

HOWARD MESSING
Recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award

Each year, the John J. Cronin Public Service Award committee awards this high honor to an individual who has served the Town of Westwood. John J. Cronin, Town Treasurer, for many years selflessly gave of his time and expertise for the betterment of the community both as an elected official and in numerous volunteer activities. To recognize this same spirit of community involvement as exemplified by John Cronin's life, it is with great pleasure that we have chosen Howard Messing as the ninth recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award.

Howard Messing has displayed exemplary service, dedication and commitment to the Town of Westwood. Through his service on numerous Town boards and organizations, Howard has made valuable contributions to the Westwood community.

Howard and his wife Colleen moved to Westwood 21 years ago with their two children Lauren and Sam. Howard attended MIT and graduated in 1973 with a degree in electrical engineering and computer science. He joined Meditech in 1974 as a programmer and has since advanced to his current position of President and CEO, for one of the largest privately-held technology companies and a leading software vendor in the health care industry in the world. Meditech is also one of Westwood's largest corporate tenants.

Howard is a true leader; his most important contribution has been to offer his professional technical and business expertise to many boards in the community. While serving on the Information Systems Advisory Board in 1995 and as Chairman from 1996 to 1998 he assisted in providing advice and guidance in the area of hardware, software and networking to utilize the most modern technology, while ensuring that industry accepted standards regarding items such as privacy, security, and reliability were being followed. Howard was also instrumental in the completion and expanded the use of a town wide Geographical Information System. (GIS)

In 1998 Howard was appointed to the Finance Commission where he served the Town for seven years and as Chairman in 2004 and 2005. Howard's calm and level headed approach to controversial issues was critical in gaining consensus on some very important issues.

Howard combined his business and public service expertise while serving on the Economic Advisory Development Board in 2005 and also as its Chairman in 2007 and 2008. He provided support for many of the current and future economic engines of our Town, including the encouragement of real estate and major business development proposals, facilitating the permitting process, and making recommendations to the appropriate permit granting authority. Howard participated on the task force formed by the State's Executive Office of Transportation and Mass Highway to inform the design & development phase of the long awaited I-93/ I-95 interchange reconstruction.

In his personal life Howard and his family are very involved with the Museum of Science where he served more than a decade as an overseer and then trustee. Howard is now Chairman of the Museum's Board of Trustees. Howard also remains active at MIT through his affiliation with the Physics Department. Howard is truly a leader and honorable public servant and we are fortunate to have him in the Westwood community.

On behalf of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award Committee, it is with great pleasure that I present this prestigious award to Howard Messing and we add his name to the plaque which hangs in town Hall of previously honored individuals.