



Walden Woods News

Inside this Issue

- 1 Tag Sale Cometh
- 1 Food for Thought
- 2 Meet the Fernandez Family
- 3 Special Interests Groups?
- 3 Book Swapping
- 3 Raj Resigns as Woodmoor Director
- 3 Planning Ahead
- 4 Courtesy Calls
- 4 Mailbox Watch
- 4 Summertime Hints

WALDEN WOODS NEWS is a monthly publication produced and distributed by homeowner volunteers for the edification and enjoyment of all Walden Woods homeowners. Questions, ideas and news contributions may be submitted to any member of the Communication Committee: Bob or Polly Ellis (688-5949), Ruth Johnson (688-5128), or Joe Sikora (219-0713).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT (or the garbage disposal)

- Remember, half the people you know are below average.
- He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
- The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.
- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory. •

THE TAG SALE COMETH

Saturday, September 10th
9am - 2pm

Get out those old LP's, golf clubs, toasters, toys and '53 Chevy hubcaps you knew were too valuable to throw away but couldn't use, dust 'em off and figure out what they might be worth to some gullible buyer. With special permission from the Conservancy Board of Directors, the Recreation and Social Committee is sponsoring a Community-Wide Tag Sale for all residents of Walden Woods.

The event will be held on Saturday, September 10 from 9-2 at the pool parking lot - with a rain date of September 11, same time and place. Any Walden Woods resident can set up a table to sell their "collectibles" simply by paying a \$20 fee to reserve their spot and signing a contract agreeing to the rules governing the tag sale. (*see enclosure*).

The committee will be taking care of the advertising for the event and will be selling cold drinks and candy too. The money raised from the table fees and refreshments will be added to the Committee Fund to help cover expenses for future community events already being planned. The money you make from selling those old Mickey Spillane novels and mismatched teacups is yours to keep.

If interested in setting up a tag sale table, please submit your money and the signed contract to either Cori-Lynn Webber at 80 Pierce Blvd. or Dick Armstrong at 106 Knollwood South **before September 2, 2005**. Checks should be made out to the Walden Woods Conservancy. And don't forget to bring plenty of change and some bags for the buyers to carry their smaller purchases.

And if you've got nothing to sell, but might be in the market to buy or would just like to see what your neighbors are digging out of their basement or attic, come on down. Remember: "*One man's junk is another man's treasure.*" •

MEET THE FERNANDEZ FAMILY

Courageous: *having the attitude of facing and dealing with anything dangerous, difficult or painful by reason of a stout-hearted temperament or resolute spirit* (e.g., Forrest and Julie Fernandez).

They've only lived in Walden Woods for a year, so you may not have had the chance to meet the Fernandez family, but when you do, you won't forget them. Forrest, a trauma surgeon, is currently serving his second tour of reserve duty in the Middle East, this time at a hospital in the infamous Baghdad suburb of Abu Ghraib. Julie is a part-time nurse in the cardiology department of Hartford Hospital - when she's not corresponding to Forrest or home-schooling their adopted children, Grace, 8, Jacob, 7, and Erik, 5.

Before they decided to move here to take advantage of a trauma fellowship offered to Forrest by Hartford Hospital, the Fernandezes lived in Port Huron, Michigan. Forrest and Julie were both born and raised in nearby Midland, Michigan, but didn't meet each other until long after they had graduated from college, he from the University of Michigan, she from Saginaw Valley, Michigan's top rated nursing school. And did they meet at a local pub? Church Social? Not even close. They met just 13 years ago in Togo, West Africa where both were working at a missionary hospital and where they would continue to make annual one-month visits for eight consecutive years after they were married.

As with many of us, however, 9/11 marked a dramatic turn in the lives of the Fernandez family. When our military mobilized to take the war against terrorism overseas, Forrest typically felt an obligation to help in some way. Strongly supported in his ideals by Julie, he joined the Army Reserves, both of them knowing full well where his duties would take him. "He truly loves this country and felt that his medical career wouldn't mean much if he couldn't use his training to save at least one soldier's life", says Julie. Soon after enlisting in the reserves, Forrest was sent to Afghanistan for eight

months. Now in Iraq, he will continue to serve three-month tours approximately every 18 months until his reserve duty ends in 2009. **Note:** *Whether you're politically left or right and however you feel about our presence in Iraq, we should all understand that this is a non-militant, non-political man making a huge sacrifice and taking a great risk to ensure that someone else's husband, wife, son or daughter can return home to their family.*

Julie is no less courageous. As most of us know, fulfilling all the tasks of motherhood - especially to three ACTIVE children - is not easy. Handling the emotions that burden the loved ones of all servicemen serving overseas can compound the problem and threaten a mother's focus to the extreme, but Julie doesn't take any shortcuts for relief. Rather than send the kids off to a public school to gain some personal time, she continues her commitment to their home schooling as well as the usual chauffeuring back and forth to soccer and t-ball events. In other words, in what must be an excruciatingly stressful time in their lives, Julie refuses to let the circumstances deter her and her family from leading as normal a life as possible.

She does, however, receive comfort from her faith and support from her church, the Wintonbury Baptist Church in Bloomfield, whose members call almost every day, send "care" packages and babysit while Julie "escapes" to work at the hospital. She (and Forrest) also get a big boost in morale from the e-mails they exchange every other day and from his weekly phone calls.

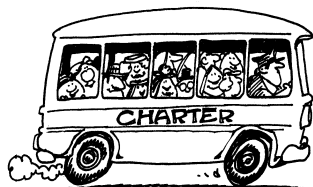
If any of you would like to send Forrest a positive, neighborly message, he can be reached at forrest.fernandez@us.army.mil. You can also offer Julie whatever support you can by contacting her at her 426 Pond Bridge home. There's no star in the window or ribbon on a tree to signify Forrest and Julie's sacrifices for their country, but you don't need a sign to identify and appreciate their courage. •



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS IN WALDEN WOODS?

The Recreation and Social Committee is interested in knowing what interests you.

If you have a special interest or pastime that you think would be fun to share with some of your neighbors who might have similar interests, let us know. Would you like to help organize a trip to



Yankee Stadium, Fenway Park or New Britain Stadium?

Or do you think New York or Six Flags would be a fun place

to visit with a group? How about a Book Club? Tennis League?

We can help! Just let us know what you'd like to do by contacting Cori-Lynn Webber (285-8433 or cwebberesq@conversent.net). We'll sponsor your efforts and help you get it done. •

Book Swap

Speaking of books, we would also like to hear from you if you would like to help us organize periodic book swapping between neighbors. If enough homeowners are interested, we can seek Conservancy Board and Meeting House Committee approval to use the Meeting House for Book Swap Nights. Sound like fun? Let Cori-Lynn know (*see above*) if you're interested. •

RAJ RESIGNS, WOODMOOR COUNCIL TO MEET

Raju (Raj) Barman has resigned his position as a Woodmoor Council Director and representative on the Conservancy Board due to a pending move. Raj has accepted an offer to become a Director, Controller for a company in Valencia, California.

"I have a special place in my heart for Walden Woods. I want to thank the WWC Board members and the entire community for providing me the opportunity to serve an outstanding community led by a truly passionate Board, management and volunteers." - Raj Barman.

Raj was a charter member of the Conservancy Board of Directors and his conscientious, capable efforts were instrumental in our getting through a difficult transition period.

There will be a meeting of all Woodmoor Council homeowners on Monday, September 12, 7:00pm at the meeting house to elect a Director to replace Raj. All homeowners who may be interested in the position should contact Joe Sikora, 219-0713, or Deb Giampolo, 688-4699. •

MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT: How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?

PLAN AHEAD.

Believe it or not, The Holidays are coming. I know, I know, you just got through paying off your Christmas bills, but these things do keep coming around - almost every year it seems. And it's not too early to start planning ahead.

Take the Meeting House, for example. Wouldn't it be a great place to hold your family gathering or your company or club's social event? It's attractive, accessible and the rates are reasonable. Why not plan your party now - - reserve a date and be a hero to your co-workers, friends, family or clients for being such a far-sighted, thoughtful person.

Give Bette Harner a call at 688-4886. She'll be glad to answer any questions and assign a coordinator to help you with the set up logistics. The Meeting House can be rented by any Walden Woods resident.

COURTESY CALLS

Sometimes we take advantage of what's convenient for us without considering how inconvenient our action may make it for others.

Like parking your car on Walden Meadow Road in front of the tennis court while you play a quick set or two. While not violating any law, this particular "inconsideration" does more than cause an inconvenience to other drivers having to veer around your car. With the increase in the size, speed and amount of traffic we're experiencing, it is becoming a safety issue. There is plenty of space to park off the street in the pool/tennis court area. Granted, you may have to walk an extra 50 feet, but if that's a problem, you shouldn't be playing tennis anyway. **Be a good neighbor and avoid parking on the street.**



And then there's the **dog poop courtesy**. It's not exactly a big inconvenience to others, but it certainly is a displeasure and a potential health and aesthetic issue. There is a simple "rule" all of us can follow: **"Walking your dog in Walden Woods requires that you pick up any waste deposited on common element property"** (that's pretty much every place other than your own yard). **Please take along a bag and pick up the doo!** If you have any questions regarding technique, call Joe Sikora shown here walking his dog with "courtesy bag" in hand. •

DATES TO REMEMBER

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Wed, Aug 24th @ 7:30pm | Conservancy Board of Directors Meeting |
| Sat, Sept 10th, 9am-2pm | Community Tag Sale |
| Mon, Sept 12th @ 7:00pm | Special Meeting for Woodmoor Homeowners to Elect Director |

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER SUMMERTIME HINTS FOR DEALING WITH MOSQUITOES, ETC



If you can't find the insecticide, try a spray of **Formula 409**. Other hints:

- Use Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets - just wipe on (you, not the insect). Great for Babies.
- Take one vitamin B-1 (Thiamin Hydrochloride 100 mg.) tablet a day April through October.
- Use Vick's Vaporub.
- Avoid eating bananas - something about the banana oil interests mosquitoes.
- Use Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil mixed about half and half with alcohol.

- Plant marigolds around the yard - the flowers give off a smell that bugs don't like.
- When all else fails --get a frog.

note: *none of these remedies, including the frog, are guaranteed by the editor of this newsletter.*

MAILBOX WATCH

Speaking of pests . . . we apparently have one or two non-insect types who are stuffing mailboxes with twigs and other debris. Parents should caution their children that besides causing possible damage and certainly an inconvenience, such mis-use of mailboxes is a federal offense. And don't think there aren't some homeowners who might be angry enough to make the complaint.