



# the Village of Westover

NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2007

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- 16 Linda Dalton
- 17 Terry Jones
- 18 Ann Frankhouse
- 19 Mildred Feeney
- 20 Kerry Kenney
- 21 Ken Schmidt
- 22 Sue Schweitz

**Important Dates**

**April 25 at 7:00 pm**  
Westover Board Meeting

**February 19**  
Presidents Day  
(observed)

**March 11**  
Daylight Saving time starts

**May 28**  
Memorial Day  
(observed)

## Westover Holiday Decoration Participation

Wow, what a successful Holiday Decorating Project we had at the Village of Westover. We had a total of **60** homeowners who participated in one way or another for this 2006 project!! We thank all of them for the effort and time volunteered to help out.

The decorations installation project involve garlands and bows on all the street signs, decorations at the entrance and on other key signs within Westover. The project took place on a crisp and cool Saturday morning and was completed in approximately one hour. This past holiday we had many homeowners who "adopted" a street sign and have made it a family event to decorate the sign

post near their home. We also went through three boxes of hot chocolate, numerous dozens of the "good" doughnuts and lots of hot coffee. We all had fun.



The take down party did their job in 30 minutes flat for the whole community. Thanks to those volunteers, too. See the many photos throughout this newsletter.

## Westover Light Bulb Update



The Westover Civic Association members recently voted to have the community street lamps replaced with high intensity bulbs, and the process is now unfolding. PP&L will replace the light bulbs and the light fixtures in the early to mid summer of this year. The bulbs and fixtures need to be replaced together due to the nature of the new high intensity bulbs. The fixtures will look substantially the same as the current ones, and you can see them first hand by looking at Kensington Square which had its bulbs and fixtures changed earlier.

Westover will keep you posted on the progress of this project. PP&L tells us that this is a big project and has to "fit in" with essential construction and maintenance projects scheduled for the upcoming spring and summer months.

## Westover 2007 Upcoming Projects

Westover Civic Association is planning some projects for 2007. We are going to continue our *Summer in the Park* program that was so highly successful during the summer of 2006. We will be repairing or upgrading some of the deteriorating street signs, making some minor improvements to the entrance lighting, finalizing the improvements to McCord Commons with paving of the walkway and new benches, and changing the street light bulbs. All of this is accomplished with your financial and volunteer support and we thank you.

## Where is Westover Willie?

As we all know, Westover Willie goes south for the winter, but he has been keeping in touch via email, mail, and text messaging. So here we go with this issue of the newsletter's questions for Willie.....

► **Question from a birding homeowner:** "Since Willie is an owl and owls do not migrate, what does he think he is doing going south? Or where did he really go?" Now this homeowner also added this comment, "Should be interesting to see how you wiggle out of that one...."

**Answer from Willie:** Now, do people go south in the winter? They, like me, go south for the warm weather, beaches, cool-looking girl birds, and to catch up on some reading in the sun. So you can tell your doubting homeowner that it's nice and warm down here.

### ► Dear Westover Willie,

Willie, do we get extra points here in Westover for putting our trash out a day earlier? It would seem that having the trash on the street long before it is due to be collected should get some points.

**Answer from Willie:** No, No, No, you get no **good** points for putting your unsightly trash, trash cans, and recycling containers out a day before the garbage collectors come to pick up. In fact you get points, but they are not good points. Now you did not ask about leaving out the empty trash containers for hours or days after trash collection day. These homeowners only get points of scorn from neighbors because it looks like . . .heck! The rules are that you put out the trash after 6:00 PM on Wednesday evening.

### ► Dear Westover Willie,

In December, when I went outside to get my paper I noticed that a few of my neighbors' yards had wooden Christmas decorations on a stick with Santa faces, holiday scenes, etc. Later on in the day I took a walk around the neighborhood and saw some more signs of almost the exact same style. I was wondering if this is a planned event. I

think whoever planted these signs had the right idea of spreading Christmas cheer and spirit. I think this is a great tradition and that it should continue in the future. I was also wondering if anybody knows who this Secret Santa is!



**Answer from Willie:** We really do not know who did this, it is not a Westover function and since I was down south, I could not fly around and check this out. Maybe whoever did this, could send a note to [westover@farrell-assoc.com](mailto:westover@farrell-assoc.com) so we can thank them and possibly continue this nice gesture.

### ► Dear Westover Willie,

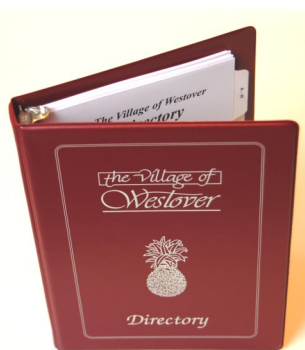
I noticed that a homeowner had a porta potty on the front lawn recently. They claimed it was a rest station for Santa, but I did notice workers doing some landscaping in the back yard. Is it legit to have this in the front yard? From a relieved homeowner.

**Answer from Willie:** I, of course, did not see this porta potty as I was down south, but I did have a robin friend of mine email me a photo of it. As you can see, Santa left a note indicating he liked it, but wanted it heated for next year (gosh, heavens, this had better not be an annual event!) I can't imagine that there are any official rules for porta potties in your front yard. However, I think decorum would

dictate that porta potties be displayed only for special events, such as major construction projects. This would be appropriate as it does wonders to save the existing bushes.



◀The porta potty in question



## Westover Community Directory

The 2007 edition of the Westover Community Directory has been updated and printed recently and is available to all current Westover Civic Association dues paying members. This directory is unique as it has current maps of Westover and is inserted in a hard maroon colored Westover binder. If you did not get a copy and are current with your Westover dues, please let your zone director know or pay your dues!! Thank you to Walt Henderson who spearheaded this project, again!

# Cold Weather Walking Tips

## Use Common Sense When Walking

Walking outside in the winter may be refreshing, however, snowy sidewalks and icy streets can make walking a challenge and a hazard if you don't take basic precautions. To protect yourself from injury this winter, practice these safe winter walking tips at all times:

- Wear shoes or boots with non-slip soles. Also, wear reflective or bright colored clothing, such as a hat or scarf, so motorists are better able to see you.
- Bend your knees a little, keep your feet at shoulder width, and point your toes outward when walking on icy surfaces. Take slower steps to reduce your chances of falling. Wear gloves so you are less likely to place your hands in your pockets.
- Make a mental note of sections of sidewalks along your normal route that are prone to having water runoff or puddles and are, therefore, at risk of icing over. Change your route if necessary to avoid these areas.
- If you must walk in the road, walk facing traffic and as close to the curb as possible.
- Proper headwear is important but can also limit your ability to hear approaching vehicles.
- Start your walk into the wind so you will finish with it to your back. Consider the purchase of Stabilicers, Yak-Trax, or Ice Walker/Jogger slip on cleats.

## Walking with Your 4-Legged Friends

If you are taking along your four legged friend, please consider their safety and comfort as well. Dogs must adapt to the cold weather. Limit the lengths of walks at first to permit them to build up a thicker coat and get their footpads toughened for the snow and ice. Smaller dogs and dogs with short coats are particularly vulnerable to the cold. Pets that get too cold can develop hypothermia or even frostbite. Tips of ears are particularly susceptible.

If sidewalks or roads have been salted, be sure to wash your pet's paws after your walk. Gently rub the bottom of the feet to remove the salt. If your dog frequently lifts up his paws, whines or stops during the walk, it is demonstrating that its feet are uncomfortably cold. Be sure your dog gets used to wearing boots before the cold weather sets in.

Dogs with long fur on the bottom of their paws often develop ice balls between the pads and toes of their feet. To prevent ice balls from forming, trim the hair around your dog's feet. You can also apply a small amount of Vaseline, cooking oil, or PAM Spray to your dog's feet before the walk. Make sure you use edible oil.

**Remember, hibernating is for bears, not for walkers.**

*Thanks to Matt Carnovale for providing this article which consists of excerpts from numerous publications.*



**2007 Holiday Decoration  
Project and the Many  
Volunteers Who Helped.  
THANK YOU!**





## **Sergeant Shissler Hampden Township Police Department**

Sergeant Shissler of the Hampden Police Department, our community point of contact, offers some suggestions and thoughts regarding police coverage in the neighborhood.

### **Challenges of Winter Weather**

Sergeant Shissler tells us that when the snow falls and the plows are out, here are the things that you need to do:

- Do not blow or shovel your snow onto the street. He tells us that many homeowners do this and this only causes problems when that snow starts melting and then freezing thus causing a very hazardous situation. Plus it is against the law to do this.
- Make sure you shovel your sidewalk in a timely fashion. Westover is very fortunate to have sidewalks and when they are not shoveled, they are very hazardous.
- Keep in mind that the township snow plow operators are not out to "get you"!!!! Many folks get this feeling when they just shoveled the driveway and a nice spot for the mailman, when bam, the snow plow shows up and throws all the snow back into your nice clean spot. Honest, they are not after you, according to Sergeant Shissler.

The police department also recommends that you, the drivers, slow down when there is snow or ice on the road. While this seems to be a very logical thing to do, many drivers think that an all-wheel drive or four-wheel drive vehicle can go anywhere. It is important to note that these vehicles deal with ice like any other vehicle; they cannot stop and they skid.

**Drive slowly.**

### **Understanding Tickets Issued by the Police**

The Westover Newsletter staff posed a question to Sergeant Shissler recently regarding police coverage. Westover Willey gets this question often . . . *how come the police do not station an officer at all the corners of an intersection where folks go through stop signs and red lights. It seems you would catch a lot of bad guys and the money from the tickets would more than pay for the costs of the police coverage.*

Sergeant Shissler tells us this question comes up often and he offered these comments. While it may seem that the township collects lots of money from a fine resulting from a ticket issued, they really only get about half (at the most) of any given fine. The fines are a prime target for "add ons," with emergency service fees, court costs and the like by our Legislature. The Township Police traffic tickets are in a way a collection point for these add on fees. So, for instance, a person caught going through a stop sign yields about \$25.00 to the Township. Then if the offender were to question the fine and take it to court, the Township has to supply the officer to testify and this is usually on overtime. So it is very expensive to have an officer sit in a patrol car, waiting for someone to break the law. The Hampden Township Police have 24 officers to cover the township 7 by 24, 365 days a year, and Sergeant Shissler tells us that they patrol the high accident prone areas like the Carlisle Pike, Skyport Road and other major roads and as time permits they will station an officer to watch a red light or stop sign point.

The Westover Civic Association has, on many occasions, called upon the police to help with stop sign runners and the Township has always found a way to watch these trouble points. We thank the Police Department for their diligence in helping to keep the township safe.

PS: The mailbox robbers have been apprehended!!

**2007 Holiday Decoration Project and the Many Volunteers Who Helped. THANK YOU!**

