

## **Spring 2010 Road Rules: Keeping Children Safe in Cars**

*In each issue of the Township Newsletter, the West Goshen Police Traffic Safety Unit will provide information for drivers, focusing on sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code or on other traffic safety issues.*

As most, if not all, people are aware, Pennsylvania law requires that each driver and front seat occupant of a passenger car shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety seat belt system. Many questions, however, arise when it comes to properly securing a child in a motor vehicle. The Pennsylvania vehicle code requires that all drivers are responsible to secure children from birth to age four in an approved child passenger restraint system, and that all drivers are responsible to secure children from four years of age up to eight years of age in a seat belt system and an appropriately fitting child booster seat. Failure to comply with these provisions is a summary offense with a maximum fine of \$100.00 plus court costs.

Parents should always refer to the owner's manual of the child safety seat to ensure that a particular child passenger restraint system is appropriate for their child's height and weight in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.

Guidelines have been prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to provide guidance for exemptions for these provisions and can be accessed by visiting [http://westgoshen.org/Departments/Police\\_Department/police\\_department.html](http://westgoshen.org/Departments/Police_Department/police_department.html)