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Issue
Seven

A Monthly Insight of Current Events in Westampton Township

WESTAMPTON WATCH



Westampton Township

Committee

MAYOR: Sandy Henley
DEPUTY: Jamie Mungo
Committee Members:
Genel Cook- Wright
Nancy Burkley
Odise Carr

Westampton Municipal Building
710 Rancocas Rd
Westampton NJ 08060
Phone: 609-267-1891
Fax: 609-267-7398
Website: <https://www.westamptonnj.gov/>



Happy February,

February is a very important month for Westampton Township. To celebrate Black History Month, we would love to highlight the Timbuctoo site and the Timbuctoo Advisory Committee. This committee works hard to preserve the heritage and history of the Timbuctoo site by offering educational seminars. If you are interested in learning more, please feel free to reach out to the committee. Their information can be found on our Township website. In addition, the Township Committee is working with the Township staff and administration to plan the remainder of the year. We hope to have some fun events planned this year for the residents! Have a concern or a question? Don't hesitate to reach out to us or to the Administrator!

<https://www.westamptonnj.gov/timbuctoo-advisory-committee>

TIMBUCTOO

Timbuctoo is one of a handful of remaining African American settlements that were founded in New Jersey during the first half of the nineteenth century. Settlement in what would later be known as Timbuctoo began in 1826, when four African American men, all believed to be escaped slaves from Maryland, purchased parcels of land from a Quaker businessman. The name Timbuctoo first appeared on a deed in 1830, when just a handful of households had been established. At its peak in the nineteenth century, Timbuctoo had more than 125 residents, a school, as well as Zion Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal African Church and cemetery. A geophysical survey conducted in 2009 identified about 70 gravesites in the cemetery, even though there are only 11 gravestones remaining. Eight of the 11 remaining gravestones are US Colored Troops that fought in the Civil War.

Timbuctoo Today:

In 2009, archeologists from Temple University began a series of archeological excavations, focusing on a compact three-acre area within Timbuctoo that was settled beginning in the 1830s. This area has become a remarkably well preserved archeological site. Artifacts of the settlers' China, pottery and other materials were excavated and catalogued as part of the Timbuctoo Discovery Project, a joint effort between Westampton Township, Temple University and a coalition of community members and specialist in related fields of African American history and genealogy.

For mor information on Timbuctoo please visit:
<http://www.timbuctoonj.com/>



Public Works >>>

-Appliance pick-up will be February 14th & 28th
Please call to be put on the list.

-Any Christmas Tree that remain for recycling will
be collected during brush pick up in February.

-Storm drain clean out has begun and the Public Works Department will
be going to each neighborhood to inspect and clean the drains.

-We are also working on potholes. If you see any, please call and report
them.

*THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE REINSTATING THE
FEE FOR NEW CANS. THE COST IS \$60, AND
MUST BE PAID AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
BEFORE DELIVERY.

-To report any road issue please call the
Public Works Department at 609-267-1891

*Westampton Township is looking for
local artists who are willing to either
donate or loan their artwork to be
hung in the municipal building.*

*Artwork cannot have nudity,
violence, or drug referencing
depicted. Artwork must have a way
to be hung, IE: on canvas or framed.*

*Open to all ages, artwork will be
rotated every quarter and displayed
on the 2nd floor in the Township
building.*

*Any questions please call 609-267-
1891*

Officer Spotlight: SGT Austin

Hello Residents of Westampton Township,

My name is Robert Austin and I serve as a sergeant with the Westampton Township Police Department. I began my career in law enforcement as a special police officer in Belmar, NJ. I was hired as a special law enforcement officer class II in Westampton Township in November of 2007. In April of 2008 I was sworn in as a patrolman with Westampton Township. I served as a patrolman with the department from April of 2008 until October of 2014. While on patrol I had the opportunity to become involved in the department's Traffic Safety Unit, where I was responsible for investigating motor vehicle accidents of a serious nature. I also became a field training officer where I was responsible for training newly hired members of the department and preparing them for their future careers.

In October of 2014 I was appointed to the position of detective and assigned to the detective bureau. In my capacity as a detective, I was responsible for investigating criminal offenses which occurred within Westampton. During my tenure as a detective, I had the opportunity to join the department's Firearms Training Unit, responsible for overseeing and training officers in proper weapon safety and qualifications. I also became the department's alcohol beverage control officer, responsible for investigation and licensing of businesses who distribute alcoholic beverages, as well as the humane officer, responsible for investigating incidents and allegations of animal cruelty.

In November of 2019 I returned to the patrol division and was promoted to the rank of sergeant in February of 2020. As a patrol sergeant I became responsible for overseeing day to day operations of one of the four patrol squads responsible for responding to calls for service and patrolling the neighbourhoods of Westampton. I am currently assigned as the department's administrative sergeant, where some of my duties include, governmental grants, the LESO Program, firearms backgrounds, motor vehicle tows, overdose mapping, humane investigations, alcohol beverage control, and firearms training.

Before becoming a police officer, I was a 2003 graduate of West Windsor Plainsboro High School North. Following high school, I attended Neumann University in Aston Pennsylvania subsequently leaving the school after 2 years to attend the police academy. After my educational hiatus, in 2019 I completed my college degree graduating from Fairleigh Dickinson University. In my time off I enjoy spending time with my wife and two sons. In the summertime you can find us fishing on the Delaware River and down at the Jersey shore. Being a police officer in the Township of Westampton isn't just a job. For the last 15 years I have called Westampton home, 10 of which I was a resident of the township. The men and woman of the department take great pride in providing the best possible service to the residents and guests within our community. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or just need to talk don't hesitate to reach out, speaking for myself and the other members of our department we are always here.

Respectfully,
Sgt Robert Austin

Flag Football

Registration is now open K-9th Graders. \$90 first child and \$80 each additional child in the same home.

COACHES ARE NEEDED!!!

For more information, please visit the link below:

https://westamptonnj.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29949

email the Recreation Director at Tmitzelman@Westampton.com

Or call 609-267-1891 ext 120



NO KNOCK

Westampton No Knock registration is now in effect. A \$5.00 charge for residents and a \$1.00 for Senior Citizen and Veterans. For any questions, please call the clerks office 609-267-1891.

https://www.westamptonnj.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif5171/f/uploads/no_knock_registration_form_0.pdf

TAXES

The 1st quarter for 2023 taxes are due February 1st, 2023, with a grace period until February 10th 2023.

Any payment made after February 10th maybe subjected to late fees and penalties. If you have any questions, please call the tax office at 609-267-1891 ext 118.

finalthoughts...

With Administrator Wendy Gibson

Hello Residents,

Welcome February! It always seems like the first three months of the year go by so very slowly, but I can't believe we are in February already! The municipality is busy at work planning for the rest of the year and are working diligently to adequately provide you with the proper services to which you have become accustomed! The Township building is getting some cosmetic work done, so stop down and see some of the changes! If you know any artists who would like to feature some of their Westampton artwork, have them come up and see us. We'd love to put some local art on display! February is also Black History Month. We invite you all to reach out to the Timbuctoo Advisory Committee to learn more about the history of Timbuctoo! The advisory committee has several events throughout the year that provide insight and education in this historic site. Of course, last but not least, there's also Valentine's Day...don't forget to show your love!

Contact: 609-267-1891 Email: WGibson@westampton.com

We love hearing from our residents. If you have any questions or there is something that you would like to see in next month's edition, please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you!

Email: Clerk@Westampton.com

Important links and phone numbers:

<https://www.facebook.com/WestamptonTownship/>

Westampton Municipal Court: 609-267-1895

Burlington County Landfill: 609-499-5300

Burlington County Clerk: 609-265-5000

Animal Control: 609-267-8300

To report code enforcement:

https://westamptonfire.formstack.com/forms/westampton_code_enforcement



coming soon >>>

Dates to Remember:

**Municipal Building Will Be Closed:*

Feb 20th

- *Committee meeting: Feb 7th & 21st*

- *Land development board: Feb 1st*

- *Recreation meeting: Feb 8th*

- *Historic Commission: Feb 22nd*

The Westampton Monthly Newsletter is designed and edited by the Westampton Municipal employees.