



WESTWOOD

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007
Volume 20 Number 2

The community newsletter keeps us connected to each other and to our town...
– Barbara Friedman
Newsletter Editor from 1988-2006

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Art Exhibit “Captured Nature”



Pond Street resident Kathy Whelan with her entry “Music at Savage Pond” quilt.

Hundreds of Westwood Public School art students along with over forty local residents submitted works of art in the *Capturing Nature in Westwood Art Exhibit*

Nancy Dempze, Westwood Land Trust President, thanked all the participants for helping WLT with its mission. “Artists help us to see what is around us, and the exhibit is a wonderful way for Westwood residents to view nature through artists’ eyes,” explained Ms. Dempze. Special thank you gifts were presented to Diane Kaiser, WPS Director of Art, and Randa Khuri, Westwood League of Fine Artists member, for their organizations’ contributions in helping to make the event a success.

**“Artists help us to see
what is around us...”**

held this fall. Sponsored by the Westwood Land Trust (“WLT”) with support from the Westwood Public Schools and the Westwood League of Fine Artists, the event encouraged experienced and novice artists to get outside, explore the natural beauty that surrounds us, and “capture” that beauty through art.

Over 200 residents attended a public reception to view the exhibit on Thursday, November 15, at Westwood High School. Those attending were inspired by the quality, beauty and variety of entries: oil and water color paintings of scenic views and flora; photos of wildlife and beautiful fall scenery in town, particularly at Hale Reservation; 3-D installations inspired by renowned British artist Andy Goldsworthy; pottery; quilts; collages; clay miniatures of trees and animals; life-sized paper maché birds; and much, much more.

Nature-inspired raffle prizes such as National Audubon guide books and flower store gift certificates were awarded to participants and attendees. Corporate sponsorship and local business donations made the participant prizes and refreshments possible. The Westwood Land Trust would like to thank the following businesses for their generous contributions in support of the exhibit: Rackemann, Sawyer & Brewster; Vello’s; Roche Brothers; Chiara; Westwood Gardens Flower Shop; The Art Emporium and Kabloom. WLT hopes that *Capturing Nature in Westwood Art Exhibit* will become an annual community event.

Did You Know . . .

- **Rubbish and recycling collection will be on a holiday schedule during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's.** This means that since Tuesday is a holiday during both weeks, all collections for that day and all remaining collections for the week will be delayed by one day. Friday's collection will be on Saturday.
- **Christmas tree collection** will take place the week of January 7, 2008 on your regular rubbish collection day – weather permitting.

Snow Removal Information

Storm Drain Cleaning

- There are over 1500 catch basins (storm drains) in the town, making it almost impossible to clear snow and debris from all of them. The Department of Public Works would appreciate it if residents could keep the drain in front of their property clean, so it won't cause an ice hazard or puddle on the street.
- Similarly, any fire hydrant in town should be kept clear of snow in case of a fire emergency. During the winter, if a resident with a fire hydrant near their home is physically able, keeping the hydrant clear of snow is a safety measure appreciated by the fire fighters and the town.

Winter Parking Restrictions

- The Superintendent of Streets or the Chief of Police, for the purpose of removing or plowing snow, or removing ice, from any way, may remove or cause to be removed any vehicle interfering with such work, and the cost of such removal and of the storage charges, shall be imposed upon the owner of such vehicle.

Snow and Ice Removal Town Bylaw

- No person shall lay, throw, place or cause to be placed any snow or ice on any paved town street or sidewalk so as to create a hazardous condition or public safety concern. If, after having received notice from a duly authorized agent of the Town that such a condition exists, the owner of the property from which the snow or ice was removed (or his agent having charge thereof) fails to correct the condition within a reasonable amount of time, the owner or agent shall be deemed to be in violation of this Bylaw. Violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) or any cost incurred by the Town as a result of said violation or both.

Town Layout Information

- Nothing damaged by the Town that is constructed, built, or placed on the Town layout will be repaired or replaced, i.e.: mailboxes, fences, stonewalls, etc.

Fire Department Open House Highlights

On October 13, 2007, the Westwood Fire Department held its annual Open House at the High Street Station. Once again the event was a huge success with hundreds of residents in attendance. The residents were able to explore the fire apparatus, use the fire hose, learn about the dive team and much more. The highlights of the day were two "live burn" demonstrations. Firefighters constructed two life sized, furnished rooms that were then set on fire. The demonstration illustrated the speed and intensity with which the rooms burned. They also reminded people of the importance of having smoke detectors in their homes. Visitors were treated to pizza, provided by Papa Gino's and a visit by Sparky the Fire Dog. ❖



Getting to Know Westwood Community Chest

You may have received a mailing from Westwood Community Chest (WCC) this fall. WCC helps Westwood residents in need. This could include seniors on a budget or families stretched thin. WCC helps pay bills for essential needs such as food, medical expenses and utilities. They also help send kids to camp. 100% of its recipients are Westwood residents. WCC is staffed solely by volunteers and its funding depends on the generosity of Westwood residents. If you haven't had a chance yet, please take a moment to send in a donation.

It has been a busy year* for WCC – here are a few highlights:

- WCC distributed more than \$50,000 to help people in need.
- WCC helped send 53 kids to camp.
- Twice as many families applied for camp scholarships than the previous year.
- WCC helped more than 100 families in Westwood.

*All numbers are based on fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. ❖



Tree Planting Program

Throughout the year, the Department of Public Works receives donations of trees to be planted within the Town. The Board of Selectmen would like to offer these trees to our residents.

If you are interested, you can submit your name to our drawing. Whenever a tree is donated to the town, we will pick a name from the entries. If you are chosen, the Department of Public Works will notify you regarding the planting of the tree. The tree must be planted with fifteen feet from the edge of the roadway or the sidewalk. You will then be responsible for watering and pruning the tree once it is planted.

If you are interested in partaking in this drawing, send an email to the Selectmen's office at selectmen@townhall.westwood.ma.us or you can obtain a form from the Board of Selectmen's Office.

We encourage you to take part in this program which will beautify and enhance our town. ❖

Police Department Offers Tips Against Identity Theft

Identity theft is a serious crime that is on the rise. It occurs when your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes. There are steps that can be taken to deter identity thieves:

- Shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information before you discard them.
- Protect your Social Security Number. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet or write your Social Security number on a check.
- Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or over the internet unless you know who you are dealing with.
- Never 'Click' on links sent in unsolicited emails. Instead, you should type in a web address you know. Use firewalls, anti-spyware, and anti-virus software to protect your home computer.
- Don't use an obvious password like your birth date, mother's maiden name, or the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Keep your personal information in a secure place at home, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having work done in your house.
- Routinely monitor your financial accounts and billing statements.

Identity theft can destroy your credit and ruin your good name. By following the steps above, you can reduce the chances of becoming a victim. ❖

John D. Crowley Award

This award is in honor of the late John D. Crowley, who served the City of Cambridge as Executive Health Agent and a member of the Health Department for over 50 years. He rendered distinguished service to the Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) as a founder, and served as secretary for many years.

This award is given annually to a regular member of the Massachusetts Health Officers Association, who has contributed to the growth and success of the MHOA through outstanding leadership and extraordinary service. The organization is comprised of a Board of Health Directors and staff of all the 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The organization provides educational programs to train staff, provides seminars and conferences for certification programs, as well as emergency preparedness.

The Board of Selectmen would like to recognize Linda Shea, Health Director, who has received this distinguished honor. Linda has been a member of the MHOA since 1988. In 1995 she was an elected member to the Executive Committee. She has also served as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Chairman of the Silent Auction Committee to raise money for speakers and scholarships, and also served on the Conference Committee and Personnel Committee. ❖

A Call to Action

- Are you concerned about environmental issues?
- Do you want to make a difference in Westwood and in the world?
- Do you care about climate change, recycling, and conservation of energy and other resources?
- Are you interested in establishing a committee of Westwood residents to explore ways local government and residents can take effective action to solve pressing environmental problems?

For more information or if you would like to join, contact either:

Michael Brier
mjbrier@comcast.net
(781)-461-8818

Peter Kane
pampsterkane@msn.com
(781)-326-3436



New Year's Eve Fireworks
Monday, December 31
7:00 pm SHARP
Westwood High School

Ring in the New Year with a bang! Plan on enjoying the booms and bangs of another wonderful firework display! The cold air seems to make the fireworks' colors more crisp and vibrant!

Westwood Recreation has arranged this annual affair for many years now. It has become one of the most anticipated nights of the year for many families and revelers!

This spectacular night is dependent on donations to make it happen. Thanks are extended to the following for their contributions to the fireworks, and also for their continued support throughout the year:

- Local businesses
- Local residents
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Department of Public Works

**Happy
New Year!**

From the Desk of the Town Clerk

Dottie Powers 781.326.3964

Town Meeting Guidelines

Town Meeting is the legislative branch of local government in Massachusetts. It has the two basic powers of a legislature, the power to adopt laws (general and zoning bylaws), and the power to appropriate money.

Westwood is governed by *Open Town Meeting*. The essential feature of open town meeting government which sets it apart from all other forms of local government is that all registered voters of the town are entitled to vote on all issues which are presented at town meeting. In the early years of town meeting government, attendance was mandatory and fines were levied for non attendance. Today, attendance at an Open Town Meeting is a matter of the voter's personal decision. Open Town Meeting is the oldest existing form of direct popular government having continuously served its citizens for some 350 years.

Our Annual Town Meeting for 2008 will be on Monday May 5, 2008. Per town bylaws, Town Meeting is always held on the first Monday in May.

Every Town Meeting shall be called in pursuance of a warrant signed by the Selectmen. The warrant shall be posted at least seven days prior to town meeting by a Constable stating the time, place and subject of Town Meeting, on not less than four bulletin boards erected in Town and in at least 8 other public places equally distributed among the four precincts.

The warrant must contain all subjects to be acted upon at Town Meeting. The Selectmen may, at their discretion, include in the annual Town Meeting warrant any articles submitted to them. Such articles are usually by the various boards, officers, or committees of the town or by the Selectmen themselves.

The Selectmen must include any article submitted to them by a petition of 10 or more registered voters of the town. The petition must include the text of the article, the signatures of the petitioners together with their residence including street and number, if any. The petition must be submitted by the Selectmen to the board of registrars for certification of signatures.

When arriving at Town Meeting, voters will be checked in before entering the meeting hall. In order to vote on articles, you must be a registered voter in Westwood. If you are not a registered voter, you will be asked to sit in a specially designated visitor's area. The number of registered voters necessary to constitute a quorum at any Town Meeting held for the transaction of municipal business shall be one hundred and seventy five (175).

Once a quorum is established, the meeting is called to order by the Moderator who presides at the meeting and regulates proceedings, publicly declares all votes and decides all questions of order. No person may address the meeting without first obtaining the Moderator's permission.

A record of all votes and transactions of the Town Meeting as announced by the Moderator, are kept by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk's record is the only official record of a Town Meeting vote. All information pertaining to Town Meeting is kept in the Town Clerk's office and is accessible to the general public upon their request.

For further information regarding Town Meeting you may look at the Town General Bylaws, Articles 2 & 3 or you may contact the Town Clerk, Dottie Powers at 781-326-3964. ❖

For Your Information

Census forms will be mailed just after the first of the year. They are due back in the Clerk's office within ten days of receipt. Although information is collected on residents of all ages, absolutely no information about children under 17 is released to the public.

Census information is used to create the annual street list, to project future school enrollment and costs, housing and related benefits for the elderly, by local emergency responders; serves as proof of residency, which is needed to qualify for Veterans' benefits; and in-state tuition at Massachusetts colleges, as well as providing information for selection of jurors. By not responding to the Annual Census, as a voter, you may become inactive on the voting list.

Absentee Ballots may be used for voting if you will be absent from Town on Election Day, have a physical disability that prevents you from voting at the polling place, or you cannot vote at the polls due to religious beliefs. You may apply in writing to the Town Clerk and include your name, address as registered, ward and precinct, address where you wish the absentee ballot sent, (in a primary, the party ballot you want) and your signature. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot for more than one election in a year, you may request, in your application, that ballots for all elections during that calendar year be sent to you. Deadline for applying for an absentee ballot is noon of the day before an election. ***You must be a registered voter in order to vote by absentee ballot.***

The **Presidential Primary** is on **Tuesday, February 5, 2008.**

- All polling locations will be open from **7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.**
- Last day to register to vote and change party enrollment is **Wednesday, January 16, 2008.**
- **Absentee Ballot applications** should be submitted to the Town Clerk no later than **12 noon on Monday, February 4, 2008.**
- **Absentee Ballots** must be returned either by mail or in person to the Town Clerk no later than **8:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, February 5, 2008.**

Polling locations:

Precinct 1 – Senior Center, 210 Nahatan Street

Precinct 2 – Sheehan School, 549 Pond Street

Precinct 3 – Hanlon School, 790 Gay Street

Precinct 4 – Downey School, 250 Downey Street

Dog Licenses are available in the office of the Town Clerk on March 1, 2008.

- Dogs age six months and older must be licensed.
- All dog owners in Town must obtain a new license by May 1st of each year.
- A license will be issued only if the owner has evidence of a rabies vaccination that is valid as of the date of issuance.
- The fee for Males and Females is Ten dollars (\$10), and for Neutered Males and Spayed Females is five dollars (\$5).
- Town bylaw imposes a \$25.00 late fee on licenses issued on or after May 1st.

For any additional information please contact the Town Clerk, Dottie Powers at 781-326-3964 or Assistant Town Clerk, Beth Sullivan at 781-320-1013. ❖

Redevelopment of University Ave.

A Community Update

Westwood Station Update

As 2007 winds to a close it is noteworthy to report that the proposed Westwood Station project has passed many milestones in an exhaustive permitting process for the master plan. After a nine month pre-permitting review by the University Avenue Re-Development Steering Committee and an 18-session Area Master Plan Special Permit public hearing process, the Planning Board, after numerous public deliberative sessions, voted to grant a Special Permit in early November.

The lengthy peer review process over the past 24 months has resulted in a dramatically better development project from what was initially proposed. The improvements are reflected in significant enhancements to the traffic control measures, the environmental protections, and the aesthetic appeal of the entire area. Ironically, while the project has not officially started, the region has already benefited. Complex and frequent deliberations of traffic related topics resulted in the state taking steps to expedite the design and construction of the long-planned I-93 / I-95 interchange improvements. While completion of the interchange is still several years away, the initial stages of the project have been

funded and launched, with a firm commitment from the state to proceed expeditiously to construction.

During the weeks between the close of the public hearings and the official vote on the special permit by the Planning Board, Westwood Station received state certification of its Final Environmental Impact Report. Achieving state approval is a major milestone for the project. In addition to being a most comprehensive review, it sets the stage for the issuance of many other state and federal approvals such as the Federal Highway Access and the MWRA Sewer Access permits. Additional steps remain in the permitting process, including local subdivision approval laying out the road system and Environmental Impact and Design Review for the first phase of the project, which includes the retail and half of the residential units, will be the focus of the Planning Board activity over the next few months. Having received approval for the Area Master Plan Special Permit from the Westwood Planning Board, Westwood Station is proceeding successfully through the permitting process.

In anticipation of commencement of receiving approvals to begin construction, the developer has begun demolition of the existing obsolete facilities and site preparation for roads and buildings. Additional activities include the establishment of on-site construction offices and the development of a community construction Web site and hotline. (Visit www.wscommunityonline.com.)

Several committed retailers for the project include Target, Eddie Bauer, Barnes & Noble, Coldwater Creek, Chico's, Talbot's, J. Jill, and Aeropostale; revealing a desirable mix of stores and shops. In addition to the retailers, many restaurants have been announced, including seafood restaurant McCormick & Schmick's, Italian bistro Brio, Japanese steakhouse Benihana, California Pizza Kitchen, Flemings Steak House, sushi bar RA Sushi and fusion restaurant Not Your Average Joes.

In addition to a strong retail mix, the demand for commercial office space at Westwood Station has been remarkably vigorous. While demand for commercial office space was not robust at the time of the filing of the special permit application back in December of 2006, several large companies have expressed interest in having a major regional presence within the Westwood Station Project.

The town-wide effort, started over twelve years ago, to appropriately enhance the commercial tax base through the redevelopment of the obsolete University Park is on the cusp of being realized. The centralized mixed use redevelopment of an existing park adjacent to several transportation nodes is environmentally sensitive and fiscally sensible, as well as aesthetically appropriate, for the long term benefit of the community. All of Westwood's citizens can be proud of the time and efforts of town officials, residents, local business people and industry experts who have all contributed to listening and working with one another to ensure the collective vision of having a thoughtful, viable, development befitting of our community. ❖

...the demand for commercial office space at Westwood Station has been remarkably vigorous.

Stay Informed

Join the University Ave. Listserv for email updates, submission of comments and questions. Find the University Ave. Redevelopment Website by logging on to: www.townhall.westwood.ma.us



A rendering portraying a desirable mix of stores.

John J. Cronin Public Service Award

Town of Westwood
2007-2008



The John J. Cronin Public Service Award will be presented each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution, which has impacted the community of Westwood. This award is named for the late John J. Cronin, Town Treasurer, who for many years selflessly gave of his time for the betterment of the community both as an elected official and in numerous volunteer activities. To recognize this same spirit of community involvement as exemplified by John Cronin's life, the Town will select an individual annually for this award.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The committee is composed of Nancy C. Hyde, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen; John J. Cronin Jr.; Thomas Viti, Library Director; Michael Jaillet, Town Administrator; and past recipients: Michael Beaumont, Roy London and Jack Patterson.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The nomination of an individual who has served the community may be submitted to the Selection Committee. Each year, the award is presented to the recipient at the Annual Town Meeting.

Nominations are to be submitted by **March 31, 2008** to:

John J. Cronin Public Service Award
Town Hall
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
Phone Number: 781-326-4172
Fax Number: 781-329-8030
Email Address: selectmen@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Nomination Form for The John J. Cronin Public Service Award

Please provide all the information listed below.

1. FULL NAME OF NOMINEE: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

2. THE NOMINEE'S SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION: Describe the nominee's most outstanding contribution and how it has impacted the community. Please provide as much detail as possible and attach additional information to this form.

3. NOMINATOR: Your name, address and phone number.

DATE OF SUBMISSION: _____

DATE OF RECEIPT: _____

ALL INFORMATION WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL WITH THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Quarter Century Award presented to Mike Beaumont

Each year the Westwood Historical Society presents a *Quarter Century Award* to a person who has given of their time and self for twenty-five years to make Westwood a better place to live. Michael "Mike" A. Beaumont was honored for his contributions to the town with a presentation of the **18th Annual Quarter Century Award** on Sunday, November 11th, 2007 at the historic Fisher School.

Mike's involvement with the town is longstanding and significant. He was raised in Islington, attended Westwood schools and graduated from Westwood High School. He then went on to graduate from the University of Maryland. He married Lorrie Patterson, who also grew up in Westwood. Mike and Lorrie raised their two children, Matthew and Carrie in Westwood.

In 1987, Mike served as a member of the Finance Commission and served as both Vice Chairman (1988 & 1990) and Chairman (1989). He was responsible for consolidating town services to significantly reduce municipal and school expenses.

Mike then went on to serve as Chairman of the Department of Public Works Study Committee in 1991 and 1992. In this capacity he wrote special legislation to create the Department of Public Works and participated in the search committee to hire the department's first director.

Elected in 1992 to the Board of Selectmen, serving as its Chairman in 1993 and 1996, he was instrumental in establishing the Business Development Advisory Board. During his time on the board, from which he stepped down in 1998, the Town benefited greatly from his expertise and efforts.

He has been a partner in the Patterson Insurance business for approximately thirty years. He has also served as President of the Norfolk Golf Club, President of the Westwood Rotary Club and as a member of the Board of the Westwood Educational Foundation.

Mike was also a moderator for several years at the Islington Community Church and later its treasurer. Additionally, Mike has coached the Westwood High Schools Girls Varsity Hockey Team for the past ten years. During this period he implemented a program for his "Westwood High Girls" by recognizing players who contributed to the community.

Westwood thanks you, Mike! ❖



Mike Beaumont

Westwood Historical Society Updates

The Westwood Historical Society got off to a busy start this fall starting with a special exhibition of Margaret Philbrick's Art in September which continued through October. The exhibition was then changed to a display of American Pressed Glass for the months of November and December. This display included two extensive collections from three generations of the White and Beal families, dating from the 1870s through the 1880s.

Presentations, Awards & Gatherings

In early October, Kathi Gariepy, a docent at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, gave an informative presentation on the Massachusetts treasure "Elm Bank." In November, in conjunction with the American Pressed Glass exhibition, Kirk Nelson, Executive Director of the New Bedford Museum of Glass, presented an overview of pressed glass.

A highlight of the fall season was the presentation of the 2007 Quarter Century Award to Michael "Mike" Beaumont. The award is given to a person, or couple, who have given of themselves for twenty-five years to make Westwood a better place to live. The contributions can be in any field, including education, religion, civic or social endeavors, or the arts. Michael certainly excelled in all of these areas.

The Society started off the holiday season with the Second Annual Holiday Soiree on December 7th at the beautiful home of Frank and Jessica Hennessey. This was followed by a Volunteer Party celebration and sing-along at the Fisher School on Sunday afternoon, December 9th.

Coming Events

On Sunday, January 6th, and again on February 3rd, from 2-4 pm, an exhibition on "*Hale Reservation: Then and Now*" will be on display at the Fisher School. In association with the exhibit, Eric Arnold, Executive Director of Hale Reservation, will be giving a presentation on Hale Reservation on February 12th at 7:30 pm.

The Society is very fortunate to have enactors from the Adams National Historical Park presenting a program on Tuesday, January 8th. In this program, a series of encounters take place and the audience will see the turbulent relationship between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, as Abigail Adams works to restore the friendship.

All historical society events take place at the Fisher School, 830 High Street and are open to the public at no charge. Those attending events are requested to park in the schoolhouse driveway or along the Thurston Middle School Driveway. ❖

Westwood High Alumni Association

Current students of Westwood returned to classes in September and the Westwood High Alumni Association began to gear up for the year in other ways.

Among the events held over the past several months were seven milestone class reunions. Notable among these was the reunion of the **Class of 1941** at Noon Hill Grill in Medfield. Four members of the class joined together in celebration of their 66th Reunion. This class took its place in Westwood's history as the first Westwood High School graduating class.

On September 22nd the **Class of 1957** held its 50th Reunion at the Dedham Hilton. The **Class of 1952** chose the Fisher School in Westwood for their 55th Reunion gathering on October 13th. Although Thanksgiving weekend was a busy time of year, four classes chose to return to the area for their celebrations on that long weekend. Lake Pearl Luciano's in Wrentham was the venue for the **Class of 1982's** 25th Reunion on November 23rd. The **Class of 1962** celebrated 45 years since last attending classes at Westwood High School by gathering at the German American Club (The Boylston Schul-Verein) in Walpole on November 24th. The **Class of 1987** gathered at Raffael's in Walpole for their 20th Reunion, while the **Class of 1997** joining up at the Harvard Club in Boston for their 10th Reunion.

In keeping with the Alumni Association's mission to raise funds for the scholarship fund, a fun and successful Casino Night was hosted on Friday, November 16th, which included a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament.

The Westwood High School Alumni Association works exclusively for charitable and educational purposes with a mission to advance all areas of education and to stimulate continuing interest and professional relationships between Westwood High School and its alumni. To this end each year the Association awards scholarship(s) to deserving seniors. The Association is working towards growing our fund to the point where it will be self-perpetuating.

Presently, the Westwood Alumni Association has over 4,000 registered members. To register as a member or to find out more about the Association go to the website:

www.westwoodhighalumni.org.

Or by written request to:

Westwood High Alumni Association
19 Cobligh Street
Westwood, MA 02090-1201 ❖

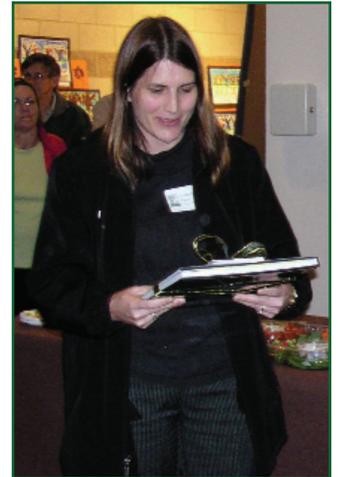


The original Westwood High School as it looked in the 1940s. Residents may recognize the building as the Thurston Middle School now.

"Captured" Art – continued from page 1

Founded in 1999, the Westwood Land Trust is a charitable organization dedicated to preserving open space, forests, and habitat in Westwood. WLT works cooperatively with landowners who wish to retain their property in its undeveloped state by raising funds to buy development rights from landowners and by receiving and enforcing conservation restrictions on Westwood properties. WLT currently holds conservation restrictions that protect 158 acres of land in Westwood. ❖

*Thurston Grade 7 Art Teacher
Catherine Gruetze-Blais receiving
raffle prize from the Westwood Land
Trust at the "Capturing Nature in
Westwood" art exhibit.*



WESC Goes Hollywood!

Westwood Elementary Schools Coalition (WESC) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization which raises funds through one annual fundraiser for the Parent Teacher Organizations of the five elementary schools within Westwood. Over the last thirteen years WESC has raised over \$875,000 through the generosity of local businesses and families. These funds enrich and support the educational opportunities of all our young students.

Planning for this year's successful fundraiser is underway and you will not want to miss being a part of this year's event! Join us for an evening you will not forget as we enjoy the glitz and glam of Hollywood! The event will feature one of a kind auction items, raffles, delicious food, dancing and fun! So save the date – Saturday, March 8th, 2008 from 7p.m. to midnight in the Tiffany Ballroom at The Four Points Sheraton in Norwood. Tickets will go on sale in January – watch local papers for details or check out our website at www.wesconline.org.

This event offers an excellent opportunity for you or your business to support our children and our schools. You are invited to join us as a WESC sponsor, advertiser or auction donor. Our Event Program is received by over 1,000 families with young students in Westwood and is a showcase for all advertisers as well as highlighting all sponsors and auction items. For information on donor levels and advertising opportunities please consult our website at www.wesconline.org. All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law and may be sent to WESC, PO Box 474, Westwood, MA 02090.

Working together we can help preserve the quality of our children's education. Thank you very much! We count on your support! ❖

Newsletter correspondence can be sent to:

Westwood Community Newsletter
580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090
or email: newsletter@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Thank you,
Diane Thornton, Editor



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December
2007
page one

Dear Westwood Resident,

The 2007-2008 school year has been nothing short of exceptional. We got off to a great start in September and have never looked back. The impact of last year's successful override is felt every day: we have smaller class sizes, lower student user fees, more math support at the elementary level, and adequate supply and equipment budgets. The bottom line is, we have the resources we need to deliver a first-class educational experience for all students.



I thank you for your continued support of the Westwood Public Schools, and wish you a wonderful holiday season.

John Antonucci



METCO Families and Hosts Cheer on Celtics

ON OCTOBER 17TH, A GROUP OF LUCKY Thurston students, along with their parents and a few teachers and administrators, watched as the Boston Celtics took on the New York Knicks in a pre-season opener. METCO and host families have had the chance to attend a Celtics game for the last several years, and the event is always a big hit. **Sheryl Goodloe**, Westwood's METCO Director, says that of the many METCO sponsored events, the Celtics game is "a favorite of mine, because it really brings Westwood and Boston families together."

The METCO host family program, which started at the middle school about five years ago, matches METCO students—who are Boston residents—with Westwood families. The goal of the program is to provide a "home base" for kids who want to stay in Westwood for afternoon and evening school and community events.

Superintendent **John Antonucci**, in attendance with his family, summed up the evening nicely: "Bringing Boston and Westwood families together to attend the Celtics is another example of what makes Thurston such a welcoming school community. It was a great opportunity to get to know one another in a relaxed, fun environment. My family and I are already looking forward to next year."

Many thanks to Westwood resident **Bill Reissfelder**, whose generous support made this event possible. 

Steve Dexter Announced Assistant Principal of the Year



We are excited to announce that Westwood High School Assistant Principal **Stephen Dexter** has been named the 2008 Massachusetts Assistant Principal of the Year. The award was given to Mr. Dexter in recognition of his outstanding work by the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Administrators' Association after his nomination was endorsed by his colleagues in Westwood and other area schools. Mr. Dexter will be representing Massachusetts at a national conference of high school administrators in Washington, D.C., this spring. We know that he will represent us proudly. Congratulations, Mr. Dexter, on this honor!





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Boston Organ and Piano Donates WHS Piano Lab

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS **John Antonucci** recently announced a unique school business partnership with Boston Organ and Piano Company of Nalick, Massachusetts, and Yamaha Corporation of America. Through this arrangement, Westwood High School has been loaned, at no cost, eleven brand new Yamaha Clavinova digital pianos. The pianos were recently installed in the high school's Music Technology Lab.

This equipment has enabled the performing arts department to offer a class in beginning piano as an elective during the school day. In this class, students set individualized goals and advance at their own pace under the direction of a teacher. The teacher can listen and interact with students as well as connect two or more students to practice together. Any combination of students can be connected to form keyboard ensembles within the class.

Piano Lab classes have also been added to the offerings of the Prodigy Program, Westwood's after-school music lesson program. The Prodigy Program provides music lessons to 437 students on voice, as well as on all band and orchestral instruments. Two hundred seventeen students are also taking beginning instrumental music lessons during the school day. Piano instruction is the newest offering, pro-



"I know of no other public school in Massachusetts that has done more to make music lessons so accessible to so many students."

Ray Totaro, *Boston Organ and Piano President*

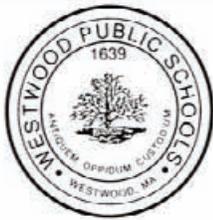
viding lessons to 13 students in two after-school classes.

Jim Giurleo, director of performing arts for the school district and WHS piano lab teacher, is very enthusiastic about the impact these new pianos have had on the music program. "These pianos have given many students the opportunity to engage in music in ways that were unavailable before. It has allowed us to provide music instruction that is exciting for students and has truly propelled us in the use of music technology at no cost to the schools."

Boston Organ and Piano President Ray Totaro sees its partnership with Westwood High School from the perspectives of business and education. "Boston Organ and Piano is excited to partner with Westwood High School's Music Department. I know of no other public school in Massachusetts that has done more to make music

lessons so accessible to so many students."

As part of the loan agreement and partnership, Boston Organ and Piano will host a public sale of these instruments and others at Westwood High School on June 6, 7 and 8, 2008. Once these pianos have been sold, the piano company has committed to replacing them with another collection of instruments for a second year. 



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NEASC Makes Decennial Visit to WHS

by Emily Parks, Westwood High School Principal

WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL IS ONE OF approximately 650 high schools in New England that participates in a voluntary reaccreditation process as a means of maintaining high standards and focusing the school's improvement efforts. Every ten years, Westwood High School is up for reaccreditation, and this year is our reaccreditation year. At the end of October, Westwood High School was visited by a team of educators representing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). During their four-day visit, from October 28th to October 31st, this team assessed how well WHS meets the Standards for Accreditation, a set of research-based practices and concepts that guide schools in their work to educate young people.

Though the process culminated in the on-site evaluation by the review team, most of the work had already taken place prior to their visit. Since the spring of 2006, the faculty has been engaged in an institutional self-study, looking at every facet of our practice. With input from students and parents through our committee work and the survey completed in 2006, the faculty prepared a comprehensive report to guide the visiting team's work.

One of the major themes in the self-study was the need to restore programs and curricular offerings and to reduce the large class sizes that had resulted from budget difficulties. Thankfully, with the passage of last spring's override vote, we have been able to successfully address these issues. I am confident that NEASC will favorably comment on the support and commitment that Westwood citizens have demonstrated for their school system.

At the heart of this entire process is our mission statement and the academic expectations and social and civic expectations that we have articulated for stu-

dents. This process has afforded us an opportunity to consider how well we are meeting the expectations we have for ourselves and to reflect on our sense of mission. As we anticipated the team's visit, I noted to faculty that I am convinced that we know what we're about and that our sense of mission is internalized, operationalized, and real. I am happy to report that my sense of things was reinforced in the conversations that I had with NEASC team members. Though we don't yet have their official findings, I think that our guests realized what we already know—that WHS is a vibrant, engaging place to teach and to learn. This spring, we will receive the visiting team's findings. Though I anticipate that we will be commended for our many, many strengths, as an institution that is committed to continuous improvement, we also welcome the team's recommendations. WPS

Westwood High School has been awarded the
Tri-Valley League

Sportsmanship Award

for the 2006-2007 school year!

This award recognizes WHS for being the most sportsmanlike school in the league as demonstrated by its athletes, its coaches, and its fans.

The award recipient is chosen by coaches of all of the league's teams.

**Congratulations to the
Wolverines!**



Captains Megan
Lally (#17) and
Mary Connors led
the WHS Field Hockey
team this fall.



TOWN BULLETIN BOARD

TOWN and SCHOOL EVENTS and HOLIDAYS

Dec 24-Jan 1 Schools closed – Winter vacation
Dec 25 Town Hall closed – Christmas
Jan 1 Town Hall closed – New Year’s Day
Jan 21 Schools & Town Hall Closed – Martin Luther King Day
Feb 5 Presidential Primary. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.
Feb 18-22 Schools closed – February vacation

Feb 18 Town Hall closed – President’s Day
Mar 1-Apr 30 Dog owners must register their pets with the Town Clerk’s office.
Mar 4 No School for Students – Inservice day
Mar 8 WESC Goes Hollywood! Annual Auction 7:00 p.m.-midnight, Four Points Sheraton, Norwood
Mar 21 Schools closed – Good Friday

WESTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

For additional programs and 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 library web site at www.westwoodlibrary.org/home

MAIN LIBRARY Weekly Programs Programs for Preschoolers

Preschool Literacy Adventures

Jan 15-Feb 26 **Ages 2 & up** with caregiver
Mar 25-May 6 Tuesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Storytime

Jan 16-Feb 27 **Ages 3 & up**
Mar 26-May 7 Wednesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Babies & Books

Jan 18-Feb 29 **Under 2 years** with caregiver
Mar 28-May 9 Fridays, 10:30-10:50 a.m.

Registration is **not** required for the above but children **must** be the appropriate age by the first day of each session. There are no sessions during public school vacations or holidays.

Wishing Well

Jan 15-Feb 26 **Ages 5 & up**
Mar 25-May 6 Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Registration is required and begins December 1st.

Special Programs at the Main Library

Storytelling Saturdays – Ages 2½ and up with families.

Feb 2, Mar 3 Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
April 5 Folktales, Activities
Registration begins 1 month prior to program.

Massachusetts Book Award Book Club – Grades 3-5

Jan 14, Feb 11 Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
Mar 10, Monthly discussion of MA Book Award title.
April 14 Selection TBA

Early Childhood Council/Library Babysitting Clinic – Grades 6-8

Feb 27 Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Mar 5, 12, 19, 26 Registration begins Jan 7, 2008.

April 2 **Participants must attend all sessions to become certified.**

April 9 **Optional CPR for Babysitters Training**

A Story for Every Season – All Generations

An Early Childhood Council, Council on Aging and Library CPC Program

March 15 Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. **This program is held at the Westwood Senior Center.**

May 17 **Registration is required, please call the ECC @ 781-461-9548.**

Positively Poetry 2008 – Grades 3-5 and 6-8

Mar 27 Poetry writing workshops with Poet/Educator Tom Daley

April 3 Thursdays, Time TBA

May 6 Poetry reading and Anthology release celebration. Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Registration is required and begins March 1st.

ISLINGTON BRANCH Programs

Storytime – Ages 3½ and up

Jan 17-Feb 28 Thursdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Mar 27-May 8 **Registration is required, please call the Branch Library.**

There are no sessions during public school vacations or holidays.

Young Readers Book Club – Grades 2-4

Mar 4-Mar 25 Tuesdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Registration is required, please call the Branch Library.

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