

# THIS SUMMER IN WESTWOOD

## A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 Number 4

SUMMER 2004

### *Westwood Town Departments On the Move*

#### ***Municipal Office Building***

The Municipal Office Building on Carby Street will provide office space for all municipal departments involved in land use services including permits, inspections, and public works services. The 8,000 square foot building, which has been under construction since last summer, is expected to be completed by July 1, 2004.

#### ***Offices Relocated from Town Hall***

All the following permitting and inspectional services currently in Town Hall will be relocated to the Municipal Office Building. There will be no change in the hours of service or the phone numbers. The respective boards and commissions will meet in one of the two conference rooms, which can be combined to provide one large conference room when needed.

- Planning Board and Town Planner
- Conservation Commission and Conservation Agent
- Zoning Board of Appeals and ZBA Administrator
- Business Development Advisory Board and Economic Development Officer

- Board of Health, Health Director, Food Inspector, and staff
- Alcohol Review Commission and Administrator
- Building Inspections, Building Commissioner, Electrical Inspectors, Plumbing and Gas Inspectors, and staff

The boards and commissions will continue to meet on their current schedules. Staff will be available from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8:30 am to 7 pm on Tuesdays; and 8:30 am to 1 pm on Fridays.

#### ***Offices Relocated from the DPW Offices at Carby Street***

- Director of Public Works
- Highway Superintendent and staff
- Town Engineer and Assistant Town Engineer
- Sewer Commission, Sewer Superintendent, and staff
- Recycling Coordinator

The staff will continue to work their current hours from 7 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday.

*Continued on next page*



*Municipal Office Building*

# Westwood Town Departments On the Move

Continued from page 1

## Islington Community Center

The Annual Town Meeting approved the purchase of the Islington Community Church. The sale is projected to occur in June. The building will be used primarily as a community center and to provide office space for human and recreational services.



The negotiated agreement includes maintaining space for weddings, funerals, and special services for the community for at least the next five years as well as lease space for the Mother's Morning Out (MMO) Preschool. There is an option to extend the commitments for another five years.

The MMO, which was established by the church 32 years ago, will establish itself as a separate, not for profit entity that will rent space from the Town. The annual rent from the MMO will cover most of the debt service and maintenance cost of the building.

## Offices Relocated from Town Hall and the High School

- Youth and Family Services and its staff
- Westwood Housing Authority, Housing Partnership, and its staff
- Recreation Commission, programming, and in the short run, its staff

The Town will also continue to provide and in some cases rent space to current users, including but not limited to:

- Performing arts groups
- Scouting groups
- Residents for social gatherings
- Other community groups and organizations

The Town also plans to explore the building potential use as a teen center. Access to Town services, which will be located on the second floor,

is from the East Street entrance. Access to the MMO Preschool is from the rear parking area behind the Islington Library.

## Municipal Office at High School

The transition from the old High School to the new High School will result in the temporary relocation of certain municipal offices. The demolition of the old High School is expected to begin in July, but the occupancy permit for the new High School is not expected until late August. As a result, the following municipal services will be temporarily relocated as noted:

### • Information Systems

The Information Systems staff, which provides support services for all municipal departments and the school administration, will be relocated to Town Hall for the summer.

### • Recreation Department

The summer playground program will be relocated to the Middle School for July and August. The Recreation Administration staff will be located to the Islington Community Center through November.

### • Youth & Family Services

The counselor, who works with the High School students during the school year, will be relocated to the Islington Community Center until the new office is opened in the High School in September.

## Colburn School

The Annual Town Meeting transferred the Colburn School from the care, custody, and control of the School Committee to the Board of Selectmen. The School Administration, which has used the Colburn School as its offices for several decades, recently moved to its new office constructed in the High School complex. The Town will close the building while it explores alternative uses for the building.

For more information, please visit Westwood's web site at [townhall.westwood.ma.us](http://townhall.westwood.ma.us) or call the the Board of Selectmen's office at 781-326-4172. □

Send all correspondence to:  
Westwood Community Newsletter  
580 High Street  
Westwood, MA 02090  
Barbara M. Friedman, *Editor*

# Something New...

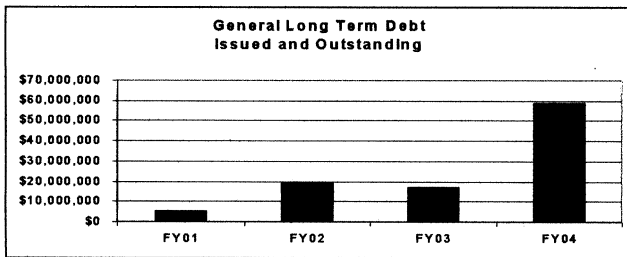
## Dollars & Sense

### *How Does a Town Borrow Money?*

Major construction projects or land purchases are usually funded through the issuance of debt. A 2/3 vote of Town Meeting is required for passage of a borrowing article. The borrowing occurs through the sale of a long term bond, typically for 10-year terms. The annual principal and interest payments are included in the annual operating budget until the bond is paid.

If the borrowing article is approved as a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exemption, the annual principal and interest payments are raised in the tax levy above the limits of Proposition 2 1/2 until the bond is paid.

### *What is the Status of the Town's Debt?*



The Town's total debt has increased significantly in the last few years due to major bond sales undertaken to finance school construction projects.

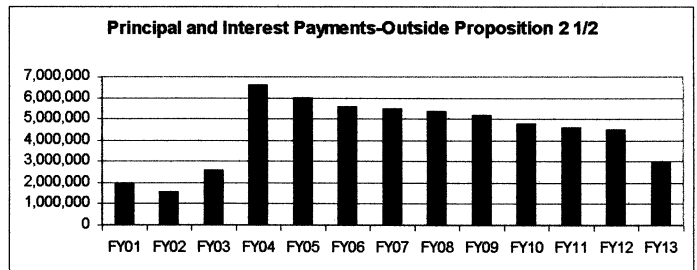
In August of 2003, Town Treasurer James Gavin, taking advantage of the low interest rate environment, successfully sold a \$42 million bond. The largest portion of the bond was \$39 million for the high school project. This component of the bond was issued for 20 years, to mitigate the effect of the annual tax burden.

### *What Is the Town's Credit Rating?*

In conjunction with the August 2003 bond sale, the Town underwent a major credit rating review and received anAa1 and AA+ credit ratings from Moody's and Standard & Poor's, respectively, their second highest ratings.

As with a personal credit rating, the Town's credit rating is a statement of its overall fiscal health as a government and as a community. The benefit of a strong credit rating is realized in lower interest costs on the Town's long-term debt issues. Westwood's excellent credit rating is a community wide effort and residents should feel proud of such an achievement.

### *What Do the Town's Future Debt Payments Look Like?*



As the chart above shows, the principal and interest payments peaked in FY04 and will continue to decline over the next several years. The decrease is due to declining interest payments as well as completion of older bonds. For example, the final payment on a 1994 road improvement bond will be completed in FY05.

### *What about State Reimbursement for School Projects?*

The Town is currently owed significant money from the state for the state's 59% share of the school bonds:

- Downey School \$560,869 per year for 10 years.
- Martha Jones School \$645,696 per year for 10 years.
- High School \$1,859,412 per year for 20 years.

This sizable state revenue will be directly applied to the principal and interest payments shown in the above chart. Specifically, when the money is received from the state, it directly reduces the taxes collected for the projects.

At the time of printing this article, both the Governor and Legislature have proposals in place which would ensure that reimbursements to communities begin within the next few years. This would be good news for Westwood. We will update you in the fall issue of our newsletter. □

**Beginning with this issue of Westwood's Newsletter, this page will provide brief updates on particular aspects of the Town's finances. What would you like to know? We welcome your comments and/or suggestions. Please contact Pam Dukeman at Town Hall.**

# TOWN BULLETIN BOARD

## TOWN AND SCHOOL EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS

May 31	Memorial Day — Schools and Town Hall closed	Aug. 1	Open House and Exhibit “Honoring Otis and Margaret Philbrick” 2-4 p.m. Westwood Historical Society – Fisher School 830 High Street
June 21	Schools close for summer		
July 4	Open House and Exhibit: “Honoring Otis and Margaret Philbrick” 2-4 p.m. Westwood Historical Society – Fisher School 830 High Street	Sept. 5	Open House and Exhibit Westwood Historical Society – Fisher School 830 High Street

## PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

### MA 2004 Statewide Summer Reading Program: “Explore New Worlds@ Your Library”

Sign up for summer reading the last day of school.

### Main Library Programs for Children

Registration is NOT required for most summer programs

- July 12-Aug. 16 **Lunch Book Club** — Grades 3-5  
Mondays, 12 noon-1 p.m. Bring lunch!
- July 12-Aug. 16 **Bedtime Storytime** — All ages  
Mondays, 7-7:30 p.m. Wear PJs!
- July 13-Aug. 17 **Parent Child Storytime** — Ages 2 and up  
Tuesdays, 10:15-11 a.m.
- July 13-Aug. 17 **Wishing Well** - Grades K-3  
Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- July 13-Aug. 17 **Kids as Storytellers** — Grades 4 and up  
Learn storytelling skills, perform!  
Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m.
- July 14-Aug. 18 **Storytime** — Ages 3-5  
Wednesdays, 10:15-11 a.m.
- July 16-Aug. 20 **Babies & Books** — Under 2 years  
Fridays, 10-10:30 a.m. and 11:10-11:30 a.m.

### Special Summer Programs at Main Library

- July 8 **Kick off the summer reading program**  
with Caribbean for Kids Musical Program  
— All ages  
Thursday, 4 p.m.
- July 22 **Crafts Day**  
1:30 p.m. — All ages
- July 28 **Trails and Tales** — All ages  
Multi-cultural stories and songs  
Wednesday, 4 p.m.
- Aug. 11 **World of Owls** — Meet & learn about  
real owls!  
Wednesday, 7 pm — Ages 5 and up

- Aug. 12 **Library Scavenger Hunt** — Grades K and up  
Thursday, 1:30-3 p.m. Prizes!
- Aug. 19 **Davis Bates- Stories & Songs**  
from Around the World  
Thursday, 7 pm.
- Aug. 24 **Summer Reading Program Celebration**  
Party, balloons, games!!!  
Tuesday, 2 p.m.
- Aug. 25 **Museum of Science Sky Lab presents**  
**Night Sky**  
Wednesday, 4 Sessions — Ages 4 and up  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

### Islington Branch Summer Programs

- July 15,22,29 **Storytime** — Ages 3½-5  
& Aug. 12, 19 Thursdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.
- Aug. 5 **Dinosaur and Fossil Show**  
Thursday, 9:30 a.m. — 5 years and up  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

*For further information, please call the Main Library Children's Department at 781-320-1042 or the Islington Branch Library at 781-326-5914.*

### Young Adult Department Summer Programs

- July 7-Aug. 25 **“Explore New Worlds@ Your Library”**
- July 26, Aug. 2, 9 **Movie Time** — 3 Highly Acclaimed Anime  
(Japanese animation) Titles  
Mondays, 3-5 p.m.
- Aug. 4 **Beading with April**  
Wednesday, 3-5 p.m.
- Aug. 11 **Team Scrabble**  
Wednesday, 3-5 p.m.

*For further information call the Reference Desk: 781-320-1045*

This Summer in Westwood  
580 High Street  
Westwood, MA 02090

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**RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER**

Westwood, MA 02090

# Did You Know . . .

- **Leaves and grass clippings will be collected** the weeks of July 26 and August 23. There will be no collection in the month of June. Only leaves and grass will be collected, no brush. Hazardous Waste Day is October 2.

- **August Real Estate tax payments** will be accepted on August 2nd since August 1st falls on a Sunday. Any time taxes are due on a weekend the due date becomes the next business day.

- **The Westwood Historical Society is sponsoring a special art exhibit, "Honoring Otis and Margaret Philbrick," at the Fisher School Open House July 4th and August 1st.** Otis and Margaret Philbrick, longtime residents of Westwood, left a legacy of outstanding art. Otis was a teacher at the MA College of Art; a member of the Boston Society of Watercolor Painters, the Society of American Graphic Artists, and the Copley Society; and president of the Boston Printmakers. His work is in the collection of the Boston Public Library, Library of Congress, Bezalel Museum in Jerusalem, Amherst College, and the Fogg Museum of Art. Margaret also attended the MA College of Art and her pastoral etchings of local scenes such as "Dover Road," "Midsummer," and "New England Meeting House" endeared her to Westwood residents. Her works have been exhibited throughout the United States as well as England, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan and Lebanon, and are included in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress.

- **The Westwood Board of Health and the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project has begun mosquito control for 2004.** Early morning fogging (adulticiding) in the Town of Westwood will begin in the first week of June, weather permitting. The Project conducts ultra low volume (ULV) aerosol applications in residential areas **upon request** or in areas where surveillance indicates a need for control of biting mosquitoes. If you



- **Westwood Police Chief Bill Chase named six officers for promotion** with the Board of Selectmen unanimously approving the decision. Pictured after the swearing-in ceremony are (from left) Lt. Leo Hoban, Lt. Christopher Sheehy, Lt. Robert O'Donnell, Chief William Chase, Sgt. Paul Sicard, Sgt. John Saleda and Sgt. Kevin McDonald.

**do not** want your property sprayed you must notify the Westwood Town Clerk, 580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090 in writing, with a copy to the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project, Building 34, Endicott Street, Norwood, MA 02062. The law (State Regulation 333 CMR: 13:04) requires this notification as well as a requirement to post your property. To eliminate the risk of West Nile Virus, it is important to reduce the amount of standing water on your property since the mosquitoes that carry this disease breed in containers such as rain gutters, wading pools, discarded tires and flower pots.

For more information please contact the Westwood Board of Health at (781) 320-1026/1027 or the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project at (781) 762-3681 or go to the Project's website at <http://massnrc.org/nmcnp>.

- **The Library has completed its Westwood Reads program activities.** More than 1,000 town residents read the two book selections: *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie and *The Arkadians* by Lloyd Alexander. Six hundred people attended the 30 Library-sponsored programs that included book discussions, Chinese folk dance, and musical performances. Westwood Reads was sponsored by the Westwood Educational Foundation and the Friends of the Westwood Public Library.

- **The Westwood Housing Authority is starting to plan for a new affordable housing lottery** to establish a list for potential buyers of resale houses at Chase Estates and Cedar Hill Estates. The original lottery for these two developments was conducted in 1995 under guidelines for the Local Initiative Program. Over the following five years 38 single-family houses were constructed at Chase Estates and Cedar Hill Estates and sold to qualified affordable homeowners. Westwood Affordable Housing Associates purchased one of these affordable units for rental use in 2002. All of the remaining units are still owned and occupied by the original affordable buyers. The new lottery will provide a list of applicants who meet current income and LIP program requirements. Applicants from the original lottery will be eligible to apply for the new lottery if they meet the current requirements. More information will be available on the town's website and through the local media this fall.

- **Joseph D. Clancy**, who has served the town in many capacities for over 40 years, is the second recipient of the John J. Cronin Public Service Award.



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# Database of Westwood War Veterans

The Westwood Residents in the Armed Services Committee is nearing completion of a database of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam War veterans who went on active duty from a Westwood address. A similar list of veterans, who served from 1941-1975 but entered the Service from another community and subsequently moved to Westwood after discharge, is currently being completed.

If you wish to be listed in our project, please complete the following questionnaire and mail to:

**The Westwood Residents in the Armed Services Committee  
Westwood Town Hall  
High Street  
Westwood, MA 02090**

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NAME OF VETERAN \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*DATES OF ACTIVE DUTY \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS WHEN ENTERED SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*PLEASE FORWARD A COPY OF SEPARATION PAPERS (FORM DD214)

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