

WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

Christmas Tree Sale

Boy Scout Troop 133 will hold its Annual Christmas Tree Sale at the Worcester Township Community Hall, 1031 Valley Forge



Road, from 6pm on Friday, December 2nd until 5pm on Sunday, December 4th, and then again from 6pm on Friday, December 9th until 5pm on Saturday, December 10th... or until all trees sell out, and they always do!

The Scouts offer a terrific selection of trees, so finding the perfect tree has never been easier. Proceeds make possible the many great programs and activities the Scouts enjoy throughout the year.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Saturday,
December 10

(Rain date is December 17)



Mr. Claus will be escorted around Worcester Township on a fire engine. Santa's appearance is made possible by our dedicated volunteers at Worcester Volunteer Fire Department who, as always, have been good all year! Please check worcestertwp.com for Santa's tour times.

HOLIDAY RECYCLING TIPS

Here are some recycling tips to keep in mind during the holiday season:

- **Use wrapping paper that is made with recycled materials,** which can also be recycled after the gift is unwrapped.
- **Put out the recycling bin during parties.** Make it easier for guests to recycle their glass bottles and aluminum cans by putting the recycling bin next to the trash can.
- **Holiday Lights and tinsel are not recyclable.** Please make sure to remove these before recycling your trees. Some home improvement stores have bins available to recycle old holiday lights.
- **Recycle your cardboard.** Break down any cardboard and place in your recycling bin.
- **Bring your own shopping bags.** If you do use plastic bags, please return them to the grocery stores and recycle them. Plastic bags should not be placed in your recycling bins!
- **Recycle your old gadgets.** Get a new phone or computer-remember to recycle your old electronics either by taking it to a store that will accept it or by using retrievr, a service that will pick up items for recycling. Some items may have a fee charged for pick-up. For more information, please check out the Township's Recycling page by visiting www.worcestertwp.com and clicking on the recycling tab at the top of the home page.
- **Rinse your recyclables.** Before tossing your empty containers or cartons in the recycling bin, give them a quick rinse.

For more information about recycling, please visit montcopa.org/637/Recycling-Information.

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 there a location to drop off sewer bill payments after hours?"

MARY ANN: "Yes, the front door of the Township Administration Building has a mail slot in the door where residents can drop off sewer bills."

Holiday Tree Drop-Off

Worcester Township will again host a holiday tree drop-off location. Trees can be taken to the branch drop-off site at Nike Park, 1575 North Trooper Road, just south of Potshop Road.

Trees and greens may be dropped-off anytime between December 26 and January 31. Please place trees adjacent to the sign located in the parking area.

Since we recycle the trees into mulch, all stands, ornaments, wiring, plastic bags and tinsel must be removed. And please note that wreaths are not accepted.



BRANCH DROP-OFF LOCATION - NIKE PARK!

Worcester Township chips all branches received, and makes the wood chips available to our residents at no cost. The wood chips are available at the self-serve bins located at the Public Works complex, behind the Township Building, at 1721 Valley Forge Road. The bins are accessible 24/7.

For more information and the most up to date schedule, please visit www.worcestertwp.com/departments/public-works/branch-drop-off-site. 🗺️

WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMPOST SITE

Nike Park, 1575 North Trooper Road
(Just south of the intersection of North Trooper Road and Potshop Road)

HOURS OF OPERATION:

November to February: Open Saturday, 10am to 2pm, excluding holidays

March to October: Open Wednesday and Saturday, 10am to 2pm, excluding holidays

REVIEW YOUR PROPERTY FILE

Looking to sell your property, or have questions about work that was done at a property you're looking to buy? The Township maintains a property file for nearly all properties in our community. These files commonly include building applications, permits, property plans, and general correspondence to and from the property owner.

Property files are public records, and are available to review at the Township Building during normal business hours, Monday to Friday, 7am to 4:30pm. To schedule a time to view a property file please contact the Township Building at (610) 584-1410. 🗺️

SAFE DISPOSAL OF FIREPLACE & WOODSTOVE ASHES

Just a reminder as you are operating your fireplace this season. Ashes from woodstoves and fireplaces must be disposed of properly to avoid fires in and around your home.



Please remember to carefully consider the type of container in which the ashes are stored. Never empty ashes into a paper or plastic bag, cardboard box, or another similar container. The only way to safely store ashes is to use a metal container with a lid. And don't forget to pour water on the ashes prior to attaching the metal lid to the pail.

Lastly, never store your metal ash container on your deck, in your garage, or in any location that may allow heat to transfer from those hot coals to nearby flammable items. Countless wooden decks catch fire each year because of this simple oversight.

Questions about the proper disposal of ashes? Contact the Fire Marshal, at 610-584-1410. 📞

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... twizzlers, kitkats, and all kinds of treats your dentist warned you about.



How many pieces of candy 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 January 14th. One guess per person please. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter.

And congratulations to Rafael Achecar who guessed closest to the number of lollipops (183) in the fishbowl in our last contest with a guess of 176. Rafael, please brush thoroughly if you intend to enjoy all that candy by yourself! 📞



2023 Road Program Preview

The Township completed the 2022 Road Program in October! The program repaired and resurfaced more than 3.5 miles of Township-owned roads – a significant investment in our community's roadway network. And that doesn't include the many smaller fixes made by our Public Works team throughout the year!

The Township is now preparing a list of roadways for possible repair or resurfacing in 2023.

At this time the list includes all or portions of...

- Defford Road
- Defford Circle
- Clyston Road
- Clyston Circle
- Landis Road
- Bayton Road
- Bayton Circle
- Highview Drive
- Merion Way
- Anvil Drive
- Blacksmith Lane
- A portion of Heebner Park

Please note the list is tentative. As the winter progresses Township staff will carefully monitor roadway conditions, and prioritize projects as conditions warrant.

The Township will provide additional information on the 2023 Road Program in the Spring newsletter and on our website www.worcestertwp.com.

WINTER IS COMING — SNOW REMOVAL TIPS!

When snow begins to fall, the Township applies a brine solution to the roadway surface to prevent the formation of ice. Our Public Works team then works to plow the roadways, following specific routes that aim to clear emergency routes and high-priority roads first. For safety reasons cul-de-sacs and other secondary roads are not plowed until all emergency routes and high-priority roads are passable.

As always, the Township will do its very best to keep roadways as clear as possible, but we need your help!



When the first snowflakes begin to fall, please remember to:

- **Remove vehicles from the roadway until the roadway is cleared.** Vehicles parked on the roadway hamper snow removal operations, and vehicles parked on emergency routes may be towed.
- **Wait until the roadway is cleared before shoveling your driveway, sidewalk and mailbox area.** But if you must clear these areas sooner, please know Township trucks will likely throw snow back onto these areas when plowing the road.
- **Refrain from shoveling snow into the roadway.** Pushing snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the roadway creates a safety hazard and could cause an accident.
- **Prepare your vehicle for winter driving.** And if you are too nervous about driving on snow and ice, don't drive. Share a ride with a neighbor, or wait until the roadways are cleared before traveling.

The Township does not plow County and State-owned roadways, private roadways and roadways not yet dedicated to the Township.

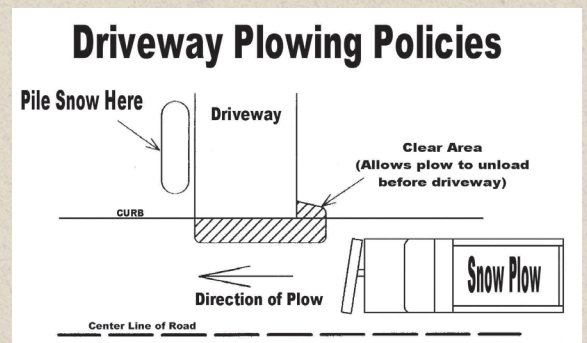
Montgomery County Roads - Please call County Roads & Bridge Dept. at 610-278-3612

- Germantown Pike
- Schultz Road

State Roads - Please call PennDOT at (800) 349-7623

- Berks Road, from Potshop Road to Skippack Pike
- Bethel Road
- Bustard Road
- Morris Road, from Valley Forge Road to North Wales Road
- Potshop Road, from Township Line Road to Berks Road
- Skippack Pike
- Stump Hall Road
- Township Line Road
- Trooper Road, from West Norriton Township to Township Line Road
- Valley Forge Road
- Water Street Road
- Whitehall Road

The Township would like to thank all residents for their patience and cooperation while we work to keep our roads safe during the winter season! 🚧





PROPER PLACEMENT OF MAILBOXES

Help Reduce the Opportunity for Damage

Worcester Township takes every precaution to avoid damaging mailboxes during snow removal operations. Below are some helpful mailbox placement tips to help reduce the chance your mailbox is damaged this winter:

- Along an uncurbed roadway, a mailbox should be located 2' from the edge of pavement to provide adequate clearance.
- Along a curbed roadway, a mailbox face should be located 8" behind the curb face.
- Install the mailbox on the side of your driveway away from approaching traffic. This will lessen the likelihood of a plow strike, and minimize the shoveling needed to clear the area around the mailbox.

The Township will replace a standard mailbox and post only if either or both are struck by the plow, and only if these are installed to the specifications of the United States Postal Service (USPS).

The USPS requires that:

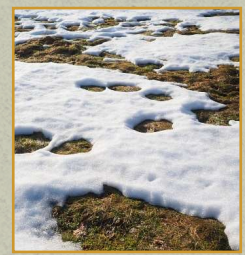
- the mailbox be installed at least 42" above the roadway surface; and,
- mailbox posts not exceed 4" by 4" for wooden posts, and a 2" diameter for steel pipe posts; larger posts are deemed "deadly fixed objects", and are not permitted within the right-of-way.

The Township neither replaces nor reimburses residents for custom mailboxes or ornate posts, and the Township is not responsible for damage caused by snow or ice that is thrown from the snowplow blade.

If you believe a properly-installed mailbox or post was struck by a Township vehicle please contact the Township at (610) 584-1410. 📞

Melting Snow: It's Stormwater Too!

Here are some tips from the Penn State Extension for managing your property for winter stormwater:



- When piling your snow after shoveling and plowing, choose locations where the snow will have the most opportunity to infiltrate instead of becoming stormwater runoff. Pile your snow in areas where you don't usually have ponding in the spring rains, on relatively flat areas, and away from sensitive areas like streams, ponds, and your private well if you have one.
- Clear your downspouts to allow melting roof snow to flow and not collect at your foundation.
- Make sure your nearest storm drains are clear. Do not pile snow on storm drains. Clear away any snow that may have been kicked onto the drains by passing cars.
- Use de-icing chemicals and salts judiciously. Use what you need to make your walkways and driveways safe, but try to avoid spreading around sensitive areas like waterways and your private well.
- Postpone outdoor construction projects in winter, when you can't establish new vegetation to reduce soil loss and muddy runoff.
- Pay special attention to places that are eroding during snow melt, and make a plan to improve these areas in spring using plants that can slow and stop erosion, like native grasses and meadow plants or native trees and shrubs.

Subdivision & Land Development Update

The following projects are now under review:

- **Warminster Group** – An eight-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Whitehall Road.
- **City View** – Two 90-unit apartment buildings at Germantown Pike & Park Avenue.
- **Huganir** – An eight-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Artmar Road.
- **Kerper-Heebner** – A two-lot single-family detached subdivision Heebner Road & Kriebel Mill Road.
- **Palmer** – Seven commercial lots and one residential parcel at Skippack Pike & Valley Forge Road.
- **Palmer Village** – An 11-lot single-family detached home subdivision, with a bank, convenience store, and pharmacy, at Skippack Pike & Valley Forge Road.
- **Zacharczuk** – A 16-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Skippack Pike.

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

- **Meadowood** – A 4,200 sf addition for administrative offices and resident amenities at an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.
- **Sparango Construction** – An eight-lot 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** – A 20-bed memory care facility at 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.

OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS

In Ordinance 2021-286, along with new recycling guidelines, there is some clarification regarding open burning. It is not permissible to burn leaves, yard waste, or other materials in Worcester Township.



Exceptions to allow open fire and burning is as follows:

- Burning shall be permitted for fire-fighting training by Township-designated fire-fighting organizations conditioned on prior approval of the Worcester Township Fire Marshal.
- Burning shall be permitted for recreational and entertainment purposes, such as bonfires and camp-fires, conditioned on prior approval of the Worcester Township Fire Marshal. Fire pits, fire bowls, and chimeneas may be used without Fire Marshal approval provided these are used in accordance with the manufacturer's safety guidelines.
- When approved by a government agency only, burning is permitted for (a) the prevention and control of disease or pests, (2) the conservation and management of unique and natural areas, (3) the prevention or abatement of a fire hazard, (4) a management technique for preventing wildfires, scientific research, or vegetation management, or (5) for agricultural uses and purposes as permitted by State Law.

Beyond the monthly curbside collection of leaf and yard waste once implemented, to properly dispose of leaf and yard waste, please contact Barnside Compost Facility, a DEP-approved drop-off location in Schwenksville at 610-287-8880 or visit their website, www.barnsidefarm.com, for more information.

The Township offers a location for tree branch drop-off. The branches are chipped up and made into mulch that is free to all Township Residents. For more details, please see page 2.

Please contact the Township directly at 610-584-1410 for questions or concerns. 📞

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS HOURS LOGGED

Through the first nine months of 2021, the men and women of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department logged **6,613 hours** 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 **\$707,591**.



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

Send a Text. Save the Planet.
Recycle unwanted clothing & electronics right from your door.



While the County is not offering electronic recycling events, all Montgomery County Residents are able to schedule curbside pickups for electronics and clothing with Retrievr. 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 and click the "schedule" button.

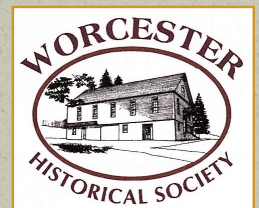
Visit retrievr.com for the complete list of accepted items, fees, and additional program information.



Please Keep Hydrants Clear of Snow

For your safety, please help the Worcester Volunteer Fire Company by clearing snow away from fire hydrants in front of your property. Our volunteer firefighters need approximately three feet in all directions to be free of ice and snow, in order to properly connect hoses to a fire hydrant. The few extra minutes you spend clearing snow from a fire hydrant can make a big difference during an emergency.

Worcester Historical Society



Save the Date!
May Flea Market
Saturday May 6, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location: Worcester Community Hall,
1031 Valley Forge Rd, Fairview Village PA.

All vendors are welcome! Go to www.worcesterhistorical.org/trash-to-treasures, for vendor guidelines and reservation form.

For questions, contact Debbie Kavanaugh at 610-613-3878.



At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

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

Presorted
Standard Mail
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit #50
West Chester, PA

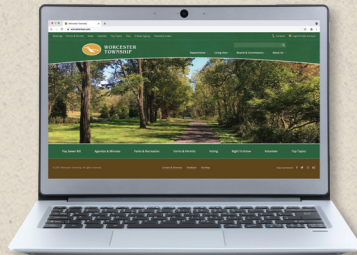
HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM
PHONE: (610) 584-1410
FAX: (610) 584-8901
WORCESTERTWP.COM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Richard DeLello, Chair
Lou Betz, Vice Chair
Stephen Quigley, Member

Get Connected and Stay Informed!

There are many ways to get connected and stay informed about the happenings around Worcester Township!

- **Our award-winning newsletter** (*you are reading now!*) is mailed to every household in the Township four times a year.
- **Our website, worcestertwp.com**, provides the most up-to-date information on public meetings, proposed land developments, community events, road projects, and much more! Check out Top Topics (*at the top of home page*) for in-depth information on key projects throughout the Township.
- **Connect with up on social media!** Instant information about breaking news and events, timely tips, and much more!
- **Weekly e-mail updates.** For weekly updates sent directly to your inbox, sign-up for the Peek at the Week! *To enroll simply click the link at the top of our home page.*



 **Facebook:**
[@Worcestertownship](https://www.facebook.com/Worcestertownship)

As you can see, there is so many ways to get connected and stay informed depending on what works for you! If you have any questions about Township communications please contact Sean Halbom at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at shalbom@worcestertwp.com.



Toys For Tots

Worcester Township will again serve as a drop-off location for the United States Marine Corps' annual Toys for Tots Program. Help brighten the holidays for those less fortunate by bringing a new and unwrapped toy to the Township Building, 1721 Valley Forge Road, during office hours, 7:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Used toys, realistic-looking toy weapons and items containing food can't be accepted. For more information about Toys for Tots, please visit toysfortots.org. Drop off your gift between now and December 9th. Thank you for your generosity and for brightening up someone's holiday season!