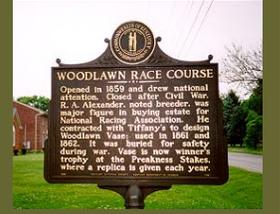


April 2012

WOODLAWN PARK NEWS



City of Woodlawn Park Bi-Annual Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BROWN!

Greetings to each of you! I hope each of you had a terrific winter and welcome to spring! It's hard to believe *that over 150 years ago we had a race track here called the Woodlawn Race Course*. Woodlawn Park is filled with lots of history and spring is a great time to share some of the history with our residents. **Check out the history pages in this newsletter!**

Recently, I asked the City Council to cancel a costly sign project and support purchasing and installing banner flag signs at each entrance of our city.

The previous administration had plans to spend nearly \$10,000 for 1st a signature entrance at Walser and then 2nd once the road was finished had plans for 2 City "Woodlawn Park" signs on Westport Road (one at Perryman and one at Ambridge). Initially, some grant monies were available for these signs due to the widening project; however, the previous administration spent \$22,500 of the \$25,000 grant in city signage at our intersections. After spending 6 months on this project, I asked the City Council at the February 2012 meeting to cancel the overall Westport Road sign project because of its cost to the city and the challenge of getting a permit issued from the State Highway Department. However, I did ask the City Council to support purchasing 12 flags (2 for each entrance) that would be attached to the utility poles. (The flags would be changed out every 6 months) Cost for this project will be approximately \$2,400 which we do have remaining in the grant for this current fiscal year budget. These flags will welcome and remind people they are in the City of Woodlawn Park along Westport Road. Our target date for flag installation is mid June 2012.

I would like to invite each of you to City Hall on Saturday, April 14th beginning at 9am for our **1st annual city volunteer work day!** The Garden Club is asking for volunteers to assist with weeding and mulching city hall, planting some boxwoods around the historical marker and a couple other miscellaneous items. All volunteers should be 14 years or older. The city will provide all the mulch and plantings. Coffee, juice and donuts will be there at 9am.

Don't forget to sign up for the **Annual Yard Sale** online that will be held on Saturday, May 19th!
Enjoy spring! ☺

Mayor Brown

Insurance Premium Tax Information

Ordinance Number 3, Series 1990-1991 imposed a License Fee upon Insurance Companies for the privilege of engaging in the business of insurance within the corporate limits of the City of Woodlawn Park. This includes homeowners, car insurance and first year premiums of life insurance. Thanks to the many Woodlawn Park residents who have responded by making their insurance company aware of the proper direction of the tax fee. We are doing our best to provide you with proper direction on this process. Please continue to help us solve this situation and help your city collect thousands of dollars that are still possibly being routed to St. Matthews or other municipalities in error. Your insurance rates WILL NOT change. This tax fee is already being paid as part of your bill. It is merely a matter of misdirection of these funds. You can simply call your insurance company or detach the cut-out below and attach to your next payment.

Please properly direct the Local Government Tax for this customer to the City of Woodlawn Park, KY. 40207.

Mail the city treasurer via G. Curran, 2527 Nelson Miller Parkway Suite 205/ Louisville, KY 40223-3161

City News/Updates

Fences and Building Permits – Doug Watson *

Certain home improvements require building permits. These improvements would include garages, additions or fences. To avoid problems or unnecessary expense be sure to have the permit when required. **The fence permits** are issued by Woodlawn Park, building permits are issued by Metro Louisville. However, while Metro Louisville controls the permits they are required to consult Woodlawn Park prior to issuing one. It may speed the issuance of a building permit if you call Doug Watson first before submitting it to Metro Louisville.

Emergency Preparedness/MSD – George

Langford * Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) has the responsibility of maintaining our drainage systems; however our cooperation is necessary to insure proper drainage. Please keep all pipes under your driveway free of debris, thereby assuring a free flow during rain storms. Your city officials are working close with MSD to continue to improve our drainage. Please continue your much appreciated efforts to keep our storm drains functioning as freely as possible.

City Hall- Becky Ritz * Please contact Becky Ritz if you have a need to schedule the City Hall front room for an event/meeting.

Block Watch Program- Fred Dugan * Due to the economic problems that are being experienced by many people, the possibility of home break-ins has increased. We have experienced this here in Woodlawn Park as well. It is important for you and your neighbors that Woodlawn Park has an effective Block Watch Program.

If you reside in one of the areas that are not represented, please consider volunteering. The captains meet only three or four times per year for about an hour each time. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Fred Dugan at fred.dugan@gmail.com or 895-2321.

Areas that still need representation are:

- 700 thru 816 Beechwood Road
- 4240 thru 4247 Middlebrook
- 800 thru 915 Perryman
- 4200 thru 4205 Schuway Ct
- 600 thru 707 Stivers Road

- 708 thru 816 Stivers Road
- 4248 thru 4322 Westport Terrace

Streets & Signs – Larry Lewis * The city spends a good deal of money making sure our signs look good in the City. Please do not deface them with permanent tape or markers. If you see a problem with a street or sign, please report it to Larry.

Code Enforcement – Bill Ritz * The Code enforcement meeting is held the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm in City Hall. Meetings are open to residents. If you are disputing a citation that was issued, please attend this meeting to state your case.

Police Chief- Robert Heaton *

Some Code Enforcement Reminders

House Numbers - Metro Louisville and Woodlawn Park require that all residents post their house numbers in an easy to read location. This can be life-saving when EMS, FIRE or POLICE is attempting to locate you. Please check your house to make sure the numbers are easily visible, readable from the street and not obscured by trees or shrubbery.

No Parking on Street- There is to be No Parking on the street unless your driveway is full or you are having service done to your home. All vehicles must be parked on a paved surface.

Pets- It is unlawful to allow pets to run at large within the city limits (away from the premises of its owner and not on a leash).

Newsletter & Directory – Clerk * The city directory will be published in July. If you have any changes to the directory including phone or email, please email Chana Elswick, City Clerk at catfan1960@insightbb.com.

Welcome Committee – Tom Nunn * WELCOME to the City of Woodlawn Park, one of the safest and most convenient locations in Metro Louisville. In the past six months, we have welcomed many new neighbors to our great city. If you are a new resident, or know of a new resident, please give me a call so that I can personally welcome them to Woodlawn Park with an information packet and a small gift. If you have any questions about Woodlawn Park, please call any of the council members.

Happenings from 2012...

By Mayor Mike Brown

Kinloch Road Access Gate *The Mayor and City Council terminated the temporary agreement that Woodlawn Park had with the Westport Road Church of Christ having temporary access to the Kinloch Road access gate on Sunday's from 11am until 1pm. Both the Church and the City have agreed only to use the gate during an unforeseen emergency only situation when Westport Road is obstructed or via MSD or fire dept. usage.*

City Hall Landscaping *The city hall landscaping, lights, flag pole and interior wall removal have all been completed. All but the wall were spent with Louisville Metro grant Monies.*

Westport Road Mowing *The Mayor and City Council have agreed to fund mowing our side of Westport Road from Perryman to I-264. We will mow for 6 months twice per month beginning in April or May.*

Email Distribution List and City Web Site *There are now 18 residents that have signed up to be part of the email distribution list for our city. You may still sign up by visiting the city website. We are using this list to make announcements about important city information and upcoming meetings. Please visit our web site to sign up www.woodlawnpark.com!*

MSD Project for Kinloch and Wingate *MSD will begin the bidding process in July 2012 to install drainage swales in the front drainage areas for Kinloch Road and Wingate Road. This project has been on the MSD radar for quite some time. Estimates are that the bidding will take place in July 2012 to begin work in August 2012. MSD says that weather permitting, it should take about 3 months to complete. Thank you for your patience as this project gets underway. Additionally, MSD will be looking into the area behind the homes on Wingate Road and Westport Terrace- to see if anything can be done in this budget fiscal year.*

City Phone Numbers

Woodlawn Park

City Hall 895-6620

Mayor

Mike Brown 643-3175

City Council Members

Greg Claypool 553-0519

George Langford 897-1915

Larry Lewis 749-9516

Tom Nunn 893-0810

Becky Ritz 893-7485

Doug Watson 894-9694

Code Enforcement Chair

Bill Ritz 893-7485

Police Chief

Bob Heaton 439-6545

House Watch # 574-5471

Treasurer

Gloria Curran 244-5043

City Clerk

Chana Elswick 899-9749

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency 911

LG&E 589-3500

Industrial Disposal 638-9000

Metro Louisville 574-5000 or 311

Ken Fleming 574-1107

Important Dates

Council Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at Woodlawn Park City Hall.

Code Enforcement Meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Woodlawn Park City Hall.

The city wide Yard Sale will be Saturday May 12th and is sponsored by "On the Move Realtors, Inc." Visit the city website to sign up!

Garden Club meetings can be found by visiting the website.

Residential Junk Day will be Thursday, May 19th

Trash pickup is every Monday, except holidays

Taxes due at Discount July 1 through August 1

*Written and
Compiled by John C.
Scheer 1977:*



Once our area thundered with the sounds of horses' hooves, crowds of people called their favorite horses on to victory. Our city of Woodlawn Park was the site of the world famous Woodlawn Race Course!

" The first Woodlawn races were held in the fall of 1859. The opening day of the spring meet, May 21, 1860, began as a beautiful day."

The earliest history of the area is rather vague. A Jefferson County land grants map shows the Woodlawn Park included in a grant to Col. William Christian, I.W. Blagg and William Bradley dated June 7, 1774; also, however, it has been said to have been given to a Col. Grey by the king of England. Col. Grey is said to have lost it by gambling.

The property later was purchased by several gentlemen, who started Woodlawn Race Course and the Woodlawn Association in 1858. They subscribed for a total of 50,000 in stock. The first Woodlawn races were held in the fall of 1859.

The opening day of the spring meet, May

21, 1860, began as a beautiful day. People eager to come filled the earliest trains, and the crowds filled Woodlawn. Many important ladies from both city and state attended. In fact, so many ladies attended that the stands set apart for them were overcrowded. Gallant male club members gave up half of their stands to accommodate the ladies. The track was in excellent condition. Later in the day a large storm appeared, but it didn't dampen the spirit of the enthusiastic crowd. Twenty-three thousand dollars was sold in pools and much had been wagered in private bets.

The element of suspense as to which horse was ahead was often present, because as the horses reached the half-mile post it was not long before they would disappear behind a grove of trees. The crowd would anxiously await a glimpse of their favorite. The races were run rain or shine.



In the spring meet's first day of races, the judge was James K. Duke, Esq. The horses in the last race were Bettie Ward, Lucy Fowler, Magenta, Belle Barandon, Dick Atkinson's Filly, and Buford's Filly. Time of the

race was 1:45 3/4. The winner was Magenta.

Many races were run in heats, some up to four miles at the finish.

Another day in the spring meet saw the running of the Galt House stakes.



There was a prize of \$3,000 and a magnificent piece of silver plate that was donated by Capt. Miller of the Galt House. Bettie Ward was the winner.

On the third day of racing the pool had \$25,000 staked. The track on May 27 drew a crowd of 5,000, 600 of whom were ladies.

At May 28, 1860, Louisville Daily Courier complemented Woodlawn and said the course deserved to be placed among the top ten courses in the world.

Descriptions of Woodlawn Race Course are sketchy. The clubhouse had thick brick walls, spacious rooms and fireplaces with finely wrought mantelpieces. It had a tin roof with a hatch, thought to be a lookout for Indians. The clubhouse appears on an 1858 map near where Ahland and Perryman roads are now.

Somewhere near Ahland Road were brick

stables and a wooden stable.

Another building believed to have been built as a part of the course's original layout used to be 169 Beechwood Road. It is said to have been either another clubhouse or the home of the track superintendent. It has thick walls covered with weatherboarding and has a tin roof.

Little is said about the track itself. One part was said to have been near where 169 Beechwood was... when one digs deep in that location now there is a thick layer of cinders. Gilbert B. Alberts believes a portion of the track curved through his property, at 4318 Westport Road. There is a small burying ground on the property for black jockeys who died in racing accidents.

In 1862 the Louisville Daily Courier announced that the spring meet at Woodlawn Race Course had been canceled because of bad management. Before the fall meet in 1862 "important alterations" were made in the arrangements of the saloons, and new arrangements also had been made to supply refreshments at the fall races, it was to be an epicure's delight.

After the fall meet in 1862 the Civil War began to affect Woodlawn Race Course. On Oct. 8,

1863, the Battle of Perryville took place. Wounded soldiers were taken to Louisville and New Albany.

The Woodlawn course was used as a mustering-out station for soldiers. Woodlawn races continued, however, reasonably uninterrupted for the war. The Louisville Daily Courier reported on Oct. 15, 1862, that trotting races would be held..."contests for the stakes will take place... there will be extra sport also, well worth the attention of the admirers of such sport."

After the Civil War, Woodlawn continued to draw big crowds. It was the site of fairs, political rallies and other events.

But shortly thereafter interests in horse racing began to wane temporarily in the Louisville area. Lack of interest made it difficult for tracks to continue to exist due to decreasing revenue. The Greenland Course closed in 1869, leaving Woodlawn the only course in the area. And although it was an excellent track, Woodlawn could not survive its worsening financial difficulty, and it, too, was forced to close, following the spring meet in 1870.

In 1847 the Louisville & Frankfort Railroad started construction between the two cities. The first train

was in operation on this line in 1851.

About 1858 a flag stop called Woodlawn Station was built on the line. *People who went to the races in 1859 and later at Woodlawn paid 50 cents to ride the nonstop train to the station. Others arrived at the racecourse in their carriages.* It was in 1869 that the Louisville & Frankfort Railroad became the Louisville, Cincinnati & Lexington Railroad. The Louisville & Nashville Railroad acquired the LC&L in 1881. Between 1882 and 1890 Woodlawn Station became Beechwood Station.

After Woodlawn Race Course was closed the station used for interurban runs to Louisville, provided tickets were bought in advance. It continued to operate until about 1935, when L&N ended all stops on this branch of the interurban.

The Louisville Daily Courier reported in 1860 that Col. R.A. Alexander ordered a "Challenge Vase" from Tiffany and Company in New York City for use by the Woodlawn Association. It cost \$1,000, which was quite extravagant for that time. The association felt that a worthy trophy would add to the interest and excitement of the races. The Woodlawn Vase had an estimate appraisal value of \$500,000 in April 1971.

Its craftsmanship is unequaled and the cost of replacing it today would be incomprehensible.

The huge, ornate trophy stands 34 inches high, is 15 inches in diameter and weighs 29 pounds, 12 ounces. There are meticulous engravings of Southern gentlemen near the top, four sculpture angels at the sides and three houses at the base. At the very top of the trophy there is a horse and rider. Near the base are two small signboards where the racing rules of the Woodlawn Association are etched in tiny detail. It is indeed a most magnificent trophy.

When the Civil War flared up in Kentucky the vase was buried- secretly. It came back into use before the century's end. Thomas Clyde won it in Brooklyn in 1904. He was a member of the Maryland Jockey Club-Pimlico. In 1917 the Woodlawn Vase became associated with Pimlico's.



Preakness, when Clyde offered it to Pimlico as a permanent trophy for the race. Since 1953 a smaller replica of the Woodlawn Vase has been awarded the winner of the Preakness (at the insistence of the insurance company). So we have to turn on our TV set to get a

glimpse of Woodlawn Park's former days of glory as a world famous racetrack. We can feel a real sense of pride when we see the latest winner of the Preakness awarded his or her trophy-Woodlawn Vase.

In 1858 Westport Road was a dirt road. It curved north into what is now Windy Hills, then over to Herr Lane. Between then and 1879 it was diverted to the path it generally follows today.

Apparently sometime after Woodlawn Race Course had closed a road was built to connect Woodlawn Station with Westport Road. It later would become Beechwood Road. After Beechwood Station was torn down, Beechwood Road shrank to its present size. Parts of Perryman Road and Westport Terrace were built about the same time as the station road.

After Woodlawn Race Course closed, a large portion of the site was purchased by Norbourne Arterburn. On this portion was the clubhouse, which in 1928 was purchased by Dr. Roy Moore, along with 13 acres, for a summer home. Moore sold it in 1946, and the clubhouse became a home for boys, called Kentucky Boys estate. Sometime during this period, the wooden stable was torn down.

After 1954, the Woodlawn area began to

change from farmland to a suburban community. The first new street was Larry Avenue, later included as a part of Westport Terrace.

Later Kentucky Boys Estate was razed, together with the remains of the brick stables, for the construction of Woodlawn Park in the early 1950's. The racecourse that was left later became the home of Robert Gudgel family, now the home of the Rev. C. Gerald Summerfield and his family. It survives as 169 Beechwood Road.

After Woodlawn Park's construction began the area necessarily expanded. In 1954 Woodlawn Park was incorporated as a sixth-class city. By the early 1960's most of the homes were constructed. In 1966 Woodlawn Park became a fifth-class city... with a mayor and a city council. Due to the untiring efforts of Wells Myers, Woodlawn Park was placed on the register of Historic Places in 1986. The Schuwey Family donated the site and the State placed the Historic Marker at the intersection of Perryman and Westport Roads in Sept. 1986.

Woodlawn Park
4327 Wingate Road
Louisville, KY 40207

Phone:
502-895-6220

Fax:
888-508-0671

E-Mail:
mayor@woodlawnpark.com

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.woodlawnpark.com

About your city government

Mayor & City Council

Your city government is comprised of a mayor and six city council members. Your mayor is elected every four years (November 2014) and your council is elected every two years (November 2012). Your city has a Code Enforcement Board and an Ethics Committee.

Our objective and purpose is:

- To encourage all residents and businesses within the area to maintain and improve the condition and appearance of their property.
- To create and expand civic pride and foster a sense of community cooperation throughout the city.
- To improve the safety and well being of all persons within our city by providing education on crime prevention, zoning and traffic enforcement, and environmental concerns.
- To work with other city, local, and governmental groups to solve common problems and to maintain and upgrade the quality of life for all residents of the Woodlawn Park Area.

It's a good time to live in Woodlawn Park and we wish you a refreshing spring and sunny summer.

Woodlawn Park City Hall
4327 Wingate Road
Louisville, KY 40207