

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

The Gander

NEWSLETTER

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP
CHESTER COUNTY



WINTER 2015

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

ROADMASTER

Jacqui Guenther

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

REORGANIZATION 2015

Thornbury Township held its annual Reorganization Meeting on January 5, 2015. Supervisor **Bob Anthony** was named as Chairman and Supervisor **Jim Benoit** the Vice-Chairman. Supervisor **Bill Reilly** was named as the Treasurer.

Other appointments included two new members to the Planning Commission, Terrence Donohue, Jr. and Matthew Salerno. Nicole D'Ulisse and Kim Spackman were recently appointed to the Parks & Recreation Board.

Please stop by the Township Building and welcome **Maryann Furlong** who has been appointed as the Assistant Township Treasurer and Deputy Tax Collector.

SNOW & ICE REMOVAL TIPS



Winter is in full swing and inclement weather has once again come to Thornbury Township. Although I have repeatedly implored Mother Nature not to allow snow to fall in Thornbury, she has not seen fit to grant my wish. That being the case, I would ask everyone to help facilitate snow and ice removal by doing the following whenever possible:

- ◆ First, please do not shovel your sidewalk until the plows have passed through your street. It is inevitable that the plows will push snow back onto the sidewalk.
- ◆ Please do not place shoveled, blown or plowed snow from

sidewalks and driveways onto public streets. It has the potential to create icy and hazardous conditions for drivers.

- ◆ Please park all vehicles on your driveway to make it easier for the plows to maneuver through your neighborhood.
- ◆ Please remember to be patient. Snow removal does take time. Our contractor will plow the most dangerous and heavily travelled roads first. They will get to your neighborhood as soon as possible.
- ◆ Please report any problems to Thornbury Township by

calling the Roadmaster at 610.399.1425 ext. 104. Leave your name, phone number, address and nature of the problem and it will get addressed.

Please note that Thornbury Township does not clear all roads. PennDOT plows the following state owned roads: Dilworthtown Road, Westtown Road, Route 926 and Route 202.

Privately owned roads are the responsibility of the developer or the Homeowners Association. Privately owned roads include many of the secondary roads in our townhouse communities.



The mid-nineteenth-century addition to the springhouse is evident at the left end. The small stream into which the spring emptied flows in the foreground.



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 @6:30 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.

HISTORIC SQUIRE CHEYNEY SPRINGHOUSE

In the late eighteenth century, when Squire Cheyney's house was built, every farm had two well-trod paths. One led to the necessary (privy), the other to the springhouse. Both paths could become slippery in bad weather, but the springhouse path had to be navigated with special care. One bad fall and the crock of milk or preserves could be lost.

Privies pique our curiosity and are preserved in novelty books, postcards, and cartoons. Springhouses, on the other hand, get little respect and even less attention.

Before the age of electricity and food safety laws, the springhouse was the family refrigerator. It kept cool perishables, such as fruits, milk, and cider. Like our refrigerators, it had a door, but no light, except what entered through louvered windows. Importantly, it also served as the family's water source until a well was dug.

In colonial days a house site was usually determined by access to water, not its view or quality of schools. Sometimes a creek or river provided the water source, but often it was a spring. To protect the purity of the water and to keep out dirt and leaves, a simple rectangular structure was built over the spring's source.

Because of expediency, early springhouses were log, but as they rotted, they were replaced with fieldstone structures. The Cheyneys had a well-established farmstead and an earlier farmhouse

when the present house was erected, so they had time to erect the present stone springhouse from the outset.

As in the Cheyney Springhouse, most springhouses had stone-slab floors and a shallow area filled with spring water. Milk, butter, and other perishables in stoneware crocks (like those sold as antiques today) sat partially submerged in that pool, which remained steady at about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. A channel carried the water out of the house and away to a brook or creek. It was imperative that water flowed ever so slowly away from the spring's source.

Two-story springhouses were not rare, but large ones, like the Cheyney example, were quite unusual. The upper floor often served as sleeping quarters for a hired hand. The second-story door on the Cheyney Springhouse, however, suggests the upper floor was used for storage. Additions also were often made to springhouses. As the size of a dairy herd grew, the need for more cool storage space grew as well. In the case of the Cheyney Springhouse, that growth occurred near the middle of the nineteenth century.

Springhouses were once as common on Chester County's rural landscape as barns and farmhouses. They were sites of childhood adventures and curiosity as former Chadds Ford native Joyce Wilson relates in her poem, "The Springhouse."

"Set into a hill of rabbits' lairs,

The house has walls, a gabled roof, a door.

Ground water seeps like milk a mother bears

And gathers in a square cut in the floor. . . .

But one bright day, inside the house we stepped

To look into the nature of our dreams.

Wagering that what the stillness kept

*Would tolerate the echoes of our screams.**

As subdivisions have erupted across Chester County in the last half-century, like daffodils in the spring, stone farmhouses have proven hot real estate items. Even barns have occasionally been given new uses. Utilitarian outbuildings, such as springhouses, have been less fortunate. They are disappearing, becoming rare specimens of our agricultural past.

Thornbury Township is especially fortunate. The Cheyney Springhouse, a National Register building, is still standing and is now a township property. It will be the focal point of the soon-to-be-opened Squire Cheyney Farm Park. The structure needs some work to bring it back to its former glory, when its refrigeration left no carbon footprint, but its future is promising.

*Joyce Wilson, *The Springhouse* (Georgetown, Ky.: Finishing Line Press, 2010), p. 3.

Article submitted by the Historic Preservation Commission

Message From Our Manager



Thornbury Township has launched its new website! You may check it out by visiting www.thornburytwp.com. Please provide feedback via email to jguenther@thornburytwp.com so that changes and/or additions may be made to better accommodate our residents.

Looking ahead in 2015, the Squire Cheyney Park Walking

Trail will be completed. Look for more information on our website in March regarding a grand opening this spring.

Planned roadwork for 2015 will include the culvert on S. Concord Road which is in much need of repair as well as sections of S. Concord Road.

The 2015 Budget has been approved and is available for review on our website.

Jacqui Guenther, Manager

MS4 TIP: ICE & SNOW REMOVAL

Please think about environmentally-friendly ways to control ice. Traction agents help prevent slipping on ice but don't melt it. Sand, kitty litter and ashes can hurt vegetation, clog sewers, and degrade aquatic habitats. Rock salt is the most common product because it's effective and cheap, however, it is highly corrosive and ecologically damaging. A water-friendly option is Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) products which are low in phosphorous. Use only the recommended amount. CMA is less problematic for soils, vegetation, water supplies, and concrete, and it is non-corrosive, made from corn or petroleum and converts ice into an oatmeal-like mush.



WEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT: SCAMS

Numerous scams have been reported to the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department. In order to protect citizens from becoming victims, a synopsis of the more commonly occurring scams has been provided below. To avoid becoming the victim of a scam, citizens should follow the following guidelines:

Do not provide any personal information until you confirm that the subject contacting you for this information is legitimate. Personal information would include, at a minimum, the following items: date of birth, Social Security Number, PIN numbers/passwords for any type of account, and banking account information. No legitimate company or organization would demand that you provide this information without being given an opportunity to confirm the validity of the request.

Do not electronically transfer funds without first confirming the validity of the request. Again, no legitimate company or organization will pressure you to immediately complete this step without being given an opportunity to confirm the validity of the request. Common methods of electronic transfer of funds include: Green Dot cards, Western Union, etc.

Do not rely on Caller ID to confirm that the identity of a caller is legitimate (technology is readily available to bypass this measure).

Avoid putting personal information on social media websites – it is a valuable source of information for individuals who engage in scams.

If you have any questions or concerns that a person may be trying to victimize you as part of a scam, please contact the police department for assistance.

UPCOMING TOWNSHIP EVENTS!

Mark your calendar for the annual **Egg Hunt** scheduled to take place at the Goose Creek Park on Saturday, March 28, 2015. Please go to the website for more information on this event in early March. This event is sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Board.

The spring **Shredding Event** will take place on April 25, 2015. Check out the website in early April for more information on the **Shredding Event**.



AMC MOVIE TICKETS

\$8.00 EACH!

Thornbury Township is offering discounted movie tickets available for purchase at the Township Building. Tickets may be used for any movie on any day at the local AMC Dine In Theatre. They make great gifts!

Please note that Thornbury Township does not accept credit cards. Check or cash only please.



Recycling Corner

Chester County Hazardous Waste & Electronic Waste Collection Schedule

The 2015 list of dates and locations for hazardous waste and electronic waste collection will be made available in February through the Chester County Solid Waste Authority. Please visit www.chestercountyswa.org for the collection calendar or look for it in the Spring edition of The Gander. Collection events start at 9:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. **Please note that collections are for residential waste only and businesses and contractors will be turned away.**

For a complete list of acceptable hazardous and e-waste materials contact the Solid Waste Authority of Chester County at 610.273.3771 or visit www.chestercountyswa.org.



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.

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ISSUE:

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PAID
West Chester, PA
PERMIT NO. 491

