

Worcester Erier



What's Happening in Worcester - Chairman's Report by John R. Harris

In the course of a year, most Worcester residents do not have occasion to visit the township building or come to a public monthly supervisor meeting (1st Monday and 3rd Wednesday of the month). While we would be glad to see you, we know that you are busy and that your main concern for the township is that we get our jobs done quietly, effectively and efficiently.

2006 has been a busy year and we thought you might like to hear about some of the things we have been doing over the last 9 months.

On the personnel front, we hired a new township manager in July, John Cornell. He comes to us with over 20 years of experience in township administration, mostly in Bucks County. John has been a wonderful and welcome addition to the township staff. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please stop in and meet him. He is anxious to get to know as many township residents as possible. Pete Sykes, a long-time township resident also joined us this year as a member of our road crew, bringing that staff to a total of 5. We have contracted with Keystone Municipal Services to review permit applications and do building inspections. Keystone serves many other municipalities in the area and gives us the flexibility to have extra help when we need it most, and lower costs when the load is lighter.

In March we enacted a new ordinance called Growing Greener. Future developments of 8 acres or more will need to set aside approximately 50% of the property for permanent open space, but will still be allowed the same number of homes as could have previously been constructed. We consider this an outstanding way for the township to preserve significant amounts of open space and Worcester's special rural character for future generations to enjoy.

In 2006 we created an Historic Preservation Committee which will be recommending an ordinance for the preservation of old buildings and other structures, as well as making an inventory of Worcester's special historic assets. Their meetings are open to the public and announced on the township web page. We additionally created a Local Redevelopment Authority to make recommendations to the U.S. Department of Defense on possible future uses of the Army Reserve Center on Potshop Road that is scheduled for closing. A joint committee has also been formed with the Worcester Fire Department to lay out specifications for a new fire house.

In Heebner Park, we paved the track around the soccer fields, enabling our wheelchair-bound and handicapped residents access to the area. We are currently building a new full-sized baseball field and are considering the addition of a pavilion with bathrooms and a concession area.

Earlier this year, the Worcester Open Space Committee completed a 2-year project to write a new Open Space Plan. The Montgomery County Open Space Committee called it "the best one we have seen in the county". It will be the basis for the planning and funding of future open space acquisitions in the township.

In August, the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Board approved an application from Willow Creek Orchards to purchase the development rights to 104 acres (formerly the Heebner Farm) on Stump Hall Road. There are currently 7 other Worcester farms, totaling 194 acres, with active applications to sell development rights to the county under the same program. Our Planning Commission is nearing completion of an updated Comprehensive Plan for the township.

Our township staff has been busy with the regular business of answering residents' questions, handling building, planning and zoning matters, dealing with financial issues, snow removal, grass mowing, park administration, road repair and all the various items that come up in the course of a normal day in Worcester.

For more information on these matters or any township business, feel free to call us at (610) 584-1410.



**INCORPORATED AS A TOWNSHIP
1733**

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

John R. Harris, Chairman
Chase E. Kneeland,
Vice Chairman
Arthur C. Bustard, Secretary

John V. Cornell
Township Manager

Administration Building
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7:30AM

Depart New York City 7:30PM



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Call 610-584-1410 to reserve your spot

New Baseball Field Under Construction

Construction began in early September on the latest addition to Heebner Park, an additional 90-foot baseball field, located near the back entrance, along Heebner Road. With scheduled use to begin in the spring of 2008, this facility will alleviate the significant use of the township's only other full-sized baseball field and permit each field the opportunity to rest and rejuvenate between seasons.



PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

Worcester Township will sponsor a trip to the famous Philadelphia Flower Show on Monday, March 5, 2007

Enjoy the exhibits in what is being called the "Legends of Ireland", take in lunch or an early dinner in Center City.

The bus will depart Worcester at approximately 11:00 AM, returning at 8:00 PM.

\$45 will include your ticket to the show and a seat on the bus.

Seats are limited ~ Please call 610-584-1410 to sign up



Radio City Christmas Spectacular - December 4, 2006

Join us for America's most beloved holiday theatrical, The Radio City Christmas Spectacular, starring the world-famous Rockettes

Worcester Township is offering first mezzanine seating and luxury coach transportation to the December 4, 2006 11:00 AM performance.

The coach will depart the Worcester Township Building at 7:30 AM on Monday, December 4.

We have seats reserved in the first mezzanine section.



Free-time will be available after the show for lunch and shopping.

We will depart New York City at 4:00 PM.

Cost - \$70 per person (first mezzanine seat and bus transportation).

Only a handful of seats on this popular annual trip remain.

Please contact the Township Building at 610-584-1410 to sign up today!

L.R.A. Obtains Grant Approval

The Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) has received a grant from the federal government to fund the preparation of a Base Re-use Plan for the 19-acre Army Reserve base located on Berks Road, just east of Potshop Road. This process includes an opportunity for public benefit organizations, such as schools, public health care providers, and homeless services organizations to determine whether they can use all or part of the facilities for their programs. Organizations that propose to reuse the base must present a formal proposal to the LRA by December 8, 2006. The LRA will review any proposals and present their findings and recommendations at a public meeting.

The base was included by Congress in the 2005 round of military base closings. The Army must relocate the Reserve units stationed at the base and turn the property over to the next owners by 2011. The process of closing the base and planning for the reuse of the property is regulated by federal law.

Under this law, the township can spearhead the planning process for this site by forming an LRA to help determine the best reuse of the base. The North Penn LRA was formed earlier this year and is now in the process of reviewing the baseline characteristics of the buildings and grounds. The members of the LRA are John Harris, Chase Kneeland, and Art Bustard.

The township is also looking at the possibility of acquiring the base for active and passive recreation. During the base reuse planning process, the Army will provide the LRA with an assessment of the environmental conditions on the property. The Army is required to clean up any existing environmental contamination before turning the base over to the new owners.

Public participation in the base reuse planning process is encouraged. Comments or questions should be directed to the Project Manager, Susan Caughlan, c/o Worcester Township, P.O. Box 767, Worcester, PA 19490.



Coming soon to an Inlet near You!

In an effort to prevent the dumping of pollutants into storm inlets which discharge into local streams and in compliance with storm water management and water quality regulations, this plaque will soon be affixed to street storm inlets around the township.

Did you know.....?

- The Park & Recreation Department sells seasonal tickets for amusement parks and ski areas and schedules regular bus trips.
- It is illegal to connect a sump pump and house downspout into the public sanitary sewer system. Keeping rain water out of the public sewer system maintains affordable sewer rates.
- The installation of off premise signs is prohibited by the Zoning Ordinance. This includes signs for real estate open houses, etc. Only one sign is allowed on a property for a permitted use.
- Chapter 49 of the Code of The Township of Worcester limits the height of grass to a maximum of 12 inches.



Historic Sign Erected

At the site of the former Fairview Inn, a two-sided cast iron sign has been erected permanently acknowledging the history of the intersection of Germantown Pike and Valley Forge Road, the area known as Fairview Village. The location is currently the Eckerd Pharmacy. Under the direction of the Worcester Township Historical Society, the sign was designed with a description of the historical intersection on one side and a map depicting the former structures on the other. The cost of the sign was paid for by Eckerd and the township road department performed the installation.

Street and Traffic News....

- The annual road improvement and maintenance work is currently underway. A total of 14 roads and streets will be affected: Allebach Lane; Fieldcrest Way; Hollis Road; Sibel Circle; Glenview Drive; Highview Drive; Merion Way; Defford Circle; Greenhill Road; Fisher Road; Clyston/Defford Roads; Bayton/Defford Roads; Clyston Circle and Hogarth Lane. Specific questions may be directed to the township office.
- The North Wales Road bridge work between Skippack Pike and Township Line Road is now complete and the road is reopened. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation provided partial funding in the amount of \$720,000 for bridge replacement and road restoration. Total project cost was \$940,000. This portion of North Wales Road is maintained by Whitpain Township, who contributed to the balance.
- Montgomery County Department of Roads and Bridges has awarded bids to Allen Myers for Germantown Pike resurfacing between Church Road in Worcester Township and Jolly Road in Plymouth Township at a cost of \$1,857,700. Completion is slated for fall 2006.

WORCESTER TOWNSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Web Site: www.worcestertwp.com

Phone: 610-584-1410

FAX: 610-584-8901

Email Addresses:

Manager: manager@worcestertwp.com

Park & Recreation: jlanzillo@worcestertwp.com

Building Inspections: bldginspect@worcestertwp.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 767, Worcester, PA 19490

Municipal Building:

1721 Valley Forge Road

Worcester, PA 19490

Worcester War Memorials Relocated and Restored

Worcester Township recently completed the placement of two war memorials in Heebner Park. The World War I and II memorials, located next to the gazebo, were originally dedicated in 1919 and 1955 respectively. We invite you to take some time this fall or winter to walk out to the Gazebo, observe the memorials, and reflect on them in their new location.

The World War I memorial lists the names of those Worcester residents who served in our armed forces during that

conflict, with the two residents who were killed listed at the top. The other monument simply says "Honor to those who served 1916-1919, 1941-1945" and was originally placed on the new addition to the former Worcester Elementary when it was added in 1955. More information about the monuments can be found in the Worcester History book printed by the Worcester Historical Society, Oliver Smith- President.

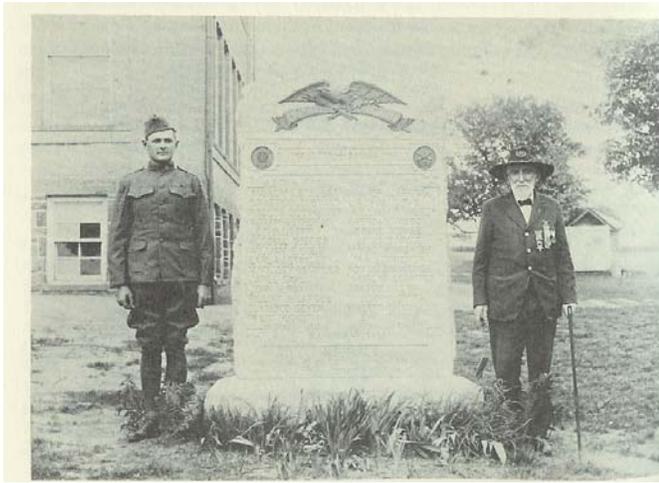
A student of history might expect to see a fancy statue of a famous leader or

portance of the individual in American history, and in Worcester in particular, is stressed by these monuments. In a representative Democracy; a Republic such as ours, it is the individual working together with others that determines a country's or a township's destiny. Every individual has a responsibility to the community in such a system, happily most times it is not fighting a war, but freedom comes with responsibility to work for the greater good of the community, whether local or national in scope.

As we go about our daily lives it is important to occasionally take time to reflect on those who have gone before, including those listed on the monuments. We can understand that we live our lives in freedom today, because those individuals memorialized here stood up to their responsibilities in their day. A visit to Heebner Park is always a welcome relief from the bustle of today's busy life and work environment. A pleasant stroll down the pathways, between the trees and the wildflower meadow, tends to put things in perspective.

Nathaniel and John stand straight and proud in that photo taken in 1919, as they should. They stood up for their responsibility and did their duty in their time. The memorials stand as evidence that we understand and honor that dedication.

~ contributed by Arthur C. Bustard



In the Worcester History Book, printed by the Worcester Historical Society is a picture of the First World War Monument in its original setting in 1919, with two soldiers, one the former Elementary School Principal; John Fox, and the other a Civil War veteran from Worcester; Nathaniel Metz. Both are in their uniforms standing at attention, even if Nathaniel needs his cane to achieve it. The picture serves to reinforce the effect that the monuments create when you sit at the gazebo and reflect on them.

a listing of glorious battles fought and won. Instead we see two monuments that have the American Eagle on them, with either a listing of individuals, or a statement honoring individuals who served. This is an important point to reflect on; it is not the famous or the battles that are important, but the individual who serves. The im-



State Senator John Rafferty presents Worcester Fire Department with a check for \$30,000. Senator Rafferty secured the grant for the Volunteer Fire department. From Left to Right: Rick Weed, President; Pam McClure, Secretary; Dave Cornish, Chief; Ron Evans, Trustee; State Senator John Rafferty.

Worcester Fire Department Receives Grant

With the assistance of State Senator John Rafferty, the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department received a \$30,000 grant for the purchase of 800 MHZ radios, accessories and installation costs in order to complete department needs. Prior grants with the aid of Senator Rafferty and the generous donation by the Township enabled the department to outfit all officers and vehicles with new radios, which were necessary in order to be compatible with the new system Montgomery County Emergency Dispatch Services has implemented. The new trunked system uses frequencies more efficiently, making communications more reliable. The old system was not effective in low lying areas nor in the ability to penetrate large buildings. The new smart system lets firefighters know if the radio is functioning properly and offers the ability to talk directly with responding ambulances and police. Previously, communication had to be relayed through a dispatcher, often delaying important information. The new radios are APCO -25 compliant, making the radios interoperable with Montgomery County Units, contiguous counties and the City of Philadelphia. This is important in the event of a disaster such as 9/11 or natural disasters that may affect all of Southeastern Pennsylvania. The total project cost the Department approximately \$100,000.00.

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**TOWNSHIP MONTHLY
MEETING TIMES**

Board of Supervisors

3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm

BOS Work Sessions

November 6 at 8:00am
December 4 at 8:00am

Planning Commission

4th Thursday at 7:30pm

Planning Commission Work Sessions

2nd Thursday at 7:30pm

Joint Meeting

December 4 at 9:30am

Zoning Hearing Board

October 24 at 6:30pm
November 28 at 6:30pm
December 19 at 6:30pm

*All Public Meetings are held in the
Worcester Township Community Hall
1031 Valley Forge Road*

Keystone Municipal Services Closes Out Open Permits

Earlier this year Keystone Municipal Services (KMS) was hired to provide building, zoning and code enforcement services. Since coming on board, KMS has been performing the normal duties of reviewing plans, issuing permits and taking enforcement action where appropriate. In addition, the firm has also taken on the task of closing out existing permits issued prior to KMS being hired. Some of the permits have been open for a few years. According to Rich O'Brien, President of KMS, he and his inspection team have "greatly appreciated the cooperation and understanding of homeowners and permit holders in scheduling closeout inspections". It is anticipated this process will be completed by the end of October. If permit holders have any questions they may contact the township office by phone (610-584-1410) or the inspectors via email at:

bldginspect@worcestertwp.com.

Emergency Management Plan Updated, NIMS Training Received

On September 20, 2006, the Board of Supervisors formally approved the updated Worcester Township Emergency Management Plan. Under state and federal laws, each municipality is to maintain a plan which establishes a chain-of-command and identifies a contact list of resources which may be used in the event of a disaster. Failure to maintain a valid plan may disqualify a municipality from receiving funding reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). Under the direction of John Kelly, the township's Emergency Management Coordinator, the Plan was revised to meet the most recent criteria established since September 11, 2001 and Hurricane Katrina. Under the new regulations, each elected township supervisor and key municipal staff members must complete a nationally-approved training course and receive certification in the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and to date have done so.