

WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

At the Center Point

of Montgomery County



Voting Information

General Election Day is Tuesday, November 2. A list of polling places for Worchester Township is available under the "Living Here Tab" on our website, worcestertwp.com

Some important dates to note:

- Last Day to Register to Vote is October 18.
- Applications for Mail-In or Absentee Ballots must be RECEIVED by Montgomery County Voters Services by 5pm on October 26.
- Voted Ballots must be RECEIVED by Montgomery County Voter Services by 8pm on November 2.

Need additional information? Contact Montgomery County Voter Services at (610) 278-3280, or visit their website at montcopa.org/753/Voter-Services.

FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES

variety
the children's charity
of the delaware valley

MINIMUM \$25 ADULT DONATION KIDS FREE!

FALL FEST

TRICK-OR-TREAT IN A SENSORY FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT!

VARIETY CRAFTS & BAKED GOODS FOR SALE

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9
11:00AM - 2:00PM
AT VARIETY
2950 Potshop Road
Worcester, PA 19490
BUY TICKETS AT
varietyphila.org/fall-fest-tickets

BARBEQUE INCLUDED

BASKET RAFFLES

HALLOWEEN CHARACTER STORYTIME & THEATER

FEATURING ACTORS FROM MCT

LIVE MUSIC



GRANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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: "How do I notify the Township when I have an alarm system installed in my home?"

MARY ANN: "Simply download an Alarm System Registration form from our website, complete, and e-mail the form to me at mmurray@worcestertwp.com. You can also mail the form to the Township Building, or stop in during our regular business hours. And it's free to register your alarm system!"



New Location For Branch Drop-Offs!

The new compost drop-off site will be opened as of September 1st at Nike Park, 1575 North Trooper Road, just south of Potshop Road. The compost site is open on Wednesday and Saturday, from 10am to 2pm.

The Township chips tree branches and makes the mulch available to Township residents at no cost. The mulch, and other materials are available for pick-up at the compost bins that are located near the Public Works Building 24/7 and at our new compost drop-off location during hours of operation. The mulch must be self-loaded... so bring a shovel and someone who owes you a favor.

Worcester Township operates in a fiscally responsible manner. One of the ways the Township helps to function efficiently is to seek grant funding to help offset the cost of needed community improvements.

Over the past several years alone, the Township has worked hard to receive several State and County grants, as well as a few grants from private sources, including the Natural Lands Trust and PECO. Here is just a slice of what the Township has received in the last five years:

| PROJECT | PROJECT COST | GRANT RECEIVED | TOWNSHIP MATCH | PROJECT STATUS |
|--|--------------|----------------|--|--|
| New pavilion and restroom at Mt. Kirk Park | \$331,000 | \$150,000 | \$181,000 | Construction in 2022 |
| One-Mile Extension to the Zacharias Trail | \$652,560 | \$326,200 | \$326,280 (Skiptack to contribute \$45,680) | Design underway, construction in 2022 |
| New Picnic Area at Defford Park | \$13,400 | \$6,700 | \$6,700 | Construction in Fall 2021 |
| Master plan design for improvements at Valley Forge Road | \$700,000 | \$700,000 | \$0 | Project underway, to be completed in 2022 |
| New sound barriers along a portion of the Pennsylvania Turnpike | \$999,604 | \$999,604 | \$0 | Design underway, construction in late 2021 |
| Upgrades to four traffic signal along Skiptack Pike, Valley Forge Road and Germantown Pike | \$277,420 | \$249,680 | \$27,740 | Completed |
| Improved stormwater basin at Defford Park | \$42,804 | \$37,604 | \$7,600 | Completed |
| New pedestrian trail and bridge at Defford Park | \$126,000 | \$63,000 | \$63,000 | Completed |

Total Costs: \$3,142,788
Grants Received: \$2,532,788
Township Funds: \$566,640

As you can see the Township takes grants very seriously and it shows with over \$2.5 million of grant money awarded to Worcester with the Township only needing to expend slightly over \$566,000.

Rest assure that Worcester will continue to research and apply for grant funding to help offset the cost of improvements and projects so that the Township can allow the budget to go further and be used for other services and needs.

The Township would like to extend our appreciation to State Senator Katie Muth and State Representative Matt Bradford for their continued strong support of the Township efforts to obtain grant funding!

For the most up to date list of grants that the Township has been awarded and submitted for funding consideration, please visit worcestertwp.com/departments/administration/grants/.

ZONING AMENDMENT ADOPTED

In June the Township approved an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that updates provisions of the multi-family residential zoning district, which lies at the southern end of the Township, between Germantown Pike and the boundary line to Lower Providence Township. The ordinance also rezoned a fifteen-acre property that abuts this zoning district to allow for multi-family housing.

The change was made to protect the Township from a potential lawsuit that may have resulted in a developer being able to construct apartments at any location in the community. Under Federal and State law every municipality must provide its “fair share” of every housing type. If a municipality doesn’t meet this standard a court can approve a development in any zoning district. While Worcester possesses an ample stock of single-family detached homes and townhomes, fewer than twenty apartment units exist today. Township planners determined this number fell short of the “fair share” standard required by law, leaving Worcester’s ordinance ripe for challenge.

In specific, the adopted ordinance increases permitted density in the multi-family residential zoning district to twelve units per acre from four units per acre. And it allows an additional three units per acre if the developer permanently preserves land in other parts of the Township through the purchase of transfer development rights. The ordinance also increases permitted building height to forty-five feet from thirty feet (*most single-family homes in the Township are permitted at thirty-five feet*).

While most residents don’t welcome increased development in our community, if development happens it is important this occurs in an area of the Township able to accommodate growth. Because the existing multi-family residential zoning district fronts a major roadway (Germantown Pike) and has access to public water and public sewer, increasing allowances in this zoning district proved a better option than re-zoning other lands in the Township for apartments.

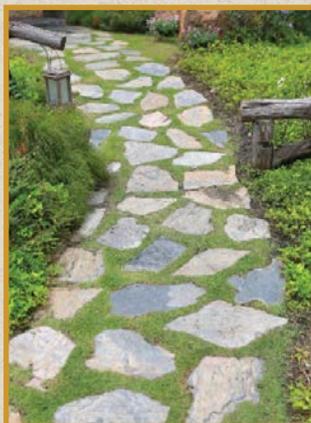


The ordinance amended allowances in the existing multi-family residential zoning district, located between Germantown Pike and Lower Providence Township boundary line, and added one fifteen-acre property to this district. 📍

WATERSHED PROTECTION TIP

Building a new patio or walkway? Consider using flagstones, brick pavers or gravel, as these materials allow stormwater to infiltrate into the local aquifer with minimal run-off. These patios and walkways are often less costly to construct and maintain. That’s a win for our environment and a win for your wallet!

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



Comprehensive Plan Update

For the past year, the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force (CPUTF) has been working to update Worcester’s 2008 Comprehensive Plan, our community’s primary planning guide. Task Force members have carefully reviewed each chapter in the plan, and are now finalizing recommended updates to the plan that will help our Township address key issues throughout the years to come.

The CPUTF will wrap-up their work in the coming weeks. The draft plan will then be considered by the Planning Commission, before being submitted to the Board of Supervisors for review and adoption.

Worcester Township, along with planners from Montgomery County, will conduct an open house for residents wanting to review the draft plan on Wednesday, October 27 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at Worcester Community Hall, 1031 Valley Forge Road. This informal event will feature stations that display information regarding each chapter of the plan. Light refreshments will be served. For more information visit worcestertwp.com or our Facebook page, @WorcesterTownship.

Questions about the Comprehensive Plan? E-mail us at cpu@worcestertwp.com.

Days Gone By

Morris Road was constructed in 1741, primarily to connect two grist mills. A majestic locust tree stood in the middle of the roadway, requiring horse-drawn wagons to travel around it. The tree was removed several years later, to better accommodate the increased speed of modern transportation.

Source: *A History of Worcester Township*.

Join Scouts!

Worcester Cub Pack 200 is looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year and having new members join their pack! Pack 200 is family-friendly, and includes boys and girls in grades K to five!



Pack 200 successfully navigated challenges throughout the pandemic... meeting in person, and safely conducting many great events. The past year's activities included Fallfest, hiking expeditions, a fishing derby, tractor rides, a pool party, and a model rocket program!

Interested in joining the fun? Contact cubpack200@gmail.com and ask about Pack 200's kickoff event this Fall!



EMS Coverage Areas Updated

The Township recently established new EMS coverage areas for the four ambulance companies that serve our community. Area boundaries were drawn so to assign homes to the nearest stationed ambulance. To view the coverage areas visit the Public Safety page at worcestertwp.com.

Questions about the new coverage areas? Please contact the Township Building at (610) 584-1410.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The following projects are now under review:

- **Huganir** – An eight-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Artmar Road.
- **Palmer** – Seven commercial lots and one residential parcel at Skippack Pike & Valley Forge Road.
- **Palmer Village** – An eleven-lot single-family detached home subdivision, with a bank, convenience store, and pharmacy, at Skippack Pike & 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:

- **Bethel Development Associates** – A two-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Skippack Pike.
- **Gunsalas Tract** – A three-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Mill Road.
- **Mandracchia** – A two-lot single-family

detached home subdivision at Stump Hall Road.

- **Meadowood** – A 4,200 sf addition for administrative offices and resident amenities at an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.
- **Sparango Construction** – An eight-lot single-family detached home subdivision at 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** – A 20-bed memory care facility 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 at Whitehall Road.

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... Mini Candy Bars to be exact. And lots of them.

How many Mini Candy Bars are in the fish bowl is your guess, and if your guess is the closest to the actual number you'll win the candy, and sweet bragging rights.

Submit your guess at the Township Building, before 4:00 pm on October 15. One guess per person please. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter.



And congratulations to Gavin Wright whose guess of 250 came closest to the actual number of hard candies & lollipops (287) in the fishbowl in our last contest. Gavin, 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!*). 🐟

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS HOURS LOGGED

Through the first six months of 2021, the men and women of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department logged 4,533 hours conducting drills and responding to calls for help. If this department were paid firefighters, the estimated cost to Worcester taxpayers for the same number of service hours would total about \$489,564.

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 individuals who can help protect and serve 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:
Worcester Volunteer Fire Department
1725 Valley Forge Road
Post Office Box 1
Worcester, PA 19490



6TH ANNUAL WORCESTER TOWNSHIP FOOD DRIVE

It's that time of year again... 'tis the season for giving! Last year we received an overwhelming response from residents, businesses and community organizations to assist those in need. And in 2021 there will likely be even more families who need our help.

Food items can be dropped off at the Township Building, 1721 Valley Forge Road, Monday to Friday, 7:00 am to 4:30 pm. The last date to drop-off donations is Thursday, November 18.

For residents who want to give, but are unable to stop by the Township Building during normal business hours, the Township is offering two convenient pick-up days! Just leave your donation in a paper bag at the front door, and we'll do the rest. Pick-ups must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance of collection.

The two pick-up days are...

- Thursday, November 4
- Thursday, November 11

To schedule a pick-up, please call the Township Building at (610) 584-1410.

All food collected will be donated to the local Salvation Army Food Cupboard.

Please note that we can't accept expired goods, homemade items or any food in glass containers. 🐾



Fire Safety Tip From The Fire Marshal

The fall is a great time to tackle various home improvement projects. Please keep in mind that oily rags and the materials themselves can spontaneously combust. According to the NFPA, an average of 900 home fires per year are started when oily rags catch fire or are ignited. Also, an average of 1,700 home fires per year are caused by instances of spontaneous combustion or chemical reaction.

Should you have any questions regarding proper storage and disposal of oily rags, please contact the Fire Marshal at dcornish@worcestertwp.com. Have a safe and wonderful fall season!

Toys For Tots Collection

Last year, this community really came through and provided several bins full of toys to help give someone else a special holiday!



This year, the Worcester Township Building will again serve as a drop-off location for the Toys for Tots program. You can help the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve deliver a memorable holiday to those in our community who are less fortunate.

Stop in to donate a new, unwrapped gift up to December 15. The Township Building is open Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 4:30pm. (Please note we'll be closed on November 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday.)

Used toys, realistic-looking toy weapons and items containing food can't be accepted.

For more information about the Toys for Tots Program please visit toysfortots.org.

HOME COOKIN' AT MEADOWOOD

By Meadowood Residents and Novice Bakers Sheila and Don Falcone



METHACTON APEX AWARDS

Congratulations to Methacton Apex Award Honorees!

The Methacton Education Foundation will honor the best of the best from the Methacton Community at Blue Bell Country Club on Thursday, September 30, from 6 to 9pm. Join them in celebrating the 2021 Methacton Apex Award Honorees and support a great cause for innovative educational opportunities for Methacton Students. For tickets, sponsorships, and other information please visit MethactonFoundation.org/Apex.

Who's Knocking?

Door-to-door sales in Worcester Township are allowed by permit only. To obtain a permit all solicitors must provide photo identification, complete a criminal records check, and abide by certain regulations in the Township Code. Solicitors must also carry their Township-issued permit at all times, and make it available to property owners.

Worcester Township lists active solicitation permits under the news section of the website, worcestertwp.com. If someone's selling in your neighborhood and they are not listed on our website, call the Township Building at (610) 584-1410.

Please note that local government can't require religious organizations, political candidates and certain non-profit advocates to obtain a permit... as the courts have ruled that doing so infringes on free speech rights. But property owners have the final say as to whether any solicitor is allowed on their properties. So consider posting a "no solicitation" sign on your property if you want to stop commercial and non-commercial solicitors from interrupting dinner.

While the Falcone family is from north of Rome, the maternal side of the family is from southwest Italy, near the toe of the boot in the Calabria area, not too far a drive from Sorrento. The family owned an olive grove in Calabria consisting of approximately 20 hectares. Consequently, when an Adriatic cruise came up and Sorrento was one of the stops, we could hardly turn it down. While we did not get to Calabria, we did eat local foods that included several lemon and olive oil delights.

Sorrento is the capital of lemon growing in Italy. We are not great bakers, but we wanted to have it recently for a holiday dinner. We ordered from a boutique bakery in Manhattan. We ordered it in time, days before we needed it. At the last minute, they cancelled the order and we decided to be brave and make it ourselves. We bought all of the ingredients and a new 9-inch springform pan. After all, why would we keep our old pans when we moved to Meadowood!

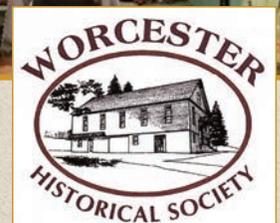
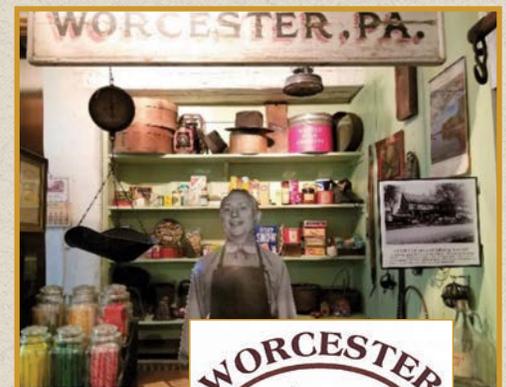
While we were preparing it, Amazon left a package at our door. It was the olive oil cake. We now had two olive oil cakes for two people, and due to the pandemic, no way to share them. We tasted both and we were thrilled that our cake was delicious and more moist than the boutique cake. It must have been the Limoncello. It was so much closer to the tastes we remembered from that beautiful day on the Plaza in Sorrento.

Most of the ingredients you probably already have on the shelf, but they are readily available which makes it easy to prepare. It freezes well and will stay fresh for quite awhile after defrosting. Mangia! 🍷

WORCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Worcester Historical Society is open on Saturdays from 9am to noon. The museum is located at 2011 Valley Forge Road. Please stop in and enjoy the many fascinating exhibits and artifacts, and reconnect with some old friends, including Mr. Allebach, our community shopkeep!

And don't forget to mark your calendar for our next Flea Market on October 2 from 8:00am - 2:00pm at Community Hall 1031 Valley Forge Road. 🍷



WHEN SOMEONE PUTS A SIGN ON YOUR PROPERTY...

Has someone planted a sign on your property? Here's some helpful information when addressing these pesky postings:

- It's a violation of Township Code to place a sign on any property without the property owner's permission.
- Signs are only permitted on the property where the activity is taking place. For example, "for sale" signs are allowed to be posted only at the property being sold.
- In addition to being a nuisance, roadside signs can create a hazardous condition if they distract motorists or block sight lines.



Property Owners may remove any sign that was placed on your property without your permission. You may also contact the sign owner to request that a sign posted on your property be removed. If the owner will not remove the sign, please contact the Township at (610) 584-1410 to request enforcement action. 🚫

PSCTA TENNIS

The always popular PSCTA youth tennis program is back! Children ages 10 and under have the opportunity to learn this great sport, and continue developing skills with the help of the professional staff of PennSuburban Community Tennis Association.



Heebner Park Tennis Courts

Wednesdays, September 8 to October 6

Ages 5 to 8: 5:15-6:00pm

Ages 9 & 10: 6:00-7:00pm

Cost: \$60 per resident, \$65 per non-resident.

To enroll simply complete a registration form at worcestertwp.com, and return this to the Township Building.

Questions? Please contact Mary Ann Murray at mmurray@worcestertwp.com, or at (610) 584-1410.



Recycle Hazardous Household Waste, Electronics & More

Montgomery County will host two hazardous household waste recycling events this Fall...



Saturday, Sept. 25

Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center
400 South Lewis Road, Royersford

Sunday, Oct. 24

Lower Merion Transfer Station
1300 North Woodbine Avenue, Penn Valley

You must pre-register to participate in either event! For complete program information – including a detailed list of acceptable materials – visit worcestertwp.com, montcoparecycles.org, e-mail recycling@montcopa.org, or call the Montgomery County recycling line at (610) 278-3618.

While Montgomery County is not offering electronic recycling events, all County residents are able to schedule curbside pickups for electronics and clothing.



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.



At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

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

Presorted
Standard Mail
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit #50
West Chester, PA

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Richard DeLello, Chair
Lou Betz, Vice Chair
Stephen Quigley, Member



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.



STAY CONNECTED:

Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram
E-News Signup at Worcestertwp.com



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 Bob Boone, who was the first to correctly identify Sunny Brook Park in our last newsletter.