

Worcester Crier



What's Happening in Worcester?

At some of the recent Township meetings, residents have told the Board of Supervisors they would like to know more about what is happening in Worcester. The Supervisors promise to communicate to the best of their ability with the residents and are working on several avenues to disseminate this information.

The official Worcester Township web page, www.worcestertwp.com has a great deal of information. Included on the site are agendas and minutes of the Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Zoning Hearing Board meetings, township news, park and recreation information, upcoming meeting schedules and the township code. The web page is just one area that the Supervisors will be concentrating on enhancing within the next few years.

The Worcester Crier will also be published on a regular schedule. It is the Board's hope that articles can be provided that will highlight activities and community information that will help residents become aware of the news and events taking place in Worcester.

In this issue, highlights include some of the changes that have occurred in the past several months and updates on items and events that are forthcoming. The Supervisors and staff at the Township welcome any comments or questions. You

can send them to the Township via e-mail at worcester@worcestertwp.com or to P.O. Box 767, Worcester, PA 19490.

New Zoning Ordinance

After three lengthy meetings in January, February and March, the Board of Supervisors voted 2 to 1 to endorse the recommendation of the Planning Commission and accept the Growing Greener Ordinance for Worcester Township. The planning commission worked on this ordinance for about 18 months and was unanimous in recommending passage to the Board.

The ordinance is designed to preserve open space in the township by setting aside 50% of the developable land as open space and allows the planning commission and the supervisors more control over where the development takes place on a parcel. This ordinance applies to parcels of greater than 8 acres if dividing it into more than 3 lots immediately, and affects about 127 landowners in Worcester Township. All Supervisors agreed to monitor the ordinance in the upcoming months and to refine it where necessary to assure it is as equitable as possible to all residents of the Township.

Historical Structures Preservation Committee

Taking its initial guidance from the Board of Supervisors' request in last fall's Worcester

Crier, a group of volunteers began meeting in February to form the Historical Structures Preservation Committee of Worcester.

Worcester Township received an enthusiastic response to the call for volunteers to serve on a committee to investigate historical structures in the township. Early initiatives are centering on education, as the group was unanimous in its opinion that historical preservation is a complex issue, and more knowledge is needed before determining the next steps on this important issue for our township. As one member of the group put it, "It may not have an easy answer, but historic preservation and township progress should be able to co-exist in Worcester."

Committee meetings and educational events are open to the public. Meeting dates and times will be published on the township web site, www.worcestertwp.com. Those interested in getting involved or sharing a viewpoint on the topic are welcome to attend a meeting or email the group in care of Rick DeLello (rick@isisupport.com).

Fire Department Plans

For the past year, the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department has been evaluating their future needs to continue performing its function in a safe and efficient manner. Late last year, the Department delivered a presentation to the Board of Supervisors. The Board has been studying this report and is working with the Fire Department to determine necessary costs and timelines for implementation of the recommendations. The volunteers of the department are a significant asset to the community and the Board understands the need to make sure they have the equipment and facility they need.

The Board of Supervisors will make more information available as it gets deeper into the process.



**INCORPORATED AS A
TOWNSHIP
1733**

Board of Supervisors

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

Eunice C. Kriebel
Acting Township Manager

Administration Building
(610) 584-1410
www.worcestertwp.com

Township Administration

Eunice Kriebel, former Assistant Manager, is currently serving as Acting Township Manager, following the departure of former Manager Charles Sardo. Eunice is a long time township employee and current Treasurer. Township Engineer, Joe Nolan, has been

appointed to the position of zoning officer on a temporary basis.

On March 6th the Board hired the firm of Keystone Municipal Services to begin searching for a new Township Manager. Keystone will perform background and resume checks on all appli-

cants that are considered. Keystone is also providing temporary zoning and building inspection services, following the resignation of building inspector, George Gardner, who is relocating to Florida. We hope to have progress to report to the residents by the middle of the year.

Worcester Presents Open Space Plan to County

Many of you will recall a referendum on the November 2003 ballot that received overwhelming support from Montgomery County voters. The referendum authorized the county to issue up to \$150 million in new bonds to purchase open space and restore "brown-fields" in our urban areas.

In order to qualify for Open Space funding, townships were required to submit extensive Open Space Plans, showing such things as community profile, goals, existing protected land, vulnerable resources, linkages to other communities, expected growth, open space needs, farming uses, greenway plans, historic resources, recommendations for acquisition and implementation plans.

A committee of Worcester residents was formed to compose such a plan, including Richard Anderl, Susan Caughlan, John Harris, Dee Dee McGrane, Patricia Quigley, Bradford Smith and Gordon Todd. County Planner Matt Schelley was assigned by the county to assist. The committee met monthly for 2 years and produced a 206 page plan, the most comprehensive study ever done of our open space needs.

On March 28, 2006 the committee made its presentation to the County Open Space Board. A 20 minute overview with visual aids was given by John Harris and Susan Caughlan. At the end of the presentation, one of the Board

members commented that "out of the 49 municipal Open Space Plans they had seen to date, this was one of, if not the best they had seen."

The Board is expecting the county's formal review by the end of April. At that time there will be public notice of a hearing for adoption of the plan that will probably take place in June. Copies of the plan will be made available at the township building and on the web site (worcestertwp.com) in May. Residents will be invited to comment at the public hearing.

Literature and informational requests

At times, the staff at the Township office has been asked to provide services to residents that go beyond the scope of their duties. We have had instances of residents requesting staff do research and prepare lists of information for them immediately.

Township policy has been, and continues to be, that a resident can request information from any of the public records. We require that a request be submitted in writing and the staff has three days in which to provide the public information to the resident. This allows the staff to address the normal demands of Township business. The staff is required to provide the public records to the resident by law, but they are not expected to be doing research for the residents. The Township charges a fee for any copies that are requested in the written form to defer the costs. Our staff works hard to provide professional and efficient administration of the Township. If you have a suggestion or complaint, please direct it to the Acting Township Manager or the Board of Supervisors, who will address your concerns.

Worcester Township Park Maintenance and Improvements

Warmer weather has seen the introduction of a variety of improvements and maintenance procedures taking place throughout Township park facilities. Our flagship facility, Heebner Park, has seen extensive maintenance measures put in place around the playground and walking trails, to correct for stormwater issues. The trail around the three soccer fields is being paved, and the installation of a new storage facility on the northwest side of the area has been added along with additional portable restroom facilities.

Newer, permanent trash receptacles are being installed throughout the park, and as a result, vandalism has been on the decline.

A gate has been installed at the entrance to Mount Kirk Park, to discourage field vandalism that has been an ongoing issue at that facility.

Blue bird houses were installed throughout Heebner Park by an Eagle Scout last year, and similar aesthetic projects are ongoing this Spring by members of the local boy scout troop.

Plans are also underway to construct a new 90-foot baseball field on park property adjacent to Heebner Road.

Full Line Up of Camps and Clinics this Summer

All Camps are open to Girls and Boys - All Camps held in Heebner Park, 1721 Valley Forge Road, Worcester

UK ELITE SOCCER

July 17-21

Ages 3-4, 9-10:30am

OR

10:45-12:15 pm, \$95

Ages 5-14, 9am-12:00pm, \$135

- A FUN introduction to the game of soccer
- Exciting soccer games in a safe environment
- Motor skill & coordination development
- Social skill & confidence building

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. Each child will receive a t-shirt and soccer ball. A minimum of 8 children in each session is required to proceed with the camp. Please register early if you are interested to avoid cancellation!

US SPORTS INSTITUTE

MULTI-SPORT CAMP

July 24-28

Ages 5-7 (Half-Day 9am-1pm) \$155

Ages 7-14 (Full-Day 9am-3pm) \$175

(All Camps end at 1pm on July 28)

Here's a camp created to meet the needs of the youngster who is interested in all kinds of sports. There are no arts or crafts, just a total emphasis on sport and fun activities. Every child takes part. There's no sideline sitting!

The Half Day Multi Sport Camp gives our younger participants (ages 5-7) the opportunity to experience over 10 sports in a week. Campers will receive technical instruction in each sport and will then experience the sport in a realistic game situation. After lunch (typically 11:30am-Noon) all campers will participate in the USSI Olympic Games and World Cup Competitions.

The Full Day Camp offers older campers the chance to experience some of the selected sports in more depth plus

many other sports and daily challenges in addition to the entire sports line up of the Half Day Camp. Typical sports include: Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Bocce, Cricket, Field Hockey, Flag Football, Floor Hockey, Hand Ball, Lacrosse, Net Ball, Olympic Games, Parachute, Pillo Polo, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball and World Cup. Each child receives a t-shirt and completion certificate. USSI provides all sport equipment.

US SPORTS INSTITUTE

LACROSSE CAMP

July 31-August 4, 5-7pm

Ages 7-14, \$105

Have great fun learning this exhilarating game. Fast paced and full of action, Lacrosse is a unique combination of skill, speed, agility and finesse. The USSI Lacrosse camp is open to players of all ability and no previous Lacrosse experience is necessary. Experience stick handling, passing, scooping, dodging, shooting and many more fundamental techniques and skills. This camp offers an ideal introduction for all levels to this great game. Each child receives a t-shirt and completion certificate. USSI provides suitable equipment for all participants.

JACK CONRAD POWER TENNIS

ADULT PROGRAM

Beginner Tennis Clinic

Tuesdays 9:30-11am

May 9, 16, 23, 30 and June 6

\$25 per session

Intermediate Tennis Clinic

Tuesdays 11am-12:30pm

May 9, 16, 23, 30 and June 6

\$25 per session

Ladies Night Clinic & Round Robin

Wednesdays 6:15-7:45pm

June 21, July 5, 12 & 19

\$25 per session

JACK CONRAD POWER TENNIS

JUNIOR PROGRAM

June 19-July 28

Junior Summer Clinic Schedule:

Munchkins (Ages 4-6) 9-10am

Smashers (ages 7-8) 9-10am

This fun-filled program introduces students to the fundamental stroke and movement skills necessary for playing tennis.

Beginner (Ages 9-14) 10-11am

Learn the fundamentals of today's modern power game through progressive

instruction, drills and games.

Intermediate (Ages 9-16) 11am-12pm

Students will be taught the correct grips, backswings and footwork patterns that will help them be competitive in today's modern power game. Students learn how to train in a fast-paced environment that will challenge them to perform to their potential.

Weekly Clinic Fees:

1 week \$50; 2 weeks \$95; 3 weeks \$135; 4 weeks \$175; 5 weeks \$215; 6 weeks \$245

Junior Summer Tennis Camp

Weekly, Monday-Friday 9am-12pm

(Ages 9-17)

\$275 per week

For students who want to master the fundamentals of today's power game and maximize their potential for success. Students will learn more efficient stroke and movement patterns to help maximize accuracy, consistency and power on all shots. Players will improve their competitive intensity as they move dynamically through fast and furious high-speed drills.

Junior Summer Tennis Match Play & Match Play Instruction

Weekly, Monday-Friday 1-3pm

(Ages 9-17)

\$75 per week

Designed to provide structured singles and doubles match play. Students will receive instruction on shot selection, strategy and tactics, positioning, patterns and mental toughness. Great training for competitive students who want to play tournaments or be successful on their school team.

Junior Summer Camp AND Match

Play: \$325 per week

Private Tennis lessons for all ages are also available at Worcester's Heebner Park through Jack Conrad Power Tennis! Contact Parks and Recreation for more details. (610-584-1410).

**More Park and
Recreation News and
Camp Offerings on the
Next Page!**

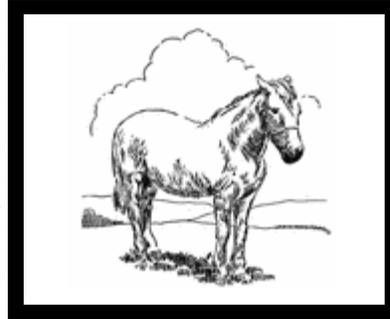
PONYSHARE'S PONY GROOMING, RIDING & HORSEMANSHIP PROGRAM

**June 19-23, 1:30-3:pm OR
August 7-11, 4:30-6pm
Ages 4-13, \$178 (Heebner Park)**

This unique program provides an exciting and inexpensive introduction to the world of horses, in a fun-filled atmosphere. PonyShare uses ponies and cobs, similar and easier to handle than their larger equine counterparts. Small groups of children are formed according to age and prior experience, if any. After reviewing safety rules, previously-covered materials and new subject matter, children are assigned their size-related pony or cob and each small

group works under the tutelage of a qualified instructor.

Topics to be covered include: safety on and around horses, basic anatomy, equine senses and body language, grooming, the tack and harness, driving the miniature horse, English and Western riding, barn management and career opportunities with horses.



Participants also get to ride and drive their charges 3-4 times per session.

This program enhances teamwork and self-esteem while helping develop a genuine appreciation and deep respect for the animals. Course materials are provided. We recommend each youngster bring strong hiking shoes, jeans/sweat pants, a bicycle helmet, fluids and a carrot!

ICE CREAM SUNDAE SUNDAY

Join us in Heebner Park on Sunday, August 6 for the 5th Annual Ice Cream Sundae Sunday. The event starts at noon. Vanilla ice cream and toppings are provided with entertainment for the family to be announced.

Afternoon plans also include a ceremony to mark the relocation of two war monuments to the Heebner Park gazebo area, from other locations within the township.

Please visit www.worcestertwp.com for further details on this event.

Philadelphia Phillies vs. Florida Marlins

Our most popular trip of the year is back again! Join Worcester Township on our annual pilgrimage to South Philadelphia to see the Philadelphia Phillies host the Florida Marlins at Citizens Bank Park on Friday, September 22, 2006.

Come see beautiful Citizens Bank Park, and all-stars Bobby Abreu, Jimmy Rollins, and Mike Lieberthal. With a 7:05 game start, take advantage of time to see all that Citizens Bank park has to offer. If you have yet to visit the new home of the Philadelphia Phillies, it is definitely worth the trip. Citizens Bank Park is one of the jewels among Major League stadiums.

Worcester 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 arcade level, section 235 (one level below previous years' trips), on the third base side. Limited seating is available, so call today! (610-584-1410).

Cost: \$42, includes ticket to the game and a seat on the bus.

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.

Stormwater Management Program

DEP enacted the Stormwater Management Program in 2002 to comply with Federal stormwater regulations enacted in 1999. The program was established by DEP to be implemented over a 5 year period, starting on March 10, 2003. First year requirements included adopting a new stormwater management ordinance (2004-02). Year one requirements also included the mapping of all stormwater discharges and applying for a General Permit covering all

discharges. Also, public participation and notification were accomplished with information in the Township newsletter, web site and at a public meeting. Pamphlets were also distributed with information for residents.

Year two requirements included sampling of 25% of storm outfalls, and notification and education of builders, developers and information was again posted on the web site and in the Township newsletter. Year three concluded

on March 10, 2006, and an additional 25% of outfalls were sampled, municipal housekeeping was highlighted as well as education of associations, etc.

Components of the program include: public education and outreach; public involvement; illicit discharge identification; construction stormwater runoff management; post construction stormwater management and pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operation and maintenance.

North Penn Water Authority Maintains Low Rates, Even After Recent Increase

The North Penn Water Authority (NPWA) announced a new rate increase, which went into effect on April 1, 2006. The Authority's Board of Directors approved the new changes at its public meeting held on Tuesday evening, February 28, 2006.

The Authority's customers have not had a rate increase in 10 years, since January 1996. The former rate of \$3.68 per thousand gallons increased to \$3.95 per thousand gallons on April 1st. Also, the residential billing charge increased from \$8.10 to \$9.10 per quarter, which is separate from the amount of water used. In total, these changes will increase the average residential customer's total bill by 7.9%. This represents a quarterly increase of \$5.16, from \$65.30 to \$70.46 per quarter. This is equivalent to an increase of \$20.64 per year, or \$1.72 per month. Even with this in-

crease, the average residential customer will spend 77 cents per day for an entire household's supply of water.

The NPWA's operating expenses have been increasing over the years, especially as the Authority treats and delivers more water. The last time that rates were increased, 10 years ago, the Authority delivered an average of 7.5 million gallons of water per day to approximately 22,000 customers, through 365 miles of pipeline. Today, the Authority delivers an average of 9.1 million gallons per day to 29,000 customers, through 500 miles of pipeline. To handle this increased demand, the Authority must purchase more treatment chemicals and electricity to process the water through the surface water treatment plant and the groundwater wells, and to pump it into the distribution system.

Because this steady growth in demand for water is expected to continue, the Authority's Forest Park Water Treatment Plant is being expanded to increase its capacity and to install new treatment technologies required to meet more stringent water quality regulations. This treatment plant expansion project is a significant capital expenditure.

Overall, because expenses are increasing at a higher rate than revenues, the financially prudent course of action is to augment revenues through a modest rate increase. This will ensure that the Authority has the necessary resources to continue to maintain a growing amount of critical infrastructure in good condition, to provide consistently reliable service, and to deliver the highest quality product to its customers, yet at a low price.

Peter Wentz Farmstead 2006 Events

EXHIBITS

Servitude in Montgomery County During the Colonial Period

Service trades played a huge part of the daily life of both the gentry and the farmers. Whether hired hands, indentured or slaves, extra hands made for lighter work.

Exhibit on view April-October

PROGRAMS

Archaeological Digs

Ongoing Saturdays, May through October

Observe the volunteers of the Millbrook Society as they unearth evidence of the Farmsteads past on two Saturdays each month.

Please call 610-584-5104 for exact dates.

General George Washington

*Guest Speaker: Jim Gibson
Thursday, May 18th at 7pm*

Re-enactor Jim Gibson will offer a first-person interpretation of the nation's first political superstar, General George

Washington. Program held at the Farmer's Union Hall of the Worcester Township Historical Society (Rt. 363/Valley Forge Road).

Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 3rd 1-3pm

Join the volunteers and staff as they celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the restoration of the Farmstead. Commemoration ceremony at 1pm with tour throughout the day.

Colonial Day Camp

Monday-Friday, June 26-30, 9am-2pm

This week-long day camp creates an immersion experience of colonial life for students entering 4th-6th grades in a hands-on environment. Pre-registration and fee charged. Call 610-584-5104 for details.

Colonial Childhood

Saturday, July 15th, 10am-3pm

Experience childhood of the colonial period by trying some of the toys and games, clothing and daily chores of the 18th and 19th centuries as demonstrated by the site's junior volunteers.

Servitude in Montgomery County

Saturday, August 5th, 10am-3pm

Visit with interpreters located throughout the site to learn more about the various types of servitude used throughout the County during the colonial period—indentured, hired or slave labor. This event is offered in conjunction with the exhibit of the same topic, located in the Visitor's Center.

Laerenswaert

Saturday, October 14th, 10am-3:30pm

A hands-on colonial crafts fair with demonstrations that are 'worth learning.' Also includes house tours by costumed interpreters, military camp life and open-hearth cooking.

**Please contact the Peter Wentz Farmstead for details on all exhibits and programs.
610-584-5104**

Township of Worcester
1721 Valley Forge Road
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www.worcestertwp.com

**TOWNSHIP MONTHLY
MEETING TIMES**

Board of Supervisors

3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm

BOS Work Sessions

May 1 at 8:00am

June 5 at 8:00am

July 5 at 8:00am

Planning Commission

4th Thursday at 7:30pm

Planning Commission Work Sessions

2nd Thursday at 7:30pm

Joint Meeting

June 5 at 9:30am

Zoning Hearing Board

May 2 at 6:30pm

June 6 at 6:30pm

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

Late-breaking News for Worcester Residents

Worcester Township has been approached by Lower Providence and East Norriton Townships, in conjunction with Montgomery County, to begin studying ways to improve traffic flow along Germantown Pike. The County has been working with PENNDOT to study the implementation of coordinated traffic signs to facilitate the flow of traffic on Germantown Pike in our area as part of a county and regional approach to traffic management. As more information from the study becomes available, we will keep our residents apprised of it.

At the April 19th Board of Supervisors meeting, the Township entered into a franchise agreement with Verizon, allowing them to sell television services in Worcester. The agreement permits Verizon to offer television in addition to high speed internet and telephone services already offered in the Center Point exchange area, which covers approximately 90% of the Township. Verizon plans to expedite similar service availability in the North Wales and Trooper exchanges. Verizon expects to roll out the television service in the first quarter of 2007 or before.
