



# Walden Woods News

## August-September 2008

### NEW DIRECTORS ELECTED

Three new Directors were elected at special Council homeowner meetings in August and typically, all three were already involved in the Walden Woods community. Long time resident Warren Johnson returns to the Village Board of Directors after a three year "retirement" to replace Mary Ciaraldi. Warren is also the Chairperson for our Environmental Committee (*see page 2 story*) and joins Joe Palladino and Susan Atwater on the Village Board.



Barbara D'Amaddio replaces Anne-Marie Brown as the Duplex Council Director. Barbara, a resident for almost two years now, is also a very active member of the Recreation and Social Committee.



Shiv Vichare is the new Townhome Director, replacing Edgar Rodriguez. Although here for just a little more than a year, Shiv is already a member of the Recreation and Social Committee and recently volunteered for the Standards Committee.

All three will also serve as their Council representatives on the Conservancy Board of Directors for the remainder of 2008. Thank you Warren, Barbara and Shiv for volunteering your time and effort to help make Walden Woods a better place to live.

**Note:** There's always a need for more volunteers to serve on our committees. If you would like to get more actively involved in your community and want to find out more about the various committees, go to our website, [waldenwoodsct.com](http://waldenwoodsct.com) or contact Bob Ellis, 688-5949.

#### TAG SALE

The fourth annual Running of the Bulls, otherwise known as our community-wide tag sale, is almost here. More than 30 homeowners have signed up for this year's event scheduled for next **Saturday, September 13th, 9AM – 3PM** (rain date is Sunday). Ruth Casagrande and her coordinating team of volunteers are doing their best to ensure a smooth flow of traffic through Walden Woods with directional signs and handout maps.

Residents can overcome any feeling of inconvenience or intrusion, of course, simply by participating in the tag sale as buyers of the extraordinary variety of valuable items being sold at ridiculously low prices.

#### SPEEDERS BEWARE

Well, we're getting closer to solving the speeding problem in Walden Woods. Unfortunately, it looks like the solution may be speed bumps. Despite the occasional presence of a Windsor Police patrol car, we continue to have drivers who think of Walden Meadow Road as their personal Daytona speedway.

Heads of families are encouraged to warn every driver in their family of the need to follow the 25 mph speed limit here. Based on the tickets issued this year, the vast majority of violators are Walden Woods residents.

C'mon, do you really want speed bumps?

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), or Ruth Johnson (688-5128),

## THE ENVIRONMENT – ONE STEP BACK, FIVE STEPS FORWARD

Just when we thought our efforts to clean up Big Walden Pond were seeing some positive results, along comes some bad weather to reveal some other problems and set us back a bit. Unusually violent and heavy August thunder storms overwhelmed the erosion control measures in the Duplex Council area east of the pond causing a large amount of sediment to be accumulated in the pond. Fortunately, our ever-alert Environmental Committee secured the support of Windsor's Environmental Officer and the cooperation of Eli Pechtold, Country Walk's developer, to promptly correct the problem (*see below*) and dredge the sediment. Hats off to committee member John Foley for discovering the problems and sounding the alarm.



A new, longer rip-rapped channel (*left*) was constructed from Marble Faun to Big Walden Pond to prevent rushing storm water from picking up soil and depositing it in the Pond. While this was necessary and a big improvement for the environment, the channel that was constructed crosses the yellow walking trail and will require the construction of a low bridge to cross the channel. Chairperson Warren Johnson is hopeful he can convince Mr. Pechtold to build the bridge.

An enlarged plunge pool with new large rip-rap (*right*) was constructed at the main drain coming out of the Vortecnic's unit at Marble Faun. The pool retains and slows the storm water that eventually proceeds along the rip-rap channel to the Pond.



Double hay bails and a silt fence (*left*) were erected along much of the Marble Faun road between the road and the Pond to replace the old hay bail and silt fence that was rotted and washed out this month.

Screening was installed in the catch basin storm drains to prevent silt entering the basin. Large amounts of silt can be kept out of the drainage system by periodic cleaning of these screens.



And finally, curbing was built along Marble Faun to allow water flowing off the road to go through the drainage system and the Vortecnic's unit instead of flowing over the road and eroding the soil.

**Little Walden Pond** (by the swimming pool parking lot) remains a mess of green duck weed (not algae) surrounding the fountain. Corrective action is being delayed pending a search for an environmental study company willing to conduct their study within our budget constraints. As an interim step, the Conservancy Board is considering stocking the pond with carp which are known duck weed feeders. Other biological treatments are also being considered.

### BLACK BEAR PRECAUTIONS

Due to the frequency of black bear – human encounters recently, our Environmental Committee is advising everyone who uses the outdoors in a recreational or work-related function to take extra precautions. They advise all such people to wear tiny, noisy bells on their clothing to give advance warning to any bears in the area so you don't take them by surprise. They also suggest carrying "pepper spray" in case you encounter a bear and to be on the alert for signs of recent bear activity.

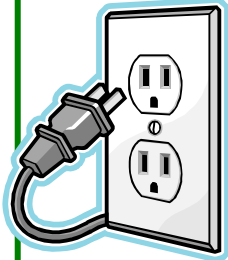
Learning how to tell the difference between coyote feces and black bear feces is especially important. Coyote feces are smaller and contain lots of berries and squirrel fur. Black bear feces have bells in them and smell like pepper.

## WALDEN WOODS GREEN

By Deb Giampolo

Source: *Go Green, Live Rich* by David Bach

*This is the third in a series of articles devoted to looking at different ways we can all help make Walden Woods Green.*



Amazingly enough, even when your appliances are turned off, they continue to suck energy. This "phantom load" accounts for more than 27 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the U.S. every year as well as mountains of resources wasted to produce the energy.

Also known as standby power or idle current, the phantom load totals 5 to 15 percent of your monthly electric bill.

In all, Americans spend about \$4 billion a year on electricity for things they're not even using.

To eliminate phantom loads, you've got to unplug your devices and appliances. Make it easy on yourself by using smart power strips with on/off switches you can turn off when you're not running anything, when you go to sleep and when you're away on vacation.

So go green and "unplug." You could reduce your household CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1,430 pounds a year as well as cut \$94 a year off your electric bill.

## PRIDE OF WALDEN WOODS



This new feature of the Walden Woods News is intended to give some deserved recognition to residents who have achieved a degree of success – either personally or indirectly through the achievements of family members. If you would like to share your proud moment, or know of someone who should, please notify Bob Ellis, 688-5949 or pollyandbob@sbcglobal.net.

This month's moment of pride belongs to Bette Harner, an On the Green resident. In case you missed the July 11th issue of the Windsor Journal, Bette is the mother of Ron Harner, a now-celebrated author of three children's books being used in a special literacy program that encourages children to read.

A 1983 graduate of Windsor High and a 1987 graduate of UConn where he studied screenwriting and children's literature, Ron now lives in California but comes home for a visit at least twice a year. It was during one of these visits while having Thanksgiving dinner at this sister's home in Cheshire that he received the encouraging family support he needed to pursue his career. His books "*Suck It Up Tate*", "*Cool It Frieda*" and "*Move It Milton*" are available online at RonHarner.com and at the town library.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

### 2008 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT STATUS REPORT

PROJECT	COST	STATUS
Fence around pool pump equipment	\$1,080	Completed
Pool Drain code upgrade	\$2,500	Completed
Pool Surface replacement	\$26,000	Completed
Little Walden Pond cleanup analysis	\$3,000	Contractors under review
Village Tree pruning	\$12,190	Completed
Village Fence replacement	\$29,100	Completed for this year; 12 fences remain for 2009
RidgeLandscaping maint.	\$2,500	In Progress
Townhome/Duplex Deck staining	\$12,000	In Progress

## MOVIE NIGHT A SMASH HIT

By Dianne Timpson, Social Committee Chairperson



The Social Committee did it again! A 13 foot movie screen was set up on the meeting house green for the first annual Movie Night July 25th and residents of all ages brought their chairs, blankets and other comfort items to enjoy the film.

The committee also provided the attendees the opportunity to enjoy hot popcorn (made on site), candy and soda. It was like being at a drive-in movie without the cars! Captain Tom Kears of the Windsor Police Department saw to it that the lights from passing cars on Walden Meadow Road did not interfere with the show by using town road blocks to detour cars away from the green.

Many people who came to the event never saw E.T. and those who had seen it were thrilled once again by this wonderful classic. The decision was unanimous to keep this event as a staple item on the Walden Woods calendar. Thanks to Captain. Kears and the outstanding Social Committee for a job well done!

**Social Committee Footnote:** An Open House will be held on Monday, Sept 8th at 7:00pm at the meeting house for all those who would like to join the Social Committee. Refreshments will be served as we discuss plans for the Oktoberfest, Holiday Party and other upcoming events.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

**Left:** Richard Rogers, 4 Scarlet Lane  
Rick & Marge Ericson, 14 Aster Place  
Ann Marie Reid, 204 Picket Lane  
Owen & Sabine Williams, 407 Pond Bridge  
Bhagat & Krishna Kadiyala, 615 Thoreau

**Arrived:** Beth Goulet, 31 Last Leaf Circle  
Jenny Castle, 16 Last Leaf Circle  
Patrick Yung, 18 Last Leaf Circle  
Sheryl Sullivan, 25 Scarlet Lane  
Rachel & Russell Devlin, 14 Aster Place  
Bernard & Karen Penn, 204 Picket Lane

### WELCOME TO WALDEN WOODS

Beth, Jenny, Patrick, Sheryl, Rachel,  
Russell, Bernard and Karen !!

## CAUTION TO PARENTS

Now that school is back in session, parents should be reminded to be cautious in how they express themselves in absence excuse notes sent to their kid's teachers. They could end up on the internet. Consider these "real notes written by parents in an Alabama school district".

- My son is under a doctor's care and should not take PE today. Please excuse him.
- Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
- Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea, and his boots leak.
- Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.
- Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday. We thought it was Sunday.
- My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent a weekend with the marines.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

All meetings/events held at the Meeting House unless otherwise specified.

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|---------------------|--|
| <b>Wed, Sept 10</b> | Duplex/Townhome Council Meeting, <b>7PM</b>                  |
| <b>Sat, Sept 13</b> | <b>Tag Sale, 9AM-3PM, (individual homes)</b>                 |
| <b>Sun, Sept 14</b> | <b>Swimming Pool Closes</b>                                  |
| <b>Mon, Sept 22</b> | Village Council Meeting (special budget meeting), <b>7PM</b> |
| <b>Wed, Sept 24</b> | Conservancy Board Meeting, <b>7:30PM</b>                     |
| <b>Sat, Oct 18</b>  | <b>Oktoberfest, time/place TBA</b>                           |
| <b>Mon, Oct 27</b>  | Qtly Village Council Meeting, <b>7PM</b>                     |
| <b>Wed, Oct 29</b>  | Conservancy Board Meeting (and Budget Workshop), <b>7PM</b>  |

## Scrabble Anyone?

Barbara D'Amaddio is looking for people to join her in forming a weekday afternoon book or scrabble club. Anyone interested should contact Barbara at 688 8700 or [bdjf@comcast.net](mailto:bdjf@comcast.net).