

# Walden Woods News

December '07/January '08



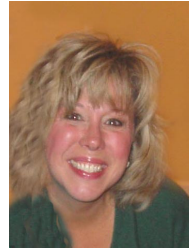
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WALDEN WOODS NEWS is a bi-monthly publication produced and distributed by homeowner volunteers for the edification and enjoyment of all Walden Woods homeowners. Questions, ideas and news contributions may be submitted to any member of the Communication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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

The weeks and months of the year go by so quickly that many times we fail to stop to say a simple "thank you" to folks who take time out of their busy schedules to make Walden Woods a better community in which to live. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I would like to sincerely thank all of the committee members (past and present) that have served tirelessly throughout 2007. You have inspired and energized many efforts.



Thanks to all of you for your continued support and positive enthusiasm. It could never happen without you. – Deb Giampolo

Conservancy Board President

## ANNUAL REMINDER

**Winter Parking Ban:** **Until April 15th**, all vehicles must be removed from public roads from midnight to 6 a.m. every night. If you have a special function or emergency, just call the Windsor Police Department's Non-Emergency Line @ 688-5273 to avoid a fine and/or having the vehicle towed. **Parking on our narrow private roads, of course, is not permitted overnight anytime during the year. This includes all Country Walk roads as well as those on the Knoll and the Ridge.**

**Decorations:** Exterior holiday decorations should've been removed no more than 15 days after the holiday. Holiday wreaths or door decorations are the exception and may be kept up throughout the winter season, if desired.

## RECREATION/SOCIAL PLANS EXPANDED FOR '08



Dianne Timpson

Under the leadership of Dianne Timpson, who has replaced Jan Moller as Committee Chairperson, the Recreation and Social Committee is embarking on an ambitious plan to offer more social events to Walden Woods homeowners in 2008. Their objective is to bring our community closer together by offering a variety of activities that should appeal to a broader audience of homeowners. There's something for everybody! The following is a partial list of the activities being considered and Dianne promises there will be a few more surprises.

- Great Egg Hunt (March 16th, 2-4PM)
- Memorial Day Pool Party
- **Teen Pool Party**
- **July 4th Ice Cream Social**
- Community Tag Sale (Sept 13th)
- **Octoberfest**
- **Thanksgiving Food Drive**
- **Holiday Party**
- **Holiday Caroling**

Further details will be made available as they are finalized.

## A LOOK BACK

2007 was a year in which some major changes were done to the swimming pool area, to the meeting house and to our landscape. It was also a year in which many of us took advantage of the opportunities to enjoy the various community activities organized by our Social Committee. Here's a chronological summary of what happened:



- Jan** • The Buildings & Grounds Committee and Social Committee replace the Landscape and Social/Recreation/Pool Committees to better define areas of responsibilities.
- Feb** • Damaged cabana doors at the swimming pool are replaced.
- Mar** • Meeting House roof is replaced. • **Third Annual Great Egg Hunt**
- Apr** • Cabana stalls painted and pool fencing replaced. • Vinyl railings installed on bridge between parking lot and pool. • **Earth Day Cleanup organized by Environmental Committee.**
- May** • Country Walk Developer removes trees along Walden Meadow Road to accommodate building of new homes. • **Memorial Day Pool Party**
- Jun** • Mary Ciaraldi is selected by Conservancy Board members to replace Village Council Director Kathy Kroll who resigned due to family and work commitments. • **First Walden Woods Walk.**  
• Twelve more vinyl fences installed in the Village Council as part of a 5 year program to replace all of the wooden fences by the year 2009.
- July** • Meeting House vinyl siding project is completed. • Wind screen installed on lower tennis court.
- Aug** • **Community Tag Sale** • Sightings of black bears are reported; other than loss of some bird feed, no harm is done to man, beast or property.
- Sept** • Last monthly edition of newsletter is published; future editions to be bi-monthly. Many cheer.  
• Duplex Council Director Anna-Marie Brown establishes a monthly Duplex homeowner's meeting.
- Oct** • Country Walk Developer re-forests the land along Walden Meadow Road with new plantings. • **Wine Tasting Party** • Edgar Rodriguez volunteers and is approved by the Conservancy Board to become Director of the Town Home Council.
- Nov** • Conservancy Board of Directors approves a Village Council Board plan to use a special assessment of Village homeowners to replenish low reserves.
- Dec** • **Holiday Party** • All existing Council Directors volunteer to continue to serve the community in 2008 and all are elected during the Annual Homeowner's Meeting.

### HOLIDAY PARTY



Lots of socializing, good food and great door prizes highlighted this year's Holiday Party hosted by the Recreation & Social Committee at the Meeting House on December 1st. Innovative party coordinator Bonnie Farmer added some features such as a "kissing ball" (think mistletoe) and a "Walden Woods Occupation Bingo" game where everyone had an opportunity to get to know their neighbors a little better. The winner of the game was John Foley (*left*), who won a \$50 gift certificate to Vito's on the Water, a new Windsor restaurant opening in March. His wife, Barbara, also won a door prize - a \$35 treatment at The Hair Salon in Windsor. Also, anyone who walked to the party was rewarded with a coupon for a free sundae at Friendly's.

All of the approximately 50 homeowners who attended agreed the added features brought some additional excitement to what was already an enjoyable social experience and all are looking forward to seeing what the committee will come up with next (*see related article on page 1*).

## ODDS AND ENDS

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE ACTIVE

Our Environmental Committee continues to be an active and probably under-appreciated group whose efforts directly affect not only the aesthetic values of our community but our health. Their focus in 2007 was on the water quality in the ponds and vernal pools in Walden Woods, but they were active in other areas as well.



To prevent the accumulation of debris in our storm drains in **Little and Big Walden Ponds**, they initiated the Board-approved requirement that our landscaper pick up all debris placed in the streets on the same day they are deposited. The committee also convinced the Country Walk developer to complete the planting of trees in the flower field (facing Marshal Phelps Road) to protect the adjacent vernal pool.

In addition, the committee organized and coordinated the **Earth Day Cleanup** event and installed signage and trail markings for the **Walking Trails**. They were also in contact with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the Town Environmental Officer, the Country Walk developer and the Conservancy Board on a number of occasions to encourage compliance with several environmentally significant restrictions, conditions, regulations and agreements.

**Their goals for 2008** include a continued effort to clean up Big Walden Pond by generating improvement of the storm drainage from our industrial neighbors and pursuing the removal of sediment at the storm water inlet near the dam. The Committee will also seek early completion of an engineering study to provide the Conservancy Board with specific recommendations on how to improve the water quality in Little Walden Pond. If funding is not available for the study, the Committee will seek the removal of grass areas from the banks, planting of shrubs around the pond and removal of sedimentation.

**Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have flown south for the winter.**

### DUPLEX AND TOWNHOME HOMEOWNERS TO MEET JOINTLY

Anna-Marie Brown and Edgar Rodriguez, Directors of the Duplex and Townhome Councils respectively, announced they intend to hold homeowner meetings **jointly** at the Meeting House on the second Wednesday of every month.

Although technically considered Board Meetings where the Directors make budgetary and policy decisions regarding their respective councils, Anna-Marie and Edgar indicated they intend to follow the Conservancy Board Meeting format where all homeowners are encouraged to attend, ask questions and express any concerns. **The next joint meeting will be held on February 13th at 7:00PM.**

### GIVING

Deb Giampolo and her family want to establish a "care-giving" team of volunteers to run errands or just provide some company for homeowners who may be shut in due to poor health. Anyone interested in joining this team or who know of any Walden Woods homeowner(s) who may need help should contact Deb at 298-8782 or [dgiampolo@hotmail.com](mailto:dgiampolo@hotmail.com).



### WELCOME COMMITTEE NEWS

In 2007, teams from our Welcome Committee visited 31 new homeowners in Walden Woods, 24 of which reside in the Duplex and Townhome Councils.

**The committee is in need of additional members** – especially from the Woodmoor Council which currently has no representative to assist new homeowners in that council. It's not a full time job. It only requires about ½ to 1 hour of time when someone new moves into your neighborhood and it offers the rewarding experience of helping someone who may need and appreciate your help.

**If you are interested and want to know more about this committee, please contact Ruth Johnson, 688-5128 or [ruth.s.johnson@comcast.net](mailto:ruth.s.johnson@comcast.net).**

## SNOWMAN CRISIS

(Observations from a Retired Mind)



In attempting to identify the recipient(s) of the first annual Snowman Builder of the Year award recently, I discovered a startling and alarming fact: There were no snowmen (or snow-women) in Walden Woods! We've had plenty of snow, there's just no snowmen. In the yards of almost 200 homes, there was not one visible sign of snowman creativity. It's not only embarrassing, it's probably the reason we're having so much snow this season. The Snow-Gods are up there saying "We're going to keep delivering the stuff until somebody down there realizes what it's for."

Before we over-react and start an out of control snowman movement, there are some questions to ask. Is snowman-building one of the services that Russo Landscaping is supposed to provide? Do we need a Snowman Committee or does this sort of thing fall within the function of Buildings & Grounds? Should we have the Social Committee organize a Snowman Party on the meeting house lawn? Do homeowners have to be assured that building a snowman does not require approval by the Standards Committee? Is it too late to add carrots and buttons and used hats to the '08 budget?

I dunno... Maybe it's all part of the Global Warming syndrome. Should we call AI?

### DATES TO REMEMBER

All events/meetings are held at 7:00PM at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

<b>Mon, Jan 28th</b>	Village Council Meeting
<b>Wed, Jan 30th</b>	Conservancy Board Meeting
<b>Wed, Feb 13th</b>	Duplex/Townhome Council Meeting
<b>Mon, Feb 25th</b>	Village Council Meeting
<b>Wed, Feb 27th</b>	Conservancy Board Meeting
<b>Wed, Mar 12th</b>	Duplex/Townhome Council Meeting
<b>Sun, Mar 16th</b> <b>2 – 4 PM</b>	Great Egg Hunt

### MEETING HOUSE COMMITTEE

**HELP!!!** We are in dire need of additional members to join this short-handed committee to help oversee the condition, use and rental of the meeting house. If interested, please contact Polly Ellis, 688-5949 or pollyandbob@sbcglobal.net.

### GOSSIP COLUMN

Sometimes you overhear some funny stories from and about neighbors. This isn't one of them, but it will serve a need to fill up space.

It seems that while on a recent trip to Newport, Geoff Bell and Connie Borger (Morning Glory Court) stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. When leaving, Connie unknowingly left her reading glasses on the table and didn't miss them until after she and Geoff had been back on the road for about twenty minutes. Adding to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around to return to the restaurant.

Like many of us, Geoff hates wasted time so he fussed and complained and scolded his wife during the entire return drive. The longer the trip took, the more agitated he became. He was relentless.

To Connie's relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As she got out of the car and hurried inside to get her glasses, Geoff rolled down the window and yelled to her "While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and credit card."

### COMINGS AND GOINGS

**Left:** Jan and Jackie Moller, 128 Pierce Blvd

**Arrived:** Warren and Sasa Blidgen

**Country Walk Arrivals:**

Kimberley Miazga, 28 Last Leaf Circle

Geoffrey & Maria Boyle, 8 Marble Faun Lane

**WELCOME TO WALDEN WOODS**

Warren, Sasa, Kimberley, Geoffrey and Maria