

Worcester Erier



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WINTER 2009

What's Happening in Worcester - 2008 Year End Report

By John Harris

As we head into a new year, I wanted to take this opportunity to report some of the things that your Township was able to achieve in 2008. Much of the thanks go to our staff, including both the office and road crew, plus unpaid volunteers on our Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board and our newly formed Park and Recreation Task Force.

Back in 2004, the township commissioned a Greenway Study that looked at the possibilities for a trail network inter-connecting all parts of the township with our various parks and other resources. This year we completed the first leg of the recommended trail system: a 0.4 mile segment that goes from Greenhill Road to Hollow Road along the Zacharias Creek. That segment is open for public use, with a parking area at the Greenhill Road entrance. An additional 2.9 miles of trail is currently being planned, funded by about half of our county open space allocation. When completed, it will connect the trail system in Evansburg Park to Worcester's Heebner Park.

In 2008 the township purchased a new dump truck for road maintenance use, two new mowers, and completed two new pavilions in Heebner Park; both with restroom facilities and one with a canteen area. We repaired a bridge abutment on Wentz's Church Road and improved culverts and drainage on the same road, among other projects. A bid for a new public works building was accepted in December.

Earlier this year we switched to a new medical insurance package for township employees. We increased coverage, allowing the staff more flexibility, while creating an annual savings to the township of over \$20,000, compared to the previous policy.

Worcester's Park and Recreation Task Force was formed in October. The 12 volunteer members, selected from all parts of the township, will be working on identifying the various needs the township has for recreational opportunities, and how best to utilize the township's resources to accomplish that goal. We are expecting their report around the middle of 2009. They are seeking your input via a survey, also in this newsletter and available online at www.worcestertwp.com.

In December, the supervisors adopted a new Comprehensive Plan for the township replacing the last one, adopted in 1995. A Comprehensive Plan studies, in detail, the varied needs, demographics and resources of the township and sets goals for zoning, transportation,

recreation, open space and much more. It is the "road map" that township officials use when making major decisions about the township's future. The Plan is posted on the township web site: www.worcestertwp.com.

In 2008, we welcomed 3 new full-time members to our staff. Tiffany Loomis came on board in November as a land use officer to assist with zoning and enforcement matters. We have been working to cross train our office staff in order to make sure we are covered at all times. Jack Kelly joined our public works crew last July, and Doug Fennimore was welcomed aboard in September. We also saw the retirement of long time public works manager Perry Schultz in June.

We have reorganized the public works department responsibilities and have been working on improving their training schedules. We expect that we will be able to bring more projects in house that had been subcontracted in the past. This will result in increased efficiency, faster response time, and decreased costs for township maintenance.

We have been working on improving snow plowing and salting operations for the winter. Township Manager John Cornell has reorganized the plowing schedule, we have repaired the equipment, and are planning on filling the salt trucks when the forecast recommends it, so that we are ready to move when the need arises. We have an agreement with a township contractor to plow several subdivisions in the Township, including Sunnybrook on North Wales Road, in order to make sure the roads are cleared in a more timely manner this year.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



INCORPORATED AS A TOWNSHIP

1733

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

John V. Cornell

Township Manager

Arthur C. Bustard, Chairman

John R. Harris, Vice Chairman

Stephen C. Quigley, Member

Administration Building

(610) 584-1410

www.worcestertwp.com

UK Elite Petite 2009 Spring Soccer

Tuesdays (April 14-May 19, 2009)

Rain Date May 26

10am-11am or 11am-12pm

(minimum 8 children in each group)

- A FUN introduction to the game of soccer for ages 3-5
- Exciting Soccer games in a safe environment
- Motor skill and coordination development
- Social skill and confidence building



The camp runs each Tuesday for six weeks (April 14—May 19) from 10am-11am or 11am-12pm with a rain

date of May 26th. Each child receives instruction in a small-group setting from one of the professional UK Elite Soccer Coaches. The camp is designed to allow each child the chance for maximum development and enjoyment. A typical curriculum includes: individual ball skills; running with the ball; passing the ball; controlling the ball; shooting and scoring concluding with a graduation and demonstration of the new skills learned. Each child should wear/bring: sneakers or cleats, t-shirt, sweatshirt, shin guards, water bottle and plenty to drink.

Only \$80 per child.

Call Worcester Township at 610-584-1410 to enroll.

A minimum of 8 children in each session is required to proceed with the camp. Please register early if you are interested to avoid cancellation!

Basketball Coming to Worcester Township!

Worcester Township will offer an outdoor summer basketball league in 2009!

For boys and girls alike, the league will partner with Lower Providence Township to provide fun and instructional games for grades 5-12.

Worcester Township will be looking for volunteers to coach and operate the scorer's tables.

Registration forms will be available this spring, but please contact the township to be placed on the mailing list for information once available. Please email (jlanzillo@worcestertwp.com) or call 610-584-1410 to receive information, or express an interest in volunteering.



Winning Ways Basketball Academy Saturdays, Kinetix Sports Club

951 N. Park Avenue, Fairview Village, PA
Classes for boys and girls, grades 3-8
\$65-\$75 for a 4 week session

During the season, most coaches work on team concepts in an effort to win, often overlooking basic fundamentals and player development. Winning Ways Academy classes focus on the fundamentals of individual player development: shooting, ball handling, rebounding, passing, defensive positioning, shooting off the dribble, proper triple threat technique and much more! Lots of individual attention with 6-to-1 player to coach ratios! For more information, and to register, please call Worcester Township Parks & Recreation at 610-584-1410 or Email jlanzillo@worcestertwp.com.

Winning Ways Basketball Academy Tuesdays, starting February 10 Winning Edge Sports

2520 West Drive, Oaks, PA 19456
Classes for boys and girls, grades 3-9

Our popular academy sessions return in 2009 at Winning Edge Sports in Oaks, off Route 422. Only 8 miles from Worcester, Winning Edge will offer Winning Ways Basketball Academy classes for all ages and skill levels on Tuesday evenings. Please visit the park and rec page at www.worcestertwp.com for full details. For more information, and to register, please call Worcester Township Parks & Recreation at 610-584-1410 or Email jlanzillo@worcestertwp.com.

Shooting & Ball Handling Clinic Monday, February 16, 2009 President's Day, Schools are Closed! 9am-12pm, only \$30 Boys & Girls, Grades K-7

Learn basic basketball shooting fundamentals from Winning Ways Basketball... *Where our Goal Reaches Far Beyond 10 Feet!*

Where: Fairview Village Church – Where Every Child is a Winner!

3044 W. Germantown Pike, Eagleville, PA 19403
Call 610-584-1410 to register today!

Full Line Up of Bus Trips in Early 2009!

To register for all trips, please call Worcester Township at 610-584-1410. Space is limited!

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

Sunday, February 22
Depart Worcester Area: 9am
Depart AC: 5:30pm
\$10 per person

For less than the cost of 6 gallons of gas, enjoy a day in the city that is always turned on. Our luxury motor coach will drop you off and pick you up at the Tropicana where you will enjoy a care-free day without the hassle or cost of driving to the shore. Must be 21 or older.

RENAULT WINERY & CASINO



Sunday, March 22
Depart Worcester Area: 9:30am
Depart AC: 6:30pm
\$65 per person

Enjoy a guided tour and delicious luncheon at the Renault Winery complete with wine tasting. After lunch, head to Atlantic City for the best bonus package we can find at one of the Boardwalk casinos. Must be 21 or older.

WASHINGTON, D.C. & ODYSSEY LUNCHEON BOAT CRUISE

Monday, April 13
Depart Worcester Area: 7am
Depart Washington: 7pm
\$55 per person (bus only)
\$110 per person (bus & Odyssey)

Travel with us to Washington, D.C. and choose one of two options: transportation to the Nation's Capital to walk the National Mall and visit Smithsonian Museums, OR enjoy a 3-hour escape to the elegance and total entertainment experience on a true luxury luncheon cruise along the Potomac River. Enjoy live

music and unmatched views of the nation's greatest monuments. After docking, the luncheon group will visit the World War II Memorial before meeting the rest of the group and departing for home.



NEW YORK CITY ON YOUR OWN

Saturday, May 2
Depart Worcester Area: 8am
Depart NYC: 6pm
\$45 per person

Spend a day in NYC and leave the driving to us! Our luxury motor coach will drop off travelers in Times Square, near the Visitors' Center where discounted tickets are available to both on and off-Broadway shows. Plan for and shopping at American Girl Place. Stop into the Visitors Center to book a ride on a Double-decker bus for a tour of the city or simply take advantage of the bargain price and design your own itinerary for a day in the Big Apple.

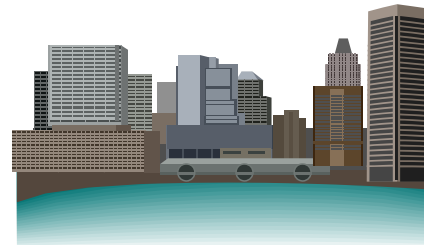


GETTYSBURG

Saturday, May 16
Depart Worcester Area: 9:30am
Depart Gettysburg: 6:30pm
\$85 per person

Join us as we visit Gettysburg for a day that will be fun for the whole family. We will start with a visit to the newly renovated Welcome Center where you can explore the museum, watch the movie, view the Cyclorama and perhaps have some lunch in the Saloon. After lunch, we will have a 2 hour guided tour of the area narrated by an expert on the battlefield. Finally, we will end our day with dinner at the Dobbin House Tavern, Gettysburg's most historic house. Reserve your place quickly as only one motor coach has been reserved for this fun day. Your cost includes: transportation, entrance to the Visitors Center, Guided Tour and Dinner.

BALTIMORE INNER HARBOR



Saturday, June 13
Depart Worcester Area: 8am
Depart Baltimore: 6:30pm
\$50 per person

Spend the day at Baltimore Harbor, a family place with something for everyone. Our luxury motor coach will drop you off right at the harbor. There, you can ride the Ducks, visit the Aquarium or just enjoy a leisurely stroll along the water. You will find many restaurants to delight your taste buds and lots of shopping to fill your day.

What's Happening in Worcester (continued from page 1)

2009 BUDGET

At the December 17th meeting of the Township Supervisors, the 2009 Budget was approved. The Township Staff labored for several months in preparing this budget and the Supervisors unanimously approved it. We have again provided a budget that allows us to provide services to our residents without a tax increase. The staff was instructed to prepare a budget that was conservative in revenue expectations, while meeting all of the important needs of the Township. Increased efficiencies, recent capital expenditures to upgrade facilities, and the improved condition of the Township roads allowed us to cover the Township needs and still bring forward a balanced budget that conservative revenue estimates will cover, all without tax increases.

OPEN SPACE

Since I last reported on open space preservation in the fall of 2007, there have been several large parcels preserved using a wide variety of methods. In December 2007, the township joined with Montgomery County to preserve the 21-acre farm of Oliver and Rosalie Smith (Fisher Road). If you drive by, look for the Smith's herd of Belted Galloway cattle. In June, the Montgomery County Farm Board approved the preservation of the 16-acre horse farm belonging to Dorothy (DeeDee) McGrane on Stump Hall Road. Her property connects to the already-preserved Schierenbeck farm. Both farms now include trail easements that will eventually be part of the trail network extending to Evansburg Park.

The 106-acre farm of Frank D'Lauro (Valley Forge Road) was left in Frank's will in part to his

cousin John D'Lauro, and the remainder to the Natural Lands Trust. The full property is subject to a conservation easement, with the possibility for a trail in the future. A voluntary easement granted by Cindy Haines (North Wales Road) has preserved her 14-acre property. The township participated by agreeing to cover the administrative costs of the easement in hopes of inspiring others to pursue similar voluntary preservation of their properties. Another preservation project in 2008 was the 81-acre Moran property on Grange Avenue. The Montgomery County Lands Trust lead the way and funding was provided by the county (50%), the state (34%) and Worcester Township (16%) to place a permanent conservation easement on the property. The township's portion of the funding came from the generous annual donations made by township resident David Markel over the past 7 years. The Moran tract was rated in the top 10% of all non-developed land in a 15-county region of Southeast Pennsylvania by Natural Lands Trust's Smart Conservation Model, as extremely important land for preservation.

And we are very close to finalizing the purchase of 7-acres, known as Heyser Field (Griffith Road near Valley Forge Road), where the annual Farmers' Union Horse Show is held. This will use the balance of our county open space allocation and will provide a township park right in Fairview Village, adjacent to the Community Hall. We expect to make final settlement early in 2009.

Those are some of the highlights from 2008. But just as important are all the daily duties that our staff fulfills to keep our streets plowed and safe, our grass mowed, and all of our zoning and administrative duties in order. They do a great job and help to make Worcester a special place where we are all proud to live. Speaking for the supervisors and staff, we all hope you have a wonderful and healthy New Year.

Help Us Help You this Winter

When it comes to clearing the snow and ice from township roads, it is a joint effort between the Worcester Township public works department, PennDOT and private communities and contractors.

You can help make the process go as smoothly as possible by remembering a few simple guidelines:

- Please keep parked vehicles off the street before, during and after a snowfall.
- Do not throw snow onto the roadway when shoveling.
- Remove snow from the end of your driveway and from around your mailbox. Shovel snow to the right of your driveway to avoid having the plows push the



snow back into your driveway.

- Mailboxes that are directly hit by a township plow will be replaced.
- Shovel an area for trash and recycling containers on your curb or driveway. Please do not place them in the street.
- Parents, remember to keep an eye on your children when playing in the snow. It is extremely dangerous to play or stand in or near the street when plows are working.
- Please do not leave sleds or other toys in the street.



Electric bills to rise dramatically in 2010: Worcester Township implements savings and conservation measures.

The Pennsylvania Electrical Generation Customer Choice and Competition Act of 1996 was designed to increase competition and lower prices for electricity. Part of that act capped charges for electric at the 1996 levels for a specific period of time. Those caps are expiring over the next two years for various electric companies and increases in rates are expected to be substantial. While this was not the intended objective of the governmental act, it appears to be the result. PECO Energy and Philadelphia Electric's cap will expire the end of 2010 unless legislation is passed to extend them. The cost of coal and natural gas that powers most of Pennsylvania's power plants has risen in the past ten years, as have environmental regulations on those power plants, creating an upward spiral of costs.

Worcester Township has been watching the situation and has been taking proactive steps to improve the potential effect on our budget. We observed that in 2006 when the rate caps were removed from Pike County Light and Power, the cost of electricity increased there by 72 percent. We do not expect this to happen in our area, but increases of 20-30% are possible. In order to minimize the effect of the potential increase and cut our usage of electricity, we had an energy audit performed on the township's administration building. The results of the audit indicated we could save electricity by changing the light fixtures to energy saving fluorescent bulbs. It detected areas in need of additional insulation that we remedied, resulting in decreased cooling costs in the summer and lower fuel bills in the winter. The results of the audit indicated that we will be able to save enough in the first year to pay for all the changes suggested, and enjoy the benefits of a more productive workplace.

In 2007, Worcester began installing LED lights at various traffic signals in the township. Analysis indicated significant savings in electric costs which was an important factor, in addition to substantial savings from lower maintenance costs due to the longer lifetime of the bulbs. PECO charges the township a flat fee based on estimated electrical usage per intersection light. Prior to the LED lights, the monthly charge for all traffic lights was approximately \$1,300. In 2008, after a timing delay with PECO, the Township's traffic light account was credited over \$6,000 for prior year savings. As a result, the Township will not incur an electric bill for intersection lights for over two and a half years. After that, the monthly cost will be reduced to approximately \$210. The cost to the township to install the LED's was substantial, but the savings are much greater.

A consultant has reviewed the wastewater treatment plants to ensure motors and equipment are in optimal working order. Several units were identified for corrections and updated to handle peak loads and increased usage without incurring additional electrical cost. The correct conversion and sizing of these facilities will result in a reduction of maintenance and associated costs. In an unrelated savings note, a new program of line and pipe inspections will reduce potential issues before they happen.

In 2008, new bathroom facilities were built in Heebner Park and we are monitoring electrical usage of the hot water heaters and the heating units to insure the insulation and temperature control is sufficient to maximize efficiency.

In 2009, we will continue to evaluate our energy usage and identify new ways in which we can constantly conserve.

Your Worcester Township State Representatives...

State Senator John Rafferty

Senate Box 203044, Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717-787-1398
3660 Ridge Pike, Collegeville, PA 19426
Phone: 610-831-8830
www.senatorrafferty.com

State Representative Matthew Bradford

117 B East Wing, PO Box 202070, Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717-772-2572
www.pahouse.com/Bradford

Your Worcester Township Federal Representatives...

U.S. Congressman Jim Gerlach

580 Main St., Suite #4, Trappe, PA 19426
Phone: 610-409-2780
Web Address: gerlach.house.gov

U.S. Senator Arlen Specter

711 Hart Building, Washington D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-4254
Web Address: specter.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Robert Casey

383 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-6324
Web Address: casey.senate.gov

Township of Worcester
1721 Valley Forge Road
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TOWNSHIP MONTHLY MEETING TIMES

Board of Supervisors

1st Monday at 8:00am
3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm

Planning Commission

4th Thursday at 7:30pm

Planning Commission Work Sessions

2nd Thursday at 7:30pm

Zoning Hearing Board

4th Tuesday at 6:30pm

Park & Recreation Task Force

2nd & 4th Mondays at 7:00pm

*All Public Meetings are held in the
Worcester Township Community Hall
1031 Valley Forge Road*

Worcester Township Helps Residents Preserve Land

Over a year ago, long-time resident Cindy Haines began the process of preserving her 14-acre farm on North Wales Road by arranging to donate a conservation easement to The Conservancy of Montgomery County. Her actions insured that the farm's headwater spring and pond that feed the Stony Creek, as well as the pre-1720 brick house, will remain untouched.

Although such a donation can have significant income tax and estate tax advantages, it also entails expenses to hire an appraiser, attorney, surveyor, and tax consultant. In addition, the land trust requires an endowment to ensure that the organization will have the resources to monitor and defend the easement forever.

Worcester Township's Board of Supervisors recognized the value of Mrs. Haines' donation to all township residents in preserving important natural and historic resources as well as helping to hold down school taxes. For this reason, the township agreed to underwrite the administrative costs of the donation, up to \$15,000. The Board also announced the township's willingness to consider other such requests, as an incentive to encourage other landowners to donate conservation easements that will preserve open space and natural resources. This innovative program demonstrates the township's commitment to partnering with landowners in preserving Worcester's rural and agricultural heritage to benefit residents now, and to provide a legacy for future generations.

