

# Within WARWICK

Winter 2021

The Heart of Bucks County Pennsylvania



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# WARWICK TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

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## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### Police Emergencies

**9-1-1**

Police Dispatch (non-emergency) 215-328-8502  
Warwick Fire Co. (non-emergency) 215-343-9971  
Hartsville Fire Co. (non-emergency) 215-672-9242

### Fire Emergencies

**9-1-1**

Water & Sewer Authority 215-343-3584  
or 215-491-0610  
Tax Collector – Denise Betts 215-491-0611

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

### Board of Supervisors

3rd Monday 7pm  
Judith A. Algeo, Esq., Chair  
John W. Cox, Vice Chair  
Edward P. Thompson, Jr.

### Parks and Recreation Board

Quarterly on 3rd Wednesday 7pm

### Financial Advisory Committee

Quarterly and as needed 12pm

### Zoning Hearing Board

1st Tuesday, as needed 7pm

### Planning Commission

1st Wednesday, as needed 7pm

### Tree Committee

Quarterly on 2nd Tuesday, as needed 3pm

### Water & Sewer Authority

4th Monday (3rd Monday in May) 7pm

## STAFF DIRECTORY

Kyle Seckinger - kseckinger@warwick-township.org  
Township Manager

Becki Wilhelm - bwilhelm@warwick-township.org  
Assistant Township Manager/Director of Finance  
and Benefits

Skye Sorresso - ssorresso@warwick-township.org  
Assistant to the Township Manager

Brandy McKeever - bmckeever@warwick-township.org  
Director of Planning and Zoning

Kristen Beach - kbeach@warwick-township.org  
Deputy Zoning Officer

Robert Prato - rprato@warwick-township.org  
Fire Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer

Grace Dickson - gdickson@warwick-township.org  
Receptionist/Permits Clerk

Mark Goldberg - warwickpolice@comcast.net  
Chief of Police/Emergency Management Coordinator

Mark Rambo - mrambo@warwick-township.org  
Director of Public Works

Dan Sharapan - dsharapan@warwick-township.org  
Director of Parks, Recreation & Open Space

Erin Long - elong@warwick-township.org  
Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator

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(Behind the First National Bank of Newtown, Jamison Branch)

## From the Board of Supervisors...

Two of the most common requests we receive are for more trails and open space. For reference, the township has approximately 63,396 feet or over 12 miles of paved multi-use trails. This includes trails in parks, neighborhoods, and open space areas, but does not include concrete sidewalks, stone trails, or bike lanes.

To further augment our trail system, the Board of Supervisors are planning the installation of a shared bike/pedestrian lane on Stony Road between Bentley Drive and Turkeytrot Road, and filling in sidewalk gaps along York Road. Construction is expected in 2022.

To supplement our trails, we also have approximately 1,851 acres of open space throughout the township. Of that number, 1,190 acres were preserved either solely by the township or in conjunction with others. Bucks County owns 431 acres and the Heritage Conservancy owns 230 acres. Note that these figures do not include open space owned by homeowners' associations, the Warwick Township Water and Sewer Authority, Delaware Valley University, and state sponsored conservation easements. PDFs of our open space and trail maps can be found on our website under the "References" page and on pages 8 and 9.

Lastly, the Warwick Township Board of Supervisors, under the direction of Chairperson Judith Algeo, Vice-Chairperson John Cox, and Edward Thompson, Jr., have remained committed to providing these new trail connections and many other capital projects for 2022 without increasing property taxes in 12 years.

For more immediate Township news, we ask that you follow Warwick Township on Facebook, Twitter (@TwpWarwick), or the Township website ([www.warwick-bucks.com](http://www.warwick-bucks.com)).



[www.warwick-bucks.org](http://www.warwick-bucks.org)



## Meet Grace!

Grace Dickson joined Warwick Township in June 2021 as the new Permit Clerk / Receptionist. Grace is a Bucks County native and graduated from Neshaminy High School. She attended Holy Family University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Pre-Law. Recently married, Grace currently resides in Langhorne and spends her free time with her Husband Jared and puppy Otto. She is excited to assist the residents of Warwick Township within her new role in the Planning and Zoning Department.

# Welcome!

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# Winter Safety

Robert Prato, Fire Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer

The winter season can be a fun and festive time of year. But it can hold many hidden fire and safety hazards too. Here are some things to keep in mind as you are going through the colder months:

Heating is the second leading cause of US home fires and home fire injuries and third leading cause of home fire deaths. December, January, and February are the peak months for heating fires. Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires, accounting for more than two of every five fires (44%), as well as most deaths and injuries in home fires caused by heating equipment. Keeping space heaters at least 3 feet away from children, pets and combustible materials is a good start to using them safely. Also, unplugging electric space heaters when not in use or attended is another good way to stay safer.

Fireplaces and chimneys can provide a comforting and pleasant way to add warmth to your home, if they are maintained and used correctly. A fireplace chimney should be inspected and cleaned annually before the fireplace is used the first time for the season. Combustible objects should be a minimum of 4 feet away from the hearth and flammable items should never be hanging from the mantle when the fireplace is in use. Only burn properly dried hardwoods to prevent creosote buildup and chimney fires in wood fireplaces. Never leave a fireplace burning unattended. Only put ash in a metal container with a tight sealing lid. Only dispose of these ashes after they have cooled for a week or more, or after they have been thoroughly wet down. Improperly disposed of ashes have caused many local winter home fires in the past. Take a few extra steps to ensure you are being safe with your fireplace.

December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. The top two days for home candle fires are Christmas and Christmas Eve. Each year between 2013-2017, an average of 7,900 home candle fires were reported each year. Keeping

children and pets away from burning candles and making sure combustible items are not located too close to the flame will reduce the risk of incident.

Carefully decorating your home can help make your holidays safer. Between 2014-2018, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 770 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees. Live Christmas trees are combustible items that become

increasingly flammable as they continue to dry out in your home. Keep them well watered while they are in your home. More than one-quarter (29%) of home fires that begin with Christmas trees occur in January as they become older and drier. When the needles become brittle or start dropping off, it is time to dispose of the tree.

Keeping these ideas in mind during the winter months will help to ensure a safe season for you and your family.

**Put a FREEZE on Winter Fires**

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!

<p>Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.</p>	<p>1 in every 7 home fires and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths involves heating equipment.</p>	<p>Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.</p>
<p>Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away from your home as possible.</p>	<p>Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.</p>	<p>Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.</p>
<p>Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.</p>	<p>Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.</p>	

FEMA | U.S. Fire Administration | Fire is Everyone's Fight | NFPA

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter) and [www.nfpa.org/winter](http://www.nfpa.org/winter).

## Happy Fall from the Tax Office - A note from Denise Betts

Real Estate tax bills for 2021 were mailed March 1st and July 1st. If you did not pay your current tax bill, they are in penalty now. Liens for unpaid Tax bills for 2021 will be turned over to Bucks County Tax Claim in December. Please update the Tax office of any address changes. New homeowners or deed changes please remember to apply for the Homestead reduction through Bucks County Board of Assessment by March 1, 2022. The tax office has a generic e-mail reminder list of mailings and due dates. If you would like to be included, please send an email to Denise with the subject e-mail list and you will be added. To contact Denise at the Tax office call 215-491-0611 or e-mail [Warwicktaxbetts@aol.com](mailto:Warwicktaxbetts@aol.com). This office collects only real estate taxes. The earned and LST tax Collector is Keystone Collections. You can contact them at 1-888-328-0565 or their website [Keystonecollects.com](http://Keystonecollects.com). File your local return with Keystone by April 15, 2022.

## Snow and Fire Hydrants

In an emergency, every second counts. Visible fire hydrants are easy for first responders to locate and quickly open and operate during an emergency.

You can help to keep your family and neighbors safe this winter season by helping to clear fire hydrants of snow. Please consider adopting a fire hydrant and make it accessible for first responders by clearing away the snow from on and around the hydrant.

Thank you to all the residents who helped to clear the fire hydrants on their street last winter. We appreciate your help!



## Super Squad Assemble!

Warwick Township Parks and Recreation department put a request out to the teenaged members of the community. Will you help us form a volunteer organization to expand the Township's events and outreach to the community? Our call was answered. The Warwick Township Super Squad has assembled 10 members between the ages of 14 and 18. These kids all want to give back to the neighborhood they grew up in. They love the idea of taking events they attended as little guys and making them even better. Each Super Squad member brings a unique quality to the group. We are very excited to begin working with these driven kids and see what they can accomplish.



## Know Your Local Wildlife – Whitetail Deer



One of the most commonly seen animals in our area is the Whitetail Deer. Did you know the Whitetail Deer is the state animal? Their name comes from the white underside of their tail which can be seen as they run. Only males have antlers which they shed each winter. If you are lucky enough you may find these "sheds" amongst the forest or other areas of travel. Whitetail Deer are herbivores meaning they eat vegetation. Many people may find themselves at odds with Whitetail Deer because they tend to eat landscaping and other plant material out of necessity. When fawns are born the mother will tend to leave them in a safe location while they forage for the day. Never move or disrupt a fawn as mom will return. It is also not uncommon for deer to adopt fawns who are without a mother. If you'd like to learn more about the Whitetail Deer, there are many state and local resources available.

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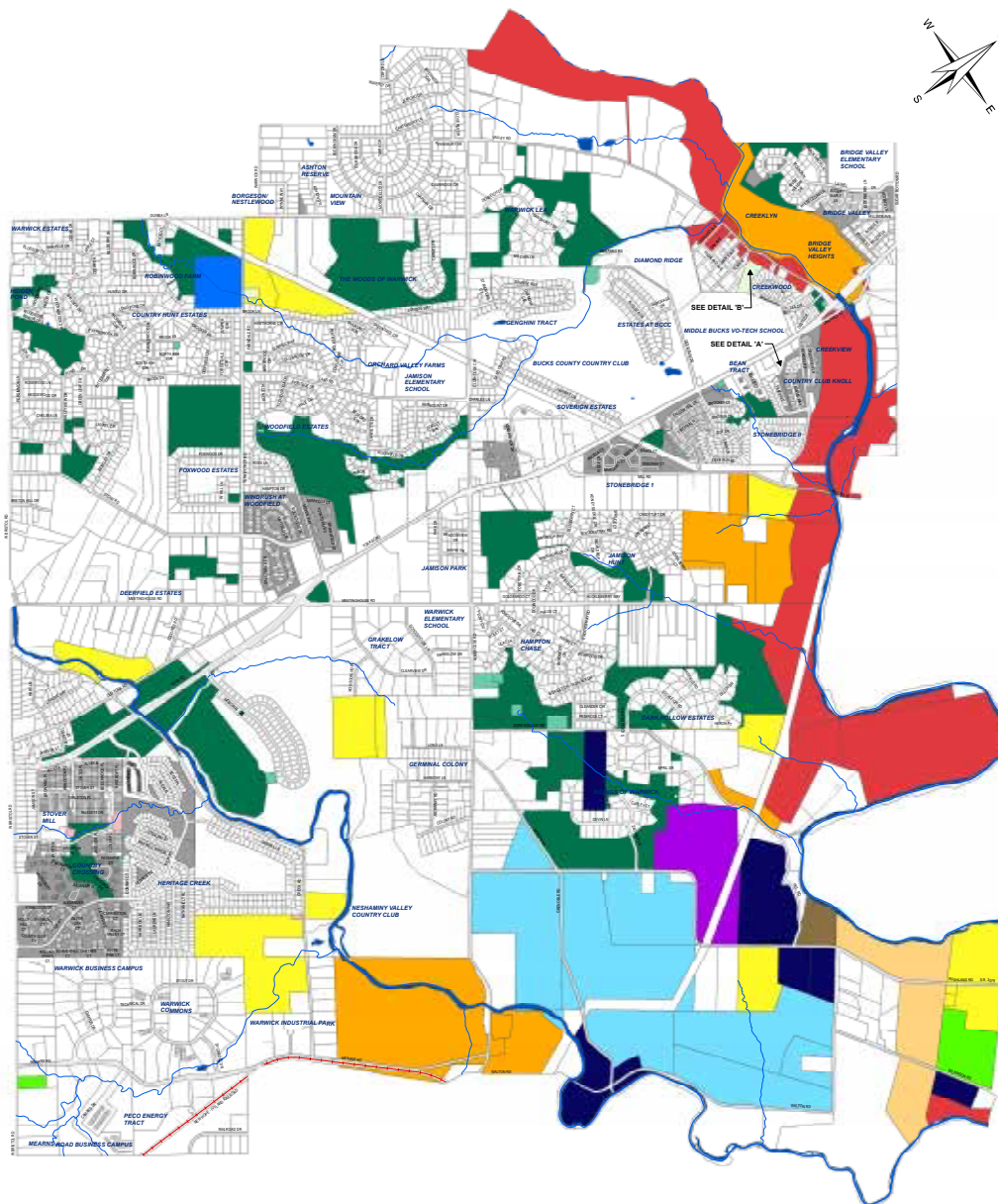
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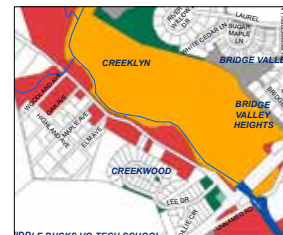
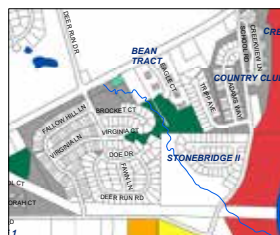


## WARWICK TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE



### OPEN SPACE KEY

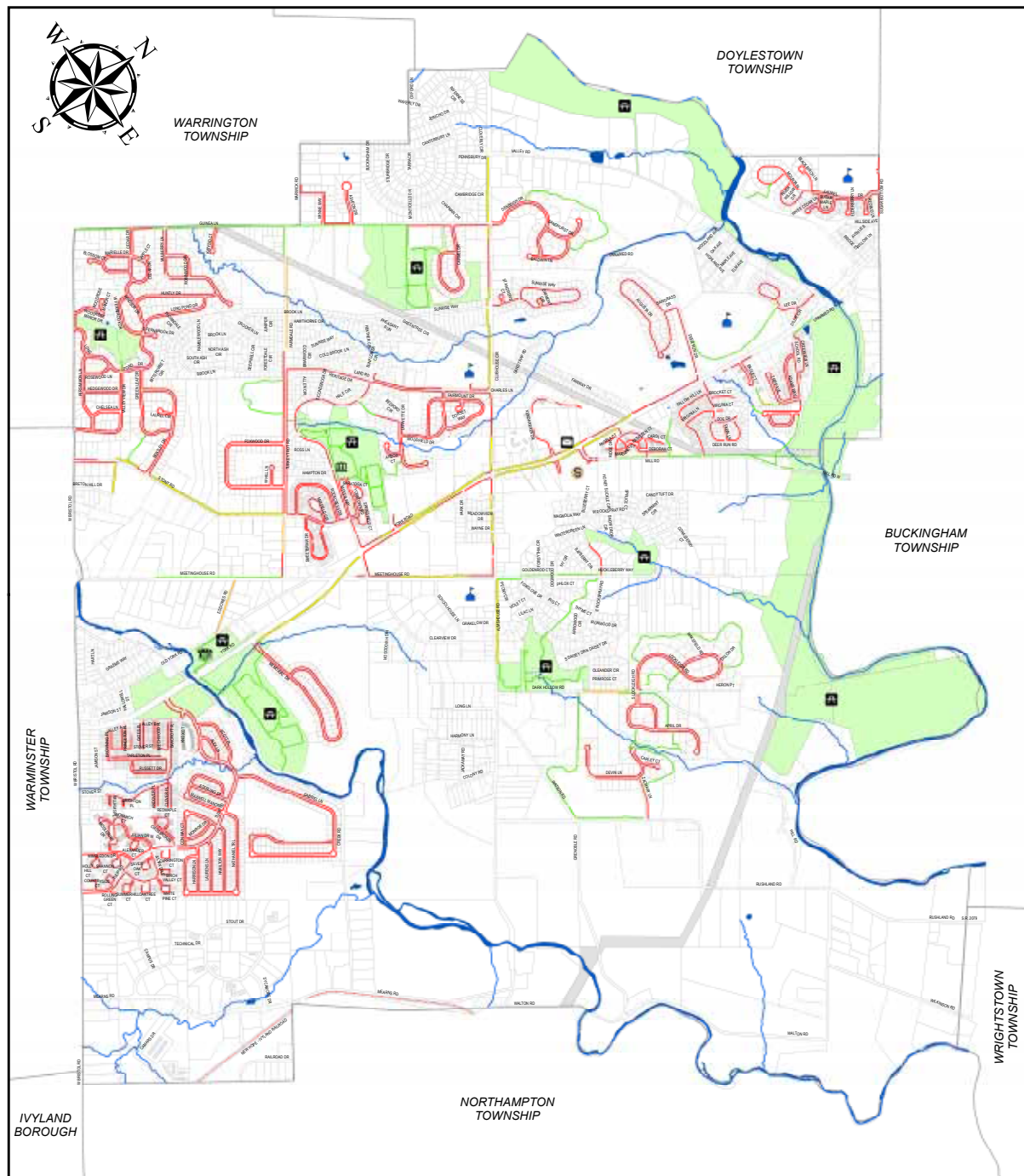
- BUCKS COUNTY
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON OGS PLAN WITH NO DOCUMENTATION
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO WARWICK TOWNSHIP
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO WARWICK TOWNSHIP AND HERITAGE CONSERVANCY
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO WARWICK TOWNSHIP AND BUCKS COUNTY
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO WARWICK TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, AND HERITAGE CONSERVANCY
- DELAWARE VALLEY COLLEGE SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE
- HERITAGE CONSERVANCY
- HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION OPEN SPACE
- WARWICK TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER
- WARWICK TOWNSHIP
- WARMINSTER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO BUCKS COUNTY AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO HERITAGE CONSERVANCY



2	2-12-2019	GENERAL REVISION
1	11-04-2013	GENERAL REVISION AS PER TOWNSHIP COMMENTS
	11-10-2011	REDRAW
No.	Date	Description

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## SIDEWALKS, PATHS, AND TRAIL MAP

### Figure 7

#### PLACES OF INTEREST

- SCHOOL
- MOLANDER HOUSE
- SHOPPING CENTER
- MUNICIPAL BUILDING
- POST OFFICE
- PARK
- TRANSMISSION LINE

## WARWICK TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2019

0 450 900 1,800 2,700 3,600 Feet

Created: 7/19/2019

Revised: 8/13/2019

Revised: 7/28/2020

#### LEGEND

- CONCRETE SIDEWALK
- BITUMINOUS SIDEWALK / TRAIL
- STONE TRAIL
- BIKE LANE
- STREAMS
- PROPOSED CONNECTION



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# WARWICK TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Be sure to check out all of our Winter Programs and events on our website, [www.warwickrec.com](http://www.warwickrec.com).

## WINTER PROGRAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for WINTER programs begins on Monday, January 3. The best and easiest way to register is to go to the website for the Parks and Recreation Department ([www.warwickrec.com](http://www.warwickrec.com)). You must create an account before you can register for a program. You can also register in person at the Township Administration building during normal business hours, 8am-4pm, Monday through Thursday and 7am-3pm on Fridays. All children must be the age or going into the grade specified before the start of the program, NO EXCEPTIONS! There is no PRO-RATING for any of our camps or programs. Refunds must be requested at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the program.

PRESCHOOL	SCHOOL AGE		ADULT	
Let's Get Messy Preschool Art Class	Archery	Adobe InDesign Class	Zumba	Adobe InDesign Class
Sticky Finger: Super Snackers Class	Karate	E-Sport Competition Leagues	Archery	Men's Basketball
	Soccer	Engineering for Kids Programs	Fly Fishing - Fly Tying Class	Competitive Volleyball
	Adobe Photoshop Class	Youth Cross Country	Adobe Photoshop Class	Hooks & Needles Club
	Adobe Illustrator Class	Volley Tech Volleyball	Adobe Illustrator Class	Novel Bunch Book Club

## Cozy Winter Fun

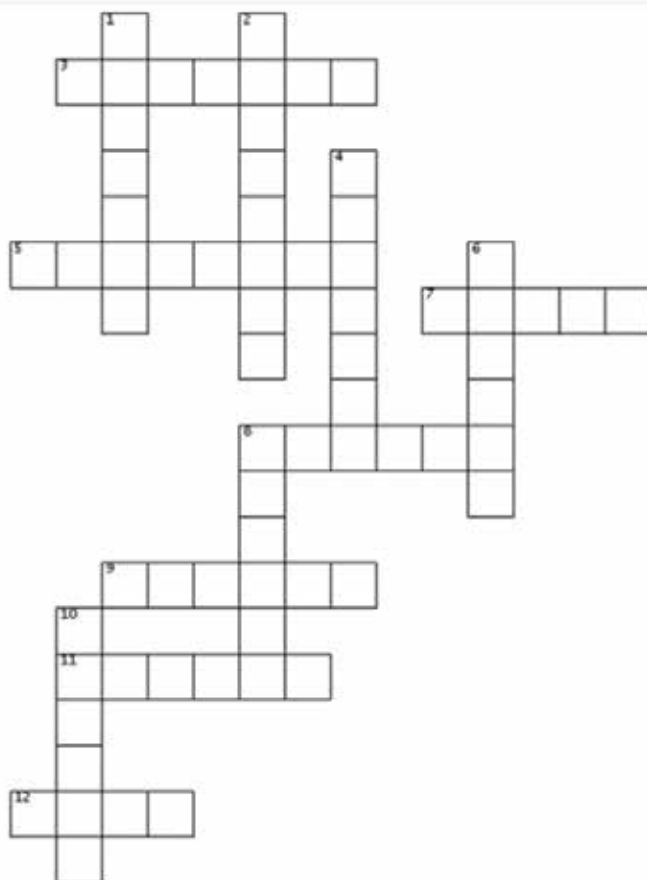
Winter is here and it brought this game to our Newsletter. Use the clues to fill in the words below. Words can go across or down. Letters are shared when words intersect. Have fun!

### ACROSS

3. A popular candle scent
5. To predict the future weather
7. A long accessory usually worn around the neck
8. A tool used to clear away snow
9. Several pieces of clothing worn on top of one another in the winter
11. Players play with a puck
12. A sleeveless piece of clothing worn over a shirt

### DOWN

1. First month of the year
2. A severe snow storm with high winds
4. A hot beverage, most common topping is marshmallows
6. When ice freezes in a long sharp spike
8. Achoo!
10. Shake uncontrollably as a result of being cold





## Winter Weather FAQ - Public Works Department

### **Why did you plow snow back on to my driveway after I cleared it?**

Ideally, don't shovel the end of your driveway until the plows have finished with your street. Remember, all plows are angled to discharge snow to the curb on the right. It is impossible to plow the streets without the plow being angled. When shoveling your driveway, pile snow to the right. This will help prevent the plow from covering your driveway opening again.

### **Tomorrow is trash day and we are expecting snow tonight. Should I put out my cans?**

No. Trash cans should be removed from streets and curbs to allow free flow of the snow plow.

### **My neighbor blows snow into the street rather than back on to his property. Is this allowed?**

No, it is not! Do not throw or blow the snow that you remove from your driveway or sidewalks back on to the street. This slows the snow removal process and you could be subject to a fine.

### **York Road (or another State-Owned road) needs to be plowed. Why aren't you out there?**

There are six State Owned roads in Warwick Township. They are: Almshouse Road, Bristol Road, Mearns Road, Rushland Road, Sugarbottom Road and York Road. PennDOT ( 1-800-932-4600) is responsible for the salting, plowing and maintenance of these roads. Warwick Township cannot plow these roads.

### **It doesn't look like the roads were salted. Will you be out soon?**

Salting operations begin very quickly after the first frozen precipitation starts to accumulate. Our PW employees are dispatched to the snow emergency routes first then to main streets in the subdivisions. Cul-de Sacs are the last streets to be salted due to the relatively low level of vehicular activity. Road salt needs friction to activate. The road salt may be there but will not instantly melt precipitation upon its application. When a vehicle's tires make contact, the salt responds.

### **Do Township employees perform all the snow plowing in Warwick? I think I saw a contractor's truck.**

During a winter weather event, all PW employees are on duty. Depending on the storm, contracted employees will be dispatched by the Public Works Director to assist us. Last year several of our storms required the use of up to 15 contractor plows during winter storm events.

---

## Remove Basketball Hoops in the Right-of-Way

Public Works is not responsible for basketball hoops or nets placed along the roadway that may be damaged during snow removal operations. Large snow plow vehicles traveling on residential streets can easily hit into poles and nets hanging over or near the street. Damage can occur to our vehicles and the operator as well as damage to private property. Any basketball hoops or nets should be removed from the right of way (roadways and sidewalks) during the months of November through March.

---

## Please Prepare Your Mailbox for Winter

PennDOT allows property owners to place mailboxes within the limits of the legal right-of-way, out of respect for the U.S. Postal Service's need to deliver, and mail customers' convenience of delivery. But because those boxes are within the right-of-way, damages are the responsibility of the property owner. Be sure your mailbox has strong support. You may also wish to use reflective tape or other material to make it easier to see during storms or during dark hours. Check your box and support often, clearing snow from it and depositing the snow properly and in a manner to allow you and motorists proper sight distances (and never on the roadway). Homeowners who have followed these tips in the past and still experienced damaged mailboxes may wish to consider installing cantilevered mailbox support that will swing a mailbox out of harm's way. An example of a cantilever mailbox can be found on the Public Works page of the township website at [www.warwick-bucks.org](http://www.warwick-bucks.org).

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## SEDIMENT AND STORMWATER:

Believe it or not, one of the biggest threats to our water quality is plain, old dirt washing into our streams from lawns, roads, driveways and construction sites. Topsoil is an important resource for your yard. However, when the soil is lost through erosion, it becomes a pollutant called "sediment". Water flowing from your yard during rain or snow melt carries sediments to our local streams.

### WHAT'S WRONG WITH SEDIMENT?

Sediment clouds water and reduces sunlight for stream plants that provide habitat and oxygen for fish. Sediments fill in the spaces between rocks in the stream and take away fish spawning habitat.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT EROSION?

- Seed or mulch any bare soil on your land. Plant roots help keep the soil in place and prevent erosion.
- Choose native perennials, shrubs and trees that thrive in your soil or climate.
- Direct downspouts onto grass or gardens.
- Make sure sloped areas on your property are covered with vegetation.
- Cover gardens with mulch or leaves over winter to protect plants and reduce erosion when snow melts.
- Plant shrubs or trees to create a buffer between your property and any lake or stream to slow the water and filter out pollutants.

### SIGNS OF EROSION INCLUDE:

- Exposed tree roots, stones and rocks
- Formation of small gullies
- Buildup of soil in low areas
- Widening or deepening of stream channels



If you observe pollution entering the stormwater collection system, stream, creek or river, call 215-343-6100.



## Calling for Volunteers!

Warwick Township will have vacancies on the following Boards/Committees for 2022.

### **Financial Advisory Committee (1-year term)**

*Committee reviews township pension plans and makes recommendations to enhance performance.*

### **Parks & Recreation Board (3-year term)**

*Board reviews park amenities, rules, and programs, and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.*

### **Tree Committee (1-year term)**

*Committee reviews tree species, tree/planting related Ordinances, and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.*

If interested in any of the posted vacancies, please submit a cover letter and resume to Skye Sorresso, Assistant to the Manager, at [ssorresso@warwick-township.org](mailto:ssorresso@warwick-township.org).



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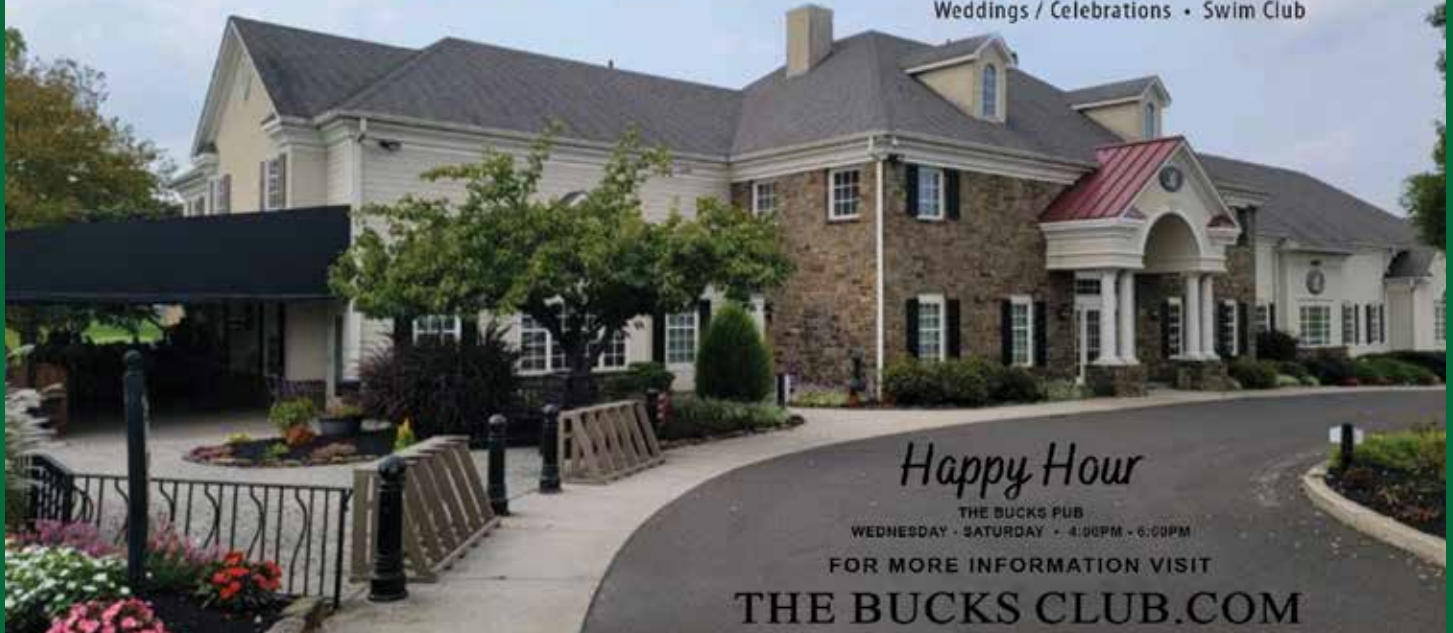
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