

# WORCESTER



# TOWNSHIP

*At the Center Point*

*of Montgomery County*

## Christmas Tree Sale

Boy Scout Troop 133 will hold its Annual Christmas Tree Sale at the Worcester Township Community Hall, 1031 Valley Forge Road, from 6pm on Friday, December 1st until 5pm on Sunday, December 3rd... or until all trees sell out, and they always do!



The Scouts offer a terrific selection of trees, so finding the perfect tree has never been easier. Proceeds make possible the many great programs and activities the Scouts enjoy throughout the year.

## Peek at the Week

Want more timely information on Township happenings? Scan the QR code below to sign up for our award winning weekly e-newsletter!



**variety**  
the children's charity  
of the delaware valley

# HOLIDAY LANE

**November 30 - December 3, 2022**

*Drive Through Tour*  
**November 30 at 5pm - 7pm | \$10/Car**

*Walking Tours*  
**December 1 - 2 at 4pm - 8pm; December 3 at 4pm - 9pm**  
**\$10 Adults, \$5 Kids**

**VARIETY - THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY**  
**2950 POTSHOP ROAD, WORCESTER, PA 19490**

**HOT COCOA INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION.**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, KIDS' ACTIVITIES & OUTDOOR MARKET!**

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT**  
**VARIETYPHILA.ORG/HOLIDAY-LANE-TICKETS**  
**OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT**

**For questions, contact [events@varietyphila.org](mailto:events@varietyphila.org)**



## NEW OPEN SPACE

The Board of Supervisors resolved to acquire 300 acres of new open space by the Township's 300th anniversary in 2033. This year, the Board acquired an additional 11 acres of property, including the Old Dutchie Church and the Griffith Property.

Built in 1845, The Old Dutchie Church is among the oldest actively standing structures in Worcester. Built by German Methodists known as "Albrightists" the congregation included at least twenty founding families of Worcester, many of whom are buried in the cemetery on site. The congregation would grow until its division into separate congregations in 1891. Following later mergers with other congregations, the church finally dissolved in 1961, and was later purchased by the Friends of Worcester Historical Society in 1978.



The site has benefited from many volunteer efforts and charitable donations over the years. During their 45-year care of the property, the Historical Society led several projects to protect the architecture and historical integrity of the building, including installing a new chimney, roof, exterior and interior painting, and restoring of the floor. The Township and Worcester Historical Society will continue to work together to maintain the building and site.



(Photos, credit Worcester Historical Society, Source, Worcester Historical Society)

The ten-acre Griffith property was recently acquired by the Township from the Griffith Family, who approached the Township realizing the value the property held for the Worcester Community. Located at the intersection of Griffith Road and Valley Forge Road, the site is a roughly ten-acre open meadow currently in agricultural use and is located across the street from Heyser Field. It contains one of the last remaining vestiges of the Montgomery County Rapid Transit Company "Wogglebug" trolley service that ran from Norristown to Harleysville in the early 1900's. The original trolley track bed, paralleling Valley Forge Road, could be well suited for a recreational path in the future.



The property was originally part of the 1727 Henry Rittenhouse farmstead that spanned both sides of what is now Griffith Road. Henry was among the earliest settlers in Worcester and was one of the twenty-two landowners that petitioned for the creation of Worcester Township in 1733. William and Wanda Griffith purchased the farm in 1941 from Frank Schroeder, who had taken possession of the land in 1911 from the Rittenhouse family after 200 years of their ownership. Ten years later in 1921, a fire would destroy most of the house. The property remained derelict until 1941, when it was purchased and restored by William and Wanda.



## NEW OPEN SPACE CONT.

“We are thrilled to have this important property along the Valley Forge Road corridor protected from development. Our family has been an active steward of this land for more than 80 years and to know that it is now preserved forever is a great comfort. It will be here for all to enjoy,” said Will Griffith, representing the Griffith family.

**Residents or volunteer organizations with ideas for use of Township Parks, Open Spaces, and Facilities are encouraged to meet with the Planning Commission.** Realizing the potential for these sites, as well as all other Township owned properties and facilities, the Board of Supervisors has asked the Planning Commission to discuss opportunities related to use of spaces. Individuals and organizations who wish to share thoughts or ideas are encouraged to attend the Planning Commission meetings, who meet on the Fourth Thursday of each month (Second Thursdays in November and December). Organizations who wish to present to the Planning Commission are asked to contact the Township Manager to schedule a presentation at: (610) 584-1410. 📞

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS COMING SOON!

**T**hings are happening in Worcester Township! The Township is working hard to provide some much-needed improvements to the Community. All of these improvements were made possible with grant funding that was received.

- **Phase 1 of the Zacharias Creek Stream Restoration Worcester**, in conjunction with neighboring communities known as the Skippack Creek Alliance, will jointly fund the design of a stream restoration. The restoration project will reduce sediment flow into our waterways by improving stream banks and planting native species.
- **New Open Space** The Township purchased two new properties this year: The Old Dutchie Church located on Valley Forge Road (1 acre), and the Griffith Property located at Valley Forge Road and Griffith Road (10 acres). These properties are the latest acquisitions in the Boards goal to acquire 300 acres by Worcester’s 300th anniversary in 2033. Community members with ideas for use of these facilities are encouraged to attend the Planning Commission meetings and share their thoughts.
- **Mt. Kirk Park** – The Township completed the installation of a pavilion/ bathroom facility at Mt. Kirk Park for use by those walking the track or playing on the multi-use field.
- **Pole Barn at Nike Park** – A new pole barn at Nike Park will assist our Public Works staff with the processing of leaves and yard debris for residents. The yard waste is composted, mulched, and made available for use by residents and in the Township’s Park system. 📞



### Melting Snow: It's Stormwater Too!

Here are some tips from the Penn State Extension for managing your property for winter stormwater:

- When piling your snow after shoveling and plowing, choose locations where the snow will have the most opportunity to infiltrate instead of becoming stormwater runoff. Pile your snow in areas where you don't usually have ponding in the spring rains, on relatively flat areas, and away from sensitive areas like streams, ponds, and your private well if you have one.
- Clear your downspouts to allow melting roof snow to flow and not collect at your foundation.
- Make sure your nearest storm drains are clear. Do not pile snow on storm drains. Clear away any snow that may have been kicked onto the drains by passing cars.
- Use de-icing chemicals and salts judiciously. Use what you need to make your walkways and driveways safe, but try to avoid spreading around sensitive areas like waterways and your private well.
- Postpone outdoor construction projects in winter, when you can't establish new vegetation to reduce soil loss and muddy runoff.
- Pay special attention to places that are eroding during snow melt, and make a plan to improve these areas in spring using plants that can slow and stop erosion, like native grasses and meadow plants or native trees and shrubs.

## TOWNSHIP RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS!

**O**n August 18, 2021, the Worcester Township Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 2021-286, which enacted new recycling requirements related to leaf and yard waste collection. Since the passage of this ordinance, local haulers are required to collect appropriately bagged yard waste and leaves, in addition to other refuse such as trash and recycling.



The hauler who provides your trash and recycling service can provide you with yard waste collection dates and specific regulations, but generally speaking, leaf and yard waste must be bagged separately in biodegradable bags, and must not include other debris such as rocks, dirt, or branches.

**Waste Management:** (866) 909-4458  
**Whitetail:** (610) 754-0103

*Please note*, curbside collection of leaf and yard waste provided by your trash hauler is required by this ordinance. This is **not** the annual curbside leaf collection program provided by Worcester Township. Residents are welcome to use both services, as well as leaf drop off at Nike Park.

### What are the benefits of this ordinance?

- **Good for the Environment!** – The leaf and yard waste collected by each of the haulers will be recycled at a DEP-permitted facility. These facilities will recycle the materials instead of the leaf and yard waste ending up in a landfill.
- **Grant Money!** – The Township will now be eligible for grant money by implementing and enforcing these requirements and will be eligible to apply for other grant opportunities.
- **Convenience!** – This will allow another convenient way for residents to dispose of leaf and yard waste without having to load it up in your vehicle and driving it to a separate location for disposal.

For more information on these new requirements and information for each of the haulers that service our community, please visit our new Recycling page on our website at [www.worcestertwp.com](http://www.worcestertwp.com). 🗑️

## OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS

**Along with the new recycling guidelines, there was some clarification regarding open burning. It is not permissible to burn leaves, yard waste, or other materials in Worcester Township. Exceptions to allow open fire and burning is as follows:**



- Burning shall be permitted for fire-fighting training by Township-designated fire-fighting organizations conditioned on prior approval of the Worcester Township Fire Marshal.
- Burning shall be permitted for recreational and entertainment purposes, such as bonfires and campfires, conditioned on prior approval of the Worcester Township Fire Marshal. Fire pits, fire bowls, and chimeneas may be used without Fire Marshal approval provided these are used in accordance with the manufacturer's safety guidelines.
- When approved by a government agency only, burning is permitted for (a) the prevention and control of disease or pests, (2) the conservation and management of unique and natural areas, (3) the prevention or abatement of a fire hazard, (4) a management technique for preventing wildfires, scientific research, or vegetation management, or (5) for agricultural uses and purposes as permitted by State Law.

For more information on these new requirements, please visit our new Recycling page on our website at [www.worcestertwp.com](http://www.worcestertwp.com). 🗑️

## FARMERS' UNION HORSE COMPANY UPDATE

Thanks to all the riders, volunteers, and spectators who came out for the Farmers' Union Horse Company 2023 horse shows, you keep our organization going strong! We love to celebrate the horses, horsemen and women, and horse lovers of our Worcester Community and we couldn't do it without you. We hope to see you at the Farmers' Union Horse Company 84th Annual Horse Show, on June 1, 2024.

For more information on all of our horse shows and how to become a member of this 185-year-old organization, check out [farmersunionhorsecompany.com](http://farmersunionhorsecompany.com). 🐾



## Home Cookin' At Meadowood

By Joe Gerdemann, Resident at Meadowood Community

### GERMAN CHOCOLATE CHIP CAKE

#### Cake Ingredients:

- ½ pound margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs separated
- 2 ⅔ cups cake flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1½ tsp vanilla
- ½ bar (2 oz) Bakers German Sweet Chocolate Grated

#### Steps:

- Preheat Oven to 350 degrees
- Bake in a greased Bundt pan
- Beat margarine – add sugar – cream well
- Beat in egg yolks one at a time
- Add sifted dry ingredients to beaten mixture alternately with milk and vanilla
- Fold in beaten egg whites and then fold in grated chocolate
- Bake for 50 – 55 minutes
- Ice with milk chocolate frosting



# PROPER PLACEMENT OF MAILBOXES

## Help Reduce the Opportunity for Damage

Worcester Township takes every precaution to avoid damaging mailboxes during snow removal operations.

**Helpful mailbox placement tips to help reduce the chance your mailbox is damaged this winter:**

- Along an uncurbed roadway, a mailbox should be located 2' from the edge of pavement to provide adequate clearance.
- Along a curbed roadway, a mailbox face should be located 8" behind the curb face.
- Install the mailbox on the side of your driveway away from approaching traffic. This will lessen the likelihood of a plow strike, and minimize the shoveling needed to clear the area around the mailbox.

The Township will replace a standard mailbox and post only if either or both are struck by the plow, and only if these are installed to the specifications of the United States Postal Service (USPS).

**The USPS requires that:**

- the mailbox be installed at least 42" above the roadway surface; and,
- mailbox posts not exceed 4" by 4" for wooden posts, and a 2" diameter for steel pipe posts; larger posts are deemed "deadly fixed objects", and are not permitted within the right-of-way.

The Township neither replaces nor reimburses residents for custom mailboxes or ornate posts, and the Township is not responsible for damage caused by snow or ice that is thrown from the snowplow blade.

If you believe a properly-installed mailbox or post was struck by a Township vehicle please contact the Township at (610) 584-1410. 📞

## REVIEW YOUR PROPERTY FILE

Looking to sell your property, or have questions about work that was done at a property you're looking to buy? The Township maintains a property file for nearly all properties in our community. These files commonly include building applications, permits, property plans, and general correspondence to and from the property owner.

Property files are public records, and are available to review at the Township Building during normal business hours, Monday to Friday, 7am to 4:30pm. To schedule a time to view a property file please contact the Township Building at (610) 584-1410. 📞



### From The Worcester Volunteer Fire Department

**Please Keep Hydrants Clear of Snow**

For your safety, please help the Worcester Volunteer Fire Company by clearing snow away from fire hydrants in front of your property. Our volunteer firefighters need approximately three feet in all directions to be free of ice and snow, in order to properly connect hoses to a fire hydrant. The few extra minutes you spend clearing snow from a fire hydrant can make a big difference during an emergency.

Celebrating the life of \_\_\_\_\_

## BOB BRANT



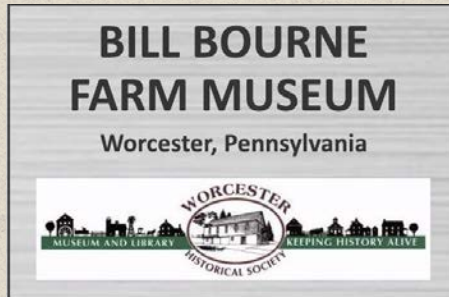
In the wake of his recent passing, Worcester Township mourns the loss of Bob Brant, Township Solicitor. Bob was well known in the community for his love of music, history and family. May his memory remind us to cherish each moment, embrace our passions and leave a lasting impact on those around us.

## TRIBUTE TO BILL BOURNE

As part of a presentation on by the Worcester Historical Society at Meadowood on October 26, Bill Bourne, local artist, past president and board member of the Society was honored for his dedication and service to the community with the renaming of the Farm Museum of Worcester, PA to the Bill Bourne Farm Museum of Worcester, Pa. Over the course of the past forty-seven years, Bill spent hundreds of hours designing and building the museum located in the Farmer Union Hall.

2023 marks the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Farmer Union Hall in 1898. The massive structure has served Worcester residents for many years. The Worcester Historical Society, created in 1976 to celebrate the Bicentennial year, leased the building from the township in 1987 and now houses a wonderful museum dedicated to preserving and showing Worcester's history.

This award was presented as part of a general recognition of Bill's service to the community as well as marking his 98th birthday, a noteworthy achievement in itself. In attendance were Meadowood friends, family, and Society Board Members past and present. 🐦



Sign to be placed next to the library door at the Farmer Union Hall.



Jim Thompson right and Allan Bozorth, Board Members, presenting commemorative plaque to Bill Bourne.

## HOW MUCH CANDY IN THE FISHBOWL?

**There is a fishbowl in the lobby of the Worcester Township Building. And in this fishbowl, there is candy... and a lot of it!**

How many pieces of candy are inside is your guess, and if your guess is the closest to the actual number you'll win the candy, and sweet bragging rights.

Submit your guess at the Township Building, before 4:00 pm on January 19th. One guess per person please. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter.

And congratulations to Holly Stauber who guessed the closest number of mini candy bars in the fishbowl with a guess of 195 (actual number was 196) in our last contest. Holly, don't forget to share! 🐦



## Safe Disposal of Fireplace & Woodstove Ashes

Just a reminder as you are operating your fireplace this season. Ashes from woodstoves and fireplaces must be disposed of properly to avoid fires in and around your home.

Please remember to carefully consider the type of container in which the ashes are stored. Never empty ashes into a paper or plastic bag, cardboard box, or another similar container. The only way to safely store ashes is to use a metal container with a lid. And don't forget to pour water on the ashes prior to attaching the metal lid to the pail.

Lastly, never store your metal ash container on your deck, in your garage, or in any location that may allow heat to transfer from those hot coals to nearby flammable items. Countless wooden decks catch fire each year because of this simple oversight.

Questions about the proper disposal of ashes? Contact Andrew Raquet, Fire Marshal, at [araquet@worcestertwp.com](mailto:araquet@worcestertwp.com).

## Holiday Tree Drop-Off

Worcester Township will again host a holiday tree drop-off location at the self-serve bins located at NIKE PARK (Not the Public Works Building!). Nike Park is located at 1170 Trooper Road, around the corner from the Variety Club. Trees and greens may be dropped-off between December 26 and January 31.

Since we recycle the trees into mulch, all stands, ornaments, plastic bags and tinsel must be removed. Wreathes are not accepted.



*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

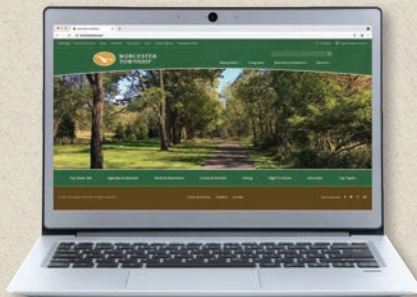
Richard DeLello, Chair  
Lou Betz, Vice Chair  
Stephen Quigley, Member

## 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](http://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.*

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](mailto:shalbom@worcestertwp.com).



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

## Toys for Tots Collection

Worcester Township will again serve as a drop-off location for the United States Marine Corps' annual Toys for Tots Program. Help brighten the holidays for those less fortunate by bringing a new and unwrapped toy to the Township Building, 1721 Valley Forge Road, during office hours, 7:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.



Last year we filled over 7 large bins of toys... help us to do even better this holiday season!

Used toys, realistic-looking toy weapons and items containing food can't be accepted. For more information about Toys for Tots, please visit [toysfortots.org](http://toysfortots.org). **Drop off your gift between now and December 15.**

Thank you for your generosity and for brightening up someone's holiday season!