

WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

2019 BUDGET ADOPTED

No New Taxes, No Tax Increases



WORCESTER SCENES

Good Morning

Heebner Park at dawn.

Photo credit: Molly's Country Kennels.

2019 SEWER FEES

Residential and commercial sewer fees for properties connected to the Worchester Township sanitary sewer system will increase by 0.5% in 2019. For residential customers the fee will increase by about \$0.22 per month, to \$131.40 from \$130.75 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.

The Board of Supervisors adopted the 2019 Budget at their monthly Business Meeting on December 19. The Budget includes no new taxes and no tax increases, and maintains the higher-quality services and programs our community enjoys today.

The Township's real estate tax will remain at 0.05 mills in the coming year...that's the lowest municipal millage rate in Montgomery County! This means that the owner of a property in Worchester Township that is assessed at \$400,000 pays \$20 in property tax to the Township.

The Budget funds more than \$835,000 in road improvements, to keep our roadway network safe and in good repair. In addition, the Budget increases the Township's contributions to the Worchester Township Volunteer Fire Department, our community's all-volunteer emergency service provider, and the Norristown Library, our community's public library.

The Budget provides a 0.5% increase in residential and commercial sewer rates in 2019. For residential customers the sewer rate will increase by about \$0.22 per month.

The 2019 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! 🐾

SUMMER HELP WANTED

Worchester Township is hiring seasonal Public Works laborers for this summer. This position cuts grass at Township parks and properties, and assists our Public Works Department in tackling a variety of projects. Experience is not necessary, but you must be at least 18 and dependable.

This is a perfect job for a student who is coming home for the summer...someone who wants to do more than Instagram all day (and no, you can't Instagram while mowing grass). So help mom and dad with those pesky tuition payments by contacting Bob D'Hulster, Public Works Director, at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at bdhulster@worcestertwp.com. 🐾

GROWING BETTER

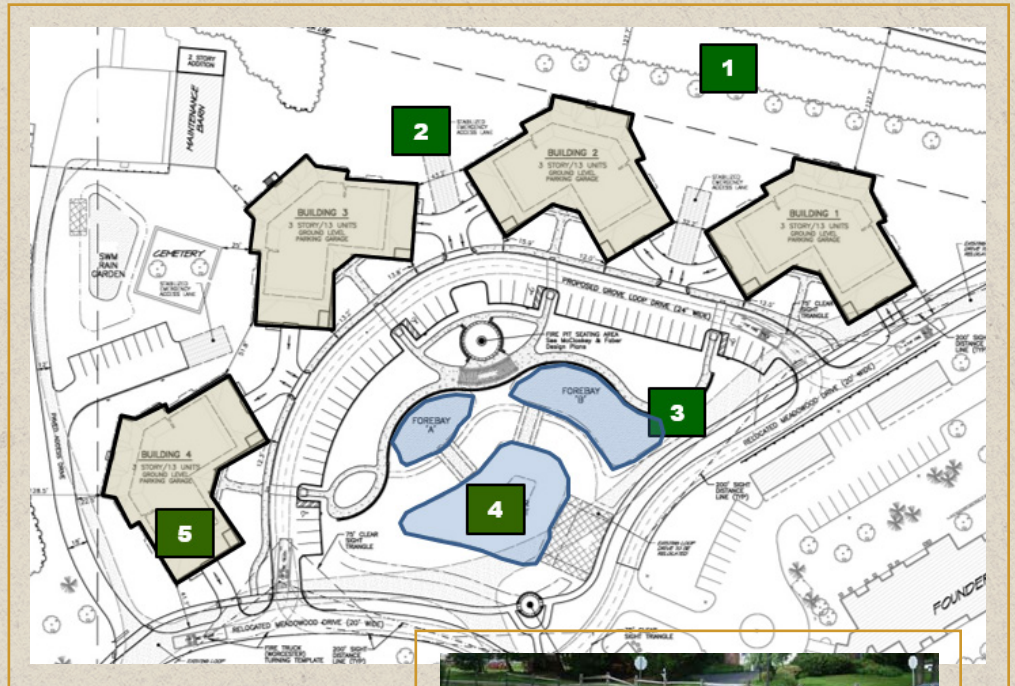
Development stinks...who doesn't want to end new construction and preserve areas forever? That's why Worcester Township works to preserve open spaces whenever possible.

But sometimes property owners decide to develop their land in accordance with Federal, State and local laws. And while some folks may wish otherwise, municipal officials must respect these laws, and the private property rights, for all property owners.

So when development happens, Worcester Township works hard to ensure the project is done right, provides value to our community, and complements the Township's history and landscapes. To see how, let's take a look at one recently-approved development:

Meadowood

- 52 age-restricted living units (four 13-unit buildings)
- 3205 Skippack Pike
- Approved 2018, now under construction



A landscaped forebay

- 1** Over 100 evergreen trees will be planted between the new buildings and neighboring residential properties. The trees will buffer the views of the buildings.
- 2** Emergency access areas will be provided between the buildings. This area is sized to accommodate a fire engine, giving first responders quick and direct access to the structures.
- 3** New sidewalks will be constructed, and the sidewalks will connect to a proposed campus-wide pathway system.
- 4** An attractive man-made water feature will double as a stormwater retention basin. Two landscaped forebays will filter stormwater pollutants and recharge the local aquifer.
- 5** Each building will include indoor parking. This reduces the need for larger parking areas and additional impervious surfaces (visitor parking areas are shown on the plan).

Want more information on how Worcester Township is growing better? Contact Township Manager Tommy Ryan at the Township Building at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at tryan@worcestertwp.com.

WATERSHED PROTECTION TIP

On-lot septic systems

Does your property have an on-lot septic system? If yes, be sure to have the system inspected and serviced by a professional technician at least once every two years. Failing septic systems can send harmful plumes of nitrogen, phosphorous, and bacteria into nearby waterways, threatening plant and animal life and endangering local water supplies.

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

"IN THE PARK" PROGRAMS

Great Programs in Heebner Park!

WALKING IN THE PARK

The aerobic sport of brisk, rhythmic walking will get your blood pumping. Improve cardiovascular strength, lose weight, and reduce stress. For all fitness levels. Walks led by professional and perky Kinetix Sports Club instructors.

Session 1, Fridays, May 10 to June 28
Session 2, Fridays, July 5 to August 23

All sessions are held at the large pavilion at Heebner Park, 8am to 9am. \$20 for residents, \$22 for non-residents.

YOGA IN THE PARK

Increase your flexibility and strengthen your mind and body. For all fitness levels. Bring a mat and water bottle. Sessions led by talented and tranquil Kinetix Sports Club instructors.

Session 1, Tuesdays, May 7 to June 25
Session 2, Tuesdays, July 2 to August 20

All sessions are held at the large pavilion at Heebner Park, 7pm to 8pm. \$50 for residents, \$60 for non-residents.

ZUMBA IN THE PARK

Dance your way to better health. This Latin-style dance class is for all fitness levels. Sessions led by experienced and energetic Kinetix Sports Club instructors.

Session 1, Tuesdays, May 7 to June 25
Session 2, Tuesdays, July 2 to August 20

All sessions are held at the large pavilion at Heebner Park, 6pm to 7pm. \$50 for residents, \$60 for non-residents.



Want to register for an "In The Park" Program? Visit worcestertwp.com to download a recreation activity form.

Questions about an "In The Park" Program? Contact Recreation Coordinator Steven Heintz at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at sheintz@worcestertwp.com.

BIRD-WATCHING WALKS

April 13, May 25 and June 15

Track and enjoy local birds along the Zacharias Trail with wildlife expert Vince Smith, Valley Forge Audubon Society. Each walk begins at 8am at the small pavilion at Heebner Park, and all walks are free!

April 13 – Search for residents and early spring migrants

May 25 – Search for residents and late spring migrants

June 15 – Search for avian breeding activity

Open to children, beginners and non-birders. Registration not required. Dress for the weather, and bring binoculars!

AMERICAN RED CROSS CERTIFIED BABYSITTING CLASS

This in-demand class provides tweens and teens with the confidence and skills needed to properly care for little ones. In addition, this certification is often required by employers looking to hire camp counselors and others who care for children. Upon successful completion of the course all participants will receive an ARC Certification Card. Open to great and responsible babysitters ages 11 to 15.

Sunday, May 5

9am to 3pm
Worcester Community Hall
1031 Valley Forge Road

Seats are limited, and participants must register at least one week prior to the class. \$70 for residents, \$75 for non-residents. And please bring a pencil, a snack and lunch! To register contact Recreation Coordinator Steven Heintz at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at sheintz@worcestertwp.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Want to get involved in your local government? Then check out the list of open positions on Worcester Township boards, commissions and committees now posted at worcestertwp.com. Just click the "Volunteer" link at the top of the home page to learn more!

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-packets of Skittles, Starburst, and Gummies, to be exact. And lots of them.

How many 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 Rob Colentonio, whose guess of 90 came closest to the actual number of candy canes (96) in the fishbowl in our last contest. Rob, 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!).

SPORTS PROGRAMS

FREE LITTLE LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

**A Whole New
Ballgame** by
Phil Bildner
Reviewed by
Mike Daniels (9
years old)



The Story... The book is about Red and Rip, who are best friends and go to school together. The school has a new teacher, who does not give tests and does some wacky things. The kids must figure out how to handle these changes, and how to get along with this new teacher.

My Favorite Part... My favorite part is when the kids play basketball, since I like basketball. It also is funny to see what the teacher does.

My Recommendation... I give the book 5 stars, and I think it is good for boys my age.

Thank you, Mike, for an amazing book review!

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.

DAYS GONE BY

Valley Forge Road was once known as Pawlings Ford Road. The roadway connected Lansdale to Pawlings Ford, which was located on the Schuylkill River in present-day Valley Forge Park. Pawling's Ford served as an important river crossing, and a rope ferry was operated there prior to the Revolutionary War.

Source: *A History of Worcester Township and Sonja Keohane*

TENNIS

This popular program offered by the PennSuburban Community Tennis Association (PSCTA) returns to courts at Heebner Park this year. The scaled-to-size equipment and playing area allows children to play the game with ease, which increases the likelihood that they will keep playing throughout the years to come.

The five-session fee is \$60 per player, \$65 for non-residents. Visit worcestertwp.com to download a recreation activity form.

SPRING SESSION 1

Five Wednesdays, April 17 to May 15

Ages 5-7 4:30 to 5:15pm

Ages 8-10 5:15 to 6:15pm

Rain Date: May 22

SPRING SESSION 2

Five Wednesdays, May 29 to June 26

Ages 5-7 4:30 to 5:15pm

Ages 8-10 5:15 to 6:15pm

Rain Date: July 3

SUMMER SESSION 1

Five Wednesdays, July 10 to August 7

Ages 5-7 4:30 to 5:15pm

Ages 8-10 5:15 to 6:15pm

Rain Date: August 14

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.



Heyser Field, 1031 Valley Forge Road
Sundays, March 24 to May 12

1pm to 2pm

\$65 residents, \$75 non-residents

Visit worcestertwp.com to download a recreation activity form.

MBA SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

Methacton Baseball Association spring sports registration is now open! Boys and girls can sign-up for tee-ball, baseball and softball, then take the field at the beautiful new facilities at Francesco A. Mascaro Memorial Park, located across the street from Woodland Elementary School. Practices begin in late March, weather permitting, and games start the first week of April.

For more information and to register simply visit methactonbaseball.siplay.com (online registration is strongly preferred). Folks with questions, and those unable to register online, may contact Player Agent George Baker at (610) 454-7864, or by e-mail at methactonbaseball@gmail.com.



JUMBO START SPORTS

This spring the recreation experts at Jump Start Sports will offer the following two great programs! Visit jumpstartsports.com to register and for more information.

T-BIRDS T-BALL

A fun introduction to baseball for boys and girls ages 3 to 5.

Saturdays, April 6 to May 18

9:30am to 10:30am

Heebner Park

\$85, includes t-shirt and hat

FLAG FOOTBALL

Boys and girls in grades K to 2 will have a blast learning football basics in a fun and safe environment. All equipment will be provided.

Saturdays, April 6 to May 18

11am to 12pm

Heebner Park

\$85, includes t-shirt

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 57 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 storm water 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 2019 include the repaving of:

- Dell Road;
- Heebner Road;
- Hollow Road;
- Morris Road; and,
- West Point Pike.

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. 🚧

LEARN CPR TODAY

This stress-free and interactive course provides life-saving instructions on American Heart Association HeartSaver CPR, and training on choking responses for adults, children and infants. All participants will become CPR-certified at course end. Pre-registration is required at least one week before the course.



Saturday, March 23, 10:00am to 12:30pm

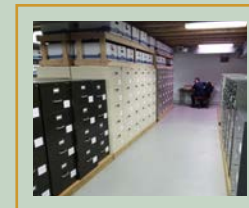
Worcester Community Hall
1031 Valley Forge Road
\$60 residents, \$65 non-residents

Visit worcestertwp.com to download a recreation activity form. Questions? Contact Recreation Coordinator Steven Heintz at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at sheintz@worcestertwp.com.

CALL TO ORDER

Worcester staff recently reorganized the Township's administrative filing systems. All project, property, subdivision, street and zoning files were reviewed and indexed. In addition, thousands of documents were scanned to the Township's GIS database. The improvements will help staff to quickly locate and retrieve important documents when needed.

To protect the files in the unlikely event of flooding, filing cabinets and shelves were elevated above the floor by a few inches. And all cabinet drawers and archive boxes were neatly labeled.



Nathan (center), part-time File Clerk, keeps the filing system in good order. Nathan is a full-time student and a volunteer

firefighter with the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department.

HOME COOKIN' AT MEADOWOOD

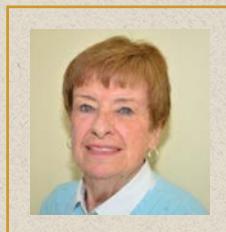
by Meadowood Senior Living Resident and Amateur Chef Sid Harris

My husband and I were attending a Couples Club Dinner Party where each guest brought a special dish. This dessert – Apple Cake – was enjoyed so much that we asked the hostess if she would share the recipe.

The first time I used the recipe was on a mountain get away with my family. It was so easy, and everyone enjoyed it. It is a foolproof recipe. It quickly became the favorite family recipe.

My Bridge Club now requests this dessert for our gatherings. It's an "Oldie" but "Goodie."

-Sid Harris, Meadowood Senior Living



HOW-TO FOR HOME GARDENERS

Get your green thumb on and join Penn State Extension Master Gardener Thom Mrazik for three fun and **free** talks that are sure to better your home gardens!



Proper Care, Healthy Trees

Monday, March 18, 6pm to 7pm

Healthy trees are a focal point of enjoyable gardens. Learn how to properly plant, mulch and prune.

Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants

Monday, April 22, 6pm to 7pm

Healthy soil is needed to maintain robust plants. Learn how to test, improve and maintain fertile soils!

Make Your Beautiful Garden Pollinator-Friendly

Monday, June 3, 6pm to 7pm

Nutritious nectar and pollen and a safe garden habitat are keys to helping pollinators thrive. Learn how to best support summer-time pollinators.

All talks held at Community Hall, 1031 Valley Forge Road. Pre-registration is required! Visit worcestertwp.com to download a recreation activity form.

ASK JENN

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

RESIDENT: "Does the Township require a home to be inspected before it's sold?"

JENN: "The Township does not require an inspection if you are selling a single-family home or townhome. But a use and occupancy inspection and permit are needed if you're selling a commercial property or an apartment building."

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE NOW UNDER REVIEW:

- Palmer - A subdivision of seven commercial lots and one residential parcel at Skippack Pike and Valley Forge Road.
- Sparango Construction - An eight single-family detached home subdivision on Berks Road.

THE FOLLOWING SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ARE AMONG THOSE RECEIVING APPROVAL IN THE RECENT YEARS, AND CONSTRUCTION HAS NOT YET BEGUN:

- Adesso - A two single-family detached home subdivision on Hollow Road.
- Himsworth - A three single-family detached home subdivision on Hollow Road.
- Meadowood - A 4,200 sf addition for administrative offices and resident amenities at an existing retirement community at Skippack Pike.
- 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:

- IBEW - A 17,300 sf addition to an existing training facility at Germantown Pike.
- 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.
- Sycamore Estates - A 12 single-family detached home subdivision at Berks Road & Weber Road.
- Whitehall Estates - A 39 single-family detached home subdivision on Whitehall Road.

All plans are available for public review at the Township Building, Monday to Friday, 7:00am to 4:30pm. 🗺️

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS HOURS FOR 2018

In 2018 the men and women of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department logged 4,989 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 more than \$533,800.

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:
Worcester Volunteer Fire Department
1725 Valley Forge Road
Post Office Box 1
Worcester, PA 19490

VEGAS AT VARIETY

Try your luck and enjoy a night of fun and games with Variety – the Children’s Charity!



Variety will host its 10th Annual “Vegas at Variety” fundraiser on Saturday, April 6 at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell from 7pm to 11pm. The evening includes a buffet, drinks, casino games (poker, craps, roulette, and blackjack), DJ, photo booth, and terrific prizes.

Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$55 at the door and include food, beverages, and \$25 in chips. Chips will be exchanged for prize drawing tickets. Must be 18 or older to attend.

To purchase tickets visit <http://varietyphila.org/what-we-do/events/fundraisers/vegas-at-variety/>. 🐭

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION

Looking for a safe and responsible way to discard used motor oil, an old bottle of weed killer, or your son’s 8th-grade science experiment gone awry? 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! (Business and industrial wastes are not accepted).

2019 collection locations and dates had not been announced at the time this newsletter went to print. But the first collection event is normally held in mid-April, so be sure to check montcoparecycles.org for this important information!

For more information – including a detailed list of acceptable materials – visit montcoparecycles.org, e-mail recycling@montcopa.org, or call the Montgomery County recycling line at (610) 278-3618. 🐭

FREE STAR PARTY!

Reach for the sky at the Methacton School District’s annual Community Star Party at the Mallon Planetarium, Arcola Intermediate School, on Saturday, April 27, 6:30pm to 10:00pm.

Terrific events are conducted every half-hour, enjoy as many as you wish! Events include:

- Planetarium shows
- Scale solar system hikes
- A moon phase demonstration
- Sunset, twilight & solar viewings
- Searching the sky with real telescopes

And at 9:30pm there will be a StarTalk under real stars... so be sure to bring your blanket and binoculars!



The event is free, but pre-registration is encouraged. Visit methacton.org/planetarium to pre-register and for more information.

The Methacton Education Foundation is a proud supporter of the Methacton Mallon Planetarium! 🐭

MAKING CENTS

Saving taxpayer money is one of the things Worcester Township does best! Here’s another example of a step we’re taking today to keep our financial position secure tomorrow.

What we did...

Direct billing for sanitary sewer expenses.

The background...

Some municipalities that contract for wastewater operator services require their contractor to pay for expenses like water testing, chemical purchases and sludge removal. The contractor then includes these expenses, “marked-up” to cover the contractor’s overhead, in the monthly fee charged to the municipality.

The step taken...

Worcester is direct-billed for water testing, chemical purchases and sludge removal. The companies that provide these services submit invoices directly to the Township, and Township staff confirms that all charges are accurate before any bill is paid. The approach avoids having to pay the contractor’s mark-up for processing and paying bills on the municipality’s behalf.

How much we saved...

In 2018 the Township paid \$61,000 for required water testing, chemical purchases and sludge removal services. Assuming a modest five percent mark-up, this saved more than \$3,000 last year!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

The Worcester Historical Society’s museum at Farmers Union Hall will re-open for the 2019 season on Saturday, April 6. The museum will be open every Saturday from 9am to noon through mid-November. If you missed the new Wogglebug exhibit last fall, visit the museum this spring to watch the trolley travel through Center Point Village as it looked 100 years ago!

The Worcester Historical Society’s annual Antiques & Collectibles Market will be held Saturday, May 4, at 8 am at Community Hall and Heyser Field, Fairview Village. For early reservations and vendor information visit worcesterhistorical.org or call (610) 613-3878.

WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

PRSRT Std
US Postage Paid
Southeastern, PA
Permit No. 50



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
SUSAN CAUGHLAN, VICE CHAIR
STEPHEN QUIGLEY, MEMBER

STAY CONNECTED:
TWITTER, FACEBOOK, AND
E-NEWS SIGNUP AT WORCESTERTWP.COM



EASTER EGG HUNT!

Saturday, April 13

Rain Date: Sunday, April 14

Boy Scout Troop 133 will hold its Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Heebner Park at 10am to noon on Saturday, April 13 (rain date Sunday, April 14 at 8am). And making a very special appearance this year will be the Easter Bunny himself! So grab a big basket, and hop on down to the park! The event is free, and open to children of all ages.



SHEEP SHEARING

Saturday, April 13, 10:00am-3:00pm

Come to the Peter Wentz Farmstead to watch farmers shear the sheep, and experience fun spring activities on a colonial farm. Little ones can play with colonial toys, build a scarecrow, and take in a puppet show. And all ages will enjoy open-hearth cooking, farm tours, spinning and weaving demonstrations, colonial music, and historical craft-making. A \$2 per person donation is kindly suggested. For more information contact the Peter Wentz Farmstead at (610) 584-5104.



**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 28, 2019**

MORE INFORMATION TO COME