



WESTWOOD

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Fall Festivities Fill the Calendar

Anniversaries, Tricks and Treats, Pumpkins, Veterans, and more!

See pages 10-15 for Westwood Day info!

Saint John's Nursery School

PumpkinFest to benefit St. John's Nursery School

Capture the spirit of Autumn in New England at Westwood's annual PumpkinFest to benefit the St. John's Nursery School! PumpkinFest will take place at Hale Reservation on Saturday, October 21, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, rain or shine.

PumpkinFest will feature a petting zoo, hayrides, face painting, moonwalks, games, prizes, pumpkins & pumpkin decorating, silent auction, bake sale and refreshments. *The event will take place at Hale Reservation: 80 Carby Street, Westwood, MA.*

St. John's Nursery School is a NAEYC accredited preschool that offers programs tailored to children 3 and 4 years old. St. John's Nursery is a private, non-denominational preschool with no religious affiliation to the church. To learn more about St. John's Nursery School and admissions, please visit stjohnsnursery.org or call (781) 329-2302.

Don't miss this fun-filled day for the whole family!



PHOTO: ST. JOHN'S NURSERY

Town Offices Invitation

Wear a costume and bring your Halloween spirit!



Stop by any of the following Town Offices in costume on Tuesday, October 24 between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm and go Trick-or-Treating!

- Carby Street Office
- Fire Station 1
- Islington Community Center
- Main Library & Branch Library
- Police Station
- Recreation & Pool Office
- Town Hall
- Senior Center* (*will be hosting from 3:00 pm-4:00 pm*)



Creep, slither or fly over for some tricks and treats.

Veteran's Dept. Invite

On Saturday, November 11 at 11:00 am, we will gather to honor all our Veterans—Past and Present. Please join the American Legion Post 320 and the Town of Westwood at Veterans Memorial Park for the Veterans Day Ceremony.



Celebrating
30
YEARS

Annual Tree Lighting

All are invited!

Come to the Westwood Town Hall for the **30th Annual Tree Lighting celebration**, on Sunday, December 3, beginning at 4 pm.

Event highlights include:

- A visit from Santa, who arrives by fire truck
- Hot Chocolate and Cookies
- Performances by local dancing schools
- Entertainment by local high school student
- Santa's stilt walking elves

Sponsorship available this year! Help us keep the 30 year tradition going! For information about becoming a sponsor this year, contact Betsy Narciso at 781-326-4172 or bnarciso@townhall.westwood.ma.us



Lots of information on pages 10-15.

Did You Know...

Westwood Alumni Association New Website

Did You Know... the Westwood Alumni Association has a new website? Visit WestwoodMaAlumni.org

The site contains information about scholarships the association awards. There is also information to help plan a class reunion as well as announcements of upcoming reunions. Graduates of Westwood High School are encouraged to go to the Class List page and enter their contact information to help build the Alumni Association database.

Contributed by Vicky DeVoy

Department of Public Works Complete Streets Award (again)

Did You Know... the Department of Public Works recently received a grant of \$175,000.00 from the state's Complete Streets program? This is the second grant received since the policy was adopted 2 years ago and the Westwood Public Works is the first Department in the state receive this award twice. The funding will be put towards improving the intersection of Route 109 and North Street, along with sidewalk upgrades from North Street to Stanford Drive.

Paving projects - updates

Did You Know... the Department of Public Works recently completed their 2017 Summer paving projects? The locations included Grove Street, Farm Lane neighborhood, Westfield Street, Wilson Way, and Mill Street.

The proposed 2018 Paving Schedule includes Stanford Drive, sections of Route 109, Parker and Dean neighborhoods, and the Westchester/Salisbury neighborhoods. Residents within those neighborhoods are being requested to make every effort possible to perform any necessary utility improvements prior to the paving (scheduled to begin July 2018).

Contributed by Todd Korchin

Important East Street Bridge Update

Did You Know... The MBTA has completed the design and bidding stages for the East Street Bridge. Although the standard clearance for a bridge of this type is 15 plus vertical feet, the East Street Bridge vertical clearance will be 13 feet 6 inches, so the trucks that are commonly striking the bridge will be able to pass under, but the standard box 18 wheeler will not fit. As a result the existing truck exclusion will remain in effect after the bridge is replaced. The MBTA tentatively plans on scheduling public meetings in October with Barletta Heavy Division who was the lowest bidder and recently received Notice to Proceed. Construction is expected to begin this fall and be complete by Fall of 2019.

All new!

Did You Know... the High School track has now been resurfaced and looks amazing?!!!!...Enjoy the fresh air!!!!



Westwood Board of Health Flu Clinic SAVE THE DATE

Did You Know... the Westwood Board of Health will be holding the **Annual Flu Clinic on Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm at the Westwood High School gymnasium?**

This family flu clinic is open to all Westwood residents 5 years of age and older. Residents under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by an adult. Vaccine is administered on a first come first served basis. There is no cost to residents for the vaccine but we do ask that you bring your insurance or Medicare card with you so that we may bill your health insurance. We will be accepting monetary donations for the Westwood Food Pantry. Hope to see you and your family at the flu clinic! For more information please visit our website at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us or contact the Health Department at 781-320-1026/1027.

Westwood Board of Health MOSQUITOES

Did You Know... that mosquito populations are active into the fall? The Westwood Board of Health would like to remind residents to take action to avoid mosquito bites and reduce mosquito populations. The risk of contracting *Eastern equine encephalitis* (EEE) and *West Nile Virus* (WNV) from an infected mosquito is heightened through early October. Mosquitoes can carry disease until the first hard frost.

EEE is a rare disease with serious life threatening symptoms. Symptoms are high fever, stiff neck, headache and lack of energy followed by inflammation and swelling of the brain (encephalitis). There is no treatment, few people fully recover from the illness and 50% do not survive.

WNV usually causes mild or no illness in humans. In rare cases, it can cause encephalitis (swelling of the brain) or meningitis (swelling of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). Less than 1% of people infected with WNV develop serious illness. At the present time there is no preventable vaccine.

To avoid mosquitoes please consider the following:

- Limit your time outdoors during peak periods of mosquito activity (dusk and dawn) or if you must remain outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and socks.
- Use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET (the chemical N-N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) and follow the directions on the label.
- Take special care to cover up the arms and legs of children playing outdoors. When you bring a baby outdoors, cover the baby's carriage or playpen with mosquito netting.
- Fix holes in your screens and make sure they are tight-fitting on all doors and windows.
- Remove standing water around your home. Make sure water does not collect and stagnate in ceramic pots, trash cans, recycling containers, old tires, wading pools, birds baths, etc. Remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of roof gutters.

For more information, please visit the District's website at www.norfolkcountymosquito.org or call (781) 762-3681. If you have general questions about mosquito control efforts please visit the Board of Health website at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us or email at mrc@townhall.westwood.ma.us or call the office at (781) 320-1026.

NEWS from the Westwood Town Clerk's Office



Mark your calendars for upcoming 2017-2018 important dates

Monday, November 13, 2017: Fall Town Meeting—To be determined—Please check the town's website for updates.

Tuesday, October 24, 2017: Last day to register new voters for potential Fall Town Meeting—Please check website for updates.

Week of December 29, 2017: Annual Town Census mailed to each household.

It is extremely important that you fill this out and return it within 10 days of its receipt. Failure to return the Census may cause a voter to be designated as inactive on the voting list (M.G.L, Ch.51, § 4).

For Dog Owners:

January 1, 2018: Dog licensing period begins: Failure to license your dog on or before March 31, 2018 may result in a fine of \$25.00, per town bylaws §184-10, B. (1)

January 2018: Annual Rabies Clinic: Date to be determined. Please check the town's website for updates.

Town Election Information

Tuesday, January 16, 2018—Nomination papers will be available for those registered Westwood voters who wish to run for Town positions. Please see the Town Website for Open seats.

Friday, March 2, 2018, 5:00 p.m.—Last day to obtain nomination papers. (MGL.ch.53§.9A)

Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 5:00 p.m.—Last day to submit nomination papers to Registrars of Voters for certification.

Thursday, March 22, 2018, 5:00 p.m.—Last day to object or withdraw nomination papers.

Wednesday, April 4, 2018—Last day to register new voters for Town Election and Town Meeting.

Tuesday, April 24, 2018—Annual Town Election, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Monday, May 7, 2018—Annual Town Meeting

Voter Registration Facts:

- Voter Registration is on an ongoing basis.

You may submit an application to register or pre-register to vote in Massachusetts if:

- You are a citizen of the United States; and
- 18 years or older,
- 16 & 17 year olds; (pre-registrant; individual will be registered when they turn 18), and
- You are not currently incarcerated by reason of a felony conviction.
- If you meet the above requirements, you may apply online, by mail, or in-person.
- You can go to the Town's website to register online.
- If you recently moved to Westwood you have to re-register in order to participate in Elections and Town Meeting. Your voter registration does not move with you from your prior community.
- The deadline to register to vote in any election or regular town meeting is twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election or meeting. The deadline to register to vote in a special town meeting is ten (10) days prior to the special town meeting.
- If you wish to change your party enrollment, you may do so by filling out a new voter registration form. Members of political parties may vote only in their own party's primary elections. Unenrolled voters (commonly referred to as "Independents") and members of political designations or minor parties may vote in the party primary of their choice. Choosing to vote in a particular party's primary does NOT enroll you as a member of that party.
- Certain voters must submit a copy of their identification with their voter registration or present it at their polling place on Election Day. If this applies, you will be notified.

If you are uncertain of your voter registration status please contact the Town Clerk, 781-326-3964 or townclerk@townhall.westwood.ma.us

The Town Website: www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/

Lots of Westwood Day information
on pages 10-15.



Westwood Council On Aging

Just a few of the Fall Offerings at WESTWOOD COA

Whether you are 61 or 91, the Westwood Senior Center has something for everyone! We host many regular programs (from A-Z – Art to Zumba) and your first class is always free (so we can entice you to join us).

We are also offering some “Special Programs” including...

... Day travel to...

North Shore Music Theater

~ Wednesday, September 27
 ~ \$115 per person
 ~ 9:30-5:30
 ~ Transportation, Lunch and EVITA Theater show.

Essex Valley Steam Train and Connecticut Riverboat

~ Tuesday, October 3
 ~ \$95 per person
 ~ Includes transportation, steam train, riverboat ride and lunch.

... Interesting history lectures...

Gary Hylander Lecture Series – The Making Of The Presidency

A Five Part Series of How American Presidents Have Shaped the Office

~ \$3 per session
 ~ 10:30 am
 ~ Please sign up in advance so we know how many will be coming.

Gary Hylander is a renowned history professor who brings history ALIVE. This five part series will help you understand how the role of the President has been shaped and has changed over the past two centuries.

September 19 – *George Washington* – America’s First CEO

October 26 – *Theodore Roosevelt* – America’s First Modern President

November 7 – *Woodrow Wilson* – Professor in Chief

November 30 – *Dwight Eisenhower* – Commander in Chief

December 19 – *George W. Bush* – Operation Iraqi Liberation

... and important conversations for you and your family as you age...

Briefcase Breakfasts

Hosted by Visiting Angels of Newton and New York Life of Southboro

~ Mondays, Sept. 11 & 25 | Oct. 2 & 16

~ 8-9 am

~ \$2 donation

~ Please sign up in advance so we know how many to expect

Whether thinking of your own retirement or helping a loved one with their retirement, the details can be extremely confusing. Come join us as we try to unravel decisions that are best made in advance.

September 11 – *Communication* – what is the best way for families to communicate and how can they work together and avoid conflicts.

September 25 – *Money* – Are you financially ready for retirement? Knowing how much you need and how to prepare for retirement is essential – come learn the basics.

October 2 – *Honoring Choices* – Do you have a Health Proxy? Health Directive? Come learn how to make sure you honor choices in case of illness.

October 16 – *Long Term Solutions* – Are you protected should you need long term care? What options are available for you and your loved one?

So stop in and join us ... we are warm and welcoming and we try to have a little something for everyone!

Westwood Council on Aging

60 Nahatan Street

Telephone: 781-329-8799

Hours:

Mon.–Thurs.: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fri.: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Westwood Cultural Council

Accepting applications for grants

The Westwood Cultural Council is seeking applications for grants to fund local community cultural programs. The Cultural Council’s priority is to fund projects that reach residents of all ages – school age to seniors – and which promote cultural diversity and art education.

The grants are awarded after consideration of the benefits to the community, the planning process, and the population served. All grants are awarded on a reimbursement basis.

The Council is now accepting applications for the next grant cycle. The Massachusetts Cultural Council now requires online applications only. For more information contact the Westwood Cultural Council at westwoodculturalcouncil@gmail.com or go to www.mass-culture.org.

Submitted by Joan Murphy

Westwood Youth Lacrosse

Registration Opens 9/15 for Spring 2018 Season

Registration opens September 15 for the spring 2018 season. Westwood Youth Lacrosse is open to new and experienced male players who are in grades 1-8. To register, go to www.westwoodyouthlacrosse.com and look for the “Register Now” button. Sign up by December 1 to avoid the \$100 late fee and ensure your child gets a spot. After December 1, players will only be accepted if space is available. New and returning parents are encouraged to read over the “About the Program” page on our website which provides program details and answers many common questions.

The Westwood Youth Lacrosse program was founded in 1996 to bring the sport of lacrosse to boys in our town. Our mission is to provide enjoyment to players, coaches and parents; teach the sport and skills of lacrosse, improve the level of play over time; learn and practice good sportsmanship at all times; be competitive against other teams we play; and improve the skill level of players entering the Westwood High School program.

Contributed by Treacy Kiley

Town of Westwood

Press Release: July 19, 2017

Town of Westwood Receives \$183,136

Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Grant

Michael Jaillet, Town Administrator for Westwood announced today that Westwood has been awarded a third competitive energy efficiency grant by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Four years ago, Westwood became a Green Community. Since becoming a Green Community, the Town has applied and been granted three competitive grants to fund energy efficiency efforts in the Town.

Background

Tom Philbin, the Westwood Energy Manager and Patricia Healey a DPW Administrative Assistant, filed for a Green Communities Grant in March 2017. Subsequently, the Town was awarded a grant of \$183,136 bring the three year total to over \$630,000. The proposed projects grant included a new control system at the Martha Jones School, conversion of lighting in the High School hallways to LED, new LED lighting for the Town pool and variable speed drives for the pool water circulation system..

Tom Philbin, Tish Healey and John Hickey, the Chairman of the Town Board of Selectmen attended the award ceremony in State Capital Building in Boston on June 19th, where the 2017 awards were announced.

In addition to Green Community funding, Westwood will receive incentives from Eversource. Westwood works with Eversource in their Municipal program and receives help by way of financial incentives and project cost control through the use of pre-approved contractors. The Eversource Municipal program has proved to be a great benefit to towns in Massachusetts over the past ten years.

“We’re thrilled that Westwood has once again succeeded in securing a Green Communities Grant in recognition of their hard work to make the town more sustainable and energy efficient,” said Penni Conner, Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer at Eversource. “We share the town’s commitment in our own buildings, including at our Westwood offices where we’ve been awarded prestigious LEED Existing Building and Energy Star certifications.”

The Town has signed a contract with the Commonwealth on how the grant funds will be expended. The Town will need to report back to the state on the progress of the projects in order to receive the full amount of the grant.

In addition to the projects mentioned above, Westwood expects to convert the parking garages at Carby Street to LED, add a new lighting control system to the High School, install two electric vehicle chargers in the Town at locations to be determined and convert lights in the Downey and Martha Jones Parking lots to LED technology. These later projects will be funded with incentives from Eversource and Town funds.

As a Green Community, under Tom Philbin’s direction, Westwood is committed to continue to reduce its energy consumption by 20% over a five year period. These newly funded projects, as well as others completed in past years and that are being planned for the future, will ensure the achievement of this goal. Additionally, the Town has installed design enhancements at the new Fire Station and Police Station which will make these facilities 30% more energy efficient than required by current building codes.

Finally, the Town has installed 780 kW of solar capacity on Town schools and will add a similar amount to other Town facilities in 2017-2018.

For Further information, please contact: Thomas Philbin, Energy Manager, and Town of Westwood, 50 Carby Street; 781-320-1036

IAM STRONG FOUNDATION

IAM STRONG FOUNDATION NOW ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS

The IAM Strong Foundation, which seeks to shatter the stigma surrounding teen mental health struggles, is pleased to announce the 2017 Fall grant cycle.

Grant applicants must be non-profit organizations or affiliated individuals who share a vision that aligns with the values and mission of the IAM Strong Foundation.

The IAM Strong Foundation grant cycles began in the Fall of 2015, and since that time, almost \$100,000 have been awarded in grants and programming. This past spring, ten grants were awarded, to organizations including Doc Wayne Youth Services, to provide sports-based group therapy to help youth with mental health struggles; Hale Reservation, to fund a teen workshop focusing on wellness themes; Norwood High School, to create mindfulness corners for students with social and emotional difficulties; Walpole High School, to fund an organizational tool for all freshman with an emphasis on emotional and mental health and to support a film festival featuring films on mental health topics; and Ashland Public Schools, to fund training for counselors and staff in the SOS Signs of Suicide Prevention Program.

The past year, the IAM Strong Foundation hosted a number of community events, including a free speaker event featuring

singer songwriter Meg Hutchinson, Messages of Hope, where people of all ages gathered at the Westwood Senior Center to compose uplifting messages for teens that receive inpatient mental health treatment, and the Third Annual 5K Run/Walk. In the Spring of 2017, the IAM Strong Foundation was a key sponsor of the 2017 Massachusetts

Interscholastic Athletic Association’s Partners in Prevention Wellness Summit, Teen Mental Health Summit, and Faces of Addiction Conference. The organization was honored to be the recipient of the Roy London Humanitarian Award this past May.

The Fall grant cycle opened on August 1st and will close on October 1st. Grant applications for up to \$2000 will be considered, and grant recipients will be notified on or before November 1st. Grant applications and details about the grant process are available at www.iamstrongfoundation.org. Please email grants@iamstrongfoundation.org with any questions or requests for further information.

Contributed by Antonia Nedder





Westwood Early Childhood Program

What's New in Early Childhood?

The Westwood Early Childhood Program is excited to provide a variety of free monthly events as well as introduce some new programs and new facilitators for the upcoming year! The Early Childhood Office is located in the lower level at Hanlon School and is a resource center serving families with children, birth through school age. All Westwood resident children and families are welcome to join us. Our goal is to provide programs that are inclusive and supportive to all children and families. Registration is required. Monthly flyers and online registration are available on the website www.westwood.k12.ma.us/early-childhood-council/.

Fall Line Up

Monthly Family Activities for the Fall of 2017

Programs are for Westwood residents. Online registration will open 14 days in advance. If you cannot register online, call the Early Childhood Office at (781) 461-9548.

Music Mondays/Tunes and Tales with Miss Tina @ Library, Mondays, 10:30-11:15; 10/2, 11/6, 12/4

Walk Talk and Read @ Hale Reservation, Mondays, 10:00-11:00; 10/23, 11/27

Family Play Group @ Integrated Preschool @ WHS, Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00; 10/18, 11/15

Toddler Active Play Time @ Westwood Main Public Library, Fridays, 10:30-11:15; 10/20, 11/17, 12/15

Fun with Friends @ Westwood Main Public Library, Mondays, 10:30-11:30; 10/16, 11/13, 12/11

Little Yogis Parent Child Yoga Class @ Westwood Main Public Library, Saturdays, 10:30-11:30; 11/4, 12/2

Saturday Active Gym Play for 3, & 4 year olds @ Deerfield School Gym, Saturdays, 10:00-11:00 and 11:00-12:00; 10/14, 11/18, 12/16

STEM Investigations @ Westwood Main Public Library, Thursdays, 1:30-2:30; 10/19, 11/16, 12/14

Special Parent Education Event

Language Development in the Early Years: Stimulating your Child's Speech and Language through Play. When to be concerned? @ Westwood Main Public Library, Wednesday, 10/11; 7:00-8:30 pm

What else is available through the Early Childhood Office?

In addition to the monthly activities, the Early Childhood Office provides a multitude of resources, services and support for families with young children and early educators. Here is a snapshot of what's happening on a regular basis.

Parent Education.

Through parent education programs like "Parent Cafes," parents are recognized as their child's first teacher. Education and supportive guidance are offered in helping them fulfill that role. Workshops such as "Introduction to Baby Sign Language" and "March Mindfulness" offer parents practical strategies they can implement at home to help support their child's development.

Developmental Screening and Child Development

Information. Parents are invited to utilize the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ); a developmental screening tool for ages birth through 5½ years. It is a parent-completed child monitoring system that covers 5 areas of development (communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving and personal/social). The system helps to identify how the child is progressing and how parents can help support skill development in these areas. An extensive lending library of books and articles pertaining to parenting and child development is also available.

Transition Information and Support. Consultation, resources and referrals are available for families new to the community, or transitioning in and among programs.

Family and Community Events. Programs such as "Kids at Play/Brains At Work" provide an opportunity for families to come together, make connections, receive information and resources, and celebrate their children.

Support for Early Educators. Teachers and childcare providers receive ongoing assistance with accessing training and professional development, and opportunities to share best practices.

Support for Families in Times of Need. Tuition assistance is available for children ages 3-5 to attend preschool through the Kathy Scales Memorial Tuition Assistance Program.

Have you ever wondered how so many free programs and events are made possible? These free programs are made possible by fundraising efforts of the Early Childhood Council, the generous grants and donations from the Westwood Young Women's Club, Foundation for Westwood Education and community collaboration with local community partner organizations and businesses. If you would like to support these family activities or the Kathy Scales Memorial Tuition Assistance Program, donations are welcome and appreciated. Checks can be made out to the Westwood Early Childhood Council and sent to the Early Childhood Office, Hanlon School, 790 Gay St., Westwood, MA 02090.

Want to learn more? Attend an upcoming Early Childhood Council Meeting. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Council meets 9/12, 10/3 11/7 and 12/5 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Westwood Main Library or contact Janet Lucey at (781) 461-9548 or jlucey@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Westwood Youth & Family Services Department

Holiday Giving Program Sign-up Begins

The Westwood Youth & Family Services Department is pleased to announce sign-ups for our annual Holiday Giving Program. Having taken place since 1999, this is a confidential process in which gifts are donated by residents, groups and businesses and given to Westwood families in need.

If you or anyone you know may need help during the upcoming holiday season, please have them contact us at youth@townhall.westwood.ma.us or call us at (781) 320-1006 by Friday, November 3.

To stay up to date on Youth & Family Services programs, like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/westwoodyouthandfamily> and follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @westwoodyfs.

The staff of Youth & Family Services Department provides clinical services and supportive community programs to foster the healthy growth of children 4-18 years old and their families. Please visit our website at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/yfs or call us at (781) 320-1006 for more information.



Westwood
Youth
&
Family Services

St. Margaret Mary CYO

CYO Basketball prepping for new season

The St. Margaret Mary CYO Basketball Program is preparing for the upcoming season and is accepting basketball registrations now. Eligibility requires players must live within the boundaries of St. Margaret Mary parish or must be registered parishioners of St. Margaret Mary parish. Anyone interested in playing this season can obtain a registration form online at the Saint Margaret Mary Parish web site [www.saintmmparish.org]. Click on Ministries and then on CYO Basketball. Registrations should be mailed by October 16 to the address on the form.

CYO basketball has six divisions: *Boys:* 5th & 6th grades, 7th & 8th grades, 9th & 10th grades and 11th & 12th grades. *Girls:* 5th & 6th grades, 7th & 8th grades and 9th through 12th grades.

Additional information regarding CYO Basketball can be found on the St. Margaret Mary parish web site. Any questions can be directed to Ken Foscaldo, Parish Athletic Director via email: kenfos4766@gmail.com. Practices begin the first week of November and the games are played on weekends from December through February.

Anyone interested in volunteering to coach in the program should contact Ken Foscaldo (kenfos4766@gmail.com).

Contributed by Ken Foscaldo

Westwood Artists

Westwood Artists have been in existence for one year. Last summer, five founding members started the ball rolling by preparing for Westwood Day 2016. It was such a success that we added more venues and more artists over the next year. We also have art on display at the Westwood Media Center and at the Frame Studio in Westwood’s Lambert’s Plaza. Participating artists work in ceramics, fiber arts, painting, quilting, jewelery, glass, photography, and food (chocolates, cakes & cookies). All of the artists are Westwood residents.



*Founding members of Westwood Artists
L to R: Kathy Zola, Jane Wojick, Karen Cagan,
Carol Ahearn and Lisa Walker
at Westwood Day 2016*

Upcoming events for Westwood Artists in the remainder of 2017 will be Westwood Day on Saturday, September 23, 2017, Capturing Nature in Westwood Exhibit at the Westwood Public Library in October, and Westwood Artists Marketplace on December 8 and 9 at the Fisher School in Westwood.

If you are an artist living in Westwood and want to join us, please contact us at westwoodartists@gmail.com for more information.

Submitted by Karen Cagan

Youth & Family Services Department

The Youth & Family Services Department and our Advisory Board are happy to introduce our Graduate Interns, who will be with us for the 2017-2018 school year.

Lindsey Jennings is a second year graduate student at Simmons College working on her Masters in Social Work. Lindsey completed her undergraduate degree in social work at the University of New Hampshire. She recently completed an internship at North River Collaborative in Rockland, where she provided counseling to K-5th graders and facilitated play therapy groups.



Lindsey Jennings

Li Wigren comes to us from Simmons College, where she is in her second year studying for her Masters of Social Work. She graduated from Merrimack College with a major in sociology and a double minor in Psychology and Women’s Gender Studies. In June of this year, she completed an internship with Brookline Mental Health Center/The Baker School where she worked with the guidance office providing group counseling to students in grades 4-8.



Li Wigren

Casey Smith is a first year graduate student, also from Simmons College of Social Work. She is a graduate of Bryant University with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in applied psychology. Casey is a Westwood native and a former WY&FS Mentor. She has worked as an Instructional Assistant in the Downey Elementary School and currently works as an instructional assistant with the Westwood High School FLEX Program.



Casey Smith



Westwood Youth & Family Services

Westwood Fire Department

The Westwood Fire Department had a busy summer promoting fire safety throughout town. The Public Education division ran several programs for various age groups over the past few months.

The first program involved the Westwood Elementary Schools at the end of the school year. The Fire Safety and Awareness trailer was brought to every elementary school in town to teach grades K-5 home fire safety. The lessons taught included 911 Awareness; Stop, Drop, and Roll, Get Out – Stay Out; and Get Low and Go among others. Fire Safety was taught to over 1,200 students while visiting sixty classrooms. This program was a huge success and would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Westwood Public Schools.

The other program targeted Westwood’s older adult population in cooperation with the Westwood Council on Aging. The Fire Safety and Fall Prevention program offered free home safety inspections to seniors in town. The program was developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in order to help seniors live safely at home for as long as possible. Thirty five inspections were conducted and over fifty new smoke and CO detectors were installed. The detectors were paid for through charitable donations and were free-of-charge to the seniors.

This upcoming year Westwood Fire Department (WFD) plans to further community outreach, teaching fire prevention and education to all age groups throughout town. In the fall, members of the WFD Public Education division will be visiting Westwood preschools with the Fire Safety and Awareness trailer in order to continue our home safety lessons.

WFD looks forward to Westwood Day 2017 where various demonstrations are planned, including a “live burn” to promote the benefits of residential sprinklers. See everyone there!

Contributed by Mike Reardon

Westwood FreeMasons

Open House/Blood Drive and MyChip

The Westwood FreeMasons are running an Open House/Blood Drive and MyChip program on October 21 from 9 am-4 pm. The event will be held at the Westwood FreeMasons Lodge, 655 High Street, Westwood and at the Norwood FreeMasons Lodge, 76 Day Street, Norwood.

This event is specifically designed for children and is a free event. Families are encouraged to stop by either lodge building and register their children with the MyChip program (info below), give blood and grab some free breakfast.



MYCHIP (Masonic Youth Child Identification Program) has identified more than 300,000 children since its inception in 1988, and it continues to assist families today.

The program provides tools to help law enforcement authorities find and identify a lost or missing child. The Masons of Massachusetts, partnering with the Massachusetts Crime Prevention Officers Association and the Massachusetts Dental Association, donate MYCHIP resources to make this service available to the public. None of the information is copied and all the identifying materials are given to the child's family.

The free MYCHIP Program provides the following materials:

VIDEOTAPE: A brief video interview that can be quickly distributed to the media in order to reach a huge audience.

FINGERPRINTING: Fingerprinting is a well-known means of identification. Resourceful parents keep fingerprints available should the need arise.

TOOTHPRINTS: A tooth print bite impression is quick and easy. Teeth, like fingerprints are unique. A dental imprint gives both accurate and important information for identification purposes.

CHEEK SWAB: A Q-tip is gently rubbed on the inside of a child's

Tours of the lodge buildings will also be available, led by members of the lodge.

Contributed by Matthew Liptak

Westwood Youth & Family Services

Seeking 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders to Join Friends Network!

The Friends Network program matches 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Westwood residents with high school aged residents in 1:1 pairs that meet weekly to engage in games and activities in a relaxed setting. This is a great way for children to engage with a positive role model while forming a special friendship and having fun! Please note: Admission to the Friends Network Program is free and based on a matching process which is heavily dependent on the number of high school mentor participants. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a spot for all applicants. The Program runs November 2017-April 2018, Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15 PM or 6:30 PM-7:30 PM at the Patricia Carty-Larkin Senior Center, 60 Nahatan Street.

For more information and to register go to our website at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/yfs.

Questions? Please contact: Sarah Baroud, LICSW at (781) 320-1006 or sbaroud@townhall.westwood.ma.us.

Contributed by Y&FS



Westwood Youth & Family Services

Westwood Youth & Family Services

Online Registration Open for Structured Play Groups

Who: Westwood residents in Kindergarten to 5th grade

When: Fall 2017 – Spring 2018, one afternoon per week, 4:00-5:00 PM

Where: Islington Community Center, Extended Day Programs at Sheehan, Hanlon and Martha Jones Elementary Schools

What: These 8-week groups are designed to emphasize the continued development of adaptive social and conflict-resolution skills as well as self-esteem and social confidence. Organized play and drawing activities are used to reinforce weekly topics such as initiating & developing friendships, working cooperatively as a team, appropriate communication, decision-making, as well as appreciating one's own strengths and the differences of others, etc.

For more information and to register go to our website at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/yfs

Questions contact: Nina Banozic, LCSW at (781) 320-1006 or nbanozic@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Contributed by Y&FS

Temple Beth David

Learning at Temple Beth David is for kids and adults!

The littlest learners are all welcome to experience the joy of Judaism during Mazel Tots on Sunday mornings, Tot Shabbat, Pajama Havdalah, and holiday celebrations especially geared for families with young children.



Our Religious School program begins on Sunday mornings when our Kindergarten through 6th grade students and their parents enter the sanctuary for joyful communal prayer and song. The students move on to their classes by grade and there is often optional adult learning, a guest speaker or other activities for parents. Students study a variety of Judaic topics and themes, engage in social action projects, and celebrate the Jewish holidays together.

Grades 3-6 also participate in a weekly one-hour small group Hebrew class on either Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon. There is individual support for students with special learning needs and all children are included in our warm community.

Our older students participate in a flexible elective-based program on Wednesday evenings that is especially geared toward teens' interests, as well as youth group and travel experiences.

Adult learning is open for all learners and includes topics such as: Introduction to Judaism, Jewish texts, Beginning Hebrew, Parenting Through a Jewish Lens, Spirituality, and issues pertinent to contemporary Jewish and Israeli life.

For more information about any of our education programs for the 2017-18 school year, please see the learning pages on our website [templebethdavid.net/learning] or contact Rabbi Karen or Rabbi Micah Citrin (rabbikaren@templebethdavid.net, rabbimicah@templebethdavid.net) or Wendy Berliner, Vice President of Education (please send email to info@templebethdavid.net to Wendy's attention). We look forward to learning with you!

Contributed by Amy Cook and Rabbi Karen Citrin

Rotary Club of Westwood

Rotary news

At one of its first meetings of 2017-2018, the Rotary Club of Westwood installed a new slate of officers. The new officers for 2017-2018 is as follows:

- Bob Folsom – President
- Helena Drolette – President-Elect
- Jackie Biancuzzo – Secretary
- Laura Macs – Treasurer
- Marcia Hirshberg – Membership Chair
- Becky Schofield – Speakers
- Mike Walsh – Social Media/Marketing
- Mike Razza – Foundation Chair
- Tony Amico – Board Member
- Suzanne Comer – Board Member
- Dottie Powers – Past President/Board Member

The club also installed two new members, Dave Orlovsky, store manager for Wegmans in Westwood and Lori Favreau from Dedham Savings.



Bob Folsom, President 2017-2018 and Jim Brown, Needham Rotary



New members Dave Orlovsky (left) and Lori Favreau (right) being installed by Jim Brown from Needham Rotary Club

On August 7, the club served ice cream treats at the WestwoodWinds concert at Westwood High School. The ice cream was donated by Needham Bank and the club accepted donations for Polio Plus, a campaign by Rotarians to eradicate polio worldwide. The club was able to collect just over \$200.00.

On August 12, 2017, the club lost one of its long time and dedicated members, Robert “Bob” Golosov. Bob was a decorated veteran and a true Rotarian. Bob served as Club President and District Governor of District 7910 among other positions. Donations in his memory were asked to be made to Westwood Rotary and can be sent to PO Box 795, Westwood, MA 02090-0795.

Look for the Rotary Club of Westwood at Westwood Day on September 23rd. The club will be collecting items for DOVE.

Here are some suggestions:

- Gift cards for Target, Wal-Mart
- Paper goods: Tissues, Napkins, Toilet paper
- Hand soap/sanitizer
- Body lotion
- Toothpaste
- Body wash
- Razors/shaving cream
- Hairbrushes/combs
- Face wash
- Floss/mouthwash
- Paper towels
- Baby powder

For a complete list, visit www.westwoodrotary.com.



The Rotary Club of Westwood is a group of business men and women that meet on the first and third Tuesday nights at Chiara of Westwood from 5:00 to 6:30. The members enjoy a wonderful dinner and often listen to a speaker. The members perform community service projects locally or match with other clubs to assist with international projects. Currently the club is working with the Westwood Lions club and Moms of Westwood to improve and update the Tot Lot in town. For more information on meetings, projects and a complete list of items needed by DOVE, visit, www.westwoodrotary.com.

Contributed by Laura Macs

American Legion

Following are the regularly scheduled business meetings for the Post for the 2017–2018 year.

American Legion members are welcome to attend any meeting(s) that they find convenient.

- Business Meetings9/11; 10/2; 11/6/2017
- **Veteran’s Day**11/11/2017
*11:00 AM at Veteran’s Park
- Business Meeting12/4/2017
- Business Meetings1/8; 2/5; 3/5; 4/2; 5/14/2018
(*Nomination of Officers 5/14)
- **Memorial Day**5/28/2018
*10:00 AM Parade at Town Hall
- Business Meeting6/4/2018
*Annual Election of Officers

The agenda for all Business Meetings is as follows:
Social ½ hour 6:30-7:00 pm
Complimentary Dinner 7:00-8:00 pm

Contributed by Ken Foscaldo



And the winner of the Westwood Day Logo Contest is...



Danielle Sutrich is a Westwood High student and winner of the Westwood Day logo contest. Her unique, creative design highlighting Westwood's zip code will be featured on all Westwood Day marketing and merchandise. Congratulations Danielle!

WESTWOOD DAY

Kick Off - Friday, September 22

Football Game - Westwood vs. Holliston 7:00 PM

Saturday, September 23

5K 9 AM and Fun Run 10 AM

10 AM - 3 PM:

Activities - Entertainment - Vendor Village - Food

Westwood High School

Rain or Shine



Event Contacts:

ACTIVITIES: Taryn Crocker tcrocker@townhall.westwood.ma.us

ENTERTAINMENT: Kristin Scoble kscoble@townhall.westwood.ma.us

FOOD COURT VENDORS: Sue Perry sperry@townhall.westwood.ma.us

VENDOR VILLAGE: Zach Krause zkrause@townhall.westwood.ma.us

SPONSORS: Nicole Banks nbanks@townhall.westwood.ma.us

VOLUNTEERS: Erika Schaad eschaad@townhall.westwood.ma.us



WestwoodDay.com

NEW THIS YEAR!

WESTWOOD DAY SHUTTLE BUS

Park & Hop On the Shuttle Bus Loop to Westwood High from the following locations:



St. Margaret Mary's Church, 845 High Street
 First Baptist Church, 808 High Street
 Thurston Middle School, corner of Nahatan & High Street
 Town Hall, 580 High Street
 Deerfield Elementary School, 72 Deerfield Street



Shuttle bus or carpooling highly recommended

**VOLUNTEERS!
NEEDED!**

**WESTWOOD
DAY**

September 22 & September 23

Fun-filled community celebration seeks friendly volunteers!

Westwood Day depends on the help of many volunteers to assist with set-up, parking, monitoring activities, greeting visitors, clean-up crew and more. Volunteers sign-up for 2.5 hour shifts and receive an event t-shirt and a good time!

Help is needed for:

- Event set-up on Friday afternoon
- Event set-up Saturday early AM
- Saturday Activities between 10 and 3
- Saturday clean-up after 3 PM

Sign up at www.WestwoodDay.com or contact Erika Schaad at eschaad@townhall.westwood.ma.us / 781-461-0070

WESTWOOD /DAY



Saturday, September 23, 2017

Westwood High School Track

5K ROAD RACE 9:00 AM

- \$15 Online Registration (Closes Sept 21)
- \$20 Day of Event Registration 7:30-8:30 AM
- Free 5K T-Shirt for those who register by Sept 7

1 MILE FUN RUN 10:00 AM

- Free On-line Registration All Ages Welcome (Closes Sept 21)
- (Parents are welcome to run along with their children)
- Westwood Day School Spirit Trophy.
The Westwood Elementary School with the largest number of participants and school spirit will be awarded with a trophy to be proudly displayed at their school until Westwood Day 2018!

NEW



5 OR MORE MEMBERS
SAVE \$5 PER PERSON

Register online: WestwoodDay.com/activities



WestwoodDay.com

WESTWOOD /DAY

SPONSORS 2017



PLATINUM



GOLD

Needham Bank
RE/MAX Distinct Advantage



SILVER

ARCH Orthodontics
Blue Hills Bank
Boston Light & Sound
Clean Portable Restrooms
Dedham Savings
Fidelity Investments
Fox Hill Village & White Oak Cottages
Frugal Fannie's Fashion Warehouse
Roche Bros. Supermarkets
Rockland Trust
Wegmans Food Markets



BRONZE

CENTURY 21 Commonwealth
Dental Arts of Westwood
Heritage Financial
Northeast Security
Not Your Average Joe's
Personal Best Karate of Medfield
University Station
Westwood Dentistry

THANK YOU!



TRANSPORTATION SHOW & TOUCH A TRUCK

Saturday, September 23, 10:00-3:00

Westwood High School

Spectator Voting Begins at 10:00

Trophies Awarded at 2:30

Trophy Categories: BEST PAINT, PEOPLES' CHOICE, BEST IN SHOW, MOST UNIQUE, BEST ENGINE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____ Email: _____

Transportation Description: _____

Year: _____ Make/Model: _____

FREE REGISTRATION

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUESTED BY SEPTEMBER 20 OR REGISTER DAY OF THE SHOW

MAIL: WESTWOOD RECREATION, 240 NAHATAN STREET, WESTWOOD, MA 02090

EMAIL: tcrocker@townhall.westwood.ma.us



WestwoodDay.com

The Westwood Public Library

21st Century Fund

What would you imagine for the Westwood Public Library's future? This was the question that was recently posed to patrons and staff as part of the strategic planning process that the Library undertook last fall. As part of the planning activity, several staff went on a field trip to the Darien Public Library (Darien, CT) to find out what it is behind their 5-Star rating from Library Journal and its well-known reputation for excellence and innovation.

Staff returned from this field trip energized and excited to implement some of the ideas that had been generated during this field trip. One of the takeaways that resonated was the genuine enthusiasm that was created by the personal exchange of ideas between members of both staffs. And, as we set about to implement some new ideas and features, the commitment to continuing professional development for all library staff became a touchstone of future planning. Staff are the single most important resource that a library can provide. And though we may take pride in the collections, visitor counts and per capita circulation, we are proudest of the customer service provided by the staff of the Westwood Public Library. And we are so very grateful to the Board of the 21st Century Fund for their commitment to continued staff development.

In 2015, the 21st Century Fund awarded its very first grant to Hannah Gavalis (Children's Librarian at the Westwood Public Library). Grant funds were requested by Hannah for the creation of a new program entitled, "*Bridging the Gap: Creating a space for writing and hand writing practice in the Children's Department and connecting authors and their young readers.*" Children were encouraged to write to their favorite story book characters or the authors of their favorite books. Letters were placed in a mailbox located in the children's room. Westwood children's librarians then put stamps on envelopes and sent all of the letters to the books' authors. The authors did not disappoint! Many sent personalized responses to the children – and all of the replies were posted in the children's room. And as more children become engaged with new books and new authors, additional letters continue to be sent and received.

In 2016, the 21st Century Fund made several significant grants to support continued professional development opportunities for several staff. Last fall, Jenny Durant, Library Assistant at the Branch Library, began her studies in the graduate program in Library and Information Science at Simmons College, with grant assistance provided by the 21st Century Fund. Jennifer's first semester coursework included a broad overview of concepts and current trends in libraries, as well as a focused foundation in the principles of library science, including customer service and ethics. This spring, Jenny continued her coursework towards a Master's Degree with courses involving the organization of information, including Library of Congress and Dewey decimal classification and cataloging. Jenny also created a website as part of the coursework in her Technology for Information Professionals course. The support of Jenny's professional scholarship speaks to the value placed on library staff by the 21st Century Fund.

In spring 2016, one additional grant was approved by the 21st Century Fund, and this was perhaps the grant that has had the most impact of all, as the grant recipients were able to attend Book Expo 2017! Book Expo is the largest annual book trade fair in the United States. Nearly all significant book publishers in the United States, and many from abroad, have booths and exhibits at BEA, and use the fair as an opportunity to showcase upcoming titles, sell current books, socialize with colleagues from other publishing

houses, and sell and buy subsidiary rights and international rights. Authors, Librarians, and independent book sellers attend. Publishers and authors display their upcoming titles—in digital, audio and print, as well as every genre from thrillers to comedies, from book publishers and authors across the country and around the world.

Molly Riportella (Head of Adult Services) and Lizzy McGovern (Head of Children's Services) went to New York City for the event, and their experiences were nothing short of amazing! The conference featured multiple book talks, including pre-publication titles and books that are sure to become blockbuster hits. They attended programs featuring well-known authors, such as Stephen King, John Grisham, Mary Higgins Clark, Ann Hood, Nelson DeMille, Alice Hoffman, Adriana Trigiani, Victoria Aveyard and every child's favorite author, Mo Willems! Molly and Lizzy were also able to obtain autographed advanced reader copies (ARCs) of popular titles for Summer Reading prize baskets for children, teens and adults.

Molly and Lizzy returned from New York City with big ideas to help Westwood residents find their next great read! Molly recently ran a program called "Summer PrePub Picks", which highlighted the summer's most anticipated titles—giving patrons the opportunity to reserve copies of these books before the word gets out. Be on the lookout for a "Fall PrePub Picks" program later in 2017!

Lizzy and Molly were most excited to bring back reading suggestions for their popular library book clubs. Lizzy runs the Just for Fun Teen Book Club (which meets once a month on short Wednesdays), and this book club has a large following of middle school students. Molly's Friday Morning Book Club (which meets once a month on Friday mornings) was most excited about the summer reading prize baskets filled with several copies of autographed books for adults! As the year progresses, Molly and Lizzy will continue to collaborate with other library staff to create book displays, reading lists, and blog posts to inspire Westwood residents of all ages!

The support of the 21st Century Fund Board encourages staff to imagine new possibilities, and with the Fund's support, the user experience at the Westwood Public Library continues to evolve as each of the grant recipients create opportunities for enhanced programming and inspires readers of all ages.

News Items Welcomed!

Please send suggestions, observations, or feedback to the editor at: newsletter@townhall.westwood.ma.us

If you want a story to be considered for inclusion in the *Westwood Community Newsletter*, please submit your article by **November 3, 2017**.

The *next* quarterly newsletter is due to be delivered to homes on or about *December 15, 2017*.

Articles will be considered on a first come, first served basis. The articles should feature a community theme and connection to Westwood.

Diane Thornton, *Editor*, Westwood Community Newsletter, 580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090

Email: newsletter@townhall.westwood.ma.us



Fall Programs 2017

Library programs are generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Kid Programs at the MAIN LIBRARY

660 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090

wwdchildrens@gmail.com - (781) 320-1042

Please check out website for up-to-date schedule adjustments

For Kids 0-5 years

WIGGLE & GIGGLE STORYTIME: For all ages, no registration. Kids and their caregivers are welcome to come and wiggle and giggle with us as we enjoy music, movement, storytelling, and more!

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM
September 5 – October 17
November 7 – December 12

WONDROUS WEDNESDAYS STORYTIME: For all ages, no registration. Children and their caregiver are welcome to come listen to stories, songs, rhymes, and more! A short activity will be available for those who wish to stay after storytime.

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM
September 6 – October 18
November 8 – December 13

READ, PLAY, SING: For all ages, no registration. Join us as we read, sing, and play in this storytime filled with movement, music, and craft activities!

Wednesdays, 4 PM
September 6 – October 18
November 8 – December 13
(No storytime Nov. 22, Library closes at 1 PM)

BABY RHYME TIME: For babies 0-24 months and a caregiver. Come enjoy the magic of rhymes and music with your little one! Lizzy will lead everyone in traditional rhymes and music as well as wonderful new favorites!

Fridays, 10:30 AM
September 8 – October 20
November 17 – December 15

SATURDAY STORYTIMES: All ages, no registration. Kids and their parents/caregivers are welcomed to come hear stories, rhymes, and songs!

Select Saturdays: September 16, October 21, and November 18
@ 10:30 – 11 AM

SENSORY CRAFTS: Ages 2-5, no registration. All are welcome to come participate in a sensory-based craft.

Select Mondays: October 2, November 6, and December 4
@ 10:30 – 11 AM

HALLOWEEN SINGALONG: Come listen to Halloween stories, rhymes, and songs! Children and caregivers are welcomed to come in costume and join us in a costume parade around the library after the program.

Tuesday, October 31 @ 10:30 AM

School-Aged Kids

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB: For kids in grades 3-5 and a female adult. Share your enthusiasm for reading with other book lovers and join us for a lively discussion, a game of Pictionary, snacks, and fun! The September book will be *Another Day as Emily* by Eileen Spinelli. Books will be available at the Children's ASK! Desk. Email Lizzy at ehmcgovern@minlib.net for more info.

Tuesdays, 6:30 PM
September 12, October 10, November 7, & December 5

HALF WEDNESDAY HANGTIME: Kids in grades K - 8 are invited to come for drop-in crafts, activities, games and more! Come for 10 minutes or an hour. Kids in grades K-3 must be accompanied by an adult.

Early Release Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3 PM
September 13, October 11, & November 8

***CREATIVE KIDS:** For Kindergarten and 1st graders, registration required. Children will have lots of fun as they participate in creative dramatics and arts & crafts activities.

Thursdays, @ 4 – 4:45 *REGISTRATION REQUIRED
September 28 – November 2
November 30 – December 21

***YOUNG FIXERS:** For kids in grades 2 – 3. Based on the Young Inventors' Program (YIP) developed by The Academy of Applied Science, this set of activities guides kids through the full invention process, including opportunity identification, solution brainstorming, model-building, and finally presenting the resulting inventions.

Tuesdays, 4 – 5 PM *REGISTRATION REQUIRED
October 3 – October 24

Middle Schoolers

HALF WEDNESDAY HANGTIME: Kids in grades K - 8 are invited to come for drop-in crafts, activities, games and more! Come for 10 minutes or an hour. Kids in grades K-3 must be accompanied by an adult.

Early Release Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3 PM
September 13, October 11, & November 8

JUST FOR FUN BOOK CLUB: For kids in grades 6-8, no registration. Take a break from homework and join Lizzy to talk about books and enjoy snacks! Books will be available at the library. Have a question? Email Lizzy at ehmcgovern@minlib.net for more information.

2nd Early Release Wednesday of the month, 1:30 PM
September 27, October 25, November 15, & December 20

VOLUNTEERS: For grades 6-8. Requires application and registration. Interested in volunteering at the library? Want to become a member of library Team Reads? Join us every first Wednesday night of the month for pizza and a library volunteer project. Typical activities may include: Sorting and shelving library materials, adopt a shelf program, assisting with special projects and

continued on next page

Continued from previous page

producing materials for library programs, miscellaneous work, and special event programs (i.e. Westwood Day and Harry Potter Night).

Make a difference at the library! Apply at the Children's Ask Desk or email Lizzy at ehmcgovern@minlib.net for more info. Bring your application to first meeting October 4th @ 6:00pm.

Wednesdays, 6 PM – 7:30 PM
Oct. 4, Nov.1, Dec. 6

CHAT & CHILL WITH AUTHOR ELLY SWARTZ: For grades 4 & up, no registration required. Come celebrate Teen Read Week with Elly Swartz, author of *Finding Perfect*, who will be here to discuss her book, writing, & finding inspiration. Twizzlers will be provided! Copies of *Finding Perfect* will be available to be purchased and signed at the event.

Tuesday, October 10 @ 3:30 PM

BOOKAPALOOZA: For grades 6 -12, no registration. Come celebrate Teen Read Week with an hour of browsing books, eating snacks, activities, & prizes!

Thursday, October 12 @ 3 – 4 PM

Kids' Programs at the ISLINGTON BRANCH

280 Washington Street, Westwood, MA 02090
To register, please call: (781) 326-5914

STORYTIME: For kids ages 2 & up. Children will participate in stories, songs, films, and crafts.

Thursdays @ 9:30 – 10:15 AM
September 7 – October 19
November 9 – December 14

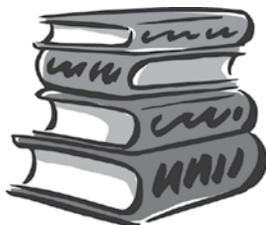
PJ STORYTIME: For kids ages 3 & up. Children can come to the Islington Branch in their PJs with a favorite stuffed animal to hear stories and songs.

3rd Wednesday of the Month @ 6:30 – 7:15 PM
September 20, October 18, & November 15, December 20th

LEGO-MANIA: Kids in grades K & up. Come and build with library LEGOs!

Tuesdays, 3:45 – 4:45 PM
September 5 – December 19

continued in next column



Lots of information on pages 10–15.

Continued from previous column

Teen Programs at the MAIN LIBRARY

660 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090
wwdtab@minlib.net – (781) 320-1045

Please check out website for up-to-date schedule adjustments

BOOKAPALOOZA: For grades 6-12, no registration. Come celebrate Teen Read Week with an hour of browsing books, eating snacks, doing activities, & more.

Thursday, October 12 @ 3 – 4 PM

Casual Fridays! For tweens/teens in grades 6-12
Come hang out with your friends in a relaxed informal setting. Play video or board games, listen to music and catch up on new movies and books. We need you there to make sure something interesting is always happening! Snacks Provided.

Fridays @ 3:00 PM

Teen Knitting: 6th grade and up. Join us Monday nights for knitting in the Teen room. We are going to knit hats and blankets for preemies, which will be donated to Children's Hospital and Boston Medical. Supplies and some basic instruction will be provided.

Mondays @ 7 PM

Adult Programs at the MAIN LIBRARY

660 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090
wwdmail1@minlib.net – (781) 320-1045

Please check out website for up-to-date schedule adjustments

Author Talk: Jennifer Lin and Shanghai Faithful: Within the next decade, China could be home to more Christians than any country in the world. Through the 150-year saga of a single family, this book vividly dramatizes the remarkable religious evolution of the world's most populous nation.

Shanghai Faithful is both a touching family memoir & a chronicle of the astonishing spread of Christianity in China. Five generations of the Lin family—buffeted by history's crosscurrents and personal strife—bring to life an epoch that is still unfolding. With its sweep of history and the intimacy of long-hidden family stories, Shanghai Faithful offers a fresh look at Christianity in China—past, present, and future.

Jennifer Lin is an award-winning journalist & former reporter for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. All are welcome!

Thursday, September 14 @ 7:00 PM

Author Talk: Ted Reinstein and New England's General Stores: Exploring an American Classic: The general store is as old as America itself. It conjures a country-like place where kids come in to buy penny candy, and adults to buy everything from fresh vegetables to four-penny nails. It was a place to pick up mail, the newspaper, and perhaps tarry a bit on a chilly morning to chat over a cup of coffee and a warm wood stove.

continued on next page

Continued from previous page

In profiling the colorful stories of some of New England's most iconic general stores, the long, ongoing story of this remarkable region itself comes to life. All are welcome to this lively talk!

Ted Reinstein has been a reporter for Boston's WCVB-TV's "Chronicle" since 1995. Copies of this and Reinstein's other books will be available for purchase. No registration is required and all are welcome.

Tuesday, September 26 @ 7:00 PM

Marjorie Feld, PhD presents Lillian Wald: Professor Feld will speak about Lillian Wald, American nurse, humanitarian and author. Feld's first book, *Lillian Wald: A Biography*, published in 2008 by University of North Carolina Press, won the Saul Viener Book Prize of the American Jewish Historical Society. Lillian Wald was known for contributions to human rights and was the founder of American community nursing. She also founded the Henry Street Settlement in NYC and was an early advocate to have nurses in public schools. All are welcome!

Thursday, September 27 @ 7:00 PM

Escape the Room at Westwood Library: Join with friends and/or friends -to-be to in solving puzzles and riddles before time runs out. This adult game is based on the popular "locked room mystery phenomenon sweeping the country." Do you think you are up for the challenge—if so call today! **Registration is required**—please call 781-320-1045 to sign-up!

Monday, October 2 @ 7:00 PM

Digital Photography & Video with Your Smart Device: This 2 hour program will introduce you to smartphone camera applications (apps), controls and functions – zoom, editing, etc. Participants will learn basic composition, such as the rule of thirds. Learn how to capture, download, back-up and share your photos and video clips. Registration is required—please call 781-320-1045 to sign-up!

Wednesday, October 4th @ 7:00 PM

An Evening with Eleanor Roosevelt: Join local author and historian Carol Cohen for a look into the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. During this presentation meet Eleanor at her home, learn about her role as a human rights activist, and inspect many primary sources that were very much a part of Eleanor Roosevelt's personal and professional life.

Tuesday, October 10 @ 7:00 PM

YA for Adults Book Club: You're never too old for YA! Stop being a secret reader of YA and join like-minded adults to discuss these fine specimens of Young Adult literature! We'll have laughs, we'll have tears, we'll enjoy all the delicious angst without ever having to step inside a high school. Please join us for an excellent literary time!

Tuesdays @ 7pm, at *Chiara Bistro*

Oct. 17: *One of Us is Lying* by Karen McManus

Nov. 14: *The Sun is also a Star* by Nicole Yoon

Dec. 12: *Vanishing Girls* by Lauren Oliver

Appetizers will be generously provided by the Friends of the Library

Molly & Helen's Book Picks—Haunting Tales: Molly and Helen are back for another round of book picks! Come prepared to get a list of books, new and old, that are somehow unforgettable. All are welcome!

Friday, October 20 @ 10:30 AM

continued in next column

Continued from previous column

The Salem Witch Trials with Dr. Gary Hylander: Get into the Halloween spirit by visiting the library to hear Dr. Hylander discuss the Salem Witch Trials. A professor of history at Framingham State University, Hylander earned his Ph.D. from Boston College and specializes as a presidential historian. He is a frequent presenter and is often featured as a commentator on local cable news and radio. No registration is required and all are welcome!

Wednesday, October 18th @ 7:00 PM

Smart Homes—The House of the Future: With the press of a button or just a few words you can turn on your lights, adjust the thermostat, or decide what you'll listen to next. Join Librarian Allison Palmgren to learn about the Amazon Echo, Google Home, and other "smart" devices and how they can connect you to your home. Registration is required—please call 781-320-1045 to sign-up!

Wednesday, November 1 @ 7:00 PM

Fall/Winter PrePub Picks: Are you looking for new favorite beach read? Are you tired of finding out a popular new book is out, but the wait list is long? Be "in the know" about what highly anticipated books are being published this fall and winter. Molly will present the best reviewed forthcoming books, and you will have the opportunity to get yourself on the list—before the wait is too long! Registration is required—please call 781-320-1045 to sign-up!

Friday, November 10 @ 10:30 AM

DIY Book Pumpkin: Help us upcycle old books by creating book pumpkins! Have a beautiful and homemade decorative pumpkin to enjoy at home, or bring as a hostess gift to your Thanksgiving celebration. This craft is open to teens and adults—but please note only one pumpkin per household. **Registration is required**—please call 781-320-1045 to sign-up!

Wednesday, November 15 with drop in starting @ 6:00 PM until 7:15 PM

Friday Morning Book Club: Join our book discussion group on Friday mornings! No sign-up necessary—read the book, join the conversation! We are looking for members, please join us! Books will be available at Main Library at the Circulation Desk and at the Islington Branch Library.

Friday, September 29: *Eleanor and Hick: The Love Affair That Shaped a First Lady* / Susan Quinn

Friday, October 27:

Laughing all the Way to the Mosque / Zarqa Nawaz

Friday, November 17: *Our Souls at Night* / Kent Haruf

Friday, December 15: Holiday Yankee Book Swap

Monday Mysteries: Join our mystery book discussion group on Monday mornings! No sign-up necessary—read the book, join the conversation! We are looking for members, please join us! Books will be available at Main Library at the Circulation Desk and at the Islington Branch Library.

Monday, September 11: *Faceless Killers* / Henning Mankell

Monday, October 2: *Murder on the Orient Express* / Agatha Christie

Monday, November 6: *The Passenger* / Lisa Lutz

Great Decisions with Tina McCusker: Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading an article about a particular global issue, watching the DVD & meeting in a Discussion Group to

continued on next page

Continued from previous page

discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Copies of articles are available at both the Main Library & the Islington Branch.

Thursday, September 21 @ 7:00 PM;
topic is Latin America's Political Pendulum
Thursday, October 19 @ 7:00 PM; topic is Prospects for
Afghanistan and Pakistan
Thursday, November 9 @ 7:00 PM; topic is Nuclear Security

Dr. Gary Hylander presents: Dickens—A Christmas Carol: Charles Dickens's novella *A Christmas Carol*, published in 1843, has become one of the best loved Christmas tales of all time. You know the story, but do you know the history behind it? Join us as professor and historian Gary Hylander sheds light on the history and vision of one of Dickens's most cherished works.

Wednesday, December 6 @ 7:00 PM

DIY Holiday Gifts: Looking for a great, but cheap gift to perhaps make in bulk and pass out? This overview of easy and inexpensive gifts you can make yourself is for you! Instructions for each craft will be available, but this is not a "make and take craft." This program is open to all ages and no registration is required!

Wednesday, December 13 @ 7:00 PM

2nd Annual Yankee Book Swap: Celebrate the holiday season by coming to the 2nd Annual Yankee Book Swap! Please bring one wrapped, gently used book to swap with members of the Friday AM book club! It can be any book that you think others would enjoy! Please do not feel the need to purchase a new book—just bring a title you've enjoyed that you do not need any more. Come with reading suggestions for our Friday AM Book Club meetings next year! *Please note you do not need to be a member or join the book club to attend this special event—all are welcome!*

Friday, December 15 @ 10:30 AM

Continued from previous column

Adult Programs at the ISLINGTON BRANCH

280 Washington Street, Westwood, MA 02090
wwdmail2@minlib.net - (781) 326-5914

Please check out website for up-to-date schedule adjustments

Islington Branch BookShare & Staff Picks: Bring a book you have read to share with the group as you enjoy a cup of coffee with fellow readers! Staff will share some new books to checkout!

Tuesday, September 19 @ 10:30 PM DROP IN PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 14 @ 10:30 PM

Islington Branch Book Group: Join us at the Branch to discuss some great reads!

Wednesday, October 11 @ 6:30 PM DROP IN PROGRAM

The Catcher in the Rye by J D Salinger

Wednesday, November 8 @ 6:30 PM

Crooked Heart by Lissa Evans

Wednesday, December 13 @ 6:30 PM

Holding up the Universe by Jennifer Niven

Color Me Happy: Adult Coloring: Coloring is said to decrease stress while enhancing creativity. Join us at the library, where relaxing music & new friends await! Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. We meet the 1st Wednesday of the month! No registration required!

Wednesday, October 4 @ 6:30 PM DROP IN PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 1 @ 6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 6 @ 6:30 PM

Sit and Knit: Join us for a morning of knitting, crocheting, needlepointing, cross stitching or hand quilting.... Bring your own projects and supplies with you. Sit and knit while enjoying the comfort of the Branch and check out a new craft book or knitting mystery....

Thursdays, 10:30 AM-12:00 pm DROP IN PROGRAM

All Library Programs are Free and are generously supported by the Friends of Westwood Library.

Registration begins one month prior to program start date. For additional programs and further information, please call the Main Library Children's Department at 781-320-1042, the Main Library Adult Services Department at 781-320-1045, or the Islington Branch at 781-326-5914 or visit the web site at www.westwoodlibrary.org

Westwood Community Chest

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

"I am in my 70's and my oil tank is empty, it's January..... My car needs \$800 in repairs...We have young children.... I am struggling with cancer and job loss. When I get on my feet, I'll give back."

These are the stories we hear from Westwood residents who apply to Westwood Community Chest for assistance. Last year we assisted 78 families with monetary awards, totaling \$90,000, to help make ends meet during difficult times. Our typical award is up to \$1,000 per household. We also provided Campership monies to over 56 children, providing \$800 per applicant or \$1,200 per family.

Contact us at: Westwoodcommunitychest@gmail.com or 781.366.0470.

Donations can be sent to: WCC, PO Box 250, Westwood, MA 02090.

It's been 10 years of Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Thank you to the citizens of Westwood for your ongoing support of Westwood Community Chest!

The Westwood Public Library

21st Century Fund

The Westwood Public Library 21st Century Fund, a non-profit corporation, was established in 2006 to ensure the public library could provide an excellent level of services to the Westwood community. Its immediate objective was to raise funds for construction and furnishing of a new Main Library. Thanks to the generosity of town residents, businesses, and philanthropic foundations, the capital campaign exceeded its fund raising goal. In 2014, the 21st Century Fund was proud to make a substantial contribution to the Town towards the construction cost of this impressive new facility.

The Fund continues to support the long-term goals of the Library. The 21st Century Fund's ongoing purpose is to grow an endowment for long term needs within the library system, as determined by the Trustees. Every five years, these needs are identified by the library's 5-year strategic plan. The Fund has also established a semi-annual grant program that supports special projects and initiatives brought forward by library staff members (see separate article, p. 16). The Fund is managed by a Board of Directors comprised of 3 Library Trustees, two at-large community members, and the Director of the Westwood Public Library.

The Fund does not conduct annual fund raising, but welcomes contributions from residents seeking to make anniversary or special donations. A gift to the Fund can be made in many ways:

- Gifts of cash or stocks
- Gifts through trusts
- Gifts through corporations
- Bequests in wills
- Memorial gifts honoring friends and relatives
- Gifts of real estate and other property

The Westwood Public Library 21st Century Fund has 501(c)(3) tax status from the Internal Revenue Service, therefore all donations are tax deductible, subject to the provisions of the IRS Code Section 170.

Contributions and inquiries can be directed to:

The Westwood Public Library 21st Century Fund
660 High Street
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090



Pictured in front row received grants from 21st Century fund:
(l-r) library staff Hannah Gavalis, Lizzy McGovern, Molly Riportella, Jenny Durant. Back Row: Mary Masi-Phelps, Don Friedl, Eric Gutterson, Tricia Perry (ex-officio). Missing from photo are 2 members of 21st Century Fund: Library Trustees: Mary Beth Persons and Wendy Thornton.

Dear Westwood Community:

Over 20 years ago the *Westwood Lions Club* took on the initiative to raise funds and purchase children's play equipment for what became known as the *Westwood Lions Tot Lot* on Nahatan Street. Over the years we have helped maintain and repair the equipment. It is now time to replace many pieces of equipment that have to be removed and we are reaching out to the community to help us raise the necessary funds to do so. Along with the Westwood Lions, we are very proud to have the *Westwood Rotary Club* and *Moms Club of Westwood* also helping us this year. We will have numerous events over the course of the year, starting with a fantastic cookout on September 16 from 3pm to 6pm at the Westwood Tot Lot. Please come join us with your entire family for food, bouncy house, music, corn hole, and so much more!

Also, the Westwood Lions will be dedicating the proceeds from their annual Community Calendar and raffle fundraiser to the Tot Lot this year.

Please consider contributing to this cause. Any amount is certainly welcome, however we will be developing special recognition to donors in the following categories:

- Platinum Sponsor – \$5,000 – Optional Booth sponsor at the event. Your company name prominently displayed on a plaque at the playground. Thank you in the year long fundraiser drive as a main sponsor.
- Gold Sponsor – \$2,500 – Optional booth sponsor at the event. Your company name prominently displayed on a plaque at the playground.
- Silver Sponsor – \$1000 – Brick with your name at the tot lot entrance.
- Bronze Sponsor – \$500 or donated items available for auction at the event are greatly appreciated.

Recognition will be on a plaque to be created at the Tot Lot as well as other locations.

If you are able to support us this year, please make your check payable to "WESTWOOD Lions Club" with "TOT LOT" noted in the memo field and mail to:

Westwood Lions Club,
PO Box 432,
Westwood, MA 02090.

If you would like more information about this event, please call Alex Jowdy at (781) 706-1394.

Sincerely,

Alex Jowdy,

Chair of Tot Lot Fundraiser [Tax ID No.: 04-6086440]

Lots of information on pages 10–15.





WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honoring Tradition • Inspiring Excellence • Shaping the Future • Creating Opportunity



Dear Westwood Residents,

September 2017

After a busy summer of planning and preparation, we are very excited to start a new school year in the Westwood Public Schools!

This fall represents a moment of change for the Westwood Public Schools as I move to the role of Superintendent. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity build on the accomplishments of the district under my predecessor, Dr. Antonucci, while also embracing the transition to a new superintendent as an important opportunity to collectively assess where we currently are as a school district and where we aspire to be in the future. In fact, during the more than 20 years that I have been privileged to serve the students of Westwood, one of the qualities that I have most appreciated about the WPS is the commitment that its teachers, students, and administrators demonstrate to continuous improvement and the community's desire to serve all students well while meeting new challenges.



As I begin my work as Superintendent, I plan to spend much of the upcoming year listening, observing, and learning. I have created a plan to gather information, feedback, and data from a wide range of educators and community members so that I can calibrate my own understanding of the district with others' perspectives about our strengths and needs. This process will assist me in identifying those things that the WPS must preserve at all costs as well as our next steps as a district. Through these "entry conversations," I plan to talk with teachers, administrators, students, parents, town officials, and community members to understand what they most value and want to preserve about the Westwood Public Schools, as well as our next steps as a district.

Whether you currently have students in our schools or not, I invite you to be a part of this conversation. I also invite you to be a part of our school community by attending School Committee meetings, athletic contests, concerts, theater performances, arts nights and the many other events that showcase and celebrate our students' learning. I hope to have the opportunity to say hello to many of you in the upcoming months.

Finally, I feel very fortunate to lead a school district in a community that is so supportive of its schools and so committed to both challenging and nurturing all of our students. I look forward to sharing with you the wonderful work in our classrooms this year and to collaborating with town officials and community partners to ensure that Westwood's children have the outstanding educational experience that they deserve.

Best wishes,

Emily Parker



New teachers prepare for the opening of school at a technology orientation



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honoring Tradition • Inspiring Excellence • Shaping the Future • Creating Opportunity

The Prodigy Program Celebrates Its 26th Year; Registration for Music Lessons Now Open

by **Joel Yennior**, WPS Elementary Instrumental Music Specialist and Prodigy Program Coordinator

The Prodigy Program is currently celebrating its 26th year as a valued resource for quality, convenient, and affordable musical instruction within the Westwood community. Since its inception in 1991, the Prodigy Program has grown to include over 360 music students taught by a staff of 25 professional musicians/teachers. Current Prodigy students study a variety of woodwind, brass, string and percussion instruments, as well voice and piano.

Students participating in the Prodigy Program work to gain the musical knowledge and skills that fully support their participation in our in-school band and/or choral programs. Many dedicated Prodigy students also pursue additional musical opportunities such as performing in solo recitals, playing in chamber groups, and auditioning for regional and all-state ensembles—in the process laying the groundwork for a lifetime of music participation and enjoyment.

Music lessons through the Prodigy Program begin the week of September 18. Families interested in more information about Prodigy music lessons and classes are encouraged to visit www.prodigy-program.org or contact me at [jyennior@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto: jyennior@westwood.k12.ma.us). 



Prodigy Teacher **Ronald Christianson** and students in recital, May 2017



Greetings From Assistant Superintendent Allison Borchers!

Every fall, I relish the sense of anticipation that comes with starting the school year. This year is particularly exciting for me as I move into a new role—one where I have the opportunity to support innovative curriculum and quality learning experiences throughout the Westwood Public Schools. While I know I will miss the daily interactions with students and staff at the middle school, I look forward to getting to know preschoolers, elementary kids, and high school students as well as the dedicated staff who work with them.

Along with Ms. Parks, I will be focused on observing, listening, and learning as much as I can throughout the year. My goal is to visit every classroom and gather as much information as I can from every department. Although I have worked in Westwood for a long time, I believe that it is critically important that I take stock before diving into new curriculum initiatives.

That doesn't mean, however, that the district will come to a standstill during this time of transition. We have some very exciting initiatives already underway:

- Westwood's one-to-one Chromebook program is expanding into grades five and six.
- New science curriculum units will be introduced at both the elementary and middle school levels.
- Westwood High School students will experience their first J-Term classes: week-long courses that allow students to immerse themselves in learning experiences that are anything but ordinary.
- General music will expand to a yearlong course at Thurston, and students will have the chance to learn (among many other things) how to play the ukulele.
- Computer science will be offered as a "special" subject alongside art, physical education, music, and library in third grade.

Thank you for your support of our Westwood students. I welcome your questions, concerns, or ideas!



Local Postal Customer

Opioid Task Force

A personal and powerful letter

Who's Next?

Which Westwood family will be the next to suffer the devastating loss of a child, or a young adult? Whose child will have his or her initials added to the ever growing lists on Facebook; the lists of sweet, talented, well-educated, and loved people taken too soon? We're all well aware that accidents, suicides, and the ever-increasing number of opioid overdoses have taken a staggering number of teens and twenty-somethings' lives in recent years. Unfortunately, Westwood has not been spared. As parents who have raised our children in this community, we want to believe that this is not happening here to us. The reality is, these deaths are happening and they are leaving a huge hole in the fabric of our community.

Too many of our kids in their early to late-twenties have lost so many friends in the short time between the start of high school and the beginning of their adult lives. For reasons unknown, some graduating classes have been hit harder than others but regardless of the number of lives lost, the hurt is cumulative.

We all want to believe that our families are safe from drug addiction. Surely, that's what every one of those parents thought. Don't fool yourself; these young people who have died or are in danger of dying are not bad kids. They were raised in loving homes. These were the kids we coached in youth sports, chaperoned on field trips, carpooled with, and came to sleepovers in our homes. They were loved and came from loving families. And when addiction consumed them, their families did everything in their power to provide their child with the help they needed, as we all would do.

It's easy to convince yourself that these tragedies could never happen to your family...to your child, to your niece, nephew, sister-in-law, brother-in-law; but they can. It's important to understand that substance abuse and addiction can start for many reasons: a sport injury, pain from an accident, self-medication, depression, anxiety, or any other undiagnosed disorders. The list of possibilities is endless.

These deaths have affected so many. Our children are now dividing memories into life before — and after — their friends started dying. These deaths have skewed the way they view and live their lives today. We watch them post inspirational messages to each other as a reminder to live each day as if it is their last. They struggle with so much grief at such a young age, a time that should be filled with hope and promise.

An author of this letter lost a very close friend to an incurable disease when he was 17 and was devastated. As the parent of a child who has lost at least 8 friends by the age of 24, he is terrified. Terrified to find out if there will be more initials added to the wall.

If you or a loved one is suffering from drug or alcohol addiction or you aren't sure who or where to turn to, know that there are confidential resources provided to you by the Town. Contact Danielle Sutton, Youth and Family Services Director at 781-320-1006 or by email at dsutton@townhall.westwood.ma.us for a confidential discussion on what you or a loved one can do to help battle addiction.