

WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

At the Center Point

of Montgomery County

Calling All Worcester Parents!

The Worcester Volunteer Fire Department is seeking community members aged 14–17 to join our Junior Firefighter Program. Regulated by state labor laws, the program offers young participants the chance to develop teamwork, leadership, communication, and mechanical skills while learning from experienced firefighters how to respond to a variety of emergencies.



Once properly trained, junior firefighters may assist at certain emergency scenes under direct supervision and within clearly defined activity restrictions. This is a great opportunity for the next generation to give back to their community while gaining valuable experience and benefits.

Interested individuals should contact join@worcesterfd.com for more information.

WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY DAY



Heebner Park
September 27th
11 AM - 3 PM



WORCESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY DAY

Worcester Township is excited to welcome residents to **Heebner Park** for our annual **Community Day** on **Saturday, September 27, 2025**, from **11:00 AM to 3:00 PM**. This free event is a great way to enjoy a day outdoors with neighbors, family, and friends. Community Day is a celebration of all the things that make Worcester a great place to live. We hope you'll join us! 🍁



A UPDATE ON TOWNSHIP ZONING CHANGES

From Township Manager, Dan DeMeno

We wanted to take a moment to update you on some important zoning changes in Worcester Township and clearly explain the timeline and rationale behind these adjustments. Recently, we've heard concerns from residents about the transparency and process behind these changes, and this letter aims to address and clarify those concerns.

Over recent years, potential developers raised concerns that our zoning rules for apartment buildings were overly restrictive. Specifically, limits on apartment density (only 4 apartments per acre) and building height (30 feet) were suggested as inadequately sufficient under state zoning regulations.

In response to these concerns, Worcester Township conducted a thorough review in mid to late 2020. Developers, along with representatives of property owners, approached the Township with their concerns, prompting us to seek an independent assessment from a team of professional planners. The planners concluded that our zoning ordinance did not adequately meet the state law requirement to offer our community's "fair share" of multi-family dwellings.

Taking immediate action, the Township Board adopted Resolution 2021-10 on January 20, 2021. This resolution formally declared the existing zoning rules invalid, recognizing that they were overly restrictive and insufficient to meet state housing requirements. By initiating a "municipal curative amendment," we proactively aimed to address these issues and avoid potential legal challenges that could lead to uncontrolled or undesirable development.

Following this declaration, we began the formal process of amending the ordinance. A public hearing was held on June 16, 2021, at Worcester Township Community Hall, to openly discuss these changes with residents. The hearing was widely publicized through local newspapers and direct notices sent to over 3,300 households.

During this hearing, we presented and discussed key proposed changes, including increasing allowable apartment densities from 4 units per acre to 12 units per acre, with an option to increase up to 15 units per acre using Transfer Development Rights (TDRs). The proposed changes also included an increase in building height from 30 feet to 45 feet, and the inclusion of an additional parcel at the northwest corner of Trooper Road and Germantown Pike into the MR (Multi-family Residential) zoning district.

This public hearing provided residents with an ample opportunity to voice concerns and ask questions about potential impacts on neighborhoods, infrastructure, traffic, safety, and environmental resources. Township officials emphasized that any future development proposals would undergo rigorous scrutiny to ensure careful, controlled, and responsible growth.

After thoroughly considering public feedback, expert analysis, and extensive documentation, the Township Board formally adopted the proposed zoning changes. These amendments are not intended to trigger immediate development; rather, they establish a necessary framework for future apartment development in areas well-equipped with infrastructure.

We will continue to closely monitor all development proposals, ensuring that they align with our community's best interests and infrastructure capabilities.

We sincerely appreciate your continued involvement, understanding, and cooperation as we strive to manage responsible growth and preserve the quality and character of Worcester Township.

Thank you for staying informed and engaged in our community's future. 🙏

WORCESTER TOWNSHIP TRASH & RECYCLING UPDATE

Understanding Your Responsibilities

Worcester Township does not provide municipal trash or recycling collection. Each household is required to independently contract with a licensed hauler for regular pickup of household waste and recyclable materials.

Your Responsibilities Under Pennsylvania Act 101

Under the **Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101)**, Worcester Township is classified as a “mandated recycling municipality.” This means that **residents and businesses are required by law** to:

- **Separate recyclable materials** from their regular trash.
- **Place recyclables in clearly marked containers**, separate from household waste.
- **Participate in curbside recycling service** provided by their chosen hauler.

Designated recyclable materials under Act 101 include:

- **Glass:** Clear, green, and brown bottles and jars (cleaned, with lids removed)
- **Metals:** Aluminum and steel/tin cans (rinsed)
- **Plastics:** Numbered #1 through #7 (no plastic bags, films, or Styrofoam)
- **Paper:** Newspapers, junk mail, office paper
- **Cardboard:** Corrugated and paperboard boxes (flattened)

These materials **must not be disposed of in trash**. Doing so violates both state law and Worcester Township’s local recycling regulations.

For more information about trash and recycling services in Worcester Township, including full regulatory language and helpful resources, visit the Township website at www.worcestertwp.com/living-here/trash-recycling. 🗑️

Leaf Waste & Yard Debris

Act 101 requires that **leaf waste** be collected or composted separately. This includes:

- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Garden and flowerbed waste
- Shrubbery, brush, and tree trimmings

Residents must arrange for separate pickup through their hauler or manage composting on their property. This waste **may not be burned** unless specifically permitted.



Restrictions on Open Burning

To protect air quality and prevent fire hazards, **open burning** of the following is prohibited in Worcester Township:

- Household trash
- Recyclable materials
- Leaf and yard debris

These rules are consistent with both Act 101 and Township regulations, and violations may result in enforcement action.



Worcester Township Leaf Collection–Fall 2025

The Township will be collecting bagged leaves on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 29, 2025
- Wednesday, November 19, 2025
- Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Important Reminders:

- All leaves must be placed in decomposable paper lawn bags.
- Please have bags curbside by 6:00 AM on the scheduled collection days.
- To schedule a pickup, residents must call 610-584-1410 or email mmurray@worcestertwp.com.

Home Cookin’ At Meadowood

By Kathy Roska, Resident at Meadowood Community

This recipe comes from Kathy Roska and is a family favorite. A huge thank you to Kathy for sharing the secret family recipe.

Tomato Soup Cake

Cream ½ cup butter with 1 ½ cups sugar
Add 2 Eggs
1 Can Tomato soup plus ½ can of water

To 2 ½ cups Flour
Add:
3 Tsp Baking Powder
1 Tsp Baking Soda
1 Tsp Cinnamon
1 Tsp Nutmeg
½ Tsp Cloves
½-1 Cup Raisins

Bake in 13x19 pan at 350 degrees at 40 mins

Cream Cheese Icing

1 Stick butter
8 oz Cream Cheese
1 Cup Confectioners Sugar
2 Tsp Vanilla
Beat until Creamy- Ice Cake when Cool

TIPS ON WAYS TO CONTROL STORMWATER ON YOUR PROPERTY

Here are some tips from the Penn State Extension to consider when you trying to control the stormwater on your property:



Turn Around, Don't Drown

Some motorists approach road-closed signs and think, "I don't see anything dangerous, so I'll keep driving down the road." It's a decision that can cost lots of money, and lives.

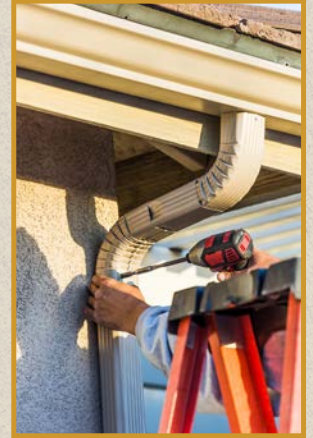
Did you know...

- six inches of water will knock the strongest person off their feet
-
- six inches of water can cause a car to lose traction
-
- twelve inches of water will float most cars

In Pennsylvania drivers who are caught disregarding road-closed signs are assessed two points on their driver's license and a fine up to \$250. This fine increases to \$500 if the vehicle gets stuck and requires emergency rescue services.

So before driving around a road-closed sign, think twice about the risks. It's just not worth it!

- **Downspout Disconnect/Redirect** – If your downspouts are directed onto a paved or concrete surface or are directly connected to the storm drain system, look for opportunities to redirect them to lawn and garden areas. Just be sure that all downspouts are directed away from foundations to avoid basement flooding.



- **Rain Barrels** – Rain barrels capture and hold water until it can be used or slowly released into planted areas. For rain barrels to be effective at controlling stormwater, it is important to have a plan for using the water before installing one.

- **Planting Trees** – Planting trees are a great way to reduce stormwater runoff. If you have a stream on your property, planting trees along the stream can be the best thing you do for water quality and the trees will help prevent the stream from eroding away your property. The more trees the better, but aim for a forest that is at least 35 ft. wide. At the very least don't mow your lawn directly up to the edge of the streambank. Let the grass grow some roots!



- **Meadows** – If trees aren't an option on your property, adding other types of plants is a good substitute. Any areas where lawn can be replaced with ornamental grasses, flowers, and shrubs will have a positive impact on controlling stormwater on your property. Meadows, whether large or small, increase the ability of the land to absorb water. Meadows can be a great way to reduce the amount of time you spend mowing the grass and can be placed in the areas that are the most difficult to mow.
- **Rain Gardens** – One of the best options for managing stormwater on your property is to install a rain garden. A rain garden is a bowl-shaped garden that can capture and hold water until it is able to be absorbed into the soil.
- **Pervious Pavers** – Pervious pavers can look very similar to a traditional brick or stone patio, sidewalk, or driveway. The difference is that they are installed with a thick stone base that provides space for water to be stored until it soaks into the ground. They are great for converting hard surfaces that usually make a lot of stormwater, into a surface that absorbs, manages, and reduces stormwater runoff. 🐸

WORCESTER'S HISTORIC TREES

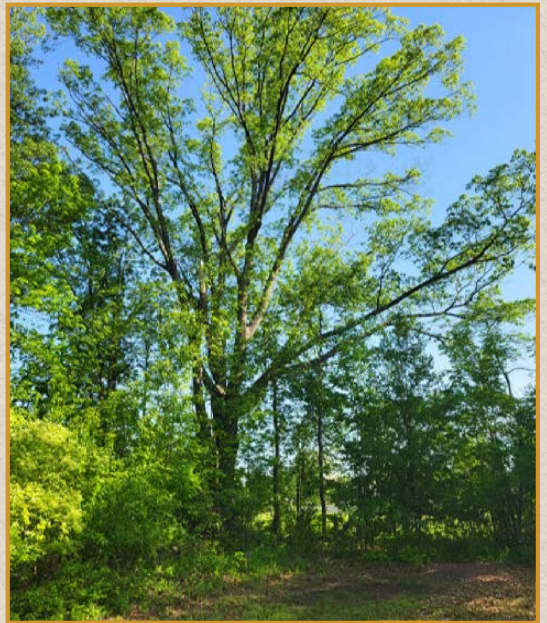
In 1975, the Worcester Historical Society established a committee to research trees within the Township with the goal of identifying and authenticating two-hundred-year-old specimens in celebration of the 1976 Bicentennial. The committee ultimately identified 18 trees of various species that met the criteria. The most notable among them was the Methacton White Oak, located at the corner of the Mennonite Cemetery. These 18 historic trees and their locations are listed in *The Worcester Book* on page 334.

Thirty years later in 2006, the Society, working in collaboration with an Eagle Scout project, revisited the trees, recorded new measurements, and mapped their locations. Of the original 18 trees, 14 were still alive and in relatively good condition at that time.

Today, as preparations begin for the America250 celebration, only three of those historic trees remain. The largest and healthiest is a massive red oak, tree number 8, located behind the Dutchie Church. The other surviving trees include tree number 7 near Valley Forge Road, also close to the Dutchie Church, and tree number 15 on Curtiss Lane.

In 2012, the Worcester Historical Society received a four-year-old sapling of the Methacton White Oak, grown from an acorn at the Meadowood nursery. This tree was planted near the Dutchie Church and now stands approximately 20 feet tall.

Finally, the oldest living plant in Worcester may not be a tree at all, but rather the lilac bush on Hollow Road near Meadowood. Located at the site of the original Jacob Wentz Tavern, this bush is believed to predate the Revolutionary War. A historical plaque at the site details its significance. 🦋



A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER

As we move further into the year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support, input, and involvement in the life of Worcester Township. Whether you're attending a public meeting, enjoying a walk through one of our parks, or simply reaching out to Township staff with a question or suggestion — your engagement helps shape the community we all call home.

Over the past few months, we've made steady progress on a number of important projects, including continued enhancements to our park system, investment in stormwater improvements, and modernization of our permitting and administrative systems to better serve you. As always, we're working hard to balance preservation and progress, maintaining Worcester's rural character while ensuring responsible infrastructure and service delivery.

With summer upon us, I encourage you to get outside and enjoy all Worcester has to offer. Whether it's a walk on the trails at Heebner Park, a family picnic at Mount Kirk, or a quiet evening stroll through Defford or Nike Park, there's no shortage of ways to enjoy the season right here in our own community. Keep an eye out for Township events and programs that make the most of the warmer weather — and don't forget to stay cool and stay safe.

If you ever have a question, concern, or just want to learn more about what's happening in Worcester, my door is always open. On behalf of the entire Township staff, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,
DAN DeMENO, Township Manager



SUMMER FARMSTAND

Tuesdays, 10 am – 12 pm
June 24th – August 5th

on Variety's property
2950 Potshop Road
Worcester, PA

Shop veggies, herbs, flowers and
handmade items harvested and created
by our vocational participants.

Look for the farmstand as you turn in the
entrance of our campus. You can't miss it!

Variety Homecoming

Saturday,
September 20th
1 PM - 4 PM

Variety Campus

Calling all former staff, campers,
and volunteers! Come back to
Variety to celebrate our 90th
birthday, tour campus, and
share your memories.

To RSVP for event contact:
homecoming@varietyphila.org
or 445-300-8790



WORCESTER



TOWNSHIP

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

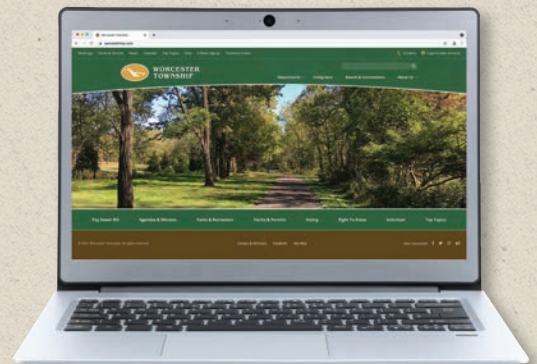
Richard DeLello, Chair
Lou Betz, Vice Chair
Stephen Quigley, Member

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 up on social media!** Instant information about breaking news and events, timely tips, and much more!
- **Monthly E-Newsletter.** For monthly updates sent directly to your inbox. *To enroll simply click the link at the top of our home page.*

 **Facebook:**
Worcester Township, PA



As you can see, there are many ways to get connected and stay informed depending on what works for you! If you have any questions about Township communications please contact the Township Manager at **(610) 584-1410**.