



# the Village of Westover

NEWSLETTER  
January y 2008

[www.villageofwestover.org](http://www.villageofwestover.org)

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**Important Dates**

**February 2**  
Groundhog Day

**February 14**  
Valentine Day

**February 18**  
President's Day

**March 17**  
St. Patrick's Day

**March 23**  
Easter

**April 2**  
Westover Board meeting

**April 15**  
Tax Day April 15th

## Electrical Panel Fire Hazard

This article is very important for all residents in the original section of Westover. You need to check your electrical panel, and pro-

**and regardless of its visually-apparent condition, this equipment should be replaced. Additional information about this hazard is available at an independent building failures research website: [www.inspect-ny.com/electric/Zinsco.htm](http://www.inspect-ny.com/electric/Zinsco.htm)**

The Zinsco electrical panels installed in Westover homes in the 1970s were recalled due to a potential for serious fire hazards. There have been numerous reported cases in Westover. For example, **Audrey Newell** and her family just moved into Westover and have first hand experience on this subject. Thanks to Audrey for this timely information, as follows:

"We had a Zinsco electrical panel that dated to the construction of our home in 1976. These electrical panels are known to be "serious electrical hazards," with detailed information available on several electrical websites. When we purchased our home in August, we were warned of this during our home inspection. We had the replacement of the electrical panel on our list of things to do, but we hadn't made it the top priority. Over the weekend, we had a small electrical fire when a power outlet sparked. Luckily, nobody was hurt, but the breaker to the sparking circuit didn't trip, and the wires remained hot even after the fire was out. We had to manually throw the breaker and call for an electrician. After this first-hand demonstration of the hazard these electrical panels exhibit, we had our panel replaced in one day at a cost of about \$700. We had three bids ranging from \$700 - \$1,200 for the replacement. We also purchased two new fire extinguishers and did a family fire drill."



According to a home inspector website, home inspectors should notify potential homeowners that a "Zinsco™ or Sylvania™ - Zinsco electrical panel is installed in this building. Serious electrical hazards may be present in the electrical panel which could result in overheating, fire, or inability to turn off the electrical power in the home. A licensed electrician who is familiar with this equipment should be called to inspect the panel for immediate fire and shock hazards,

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## Hampden Township Police Department

### Westover is Safe

Chief Andreoli of the Hampden Township Police Department met with the Village of Westover Board of Directors recently and provided us with a police report for Hampden Township, as well as for Westover. The chief was happy to report that crime in Westover is minimal and that Westover stacks up near the top for safety.

Chief Andreoli had a knowledge of each of the categories listed below, and pointed out that if someone calls to report a burglary, for example, and the police find a back door open with nothing taken or disturbed, then that incident goes into the books as a burglary. He cautioned that what is behind the numbers is important and not reported here. He was pleased that there were no robberies (seizing property with violence or intimidation) in Westover.

The Chief encourages all residents to report suspicious activity and to let the police do their job. Do not jeopardize your safety at any time....call the police!

#### Reported crimes:

Burglaries - 4  
Theft from vehicles - 3  
Other domestic assaults - 4  
Vandalism - 3  
Drugs - 3  
Alcohol - 6  
Disorderly conduct - 1

#### Investigations:

Domestic dispute - 6  
Noise - 1  
Abandon vehicle - 1  
Suspicious vehicles - 6  
Burglar alarms - 8

*Westover 2007 Police Statistics*

## Dear Westover Willie

Dear Willie,  
I have been walking through Westover and I keep hitting my head on hanging tree limbs. How come?

**Sore Head**



Dear Sore Head,

It is a requirement of Hampden Township that you keep your trees and bushes away from the sidewalk. I see all the time folks having to skirt around bushes. Please ask your neighbors to trim their bushes and the trees to the required 8' height.

Dear Willie,

I see what appears to be abandoned basketball backboards in Westover. These are unsightly as some have fallen over and are in disrepair due to lack of use. What will you do about it?

**Ugh**

Dear Ugh,

Unfortunately, there is not much I can do, but I would encourage homeowners to remove the backboards if they are not being used or are in disrepair. You can do your part by asking, nicely, for them to be removed.

Dear Willie,

I hear that we are supposed to remove the snow around the fire hydrants. Is this right?

**Shoveller**

Dear Shoveller,

Yep you are right. One of the benefits of having a fire hydrant on your lot (other than of course friendly visits by the canine population) is that you get to shovel out the fire hydrant. During an emergency it is difficult to locate and access the hydrants, so your help is appreciated and needed.

Dear Willie,

I see folks leaving their garbage cans out for days on end after the trash collectors come. What can you (or I even) do?

**Concerned Citizen**

Dear Concerned Citizen,

There is nothing I can do from way up high, but you could ask your neighbor to put them away, or possibly you may want to take them off the street and place them near his or her garage. I am sure that the reason they do not do this is because of some physical impairment or really busy schedule. So helping them by moving the cans out of the way would be nice.

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## Explosion in Westover!!!

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Workmen set off dynamite too close to an old retaining wall recently, partially collapsing one side of the old airplane hangar that has served as equipment storage for Keeley Builders for over 30 years. Although the building is scheduled for eventual demolition, the damage came prematurely.

Fortunately, no one was injured in the accident. Mr. Keeley had the gap in the side closed in to prevent both curiosity seekers and vandals who might not only do harm to the remaining structure but suffer personal injury.

This is not the first time that the hangar has seen significant damage. In the early 70s, a storm destroyed about half of the original building.

Thanks to **Susan Brown Craig** for this story and **Sam Craig** for the photo.



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## Entrance Re-pointing

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The Westover Civic Association contracted to have the entrance to Westover repaired several months ago. After 20 some years, the mortar between the joints started to deteriorate which allowed water to seep into the entrance. This needed repair was detected by **Corky Dalton** during routine volunteer work and was quickly quoted, approved and repaired. You may notice that some of the joints have a slightly different color mortar and over time, we hope, that will blend in with the old.



The Westover Civic Association moved our board meetings to the Hampden Township Recreation Building across from the Sporting Hill Elementary School. All residents are invited to attend these informative meetings and bring any questions or concerns to the board.

Our January meeting featured Michael Gossert, the Manager of Hampden Township, and Chief Andreoli, the Chief of Police. They both gave an interesting presentation on Hampden Township and the happenings that affect us in Westover.

Board items discussed included dues collection (we are on target), finances (we are in good shape), review of the storm damage, entrance re-pointing, holiday decorations, snow removal in selected areas of Westover that have not been turned over to the township, road repair on Westover due to new housing units, directory updates, future speakers, abandoned basketball backboards and many other items that affect the quality of life in Westover.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2008 at 7PM. Please come. We need your input.

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## Westover Civic Association Board News

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# Westover 2008 Holiday Decorations

This year Westover had 55 volunteers to help with putting up then taking down the Westover tradition of Holiday Decorations. This event would not be possible without numerous committees including the bows committee that ironed and fabricated all the bows; the installation committee that installed all the garland; the food committee that secured the refreshments; and the many other volunteers who showed up to help where they could.

We installed 57 bows and garland throughout Westover. We consumed 36 doughnuts, 2 large boxes of hot chocolate and 1 large box of coffee, all of which were necessary to keep the many volunteers motivated! Those who participated included:

**Walsh family**  
**Ed Reynolds**  
**Ed and Sue Skender**  
**Greg Hartman**  
**Carney Humphreys**  
**David, Alexander and Sarah Wisneski**  
**Michael Dillon**  
**Don and Connie Spangler**  
**Joe, Elaine and Cooper Farrell**

**Baboian Family**  
**Clancy Myer**  
**Sue Schweitz**  
**Sam and Susan Craig (and Magic)**  
**Nick Tamanini**  
**Tom Stone**  
**Carnovale family**  
**Bill and Ross Jones**  
**Patti Bucek**  
**Sharon Ryan, Dan, Kathy, Kyle, Ryan and Emma**

**Hooven**  
**Garno family**  
**Cree family**  
**Dethleff family**  
**Peter Viins**  
**Cassel family**  
**Mike Evans**  
**Michael Johnson**  
**Chris Rhine**  
**John Groller**  
**Shayla Lori**

**Fred Littman**  
**Dick Kunkle**  
**Greg Hartman**  
**Elaine Morrison**  
**Diane Grimes**  
**John Carrigan**  
**Lin and Corky Dalton**  
and many others whose names escaped us. Thanks to all of you!!



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## Ice Storm in Westover

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In early December, 2007, we experienced an unusual ice storm in Westover which did quite a bit of damage. Here are photos of the damage and hopefully we will not have to relive this experience for awhile.



*Thanks to Connie and Don Spangler, Bill Kenney and Joe Farrell for the photos.*

## Paving & Snow Removal in the "New" Westover

**"Good things come to those who wait"**--and we're **finally paved** on the **"NEW"** Side of Westover!! Paving occurred in November to Westover Drive and the Cul-de-Sacs that feed off street. Bill Keeley, the Village of Westover's Builder was contacted regarding a timeline for the dedication of this newly paved area to the township. He indicated that his attorneys and the township attorneys are working together to transfer ownership to the township. As soon as the dedication occurs, snow plowing, street sweeping, etc. will be done by the township.

*Thanks to Kim Burke for this update*

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## Hampden Township Tan Bark or Leaf Compost Available for Delivery to Your Door!

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Hampden Township has offered to deliver tan bark and leaf compost from the Yard Waste Composting facility right to your door. The product is free but there is a delivery charge of \$30.00 for 3 cubic yards and \$50.00 for 8 cubic yards.

The tan bark and leaf compost is the same material we use in the community parks within Westover. It is a wonderful way to recycle and reuse those leaves and sticks that the township picks up at your house. It is not treated or dyed, but it is good and viable tan bark. You need to go to the Township Administrative Building on Sporting Hill Road and pay first, then the township crews will deliver the material within three working days. They will deliver it to your driveway and will not place it on the streets. You can call 761-0119 for more information.



## Is Spring in the Air?

A dedicated group of Westover Volunteers spent a part of Saturday, January 5, 2008 cleaning storm debris in our Common Areas in Westover. The ice storm downed some trees and lots of sticks to the point that walking was dangerous. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped on this Saturday.

