



the Village of Westover

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2009

www.villageofwestover.org

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Joe Farrell

Vice-President
Patti Bucek

Treasurer
David Baboian

Secretary
Elaine Farrell

Immediate Past President
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 - 2 Matt Carnovale
 - 3 Linda Lippert
 - 4 John Reiersen
 - 5 Jackie Garno
 - 6 Ed Trador
 - 7 Carney Humphreys
 - 8 Bill Carlisle
 - 9 Laura Witte
 - 10 Joe Washburn
 - 11 Greg Hartman
 - 12 Annette Crist
 - 13 Elaine Morrison
 - 14 Monti Fletcher
 - 15 Fred Littmann
 - 16 Linda Dalton
 - 17 Terry Jones
 - 18 Ann Frankhouse
 - 19 Al Michelotti
 - 20 John Coyne
 - 21 Dave Patton
 - 22 Jim Kriebel

Important Dates

November 26
Thanksgiving Day

December 5
Holiday decorations go up

December 25
Christmas Day

January 1
New Years Day

January 9
Holiday decorations down

January 13
Westover Board Meeting

Westover Holiday Decorations Time

The Westover Civic Association will continue the tradition of providing fresh garland and red bows for the street signs in our community and you all are invited to help! We are going to put the decorations up on **Saturday, December 5th at 9:00 am** and take them down on **Saturday, January 9th at 9:00 am**.

also been a tradition in Westover to place clear window candles in the front windows of our homes which provide for a lovely atmosphere in Westover. For our new neighbors to Westover, this is done to carry on the Williamsburg theme that Westover was built around. We hope you will participate!

We look forward to your assistance with this fun and easy project. It is also a great way to meet your neighbors. We form teams, and each team does two or three posts. It is fun and only takes a maximum of 45 minutes, and we even provide refreshments of hot chocolate, coffee and doughnuts. Grab your gloves, hat, a warm coat and join us in McCord Commons on December 5th so we can continue to carry on the tradition of decorating our community with fresh garlands.

MAKE IT A FAMILY PROJECT. This project has evolved to be a very fun-family project to adopt and trim a sign. It is really easy and all you need is a ladder or a tall family member! We provide the bows, the garland, the ties, the minimal instructions and most importantly the hot chocolate and donuts! It takes about 5 minutes for each post. We ask, if you would like to reserve a post, to call Joe Farrell at 697-6244 or email him at jfarrell@farrell-assoc.com.

DECORATING YOUR HOME

Wondering how to decorate the exterior of your home during the holidays? It has



Breakfast with Mr. & Mrs. Claus
Saturday, December 12, 2009
See page 3 for details!





Sergeant Shissler Update

Sergeant Shissler tells us that everything is pretty quiet in the township and business is routine on the front lines at the Police Department.

With the holiday season in full swing, he cautions that everyone should use common sense and do not display your purchases and presents in visible areas when placing them in the car. Of course, don't forget to lock your car at all times. You never know who is watching in the parking lots, ready to clean you out by a simple process of forgetting to lock the car. The bad guys look for open cars to steal presents, GPS units, laptops and higher end audio gear.

Sergeant Shissler also cautions us to be very careful around the many leaf piles accumulating in the neighborhoods. We tend to drive in the center of the street because the leaves are piled up on both sides. In addition, small children might be innocently playing in the leaves. Just be careful and extra cautious until all the leaves are cleaned up by the township.

Have a safe Holiday Season and remember no drinking and driving.....use a designated driver!

Dear Westover Willie...



Q. Is it my imagination or are the leaves and acorns falling in droves? Are there any township rules we need to abide by....since you always have an "eye" on things?

A. *Well, my contacts at the township tell me that there is an ordinance requiring homeowners to keep their sidewalks clear at all time. So, to me this means snow, ice, leaves, acorns, and whatever else happens to land there! Be a good neighbor and do your part. That is my wise advice!*

Q. I see sometimes cars parked on the street that have not moved in a while. Can you get them out of there?

A. *Well, I cannot as I am not strong enough to lift them up through the air. This is a tough one. If the car is currently licensed, there is not much anyone can do. If you feel it is a safety hazard by being parked in a bad spot, close to a stop sign and the like, you can call the township police and they can investigate.*

Q. How can I help with the Holiday Decorations?

A. *I have just the answer. You could volunteer at the Holiday Decorations party by calling Joe Farrell at 697-6244 for more information. You can also make this a family project by claiming your post for decoration. This is really fun too I hear.*

What To Do With Leaves!

Hampden Township Leaf Collection



You may have noticed that the leaf collection was delayed a week or so, but the township is now on the normal Friday schedule for Westover leaf pickup. The township officially stops leaf pickup Thanksgiving week but we have been informed that they will provide the service the week after Thanksgiving for Westover residents. This will be the final leaf pickup so get your rakes out and put your leaves in the street near the curb.



BREAKFAST WITH Mr. & Mrs. Claus



Join your neighbors at the Westover Women's Club Santa Breakfast. This year, Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be greeting your little ones after enjoying a sumptuous breakfast buffet at the Navy Officers' Club. Each child will have ample time to share their wish list and talk with Santa, while you get a few priceless pictures. Santa will be giving children special gifts from his big red sack (please provide a gift with your child's name on it in advance). This is a lovely event, open to everyone in the neighborhood (no children required). You are encouraged to invite family and friends to join you this year since we have a minimum guest list to fill, and the facility is just grand!

Menu items include:

- Scrambled Eggs with topping bar (cheese, ham, tomatoes, sautéed mushrooms, onions & peppers)
- Homefries • Crispy Bacon • Sausage
- Waffles • French Toast Stix
- Fresh Seasonal Fruit Bowl
- Juice • Coffee Bar
- Mimosas available in the bar (extra charge)

Saturday, December 12th
9:00 – 11:00 am

Officers' Club, Naval Support Activity

Price: Adults \$13, Children 5-10 yrs \$9, 0-4 yrs \$5.50
RSVP by December 7th to Audrey Newell at
audreys@familynewell.org or 691-1816

**Brought to you
by the
Westover
Women's Club**



Westover Pumpkin Carving 2009 for the Kids



The Westover Women's Club, with financial help from the Civic Association, hosted the annual pumpkin carving in McCord Commons. There were 30 children carving and decorating pumpkins with a lot of enthusiasm! One little boy said it best: "This is the best pumpkin carving I've ever been to." He made the whole event worthwhile.

tails. She organized the sack races which were a huge success. The kids took home lots of prizes.

Huge thanks to **Les and Nell Nickolas** for the hay bales, pumpkins, prizes and providing each child with take home goodie bags.



The Women's Club would like to extend an extra special thank you to **Klara Sanfilippo** for baking the witches' hat cookies and for helping with all the special de-

Westover Updates

Westover Membership Directory Binders

The Westover Civic Association provides a directory of residents to all dues paying members. During this current dues collection drive, we have already distributed many new and updated directories. We temporarily ran out of binders and they are due to be in stock the first week in December. Your zone director will provide a binder, if you need one.

Election Results

The Westover Civic Association has an election of officers and zone directors every fall during our dues collection campaign. The election results are as follows:

President - Joe Farrell
Treasurer—David Baboian
Zone Directors—all were successful in securing another term.

Congratulations to all candidates and to you who voted. The board of the Westover Civic Association is all volunteer and we thank them for the time and efforts to help make Westover a better place to live, and to help maintain and increase the value of our properties by community wide improvements.

Crosswalk Project

Pati Bucek reports that she will be working with Glen Grell's office to see if funding is available to help with the cross walk project connecting both sides of Westover. This is an expensive project that the Civic Association cannot fund so alternate sources of monies are needed. We will keep you posted.

Updated Street Signs

John Reisersen reports that Westover is currently discussing the cost of replacing street signs throughout Westover with sign vendors. Since this is a potentially expensive project, a thorough assessment is necessary. The board will discuss and review the cost at a future meeting.

Front Entrance Lighting

Carney Humphreys reports that the "lights are back on" when he and our contractor replaced the broken light fixtures this summer. The lights are on and ready for holiday decorating.

Westover Email Lists

The Civic Association has been collecting email addresses for us to notify neighbors of happening within the Westover community and to provide a color copy of the newsletter electronically. We will start this project over the upcoming holidays so look to your email box for Westover News. Please understand that Westover will not distribute, give or sell your email addresses, so you can be assured they are safe with us. You will have an opportunity to opt out of receiving any emails at any time.

Westover Annual Dues Collection Reminder

The fall is our time to collect Westover dues and we are holding the dues again at \$30 per household for 2010. This is a tremendous value for the services provided such as **holiday decorations, Summer in the Park, mowing, fertilization, walking paths, enhancements to the Commons, replacement of entrance signs, maintenance of street signs, 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 it to your Zone Director. (See left hand column on the first page of this newsletter for your Zone Director.) Please help keep The Village of Westover one of the premier communities in the Harrisburg area and support the Civic Association.

State of oak trees in Westover

Susan Skender of Westover has worked with Zachary Roeder, a Service Forester with the State of PA Bureau of Forestry to assess the condition of the oak trees in Westover. Here is her synopsis with the full report on the back pages of this newsletter.

About half of the oaks on Westover Drive and Pennsboro are showing signs of decline. There was no clear evidence pointing to any one insect, disease, or other problem. They do not show signs that any deadly pest (Sudden Oak Death, Oak Wilt) is killing the trees. The extent of the decline is hard to tell this late in the season. These trees were planted at the same time so it's likely they'll lose vigor and begin to decline and die at similar times. These are older trees that have nearly reached their growing potential for this site. They are competing with turf for water and nutrients. The soil space is limited by sidewalks, roads, and foundations. If there was a significant stress event a few years ago then good growing seasons may help the trees rebound. However, if the trees are simply declining because of their normal everyday stresses, they are very likely to continue to decline. A DCNR representative will come back in the spring to better assess the progress of the decline.

2009 Halloween Haunted House

David and Doris Baboian hosted the annual Haunted House again this year and it was a real success. If you have never been to one of their Halloween scary chambers you need to attend. Here are some scary photos!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

TRICK OR TREAT!



Mature Tree Care

Zachery Roeder (zroeder@state.pa.us)

A forester from DCNR Bureau of Urban and Community Forestry evaluated the oak trees on Westover Drive and Pennsboro Drive this fall. Here is a synopsis of his report:

Overview: About half of the oaks on Westover Drive and Pennsboro are showing signs of decline. There was no clear evidence pointing to any one insect, disease, or other problem. They do not show signs that any deadly pest (Sudden Oak death, Oak wilt) is killing the trees. The extent of the decline is hard to tell this late in the season. These trees were planted at the same time so it's likely they'll lose vigor and begin to decline and die at similar times.

Evaluating the condition of the trees: Early coloring and leaf drop show signs of stress but do not necessarily mean the branch is dead. If the buds are still alive, it could leaf out in the spring. It's normal for any tree to have a few dead branches. In the spring you will be able to see how many of the branches are dead. At that time you can evaluate the ratio of dead branches to live branches. It is more serious if the top dies back and if the live crown ratio is very low. (Zach will come back in the spring.)

Site quality: Trees are not perfectly adapted to the residential environment. They are competing with turf for water and nutrients, and the soil space is limited by sidewalks, roads, foundations. "Weed 'n Feed" used on lawns can damage trees. The soil was disturbed for construction of roads, sidewalks and homes, so the soil condition is not natural. A tree can deal with a lot of those stressors individually, but older trees are less vigorous, and any additional stresses can result in decline. One individual thing usually doesn't kill a tree.

Mature tree care: Mature trees can benefit from some special care. However, since they are less vigorous, any change can create additional stress. Mulch can reduce environmental stress but improper mulching can do more harm than good. Appropriate fer-

tilization can benefit a tree if used at the right time and rate. A vigorous young tree can tolerate poor soils, but the pH has to be right for that particular tree.

Identifying pest and disease problems: You need to closely monitor trees for insect and disease problems so they can be addressed at the correct time. By the end of the season it is natural for a tree to have been impacted by many minor diseases and insects making it difficult to determine cause and effect.

Summary: It does not seem that any deadly pest (Sudden Oak Death, Oak Wilt) is killing your trees. These trees were planted about the same time, so it's likely they'll lose vigor and begin to decline and die at similar times. We have learned from the American Elms and Chestnut, that counting on one species is a bad idea. A greater diversity of species suitable to the site would result in a healthier community of trees. A weakened group of a single kind of trees is a prime target for all kinds of infestations. If there was a significant stress event a few years ago then good growing seasons may help the trees rebound. However, if the trees are simply declining because of their normal everyday stresses, they are very likely to continue to decline. You can go to extreme measures to try to sustain a declining tree, but if the whole neighborhood of trees is declining with no significant stress event, then your best efforts may have no effect.

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**The following are thoughts from our neighbor, Susan Skender, Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist:**

A stressed tree is predisposed to injury by insects or disease. If the current decline we are seeing is primarily a factor of the droughts we have gone through, then several seasons of good wet weather could bring them back. However, the older the tree, the less ability it has to counteract stresses and resume growth.

Dieback is expected when mature trees are stressed. The older the tree, the more vulnerable it is to environmental stress and dieback of branches can be expected. Weakened oak trees will attract pest problems like 2-lined chestnut borers and armillaria root disease fungi.

Site factors contribute to a tree's vulnerability to decline. Those with limited moisture-holding capacity are at greater risk. That includes lots of greedy turf and pavement covering roots.

Consider removing trees with 30% or more upper to mid crown damage because they are unlikely to recover. You can wait until later, but at some point the dead branches will become a hazard. Do this very slowly on your street so we maintain as many mature trees as possible. Our goal is to have trees of different ages as well as different species, but no one wants to take out a large tree until it is absolutely necessary.

No registered pesticides are effective in treating Oak Decline. Pin oaks are a member of the red oak group, just in case you are doing some web-surfing. Symptoms of Oak Decline: Sprouts grow upward from main stems; progressive dying of crown starting from outside and working inward; chlorotic leaves (yellow with green veins), dwarfed or sparse foliage; premature autumn coloration; foliage death and then branch death.

Feeding by gypsy moth increases susceptibility to Oak Decline. The best way to prevent Oak Decline is through prevention by maintaining healthy and vigorous trees.

Drought is a large factor in the decline of older trees. Keep the trees watered during times of drought. Mulch around the tree, with a 3 foot (minimum) band about 2" deep, 6 inches away from the trunk - No volcanos up the trunk! This mulch will decrease competition from the turf. Remove dead and diseased branches.

**Continued on Page 7**



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## Mature Tree Care continued from page 6

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Fertilize deeply - below the turf root area. Scout your landscape frequently, looking for pest problems that can be eliminated before they are out of hand.

Think twice before broadcasting Weed 'n Feed fertilizer. Its purpose is to kill broadleaf weed. Your tree is a broadleaf plant. Consider spot spraying your broadleaf weeds instead.

Pin oaks are intolerant of high pH soils and the resulting iron chlorosis can be a significant and disastrous problem with this species. Have your soil tested. Be sure to dig down to the tree root area in several places in your yard and mix the samples together. Let the soil dry, then measure one cup into a ziplock baggie. Go to <http://www.aasl.psu.edu/HOWTO.HTM> to download the form needed to send your sample to the Penn State lab. It will cost \$9.00 plus your postage. Or,

you could go to the Penn State Extension off the Plainfield exit of Route 81 and get a kit. It costs the same and you still have to mail it to the university.

There is a formal tree list document which is being used for community tree plantings across the State. Every location is a little different so the exact site should be considered when choosing the right tree. A couple on the list I might avoid;

- Sugar Maple because of high pH, and
- Sycamore because of anthracnose.

Trees in communities are always subject to increased compaction as well as water and temperature extremes. Large trees increase property values and curb appeal, decrease heating and cooling costs, and de-

crease the need for storm water management <http://www.arborday.org/trees/benefits.cfm>. I strongly encourage neighborhoods that can sustain large trees to do so. Pin Oak, Swamp White Oak, London Plane, Red Maple, Honey Locust, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Yellow Poplar and Zelkova can all grow to be large trees and make good choices for residential neighborhoods in this area – though each may have draw-backs. Ash has been a great tree for communities, but is no longer a good choice because of Emerald Ash Borer, which also serves as a great reminder that communities should absolutely avoid planting monocultures. When one species is planted extensively through a neighborhood it can be expected that the trees throughout the neighborhood will be exposed to the same stresses, and share certain pests thus declining and/or dying across the neighborhood.



*Happy Holidays*

# Westover Email Service to Residents

Over the past month several Zone Directors have asked if you wanted to be on the upcoming Westover Email Blast service. The purpose of this email blast is to let you know of timely issues that affect the safety of Westover residents and to inform you of special events. As an example, Hampden Township recently notified us that the leaf pickup was delayed and we had no way to get this information out to you in a timely and efficient manner. An email blast would have solved the problem. Also, in the past, we had

an issue with water quality and PA American Water asked us to boil water for a day. Again, the email blast would have helped get the word out quickly.

We are also considering emailing the newsletter in addition to printing and delivering. It looks so much better in color in an email.

Please be assured that at no time will we sell, lend or give out this email address list. Your email address will be safe with us and you can opt-out

at any time.

Look for more information to come and links to the sign up in our soon to be redesigned website, [www.villageofwestover.org](http://www.villageofwestover.org). In the interim you can complete the form below and give to your zone director. If you have not paid your 2009/2010 dues yet, we encourage you to do so!

Thank you for making Westover a great place to live.



## Official Dues Payment and Email Sign-up Form

### VILLAGE OF WESTOVER 2009/2010 DUES COUPON

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues are \$30 per Household. Make dues check payable to Village of Westover.**

- 1. Submit dues directly to your Zone Director with this coupon (see front page of newsletter for a listing of all Zone Directors), or**
- 2. Mail dues check and this form to Civic Association Treasurer, David Baboian, CPA, 4350 Carlisle Pike, Camp Hill, PA 17011**

Please Note that your email will only be used for Westover notices and you will be able to remove your name at any time

*the Village of*  
*Westover*