



the Village of Westover

NEWSLETTER
November 2011

www.villageofwestover.org

President
Patti Bucek

Vice-President
Dan Hooven

Treasurer
David Baboian

Secretary
Elaine Farrell

Immediate Past President
Joe Farrell

Zone Directors

- 1 Beth Nerino
- 2 Joe Farrell
- 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 Vacant
- 14 Monti Fletcher
- 15 Fred Littmann
- 16 Linda Dalton
- 17 Carl Janes
- 18 Ann Frankhouse
- 19 Vacant
- 20 Dan Hooven
- 21 Dave Patton
- 22 Vacant
- 23 Trudy Hepner

Important Dates

November 23rd
Last day for Leaf pickup

November 24th
Thanksgiving

December 3rd
Westover Holiday decorations go up

December 17th
Santa's Breakfast

December 25th
Christmas day

January 7th
Westover holiday decorations down

Westover Dues Collection Underway

The Westover Civic Association asks for your financial support for 2012 by renewing your membership. The Civic Association is an all volunteer organization and membership is also voluntary. Dues are only \$30 per year for a household.

This year we have instituted a dues invoice mailing process that has proven to be very effective. We sent out reminders the first week in November and zone directors will follow up for the very few of you who may have forgotten or misplaced the dues invoice.

So why should you join and pay your dues?

- The summer and early fall **block parties** held twice a year;
- The **web-site** located at www.villageofwestover.org with a great deal of helpful information;
- The informative **newsletter**;
- Financial support to help with several Women's Club projects such as the **Garage Sales, Pumpkin Carving, Santa's Breakfast and Egg Hunt**;
- **Email Blast** system for timely and quick updates;
- Provide **holiday decorations**

throughout Westover in keeping with the Williamsburg tradition;

- Mowing and maintenance in the beautiful **Common areas**;
- Maintenance and upgrades for the **tree id signs, benches and entrance neighborhood lighting**;
- Maintenance of the **street signs**.

UPDATE: Westover is receiving a record number of dues renewals! Thank you for your generous support!

Westover Holiday Decorations Time

The Westover Civic Association will continue the tradition of providing fresh garland and red bows for the street signs in the neighborhood; you all are invited to help put them up! Decorations go up on **Saturday, December 3rd at 9:00 am** and come down on **Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 am**.

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. Refreshments of hot chocolate, coffee and doughnuts are provided. Grab your gloves, hat, a warm coat and join us in McCord Commons.

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. If you would like to reserve a post, please email **Greg Hartman at gvhartman@hersheys.com** or



call him at 691-7569. If you volunteer to help, please email him or call as it will help us in the planning process. Hope to see you at McCord Commons on December 3rd at 9:00 am.



Leaf Pick Up

Hampden Township officially stops leaf collection on Friday Nov 18th. However, rumor has it that they may extend till Friday Dec 2 and possibly even a week later. We will keep you posted via the email blast system. Place the leaves a bit away from the curb and do not put in sticks, stones, garden trash or other such items that can gum up the leaf machine.



Westover Elections

We are pleased to announce that all of the Westover Civic Association board members were re-elected! We do have a new President, Patti Bucek replacing Joe Farrell. Congratulations and thanks to all of the folks who help make Westover what it is today.



Breakfast with Mr. & Mrs. Claus Saturday, December 18, 2011



Friends and neighbors, please join us at the annual Westover Women's Club Santa Breakfast. For the second year in a row, Jolly Old Saint Nicholas, aka Santa, will be greeting our 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.

Our resident photographer, Joe Farrell, will be taking photos at no charge, and posting them online for you to access. This year, Santa will be giving each child a candy treat; personalized gifts from you are not necessary. 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, as we do have a minimum guest list to fill, and the facility is just grand!

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 am
Place: Officers' Club, Naval Support Activity (behind Lowe's)
Price: Adults \$14, Children 5-10 years \$9, 2-4 years \$5.50
(Checks payable to Westover Women's Club)

Full buffet includes eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, waffles, French Toast stix, fruit bowl, coffee and juice

RSVP with payment by December 12 to: (include names of all attending for Navy Security purposes)

Audrey Newell—Coordinator
6311 Stephens Crossing
Email: audreys@familynewell.org
Phone: 691-1816



Westover End of Summer Block Party

The Westover Civic Association sponsored our End of Summer Neighborhood Block Party on September 18th. We had pop guitarist/vocalist Rhyne McCormick, magic show by Mike Clark, Chilly Dilly's ice cream truck, free hot dogs & baked goods with the help of the Westover Women's Club. This event was held in the McCord Commons and the sunny weather helped to draw over 120 attendees. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this event possible. Please see www.villageofwestover.org for colorful photos from this event.



Westover Block Party—End of Summer!



2011 Westover Pumpkin Carving Party

On October 20, the Westover Women's Club, with financial assistance provided by the Westover Civic Association, held their annual Pumpkin Carving event in McCord Commons. They carved pumpkins, had a pumpkin hunt, sack races and lots of fun for kids and adults. Treats were guaranteed to all with Witches Hat cookies, Hot Chocolate with whipped cream, apple cider and of course Monster Munch. The photos show how much fun this event was. Thanks to Paige Burry for heading the committee of volunteers for this event.



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

Westover's Family of Ducklings!

In mid-May we noticed a female duck sitting in the ivy in our backyard. For a few days she would come and go and we realized she was nesting, laying one egg each day. After all her eggs were laid, she sat patiently on the nest through the unseasonably hot days and terrible storms, leaving only for a few minutes at dusk to eat. Finally, on Father's Day, we noticed her moving the eggs around and appearing restless...they were finally hatching! Ten eggs hatched by late afternoon and the fuzzy ducklings could be seen moving around the nest under their mother's protective wings.

Monday morning brought rain and we wondered when they would go to the creek to eat and meet up with their father. After the rain stopped, they took a quick walk through our yard, went back to the nest to take a rest, and then headed to the Conodoguinet. They followed behind their mother on their little legs, along landscaped yards, past storm drains (that we covered as a precaution!), up a curb that must have seemed like a huge cliff, through trees, brush and fences, to the creek where

they plopped in and promptly began eating. Our nest is now empty, but we'd be honored to host her again next year!

Please enjoy the photos below of this Mom Duck and her precious ducklings.

By Joe and Melissa Washburn and Family





Sergeant Shissler Update

FOR YOUR SAFETY....

Sergeant Shissler reports that three professional burglars have been caught who the Hampden Township Police indicate were a large part of the past years break-ins. The investigation into that ring is ongoing and hopefully more incidents will be resolved. The interesting thing is that gold, silver and jewelry were the prime target due to smaller size and the ease of selling them.

In the process of following up on leads for the burglaries they have caught 4 to 5 other offenders who operated in a similar albeit copycat fashion. The police are encouraged that they are starting to get a handle on the problem.

As a necessary precaution, Sergeant Shissler specifically asks that you do the following in your homes:

- Report any, and they mean any, suspicious activity. The police have a much better chance of catching the crooks when they follow up immediately. Do not hesitate to call.
- Continue to lock house doors, close garage doors and be vigilant.
- And . . . document your jewelry and valuables. This is a good winter project and he suggests you photograph each item with a ruler included to give a sense of scale. Put the photos in a safe place not where the valuables are stored. If the valuables have a serial number record that too.

Patti Bucek Elected President of the Westover Civic Association

The Village of Westover has been the home she shares with Sharon Ryan since 2004. Originally from Pittsburgh, Patti has lived in the Harrisburg region for the past eighteen years. When she backs out of her driveway, she is heading to her office at the Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania, where she serves as the Executive Director. Patti enjoys gardening, bicycling, golfing, and travel.

She is honored to serve at the President of the Westover Civic Association, and is looking forward to serving with the zone directors to maintain the beauty of our village and preserving the quality of life for families living in our neighborhood.

UPDATE: Front Entrance Light

The Civic Association has gone 'round and 'round on what to do with the failing right front entrance lighting. This includes having PP&L investigate a new meter, to installing solar lights which are weak, to having two licensed electrical contractors provide estimates to replace the cable feeding the failing right hand entrance light.

The estimate to repair is \$5,000 to \$6,000. The board decided not to replace the front lightening at this time, unless a generous donor would like to make a significant contribution to cover the costs for a licensed electrician to make the repair. If you are interested in contributing please contact Patti Bucek, President, Westover Civic Association. There would need to be 600' of trenching with conduit and cable run to make the lighting repair permanent, a costly endeavor.

Street Signs

The Westover Civic Association recently reviewed the condition of some of the street signs and will be replacing selected faded ones soon. Initially, two sign posts will be rehabilitated and will include removing the signs, new sign material installed, painted and lettered. The cost for this project is \$1,200 and will come from Westover dues.



The Dreaded Euschistus Servus, aka The Stink Bug

The good news is that stick bugs have not been invasive "yet" inside the house in our area but the bad news is that it is still early in the season! Experts says that stink bugs are around but have not felt the time is right to "bug" us yet.

Experts also say the best way to get rid of stink bugs is to seal openings where they come in. The problem is finding out where these openings are located. There are chemicals that you can use but most experts do not suggest this as you will be using them in a closed environment, mainly your house. Instead they recommend a trap with a light which attracts the

stink bugs and of course traps them. The goal is to put these traps high in the house, even in the attic. Local suppliers such as Agway in Mechanicsburg, as well as others, are knowledgeable about these methods and have the devices in stock. A vacuum cleaner works well, but it will stink so the best thing, according to experts, is either to seal openings or trap them with the light/trap method. And, no, they will not bite, but please do not crush or stamp on them for they truly do stink.



From the Westover Mailbag....



Concerned resident:

'Please address the issue of 'sidewalk safety', especially for the (older) walkers. Uneven sidewalks make walking so difficult and I know of several people who have fallen because

of them. I know it is the responsibility of each homeowner and we have no legal recourse, but maybe we can get people to think about the issue, at least."

Hello Westover Civic

I am writing to give a big THANK YOU to all who helped clean up the sticks from the neighborhood this past week-end. We were away until Saturday afternoon and when we came back the garbage can filled with branches in our backyard was empty! We didn't leave it for your team to clean up. We were going to put it out with Thursday's trash but didn't get to it yet. It was extremely nice of the team to do such a thing. It's terribly hard to find the time to do any yard work working full time and with a 9 month old - we appreciated the help!

Thank you so much for all of your help!

Concerned resident:

(Editor note: This note has been edited and is about some homes that are not maintaining their walkways.) My main issue (other than of course their not keeping up with outside maintenance, etc.) with this property are the trees and shrubs/bushes along the sidewalk. They have large draping trees which are nice for their home to protect it from the sun...however, the branches hang very low over the sidewalk, making walking past their home difficult.

During and shortly after rains, the branches hang even lower and make navigation next to impossible. This property also has some fairly large bushes at the corner of the property that are not trimmed or maintained. These bushes, like the trees, have grown so that they are well past the sidewalk and cover more than half of it. As with the tree branches, this makes normal navigation difficult in that one has to push branches aside, and with the rain, renders passage nearly impossible.

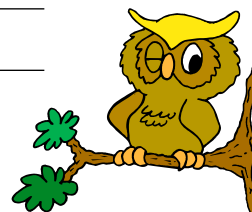
Concerned resident:

The only thing I actually care about is having the light fixed at the front entrance. Hope they can take care of that eventually. (Editor: see article in this newsletter)

Concerned resident:

I really wish more could be done by the Association to get some homeowners to clean up their properties such as hiding trash cans, basketball nets and general outside maintenance.

Dear Westover Willie



Dear Willie:

How about some of your thoughts on the home break-ins occurring in our area so you can help keep an eye out for us

Lately the media has been full of home break-in reports, sometimes with disastrous results. The Hampden Township Police Department is strongly encouraging residents to use good common sense to prevent such incidents.

One of the best deterrents is lighting. With darkness coming earlier now and the holiday season approaching, it is even more important to use outside lights around your home. Recent observations in Westover resulted in the surprising revelation that only about 12% of neighborhood homes turn on porch/yard lights in the evening. As a rule, those intending to do harm will not go where lights make it easy for them to be seen by others. Using even a simple porch light can help make your home safer and is a courtesy to your neighbors.

If you plan to be away for the holidays, leave some lights on timers and stop your mail and paper delivery. Although these are well known security measures, it is surprising how many home owners forget even this simple step. Let a neighbor know when you will be away and ask that they keep a watchful eye on your home. Conversely, if you are asked to watch an empty house, do it like it was your own home. One family left town confident that a neighbor would watch their home; they returned to find packages and fliers around their front door.

The bottom line from up here is turning on a light can go a long way. I'll be watching you!

Suggestions or questions for Westover Willie or the Civic Association can be emailed to:

westover@villageofwestover.org

Dan Hooven Appointed Westover Vice President

Dan Hooven has been appointed by the board as Vice -President of the Westover Civic Association to fill the Vice President vacancy. Dan has been active in Westover for many years, active in the YMCA Adventure Guides program, coaching with the Hampden Youth Baseball Association and organized the No Hampden Casino Coalition.

We welcome Dan to the Executive Committee and thank his wife Kathy and three wonderful children for sharing Dan to the Westover Community.

2011 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!



BOO!!

