

WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

SUPERVISORS REJECT CALL TO RAISE TAXES

At its July meeting the Board of Supervisors rejected a call to add a property tax referendum to this year's general election ballot. The request to increase property taxes was made by a small group of Township residents (*and one or two non-residents!*). The referendum, if approved by the voters, would have increased the Township's property tax rate to 0.55 mills from 0.05 mills – a ten-fold hike. The tax dollars would have been used for the acquisition and maintenance of open space.

Instead of raising taxes to preserve open space, the Board of Supervisors decided to use a portion of the Township's ample reserve funds to acquire new parks and open spaces. The Township has more than \$14 million in reserve funds that can be used to buy land... a significant amount given that the Township's annual operating budget is about \$4 million.

"Gas is more than \$4 a gallon. Inflation is at 9%. Interest rates are up, home values are down. And a recession is looming on the horizon," says Supervisor Steve Quigley. "Now is not the time to raise taxes. We can continue our work to buy open space without higher taxes."

Last year the Board of Supervisors created the Worcester Township Open Space Preservation Program with the goal of permanently preserving at least 300 acres of land by 2033, the Township's 300th anniversary.

This year the Township purchased a 40-acre farmstead on Fisher Road for \$2 million. The property will serve as a community park (*see page 3*). The Township will borrow the dollars to purchase the property through a 20-year, tax-exempt loan. The loan payment for this property will average about \$147,000 per year.



Open Space Preservation Program Update 300 by 300!

Last year the Board of Supervisors created the Worcester Township Open Space Preservation Program with the goal of permanently preserving at least 300 acres of land by 2033, the Township's 300th anniversary. When achieved more than 20% of the Township's total land area will be preserved forever... that's one in every five acres!

The Board of Supervisors also created a program that matches private donations made to open space preservation efforts. The Township will match every dollar contributed, up to \$300,000 per year, with all funds held in a special account dedicated for open space preservation.

To date Worcester Township has preserved 40 acres (*see page 3*). We're well on our way to 300!

Questions about the Worcester Township Open Space Preservation Program? Visit the Open Space page at worcestertwp.com, telephone the Township at (610) 584-1410, or e-mail us at openspace@worcestertwp.com.

Many thanks to those who have generously contributed to the Worcester Township Open Space Preservation Program!

Wayne & Joanne Brunt ♦ Joseph & Rhonda Campisi ♦ Stanley & Theresa Cass ♦ Madeline R. Crouse
William & Rosalie Diana ♦ Melissa & Vincent Drozd, Jr. ♦ Richard & Ann Dungan ♦ Robert & Diane Feret
Helen J. Fox ♦ Frank & Joanne Gibilante ♦ Todd & Kelsey Givler ♦ Phillip & Amy Goldblum & Eckert ♦ Denise Hale
Alexander & Mary Louise Hall ♦ Norman & Vanessa Hargrove ♦ Janet & Donald Hasenmayer
Norman Jeanne & Paul ♦ Holloman ♦ Linda and Joseph Kapralick, Jr. ♦ Ruth & Matthew King
MaryEllen & James Madden ♦ Carol & Steven Madsen ♦ Patrick McGinnis ♦ The Meadowood Corporation
James & Danis Mollick ♦ Frederick & Ellen Motts ♦ Edmund Mullin ♦ Barry & Pamela Ohler ♦ Sanjay & Kinnari Patel
Donald & Debra Pennypacker ♦ John & Margaret Pergolese ♦ Steve & Donna Quigley ♦ Jack & Edna Rininger
Raymond & Elizabeth Rosti II ♦ Dolores & Pacific Santoni ♦ Thomas & Karley Sisler ♦ Janet & Thomas Snyder
Richard & Lisa Steckiel ♦ Eric & Janet Stine ♦ Roger & Arlene Stump ♦ James & Mary Thompson
Rachel & Leroy Uhrich Jr. ♦ Danielle Yemm

Join the growing list of contributors! Mail your donation to Worcester Township, Post Office Box 767, Worcester, PA 14990, or telephone the Township at (610) 584-1410 to donate by debit or credit card.

Township Finances in Great Shape!

At a public meeting in August the Township's appointed auditor presented and discussed the audited financial statements for 2021. The auditor found no problems or other concerns, and noted that audits conducted in recent years were also given similar clean bills of health.

The auditor highlighted the Township's conservative approach to budgeting, which has consistently produced reliable revenue and expenditure projections.

In addition, the auditor noted that Worcester Township received the 2022 Governor's Award for Local Excellence for Fiscal Accountability for its efforts to create a sustainable Sewer Fund that provides the capital reserves needed to meet the sewer system's longer-term obligations. This was the third Governor's Award received by the Township in the last six years. No other municipality in the Commonwealth has received more than two awards during that period.

Copies of the current audit and 2022 Budget, as well as the audits and budgets for the previous five years, are posted to the Finance page at the Township website, worcestertwp.com.

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: "Can I pay my property taxes at the Township Building?"

MARY ANN: "No... the Tax Collector for Worcester Township, Patricia Gramm, maintains an office at her Grange Avenue home. Visit worcestertwp.com for the office address and contact information."

CURBSIDE LEAF PICK-UP New Service Starts this Fall!

Beginning this Fall 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, Oct. 26
- Wednesday, Nov. 16
- Wednesday, Dec. 7



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, and any other materials can't be accepted.

Beginning October 1 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. 🗓️

FALL FUN AT HEEBNER PARK

Mark your calendar for two fantastic events at Heebner Park this Fall! Both events are free for Worcester Township residents!

Pony Rides, Petting Zoo & Duck Races
Saturday, Sep. 10, noon to 4pm

Ride a pony through the park. Get up close and personal with sheep, goats, chickens, bunnies, and Indian Fantails. And then there's duck races! You just can't top duck races!



Bounce for Hunger
Saturday, Oct. 8, 11am to 3pm
(rain date Oct. 9)

Jump away on five bounce rides... including a giant double slide, a challenging obstacle course, and a moon bounce that's perfect for toddlers! Folks are encouraged to bring a canned good for donation to the Township's annual food drive.



WORCESTER PRESERVES 40-ACRE FARMSTEAD

Worcester Township has purchased a 40-acre farmstead on Fisher Road. This is the first purchase made by the Worcester Township Open Space Preservation Program.

Here are some photographs of this beautiful property... soon to become our next community park!



Rolling fields, looking northeast from Fisher Road.



A small creek meanders through the property.



Wildflowers in bloom, the bank barn in the distance.



Treelines border the entrance drive.



The Milestone development lies a half-mile to the east, just beyond the trees.



A stunning Pennsylvania bank barn centers the property.

In the coming months Worcester Township will begin to discuss potential uses and improvements to be made at this property. Updates will be included in future newsletters.

WORCESTER TOWNSHIP FOOD DRIVE



Fire Engines! Fire Prevention Week

Be a part of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department's annual Fire Prevention Week event at Merrymead Farm on Saturday October 8, from 10:30am to 3:00pm. Hey kids, this is your chance to explore super-cool fire engines and to meet real firefighters... all while learning about fire safety (*in a fun way!*).



Water Study Participants Wanted

Researchers at Temple University are looking for families that drink water from a private well for a paid study. The study, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health, aims to keep children safe from various illnesses that can be spread by drinking water from private wells. Participating families will receive a free whole-home UV water treatment system, a \$1,000 value! Families can participate from home.

To be eligible for the study a family must have a child three years old or younger.

For more information visit the study website at wetrial.org, call (215)204-5124, or e-mail wetrial@temple.edu.

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 7th 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 3
- Thursday, November 10

To schedule a pick-up call the Township Building at (610) 584-1410. All food collected will be donated to a local food cupboard. Please note that we can't accept expired goods, homemade items or any food in glass containers. 🚫

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS HOURS LOGGED

Through the first six months of 2022, the men and women of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department logged **3,037 hours** conducting drills and responding to calls for help. If these folks were paid firefighters, the estimated cost to Worcester taxpayers for the same number of service hours would total about **\$340,100**.

And if the Township were to employ a *full-time* paid fire department this cost would top \$2 million per year, or about \$183 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



AT THE FARMSTEAD

There's a lot happening at the historic Peter Wentz Farmstead this Fall... just take a look at these great events!

Scarecrow Contest

Saturday, Sept. 24, 10am

The Farmstead provides the hay and the frame, you bring some old clothes and your imagination! Open to all ages, \$5 donation per group appreciated. Pre-registration required.

Washington in Worcester

Saturday, Oct. 1, 10am to 4pm

Be the first to see the Farmstead's new exhibit that depicts General George Washington's time in Worcester Township. Yes, Washington did sleep here... but what else did he do when he was in town? Open to all ages, free!

"They Passed This Way" Campfire Stories

Saturday, Oct. 8, 7:30pm

Gather around a roaring campfire and learn about all the places General Washington and his troops visited during their stay in our community. Open to all ages, free!

Cider Pressing

Saturday, Nov. 5, 10am to 3:30pm

Watch as Farmer Jim uses a restored 19th apple press to make fresh cider. Learn about the apple varieties grown in our region, and how cider was preserved before the age of refrigeration. Open to adults only, free!

Fermenting Sauerkraut at Home

Saturday, Nov. 12, time to be determined

The title says it all. Watch an engaging demonstration that details the process from start to finish, then take your new skill home. Hot dogs will never be the same. Open to adults only, \$5 materials fee. Pre-registration is required.

Got questions? Want to register for a program? Contact the Peter Wentz Farmstead by e-mail at peterwentzfarmstead@montcopa.org, or by telephone at (610) 584-5104. 📞



2022 Road Program Update

At its May Business Meeting the Board of Supervisors awarded a bid for the Township's 2022 Road Program to Glasgow, Inc. of Glenside, PA, in the amount of \$1.12million. It's an impressive investment that comes at a time when many municipalities are decreasing the amount of road work undertaken, due to higher material and labor costs. In contrast, Worcester Township decided to fully-fund this year's program, because we know that deferring road work today only increases the number of fixes needed tomorrow.

The work was underway when this newsletter went to print (August 8), and is scheduled to be completed by the end of August, weather permitting.

Below is a list of roadways to be resurfaced:

- Adair Drive;
- Broadview Lane;
- Cedars Hill Road;
- Doe Brook;
- Hedwig Lane;
- Hollis Road;
- Markley Avenue;
- Methacton Avenue;
- Plumlyn Avenue;
- Reichenbach Road;
- Shefley Lane; and,
- Slough Road.

In addition, the following parking areas and trails will be resurfaced:

- select trails throughout Heebner Park; and,
- Mount Kirk Park parking area and trail.

Folks driving the above-noted roads may have experienced delays during construction. As always, we thank you for your understanding and patience as the Township works to improve our community's roadways!

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... lollipops to be exact. And lots of them.

How many lollipops 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, or by e-mail to mmurray@worcestertwp.com, before 4:00 pm on October 14. One guess per person please. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter.

And congratulations to **Nicholas Ciabattoni**, whose guess of 157 come closest to the actual number of lollipops (167) in the fishbowl in our last contest. Nicholas, 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!*). 📞



Free Little Library Book Review

**Jurassic Park Little
Golden Book**
by Arie Kaplan

Reviewed by Gregory
Kelemen (Age 5)



The Story... There was a whole island with real dinosaurs like triceratops and t-rexes. Some of them got loose, but the big t-rex protected the people and they escaped. It was scary, but had a good ending.

My Favorite Part... All the dinosaurs.

My Recommendation... Read this book if you like dinosaurs a lot.

Thank you, Gregory, 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 Receptionist Mary Ann Murray at (610) 584-1410, or by email at mmurray@worcestertwp.com.

On The Move

Here's a look at a few recent property sales in Worcester Township:

- 117 Brindle Court - \$590,000
- 35 Bristol Court - \$530,000
- 1896 Cassel Road - \$1,175,000
- 2697 Elder Circle - \$1,662,644
- 2301 Elm Circle - \$315,000
- 2596 Hawthorn Drive - \$1,089,895
- 2245 Mann Road - \$760,000
- 3422 Mill Road - \$510,000
- 1101 Oak Circle - \$331,250
- 336 Silo Mill Lane - \$495,000
- 1200 Slough Drive - \$785,000
- 1837 Whitehall Road - \$435,000

Source: Zillow.com

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The following projects are now under review:

- **Warminster Group** – An eight-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Whitehall Road.
- **City View** – Two 90-unit apartment buildings at Germantown Pike & Park Avenue.
- **MikeLen LLC** – An eight-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Artmar Rd.
- **Kerper** – A two-lot single-family detached subdivision Heebner Road & Kriebel Mill Road.
- **Palmer** – Seven commercial lots and one residential parcel at Skippack Pike & Valley Forge Road.
- **Palmer Village** – An 11-lot single-family detached home subdivision, with a bank, convenience store, and pharmacy, at Skippack Pike & Valley Forge Road.
- **Zacharczuk** – A 16-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Skippack Pike.

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.
- **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-lot single-family detached home subdivision at Whitehall Road.



BIRD HOUSES

Seventeen new bird houses were recently constructed and installed at Heebner Park and along the Zacharias Trail by Worcester Township resident Michael Willen. The birdhouses were attached to trees by nylon bands, so as to not harm the trees.

This community service project earned Michael the well-deserved rank of Eagle Scout. Congratulations Michael, and thank you! 🐦

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP-OFF

Prescription medication abuse is one of the fastest-growing drug problems in the United States. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 14% of men and women ages 18 to 25 abuse these medications. And the abuse rate among youth ages 12 to 17 is almost 5%.

Don't allow a loved one to become a sad statistic. Secure all prescription medications in your home, and never throw unwanted medications in the trash. Instead, bring these drugs to a disposal box for safe destruction. Worcester Township residents can use the disposal box (shown at right) located in the lobby of the Pennsylvania State Police Skippack Barracks at 2071A Cressman Road, Schwenksville. 📍



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 dechlorination supplement to the pool water. The fishes will thank you!

This Watershed Protection Tip is part of Worcester Township's ongoing efforts to protect our environment. 📍

Comprehensive Plan Update

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

State Law requires every municipality to review its comprehensive plans every ten years. Worcester Township started this review in 2020, with the creation of a 17-member Task Force charged with developing specific updates to the plan. The Task Force then sent its recommended updates to the Township Planning Commission, for additional review and discussion. The Planning Commission recently completed its review, and will present its recommendations at a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, September 21, at Community Hall, 1031 Valley Forge Road. The meeting begins at 6:30pm. All residents are encouraged and welcome to attend this important meeting!

The current and proposed Worcester Township Comprehensive Plans are posted to "planning page" at worcestertwp.com... check them out!

Recycling Ideas Junk Mail

How many times have you thrown away a glossy catalog that arrives in your mailbox without leafing through the pages? If you receive mail that's neither

wanted nor needed, visit catalogchoice.org and stop the clutter at the source! The website provides folks with all the information needed to unsubscribe from various mailing house databases. How convenient! Now if someone could only find a way to stop those pesky bills...





At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

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

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Lou Betz, Vice Chair
Stephen Quigley, Member

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Get Connected and Stay Informed!

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



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.**

Our award-winning newsletter (you are reading now!) is mailed to every household in the Township four times a year.

Connect with us on social media! Instant information about breaking news and events, timely tips, and much more!

f Facebook – @Worcestertownship

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.

If you have any questions about Township communications please call the Township Building at (610) 584-1410.

Toys for Tots Collection

There's about 120 shopping days until Christmas. 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 9. The Township Building is open Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 4:30pm. (Please note we'll be closed on November 24 and 25 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.

Days Gone By

The first stop sign in Worcester Township was erected at the intersection of Germantown Pike and Valley Forge Road in 1937. The first traffic signal was installed at the intersection of Valley Forge Road and Skippack Pike in 1955.

Source: A History of Worcester Township.