



WESTWOOD

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007
Volume 20 Number 1

*The community newsletter keeps us
connected to each other and to our town...*
– Barbara Friedman
Newsletter Editor from 1988-2006

Inside this issue

2

Did You Know...

Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers
School St. Playground Thank You
Keep Westwood Clean Committee

3

Community Preservation Act Committee
Resale Lottery for Affordable Units

4

Westwood Historical Society Fall
Activities

5

The Glad Rags Story

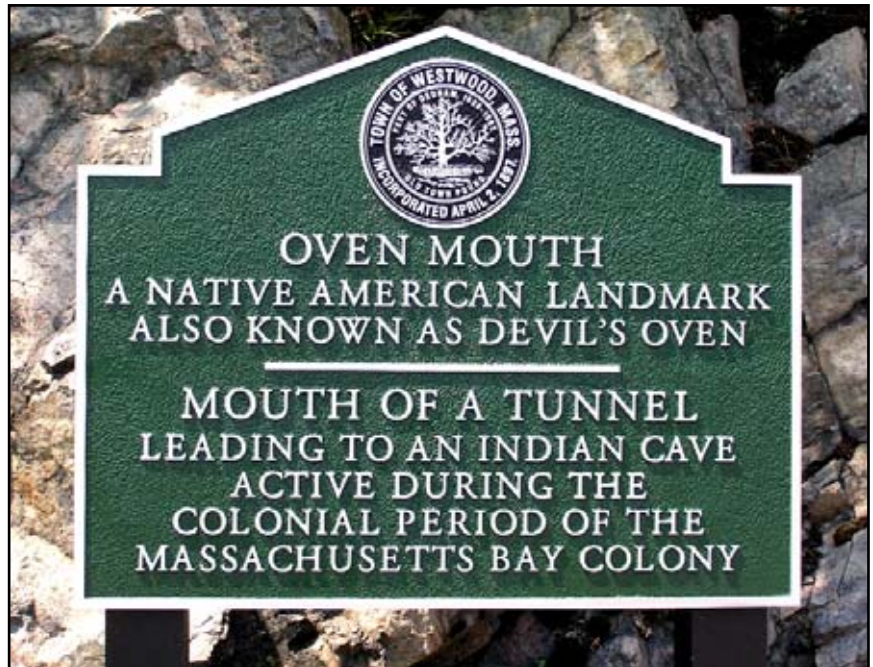
6-7

School News

8

Town Bulletin Board

There's a New Sign in Town...



with a history lesson

Just east of the entrance to Highland Glen on High Street there is a new landmark sign marking, what is likely the oldest piece of Westwood history, "Oven Mouth."

"Oven Mouth" is a cave entrance located with its opening facing due south, receiving sunlight in all seasons; and facing the shores of the Great Pond of the Commonwealth known today as Buckmaster Pond. This established Indian landmark, "which once was an enormous outcropping of rock with a large hole tunneling down for about twenty feet to an interior cave," has many stories connected with it. Some realistic uses of "Oven Mouth" are from stories that indicate Indians cooked their meals in the front hole and pounded corn in a hole in back; the Indians hid there from the colonists; and, the colonists hid there from the Indians. Marge Fenerty says: "Take your pick of the tales; but it is true that arrowheads and ancient coins have been found here."

Ample evidence exists that indigenous Indian People occupied the land in the Dedham grant area. The documented evidence of a pre-contact rock shelter in nearby Hale Reservation in the northern area of a system of trails leading south, and downhill, to "Oven Mouth" and Buckmaster Pond lends credible evidence of the use of this cave by native Indians up to the early colonial period. Marge Fenerty wrote that Dedham had: "herd walks" or common feeding grounds for dry cattle" and that "one of these was on Powissett Plain [Hale Reservation], an early Indian planting field, and the walk from there followed an old Indian trail partly through our present Scoutland." A 1930s map of Scoutland shows a system of trails through this area leading from Powissett Plain and Powissett Pond to Pond Plain and Buckmaster Pond. Ernie Baker wrote: "Nearby on the left [from the site of Obed Baker's house when located at 1007 High Street] is a huge boulder with a mysterious oven-like cave

continued on page 5

Did You Know . . .

- **Hazardous Waste Day** will be Saturday, September 29th, 2007 at the Westwood Public Works Highway yard (50 Carby Street) from 9 am to noon.
- On Saturday, October 13, 2007, from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm, the **Police and Fire Departments** will be hosting an **Open House** at their respective facilities. In the past, these annual Open House events have been very successful and fun. Once again, an enjoyable day has been planned. Please drop by!

Medical Reserve Corps

The **Westwood Board of Health** continues to seek volunteers to join the **Medical Reserve Corps** (MRC) (formerly the Volunteer Medical Corps). The MRC is a group comprised of well trained, dedicated volunteers (both medical and non-medical) who are willing to help the Westwood Board of Health and the Town of Westwood respond in the event of a local or regional public health emergency. Over the past year, volunteers have attended various training opportunities such as Personal Protection Equipment for Public Health Emergencies, Behavioral Health Disaster Response-Psychological First Aid, and Emergency Dispensing Sites-Part 1. The MRC volunteers also participated in a full scale regional drill in September of 2006.

The fall of 2007 will be very busy for the MRC. Current plans include holding a full scale drill with Caritas Norwood Hospital in October and running this year's Influenza Clinics as an Emergency Dispensing Site to train the MRC volunteers. CEU's are available for most of the programs. If you are interested in joining the Westwood Medical Reserve Corps, please contact Linda Shea, Health Director at 781-320-1026. ❖

School Street Playground Kudos

The Westwood Young Women's Club (WYWC) would like to thank everyone that helped make our dream of a new playground a reality. The process started 1½ years ago and from the beginning, we found great support from the Board of Selectmen, Mike Jaillet, and especially Jane Murphy of the Recreation Department and Tim Walsh from the Department of Public Works.

Thanks to the support of many generous donors, the new School Street Playground officially opened on June 16th. The outpouring of monetary support came from many, including young children running lemonade stands, out-of-town grandparents, and the many families and businesses of Westwood. We would also like to acknowledge and thank those that supported the project with their services, innovative ideas and enthusiasm.

In the years to come, we are confident that this playground will provide a fun and safe place to play for the children of Westwood. We hope it also gives Westwood residents a place to gather and enjoy the wonderful sense of community that was exemplified in the process and completion of this project.

The WYWC is a non-profit organization dedicated to community improvement by supporting educational, philanthropic and social programs for the Westwood community. The WYWC organizes three annual fundraisers: the Fall Charity Auction, Winterfest and the Spring Family Fun Day. Proceeds from these events provide support to many deserving organizations in Westwood. In addition, the WYWC sponsors the Summer Concert series in July. ❖

Keep Westwood Clean Committee

The Board of Selectmen recently established the **Keep Westwood Clean Committee**. This committee was established for the purpose of continuing the efforts of the Earth Week clean-up committee.

The Earth Week clean up committee is made up of citizens, boy scouts, and employees of the School Department and Department of Public Works who assist in a yearly cleanup of the Town. This clean up has taken place over the past three years at the end of April with great success. The Board of Selectmen would like to support and continue this effort to keep Westwood clean throughout the year.

There is always a need for more volunteers, skilled marketing people, and the support of the business community. For more information, residents can go online to Westwood Clean and Green at www.keepyourtownclean.com. From these web pages you can learn about sites in need of cleaning, sign up to clean a site, or even identify additional sites. There are also general instructions and safety tips for conducting a safe, effective cleanup.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while contributing to the community. Pitch in! ❖

Community Preservation Act Committee

The Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA), Chapter 267 of the Acts of 2000 was signed into law in September 2000. CPA allows cities and towns to impose a surcharge on municipal real property taxes to raise funds for affordable housing, open space protection, or historic preservation. Cities and towns that adopt the CPA also are eligible to receive matching disbursements from a state trust fund.

The Board of Selectmen appointed individuals to explore the applicability of the Community Preservation Act to the achievement of the town's goals to provide affordable housing opportunities, preservation of open space and historic features, and provision of adequate and safe recreation fields and trails.

The Committee shall consist of at least five, but not more than nine members, with membership including one member of each of the following committees: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Historic Commission, Housing Authority/Housing Partnership, Recreation Commission, Economic Development Advisory Board, and two members at large.

The Committee is responsible for reviewing and advising the Board of Selectmen on the appropriateness of adoption of the Community Preservation Act and all of the issues involved in that adoption, preparing the appropriate question for the ballot and warrant article for the town meeting. Assuming that the Community Preservation Act is adopted, the Committee will be additionally responsible for an annual needs study, an annual recommendation and budget, an annual recommendation to the town meeting on acquisitions and/or initiatives, records on all recommendations, revenue and expenditure and property interests, all annual reporting requirements, and an audit of accounting records. ❖

Resale Lottery for Affordable Units at Chase Estates and Cedar Hill Estates

The Town of Westwood will be conducting a new lottery for an updated list of applicants for resale of affordable units at Chase Estates and Cedar Hill Estates in December 2007. The last lottery was held in December 2004 and the Department of Housing & Community Development which regulates the Local Initiative Program requires that the resale list be updated every three years.

Chase Estates and Cedar Hill Estates were developed under the Local Initiative Program during the years 1995-2000. One hundred houses were built at Chase Estates and fifty-five houses were built at Cedar Hill Estates. These two developments have become established as family neighborhoods in our community over the past ten years.

There are twenty-five affordable houses at Chase Estates and thirteen affordable houses at Cedar Hill Estates. Two of the affordable houses resold during the past three years to applicants from the last lottery. All applicants for the affordable units must have income at or under eighty percent of the area median income, be a first-time home buyer, and qualify for a mortgage to purchase the unit. Although it cannot be anticipated if any houses will become available for resale in the near future, we are required to update our list in preparation for a resale. The new list will remain active for the following three years.

Applications and information about the Resale lottery will be available in the fall of 2007. Anyone who is interested in receiving information on the lottery is asked to leave a message at the Housing Office at Town Hall at 781-320-1031 or to send an email to the Housing Office at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us. ❖

Get Informed, Stay Informed

Join the University Ave. Listserv for email updates, submission of comments and questions, and find the University Ave. Redevelopment Website by logging on to:
www.townhall.westwood.ma.us



Westwood Historical Society Fall 2007 Activities

The Westwood Historical Society has announced its upcoming Fall Schedule of Events for 2007. All events are held at the Fisher School, 830 High Street.

Sunday, October 7th, 2 pm–4 pm: A major exhibition featuring “*Margaret Philbrick’s Art*” will be on display. Margaret was a long-time resident of Westwood and world renowned artist. Her art is included in permanent collections throughout the world.

Thanks to grants from the Westwood Educational Foundation and the Westwood Cultural Council, the Society has been able to conserve many items in this diverse collection. The exhibition includes approximately fifty works of Margaret’s art.



Tuesday, October 9th, 7 pm: *Kathi Gariepy*, a Senior Master Gardener and past president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society will give a presentation on *Elm Bank*. Elm Bank, located in Wellesley and Dover, dates to Colonial time and was known as “Natick Plain.” The property changed hands over the years ultimately being owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This public land has a varied and interesting history.

Saturday, October 20th, 9 am–1 pm: *Annual Yard Sale*. Anyone interested in dropping off items for the sale may do so at the Fisher School on Saturday, October 13th from 9 am to noon.

Saturday, October 27th, 9 am: Members and volunteers will gather at the Fisher School for the Annual Fall Cleanup.

Sunday, October 28th, 3 pm: All are invited to join the society in presenting the *Eighteenth Annual Quarter Century Award*. This honorary award is presented to a Westwood resident, or couple, of twenty-five years who has made an outstanding contribution to the

community. His or her contribution to a better Westwood could be in any field, including education, religion, arts, civic or social service.

Nominations for the Quarter Century Award can be made by writing a brief letter outlining how the nominee has contributed to the Westwood community and mailing it to the Westwood Historical Society, P.O. Box 2575, Westwood, MA 02090-2575 no later than September 24, 2007.

Sunday, November 4th and Sunday, December 2nd, 2 pm–4 pm: Open House and Exhibit will be on “*American Pressed Glass*.” This exhibition is made possible by the generosity of Susan (Beal) Dyer, a life-long resident of the town, whose ancestry dates back five generations of historic West Dedham and Westwood families. Among items that will be displayed are “Festoon” made by the Portland Glass Co. and Blue Willow Oak by Bryce Bros. in Pittsburg. These treasures will be combined to create exquisite table settings against a backdrop of antique linens. Sandwich Glass lamps will illuminate the display.

Tuesday, November 13th at 7:30 pm: *Kirk Nelson*, Executive Director of the New Bedford Museum of Glass and an expert on *American Pressed Glass* will be speaking. Time for glass identification at the end of the presentation is planned, so attendees are invited to bring their mystery items. Monetary appraisals will not be conducted.

Friday, December 7th: The *Second Annual Holiday Soiree*. Details to be announced.

Sunday, December 9th: *Volunteers Party*. Gather for caroling and a small collation. Time to be announced.

Volunteers are welcome in various aspects of the Society, such as working in the archives, computer input, building and ground maintenance, working on the restoration of the Obed Baker House (in the near future), as well as in many other areas of the society. Anyone wishing to volunteer or request information may do so at 781-326-5334 or send an email to westwoodhistorical@comcast.net. ❖

Newsletter correspondence can be sent to:

Westwood Community Newsletter
580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090
or email: newsletter@townhall.westwood.ma.us
Thank you,
Diane Thornton, *Editor*

The Glad Rags Story

Glad Rags Thrift Shop opened in 1977 to help support, in a financial way, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC), a non-profit agency dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. During the ensuing 30 years, sales from the shop have been donated to the MSPCC, one of the most successful child abuse prevention programs in the state.

Volunteers at the shop take in donations that are brought in by generous individuals. The donations range from clothing to “bric-a-brac.” Every item donated – new or used – is turned into dollars for programs that provide young parents with information, education, and support to raise their children in a safe and healthy environment. In the course of a day, a call from a MSPCC social worker may be answered by pulling clothing from the racks and choosing toys or books from the shelves to help the family now removed from an abusive situation.

The shoppers who come to the shop range from business people looking for a suit to grandmothers shopping for their grandchildren. Items have also been purchased to send to Haiti or Ireland, or simply to decorate a child’s dorm room. Every item sold is “bagged” with the knowledge that the money realized

helps a family to survive the stress, anger and hopelessness that poverty brings.

Domestic violence stories are in the daily news and are all too familiar, but not enough is written about the people who try to make a difference in the lives of children affected by domestic violence. The many volunteer women who staff the Glad Rags Thrift Shop should be applauded for their efforts to support the MSPCC. The success of this shop is due to these volunteers, the majority of who are from Westwood. In fact, several women, now in their eighties (the “founding mothers”), continue to work as volunteers with the same dedication and enthusiasm they displayed when they started. The rewards come from the success stories that are reported back to them of the families that have “held it together” with help and support from MSPCC.

More volunteers are needed. Anyone interested in participating as a volunteer for three hours a week, three hours a month, or simply to add their name to our substitute list of volunteers, please call Jean Brooks, Chairperson for Volunteers at 781-329-6378.

The Glad Rags Thrift Shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm and Saturday morning 10 am to 1 pm. The shop is located at 30 Hartford Street, behind and underneath the Westwood Convenient Mart/Primo’s Plaza building. ❖

New Sign for Oven’s Mouth – continued from page 1

at its base which the white men early called ‘The Devil’s Oven,’ or ‘Oven’s Mouth.’ In a hollowed part at the back of the rock it is believed that Indians used to grind their corn. The high ledgy regions to the west form ‘Satan’s Kingdom.’ This area is likely one where as “wood was cleared from home lots allowing grass to grow for grazing; it also cut down on the danger of lurking Indians.” Many nineteenth century mills (fulling, grist, lumber, metal working, wood-turning, and iron foundries) were built in this area where streams flowed through to the Great Pond.

With the passage of time, as trails became roads, the work on them affected “Oven Mouth” (such as Hartford Street, a coaching route, known as the ‘Middle Road to Hartford; and High Street, the old Medfield Road to the south, that passed west into the woods eventually returning to the Middle Road near Rocky Woods). Even the new “road to ye meeting house” was renamed “Nahatan Street” after the Indian Nahatan family in Ponkapoag.” Several twentieth century widenings of High Street, near the present Lake Shore Drive

intersection, have reduced this landmark in size so it is hardly noticeable.

Today, a new Town Landmark sign has been put in place and the “Oven Mouth” made visible for all to see and to wonder about its history. The sign was made possible with the help of the Westwood Historical Commission and the Highland Glen owners, Equity Residential.

Notes from the editor: This article was submitted by Ralph Buonopane. Marge Fenerty wrote the book *West Dedham and Westwood* (copyright 1972). ❖





WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September
2007
page one

Dear Westwood Resident,

As I begin my third year as Superintendent, I want to tell you how grateful I am for the support this community affords our school system. Our 3,000 students are fortunate that our town—unlike most in the Commonwealth—recognized the need last year to adequately fund our public schools. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I want you to know that we will deliver on our promise to keep our schools moving forward, and to ensure that all of our students have a first-class educational experience.



John J. Atomeci



WHS Seniors Study at Oxford

DURING THE MONTH OF JULY, TWELVE of this year's Westwood High School graduates traveled to England to study at Oxford University. They took an undergraduate English course—"The Oxford Fantasists"—with Oxford scholar and professor, Dr. Emma Plaskitt. All of the students had an amazing time studying and traveling, and all earned high marks and praise for their academic performance and decorum. Our students successfully completed a rigorous course earning excellent grades, and they will receive three transferable undergraduate credits.


As participants in the program, the students lived and studied at Wadham College, were given full access to the Bodleian Library for their research, and were invited to participate in a two-week literature lecture series at Exeter College. The program also included three full-day trips beyond Oxford. In South Wales, students explored Chepstow Castle, Tintern Abbey, and Raglan

Castle. A day in London included time to tour the city and ended with a performance of *Othello* at the Globe Theatre. During the final trip the group visited the city of Bath—including the Roman Baths Museum—and visited Stonehenge on the way back to Oxford.

This is the second year that Westwood High School has participated in this unique study abroad opportunity under the direction of WHS English teacher **Ms. Karen Brackman**, who is also an adjunct professor of English at Bridgewater State College and Oxford Program alumna, '98. This year, **Ms. Caitlin Whelan**, also a member of the WHS English department, traveled with the students and provided both academic and social support.

We would like to congratulate this year's students

on their fine accomplishment and performance. They did Westwood High School proud!

This year's students were **Jessica Boylan, Leigh Carey, Steven Cromack, Kim Ethridge, Steven Fanara, Mike Fisher, Amol Mepani, Laurian Pope, Omid Salehi, Matt Shang, Duncan Wells, and Erica Zahka.** 



The Oxford group at their farewell banquet



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September
2007
page two



Hanlon School Welcomes New Principal

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT **Beth Herlihy** has joined the Westwood educational community as principal of the Hanlon School. Ms. Herlihy replaces **Jeanne Papa**, who retired in June after fifteen years of dedicated service to the Westwood Public Schools. She was selected after


an extensive search led by a committee of teachers, administrators, and parents.



Beth was a Newton educator for the past fourteen years. Her experiences range from an elementary

classroom teacher, 6th grade math teacher, to serving on district-wide initiatives in Newton. Most recently she served on the Induction/Mentor Advisory committee and was the liaison between new teachers and their mentors at Charles E. Brown Middle School. Ms. Herlihy also was on the District Leadership Team for the rethinking middle schools initiative. As a teacher in both elementary and middle school grades, she brought the kindergarten through grade eight perspectives to this team. Beth also served on the Mathematics Curriculum Review Committee, where she helped develop the vision statement, gathered

and analyzed data, and worked collaboratively with parents, teachers and administrators throughout the district.

Beth gained her administrative certification from Educator Leadership Institute through the Educator Collaborative for Greater Boston (EDCO). Along with the required coursework, Ms. Herlihy completed her internship at Bowen Elementary School in Newton Centre. 



CONTACT US!

Westwood residents can reach the School Department in many ways. Below is some important contact information:

Main Telephone
(781) 326-7500

Superintendent's e-mail
jantonucci@westwood.k12.ma.us

Website URL
www.westwood.k12.ma.us

Address
220 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090

Central Office Hours
Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

TOWN BULLETIN BOARD

TOWN and SCHOOL EVENTS and HOLIDAYS

Sept 13 Schools closed – Rosh Hashanah
Sept 29 Hazardous Waste Collection Day – see page 2.
Oct 8 Schools and Town Hall closed – Columbus Day
Oct 13 Police and Fire Open House – see page 2.

Nov 22, 23 Schools and Town Hall closed – Thanksgiving
Nov 26 Schools closed – All Day Inservice for Teachers

WESTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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 library web site at www.westwoodlibrary.org/home

MAIN LIBRARY

Programs for Preschoolers

Preschool Literacy Adventures

Sept 18-Oct 23 Ages 2 & up with caregiver
Nov 13-Dec 18 Tuesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Storytime

Sept 19-Oct 24 Ages 3 and up
Nov 14-Dec 19 Wednesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Babies & Books

Sept 21-Oct 26 Under 2 years with caregiver
Nov 16-Dec 21 Fridays, 10:30-10:50 a.m.

Children **must** be the appropriate age by the first day of each session. **Registration is required and begins August 15, 2007.**
There are no sessions during public school vacations or holidays.

MAIN LIBRARY

Programs for School Age Children

Wishing Well

Sept 18-Oct 23 Ages 5 and up
Nov 13-Dec 18 Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Registration begins Aug 15th.

Special Programs at the Main Library

Storytelling Saturdays – Ages 2½ and up with families.

Oct 13 Stories with librarian, Trudy Walsh
Nov 3 Stories with librarian, Loretta Eysie
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Registration begins 1 month prior.

Massachusetts Book Award Book Club – Grades 3-5

Sept 24 **Sing a Song of Tuna Fish: Hard to Swallow**
Stories from the Fifth Grade by Codel
Oct 29 **Listening for Lions** by Whelan
Nov 26 **Project Mulberry** by Park
Mondays, 7:00 p.m. Monthly discussion of
MA Book Award title
Participants must have read the book by the
meeting date.

A Story for Every Season – All ages

TBA An Early Childhood Council, Council on
Aging and Library CPC Program
Registration will be required, please call the
ECC @ 461- 9548

ISLINGTON BRANCH Programs

Storytime – Ages 3½ and up

Sept 20-Oct 25 Thursdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Nov 15-Dec 20 Registration required and begins Dec. 1st.

Young Readers Book Club – Grades 2-4

Oct 2, 9 Tuesdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Snacks provided!
Oct 16, 23 Registration begins Sept 15th

This Fall in Westwood
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #22
Westwood MA 02090

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Westwood, MA 02090

