

Worcester Erier



Open Space Committee Holds First Public Meeting

On November 9, Worcester Township's Open Space Committee held its first public meeting in an effort to revise the Open Space Plan. The committee offered residents the opportunity to present their perspective on important features of the township they wanted protected and preserved. The committee made a short presentation, but most of the evening belonged to the residents, as they moved from one display map to the next, pointing out locations of small farms, historic buildings, and scenic views that define "Worcester" to them.

Residents told the committee of their concern over keeping historical buildings intact, even when the land is developed. Several residents inquired about why Worcester does not have a historic preservation ordinance, as do many other townships in our area. The committee is exploring how historic structures can be protected while still allowing residents the freedom to use their property as they desire.

Other residents wanted to know why flooding is increasing in the township. Flooding is directly related to development patterns, stormwater management methods and weather. The more land that is developed, the more potential exists for flooding, because the water from rainstorms and melting

snow can no longer follow its natural course. Compounding the problem is the fact that we have seen two years of drought followed by two years of intense rains, leaving our current groundwater levels saturated.

One of the goals of open space preservation is to protect ecologically important land, such as stream corridors, wetlands, and other places where water can be handled naturally instead of becoming a flooding issue. Groundwater recharge is the process of allowing water to be absorbed back into the soil after a storm. Areas of our township that provide good groundwater recharge are obvious places for protection from development, so that this land can continue to handle stormwater and prevent more flooding. Detention basins on developments cannot be eliminated with these techniques but the size of basins may be able to be reduced.

The committee is well aware that farming has always been an important part of our township's heritage. Worcester still has over 50 small farms (under 40 acres) and more than a dozen large ones. Some of these are planted in traditional crops (corn, soybeans or hay), some are used to raise trees, produce, or animals, and many of the

smaller ones are horse farms. Worcester's diverse farm mix is unique in Montgomery County.

Because so much of Montgomery County is already developed, including most of the area surrounding Worcester, it is especially important that we keep farming healthy in the township. Worcester currently has three farms that have been preserved under the state/county farmland preservation program, and eight farms are currently applicants in the program. Worcester can also use some of the county open space allocation (up to 50 percent) to preserve farms by purchasing development rights.

Some important parts of Worcester's rural atmosphere are the scenic roads and beautiful views from our highest points. Fortunately, we can protect these areas even when land is developed, if our ordinances require developers to preserve existing woods and meadows, and to site new homes where they will not be as visible from adjacent roads.

The committee will continue to work on the township's Open Space Plan over the coming months, with the goal of presenting a draft at a public meeting later this year. Worcester already has over 900 acres of land that are permanently

protected from development or owned by the state, county or local government, accounting for almost 10 percent of the township. The remaining 90 percent of the township is either already developed or vulnerable to development. The focus of the committee's work is to address how to protect the natural, historic and scenic resources on this vulnerable land in the face of increasing population growth and developmental pressure. Residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Open Space Committee. Check the township web site (www.worcestertwp.com) for the meeting schedule, or contact Open Space Coordinator Susan Caughlan at 610-584-5619.



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1733**

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www.worcestertwp.com

Easter Egg Hunt in Heebner Park - March 20

Join us for the 3rd Annual event

Bring your basket to collect eggs in Heebner Park and meet the Easter Bunny. Children will be assigned to two age groups (5 and under and 6-12) for the opportunity to search for prize-filled eggs in Heebner Park.

Don't forget to bring your camera for a picture with the Easter Bunny. The fun starts at noon on Sunday, March 20th.



UK Elite Petite Spring Soccer

**Tuesdays (March 29-May 3)
10am-11am or 11am-12pm**

- A FUN introduction to the game of soccer for ages 3-5
- Exciting Soccer games in a safe environment
- Motor skill and coordination development
- Social skill and confidence building



The camp runs each Tuesday for six weeks (March 29-May 3) from 10am-11am or 11am-12pm. Each child receives instruction in a small-group setting from one of the professional UK Elite Soccer Coaches. The camp is designed to allow each child

the chance for maximum development and enjoyment. A typical curriculum includes: individual ball skills; running with the ball; passing the ball; controlling the ball; shooting and scoring concluding with a graduation and demonstration of the new skills learned. Each child should wear/bring: sneakers or cleats, t-shirt, sweatshirt, shin guards, water

bottle and plenty to drink.

Only \$60 per child.

Call 610-584-1410 to enroll.

Spring Golf Clinics for All Ages

SNAG BEGINNER GOLF

For ages 4-9, this is the perfect way to be introduced to golf. Students focus on the basic fundamentals of the game: Full swing, pitching, chipping, putting, rules, and etiquette. Thought of as "tee ball for golf," students are broken into groups according to age and ability. The SNAG Coaching System allows students the opportunity to gain confidence and see results much faster than traditional golf. Students use two clubs, a launcher (iron) and a roller (putter) and hit SNAG balls (the size of a tennis ball). Shots are directed at Flagstickys - three-dimensional, above-ground Velcro targets that retain the qualities of a traditional golf hole. Student-teacher ratio is 6:1 and sessions are led by Global Golf's professional staff. Equipment provided.

First Session Thurs: April 21, 28, May 5 and 12 (5:30-6:20PM)

Second Session Thurs: May 19, 26, June 2 and 9 (5:30-6:20PM)

JUNIOR BEGINNER GOLF

For ages 7-15, this clinic is designed to provide a fun, challenging, and supportive environment for young golfers to learn and enjoy the game. Students focus on basic fundamentals: full swing, pitching, chipping, putting, rules, and etiquette. Students are put through a series of "skills and drills," including simulated golf holes. Students will receive various handouts/worksheets to solidify their learning experience. Students are broken into groups based on age and ability.

First Session Thurs: April 21, 28, May 5 and 12 (5:30-6:20PM)

Second Session Thurs: May 19, 26, June 2 and 9, 2005 (5:30-6:20PM)

ADULT BEGINNER GOLF CLINICS

Ages 16 and up, students focus on the basic fundamentals of the game. Full swing, pitching, chipping, putting, rules, and etiquette are covered. Players will be put through a series of "skills and drills," including simulated golf holes.

First Session Thurs: April 21, 28, May 5 and 12 (6:30-7:20PM)

Second Session Thursdays: May 19, 26, June 2 and 9 (6:30-7:20PM)

The cost per person for each 4-week session is \$60.

All sessions held in Heebner Park.

More details, including dates for future sessions, available on our web site at www.worcestertwp.com
Call 610-584-1410 to enroll.

Super Spring Tennis Opportunities!

Worcester Township is pleased to announce that Green Sports Group will be offering a variety of tennis opportunities this year in Heebner Park.

Coaches with prior experience as members of the US National Tennis Team and top collegiate programs will oversee all events.

AM Warriors

Tues. 7am-8:30am (starting May 17)

Morning drill & play (all levels)

Players will be assigned to groups of similar NTRP levels

Maximum 12 players

\$25 per clinic (3 minimum)

Double Trouble Tuesdays

Tues. 6pm-7:30pm (starting May 17)

Intermediate/Advanced Doubles

Drills followed by competitive round robin match play

Sign up with a partner or individually
Maximum 6 teams

\$20 per player per session (3 min.)

Wednesday PM Warriors

Wed. 6pm-7:30pm (starting May 18)

Intermediate/Advanced singles

specific drills with competitive match and point play

Maximum 8 players

\$25 per clinic (3 minimum)

Stroke Production

Introductory Clinic for

Beginners/Advanced Beginners

Mon. 6pm-7:30pm (starting May 16)

Maximum NTRP level is 3.0

Players will be assigned to groups of similar NTRP levels

Ratio = 4:1

Maximum 12 players

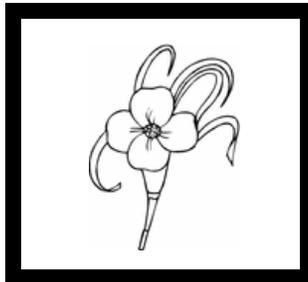
\$30 per clinic (3 minimum)

Full details can be found on our web site at www.worcestertwp.com under "Parks and Recreation"

Call 610-584-1410 to sign up today!

Philadelphia Flower Show Trip - March 9

Celebrate "America the Beautiful" at the 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show. The original iron gates to the White House, on loan from the American Horticultural Society, form the entrance to an array of quintessential American gardens. Enjoy, learn and get inspired by great gardens and landscapes, as well as thousands of plants and floral designs.



Admission includes free, same day re-entry privileges. For re-entry, visitors must stop by the hand stamping booths at the Show

Round-Trip luxury coach transportation from the Worcester Township Building
(1721 Valley Forge Road)

The bus departs the township building at 8:30 AM. The Flower Show opens at 10:00 AM.

The bus will depart Philadelphia at 4:00 PM

Join Worcester Township for a day-trip into Philadelphia.

The package includes:

1 ticket to the 2005 Philadelphia Flower Show (for admission on Wednesday, March 9)

Only \$43 per person (Worcester Residents) or \$45 (non-Worcester residents)

Call (610-584-1410), email (jlanzillo@worcestertwp.com) or come by the township building today to reserve your space. A limited number of tickets are available.

Discounted Ski Lift Tickets Now Available

Worcester Township is pleased to offer discounted ski lift tickets for the 2005 season.

This year's offering includes a variety of resorts: Bear Creek, Big Boulder/Jack Frost, Blue Knob, Blue Mountain, Camelback, Elk Mountain, Montage Mountain, Roundtop, Seven Springs, and Shawnee Mountain.

Tickets may be purchased Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm at the Worcester Township Building at 1721 Valley Forge Road. Supplies are limited.



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 requesting to have your name added to the mailing list.

Volunteers Are Needed

As you are no doubt aware, Worcester Township opted into the Uniform Construction Code in June 2004. The Construction Code states, "Adoption of a nationally recognized code will insure that this Commonwealth has a uniform, modern construction code which will insure safety, health and sanitary construction."

Any municipality which has adopted such an ordinance "...for the administration and enforcement of this act shall establish a board of appeals ...to hear appeals from decisions of the code administrator". The appeal "... shall be based on a claim that the true intent of this act or regulations legally adopted under this act have been incorrectly interpreted, or the provisions of this act do not fully apply, or an equivalent form of construction is to be used".

The Board of Supervisors must now appoint a board of five volunteers and two alternates to serve on this board of appeals. Act 45 defines the terms as follows: one for

five years, one for four years, one for three years, one for two years and one for one year. "Thereafter, each new member shall serve for five years or until a successor has been appointed."

The qualifications for membership on this board of appeals are very specific and well defined. Worcester Township is seeking one individual from each of the following professions or disciplines (plus two alternates):

Registered design professional who is a registered architect; or a builder or superintendent of building construction with at least ten years experience, five of which shall have been in responsible charge of work.

Registered design professional with a structural engineering or architectural experience.

Registered design professional with mechanical or plumbing engineering experience; or a mechanical or plumbing contractor with at least ten years experience, five of which

shall have been in responsible charge of work.

Registered design professional with electrical engineering experience; or an electrical contractor with at least ten years experience, five of which shall have been in responsible charge of work.

Registered design professional with fire protection engineering experience; or a fire protection contractor with at least ten years experience, five of which shall have been in responsible charge of work.

Alternate members shall possess the qualifications for board membership and shall be appointed for five years.

If you possess any of these qualifications, and are interested in serving your municipality as a volunteer on this committee, please send your letter of interest along with your qualifications to: Charles A. Sardo, Sr., P.O. Box 767, Worcester, PA 19490.

Don't forget Worcester's Alarm Ordinance

Worcester Township has in place an ordinance (126) against false fire and burglar alarms. Some of the key elements each township resident should be aware of are as follows:

1. Residents or lessees installing alarms on their property must file a registration statement with the Township. Failure to do this will result in a \$50 fine, in addition to any other fines incurred as a result of a false alarm.
2. No tests or demonstrations of an automatic warning device

shall be conducted in the Township without prior notice to any police, fire or rescue communication centers that might inadvertently direct a response.

3. False intrusionary alarms to which the police respond in each calendar year will be assessed fines per the following schedule: First & Second = no fine; Third = \$50; Any additional = \$100 each.
4. False fire alarms to which the fire company responds in each calendar year will be assessed

fines per the following schedule: First & Second = no fine; Third = \$100; Fourth = \$200; Any additional = \$300 each.

5. Alarms shall not be deemed false if there is demonstrated evidence of intrusion, illegal entry or attempted entry, or if obviously caused by an extraordinary occurrence beyond the owner's control such as power failure or power surge. Mere malfunctions which result in a false alarm shall not be excused.

Peter Wentz Farmstead Upcoming Events

Folklore & Folklife in PA Heritage

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Simon J. Bronner

Thursday, February 17th at 7pm

Learn about the current methods for understanding PA's rich folk traditions during this program provided by the PA Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the William Penn Foundation. Program held at the Worcester Township Historical Society (Rt.363/Valley Forge Rd.).

Martha Washington's Cookbook

Saturday, February 19th from 10am-3pm. Following the receipts of the First Lady, Historic Foodways volunteer Karen Dougherty will recreate the 18th century delectable delights using the open hearth. Also visit with a reenactor Portraying Lady Martha Washington.

What Makes the Plain Peoples Plain?

Guest Speaker: Dr. David B. Eller

Thursday, March 31st at 7pm

Get a glimpse into the culture of the Amish, Brethren & Mennonite peoples during this program provided by the PA Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the PA Historical & Museum Commission. Held at the Worcester Township Historical Society (Rt.363/Valley Forge Rd.).

Sheep Shearing Day

Saturday, April 16th from 10am-3:30pm. Learn how the farmers sheared the fleece off their sheep. Also view demonstrations of clothing and textile production.

Peter Wentz Farmstead Society Annual Spring Meeting

Wednesday, April 20th at 7pm

The highlight will include a guest speaker making a presentation on a topic of historical significance to the Farmstead and the region. Program held at the Central Schwenkfelder Church (Rt.363/Valley Forge Rd.). Please call 610-584-5104 for more information.

Take a Hike Day

Saturday, April 30th from 1:30-3:30pm

Enjoy a presentation about the natural history of southeastern Pennsylvania followed by a hike of the various ecosystems at the Farmstead.

Pennsylvania's Prehistoric Heritage

Guest Speaker: Dr. Barry Kent

Thursday, May 12th at 7pm

Learn about the Native peoples that lived in PA thousands of years before white settlement during this program provided by the PA Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. Program held at the Worcester Township Historical Society (Rt.363/Valley Forge Rd.). Please call 610-584-5104 for more information.

Ongoing Saturdays, May through October

Come and observe the volunteers of the Millbrook Society as they dig into the past at the Farmstead. Please call 610-584-5104 for exact dates.

Rural Traditions

Saturday, June 4th from 10am-3:30pm

A day of learning about the everyday chores of an 18th and 19th century farm, including demonstrations of early farming machinery used for broom making, haying, and other activities.

Colonial Day Camp

Monday-Friday, June 20th-24th from 9am-2pm

This camp allows students entering 4th-6th grade to learn about life in the late 18th and early 19th centuries by interacting with craftspeople and participating in various activities.

**Pre-registration and fee required.

Tools of the Trade

Saturday, July 16th from 10am-3pm

Visit the Farmstead to experience some of the specialized trades typical of the colonial period. Witness the skills necessary to build a house, produce furniture, turn a slab of stone into art, and many more.

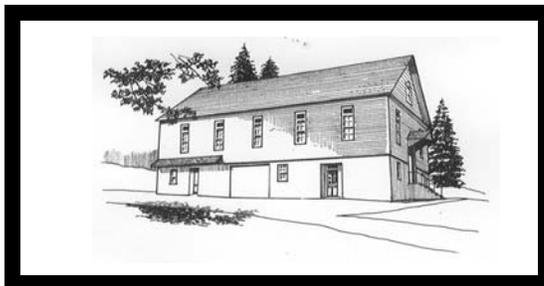
Colonial Childhood

Saturday, August 20th from 10am-3pm. Experience childhood of the 18th and 19th centuries as demonstrated by the site's youth volunteers, the Apprentices. They will share their knowledge of period clothing, games, and colonial life.

Worcester Historical Society Events

General Meeting -

February 28, at 8 p.m. in Farmers Union Hall (Routes 363 and 73). Officer elections will be followed by a program featuring the recollections of life-long residents of Worcester. The third printing of the Worcester book will be available for purchase.



30th Annual Worcester Historical Society Flea Market and Antique Show -

May 7, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot of Worcester Township Community Hall, Fairview Village

Township of Worcester
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**TOWNSHIP MONTHLY
MEETING TIMES**

Board of Supervisors

3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm

BOS Work Sessions

March 7 at 8:00am

April 4 at 8:00am

Planning Commission

4th Thursday at 7:30pm

Zoning Hearing Board

4th Tuesday at 6:30pm

Joint Meeting of BOS/PC

March 7 at 9:30am

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

Open Space Fund Receives Generous Contribution

The township would like to thank the anonymous donor who recently contributed \$50,000 to Worcester's Open Space Fund. Contributions, which are tax-deductible, can be used for open space preservation in general, or the donor can specify a particular purpose for a donation, such as preserving farm-

land or historic sites with a conservation easement. The purchase of conservation easements in the township plays a significant part in preserving Worcester's rural character. Contact Worcester's Open Space Coordinator, Susan Caughlan, at 610-584-5619 for more information on making a donation to the Open Space Fund.

Planning Commission Volunteer Member Needed

The Board of Supervisors of Worcester Township is seeking a qualified volunteer to serve on the Township's Planning Commission. This Commission holds public meetings twice monthly. The duties of the Commission include making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about subdivision and land development as it relates to the codes of Worcester; providing assistance for the revision of a comprehensive plan; reviewing zoning and land development ordinances and

meeting with developers to provide guidance during their application process. If you possess the ability to understand engineered plans and land use planning, please mail your letter of interest and qualifications to, Charles A. Sardo, Sr., Township Manager, P.O. Box 767, Worcester, PA 19490.

