

# Worcester Erier



## Worcester Volunteer Fire Department

### Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

The Worcester Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1959 after residents recognized the need for such a service. The Ladies Auxiliary, born in 1960, helps the department in fund raising projects that enable equipment purchases.

The first station was located in Sam Mayberry's garage, later relocating to a garage at the Worcester Hotel. In 1966 it moved to its current location on Valley Forge Road by the Township building.

Trucks were acquired from The Gulf Oil Co., Superior Tube Co., the Philadelphia Fire Department and the Norristown Fire Department. A 1932 Hale pumper, restored several times, is still housed in the firehouse. Trucks were eventually replaced with today's fleet, consisting of a 75' ladder truck, a 1500 gallon pumper/tanker, a 750 gallon pumper, a field piece and a fire police vehicle.

Today, your fire department responds to over 225 calls a year, an increase of 245% in just seventeen years. On average, an alarm is received every 36 hours around the clock. The fire department responds to fires, car accidents, missing persons, hazardous material spills, storm-related calls and other miscellaneous events.

Active firefighters number

about 40 men and women. Most members are township residents, however some work in the township and respond to weekday calls.

Several changes in the fire service are a result of the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy, including FAST teams and increased accountability of personnel on the fireground. FAST teams are groups of personnel whose sole job is to become the rescue squad in the event a firefighter is injured or the structure collapses. Worcester currently serves as the FAST team for North Penn Volunteer Fire Company.

The fire department faces ongoing challenges:

**Training:** Imposed standards have changed the fire service from a group of residents responding to a call for help to a well-trained team having to meet certain regulations.

**Attrition:** The fire department is not a young group and as years go by there is a concern more will retire than join. As young members go off to college or get jobs outside the area, the department loses them as potential members.

**Funding:** Funding comes from four sources. Our annual fall fund drive has a very good response, with donations made by over 50% of homeowners. The second source is a donation by the township supervisors. A refund from out-of-state

insurance carriers covering township properties is the third source. Finally, Federal and state governments offer periodic grants to offset costs to fire departments.

The cost of maintaining the department is substantial. A county-required radio system costs over \$100,000. A new ladder truck costs in the area of \$750,000.

How can you help? We need members willing to become actual firefighters or fire police. Training is provided and if we are to survive as a volunteer fire department, we need your help.

Volunteers do not have to make seventy percent of the calls, as some do, but it is a commitment not to be taken lightly. This invitation to volunteer is open to men and women alike. Our juniors program starts at age 16 and only entering a burning building and the use of some power tools are prohibited to the juniors. Our intent is to train the juniors such that by the time they are 18 years old, they are ready to "pack up and go in" as full department members.

If you have an automatic alarm system, make sure your notification list is up to date. Frequently, the fire department responds to alarms where no one is home. In order to be certain there is no fire inside the building, it is necessary to

go in. If no one is available to let firemen in, then forcible entry is made, leaving the building unlocked until someone comes home. An acceptable alternative to this is a Knoxbox. Please call the Fire Chief for information.

If you are going to create an open fire that can be seen by others, please call 610-584-6911 and have the county dispatchers post the message. This will prevent the fire department from receiving an unnecessary call. Once you notify the county, you are responsible for being home and monitoring the fire. Burning

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**INCORPORATED AS A  
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1733**

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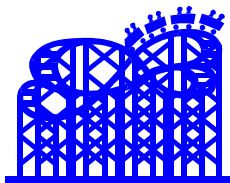
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Administration Building  
(610) 584-1410  
[www.worcestertwp.com](http://www.worcestertwp.com)

## Discounted Park & Golf Tickets Available!

Worcester Township is pleased to offer, as a service to its residents, discounted tickets to numerous theme parks in the region.

Discount amusement park tickets are now available for Baltimore Aquarium, Busch Gardens, Camden Aquarium, Camelbeach, Colonial Williamsburg, Dorney Park, Dutch Wonderland, Hersheypark, Morey's Piers, PA Renaissance Faire, Philadelphia Zoo,



Sesame Place, Six Flags Great Adventure (NJ), and the Splash Zone Water Park (Wildwood, NJ).

Tickets are available for purchase at

the Township Building, Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm.

Worcester Golf Club, 1600 Green Hill Road, is offering township residents a discount pass, good for \$4 off any greens fee Monday through Saturday. Each family is eligible to purchase up to 12 passes per year. Passes may be purchased at the Township Building, 1721 Valley Forge Road, Monday through Friday 8am-4:30pm.

## Enroll Now for Summer Camps & Clinics

Worcester Township is hosting numerous camps and clinics for youth and adult members of the community this summer. Call the Township Building to enroll: 610-584-1410

### UK Elite Soccer Camp

For children ages 5-14, this camp runs the week of July 19-23, 9am-12pm. It includes:

- Exciting soccer games in a safe environment
- Motor skill and coordination development
- Social skill building with other children
- Confidence building

Each child receives instruction in a small group setting from one of the professional UK Elite Soccer coaches. For safety reasons, UK Elite recommends all children wear shin guards during camp. The camp is designed to allow every child the chance for maximum development and enjoyment. Bring sneakers/cleats, shin guards and a water bottle.

Cost: \$125

### Global Golf Events

Beginner Golf for Kids (ages 4-9)

- July 26-30, 9am-11:30am
- Heebner Park Multi-purpose fields

Students focus on the basic fundamentals of the game. Students receive a t-shirt, water bottle, trophy, rules book, evaluation and certificate of completion. The student-to-teacher ratio is 6:1. Golfers should bring a baseball cap or visor, snacks, shoes and sunscreen. Cost: \$135.

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Junior Golf Camp (ages 7-13)

- July 26-30, 9am-11:30am
- Heebner Park Multi-purpose fields

A fun, challenging and supportive environment for young golfers to learn and enjoy the game. Full swing, pitching, chipping, putting, rules and etiquette are covered. Students are broken into groups based on age and ability. Students receive a t-shirt, water bottle, trophy, rules book, evaluation and certificate of completion. The student-to-teacher ratio is 6:1. Golfers should bring a baseball cap or visor, snacks, shoes and sunscreen. Cost: \$135.

### Adult Beginner Golf: Skills & Drills

- Thursdays, July 14-August 5
- 6:30pm-7:20pm
- Heebner Park Multi-purpose fields
- Ages 16-up

Golfers concentrate on the basic fundamentals of the game and are put through a series of skills and drills, including simulated golf holes. Students receive a medal, rules book, evaluation and certificate of completion. Golfers should bring a baseball cap or visor, shoes (running shoes are fine), sunscreen and golf clubs. Cost: \$60

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### Can You Dig This? Fossil Hunt Crystal, Rocks & Minerals Workshop Sciensational Workshops for Kids

- July 7 & 8, 9am-4pm
- Heebner Park Gazebo
- Ages 6-10

Kids do simulated fossil excavations with over 100 fossils, dirt and lots of fun. Cleaning brushes, a 3 lens magnifier, labels and specimen bags will be provided. Make fossil plaster replicas. Identify different rocks and minerals and grow crystals. Cost: \$100

## Stay on top of Township News & Events

Sign up today to receive the Worcester Township e-newsletter. There is no better way to stay informed of township events, happenings and news. Send an email to [jlanzillo@worcestertwp.com](mailto:jlanzillo@worcestertwp.com) requesting to have your name added to the mailing list.

## Greenway Plan Accepted

At the Township Meeting in April of 2004, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to accept the Greenway Plan from the consultant and township residents empowered to create it. The Plan has been 17 months in the making and has used the services of Simone Jaffe Collins, Inc. as conceptual consultants throughout the process. A Greenway Study Committee which included Anthony R. Sherr, Melissa Miles-Wallace, Barbara M. Andon, and Mark Rothenberger pored over possibilities and ideas during 5 public meetings while determining optimal possible placements for the Greenway. The path will reach from Evansburg Park to Hollow Road and then ultimately travel to Worcester's Heebner Park and the county's Peter Wentz Farmstead. Montgomery County

has long been enthusiastic about trail linkages between significant municipal resources and initially suggested what has become in Worcester the "Greenway" concept. The township's earliest Open Space acquisitions were parcels of land bordering the Zacharias Creek in the northern section of the township where the Greenway could conceivably be placed, and late in 2002 the opportunity arose for funding of a formal study for potential trail placement. This is the study which has just been completed.

The Greenway concept is harmonious with our Township Comprehensive Plan and of note is the emphasis seen at both county and state levels over the establishing of trail systems throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The

"Growing Greener" initiative begun some years ago by Governor Ridge has been extended and expanded by Governor Rendell as "Growing Greener II", with funding for projects meeting these statewide goals being available for municipalities like ours.

The next step in the Greenway project will be to consider implementation. The Greenway Committee walked the section of land along the Zacharias Creek from Hollow Road to Evansburg Park last fall and this might be the natural first section to establish the trail.

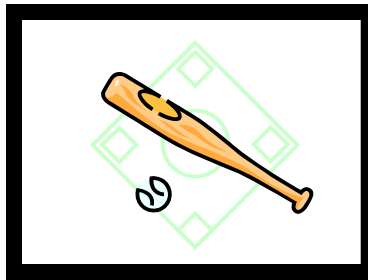
Copies of the Plan are available for review at the Township Office during usual business hours, 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

## Phillies vs. Florida Marlins

Two of the top teams in the National League, the Philadelphia Phillies and Florida Marlins will square off in a late-season contest.

Come see beautiful Citizens Bank Park, and all-stars Jim Thome, Jimmy Rollins, Kenny Lofton and Mike Lieberthal.

Join us for the game on Friday, September 9.



The township is sponsoring a bus that will leave from the township building (1721 Valley Forge Road) at 4:45pm, returning after the game. Our seats are located on the terrace level, on the third base line. Limited seating is available, so call today! (610-583-1410)

Cost: \$35, includes ticket to the game and a seat on the bus.

### ICE CREAM SUNDAE SUNDAY

Join us in Heebner Park on Sunday, August 8 for the 3rd Annual Ice Cream Sundae Sunday and Marionette Show. The event starts at noon. Vanilla ice cream and toppings are provided with a Marionette Show at 1pm.

### Peter Wentz Farmstead Events

#### Farmstead Exhibit

From Moo to Ewe: Meat Preparation and Preservation in the 18th century (July-December)

#### Laerenswaert Colonial Crafts Festival

A fun-filled day of colonial craft demonstrations, entertainment and food that brings the 18th century farmstead to life once again (October 16)

#### Colonial Pretzel Making

October 30, 10am-3pm

Call 610-584-5104 for details.

### Code Enforcement

Worcester Township adopted the UCC (Uniform Construction Code) affected date July 8, 2004 at the June 16, 2004 meeting. This is a state law requiring all municipalities in Pennsylvania to use the same building code and permitting requirements. The adopted Code is the 2003 International Building Code (IBC). The change from the previous building code is minimal. Some items requiring permits in the past will no longer need them. Re-roofing of more than 25% of a roof in a 12 month period will now require a permit. A more detailed list of the changes will appear in the next newsletter. Please call the Township Building for details. 610-584-1410.

Township of Worcester  
1721 Valley Forge Road  
P.O. Box 767  
Worcester, PA 19490-0767

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**TOWNSHIP MONTHLY MEETING TIMES**

**Board of Supervisors**

3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm  
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**BOS Work Sessions**

July 7 at 11:00am  
August 3 at 11:00am  
September 13 at 8:00am  
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**Planning Commission**

Every 1st and 4th Thursday at 7:30pm  
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**Zoning Hearing Board**

4th Tuesday at 6:30pm  
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**Joint Meeting of BOS/PC**

9:30am  
September 13

*All Public Meetings are held in the  
Worcester Township Community Hall*

## Worcester Volunteer Fire Department (continued)

must be done early in the day. Do not burn if it is windy, or if the smoke will blow onto a neighboring property. Do not burn any plastics, chemicals, paints, tires, or too large of a pile. If the department gets dispatched, the officer in

charge will determine if the fire should be extinguished, even if it was posted. Worcester is one of a few townships that permit burning so it is not unusual for someone from another township to call in an alarm. Any fires burning after dusk

will be extinguished.

Any questions? Please call 610-584-5159 to contact President Rick Weed or Fire Chief David Cornish. The fire department thanks you for your past, current and future support.

## Open Space News

Worcester's Open Space Committee has been revising and updating the Township's Open Space Plan. The purpose is to take advantage of Montgomery County's Open Space funding opportunities made possible by the recently approved \$150 million bond issue. The Township would like

residents to know that these meetings are open to the public and will be posted on Worcester's website. We invite you to come out and learn about the importance of preserving open space, one of the Township's core initiatives, and how Worcester can partner with Montgomery County in achieving this goal.