

Of Special Interest

Yoga at the Meeting House at 7 p.m. on Monday nights has been a huge success. Yoga classes after the holidays will begin on Monday, January 2. Additionally, if you are interested in morning yoga classes, please contact Alanna Herrick at ajherrick5@gmail.com.

The Standards Committee gathered Sunday, December 11 in an open meeting to draft a standard rule for the use of generators in Walden Woods. The group's work will be completed shortly. In the meantime, any unit owners considering the purchase of a portable or standby stationary generator must file an AAI Form with Elite Property Management prior to the purchase so it can be compared with the standard in progress.

The Meeting House Committee is hoping to start a book club in 2012. Please consider joining the group. Contact Alanna Herrick at ajherrick5@gmail.com to express your interest.

A Newcomer's Perspective

by Peter DeBisschop

My wife, Kathy, and I have been living in Walden Woods for just about a year. It certainly went by fast and probably gives us enough time to put first impressions, second impressions and ongoing thoughts into perspective.

Walden Woods is a great place to live! We have met some very nice people here. It's also a great place to walk, whether you are on one of the trails or in one of the various neighborhoods. We especially enjoy the pool and Meeting House. We find the differing

styles of homes attractive and we find that Walden Woods is very well maintained.

We are impressed by the dedicated efforts of those who serve the entire community on Boards, councils and committees. Like democracy, the processes are sometimes messy and inefficient, but usually constructive in the end. More people should participate.

There is only one aspect of Walden Woods that we find troublesome. It seems that far too often, the different councils within Walden Woods seem separated, disconnected

and sometimes at odds with each other. Perhaps a degree of this is to be expected because of the unique set-up of five councils within one community, but we think that we could all work much harder at being a unified Walden Woods.

The most satisfying events have been those where we are working as one community for the entire community's good. I hope you will join us in this effort.

NOTE: Peter is the Communications Committee Chair.



Welcome Committee Update

The Welcome Committee is an active group of volunteers from Walden Woods' various councils brought together to help new residents feel welcome and knowledgeable about Walden Woods.

During the past year, the committee sent 79 welcome letters to newcomers, held five welcome receptions at the Meeting House, and met with newcomers from 34 units either individually or in small groups.

What happens at a Welcome Reception?

The Committee explains the various councils, talks about the Conservancy Board, the Property Management system and discusses each of the amenities. Together, committee members and new residents review the rules and standards. The Committee also presents information about upcoming social events and encourages participation in all of the active Committees.

Every attendee leaves with a folder that is full of information on both Walden Woods and the Town of Windsor.

Members of the Welcome Committee feel rewarded by the opportunity to meet new neighbors who have moved to Walden Woods from all over the United States and the World.

If you would like to get involved with this important group, please contact Ruth Johnson at ruth.s.johnson@comcast.net

Additionally, if you are aware of neighbors who are coming or going from Walden Woods, please let Ruth know so that she can keep our mailing lists up-to-date.

Did You Know?



"I want UGG boots. And not those fake ones, make sure they are for real."

See an eye doctor when you detect vision problems as you age and you could decrease your risk of dementia by 64% compared with people who don't get their eyes checked.

Quit smoking and after five years your risk of cancers to the mouth, throat, and esophagus is cut in half. After 15 years, your risk of lung cancer is as low as that of a lifetime nonsmoker.

The length from your elbow to your wrist is the same as the length of your foot.

The Windsor Junior Woman's Club will hold a Night of Comedy fund raiser to benefit high school scholarships. The event will be held Friday, February 4, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. at the Skyline Restaurant on Route 75 in Windsor Locks. Tickets are \$15 per person, with cash bar and dinner available. To purchase tickets, call 860-539-9379.

Call CL&P (or www.CL-P.com) to enter in your household information. Residents, like us, without power after Saturday, November 5 are entitled to a refund in 2012.

On average, you speak almost 5,000 words a day – although almost 80% of speaking is self-talk (talking to yourself).

Share Your Time and Talents

It has been mentioned time and time again, but at the November Conservancy Board Meeting a request was made to remind all residents that there is a constant need for volunteers within Walden Woods.

Thank you to everyone who stepped forward at the Annual Board meeting held on Wednesday, December 14: **Dale Herrick** (President), **Brian Onessimo** (Vice President), **Warren Johnson** (Secretary), **Amy Beresky** (Treasurer), **Glenn Brand** (Townhomes), **Io Mura**

(Village), **Gordon Jones** (Woodmoor), **Susan Atwater** (Village) and **Cynthia Keenan** (Woodmoor).

Please also note that there are still positions open within the Conservancy Board of Directors. Interested parties from the Duplex Council (2 seats) and Townhome Council (1 seats) should contact Elite Property Management to self-nominate.

In addition, there are always opportunities to assist on any standing or *ad hoc* committee.

Here are the standing committees seeking new members:

- Welcome Committee
- Social Committee
- Meeting House Committee
- Environmental Committee
- Standards Committee.

In addition, the following *ad hoc* committees are available:

- Pool Committee
- Pond Deck Committee
- Boundary Committee

Men's Night at Ashley's Jewelry Store

Ashley's Jewelry Store is nestled within the Day Hill Village Shoppes at the intersection of Marshall Phelps Road and Day Hill Road. Family run and operated for more than 22 years, Ashley's is one of Windsor's finest shops with a variety of beautiful merchandise. On

Thursday, December 22, 2011 they are hosting a Men's Night in the store. Beer and wings will be served and merchandise discounts will be offered. It's a great opportunity for you to get out and shop for the significant other in your life.

P.S. If you are a significant other, Ashley's will welcome you during any of their normal holiday hours so that you can put together your own "Wish List," which can be given to your guy on Men's Night.

Holiday Parties

Residents turned out on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 to kick off the holiday season.

Approximately 60 residents enjoyed a Yankee swap, door prizes, and visiting with friends and neighbors at the adult party on the evening of December 3.

The next day's children's party featured a lively performance by Robo the Clown, who kept nearly 25 children and their caregivers entertained with acts of magic, juggling and ventriloquism.

Our very own red-suited, white-bearded Santa returned this year to hear children's holiday gift requests, while a few adults couldn't resist making their "wish list" requests known as well.

Thanks to all the Social Committee volunteers and residents who helped make this year's holiday parties a huge success!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

There are only a few 2012 Walden Woods calendars remaining for sale. The calendar features a different photograph of our beautiful Walden Woods landscape for each month, season by season.

Photographs were selected as Walden Woods' calendar competition winners and were taken by six of our own residents.

At \$15 a piece they make a great gift and a beautiful wall hanging.

Contact Barb D'Amaddio (bdjif@comcast.net or 860-688-8700) today to buy yours before they sell out!



Neighbors mingle at the December 3 Holiday party.

And finally, some holiday fun...



Update Your Address Book

The Communications Committee will switch to Google Mail (gmail) starting January 1, 2012. Please add the following to your address book so Walden Woods notices will not go to your spam folder:

waldenwoodsct@gmail.com

We are doing this because Google gives us the ability to have a single mailing list to maintain resulting in more efficiency for us all.

Thank you.