

# WORCESTER TOWNSHIP

## AT THE CENTER POINT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



### WORCESTER TOWNSHIP

1721 Valley Forge Road  
P.O. Box 767  
Hours: 8:00 am—4:30 pm  
Phone: 610-584-1410  
Fax: 610-584-8901  
worcestertwp.com

### Board of Supervisors

Arthur C. Bustard, Chairman  
Susan G. Caughlan, Vice Chair  
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## It's Holiday Time in Worcester: Mark Your Calendars

### Boy Scout Troop 133 Annual Christmas Tree Sale December 11-13

Boy Scout Troop 133 will hold their Annual Christmas Tree Sale at the Worcester Township Community Hall from **Friday, December 11 at 4:00 pm to Sunday, December 13 at 5:00 pm (or until all trees sell out!)**. The Scouts will offer a terrific selection of trees this holiday season (ranging from \$30 to \$80), so finding the perfect tree has never been easier.

The Worcester Township Community Hall is located at 1031 Valley Forge Road.

Sale proceeds benefit Troop 133, helping to make possible many great programs and activities our local Scouts enjoy throughout the year.

### Santa Visits the Township December 12

He's made his list. And after checking it – *twice!* – Santa Claus is coming to town on **Saturday, December 12**. Mr. Claus will climb aboard a fire engine, and then escorted around Worcester beginning at **9 am**.

Santa's appearance is made possible by the great folks at the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department (they've been good all year). For more information on Santa's visit and our all-volunteer Fire Department please see page 7.



# Worcester-Based Company Sends Christmas Tree to White House

Bustard's Christmas Trees has delivered a Pennsylvania-grown Christmas tree to the White House this holiday season. The Fraser Fir, which was raised at Bustard's tree farm in Carbon County, has been recognized as the White House's official Christmas tree for 2015.

Earlier this year Bustard's owners Glenn and Jay Bustard were crowned 2015 National Tree Contest Grand Champions by the National Christmas Tree Association. For the last fifty years contest winners have provided the official Christmas tree for 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

The tree was unveiled by the First Lady on November 27.

Bustard's, a family-owned business, has been operating since 1929.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUSTARD'S TREE FARM'S FACEBOOK PAGE

A group shot of Glenn Bustard, Jay Bustard, White House staff, Matt Bradford (State Representative), Fred Strathmeyer, Jr (Deputy Secretary of Agriculture), Rick Dungey (President of the National Christmas Tree Association).

## Amanda's Recycling Ideas

Santa says he's not stopping at your house because there's no space for new toys? Fear not—there are several organizations that will gladly accept donations of gently-used toys.



Children's Hospital of Philadelphia will help you bring a smile to an ill child. Call CHOP at (267) 426-8174 for more information. In addition, check out [cradlestocrayons.org](http://cradlestocrayons.org) and [secondchancetoy.org](http://secondchancetoy.org) for more ways to recycle used toys. And don't forget Green Drop, which supports US veterans and the visually impaired. Visit [gogreendrop.com](http://gogreendrop.com) for a list of convenient Montgomery County locations.

*Do you have a great recycling idea to share with others? Contact Assistant Manager (and recycling guru) Amanda Zimmerman at (610) 584-1410 or [azimmerman@worcestertwp.com](mailto:azimmerman@worcestertwp.com).*

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

DECEMBER 28—JANUARY 29

Not sure where you're going to dispose of your Christmas tree after the holidays? We'll take it! Worcester residents can drop off their trees for mulching next to the Public Works Garage and dumpsters (*directly behind the Fire Department*). Trees must be free of all ornaments, lights, tinsel, and other decorations. **Note: Trees can be dropped off at any time - a representative from the Township does not need to be present for drop off.**

## Watershed Protection Tip Creek

*Friendly Yard Care Tips for Winter*



There are plenty of things to do in the yard this winter that will help reduce the need for pesticides next spring.

- Spray dormant oil on the bark surfaces of pest-prone ornamental trees and shrubs. Dormant oil is non-toxic and works to kill the eggs of wintering insects. Check product labels for a list of sensitive plants, such as azaleas. Be sure not to spray on blue-needled conifers.
- Spray a leaf protectant on hollies, rhododendrons and other broadleaf evergreen plants to protect against winter moisture loss. Spray early in the winter season when temperature is above freezing.
- Late winter (i.e., March) is a good time to overseed bare spots in lawns. This will increase turf density before weeds have time to germinate.

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



# Worcester Township Ranks Lowest in Millage Again

Municipality	Municipal Millage Rate	Municipal Real Estate Taxes for a Property Assessed at \$200,000
Towamencin	3.808	\$761.60
Whitpain	3.200	\$640.00
East Norriton	2.727	\$545.40
Upper Gwynedd	2.012	\$402.40
Lower Providence	1.767	\$353.40
Skippack	.3508	\$70.16
<b>Worcester</b>	<b>.0500</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

The Township's real estate tax rate will remain at .05 mills in 2016. Worcester's rate is the lowest in the region (see chart at left), and the second lowest among all 67 municipalities in Montgomery County.

One mill is equal to \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The owner of a Worcester Township property assessed at \$200,000 will pay \$10.00 in Township real estate taxes in 2016. Now that's efficient local government!



## Land Development Updates

*The following projects are now under subdivision and development review:*

- **MEADOWOOD:** A 6,565 sf addition to the retirement community located at Skippack Pike. The addition will house rehabilitation facilities, a pool and other amenities.
- **WATER STREET ROAD LP:** A two single-family detached home subdivision located at Water Street Road.

*The following subdivision and land development projects are among those receiving preliminary and/or final approval in the recent years, and construction has not yet begun:*

- **THE RESERVE AT CENTER POINT:** A 25 single-family detached home subdivision on North Trooper Road.
- **STONY CREEK FARMS, COMMERCIAL:** Three buildings for office, retail and restaurant uses at North Wales Road & Township Line Road.
- **WILLOW CREEK FARMS:** A three single-family detached home subdivision at Heebner Road.

*The following approved subdivision and land development projects are now under construction:*

- **THE PRESERVE AT WORCESTER:** A 39 single-family detached home subdivision located at Skippack Pike and North Wales Road.

- **STONY CREEK FARMS:** A 209 single-family attached home subdivision located at Township Line Road and North Wales Road.
- **APPLEWOOD ESTATES:** A 23 single-family detached home subdivision at Berks Road and Skippack Pike.
- **ARBOR RESERVE:** A four single-family detached home subdivision at North Wales Road and Morris Road.
- **SYCAMORE ESTATES:** A 12 single-family detached home subdivision at Berks Road and Weber Road.

All plans are available for public review at the Township Building, Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm.



# The Township Prepares for Another Winter

When snow begins to fall, the Township applies salt to the roadway surface to prevent the formation of ice. Trucks then work to plow the roadways, following specific routes that aim to clear emergency routes and high-priority roads first. For safety reasons cul-de-sacs and other secondary roads are not plowed until all emergency routes and high-priority roads are passable.

As always, our Public Works team will do their very best to keep roadways as clear as possible, but we need your help! When the first snowflakes begin to fall please remember to...

- Remove vehicles from the roadway until the roadway is cleared. Vehicles parked on the roadway hamper snow removal operations, and vehicles parked on emergency routes may be towed.
- Wait until the roadway is cleared before shoveling your driveway, sidewalk and mailbox area. But if you must clear these areas sooner, please know Township trucks will likely throw snow back onto your property when plowing the road.
- Refrain from shoveling snow into the roadway. Pushing snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the roadway creates a safety hazard and could cause an accident. Property owners may be held responsible for accident damages.
- Prepare your vehicle for winter driving. And if you are too nervous about driving on snow and ice, don't drive. Share a ride with a neighbor, or wait until the roadways are cleared before traveling.



The Township does not plow private roadways, roadways not dedicated to the Township, and County and State-owned roadways.

**Germantown Pike** and **Schultz Road** are County-owned roadways. For snow removal concerns on these roads please call the County at **(610) 278-3613**.

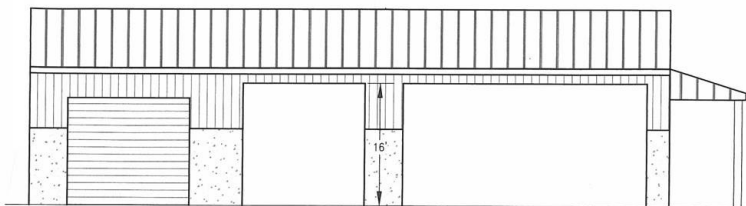
State-owned roadways include **Valley Forge Road**, **Skippack Pike**, **Whitehall Road**, **Township Line Road**, **Stump Hall Road**, **Bethel Road**, **Bustard Road**, **Trooper Road**, **Potshop Road**, **Berks Road**, **Morris Road**, and **Water Street Road**. Please contact the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at **(610) 275-2368** to report snow removal concerns at these roadways.

We thank you for your continued patience and understanding while we work to keep our roads safe during the winter season.

## Coming Soon: New Salt Storage Building

A salt storage building is now under construction at the Township's Public Works complex. The new building will accommodate about twice the amount of salt that can be stored at the existing salt storage building, which has reached the end of its useful life.

The additional capacity will allow the Township to "stock-up" on materials in advance of the winter weather, and lower the risk of running low on materials in the event our region is hit with multiple storms in quick succession.



The building also includes a wash bay, which will help to better maintain Township vehicles and equipment, and an easily-accessed covered area for small tools. Construction will be completed in early 2016.



The Public Works Department beautifies the landscaping at the Valley Green Wastewater Treatment Plant on Defford Road.

## 2015 Road Improvement Program



The Township completed this year's Roadway Improvement Program on budget and on time. Base repairs and resurfacing were completed on six roadways – Frog Hollow Road, Grange Avenue, Heebner Road and Quarry Hall Road, and at portions of Potshop Road.

The Township is now preparing a list of roadways for possible repair and resurfacing in 2016. As the winter progresses Township staff will carefully monitor the roadways' condition, and then prioritize work as conditions warrant.

Additional information on the 2016 Road Improvement Program will be published in the Spring newsletter. Until then... enjoy the season, and stay warm!

## Proper Placement of Mailboxes

*Help Reduce the Opportunity for Damage*

Worcester Township takes every precaution to avoid damaging mailboxes during snow removal operations. Below find some mailbox placement tips to help reduce the chance your mailbox is damaged this winter:

- At an uncurbed roadway, a mailbox should be located 2' from the edge of pavement to provide adequate clearance.
- At a curbed roadway, the 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 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.







## Worcester's "Little Free Library"

The "Little Free Library" is now open for business at the Township Building, 1721 Valley Forge Road. Local Girl Scout Troop 7257 designed, built and decorated the miniature library, then filled it with a great collection of children's books. So stop by and pick-up a great read for the boy or girl in your family.

And if you have a gently-used child's book to donate, please add this to our collection!

There are more than 32,000 *Little Free Library* book exchanges around the world, sharing over 1 million books every year.



## Recognition for Local Girl Scouts and Eagle Scouts

At their October meeting, the Township Supervisors awarded citations to several local scouts who recently completed community service projects.

**JULIAN CAMPANELLA** (Right), Boy Scout Troop 369, achieved Eagle Scout rank by rehabilitating and painting five sheds in Heebner Park. Julian and his team of family, friends and other scouts logged more than 250 hours on the project. The sheds, which are used by youth athletic leagues, enhance the beauty of the park.



**JILLIAN WILLIAMSON** (Left), Girl Scout Troop 7197, earned the Silver Award, the Girl Scout's top honor for Cadettes, for developing an educational program on flag etiquette and retirement. Jillian then directed a flag retirement ceremony at Heebner Park in August, at which 525 flags were properly retired!

**THE GIRL SCOUTS OF TROOP 7257** (Right), earned the Bronze Award, the highest award bestowed upon Junior Scouts. The Troop designed, built and decorated a "Little Free Library", then filled the new library with a great collection of children's books. The library has been installed at the Township Building, and is now open to the public for all to enjoy.

Worcester Township thanks the scouts for their dedication and service to our community!





## Montgomery County - Norristown Public Library

### Bookmobiles:

Bookmobiles take the library experience beyond the library's walls... bringing access to the library's fabulous collection to your doorstep! Click [mnl.mclinc.org](http://mnl.mclinc.org) for bookmobile stops and times.

### Ongoing Programs:

- **Wednesday Movie Matinee** – Second Wednesday of the Month at 1pm. Visit [mnl.mclinc.org](http://mnl.mclinc.org) for movie listings.
- **Book Discussion Group** – Third Saturday of the month at 2pm. The book schedule is posted in advance. New members always welcome!
- **Great Books Discussion Group** – Second Tuesday of the month at 2pm. New members contact Shirley Miller at (610) 272-4179 prior to first meeting.
- **Teen Game Night** – Every Tuesday and Friday from 4 to 5:45 pm. Video and board games for children ages 11 and up. Art supplies are also available!

**Device Advice** – Need help with your e-reader, tablet, e-mail account or Facebook page? A librarian is ready to help! 30-minute help sessions may be scheduled on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 pm. Call (610) 278-5100.



# A Word from the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department

- The 2015 Fund Drive, which provides a significant portion of the Department's annual budget, is underway! The Worcester Volunteer Fire Department is a 100% volunteer organization that's dedicated to providing around-the-clock fire and emergency services to our community. To those who have already contributed, thank you! And to those folks who want to support this vital service, there's still time to make your 2015 tax deductible donation. Please visit [worcestervfd.com](http://worcestervfd.com) for more information.

- Winter is here! Please remember to clear deep snow from the fire hydrants near your home. This will help firefighters to more quickly access hydrants in times of emergency.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Through September 30 Worcester's Volunteer Firefighters have responded to 204 calls for assistance in 2015! Please contribute to this year's Fund Drive, and help support the volunteers who always respond to the call for help.**

- Do you know someone interested in becoming a member of the Worcester Volunteer Fire Department? Then listen up! The Department has a Cadet Program (ages 14 to 16) and a Junior Fire Fighter Program (ages 16 to 18), in addition to its regular membership opportunities. Both in-house training and courses at the Montgomery County Fire Academy are provided at no cost to members. If you are interested please stop by the Firehouse during Thursday drill night, or call (610) 584-5159.

As always... please check out [worcestervfd.com](http://worcestervfd.com), or follow the Department on Facebook, for the latest news and events.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WVFD'S FACEBOOK PAGE



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## KEEP IN MIND FOR 2016 ...

### SEWER BILLS ARE SENT OUT:

Beginning of January 2016 — Quarterly Rate **\$114.95**  
Beginning of April 2016 — **Increased Quarterly Rate \$126.45**  
Beginning of July 2016 — **Increased Quarterly Rate \$126.45**  
Beginning of Oct. 2016 — **Increased Quarterly Rate \$126.45**

### SEWER BILLS ARE DUE:

End of January  
End of April  
End of July  
End of October

### WHY DID THE RATE INCREASE?

A Township Ordinance was passed at the December 2013 Board of Supervisors Meeting to increase the residential rate payable annually for each private dwelling unit for the year of 2014, 2015 and 2016 for public sewer serviced by Worcester Township.

**The increased rate of \$126.45/ quarter will become effective during the April 1, 2016 mailing.**



## DECEMBER MEETINGS

December 7: BOS Work Session—9:00 am  
December 10: Planning Commission—7:30 pm  
December 16: BOS Business Meeting—7:30 pm  
December 22: Zoning Hearing Board—6:30 pm

### OFFICE CLOSURES:

December 24 (Christmas Eve)  
December 25 (Christmas Day)  
December 31 (New Year's Eve)  
January 1 (New Year's Day)

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