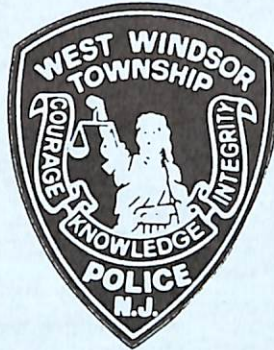


BROADSIDE

SPRING 2000

THE WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2000 the West Windsor Township Police Department consists of: Chief Frank J. Cox and 43 sworn Police Officers (41 men and two women), six Dispatchers, an Animal Control Officer, three School Crossing Guards and a Support Staff of four full time and one



half time person. This is in keeping with the West Windsor population of almost 20,000 residents, plus the people who work in the Township, but do not live here. In addition, the West Windsor Police Department has charge of traffic on West Windsor's portion of Route 1 and the other Township roads.

The shield, symbol of the West Windsor Police Department, was designed by Frank J. Cox when the department was first established.

The Chief at that time was Frank Maguire, whose only requirement for the shield was that "Integrity" be a part of it.

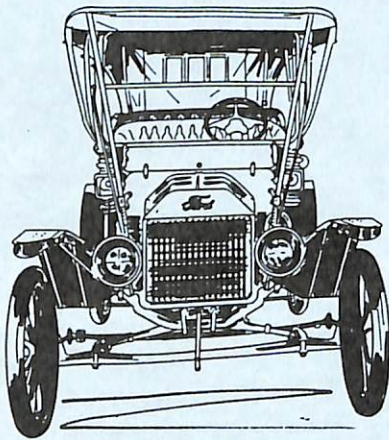
MEMBERS OF THE WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2000:

Chief Frank J. Cox	Ptl. Brian Gallant	Dispatcher David Barberich	Mary Ann Heneghan, Sr. Adm. Asst., Office Mgr.
Capt. Joseph Pica	Ptl. Lee Evans	Dispatcher Patrick Quill	Patricia Weaver, Supervisor, Adm. Services
Lt. Kenneth Hawthorne	Ptl. Samuel Dyson	Dispatcher Scott Applegate	Cathy Eads, Senior Records Clerk
Lt. Eugene Swanhart	Ptl. Matthew Kemp	Dispatcher Robert Manlio	Carolann Guidotti, Records Clerk - Part Time
Sgt. Frank Coyle	Ptl. Marylouise Dranchak	Dispatcher Denman Powers	Debra Gayley, Records Clerk
Sgt. David Mansure	Ptl. Brian Corliss	Per Diem Dispatcher Seth Kurs	Betinna Roed, Animal Control Officer
Sgt. Timothy Courtney	Ptl. Robert Poskay	Per Diem Dispatcher Nicole Constance	Gerry Wood, Custodian
Sgt. Carl Walsh	Ptl. Robert Fow, Jr.	Per Diem Dispatcher Michael Quinn	
Sgt. Frank Caponi	Ptl. Mark Lee	Per Diem Dispatcher Michael Bollentin	
Sgt. William Bastedo	Ptl. Roy Hernesh	Crossing Guard Linda Hawthorne	
Sgt. Keith Hillman	Ptl. Melissa Nagy	Crossing Guard Jaswant Kamboh	
Sgt. Robert Garofalo	Ptl. David Jelinski	Crossing Guard Maura Hillman	
Det. Michael Dansbury	Ptl. Brian Mahon		
Det. Robert Gulden	Ptl. Stephen Skwierawski		
Det. James Carvalho	Ptl. Cecil Zacheis		
Det. Donald Edwards	Ptl. Francis Bal		
Ptl. Richard VanPelt	Ptl. Francesco Latorre		
Ptl. Peter Hanna	Ptl. Douglas Montgomery		
Ptl. Gregory Glassen	Ptl. Jeffrey Lai		
Ptl. Thomas Tarr	Ptl. Danny Mohr		
Ptl. Brian Melnick	Dispatcher Cynthia Napolitano		
Ptl. Patrick O'Brien			
Det. Patrick McCormick			
Ptl. Tom Moody			

Law and Order in West Windsor Before 1968

Law and order have been facts of life in West Windsor since the Township was founded in 1797. The earliest records of West Windsor Township meetings show the appointment (or possibly "election by acclaim") of constables whose job it was to attend to the minor crimes of a rural society. Theft of farm animals, produce or equipment, lack of sobriety and "rowdyism" were probably the extent of crime in rural West Windsor.

"Old Princeton's Neighbors," a publication of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration during the 1930s mentions the West Windsor Pursuing and Detecting Society formed in 1882 for the apprehension of horse thieves. However, by 1963, when West Windsor decided to name its new school after Maurice Hawk, his membership in the WWP&D Society was mentioned with the note that the organization had been disbanded when automobiles replaced horses.



By 1929, there were 26,500 automobiles in the United States. These automobiles required better roads to be built and surfaced. Enterprising criminals were able to travel farther to commit crimes. Local police departments were, and are, limited to controlling crime within their township. Therefore, if the criminal was able to cross the border into the next township without being caught, the chances were they would escape. The same situation applies today, but with radio and telephone communication, the next town's police department can be alerted to take over the chase.

To assist local law enforcement, State Police Departments in the United States began to be organized. Pennsylvania was first in 1905. New Jersey passed legislation in 1921 to authorize a New Jersey State Police Department. Colonial H. Norman Schwarzkopf, father to the present retired general, was appointed Superintendent. There were two New Jersey troops to begin with: Troop A was headquartered in Hammonton and covered South Jersey. Troop B, headquartered in Netcong, covered North Jersey. A third troop, Troop C, was established in 1928 to patrol Central Jersey. In 1955, Troop D which patrols the Turnpike, and Troop E, which patrols the Garden State Parkway, were established.

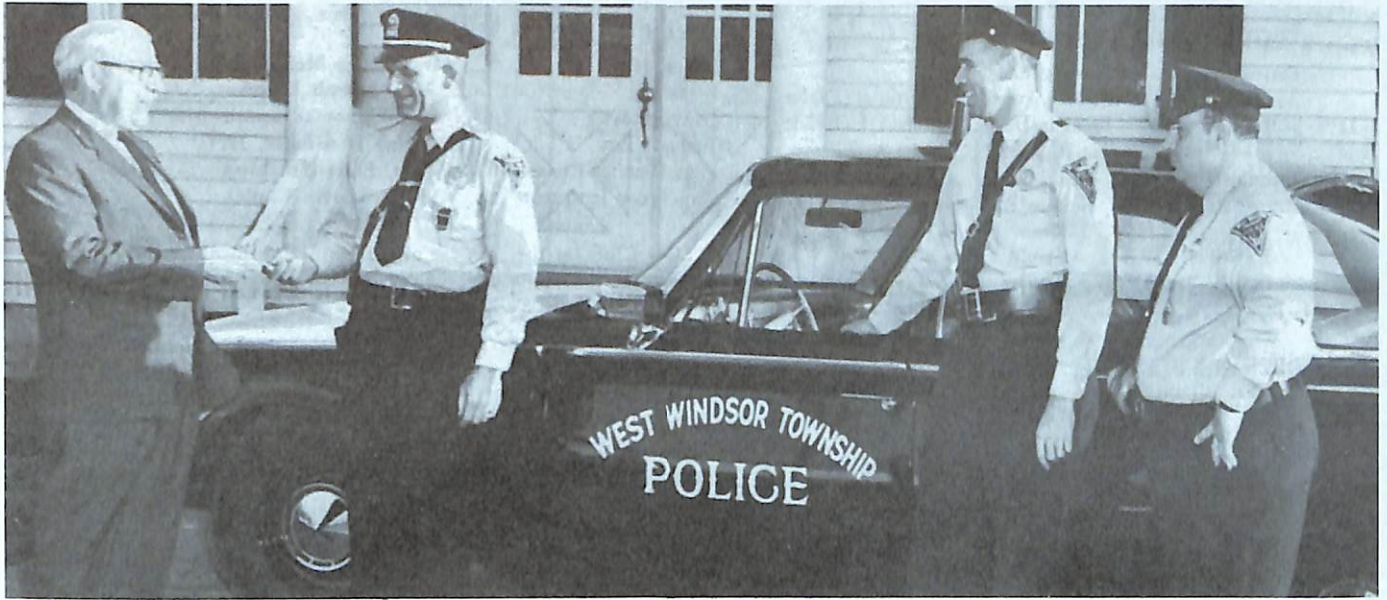
Division Headquarters and the State Police Academy are located in West Trenton. In March 2000, there were 2,800 enlisted and 1,200 civilian personnel in the New Jersey State Police.

Until the late 1960s, West Windsor was under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey State Police. The substations at Princeton and Hightstown were each responsible for roughly half of the Township. Some state troopers were housed in West Windsor itself. Between April 1930 until September 1946 troopers were housed in the home of Mrs. Mary Gabel, on the southeast corner of Route 1 and Meadow Roads. Troopers were also stationed in a house at the corner of Alexander Road and Route 1.

West Windsor Police Department

It was not until 1966 that the idea of a West Windsor Police Department was discussed by the Township Committee. Since the late 1950s, West Windsor had had a part-time police force.

In 1960, the West Windsor part-time police department consisted of Chief Matt Mathes, who operated out of his home, along with Constable Wesley Holman and Special Officers Wendell Beacher, Paul Blaney and Jack Robbins. A member of the Township Committee was Police Commissioner. He coordinated patrols and was liaison with the New Jersey State Police.



The June 1960 Lions Club Newsletter, which provided local news before we had a local newspaper, shows our first police car with Chief Matt Mathes, Constable Wesley Holman and Special Officer Wendell Beacher being congratulated by Police Commissioner Francis J. Ward.

These Constables continued to serve the Township after the West Windsor Police Department was established.

In 1960, West Windsor's population was about 4,000. The first large development, Colonial Park, was built in 1959-60 adding 125 houses and about 375 residents to the Township. Signs of more growth were appearing in the area.

At this time, West Windsor was governed by a Township Committee. Each January, one of the Committeemen was selected by the others to be Mayor for a year. In 1966, the Mayor was Malcolm Roszel, with T. Alvin Carson, Arthur Everett, Eli S. Firth and William Stuart as the Committeemen.

At the Township Committee meeting December 29, 1966, William Stuart reported that criminal violation had increased 67 per cent and accidents 10 percent over the past several years in New Jersey. West Windsor was a growing community and its residents were entitled to better protection for their families and property. He therefore recommended that a full-time police force be established in West Windsor Township under the Township Act R-S 40:149-2.

Stuart proposed a plan to be used in the selection of a full-time Chief of Police. He recommended that the prospective Police Chief be required to take an examination to be given by the New Jersey State Police and that a full-time Chief of Police be appointed during 1967. Stuart saw an ultimate police force of a Chief and two or three Patrol Officers who would be nominated by the Chief and approved by the Township Committee during 1968. In the interim, the present part-time police would be retained.

In May 1967, William Stuart presented plans for steps to be used in selecting a Chief of Police, as well as his duties, responsibilities and minimum qualifications.

In August 1967, notice of written and oral tests for applicants for Chief of Police was published. The tests were to be conducted by a committee of four New Jersey Chiefs on September 23 at the Dutch Neck School. In October, Stuart reported 15 applicants took the tests and that five finalists had been chosen to be interviewed.

November 13, 1967, Stuart reported that five finalists had been interviewed by West Windsor Committeemen. Francis J. Maguire, formerly a lieutenant with the Princeton Borough Police Department with several years of police experience, was appointed full-time Chief of Police effective January 1, 1968.

Francis J. Maguire was known to be tough and fair with a strong work ethic. He expected perfection and professionalism from his officers. He usually preferred to hire people with no previous police experience so he could mold them to his image for West Windsor. However, his first two police officers had police experience.

Maguire was strongly interested in community service. He loved taking groups with him on various trips such as mountain climbing, hiking and white water rafting.

In February 12, 1968, Chief Maguire recommended that Frank Cox, an officer in Princeton Township and a resident of West Windsor, and Allen Bankert, an officer in Princeton Borough, be hired for the position of Patrol Officer, effective March 1, 1968.

The establishment of a West Windsor Police Department, with only three Officers, meant long hours and weekend work. Fortunately, some of the Constables stayed on to help out on weekends. Constable Ron Black acted as Court Officer when the Township Court was in session.

Since there was no police department headquarters, a portion of the Town Hall, once located at the corner of Village Road West and South Mill Road, was renovated for their use. The Police Department remained in Dutch Neck until 1978 when the present Municipal Building was built. They moved into the present Police Headquarters in 1994.



WW Police Department 1969 Left to Right: Ronald Black, Frank Cox, Chief Frank Maguire, Clifford Mauer, Jr., Allen Bankert, Frank Pannick. Photo courtesy WW Police Department.

The number of Police Officers has grown steadily as West Windsor has grown. In June 1968 Frank Pannick and Clifford Maurer, Jr. were appointed Probationary Police Officers. Maurer later became Chief of Police for Plainsboro.

Frank Cox was promoted to Sergeant in January 1970. He was promoted to Chief in 1980 upon the retirement of Frank Maguire. Chief Cox has continued the policies and attitudes of his predecessor, while seeing that the department copes with the changes brought by a growing, more international and urban community.

By 1970, there were 6,431 residents and 16 Police Officers on the WW Police Force, one officer for each 400 residents. In 1980, West Windsor's population grew to 8,542; the number of police officers to 24, again about 400 residents for each officer. By 1990, the population doubled to 16,021 with 31 police officers or 516 residents for each officer. The 1995 census gives West Windsor 19,500 residents and still growing. The ratio of residents to police officers remains about 500 residents to each police officer.

The number of crimes in West Windsor has also grown with the population: In 1968, there were 857 calls for service answered; 156 accidents investigated, and 850 summonses issued. In 1999, there were 32,697 calls for service; 1,627 accidents; 12,885 summonses issued. This comes out to approximately 40 times as many service calls; 10 times as many accidents and 15 times as many summonses issued.

West Windsor Police Department in 2000

We began by listing the members of the police department for the year 2000. It's clear that the six Dispatchers are the communications center for the department, taking calls and sending the appropriate help: Police, Ambulance, Fire Company. Our Animal Control Officer, Bettina Roed, deals with everything from the raccoon in the attic to the damage caused by wild animals to vegetation and buildings now located where once there were woods and fields.

The three School Crossing Guards Linda Hawthorne, Jaswant Kamboh and Maura Hillman, keep our children safe while crossing the busy roads near West Windsor schools.

Service calls come into the Dispatchers on a regular basis. Checking properties both residential and commercial, lockouts from homes and cars, suspected illegal parties and excess noise are examples.

A major policy of the West Windsor Police Department, developed by Chief Francis J. Maguire is the firm belief that the police and community should work together. An example of this policy is the Community Policing Unit, which works with the community providing information and education on safety, security, crime prevention, etc.

Some of the programs and goals of the CPU include: Commercial Crime Prevention to help retailers protect themselves against crime; to stop under-age drinking by preventing sale of liquor to minors; to teach child safety and the proper use of child safety seats; Senior Citizen's and new resident's safety at home and on the road.

The Domestic Violence Victim Response Team was begun in 1998. After 40 hours of training, community volunteers accompany police and emergency response teams on cases involving domestic violence. The volunteers offer counseling and support to the victim on the spot.

The Police Youth Academy is a program for young people who learn about the police and what they do in order to help give them a more positive attitude toward police officers.

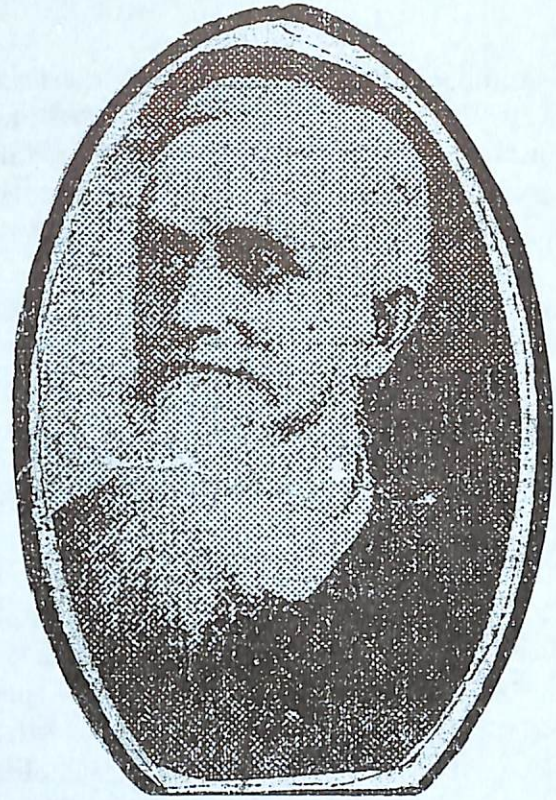
Crime in West Windsor

All this information about the Police Department and its history does not discuss the aspect of police work that keeps us glued to our seats watching TV detectives solve crimes or reading a good murder mystery. What has West Windsor to offer along these lines?

West Windsor's most infamous crime was the murder of the Reverend Amzi L. Armstrong and his wife, who were shot to death on Thanksgiving eve in 1910. Reverend Armstrong had been minister at the First Presbyterian Church in Dutch Neck for 40 years and had retired in 1900. Their housekeeper, Rachel Sears, found the bodies the next morning and sent her son, Jack, to get help from a neighbor, George Dennison, who had a telephone. Dennison notified the Central Police Station in Trenton. Several high-ranking police officers, the coroner and prosecutor arrived quickly and began the investigation.

The immediate suspect was Rachel Sears' 30 year old son, Jack. Rachel and Jack had lived with the Armstrongs since Jack was a baby. Jack's father, a white itinerant farm worker, had deserted Rachel, who was black, when she was found to be pregnant. The Armstrongs took them into their home. Jack was known to have a quick temper. He resented his position in the Armstrong's household. Jack, who was light skinned, preferred to "pass" as white.

Jack said he was in New Brunswick with a friend at the time of the murder. His alibi was quickly disproved when the friend stated that Sears had not shown up for an appointment with him. Further, Sears had borrowed a shotgun which was similar to that used in the Armstrong murder.



The Reverend Amzi L. Armstrong, murdered in 1910.

After questioning by the police, Sears confessed to the murders and took the police to the barn where he had hidden Rev. Armstrong's gold watch in an attempt to make the murder look like a robbery. He claimed that he and Rev. Armstrong had quarreled and that he shot him. When Mrs. Armstrong came to see what was going on, he shot her also.

Jack Sears was tried, found guilty and was the first person in Mercer County to die in the electric chair on March 1911.

There have been other murders in West Windsor since then. In 1981 the body of Doreen Geddis, 11 years of age, was found in the woods on Meadow Road. Louis Wright was charged with her murder and convicted.

The West Windsor Police Department was instrumental in apprehending Nate Harvey, who had murdered a Plainsboro woman in 1985. They also apprehended Jahmal Johnson, the "Route 1 Rapist" in 1989.

In May 1993, Joanne Greene of Wallingford Drive was found murdered. Her husband, Gerald Green, was charged with her murder. He died before ever coming to trial.

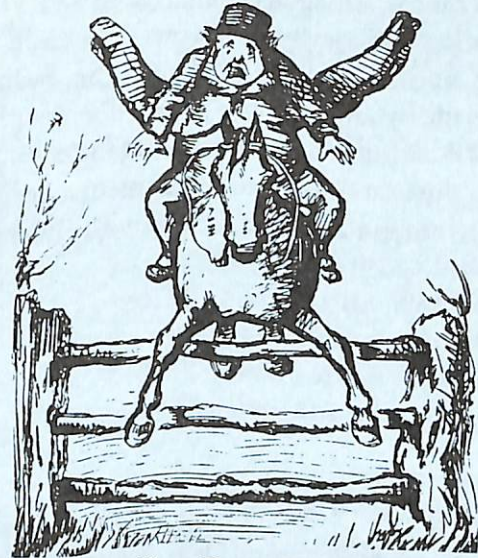
Looking through the West Windsor Police Department scrapbook several other interesting items were found:

In September 1969, three young men shot a Newark restaurant owner and held up at least 50 people at a party. They escaped driving a rented truck. The vehicle was spotted by WW Patrolman Bruce Wauters who gave chase, radioed for help and with the Trenton, Lawrence and Ewing police halted the truck at the New Brunswick circle. Three guns and \$1,652 in cash were found in the truck.

The first bank robbery in West Windsor occurred in July 1974 when the Edinburg branch of the Princeton Bank and Trust was relieved of \$20,000 in cash. The suspect's description was telephoned to the West Windsor Police.

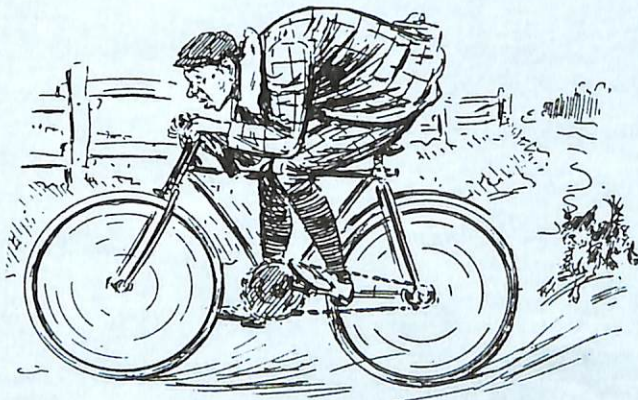
Off-duty officer Gary Watlington was jogging on Old Trenton Road when he noticed several patrol cars. He stopped one of the cars and learned of the robbery. Officer Watlington reported seeing a man fitting the description of the suspect riding his bicycle south on Old Trenton Road. The suspect, Dan Sailor, was apprehended and the \$20,000 recovered thanks to the officer's keen eye.

An unusual misdemeanor occurred in May 1970 when a Princeton Junction man was arrested for riding a horse while intoxicated. The rider was observed making his horse prance around down the center of North Post Road, over hedges and through flower beds.



When Patrol Officer Bruce Wauters stopped him, told him to get off the horse and walk him back home, the rider refused and was arrested. Because the arrest did not fall under the Motor Vehicle Code, the rider was charged as a disorderly person under a state statute that prohibits a person from riding a horse while intoxicated.

The officers mentioned - Patrol Officer Bruce Wauters and Patrol Officer Gary Watlington - have both retired.



To end on a softer note, Genikwa Williams in the September 7, 1996 Trenton Times wrote about the Hug-a-Bears carried in every patrol car in West Windsor. The teddy bears are used in situations such as motor vehicle accidents, robberies, when a child is lost and may be in distress. The child is, of course, allowed to keep the bear. The bears are handmade by an employee retiree charity group, the AT&T/Lucent Pioneers, who make and distribute the bears to police departments, hospitals and other organizations that deal with children in distress.



Broadside is a publication of the Historical Society of West Windsor. Layout and design by Joan Parry and K. Parry

*The Historical Society of
West Windsor
P.O. Box 38
Princeton Jct., N. J. 08550*

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Historical Society of West Windsor

P.O. Box 38, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

What's Happening at the Historical Society of West Windsor Spring 2000

The Schenck Farmstead

Farmhouse -Progress continues on the interior. Clifford Reed has been continuing work on the upstairs bathroom. The sink has been installed in the cabinet donated to us by Carol and Tom Carson. Cabinets replace the bath tub.

The downstairs center room has been sheetrocked and is ready for painting and refinishing of the floors. The new kitchen cabinets have been ordered; framing for them is being installed.

Barn and Outbuildings - The barn has been dismantled and stored in the metal building behind it. Work continues to strengthen and replace joists and beams prior to re-erecting the barn. Bids for the new foundation are out.

Schoolhouse - Kyle Van Dyke, the architect, has prepared drawings of the exterior of the Parsonage Schoolhouse moved to the farm. The exterior will look similar to the Dutch Neck one-room schoolhouse on Village Road West. We continue to look for old school desks, textbooks, globes, etc. All donations are tax-deductible.

Milestones - We once again regret to announce the passing of one of our Charter Members, Marilyn Silvester. Marilyn and her family have been supportive of us from the start. We extend our deepest sympathy. A memorial fund in Marilyn Silvester's name has been started. Donations may be sent to Kay Reed at the above address.

Gifts to the Society - We are very grateful for donations of the following: Treadle sewing machine from Evelyn Walton; quilt from Mary Raybuck; cotton/linen towel c1835 from Lolly Dey; china believed to have been used in the Clarksville Diner from Douglas Kivorsky; A Masonic klaxon and rectangular mirror c1850s from Joan Eddinger; John Gunther of Bergen County donated an 1828 map of the Van Nest

Family holdings in West Windsor; the Mount Family has donated a family history prepared by family members.

Memberships - Thank you to those members who have sent in their Year 2000 dues. Check your Fall 1999 Broadside about Meadow Road to see when you paid last. If you would like to pay several years in advance, simply note the years covered on your check or membership form, otherwise we will consider the extra as a donation.

Exhibits - We will be exhibiting twice in May 2000: Senior Citizen's Day on May 23rd will feature photographs and memorabilia of West Windsor Township. On May 20th we will have a table at the Community Festival in Community Park exhibiting photos and information giving a brief history of West Windsor. Our HSofWW tee shirts will be on sale, as well as Broadside.

Broadside- The issue on the West Windsor Township Police Department was possible only through the generous assistance of Chief Frank J. Cox, Mary Ann Heneghan and the members of the Police Department. Thank you for your help!

Fund-Raiser- We plan a Yard Sale at the Schenck House, 50 Southfield Road on Saturday, June 3rd. Keep us in mind when you are cleaning out those closets, attics and basements. If you would like to rent a space at the Yard Sale for your own flea market items, please send a check for \$10 to Kay Reed at the above address and we will reserve a space for you.