

# WORCESTER



# TOWNSHIP

*At the Center Point*

*of Montgomery County*

## Late News Again!

Did you receive our Spring newsletter a little later than usual? If yes, you're not alone. All 3,100 copies of the newsletter were delivered to the post office on February 17, providing plenty of time to have these in homes by our March 1st target date... or so we thought. Our newsletter was among the many mail pieces that experienced significant delivery delays which seems to be an ongoing issue with USPS.

The Township aims to have the Spring newsletters in homes by March 1 and the Summer newsletter in homes by the Friday before Memorial Day. The Fall and Winter newsletters are scheduled for the Friday before Labor Day and December 1, respectively. If your newsletter is late visit [worcestertwp.com](http://worcestertwp.com) to view the digital version, which is posted to our website shortly before the newsletters are delivered to the post office.

## Days Gone By

Milestones were used initially to provide direction and mileage for postage delivery but also played a role during the Revolutionary War. One of General Washington's orders was "proceed to 24-mile stone and remain there until further notice." This particular milestone still stands along Skippack Pike west of the Worcester Township line.

Source: *A History of Worcester Township.*

## WORCESTER RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE

To celebrate "Local Government Week," which honors the dedication of the Pennsylvania's local officials and encouraging citizens to learn how local government functions and affect each resident and business in the community. During this week, the Governor's Center for Local Government Services has made a tradition of hosting a Local Government Day celebration, featuring the presentation of the Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence to recognize local officials for their successes in undertaking innovative initiatives to improve the quality of life in their communities. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the awards were presented virtually on May 19, 2021.

Worcester Township has received the 2021 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence in recognition of the Township's contribution to local government in Pennsylvania. Only 10 communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are awarded this honor every year in the following categories: Building Community Partnerships, Responding to Adversity, Innovative Planning and Sound Land Use Practices, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Promoting Community/Economic Revitalization, Information Technology, Innovative Community/



Government Initiatives, Health and Wellness Initiatives, and Fiscal Accountability and Best Management Practices.

The Township won this award for Fiscal Accountability and Best Management Practices for the partnership of Worcester Township and Worcester Volunteer Fire Department to provide a comprehensive program to help support the fire department who provides dedicated service to the community. This program allows the Township to support the volunteer model without the need to establish a full-time paid department that could cost the community over \$2 million per year.

For more information regarding the Township's Fire Stipend Program and other initiatives the Township has undertaken to support the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department, please see the article on page 3. 🐾





## Summer Events At Variety

Mark your calendars for two great events this Summer at Variety – the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley!

### Variety Farm Cart

**Tuesdays, June 22nd through August 6th**

Time: 9:30am to Noon

Where: Variety – the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley, 2950 Potshop Road, Worcester, PA 19490

Variety’s Farm Cart is back this summer! On Tuesdays, from June 22nd through August 6th, Variety – the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley will offer an assortment of Variety-grown vegetables, baked goods and hand-crafted items at a farm cart on their campus. *No pre-orders. Cash, Check, PayPal and Venmo accepted.*

### Vegas at Variety- Wager your luck on a night of fun at Vegas at Variety!

**Saturday, August 28, 2021**

Time: 6pm to 10pm

Where: Empress Room at St. Helena School  
1489 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

Tickets are \$47 in advance, \$55 at the door. Ticket includes buffet, beverages and \$25 in chips. Variety will also be honoring their 2020-2021 Ace of Variety: The Mossop & Gaul Families at the event. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [varietyphila.org/vegas-at-variety](http://varietyphila.org/vegas-at-variety).

## 2021 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This year Worcester Township will continue implementation of its annual road improvement program. This program is designed to maximize the useful life of infrastructure through an aggressive maintenance plan and appropriately-scheduled capital improvements. The program allows the Township to maintain approximately fifty-five miles of roads in good condition.

The maintenance plan includes pothole repair, street sweeping, roadside brush trimming, roadside swale maintenance and patch milling. The capital plan includes the replacement of culverts and storm water pipes and the resurfacing and reconstruction of roads. On average, the Township resurfaces and/or reconstructs between three and five miles of roadways each year.

### This summer the following roads will be resurfaced:

- Allebach Lane;
- Barley Lane (West of Wentz Church Road)
- Curtis Lane;
- Green Hill Road;



- Houpt Way;
- Kriebel Mill Road, south of Germantown Pike;
- Kriebel Mill Road, a portion south of Water Street Road;
- Pawlings Ford Road;
- Sibel Circle;
- Stuart Way; and,
- Woodbridge Lane.

In addition to these roads, a portion of Heebner Park will be paved. The work is scheduled to get underway in June, and will conclude by mid-August, weather permitting. Motorists using the above-noted roads may experience delays during construction. The Township thanks residents for their understanding and patience as we work to improve our community’s roadways. 🗺️

## HOW MUCH CANDY IN THE FISHBOWL?

There is a fish bowl in the lobby of the Worcester Township Building. And in this fish bowl there is candy... Hard Candies & Lollipops to be exact. And lots of them.

How many Hard Candies & Lollipops are in the fish bowl is your guess, and if your guess is the closest to the actual number you’ll win the candy, and sweet bragging rights.

Submit your guess at the Township Building, before 4:00 pm on July 16. One guess per person please. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter.



And congratulations to Peter Lazare, whose guess of 128 came closest to the actual number of peppermint candies (149) in the fishbowl in our last contest. Peter, don’t forget to share! The candy is kindly contributed by the employees of Worcester Township, who are not eligible to submit a guess (*sorry folks!*). 🗺️



## WVFD STIPEND PROGRAM IS SOLVING DAYTIME COVERAGE ISSUES

While Fire Departments are struggling across the Commonwealth for volunteers, Worcester Township has worked in partnership with the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) to provide consistent coverage for the community without the need for a full-time paid fire department.

Worcester Township has implemented and funded a monthly stipend for Township Employees who volunteer to run with the WVFD during the workday, which is when coverage is needed most. These employees are paid in full when answering calls for service. In addition, the Township has established an in-house Firefighter 1 Certification Program, which allows Township Employees to complete 188 hours of required training during the workday while being paid in full. In the last 18 months, the stipend program has increased the number of Township Employees that are a part of this program from three to ten; currently 7 Full Time Employees and 3 Part Time Employees serve as volunteer firefighters, which is 63% of all Township Employees.

Worcester Township also has made significant financial investments in the WVFD. The Township has established an annual capital contribution to the department in the amount of \$100,000, as well as an annual operating contribution

that is increased by five percent each year to keep up with inflation. The 2021 operating contribution is in the amount \$159,550. The total financial contribution to the Fire Department equals \$267,550 or 7.1% of the General Fund operations. This amount does not include the payment of workers compensation premium or Act 205 pass-through financing.

The Township understands the importance of making sure the Fire Department is able to obtain and maintain the life-saving equipment to protect the community. To assist with this, the Township has established an annual cost-sharing contribution that helps to offset preventative maintenance on the apparatus. The Township reimburses the Fire Department 50% of the cost for ladder tests, pump tests, hose tests, and other preventative maintenance costs, up to \$8,000. This funding encourages a sound preventative maintenance program that, in turn, maximizes the useful life of the fire apparatus.

The Township was the first municipality in the Commonwealth to adopt Act 172 earned income tax credit for volunteers that exempts municipal earned income tax on the first \$200,000 of earned income. Worcester Township has been in the forefront of supporting their volunteer fire department with an innovative approach that keeps the volunteer model strong, the community protected, while saving taxpayers over \$2 million per year. 🐾

## Volunteer Firefighters Hours Logged

In the first quarter of 2021 the men and women of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department logged 1,152 conducting drills and responding to calls for help. If these folks were paid firefighters, the estimated cost to Worcester taxpayers for the same number of service hours would total about \$124,500.

And if the Township were to employ a full-time paid fire department this cost would top \$2 million per year, or about \$180 for each person now living in Worcester!

Our volunteer firefighters may not be paid, but maintaining a dependable volunteer fire department isn't free. The Worcester Volunteer Fire Department is always looking for persons who can help protect our community. But if you don't have the time to volunteer, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to those who are willing to put themselves in harm's way to keep our families safe.

Send your contribution to:  
Worcester Volunteer Fire Department  
1725 Valley Forge Road  
Post Office Box 1  
Worcester, PA 19490

## Ask Mary Ann

When the telephone rings at the Township Building, and the resident on the line asks a question, Receptionist extraordinaire Mary Ann always has the answer. Here's one of questions that Mary Ann often fields, and her answer...

**RESIDENT:** "Is the Township permitted to remove political signs from a resident's property?"

**MARY ANN:** "The only signs the Township will remove are signs posted on property owned by the Township. The Township will never remove a political sign. That is up to the owner of the property."

## GRANTS, GRANTS, GRANTS!



### Free Little Library Book Review

**Just a Special Day**  
by Mercer Mayer  
reviewed by Gregory Kelemen (age 3)

He's back by popular demand! Future New York Times book critic Gregory Kelemen reviews another literary classic.

**The Story...** A little boy and his daddy are supposed to clean the house when the mommy goes shopping, but instead they go outside and play.

**My Favorite Part...** When the little boy and his daddy go to a baseball game. An alligator is playing baseball. That's not real.

**My Recommendation...** I don't like cleaning. I like going outside to play.

Thank you, Gregory, for another amazing book review!

Would you like to review a book from our Little Free Library collection? Simply visit the library outside the Township Building (1721 Valley Forge Road), pick a book (it's free!), and ask a parent to contact Mary Ann Murray at (610) 584-1410, or by email at mmurray@worcestertwp.com.

In the last three years alone, Worcester Township has been awarded \$2.1 million in state and county grants to fund improvements to our roads, parks and trails. That's an impressive number considering the Township's annual operating budget is about \$2.6 million. Receiving grants is one of the many ways the Township works to keep taxes low (we have the lowest municipal real estate tax in Montgomery County!) while maintaining a higher quality of life in our community.

A list of grants recently awarded is posted at [worcestertwp.com](http://worcestertwp.com)... keyword search "grants." This list also includes grant applications that have been submitted for funding consideration, including:

- \$250,000 for the construction of a Community Classroom near the Township Building which will allow the Township to offer more recreation activities and events; and
- \$150,000 for park improvements for Mount Kirk Park including a pavilion, restrooms, and paving of the trail and parking lot area.

Many thanks to State Representative Matt Bradford and State Senator Katie Muth for their continued and strong support of the Township efforts to obtain grant funding! 🙏

## SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### The following projects are now under review:

- Haganir – A sketch plan of an eight-lot subdivision off of Artmar Road.
- Palmer – Seven commercial lots and one residential parcel at Skippack Pike & Valley Forge Road.
- Palmer Village – An eleven-lot single-family detached home subdivision, with a bank, convenience store, and pharmacy, at Skippack Pike & Valley Forge Road.

### The following subdivision and land development projects are among those receiving approval in the recent years, and construction has not yet begun:

- Bethel Development Associates – A two-lot single-family detached home at Skippack Pike.
- Gunsalas Tract – A three-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Mill Road.
- Mandracchia – A two-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Stump Hall Road.

- Meadowood – A 20-unit memory care facility at an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.
- Meadowood – A 4,200 sf addition for administrative offices and resident amenities at an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.
- Sparango Construction – An eight single-family detached home subdivision at Berks Road.
- Stony Creek Village – Office, retail, and restaurant buildings at North Wales Road & Township Line Road.

### The following approved subdivision and land development projects are now under construction:

- Meadowood – Two generator units to service an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.
- Reserve at Center Square – A residential subdivision at Skippack Pike that includes 125 townhomes and 125 single-family detached homes.
- Whitehall Estates – A 39 single-family detached home subdivision at Whitehall Road.

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

**F**or the last year, the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force has been working to update Worcester's 2008 Comprehensive Plan, our community's primary planning guide. Task Force members have carefully reviewed each chapter in this plan, and they are now preparing recommended updates to the plan that will help our Township address key issues throughout the years to come.

On March 24, 2021, the Township, along with planners from Montgomery County Planning Commission, hosted a virtual open house to give the residents an update on the progress the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force has made and focused on the following topics, transportation, neighborhoods and housing, quality of life, and open space, agriculture and parks. Over

40 residents attended this virtual event. If you were not able to attend this event, the video is available on the Township's website- [www.worcestertwp.com](http://www.worcestertwp.com).

The Township plans to host another open house event in the Fall that may be held in person depending upon the public health guidance at that time. More details will follow in the coming months.

Residents are always welcomed to attend Task Force meetings, held at 7:00pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Currently, meetings are being conducted on-line, and meeting information may be found at [worcestertwp.com](http://worcestertwp.com).

Questions about the Comprehensive Plan? E-mail us at [cpu@worcestertwp.com](mailto:cpu@worcestertwp.com). 📧

## VALLEY FORGE ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

**W**orcester Township received a \$700,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to design significant improvements to Valley Forge Road, between the intersection with Woodlyn Avenue and the intersection of Township Line Road and Stump Hall Road.

### In specific, these improvements include:

- widening this portion of Valley Forge Road to create a center-turn lane;
- creating left-turn lanes onto Township Line Road and Stump Hall Road;
- installing a new traffic signal at Woodlyn Avenue, and creating a left-turn lane onto Woodlyn Avenue;
- creating separate right and left-turn lanes exiting Woodlyn Avenue; and,
- upgrading the existing traffic signals at Water Street Road and Township Line Road/Stump Hall Road.

The improvements will enhance safety along Valley Forge Road, which is one of the heaviest-travelled roadways in our community. In addition, the improvements will allow vehicles to travel this roadway as efficiently as possible.

The design work for Valley Forge Road Corridor Improvement Project has been underway for the past year and now we are ready to share the preliminary design. To view this plan, please visit [www.worcestertwp.com](http://www.worcestertwp.com). It is important to note that, at this time, this project involves improvement design only. After the plan of improvements is designed and approved by PennDOT (Valley Forge Road is a State-owned road), the Township will seek additional Federal, State and County dollars for construction. Construction is estimated to cost \$12 million.

Any questions regarding this project, please contact the Township at (610) 584-1410. 📧

## Home Cookin' at Meadowood

by Meadowood Resident and amateur baker Sandy Burkhard



My husband and I moved to Meadowood in June 2020 from Talamore in Ambler. While in my new residence I can exercise, zoom, play mahjong, shop online and share my favorite recipes with my new friends. Hope you all enjoy making these pretzel flowers for any holiday using different colors! –Sandy Burkhard



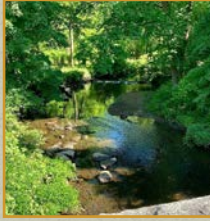
## Methacton Apex Awards are Back!

The Methacton Apex Awards will be back in the Fall of 2021. The Methacton Education Foundation will celebrate the best of the best in the Methacton community in the following categories: Alumni, Educator, Business, Community Advocate, Team/Club/Student Group. Learn more about the Methacton Apex Awards Nominations, Tickets, and Sponsorships on our website: [www.methactonfoundation.org/apex](http://www.methactonfoundation.org/apex)

## MUNICIPAL CURE AMENDMENT

### Watershed Protection Tip

Here are some EPA Tips to help keep your watershed clean and healthy!



- Conserve water every day. Take shorter showers, fix leaks & turn off the water when not in use.
- Don't pour toxic household chemicals down the drain; take them to a hazardous waste center.
- Use hardy plants that require little or no watering, fertilizers or pesticides in your yard.
- Do not over apply fertilizers. Consider using organic or slow-release fertilizers instead.
- Recycle yard waste in a compost pile & use a mulching mower.
- Use surfaces like wood, brick or gravel for decks & walkways, which allows rain to soak in and not run off.
- Never pour used oil or antifreeze into the storm drain or the street.
- Pick up after your dog, and dispose of the waste in the toilet or the trash.
- Drive less—walk or bike; many pollutants in our waters come from car exhaust and car leaks.



### Cub Scout 200

A scaled down, socially-distant Blue Gold Banquet was held outside, at Peter Wentz Farmstead, where a total of seven cub scouts graduated and moved on to Boy Scouts. Many activities are planned for the younger cub scouts for the rest of the year, which includes a Trout Derby, Medevac Helicopter demonstration, and of course graduation! Please reach out to cubpack200@gmail.com if you are interested in signing up your youth for the cub scout program!

**O**n January 20, 2021, the Worcester Township Board of Supervisors approved a Cure Period Declaration by resolution to conduct a zoning study to identify and fix any deficiencies in the Township's ordinance. In this case, the Township focused on the zoning districts and regulations for apartments in Worcester. This allows the Township to review their ordinances and come up with any revisions to our ordinance to allow for our fair share of apartments in Worcester.

State Law requires every local government to provide zoning for every type of residential use – from mobile homes and apartments to townhomes and single-family detached homes. In addition, the law requires that zoning yield a “fair share” of each housing type. And while there is no mathematical formula to calculate a municipality’s “fair

share” of individual residential uses, the courts have generally looked to the percent of residential uses – both existing and permitted to be constructed – in communities throughout the immediate region.

If a municipality doesn't meet its legal obligation a developer can move to invalidate the zoning on any property, then get court approval to build the desired use on that property. That's why you sometimes see apartment buildings that have been built in zoning districts that allow single-family homes only.

The Township will complete its review to determine what changes will be needed and the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing in the coming weeks. For more information, please visit [worcestertwp.com](http://worcestertwp.com) or contact the Township at (610) 584-1410. 📞

## ADAIR STORM SEWER SYSTEM PROJECT PREVIEW

**C**onstruction of a much-needed storm water collection system in an existing residential area within the Fairview Village area of the Township will take place soon. The areas included in this project will be West and East Adair Drives, and a portion of Methacton Avenue. This area of the Township, which was originally constructed starting in 1952, had very few storm water facilities and the properties have been subjected to heavy flooding.

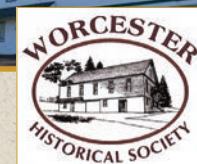
The Township has awarded the bid for this project in May and expects construction

for this project to start within 30-60 days after the award of the contract. The construction will take approximately 60 to 90 days to complete. The project includes the installation of the 2,088 linear feet of storm pipe and 25 storm inlets. These roadways will be included in 2022 Road Program for resurfacing.

Please check the website as construction begins, the Township will keep everyone up to date with the latest progress on this project. Any questions regarding this project, please contact the Township at 610-584-1410. 📞

## WORCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**T**he Worcester Historical Society is pleased to announce the official re-opening of their Museum on Saturday, June 5 from 9am to noon located at 2011 Valley Forge Road. The Historical Society looks forward to sharing several new exhibits with the community. All are welcome and please keep in mind current COVID restrictions. 📞



## TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN

Some motorists approach road-closed signs and think, "I don't see anything dangerous, so I'll keep driving down the road." It's a decision that can cost lots of money, and lives.



### Did you know...

- six inches of water will knock the strongest person off their feet;
- six inches of water can cause a car to lose traction; and,
- twelve inches of water will float most cars.

In Pennsylvania, drivers who are caught disregarding road-closed signs are assessed two points on their driver's license and a fine up to \$250. This fine increases to \$500 if the vehicle gets stuck and requires emergency rescue services. So before driving around a road-closed sign, think twice about the risks. It's just not worth it! 🚗

## MULCH IT! NEW LOCATION FOR BRANCH DROP-OFFS!

Haven't mulched the flower beds yet? We can help. The Township chips tree branches, and makes the mulch available to Township residents at no cost. Mulch is a great and natural way to beautify your landscaping and prevent the growth of weeds.

The mulch, and other materials are available for pick-up at the compost bins that are located near the Public Works Building 24/7 and at our new location on Trooper Road, just south of Potshop Road during hours of operation. The mulch must be self-loaded... so bring a shovel and someone who owes you a favor.

This new location will accept all branch drop-offs and residents can pick up mulch there during the hours of



operation on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10am to 2pm. This is a free service for all Township residents.

The new location will be open in early summer. Please check the Township's website and social media accounts for the official opening of this site. 🚗

## GRILL SAFETY TIPS!

As we are approaching summer, the Township's Fire Marshal would like to share these important grill safety tips from the NFPA:

- Only use your grill outdoors
- Ensure that your grill is located well away from your home, deck railings, out from under eaves, and overhanging branches
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area
- Clean your grill and remove grease and fat buildup from the grill and trays below the grill
- Never leave your grill unattended



These are just a few tips to remind you to grill safely this summer! For more fire safety tips, please visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education>

## Recycling Information

### NEED TO RECYCLE HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE, ELECTRONICS OR MORE?

Montgomery County is offering events from through the summer into the fall to recycle hazardous household waste including sealer, oil, pesticides and more. These events require pre-registration.

For complete program information – including a detailed list of acceptable materials – visit [worcestertwp.com](http://worcestertwp.com), [montcoparecycles.org](http://montcoparecycles.org), e-mail [recycling@montcopa.org](mailto:recycling@montcopa.org), or call the Montgomery County recycling line at (610) 278-3618.

While the County is not offering electronic recycling events, all Montgomery County Residents are able to schedule curbside pickups for electronics and clothing. retrievr collects clothing at no cost, and charges a modest fee for the collection of certain electronics.

And scheduling a pick-up couldn't be easier. Simply...

- text PICKUP to 757-70-FETCH, or
- visit [retrievr.com](http://retrievr.com) and click the "schedule" button.

Visit [retrievr.com](http://retrievr.com) for the complete list of accepted items, fees, and additional program information.

### PAPER RECYCLING BIN

A paper recycling bin has been located at the Worcester Township Public Works Department, 1721 Valley Forge Road, near the brush and mulch bins. It's a convenient way to dispose of office paper, books, magazines, catalogs, junk mail and catalogs. *Sorry... cardboard, cereal boxes and all non-paper materials are not accepted.*



# WORCESTER



# TOWNSHIP

*At the Center Point*

*of Montgomery County*

1721 VALLEY FORGE ROAD  
P.O. BOX 767  
WORCESTER, PA 19490

HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM  
PHONE: (610) 584-1410  
FAX: (610) 584-8901  
WORCESTERTWP.COM

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
RICHARD DELELLO, CHAIR  
LOU BETZ, VICE CHAIR  
STEPHEN QUIGLEY, MEMBER

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## What's Happening!

Every Friday afternoon the Township distributes a "Peek at the Week"—a list of Township meetings and community events scheduled for the upcoming seven days, plus other useful information.

To get your Peek by e-mail simply enroll for E-News Sign-Up at [worcestertwp.com](http://worcestertwp.com). Peek at the Week is also posted to the Township's Facebook (@worcestertownship) and Twitter (@WorcesterTwp) accounts.



### STAY CONNECTED:

TWITTER, FACEBOOK, AND INSTAGRAM  
E-NEWS SIGNUP AT [WORCESTERTWP.COM](http://WORCESTERTWP.COM)



## Worcester Scenes

Well it looks like we stumped you! No one got this location correct so we are going to try again! Don't despair, we will give you a hint... it is not Heebner Park.

Are you up for the challenge to identify this location? The first person to identify this location in Worcester Township will receive a neat prize, and a shout-out in our very next newsletter.

Send your best guess to Mary Ann at [mmurray@worcestertwp.com](mailto:mmurray@worcestertwp.com). Good luck!