

## SECTION 9 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

### A. Introduction and Statement of Goals

Radnor Township is a thriving, robust community, with a substantial residential and economic base. Radnor constituents demand an ample array of high quality services. Appropriately, Radnor has developed highly sophisticated public service and facility systems to serve its constituents. Figure 9-1 maps these service and facility systems (note that public recreation and open space features are mapped separately in the Open Space and Recreation Section and both public and parochial schools are also included in the Institutional Uses Section maps). Whether it is the Library, the Senior Center, the School District, the Fire Company, Radnor Township works hard to make sure that its public services and facilities provide an exceptional value for Township residents. The Township Municipal Building is “command central” for a multitude of public services, including Police, Engineering, Community Development, Parks & Recreation, Finance, and Administration. The Township’s Public Works Maintenance Facility houses crews and equipment for the maintenance of parks, sewers, highways, and vehicles, and for refuse and recycling collection.

#### 1. Goals and Objectives

Although Radnor’s public service and facility systems already are highly developed and have been the recipient of many awards and honors, there is always room for improvement, including room for improved efficiency. In fact, given the reality of increasing costs of service delivery, the challenges of improved efficiency are likely to be a more serious issue in many of Radnor’s service systems. Additionally, the changing nature of Radnor’s population, including more older households, may also indicate the need for somewhat different services. Goals include:

##### Goals

*Provide a full range of public facilities that are conveniently located and accessible to all residents.*

*Maintain the high level of services offered to Township residents.*

*Anticipate and plan for future public facility needs.*

### B. Services

#### 1. Police Protection

The Radnor Township Police Department (RTPD) ensures public safety by protecting Township residents and their property, as well as the broad array of businesses and other public and private facilities. The Police Department has 50 uniformed officers, 11 full-time civilians, and seven part-time school crossing guards. The RTPD comprises four divisions: Patrol, Criminal Investigations Unit; Traffic Safety; and Administration. Each member of the RTPD receives 672 hours of annual training in accordance with the Pennsylvania State Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission.

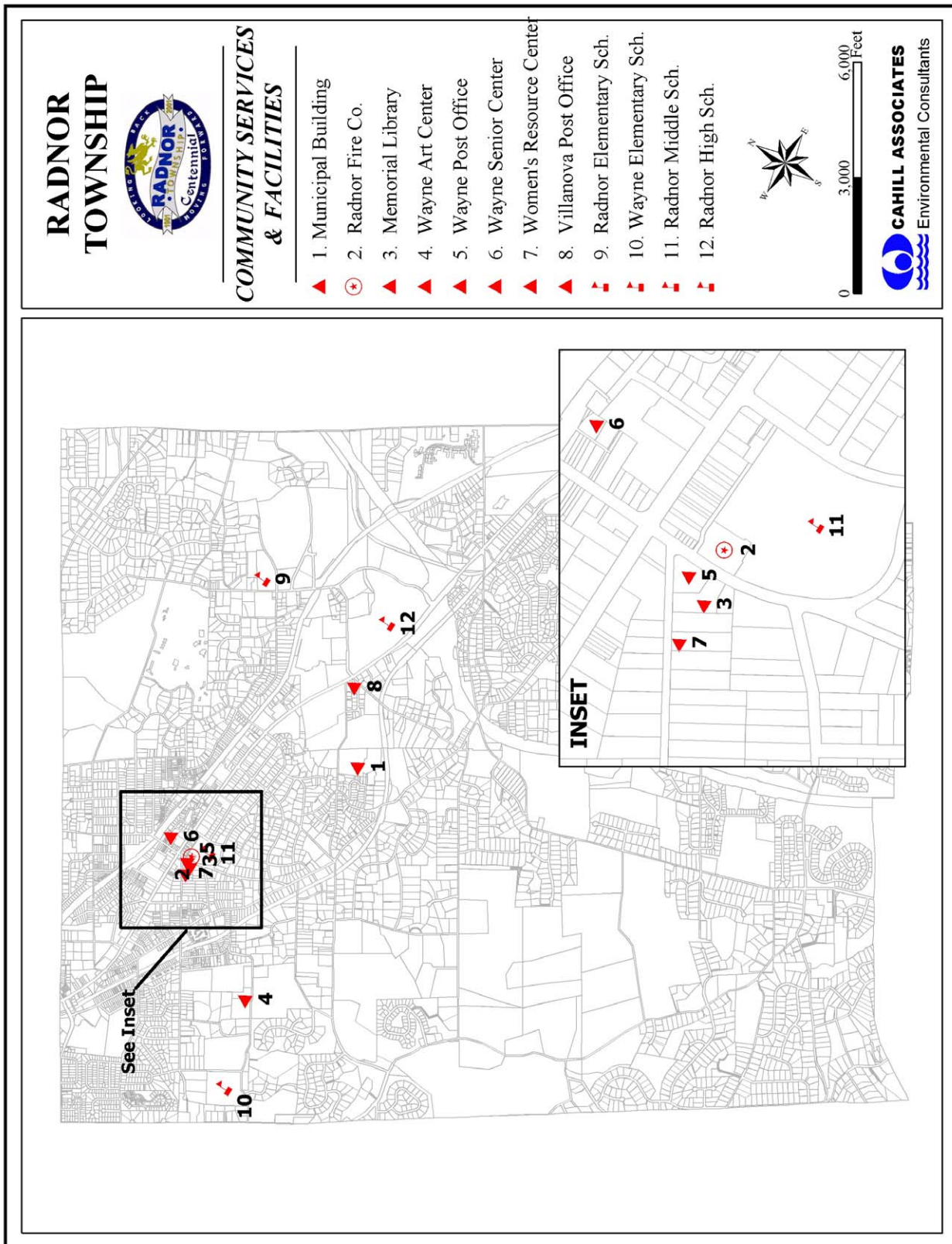


Figure 9-1. Community Service & Facility Locations in Radnor Township

Historically, Radnor Township has a low crime rate and is known as a safe place to live. In 1999 and 2000 Radnor experienced a decline in Class-One criminal offenses, including assault, burglary, larceny and arson. In addition, the Township experienced a drop in acts of vandalism, underage drinking, disorderly conduct, and driving while under the influence of alcohol. The low crime rate of the Township has won recognition by *Philadelphia* magazine, which in 1995 rated Radnor as one of the safest places to live in the Philadelphia region. The Township and the broader community appreciates and respects the hard work of the Police Department; in 1997, the RTPD was awarded the “Readers Choice as the Best Police Force” serving the Main Line and Western Suburbs.

## 2. Fire and Emergency Services

Three fire and rescue companies serve Radnor Township: Radnor Fire Company (Figure 9-2), Bryn Mawr Fire Company, and Broomall Fire Company. The Radnor Fire Company, located on South Wayne Avenue in the heart of Wayne, has approximately 65 volunteers, four paid certified emergency medical technicians, and provides service to most of Radnor Township and the panhandle of Tredyffrin Township. The Bryn Mawr Fire Company is located on Lancaster Avenue in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County. Bryn Mawr has 45 volunteer firefighters and serves Lower Merion Township and the portion of Radnor Township east of Route 320. Broomall Fire Company has 75 volunteer firefighters who serve Marple Township and portions of southwestern Radnor Township.

The Radnor Fire Company was the original fire company for Wayne, responding to 13 alarms using a one-horse hose cart and a two-horse chemical engine during the first year of duty in 1906. The Radnor Fire Company currently operates three Engines, one Ladder Truck, one Rescue Truck, and two Ambulances. The Firehouse has been reconstructed three times at the same location at 121 South Wayne Avenue, the last renovation and expansion having been completed in 199\_. The Fire Company uses a thermal imaging camera system to detect hot spots and locate victims.



**Figure 9-2. Radnor Fire Company**

The Ambulance Division of the Radnor Fire Company provides 24-hour emergency medical assistance to Radnor and Tredyffrin residents. The Ambulance Division has a paid and volunteer staff of 26 active members, 8 probationary members, and 2 junior members. This Division has two fully staffed and equipped ambulances, each equipped with state-of-the-art tools and technology. The Ambulance Division responds to over 1,800 medical emergencies per year, and provides an invaluable resource to Radnor residents. Advance Live Support Services, which used to be provided by Main Line Health out of Bryn Mawr Hospital, have been handled by Narberth Ambulance in cooperation with the Radnor Fire Company, which administers the service, since 2001.

### **3. Public Works Department**

The Public Works Department of Radnor Township is divided into six divisions, whose overall mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Township. The Public Works Department is responsible for the upkeep of roadways, snow removal, leaf collection, trash and recyclable materials collection, sanitary and storm sewer maintenance, parks maintenance, as well as maintenance of the Township's fleet of vehicles.

**Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Division:** The most important charge for this Division is to ensure that wastewater is carried away efficiently without causing any health hazards to the public. Property owners connected to the sanitary sewer system pay an annual sewer rent which funds the operations of this Division. As of 2002, the rate for sewer services was \$3.19 per 1,000 gallons of water used the previous year.

Virtually the entire Township is connected to public sewers. The system of sewer-mains conveys sewage flows by gravity through regional interceptors to large pump stations located at the “bottom” of Delaware County. Sewage is then pumped to the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant in Philadelphia. The wastewater is treated and ultimately discharged into the Delaware River.

The regional system, known as DELCORA – the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority – was designed many years ago and is not without age-related issues. Data from the Philadelphia Water Department and the Delaware County Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update indicates that the collection and conveyance system of interceptors is prone to leaking. The system is extremely old in many locations, and erosion and settling forces have served to weaken the system, exposing piping in some highly eroded places, and jeopardizing its integrity. Because of these issues, Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) problems have been identified in the Act 537 Plan. Radnor Township is part of the Radnor-Haverford-Marple Sewer Authority (RHM), which has been conducting I&I studies for the past seven years. RHM has an ongoing maintenance program that involves the repair of leaking pipe joints and cracked pipes.

Virtually the entire Township is connected to public water through the privately owned Philadelphia Suburban Water Company (PSW). PSW manages and operates the public water supply for the Township, and the larger region alike, through a vast interconnected water supply system, both surface and groundwater-based. Many surface water intakes and reservoirs have been constructed around the County and region, including the Geist Reservoir and multiple

Schuylkill River intakes, and it is therefore difficult to isolate the direct source of Radnor Township's drinking water.

**Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Division:** This Division is responsible for the twice-weekly collection and transfer of all refuse, paper, and recyclable products disposed of by households and other uses in the Township. During 2001, workers collected over 13,000 tons of materials – 26 percent of which was mixed-recyclables. Radnor Township's recycling program requires residents to recycle all clean paper products, clear, brown, and green glass, steel and bi-metallic cans, aluminum cans, and two types of plastic.

After household trash is collected from Township residents, the waste is relocated to one of two Delaware County Solid Waste Authority-managed Transfer Stations located in Marple Township and Chester Township. Solid waste is sorted at the transfer stations and some materials are sent to American Fef-Fuel's Chester Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), a burning facility located in the City of Chester; all other waste materials are shipped to Rolling Hills Landfill in Earl Township, Berks County. Approximately 400,000 tons of commercial and residential trash annually generated in the County is burned at the RRF with the ash residue shipped to Rolling Hills Landfill. The ash residue from the burning facility is shipped to the landfill.

#### **4. Township Municipal Building**

The Radnor Township Municipal Building is situated adjacent to Encke Park on Iven Avenue. The Radnor Township building accommodates the Township Manager's Office, Finance Department, Treasurer's Office, Community Development Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Engineering Department, Police Department, and the Public Information and Telecommunications Office. The Township has determined that a significant increase in building space is needed to adequately service residents over the next several decades. As a result, the Municipal Building will undergo an expansion and renovation at its current site in 2003-2004.

### **C. Facilities**

#### **1. The Memorial Library of Radnor Township**

The Memorial Library of Radnor Township is the community's free public library. Radnor Township has had a library since 1809 when a subscription library was established near the Radnor Friends Meeting House; the first collection consisted of 17 books. The charter was established in 1892. In 1940, the Library was opened to the general public with support from the Township and the School District. In 1946, the Library was enlarged and changed its name from the Wayne Library to the Memorial Library of Radnor Township to commemorate the men and women of the community who died in World War II. In 1980, the Library moved to its current location on West Wayne Avenue, funded by bonds issued by the Township (Radnor Township owns the building), with increased space for its collections and programs and improved access for the disabled. The Library celebrated its Centennial Anniversary in 1992.

The Library is open 7 days a week. It is a member of the Delaware County Library System. The collection contains over 100,000 titles for adults, young adults and children that support a variety of educational, recreational and life-long learning needs. The children's department

offers regularly scheduled story hours and frequent programs and craft activities. Residents have access to information and reference assistance, Internet for public use, online subscription databases, homework help, homebound service, lectures, book discussion groups, and other special events, many of them sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The Library's Winsor Room is a frequent meeting place for community groups.



**Figure 9-3. Memorial Library of Radnor Township**

The Library plans to continue its role as a center of community activity by providing Library programs and services that meet the changing needs of Radnor Township. The Library is experiencing an increased demand for children's services (story-times, programs and reference service to support school work), for access to information in new formats due to developments in technology, for business and investment reference information and for training and guiding those we serve in the wise use of Internet resources. The Library Board has placed a high priority on the Library's continued location in the heart of Wayne. It is exploring its needs for increased space to provide those services in an attractive facility. Providing adequate parking for the needs of library users is an ongoing concern. Attracting and retaining competent, computer-literate and service-oriented staff is also a priority. The Board is examining its needs for ongoing funding and resources to address these concerns. As a Recommended Action, this Comprehensive Plan recommends that the Township continue to support the existing Library facility in Wayne, including any expansion that may be necessary.

## **2. Post Office**

Two United States Postal Service facilities are located within the Radnor Township and serve Township businesses and residents: the Wayne Post Office and Villanova/St. Davids Post Office. The Wayne Post Office is located at 104 South Wayne Avenue (610-964-0208) and is the primary distributor of mail for most Township addresses; there is also a mail distribution function located at Wayne which requires added truck and terminal space. The Villanova/St Davids Post Office is located at 560 East Lancaster Avenue (800-275-8777) and offer similar postal services. Although the existing Wayne Post Office function should continue, the

distribution center function should be relocated from the Wayne location, thereby freeing up needed space for other uses.



**Figure 9-4. Wayne Post Office**

### **3. Radnor Township School District**

The public school system in Radnor Township includes one high school, one middle school, and three elementary schools (see Figure 9-1 for locations). The School District is an extremely important and integral part of the community, in terms of its primary educational function, as well as in terms of its physical facilities, employment, and recreational and cultural benefits. This Township Comprehensive Land Use Plan does not constitute the official plan for the School District, which has its own detailed planning process and outputs including: The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, Strategic Plan, and the Technology Plan. Readers interested in obtaining more information about the School District plans should contact the School District at 610-688-8100.

The Radnor Township School District administrative offices are located at 135 South Wayne Avenue. A nine-member elected School Board, each elected at-large for a four-year term, governs the School District. The Delaware County Intermediate Unit, a regional education service agency, provides state-sponsored support for schools in Radnor Township and throughout the County. The School District has won numerous awards for the high quality of education; most recently, RTSD is the recipient of a 2001 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for the construction of the Radnor Elementary School.

Student enrollment projections are important when considering the carrying capacity of school facilities. The 10-year enrollment projections for the elementary schools (three facilities) show a decrease in student populations, though only by 66 students in ten years. Though elementary school student populations generally rise until 2005, the enrollment is projected to decrease from

1,452 (actual 2001-2002 figures) to 1,386 by the year 2010. The total *functional* capacity for all three schools equals 1,560, demonstrating that the School District is prepared to handle an unanticipated increase in elementary school population.

The actual enrollment for the Middle School during 2001-2002 totaled 726 students. It is projected that enrollment will increase to 798 during 2004-2005, then slowly taper off to 757 students for the school year 2010-2011. The Middle School – wherever it is constructed – will be designed to have ample room to support any increase in Middle School student enrollment, projections notwithstanding. Current enrollment numbers for the Radnor High School are 1,010, with projected enrollment figures increasing in the next 10 years. By the 2010-2011 school year, it is projected that Radnor High School will serve 1,147 students. The functional capacity of the High School facility is estimated to be 1,200, though total capacity is rated as 1,411 students.



**Figure 9-5. Radnor High School**

In the months leading up to this Plan's completion, the Radnor Board of School Directors has determined that a new middle school facility is needed. Significant attention has been directed towards the existing facility and options for its continued use and re-use, including the reuse of the site as a civic-oriented facility; the demolition of the existing structure and re-development of the site with reconstruction of its current educational use; and the relocation of the Middle School outside of Wayne.

This Plan concludes that the Middle School should remain in Wayne for a number of important Comprehensive Planning reasons. The Middle School is important to the Wayne Business District and broader Wayne community, as are our churches, our Post Office and Fire Department, our Library, and the many special services, facilities, and institutions which define life in this very special town center. The Middle School reinforces residential and commercial vitality which makes Wayne such a special place. The School and Business District complement one another in a variety of mutually supportive ways, with the positive effects of the School extending beyond the Business District itself into the surrounding tightly-knit dense and compact residential neighborhoods. As a catalyst for many of the activities that are so essential for the



life of the town, the Middle School complements the Village-like atmosphere which promotes walking through the downtown area where shoppers are served by an ever-widening and diverse group of retailers.

The conclusion reached in the previous paragraph is based solely on comprehensive planning factors. While these comprehensive planning factors should be considered in any decision relating to the relocation of the Middle School, it is not within the scope of this Plan to determine their specific interplay with the equally important educational and site-specific planning factors relating to this decision. However, should the School Board determine that the Middle School is to be relocated, the School site should be used for institutional/community purposes and should not be converted to commercial, office or residential uses, for all of the reasons stated above. The site must continue in some civic-related function.

In addition to the Middle School issue, this Comprehensive Plan concludes that the Township's communication with the Radnor School District (and vice versa) should be expanded and improved. Effort should be made on an ongoing basis to better integrate the School District's planning process more directly with Township comprehensive planning and vice-versa.

#### **4. Other Services**

**Wayne Senior Center:** The Wayne Senior Center is a non-profit, full-service senior center run by paid and volunteer staff who are experts in gerontology, social work, fitness, exercise physiology, marketing, placement, and counseling. The Center provides many free services including meals, health screenings, counseling, transportation, fitness classes, and continuing education. The Wayne Senior Center is funded by Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging, Radnor Township, Tredyffrin Township, the United Way, and individual and corporate donations. Its location in Wayne is appropriate and useful, and the Plan recommends that the Senior Center remain in the center of Wayne.

**Wayne Art Center:** The Wayne Art Center is a non-profit community organization that was established in the 1930's as the first art center on the Main Line. The first classes served 119 students lodged in a carriage house, and current classes comprise over 4,000 students enrolled in over 400 classes. The Art Center's Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Gallery presents up to 12 exhibits annually, highlighting the work of local, regional and national artists. The adjoining Gallery Shop provides a venue in which artists can sell their work and community members can purchase unique crafts.

The Wayne Art Center provides valuable community resources for the pursuit of the fine arts, music and drama, and visual arts. Beginning in 1999, the Center has started on a site expansion program, beginning with acquisition of the neighboring Masonic Temple. The expansion program at the Wayne Art Center should minimize the impact to neighboring land uses and special care should be taken to address any concerns with that and any future development.

**Women's Resource Center:** The mission of the Women's Resource Center, which is a private, nonprofit organization, is to respond to the needs and issues of women and their families in the Delaware Valley. The Center's goal is to strengthen families and the community by helping residents act on their own behalf. Since 1975, Women's Resource Center has provided free and

low-cost programming to women and their families. Averaging 5,000 clients per year, the Women’s Resource Center meets the needs of the community by ensuring that there is an open door for individuals to get help when they think they have nowhere else to turn.

The Women’s Resource Center accomplishes this mission by offering a confidential information and referral service, free and low-cost counseling with therapists, and free consultations with attorneys for legal issues. Other programs include: Free Single Mothers’ Program that includes dinner and child care for participating families, a Girls Leadership Program that encourages middle school girls to discover their leadership strengths, and Legal Direct a free legal service that helps clients gain information and options within the legal system. The Women’s Resource Center has a telephone room for helpline volunteers, individual counseling room for drop-in counseling clients, and two group-meeting rooms for support groups and workshops.

#### **D. Recommended Actions**

Repeated below are the Goals for the Community Services and Facilities section of the Comprehensive Plan, followed by a repeat of the Recommended Actions as set forth in the text.

#### **Goals**

*Provide a full range of public facilities which are convenient and accessible to all residents.*

*Maintain the high level of services offered to Township Residents.*

*Anticipate and plan for future public facility needs.*

#### **Recommended Actions**

- **The Township should support the volunteer-based Radnor, Bryn Mawr, and Broomall Fire Companies and the emergency medical services as appropriate.**
- **The Township should support all of its local government departments as appropriate.**
- **The Township should continue to support the existing Library facility in Wayne, including any expansion that may be necessary.**
- **The distribution center function of the Wayne Post Office should be relocated, thereby freeing up needed space at the Wayne location for other uses.**
- **This Plan concludes that the Middle School should remain in Wayne for a number of important Comprehensive Planning reasons. The Middle School is important to the Wayne Business District and broader Wayne community, as are our churches, our Post Office and Fire Department, our Library, and**

**the many special services, facilities, and institutions, which define life in this very special town center. The Middle School reinforces residential and commercial vitality, which makes Wayne such a special place. The School and Business District complement one another in a variety of mutually supportive ways, with the positive effects of the School extending beyond the Business District itself into the surrounding tightly-knit dense and compact residential neighborhoods. As a catalyst for many of the activities that are so essential for the life of the town, the Middle School complements the Village-like atmosphere, which promotes walking through the downtown area where shoppers are served by an ever-widening and diverse group of retailers. This conclusion is based solely on comprehensive planning factors. While these comprehensive planning factors should be considered in any decision relating to the relocation of the Middle School, it is not within the scope of this Plan to determine their specific interplay with the equally important educational and site-specific planning factors relating to this decision. However, should the School Board determine that the Middle School is to be relocated, the School site should be used for institutional/community purposes and should not be converted to commercial, office or residential uses, for all of the reasons stated above. The site must continue in some civic-related function.**

- **Effort should be made on an ongoing basis to better integrate the School District’s planning process more directly with Township comprehensive planning and vice-versa.**
- **The Wayne Senior Center should remain in the center of Wayne.**
- **The expansion program at the Wayne Art Center should minimize the impact to neighboring land uses and special care should be taken to address any concerns with future development.**