Message from the President

This is a critical time within our township. We all recognize that Worcester is a special place to live. Worcester still reflects our agricultural past. Thanks to nine preserved farms and over 400 acres of permanently preserved open space, we live in an oasis of green surrounded by suburban sprawl.

This has not happened by accident. For many decades, Worcester's supervisors and its Planning Commission have provided the guidance that charted this course. The 234 acres of open space owned by homeowners' association shown on the map exist only because it was required by ordinances like Conservation Subdivision, which were prepared by the Planning Commission and passed by the supervisors.

This type of thoughtful zoning, along with carefully crafted comprehensive and open space plans, have allowed Worcester to remain a beautiful and desirable place to live. Because of this desirability, the pressures of development have continued to intensify.

Will this quality of life continue as we move forward? Our supervisors and newly constituted Planning Commission will be critical in shaping the township's path forward. Will Worcester continue to support the preservation of open space? Will we continue to preserve farmland and our historical buildings? Or will the township fall victim to intensified development — more housing, more traffic, more light pollution, and higher taxes?

We as township residents need to hold our elected officials accountable. When you ask someone why they moved to Worcester, the answer is almost always: "I love the open space," or "I feel like I'm in the country." We must continue to advocate for open space acquisition and preservation. We must continue to embrace the vision of a greener community.

Visit our website at friendsofworcester.org to see a color-coded map that shows the various types of preserved and protected open space in the township. Most of the park land owned by the Commonwealth, county, and township is not permanently protected from development.

Protected Land in Worcester
- 834 acres permanently preserved
- 456 acres owned by state, county, or township
- 234 acres owned by homeowners' associations

Total: 1,524 acres protected from development

"Once it's gone, it's gone forever."

FOW Newsletter Contents
- Message from the President .................................. 1
- Meadowood Nature Preserve ............................... 2
- Variety Works Program ...................................... 2
- Willow Creek Farm Preserve ............................... 2
- Public Sewer vs. Septic Systems .......................... 3
Meadowood Nature Preserve

The Meadowood Nature Preserve is an environmental initiative of Meadowood and the Worcester community to promote awareness, appreciation, and improvement of our local natural resources.

Meadowood is in its second round of planting to reach its goal of 500 trees in 5 years, and they are well on their way to reaching this target. In 2017, the first year of the program, they planted 255 trees. To help Meadowood continue to achieve this goal, they were recently awarded a $5,520 TreeVitalize grant to plant more trees in the fall of 2018.

The TreeVitalize Watersheds Grant program and the Plant One Million campaign are managed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and are funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Growing Greener program. Aqua PA is a corporate funding partner for projects located within its source water protection zones.

The TreeVitalize program focuses on planting trees along stream corridors, adjacent upland areas, and headwaters. A stream that feeds the nearby Zacharias Creek originates on Meadowood’s property, so this is an ideal location for TreeVitalize planting.

To learn more about the Meadowood Nature Preserve, or if you are interested in volunteering with the project, please contact Jody LaVerdure at jlaverdure@mwood.org or 484-991-1025.

Variety Works Program

Variety – The Children’s Charity has recently unveiled an innovative job training program for individuals with disabilities, and they are excited to share the news with the community. Variety Works is a cutting-edge endeavor providing people with disabilities with choices, experiences, instruction, and support to help them find employment of their choosing.

In addition to offering their participants experiences and choices they won’t otherwise have access to, Variety is expanding their Community Business Partners program. They are looking to develop partnerships at an array of business locations that can give their trainees job exposure experience.

To learn more about this initiative, or to become a community partner, visit the website at varietyphila.org or call Program Director Heather Johnson at 610-584-4366, ext. 230.

Variety Works is another way that Variety fulfills its mission of nurturing independence and self-confidence and preparing these individuals with special needs for life.

Willow Creek Farm Preserve

Willow Creek Farm Preserve (WCFP) will open for the season in late June 2018, featuring U-Pick transitional organic fruit and farm-based educational tours and programming, and introducing its Seed to Share Garden™.

After a 7-year hiatus, owners Drew and Melissa Smith have created WCFP to steward the land for others and to use the farm for purpose-driven initiatives to improve the health of the community.

Melissa Smith notes, “WCFP is passionate about people and organic farming. Digging in the dirt, picking fruit and vegetables, breathing in the fresh air, and coming alongside others shoulder to shoulder for a common goal builds connection and wellness for ourselves and the environment.” She comments, “Our vision of a ‘healthy community for all’ builds on the foundation of our past experience here at the farm and looks ahead to the future, where we believe the farm will serve as a transformational space in nature.”

The farm will offer U-Pick transitional organic blueberries for the 2018 season. Blackberries and raspberries are being established to be available for U-Pick in 2019. In addition, Asian pears and apples will be offered on a limited basis, as well as wool, which is produced through a new cropping system using Shetland sheep to graze throughout the orchards.

Farm-based educational tours and programming will highlight WCFP’s utilization of restorative organic farming techniques and its ecological approach to agriculture.

A new component of the farm is the Seed to Share Garden™, a universally accessible volunteer-based vegetable garden. The approximately one-acre garden provides a network of raised beds, and 100% of the vegetables produced in the garden will be donated to Montgomery County partner agencies of Philabundance.

Willow Creek Farm Preserve is located on 135 acres that are permanently preserved through the Montgomery County Agricultural Land Preservation Program.
Public Sewer vs. Septic Systems -- Septic System Problems and Solutions

Several recent Friends of Worcester newsletters have outlined some differences between public sewer and private on-lot septic systems. Most of us can agree that Worcester’s long-range plan to stay rural is what we want. It’s what attracted us to the township in the first place. Our blueprint for future growth, the Worcester Comprehensive Plan, does not call for extending public sewer to most of the undeveloped areas of the township. Montgomery County’s Montco 2040 Plan echoes our plan to keep Worcester as a Rural Resource Area, which means public sewer is not proposed for most of the township.

Roughly half of Worcester’s homes are on private septic systems. For these property owners, as well as for the owners of future homes that are proposed to have private on-lot septic systems, maintaining the system in good working order can be the best route to avoiding problems – and expensive public sewer connections – down the road. Many times, small changes in maintenance can have a big impact.

Keys to maintaining a healthy septic system include:

- Have your septic tank pumped every 3 years to keep solids from clogging the drain field.
- Don’t put chemicals such as medicines, paint, pesticides, or oils down the drain or toilet.
- Don’t put cooking grease, fats, or coffee grounds down the sink drain.
- Don’t put anything that doesn’t decompose -- cigarettes, personal care items, or inorganic materials -- down the toilet.
- Don’t plant trees or shrubbery on top of your system’s drain field.
- Read labels to choose non-toxic cleaning products, soaps, and chemicals.
- Put a filter on your washing machine drain to capture loose fibers from wash water.

One reason for septic system failure is too much water entering the system. Water-saving devices like low-flow shower heads, faucet flow control aerators, and water-saving washing machines, dishwashers, and toilets can significantly reduce the amount of water draining into the septic system. We can also consciously reduce the flow rate of water while cleaning dishes, brushing teeth, and showering. It all adds up. Any leak, no matter how small, can add thousands of unnecessary gallons to the septic system. A leaking toilet can add 200 gallons per day or 6,000 gallons per month. Compare that to the average daily use per person, which is 70 gallons per day or 2,100 gallons per month. The best advice is to use water sparingly.

When problems occur, which part of the septic system is causing the trouble? Is it between the house to the septic tank, the septic tank itself, or from the septic tank to the drain field? The septic tank is designed to separate the solids from wastewater, allow the solids to settle to the bottom of the tank, and release the remaining wastewater to the drain field. In a properly operating system, when wastewater reaches the perforated pipes in the drain field, it is absorbed through the soil and percolated back to the groundwater supply. The soil acts as a filter to remove pollutants.

You know something is wrong when you have a wastewater backup, slow draining pipes, septic odor, or a wet spot on your lawn. Sometimes the problem is caused by a blockage or a malfunctioning pump. Broken pipes can also cause other problems, such as allowing rainwater to enter the pipe and flood the drain field. Some experts can scope the pipe with a camera to determine the exact location if a problem exists. If you don’t know where your septic tank is, they can also flush an electronic transmitter to find the location of your system.

If an obstruction is found, a drum auger with a cutting blade can be used to clear the blockage. Broken pipes sometimes can be re-lined by inserting an inflatable pipe material in the old pipe. This can save time and money, and eliminate excavation of your yard.
If no obvious cause is found, what is going on? Chances are your system will no longer allow the wastewater to be absorbed by the drain field (the final area where water is recycled and infiltrated back into the ground). Over time, the drain field and its soil base may get clogged. The organic matter in wastewater forms a bio-mat, a layer of bacteria below and around the drain field trenches. When the bio-mat thickens, it makes the soil less permeable and the drain field stops working properly.

What can you do? Actually, there are a few techniques used to rejuvenate a failing drain field.

Water Conservation – Use water saving devices and appliances.

Rest - Studies show that a drain field that is allowed to rest for several weeks can recover. Once the soil dries out, it may begin to drain again.

Sewer Jetting - Using a pressure washer with a high thrust nozzle, water is injected through the pipes to remove silt deposits and sludge from the lines and drain field.

Soil Fracturing (Terralift) – A pneumatic probe penetrates the drain field every 3 to 4 feet, forcing air through the bio-mat and into the soil to break-up the bio-mat and loosen compacted soil. Polystyrene pellets are then injected into the holes to allow oxygen into the drain field and keep the holes open. This allows the drain field to drain again. The bio-mat doesn’t form when oxygen is present.

Aerobic Treatment Units (ATU) - This septic aeration system converts a conventional septic tank into an aerobic treatment unit. Using an aerating compressor and pump, a controlled amount of air is forced into the septic tank, where aerobic (oxygen-rich) bacteria digest the waste 20 to 30 times faster than a conventional system. The wastewater going to the drain field contains fewer nutrients to support the bio-mat, causing the bio-mat to die and the drain field to be restored.

Enzyme Treatment - Bio-remediation kits and industrial-strength septic tank treatments contain live bacteria and oxygen-rich compounds to break down waste matter and the bio-mat in the drain fields of failing septic systems. Ongoing maintenance is required to boost bacteria necessary for digestion of waste and to keep the drain fields working properly.

Replace Drain Field – This is a last resort.

Taking care of a septic system with proper maintenance will save time, money, and aggravation and help to prevent the spread of public sewer. When a significant number of systems in a neighborhood fail, the usual response is to bring in public sewer, which is a tremendous expense for those homeowners, even if their system is functioning. Extending public sewer to an existing neighborhood can cost each property owner tens of thousands of dollars, in addition to the aggravation of having yards and roads torn up by construction.

Once public sewer comes to a neighborhood, the residents are forever tied to quarterly bills that constantly increase. In addition to simple inflation, sewer fees go up when treatment requirements increase, when the treatment facility needs to be upgraded, and whenever the pipes need to be repaired or replaced. Even worse, when a municipal system is sold to a private owner, the township loses control of the facility. Fees can skyrocket, and the township can no longer control the ability to expand the system to new areas.

Will you want to pay thousands of dollars to connect to public sewer even when your septic system is working properly? Are you willing to pay ever-increasing fees to the township or a for-profit company for as long as you own your home? Not me! Keeping your on-lot system in working order is much less expensive and aggravating.

Limiting the expansion of public sewer is imperative for Worcester’s future. It will help keep the township’s rural character we all love as growth occurs.

78th Annual Farmers’ Union Horse Show Saturday, June 2

Heyser Field, 8:00 a.m.
Valley Forge Road, Fairview Village
behind Worcester Township Community Hall

Please come out on the first Saturday in June and have a great time!

Visit farmersunionhorsecompany.org for additional information on our great organization.
Thank you for supporting our advertisers!

Worcester Golf Club
Now Open!

Worcester Golf Club
1600 Green Hill Rd
Collegeville, PA 19426
610 222 0200
worcestergolfclub.com

COUPON
$2 off
WITH THIS AD!

LAWLER
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Tune Up Special $80.00
Gas, Electric and Heat Pumps only
Call or Email to schedule an appointment
610-584-8741 or 215-412-COOL
heathair@comcast.net
We also service:
- Air Conditioners & Central and Ductless Split
- Humidifiers and Water Heaters
We provide FREE estimates for new installations

“I SELL MORE BECAUSE I DO MORE”
I am a full-time Agent committed to full time service.
I understand the home selling process and will design a Customized
Marketing System to assist you in differentiating your home from
others in your marketing area.
My mission when selling your home is simple:
- Prepare your home for sale
- Market your home to sell
- Keep you up-to-date throughout the process
- Get you to the settlement table with the best possible price

I know this area... I live right here in Worcester, so please contact
me for a free, no obligation, Property Evaluation of Your Home.
“YOU MAKE THE CALL... I’LL DO THE REST”

PAUL GRECO
ACCREDITED LUXURY HOMES SPECIALIST (ALHS)
SENIORS REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST (SRES)

Variety Works
A new & innovative JOB TRAINING program providing career choices,
experiences, instruction and support for individuals with disabilities

Visit our coffee cart
Every Monday-Friday
8am to 1pm
Montgomery County Human
Services Center
1430 Dekalb Pike
Norristown

You can also visit our cart at Variety’s
campus on Primary Day, May 16!

Experience the best in everyday living.
Explore our naturally beautiful 131 acre cam-
pus, tour our community center and see why
our residents call Meadowood home.

Call 610-584-3998 or
visit www.meadowood.net to learn more!
Thank you for supporting our advertisers!

Methacton Oak
Photo Notecards
$10.00 per set (plus S&H)
See all four Methacton Oak photographs on our website
Place your order at
www.friendsof worcester.org

ADVERTISE HERE!
Contact us at
info@friendsof worcester.org

DUNKIN' DONUTS
AMERICA RUNS ON DUNKIN™
2960 Skippack Pike, Unit 4
Worcester, PA 19490
Tel. Phone: 484-991-8067

HOMETOWN Tree Care
*Free Estimates  *Fully Insured
215-416-2769
Thomas Gray
visit us online at www.hometowntreecare.com
Tree Removal ' Stump Grinding ' Pruning

EVERGREEN IRRIGATION
CHRIS HASKINS
2064 SHEARER RD
LANSDALE, PA 19446
www.evergreenirrigationofpa.com
e: chris@evergreenirrigationofpa.com
phone: 215-527-7711

SUPPORT FRIENDS OF WORCESTER
FRIENDS OF WORCESTER is a non-profit organization made up of new and long-time residents of the Township. All involved residents share an appreciation for the rural quality of Worcester and a common concern for its future. FOW seeks to influence that future. All funds received are used to support our efforts to preserve open space, maintain the rural lifestyle of the community and keep our neighbors informed through our minutes and newsletters.

☐ Friend - $35  ☐ Family - $60  ☐ Benefactor - $100  ☐ Advocate - $250  ☐ Lifetime- $1,000  ☐ Other

NAME: ____________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________
PHONE: ____________________________
E-MAIL: ____________________________

All residents, contributing or not, are always welcome at FOW monthly meetings. Check www.friendsofworcester.org for dates.

Please send your tax-deductible contributions to:
FRIENDS OF WORCESTER
P.O. Box 545
Worcester, PA 19490
(or use the PayPal donation button on our website)

The official registration and financial information of The Friends of Worcester may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.
Thank you for supporting our advertisers!

MTRUHL

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING
Residential and Commercial
For an Appointment
Call 610-539-2920 or email info@mtruhl.com
Use this ad for a $50.00 discount

Since 1997, a family-owned, local electrical contracting company in Jeffersonville. Professional electricians who get the job done right the first time!

- Electrical Repairs
- Generators
- Security/CCTV
- Security Cameras
- And much more
- Data Services
- Heating Services

www.mtruhl.com

SOIL-RICH LTD

TOPSOIL MULCH COMPOST
HITCH ROUGH STONE SAND STEMS

501 N. Trooper Road
Trooper (Norristown), PA 19403
610-539-8988

PICK UP AND DELIVERY
www.soil-rich.com

BRAVO PIZZA

Family-Owned Restaurant Since 1995
610-584-5075
Hours – Mon-Thur: 10am-9pm
Fri-Sat: 10am-10pm
Sun: 12 pm—8 pm

2960 Skippack Pike Worcester PA
(Next to Dunkin’ Donuts)

Salvatore Sparacio (Owner)

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

- Roofing
- Doors
- Capping
- Basements
- Siding
- Windows
- Gutters
- Decks

By Toby Gourley
610-222-0696
Worcester
Lic# PA035962
Established 1991

Deck Medic

COMPLETE WOOD RESTORATION
CLEANING and PRESERVATION

P.O. Box 157
Quakertown PA 18951
www.deckmedic.com

ROBERT W. BENNER
Sales Manager
215-538-3779 (Office)
215-538-9949 (Fax)
FRIENDS OF WORCESTER
P.O. Box 545
Worcester, PA 19490
Nonprofit Org.
US Postage Pd
 Permit No. 146
Southeastern, PA

DAVID BROTHERS
LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Timeless Landscapes
with Sustainable Design

Quality service with
courtesy and reliability

Whitehall and Bean Roads
P.O. Box 123
Worcester, PA 19490
215.247.2992 ~ 610.584.1550
www.davidbrothers.com

Friends of Worcester Officers

Kim David - President (610-584-1805)
Rob Hayes - Vice President (610-584-0371)
Barb McMonagle - Treasurer (215-257-1436)
Greg Gogates - Secretary (484-744-1811)
Wini Hayes - Board Member (610-584-0371)
Paula Wiley - Board Member (610-724-1633)

Join us for an upcoming meeting
2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
September through May
visit friendsofworcester.org for details.

Worcester Township Public Meetings
Community Hall, 1031 Valley Forge Rd,
Fairview Village

Board of Supervisors
3rd Wed. of the month, work session, 6:00 p.m.
regular meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission
2nd & 4th Thursday, 7:30 pm

Zoning Hearing Board
4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Check worcesterwp.com for meeting date changes or cancellations.