

WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

2020 Budget Adopted

**No New Taxes, No Tax Increases
Per Capita Tax Eliminated**

The 2020 Budget, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 18, includes no new taxes and no tax increases, and maintains the higher-quality services and programs our community enjoys today. The Budget also eliminates the Per Capita Tax, a tax that, in past years, was levied in the amount of \$1 per non-student resident age 18 and older.

The current Township real estate tax, at 0.05 mills, is the lowest municipal millage rate in Montgomery County. This means that the owner of a property in Worcester Township that is assessed at \$400,000 pays \$20 in property tax to the Township.

The Budget funds more than \$900,000 in road improvements (to keep roads safe), provides a 5% increase to the Township's contribution to the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department (our community's all-volunteer emergency service provider) and replaces important Public Works equipment (that have reached the end of its useful life).

The Budget provides a one-half percent (0.5%) increase in residential and commercial sewer rates in 2020. For residential customers the sewer rate will increase by about \$0.22 per month.

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VALLEY FORGE ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

If you've ever been stuck in traffic on Valley Forge Road – waiting at an intersection for the car in front of you to turn – help is on the way.

Worcester Township recently received a \$700,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to design significant improvements to Valley Forge Road, between the intersection with Woodlyn Avenue and the intersection of Township Line Road and Stump Hall Road.

In specific, these improvements include:

- widening this portion of Valley Forge Road to create a center-turn lane;
- creating left-turn lanes onto Township Line Road and Stump Hall Road;
- installing a new traffic signal at Woodlyn Avenue, and creating a left-turn lane onto Woodlyn Avenue;
- creating separate right and left-turn lanes exiting Woodlyn Avenue; and,
- upgrading the existing traffic signals at Water Street Road and Township Line Road/ Stump Hall Road.

The improvements will enhance safety along Valley Forge Road, which is one of the heaviest-travelled roadways in our community. In addition, the improvements will allow vehicles to travel this roadway as efficiently as possible.

It is important to note that, at this time, this project involves improvement design only. After the plan of improvements is designed and approved by PennDOT (Valley Forge Road is a State-owned road), the Township will seek additional Federal, State and County dollars for construction. Construction is estimated to cost \$12 million.

The Township Traffic Engineer has begun to design the improvement plan. The grant will pay for all design costs. The plan is expected to be completed by year's end. 🚧



Ask Mary Ann

When the telephone rings at the Township Building, and the resident on the line asks a question, Receptionist extraordinaire Mary Ann always has the answer. Here's one of the questions that Mary Ann often fields, and her answer...

RESIDENT: "Does Worcester Township regulate hunting?"

MARY ANN: "No. The Pennsylvania Game Commission enforces hunting regulations throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, State Law prohibits local governments from enacting firearm regulations of any kind, and townships and boroughs that do this can be sued in Federal Court."

Days Gone By

General George Washington and his troops twice encamped in the Township in October 1777. Soldiers occupied a property near the intersection of Skippack Pike and Bethel Road. The location was chosen because it offered long and unobstructed views in several directions, providing ample notice of a surprise attack by British forces.

Source: *A History of Worcester Township.*

2020 Sewer Fees

Residential and commercial sewer fees for properties connected to the Worcester Township sanitary sewer system will increase by one-half percent in 2020. For residential customers the fee will increase by about \$0.22 per month, to \$132.05 from \$131.40 per quarter.

The new rate will be reflected in sewer bills to be mailed on April 1, for service provided in January, February and March.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This year Worcester Township will continue implementation of its annual road improvement program. This program is designed to maximize the useful life of infrastructure through an aggressive maintenance plan and appropriately-scheduled capital improvements. The program allows the Township to maintain more than 59 miles of roads in good condition.

The maintenance plan includes pothole repair, street sweeping, roadside brush trimming, roadside swale maintenance and patch milling.

The capital plan includes the replacement of culverts and stormwater pipes and the resurfacing and reconstruction of roads. On average, the Township resurfaces and/or reconstructs between three and five miles of roadways each year.

The number of roads treated depends on many factors, including the extent of repairs needed, the cost of materials, and the damage done during the winter months. As such, road projects are often subject to change.

At this time projects proposed in 2020 include the repaving of:

- Artmar Road;
- Berks Road;
- Credley Lane;
- Ernest Lane;
- Ethel Avenue;
- Morris Road; and,
- Old Orchard Road.



When the list of roads to be resurfaced is confirmed this information will be posted to the Township website.

Motorists using the above-noted roads may experience delays during construction. We thank folks for their understanding and patience as we work to improve our community's roadways. 🚗

HOME COOKIN' AT MEADOWOOD

by Meadowood Senior Living resident and amateur chef Dian Nolan

I lived in Blue Bell for 42 years before moving to Meadowood nine years ago this coming November. I keep active with tennis, square dancing, bocce and enjoying life! I also spend time with my seven children and their families. My sixteen grandchildren and my nine great grandchildren keep me busy. I enjoyed this recipe with my granddaughter. I hope you enjoy it as much as we did! 🍴



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



The Worcester Township Comprehensive Plan serves the primary planning guide for our community. The Comprehensive Plan helps to guide growth and land preservation, natural resource protection, traffic management, infrastructure improvement, the provision of utilities, fiscal sustainability, and other issues that affect our community.

State Law requires every municipality to review its comprehensive plan every ten years, and Worcester

Township has started this process. In January the Board of Supervisors appointed a 17-member Task Force to prepare and recommended updates to the plan. The Task Force will meet throughout the upcoming months, and forward its recommendations to both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

When a municipality updates a comprehensive plan, public input is critical. All meetings of the Task Force, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors are open to the public. All residents are strongly encouraged to attend one or more meetings, and to share their thoughts about our Township's future. The Task Force meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, and the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meet on the third Wednesday and fourth Thursday of each month, respectively.

The current Worcester Township Comprehensive Plan is posted to the Planning Department page on worcestertwp.com... check it out! 🐛

HOW MUCH CANDY IN THE FISHBOWL?

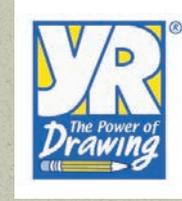
There is a fish bowl in the lobby of the Worcester Township Building. And in this fish bowl there is candy... butterscotch candies to be exact. And lots of them.

How many butterscotch candies are in the fish bowl is your guess, and if your guess is the closest without going over the actual number you'll win the candy, and sweet bragging rights.

Submit your guess at the Township Building, before 4:00 pm on April 30. One guess per person please. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter.

And congratulations to MaryLou Young, whose guess of 320 came closest to the actual number of Strawberry Suckers (326) in the fishbowl in our last contest. MaryLou, don't forget to share!

The candy is kindly contributed by the employees of Worcester Township, who are not eligible to submit a guess (sorry folks!). 🐛



Drawing Class

Spring is here, and it's time to get creative. Enroll your preschooler or elementary school student in the Young Rembrandts Drawing Class, and let their imaginations run free! This program allows every child to learn the basics of art and drawing from experienced staff in a fun environment. Children will learn how to draw the things they love, explore the artwork of the Masters, and more!

Saturdays, April 25 to May 30
(no class 5/2)

Preschool Drawing: 10:30-11:15am

Elementary Drawing: 11:30am-12:30pm

Worcester Community Hall
\$85/child

To register, and for complete information, visit youngrembrandts.com/chestercounty.

Babysitting Course

This popular American Red Cross certification course provides teens ages 11 to 15 with the confidence and skills needed to care for youngsters. Upon successful course completion students will receive an ARC Certification Card. Please bring a lunch, snack and pencil. Must register at least one week prior to the class!

Sunday, May 17
9am to 3pm
Worcester Community Hall
1031 Valley Forge Road
\$70 residents, \$75 non-residents

For more information contact Recreation Coordinator Steven Heintz at (610) 584-1410, or by email at sheintz@worcestertwp.com.

Free Little Library Book Review

Junie B. Jones Smells Something Fishy

by Barbara Parks

reviewed by Daphne Lewis (age 11)



The Story...

Junie B. Jones gets angry because she cannot bring her pet dog in for pet day at school.

My Favorite Part...

I liked the different animals she tries to bring to school. They include a raccoon, a worm, and even a dead fish!

My Recommendation...

I give this book 5 out of 5 stars, and I recommend the entire Junie B. Jones series for girls my age.

Would you like to review a book from our Little Free Library collection? Simply visit the library at the Township Building, 1721 Valley Forge Road, pick a book (it's free), and ask a parent to contact Recreation Coordinator Steven Heintz at (610) 584-1410, or by email at sheintz@worcestertwp.com.

Leashes Required in Township Parks



Pennsylvania law requires dog owners to control their animals at all times. When a dog is safely confined to its owner's property, leashing isn't needed. But when

the dog is on another's property a leash is the best way to control the dog... and in Worcester parks and on Worcester trails the use of a leash is required at all times.

Thank you for considering our neighbors' safety when walking Kevin the Wonder Mutt.

"WHO GETS THE PROPERTY TAXES THAT I PAY?"

It's a question we often receive at the Township Building, because the collection real estate taxes can be a little confusing. So here's the skinny...

A real estate tax bill includes three separate taxes... the property tax that's levied by the county, the property tax that's levied by the school district, and the property tax that's levied by the municipality. Each entity has a different tax rate, so each entity receives a different percent of the total taxes paid.

So who gets the property taxes that are paid by property owners in Worcester Township?

88.7% goes to the **Methacton School District.** School districts usually have the highest tax rate.

11.2% goes to **Montgomery County.** This includes the County's community college tax.

0.1% is collected by **Worcester Township.** Yes, our property tax rate is really that low! 🐶

HOW-TO GARDENING TALKS

Ready for gardening season? This spring Worcester is pleased to offer a series of gardening talks that will help you to grow beautiful flowers and other plants. Each one-hour talk is led by Thom Mrazik, Township resident and Penn State Extension Master Gardener.



Monday, May 18
The Beloved, Majestic Peony

Monday, June 1
Flowering Shrubs with Multiple Ornamental Interests

Monday, June 8
The Best Flowers to Make Your Garden Pollinator-Friendly

Each one-hour talks start at 7:00pm at Worcester Community Hall, 1031 Valley Forge Road. And all talks are free!

Pre-registration is required. To register e-mail Steven Heintz, Recreation Coordinator, at sheintz@worcestertwp.com.

MORNING HATHA YOGA

Enjoy beginner's Hatha Yoga with Worcester resident (and yoga expert) Ash Aragam. Learn the basic poses and alignments for this ancient and health-giving practice. No experience required! Please wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing, and bring your own mat and water.



Saturdays, March 14 to May 16
(no classes on 4/18 & 5/2)
9am to 10am
Worcester Township Community Hall

**Please note: Some Saturdays may be unavailable due to other events at Community Hall. Registrants will be emailed these dates ahead of time.*

\$5 for residents/\$7 for non-residents... and that's the fee for one entire session!

To register simply download a Recreation Activity Form at worcestertwp.com, and return this to the Township Building, 1721 Valley Forge Road.

Questions? Contact Steven Heintz, Recreation Coordinator, at sheintz@worcestertwp.com.

retrievr

RETRIEVR IS HERE!

Worcester is proud to announce a new recycling option for our community. The Township recently partnered with retrievr, a company that provides convenient curbside collection of used clothing and a wide variety electronics... including those “old-fashioned” television sets that most recycling centers don’t accept!

retrievr collects clothing at no cost, and charges a modest fee for the collection of certain electronics.

And scheduling a pick-up couldn’t be easier. Simply...

- text PICKUP to 757-70-FETCH, or
- visit retrievr.com and click the “schedule” button.

Visit retrievr.com for the complete list of accepted items, fees, and additional program information.

Thank you for your efforts to reuse and recycle, and to reduce the amount of waste dumped in landfills. 



WORCESTER SCENES

Look familiar?

The first person to identify this location in Worcester Township will receive a neat prize, and a shout-out in our very next newsletter. Send your best guess to Mary Ann at mmurray@worcestertwp.com.

And congratulations to Ken Hoffman, who was the first to correctly identify the stone wall at the Methacton Mennonite Church in our last newsletter.



WORCESTER CUB PACK 200

Worcester Cub Pack 200 is celebrating its 65th year in scouting... and 2020 is shaping up to be one of the best yet! This year the scouts will participate in many fun activities, including Worcester Community Day, Cub-O-Ree, Fallfest, the Pinewood Derby, and a weekend camping trip, just to name a few! The scouts will also tackle community service projects, such as their annual food drive (they collected over 1,500 items last year!)

The pack includes more than 30 boys and girls, and is always accepting new members! Meetings take place on the first and third Wednesdays each month at Central Schwenkfelder Church at 6:30pm. For more information e-mail Matthew Ryan, Pack Committee Chair, at cubpack200@gmail.com.

Watershed Protection Tip Help conserve water!

Each year millions of gallons of water are lost to leaky pipes. Investing a few dollars to fix leaks not only conserves water, but also lowers your monthly water bill.

Also, if your toilet is more than 25 years old, consider upgrading to a low-flow model. Toilets account for about 30% of total water usage in the average household. That’s a lot of water!

This Watershed Protection Tip is part of Worcester Township’s ongoing efforts to provide public education on stormwater management and to protect our environment.

Tuesday Night Pottery Classes

Session 1: March 3, 10 & 17

Session 2: April 7, 14 & 21

Session 3: May 5, 12 & 19

Pottery Design for Kids

5:00 to 6:30pm

Get your hands dirty, and meet some new friends! Hand build pottery without sitting at the pottery wheel. Kids will tackle a new project each night, designing and creating a piece of their very own.

Pottery Design for Adults

7:00 to 8:30pm

In this class participants will learn the hand building techniques needed to create vases, plates, and more. There will be many textures, stamps, and glazes to choose from.

\$85 per person, per session. All sessions held at Worcester Community Hall, 1031 Valley Forge Road. All materials, and firing included.

To register simply download a Recreation Activity Form at worcestertwp.com, and return this to the Township Building, 1721 Valley Forge Road. For more program information visit potteryworksmobile.com

Recycling Ideas "hold the anchovies"



Pizza boxes are made from cardboard, so they must be recyclable, right? Not necessarily. Cardboard that's soiled by grease and cheese is not recyclable.

When paper products are recycled they are mixed with water and turned into a slurry. Grease and cheese cause oil to form, and when this oil attaches to the paper fibers, the entire batch of slurry is ruined.

So enjoy a slice, then tear out any soiled portions of the pizza box before recycling.

2020 Budget Adopted

CONTINUED

The 2020 Budget document includes easy-to-understand narratives, useful graphics and other helpful information so residents can better understand how their tax dollars are collected and spent. Check it out at worcestertwp.com! 🗨️

Hazardous Waste & Used Tire Collections

Looking for a safe and responsible way to discard used motor oil, an old bottle of weed killer, or Dallas Cowboys jerseys? The good folks at Montgomery County make it easy to dispose of the bad stuff in your home through its annual hazardous household waste collection program. And the service is free for Montgomery County residents!

Montgomery County is also offering separate collection events for used tires. This service is also free for Montgomery County residents, and certain restrictions apply.

Collection event locations, dates and times – and additional event information – are now posted to worcestertwp.com. Questions? Please call the Montgomery County recycling line at (610) 278-3618.



VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS HOURS LOGGED

In 2019 the men and women of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department logged **5,832 hours** conducting drills and responding to calls for help. If these folks were paid firefighters, the estimated cost to Worcester taxpayers for the same number of service hours would total about **\$629,000**.

And if the Township were to employ a *full-time* paid fire department this cost would top \$2 million per year, or about \$180 for each person now living in Worcester!

Our volunteer firefighters may not be paid, but maintaining a dependable volunteer fire department isn't free. The Worcester Volunteer Fire Department is always looking for persons who can help protect our community. But if you don't have the time to volunteer, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to those who are willing to put themselves in harm's way to keep our families safe. 🗨️

Send your contribution to:

1725 Valley Forge Road, Post Office Box 1
Worcester, PA 19490

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The following projects are now under review:

- Mazz Properties - A two-lot single family detached home subdivision at Morris Road.
- Meadowood - Two generator units to service an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.
- Palmer - A subdivision of seven commercial lots and one residential parcel at Skippack Pike and Valley Forge Road.

The following subdivision and land development projects are among those receiving approval in the recent years, and construction has not yet begun:

- Meadowood - A 4,200 sf addition for administrative offices and resident amenities at an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.

- Sparango Construction - An eight single-family detached home subdivision on Berks Road.
- Stony Creek Village - Office, retail and restaurant buildings at North Wales Road & Township Line Road.

The following approved subdivision and land development projects are now under construction:

- Meadowood, The Grove - A 52-unit age-restricted development at an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.
- Reserve at Center Square - A residential subdivision at Skippack Pike that includes 125 townhomes and 125 single-family detached homes.
- Whitehall Estates - A 39 single-family detached home subdivision on Whitehall Road. 🗨️





JUMP START SPORTS

This spring the recreation experts at Jump Start Sports will offer two great programs for wee ones!

Junior All Stars

Don't know what sport you like? Love all sports? No problem! This program offers a different sport every week! Soccer, hockey, basketball, track and field, and more. A fun introduction to sports for boys and girls ages 2 ½ to 4 years old.

Saturdays, April 18 to May 16

10:00am – noon

Heebner Park

\$70, includes t-shirt and award

Little Hoop Stars

Experienced coaches lead this instructional basketball program for children in pre-K through grade 2. Learn the basics of dribbling, passing, shooting, positioning, defense, and rebounding, then take to the court for fun, non-competitive games.

Fridays, April 17 to June 5

(no class 5/15 or 5/22)

Pre-K and K: 6:15pm to 7:00pm

Grades 1 & 2: 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Worcester Elementary School

\$85, includes t-shirt and award

Ready to register? Visit jumpstartsports.com. Got a question? Contact Jen Yuvan at juvan@jumpstartsports.com.

SPORTS PROGRAMS

Tennis Anyone?

The always-popular PSCTA youth tennis program returns in 2020! Children ages 10 & under can learn the sport and develop skills with help of professional coaches from the PennSuburban Community Tennis Association.



Two spring sessions and one summer session will be offered this year...

Spring Session 1:

Wednesdays, April 22 to May 20

Spring Session 2:

Wednesdays, June 3 to July 1

Summer Session:

Wednesdays, July 15 to August 12

All sessions take place at the Heebner Park tennis courts. Children ages 5 to 8 will play from 5:15 to 6:00pm, and children ages 9 and 10 will take to the courts from 6:00 to 7:00pm. \$60 for residents, \$65 for non-residents.

Small Fry Soccer

A soccer program created just for little ones ages 2 to 5! Discover the fun of soccer through games, activities, stories, and music. Led by Methacton High School soccer coaches and players.



Saturdays, March 28 to May 9

(no 5/2 session, session will be held on 5/3)

9:00am to 10:00am at Heebner Park

\$72 residents, \$80 non-residents

To register for Tennis and/or Soccer, complete and submit a Recreation Activity Form, available at worcestertwp.com.

Questions? Contact Steven Heintz, Recreation Coordinator, at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at sheintz@worcestertwp.com.



Methacton Dodgeball Tournament

Games held on Saturday, March 21

Are you ready to watch your friends, family, neighbors, and teachers dodge, duck, dive, dip, and donate? Then join the fun at the 1st Annual Methacton Education Foundation Dodgeball Tournament on Saturday, March 21, from noon to 4pm at the Methacton High School gyms. Cheer on your favorite teams and players! And you'll just love the players' unique and creative costumes!

Admission is only \$5 per person, and all proceeds support the Methacton Education Foundation. Questions? Visit methactonfoundation.org/dodgeball.



Vegas at Variety

March 28 from 6pm-10pm

You can bet on a night of fun at Variety - the Children's Charity's 11th annual Vegas at Variety night on Saturday, March 28 from 6 to 10pm in College Hall at Montgomery County Community College. Try your luck while supporting Variety's cause. Tickets are \$47 in advance (\$55 at the door) and include a great dinner buffet, beverages, and \$25 in chips (chips exchanged for prize drawing tickets). Also help us celebrate our Aces of Variety, the Mossop & Gaul families. Must be 18 or older to attend.

To purchase tickets, and for additional information, visit varietyphila.org/vegas-at-variety.

WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

1721 VALLEY FORGE ROAD
P.O. BOX 767
WORCESTER, PA 19490

HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM
PHONE: (610) 584-1410
FAX: (610) 584-8901
WORCESTERTWP.COM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RICHARD DELELLO, CHAIR
STEPHEN QUIGLEY, VICE CHAIR
SUSAN CAUGHLAN, MEMBER

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What's Happening!

Every Friday afternoon the Township distributes a "Peek at the Week"—a list of Township meetings and community events scheduled for the upcoming seven days, plus other useful information. To get your Peek by e-mail simply enroll for E-News Sign-Up at worcestertwp.com. Peek at the Week is also posted to the Township's Facebook (@worcestertownship) and Twitter (@WorcesterTwp) accounts.



Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 4

Boy Scout Troop 133 will hold its Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Heebner Park at 10am on Saturday, April 4 (rain date Sunday, April 5, 1pm). And the top rabbit himself, the Easter Bunny, will be making a very special appearance this year. So grab a big basket and hop on down to the park! The event is free and open to children of all ages.



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26, 2020
(RAIN DATE SEPTEMBER 27)
HEEBNER PARK
FROM 11AM TO 3PM