



WESTWOOD

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

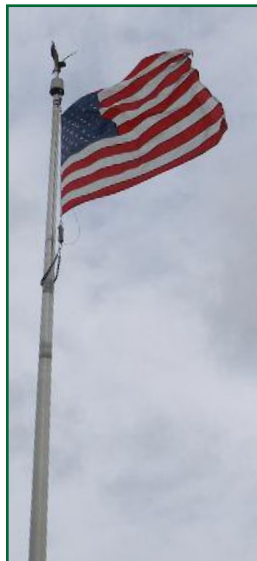
Volume 22 Number 3

Invitations to Get Involved Town Government Information Highlighted

Charter Review Getting Citizens' Attention

Since December 2009, the Government and Charter Study Task Force has been making strides during the initial information gathering phase of its review. In addition to reviewing the charters of other towns and comparing them with Westwood's Charter, the Task Force has been meeting with various elected and appointed officials, as well as with members of Westwood's committees and boards. These discussions provided valuable information on the functions and goals of these positions with regard to the Town Charter and the effectiveness of municipal operations in Westwood.

The Task Force is committed to hearing from the citizens of Westwood. A Public Forum was hosted on February 3rd in which a number of citizens shared their



views on issues they deemed to be positive aspects of the town's government. Many suggestions were also voiced on issues and areas of government that the Task Force should consider in its

ongoing review. Some topics mentioned were the size of boards and committees, term limits, Open Town Meeting vs. Representative Town Meeting, and more clearly defined language in the Charter regarding key governmental positions. The Task Force would like to thank the 40+ residents that attended.

The Task Force meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at Town Hall. Committee Chairman Peter Cahill and fellow task force members Karen Manor Metzold, Thomas Daly, Margery Eramo, Paul Fitzgerald, Charles Flahive, Ken Foscaldo, Frank Jacobs and Alice Moore welcome any thoughts and comments residents may have as the review process continues. Written comments and suggestions regarding our town government structure and effectiveness as it relates to the Charter can be submitted to Anne Marie McIntyre, Task Force Administrator, at amcintyre@townhall.westwood.ma.us.

More Task Force information and the Town Charter is available under "Boards and Committees" on the town's website at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/. ❖

Citizen's Guide to Westwood Open Town Meeting

A Review of Annual Town Meeting Basics

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

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Did You Know . . .

Important Dates to Remember from the Town Clerk's Office

- Saturday, April 3 – Annual Rabies Clinic
- Tuesday, April 27, 2010 – Annual Town Election
- Monday, May 3, 2010 – Annual Town Meeting

For those residents not registered to vote and would like to participate in the annual town election and annual town meeting, the deadline for voter registration is Wednesday, April 7, 2010. The Town Clerk's office will be open until 8:00 p.m. to accommodate those residents. ❖

- *Did you know* that the **Westwood Health Department** has administered a total of 5150 doses of vaccine since October 15th? The Department has held a whopping 13 flu clinics since the fall, administering 1180 doses of seasonal flu vaccine, 200 doses of pneumococcal vaccine, and 3770 doses of H1N1 vaccine. The endeavor to keep Westwood healthy has involved a dedicated group of 50, comprised of staff, Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, and School Nurses, many of whom volunteered at **all** of the clinics! The Town of Westwood is fortunate to have so many residents and friends that are committed to keeping Westwood healthy! If you would like to become a member of a vibrant group of Medical Reserve Corps volunteers please contact the Health Department at mrc@townhall.westwood.ma.us or call 781.320.1026/1027. ❖
- *Did you know* the **Westwood Board of Health** and the **Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project** has begun planning mosquito control for 2010? The project conducts mosquito control on properties on a request basis only, weather permitting. However, if you **do not** want your property sprayed you must notify the Westwood Town Clerk, 580 High Street, Westwood, MA in writing, with a copy to the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project, Building 34 Endicott Street, Norwood, MA 02062, by March 1, 2010 although the Project will honor exclusion requests any time during the mosquito season. The law (State Regulation 333 CMR: 13:04) requires this notification as well as a requirement to post your property. This is very important if you **do not** want adult control so that Project personnel can exclude your property from these applications.

For more information please contact the Westwood Board of Health at mrc@townhall.westwood.ma.us or the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project at 781.762.3681 or go to the Project's website at <http://massnrc.org/ncmcp/>. ❖

- *Did you know* that the **Annual Rabies Clinic**, sponsored by Vincent Durso, DVM of the Westwood Animal Clinic, the Westwood Rotary Club and the Westwood Board of Health, will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.? The clinic will be held at the Carby Street Municipal Office Building, 50 Carby Street, in Westwood (off of Dover Road). Both dogs and cats will be vaccinated. The cost per vaccine is \$15.00.

The Town Clerk and the Animal Control officer will be present to license dogs age six months and older. The fee is \$15 for unsprayed/unneutered dogs and \$10 for sprayed/ neutered dogs.

For more information please contact the Westwood Board of Health at mrc@townhall.westwood.ma.us or Dr. Durso at the Westwood Animal Clinic at (781) 329-7785. ❖

Afternoon of Jazz at the Library

The Mike Monaghan jazz quartet featuring Westwood resident Brad Hatfield on piano will perform at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, April 25th at the Main Library. This year's concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Monaghan and Hatfield are well-respected local musicians. Both perform with the Boston Pops Orchestra and have played with many popular artists. Mike and Brad are heard on Boston Pops recordings as well as the soundtrack to the Clint Eastwood film, *Mystic River*. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends.

Also on April 25th, the Friends of the Library will announce the winner of the quilt (Stars to Read By) made by the Westwood Library Quilting Group. The group donated the quilt to the Friends to be raffled off with all proceeds going to the new library project. ❖

Dedham Savings participating at Hometown Expo

On Saturday, April 17, 2010, Dedham Institution for Savings will be an exhibitor at the Hometown Expo sponsored by Hometown Publications. The Expo will be held at the Boylston Schul-Verein on Route 109 in Walpole from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Admission is FREE. The Expo will have inside and outside events, as well as food and entertainment for all ages. Come and learn about the various businesses in the area and see what they have to offer. Loan Officers from Dedham Savings will be present and available to answer any questions regarding the home buying process. ❖

In Memory of Moby Fundraiser

John “Moby” Wasilunas, a dedicated member of the Department of Public Works, passed away suddenly on January 26th while on duty for the DPW. He leaves behind his wife Patty, three sons John, Patrick and Ryan, his brother Vito, his sister Gloria and his mother Birute. Moby was a caring, terrific guy who was loved by all those who came into contact with him.



In memory of Moby, friends and co-workers will be holding a fundraising event on Saturday, March 27th at Concannon’s in Norwood beginning at 7:00 p.m. This event will offer guests a chance to bid in the silent auction and also take part in raffles that will begin at 9:30 p.m. from an unbelievable selection of prizes. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the event.

Tickets to the event can be purchased either at Town Hall, Department of Public Works at 50 Carby

Street or D&G Deli in Norwood on Nahatan Street. Tickets are \$25 each, which will automatically enter you in our special door prize raffle at the end of the night.

If you wish to make a financial donation in honor of Moby, please make checks payable to the Town of Westwood. All funds raised will go to Moby’s dependents in remembrance of his dedication and hard work he exhibited on behalf of the Town while employed at the DPW.

To purchase tickets or make a financial donation, please contact one of the following people:

Christine Narciso: 781-320-1073 or
cnarciso@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Cindy Barenthaler: 781-320-1037 or
cbarenth@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Ellen Hurley: 781-320-1016 or
ehurley@townhall.westwood.ma.us

If you wish to donate a raffle or silent auction item or need additional information, please contact Todd at 781-389-5918.

Creativity with a Cause: Westwood Empathic Signs Thurston Initiative

Students from the Thurston Middle School are using their talents and education to foster a unique relationship with the community. As part of a traffic safety sign initiative introduced by resident Anne Marie McIntyre and sponsored by a grant from the Westwood Educational Foundation, the eighth grade art students designed empathetic or emotionally intelligent traffic safety signs for the Paul Hanlon elementary school.

Anne Marie felt that traditional didactic signs are not effective enough to reduce speeding drivers in our neighborhoods. The idea of these empathetic traffic signs is to supplement the current signs such as the SLOW-SCHOOL ZONE sign with the unique artwork designed by the students. Appealing to drivers’ emotional side is a more effective way to reduce speeding because the driver feels uncomfortable to speed after seeing a sign handmade by a child.

The concept of utilizing the ‘right-brain’ skills, like empathy, to communicate effectively and essentially be more successful is detailed in a book written by Daniel Pink, *A Whole New Mind*. Using key points from the book and expanding on the framework of a neighboring town’s similar program, Westwood Empathetic Signs Thurston Initiative (W.E.S.T.I.) was launched. Art teacher, Ms. Maribeth Amber and her students

enthusiastically began this extra curricular project with an introduction to semiotics – the theory and study of signs and symbols. Sergeant Paul Sicard also paid a visit to the class, providing insightful public safety tips to incorporate in their designs. With unyielding support from Principal Allison Borchers, Principal Beth Herlihy of the Hanlon School, Town Administrator Mike Jaillet, and the Westwood Educational Foundation, this grassroots effort has proven to be a positive learning experience in many ways.

Of the many distinct and interesting designs, only two signs could be placed at the Hanlon School. All of the students’ hard work and time is greatly appreciated by everyone involved in this pilot program. The signs are expected to be ready for placement by early March. There are plans for W.E.S.T.I. to expand its endeavors with more signs for schools or establishments that express interest. It will be very interesting to see if drivers will empathize and improve their driving habits. Take a drive down Gay Street and see if the signs have an affect on you!

If you would like to contribute any ideas, comments or for further information you may contact Anne Marie at Annemarie_mcintyre@verizon.net. ❖

RAINBOW PROFILES: Celebrating the Cultural Diversity of Westwood

(Rainbow Profiles is a series of articles based on interviews conducted by the Westwood Human Rights Committee with Westwood residents who display the richness and cultural diversity of the Westwood community.)

AN INTERVIEW WITH MAURICE R. PERRY

As this is being written, it's January 18, and our country is honoring the life work of one of its citizens who paid the ultimate price for upholding the principle of equal rights for every man. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream for the right of all people to live as one. He said, "I have a dream that one day... little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers... I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." We have the privilege today, to be participating in the growing realization of Dr. King's dream. Please celebrate this with us as you read the Rainbow Profile of Westwood resident, Maurice R. Perry, who, helping to advance this dream nine years ago, braved the step of moving his family out of the inner city to a white upscale suburb, as told in an interview with Westwood Human Rights Committee member, Marge Griffin.

A short bio of Maurice, his family, education, occupation, and interests.

A son of Afro-American heritage, Maurice was born in Camden, New Jersey, but raised in the Mattapan and Dorchester sections of Boston, with three sisters. He received his BA in Information Technology from the University of Phoenix, where he is now studying online for his MA in Information Systems, and is employed as a Network Coordinator at the Massachusetts Nurses' Association in Canton. Maurice's wife, Michelle, is a social worker. They met at church in Boston, and after marrying made their first home in Boston's South End. In choosing Westwood to buy a home and raise their family, they would be close to relatives in Boston and could provide their children with a great opportunity to be educated in a high ranking school system. Their son, Mario, is a freshman at Westwood High School and their daughter, Mikhaila, is a fifth grade student at the Downey School. Maurice's interests are candlepin bowling, playing basketball, coaching his children's basketball teams, and church activities. Also, he is writing a sci-fi novel about a secret science experiment done on an inner-city teen in Boston.

Family history.

One branch of Maurice's maternal family roots is in Guyana. However, in this family line, starting with his great grandfather, Maurice is fourth generation Boston born. His grandfather's career was in the U.S. Coast Guard. The other maternal family roots are in American

slavery. It's unknown where in Africa they originated.

Maurice's mother and father separated when he was little and his father passed away while Maurice was still young. Despite efforts to learn about his father's family history, nothing is known. His mother raised her four children as a single mom, in her hometown, Boston. He reminisces, "It wasn't easy for her. I praise her every day for what she's done for us. She's given us so many opportunities just by her hard work alone." She held a variety of jobs to support them, including supervising the cleaning staff at the Park Plaza Hotel and managing a Dunkin Donuts store. It was the weekly box of donuts coming home that made that job the favorite!



Maurice Perry (center back) with his wife Michelle, daughter Mikhaila, and son Mario.

How Maurice's heritage has influenced his life.

In describing how his Afro-American roots, being a descendant of slaves, has contributed to where he is in his life now, he explained, "With the whole slavery part, I do feel like I have more of a purpose in my life to succeed, knowing that we had many ancestors in slavery, we had many ancestors fighting to be freed, and then we had ancestors who fought for rights for Afro-Americans in the United States." In recognizing the courage his ancestors had in facing up to the horrendous state of slavery, he said, "We [black people of today] should have courage as well concerning the current sad state of black people in America. We still have a lot to do. As an individual, I have to do my best to be an American citizen, to contribute, to achieve success, and not live the negative things we see and hear about. I have a strong commitment to family. We spend lots of time getting together, encouraging and building each other up, specifically in the area of education."

The other major influence comes from his single mom's tremendous accomplishment in providing for her four children. In referring to how her devoted hard work enabled him to accomplish what he has, he said, "I tell her all the time, I like this to give your life glory." And it wasn't only the material essentials that nourished her children. In fact, by everyday

continued on next page

Help for Families to Afford Summer Camp – Camperships Available

Westwood Community Chest (WCC) is announcing its 2010 Campership Program. This program provides scholarships to help Westwood families afford to send their children to summer camp.

All school age children residing in Westwood are eligible, and funds are awarded based on financial need. Camperships will be awarded in three grant rounds; application deadlines are March 15, April 15, and May 15, with notifications by the end of each month.

Families can apply for up to \$500 per child, with a total campership grant not to exceed \$750 per family.

Applications can be found online at

<http://www.wcc.cfsites.org> or at the Westwood Public Libraries, the Police Station, Fire Station, Westwood Senior Center, Town Hall, Recreation Department, Westwood Youth and Family Services, and the Post Office. The application process is strictly confidential.

“Camperships provide the opportunity for physical, social, and emotional growth to Westwood children whose families could not otherwise afford summer

programs,” said WCC President Antonia Nedder. Last year, WCC awarded camperships to 25 Westwood families.

Also at the WCC website is a resource information page, which lists area camps and possibilities for additional financial aid which may be available through each individual camp.

In addition to funding camperships, WCC also helps residents in financial difficulty by awarding funds which help with basic needs such as medical expenses, housing, and utility payments. Applications for basic needs assistance can be found online and at the locations listed above.

The WCC is able to fund camperships and provide help with basic needs thanks to the generosity of fellow Westwood residents. For more information about Westwood Community Chest, go to our website at www.wcc.cfsites.org. Donations are accepted on an ongoing basis online or at Westwood Community Chest, P.O. Box 250, Westwood, MA 02090. ❖

Your Stories, Events, News Items Wanted! Future newsletters are due to be delivered to homes on or about June 15, September 15, and December 15, 2010. Please submit articles for consideration 5 weeks prior to the expected delivery dates. Newsletter correspondence can be sent to: Diane Thornton, Editor, Westwood Community Newsletter, 580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090 or email: newsletter@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Maurice Perry Interview - continued

standards, they were poor. It was the work ethic she demonstrated. Maurice explained, “My mother wasn’t a teacher. She showed us by example. I think one of the things we took away, as brother and sisters, was that hard work would pay off.” And she had dreams for a good life for her son. He saw it in her face and eyes when she pleaded with him not to end up in jail, as many of the neighborhood kids did. He said, “If she could see the dream of my future, definitely I should see it as well.”

The move from Boston to Westwood.

They felt uncertain. Maurice described it. “Coming from the inner city of Boston, you don’t have a lot of experience living around other types of people. There wasn’t a high minority rate here. We had to factor in the kids, how they would feel. It was a challenging step to take.” And there was the memory of a frightening incident on his first day of ninth grade while being bussed from his Mattapan neighborhood to a new school in E. Boston with police escort. East Boston residents were opposed to inner-city children, who were mostly blacks, entering their neighborhood and turned out in hundreds to protest in the streets, holding signs and throwing rocks at the bus. He remembers wondering what he was getting into and connects this to his experience in moving to Westwood. “You didn’t know

what to feel. You didn’t know what it was going to be like. Would people be physically threatening?” Well, definitely not so! There didn’t seem to be any barriers to moving here and although there’ve been some awkward moments, neighbors were great in welcoming them in.

How it feels to live in this community as a person of color.

“It feels great. I absolutely love Westwood. The people have been absolutely wonderful! I would hope Westwood would find ways to open doors to more minorities.” And what about the advantages of that? He sees that “more minorities in Westwood would help to bring down past barriers. Additionally, adults and kids get more exposure to other cultures and are less likely to make incorrect judgments. Also, when other cultures are represented, you never know what contributions they may bring to the community as well.”

How Westwood could attract more culturally diverse people to move in.

Maurice shared that when they were looking at houses in town, there was no information given them on the ethnic breakdown of the town citizens. Members of minority ethnic groups, such as Afro-Americans and Asians, need to feel a sense of security in knowing that they’ll be living with others like themselves. Providing that information, in a welcoming format, would be valuable. ❖

All's Not Quiet on the Westwood Station Front

Westwood Station Poised to Launch in 2010

After a quiet 2009, two significant events in January provided reason for optimism about Westwood Station in 2010. The first was a ruling handed down by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court denying the appeal of a lawsuit that could potentially have held up the project indefinitely. While both the appeal and the decision hinged on a technicality, the outcome represented a significant win for CC&F and Westwood; as well as for all development projects in Massachusetts. More importantly, in mid-January CC&F received a commitment from the State to fund \$55M in infrastructure improvements related to Westwood Station. The specific roadway work includes components that are not only important to the Westwood Station project, but also to the larger I-93 / I-95 interchange project at Route 128. The State was in the unique position to jump start the Westwood Station project, while simultaneously providing initial funding for the long overdue I93/I95 infrastructure project.

Along with the State's funding commitment came a requirement that CC&F commence at least 400,000 sq.

ft. of vertical construction in 2010. As originally planned, the first phase of the project was split into the lifestyle center and the marketplace, although they were to be built simultaneously. Given that the lifestyle center called for 500 residential units above the retail complex, it is unlikely that construction of this area would commence soon due to the lack of demand for, and inability to finance, housing. While there has yet to be a proposal put forth by the developer, it is anticipated that CC&F will seek to amend the project's phasing in order to commence construction on the marketplace area; leaving the lifestyle center until the housing market and overall economy change.

There remains much to be accomplished in order for construction to start, but there is reason to be optimistic. Town officials and staff, CC&F, neighboring communities, labor unions, the Commonwealth and many other groups are working diligently to bring this long anticipated project from the drawing board to fruition. As a result, 2010 looks to hold much promise for the University Avenue Park. ❖

Hale Happenings and Improvements

Westwood residents are lucky to have Hale Reservation as a neighbor. With miles of trails for hiking and biking and many affordable or free programs, Hale is a gem within our community.

This spring, be sure to check out the Family Walking Club held Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. A Hale Naturalist will take you on a hike to explore.

Hale is also home to some great day camps. After a very successful summer in 2009, Hale Day Camp Director, James Reinhold, and his staff have some great things planned for 2010 including a Nature Playspace and a newly updated science area at Worthington Lodge.



Hale's Noanet Landing, now blanketed with snow, will be a great spot for visitors in the warmer weather.

As always, Membership Beach is offering families the chance to join and become part of the "best beach in the world" where swimming, boating, arts and

crafts, family days and much more are all part of one low price.

To learn more about these programs or others like the Moonlight Canoe Ride, the Flight of the Woodcock, or Biodiversity Day visit HaleReservation.org.



Boathouse, under construction, at Noanet Landing.

Noanet Landing

When visiting Hale Reservation, there is one place that you don't want to miss – Noanet Landing, found on the Northern most part of Noanet Pond (the area known to campers as Boating Beach). The area recently received a much needed makeover. A picturesque area overlooking the beautiful water and adjacent to a fishing pier, Noanet Landing is a favorite for Hale visitors. A new boathouse was constructed to store canoes and rowboats that campers use throughout the summer. A beautiful retaining wall was built to help prevent erosion. An area was leveled off to make the space more usable and new grills will soon be added. The parking

continued on next page

Rotary Club of Westwood News

Since the last newsletter

In December, the Rotary Club of Westwood presented a free holiday concert at Westwood High School, the Charles River Choral and Snug Harbor Community



Chorus under the artistic direction of Roy S. Kelley performed. A surprise visit from Santa Claus and one of his elves

entertained those that attended. A free raffle was held and donations were accepted to assist Rotary's goal to eradicate polio worldwide with matching funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation.

Through Operation Warm and in conjunction with the Westwood Food Pantry and Westwood Youth and Family Services, the club provided 61 adults and children with winter coats.

The Rotary Club of Westwood has also been able to assist those in Haiti that survived the recent earthquake. The club collected from its members and community enough funds to send three Shelterboxes to Haiti. A Shelterbox includes the following:

- 1 ten-person tent, including two fabric interior privacy partitions, outer fly sheet and repair kit
- Vinyl insulated sleeping mats and lightweight thermal blankets (more compact than sleeping bags), the blankets can also be used as a tarp and to catch water, the mats can be used as a ground "table" for meals or tent rugs

- One pack of water purification tablets or kit. (Each tablet will purify a full container of water providing 1,800 gallons of clean drinking water which should be sufficient for a family of 10 for up to three months.)
- 1 five gallon flat-pack water container
- Two 2.1 gallon, collapsible, plastic water carriers
- 1 collapsible trenching shovel
- Rope, 164 foot
- Repellant-treated mosquito netting
- 10 PVC ponchos/10 HD plastic bags
- Tool kit in canvas bag: hatchet, jack-knife, screwdriver, hammer, hoe head, etc.
- Multi-fueled cook stove
- Eating utensils: enamel plates/cups
- Children's activity kit-simple school supplies

All the above items are shipped in a 49 gallon box that can be used as a water tank, food storage, cot, table, etc. once it is emptied. Those interested in donating may contact Michael Razza at stxx@aol.com.

Mark your calendar

On March 28, 2010, the Rotary Club of Westwood will be holding a Pancake Breakfast at Westwood High School from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Admission is \$5.00 for those over 5 years of age and will be free to those 5 and younger. Special characters will be available for photos so be sure to bring your cameras. For tickets, please contact Michael Razza at stxx@aol.com or stop by The Cooperative Bank on Washington Street or Dedham Savings on High Street. ❖

Hale - continued

lot was also upgraded making it even more user friendly. "These changes will not only enhance the experience for visitors and campers but will also improve the health of our aquatic habitats," said Executive Director, Eric Arnold.

Although there were many improvements made at Noanet Landing, the view is still the same and "Roy's Bench" was saved. This bench, which was given in memory of Roy Corson, is a great place to sit and enjoy the pond. So the next time you are looking for a



peaceful spot for the family to visit, go on over to Noanet Landing. Bring a picnic lunch or plan to use one of the grilles. Visitors will also be glad to know that new bathrooms, which will be open from mid-April to mid-November, were constructed very recently too, just another improvement at Hale. The Hale staff reminds visitors to observe the posted rules of use and to "leave no trace behind" so that the next visitor will have an equally nice experience. ❖

A view of the stone wall just built at Noanet Landing.

Town Meeting Basics - continued from page 1

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. The Town Meeting remains the purest form of democracy. It is only practiced by communities in New England. The registered voters of Westwood act as the Legislature for the community and vote on applicable issues put before them for decision. It has the two basic powers of a legislature: the power to adopt laws (general and zoning bylaws) and the power to appropriate money. These issues are important – the input of the citizenry is essential. Do your part, attend and participate in Town Meeting.

The Annual Westwood Town Meeting will be held on Monday May 3, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., in the Auditorium of Westwood High School. Per town by-laws, Town Meeting is always held on the first Monday in May.

Town Meeting Basics

Admission to Meeting

At a Town Meeting held for the transaction of town business, the only persons eligible to vote are those whose names appear on the current voting rolls of the town. The Moderator has authority to exclude or remove a person who is not eligible to be admitted to the floor of Town Meeting.

Attendance by Non-Voters

The Moderator can admit to a Town Meeting a media representative or any person whose knowledge, in the opinion of the Moderator, can assist the voters in achieving a better understanding of a question before the Meeting. Visitors, observers and the media will be seated in a specially designated area.

Order and Decorum

The Moderator (an elected official) has the duty and responsibility to preserve order and decorum in a Town Meeting. Regarding parliamentary procedure, the Moderator conducts and controls Town Meeting by using and enforcing existing town by-laws, the rules contained in Town Meeting Time and officially recognized parliamentary procedures and techniques.

Quorum

One hundred seventy five (175) voters constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at Westwood Town Meeting.

What is a Warrant?

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 shall issue a warrant stating the time and place for the town meeting and the subjects (warrant articles) to be addressed. The warrant shall be posted at least seven 7 days before the Annual 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 about the four precincts.

What is a Petition/Citizen article for a Warrant?

The Select Board shall insert in the Annual Town Meeting warrant, any petition/citizen articles requested in writing by ten (10) or more registered voters, per Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 10. The petition must include the text of the article, the signatures of the petitioners together with their residence including street and number, if any. Wording and format can be reviewed with Town Counsel to ensure that form and intent are met. The petition must be submitted by the Selectmen to the board of registrars for certification of signatures

Order of Articles

The Moderator shall present to Town Meeting the articles in the warrant in the order in which the articles appear in the warrant.

Speaker Identification

A person who wishes to speak at a Town Meeting addresses the Moderator, and identifies themselves by name and address. The Moderator is authorized to refer to a person by name for the purpose of identification or recognition; other than this instance, no person can refer to another person by name in a Town Meeting.

Debate Question

To ask another Town Meeting voter a question relating to debate, that question must be put to/through the Moderator.

What is a Motion?

A motion is presented by a Town Meeting member from the floor and is used to initiate debate/discussion or a course of action. The Moderator shall put all motions in the order in which they are moved, unless a specific motion is previous in its nature. Regarding motions, the initial vote pertains to the motion upon the article; not the contents of and decision on that warrant article in question.

Town Meeting Basics - continued from page 8

Key Players and Their Roles at Town Meeting

All boards committees and officials should be present at Town Meeting; however, any person's absence will not invalidate the action taken by the voters at the meeting.

Town Moderator

The Town Moderator is elected annually. According to state law, the Moderator presides over and regulates the proceedings at Town Meetings. He decides all questions of order, and makes public declaration of all "votes." Another very important task assigned to the Moderator is the appointment of the members of the Town Finance Committee, Personnel Board and Permanent Building Committee.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk is the chief election official, custodian of the Town's records and recording secretary of the meeting and is elected every three (3) years. A record of all votes and transactions of the town meeting as announced by the Moderator, are kept by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerks record is the only official record of a town meeting vote. All information pertaining to Town Meeting is kept in the Town Clerks office and is accessible to the general public upon their request.

Finance Committee

Some months before Annual Town Meeting in May, town officers, department heads, and boards, each prepare separate operating and capital budgets for

submission to the Finance Committee. This body's function is to examine items in the department budgets; they then recommend acceptance, reduction, postponement, or elimination. The Finance Committee will endorse the amended general budget which includes all projected operating expenses. The Finance Committee makes a general report to Town Meeting explaining why they recommend or do not recommend action on the article.

Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen prepare the warrant for the Town Meeting, and are available at Town Meeting to explain and answer questions concerning the various articles inserted by them in the warrant.

Town Counsel

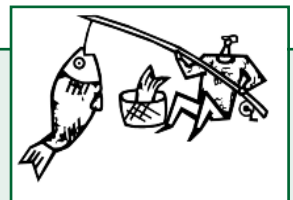
The Town Counsel is available to answer questions concerning legal matters which may arise during the course of the Town Meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the specific procedures employed by the town, please contact the Town Clerk, Dottie Powers at 781-326-3964 or Town Moderator, Anthony Antonellis at 781-326-4172 or visit the town website at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/. ❖

This guide is not intended to be an all inclusive text, but a broad overview designed to encourage you to find out more and attend your own Town Meeting.

FISHING DERBY

**Saturday, May 8, 2009
Buckmaster Pond
7-11 am**



Youth Division: Free!

Ages 15 & under.
Prizes will be awarded.
Participants must bring their own poles.

Adult Division: Fee: \$10.

Ages 16 & up. (Register at the event.) A prize will be awarded for the largest fish caught. Adults must have a fishing license and obey all Massachusetts fish & game regulations.

Concession Stand:

Coffee, donuts, soda, hot dogs & fresh worms available for purchase.

This annual event is sponsored by North Walpole Fish & Game and Westwood Recreation.

Updated Facility Now Open for Business

Dedham Savings had been temporarily working in a modular building unit behind the branch while construction and renovations took place. On February 1, 2010, the Westwood branch of Dedham Savings welcomed customers to its remodeled and updated facility, which now includes an internet café and a conference room. Celebrating the new look, as well as appreciation for our customers, with give-aways, refreshments and special surprises will take place during the week of March 22 to 27! Check with the Westwood branch for more details! ❖





WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March
2010

page one

Dear Westwood Residents,

When I came to the district five years ago, I made a commitment to the community to leave no question unanswered, particularly as it relates to the school department budget. To that end, we make all of the budget documents available to the general public on the district website at www.westwood.k12.ma.us. I recommend you read the Executive Summary, which is a comprehensive, yet easy-to-read overview of my FY'11 budget request. If you have further questions after reading it, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 781-326-7500 x1340, or by e-mail at superintendent@westwood.k12.ma.us. Thank you.



John A. Atomei

Energy Saving Projects at Westwood High and Thurston Middle School


The Westwood Environmental Action Committee, the Westwood Public Schools, and NSTAR have been working together on energy saving projects at both Westwood High and Thurston Middle School to reduce the amount of electricity consumed in each building. These projects consisted of the replacement of light fixtures in

classrooms, gyms, libraries and the pool. The total annual savings in electricity is estimated to be 354,000 kwh. NSTAR provided 70% of the funding for the project and the remaining project costs will be

funded through cost savings over less than a two-year time span.

Bluestone Energy Services, LTD and Glynn Electric did an outstanding job and completed the project in record time, replacing well over two thousand lights between the two buildings. They worked through the night so as not to disrupt

school when it was in session and completed the project in December.

WEAC is now looking at potential energy savings at the elementary level, and an audit of the buildings occurred over February vacation. 

Photos, clockwise from top left: The Westwood High School pool, gymnasium, and library all boast new, energy-saving lighting.





WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March
2010

page two

Teachers Connect Math and Science Students to Local Corporations

Westwood High School teachers **Ashley McGrath** and **Allison Edmondstone** are doing their part to raise students' awareness and interest in opportunities in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields (STEM).

Both teachers recently participated in the Leadership Initiatives for Teaching and Technology Program



(LIFT²), a year-long program designed to provide rigorous learning opportunities for teachers in the STEM areas. The program includes three graduate courses and a five-to-eight-

week summer externship with one of 40 STEM companies in the Boston area. Ms. Edmondstone's externship was with the PerkinElmer Corporation in Waltham, while Ms. McGrath's externship was with the MITRE Corporation in Bedford.



Following their externships, the teachers were invited to bring their students for on-site experiences at the host corporations. This year, students in Ms. McGrath's Algebra II classes saw how math and science are used in the "real world" when they visited the MITRE corporation (see photos above). One student observed, "It was interesting to see real-life applications of math in serious situations." Another student wrote, "I took away how the computer science and math fields are growing and how to get involved."

Student Council at Thurston

This fall, Thurston Middle School established a Student Council when each homeroom elected a representative and alternate. The council's mission is to generate ideas to enrich the school community through various programs. Recently they conducted



a holiday basket drive which benefited the Department of Children and Families. The Student Council also spearheaded a fundraising

drive for earthquake survivors in Haiti, during


which they raised over \$2,000 for the American Red Cross. All student representatives recently visited the State House (see photos). State Representative **Paul McMurtry** hosted



the students, who enjoyed a personally guided tour of the State House.

Eighth grade Student Council member **Jackson Harrington** said that Student Council is preparing him for active involvement in government when he reaches



voting age. Faculty Advisors **Andy Frankenfield** and **Joan Palermo** noted that this is just the beginning, with a lot of great things to come. 

TOWN BULLETIN BOARD

March Dog Licensing at the Town Clerk's office
March 13 Recreation Department Summer Preview, 10 am-2 pm
Apr 2 Schools closed – Good Friday
Apr 3 Rabies Clinic, 9-noon, Carby Street
Apr 7 Last day to register to vote

Apr 19-23 Schools closed – Spring vacation
Apr 27 Annual Town Election
May 3 Annual Town Meeting
May 8 Fishing Derby – Buckmaster Pond, 7-11 am
May 31 Schools & Town Hall closed – Memorial Day

WESTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY — SPRING 2010

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 web site at www.westwoodlibrary.org

ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOKSALE

March 17-20

MAIN LIBRARY Programs for Preschoolers

Preschool Literacy Adventures – Ages 2 & up with caregiver

Mar 23-May 4 Tuesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Storytime – Ages 3 and up

Mar 24-May 5 Wednesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Babies & Books – Under 2 years with caregiver

Mar 26-May 7 Fridays, 10:30-10:50 a.m.

Children must be the appropriate age by the first day of each session.

Registration is not required.

There are no sessions during public school vacations.

MAIN LIBRARY Programs for School Age Children

Wishing Well – Ages 5 and up

Please note time change.

Mar 23-May 4 Tuesdays, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Registration was required, please call for available spots.

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

New Dates****

Mar 29 The basics of babysitting, including child development,

April 5, 12, 26 care, safety, activities and business issues.

May 3 Mondays, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Participants must attend all complete sessions to receive Early Childhood Certificate. Registration is required and began March 1st.

Massachusetts Book Award Book Club – Grades 3-5

Monthly discussion of a MA Book Award title

Mar 25 *Paint the Wind* by Pam Munoz Ryan

April 29 *Goldwiskers* by Heather Vogel Frederick

Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Participants must have read the book by the meeting date.

******Please note day and time change.** Registration is not required



A view of the pond at Noanet Landing in Hale Reservation. See article on page 7.

MAIN LIBRARY Special Programs

“POSITIVELY POETRY” COMING IN APRIL!
Begin Writing And Saving Your Original Poetry!

For students in Grades 3-8

More Information to Follow

Storytelling Saturdays – Ages 2½ and up with families.

Folktales and more on a Saturday morning.

Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Mar 13 The Irish Magic Show with Debbie O'Carroll

April 3 Favorite folktales with Westwood Librarians

Registration begins 1 month prior.

A Story for Every Season – All ages

Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

Mar 18 Held at the Westwood Senior Center

May 13 An Early Childhood Council, Council on Aging and

Library CPC Program

Registration will be required, please call the ECC at 781-461-9548.

ISLINGTON BRANCH Programs

Storytime – Ages 3 and up

Mar 25-May 6 Thursdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Registration required.

Young Readers Book Club – Grades 2-4

Mar 2, 9 Tuesdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Mar 16, 23 Snacks provided!

Registration is required.

Book Share

TBA Bring a book you love to share with the group.

Wednesdays, 6:15-6:45 p.m. for grades 2-3.

7:00-7:30 p.m. for grades 4-5.

Registration is required.

MAIN LIBRARY Adult Programs

PAGETURNERS

Mar 12 Reading suggestions old and new presented by Nancy Hogan.

June 11 Fridays, 3:00 p.m.

Registration is not required.

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