

# Westwood

Lexington Hills

Winter 2023 Newsletter

## Check out the website!

We were successful in getting the new website up and running in November and it's a great location to check for information regarding the rules and regulations for the neighborhood. You can also find news, photos and the latest happenings that will affect the neighborhood. There are email addresses if you need to get in touch with a board member and the ACC form you can download to submit to the ACC committee if you are making some changes to your home or property. Please check it out and bookmark it for future reference.

<https://lhawestwood.com>

## Doo-Doo the Right Thing

PLEASE as pet owners, do the right thing and pick up your pets "doo-doo!" Be respectful of your neighbors' property, our park, the streets, and the environment. **Scoop** the poop! Dog waste is harmful, stinky and unsightly. Most pet owners are responsible and pick it up, but there are offenders who don't. The disgusting practice has increased in recent years. As noted by <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/1817/-Pet-Waste>: "Pet waste is a health risk to people, especially children. It is full of bacteria that can make people sick. Some of these organisms can survive in the soil for years. Children who play in the yard and adults who garden are most at risk of infection. Pet waste contains roundworms, E.coli, giardia and many other microorganisms that can be transmitted to people. Landfills are designed to handle pet waste safely. Yards, trails, streets, parks, toilets, and compost piles are not. "If it's washed through storm drains and into a lake, stream or Puget Sound, the bacteria can end up in fish and shellfish. People who eat contaminated shellfish or drink the water can get very sick."

## CHECK YOUR MAIL DAILY

Just a reminder that you should check your mail EVERY day. Unfortunately, mail theft has been a problem and will continue to be. The boxes are not 100% theft proof and there really isn't much we can do about it other than be vigilant and get your mail daily so that there isn't anything for the thieves to get when they think it's a good idea to break into them. Let's leave them empty so they don't get a thing!

## Insights on Community Safety

There are several ways we can be vigilant neighbors to keep our neighborhood safe. We can all take preventative measures to protect our homes and neighborhood. The following tips are from [Safehome.org](http://Safehome.org).

Get to know your neighbors Communicating with neighbors can go a long way. Let neighbors know if you have packages that you would like to have picked up off your porch. Inform a neighbor that you will be away for a few days if there's a vacation coming up. Of course, it goes the other way, too. If neighbors need help, you can be there for them and report any suspicious behavior around their home if you see it.

Smart Lights Use smart lights and other devices to create the impression you are home. Outdoor lighting is also recommended to keep walk ways, side and backyards well lit. Ring doorbell cameras are an added security measure. Make use of timers connected to lights which are set to go on and off at specific times.

Keep Vacation Dates Off Social Media Social media is a calling card for neighborhood intruders.

Keep Your Yard Well Maintained A well maintained neighborhood indicates involved community members.

Never Leave Anything Out in Plain Sight Inside Your Car This includes garage door openers and personal possessions. To be extra safe, lock your car's glove compartment and trunk.

Start A Neighborhood Block Watch At the annual HOA general meeting which will be held in the spring a discussion around initiating a Neighborhood Block Watch will be on the agenda. What are your opinions regarding a Neighborhood Block Watch program for Westwood?

Thank you for taking the time to read through these suggestions.

## Westwood HOA Officers

Co-President — Deanna Mitchel  
 Co-President — Terri Beloit  
 Treasurer — Mike Mitchel  
 Secretary — Laura Shellito  
 ACC Chairman — Chris Cutler

## 2023 Homeowner Dues

You should have received your homeowner dues statements by now through the mail. If you didn't get one, reach out to the treasurer or president and we'll get one to you. Dues are due by March 1st, so please get them mailed before then to avoid a fine. Our expenses have increased significantly in recent years. We have seen a big jump in our monthly maintenance costs, we replaced the swing set and we just replaced a light pole. In the near future, we will have fence repairs to make and we would like to make further improvements to the park, which is something most residents favored when we did our survey last year. Consequently, we will be raising dues 15% for the second straight year, to \$224.50, an increase of \$29. Our dues are still low compared to most other HOAs.

## Drive Slowly

While it's been said before, PLEASE remember that you need to slow down when driving through the neighborhood. There are kids playing or riding bikes, scooters, etc, people walking, occasional run away pets or toddlers and with cars parked on the side of the road, it's hard to see just what might be ahead. Let's all be safe and slow down!!

## Swings are UP!

In early December, the new swings were finally installed. While the wait was much longer than we anticipated, we are thrilled with the structure and excited the kids will have this to use for years to come! ENJOY!

## Start thinking about springtime!

While it's still winter, it's time to start thinking about maintenance around your property and home once the weather improves. If you received a violation notice last fall and haven't been able to address the issue, please make plans to do so as soon as the weather permits. Also, be aware that the ACC will be walking through in the next couple of months, so if there is something you know that needs attention on your property, please take care of it. If it's something that will take some time, reach out to the ACC ([acclhawestwood@gmail.com](mailto:acclhawestwood@gmail.com)) and let them know your plans for the issue and avoid a violation notice. Here are some things to think about pertaining to possible violations:

### General maintenance:

1. House paint chipped or peeling
2. Roofs (check for moss)
3. Vegetation in gutters
4. Fence in poor condition

### Repair or replacement needed:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Siding       | 2. Trim  |
| 3. Shutters     | 4. Chimney                                     |
| 5. Garage doors | 6. Windows                                     |
| 7. Screens      | 8. Porch, deck, patio (if visible from street) |

### Landscaping:

1. Grass
2. Trees, plants, shrubs, ground cover unkempt appearing
3. Weeds more than 4 inches tall
4. Tree/shrub canopy hanging over and blocking views on corners
5. Debris/overgrown plants, weeds or grass on driveway

### Improper storage of:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. Lawnmower | 2. Barbecue equipment                        |
| 3. Firewood  | 4. Building/construction tools and materials |

### Not screened from view:

1. Boat, camper, utility trailer, motorhome
2. Vehicles in state of disrepair
3. Garbage, Recycling, Yard Waste containers (as soon after pick up as possible)

## FEBRUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Yard Waste					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Recycling					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Happy President Day Yard Waste					
26	27	28				
	Recycling					

## MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Yard Waste					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Recycling				St. Patrick's Day	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Just a SPRING Yard Waste					
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Recycling					