

# Walden Woods News

## April-May 2008



Second Sign of Spring:  
mother goose nesting near the pond

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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),

### IT'S POOL TIME!!! (almost)

#### OPENING DAY

Traditionally, our Memorial Day Pool Party (*see below*) marks the official opening of the pool for the summer season. For those of you who just can't wait that long, however, it will actually be open on Saturday the 24th. As usual, the pool will be available for homeowner use everyday between 8AM – 8PM until we close it down on September 14th. And no rain will be allowed in the pool area until September 15th.

#### RESURFACING

As you read this, the pool is in the process of being resurfaced and upgraded to meet new state codes. An additional primary drain is being installed and the surface is being re-plastered to repair cracks that have developed over the past 14 years.

Hmmmm? Oh yes, the work will be done and the pool re-filled in time for opening day.

#### ATTENDANT(S)

Rebecca Farmer, daughter of Bonnie and Win Farmer on Scarlet Lane, will share Pool Attendant duties this year with last year's Attendant Loren Atwater, daughter of Susan Atwater (Primrose Lane) who did such a nice job last year.

Thanks ladies for helping to make what we hope will be a long, safe, enjoyable summer at the pool.

**Please SLOW DOWN!!!!.** With spring here and summer fast approaching, our streets are becoming more popular with walkers, bikers, children – all out enjoying the nice weather. Recent efforts by the Windsor Police to curtail speeders in our community resulted in numerous citations, **the majority of which were given to Walden Woods residents!** **THINK!** Nothing is urgent enough to warrant risking the safety of others.

### MEMORIAL DAY PARTY



**The Memorial Day Pool Party, Walden Woods' signature social event, will be held Sunday, May 25th from noon to 4PM (Rain Date is Monday).** According to Dianne Timpson, Director of our Recreation & Social Committee, this year's party is going to be bigger and better than ever. Details will be forthcoming in a special flyer, but Dianne has indicated some surprises have been added to the list of games and races we all enjoyed last year (did someone say tug o' war?). Also, to ensure everyone can enjoy the day, the committee hired a caterer to cook and serve all the food you might expect at a cookout and then some. And to simplify the food serving process, there will be a flat fee of \$5 per person to cover the entire meal instead of having to pay for individual items. C'mon down. Sounds like it's going to be a fun day.

# THE THINGS WE SEE

## STONE WALLS



Bad news: In case you haven't noticed, some of our walls are crumbling. Those once aesthetically pleasing stone walls that graced

our community are becoming an eyesore and an expensive maintenance concern. Last year's reconstruction and bluestone capping of a few of the walls around the meeting house and up on the ridge and knoll areas cost us \$10,000 but did not provide us with anything that approaches a permanent fix. Another \$10,000 has been set aside for additional repair work in 2008. The problem, according to a vendor who inspected the condition of the walls, is that erosion at the base of the walls is causing the walls to collapse underneath and adding caps on top will only help protect the walls from the elements, not solve the problem.

Facing the prospect of making "wall repair" a constant line item in our future budgets, our Conservancy Board of Directors is looking into alternatives such as replacing the walls with vinyl fences. Some additional consideration must be given to those walls on the Ridge and Knoll which currently house mailboxes. It's not an easy decision to remove the traditional stone walls that helped tie our community into the New England style motif that it was originally designed, but practicality sometimes has to outweigh sentiment. Their removal and replacement would, of course, generate a budget-impacting expense, but it would hopefully be a one-time expense and not impact the aesthetic value of our community.

### GRANDMA'S CURES

**For arthritis pain:** Mix 2 cups of Quaker Oats and 1 cup of water in a bowl and warm in the microwave for 1 minute, cool slightly, and apply the mixture to your hands for soothing relief.

## THE BIG POND

By Warren Johnson

Environmental Committee Chairperson

Good News: The long-awaited storm drainage project on the Unisource Property has been completed. As you may remember, eroded earth from a drainage ditch and check dams as well as silt from the roads, parking lots and lawns of Unisource, Culbro, Sperry Turbine and Konica Minolta were flowing into Walden Woods and some of it was being deposited in the south end of Big Walden Pond. The end result was a badly contaminated and ugly-looking pond.

The Unisource project included the removal of the failed earth check dams, widening the stream bed on the Unisource property, lining the length of the stream bed on the Unisource property with rip rap (a coarse, angular rock usually made by crushing or blasting) and installing three new check dams. The check dams are made by enclosing rip rap in wire mesh and placing the enclosed rip rap across the stream bed at three different locations. A second headwall and drain has also been installed at the north end of the Unisource truck parking lot with a deepened plunge pool.

The project was designed to slow down the storm water coming into Walden Woods, allow silt to settle out before it reaches Walden Woods and



lessen erosion of the stream bed between Unisource and the south end of Big Walden Pond. **Water quality improvements in the pond may be visible as early as this summer.**

**Ed Note:** *Our hats off to Warren and his Environmental Committee for all their efforts to get this project implemented. It took a lot of persistence, determination and patience to endure the often frustratingly complex cooperation required between Unisource, the town and the state.*

## THE THINGS WE DO

### EARTH DAY TRASH PICK UP A MIXED BAG



As measured by the amount of trash picked up from Walden Meadow Road, the construction site, hiking trails and the pond

areas, the April 19th Earth Day Cleanup in Walden Woods was a successful event.

Supported by "nourishing" coffee and donuts served by Warren and Ruth Johnson, homeowners Janet Terkildsen, Io Mura, Diane Drew, George Hill, Ed Raymond, Bob and Polly Ellis and Raphne Nelson did a great job. With gloves, "spears" and bags in hand, they conscientiously picked up everything from discarded tires, iron fence posts, cans, bottles and general trash and placed them at the curbside for town pickup and disposal. Thanks to those who participated, our community looked a lot better Saturday afternoon than it did on Friday.

From a community participation standpoint, however, the event left a little bit to be desired. Of the 325 adults now living in Walden Woods, only 10 considered this community improvement event to be worthy of their time and effort. And despite the opportunity to enforce lessons about the environment and "green" spirit, **no families participated.**

Maybe we can do better next year.

### BALL FIELD SICK BUT NOT DEAD

According to the Walden Woods' Declaration filed with the town of Windsor, our controversial ball field has always been among the amenities planned for our community. In that respect, it's no different than the swimming pool or tennis courts that some of us enjoy using.

For that reason and because a survey conducted by an ad-hoc committee, headed by Chris Flynn, determined there was sufficient interest in using the field, the Conservancy Board of Directors decided to maintain the field for the 2008 season. They further decided to allocate \$1200 of funds already budgeted to improve the condition of the infield to make it more usable. All Walden Woods residents, of course, are welcome to use the field.

### MOVIE NIGHT APPROVED

The "Movie Night on the Green" event proposed by our Recreation & Social Committee was approved by the Board of Directors and will be held on the evening of Friday, July 25th. All issues regarding parking, security and production have been resolved. More details will be made available about this great family oriented event in the next issue of the newsletter.

**Life isn't like a box of chocolates; it's more like a jar of jalapenos. What you do today, might burn your butt tomorrow.**

### TAX REFERENDUM

Don't forget to vote on the town of Windsor's budget referendum Tuesday, May 13th. In case you haven't heard, the town's plan includes a 2.73% increase to our property tax for the fiscal year 2009. If the budget is approved, our mill rate will increase from 29.30 to 30.10 which means that if your home's current assessed value (70% of its market value) is \$300,000, your monthly property tax contribution will increase by \$20. Providing details about the proposed budget is not possible in the limited space of this newsletter, but a copy can be obtained from town hall or on the town's official website, [townofwindsor.com](http://townofwindsor.com). Pro or con, your vote is important.





### NO OPEN BOARD MEETING IN MAY

The Conservancy Board of Directors announced their May meeting will not be a General Session open to homeowners. They will be meeting instead to review the studies currently underway for Walden Woods. The next scheduled **open** Conservancy Board meeting is June 25th. In the meantime, homeowners having concerns or issues to be addressed and resolved should contact Elite Management.

### NEW ARRIVALS

#### Welcome to:

Theda Marinelli, 3 Marble Faun Lane  
Camille Donald, 10 Marble Faun Lane  
Patricia Rhule, 51 Last Leaf Circle  
Garnet Dacosta, 53 Last Leaf Circle  
Karissa Gaddy, 205 Picket Lane

### BELATED TAX ADVICE

It's a little too late for this year's tax filing, but Skip Kroll (Ivy Lane) provides us with an excellent example of what we could all do next year. His fantasized letter to the IRS is self explanatory:

*Dear Internal Revenue Service:*

*Enclosed is my 2007 tax return showing that I owe \$3,407.00 in taxes.*

*Please note the attached article from the USA Today newspaper; dated 12 November, wherein you will see the Pentagon (Department of Defense) is paying \$171.50 per hammer and NASA has paid \$600 per toilet seat.*

*I am enclosing four (4) toilet seats, valued @ \$2,400, and six (6) hammers, valued @ \$1,029, which I secured at Home Depot, bringing my total remittance to \$3,429.00.*

*Please apply the overpayment of \$22.00 to the "Presidential Election Fund" as noted on my return. You can do this inexpensively by sending them one (1) 1.5" Phillips Heads screw (see aforementioned article from USA Today). One screw is enclosed for your convenience.*

*It has been a pleasure to pay my tax bill this year, and I look forward to paying it again next year.*

*Aaaah, wouldn't it be nice?*

### KITE FLYING

The kite flying event originally scheduled for May 3rd has been re-scheduled for Saturday, May 10th from 10 AM to Noon. Bring your kite and kids to the ball field and enjoy the day.

### HELP WANTED

Sandra Baker on Pond Bridge is looking for someone to teach her 8 year old daughter Sydney how to crochet. If you have the skills and the interest, call Sandra at 683-1415.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sat, May 10th**     **Kite Flying** on the ball field, 10AM - Noon  
**Wed, May 14th**     Duplex/Townhome Council Meeting, 7PM  
**Sun, May 25th**     **Memorial Day Pool Party**, Noon – 4PM  
**Wed, June 11th**     Duplex/Townhome Council Meeting, 7PM  
**Wed, June 25th**     Conservancy Board Meeting, 7PM

### Walden Woods Green

Deborah Giampolo is putting a group together to work on "greening Walden Woods." Each month, you will see an article in this newsletter devoted to things we can all do inside and outside our homes to advance re-usability, energy efficiency and the reduction of personal environmental hazards.

The following excerpt from the Go Green Initiative website explains why such an effort is needed:

*The world has a fixed amount of natural resources - some of which are already depleted. So as population growth greatly strains our finite resources, there are fewer resources available. If we intend to leave our children and grandchildren with the same standard of living we have enjoyed, we must preserve the clean air, water, fuel sources and soil.*

*Some of the greatest threats to future resources come from things we throw away everyday that often contain dangerous chemicals that may pollute the groundwater. This can contaminate everything from the soil in which our food grows, to the water that eventually comes out of aquifers and into our tap water. Many of these chemicals cannot be removed from the drinking water supply, nor from the crops that are harvested from contaminated fields. The risks to human health are tremendous.*

Please contact Deborah (860.298.8782) to get involved in this educational and worthwhile effort.