



Walden Woods News

FEBRUARY '09

The Last Issue???

COYOTE ALERT AGAIN

In case you missed the announcement, our coyote friends have returned to the community. Numerous sightings have been reported, including a very unusual one of a pack of 5 or 6 in front of the meetinghouse last month. Although not enough of a risk to humans to panic over, the coyotes are a definite threat to unprotected pets. The following news report was extracted from the WTIC NewsTalk website:

Snow cover on the ground in Connecticut makes it difficult for coyotes to find the small animals they usually eat. Avon and Canton Animal Control Officer Beverly Laplume says some cats have been disappearing in Avon, as the coyotes are turning to the next available food source, pets.

Laplume says a beagle escaped an attack from two coyotes on Tuesday when the dog's invisible fence alarm went off, startling the coyotes. A pair of coyotes also chased a golden retriever into a house in Avon.

Cats should be kept indoors, and dogs should be kept on a leash, especially in the morning.

If you see a coyote that you feel poses a threat to you, your family or pets, contact the Animal Control Division of the Windsor Police Department, 688-5273. **AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T FEED THE COYOTES!!**

NEW NAMES FOR RESIDENTS

In an effort to save space in this newsletter, we're going to change how we reference residents. Village Council homeowners will now be referred to as "Villagers". Woodmoor Council homeowners will be "Woodmoorites" (better option than "Woodmoorons"). Residents in the Ridge Council will be "Ridgetarians", those in the Duplex Council will be "Duplexities" and of course there will be the "Townhomies" or "Townies" for short. Hmmmm? No, "Homies" will not be used. To be equally unfair, Villagers may occasionally be referred to as "Villageiots".

**Borrow money from pessimists.
They don't expect it back.**

THE BUDGET AND YOU

As we all know by now, there was some good news and not so good news in the 2009 budget approved by our Conservancy Board of Directors. The good news, of course, is that there is no increase to the Conservancy-related fees this year. They will remain at \$62 (\$63 for Woodmoor homeowners). Despite a 5% increase in landscaping and snow removal charges for 2009, that is also true for Townhome residents. Their monthly council-related fee remains at \$186 (\$248 when combined with the Conservancy fee).

The not so good news applies to the rest of the community. Village Council homeowners are now paying an extra \$25 a month because of the 5% increase in service charges and the need to replace the reserves that will be used to pay for such capital expenditures as tree pruning, shrub replacements, erosion control and stone wall maintenance in 2009.

Lumped together in the 2008 budget, the Duplex and Townhome Councils have now been separated for a more accurate allocation of expenses by unit. Because there are fewer Duplex homes (23) than Townhomes (32), each Duplex unit must now share a larger burden of paying for the expected expenses. That amounts to an additional \$17 per month.

Ridge Council homeowners are now paying \$11 more a month this year also because of the increase in service charges and some expected capital expenditures like tree pruning and shrub replacement.

The enclosed insert provides a breakdown of the 2009 budget showing how your monthly contribution is being used this year.

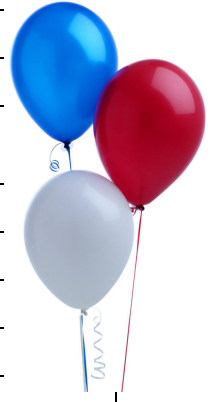
HELP!!!! I'm being held captive, chained to my computer keyboard and forced to continue publishing this community newsletter until a Prince (or Princess) in Microsoft armor volunteers to take over. Any brave, compassionate homeowner willing to rescue me can learn how by calling 688-5949. No kissing involved.



2009 SOCIAL EVENT SCHEDULE

Our Recreation and Social Committee, has developed an ambitious schedule of events for 2009 that offers something for everyone in Walden Woods. You'll receive more specific information prior to each event. *All events take place at the Meetinghouse unless otherwise noted.*

Zocco's Pasta Night Get Together (new)	Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6:00 p.m. (At Zocco's Restaurant)
Ballroom Dance Lessons (new)	Six consecutive Monday evenings, beginning March 2 and ending April 6, 6:15-7:15 p.m.
International Potluck Dinner (new)	Saturday, March 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Spring Fling and Great Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 4, 2-4 p.m.
Trail Walk/ Earth Day Cleanup (cosponsored with the Environmental Comm)	Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.
Kite Flying	Saturday, May 9, 1:00 p.m. (Baseball Field)
Game Night (new)	Friday, May 15, 7-9 p.m.
Pool Opening/Barbecue	Sunday, May 24, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. (at the pool)
"End-of-Summer" Ice Cream Social (new)	Sunday, August 30, 2-4 p.m. (at the pool)
Fall Food Drive	Saturday, Oct. 17, 12-4 p.m.
Adult Holiday Party (renewed)	Saturday, Dec.5, 7-10 p.m.
Children's Holiday Party	Sunday, Dec. 6, 4:30-6 p.m.



The Social Committee Wants and Needs You!

Now that you've read about some of the events being planned by the Recreation and Social Committee for 2009, did we miss any of your favorite activities?

If you have any suggestions for additional events, or would like to participate in making Walden Woods an even more enjoyable community, please consider giving your time to assist with one or more of the planned activities. You are always welcome to attend one of our committee meetings to meet other homeowners already serving as committee members and to share your ideas. **Our next meeting is planned for Wed., Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. at the Meetinghouse,** and we'd love to see you there. We will have refreshments as well so at the very least you'll get dessert. If interested, please contact Barb D'Amaddio for more information. *See Committee insert.*

A NOTE TO RUSSO

Dear Mike - Although we grumble sometimes when our walks don't get shoveled and our driveways and roads plowed as soon as we'd like, most of us do understand that you can't satisfy all 211 of us during any given snow storm. We know that the conditions and patterns of the storms don't always make it

possible to ensure we have clear passage in and out of our community when we need it.

And we know that in an attempt to at least be fair, you alternate the location of where you begin your snow removal efforts with each occurrence. Someone has to be first and someone has to be last. It just seems that our home is always the last when it's a 16" Nor'easter and first when it's a 1/2" duster.

Oh, and by the way, thank you for donating the hay ride tractor for our Oktoberfest and for donating your time and equipment to install the holiday tree on our meeting house lawn. We know those services are not part of our contract with you and your generosity is certainly appreciated.

FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES



James (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.'

Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

“Whoever moves into a community has a vested interest in it.”- Andrew Goodman.



Beth Goulet, a dynamo of energy and enthusiasm, has only been a resident here since last June but has certainly taken those words to heart. Despite working full time as a Director of Life Sales at Phoenix Insurance, this Townhome Council resident has quickly become the epitome of community spirit. First she volunteered to serve on the Social and Recreation Committee where she helped Dianne Timpson organize and coordinate events such as the Food Drive, Oktoberfest and the Holiday Party. Then, when there was an urgent need for help on the Welcome Committee, she volunteered to help greet new homeowners in Country Walk. When the Standards Committee needed a representative from the Townhome Council, she again raised her hand. As if that wasn't enough, she also volunteered to be her Council's representative to serve on the Conservancy Board of Directors for 2009. She was elected at the Annual Homeowners Meeting in December.

Not bad for being a new resident, huh? Beth, along with ALL of our volunteers deserves this community's gratitude. An extra round of applause should be given to our Council Directors and people like Joe Sikora, Ruth Casagrande, Warren and Ruth Johnson, Polly Ellis, Barbara D'Amaddio, Gail Twarkins, Bonnie Farmer, Dianne Timpson and Cori-Lynn Webber who all serve or have served on multiple committees. These are not power-seeking politicians. They volunteer to serve us for no other reason than because they understand their community needs them.

PROBLEMS ON THE KNOLL

Erosion to the landscaped banks on the sides and backs of two and potentially more Knollwood North homes is threatening to cause severe damage to the driveways and foundations of those properties. Measures were taken last year to temporarily stop the erosion on two of the homes but a more permanent solution will be needed at some indeterminate time that may have an adverse impact on the Village Council budget.

The temporary measures included the use of underground p.v.c piping to discharge water from a downspout further away from the higher portion of the bank, some re-grading and the use of riprap, silt fencing and hay bales. The cost was a little under \$1,000 and was charged to the Village Council.

Elite Management has advised the Board that the permanent solutions in this area involve the construction of retaining walls, the addition of base material and more re-grading. The cost, estimated to be more than \$12,000 for each home receiving the repairs, will also be shared by all homeowners in the Village Council. Other areas on the Knoll will need attention in the future.

THINK ABOUT THIS: Statistics on sanity indicate that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Alarming huh? But wait a minute. Think of your three best friends -- if they're okay, then ???

SCOFF-LAWS HAVE BOARD'S ATTENTION

The Conservancy Board of Directors has announced their intention to formalize a process for collecting overdue association fees from homeowners who miss their monthly payments. At their next meeting on **Tuesday, February 24th**, the Board will have an open discussion of the issues involved, listen to suggestions and present a final plan of action as a motion for approval.

All homeowners are invited to attend the meeting so that they will be aware of the process to be followed and the ramifications for neglecting to pay association fees.



STANDARDS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Also on the Conservancy Board's agenda for their February 24th meeting will be the election by the board of homeowner representatives from each Council to serve on the Standards Committee. This committee helps homeowners understand and comply with the architectural and design restrictions within Walden Woods as well as overseeing compliance with our rules. Current members of the committee volunteered to serve on a temporary basis when the need arose last year.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Warren Johnson, 688-5128 or warrenruth@comcast.net.

**MEETING HOUSE COMMITTEE
NEEDS HELP TOO !!!**

Our Meeting House Committee needs additional members to relieve the workload of its current staff. Members take turns on a monthly basis in overseeing the condition and use (including rentals) of the meeting house. No hard work or special skills required, just conscientiousness. For more information, contact Polly Ellis, 688-5949 or pollyandbob@sbcglobal.net.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

- Wed, Feb 11** Duplex/Townhome Council Meeting, 7PM
- Sun, Feb 15** Welcome Committee Open House, 7PM at Ruth Johnson's home (22 Ivy Lane)
- Mon, Feb 16** Village Council Meeting, 7PM
- Tues, Feb 17** Pasta Night Get Together, 6PM at Zocco's Restaurant
- Tues, Feb 24** Conservancy Board Meeting, 6:30PM
- Wed, Feb 25** Social Committee Meeting, 7PM
- Mon, Mar 2** Ballroom Dance Lessons Begin, 6:15PM
- Sat, Mar 14** Pot Luck Dinner, 5:30-7:30
- Sat Apr 4** Spring Fling & Great Egg Hunt, 2-4PM

**AGELESS WIT
AND OBSERVATIONS**

With all the economic turmoil swirling around us, the following words of wisdom, while not offering any solutions, should at least provide us with some food for thought (and concern):

"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle." -**Winston Churchill**

"In general, the art of government consists of taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other." -**Voltaire (1764)**

"No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session." -**Mark Twain (1866)**

"A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have." -**Thomas Jefferson**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Arrived:

Marian Farley, 14 Last Leaf Circle
Alberto Pavanello and

Giovanna Carrain, 25 Last Leaf Circle
Mamode Ufomata, 45 Last Leaf Circle
Viatcheslav Naoumov and

Irina Naoumova, 5 Marble Faun
Michael & Ama Myers, 4 Scarlet Lane
Tom & Margy Schuck, 15 Scarlet Lane
Nagajyothi Addanki and

Anand Kosur, 407 Pond Bridge
Barbara Frankson, 445 Pond Bridge

WELCOME TO WALDEN WOODS !!!

THE HAPPY COUPLE

Fred was being interviewed by a reporter about his pending 50th wedding anniversary when he was asked to share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years.

Fred replied, "Well, I always treated her nice and gave her everything she wanted, but I think the real key was when I took her to Paris on our 25th anniversary.

The reporter responded, 'Fred, you are an inspiration to all the husbands out there! Can you please tell them what you're planning for your 50th anniversary?'

Fred proudly replied, "I'm probably going to go get her."

WELCOME COMMITTEE "OPEN HOUSE"

One of the most rewarding experiences of living in any community is the neighborly gesture of making newcomers feel welcome to the community. Members of our Welcome Committee not only get to greet new residents, they also provide informational material that is critical for the newcomers to know about Walden Woods and feel comfortable in their new environment. It's one of the least time-consuming, yet important services provided by any committee.

If YOU have been thinking about getting involved in the Walden Woods community by joining a committee, here's an excellent opportunity: Current members of our Welcome Committee are holding an "open house" meeting to share their experience with you so that you'll have a better understanding of the committee's scope and the process involved. **The meeting will be held at 7:00PM on Sunday., February 15th at the home of Committee Chairperson Ruth Johnson (22 Ivy Lane).**

Ruth will also be serving her famous baked goodies as well as beverages so you can't lose by attending. Call Ruth at 688-5128 if you need directions or have any questions.