



## Be Distraction Free!

The last edition of the Westover newsletter headlined pedestrian safety. In this issue, we continue the discussion to encourage DISTRACTION FREE driving in Westover. On any given day, especially in warmer weather, an observant person in Westover might see one of the following distraction situations:

- A driver approaching a stop sign while looking at their phone
- A driver talking on the phone while making a turn off Skyport Rd during high traffic times such as school hours
- A teen riding a bike scrolling on their phone or trying to take a picture
- A teen walking a dog while scrolling or talking on speaker phone while crossing the street
- A runner darting out in front of a parked car when a moving car is travelling toward them with no line of vision



While we all like to think we are safe drivers, any of these distractions take “only a second” and could compromise the safety of drivers, pedestrians, and others around us. Distractions divert attention away from a primary task which can have inconvenient to serious consequences. Moving your hands from the wheel, your eyes from the road, or your mind from the task at hand are all types of common distractions. Teens whose parents drive distracted are 2 to 4 times more likely to also drive distracted.

Walking or cycling distracted can also be dangerous. Make sure a driver knows you are at the intersection before crossing or wait until the driver acknowledges the pedestrian/runner or wait until the intersection has become safe. You may be less attuned to your surroundings, not noticing vehicles or that your dog has eliminated in someone else’s yard. You may swerve the handlebars and lose control of your bike. Westover is an active neighborhood and we all want to feel safe on our streets and sidewalks, which is one of the most attractive features of our community.

Many people in Westover do take care to attend to their driving, yield to pedestrians, and be aware of their surroundings. This is an active process. Talk about driving, biking, and walking habits with your family. Parents, please encourage your children to focus on the task at hand when cycling, dog walking, or moving on sidewalks and close to streets. More resources, including a Safe Driving Agreement, can be found at [End Distracted Driving \(www.endDD.org\)](http://www.endDD.org).

### Civic Association Board

**President:** Ken Lee

**Vice President:**

Linda Lippert

**Secretary:** Justin Edelson

**Treasurer:** David Krall

### Zone Directors:

Steve Crosby

Kathleen Fey

Ed Trador

Dave Baboian

Laura Witte

Joe Washburn

Richard Sopko

Lee Williamson

Dean Converse

Sally Conly

Judy Ryan

Anella Nickolas

Amy Waugh

Scott Cawthern

Dan Hooven

Stan Grimwood

There are current vacancies for Zone Directors. Please contact us if you are interested.

### Important Dates

**Independence Day** July 4th

**Cumberland Valley School District First Student Day**  
August 19th

**Labor Day** September 2nd

**Civic Association Board Meetings (Tentative)**  
September 12th  
November 14th

# *What's New in Westover*

## **New LED Streetlights**

Many have noticed the conversion to LED (light-emitting diode) streetlights in Westover. LED fixtures are longer lasting, higher light quality, and significantly more efficient than high-pressure sodium or mercury vapor fixtures thereby using significantly less electricity to produce the same light output according to PPL Electric Utilities. If you are out at night, remember that pedestrians are still strongly encouraged to be visible at all times by wearing reflective clothing or using a flashlight. Light pole painting is slated for the summer of 2019.

## **In Hampden Neighbors Magazine**

Hampden Neighbors Magazine has featured Westover families! The Mullin and Gilbert families have shared their inspirational stories for the magazine in the past year. **Do you know a neighbor who has celebrated a recent milestone or achievement? Have a special interest story? Please consider sharing with the Civic Association for future newsletters!** Life can be challenging and we want to highlight strengths and successes in the neighborhood.

## **On Nextdoor**

Nextdoor is a voluntary social network with over 400 Westover neighbors online. Examples of things you can find on Nextdoor lately are township land development discussions, dog walker requests, and local swimming spots. 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. Sometimes we get requests for babysitters or lawn help in Westover and the Civic Association does not keep such lists. Visit [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) to see if this social network could be useful for you. You will need to verify your address to participate.

**Remember you can select to follow only Westover in addition to other local neighborhoods. Your post may not need to be read by all 40+ nearby communities and you may solicit unnecessary responses or negative press by posting to more than you intended.**

**Nextdoor has guidelines for business or personal solicitation.** Please read the Community Guidelines to inform any personal posts if you have questions. The Westover Civic Association does not manage this social media app or its content. Posts that violate the guidelines can be flagged and removed and the Civic Association is not involved in such monitoring.

## **We Need Your Help**

Volunteer organizations such as Civic Association benefit most from member involvement. Send us your ideas for newsletter articles! **We welcome communication and feedback at [westover@villageofwestover.org](mailto:westover@villageofwestover.org).** Please visit the Store on the website to pay your dues if you have not already paid for 2019.

Many schools and teen organizations promote the value of service by requiring volunteer hours. If you or a family member are looking for opportunities, consider you may have to look no further than our neighborhood! Clean Up Days, the Spring Picnic, and other seasonal opportunities may be available. Please email [westover@villageofwestover.com](mailto:westover@villageofwestover.com) to inquire about volunteer work that may be useful to the Civic Association.

# Public Safety Update

This update is brought to you courtesy of Hampden Township Police Department.



If you're looking for information on crimes, police department call volume or want to find out what was happening up the street, [you can find that information on our Police Blotter](#). Access device fraud, driving under the influence, and theft from motor vehicles are frequent listings in the Township and this spring was no exception. Remember to lock your vehicles, protect your personal information, and drive responsibly. Hampden Township Police and the Pennsylvania State Police are now both on the Nextdoor social media app. Keep in mind that these agencies cannot see neighborhood posts so if you have an emergency or urgent concern, call 911. Both accounts post public safety information on Nextdoor and other social media sites.

## *Creating a Tick Resistant Garden*

The idea for this article came from Westover Zone Director and resident Anella Nickolas who is also a Master Gardener. She shared a Penn State Extension resource with the Civic Association and we are pleased to pass on this helpful information. According to the CDC, Pennsylvania leads the nation in Lyme disease cases and we can take preventive measures as established and emerging research inform our risk. More information can be found via the [Penn State Extension link here](#). [There is also a great graphic at this link with zones of tick prevention for your home](#).

Landscape changes you can make in order to keep your property as close to a tick-free habitat as possible:

- Restrict areas where deer, rodents and ticks are common, such as forest and brush. Make them off-limits for family activities.
- Create a three-foot barrier of woodchips or rock to separate the off-limits area from the lawn.
- Keep woodpiles away from the home, or site them on the woodchip barrier.
- Remove leaf litter.
- Create a tick-safe zone, a nine-foot barrier of lawn between the woodchips and patios, gardens, and play sets.
- Create open, sunny areas by pruning trees to let in more sunlight.
- Place play sets in sunny areas.
- Keep lawns mowed.
- Trim shrubs near walks and patios.
- Remove groundcover around trees.
- Surround gardens with fieldstone, gravel or lawn paths.
- Construct an eight-foot-high fence to keep deer out. (\*Fences require permits in our Township\*)
- Select deer-resistant plants for your landscape.
- Remove exotic-invasive species that deer love to browse, such as Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*).

## Wear Your Westover Pride

# *The Village of Westover*

The Village of Westover in some parts, especially McCord Commons, is fast approaching 50 years in age and things need to be repaired or replaced. WCA created a fundraiser last year for various projects by offering large golf umbrellas and fleece Timberline pull-overs for a set donation. We are pleased to add more items to the store as we grow our fundraiser! Short sleeve polo shirts and hats are now also available. Items will be green and emblazoned with "The Village of Westover" together with the Westover pineapple. Example pictures of these premium items are below. The insignia can be viewed on the Store with better picture quality.



You can donate today on the [Westover Civic Association Store](#) on the website. You can also send your check to our Treasurer, Dave Krall, at the address on the same page. Many sizes and ordering options are available including bundle packages. Please allow time for delivery. If you desire confirmation of your donation and order or have any questions, please email President Ken Lee at [klee@postschell.com](mailto:klee@postschell.com).

If you have additional ideas or suggestions for fundraising for special projects in order to keep our dues affordable, please let us know. We are open to your ideas and suggestions as many residents have professional or civic experience in fundraising, project planning, and client satisfaction.

## Westover Mailbag

Dear Westover Civic Association,

**Q:** I heard about the Brambles West plan and I was unable to participate in the Township meeting. Can you provide any update on the proposed development?

**A:** **A hearing is scheduled before the Hampden Township Board of Commissioners on June 27, 2019, beginning at 7:30 PM.** The Brambles West Plan had been before the Board of Commissioners on May 30, 2019, but a vote on the plan was tabled by the Commissioners to permit the developer to provide additional information concerning a traffic study and PennDOT's input as to whether a Highway Occupancy Permit is required and the type of configuration for the "intersection" at the Carlisle Pike and Crossgate Drive (next to Denny's).

Numerous residents were at the May 30, 2019, to voice their objections to the Brambles West Plan. Dan Hooven gave an excellent presentation as to why this proposed Plan does not meet the Township's land use and zoning ordinances as well as the impact on property at the east end of Westover. Ken Lee, President of the Westover Civic Association, presented a legal opinion on behalf of the WCA and its Members as to the legal failings of the proposed Plan.

## Westover Willie



Dear Westover Willie,

**Q:** Who helped with Spring Clean Up Days in the Commons? It looks better than it has in years!

**A:** I agree! Over about 8 hours in two weekends, one in the pouring rain, a handful of volunteers cleared brush, pruned trees, ferried and delivered mulch, and got the Commons looking quite nice! I can tell you from my fly-bys that those volunteers have their own lawns and yardwork to tend to as well which makes their gift of time and effort even more appreciated. Hope you can come out and help next time!

**Q:** I didn't make it to the Spring Picnic because I thought it was going to rain. What did I miss?

**A:** You missed the party! We had live music, delicious food and treats, balloon artists, games on the Commons, and lots of neighbors catching up and chasing kids. Yes, it did rain but that didn't keep the families away! We started strong and gathered again after the storm passed. These traditions are part of what makes the community of Westover and I hope you can come out next year! Thanks to the many volunteers who cleaned the Commons, organized the logistics, brought food to share, and did the heavy lifting. I even saw an owl balloon! Hoot hoot!

# *the Village of* *Westover*

Village Of Westover Contact List	
Name	Phone number
<b>EMERGENCY – Fire, Police, Ambulance</b>	<b>911</b>
Westover Civic Association	Villageofwestover.org
Comcast Cable	1-800-934-6489
Cumberland County Offices	717-240-6100
Cumberland Valley School District	717-697-8261
District Justice	717-697-2201
Fredricksen Library	717-761-3900
Hampden Township	717-761-0119
Hampden Pool	717-737-4219
Hampden Recreation Department	717-761-4951
Hampden Township Utility Department	717-909-7145
Humane Society	717-564-3320
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
Republic Services	1-800-210-9675
Township Tax Collector	717-737-4822
UGI Gas Utilities Inc	1-800-276-2722
United Water PA	717-564-3662
Verizon Communications	1-800-837-4966

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](http://www.villageofwestover.org). If you find a photo offensive please email us at the Village of Westover Civic Association website.