

Chairman's message



The Gander The Newsletter of Thornbury Township, Chester County

Summer is upon us! I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy times with friends and family this summer season.

Summer for Thornbury Township provides the time to complete road paving and culvert repairs. In an effort to communicate to you what road closures may be necessary, we will be using our email blast messaging system. If you are not signed up, please take a moment to go the Township's website and provide your email or cell number. The "Notify Me" can be found on the homepage at www.thornburytp.com

It is anticipated that road paving will begin just after the 4th of July. There may be temporary lane closures on some township roads. Driveway access will be maintained during the project.

The culvert restoration will be on South Concord Road between Timberline Trail and Huntrise Lane. **This work will require South Concord Road to be closed during the day. The road will be open in the evenings and overnight. The project is expected to last a few days.**

Please respect the road workers safety and obey traffic detours.

Squire Cheyney Park is just about complete. The trail is a paved, rolling pathway surrounded by open fields. There are benches and interpretative signs along the way. The project is nearing completion but there remain some outstanding items for the contractor. The park should be finished during the summer.

At Goose Creek Park, a new activity will be presented by Brandywine Yoga. "Yoga in the Park" will be taking place once a week. This program will be conducted by instructors from Brandywine Yoga. There will be a nominal fee to participate. No sign ups will be required. The date and times are being coordinated. Those details will be posted on the announcement board at Goose Creek Park soon!

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Judy Lizza. She is currently fulfilling the Township Manager position. Judy brings years of experience to the Township. If you have any township issues or questions, please do not hesitate to contact her. Her email ad-

dress is jlizza@thornburytp.com or by phone at 610-399-1425. She truly believes in responding to the needs of the citizens of Thornbury Township. Her knowledge is a valuable asset for the community.

The Township is recruiting volunteers for the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board. More information about these positions is in the newsletter. Please consider getting involved.

I would like to extend a thank you to all of the current volunteers that serve the Township. Without your time and talents, the Township would be at a great loss.

A special note of thanks to the rest of the Board of Supervisors: Jim Benoit, Bill Reilly, George Stasen, and Mike Gallagher. Their unwavering dedication to this community has created a positive environment to develop and fulfill the needs of the community.

Enjoy your summer.

Bob Anthony
Chairman

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Rokeby Stock Farm (a/k/a Brian's House) 1300 S. Concord Road (Part 2) :

This is the second part of our glimpse at some owners of Rokeby Stock Farm that stood on South Concord Road until last year. In March, we looked at John Penrose, who built the house in 1863, and enjoyed his horsemanship on its ample acreage.

Rokeby surely became a quieter place after Samuel Harlan, Jr., acquired it in 1876. Born in 1807, Harlan grew up in Chester, where his grandfather owned a successful rolling mill. Because his grandfather lived freely and left little legacy, Harlan apprenticed as a cabinetmaker in Wilmington. In his late 20s, he took a job at a Wilmington railroad car building shop and quickly became a partner by age 30. By 1849, when he and his brother-in-law formed Harlan & Hollingsworth, a rail car and ship building firm, his company had been responsible for the first fire engine built in Delaware and the first iron seagoing propeller constructed in the United States. It soon became one of Wilmington's leading manufacturers and by 1880 was among the four largest ship builders in the country.

Self-improvement consumed Harlan's early years, when he would spend his nights learning mechanics and drafting. "Business, and nothing except business, was the object of his life," noted *America's Successful Men of Affairs*. He was so exacting in his company's work that he once took a hatchet to a newly finished car after detecting a flaw in the surface. Yet Harlan was personally unassuming. His Episcopal church connections, for example, "though regular and sincere, were of the same unobtrusive character," observed the author of his company's fifty-year memoir.

As he approached 70, Harlan (or his wife) apparently felt it was time to enjoy some rewards of his success. That brought him and his wife Susan to Rokeby. A year later, Susan died, at 67. In less than six years, in February 1883, he died while traveling in Vienna, Austria. Harlan never made Rokeby his home; it was a get-away place. His obituary made clear that his home was in Wilmington.

Harlan's heirs sold Rokeby to John Wyeth, the founder of Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Wyeth was born in Philadelphia in 1834, son of a chemist. He and his younger brother Frank graduated from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy (now University of the Sciences), a rare opportunity at the time. In 1860 they established John Wyeth and Company, a drug store and research lab. A year later the Civil War erupted. Government contracts to supply the Union army with medicines and beef extract gave the company a great boost. The breakthrough, however, was their invention of a rotary machine for making compressed pills in volume, which helped to win them a number of awards at the Centennial Exposition of 1876 and to make them a lot of money. Among their many products was cannabis powder, to be taken with brandy. Its label recommended keeping it in a cool place.

Wyeth was very active in Philadelphia affairs, befriending men in the public sphere. In 1902, five years before his death, he and three other men (one a former Democratic state senator) purchased the *Philadelphia Record*, a popular Democratic Party organ. His twenty-year foray into Thornbury was another facet of a rich life. It was his weekend lodge, a cool summer retreat from the city's humid confines. He sold it in 1903 to his friend, James Gay Gordon, probably to devote more time to his Philadelphia activities and writing his book, *An Epitome of Therapeutics*, which was published in 1906, a year before his death.

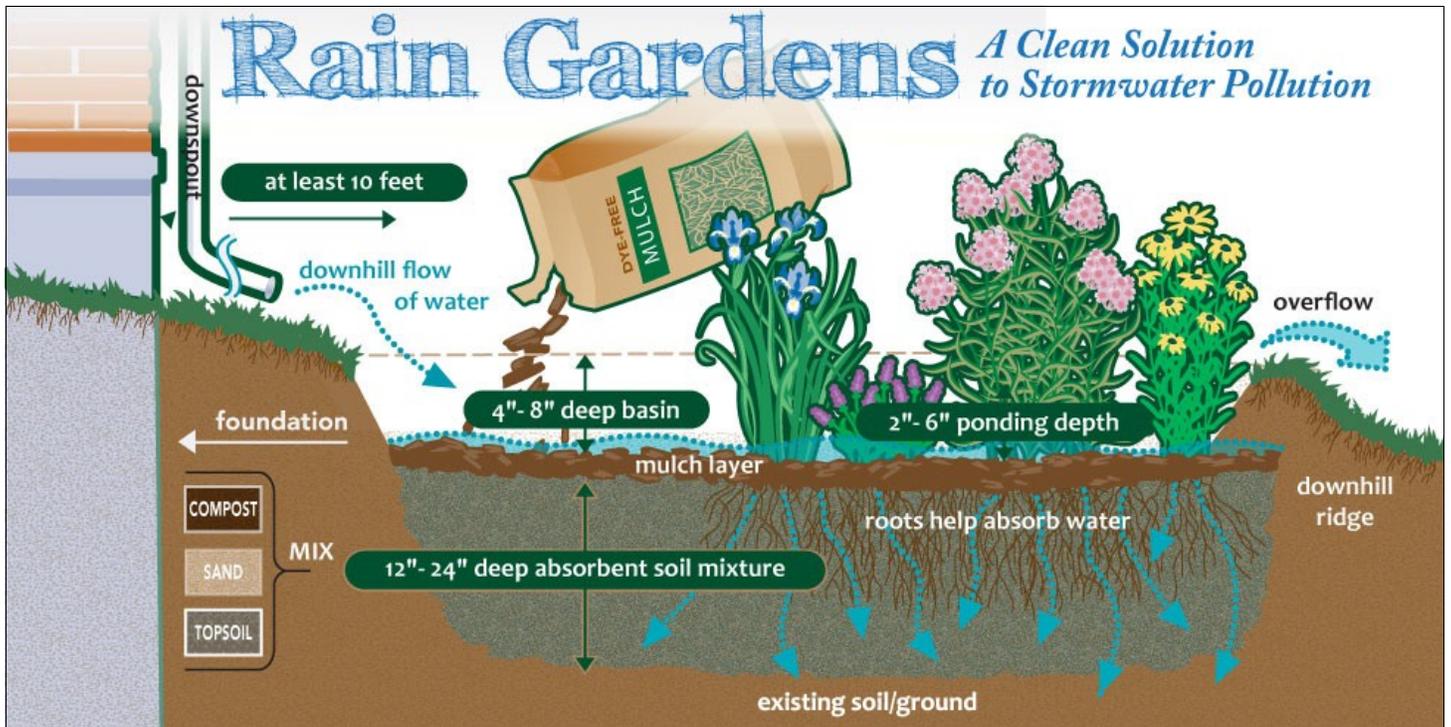
Although separated by twenty years in age, Wyeth and Gordon were inseparable companions in their early years. In the 1870s, they dined together nearly every night at the Commonwealth Club at Broad and Chestnut streets, now the site of the Land Title Building. When Gordon went to Harrisburg, dinners were less frequent, but the friendship continued.

Gordon was the son of Scots-Irish Presbyterian immigrants, natives of County Antrim, Ireland. His father was a Kensington longshoreman deeply involved in politics, first as a Republican and later as a Democrat. James Gay Gordon was named after his godfather, Jimmy Gay, one of his father's fellow Irish-born Republican longshoremen.

A bright, gregarious lad, Gordon graduated from Central High School in 1873 at age 17. He studied law in the office of Lewis Cassidy, a Philadelphia Democratic boss, and was admitted to the bar three years later. By 1880, while days short of the age to qualify, he was elected to the state Senate. There he was known as a reformer, but he was also a gifted political performer. In 1883, for example, he returned his salary for a special legislative session, because he argued that assembly members should have done what they were paid for in the regular session. Gordon had the good luck to be working with a fellow Central Higher (class of 1872), Governor Robert Pattison, the only Democrat elected governor between the Civil War and the middle of the Great Depression. Pattison's attorney general was Lewis Cassidy, Gordon's mentor.

To be continued.....

Article submitted by: Historical Preservation Commission



Mosquito Repellent Plants

Fight mosquitoes naturally! Add these plants into your garden for not only their colorful and fragrant display, but also their ability to keep those uninvited mosquitoes out.

Citronella

Citronella is a beautiful perennial clumping grass that emits a strong aroma. That aroma masks other scents, and keeps mosquitoes from being attracted to things located around it. Citronella is very easy to grow, and can get to be a very tall 5 or 6 feet high! You can grow citronella in pots and place it around a porch or patio, or you can plant it directly in a yard or garden bed.

Rosemary

Rosemary is an herb that many of us are very familiar with and their woody scent is exactly what keeps mosquitoes as well as cabbage moths and carrot flies away. They do best in hot and dry climates and thrive in containers, which may be ideal for areas with winters. They can also be pruned into all sorts of shapes and sizes and make great borders or decorations. While the pests stay away you can enjoy the herb's scent and also use it to season your cooking. This plant has pretty blue flowers and does well in sun or in partial shade.

Basil

Basil is another herb that can also double as a pest repellent. The pungent smell the basil leaves give off are what keep pests at bay. This herb likes to be kept damp, needs good drainage, and enjoys lots of sun. You can plant basil in containers or in the garden, alone or with other flowers, as long as both plants meet the same requirements.

Lavender

Lavender is a gorgeous purple flowering plant with a soothing, calming scent. This plant is very tough and drought-resistant once established, and only needs full sun and good drainage. And while it can endure many climates, it thrives in warmer areas.

Marigolds

Marigolds are a bright, hardy annual plant and are a great choice for repelling mosquitoes. Marigolds contain Pyrethrum, an ingredient found in many insect repellents. They have a unique aroma which bugs find repulsive. The flowers themselves are beautiful and can make a great border or addition to any flower bed!

WEGO Updates:

Premise Alert Program

The Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department, in conjunction with the Chester County Department of Emergency Services, would like to remind citizens that our police department participates in the Premise Alert program. Premise Alert is a free, voluntary safety program that allows individuals and families to alert first responders (police, fire fighters, emergency medical service) to the special needs of individuals in their community and support families and individuals with disabilities, challenges or complex medical diagnosis in the event of a crisis. By providing first responders with advance knowledge, it allows for quick and educated responses during crises, evacuations, and disasters. The service is provided free of charge.

Citizens complete the form and submit it to the local police department. Although the forms are generally obtained through the West Chester Area School District or various mental health/social service organizations, a copy of the form can be printed from the police website www.westtownpolice.org to assist citizens who may be interested in this service.

2015 Citizens Police Academy

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE WESTTOWN-EAST GOSHEN REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizens Police Academy is a revolutionary concept in law enforcement and community policing. As part of its continuing mission to provide the optimum in service, performance and dedication to the community, the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department has designed a Citizens Police Academy that will enable citizens to have a better understanding of the operations of the Police Department and its Officers. In addition, citizens will develop a greater awareness and appreciation of the challenges and decisions faced by Westtown-East Goshen Police Officers on a daily basis.

For more information or to receive an application, please contact the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department at 610-692-9600 or by e-mail at WEGO@westtownpolice.org.

Due to current events, the significance of solid community-police relations has never been more important. You are encouraged to attend the Citizens Police Academy to learn about what the police do, why they do, and how they do it.



Summer Safety Checklist

Driving

- Buckle up... properly! Bottom strap across hips and shoulder strap across chest.
- Do not be distracted by other passengers, motorists, cell phones, radio, etc. Stay focused!
- Obey car and booster seat guidelines.

Swimming and diving

- Do not dive in less than nine feet of water.
- No board, no diving!

Personal watercrafts

- Be watchful, defensive, obey speeds, and keep your distance.

Body boarding

- Hold board so it extends past head.

General Water Safety

- No re-dos; do not combine alcohol and water-related activities!
- Be aware of sandbars.
- Feet-first entry.

Bicycle Riding

- Wear a helmet... properly! A helmet should be worn snug, fitted, and level.
- Replace helmet after three to five years and/or if cracked.

www.christopherreeve.org

CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION
TODAY'S CARE. TOMORROW'S CURE.



Trixie says: Hot Dogs are for BBQ's; Don't leave your pet in a hot car.



On a warm day, temperatures inside of a vehicle can quickly rise to dangerous levels. For example, on a day where the temperature is 80 degrees outside, the temperature inside a vehicle with the windows opened slightly can reach nearly 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After approximately 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees.

“Cars literally turn into ovens in a matter of moments, regardless of whether the windows are rolled down or not,” said Trixie. “What many pet owners forget is that dogs can’t release their body heat like people do who naturally sweat to help their bodies cool down. We regulate our body temperature by panting, so a small closed space such as a car doesn’t provide enough fresh air for our bodies to remain at a safe level.”

If you see an animal in distress in a parked car, please contact the local law enforcement agency immediately. Be prepared to provide a vehicle description and license plate number.

False Alarms in Thornbury Township:

The Township Code states that a fine of \$50.00 will apply to a **second** false alarm occurring within 365 days of the first noted false alarm. There are increasing fines of \$100.00 and \$250.00 for successive false alarms within that 365 day period.

A false alarm requires an officer’s time to respond which is documented in a report. The fine is assessed to cover the Township’s police activity costs. More information may be found in Chapter 55 of the Thornbury Township Code, which is available online at the Township website. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Township office 610-399-1425.

Nom-Noms:

Caramel Delight Cookie Apple Salad with International Delight

Ingredients:

- 1 - 3.4 oz vanilla instant pudding mix
- 3/4 cup International Delight Almond Joy coffee creamer
- 1/2 cup skim milk
- 4 medium apples (any type you like will work), chopped
- 1 package Keebler Caramel Delight Cookies or Samoas Cookies, chopped
- 1 tub Vanilla Cool Whip Frosting

Instructions:

Whisk together the pudding mix, coffee creamer, and skim milk until thick. Immediately whisk in the cool whip frosting. Use a large rubber spatula to fold in the cookies and apples. Mix until everything is completely coated. Chill and serve!



Reward Yourself with a Purpose Driven Life ...Volunteer!!

With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering are enormous to you, your family, and your community. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place. You will learn a lot and it should be interesting. **The Township is looking to fill vacant positions on the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board.**

As a member of the **Planning Commission** your duty is to determine how to balance the public good with private rights and interests. Being a good listener is important. You work together as a team with fellow members and other township officials and staff. You will have to attend public meetings that feel fair and civil to all involved. Decisions will be made based on the Township ordinances. The meetings are once a month based on applications for land development or other legislative requests from the Supervisors.

As a member of the **Zoning Hearing Board** you will serve in a quasi-judicial role. You would be responsible to hear and decide appeals from property owners who feel the Zoning Officer has erred in applying or interpreting regulations; hear and make decisions on Special Exceptions*; and authorize variances from the terms of the Zoning Ordinance as permitted by the Municipalities Planning Code. (*A special exception is a use that is appropriate, in terms of the public health, safety, and welfare, for the zoning district in which it is permitted, but is subject to specific standards and criteria and more detailed and formal review.) While a member of the Zoning Hearing Board, you will not be permitted to hold any other office in the municipality. The meetings are scheduled only if there is an application.

Take advantage of the opportunity to serve your community as a member of the Planning Commission or Zoning Hearing Board.

Contact Judy Lizza by phone 610-399-1425 or via email jlizza@thornburytwp.com with your interest or to make further inquiries as to the roles and responsibilities.

When it comes to volunteering, passion and positivity are the only requirements.

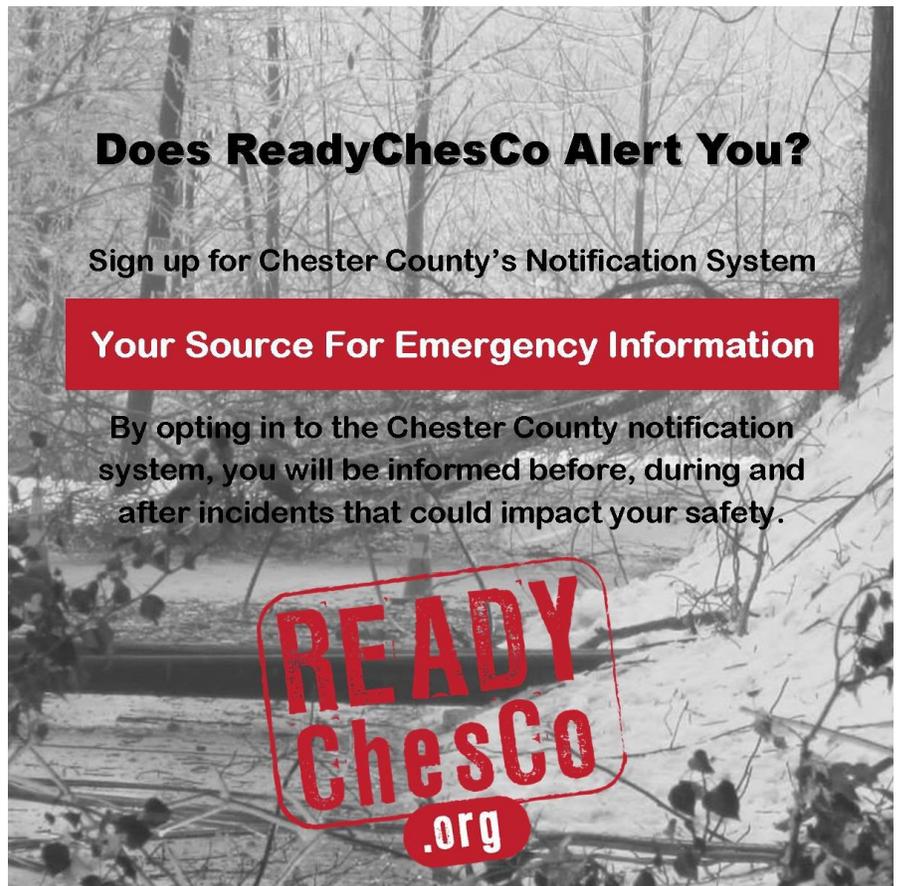
Property Owners Must Register Rentals

Many property owners may not realize that all rental properties must be registered with the Township. The code does provide for penalties to be assessed for those who do not register.

Thornbury Township Code, Chapter 96 states "It shall be the duty of the owner of every rental within the Township to prepare and file a semi-annual report with the Township Secretary which shall contain the complete name and address of each person 18 years of age and older who is currently residing in each rental unit owned by the person required to file the report."

If you are not registered with the Township please call Teresa DeStefano at 610-399-1425 for a **Rental Registration Form**. If your property is registered, please continue to update the Township with any change of tenants.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Does ReadyChesCo Alert You?

Sign up for Chester County's Notification System

Your Source For Emergency Information

By opting in to the Chester County notification system, you will be informed before, during and after incidents that could impact your safety.

READY ChesCo .org

Seasonal Reminders:

Let Nature Fertilize Your Lawn

Allow your grass clippings to fertilize your lawn. Grass clippings contain nitrogen and phosphorus which fertilizes your lawn naturally. This may eliminate the need to use chemical fertilizers which can damage our waterways. Clippings may also be used for composting.

To be sure that your yard is receiving the nutrients it needs, test your soil. Contact the local Penn State Extension office to order a soil test kit for \$12.00 at 610-696-3500.

Roadway Property Maintenance

Each homeowner in our Township is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their property along state and Township roads. Cutting back vegetation and keeping this area free of litter, especially after storms, is the key to maintaining the attractive nature of our community. Summer is the time for beautifying and keeping our roads safe.

Recycling Update:

Thornbury Township had a successful shredding event this spring. Thank you to all who participated. The next shredding event will be held in the fall.

Just a reminder that there's a drop off container for recycling in the parking near Goose Creek Park parking lot.

Did you know?

An estimated 80,000 Hershey kisses are wrapped each day using enough aluminum foil to cover over 50 acres. All of that foil is recyclable.

Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles an hour!

Used aluminum beverage cans are the most recycled items in the US.



Protect All the Skin You're In

- ☀️ Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States, yet most skin cancers can be prevented.
- ☀️ Every year, there are **63,000 new cases of** and **9,000 deaths from melanoma—the deadliest form of skin cancer.**



Ultraviolet (UV) exposure is the most common cause of skin cancer. **A new CDC study shows that the majority of Americans are not using sunscreen regularly to protect themselves from the sun's harmful UV rays.**

In fact, fewer than **15% of men** and fewer than **30% of women** reported using sunscreen regularly on their face and other exposed skin when outside for more than 1 hour.

Many women report that they regularly use sunscreen on their faces but not on other exposed skin.

Choose sun protection strategies that work.

Use broad spectrum sunscreen with SPF 15+ to protect any exposed skin.



Seek shade, especially during midday hours.

Wear a hat, sunglasses and other clothes to protect skin.



Sunscreen works best when used with shade or clothes, and it must be re-applied every two hours and after swimming, sweating, and toweling off.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CS259931

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Fire Marshal

F. David Smiley

I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Hearing from you, our residents and businesses of Thornbury Township, keeps me on my toes!

If you have any comments, questions or ideas regarding this newsletter, please take a minute to contact me at 610-399-1425 or you can email me at:

tdestefano@thornburytwp.com

Sincerely,

Teresa DeStefano, Editor