

# The Village of Westover



Newsletter March 2017

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



## Spring is in the Air!

Westover is a wonderful place to live in the spring! The flowers start to bloom, the green returns to the trees, and people are out walking the sidewalks. See page 2 for a unique garden opportunity shared by one of Westover's own master gardeners!

### Easter Egg Hunt \* April 8 at 11:00am

Westover Women's Club, with partial funding by Westover Civic Association, will host the Easter Egg Hunt at McCord Commons. Come dressed to be outside and bring a basket, bag, or bucket to gather the goodies! **The hunt will begin promptly at 11am as it is a challenge to keep eager children waiting for everyone to arrive.** The cost is \$3 per child with non-perishable food donation and \$4 per child without donation. Food donations are delivered to New Hope Ministries by the Women's Club.

### Spring Yard Sale \* May 5&6

Westover Women's Club is sponsoring the Spring Yard Sale again this year. We'll get the word out to the community by placing ads and signs. You clean out your closets and basement and set up shop in your yard or garage. Yard sales begin at 8am.

### Spring Picnic \* June 11 (Rain Date June 25)

An annual tradition at the McCord Commons will once again kick off the summer in neighborly style! Save the date and stay tuned via Westover email blasts for more information as the time comes.

Interested in helping? Email Steve Crosby, event chair, at [scrosbyfz@hotmail.com](mailto:scrosbyfz@hotmail.com).

#### Civic Association

President: Ken Lee  
Vice President:  
Linda Lippert  
Secretary: Kathleen Fey  
Treasurer: David Krall  
Zone Directors:  
Steve Crosby  
Linda Lehman  
Linda Lippert  
Jackie Garno  
Eric Laws  
Ed Trador  
Dave Baboian  
Laura Witte  
Joe Washburn  
Amy Waugh  
Annette Christ  
Chris Wise  
Kathleen Fey  
Sally Conly  
Tommy Mullin  
Matt Treese  
Wanda Johnson  
Scott Cawthern  
Lee Williamson

#### Important Dates

##### Daylight Savings Begins

March 12, 2017

##### Easter Egg Hunt

April 8, 2017

##### Westover Yard Sales

May 5&6, 2017

##### Civic Assoc Board Mtg

May 17, 2017 at 7pm

##### Memorial Day

May 29, 2017

##### Spring Picnic

June 11, 2017

Rain date June 25



## Cost Share for Native Garden

Here is a wonderful planting opportunity for our community. It is now available to homeowners in the Conodoguinet watershed and sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. An online tool will help you plan a garden and the grant will pay for 80% of the materials, up to \$500. Materials must be bought through Highland Gardens or the Diakon Native Plant and Wilderness Nursery Center at 571 Mountain Road in Boiling Springs. They have an agreement with the Alliance and will help you substitute appropriate plants if the suggested ones are not available.

Just go to: <http://www.stormwater.allianceforthebay.org/> and follow the directions to select your planting template and to apply for the grant. You will be contacted and asked to sign a paper confirming that you will take care of the garden. They ask for a before and after photo.

On the top green bar you can click on resources to gain access to all of the garden templates offered. Each category is small, medium, or large (60, 90, or 120 square feet). The small Conservation garden usually costs \$200-\$350, the medium \$300 to \$475, and the large \$400 to \$700. If you want to build a rain garden, the work is far more extensive and the cost higher. You will pay the nursery only 20% up the total, up to \$500 ( you pay up to \$100). If you go over \$500, you pay the rest. If you are new to gardening, I suggest you try the small garden. They are requesting you build a cohesive garden, which can be an add-on to one you have, but you cannot buy the plants and scatter them around your yard. They are trying to eliminate grass or impervious surface by replacing it with plants native to our region to benefit wildlife and reduce storm water runoff. This is available through October 2017, but I would get my application in early.

If you are not familiar with the suggested plants, a good resource is:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>

If you are having trouble with this form, call your neighbor, Susan Skender, PSU Master Gardener, or email [westover@villageofwestover.org](mailto:westover@villageofwestover.org). She will answer questions, but will not dig. Please note that this program is not for vegetable gardens but for native ornamental plants.

# *What's New in Westover*

## **On the Website**

From the homepage, you can access all the Westover photos (a fan favorite section), directly join the email list, and choose from the menu options. It has also been optimized for mobile device use as about 70% of Westover emails are opened via a mobile device. You can use the contact form to directly email the Civic Association. Help us stay connected by informing us of contact information changes such as phone number or email address.

## **Westover Women's Club**

Women of Westover are invited to attend Women's Club monthly meetings from September to May. Generally, the meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday at a host home. We hope you will bring a neighbor and come join us. Annual dues are \$20 and the meal will be \$15 with alcohol or \$10 with no alcohol. To be added to the email list for the Women's Club, you can email [westover@villageofwestover.org](mailto:westover@villageofwestover.org).

## **On Nextdoor**

Nextdoor is a voluntary social network with over 200 neighbors online. Examples of things you can find on Nextdoor lately are pet sitters, items for sale, and meal preparation services. As the Civic Association does not maintain lists of recommended businesses or services, this is a great way to get local feedback from Westover and other nearby neighbors. Visit [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) or download the app to see if this social network could be useful for you. You will need to verify your address to participate.

## **We Need Your Help**

Volunteer organizations such as Civic Association benefit most from member involvement. Send us your ideas for newsletter articles! Do you know a neighbor who has celebrated a recent milestone or achievement? Have a special interest story? We welcome communication and feedback at [westover@villageofwestover.org](mailto:westover@villageofwestover.org).

**Also, if you have not yet paid your dues, now is the time!** Civic Association dues facilitate many neighborhood activities and maintenance. Please visit the Membership section of the website or use the PayPal link on the website to pay your dues.

## Public Safety Update



This update is brought to you courtesy of Lieutenant Shissler , Hampden Twp Police Dept. Many thanks to him for keeping us in the loop.

While spring is upon us, we are not out of the winter season yet. Please be reminded to follow township guidelines for snow removal and parking during any upcoming weather events.

Spring season brings out kids, walkers, runners, cyclists, and others we want to keep safe on our streets! Residents are reminded to obey traffic signs including all stop signs in the neighborhood. Hampden Township Police have regularly assigned patrols that include monitoring traffic signs in residential neighborhoods. Marked and unmarked vehicles are used for these patrols. More than the risk of potential citation, it is kind and respectful to adhere to stop signs to keep those who live, play, and visit in Westover safe.



There has been increased awareness of skimming devices being used in Central PA. They have been found at gas pumps and station ATMs. Be advised that if you use a credit or debit card, always check your statements and promptly report any suspicious activity to your bank or financial institution .



## New Treasurer

Westover Civic Association has a new Treasurer, David Krall! He and his family live on Stephens Crossing and moved to Westover not long ago. Dave is a CPA and we are fortunate that we shall continue with CPAs as WCA's Treasurer. Please join us in welcoming

Dave to the Board. Chris Wise, our most recent Treasurer, has been coaching Dave through the transition. Best wishes to Chris Wise and his family as they move to their new home!



## Electrical Panel Fire Hazard

*Parts of this article are a reprint from a Civic Association newsletter from 2008. This information, provided years ago and again today, could potentially save your home and your family. It is being shared again as there was a recent home fire in Good Hope Farms and it reportedly started in the electrical panel.*

This article is very important for all residents in the original section of Westover. You need to check your electrical panel, and pronto. 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, when Audrey Newell and her family moved into Westover, they had first hand experience and shared this 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."



Another family responded to the recent email blast on this issue and noted they had their panel replaced immediately in 2008 after reading the article. They discovered during the replacement that the Zinsco panel had never been grounded!

According to a home inspector website, home inspectors should notify potential homeowners that a "Zinsco TM or SylvaniaTM- 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, and regardless of its visually-apparent condition, this equipment should be replaced.



## Westover Mailbag

Dear Westover Civic Association,

- Q: The holiday decorations looked so nice this year with the double garland! Who took them down for us as I did not see the usual gathering?
- A: Teddy Potter, a junior at Cumberland Valley High School, offered to take down the decorations for service hours for his National Honor Society membership. If you are interested in possible service hour opportunities for the Civic Association, contact President Ken Lee at [klee@postschell.com](mailto:klee@postschell.com) or (717)805-7369.
- Q: Occasionally, and sometimes more often, we see piles of dog doo around the neighborhood. I'm sure that homeowners don't like having to pick up after others' dogs. But I'm especially concerned about the amount of piles we see along Westover Dr just off Skyport (along the Devonshire Square area). Several kids wait here to catch the school bus. It's really icky to step in dog doo just before heading off to school.
- A: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. This is a frequent request and complaint. **Dog owners/walkers are required by township ordinance to pick up and remove pet waste from property. This applies to park areas as well as private property** such as single family dwellings and townhomes. If you see an offender, you may respectfully remind the person of the ordinance or report repeat offenders to the Hampden Township Police Dept. This is a public health issue... And of course we don't want to ruin a school child's day!



## Westover Willie

Dear Westover Willie,



- Q: Where have you been? You weren't in the last few newsletters.
- A: Nice of you to notice! I was travelling but I'm back in our neck of the woods. Too bad I missed the Santa Breakfast, I saw the pictures on SmugMug while someone was looking at them on their phone in McCord Commons. On that note, better watch out if you are walking and looking at your phone at the same time because I have seen some close calls.
- Q: You seem to know where everyone lives, but I'm curious how you know since some of the houses in Westover don't have clearly marked house numbers.
- A: Well, I watch the comings and goings but I don't know house numbers and neither will emergency responders or other neighbors if they are not clearly marked. Some folks seem to have house numbers on their doors, on the mailboxes, and on the curb which is very helpful. I'd say better make sure your house number is clearly visible in case you get visitors or emergency responders coming to your home! It would also probably help the substitute mail carrier or UPS delivery person.
- And on that note, some of the mailboxes in Westover could use a little TLC. They get a lot of use with all the packages and bills that come and the seasonal weather can give them a beating. Might want to include the mailbox in your spring spruce up. Just make sure to follow the US Postal Service guidelines on residential mailboxes.

# *the Village of* Westover

Village Of Westover Contact List	
Name	Phone number
<b>EMERGENCY – Fire, Police, Ambu-</b>	<b>911</b>
Westover Civic Association	Villageofwestover.org
Comcast Cable	1-800-934-6489
Cumberland County Offices	240-6100
Cumberland Valley School District	697-8261
District Justice	697-2201
Fredricksen Library	761-3900
Hampden Township	761-0119
Hampden Pool	737-4219
Hampden Recreation Department	761-4951
Hampden Township Utility Depart-	909-7145
Humane Society	564-3320
PA American Water Co	1-800-565-7292
P A Dept. of Transportation	1-800-932-4600
Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1222
PPL Electric Utilities	1-800-342-5775
Township Tax Collector	737-4822
UGI Gas Utilities Inc	1-800-276-2722
United Water PA	564-3662
Verizon Communications	1-800-837-4966
York Waste Disposal (bulk pickup)	1-800-210-9675

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