

the Village of Westover

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2009

www.villageofwestover.org

President
Joe Farrell

Vice-President
Patti Bucek

Treasurer
David Baboian

Secretary
Elaine Farrell

Immediate Past President
Michael Dillon

Zone Directors

- 1 Ed Nerino
- 2 Matt/Sue Carnovale
- 3 Linda Lippert
- 4 John Reiersen
- 5 Jacki Garno
- 6 Ed Trador
- 7 Carney Humphreys
- 8 Bill Carlisle
- 9 Clarence Chriss
- 10 Joe Washburn
- 11 Greg Hartman
- 12 Annette Crist
- 13 Elaine Morrison
- 14 Monti Fletcher
- 15 Fred Littmann
- 16 Linda Dalton
- 17 Terry Jones
- 18 Ann Frankhouse
- 19 VACANT
- 20 John Coyne
- 21 Dave Patton
- 22 Jim Kriebel

Important Dates

April 25
Commons Clean Up Day

May 8 and 9
Westover Garage Sales

May 10
Mother's Day

May 25
Memorial Day

June 10
Westover Board Meeting

June 14
Block Party

Westover Clean-Up Day Party Scheduled for April 25



The Westover Civic Association has scheduled a clean-up day in the Commons and you are invited and best of all it is free!!!

The special day is Saturday, April 25th, at 9:00 am for one hour only.

Residents that attend will be cleaning up the Commons areas of Westover. This is a really fun event with light raking, trimming, spreading tan bark and having coffee, hot chocolate and gooey doughnuts with neighbors.

Kids have a fun time, too, and again we will play "pick up sticks" since there are

plenty of sticks to go around this year. No child will come away empty handed. The kid's part is a great way to expose them to community service while having some fun.

All you need to do is to show up with a rake, and/or hedge trimmers, and gloves on April 25th at 9:00 am for one hour. You can email Joe Farrell at jfarrell@farrell-assoc.com to let him know you are coming.

Many of Westover's residents use the Commons for walking their pets, for kids to play in, to stroll, or sit on the benches to enjoy a sunny, warm day. It is a reflection on our community and our responsibility to keep it clean and safe. All are welcome to attend.

Westover Annual Garage Sales

Friday, May 8 & Saturday, May 9
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Got stuff you want to sell, but do not want to have a garage sale? The Westover Women's Club has a solution for you!

New this year..... you can bring your stuff (limited amount) to Ros Jones' home at 6321 Stephens Crossing and put it in the Westover Women's Club community garage sale. The proceeds (100%) go the Women's Club Care and Share Program. Here are the rules:

- 1) Bring your items, marked with your name, to the home of Ros Jones, Thursday evening, May 7, or before 8:00 am on Friday, May 8;
- 2) The Women's Club will price and sell the items with 100% of the proceeds going to their Care and Share Program.

3) The Women's Club will not be issuing receipts for the value of the items.

4) If the Women's Club does not sell your stuff, they will call you to pick up the larger items. Smaller items will be donated to charity by the club.



The Women's Club will also be selling hot dogs, sodas and baked goods with all proceeds going to the Share and Care Program. You are invited to stop over for lunch and check on how well your items are selling or just to have a good 'ole hot dog.

Thanks to the coordination and sponsorship by the Westover Women's Club. The other surrounding neighborhoods are coordinating with Westover to bring in maximum exposure to your "stuff." As you know, one man's trash is another man's treasure!! It's Westover's Annual Garage Sale!!



Sergeant Shissler Update

FOR YOUR SAFETY....

SOLICITOR BADGES

Sergeant Shissler reports that all residents should be on the lookout for door to door solicitors who may not have the proper Hampden Township solicitor badge. This badge identifies the solicitors as having passed the minimum background checks before the official permit in the form of a badge is issued to them. If someone tries to sell you something, ask him or her for the Solicitor Badge and if he or she does not have one, call the Township Police at 761-2609 and they will come into the neighborhood and investigate. The permit requirement is a simple process for the solicitor and is designed to protect you from unscrupulous vendors. However, by issuing the permit the township does not endorse the vendor's product or service.

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS NOT ALLOWED

The police want to remind all of us that motorized scooters and carts are not permitted on any township street unless driven by a licensed driver with a valid PA license plate and the appropriate safety gear. The units sold in some stores with the intent that youngsters can ride them at will throughout any neighborhood is not true.

STOP SIGN RUNNERS

Running through stop signs continues to be a problem in Westover and we ask that if you see someone doing this, do not take the matter in your own hands due to the potential for road rage violence. The township asks that you note the date, time, type and color of car, preferably the license plate, get a good look at the driver and then call 761-2609. The police will register this complaint for this driver, and based on previous incidents, will visit the home to take further action. They, like you, cannot be everywhere and ask for your help.

STREETS VERSUS SIDEWALKS

Sergeant Shissler's final safety message is that walking dogs, pushing strollers and the like on the street is not allowed by **state law** when there are sidewalks available. The police are not trying to be difficult to deal with, but some folks insist on using the street as a big sidewalk and it is very dangerous, particularly at early morning or evening when bright orange gear should be worn.

Dear Westover Willie



Q. When I walk or jog in Westover or take my children for a stroller ride in the neighborhood, is it OK to do so in the street?

A. Actually, the answer is No because it is dangerous especially if you have infants or small children with you. Please, please use the sidewalks as that is why they are there. And, just as important, it is against the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code to walk in the street when a sidewalk is available. I promise to be safe in the air and I urge you to do the same on the ground!

Q. Willie, I hear that the free tan bark from the township is not sprayed for bugs. Should I worry about that?

A. I flew over the township and had a nice long chat about bugs in the tanbark. You heard right that no additives are mixed with the tan bark so that there will be bugs in it. Is that bad? Some say there could be termites; others say all tan bark has bugs.

Q. We take so much pride in our beautiful Commons areas of Westover. So how come some rascals are tipping over the benches. Too much time on their hands?

A. Yep, I noticed this when I flew over the Commons last week. Maybe it's just pranksters but it surely isn't appreciated. I hope they use the same energy on Clean-Up Day April 25th! It surely would be more useful. I don't mean to get on my high horse but Westover's Commons is for all to enjoy, so to the pranksters....Cut It Out!!!

Westover Pride

Spring is here, with its warmer weather, robins returning, and flowers & trees coming back to life.

Westover has a long history of residents maintaining their homes and landscaping with great pride. It is with that spirit and enthusiasm that we encourage everyone to continue this tradition.....please keep in



mind that your well-maintained property enhances its value, reflects well on you, the owner, and also shows respect for the value of all Westover property owners.

2009 Easter Egg Hunt!



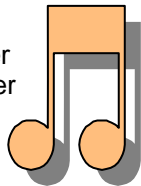
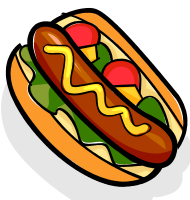
The Westover Women's Club held the annual community Easter Egg Hunt in McCord Commons on April 5th. Peter Cottontail hopped into the Commons and put smiles on the faces of over 50 children! We enjoyed beautiful weather, a field of brightly covered Easter eggs, with every child taking home a one-half pound chocolate Easter Bunny.

A huge thank you to Audrey Newell who entertained everyone as the official Easter Bunny and to Kristin Lehman, Jackie Garno and Michele Reber for organizing this awesome event. And a BIG thank you for all the residents and their families who supported this year's Easter Egg Hunt.



Westover Summer Block Parties

Hold these dates for Westover's Summer Block Parties: Sundays June 14th and September 13th from 4 to 6 pm are the dates for the Westover Civic Association Summer Block Parties. We will be having music, food this year and some games and entertainment for the kids.



Keep these dates in mind and more information will follow.

Zone Director Elections

Bill Carlisle, chairman of the Voter Election Committee of the Westover Civic Association, has informed us that the slate of candidates for board and officer positions all ran unopposed and all won! Congratulations to all of the board members and to Bill for collecting and counting the ballots. The winning slate is on the front page, left column.



Starlings in Westover

(thanks to Dan and Kathy Hooven for this submission)

For about 3 weeks now, those of us on the very eastern end of Westover (especially residents at the east end of Stephens Crossing and Friars Court) have been inconvenienced by growing numbers of starlings that come in from the west at dusk to roost in the thickets of bamboo along the eastern perimeter of Westover. We have seen migrating birds roost here temporarily in years past, but never the duration and quantity like this year. This year, the starlings surely number in the thousands and we are becoming increasingly concerned that they may not be simply migrating but instead could take up a more permanent residence here.

The starlings are an impressive natural sight when they come in at dusk. At times, the sky blackens with the volume of birds ... the sheer numbers are amazing. And true to starling form, the flocks perform synchronized aerial acrobatics, reminiscent of what we've all occasionally seen schools of fish do on one of those National Geographic specials. But there is a

downside to this awesome natural spectacle ... BIRD DROPPINGS (... and "droppings" is an understatement ... I don't even want to begin thinking of the work my neighbors and I have ahead of us cleaning siding, windows, cars, driveways, sidewalks, decks, porches, patios, grills, playgrounds, etc.).

We talked with the **PA Game Commission** (<http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/>) and the **USDA Wildlife Services** ([http://](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/state_office/pennsylvania_info.shtml)

www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/state_office/pennsylvania_info.shtml) about our problem with the starlings. Both confirm that, although starlings are prolific and cannot be eradicated, they can be displaced with some effort ... effectively making our problem someone else's problem. The efforts begin with using measures such as noise and light to disrupt the birds' roosting patterns. If these tactics are not effective, the USDA may (for a fee) come in and fog the area with a non-toxic repellent. If fogging is ineffective, the final recommendation is to remove the roost (in our case, have all



the bamboo removed from the Westover perimeter). First things first ...

For the past few nights, a few of us who have been most inconvenienced by this proliferation of starlings have taken to some basic measures of disrupting roosting patterns. We have been outside blowing whistles, banging trash can lids, and creating what noise we can to deter the birds from settling in for the night. Over the next week or so and under the advice of the PA Game Commission and the

USDA Wildlife Services, we plan to take up more advanced measures. Both agencies have recommended the use of 12 Gauge Shell Crackers (also known as "Bangers"). These "bangers" are fired into the sky from a shotgun and explode at about 200 feet in the air ... the explosions are loud (much like the sound of M-80 fireworks) but harmless, and they are only used to scare the birds away. The Game Commission has provided a few rounds for my personal use and the USDA's as offered assistance with obtaining more as necessary. The Game Commission suggests only one or two per night may be needed to deter flocks from roosting in the immediate area (although the USDA suggests more rounds per night may be necessary).

The Hampden Township Police are fully aware of our problem with the starlings and our plan to use the "Bangers" in an effort to move the birds along. The Game Commission has discussed the plan with the Hampden Township Police. I will be calling the Police Department each night around dusk and just prior to commencing our "operations" so that the police then may be ready to reassure any concerned neighbors. Per advice from the state and federal agencies involved, we expect these noise-related scare tactics may take as little as a few nights or as long as a few weeks. In the meantime, please let me know if you or any of our Westover neighbor have any questions or concerns.

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