

# WINDOW ON ... WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP

**L**ocation, location, location—anytime you're looking to relocate your business or home, you're told that it's the location you should look for—a place that will grow in value and protect your investment. West Windsor Township is one of the best locations to satisfy that criteria and can be found centrally located in the heart of New Jersey in Mercer County.

West Windsor was initially established in 1682 when William Penn signed a treaty with the Delaware Indians. It was sold by Penn to Dutch farmers and became a farming community with seven villages. It was incorporated as West Windsor Township in 1797 and its current borders now encompass approximately 27 square miles. Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh (pronounced "shay") is proud of West Windsor's heritage. He states, "West Windsor's past reflects a rich culture, history, and diversity—from its agricultural roots to the traditional values, fierce independence, religious tolerance, family values, education, and legendary industriousness brought by its early immigrants. All of these combined together are the backbone of this community today." Today, West Windsor is home to approximately 25,000 citizens. The 1999 average earnings was \$137,830 and the majority of residents have a bachelor's degree or higher.

West Windsor has been recognized as one of the most desirable suburban areas in which to live, work and play.

West Windsor boasts the 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest train station in New Jersey and the 8<sup>th</sup> most heavily used AMTRAK station in the nation making it an ideal location for commuters along the Northeast corridor.



**Princeton Junction Train Station**

Whether you have a 9:00 AM meeting in Washington DC or need to commute to work in New York City or Philadelphia, West Windsor's train station at Princeton Junction is the answer for your traveling needs. Mayor Hsueh adds, "And, if you want to enjoy McCarter Theatre's Tony award-winning offerings in Princeton or enjoy a day of shopping, there is a shuttle train called the PJ&B (Princeton Junction & Back) or *The Dinky* to take you to Princeton and bring you back to West Windsor." In addition, there are many residential areas and commercial facilities available within walking distance of the station. West Windsor's award-winning office parks have attracted

companies like Tyco and NRG Energy which have recently established headquarters here. Add to this access from major interstates like the NJ Turnpike, and you can understand why West Windsor is the place to be. Mayor Hsueh is also looking to expand and improve the area around the train station. He says, "We have a vision for a real community place, a village, surrounding the train station—where young and old, commuters and non-commuters alike can come to enjoy what the space will ultimately provide."

West Windsor has also balanced its residential and commercial growth with programs to preserve open space and farmland. Nearly 50% of the total acreage of West Windsor Township has already been preserved. West Windsor was the first municipality in the State of New Jersey to pass a dedicated open space tax to ensure that land will continue to be undeveloped and/or farmed. Together, in partnership with a number of other organizations, West Windsor continues to buy property along rivers and other key areas to be enjoyed by current residents and future generations. One particular wetland area is now home to a Blue Heron rookery. Mayor Hsueh stated, "It is important to have undisturbed fields and forests available to all residents and to maintain our heritage of farming. West

Windsor has a farmers market every spring through fall to remember and respect our roots.” Parks have been developed throughout West Windsor for the benefit of its residents. In addition, West Windsor is home to the county’s Mercer Park which in turn is the home of the US



**Lake Mercer at Mercer Park**

Olympic Rowing team. International rowing races are regularly held on Lake Mercer. Other recreation that is offered by West Windsor is a 123-acre Community Park containing numerous playing fields for lacrosse, football, soccer, softball and baseball; tennis courts; a food pavilion/restroom facility; a jogging/bicycle trail; a state-of-the-art batting cage; and Waterworks: a 10-acre aquatic facility. West Windsor’s boundary with Princeton Borough is the Delaware and Raritan Canal



**Waterworks Aquatic Facility**

which is great for canoeing. In addition to parks, West Windsor has four golf courses, a number of hotels,

and restaurants of all ethnic varieties.

West Windsor has a blue ribbon public school system supported by a community that takes pride in its continuing tradition of academic achievement. This excellent school system is shared with a neighboring Township and provides two high schools, two middle schools, and six elementary and upper elementary schools. All schools regularly exceed state regulations and test scores are far above national and state averages. The school system is determined to provide students with a challenging curriculum in whatever scholastic paths they take. Students are even provided



**Grover Middle School**

with the opportunity to take classes in higher grade levels or at Princeton University. In fact, West Windsor’s superb school system is the reason why many residents choose to move to West Windsor. However, in the event that a parent wants their child to attend a private school, nearby institutions include The Peddie School, Lawrenceville School, Pennington School, Hun School, Princeton Day School, and others. West Windsor is also close to a number of fine colleges and universities. These include

The College of New Jersey, Mercer County Community College, Princeton University, Rider College, and Rutgers University. In addition, West Windsor is a member of the Mercer County library system.

Perhaps West Windsor is most well known for being the site of a fictional Martian landing. Based on the book “The War of the Worlds,” by H.G. Wells, Orson Welles produced a radio drama in which the audience was told that an alien spacecraft had landed on a farm near Grover’s Mill, located in West Windsor. Many people,



**Van Nest Park**

believing the newscast was real, were driven into hysteria. Today there is a monument installed near Grover’s Mill Pond at Van Nest Park to commemorate the radio broadcast.

Mayor Hsueh is especially appreciative of the Township Council. Council president Franc Gambatese commented, “Together we are meeting the challenges that a growing suburban community faces and getting things done. We owe it to our resident citizens and businesses to ensure that the infrastructure, services and quality-of-life in West Windsor continues to improve each year.”