Timothy	Ormsby, John
Galberg, Stephen H.	Peksens, Rudolph
Gary, Brian	Randlett, Bradford
Gerraughty, Kenneth	Sheppard, David
Goldstein, Daniel	Simpson, Leo A.
*Greppin III, Ernest H.	Teague, Daniel
Guidi Jr., Justin J.	Tedesco, Ronald L.
Henes, Christopher	White, Joseph W.
Howard, James A.	Zeimian, Robert P.
LaCamera, Trese	

*Died in Service