

West Reading Elm Street Office

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www.westreadingmainstreet.org/elmstreet.htm

Neighborhood Advisory Committee

Elm Street Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, at 7:00PM in the West Reading Borough Hall - 500 Chestnut Street.

David Weidenhammer, Chair - Elm Street Resident
Jay Kupiszewski - Elm Street Resident
Kelly Lonaberger - Elm Street Resident
Brandy Lorah - Elm Street Resident
Mark Marcrina - Elm Street Resident
Suzanne Thompson - Elm Street Resident
Lori Weidenhammer - Elm Street Resident
John Woodward - Third and Spruce Café
One (1) Open Seat

Neighborhood Improvement District Authority

Shane Keller, Chairman - Mayor of West Reading
John Woodward, Vice Chairman - Third and Spruce Café
Carol Wells, Secretary - Sweet Surprises
Caitlin Degler, Treasurer - Berkshire Bank
Kevin Conrad, Member - West Reading Borough Council

Elm Street District Map



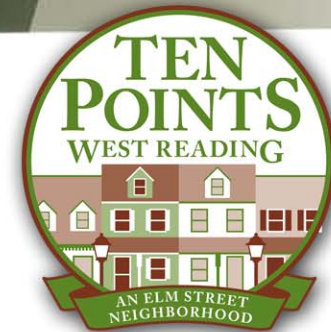
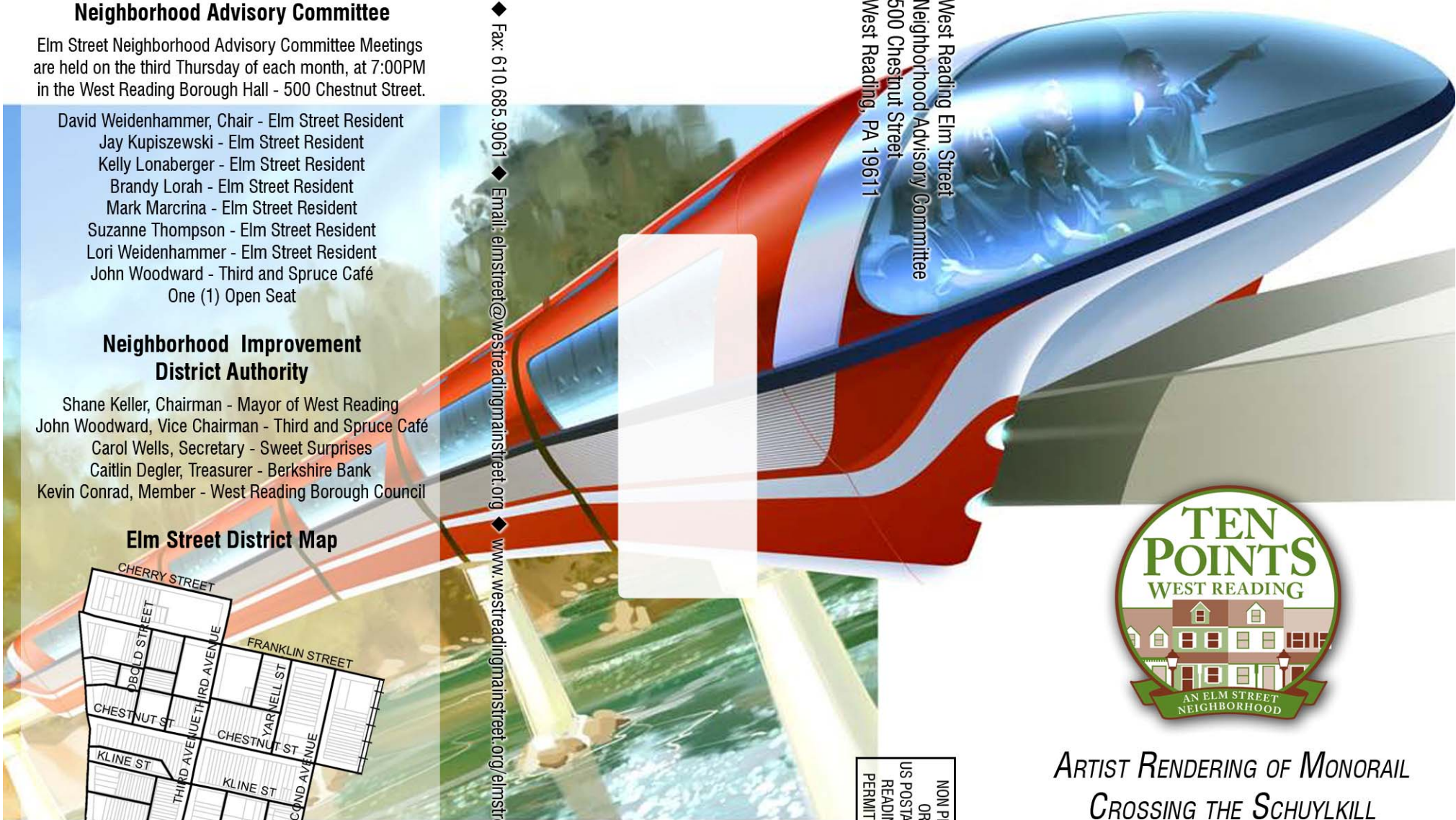
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Neighborhood Advisory Committee
500 Chestnut Street
West Reading, PA 19611

ELM STREET HAPPENINGS

APRIL 2009



NON PROFIT
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US POSTAGE PAID
READING PA
PERMIT NO 15

*ARTIST RENDERING OF MONORAIL
CROSSING THE SCHUYLKILL
FROM RACC TO WEST READING.*

MESSAGE FROM THE NAC CHAIR: DAVE WEIDENHAMMER

None of us want to see our neighborhood go downhill. You don't have to look far to see the result crime and blight can have once they take root. Ten Points residents are on the frontline in a battle to keep crime, blight, neglect and indifference from infecting our neighborhood. Successful community revitalization efforts require a partnership of residents, business and government all working together. Take away one part of that formula and things can go down hill fast. That's why we depend on you to do your part and hope you'll support our efforts to make the neighborhood a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Our [Earth Day Clean Up Event](#) on 4/18 is shaping up to be a big event. To date, Boy Scout Troop #413, Wyomissing High's Environmental Club, Habitat for Humanity, and some United Way volunteers have already said they want to work with us. They want to help--not do it for us. It's important as many residents as possible come out on 4/18. We will clean trash, tires and old furniture along the West Shore Bypass and Schuylkill River. We will also be planting our Ten Points street containers with flowers for summer and making improvements to the Community Garden including building eight new beds and planting raspberries and rose bushes along the fence.

Extending the clean up beyond Ten Points will provide us with positive PUBLIC-ITY, improve our political CLOUT, expand our number of PARTNERSHIPS and establish ourselves as LEADERS among neighborhood organizations in the Greater Reading region.

The clean up is scheduled from 10AM till 2PM. We will rendezvous at the intersection of South Second Avenue and Chestnut Street near the Community Garden. Free food and drinks for volunteers thanks to the Third & Spruce Cafe. We'll have a canopy tent set up to act as an Operations Center and will provide all tools, gloves, garbage bags, etc. necessary.

Without a spirit of cooperation and continued volunteerism among residents, all the improvements and successes we've achieved in the Elm Street neighborhood could start to unravel. Without cooperation each of us would end up fighting a lonely guerrilla war against thugs, drugs and declining property values. As President Obama has said "Change happens from the bottom up because people imagine a world as it should be and are willing to put in the hard work to change the country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood."

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

This month Sydney Bowen, Jr. was chosen *Volunteer of the Month*. Sydney is 14 years old, lives on Chestnut Street and is in 8th grade at Wyomissing Area Junior High School. During last winter's snow storms, Sydney unselfishly shoveled many of his neighbor's sidewalks. Sydney also helps out during Elm Street events and parties. He was a big help in filling up the 800 water balloons used during our Summer Water Fight last summer. Thank you Sydney for being a good neighbor and helping to make the Ten Points neighborhood a better place to live and raise a family!

Volunteer of the Month nominations can be made by anyone. Contact us to say why they deserve recognition. All winners get a free T-shirt or clock with the Ten Points logo.

MONORAIL PLANS MOVE AHEAD

Recent plans to reinstall old style trolley cars on Penn Avenue have been scrapped for being too old fashioned. Instead a high-speed elevated monorail system will be built to demonstrate we are a forward looking community. The

project has already received \$60 million in federal stimulus funding. It will connect Wyomissing to City Park in Reading running down Penn Avenue in West Reading before going through the Ten Points neighborhood and across the Schuylkill to RACC. PennDOT representatives expect work to break ground in April Fool!

TOP 10 BENEFITS FOR YOUTH WHO VOLUNTEER

1. They learn to respect others.
2. They learn to be helpful and kind.
3. They learn to get along with others and relate to others.
4. They gain satisfaction from helping others.
5. They learn to understand people who are different from them.
6. They learn to relate to younger children.
7. They became better people.
8. They learn new skills.
9. They developed leadership skills.
10. They became more patient with others.

Source: Volunteering and Giving Among American Teenagers (Independent Sector Survey 1996)

POLICE LOG

West Reading Police Chief Ed Fabriziani reports that vehicle thefts are up recently in the borough. Call 911 if you see a theft in progress and remember, you can earn rewards up to \$5,000 by reporting tips about crimes or criminals to Berks Crime Alert. You can remain anonymous. Call: 1.877.373.9913.

CodeRED™ service is now available for West Reading residents. CodeRED™ is a mass regional emergency notification system. CodeRED™ uses a high-speed telephone calling system to deliver emergency messages directly to homes, businesses, individuals and answering machines at 60,000 calls per hour. To register to receive this free service go to: <http://wyoboro.org/CodeRED/>

FREE TRAINING FOR RESIDENTS

West Reading Elm Street will pay all expenses for residents interested in attending training academies in Harrisburg to learn how to better our neighborhood. Academies correspond to areas in our committee structure. Call Elm Street office if interested. April 27th & 28th: *Safe, Clean and Green Academy*: We want people to feel comfortable in our neighborhood. Learn basic principles and tools to help make areas safer, cleaner and greener by increasing public and private green space as well as "green" buildings (environmentally friendly).

PROGRAM MAKES ENERGY EFFICIENCY AFFORDABLE

The Keystone HELP Energy Efficiency Loan and Rebate Program will help families cut their energy bills by expanding energy conservation and efficiency measures. Funds can be used to insulate homes, seal drafts, or install high efficiency heating and cooling systems, geothermal heat pumps, and ENERGY STAR® -qualified windows and doors. Homeowners will receive the greatest returns by planning upgrades that impact their monthly energy bills. Energy efficiency professionals contracted through Keystone HELP program can help homeowners prioritize to optimize efficiency and maximize savings.

Applications and program guidelines are available at www.keystonehelp.com. The deadline for applications is June 30. For more information on other programs available through the Alternative Energy Investment Fund, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us and click on the "Fueling Energy Savings".

COMMUNITY GARDENING BY DASHA GARDECKI

Make the right choices when selecting plants to grow this season. Seed catalogs and seed racks present an incredible range of choices for the gardener. They all look tasty and beautiful in the pictures, but here's how to choose:

- ◆ Talk with other gardeners to find out what vegetables grow best and start with those.
- ◆ Look for plants that are resistant to disease organisms, such as VF tomatoes – which are resistant to Verticillium and Fusarium fungi.
- ◆ If you buy seeds by the packet, take note of how many seeds you're getting. Seed quantity per packet varies widely.
- ◆ When buying plants, check roots and leaves for disease and insect problems.
- ◆ Ask whether the transplants you're buying have been hardened off yet.
- ◆ Remember, with transplants, larger size doesn't always mean better quality. Look for stocky transplants with uniform green leaves. Avoid transplants that are already flowering – they won't survive the shock of transplanting as well as younger plants will.

MAIN STREET UPDATE

Phase IV of the Main Street program's streetscape improvements began last month. They include additional lighting to shine under and on the railroad bridge along the Penn Avenue 'gateway' into West Reading. Phase IV also includes continuation of Bike Trail signage from Penn Avenue up South Fourth Avenue and through the Ten Points neighborhood down Chestnut Street to the Schuylkill River in the vicinity of the Bertolet Fishing Dock. The contract for Phase V has also been awarded. It includes new curbing, street lights and banner poles for Fifth Avenue. Funds have already been earmarked for Phase VI which remains in the planning and design stages. Phase VI also involves the 'gateway' into the borough and will replace the unsightly hillside studded with billboards with flowering plants and replace the number of existing billboards with fewer modern electronic versions.

NEW LIONS CLUB

Lions Clubs help empower volunteers to service their community, meeting humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding. Each Lions Club chooses its own activities to benefit the community. If you are interested in learning more about a new Lions Club in West Reading attend the formation meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd at 8AM in West Reading Borough Hall or call Dean at 610.685.8854.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 16th NAC Meeting at Borough Hall, 7PM
- 18th Earth Day Clean Up Event, 10AM-2PM, South 2nd & Chestnut.
- 20th-24th Community Banking Week, contact Berkshire Bank for a list of activities.
- 27th-28th PDC Safe, Clean & Green Training Academy, Harrisburg, 9AM-4PM

MAY

- 4th Main Street Foundation / Neighborhood Improvement Authority Joint Board Meeting, 6PM, Borough Hall.
- 16th Neighborhood Work Day, Meet at Hillside Flower Garden, Chestnut & Obold, 10AM-12PM
- 16th West Reading Flea Market 7AM-12PM, Grove next to the Pool
- 21st NAC Meeting at Borough Hall, 7PM