

Walden Woods News

July 2007



Inside this Issue

- 2 Ball Field News
- 2 Swimming Pool News
- 2 Tennis Court News
- 2 Tick Warning
- 3 "Walk Walden Woods" Report
- 3 Wine Tasting Party Announcement
- 3 Golf Outing Cancelled
- 4 Restaurant Review
- 4 Village Council Special Assessment
- 4 New Village Council Director

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),

Life's Great Ponderisms

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?

If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A portion of your monthly association fee is being used to reimburse the editor of this newsletter for publication expenses. To help ensure your association fees are being used for services you want, please **contact Bob Ellis, 688-5949, pollyandbob@sbcglobal.net if you wish to receive future issues of this newsletter.**

MEETING HOUSE SIDING UPDATE

Although the pace seems excruciatingly slow, the task of replacing the siding on the meetinghouse is continuing. All the wood clapboard and trim are being replaced with vinyl siding and composite trim boards/corners. Our rot problems of the past should be eliminated and we will be saving maintenance cost over the not-so-long run. The contractor is still committing to a July completion date *See page 2 for the latest news about our other amenities.*

TAG SALE REMINDER

Okay, you've ALMOST waited too long. Our third annual community-wide Tag Sale is less than a month away (**August 11th, 9AM-3PM**) and many of you who intend to sell some of those no-longer-needed items still haven't notified Gail Twarkins, 688-5766, gtwarkins@att.net of your intent to participate. Ruth Casagrande, the perennial coordinator of these tag sales is making arrangements for a massive advertising campaign throughout the area plus having signage and maps available that will direct buyers to your driveway. To take advantage of those services, you need to let Gail know you'll be a seller and you need to give her \$10 to help offset the cost of all the advertising and signage.



This is the only chance you'll have to get rid of those unwanted (but usable) goods and make a little money to boot. Private tag sales are not permitted in Walden Woods.

ABOUT OUR AMENITIES

Ball Field News



As you may have noticed, there hasn't been much use made of the ball field this year. At least one Little League team involving several Walden Woods residents as players or coaches were using the field earlier for practice, but were requested to stop due to liability issues relating to potential injuries suffered by non-residents. Attempts are being made to obtain a liability waiver from the Little League organization, but no word has been received from Williamsport. In the meantime, no practices are being held on the field.

But while we have your attention, please note that **the ball field and the common area near the adjoining tennis court are NOT to be used for parking!**

Swimming Pool News

Thanks to Pool Attendant Lauren Atwater, we have some interesting statistics regarding the use of the pool this year – at least for the month of June. According to the visitor's log diligently maintained by Lauren, there were 518 visitors to the pool in June, 373 of whom were residents and 145 guests. Discounting the six "bad-weather days" that affected attendance, that's an average daily attendance of more than 15 homeowners and six guests. At least one resident from 60 of the 183 occupied homes in Walden Woods (33%) visited the pool in June. A study of the Log reveals the following Council breakdown: 30% of Country Walk homeowners, 24% of the Village homeowners, 38% of Woodmoor and a whopping 48% of all Ridge homeowners came down for a dip or just to watch the dippers.

If you were one of the visitors, you probably noticed the damage to the wooden vents in the cabana cupolas caused by some squirrels trying to sharpen their teeth. The vents will be replaced once we determine the costs of using various alternative materials.

A new bike rack has been purchased and will soon be installed outside the pool to accommodate those of you trying to save a little gas. A cigarette receptacle is also being purchased for placement outside the pool area. **There is no smoking allowed inside the pool area.**

Tennis Court News

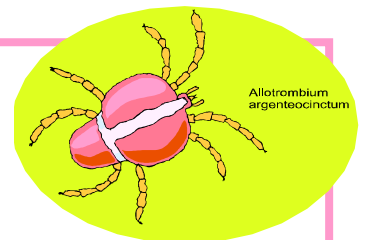
To make the old tennis court more usable, we are looking into the possibility of installing a wind screen and a backboard. Measurements have been taken and pricing will be submitted to the Conservancy Board for consideration prior to installation.

Tennis players are asked to please **secure the gates after use by securing the lock-cables with no slack** so that the gates cannot be opened wide enough for entry while still locked. Yesss, the fences are low enough to be climbed over, but let's not make it too easy for trespassers.

Tick Warning from the Editor

If someone comes to your front door saying they are checking for ticks due to the warm weather and asks you to take your clothes off and dance around with your arms up, **DO NOT DO IT!! THIS IS A SCAM!!**

I wish I knew this yesterday. I feel so stupid.



ABOUT OUR SOCIAL LIFE

Walk Walden Woods

Our very first Walk Walden Woods event on June 24th proved to be very successful as more than 40 enthusiastic walkers showed up on a beautiful day to tour the neighborhoods and try the new hiking trails (a popular option). Almost everyone survived the exercise to stay afterward and join in a pleasant afternoon of socializing and snacking. A large donation of non-perishable food was also donated by the participants for which the Windsor Food Bank was most appreciative. Our thanks to Janet Terkildsen (Pierce Blvd.) and Genevieve Lattimer (Thoreau Circle) for their great work in organizing the event and to all the participants for their generosity.

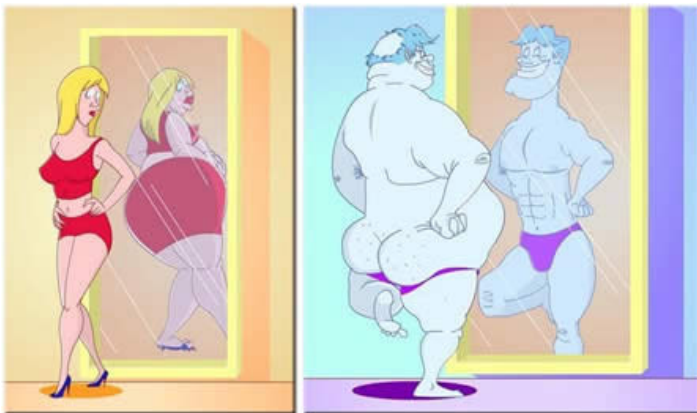


Wine Tasting Party



It's a little early to begin preparing the ol' palate, but Paul Giampolo of the Recreation and Social Committee wanted us to alert everybody that plans are being made for the second annual Wine Tasting Party on Saturday, October 13th. The theme this year will be Wines from Around the Globe which sounds like we're in for another fascinating and educational evening. More details will be published in the coming months.

Speaking of education, here's an interesting related tidbit borrowed from *Cheers'* Cliff Clavin: *A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers.*



The Difference Between Women & Men

GOLF OUTING CANCELLED

In case you haven't heard, the Walden Woods Golf Outing for 2007 has been cancelled. Too few homeowners responded to the invitation to play to have the event qualify for financial support from the Conservancy and to receive the services normally provided for outings by the golf course. We'll try it again next year.

Restaurant Review

By Desiree Hennessey



Feng Asian Bistro, 93 Asylum Ave, Hartford, 860-549-FENG

Whether for a special occasion, holiday party or to really impress a first date, the Feng Bistro is the hip place to be. This very urban

and chic restaurant, which opened last fall, has been hyped by many food critics as "it is so good, it belongs in Chicago or Boston."

This is definitely not your typical Japanese restaurant. The pacific-rim style menu has something for all diners – rib-eye steak, fresh seafood and lamb just to name a few. And, of course, it has an extensive variety of the freshest sushi around. While it is not the place you would typically dine on a weekly basis, it is definitely worth the visit. I have been lucky to dine there twice and both times I've walked away saying I can't wait to go back.

An appetizer worth trying is the Lemongrass Lobster Latte or Kobe Beef (at \$10 an ounce!!). And, because their menu changes seasonally, you won't be disappointed by any of the entrees or specials. As for dessert, you'll wish you had left room for seconds of the Green Tea Brulee or the Chocolate Chip Sandwich!

Check out www.fengrestaurant.com for a virtual tour of the restaurant as well as all of the available menus. Bon Appetit!

NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to:

Richard Rogers, 4 Scarlet Lane

Peter & Katherine Cheng, 6 Scarlet Lane

Victor & Susan Kennedy, 24 Last Leaf Circle

Jeanne O'Grady, 41 Sagewood Lane

VILLAGE COUNCIL ASSESSMENT

As previously reported, Village Council homeowners face a dilemma in trying to pay for the remaining fence replacements while trying to maintain an adequate reserve to pay for expected and unexpected capital expenditures. The majority of homeowners who responded to Joe Palladino's survey indicated a preference for bank financing as a means to solve the problem. Unfortunately, not enough homeowners responded to qualify this as an opinion of the majority of all Village homeowners and without that vote, the Conservancy Board could not approve their support of a bank loan. The bank's refusal to consider anything other than a Conservancy loan makes this an impossible path to follow.

After sharing this information with homeowners attending the June Village Council Board meeting and listening to their input, board members decided to continue paying for the fences through the normal budget process and impose a special assessment fee on Village Council homeowners to help build up the reserves.. The amount of the fee and when it will be imposed will be decided upon at the Village Board's meeting on September 24th. **There will be no Village Council meetings in July and August.**

NEW VILLAGE COUNCIL DIRECTOR



Mary Ciaraldi, 32 Knollwood North, has been selected to replace Kathy Kroll as a Director on the Village Council Board for the rest of the year. Kathy resigned from the Board in May due to family and work commitments. A resident of Walden Woods for seven years, Mary is well known for her

success as a real estate agent and promises to apply the same conscientious dedication and energy to her duties on the Board and as a Village Council representative on the Conservancy Board. She joins Village homeowners Joe Palladino and Susan Atwater on both Boards.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ALL HOMEOWNERS ARE INVITED TO EACH EVENT

Wed, July 25th @ 7:00PM Conservancy Board Meeting at the Meeting House

Sat, Aug 11th, 9:00–3:00PM Community Tag Sale
Contact Gail Twarkins (688-5766) or Ruth Casagrande (688-9504)