

THIS  
Winter  
IN

# WESTWOOD

---

## A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### They Said It Couldn't Be Done

PHOTO COURTESY OF WLT

#### Westwood Land Trust

In 2005, the property known as the "Lee" or "Sarkis" estate at the corner of Summer and Grove Streets was subdivided into 10 lots. Westwood Land Trust (WLT) began a long series of meetings with neighbors who were concerned about preserving a beloved example of the grand estates of a century ago. Three Summer Street lots were sold. Given the cost of the remaining 7 lots and the difficulties reaching a deal with the owner, many feared that the property would be fully developed.

With the dedication and collaboration of concerned parties and the generosity of over 200 donors, the naysayers were proved wrong. In 2011, WLT purchased two Grove Street lots. The same year, the estate house and barn lots were purchased by private individuals and are being restored. The remaining lots were privately purchased in 2012, and no more than two additional homes will be built. Three of the Grove Street lots are in the process of being permanently preserved, protecting these views from Grove and Summer Street, forever.

Over the past twelve years, WLT has worked hard to protect nearly 210 acres of land in Westwood. This would not have been possible without residents who have the vision to see the true value of preserving our open space now,



before it is too late. Each day, residents enjoy scenic views along Clapboardtree Street, Gay Street, Hartford Street, Sandy Valley Road and now also Summer and Grove Streets. Hiking trails are open to the public at Sen Ki at 1255 High Street (formerly known as Holbrook Farm) on 30 pristine acres that were preserved in 2011 and protected by WLT.

**Nearly 210 acres of land protected in the last 12 years**

WLT financed its purchase of the Grove Street lots through a combination of donations and a no interest loan. The balance of the \$150,000 loan needs to be repaid within the next year. WLT needs the continued help of residents to repay the loan as no funding is received from the town or from national organizations. Any donation is greatly appreciated. For questions, please call Karen Manor Metzold, WLT President, at 617-697-5671. Tax-deductible gifts can be made with a credit card online at [www.westwoodlandtrust.org](http://www.westwoodlandtrust.org) or with a check payable to "Westwood Land Trust, Inc." and mailed to PO Box 2616, Westwood. What better way to make a lasting impact on your community?

*Contributed by Karen Manor Metzold*

*Scenic views to be preserved along Summer and Grove Streets.*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WLT

## IN THIS ISSUE

2

Did You Knows...

3

Town Clerk's News  
Westwood Young Women's Club  
Westwood Community Chest

4

EOC Response to Hurricane Sandy  
Pakistan Partnership Visitors

5

Morrison Park Revitalization:  
Updates from the DPW and Little League

6

American Legion Post 320  
Westwood Lodge  
Westwood Elementary Schools Coalition  
Where in Westwood...?

7

Westwood Building Department Permit News

8

Hale Reservation Powissett Lodge  
Clapboardtree Nursery School  
OurCommonSpace

9

Westwood Community Blood Drive  
Laptops for Kidz Progress  
Recreation Survey

10

University Station to Town Meeting  
St. John's Nursery School

11

Westwood Early Childhood Council Programs  
Rotary Club News

12

University Station to Town Meeting (*continued*)

13

Westwood Day 2012 Wrap-Up Letter

14-15

Great School News!

16

Library Events  
New Year's Eve Fireworks  
March Into Summer preview

The newsletter is also available online at  
<http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/>

## Did You Know...

- **Did You Know** having your address correctly recorded can save lives. If **Public Safety** doesn't know your address they won't know where to find you in case of an emergency. This includes apartment numbers. If you need a new address assigned or need your current address changed please contact the Selectmen's office. There is no charge. You need to have an address approved by Town officials, not the Post Office, before it can be used. The Town notifies the Post Office of new addresses or changes.

*Contributed by Lynne Fielding*

- **Did You Know** that in light of Hurricane Sandy the Westwood **Board of Health** is recruiting volunteers for the *Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)* and the *Community Sheltering Team*?

The MRC is a group of qualified and dedicated medical and non-medical professionals that live in the community and are committed to assisting the town during a public health emergency. Members participate in drills and exercises, and help staff the annual flu clinics. Training and educational opportunities are additional benefits to becoming a volunteer. Volunteering is also a great way to meet fellow residents and gain a sense of civic pride in serving the Westwood community in a meaningful way. Applications are available on the Board of Health webpage at [www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/).

Members of the Community Sheltering Team will be asked to help set up and staff the Town's shelter if it is opened for residents. Westwood's shelter is certified by the American Red Cross (ARC). It is located at the Westwood High School gymnasium. The Sheltering Team will be activated when the Town determines the need to open the shelter. Team members must be physically fit and must be willing to respond to open Westwood's shelter or help the American Red Cross open and manage our shelter, if necessary.

If you would like to become a member of Westwood's Medical Reserve Corps or the Community Sheltering Team please contact Linda Shea at the Westwood Health Department at [mrc@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:mrc@townhall.westwood.ma.us) or call 781-320-1026/1027.

*Contributed by Linda Shea*

- **Did You Know** the Assessors' office will be accepting abatement applications on owners who feel that their assessment is over-valued. Owners will have until February 1, 2013 to file these applications. Any owner who is interested should come into the Assessors' office anytime after January 1, 2013. They should first ask for a copy of their property record card. If there are no data errors on the card, the owner will have to prove they are over-valued by using sales that occurred during the calendar year 2011. More information is available on this process in the Assessors' office.

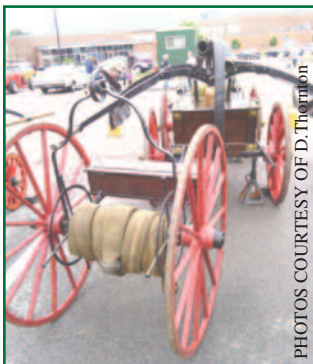
*Contributed by Debbie Robbins*

- **Did You Know** Westwood resident John Masterson has been volunteering at the New England Aquarium since 1974, and was recently awarded the President's Call to Service Award.

That's 38 years and 9,434 hours of his time. Recently, at Volunteer Appreciation Night 2012, Masterson was one of 12 volunteers to receive this first time award. Lace Garland, the Manager of Volunteer Programs and Internships announced the award, with all the names lit up on the huge IMAX screen in the IMAX Theater.

The winners also received a letter from President Obama, which stated in part, "Congratulations on receiving the award, and thank you for helping to address the most pressing needs in your community and our country."

*Excerpts from Westwood Patch, Editor Robert Rosen 11-5-12  
For full article, please follow this link - <http://westwood.patch.com/articles/westwood-resident-receives-award-for-38-years-of-volunteer-work>*



*The rare Franklin hand-pumper was dusted off by the Fire Department and gingerly brought to Westwood Day! It was built in 1857. Probably the oldest item there that day! Many people admired it throughout the day. It is quite a treasure.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF D. THORNTON

## NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

- Dog licensing will begin for 2013, on December 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013.

You may license your dog by mail, provided you include a copy of a current rabies certificate. If you are licensing your dog for the first time, proof of spay or neutering is also required.

Kennel owners are required to apply for a special permit per zoning bylaw, § 4.339, before you will be able to obtain a license.

Failure to license your dog on or before January 31, 2013 will result in a fine of \$25.00, per town bylaws §184-10,B.(1)

Licensing Fees are as follows:

- |                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| • Dogs not Neutered or Spayed:   | \$15.00  |
| • Dogs Neutered or Spayed :      | \$10.00  |
| • Kennel with up to four dogs:   | \$30.00  |
| • Kennel with Five to Nine Dogs: | \$50.00  |
| • Kennel with 10 Dogs or more:   | \$100.00 |

Please be sure to include the correct licensing fee. If you are unsure, please contact the Town Clerk's office at 781-326-3964.

- The Annual Town Census will be sent to each household on or before January 1, 2013. 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).

*Contributed by Dottie Powers*

## Westwood Young Women's Club

The Westwood Young Women's club (WYWC) will be holding a "Sports Day: Come and Play" fundraiser event on a Saturday (date to be determined) in February or March from 2-3:30. It will be at Mini Athletes, 290 Vanderbilt Ave., Norwood. The cost is \$10 per child and it is geared for children ages 3-7. Parents play free and are required to accompany the child. Activities will include a free-throw contest, football with "Tank," batting station, balloon tennis, obstacle course, and a soccer goal contest. Tickets can be purchased at the door. To purchase tickets prior to the event, please visit [wywc.org](http://wywc.org) for more information.

Proceeds will be donated to Westwood charities. WYWC is a community-based organization established to further the educational, philanthropic, and social life of its members and its community. Any woman who is a resident of Westwood is eligible for membership. For more information on becoming a member visit [wywc.org/](http://wywc.org/).

*Contributed by Erica Rice*

## Westwood Community Chest

### Let WCC Help You Chase the Cold Away

We really didn't think we could have another nice warm winter like last year, did we? Everywhere we turned the predictions of a colder winter awaited us: the Farmer's Almanac; a heavier acorn stock; the local weather forecasters all called for more snow, colder temperatures and a harsher winter. Even the Boston Globe reported that the projected cost of winter bills for heating oil would increase \$407 over last year.

Unfortunately, not all families can easily absorb the chill of increasing utility costs. Some Westwood residents find themselves unable to pay the oil bill to fill the empty tank even before the cold weather arrives. Others choose between utility bills and medical bills, since their unemployment has wiped out their savings.

This is when the Westwood Community Chest (WCC) can offer some warmth. Through a confidential application process, residents in need can apply for up to \$600 of immediate financial assistance per year. WCC will pay their bills for utilities, medical, housing or other basic needs directly. These bill payments have meant a lot to struggling families, coming at just the right time. Many WCC payments have prevented utility shutoffs. Others have provided heat, electricity or phone. Others, pure peace of mind that bills have been paid.

With your help, we can make people aware that assistance is available to people in Westwood who need it. Please encourage people you may know who may face temporary financial struggles to apply. Applications are available online at our website, [www.wcc.cfsites.org](http://www.wcc.cfsites.org) or at the Westwood Public Libraries, the Police and Fire Stations, Westwood Council on Aging, Town Hall, Recreation Department, Westwood Youth and Family Services and the Post Office. The application process is strictly confidential. Anyone can always call the WCC Hotline 24 hours a day and leave a message at 781-366-0470.

WCC awarded \$53,000 in aid to 90 Westwood households last fiscal year. The goal this year is to raise over \$60,000 to help Westwood neighbors in need. In order to reach that goal, we will hold our second annual "An Evening of International Food & Wine" on Monday, January 28, 2013 at 7 pm at Chiara Bistro. Food pairings will be offered by Chef LaCount and wines from different regions will be provided by Medfield Wine Shoppe. There will be a silent auction and raffle.

Tickets are \$75 per person. This event sold out last year, so purchase your tickets early. For more information visit our website [www.wcc.cfsites.org/](http://www.wcc.cfsites.org/).

*Contributed by Mary Beth Persons*

## WEMA versus Hurricane Sandy

### Lessons learned from Irene invaluable

Beginning on October 26, 2012, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the National Weather Service began conducting a statewide conference call twice a day tracking Hurricane Sandy as it moved up the east coast. The purpose of these calls were to encourage local emergency management officials to begin preparations for the predicted impacts of the storm. Westwood's Emergency Management Agency (WEMA), is comprised of Public Safety, Public Works, Health, Building, Finance and School officials. WEMA met after every noon conference call from MEMA and held its own conference call subject to MEMA's evening conference call.

Early on, the predictions were that the "super storm" would hook west and make landfall somewhere in New Jersey, but the massive width of the storm would still result in significant impacts throughout Massachusetts. The predicted impacts were significant ocean surges and beach erosion along both coasts along with significant tree damage and power outages for the entire state.

By Sunday evening, October 28th the prediction remained that Westwood and our region would sustain significant wind damage and power outages from the storm. WEMA decided to activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the basement of the Police Station at 9:00 am on Monday morning.

A lesson learned from experience with 2011's Hurricane Irene, regarded the lack of a centralized data base related to downed trees, limbs and power outages. Providing the emergency dispatchers, Public Safety and Public Works responders with a comprehensive listing of these issues and a place to report on the ongoing status of the resulting road closures became the important improvement to this

convening of the EOC. Using a system developed in Dropbox, the EOC for Hurricane Sandy provided comprehensive status listings which significantly improved the Department of Public Works' ability to respond and reopen roads with only downed trees and limbs and to provide a comprehensive list to NStar where tree limbs were involved with downed wires and poles. Dispatch then had the ability to appropriately route responding vehicles to and from their destinations with less worry of sending responders towards a troubled roadway.

At the height of the storm, the DPW addressed a dozen blocked roads, seven of which involved power lines that resulted in approximately one-third of our community being without power. By Thursday evening, NStar, with the Town's assistance, was able to restore power to the entire community with the vast majority of the homes having their power restored within the first few days.

Superstorm Sandy is now another bout with Mother Nature that proved our community responders will do what it takes to keep Westwood as safe as possible.

*Contributed by Town Hall*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF Town Hall

## US Pakistan Professional Partnership Exchange Program

Westwood once again served as a Host Community in the US Pakistan Professional Partnership Exchange Program conducted by the Institute for Training and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF Town Hall

Visiting Pakistan professionals (from left)  
Ms. Afrhat Naheed, Ms. Umama Afridi, and  
Mr. Syed Muhammad Yasir Hussain.

Development and the Massachusetts Municipal Association. The program, which involved five professional exchange visits from Pakistan to Massachusetts for professional development over a six week period, was funded by the United States' State Department. The Town's participation was over a two week period from October 29th through November 9th and hosted three interns: Ms. Afrhat Naheed, a Research Officer with the Provincial Institute for Teacher Education in Balochistan; Ms. Umama Afridi, who is the Assistant Director for the Career Development Center at the University of Engineering and Technology in Peshawar; and Mr. Syed Muhammad Yasir Hussain, who is a Public Health Specialist with the Health Department in Balochistan.

*Contributed by Town Hall*

# Morrison Park Revitalization Project

Shared vision and  
collaboration of efforts.  
Westwood pride in action.

## Department of Public Works

### Morrison Park Update

Morrison Park is currently under a complete renovation. The Town of Westwood and Westwood Little League have been working together in a joint effort to install a new Little League field that will include relocating 4 lighting fixtures, constructing a new snack shack and dugouts, and rebuilding a new state of the art tennis court.

The Town has taken on the responsibility of relocating the light fixtures and reconstructing the new tennis court. Both projects were subject to procurement and went out for bid with the contracts recently being awarded. Cape and Island Tennis will be installing the new tennis court along with new fencing encompassing the structure. Fall River Lighting was awarded the contract for the light relocation which will enable Westwood Little League the ability to expand the field's dimensions to Little League standards of 200ft foul lines.

*Contributed by Todd Korchin*



## Westwood Little League

### Moving Forward

Morrison Park is undergoing an extreme makeover! The Town removed the obsolete tennis courts in the Fall of 2012 (see update, above) and began construction of a brand new court turned ninety degrees from the prior courts. Also in the Fall, Phase I of work on the park commenced through the total reconstruction of the field. The old field, which did not meet regulation dimensions, was removed and a new field constructed from scratch. Other amenities added as part of Phase I are an additional hitting cage (for a total of two), the addition of two bullpens, roofed dugouts with storage space for bags and helmets, an enhanced scoreboard, improved spectator seating, new scorers booth, and more.

Phase II will begin next August after the conclusion of summer baseball. Phase II will involve the construction of a new restroom facility and new concession stand as part of the improvements to the entrance to the Park. When completed, Westwood will have a terrific venue for children and their families who visit. Moreover, the changes will improve the aesthetics and safety of the current Park bringing a real benefit to the community at large.

Initial reviews of the project plans have been very well received. Revitalized Morrison Park is one of two sites being considered by a statewide association of Little League officials to serve as host for the 2014 Massachusetts State Little League Championship Tournament. In addition, Revitalized Morrison Park was named as a location to host a 2013 sectional playoff game – something that was impossible for Westwood to do under the old nonregulation field.

### Community Support

Major support for the project has been obtained to date from two sources: 1) Roche Bros. Market and the Roche Family (\$100,000), and 2) local residents Ellen and Duncan McFarland (\$100,000). Grant applications are pending with a variety of charitable foundations. In addition, Westwood Little League (WLL) has instituted a brick selling campaign



*Architect rendering of the Revitalized Morrison Park.*

to generate grassroots community support. Individuals and small businesses may easily contribute to the project by visiting the WLL website ([westwoodlittleleague.com](http://westwoodlittleleague.com)); click on the "Revitalize Morrison" tab at the top; follow through to the 'Contribute Now' link. We need your support! Payments may be made on the site securely through use of a credit card or a paypal account.

### Background Information About WLL

Each year, WLL serves approximately 700 youth by sponsoring youth baseball activities. The goal of WLL is to "implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children who will grow to be decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens."

WLL is governed by a board which meets monthly throughout the year. The name of each board member is listed under the "contacts" tab of our website, [www.westwoodlittleleague.com](http://www.westwoodlittleleague.com). Please visit the WLL website to learn more about the league and click on the "Revitalize Morrison" tab for information about contributing to the success of the project.

*Contributed by John Loughnane*

## Westwood's American Legion Post 320

Westwood's American Legion Post 320 would like to welcome home all returning service members and extend a sincere thank you to all those who have served, and those still serving, especially those serving in harm's way.

The Westwood American Legion invites all veterans to join us as a member and attend our regular monthly meetings. Meetings are usually held the first Monday of the month at our post, located at 90 Deerfield Avenue, from the months of September through July. Membership is open to all those who have served honorably for the following dates, as set by the US Congress:

### Eligibility Requirements

Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946 (World War II)  
 June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (Korean War)  
 Feb. 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War)  
 Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon / Grenada)  
 Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990 (Panama)  
 Aug. 2, 1990 to today (Gulf War / War On Terrorism)

We invite all members of the Westwood Community to learn about and take advantage of the America Legion's community programs, which include:

- American Legion Baseball
- Boys & Girls State
- Student Trooper
- National Oratorical

To find out more about membership, our monthly meetings or any of the American Legion's community programs check out our web site at:

[www.Westwoodalpost320.com](http://www.Westwoodalpost320.com)

*Contributed by Jim Monaghan, Treasurer, Westwood Post 320*

*Photo of our American Flag flying at Westwood Day 2012.*

## Westwood Lodge

### Additional Improvements

Westwood Lodge recently made additional new safety and security improvements to the facility and grounds. The entrance of the main driveway at Clapboardtree Street was widened to provide more space and increased viewing for a safer entry and or exit by all vehicles or pedestrians. Also, the previous driveway configuration did not allow for a separate walkway and ambulance staging area which made it somewhat difficult for pedestrians to maneuver around parked ambulances. The new configuration provides a separate staging/parking area for ambulances so their staff can deliver patients nearer to the hospital via a door ramp that leads directly into the building. This is in addition to the construction of the fence around the side and back of the facility and additional electronic door locks to provide a more secure environment. Westwood Lodge administrators continue to assess ways to increase safety and security and regularly communicate with town administrators on improvements.

*Contributed by Gregory Brownstein*

## Westwood Elementary Schools Coalition

### Book your Babysitter for March 16 for the WESC Spring Social

The Westwood Elementary Schools Coalition (WESC) will hold its Spring Social on March 16, 2013 at Moseley's on the Charles in Dedham. WESC is a non-profit 501(c) 3 volunteer organization that raises funds for all five elementary schools and their respective PTOs/PTAs. In 2012, the event raised \$55,000 and in 2013 the goal is to raise over \$60,000.

"The WESC Spring Social is a fun opportunity for Westwood parents and community members to socialize outside of the neighborhood, athletic fields and school events," said Leigh Wasserman, President of WESC. "WESC harnesses the power of our five elementary schools for a collective fundraising effort, which is much more effective and efficient than many separate donation requests."

WESC has raised nearly one million dollars over its 19-year history for curriculum and multicultural enrichment programs, field trips, computer equipment, recess supplies, art programs, classroom supplies, and much more for the Westwood elementary schools.

For sponsorship information or to contribute auction items, contact Leigh Wasserman at [lawasserman@yahoo.com](mailto:lawasserman@yahoo.com). To learn more about WESC, visit [www.wesconline.org/](http://www.wesconline.org/).

*Contributed by Rebecca Sullivan and Kim Kennedy*

## Where in Westwood...?



### ...is this?

**Answer is revealed elsewhere in this issue.**

More information can be found in the online issue.

## Westwood Building Department

### The construction, alteration, or repair of a building or structure requires a permit

**W**hy get a Permit? The simple answer is: *Because it is the law.*

Other than the few exceptions listed in the amended 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) and International Building Code (IBC), Sections R105.2 and 105.2 respectively, *the construction, alteration, or repair of a building or structure requires a permit.* Permits are also required for plumbing, electrical, gas, and mechanical projects. When a resident is unsure whether a permit is needed or not, a call to the Building Department (781-320-1091) is the best first decision. Beware of contractors who suggest that a permit is not needed. The Building Department will only require a permit if one is needed. Failure to obtain a permit when one is required, and the failure to obtain all the necessary inspections—including a final inspection, can be very costly.

In an effort to elaborate on the importance of proper permitting, a few local permit snafus are illustrated here for educational purposes only.

- The seller of a million dollar home lost their buyer because of the discovery that the attic and the basement had been completely finished, including an unpermitted full bath and full kitchen. In addition to losing the sale, permits had to be pulled and much of the work had to be removed so inspections of the plumbing, wiring, etc. could be completed.
- The potential buyer of a home reviewed the building records on file at the Building Department and found that their potential purchase had a remodeled basement, including a full bath, without obtaining permits. After permits were issued to licensed contractors and inspections were conducted, it was discovered that the plumbing and electrical had not been properly installed. Some sections of the project also did not meet building codes. The work needed to bring the property up to code did not stop the transaction, but it did significantly delay the sale. The cost of repairs was significant.
- A new home owner began substantial renovations without permits. During the renovation process the fireplace was being used to keep the chill out of the house and to dispose of some debris. Unknown to the owner, there was a crack in the chimney flue and the house ignited in the middle of the night sustaining severe damage. Two days after the fire, the insurance appraiser came in to see the property's building records. When he was informed there were no permits, he stated that he didn't think the owner would be able to collect under those circumstances. This office never found out if the new home owner was able to collect on their insurance, but it was five months before they applied for permits to complete the project.

- A permitted project of an accessory structure was very close to completion but had not yet obtained a final inspection and occupancy certificate. Unfortunately, the structure was destroyed in a fire. The builder attempted to collect on his liability insurance policy but was rejected because of a clause that excluded coverage of accessory structures. The owner attempted to claim the loss through their home owner's policy and were rejected because the occupancy certificate had not been issued.

#### Some other key points to keep in mind:

- If proper permits are not pulled, the violator is subject to triple the fee than what would have been originally charged.
- Once unpermitted work is identified, the work is subject to the existing building codes. The new codes can be substantially more stringent than the codes in place when the work was done, therefore requiring more destruction and alteration of the completed work in order to comply.
- The fact that the unpermitted work is being assessed and taxes paid on it, does not make your project legal without permits.
- In the event of an insurable loss, collection from a home owner's insurance policy may not be possible if there were no permits or final inspections.
- Future permits will be unobtainable until unpermitted work has been signed off.
- Contractors taking responsibility for someone else's work will charge more than if they were involved from the beginning.
- Permitted projects are not complete without final inspections.
- Ask to see the permit before you hand over a large sum of money to the contractor—both before the project starts and after it appears to be completed. Or call the Building Department to verify signoffs.
- In a tough real estate market, the last thing you need is for a buyer to walk away because of a situation that was avoidable.
- A permit is the cheapest insurance a resident can buy. The Building Department staff are here to protect you and to ensure that your project is completed within the requirements of the multiple State Codes.

If you have questions please contact the Building Department at 781-320-1091.

*Submitted by Joseph F. Doyle, Jr.*

## Hale Reservation

### Hale Rebuilds Powissett Lodge

After a fire last fall destroyed Hale Day Camp's Powissett Lodge, staff members were concerned that there wouldn't be enough time to rebuild for camp. Though weather was a major factor in the building's ruin – downed wires from an early storm caused the blaze – a calm winter and an aggressive spring construction schedule allowed for a temporary occupancy permit so the shell of the building could be used for campers last summer. As soon as camp finished in August, crews went back to work to complete the building.

The structure is impressive as the redesign truly meets the needs for Hale's future. Construction improvements will make the lodge available year-round and functional for many different uses, including: rentals, corporate retreats, leadership training and, of course, the home for Hale Day Campers.

Hale Reservation's 1,130 acres of beautiful land is open year round for the public to enjoy. To learn more or to show your support, visit [www.halereservation.org/](http://www.halereservation.org/).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF Hale Reservation

## Clapboardtree Nursery School

### Marks 40 Year Anniversary

Clapboardtree Nursery School, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, was the first preschool in Westwood to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NAEYC) and was the first pre-school in Westwood to be accredited under NAEYC new system.

Clapboardtree Nursery School, located at 340 Clapboardtree Street in Westwood, will hold its annual Open House on Saturday Jan. 5th from 10:30 am to 12 pm. Registration forms will be available during the Open House. All are welcome to explore the school's classrooms and playground and to meet the director of the nursery school, as well as the teachers, who all have extensive tenure teaching young children. Clapboardtree believes in an early childhood experience rich with language, social, cognitive and motor opportunities. The school strives to create a secure environment, which supports the individual growth of each child.

Various enrichment programs are offered throughout the year, including visits from specialists in music, movement and science. The school also has its own literacy specialist, who regularly visits each class and provides information on



PHOTOS COURTESY OF Clapboardtree Nursery School



early and pre-reading skills to parents. Regular visits from the local librarian make story time extra special.

Clapboardtree Nursery School offers two morning classes and one afternoon class all of which meet Monday through Thursday. Morning classes are held from 8:45 am to 12:35 pm. The afternoon class is held from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. To be eligible to attend these programs children must be four-years-old by September 1st of the year in which they enter this program and may not turn six before May 1st of the year of enrollment.

For more information, please visit [www.clapboardtree.com](http://www.clapboardtree.com), call 781-326-5405 or email [registrar@clapboardtree.com](mailto:registrar@clapboardtree.com).

Contributed by Suzanne Nixon

**Join your friends and neighbors  
on Westwood's new online bulletin board!**

Stay in the loop with town events, find a tennis partner,  
or just ask a neighbor for a helping hand!

*[www.Westwood.OurCommonPlace.com](http://www.Westwood.OurCommonPlace.com)*





## Westwood Community Blood Drive

According to the American Red Cross, approximately 38% of the population of the United States is eligible to donate blood, but only 4% actually do it! This statistic is particularly surprising when you consider that most of us, at some point in our lives, are going to need blood. Blood cannot be manufactured. Human donors are the only source of this life saving product. It is a heavy burden for so few to shoulder for so many.

The WESTWOOD COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at the Westwood Masonic Building, 655 High Street (across from the new library) from 9 AM to 3 PM. A home breakfast will be served! Start the New Year off by helping to save a life. Make an appointment by calling 1-800-REDCROSS, or on-line at [www.redcrossblood.org/](http://www.redcrossblood.org/).

Contributed by Jeff Jarvis



PHOTO COURTESY OF Jeff Jarvis

## Laptops for Kidz

Beverly Lowery of Westwood receives a refurbished laptop computer for her granddaughter from a "Laptops for Kidz" volunteer. Celestial Lodge of Westwood in conjunction with the Masonic Angel Foundation, Inc.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Jeff Jarvis

restores donated laptops and distributes them to needy children in Westwood. If you have a gently used laptop in a closet collecting dust consider donating to "Laptops for Kidz. The hard

drive will be wiped clean removing all your personal information, protecting your security, and a new Microsoft operating system and basic software will be installed. This will provide a young student with a portable computer, an essential tool in today's academic environment. For more information, visit [www.laptopsforkidz.org/](http://www.laptopsforkidz.org/). If you wish to make a donation, or know of a child who needs a computer, contact Jeff Jarvis at 617-817-4195 or at [www.celestial.lodge.westwood@gmail.com/](mailto:www.celestial.lodge.westwood@gmail.com/). And, yes, your donation is tax deductible!

Contributed by Jeff Jarvis

## Westwood Recreation Department

### Calling all adults and seniors: We want your suggestions!

Westwood Recreation is in the process of enhancing adult and senior program offerings. For lack of a better word, we are calling this request a "survey," but any idea, suggestion, or special interest that you are willing to share with us is what we are looking for. Our efforts to bring better programming is always enhanced by shared feedback and input. We are asking for your input.

Please email your suggestions to:  
[recreation@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:recreation@townhall.westwood.ma.us)  
or call 781-461-0070

Thank you, we look forward to hearing from you!  
*Some ideas we've already heard:*

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adult Fireman's Foam   | Adult Scavenger Hunt    |
| Gardening/Landscaping  | Scrapbooking            |
| Landscape Design       | Jewelry                 |
| Computer Skills        | Wreath Arrangements     |
| Meditation             | Cooking/Cake Decorating |
| Photography            | Pottery                 |
| Home Video Design      | Wine/Cheese Tasting     |
| Painting/Drawing       | Furniture Refinishing   |
| Sewing/Wardrobe Doctor | Book Club               |
| Basic Plumbing         | Power Squadron          |

*Now, please let us know your ideas!*

## Your Feedback, Stories, Events, Suggestions, News Items Wanted!

The next quarterly newsletters are due to be delivered to homes on or about December 15, 2012, March 15, and June 15, 2013. Please submit articles for consideration 6 weeks prior to these expected delivery dates.

Please send any submissions, suggestions, observations, or feedback of any kind to:

Diane Thornton, Editor  
Westwood Community Newsletter, 580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090  
or email: [newsletter@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:newsletter@townhall.westwood.ma.us)

*through the generous support of many volunteers and donors.*

*Where In Westwood...? Answer: This monument near the flag pole at Town Hall, commemorates the purchase of development rights to the land known as the Perry Property.*

## University Station? It's up to Town Meeting

The Westwood Planning Board has spent much of the past several months reviewing and commenting on plans for a proposed 2 million square foot mixed-use development known as University Station. This project, which is a joint venture of New England Development, Eastern Real Estate, and National Development, involves the redevelopment of 135 acres of land along University Avenue, between Blue Hill Drive and Canton Street. This is the same site for which the previous developer, Cabot, Cabot & Forbes, received approval in 2008 for a development known as Westwood Station. That project eventually succumbed to the unavailability of construction financing.

This time around, the Planning Board's review process officially began with the development team's June 12th presentation of an initial concept plan for a combination of retail, office, and housing uses. While none of the development parameters are fully set, the initial project description calls for approximately 750,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, including Wegman's, Target, and numerous smaller stores and restaurants; approximately 750,000 square feet of office, hotel, and assisted living/memory care space; and approximately 650 housing units. Each of the specific uses, the phasing of the development, and the number and design of the proposed housing units, will be further debated as the proposal moves through the review process.

The review process will be somewhat different than any the town has used before. Unlike most development

proposals, which rely on site plan or special permit approvals issued by the Planning Board, the fate of the University Station development will be in the hands of the Town Meeting voters. Usually, the

Planning Board considers an application and votes to approve or deny a project in accordance with its bylaws and regulations. In this case, a Zoning Bylaw amendment incorporating a Master Development Plan for the University Station development is being prepared. That amendment will create a University Avenue Mixed-Use District, designed to permit the proposed development, specifically as set forth in the Master Development Plan. But while the Planning Board will provide a recommendation to Town Meeting, in favor of or opposed to the Zoning Bylaw amendment, it is the Town Meeting voters who will be empowered to approve or deny the Zoning Bylaw amendment, and thus the project that would be developed under that amendment. So, the Town Meeting voters, rather than the Planning Board, will have the final say.

The Board of Selectmen will soon decide whether that Zoning Bylaw amendment will be considered at a Special Town Meeting in late February, or at the Annual Town meeting in early May.



Architect's rendering of University Station.

*continued on page 12*

### St. John's Nursery School

#### Open House, Registration and Annual Fundraiser Information

St. John's Nursery School, a private, non-denominational preschool for 3-year-old children, located at 95 Deerfield Ave., will host an Open House with Registration on Saturday, January 5, 2013 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Registration only will take place on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 from 9 am to 1 pm, and on the evening of Thursday, January 10, 2013 from 6 pm to 8 pm. A closed Lottery will take place on January 10, 2013 at 8:15 pm. Children who will be 3 years old by September 1, 2013 are eligible to attend the program in the 2013-2014 school year.

The school is well known in the community for providing an excellent preschool experience for over thirty-eight years. St. John's is NAEYC accredited, with certified teachers who provide a professional and caring environment catering to the child's developmental level.

This year St. John's is happy to announce that Vanessa Trien and The Jumping Monkeys will be performing at their annual Spring Concert Fundraiser. The concert will take



place Saturday March

16th. The concert will

be held at the First Parish Hall, 340 Clapboardtree St., in Westwood. There will be two shows at 9:30 am & 11 am. Please check back at [www.stjohnsnursery.org](http://www.stjohnsnursery.org) in February for ticketing information.

St. John's Nursery School is a nonprofit school and does not discriminate in providing services to children and their families on the basis of race, religion, cultural heritage, political beliefs, national origin, disability, sexual preference, or marital status.

For more information regarding the Open Houses and St. John's Nursery School, please visit [www.stjohnsnursery.org](http://www.stjohnsnursery.org), email [registration@stjohnsnursery.org](mailto:registration@stjohnsnursery.org) or call 781-329-2032.

*Contributed by Rosemary Schuster*

## Westwood Early Childhood Council News

We have a wide variety of free educational family activities for you and your children to enjoy this winter! Save the dates!

**Families with Infants Program:** For babies birth to 12 months and their parents

*Do you have a new baby and want to meet other families with infants?* All Westwood families with infants are invited to join the conversation with Parent Representative, Lauren Leonard and professional consultant, Margaret Hannah in this warm, welcoming environment. Discuss the joys and challenges of a new baby in the family while receiving professional guidance and expertise on specific topics related to parenting infants! Eating, sleeping, and crying are all welcome! Registration is not required for this event.

Co-sponsored by Westwood Early Childhood Council and Youth & Family Services at the Islington Community Center (ICC), 288 Washington St. Use ramp entrance.

Mondays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. – January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13

For more information contact: Janet Lucey • 781-461-9548 • [jlucey@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:jlucey@westwood.k12.ma.us)

With the exception of *Families with Infants*, registration is required for all of the following events. Registration opens 2 weeks prior to each event:

**Barn Babies** at the Pool Lobby; Friday, January 18th  
3 sessions: 10:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

**Families with Infants** – Youth & Family Services at the Islington Community Center; Mondays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13

**Music Music Music** with Tina Stone – Senior Center;  
Mondays 10:00-11:00 a.m. January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6

**Let's Dance** at Savaria Studios, Rte. 1, Norwood; Tuesdays,  
10-10:45 a.m. January 15, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14

**Walk, Talk and Read** at Hale Reservation with the Library Staff and a Hale Naturalist; Mondays, 10-10:45 a.m. Jan. 28, March 18, April 29, May 20

**Family Play Group** – Westwood Public School Integrated Preschool; Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m. January 16, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8

**Toddlers It's Playtime!** – Temple Beth David; 10:00-11:00 a.m. January 10, February 14. Location TBD for March 21, April 25, May 23

**Westwood Sings: An Intergenerational Music Program** – Senior Center; Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. December 17, March 19, May 16

**Celebrate Reading Storytime** – Pool Lobby; Fridays 10-11 a.m. January 25, February 15, March 22, April 26, May 17

*Are you not available during the week and need weekend opportunities?* Chose one of these options:

**Saturday Active Gym Play** – Deerfield School; Saturdays, two sessions 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. January 12, February 9, March 9, April 6

**Little Yogi's** – a new parent and child yoga class- Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. Jan. 5, Feb. 23, and March 2; location TBD  
For information & registration contact: Janet Lucey • 781-461-9548 • [jlucey@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:jlucey@westwood.k12.ma.us)

These programs are funded through the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant: MA Department of Early Education and Care, Westwood Early Childhood Council, and Westwood Young Women's Club.

*Contributed by Janet Lucey*

## Rotary Club of Westwood



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Westwood held a very successful Recycling Event in October. The club collected over 3000 pounds of televisions along with air conditioners, washers, lawn mowers, children's play yard furniture as well as many other items. The Rotary Club of Westwood would like to extend a huge thank you to the First Baptist Church and the Westwood Explorers for helping us to make this a successful event.

### Upcoming Rotary Events –

- Annual Rotary Pancake Breakfast
- Recycling Event

Look in March's Westwood Community Newsletter for more details!

The Rotary Club of Westwood meets Tuesdays for lunch at the Holiday Inn in Dedham at 12:15 pm. Please contact Michael Razza at [stxx@aol.com](mailto:stxx@aol.com) if you would like to learn more about Rotary or would like to attend a meeting.

*Contributed by Laura Macs*

## University Station: It's up to Town Meeting – *continued from page 10*

Since September, the Planning Board has met on a weekly basis to shape the proposed concept Master Development Plan and bylaw. The board hired a Peer Review Consultant Team led by BETA Group, to undertake a thorough review of all aspects of the proposed development, including site design and layout, traffic and transportation issues, stormwater management, utilities, architecture, open space, landscaping, lighting, signage, public safety, and fiscal impacts. All costs of peer review services, and additional expenses related to the project review, will be fully reimbursed to the town under an agreement between the developers, the Planning Board, and the Board of Selectmen.

One of the benefits of the current review process is that the Planning Board is guiding the development of detailed design plans, rather than simply react to a submitted set of plans, as they would in a typical review process. The Planning Board has been joined in its weekly project review sessions by a five-member subcommittee of the Finance and Warrant Commission. Together, the Planning Board and Finance and Warrant Commission members hear reports on various aspects of the proposed development, both from the design team and from the peer review consultants. Each board member, and all members of the public in attendance at these work sessions, are given a chance to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed plans.

The developers have already incorporated many of the initial suggestions in a revised conceptual plan, which was presented at a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Finance and Warrant Commission on October 16th. The Planning Board will recommend further revisions to ensure that the scale, character, and execution of the proposed development are appropriate to the needs and desires of Westwood's residents. After receiving further comments, the design team will proceed with the development of more detailed construction plans. Those detailed construction plans will again be meticulously reviewed by the Planning Board and its peer review consultant team, before a final Master Development Plan is created for incorporation within the proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

As the plans continue to evolve, the language of the Zoning Bylaw amendment will be carefully drafted to appropriately describe the process under which the proposal may advance from Master Development Plan to construction. The Planning Board and the Finance and Warrant Commission will each hold separate public hearings on the proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment, and each will prepare its own recommendation to Town Meeting in favor of, or opposed to, the proposed amendment.

Prior to Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen will meet to negotiate a Development Agreement for University Station. The Development Agreement will mitigate various impacts associated with a project of this scale, including impacts related to local traffic volume, demands on public safety, and projected increased school enrollments. The Board of Selectmen will also schedule meetings to discuss various actions related to the development, including the approval of new roadway layouts, and consideration of possible state funding initiatives and tax incentives.

All town boards are fully committed to an open and responsive public process. To that end, a "University Station" tab has been created under "Quick Links" on the left side of the town's homepage ([www.townhall.westwood.ma.us](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us)). All plans and reports received to date have been uploaded to this page, along with videos of board and committee meetings related to this project, and agendas for upcoming meetings. Residents may also sign up for the town's listserv, to receive emails with weekly agendas for town board and committee meetings. All University Station items, including weekly status reports on specific project elements, such as traffic, fiscal impacts, open space, and public safety, are readily available for viewing or download.

Residents are strongly encouraged to review project materials, attend board meetings, state their positions on various aspects of the proposed University Station development, and otherwise become educated about the project plans and the proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment that voters will be asked to consider at Town Meeting. Written comments will also be accepted, by letter or email to:

Nora Loughnane, Town Planner  
50 Carby Street  
Westwood, MA 02090  
[nloughnane@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:nloughnane@townhall.westwood.ma.us)

### More kudos to Westwood Day unsung volunteers

The success of Westwood Day would not be possible without the continued support from our Town Departments who share the vision. A big "Thank You" to: Town Hall, Selectmen, Department of Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department, School Department, and the Recreation Department.

The wish is for Westwood Day to continue to grow in both attendance and a greater variety of activities for its residents. Please consider becoming involved!



# Westwood Pride Evident at Westwood Day!

## Plans are already underway to make 2013 even better!

It had been over 21 years since efforts had been put forth toward recreating an opportunity to build Westwood pride and camaraderie. Some long time residents may remember “Olde Home Day” which was a similar day full of fun and the inspiration to “bring it back.” After more than a year of planning, the Westwood Recreation Department and Commission unveiled the 2012 version called “Westwood Day” on September 22nd, a perfectly beautiful fall day!

Over 4,000 residents of all ages (which more than doubled the anticipated attendance projection) enjoyed a full day of activities and events. The 1st Annual 5K Road Race and Children’s Fun Run, sponsored by Sue Young and the Vanderbilt Club, was a real hit and enjoyed by all ages, and served as a superb way to hit the ground running into a wonderful day. Westwood resident, Dan MacDonald, did a tremendous job organizing the race with a huge group of volunteers. Congratulations to the Sheehan School for winning the 1st Annual School Spirit trophy for most participants in the “Fun Run”!

Following the road race, from 11 am to 3 pm, attendees had lots to do and enjoy. Vendors showcased their businesses and talents; musicians and local acts entertained the crowd; residents Lou Valentine and Bob Wood organized a tremendous Transportation Show that unveiled an array of fascinating vehicles dating all the way back to 1928! A very popular 60s era police car was on hand, too! The Westwood Fire Department even thought enough of our event to share their very old, rare hand pumper, which was treated with incredible “TLC” in order to move it to share with residents! The touch-a-truck area featured several vehicles that lit up the eyes of young children including a Westwood Fire Department ladder truck, dump trucks, and bulldozers, to name a few. Waste Management educated residents on their newly automated waste removal process by displaying the operation from one of their vehicles. Many youth enjoyed bouncy houses, sports clinics that were generously provided by our local youth sports groups, dunking booths and the very popular petting zoo, “Barn Babies,” which was generously co-sponsored by the Westwood Young Women’s Club and People’s Federal Saving’s Bank via resident Jim Gavin. We were very pleased with the attention Mini-Town Hall received, giving residents an opportunity to learn more about their town government and services available to them. A fantastic fireworks display, sponsored by Roche Brothers, culminated the day long celebration after a widely attended Wolverine football game.

Thank you to all of our sponsors: Roche Bothers, People Federal Savings Bank, Bosco Crane, Woodard and Curran, The Norwood Theatre, Fox Hill Village, Dedham Savings Bank, Get Into Shape for Woman, Vanderbilt Club, Needham Bank, Sal Corp Landscaping, Coldwell Banker, Rotary Club of Westwood, Athletic Republic of Norwood, and Hyde Park Masonry and Landscape Supplies.

A special thank you goes out to the Westwood Day Steering Committee Chairs and their committee members that spent countless hours helping shape our special day. They include: Paula McLaughlin, Michelle Hebner, Danielle Sutton, Joyce Cannon, Tim Adams, Maureen Laughlin, Elizabeth Phillips, Paul Aries, PJ Vande Rydt, Dave Reilly, Ann Delaney, Denise Singleton, Carol Broderick, Ken Aries, Paul Tucceri, Lou Valentine, Bob Wood, Diane Gavin, Trish Walsh, Janet Smith, Steve Harte, Elaine Patterson, Linda Valentine, Jennifer Aries, Ann Wood, Tara Maughn, Brad Hatfield, Susan Scales, Mary Bamford, Mary Beth Bernard, Linda Shea, Adam Long – along with so many volunteers that generously donated their time.

Planning has already begun for Westwood Day 2013. We learned a lot from year one and based off of the experience and input from many, we look forward to making next year even more enjoyable! Some of the enhancements include increasing the amount of food vendors throughout the venue and creating a larger Food Court situated near a main entertainment stage. Accessibility will be increased by creating a resident drop off area and developing potential satellite parking with shuttles to and from the high school. Adult volunteers are needed. If you are interested in sharing your talent by serving on a committee or volunteering for Westwood Day 2013, please email recreation@townhall.westwood.ma.us.

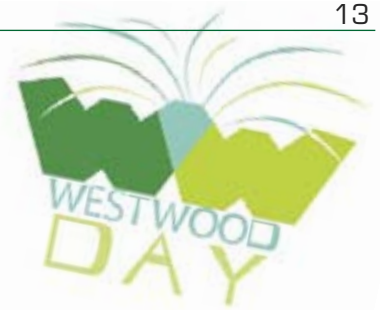
On behalf of the Recreation Department and Commission, we feel privileged to serve the community and look forward to continuing to provide exciting recreational opportunities and special events throughout the Westwood community.

Thank you, Westwood!  
David Burnes  
Recreation Director

Diane Thornton  
Chair, Recreation Commission



PS: We hope you enjoy some pictures from Westwood Day throughout this issue of the newsletter.



The selection of the Westwood Day logo was difficult. The design by Danielle Kaplan was chosen. Kudos to the efforts of the Westwood High School graphic arts class for all their entries.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Bob DeVoy  
The Westwood Lions Club and their Eyemobile!



Dedham Savings proud to be a vendor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Doug Hyde  
Spunky the Clown and a happy, face-painted friend!



Rotary Club members at their booth.

PHOTO COURTESY OF Laura Mac

PHOTO COURTESY OF Laura Mac



# WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December  
2012  
page one

Dear Westwood Residents,

As we approach the midpoint of the 2012-2013 school year, it is a perfect time to reflect upon all that we have accomplished. Whether in the classroom, on the playing fields, or on the stage, Westwood Public School students continue to thrive. In this newsletter you will see evidence of that, as we highlight Westwood High School's new status as a National Blue Ribbon School, a designation reserved for the top schools in the nation. This is something for which all residents can take credit, as it reflects not only our top-notch school system, but also our incredibly supportive community. Thank you, Westwood, for your unwavering commitment to the Westwood Public Schools.



*John J. Atanasi*

## Westwood High is Named Blue Ribbon School

by Sean Bevan, Westwood High School Principal

As you very well know by now, Westwood High School is the proud recipient of the United States Department of Education's most prestigious award: to be named a Blue Ribbon School. I had the great honor last month to represent the Westwood Public Schools community at a series of celebratory events marking this achievement.

Director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, **Aba Kumi**, kicked off the first session of two days of events with a simple question: "Turn to the educators around you and share with them what it is that makes you a Blue Ribbon School. What makes your school unique?" The people at my table immediately buzzed, positively glowing about their schools.

What was immediately apparent was that all the schools at the table have the good fortune of servicing very supportive families and communities, and that their staff work every day to cultivate warm relationships with students. Each school representative, myself included, provided extraordinary examples of these two features common to all Blue Ribbon Schools.

The principal from an elementary school in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, explained that they

have built a thriving network of alumni who are involved in many aspects of the school including programming and fundraising. The high school principal from Judge Barefoot Sanders Law Magnet School in Dallas, Texas explained that he and his staff have developed a robust internship program with area businesses through which more than 90% of his students gain real-world experience, mostly in law

offices. The headmaster from a Catholic high school in Tenafly, New Jersey spoke about how the school works closely with their network of families and staff to raise funds to remain open in the face of shrinking enrollments which challenge many parochial schools.

Of the success stories they shared, the most interesting to me were stories of how each school found innovative and



Principal Sean Bevan and Social Studies Teacher Jonas Sherr were on hand to accept the award

highly effective strategies for fostering student-staff connections, leveraging them into spectacular student achievement.

*continued on next page*



# WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*December  
2012*

page two

When it was my turn to speak, I described the culture at Westwood as inviting and supportive, a place where students, staff, and families expertly balance high expectations with a sense of enjoyment and warmth. I talked about how students are highly invested not only in their classes but in the way the school operates.

This, I explained, is the outgrowth of the school's commitment to a model of school government that authentically models the democratic process.

I imagine that most community members are not aware of the unique nature of WHS's governmental structure. Based on a school constitution, Westwood High School is governed by same three-branch structure that governs the United States. The legislative branch—the Legislative Council—consists of students and adults (teachers, support staff, parents, and community members) and reviews and revises handbook policies as necessary. The executive branch—the administration—executes the policies. And, disagreements about the administration's execution of handbook policy are settled by the judicial branch—the Judicial Council—which is also comprised of students and adults.

Developed and refined over the course of more than two decades, the school's application of the democratic design is the very foundation of a school culture wherein students are given a great deal of representation in making key decisions.

The democratic process was on display this past school year, in fact, as student-legislators rewrote a flawed cell phone policy. After a year spent crafting the new policy, the group voted on the changes, proposed the changes to me, I approved them, and the new policy went into the handbook immediately.


A worthwhile footnote to the cell phone legislation above illustrates the school community's investment in and commitment to this unique model: the original vote at Legislative Council (20-3) secured enough

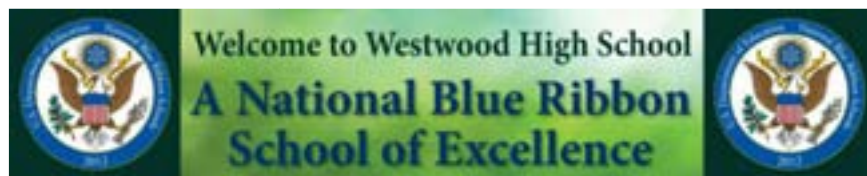
votes for the policy virtually to ensure its passage. That is, since the group had already secured a two-thirds majority supporting the new measure, vetoing the legislation would have simply delayed the policy's passage. A veto would have sent the proposal back to the Council for an override vote, a vote that the Council would

have won. Worth noting, however, since student-legislators worked closely with administrators to craft the policy, the resulting legislation was appropriate, enforceable, and realistic.

The key to the success of this democratic process—one that indeed is woven into the fabric of the school—is that it respects the good judgment of the student body, and it holds them to high standards of conduct. The result is a healthy, high-functioning school environment in which students are rewarded with various privileges for living up to the school community's high expectations, expectations that they (or the students preceding them) established.

The culture of high expectations transcends the school's adoption of handbook policy. It's more than simply new laws governing cell phones in the halls. These high expectations can be seen in countless arenas and are supported by a clear commitment to fostering and maintaining meaningful relationships between students and staff.

At my table in that session at the Blue Ribbon Schools Program, the others were keenly interested in this system. They asked me to send them our constitution, to talk more about the Judicial and Legislative Councils. It was a moment—among many other proud moments—when I was able to tell others why I think our school is successful: we service engaged and supportive families, we hire and retain talented teachers who are committed to building relationships with their students, and we have a structure here at school that supports both teachers and students in teaching and learning. 



**Local  
Postal Customer**



**WESTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
*Programs – Winter 2012-2013*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to the library building project, all children's programming will be held at the **Islington Branch Library**.

**Children's Programs**

Jan 15–Feb 26 *Storytime* – Ages 3 and up  
Tuesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

*Registration is required for this program, please call the Branch. There will be no storytime during February school vacation week.*

Jan 18–Mar 1 *Babies & Books* – 2 years and under with caregiver  
Fridays, 9:30-9:50 a.m.

*Registration is not required for this program. There will be no storytime during February school vacation week.*

Jan 10, 17 *Lego Mania* – Grades K and up

Jan 24, 31 Thursdays, 3:45-4:30 p.m.

Design creations using the library LEGOs!

*Registration is required for this program, please call the Branch.*

**Adult Programs**

Jan 15 *Islington Branch Adult Book Share*

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Bring a book you have been reading to share with the group.

*For further information, please call the Islington Branch Library at 781-326-5914, or visit the web site at [www.westwoodlibrary.org](http://www.westwoodlibrary.org)*

**Westwood Recreation Department**  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS**



**BRING IN 2013 WITH A BANG!**

**Monday, December 31**

**7:00 PM Sharp**

**At Westwood High School**

**Sponsored By**



**Mark Your Calendars!**



**MARCH INTO SUMMER**

**Saturday, March 9**

**10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

**At the Recreation Department (at the High School)**

**All Ages Welcome – Free**

**Activities**

- **Summer Program Preview**
- **Information Booths**
- **Interactive Activities & Observation**
- **Inflatables, Pool, Crafts, Games**
- **10% Discount on Summer Programs (paid in full)**
- **Prizes & Surprises**

**Full details coming this February!**



# WHERE IN WESTWOOD

## Winter 2012

From page 6 of the Winter 2012 printed edition



### Where In Westwood...? Answer

*This monument near the flag pole at Town Hall, commemorates the purchase of development rights to the parcel of land known as the Perry Property, through the generous support of many volunteers and donors. The Perry Property Capital Campaign was one of the largest privately funded campaigns in Westwood at that time: 2005. It was the first major fundraising effort by the Westwood Land Trust.*

