

# Worcester Erier



## New Township Manager: John V. Cornell

The Worcester Township Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce that on Wednesday July 5, 2006, they hired John V. Cornell as the new Township Manager. John was in attendance at the Supervisors' public work session at 8:00 AM where he was introduced to both staff and audience.

Earlier this year, the Supervisors hired the firm of *Keystone Municipal Services* to conduct a professional search and background check on

potential candidates for the position. After Keystone had narrowed the search to a list of 4 finalists, the Supervisors interviewed the candidates several times and decided that John was the person that had the background and demeanor to work with the township staff and residents.

John comes to Worcester with 20 years experience in Township government. His previous experience includes time spent as zoning and code enforcement officer for New Britain Township, Plumstead Township, and

West Rockhill Township, all in Bucks County. Most recently, John served as the Municipal Manager for East Rockhill Township in Bucks County for 14 years.

John is a graduate of Temple University and lives in Souderton with his wife and family. During John's time in East Rockhill, he developed their first Open Space plan, was instrumental in getting a community college campus in the township, computerized their office, codified the municipal resolutions and ordinances,

and oversaw the installation of the township's first wastewater treatment plant.

John started full time in Worcester on July 12, 2006. He will be making efforts to meet the community, between the duties that the Supervisors are piling on his desk and the numerous meetings of the various boards and committees of the Township. The Ice Cream Sundae Sunday in Heebner Park, on August 6<sup>th</sup> will be a good time to introduce yourself to John, as it is Worcester Township's annual community day.

## Township Open Space Plan Approved

At the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Township Board of Supervisors, a public hearing was held to consider approval of the 2006 Worcester Township Open Space Plan. The current plan was adopted in 1994. An overview was presented by Matt Schelly, Montgomery County Senior Planner who prepared the Plan on behalf of the township and the Worcester Open Space Committee. The Committee began working on the plan in 2004, and the committee encompassed various perspectives with the object of crafting an open space plan "that will help preserve open space in Worcester Township and will also benefit our regional community."

The 2006 Plan establishes three goals; preserve high priority open space land, protect the rural character of the township and develop a network of parks and recreational trails.

Mr. Schelly stated the existing protected land in Worcester totals 975 acres out of 10,000 but indicated there are still vulnerable resources. His presentation illustrated potential trail linkages, unprotected resources, build out scenarios, an inter-community trail network and provided recommendations.

Members of the Committee who have met for two years in developing the plan are: Richard Anderl, Susan Caughlan, John Harris, Dee Dee McGrane, Patricia Quigley, Bradford Smith and Gordon Todd.

The plan proposal was presented to and received the recommendation of the Montgomery County Open Space Board on April 21, 2006. This plan now allows the township to qualify for Montgomery County open space funds generated by the bond issue that was created by voters in 2003.



**INCORPORATED AS A  
TOWNSHIP  
1733**

### Board of Supervisors

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

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John V. Cornell  
Township Manager

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Administration Building  
(610) 584-1410

www.worcestertwp.com

## Heebner Park Improvements

On July 12, 2006, the Township opened bids for the construction of a new 90-foot baseball field in Heebner Park. The construction will take place near the back entrance of the park, along Heebner Road. This new field will greatly assist in accommodating the

growing demand for this type of facility by associations and teams in the township.

Andrew Haines, a local Boy Scout, is in the process of completing his Eagle Scout project in Heebner Park. He has recently completed the planting of sev-

eral dozen perennials around the gazebo and will culminate his project with the installation of several benches around the trail surrounding the wildflower meadow.

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## Ponyshare returns to Heebner Park in August

After two successful weeks in June, Ponyshare's Pony Grooming, Riding and Horsemanship Program will return for one more week in August.

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, eq-



uine 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, water and a carrot!

**August 7-11, 4:30-6:00pm**  
**Ages 4-13, \$178 (Heebner Park)**

**Call 610-584-1410 to enroll.**  
**Space is limited**

## Philadelphia Phillies vs. Florida Marlins ~ September 22, 2006

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.

## 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.

The dedication of the two recently relocated war monuments in Heebner Park has been postponed.

Please visit [www.worcestertwp.com](http://www.worcestertwp.com) for further details on this event.

## BABY BOOT CAMP

A new offering in Worcester, this class is designed for the parent with baby. The program focuses on building strength, improving posture and increasing core strength and flexibility for the parent. Child will be in a stroller for at least an hour. A great way to meet other parents and babies in Worcester!

**6 Wednesdays, September 6 - October 11**  
**10am-11am**

**\$75 for entire program or \$15 per class**  
**(Heebner Park Playground)**

**Call 610-584-1410 to enroll. Space is limited**

## Worcester escapes major damages from recent storms

Worcester Township escaped major damage from the recent rains and flash floods. The township public works crew has been diligently working to fix normal washouts and other problems caused by the flooding. CKS Engineers, the township engineer, has reviewed several of the larger erosion problems and determined that remediation efforts are needed for safety reasons on several roads that experienced washouts and road undermining. While costly, it is much less than what some neighboring townships experienced. The township

public works crew has been grading the trails in Heebner Park that were eroded and washed out, as well as attempting to keep up with mowing the fast growing grass in this well-watered July.

The recent flooding has highlighted the need for proper maintenance of retention basins in several of the newer developments. The township will be contacting homeowners with these basins on their property to remind them of their responsibility to regularly clean them. Maintenance of the retention basins is necessary to pre-

vent serious problems for the community and limit liability for the homeowners.

Residents are advised to avoid retention basins during flooding and rain conditions as serious accidents can occur.

## Traffic "Matters" in Worcester

In response to an increased number of calls from motorists accessing the intersection of Valley Forge Road (Rt. 363) and Skippack Pike (Rt. 73), the company that handles the timing of the lights has determined that they are functioning in line with specifications that the state has mandated. Another study on the timing of the lights has been requested so as to permit more cars on Valley Forge Road to pass through the intersection.

Previously, the matter was discussed in the early spring with Penn DOT and the township continues to stress its importance. It is believed that the detour on North Wales Road has impacted traffic throughout the township, causing increased volume and accidents on Bean Road at Whitehall and contributing to the increased traffic

on Valley Forge Road.

**The Whitpain Township** bridge replacement on North Wales Road is scheduled to be completed in September, 2006, allowing the road to reopen.

**In response to** traffic issues throughout the township:

- Additional stop signs have been placed on Bean Road to reduce accidents caused by drivers unfamiliar with the area using it as a short cut for the North Wales Road detour.

- Speed signs have been installed as the result of traffic studies in developments in response to speeding concerns.

- Based upon a traffic study of Landis Road, controls are being evaluated.

**Penn DOT** has reported that repaving work will commence on Germantown Pike from Fairview Village through East Norriton later this summer. It is anticipated there will be an increase in traffic on feeder and neighborhood streets. The Township has agreed, with East Norriton and Plymouth Townships, that nighttime work on the road, enabling the repaving to be done as quickly and efficiently as possible, is in order.

### Worcester Historical Society News

The Worcester Historical Society is planning its Second Annual Tour Day on Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> from 10-3. The Tour will start at Farmers Union Hall in Center Point where tickets and a map can be purchased for \$10.00 a car.

Points of interest to be visited that day are: Merrymead Farm, the Old Dutchie Church building and cemetery on Valley Forge Road, Mary Jane & Jay Rees' home featuring a restored railroad caboose and the Peter Wentz Cemetery.

In the book "Worcester" put out by the Worcester Historical Society in 1978, there is a section on old trees in the township. At that time, trees at least 200 years old were identified. That section of the book is currently being updated. This work is being done by Dan Connolly as his Eagle Scout Project. Dan is a member of Worcester Troop #133. This is the first step in recognizing old trees in Worcester and will be culminated in a full updated report.

### Historical Preservation Committee Update

School may be out, but the education continues for the Worcester Township Historical Structures Preservation Committee. Recently the committee welcomed Michel Lefèvre, Chief of Preservation Planning for the Bureau of Historic Preservation at the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC). He presented a very informative program on historic preservation options for Pennsylvania communities outlining several creative ways to promote and preserve Worcester's historic heritage. Given the positive response to this program, the committee is planning additional events in the coming months. As always, these events will be open to the public, so stay tuned to the township website for more details. The committee's meeting schedule is posted on the website under "Meeting Information."

Other ongoing efforts of the committee include researching various recognition options for historic structures and the documentation of a historic structures inventory for the township. The committee is using multiple sources in order to tackle this daunting task and would welcome assistance and input from the community. If you would like to get involved or simply have some feedback to share, please contact the committee, care of Rick DeLello ([rick@isisupport.com](mailto:rick@isisupport.com)).

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#### **TOWNSHIP MONTHLY MEETING TIMES**

##### **Board of Supervisors**

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

August 7 at 8:00am  
September 6 at 8:00am  
October 2 at 8:00am  
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##### **Planning Commission**

4th Thursday at 7:30pm  
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##### **Planning Commission Work Sessions**

2nd Thursday at 7:30pm  
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##### **Joint Meeting**

September 6 at 9:30am  
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##### **Zoning Hearing Board**

August 22 at 6:30pm  
September 26 at 6:30pm  
October 24 at 6:30pm  
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*All Public Meetings are held in the  
Worcester Township Community Hall*

## **Worcester Day Festivities a Success**

Despite a less than sunny day, the Worcester Day festivities on June 3, 2006 were deemed a success by the many participants. The Worcester Farmers Union Horse Show progressed as scheduled, the Historical Society held a well-attended open house at their hall near Routes 73 & 363, Merrymead Farm had a wagon ride tour and cow milking demonstration, while Willow Creek Orchards held its strawberry festival and a jam & jelly workshop. The Worcester Fire Department brought two trucks to the Community Hall where the day finished with a square dance from 7-10pm. This was the first event of this nature, a good time was had by all and plans for next year's events are underway.

## **LRA Public Notice and Work Session Date**

The Local Redevelopment Authority, charged with handling the plans for the redevelopment use of the Army Reserve base on Berks Road, held an informational session on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Community Hall. The meeting was advertised according to the Department of Defense requirements and was part of the process mandated by law. The cut off period for submission of plans by groups or people interested in the property is December 9<sup>th</sup>. As plans for this site take place, information will be posted on the township web page and in future issues of the Worcester Crier.

## **New Ordinance protects homeowners from developer changes**

A new ordinance passed at the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Board of Supervisors protects new home owners from unauthorized builder changes during construction of new homes in Worcester. The ordinance requires that builders supply an "as built" plan for the foundation prior to framing and a final "as built plan" and surveyor's grading plan prior to issuance of use and occupancy permits. This ordinance is similar to ordinances in surrounding communities and is designed to eliminate the problems some homeowners discover when moving into their new homes. Primarily, it makes sure that water will drain away from the house and that the foundation is placed correctly on the lot, in compliance with the building permit approved.