



Summer's over and Timmy's gone back to school?

Walden Woods News

SEPTEMBER 2007

EDITOR'S NOTE TO READERS

Time, energy, health concerns and changing priorities seem to have all converged at once to force me to make a decision about the amount of time and effort I spend on the publication of this newsletter. At least on a temporary basis, therefore, the Walden Woods News will now be published on a bi-monthly basis. **There will be no October issue.** My reluctance to make this change after three years was lessened somewhat when the recently completed interest survey revealed that fewer than half of you apparently had any interest in receiving the newsletter. That, however, was not the deciding factor in my decision.

For those of you who do actually read the newsletter and are concerned about being made aware of important issues, please be assured that the Communication Committee will continue to distribute urgent or critical news to you via e-mail or hardcopy bulletins on a timely basis.

Thank you for your understanding. – Bob Ellis

P.S. If you are interested in assuming the responsibilities of publishing a newsletter, PLEASE let me know (688-5949).

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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),

GOD'S THOUGHTS ON LAWNS *(a discussion between God and St. Francis)*

GOD: Frank, you know all about nature. What in the world is going on down there on that planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: I think I'm getting a headache. Thank me for Excedrin



VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

The Village Council Board of Directors will be having their first meeting since June on Monday, **September 24th, 7PM** at the Meeting House. One of the items on their agenda will be a discussion on the development of a plan to present to the homeowners that will replenish the budget reserves while causing the least impact on individual homeowner budgets. **All Village Council homeowners are encouraged to attend.**

♥ A SPECIAL COUPLE ♥

"Men and women, women and men. It will never work." - Erica Jong



On September 4th, Don and Florence Henderson (Heather Way) celebrated their **70th** wedding anniversary!!!! **70** That's not a misprint. There are some celebrity marriages that don't last that many minutes. Our congratulations to the Hendersons and our admiration and envy for their level of commitment, tolerance, patience and love.

DUPLEX COUNCIL MEETINGS

If you live in one of the duplex homes in Country Walk, you are invited to attend the Duplex Council homeowner meetings normally held at Anna Marie Brown's home, 18 Scarlet Lane, at 7PM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Anna is the Council Director and serves as your representative on the Conservancy Board of Directors. She can be reached at 688-5258 or amb.wwet@gmail.com.

Barbara D'Amaddio and John Foley, 12 Scarlet Lane, will be hosting the next scheduled meeting on October 10th.

DOES THE TOWNHOME COUNCIL NEED A DIRECTOR?

There are now 19 homeowners in the Townhome Council. But no Director. Since the first townhome was occupied, there have been 14 Conservancy Board meetings held without a Townhome Council representative. The 2008 budget process will begin next month with no one to look out for the interests of the Townhome Council homeowners except the Property Manager.

If you're interested in serving your Townhome neighbors as a Council Director and would like further information, contact Deb Giampolo, 688-4699 or dgiampolo@hotmail.com.

PLAYING WITH WORDS

The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.

The butcher backed up into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.

The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

The thief who got caught after he fell into wet cement became a hardened criminal.

Thieves who steal corn from a garden could be charged with stalking.

If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.

A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.

A grenade that fell onto a kitchen floor in France resulted in Linoleum Blown Apart.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

Acupuncture is a jab well done.

Wishful Thinking - If you put a crouton on a sundae instead of a cherry, it counts as a salad.





Restaurant Review

By Desiree Hennessey

**Buffalo Wild Wings,
703 Poquonock Ave, Windsor,
688-9464.**

Editor's Note: From time to time, Desiree will be offering her critique of local restaurants in this newsletter. She knows of what she writes. She has been in the food service business much of her life, from managing a restaurant, to owning a catering business to, most recently, being the Marketing Director for a food service distribution company and a ServSafe Certified Food Sanitation Trainer.

Opening a week ahead of its scheduled Grand Opening, this eatery could possibly have benefited from spending an extra week training its servers and kitchen staff. We went there 5 days after it opened, later in the evening, and there was still a 90 minute wait to be seated. It was then some time before we were greeted by our waitress, who was very pleasant but obviously overwhelmed. Beers we ordered took 15 minutes to arrive and came with no glasses.

We ordered the boneless wings appetizer with three different sauces and although the menu description said "lightly breaded", it was a typical frozen over-breaded chicken tender. It was nice, however, to have a choice of sauces - they have 14 to choose from. The wings came very quickly, before our napkins and utensils, and before the table was fully cleaned... But, it was apparent why it came early - they were very dry, a sign of sitting in a warming oven for some time. Our sandwiches also came out quickly but again, very dry and luke warm, with the appearance of sitting in a holding oven.

If you are on your way home from work and want to meet co-workers for a quick beer or want to get together with some friends to watch a game, you'll probably enjoy all of the large flat screen TV's around the interior. However, if you are looking for something other than fried food, you may want to look elsewhere.

As I mentioned in earlier articles, I am not one for chain restaurants because there is a big difference between professionally trained culinary chefs and short order cooks. But, everyone deserves a second chance. So, when the next UCONN game is on or the Patriots are playing, we'll probably stop by again, have a beer and some wings and find out if our non-wild first impressions of Buffalo Wild Wings were wrong. You should too.

COMMITTEE NEEDS HELP

Walden Wood's Welcome Committee, currently under the leadership of Ruth Johnson, needs one or two volunteers from the Woodmoor and Village Councils to serve on the committee. Volunteers serve on two-person teams to welcome new homeowners in their own Councils and ensure they have all the information they need about Walden Woods to make them feel comfortable in their new surroundings. If interested, please contact Ruth at 688-5128 or ruth.s.johnson@comcast.net.

CLASSICS TEST

Below are the first sentences of seven classic books. Can you match each sentence with its famous book? (Answers are on page 4; no bragging if you peek)

1. In my younger and more vulnerable years, my father gave me some advice that I've been running over in my mind ever since.
2. To the red country and part of the gray country of Oklahoma, the last rains came gently, and they did not cut the scarred earth.
3. It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.
4. "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.
5. My father's family name being Pirrip and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing more explicit than Pip.
6. I first met Dean not long after my wife and I split up.
7. When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow.

Possible Answers: (a) Great Expectations (b) The Great Gatsby (c) Little Women (d) To Kill a Mockingbird (e) The Grapes of Wrath (f) 1984 (g) On the Road



DATES TO REMEMBER

ALL HOMEOWNERS ARE INVITED TO EACH EVENT

- Mon, Sept 24th @ 7:00PM** Village Council Board Meeting at the Meeting House
- Wed, Sept 26th @ 7:00PM** Conservancy Board Meeting at the Meeting House
- Wed, Oct 10th @ 7:00PM** Duplex Council Homeowner Meeting at Barbara D'Amaddio and John Foleys home, 12 Scarlet Lane
- Sat, Oct 13th 7:00-11:00PM** Wine Tasting Party at the Meeting House (*see flyer insert for more information*)

NEW NEIGHBORS

Welcome to:

Diana Martin, 40 Last Leaf Circle

Claudia Campbell, 201 Picket Lane

Hema & Himanshu Mehta, 427 Pond Bridge

CLASSICS TEST ANSWERS

1. (b) The Great Gatsby
2. (e) The Grapes of Wrath
3. (f) 1984
4. (c) Little Women
5. (a) Great Expectations
6. (g) On the Road
7. (d) To Kill a Mockingbird



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

editorial by Bob Ellis

It wasn't too long ago when there was a strict rule against signs being erected in Walden Woods. Now, it seems as though we have to rely on the bloody things to provide the instructions that people apparently need to know how to behave properly. Besides the signs for the hiking trails and the Country Walk promotional signs, there are 16 signs on Walden Meadow Road that provide driving (speed or direction) instructions. We've got other signs that say "NO SWIMMING, FISHING, ICE SKATING OR BOATING" in front of two ponds that are so contaminated only the dumbest of men would use them for anything more than skipping rocks. We've got several that say "FOR WALDEN WOODS USE ONLY" in front of locked tennis courts. There are two "ALL DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH, PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET" signs for people with no common sense and one "NO LOITERING; POLICE ENFORCED" sign for people with not only too much time on their hands but who think the swimming pool area is a great place for late night parties and littering.



Our latest "sign" doesn't provide literal instructions, but should be effective for behavioral control nonetheless. It's a post in the middle of either end of the pathway between the swimming pool parking lot and Mercer Lane. That should give a clue to drivers looking for a shortcut that the path is intended for pedestrian and bike traffic only.

Believe it or not, this editorial is not intended to be a request for our Board of Directors to reconsider their approval of so many signs (*if anything, they should have approved one more that said something like "DO NOT CUT DOWN TREES"*). Rather, it's just an observation that we are apparently becoming less able or willing to use the logical thought process we used to use to determine right from wrong. What's next? Do we need a sign that says "DO NOT THROW EGGS AT MEETING HOUSE"? Or "PLAYING TENNIS IN BASEBALL SPIKES IS NOT ALLOWED"? Or (my personal favorite) "DO NOT EAT PIZZA WHILE IN THE POOL"?