

WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO PURCHASE DUTCHIE CHURCH



How Much Candy is in the Fishbowl?

There is a fish bowl in the lobby of the Worchester Township Building. And in this fish bowl there is yummy candy! If your guess is closest to the actual number, you'll win the candy, and sweet bragging rights!

Submit your guess at the Township Building, or by e-mail to mmurray@worcestertwp.com, before 4:00 pm on November 3rd, 2023. One guess per person please. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter.

And congratulations to **Michele Motley**, who was our closest in the last round with a guess of 121 (there was a total of 126!) Enjoy, Michele!

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

Founded in 1845 by German Methodists (known specifically as “Albrightists”) the church was built from a stone foundation common for its time. Other unique features include two entryways (one for women and one for men) and a secret trap door leading to an underground space and tunnel leading to the rear of the property. It is rumored this space may have been used as part of the Underground Railroad given the Albrightist sect were devout abolitionists.



The Church congregation dissolved in 1961, and the building was sold in 1966. It was purchased by the Worchester Historical Society in 1978 and has been kept up by volunteers, Eagle Scout Projects, and donations from Friends of the Worchester Historical Society and other local supporters. However, the building and its upkeep costs have been a financial challenge for the Historical Society, leading to the difficult decision to sell the property.

The township is acquiring more than a 178-year-old Teutonic structure with 2-foot-thick stonewalls. The property’s natural setting itself has significance unique to Worchester. In the corner is a massive, red oak of 250 years plus, one of the oldest trees in the township. Next to the cemetery is the “Dutchie Oak,” a white oak almost 20 feet tall which was planted from an acorn of the “Methacton Oak” which graced our township for nearly 400 years. The sapling was raised in the Meadowood Nursey and planted in 2012. Many more trees, plants and bushes native to Worchester are in abundance and make this setting worth preserving.

Recognizing the historical value of the structure, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to purchase the property for \$159,000 from the Historical Society at the July meeting. The Township will now begin the task of working with the Historical Society, advisory board members, and community to help identify potential uses for the structure and property, which is also the final resting place of 81 members of the congregation, many of them founding members of the community. 🐾

CURBSIDE LEAF PICK-UP

Worcester Township Food Drive

Most Worcester Township residents never have to worry about finding their next meal or feeding a family. Others are less fortunate.



As the season of giving approaches please remember those in need by giving to the Annual Worcester Township Food Drive. Food items can be dropped off at the Township Building, 1721 Valley Forge Road, Monday to Friday, 7:00 am to 4:30 pm.

For residents who want to give, but who 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 at the front door, and we'll do the rest. Pick-ups must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance of the collection date.

The two pick-up days are:

- Thursday, November 2
- Thursday, November 16

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

All food collected will be donated to Manna on Main, a local food pantry serving residents in the Lansdale area.

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



Worcester Township will offer curbside pick-up of bagged leaves. The service is free for all residents. Leaves collected will be composted at the Nike Park Compost Site.

Bagged leaves will be collected on three days:

- Wednesday, October 25
- Wednesday, November 15
- Wednesday, December 6

Residents must schedule a pick-up no later than 4pm on the Monday before collection day. Pick-ups can be scheduled by e-mail at leafpickup@worcestertwp.com, or by calling the Township Building at (610) 584-1410. Simply provide your street address and the estimated number of bags, and we'll do the rest!



Some important information:

- Leaves must be placed in 100% biodegradable paper bags. Trash bags, cardboard boxes, and other containers can't be accepted. Loose leaves won't be collected.
- Bags must include leaves only. Sticks, mulch, stones, grass, any other materials can't be accepted.

Bagged leaf drop-off will be accepted at the Nike Park Compost Site. The Compost Site is open Wednesday and Saturday, from 10am to 2pm, excluding certain holidays.

Visit worcestertwp.com for the Compost Site holiday schedule. 🗓️

WORCESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

On October 28th from 11:00am to 2:00pm, stop by the Worcester Firehouse for the housing of their new Ladder Truck. All are welcome to attend and check out the fire trucks, stop by one of the food trucks, or try some of the other fun activities!

You can also see the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department on October 7th at Merrymead Farms. Come on out to see our trucks and get fire prevention materials! The rain date for this event is October 14th.

If you interesting in helping your local Fire Department we are always looking for new members! You can contact us at join@worcesterfd.com. If you do not have time to volunteer but still want to help, please considering donating to us. Visit our website at www.worcesterfd.com/donate for all the ways to donate. Thank you for your support! 🗓️



2023 Fire Department Stats (through July):

- 191 calls
- 2,761 man hours for calls
- 2,772 man hours for drills

LOCAL FOLKS MAKING AN IMPACT

During your next hike along the Zacharias Trail to Heebner Park, you may notice something new. The Board of Supervisors would like to thank Jianna Kim for her work recognizing local volunteers like Scott Otterbein and Katie Malcolm, Coaches for the Special Olympians of the *Wicked Fast Long-Distance Running and Walking Team*. 🐾



Branch and Leaf Drop-Off Location - Nike Park!

The branch drop-off site is open at Nike Park, 1575 North Trooper Road, just south of Potshop Road will be open two days a week Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10am to 2pm from March-October. The location will be open on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm (from November-February). The holiday season is right around the corner, and our holiday tree drop will be open 24/7 to collect trees outside of the gates at Nike Park from December 25 through January.



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 branch drop-off location during hours of operation. Please note the mulch must be self-loaded.

For more information and the most up to date schedule, please visit www.worcestertwp.com/departments/public-works/branch-drop-off-site/.

HOME COOKIN' AT MEADOWOOD

By Christine Pacitti, Strategic Team Member at Meadowood Community

Christine Pacitti, Strategic Team member at Meadowood Community in the role of Senior Director of Dining Services. I have been overseeing the dining services for eight years. I live in Barto, PA with my husband and my two dogs. I like to cook for my family, and I enjoy gardening and camping.



OMELETS IN A BAG!

For years a dear friend of mine would invite several couples/families over for Father's Day breakfast. One of my favorites was the year that she introduced us to "Omelets in a bag." It was so much fun creating your own omelet and watching the activity as many of our friends were intrigued with the idea. I hope you will enjoy this activity with your friends and family.

You will need eggs, Ziplock "freezer" sandwich bags, a black sharpie, large stock pot of water and a heat source (either stove, grill or open fire).

- Put your pot of water on to boil. Using a black sharpie write your name on the bag. Use a cup or a small bowl to support your plastic bag while you prepare your omelet.
- Open the bag, and add your ingredients such as bacon, ham, sausage, tomatoes, mushrooms, onions, peppers and your favorite cheese.
- Press out most of the air and seal the bag tightly.
- Shake or squeeze your bag to mix all the ingredients.
- Once your water has boiled place your bag in for approximately 10-15 minutes depending on the number of omelets you are making.
- When finished, open the bag and let the omelet roll out onto the plate.

I suggest pairing it with one of many frozen hashbrown potato and cornflake casserole available online. 🐾

Peek of the Week!

Are you getting the "Peek of the Week"? The Peek is a list of public meetings and community events for the upcoming seven days that's e-mailed to more than 1,000 Worcester families every Friday afternoon.

To get your Peek visit worcestertwp.com and click "E-News Signup" at the top of the page. It's that easy!

Watershed Protection Tip

Summer's coming to an end, what a drag. And it will soon be time to drain the pool. Please remember



that chlorinated pool water is toxic to fish and other aquatic life. If chlorinated pool water is discharged into the storm sewer system, and enters a waterway, the chlorine can clog fish gills, and block oxygen from reaching fish eggs.

So before draining the pool take the time to dechlorinate the water. This can be done naturally, by not adding any chlorine to the pool for ten days, which allows the sun and air to neutralize the chemical (a good option for lazy folks). For faster results add a de-chlorination supplement to the pool water. The fishes will thank you!

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

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 questions that Mary Ann often fields, and her answer...

RESIDENT: "Do I need a survey to install a fence on my property?"

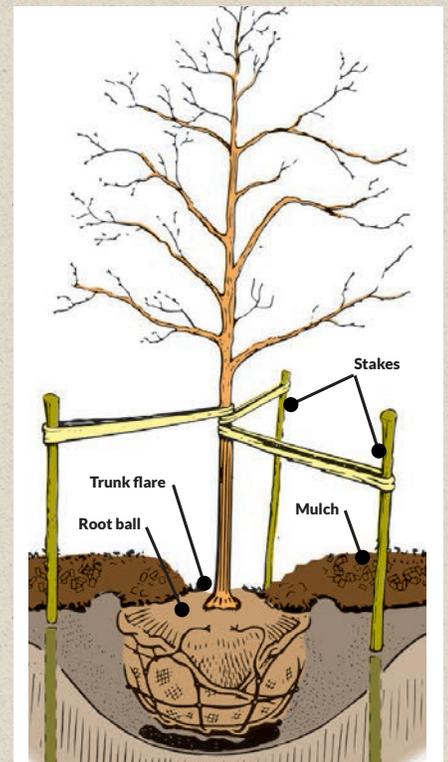
MARY ANN: "No, you may apply for a fence permit without a survey. But you must submit a plan that accurately shows the property line, so if you don't know where this is, getting a survey is something to consider. And don't forget to speak with your neighbor before digging that first fence post hole. Your neighbor may think the property line is located elsewhere... so talking now could prevent a problem later!"

STEPS TO PLANT A TREE

Note: Before you begin planting your tree, be sure you have located all underground utilities prior to digging. 811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number. Anyone who plans to dig should call 811 or go to their state 811 center's website.

Carefully follow these 9 steps to help your tree establish quickly in its new location:

- 1.** The trunk flare is where the trunk expands at the base of the tree. Ensure trunk flare is partially visible after the tree is planted. Remove excess soil prior to planting if flare is not visible.
- 2.** Dig a shallow, broad planting hole. Holes should be 2–3 times wider than the root ball, but only as deep as the root ball.
- 3.** If wrapped, remove any cover from around the root ball and trunk to facilitate root growth. Remove wire basket or cut one or two rings off so it is low-profile and will not interfere with future root growth. Inspect tree root ball for circling roots and straighten, cut, or remove them. Expose the trunk flare if necessary.
- 4.** Place the tree at the proper height. When placing the tree in the hole, lift by the root ball, not the trunk. The majority of tree's roots develop in the top 12 inches (30 cm) of soil. Planting too deep can be harmful to the tree.
- 5.** Straighten the tree in the hole. Before filling the hole, have someone examine the tree from several angles to confirm it is straight.
- 6.** Fill the hole gently but firmly. Pack soil around the base of the root ball to stabilize it. Fill the hole firmly to eliminate air pockets. Further reduce air pockets by watering periodically while backfilling. Avoid fertilizing at the time of planting.
- 7.** If staking is necessary, three stakes or underground systems provide optimum support. Studies have shown that trees develop stronger trunks and roots if they are not staked; however, it may be required when planting bare root stock or on windy sites. Remove stakes after first year of growth.
- 8.** Mulch the base of the tree. Place a 2–3 inch (5–7.5 cm) layer of mulch, but be sure not to pile much right against the trunk. A mulch-free area of 1–2 inches (2.5–5 cm) wide at the base of the tree will reduce moist bark and prevent decay.
- 9.** Provide follow-up care. Keep the soil moist by watering at least once a week, barring rain, and more frequently during hot, windy weather. Continue until mid-fall, tapering off as lower temperatures require less-frequent watering. 🌧️



Source: ©2021 International Society of Arboriculture. (v03.2021) www.isa-arbor.com

WORCESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Annual Visit to the Farmers Union Hall Museum

The Worcester Historical Society held their annual 2nd and 4th grade tours of the Farmer's Union Hall just before school ended. It has been an amazing 14 years in running the program where the children from Worcester Elementary come visit the museum and learn about life as it was 125 years ago.

To their surprise, there were no Target or Wawa chains, just Allebach's General Store. They got to meet Mr. Grobb, the lead teacher in our school room, and Mr. Houpt, resident blacksmith, in our blacksmith display. They got to follow the Wogglebug trolley as it motored through Center Point in 1910 on its way to Fairview Village.

They saw the two, recently restored Schweiker Murals depicting pastoral scenes of Worcester over the past two hundred years. And, they all learned that just because their post office address is Lansdale, Collegetown, Eagleville or Norristown, they ALL live in Worcester! They asked a lot of good questions as well including "can we bring our parents to tour the museum!" Our Fall Museum schedule is September 9 & 23 and October 14 & 28 from 9 am to Noon.

To follow this and other items of interest be sure to use our website, Worcesterhistorical.org and FaceBook. 🐦

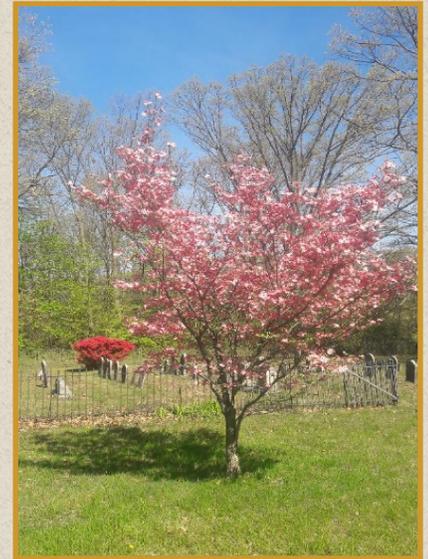


DUTCHIE TREES OF IMPORTANCE

It has been more than five years since Worcester Township lost the historic, "Methacton Charter Oak" located at the corner of the Methacton Mennonite Cemetery. This white oak was one of the original Bi-Centennial Trees identified in Worcester Township by a group of Worcester Historical Society members to commemorate our country's 200-year anniversary in 1976. There were originally eighteen historic trees in all identified, and there are now less than five.

The Dutchie Church is located near Heebner Road and Valley Forge Road, and is blessed to have one of these trees on its property. It is # 8 on page 335 in the Worcester Book, and it is in good shape for a 250-year-old tree.

What is not well known is that we also have our own offspring of the Methacton Oak growing next to the Dutchie Church cemetery. This tree was raised from an acorn of the Methacton Oak by Paul Felton in the Meadowood nursery. Paul was a well-known forester and arborist who lived at Meadowood and recently passed away. In 2012, he approached the Society to donate a two-foot Methacton Oak sapling to be planted at the Dutchie Church. The sapling was planted by Society members in 2012 and today, ten years later, it stands almost twenty feet tall. We call it the "Dutchie Oak." Please see photos of the original Methacton Oak in 2007 and its offspring. Finally, in 2008 the Dutchie received a pink dogwood donated by the Norristown Garden Club which is planted next to the cemetery gate. 🐦





2023 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 approximately fifty-five 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.

This summer/fall the following roads will be resurfaced:

- East Adair Drive
- Defford Road
- Defford Circle
- Clyston Road
- Clyston Circle
- Bayton Road
- Bayton Circle
- Highview Drive
- Merion Way
- Landis Road

The work began in August and will last several weeks. Motorists using the above-noted roads may experience delays during construction. The Township thanks residents for their understanding and patience as we work to improve our community's roadways.



for the recovery of stolen horses & detecting the thieves

OCTOBER 7

Fun Show

HORSE SHOW



FARMERS' UNION HORSE COMPANY
HEYSER FIELD

Sign Up Today!

PRE-REGISTER TODAY!

ENGLISH | WESTERN | MINIS

@ www.farmersunionhorsecompany.org

Weather Permitting

Get your Farmers' Union Membership and save on registration fees. **Membership only \$10 per person**



visit us at

www.farmersunionhorsecompany.org

for more information and Pre-Registration

TACK SWAP

AND



\$10
per table

**COME AND
SELL YOUR
USED TACK AND
HORSE GEAR!**

WHEN: Saturday **OCTOBER 7TH** from 10am - 1pm

WHERE: Farmers' Union Horse Fun Show
Heyser Field | Fairview Village | Valley Forge Rd. (rt. 363) | ENTRANCE: 3020 Griffith Rd.

RSVP: email to reserve your spot
webmaster.fuhc@gmail.com
(due to limited space we are only accepting 25 spots, get your today!)

**Tables only \$10 - all sales you make are yours!
TO BE HELD DURING OUR OCTOBER FUN HORSE SHOW!**

We'll provide you with a designated 10' x 10' space, and you provide the rest (change, chair, table, etc.!) Set your own prices, mark and label as your like, take whatever off you want!
Just \$10 a table! **NO RAIN DATE!**

Grab a friend, share a spot, the more the merrier!
Limited spaces available
email: webmaster.fuhc@gmail.com NOW to get your spot!



SKIPPACK EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES Annual Subscription Drive



Dear Neighbor,

Over 2000 times last year, Skippack Emergency Medical Services (SEMS) responded to calls of need from our community. Accidents and illnesses are among some of the reasons we responded to Skippack, Worcester, Towamencin and other surrounding communities. Most of those calls were made by people who believed it would never happen to them. They were wrong!

Our goal is to have every resident in our coverage area subscribe (*at a cost less than \$0.20 per day, per family, far less than your internet bill*). Unfortunately, less than 25% of the community responded to our request last year.

Those who subscribe will not have to worry about their financial responsibility during their time of crisis. As a subscriber, you will be helping SEMS meet its financial obligations enabling SEMS to continue the quality health care you deserve.

You can make the smart choice this year, and get the comfort and satisfaction of supporting the vital needs of SEMS, while avoiding a potential outlay of money in the future.

Insurance does not always cover the full cost of the ambulance service which can exceed \$2,200.00. As a subscriber, your copay and coinsurance will not be billed to you after you meet your deductible. All other charges will be billed at a 30% discount which include lift assists and treatment by SEMS without transporting.

SEMS is an independent (*not affiliated with the local Fire Companies*) non-profit corporation. We are run by volunteers and have additional paid professional staff members. We are independently audited and licensed by the State. We continue to meet the needs of our community. Join us now with your financial support and or time, and help us continue with our mission of supplying quality medical service to the local community.

Gratefully,
The Members and Staff of Skippack Emergency Medical Services
(610) 454-9665



Scan the QR Code or visit www.skippackems.org to learn more about how you can subscribe, donate or find out more about how we serve the community!

**Our Low Annual Subscription
Could Save You Hundreds of
Dollars This Year!**

Hazardous Household Waste Collection

Looking for a safe and responsible way to discard used motor oil, a bottle of weed killer, or a Dallas Cowboys jersey? 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).

**Upcoming collection event:
Sunday, October 22, 2023
Lower Merion Transfer Station
1300 N. Woodbine Avenue, Penn Valley**

VERY IMPORTANT... you must register to participate in this event! To register, obtain a complete list of acceptable materials, or request more information visit montcoparecycles.org, e-mail recycling@montcopa.org, or call the Montgomery County recycling line at (610) 278-3618.

BACK TO SCHOOL



powered by
retrievr

Started school shopping and need to responsibly recycle your kids' old **clothing** and **electronics**?

Retrievr can help with a doorstep appointment.

[Schedule a pickup](#)

at Retrievr.com

or visit the Recycling Guidelines at Worcestertwp.com for more 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

Get Connected and Stay Informed!

There are many ways to get connected and stay informed about the happenings around Worcester Township!

- Our award-winning newsletter (*you are reading now!*) is mailed to every household in the Township four times a year.
- Our website, worcestertwp.com, provides the most up-to-date information on public meetings, proposed land developments, community events, road projects, and much more! Check out Top Topics (*at the top of home page*) for in-depth information on key projects throughout the Township.
- Connect with us on social media! Instant information about breaking news and events, timely tips, and much more!
- Weekly e-mail updates. For weekly updates sent directly to your inbox, sign-up for the Peek at the Week! *To enroll simply click the link at the top of our home page.*



 Facebook:
[@Worcestertownship](https://www.facebook.com/Worcestertownship)

As you can see, there is so many ways to get connected and stay informed depending on what works for you! If you have any questions about Township communications please contact Sean Halbom at (610) 584-1410, or by e-mail at shalbom@worcestertwp.com.

Toys for Tots Collection

The Holidays are just around the corner! And 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 deliver a memorable holiday to those in our community who are less fortunate.



Stop in to donate a new, unwrapped gift up to Friday, December 8th. The Township Building is open Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 4:30pm. *(Please note we'll be closed on November 23rd and 24th 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.