



# WEST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP

*"Between the Brandywines"*

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER published by THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## Township Holds the Tax Line for 35 Years!

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTED THE TOWNSHIP'S 2007 BUDGET IN DECEMBER. In keeping with the Board's philosophy of prudent fiscal spending, the budget requires no tax increase to achieve its objectives. This marks the Township's 35th year without a tax increase! Township residents will continue to pay no property taxes to the Township.

The major goals of the Board for 2007 include continuing to maintain our road system by resurfacing and reconstructing portions of 8 roads representing 3.5 miles, placing a traffic signal at Shadyside and Marshallton-Thorndale Roads, monitoring speeds and traffic counting throughout the township, developing a memorial grove in Broad Run Park, constructing a regional trail along the East Branch of the Brandywine, securing grant funding for traffic calming and streetscapes improvements in Marshallton, and the updating of the Township's Comprehensive Plan.

Please see the budget for more details. A summary of the budget has been posted on the Township's web site at [www.westbradford.org](http://www.westbradford.org) and it is also available in the lobby of the Township Building.

## Winter is Here...

### West Bradford Township Roadway Clearing

FORECASTERS ARE PREDICTING A WET-SNOWY WINTER THIS SEASON. If the weathermen are right and we are unfortunate enough to have a long, snowy winter our road crew will do their best to keep our roads in as good a condition as possible. Our trucks salt, cinder, and plow over 130 lane miles of roads. We hire extra contractors and maintain stockpiles of over 400 tons of anti-skid material. We stock extra parts for plows, salt spreaders, and truck chains. Despite our best efforts, we do have equipment breakdowns during snowstorms; this may delay work on certain routes. Please be patient.

Each operator has a specific route that includes high priority roads and lesser priority roads.

When a snowstorm begins, operators will cover their entire route with salt and anti-skid material. This helps to keep the snow and ice from freezing on the surface. After that they begin to plow their route. The intensity of the snowstorm determines how routes are completed. For minor storms the entire route may be completed at once. However, if the storm intensifies, only priority routes (usually through roads) will be plowed.



Wintery Views of West Bradford

ILLUSTRATIONS BY:  
RICHARD BOLLINGER



Above Right: Romansville Friends Meeting  
Above: Marshallton Friends Meeting



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## Winter is Here...

### West Bradford Township Roadway Clearing

*Continued from Cover*

Cul-de-sacs and secondary roads will not be done until the main routes can be kept open. As the storm lightens all roads will be opened. After all roads can be kept open and the snow stops, plow operators complete

their route by pushing snow back as far as possible on the cartway and clearing the intersections.

The success of our winter maintenance program depends on how much cooperation we receive from our citizens. ❧

#### BY FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES DURING A SNOWSTORM YOU CAN ASSIST IN KEEPING THE ROADWAYS OPEN:

1 | Don't park cars on a street during a snowstorm. Remove all vehicles from streets before the storm and keep them off the street until the streets are cleared. Having cars in the street not only delays the clearing of streets, but can result in the car owner receiving a fine or the car being towed. Your car may also be "plowed in" making it much more difficult for you to get where you're going when you need to.

2 | Don't push or shovel snow into the street. This practice causes a safety hazard and could cause an accident. You can be held responsible for any accidents that this may cause.

3 | Properly prepare your vehicle for winter driving. If you do not have confidence when driving on snow and ice, don't drive. Share the ride with someone or change your schedule so that you don't have to travel. Wait until the roads are clear before traveling.

4 | When clearing your driveway be aware that when streets are plowed the snow will go into your driveway. Wait until plowing is complete to clear your mailbox. Clearing a wider

area on the edge of the street before your driveway will allow much of the snow to leave the plow before your driveway.

5 | We are not responsible for mailbox damage unless we hit it with a plow. Check your mailbox. Heavy snow thrown from highway plows will break mailboxes and rotted posts. You are responsible for these repairs.

6 | We do not plow or maintain State roads or roads in new subdivisions that haven't been turned over to the Township. Strasburg Road, Marshallton-Thorndale Road, Northbrook Road, Romansville Road, Route 322, Bradford Avenue, Glenside Road (from Beacon Hill Road into Downingtown), Camp Linden Road, and Stargazer Road are State roads. Call PennDOT at (484) 340-3200 to report problems with these roads.

Our road department and the contractors we hire spend long hours in tough conditions to make the roads as safe as possible. Please cooperate with them and appreciate the fact that they are doing their best to serve the community. ❧

## Did You Know?

### Facts from around the Township

WHAT LOCALLY FAMOUS BRIDGE was pictured here in 1880 and where was it located in the Township?

*See page 6 for the answer*



— WEST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP —  
*Board of Supervisors and Staff*

Bruce W. Laverty	Chairman
Mark J. Blair	Vice Chairman
John A. Haiko	Member
Jack M. Hines, Jr.	Township Manager
Vincent M. Visoskas	Assistant Township Manager
Douglas R. Jones	Public Works Director
Nancy L. Althouse	Finance Director

1385 Campus Drive  
Downingtown PA 19335  
phone (610) 269-4174  
fax (610) 269-3016  
email wbradford@westbradford.org

We welcome your input and suggestions!  
Feel free to call, fax, email, or drop by anytime.  
We're open Monday through Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm.



## — IN BRIEF —

*Events & Points of Interest  
Throughout the Township*



### We want you...

DURING 2007, THE TOWNSHIP WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING ITS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. This is the major planning and policy document that guides all of the Township's activities. We are seeking residents to serve on the committee that will assist in its development. Meetings are expected to take place monthly in the evenings. Interested individuals may contact Vince Visoskas, Assistant Township Manager for more details at 610-269-4174.

We are also seeking volunteers for the Township Planning Commission and West Bradford Day help. The Township's web site outlines the activities of these bodies and a volunteer application can be downloaded. [Web: www.westbradford.org](http://www.westbradford.org)

### Help Wanted!

THE TOWNSHIP IS LOOKING FOR HELP THIS WINTER. We have a seasonal, part-time job opening available for snow and ice cleanup in our parks and at the municipal building. Students are welcome to apply.

With our park facilities expanding, the Parks Department is looking for permanent, part-time park help. Duties include light maintenance, summer help supervision, and clean up tasks. The schedule is flexible and 10-20 hours per week are available. The job is perfect for retirees or students. [parks@westbradford.org](mailto:parks@westbradford.org)

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Vince Visoskas, Assistant Township Manager—(610) 269-4174 or Email: [parks@westbradford.org](mailto:parks@westbradford.org)

### DASD Senior Citizen Tax Rebate Program

THE DOWNTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT AND RETIRED & SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF CHESTER COUNTY are collaborating in the administration of a new program where senior citizen property owners will be given the opportunity to receive credit toward the payment of their school real property tax, by volunteering in district schools.

#### **TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM, PERSONS MUST:**

- 1 | Be 65 years of age or older during a calendar year in which school real property tax is due and payable.
- 2 | Own residential real estate in the Downingtown Area School District (DASD) in which they reside as their primary residence and upon which they pay real property tax to the district.
- 3 | Be willing to volunteer their services to the school district

Volunteers may receive tax credit for up to 62.5 hours per school year (July 1 through June 20), at the rate of \$8/hour or a total not to exceed \$500/year. [parks@westbradford.org](mailto:parks@westbradford.org)

#### FOR AN INFO/ENROLLMENT PACKET:

Prospective volunteers may obtain an Information/Enrollment packet by calling or stopping by the School District's Business office.

Phone: 610-269-8460, ext. 6219

Address: 126 Wallace Avenue,  
Downingtown

### Composting Classes

THE CHESTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY is offering free classes on how to compost. The County's Recycling Coordinator will teach backyard composting to residents, provide materials and support.

There are three sessions in March 2007 at various locations in the County. All classes are from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. [parks@westbradford.org](mailto:parks@westbradford.org)

TO REGISTER OR FOR  
MORE INFORMATION:

Phone: 610-273-3771, ext. 228

### We're Looking for Township Photos

DO YOU HAVE A GREAT PHOTO OF SOME SPECIAL SCENE, PLACE, OR EVENT IN THE TOWNSHIP THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE? If so, we have just the place to show it. We are always looking for seasonal images for the footers of this newsletter.

The pictures should be digital and in landscape format. We aren't able to pay you for your picture, but will provide an acknowledgement in the newsletter. [parks@westbradford.org](mailto:parks@westbradford.org)

TO SHARE YOUR WEST BRADFORD  
TOWNSHIP PHOTOS:

Please forward them to us via email with "Newsletter Photo" in the subject line so they don't get discarded by our junk mail filter. We may not be able to use every photo, but appreciate your willingness to share.  
Email: [wbradford@westbradford.org](mailto:wbradford@westbradford.org)

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## GARY SCHMIDT, Parks Director Departing

GARY SCHMIDT, OUR LONG-TIME PARKS DIRECTOR, is leaving Township employment. Gary was hired as our first Parks Director after having retired as a teacher from the Haverford School District. Gary and his wife Lois have lived in the



*Best Wishes to departing WBT Parks Director, Gary Schmidt. Thank you for your dedication over the past seven years!*

Township for thirty-five years; having moved to the then rural Township in 1972. He is leaving us to pursue working in a family business.

During his seven year tenure he kept an eye on the growth of our Parks and Recreation Department. The major accomplishments that he oversaw were the development of Shadyside Park – the Township's second community park; and the creation and expansion of our local recreational program – especially West Bradford Day and our summer event series.

His thoughtfulness and dedication were an asset to the community. We are indebted to him for setting up a strong structure that will continue to expand and improve as the Township grows.

Best wishes to Gary, Lois, their three children, and still growing bunch of grandchildren. 🦢

## Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium

THE DOWNINGTOWN AREA RECREATION CONSORTIUM (DARC) has



several exciting activities and programs for all ages during our winter and spring seasons. Some programs that will be offered during the winter and spring will include: After School Art & Science clubs, Dance, Chess club, Rock Wall Climbing, various Exercise classes, Yoga, Home Improvement Workshops, and numerous youth sports programs (indoor soccer, t-ball, basketball, beginner golf lessons, tennis and ice skating). They are also offering In-service day programs so that your children will have something safe and fun to do during in-service days!

DARC will also be offering Men's and Women's Basketball pick-up games in the winter. New offerings this winter and spring will include a Senior Indoor Softball League and a Recreational Indoor Soccer League for the Kindergarten thru 6th graders.

If you are interested in bus trips, they have several coming up in the spring. Please see their brochure or website for more information. If you are planning to visit an area ski resort, DARC will once again be offering discount ski tickets to the regional ski areas. Discount tickets are available early December thru mid March. 🦢

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone: (610) 269-9260

Email: [darc@kennett.net](mailto:darc@kennett.net)

Web: [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com)

## Potential Property Tax Reduction

IF YOU HAVEN'T PREVIOUSLY FILED A HOMESTEAD/FARMSTEAD APPLICATION, the Downingtown Area School District (DASD) encourages you to fill out an application and return it to the Chester County Assessment Office. An approved application will allow you to be eligible for any property tax reduction should voters elect to reduce property taxes by referendum on the May 2007 ballot.

Richard Fazio, the School District's Chief Financial Officer wants to remind you that the potential property tax reduction is not automatic. You must fill out an application. While more than 14,000 property owners in the school district have done so already, nearly 6,000 have not, and as a result will not qualify for the potential property tax reduction. Owner-occupied residential property and agricultural property owners who have not yet applied will receive an application from the school district before the end of this year. The mailing will be sent only to those who do not have an approved application on file with the county. 🦢

If an application is not filed by the March 1, 2007 deadline, property owners will not be eligible for any 2007 property tax reduction.

The potential property tax reduction will appear on tax bills for owner-occupied properties in July of 2007 (Commercial and industrial property owners are not eligible). 🦢

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE:

[dsf.chesco.org/chesco/lib/chesco/assessment/pdf/HOMEFINALS05 .pdf](http://dsf.chesco.org/chesco/lib/chesco/assessment/pdf/HOMEFINALS05.pdf)

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Chester County Assessment  
Homestead Office,  
Government Services Building,  
601 Westtown Rd., Suite 395,  
P.O. Box 2747,  
West Chester, PA 19380-0990

TO VERIFY YOU HAVE AN APPROVED APPLICATION ON FILE:

Call the Chester County Assessment Office  
Phone: 610-344-4570

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## REVIEW: Third Annual "Family Fun Night"

The third annual "Family Fun Night" on Saturday, October 21st was a huge success. Over 400 residents and their families and friends enjoyed apple cider and donuts, took part in hayrides, pumpkin decorating, making scarecrows, and the storytelling around the campfire. Special thanks to Dick and Jean Supplee who donated the use of their tractor and hay wagon as well as numerous bales of hay. Dick's brother, Pete Supplee, donated his time and expertise in "piloting" the hayrides. Sincere thanks to Pete and all the other volunteers who helped to make the evening so much fun! 🍂

## REMINDER:

### West Bradford Day 2007

Our next organizational meeting is Monday, January 22nd at 7:30 pm at the WBT Administration Building. Any interested parties are urged to attend. We're considering all suggestions and are looking for even more volunteers this year. Please join us in making WBD 2007 (Sunday, May 20, 2007) the best yet! 🍂



Above: Children at play on the Moon Bounce at West Bradford Day 2006.

# Township Park & Recreation Update



The wintery weather is finally here, and we hope you can join us at the WBYA Annual Winterfest (to be held on March 10, 2007)! The Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium (DARC) and West Bradford Township have been diligently planning activities for Spring and Summer 2007. Check our website often for updates and additions.  
WWW.WESTBRADFORD.ORG

## WBYA— Winter, Spring & Summer Sports

West Bradford Youth Athletics offers recreational sport programs to West Bradford Township children in Kindergarten through grade 12.

Spring sports registrations start in mid-January. Please check their website ([www.wbya.org](http://www.wbya.org)) for specific dates and times for walk-in registrations.

### SPRING SPORTS OFFERED ARE:

Co-ed Soccer Camp:	Age 5
Girls & Boys Soccer:	Age 6 to Grade 12
Girls Lacrosse Camp:	Grades 1-4
Boys Lacrosse:	U9, U11, U13, U15
Girls and Boys T-Ball:	Ages 5 & 6
Baseball:	Ages 7 to 12 (born after 4/30/94)
Softball:	Ages 7 to 13

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WBYA AND THE PROGRAMS THAT ARE OFFERED:

PO Box 98, Downingtown, PA 19335  
Phone: (610) 344-9444  
Email: [wbya@icdc.com](mailto:wbya@icdc.com)  
Web: [www.wbya.org](http://www.wbya.org)

## WBYA Annual Winterfest

WBYA's annual Winterfest will be held on March 10, 2007.

## Earth Day 2007 Observance

Join us on Saturday, April 21, 2007 as volunteers from all over West Bradford Township join together with thousands of other Pennsylvanians in the "2007 Great PA Cleanup." Look for upcoming information on our website. Please contact us with any suggestions or questions.

## Summer Events 2007

We have over a dozen events planned for the upcoming season. If your company or family is interested in becoming one of the sponsors for the 2007 season, please contact the Parks Director. Families with movie suggestions should also contact the Recreation Commission through the Parks Director.

### IS YOUR COMPANY OR FAMILY INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPONSOR?

Please contact the Parks Director.

Phone: 610-269-4174

Web: [parks@westbradford.org](mailto:parks@westbradford.org)

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## Refuse/Sewer Auto Pay Option

The Township is always considering options that may result in better service to our residents and make for a more efficient way to do things. In our last newsletter we asked for your input on whether you would like the Township to set up a direct debit, auto-pay option from bank accounts for the payment of refuse, sewer, and hydrant fees.

We only received positive responses from fifteen households. Since there is a cost to the Township for this option, we will not be able to offer it unless more residents respond positively. ✍

TELL US IF YOU THINK THIS OPTION IS A GOOD IDEA AND WOULD USE IT:

Email:

[wbradford@westbradford.org](mailto:wbradford@westbradford.org)

Subject Line:

“Auto-Pay”

## Did You Know? [Answer]

from page 2:

COPE'S BRIDGE STILL STANDS ON STRASBURG ROAD (RTE.162) BETWEEN MARSHALTON AND COPESVILLE.

It served as a main route between Lancaster and Philadelphia for many years. It is actually located in East Bradford Township a few hundred feet from the Township boundary. ✍

## Broad Run Watershed Watch

THE BROAD RUN IS CHARACTERIZED AS AN EXCEPTIONAL VALUE WATERWAY. This is the top designation in the State. It singles the stream out as having the highest water quality and an unspoiled character.

The Broad Run is also unique in that it originates and ends in West Bradford. Therefore we don't get pollution from upstream users. However, it also means that we, as Township residents, are solely responsible for any pollution or sedimentation that may damage it. The Broad Run is truly a township resource and must be conserved.

A group of residents, working with the Brandywine Valley Association, has begun a volunteer monitoring program for the stream. This is an opportunity for West Bradford residents to become involved in protecting their local environment.



West Bradford Township thanks local residents working with the Brandywine Valley Association to help protect the health of the Broad Run Watershed



The Watershed Watch includes four different aspects of stream health. These include physical habitat, chemical testing, biological studies, and erosion and sediment control evaluation. ✍

TO LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE BROAD RUN WATERSHED WATCH:

To learn what you can do to keep the Broad Run an “exceptional value” stream contact Debbie Vitulli, the Township's Watershed Watch Coordinator.

Email: [d\\_vitulli@msn.com](mailto:d_vitulli@msn.com)

or leave a message for her at the Township Office

Phone: 610-269-4174



*Above and Left: Broad Run Watershed Watch Volunteers working to keep the Broad Run an “exceptional value” stream.*

WEST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP  
*“Between the Brandywines”*

WWW.WESTBRADFORD.ORG

**FEATURED RECYCLING ITEM  
GLASS:**

Among the items that are picked up through the Township recycling program are glass bottles and jars. That includes clear glass and colored glass.

**PREPARATION:**

- 1 | The jars and bottles should be rinsed.
- 2 | All of the lids must be removed and discarded.
- 3 | Labels do not have to be removed.

The items are then placed in your recycling container. The recycling container shall be placed at curbside on your regular trash day before 6:00am and should be located so that it is at least three feet from totes or obstructions.

**GLASS FOR RECYCLING DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- 1 | Window glass,
- 2 | Dishes
- 3 | Light bulbs
- 4 | Pyrex
- 5 | Drinking glasses

All of these items are made from different types of glass that cannot be mixed with the glass jars and bottles for reuse. A good rule of thumb is that if food or drink comes in it, and it is glass, it can be recycled.

Your attention to recycling properly is important because any items that are not allowed when mixed with our other recyclables may cause the entire load to be rejected and placed in the landfill.

Please remember to remove all lids from both your glass and plastic recycling! Our trucks cannot efficiently compact the material unless caps and lids are removed. ♪

## I Heard Someone Say...

“...that a neighbor has several ugly satellite dishes on the front of their house and the Township won’t do anything about it!”

**MANY RESIDENTS DON’T FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ROLE AND LIMITATIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES IN PENNSYLVANIA.** Under the United States Constitution (Article X), States have the power to create and regulate local government. While the State of Pennsylvania is a Commonwealth, where the government is based on the common consent of the people, the State’s Constitution reserves all inherent rights to itself. Local government can only undertake those functions that are assigned it by the Legislature.

The major state law that regulates our Township is the Second Class Township Code. This Code sets forth the structure of local government and delineates the general and specific powers of the Township.

While the scope of local government functions and responsibilities can be broad, their primary function is to provide local services to their residents and to oversee the general local public welfare. This can include police and fire protection, maintaining local roads, sewage collection, local planning and zoning, parks and recreation provision, and garbage collection. Local municipalities are allowed to make policy decisions, levy taxes, borrow money, and to authorize expenditures in pursuit of the above functions, but cannot regulate or control

in any area that is not specifically assigned to us by the State.

So that’s why we can’t put up stop signs to control speeding, prohibit all new development in the Township, and make people move their ugly satellite dishes into their back yard! ♪

### NEW REGULAR FEATURE:

THIS ARTICLE IS A NEW REGULAR FEATURE OF OUR NEWSLETTER. IT WILL GIVE INSIGHT INTO HOW MUNICIPALITIES WORK AND ANSWER SOME COMMON QUESTIONS THAT RESIDENTS HAVE ABOUT DEALING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

#### Have a question?

Phone: (610) 269-4174

Email: [wbradford@westbradford.com](mailto:wbradford@westbradford.com)  
[Subject line: “I Heard Someone Say”]

## Brandywine Meadows Preserve— Additional Grant Received

THE TOWNSHIP RECENTLY COMPLETED THE MASTER PLAN FOR BRANDYWINE MEADOWS PRESERVE. The 64-acre preserve is located next to the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek along Route 322 between Bradford Avenue and Old Shadyside Roads. This passive park will contain areas for walking, biking, nature study, and a canoe launch.

We have received County and State funding along with East Bradford Township to create an extension to the Struble Trail along the Brandywine towards West Chester. We anticipate that this trail project will go out for bid during 2007 and are hoping for a 2008 completion.

The Township has recently been notified by PECO that we have been awarded a private \$10,000 grant for the construction of the parking area and canoe launch. We would like to acknowledge the grant and thank the Company for its generosity. ♪

*Below: Brandywine Meadows Preserve Trail*



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## WEST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP

*"Between the Brandywines"*

# Municipal Calendar

### — JANUARY 2007 —

*Items to Remember*

MARK YOUR ITEMS OF INTEREST IN THE BOX TO THE LEFT

### — FEBRUARY 2007 —

*Items to Remember*

MARK YOUR ITEMS OF INTEREST IN THE BOX TO THE LEFT

### — MARCH 2007 —

*Items to Remember*

MARK YOUR ITEMS OF INTEREST IN THE BOX TO THE LEFT

Day	Event	Time
1	New Year's Day	Closed
2	Board of Supervisors Business Mtg	7:00pm
3	Elected Auditors Organization Mtg	7:30pm
3	Planning Commission Organization Mtg and Work Session	8:00pm
11	Historical Commission Organization Mtg and Work Session	7:30pm
15	Recreation Commission Meeting	7:30pm
16	Planning Commission Formal Session	8:00pm
23	Board of Supervisors Subdivision Mtg	8:00pm
25	Refuse/Large Item Pickup: Thursday Customers	
29	Refuse/Large Item Pickup: Monday Customers	
30	Refuse/Large Item Pickup: Tuesday Customers	
31	Refuse/Large Item Pickup: Wednesday Customers	
6	Planning Commission Work Session	8:00pm
8	Historical Commission Mtg	7:30pm
13	Board of Supervisors Mtg	8:00pm
19	Recreation Commission Mtg	7:30pm
20	Planning Commission Formal Session	8:00pm
22	Refuse/Large Item Pickup: Thursday Customers	
26	Refuse/Large Item Pickup: Monday Customers	
27	Refuse/Large Item Pickup: Tuesday Customers	
27	Board of Supervisors Subdivision Mtg	8:00pm
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27	Board of Supervisors Subdivision Mtg	8:00pm
28	Refuse/Large Item Pickup: Wednesday Customers	
29	Refuse/Large Item Pickup: Thursday Customers	

**CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL  
DROP OFF:  
THROUGH JANUARY AT THE  
MUNICIPAL CAMPUS**