

President's Column for November 2004 *WestWords*

Just a few quick things this month because I don't want to mess up Barry's deadlines any more than I have already:

Town Hall Grounds

First, I hope everyone has had a chance to drive by the Town Hall grounds to see the great job done on Make A Difference Day, October 23. It looks great, and my spies have told me that Peg Rhein and her crew were out there in the rain. Now that's dedication! Thanks to all the volunteers who participated. I hope that we can get a full list of volunteers for either this issue or the next.

City Council Members' Visit

Second, we were privileged to have not one, but TWO City Council Members attend our October meeting. David Crowley and John Cranley were there to discuss their votes on the police hiring question, and they also talked about the city's budget crunch. The discussion was much more freewheeling than is possible at a council meeting, and I felt that everyone who wished to speak had a chance to be heard.

We often complain about the council members who show up at election time (assuming they can find Westwood), then are not heard from for the next two years. (I don't have to use their names – you know who I mean.) Mr. Crowley and Mr. Cranley are not that type. They're available and listening both when the message is pleasant and when it gets a little rough. I, for one, appreciate being treated like an adult, and I'm glad they came to see us. It is a pleasure to talk with some of the more perceptive, thoughtful, and even-handed members of council when possible, rather than just hearing sound bites on the news.

WCA Election Time: Help Needed

Third, it's almost time for WCA director and officer elections. We're going to be looking for candidates for the board who are willing to step up and do some work on behalf of the community. Volunteering is ultimately a lot more satisfying than complaining, and I hope that each person reading this will seriously consider what he or she can do to make Westwood a little better than it is now. Please consider giving some of your time and talent to your community. It's just not fair to keep expecting the same small group of dedicated volunteers to do the work for everyone else. Give it some thought, and call me or another BOD member if you're willing to help.

That's it – it's short, it's quick, and it's late! I hope to see you on November 16 at Westwood United Methodist Church.

– Mike Brestel