



# West Pottsgrove Informer

STOWE, PENNSYLVANIA

SUMMER 2011

## Important Dates

### August

Aug. 3rd—Board of Commissioners Mtg.  
Aug. 11th—Town Watch

### September

Sept. 5th—Labor Day  
Sept. 7th—Board of Commissioners Mtg.  
Sept. 8th—Town Watch  
Sept. 15th—Planning Commission  
Sept. 21st—Board Workshop Mtg.  
Sept. 24th—Community Cruise-In 2-6pm  
Sept. 25th—Community Day 1-5pm

### October

Oct. 5th—Board of Commissioner Mtg.  
Oct. 10th—Columbus Day  
Oct. 13th—Town Watch  
Oct. 19th—Board Workshop Mtg.  
Oct. 31st—Halloween

### November

Nov. 2nd—Board of Commissioners Mtg.  
Nov. 8th—Election Day  
Nov. 10th—Town Watch  
Nov. 11th—Veteran's Day  
Nov. 16th—Board Workshop Mtg.  
Nov. 17th—Planning Commission  
Nov. 24th—Thanksgiving  
Nov. 25th—Office Closed

### December

Dec. 7th—Board of Commissioners Mtg.  
Dec. 8th—Town Watch  
Dec. 21st—Board Close Out Mtg.  
Dec. 24th—Christmas Eve  
Dec. 25th—Christmas Day  
Dec. 31—New Years Eve

\*All meetings are at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.

## Township Phone Numbers

Township Office 610-323-7717  
Police 610-323-2090  
Tax Collector 610-326-4603  
Public Works 610-323-7717  
Township Engineer 610-323-4040

## Township Emails

WPTManager@comcast.net  
WPTSecretary@comcast.net  
WPTEmergencyManagement@comcast.net  
WPTFireMarshal@comcast.net

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK Rock D'Emilio - President

Greetings fellow West Pottsgrove residents, hopefully your summer is going well and your air conditioners are in working order. Who could have imagined that temperatures in little ole Stowe would be reaching and exceeding tropical heights? Someone pass me a Mai Tai! I hope you all are taking the proper precautions while we are in the throws of this stubborn heat wave. Temperatures in the upper 90's and inching over 100 degrees...no matter how you look at it...that's hot! So just try to stay cool and yeah, have a Mai Tai on me.

With all this heat it's easy to forget the winter snow we had. What's not easy to forget is the excellent job our Road Crew did, and always does, with snow removal. There will always be complaints of how, and even where the snow was plowed, but please give these guys some credit... they are the ones out there in the cold, nasty weather, plowing all through the night making sure the streets of West Pottsgrove are clear so our residents can get up in the morning and go where they need to go. If you have not had the opportunity to see, or bet-

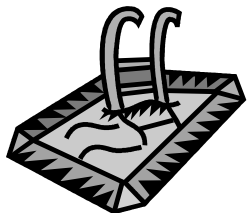
ter yet, drive some of the other roads in the area after a heavy snow, you probably should because very few can compare to how clean and very drivable the streets of Stowe are. So I say thanks to Ed, our Township Manager, and especially our Road Crew for getting it done for us... great job guys! And speaking of great, yet thankless jobs, our Police Department continues to do just that, a great job! Chief Swavely and his Officers continue to do the job that very few others would want to do, and that is to put them in harms way in order to keep the residents of Stowe safe. So as always, I thank all you guys for a job well done!

Upland Square continues to grow with the addition of more new stores and eateries. However, the biggest and most anticipated addition is certainly the new, state of the art multiplex movie theatre which is currently under construction. This theatre, which will rival all other theatres in the area, is scheduled to open on Halloween night (Boo!!). So make plans to check it out! It should be awesome!

Finally, and if you have not heard by now, the Township **has** taken over what was previously the Colonial Swim Club. The old buildings have been leveled and rebuilt, the kiddie

pool and main pool have been refurbished and the grounds have been given a "face lift". I can tell you this, I've recently been to the pool and have seen the work that's been done and I am very impressed with the look of the new buildings and the subtle changes made to the pool area. Certainly the debate over the "purchase" of the pool will go on, but while that continues, the pool will officially open on August the 3rd. So please plan to come out and join us!

Lastly, we the Board of Commissioners continue to hold our meetings @ 7:00 pm. on the first Wednesday of every month and would very much like to see as many of our fellow residents at our meetings as possible. I know I speak for all my fellow Commissioners when I say that I am proud to be an integral part of the Township and take pride in everything that is done in and for the Stowe Community. That being said, this is **your** Township, why not come out and become a more active and informed resident!



**OPEN HOUSE**  
**WEST POTTSBORO COMMUNITY POOL**  
Sunday July 31st between 1pm and 3pm

Come see the new facility and see what we have to offer!  
Sorry no swimming at this event.

**WEST POTTS GROVE**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** Earl Swavely - Chief of Police

I hope everyone is enjoying the warm summer we are having so far this year! Your Police Department has been extremely busy serving the residents and community of West Pottsgrove Township. We ask everyone to be a good neighbor and report any suspicious or criminal activity that might be observed. Keep in mind that you may do this anonymously if you have any concerns about getting involved. How-

ever, it will make our job much easier if we have a witness or someone we can personally speak to.

If you are going on vacation, we urge you to contact us and complete the necessary paperwork for us to keep a check on your home while you are away. You may also register any of your families' bicycles, free of charge. These are just a few of the many services your Police Department can

provide for you.

Remember, if you need to contact the Police Department regarding a non-emergency; please call 610-327-1441. This is our non-emergency dispatch phone number that is available 24 hours a day. Naturally, for all emergencies call 911 immediately!

Have a safe and happy summer and fall season!

**TOWN WATCH** Charlie Valentine

**A Few Tips to Prevent You and Your Family from Becoming a Victim**

Here are some tips to follow to protect yourself from burglary:

- Items left in vehicles: Make sure you have not left anything of value in your vehicle that would make it a target. Do not leave CD's or CD cases in plain sight.
- Vehicles with expensive wheels: A wheel lock nut might just do the trick. Check your local tire/automotive store for availability and installation.
- Outdoor lighting: Most of the houses are equipped with lights that turn on automatically when it gets dark. A number of residents have not replaced burned out bulbs thus creating dark areas on their property. If you are concerned about energy usage, purchase the coiled fluorescent bulbs which use less energy and last a long time. Keeping the lights on should help deter criminal activity.

**Child Safety**

Children and Traffic: Encourage your children to play in areas away from the

streets. If a ball goes into the street, they should be reminded to look both ways before retrieving the ball. If a vehicle is driving by, they should wait until after the vehicle has passed before retrieving the ball. Things kids should know in order to protect themselves:

- Where they can and can't go in the neighborhood. Make sure kids know whose home they are allowed to visit without you. Teach them to contact you immediately if they will be out later than their curfew.
- Their name, address, telephone number, how to use a telephone and how to dial "911" in case of an emergency. Even young children should know these things. If you have a cell phone, make sure your child has the number and that the phone is always turned on. Teach them to call the designated "back-up" family member or trusted friend if they are unable to reach you.
- That the same safety rules still apply as kids get older, including using the

"buddy system" and letting you know where they are at all times.

- To always keep the door locked when home alone and not to open the door for anyone. Make sure your child knows not to tell anyone who calls or comes to the door that they are home alone.
- That adults do not need to ask children for directions or for help finding a puppy or kitten. Teach your child that it is okay to be suspicious of an adult who seems too friendly.
- That because someone knows their name it doesn't mean the child should trust that person.
- To trust their instincts. If someone approaches them or tries to take them away, they should yell, "this is not my mother/father!" Teach your child that it is okay not to be polite in this case.

Please consider joining West Pottsgrove Town Watch. We meet on the 2nd Thursday, at 7:00 PM in the Township Building at 980 Grosstown Road.

**MANAGER'S REPORT** Ed Whetstone; Township Manager

In our last issue I reported on low water pressure in the Township. Since that time discussions were held with the Borough Authority regarding this problem. From the information provided by residents and our meetings with the Borough a plan of action was established to help reduce the areas of low water pressure.

The East Vine Street area where pressure was low recently had a new water main installed along with new valves. It appears to have helped this area. Work is also proposed to install a new line on Rice Street up to Grosstown Road. This new line should help with low pressure in this area of the Township. Anyone that continues to experience low water pressure should call the Pottstown Borough at 610-970-6527 or the Township Office at 610-323-7717.

The Township is in the process of completing repairs to the sewer system as part of the Lemon Street Phase 2 project. This work on the sewer has been completed between Rice and Monroe. Curbing work and some sidewalk restoration are now being completed and a new road surface will be installed during the August/September time frame. This project was funded by a grant through the Community Development Block Grant program.

Our next sewer project will be on Quinter Street from Race to Glasgow starting late this year or early 2012. This project is also funded by a CDBG grant.

Upland Square Shopping Center had some new openings recently with the Hibachi Grill open for business and Jakes Burgers along with H&R Block set to open by

the end of July.

We have completed all our work to open the Haul Road and Penn Dot is on board to take the road over once open. The hold-up is the developer and Waste Management not completing the necessary documents to dedicate the road to the Township.

West Pottsgrove Community Pool will be opening August 3<sup>rd</sup> if all goes right. There will be reduced daily rates for the remainder of this season. Next season we will offer a complete rate package for everyone. Call the office for more information and to verify the opening.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any concerns you may have. I can be reached by phone at 610-323-7717 or stop in the office any time.

CODE ENFORCEMENT David Matyasovsky- Fire Marshal/Code Enforcement Officer

Each year when the summer newsletter is sent out, it seems the same subject is the first I must address; grass, vegetation growing out of the cracks in sidewalks and weeds growing where the street meets the curb. Each year 150 to 120 letters are mailed reminding residents these items are their responsibility. We are only asking

that the resident of the property keep in mind that the vegetation from where the street and curb meet and the sidewalk is the property owners responsibility to keep free of grass and weeds.

Swimming pools that hold 24" or more of water are regulated by the Commonwealth and enforced by the Township. Bar-

riers,gates,ladders,decks and electrical connections from pumps to an electrical source. If you have a pool that is not to Code, you must either bring it within Code or the Township can require the pool be dismantled.

STOWE LIONS CLUB Bruce Pollack and Ronne Schoudt

The Lions of the Pottstown – Stowe Lions Club are 19 of your neighbors, a township commissioner , a retired policeman, former volunteer fireman, active and retired school teachers and other like minded folks from Stowe, Pottstown, and even Boyertown. All come together to help where help is needed – in our own communities and around the world – with unmatched integrity and energy.

Our 45,000 clubs and 1.35 million members make the Lions the world's largest service club organization.

We're also one of the most effective. We get the job done.

As Pottstown – Stowe Lions we:

- Built the pavilion at the West Pottsgrove

Township building and (more recently) supplied park benches for your use at the Township park.

- Provided those in our communities with 13 pair of glasses in 2010-11.
• Donated equipment to our local fire company.
• Work together with the West Pottsgrove Township to bring you Community Days
• Support our local police departments
• Participate in our local Town Watch
• Donate to organizations like:
 =>Pottstown Meals on Wheels
 =>Beacon Lodge Camp for the Blind
 =>Leader Dog's for the Blind
 =>Local drug awareness programs

=>Local diabetes awareness programs
=>Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley
We're led by talented, dedicated volunteer leaders from around the world. And, we're supported by the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), which helps to fund Lions humanitarian projects. Lions the world over share a core belief – a community is what WE make it – you included. WE SERVE is the Lions motto and we would love to have you serve with us. Please visit our website, www.pottstownstowelions.org for information on how to call or email us, to learn how easy it is to become a member, or to find out more about our club and our activities.

Decorative floral border containing text: Vendors, Crafters, Yard Salers Needed For West Pottsgrove Township Community Day September 25th from 1 - 5pm All interested may contact Joanne at the Township Office (610-323-7717)

BACKYARD BARBEQUE SAFETY TIPS Mark Hritz; Deputy Fire Chief

With summer just around the corner and backyard barbecues on your to do list the possibility of a devastating fire doesn't enter our minds. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) found that each year outdoor grills cause an average of 7,700 house fires, \$70 million in property damage, 13 deaths and 17,700 ER visits. There are things you can do to safeguard your home and family:

Propane grills and charcoal grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in enclosed spaces such as tents, they pose a fire hazard, and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gasses and potential asphyxiation.

Lighter fluid, paper products and other combustibles should be placed away from the grill.

Position the grill on a sturdy surface, away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

Keep children and pets away from the grill area and a safe distance from play areas and foot traffic.

Use long-handled grilling tools to give you clearance from heat and flames.

Only use the proper starter fluids to light charcoal and never use any other flammable liquid. Never apply it when coals have already been ignited.

Inspect the grill and make sure it's in good working order. To prevent flare-ups, periodically remove grease or fat buildup on the grill and trays below.

Never store propane gas cylinders indoors.

If you determine your grill has a gas leak and there is no flame, turn off the gas and get the grill serviced by a professional. If the leak doesn't stop or there is fire, call the fire department.

Following these simple tips and you will be on your way to safe grilling this summer! For more tips on outdoor cooking and fire safety, go to: www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/outdoor\_cooking.shtm or www.nfpa.org/education.

