

**Lakewood Neighborhood Association  
VFW Hall - Washington Street  
Monday, February 26, 2007**

**Mary Johnston**, President, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

**Guest Speakers**

**Sue Weeden and Henry Lillie**

Minimum Housing, Code Enforcement and Zoning

Various questions were asked regarding home based & internet businesses, unregistered cars, boats, etc.

Home based businesses fall under zoning. They are allowed to have 1 non-residential employee, which will take care of parking issues. Not more than 20% of the house or 300 square feet (whichever is less) may be occupied by the business.

Home based daycares are a state issue. Residents need to contact the Department of Health - DCYF - with questions and/or concerns.

Unregistered cars? All vehicles must be operable, have a current registration and inspection (unless antique). This ordinance is being tightened up on.

Boats? Size is not restricted. Boat needs a current DEM sticker.

For all vehicles - cannot be over 10,000 pounds (i.e. 18-wheelers, back-hoe). Anything over the limit needs to be housed in a commercial area.

Problems with RIPTA bus stops should be reported directly to RIPTA. RIPTA has been known to rectify issues.

Some examples of the types of violations dealt with in this department are:

- debris

- unregistered vehicles
- peeling paint
- broken steps
- cesspool
- unkempt yards

Feel free to call with any & all complaints as Minimum Housing is complaint driven. Every complaint is checked out, with most being true. The resident will receive a letter, followed by a compliance order and finally resulting in court. Court is held every Thursday night regarding such issues.

**Sue Weeden** and **Henry Lillie** can both be reached at 738-2000. Sue's extension is 6313; Henry's extension is 6302.

### **Community Report Officer Bob Chile**

**Officer Chile** read the police activity within the past month.

**Officer Chile** also reminded members to take digital photographs of valuables (jewelry, stereos, etc.) and write down serial numbers. Some lights should also be left on in & outside when no one is home, as this deters crime.

### **Friends of the Neighborhood**

**Everyday Gourmet - Melinda Darby, owner**  
701 Warwick Avenue

The **Everyday Gourmet** is a new business that is focusing on home made food items. Items offered are perfect for those days when you don't want to spend time in the kitchen. The owner brought some delicious food items to our meeting for all to sample.

### **Planet Fitness**

**Planet Fitness** is a new gym that strives to have a "Judgment Free Zone" and will be opening some time in May. It is located next to Waldorf Tuxedo on the corner of Miantonomo Drive and Warwick Avenue. There are no

contracts and the cost is only \$10 per month for the basic membership. The normal start up fee of \$55 will be waived to \$20 if members tell them they are part of the Lakewood Neighborhood Association. If you sign up now, you will be locked into the \$10/month rate.

### **Councilmen's Corner**

#### **Councilman Bruce Place**

Upcoming Council meetings will address budget "stuff." The next meeting will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Council Chambers at City Hall.

**Councilman Place** discussed the progress of the re-evaluation process. The tax department has held a meeting. New valuations will be out by mid-March. In general, values are up about 30%. If a resident disagrees, the 1<sup>st</sup> course of action is to call the company and set up an interview. If the concerns are not resolved, the 2<sup>nd</sup> course of action is to go to the Tax Board of Appeal.

#### **Councilman Bob Cushman**

Council meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00pm. (Wednesday, if Monday was a holiday.) If a resident would like to bring something to the Council, they are going to begin a 3 month trial for this purpose. 15 minutes will be allotted to 5 people, with each receiving 3 minutes to speak before the Council.

**Councilman Cushman** would also like the Council to begin looking at ways for the city to become more cost efficient. If the city was able to combine resources, say on technology with the school department, the city may be able to save quite a sum of money.

### **Webmaster's Report**

#### **Larry Brown**

**Larry Brown** talked about the website. He has been receiving numerous compliments about the site. It is our hope to also have the minutes posted on the site.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. We will have a guest speaker to discuss lead removal grants.

**Mary Johnston**, President, adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm