



the Village of Westover

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008

www.villageofwestover.org

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- 21 Dave Patton
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Important Dates

November 21
Last day for leaf pickup

November 27
Thanksgiving Day

December 6
Westover decorations installation

December 6
Breakfast with Santa

January 10
Holiday decorations down

January 21
Westover Board Meeting

High Water Pressure - Should We Do Anything?

Pennsylvania American Water has increased the water pressure on the West Shore including Westover as part of their modernization campaign. They need to expand service to farther outlying areas, and the increased pressure is necessary to reach them.

Some homeowners have expressed concern regarding the higher water pressure and are looking for solutions. There is a solution at hand involving the installation of a whole house pressure reducing valve which has been around for many years. The valves install at the point of water entry into the house and is a fairly simple project to undertake. The valve costs about \$70 at plumbing supply stores and there are models where you cut the water line and use pressure fittings with no need to solder the copper lines.

If you feel you want this type of valve to reduce water pressure in your home, then go to a plumbing supply store for the products, or call your local plumber. The Civic

Association spoke with Barry Kindt, President of SECCO Home Services, a local plumbing and heating firm active in Westover, regarding his thoughts on the water pressure issue. Barry indicated that the new pressure is around 100 pounds and they recommend a pressure reducing valve when water pressure is over 65 pounds of pressure. He indicated that there are two major concerns you should be aware of with higher water pressure. The first is the toilet valves in the back of the commodes which are very sensitive to pressure, and the high pressure could cause them to fail. The second is with the hot water tank since the pressure relief valve can suddenly open due to the combination of higher pressure and the hot water in the tank. We also talked with Ernie Zimmerman of Zimmerman Plumbing and Heating and he indicated that the hoses on washing machine are very susceptible to high water pressure, and have also re-iterated the weak valves on some commodes.

Bill Orris of Zimmerman Plumbing mentioned that solenoid valves such as on refrigerator ice makers, humidifiers and dishwashers are also rated for lower water pressure. Mr. Zimmerman indicated that the cost for installing a pressure reducing valve is in the range of \$325 to \$375.

Thanks to both Zimmerman Plumbing and Heating and SECCO Home Services for the information for this article.



Picture of a pressure reducing valve

WESTOVER LEAF PICKUP ENDS....

The Westover Civic Association contacted Hampden Township and has learned that leaf pickup ended the week before Thanksgiving. That means that the last leaf pickup was Friday November 21st.





Sergeant Shissler Update

Beware of Identity Theft!

Identity Theft is the hot issue at Hampden Township Police these days. While the bad guys still run red lights and steal from cars, the big "growth" area seems to be identity theft.

Sergeant Shissler said they are dealing more and more with people who have their credit cards stolen, or worse, their identity compromised. He suggests we look at our bank statements carefully each month, be very careful with our wallets so they are not stolen, and to shred all documents rather than just throw them out with other trash. He also suggested that we go to a website www.ic3.gov and look it over as well as bookmark it. This is a coordinated site between the FBI, Bureau of Justice, and the National White Collar Crime Center where complaints can be registered and tracked. The Hampden Township police use this site frequently. If you think your identify has been compromised,

call your bank and credit card company immediately. You are welcome to call Hampden Township, also, for their advice.

Here is a screen shot of the site Sergeant Shissler is referencing.



Dear Westover Willie



Dear Willie,

Q. When it snows this winter is it OK to blow or push the snow into the streets to get the snow out of the way?

A. No, because it just makes the streets a real mess and it will get pushed right back into your driveway when the snowplows come through. And, more importantly, it is against township ordinances.

Q. I have been hearing some barking dogs and they are very annoying. What can you do about it?

A. As wise as I am, I can't do a thing, BUT you can by calling the township police because if they get enough calls they will issue a citation to the offending homeowner. So if this is a problem with you, get your neighbors together and call individually. Sometimes our homeowners are not even aware of the annoyance and need to have it brought to their attention.

Q. I got some really nice multi-color holiday bulbs (380,000 to be exact) willed to me by my Aunt Minty and I want to honor her. What do you thing about installing them all over my house and yard in Westover? Wouldn't that be a hoot?!

A. I am sure that your Aunt Minty was not thinking of your 1/3 to 1/2 acre lot when she willed these to you. If you do install them, you surely will have a super high electric bill, cause most lights to dim in Westover, pollute the sky with light, and since we suspect that the bulbs are multi-color, you may have some pretty unhappy neighbors. Our tradition here in Westover is to put a single clear bulb in the window. This is in keeping with the Westover tradition of the Williamsburg theme.

Westover Holiday Decoration Time

This year the Westover Civic Association will continue to provide fresh garland and red bows for the street signs in our community and you all can help! We are going to put the decorations up on **Saturday, December 6th at 9:00 am** and take them down on **Saturday, January 10th at 9:00 am**.

This year the decorations installation date conflicts with the Santa Breakfast so we will "open" at 8:30 am for those homeowners to come and get their garland and bows early so as not to miss the Santa Breakfast.

We form teams, and each team does two or three posts. It only takes a maximum of 45 minutes, it is fun and we even feed you refreshments of hot chocolate, coffee and doughnuts.

See page 5 to see how you can also make this a family activity.



Westover Women's Club Activities

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Westover Women's Club will be hosting a *Santa Breakfast* on December 6 from 9:00-11:30 am at Old Country Buffet in Mechanicsburg, Gateway Square (right behind Bob Evans Restaurant). Santa has an empty sack to fill so please bring your gift with your child's name on it to Ros Jones's home at 6321 Stephen's Crossing by Monday December 1st so we can fill Santa's sack with all the goodies for all the little boys and girls. Please contact Anne Sauve (791-9315) with any questions on this yearly event.

HOLIDAY MEETING

The Women's Club holiday meeting will be held on December 4th at the home of Ros Jones, Women's Club President, at 6321 Stephen's

Crossing. And, as always, new members are welcome. Please contact Ros at 697-4901 for more information.

PUMPKIN CARVING

The Westover Women's Club held a pumpkin carving event on the evening of October 21st in the McCord Commons. What a fun event with lots of pumpkins, kids, good food and drink and a really fun time.

Thanks to the Women's Club for holding this worthwhile community event. There are many more photos at www.villageofwestover.org.

SHARE AND CARE PROGRAM

The Women's Club Care and Share program is still taking donations of any

amount. The contributions are making a real difference. They have given assistance to a local boy who needed reading glasses, a family whose father suffers with ALS, and other very worthwhile causes. Please consider any donation made out to Westover Women's Club and mail to Kristin Lehman at 825 Pamela's Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.



Westover Winter Travel Suggestions

Winter has arrived a little earlier than expected.... whether we like it or not. Given that Mother Nature sometimes blankets us with a thick layer of snow during the evening and early morning hours, some guidelines for travel in and out of Westover should be considered.

When a heavy snow builds up often there is a single lane of traffic, and it gets dicey when two vehicles meet each other on the single lane path in the middle of the road. We suggest you a) don't go out or b) if you go out make sure you can handle the one way traffic on these paths by backing up or pulling into someone's driveway.

You may want to consider avoiding the steep portion of Westover Drive where it meets Stephen's Crossing in the original section of Westover as it can get really slippery there.

Neighbors are also encouraged to move cars typically parked in the street into their driveway prior to a predicted snowfall. This in turn will make it easier for the plows and you when it comes time to clear your driveway and free your car for travel. Residents are also reminded that it is against township's ordinances to plow or throw snow from your driveway into the street.

If your car is rear wheel drive or you have limited clearance, you may want to think twice before venturing out

after a heavy snow. Snow can actually accumulate under the car and limit the amount of traction the vehicle has with the slippery road surface. Naturally, if you do not have to go out, please stay in your warm and comfortable home. If there is an emergency and you are reluctant to drive, please call 911 or a neighbor to see if they can assist.

While not a driving consideration, please remember to remove accumulated snow from the front of your mailbox. Our mail carriers will always do their best to deliver, but sometimes they need a little of our help.

Please be safe and considerate this winter driving season.

Electrical Panel Update

You may have read in previous newsletters the problem with the electrical service panels in the original section of Westover. If you have not had a survey done of your electrical panel or looked into replacing it, we strongly urge you to think of the safety aspect of this problem. Documented evidence indicates they are a real fire hazard. We recommend you talk to a professional electrician for an opinion and not rely on comments such as "it is working fine so why spend the money" or "so-and-so said it was a big hoax."

Westover's 2008 Halloween Haunted House

David and Doris Babioan have certainly outdone themselves with the Halloween Haunted



House. It was super scary and fun this year according to the many brave souls entering the haunted chambers. They had tons of people coming by in costume to walk through the house. Kids that found the house too scary were treated to an inflatable jungle gym out front. There are lots more photos at Westover's official web-site.

Thanks Dave and Doris.



Survey Results for "Summer in the Park"

The Civic Association would like to thank those residents that completed the on-line Summer in the Park survey. Your feedback and ideas for 2009 are very much appreciated and provide valuable direction for future events.

Some suggestions received by our residents include:

- changing the month to May, June, or September,
- adding food vendors (hot dogs, ice cream, etc.),
- adding games,
- adding a sing-a-long,
- adding a raffle,
- extending the duration to longer than the current 1.5 hours, and
- Musical entertainment suggestions varied.

A 2009 Summer in the Park planning committee will meet very soon to review the ideas submitted and to plan next year's events. If you would like to add your thoughts, please go to our web site www.villageofwestover.org and complete the short survey.

Cross Walk Being Pursued

Patti Bucek, Vice President of the Westover Civic Association, has been working with Hampden Township to try to get cross walk status across Skyport Road connecting the two sections of Westover. A crosswalk means that crossing areas are painted on the road and signs put up indicating that the walker has right of way. We are not sure if you will want to test your rights, but it will go a long way to helping the walkers in Westover. No promises, but Patti and the Township are working together on this project for the safety of our homeowners.



WESTOVER NEWSLETTER POLICY. This newsletter is published by the Westover Civic Association to inform its members of the many Village of Westover projects, activities and improvements that are relevant to the entire neighborhood. We are unable to accommodate personal requests and business solicitations or advertisements. ALL photos published in the newsletter are with permission or are in the public domain. We solicit your comments or concerns as well as ideas for newsletter articles by going to www.villageofwestover.org

A Comment on Village of Westover Covenants

The Village of Westover is a covenant community. A covenant is a legally binding provision in the deed or real estate record to a property that prohibits certain changes to, or use of, the property. Covenants “run with the land” and are binding upon not only the original purchaser of the property, but upon all subsequent purchases of the property as well. Occasionally, a question arises as to the role of the Civic Association with regard to the enforcement of the various covenants within Westover. First a bit of background.

Westover was originally developed by Bill Keeley, Sr., who had a

vision for a Williamsburg style community. To maintain the character of the development, and to preserve the value of the investment that each homeowner makes by purchasing in Westover, all single family residences within Westover were developed with covenants in place. The covenants are a part of the deed that accompanies your property and are legally binding on you. Covenants cover such things as chain link fences, junk cars and the like. A more thorough description of the covenants can be found in the back section of your Westover directory.

The covenants are not part of the Westover Civic Association and are solely independent of the civic association. Membership in the Westover Civic Association has no bearing on your covenants. If you are concerned about, or have an issue with, something that a neighbor is doing to, or on, his or her property, and you believe that it is in violation to one of the covenants, then you have the legal right to file a court action to enforce the covenant. Your suggested course of action would be to seek legal counsel if all efforts to address the matter amicably with the offending resident fail.

Westover Family Holiday Fun Project

Over the years the Westover Civic Association has installed holiday decorations on the street signs which help to make Westover a festive community. This project has evolved into a very fun family project to “adopt and trim a sign.” It is really easy; all you need is a ladder or a tall family member! Westover provides the bows, garland, ties, minimal instructions and, most importantly, the hot chocolate and donuts! It takes only about 5 minutes for each post. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Saturday, December 6 at 9 am.**

If you and your family would like to reserve a post, call Joe Farrell at 697-6244 or email him at jfarrell@farrell-assoc.com. Don't wait too long though, as the adoption of signs goes fast!

2008 Adopt and Trim a Sign participants▶



Westover Annual Dues REMINDER

This is a reminder that the Westover Civic Association dues are due. We continue to hold them at \$30 a year and we ask that you use the coupon below to submit your dues. Please help keep Westover safe and family friendly. Thank you for your continued support.

DUES • DUES • VILLAGE OF WESTOVER DUES COUPON - \$30 • DUES • DUES

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Make dues check out to Village of Westover.

Submit dues directly to your Zone Director with this coupon (see front page of newsletter for a listing of all Zone Directors), or mail to civic association treasurer, David Baboian, 4350 Carlisle Pike, Camp Hill, PA 17011



**2009
Westover
Women's
Club
~~~  
Pumpkin  
Carving**



Want to see more photos of the Halloween haunted house and pumpkin carving events? Visit the Village of Westover's web-site at: [www.villageofwestover.org](http://www.villageofwestover.org)