

**Interested in joining the
Westwood Walpole-League of
Women Voters?**

Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.lwwestwoodwalpole.org/>

To find out more!



Updated August 2008

WELCOME TO



WESTWOOD, MA

WESTWOOD

GUIDE FOR NEW RESIDENTS

Welcome

The Westwood-Walpole League of Women Voters would like to welcome you to Westwood. To help you out, we'd like to give you some information to make finding your way around town a little easier.

In this guide we'll give you voter information, as well as contact information for key town resources. For more information about the League or for more voter information, please visit us on the web at:

www.lwwestwoodwalpole.org/.

Town Officials



The Town of Westwood is governed by the Board of Selectmen, which is made up of three members who are elected for three-year overlapping terms.

Westwood adopted a Home Rule Charter, which provides for the Selectmen, Open Town

How is my property assessed?

Real estate is assessed by using three different approaches to value, the cost, market, and income approaches. Most residential properties are assessed by comparing the cost and market approaches to value. The town's computer appraisal system is based on the cost approach, which means the cost to construct new minus depreciation. These figures are then used to compare the sale prices every year. The ratio between the assessed value and the sale price must be between 90% and 110%. Most real estate in Norfolk County is generally around 95% of market value. The income and market approach is used to value most commercial properties.

How can I apply for real estate abatement?

An abatement should be filed if you dispute the value of your property. An abatement must be filed on a form you obtain from the Assessor's office. This form must be postmarked within 30 days from the filing of the actual tax bill. This form will generally be due by February 1 of every year.

How can I apply for an excise abatement?

The best way to obtain an abatement on your excise tax bill is to call the Assessors' Office. Once they know why you are requesting an abatement, they can inform you what they will require as proof to abate this tax.

What materials can I recycle?

Newspapers and supplements, magazines, corrugated cardboard; clear, green and brown bottles and jars; deposit and non-deposit beverage cans, metal food cans; all plastic labeled #1 and #2, soda bottles, milk jugs, detergent bottles. For more information call 781-326-8661, ext. 6.

Where can I apply for a passport?

Town Clerk's office, Town Hall has applications and is a registered passport agent. The U.S. Passport Office web site is at http://travel.state.gov/passport_services.html

Where can I get a copy of my deed?

Visit the Norfolk Registry of Deeds, 649 High Street, Dedham. Phone 781-461-6122, Land Court 781-461-6120.

When is the last day of school, first day of school, half Wednesdays?

All residents of Westwood are mailed a School Calendar with this information. You may pick up an extra school calendar at the School Administration Building.

What preschools are available?

The Early Childhood Resource Directory is available at the Library in the Children's department and at Central Office. This information also includes information for town surrounding Westwood as well as Day Care providers. The Early Childhood Office telephone number is 781-461-9548

Is there any other way that I can reduce my real estate tax bill?

There are various exemptions that are available if you meet certain requirements. Contact the Assessor's office for more information.

What time do my children get released from school and what are the regular school hours?

Check the School Calendar to confirm these times: Elementary 8:45A-3:05P (early release 12:35P); Kindergarten 8:45A-11:50P (starting October 1 8:45A-1:45P) (early release 12:35P); Middle School 8:00A-2:35P (early release 1:30P); High School 7:35A-2:10P (early release 1:00P).

Meeting, and Executive Secretary form of government. An Organizational Chart and Elected and Appointed Individuals can be found at:

www.townhall.westwood.ma.us

Selectmen

Patrick J. Ahern

Nancy C. Hyde

Philip N. Shapiro

Town Administrator/Executive Secretary

Michael Jaillet, Town Administrator

Email: mjaillet@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Finance Commission

Sheila Nee, Finance Commission Administrator

Email: snee@townhall.westwood.ma.us

School Committee

Email: schoolcommittee@westwood.k12.ma.us

Planning Board

Nora Loughnane, Town Planner

Email: nloughnane@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Key Contact Information

Police and Fire Emergency—911

Police General Business—781-320-1000

Fire General Business—781-326-3885

Council on Aging—781-329-8799
60 Nahatan Street

Animal Control—781-320-1000
590 High Street

Zoning Board of Appeals—781-251-2598
50 Carby Street

Board of Assessors—781-326-1904
580 High Street

Building Dept.—781-320-1091
50 Carby Street

Town Clerk—781-326-3964
580 High Street

Town Collector—781-320-1014
580 High Street 02090

Dedham Westwood Water District—781-329-7090
50 Elm Street

Department of Public Works—781-326-8661
50 Carby Street

Finance Commission—781-320-1029
580 High Street

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I vote absentee?

Pick up your absentee ballot at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, or by calling: 781.326.3964. Ballots must be picked up 5 days prior to the election and received by the town clerk no later than noon on Election Day. The town clerk may receive ballots after the Election Day only if they are postmarked prior to the election date.

When are the polls open on voting days?

Polls open at 7:00A and close at 8:00P. The annual Town election is always held on the last Tuesday in April. Town Meetings start on the first Monday of May. State Elections are held on Tuesdays.

Should I keep my son or daughter on the census if they are away at college?

Yes, unless they register to vote in the college community, at which time they cease to be a Westwood resident.

How do I dispose of my leaves?

Leaves may be dropped off for a fee to: P.J. Hayes, 400 South Street, Walpole, MA or by calling: 508-668-9710 for Westwood residents with proof of residency. During the fall, leaves will be picked up on the curbside in clearly marked containers or brown leaf bags on your normal trash day. For specifics, go to the department of Publics Works (DPW) website at: www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/index.cfm?pid=10160.

Is the rubbish collection going to be a day late because of the holiday?

Whenever a scheduled collection day falls on a holiday, that day's collection and all remaining collections for the week will be delayed one day. Friday's collection will be on Saturday. Observed holidays are Memorial Day, Fourth of July (Independence Day), Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving. Refer to your recycling calendar. Saturday collections are highlighted and holidays are circled.

What will the disposal company pick up on rubbish day?

Regular household trash, **NO** building materials. For white goods pickup see DPW web page for information.

Voting Information

To register to vote, visit the Westwood Town Clerk's office, located on the first floor at the Westwood Town Hall.

For more information about voter information, Elections/Town Meetings, Census, Business Certificates Contact the Westwood Town Clerk's Office at: 781-326-3964 or 781-320-1013 or send an email to: townclerk@townhall.westwood.ma.us

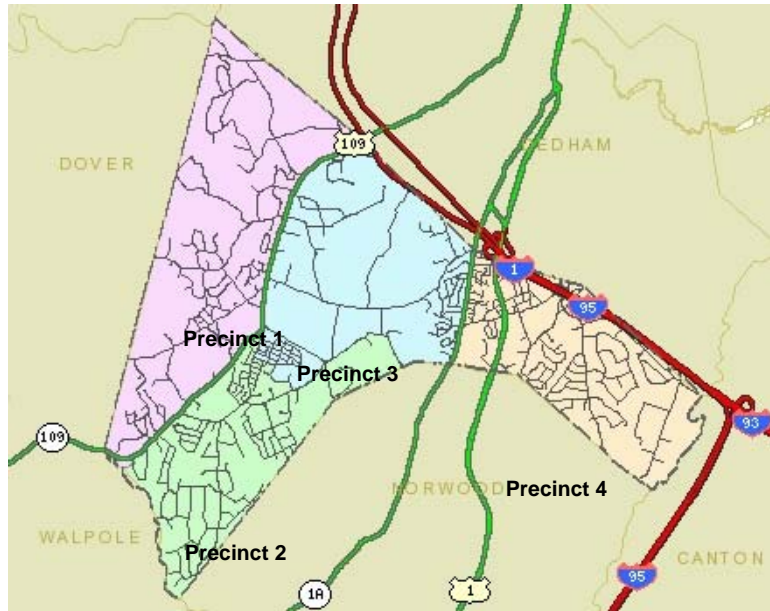
Voting Places

Precinct 1: Westwood Senior Center, Nahatan Street

Precinct 2: William E. Sheehan School, 549 Pond Street

Precinct 3: Paul R. Hanlon School, 790 Gay Street

Precinct 4: Downey School, 250 Downey Street



Board of Health—781-320-1027
50 Carby Street

Finance Commission—781-320-1029
580 High Street

Board of Health—781-320-1027
50 Carby Street

Housing Authority—781-320-1031
580 High Street

Library (Main)—781-326-7562
668 High Street

Library (Islington Branch)—781-326-5914
270 Washington Street

Town Planning—781-251-2581
50 Carby Street

Public Health Nurse—781-251-2576
60 Nahatan Street

Recreation Department—781-461-0070
50A Carby Street,

School Department—781-326-7500
220 Nahatan Street

Board of Selectmen—781-326-4172
580 High Street

Veterans—781-320-1008
580 High Street

Youth and Family Services —781-320-1006
288 Washington Street (Islington Community Center)



Key Representatives

U.S. Senators

Edward M. Kennedy

Website: <http://kennedy.senate.gov/>

John Kerry

Website: www.kerry.senate.gov

U.S. Representative

Stephen F. Lynch (9th District)

Tel: 617.428.2000

Fax: 617.428.2011

Tel: 202.225.8272

Fax: 202.225.3984

Email: Stephen.Lynch@mail.house.gov

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/member/sf10.htm>

MA Government

Governor

Deval Patrick

Tel: 617.725.4005

Fax: 617.727.9725

Web Site: www.mass.gov

State Senator

Marian Walsh

Tel: 617.722.1348

Email: marian.walsh@state.ma.us

Web Site: http://www.mass.gov/legis/member/m_w0.htm

State Representative

Paul McMurtry

Tel: 617.722.2320

Email: paul.mcmurtry@hou.state.ma.us

http://www.mass.gov/legis/member/p_ml.htm

MA State House Web sites

www.mass.gov

www.state.ma.us/statehouse/