CROSSING GUARDS
By Robert Hubner, Director, Woodbridge Police Department

Woodbridge Township employee Helen Hrehowsik retired after 40 years of service as a crossing guard in January. A resident of the Sewaren section of Woodbridge, Mrs. Hrehowsik worked her last day as a crossing guard for the Woodbridge Township Police Department. Mrs. Hrehowsik - like all the other crossing guards - got up every morning before sun-up and no matter the weather to man her post located at Old Road and Glen Cove Avenue where she crossed students attending Matthew Jago School.

Many motorists have misconceptions on what a crossing guard can and cannot do while at their posts. The main function of our crossing guards is to safely stop traffic and allow students to cross the street at designated crosswalks. Many of these posts are located at busy intersections that are not controlled by a traffic control signal. It becomes necessary at times for the crossing guard to stop traffic to allow the students to cross the street in addition to letting motorists out of a backed-up side street. This is where we have experienced problems. Drivers have becoming frustrated and impatient with the delay. Crossing guards have reported vehicles passing stopped vehicles on the right and proceeding through the intersection even though the guard has traffic stopped and students are in the crosswalk or have just totally disregard the crossing guard who is attempting to stop traffic. This is a safety issue for the crossing guard and the students. Motorists have an obligation to both obey the crossing guard’s instructions and proceed cautiously through school zones that are clearly marked with signs and in some instances yellow flashing school zone signs. Recently a crossing guard was struck by a car while in the street and was seriously injured. Motorists need to stay alert at all times, and should take extra caution during those times when students are walking to and from school. Please stay alert and make the job of our dedicated crossing guards safer and easier.

Mrs. Hrehowsik carried a large responsibility of protecting our children as they arrived and departed from their school. I, along with the entire WPD, would like to thank Mrs. Hrehowsik for her dedicated years of service.

ABC’S OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
By John M. Mitch, Municipal Clerk

From time-to-time, I am asked to explain terms that the governing body or administration uses during council meetings. For a layman (member of the public), I certainly can understand how someone may not be able to follow the flow of the meeting and to fully understand the government terms and acronyms. Here are some examples of local government language:

**Abandonment of an Ordinance:** The matter or issue under consideration is given up completely.

**Accessory Building:** A detached building which is incidental to the main building or use.

**Amicus Curiae:** A legal brief filed by a governmental agency in support of another person's or agency's position relating to a particular issue.

**Appropriation:** The sum of money authorized by a legislative body to be spent for a specific purpose.

**Arbitrage Bond:** A bond issued at a low interest rate invested at a higher interest rate.

**Assessed Value:** A valuation set upon real estate or property by the assessor as a basis for levying taxes.

**Balanced Budget:** A budget in which the estimated revenues equal the estimated expenditures.

**Base Flood Elevation:** The highest elevation, expressed in the feet above sea level, of the level of flood waters occurring in the regulatory base flood.

**Bi-Partisian:** Representing two parties; primarily Democrats and Republicans.

**Buffer:** A strip of land or vegetation that sufficiently minimizes the physical or visual intrusion generated by an existing or future use.

**Building Setback Line:** A line establishing a minimum allowable distance between the nearest portion of building projection and the street lot line.

**Capital Budget:** A spending plan for improvements and acquisitions of significant value and a useful life of more than one year.

**Civil Service:** A competitive process for selecting employees.

**Codification Code:** Ordinances of a municipality which have been enacted and that are compiled, consolidated, revised, indexed and arranged in a comprehensive manner.

**Condemnation:** The process of taking private property for public use through the use of eminent domain.

**Consent Agenda:** A policy of the governing body to approve, in one motion, routine and or non-controversial items.

**Cooperative Purchasing:** Procurement conducted by or on behalf of more than one public agency.

**Executive Session:** A meeting closed to the public which complies with specific state statutes.

**Feasibility Study:** A preliminary study to determine the design, aesthetics, construction and economic aspects of a proposed project.

**Inter-local Agreement:** A contract between two or more public agencies for the joint exercise of powers common to the involved agencies.

**Leachate:** Liquid that has percolated through solid waste or other mediums from which dissolved or suspended materials have been extracted.

**Meters and Bounds:** A method of describing the boundaries of land by directions and distances from a known point of reference.

**Minutes:** A summary of action taken at a meeting and the vote on each item.

**Mixed Use:** More than one zoning use in a designated area (i.e., light industrial, residential, commercial).

**Motion:** A statement of intent by the governing body.

**Open Space:** Any parcel or area of land or water essentially unimproved and set aside, dedicated, designed or reserved for public or private use.

**Public Records:** Any record retained by a government body as further defined by state statute which is open to inspection.

**Quasi-judicial:** A governmental body that hears sworn testimony, obtains evidence and provides for cross examination of witnesses, with the decision based solely on the evidence presented.

**Quorum:** The prescribed number of members of a governing body that must be present to legally transact business.

**Sunshine Law:** Legislation providing that all meetings of public bodies shall be open to the public.