

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP,  
CHESTER COUNTY  
8 TOWNSHIP DRIVE  
CHEYNEY, PA 19319  
PHONE: 610.399.1425 |  
FAX: 610.399.6714  
OFFICE HOURS:  
MON-FRI 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Robert Anthony, Chairman  
James Benoit, Vice-Chairman  
William Reilly, Treasurer  
Michael Gallagher, Supervisor  
George Stasen, Supervisor

**AUDITORS**

Sandra Conn  
Anne Connolly  
Ron Giacinto

**CODES & INSPECTIONS**

James Dickey, BCO

**FIRE MARSHAL/EMC**

F. David Smiley, Sr.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Molly Morrison  
Randell Spackman  
Michele Thackrah  
Kris Walker  
Richard Webster

**PARKS & RECREATION**

Karen Mulligan, Chair  
Teresa DeStefano, Secretary  
Nicole D'Ulisse  
Brooks Durham  
Lauren Durham  
Kim Spackman

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

James Jordan, Chair  
Ryan Estrada, Vice-Chair  
Teresa DeStefano, Secretary  
Timothy Boswell  
John Connors  
Terrence Donohue, Jr.  
Matthew Salerno

**POLICE CHIEF**

Brenda Bernot

**ROADMASTER**

Jacqui Guenther

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Percy Neall

**TOWNSHIP OFFICE**

Jacqui Guenther, Manager  
Teresa DeStefano, Admin.  
Maryann Furlong, Asst. Treas.

**ZONING HEARING BOARD**

Thomas Jaagus, Chair  
Peter DuFault  
Brooks Durham  
Anthony Pierantozzi  
Robert Wiggins

**ZONING OFFICER**

James Dickey, BCO

# The Gander

NEWSLETTER

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP  
CHESTER COUNTY



SPRING 2015

## THORNBURY RECIPIENT OF TREE-VITALIZE GRANT AWARD

Thornbury Township was recently awarded the Tree Vitalize Grant from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Chester County Conservation District for the purchase of trees and shrubs to establish a forested riparian buffer at

Squire Cheyney Farm Park. Reforesting the riparian area at Squire Cheyney Farm Park is an important part of the park's development into a passive recreation facility for community residents. The grant funding will be

used to purchase approximately 100 trees and shrubs native to this area which will be planted along a tributary to the East Branch of Chester Creek which runs through the Squire Cheyney Farm Park.

## TAX TIME IN THORNBURY TOWNSHIP

The Thornbury Township 2015 Real Estate Tax Bills have been mailed and are now due. Please forward your tax bill promptly to your mortgage company if funds are held in escrow. The original tax bill must accompany payment, in the form of check or money order, and should be made payable to "Thornbury

Township". If a receipt is required, please mail the entire bill with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Thornbury Township, P.O. Box 138, Westtown, PA 19395-0138. You may also pay your tax bill at the Township Building, 8 Township Drive, Cheyney, PA 19319, Monday through Friday be-

tween the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Tax payments must be post-marked no later than December 31, 2015.

To simplify the collection process, fire hydrant assessments now appear on the same bill for those residents living in fire hydrant districts.

## RENTAL REGISTRATIONS NOW DUE

If you own a property in Thornbury Township that you lease to tenants who are not immediate family members, you are required to register the property as a rental. There is no fee for the registration. However, there are penalties up to \$600 for those landlords who chose to ignore the

rental registration.

The *Semi-Annual Tenant Report* form is available online and may be submitted via email to [tdestefano@thornburypwp.com](mailto:tdestefano@thornburypwp.com).

The semi-annual report requires the complete name and address of each person 18 years of age and

older who is currently residing in the rental unit owned by the person filing out the report.

Please visit our website at [www.thornburypwp.com](http://www.thornburypwp.com) or stop by the Township Office to register your property. Thank you for your cooperation.



Rokeby Stock Farm (a/k/a Brian's House). South Elevation. Circa 2007.



### MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held at the Township Building unless otherwise stated:

**Board of Supervisors Work Session** is held on the first Tuesday of the month @6:00 p.m.

**Board of Supervisors Meeting** is held on the third Tuesday of the month @7:00 p.m.

**Historic Preservation Committee** meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month @7:30 p.m.

**Parks & Recreation Committee** meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month @7:00 p.m.

**Planning Commission** meetings are held on the first Monday of the month @7:00 p.m.

**Zoning Hearing Board** meets on an as needed basis.

## ROKEBY STOCK FARM (a/k/a Brian's House): Part 1

Rokeby Stock Farm, recently better known as Brian's House, was demolished late last year. During its 150 years on South Concord Road, it was called home by an interesting array of fascinating people. This essay is a glimpse at some of those owners. This multi-part essay is a glimpse at some of those owners. The next part will appear in the next issue of *The Gander*.

The main section of Rokeby, with its 1863 datestone, was built for John Rowan Penrose, who was 50 years old at the time. Penrose was from an eminent Philadelphia family. Related progeny included Spencer Penrose, an entrepreneur and prime mover in the early growth of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Boies Penrose, a U.S. senator in the 1900s and 1910s. The latter was famous for holding that office longer than any other

Pennsylvanian -- until Arlen Specter beat his record in 2005.

John Penrose married Anna Maria Burton in 1838 and moved into the Burton family's shipping business. He was soon senior partner of Penrose and Burton. In his 30s, he belonged to the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, the socially prominent, and arguably oldest, private military unit in service to the United States. Then he moved on to serve as a director on a number of boards, including the Board of Port Wardens and the Delaware Mutual Insurance Company.

Penrose purchased the Rokeby property in 1862. A dwelling stood on the farm at the time, but not the serpentine stone house with the 1863 datestone. Penrose was among the vanguard of Philadelphians who took

advantage of easy rail transport to build a rural retreat in Thornbury Township. During the past four years, *The Gander* has investigated a number of these country places, including the 1878 Dallet House on Cheyney Road and the 1883 DeHaven House on Street Road.

Penrose was a socializer as well as a socialite. He named his modest country estate Rokeby Stock Farm, and apparently entertained well. He was reputedly an avid horseman and took full advantage of his 117 acres to pursue his avocation. He loved the sport to death, however; a riding accident led to his demise in September 1869. His body was interred at the Church of St. James the Less in Philadelphia. His house was in the country but his home was in the city. To be continued.....

Article submitted by: Historical Preservation Commission

## SPRING FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Article by Fire Marshal F. David Smiley, Sr.

Spring is here once again. Here are some easy fire safety tips that will help ensure a fire free summer:

- ◆ Smoke detector batteries should be checked, and replaced if necessary.
- ◆ Smoke detector units should be cleared of dust.
- ◆ CO detector batteries should be checked, and replaced if necessary.
- ◆ Fire extinguishers should be checked, and recharged if necessary.
- ◆ Electric wiring should be checked for damage, and replaced if necessary.
- ◆ Electric outlets and extension cords should not be overloaded.
- ◆ Air Conditioning units and electrical cords should be checked.
- ◆ Barbeque Gas grills (including gas hoses) and propane tanks should be inspected prior to use.
- ◆ Never use open flame devices to strip paint. This is very dangerous and is illegal.
- ◆ Never burn yard waste or trash. This is very dangerous and is illegal.
- ◆ Windows should be checked to make sure they open and close properly, in case they are needed as exits.
- ◆ Review your family's Fire Escape Plan.
- ◆ Fuels for lawn and garden equipment, etc. should be stored in an approved container only.
- ◆ Pesticides and chemicals should be stored in an approved container and away from children.
- ◆ Swimming pool chemicals should be stored according to manufacturer guidelines.
- ◆ Oil based paints and solvents should be stored in a metal cabinet.

# Message From Our Manager

Spring is just around the corner and that means more outdoor fun! With that in mind, please drive safely and watch for children, joggers, motorcyclists, bicyclists and animals.

The audit of the 2014 Township financial records was completed in late January and everything was found to be in order. To review the 2014 Audit Report visit our website under "Community Tools" and look for "Budgets & Audit Reports".

The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 28th. Parking is very limited so please be reminded to park at Rustin High School and take the free shuttle bus to the Town Center for this event.

Please report any potholes on **major roads** to PennDOT @1.800.FIX-ROAD. Report any potholes on local roads to the Township @610.399.1425.

*Jacqui Guenther, Manager*



### MS4 TIP: Cars Leaking Oil



**When Your Car is Leaking Oil** on the street, remember it's not just leaking oil on the street! Leak-

ing oil goes from car to street, and is washed from the street into the storm drain and into our lakes, streams and into coastal waters. Now imagine the number of cars in the area and you can imagine the amount of oil that finds its way from leaky gaskets into our water. **So please, fix oil leaks!**



## WEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT: PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY

On February 25, 2015, a promotional ceremony was conducted at the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department to congratulate its most recently promoted and hired police officers. The seven officers honored at the ceremony were:

Lieutenant Guy Rosato, promoted to Patrol Lieutenant. Lieutenant Rosato was hired by the police department in 1988 and has held numerous positions within the police department and was named WEGO Officer of the Year in 2002.

Sergeant James Renegar, promoted to Patrol Sergeant. Sergeant Renegar was hired by the police department in

2008 and served as a Patrol Officer until his recent promotion.

Officer Jason Diamond, promoted to full-time Patrol Officer and was hired by the police department in 2013. Since joining the agency, he has demonstrated great investigative skill and was responsible for the identification of a subject wanted for a string of commercial burglaries in several counties.

Officer David Hale, promoted to full-time Patrol Officer and was hired by the police department in 2013. Since joining the agency, he has received a commendation for his professional handling of a mo-

torist who refused to cooperate in any manner.

Officer Russell Weaverling, promoted to full-time Patrol Officer and was hired by the police department in 2011. Before joining the agency, he was a very active member of a volunteer fire company.

Officer Ryan Herman, newly hired part-time Patrol Officer who has been an active member of the Goshen Fire Company.

Officer Joshua Micun, newly hired part-time Patrol Officer who has prior law enforcement experience in Delaware County.



### SIGN UP FOR E-MAIL BLASTS & ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to be kept current with what's happening in Thornbury Township please sign up for

**E-MAIL BLASTS!**

You may also elect to receive your Newsletter electronically. To sign up visit our website at: [www.thornburytwp.com](http://www.thornburytwp.com)

## UPCOMING TOWNSHIP EVENTS!



The **Shredding Event** will take place on April 25th at the Township Building from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Keep Your Kids Safe** seminar. Paoli Hospital April 15th @ 7:00 p.m.

The **Annual Chester Creek Earth Day Clean Up** will also take place on April 25th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Goose Creek Park. If you would like to volunteer please email the coordinator Teresa DeStefano at [tdestefano@thornburytwp.com](mailto:tdestefano@thornburytwp.com) or call 610.399.1425 ext. 101.

**For more information on all of these events visit us on the web @ [www.thornburytwp.com](http://www.thornburytwp.com).**





# Recycling Corner

## Chester County Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

Collection events start at 9:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. This is for residential waste only. Businesses and contractors will be turned away.

**Saturday, April 11, 2015** at Cat Pickering Campus, 1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460.

**Saturday, April 25, 2015** at Octorara High School, 226 Highland Road, Atglen, PA 19310.

**Saturday, May 16, 2015** at Owen J. Roberts Middle School, 981 Ridge Road, Pottstown, PA 19465.

**Friday, June 26, 2015** at Coatesville Learning Center, 1425 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA 19320.

For a complete list of acceptable hazardous waste contact the Solid Waste Authority of Chester County at 610.273.3771 or visit [www.chestercountyswa.org](http://www.chestercountyswa.org). *Please note that electronic waste is no longer accepted. You may visit the same website for a list of places where you may drop off your electronic waste.*



### COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT: 842 E. Street Road (Route 926)

Adjacent to Westtown Post Office near the Goose Creek Grill. Approximately 1,600 square feet of commercial space in Thornbury Township is available for lease. The space is located at 842 E. Street Road, on the second floor above the Westtown Post Office. The location is easily accessible and is visible from Route 926 (Street Road). The space includes two restrooms, secure access, central air, and plenty of parking. The property is owned and managed by Thornbury Township, Chester County. Please inquire by contacting Jacqui Guenther, Thornbury Township Manager, at 610. 399-1425.

- 4 Recycling Corner
- 3 MS4 Stormwater Tip
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 3 WEGO Police Report
- 3 Manager's Message
- 2 Spring Fire Safety Tips
- 2 Historic Preservation Commission
- 1 Rokeby Stock Farm
- 1 Rental Registrations Due
- 1 Tax Time in Thornbury
- 1 Tree Vitalize Grant Award

PRSRKT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
West Chester, PA  
PERMIT NO. 491



THORNBURY TOWNSHIP,  
CHESTER COUNTY  
8 TOWNSHIP DRIVE  
CHENEY, PA 19319  
ISSUE: INSIDE THIS