



the Village of Westover

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2008

www.villageofwestover.org

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Important Dates

April 23rd
Administrative Assis-
tants Day

May 10
Westover Clean-up
Day

May 11
Mothers Day

May 26
Memorial Day

June 4th
Westover Board
Meeting

Westover Clean-Up Day Party...

And you are invited and best of all it is free!!! May 10th at 9:00 am for one hour only (we promise) we will be cleaning up the Common areas of Westover. This is really a fun event with light raking, trimming, spreading tan bark and having coffee, hot chocolate and goey doughnuts with neighbors.

Kids have a fun time too and this year we will play "pick up sticks". There are plenty of sticks to go around so no child comes away empty handed. The kid's part is a great way to expose them to community service and at the same time have fun.

All you need to do is show up with rakes, hedge trimmers and gloves on May 10th at 9:00 am for one hour. You can email Joe Farrell at jfarrell@farrell-assoc.com to let him know you are coming.



2007 Spring Clean Up Day, a family affair!

Westover Annual Garage Sale April 25 and 26

As the saying goes, "One man's trash is another man's treasure!!" It's Westover's Annual Garage Sale!! For all of you who have participated in the past, you know that this

Garage Sale brings lots of potential buyers from around Mechanicsburg, too.

Thanks to the co-ordination and sponsorship by the Westover Women's Club, we will once again have a community garage sale. The other neighborhoods surrounding us are co-coordinating with us to bring in maximum exposure to your "stuff."

The event will take place in your garage or driveway on Friday April 25th and Saturday April 26th. Garage sale times are suggested from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Friday because of the bus schedule and 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday. There is no cost to participate in Westover's Garage Sale.



Dear Westover Willie



**Hampden
Township Police**
Sergeant Shissler



Dear Willie,

I see some dog poop around. Can you help?

A. Nope but I can ask that all homeowners clean up after their pets; besides it is the law! I fly pretty high and if I see someone not cleaning up, well I have a direct line to Sergeant Shissler and he will have someone "Johnny on the spot."

Dear Willie,

I see some folks continuing to drive fast and actually go through stop signs. Any advice?

A. It is amazing that when one is driving 30 mph in our 20 mph neighborhood, it does not seem fast to the driver. To the homeowner or child on the sidewalk, it appears that they are zooming past. I can only ask that they slow down, please! You see, a Great Horned Owl can fly up to 50 mph but I am just a "regular" owl and hence a tad slower. But here in Westover, my gosh, I only fly 20 mph, honest. If you haven't noticed yet, a speed checker has already been placed on Westover Drive because of all the complaints about speeders! One way or another, they will be caught eventually!

Dear Willie,

What is it with the multi colored painted lines all over the neighborhood? And, lots of trucks, orange cones, and men scurrying around.

A. My fair-weather birdie friends who have been watching this activity closely tell me Verizon is putting in fiber optic cable so they will be able to provide enhanced services. All the different colored paint means special things like blue is for the water lines (good for me to know if there is a drought), white means proposed excavation, pink means temporary survey markings, red means electric lines or cable, yellow means gas or oil or steam, orange means communication or alarm or signal lines, and green means sewers and drain lines. Whew! Just so you don't think I'm clueless about these things, my sharp beak pecked in www.PA1call.org and lo and behold, under FAQs, there is a list of all the paint colors!

Sergeant Shissler informs us that Operation Smooth Operator is in full force in Hampden Township. This program is designed to target and deter aggressive driving. While it is focused in and around the Carlisle Pike it can have a positive effect on us. Last year



the Hampden Police department made 287 traffic stops resulting in 187 speeding citations. Steve asks all of us to use caution and slow down within Westover

particularly with spring arriving. Many of the kids will be getting outside and we know that they are not always paying attention to traffic.

Mike Erno, Hampden Township Rec Director

Mike Erno, the Hampden Township Parks and Recreation Department Director, made a presentation to the Westover Civic Association Board of Directors at the quarterly board meeting on April 2, 2008.

Mike informed us of the programs and plans for the Recreation Department for 2008. Did you know that the Rec and Parks Department has 10 full time employees and 100 seasonal staff? The Rec and Parks Department has responsibility for the maintenance for all of the Township Parks including mowing, paving and upkeep.



The Township Pool at Sporting Hill has 550,000 gallons of water, a 112' waterslide, spray ground and a tot pool. The pool is self sustaining with no tax money used for this facility. There are 30 ongoing programs that the township administers along with numerous bus trips throughout the year.

The Rec Department has six (6) pavilions available for rent for your party or event. As a resident the cost is \$50.00 and a game kit is available for an additional \$5.00. There is also the indoor Community Room which has a kitchen, A/C and is available for your use. You can reserve these facilities by going to www.hampdentownship.us and clicking on the Recreation Department link.

Update on Electrical Panels

Since our last newsletter there has been quite a bit of activity by homeowners on the replacement of electrical panels, so we wanted to bring you up to date. These panels only affect the original section of Westover and if you are unsure if your panel is affected you can either look at it for the names below or call an electrical contractor.

As a way of background, we are reprinting (with permission) a brief summary from the Bob Villa (of This Old House fame) website on the panels:

"Regarding the Zinsco electrical panels, I offer the following comments:

- *Originally made in Puerto Rico and installed in the 1960's and 1970's throughout the USA market. Lots of these are in both single family homes and multi family apartments and condos.*
- *Zinsco sold their manufacturing plants to Sylvania who then marketed them under the Sylvania brand until finally closing down.*
- **MAJOR PROBLEMS:** *We have found the breakers do not trip under normal over-load conditions. We have pumped up to 60 Amps into a 15 Amp*



breaker before it will trip. FIRE HAZARD! We have found the buss bars are made of aluminum material and corrode quite easily. I have equated it to perhaps different levels of quality in the aluminum they used. When these buss bars corrode they can present a real hazard and we have experienced the panels going in a "Melt Down" condition. MAJOR HAZARD!!

- **CONCLUSIONS:** *Replace any Zinsco or Sylvania brand panels. They are a hazard."*

Westover's Kings Arms has secured estimates for replacement and many of the homeowners are in the process of having them replaced now. The cost is between \$700 and \$1,000 per panel. Numerous single family home owners have had the panels replaced for a cost between \$700 and \$1,400. The variance in prices is due to the quality of the replacement panels and optionally installing external ground rods (and other grounding upgrades) to bring up to current code compliance (which is optional).

Dick Kunkle, a long time Westover resident, sent this note to us:

Comments: Accolades to the newsletter and to Ms. Audrey Newell on her

going public regarding the problem with her electric panel. I along with at least one other person took it as a wakeup call and had ours redone by the same electrician who did hers and he certainly was the most reasonable. You can call Dick at 766-5537 for information if you would like.

It takes about a day for the panel to be replaced and you will be without electricity. Some electrical contractors will install a small portable generator to keep essential services going with extension cords, but be prepared to be without service for a day.



A contractor replacing a panel.

Pesky Black Fly Spraying

The PA Department of Environmental Protection will be spraying for black flies in the spring. The areas to be sprayed are the Conodoquient Creek, Susquehanna River and the Yellow Breeches in our area. Some facts about the spraying:

- Spraying to control black flies will not be done when it is heavily raining or if river and stream levels are elevated from previous precipitation.

- DEP uses Bti, a naturally occurring bacterium, to target four specific black fly species. This bacterium degrades quickly in the environment and does not harm the aquatic ecosystem, birds or other insects. Spraying is done by helicopter during daylight hours.
- DEP will notify county and local emergency management officials prior to spraying so they can be sure the helicopters seen flying over creeks,

streams and rivers are doing so on behalf of the state's black fly program. Spraying typically begins between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and continues until all waterways are completed, or until dark.



Free Tan Bark Mulch Available

Hampden Township is providing free tan bark mulch and leaf compost. A group from Westover made an "inspection" of both products and we attest that it is very high quality. The leaf compost is very similar to peat moss. You can pick up or have it delivered. Here is a bit about the process from the Hampden Township Website:

New in 2008, Hampden Township residents will have the option to have tan bark or leaf compost delivered to their residential property located within the township. The cost for delivery is \$30.00 for 3 cubic yards or \$50.00 for 8 cubic yards while supplies last. A Release/Agreement Form must be completed and payment made at the Hampden Township Municipal Building by Visa, Mastercard or check payable to Hampden Township. The product will be delivered as soon as possible but within three working days after receipt by the township of the Release and Agreement Form and payment of the delivery cost.



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Kensington Square 25th Anniversary!

This year the Kensington Square Condo Association celebrates 25 years of incorporation. They have one of the most beautiful landscapes within Westover and the Gazebo is a work of art.

This private Condo Association will be holding numerous events to celebrate their 25 years. The first was a brunch at the West Shore Country held on April 6 with another to follow in June, October and December. They are planning additional special events.



Congratulations to Kensington Square on your 25th anniversary.

Notes from the April 2, 2008 Westover Civic Assoc Board Meeting

The Westover Civic Association meets quarterly at the Hampden Township community room off Sporting Hill Road at 7:00 pm for approximately 1.5 hours to review and plan community events. Our most recent board meeting on April 2nd had Mike Erno presenting the Recreation Department plans for 2008. Below are some of the items discussed.

- A request was made to the township for a stop sign at the intersection of Westover and Crogan's Lane and one at Crogan's and White Hill.
- A request was made to the police department to have the Speed Checker machine placed within the community. Other items discussed are included in this newsletter.
- Patty Bucek, chair of the Membership Directory Committee, in-

formed us that she has moved the directory to an Access database which will make updates much easier going forward.

- Dave Baboian, Treasurer, reported that the financial health of Westover is good, however he encourages all residents to pay the voluntary dues.

Each board meeting we try to have a guest speaker, and currently we are trying to get the Pennsylvania American Water Company to speak about the state of water supply. We are also looking to have a speaker discuss zoning and

development in Hampden Township and how it may affect us. Homeowners are welcome to all board meetings; which are interesting and short and to the point.



Summer in the Park is coming!!



Dave Baboian, chairman of the Summer in the Park Program, reports that they are starting to work on the two programs for this summer. If you have any ideas or suggestions,

please post them on the Village of Westover website and stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. This event was attended by many Westover residents including lots of children who enjoyed the magic acts. Go to www.villageofwestover.org to give your input.

Westover Dues Collection

We remind all residents that your financial support pays for the programs within Westover and that we need your help. The dues are voluntary and are only \$30.00 per year. This is a tremendous value for the services provided such as holiday decorations, Summer in the Park, mowing, fertilization, walking paths, Kids Alive Safety Program, Directory of Residents. Newsletters and the work of the safety committee to help keep our streets safe.

Please get your check ready, payable to Westover Civic Association and give to your Zone Director (see left hand column on front page). Please help keep The Village of Westover one of the premier communities in the Harrisburg area and support the Civic Association.

We thank you for your continued support!



Westover Easter Egg Hunt

On the morning of March 22, while it looked more as if we could expect a visit from Santa's sleigh than the



Easter Bunny, the Westover Women's Association hosted their annual Easter Egg Hunt. Even with snow flurries in the air, the Bunny managed to have the Commons area filled with Easter eggs. Thirty plus children arrived around 10:00 a.m. The little hunters were broken down into groups by age. Each hunter walked away with a basket full of goodies. The highlight of the event was a personal visit from the Easter Bunny himself. He greeted the

children with small gifts and posed for pictures. Despite the chill in the air, it was a great success.

The Bunny's helpers included Josette Shopp who coordinated the event, Kerry Ann Kenney who assisted in coordination and performed "Bunny duties" and Kristin Lehman who acted as the event treasurer.

