



the Village of Westover

NEWSLETTER
NOVember 2007

www.villageofwestover.org

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Joe Farrell

Vice-President
Bill Kenney

Treasurer
David Baboian

Secretary
Elaine Farrell

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Michael Dillon

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- 8 Bill Habacivch
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- 10 Joe Washburn
- 11 Greg Hartman
- 12 Annette Crist
- 13 Elaine Morrison
- 14 Maria Szczur
- 15 Fred Littman
- 16 Linda Dalton
- 17 Terry Jones
- 18 Ann Frankhouse
- 19 Mildred Feeney
- 20 Kim Burke
- 21 Dave Patton
- 22 Sue Schweitz

Important Dates

November—TBD
Leaf pickup ends

November 29
Santa visit to Westover

December 1
•Hampden Township Breakfast with Santa (see Page 5)
•Westover Breakfast with Santa (see Page 5)

December 8th
Village of Westover Holiday Decoration install at 9 am

January 5th
Village of Westover Holiday Decoration removal at 9 am

January 16th
Westover Civic Association Board meeting

Westover Holiday Decoration Time

A Tradition in Westover

Westover Civic Association will continue to provide fresh garland and red bows for the street signs in our community as we have done for many years during the Holiday season, and you all can help! We are going to put the decorations up on **Saturday, December 8th at 9:00 am** and take them down on **Saturday, January 5th at 9:00 am**.

We form teams, and each team does two or three posts. It only takes a maximum of



45 minutes for the entire project, it is fun and we even provide refreshments.

Over the years this project has evolved to be a very fun family project by adopting and trimming a sign. It is really easy and all you

need is a ladder or a tall family member!

Westover provides the bows, the garland, the ties, the necessary instructions and, most importantly, the hot chocolate and donuts! It takes about 5 minutes for each post and 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.



Leaf Pick-up in Westover



The Westover Civic Association has been in contact with Hampden Township and leaf pickup will continue after Thanksgiving as weather permits. Both the Township and Westover are aware that the leaves are falling later this year than in the past so the Township will continue to pick up leaves on Westover's scheduled Friday pick-up day. Be aware they will stop when snow is in the forecast as it takes about 2 weeks to get the trucks ready for snow removal.

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*Sergeant Shissler
Hampden Township*

Be Safe During the Holiday. Sergeant Shissler wants to let us know that as the holiday shopping season approaches, all residents should make sure that any packages stored in your vehicle should be kept out of site of the bad guys lurking around. In mall and shopping center parking lots he indicated that prowlers look for packages, keys and valuables in vehicles, just ripe for stealing. More importantl, he suggests you use extra caution when going to your vehicle at night and to be aware of who is around you. Preying crooks look for single shoppers in out of the way parts of parking lots as potential victims, so be cautious. If you are concerned with your safety, most stores will have someone escort you to your vehicle

Vandals and Holiday Decorations. Strange as this may seem, Officer Shissler cautions everyone that vandals will destroy holiday lights and decorations. He indicated that if this happens to you, please call the Hampden Police Department so they can investigate. Even if you see suspicious folks hanging around areas where decorations are exposed and you think they may have less than honorable intentions, please call the police.

Speeders Are Dangerous. Two of the items that get Westover residents ticked off are the speeders and those going through stop signs. While these really make people angry, he cannot stress enough for you not to approach these people. Rather, please get the license number, type of vehicle, a good visual description of the person, and the time and date and report this to the police. They need this hard factual information to approach the offender. Too often they get sketchy information which is not enough for the police to follow through.

Snow Plows Are Our Friends. Now this is one that you would never expect the Police to get involved in, but when a plow pushes snow into someone's driveway, this is not a police matter!!! They will not arrest the snow plow driver. If a plow pushes snow in your driveway, particularly after you just spent 30 minutes clearing it off, the plow driver is just doing his job and not looking to make your life difficult. Please be aware that snow will get pushed in your driveway and don't call the police!

Miscellaneous. A few other items of interest from Sergeant Shissler: The Hampden Police recently acquired a scanner to read the RFID tags that some folks are having implanted in their pets. This scanner helps the police identify any lost pets and get them back to the rightful owners. Secondly, the Hampden Police also offers a class and assistance on child safety seats. You can call the township police office for time slots and one-on-one help, and to set an appointment to re-view fitting the seat properly in your vehicle.

Dear Westover Willie

Hi all, I'm back. Took a little time for R and R in the early fall and now am back just in time for the cold weather. My email box was filling up so I figured I'd better get to it and answer some mail. Here goes...



Q. Willie, what kind of lights are we to put in the windows at holiday time? Sally Holiday

R: Dear Sally. The Village of Westover was modeled after Williamsburg, Virginia, and that is why you see so many colonial touches in the community such as the entrance, the front doors, the unique styling of the brick work and the single white candle in the windows of many homes during the holidays. This has long been a Williamsburg tradition, and the Westover Civic Association asks each homeowner to do the same. I can tell you that from my bird's eye view, that Westover is the best looking neighborhood on the West Shore and maybe the whole East Coast when it comes to holiday decorations.

Q. Willie, when I walk through the neighborhood, I hit my head on tree limbs. How come? Lumpy

A: Dear Lumpy. Well two possibilities come to mind. One, you are super tall, or two, the homeowner has not trimmed the trees that overhang the sidewalk to comply with the Township ordinance height of 8 feet. Now if you asked how come you brush your side against shrubbery, then I would have two potential answers. One is that you may be wider than the sidewalk or two (and most likely) the homeowner has not trimmed the bushes back so that the sidewalk is free and clear. Hope that helps you and our residents that did not know this.

Q. Willie, when we move from the neighborhood, what are we to do with the really nice Village of Westover Directory? Five Fingers Joe.

A: Dear Five Fingers. First of all, you are not allowed to move without my express permission because we want to keep all the good folks here in Westover. But in the event that you did not look heavenward and get my approval, then you should turn in your red binder to your zone director for reuse. You can keep the inserts to maintain contact with your Westover friends and neighbors. And if you don't turn in your binder and I see that it is loaded on the moving van, well, I may just do a fly over and drop a you-know-what!!!

Willie wishes everyone a wonderful Holiday Season!!

Front Entrance

The Village of Westover front entrance was recently re-pointed and re-mortared to repair years of aging. The final part of the job is to have the brickwork sealed against the elements and should carry us through the next five years. The work was completed during the week of November 16th and comes after power washing by Westover Civic Association volunteers and repainting of the entrance sign by **Linda and Corky Dalton**.



Basketball Backboards

Hampden Township recently published in its newsletter an article on basketball backboards and asked residents to keep them off the street so as not to interfere with leaf and snow removal. In Westover, there are some backboards that have been up for years but appear to be "abandoned" after the kids left home. If your backboard falls into this category, please help keep Westover beautiful by removing any unused or decaying basketball backboards. If you have any questions, the township asks you to call them at 761-0119.

New Park Benches

The Westover Civic Association under the direction of McCord Commons chairman, **Sam Craig**, has finished with the installation of three additional benches. These are public park grade benches with steel frames and redwood seating. Come check them out in the McCord Commons.

Sam has also reported that the new grass that was planted has taken hold well before the winter weather and should mature next spring. Thanks to Sam and his committee for the hard work on the park. Here is a photo of the park at its finest on a fall day and while it is hard to see, the new benches and new grass are shown in this photo. Visit soon and take a stroll around the newly paved walkways, take in the trees, view the tree ID signs, take in the lush grass and have a great day.



Westover Winter Travel Suggestions

Winter will soon arrive 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 Stephens Crossing in the original section of Westover as it can get really slippery there.

Neighbors are also encouraged to move cars typically parked in street into their driveway prior to a predicted snowfall. This in turn will make it easier for the plows and for you when it comes time to clear your driveway and free your car for travel. Residents are also reminded that it is **against townships 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 wish 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

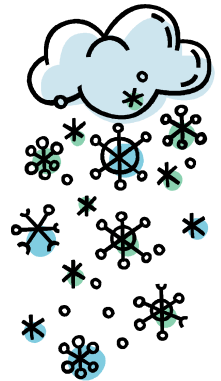
to drive, please call 911 or a neighbor to see if they can assist.

Finally, when you do venture out in your car, make sure you clean off snow from the hood and top of the car as well as your windows....this is a state law.

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 need a little of our help.

Please be safe and considerate this winter driving season.

By Matt Carnovale



Halloween At The Baboian's

David and Doris Baboian held their annual Haunted House again this year, and boy was it a hit. The number of folks getting their pants scared-off grew again this year with about 150 people that dared come over for the Haunted House and for the inflatable jungle gym for the kids. We heard more screams and saw more scary stuff this year. David said this was his best ever!

We thank David and Doris for all the hard work to make this Haunted House a fun and community event.

Westover Drive Paving

This fall Hampden Township did a great job paving Westover Drive in the original section and the lower part of Stephens Crossing, again, in the original section of Westover. These roads are now super smooth and we thank Hampden Township for keeping up with the maintenance of our streets.

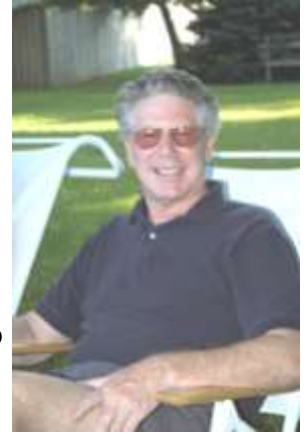


Westover Annual Dues REMINDER

This is a reminder that the 2008 Westover Civic Association dues are due. We continue to hold them at \$30.00 a year and we ask that you use the coupon on the last page of this newsletter and give your payment and coupon to your Zone Director. Please help keep Westover safe and family friendly. If you enjoy the events the association sponsors, this newsletter, the holiday decorations, please keep in mind that they come from your support of the Civic Association. Thank you for your past support

Thank You to Michael Dillon

Michael Dillon served as President of the Westover Civic Association for many years and during his terms of office many positive improvements in the community were made. The past four years have been very active with a new newsletter format, new website, signs for Kids Alive Campaign, grants for improvements in the McCord Commons areas, coordinated clean-up days, newly painted signage, and the list goes on.

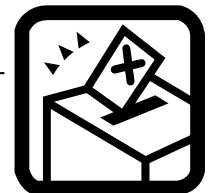


Michael will continue as immediate past president of the Civic Association and act as an advisor as we move forward with Westover.

Thank you Michael! We all appreciate your dedication and hard work. Michael was presented with a special plaque at the November 7th Board of Directors meeting to show our gratitude for his interest in the Civic Association and the Village of Westover in general.

Westover Holds Election of Officers

This year the homeowner members of the Village of Westover Civic Association voted on individuals to take the two open officer positions including President and Treasurer. The election is open to all dues paying members of the Village of Westover (dues paying members are the members of the association, not all homeowners).



So the results are in: **Joe Farrell** was elected President and **David Baboian** was re-elected to the Treasurer's post. They join **Elaine Farrell** the secretary of the Association and **Bill Kenney** the newly appointed Vice-President of the Westover Civic Association. These officers along with an active board of volunteers are all working for your benefit.

If your candidate did not win, there will be plenty of opportunities in future Village of Westover races. We encourage you to get involved and make a difference!

Westover Women's Club NEWS

The Giving Tree: The Giving Tree is a holiday tree decorated with requests from individuals being served by the local YWCA and a domestic violence shelter. This year we have 27 decorations with a range of requests. If you are looking for a charitable outlet this holiday season, consider the Giving Tree. Please consider participating in this activity by fulfilling a Christmas wish for a child. We have 20 angels available to us with a range of ages and you can request boys or girls. Call or email Kerry early for best selection!

Care and Share: The Care and Share program is a charity funded by Westover residents and administered by a volunteer from the Westover Women's Club. Its goal is to provide immediate, anonymous and discreet assistance to local families in crisis. We are having a huge year for Care and Share requests. This is fantastic in one way, because that means we are helping alleviate so much suffering and stress locally. We love this program so much and we don't know any other neighborhood that has such a simple

and effective way of reaching out discreetly to friends in need. Some examples of what we do: this week we dropped off a partial car payment and Giant gift cards to a guidance counselor for a family in distress; last week we dropped off Giant gift cards for another school. We have a little girl who needs a coat, and hat or scarf. Julie Davidson, the Care and Share leader has been even busier with calls and responses. You can give Care and Share money to any member of the women's club. Or you can use the Contact Us form at (www.villageofwestover.org) to find out how to donate. Thank you so much!!

Hay ride success: A **BIG** thank you to **Mike McLaughlin, Nikki Woods** and the Vietnam Vets of Chapter 547. Nikki and Mike opened up their home and hosted a spectacular hay ride. The yard was decorated, and there were activities, food, fun and plenty of great Halloween spirit. The kids enjoyed hot dogs, face-painting, the hay ride and lots more--and it was all free. We are so lucky that Nikki and Mike continue

to provide such a great holiday event in our neighborhood! So thank you!!

The **Westover Women's Club** is busy every month planning charitable outreach in the community or sponsoring seasonal events for the families in our neighborhood. We also have meetings every month with a short (we promise!) agenda and lots of excellent home-made food and good conversation and company. Consider being a part of what we do to work at making this neighborhood special. It is a great organization!

How To Join the Women's Club. Please contact **Kerry Kenney**, Women's Club President, if you want to join, help out or support any of our activities. Kerry Kenney is located at 205 St. James Court, telephone is 790-9791, and email kerryann@gmail.com

Westover Women's Club Breakfast with Santa

The Westover Women's Club will again this year sponsor a Santa Breakfast on Saturday, **Dec 1 at 9AM** at **Country Buffet** behind the Bob Evan's on the Carlisle Pike. They have arranged a room for our party under the name *Westover Santa Breakfast*. Arrive any time after 9:00 am as we expect Santa to come at 9:45 am. We ask that parents order and pay for meals independently. Each child will have time with Santa and receive a goody from Santa. Please contact **Kristin Lehman or Kerry Kenney** telephone 790-9791 or email (kerryann@gmail.com) to register and learn more details about the goody from Santa which requires some parental guidance and we want every child to be happy! Like most of our neighborhood events for kids, this is a

small event with a good scale and always turns out very nicely. We encourage you to come and join us!



Santa's Plans with Hampden Township

BREAKFAST. Hampden Township and Santa are sponsoring a holiday breakfast event for the entire family on **Saturday, December 1st** at the **Armitage Meeting Room** at Armitage Golf Course. Unfortunately, due to overwhelming demand this event is already full. Hopefully you made your reservation early and if not, get ready for next year.

HO, HO, HO. Hampden Township Volunteer Fire Department will hold the annual visit from Santa in Westover on Thursday, November 29th from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. The Fire Department has made special arrangements for Santa to take some time out of his really busy schedule to visit Westover. Since there most likely will not be snow that day, Santa will be driven around on a big red fire truck. Be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for the visit.

Village of Westover Web-site



The website provided by the Westover Civic Association has been in place for about a year. Volunteers update the site regularly with our programs and events. We also have a "contact us" page which is monitored and all requests for information, inquiries or suggestions are passed on to appropriate volunteers and followed up by the Civic Association. If you wonder what is going on in the neighborhood, browse to our site and check it out. If you have a comment, suggestion, interest in helping us update it from time-to-time, please use the Contact Us page and let us know your thoughts. The site address is www.villageofwestover.org.

Westover has a lot of homeowners thus a great deal of talent. Westover is always seeking new ideas that would benefit all the community of homeowners. Please do not hesitate to talk to your Zone Director or one of the Officers if you have something to share.

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Submit dues directly to your Zone Director with this coupon . Make check out to Village of Westover.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS