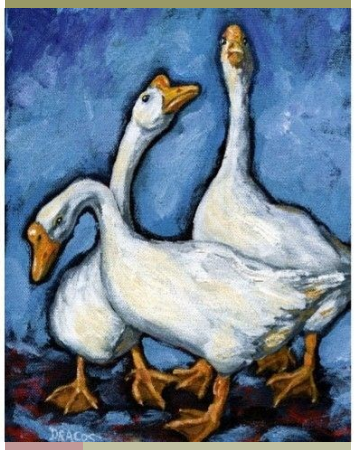
Fall 2017

Township Update



The Gander The Newsletter of Thornbury Township, Chester County

This edition of the Gander has lots of information about planning and preparing. The fall is when the Township develops its budget for the following year; the road program is defined; and prepare for the seasonal changes (dare we say… SNOW?!?). We hope you have the chance to enjoy the wonders of fall: the crisp days, bright colors and autumn's harvest.

Parks and Recreation (Join us!)

The Board of Supervisors and current committee members are actively looking for volunteers to join the Parks and Recreation Committee. This committee is responsible for the creation of recreational programs for the Township as well as the plans to the creation, uses or modification of the recreational areas of the Township. A comprehensive review of Township facilities and recommendations for the future will be developed in 2018. If you have an interest, please send your information to Judy Lizza at jlizza@thornburytwp.com

In Our Backyard

Thornbury Farm has been in the Randell Spackman Family for almost 75 years. This 200 acre parcel is a great example of the preservation of history and farmland in Thornbury Township. The Thornbury Farm Market is located at 1256 Thornbury Road, West Chester, PA near the intersection of Rt. 926 and S. New Street. The Farm was founded in 1709. Its rich heritage is highlighted as the site of the final troop engagement of the Battle of Brandywine, the largest land battel of the American Revolution.Stop by the market for those fall pumpkins, vegetables, and other treats! Hours: Saturdays 9-5 and Sundays 11-5 (http://thornburyfarmcsa.com/wrp/

Investing in the Future

Preserving farmland is more than just history and pretty landscapes. Preserving farms is an investment for future generations. Protecting local farmland keeps property taxes down. Farm owners use only 33 cents in public services for every dollar they pay in property taxes, while residential property owners use more than a dollar's worth of services for every dollar paid in property taxes. Farmland protects local scenery and promotes tourism which maintains a high quality of life for residents. Preserving farms is the positive environmental impact. Farm owners use sound soil and water conservation practices that limit erosion and water contamination.

Sign up/Stay in Touch

Possible land development, comprehensive plan updates, upcoming meetings and agendas can be at your fingertips… sign up for email updates at www.thornburytwp.com

Find us on Facebook

Thornbury Township is on Facebook! Like us at "Thornbury Township, Chester County"

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2017 PRPS DISCOUNT TICKET SALES PRICE LIST

		Gate Price	Selling Price	Savings
Adventure Aquarium	*Adult (13 & over)*	**$29.93**	**$21.00**	**$8.93**
Camden, NJ	*Child (2-12)*	**$21.44**	**$17.00**	**$4.44**
	**NEW* in 2017 - 3D Theater is now included in*			
Crayola Experience	*Admission (age 3 and*	**$19.99**	**$16.00**	**$3.99**
Easton, PA				
Franklin Institute	*General*	**$19.95**	**$15.00**	**$4.95**
Includes main floors and planetarium. May be upgraded at Franklin Institute to include IMAX and Expos.				
Medieval Times	*All Ages Dinner & Show*	**$67.36**	**$36.00**	**$31.36**
Lyndhurst, NJ	*Please call 1-888-WE-JOUST to make a reservation. Prices do not*			
Philadelphia Zoo	*General Admission (age 2*	**$23.00**	**$18.00**	**$5.00**

Thornbury Township supports having fun!
Ticket sales for local attractions listed above are available until December 31st.
Movie tickets for AMC theatre are $8.50
Quantities are limited. Call ahead for availability.
Checks should be made out to Thornbury Township.

Stocking Stuffers!!!

Ski tickets will be available beginning in December. Resorts include Bear Creek, Big Boulder/Jack Frost, Shawnee Mountain, and Seven Springs.

Lessons – and Revelations - from Hurricane Irma

Promoting Senior Wellness By Pamela Leland, PhD

Like many of us, I have older friends who live in south Florida. One particular couple, both in the 80s, are dealing with a number of health issues and have very limited financial resources. They are also fiercely independent, often refusing help when offered and/or not asking for help when it is needed. As a consequence, their support system is small; their local support system is almost non-existent.

They live near Miami, a few miles from the coast – and were directly in the path of Hurricane Irma. For this couple, the crisis of the hurricane was exacerbated by a conflict at home: *Should they ride out the storm at home or go to a shelter?*

This question of "sheltering in place" versus going to an evacuation shelter is one that many people ask themselves in this kind of crisis. For older adults, however, the reasoning may be more complicated and internally inconsistent. My friends fought over this choice; the tension between them (over the phone) was palpable.

One wanted to leave for a guarantee of safety. Their small apartment, concrete block slab on grade, was probably strong enough to withstand the winds but not flooding. With no second floor, there was no place to go if the waters rose.

The other one faces significant and on-going health issues and could not imagine dealing with these issues in a very public, communal setting. In addition, physically, she could not get up and down from a mattress on the floor (which they would have had to bring themselves – if they could even figure out how to get a mattress there). And what about all her medications and medical supplies? She was adamant in not wanting to leave their apartment.

We are fortunate that, here in Chester County, we do not have to face the risks of hurricanes, tornados and earthquakes that people who live in other parts of the United States live with on a regular basis. We do, however, face disasters. We've had significant flooding events in recent years. Winter is coming with its threats of blizzards and loss of power. Fire is always a possibility. There are also unexpected disasters – for example when my own community had a problem with the water supply that shut off water for several days.

Things can happen. Things will happen. *Are you ready?*

Older adults – especially the very old who live alone – face particular issues in preparing for an emergency. Fortunately, there are a number of good resources to look to, and extensive and detailed information is available. The American Geriatrics Society's *Health in Aging Foundation* offers a succinct 3-step strategy:

- Create an Emergency Plan. There are many dimensions of this including creating an emergency "phone call chain", identifying a designated meeting place, making travel arrangements and decisions in advance, and communicating those decisions to others. It may also be appropriate to wear a Medical ID Bracelet and/or sign up for a medical-alert system.
- Stock an Emergency Medical Kit. This should include a 3-6 day supply of medications along with up-to-date medical information (physicians, prescriptions, etc.), any needed equipment (e.g., a blood pressure cuff, hearing aide batteries, extra pair of eyeglasses) and copies of Medicare, Medicaid or other insurance information.
- Make a Disaster Supplies Kit. This should include water and food for 3 days, all kinds of basic supplies (e.g., battery, flashlight, can opener, disposal cups, napkins, utensils, etc.), maps, clothing, hygiene products, blankets, cell phone and charger, first aid kit.

As noted above, more detailed information on creating a "disaster plan" can be found on the Health in Aging website (healthinaging.org) or American Red Cross (redcross.org) or the Center for Disease Control (cdc.gov). The American Red Cross' publication, *Disaster Preparedness: For Seniors By Seniors* is excellent and available on-line. (continued next page)

Lessons – and Revelations - from Hurricane Irma (continued)

These strategies may seem straightforward and obvious to those who live in areas where there are likely to be more frequent disasters. For those of us here in Chester County, it may be something that we plan to do "*one day*," at some point "*in the future*." Hurricane Irma is a reminder that disaster can strike at any time and it is incumbent on all of us to be ready.

This also includes ensuring that the older adults in our lives are also ready. Helping them be ready is more than having an emergency medical kit available. It means making sure that they can answer the question: *are we able to shelter in place or are we going to evacuate?* How can you support your older friends with disaster preparedness?

For my friends in Florida, the outcome of the storm is not yet known. They did leave their home but not for a shelter. One's on-going health issues required admission to the hospital and they both ended up staying there through the hurricane. At this point they do not know what wind or water damage may have occurred to their apartment or if they even have a home to go back to.

Promoting Senior Wellness is provided by The Hickman, a Quaker-affiliated licensed personal care home in West Chester. This month's column was written by Pamela Leland, PhD, Executive Director. This article was also published in the Daily Local. Permission to reproduce was provided by the author .

Chester County's official source for emergency information and government notifications

ReadyChesCo *allows subscribers to register to receive emergency and non-emergency alerts for the community. The system, powered by Everbridge, incorporates greater technological capabilities and flexibility. The Department of Emergency Services can contact thousands of residents and business in seconds, when seconds matter.*

ReadyChesCo *has the option of adding more than 1 way to receive notifications. Residents can choose to have their cell phone, home phone, office phone, and several email addresses receive notifications. Subscribers can also receive messages for more than 1 address. For places you care about; home, work, parents, schools within Chester County.*

Residents can control what device or email receives the messages and in what order. ***ReadyChesCo*** *will send the message to the 1st contact path; if that contact path is not confirmed as receiving the message,* ***ReadyChesCo*** *will contact the next contact path and so forth until the subscriber confirms receipt of the message.* ***ReadyChesCo*** *also allows for Quiet Time to be set up so the subscriber is not disturbed when they don't want to be.*

Register with ***ReadyChesCo*** *at www.readychesco.org Registration only takes a few minutes.*

Upcoming Township Event:

The fall **Shredding Event** will take place on Saturday, November 4, 2017. Bring your items to be shredded to the Township Building (8 Township Drive). This free event is from 9 AM to Noon.

Social Networking May be Great, But How Do You Keep You & Your Kids Safe?

Websites and apps, such as Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, and WhatsApp, and the prevalence of smartphones among kids have taken social networking to new levels. You want your child to be safe, but it's challenging to keep up with this ever-changing technology. The following information from the National Crime Prevention Council will help you better understand social networking and talk to your teen about staying safe. The four major dangers of using social networking websites and apps are:

- **Oversharing information** — When creating a profile page, most social networking sites will ask for personal information, such as a home address, birth date, and phone numbers. If the page's privacy settings aren't set correctly, this information will be made public to anyone who visits the user's profile page. Keep in mind that even if the account settings are set to the strictest privacy settings, users are still at risk of having their accounts hacked.

- **Falling for a fake identity** — Social networking sites make it very easy to pretend to be someone else. Also, anyone can take control of a user's account if they learn the password. Therefore, teens need to be cautious when giving out information. For example, your teen may get a message from a relative asking for banking information to wire him birthday money. While the teen may think he's talking to a relative, the information is really being requested by someone who has hacked into the relative's account.

- **Sharing your location** — Social media sites allow users to tag who they are with and where. While it can be fun for a teen to share his/her location with friends and family, it can also increase their vulnerability, potentially opening them up to being robbed, sexually assaulted, or worse. Predators can use this tool to track your teen's movements and determine when he/she is alone.

- **Posting photos** — Social media users can post photos 24 hours a day. Keep in mind, though, that photo editing tools allow people to manipulate online images in any way they choose, whether for good or bad purposes. While posting photos and sharing them with friends can be fun, it can also be risky.

- **Think before you post!** When discussing social networking safety with your child, encourage him or her to always use discretion when posting any type of photo, location status, or message. Ask these questions: • Should I share this? Will the information put me or someone else in danger? • Do people really need to know where I am and who I am with? • Am I selecting friends online that I can trust? *Always keep in mind that it's not always about what you post but how others may use that content.*

- Follow these three simple safety tips: 1) Don't provide optional information. When creating a profile, it's not necessary to enter all of the requested information. The set-up page usually requires users to fill out basic information, such as their name and email. Everything else is optional. Users should not feel obligated to include their address and telephone number. 2) Don't be an open book. Social media profiles can be set to one of three levels of privacy: "open to everyone," "open to friends of friends" and "friends only," which is the strictest level of security. This setting ensures that only the people your teen has accepted as a friend can view his or her information. 3) Do accept "friends" — but only people you know. A great way to ensure social networking safety is to accept only people your teen knows as friends. This will help to protect your teen from spammers, pedophiles, and others who use social networking sites to commit crimes.

* * * Social networking sites help all of us stay connected to family and friends. However, it's important to make sure your child knows how to be safe while online. For more information on social networking safety, visit the National Crime Prevention Council's website, www.ncpc.org.

The Historic Preservation Commission meets quarterly, the first Wednesday of the month. Their commitment to the Township's historical preservation is greatly appreciated.
A special thank you to Richard "Dick" Webster for his contribution to each newsletter.
It's a pleasure and privilege to work with him.

Westtown Station: Taylors Had It "Sewn Up"

Richard Webster, Thornbury Township Historical Preservation Commission

In the summer issue of The Gander, we looked at the history of the Westtown Station. In this issue we are looking at the family that filled the post of station agent for nearly all of the station's first half-century of service.

When the Philadelphia and West Chester Railroad opened in November 1858, the railroad's first agent at the Westtown Station (then called the Street Road Station) was the man who built the structure, Marshall J. Taylor. He was a twenty-seven-year-old builder and contractor, married with children, and about to begin a half-century run of Taylors as Westtown's station agents.

Marshall Taylor worked as station agent for fifteen years, until November 26, 1873. That night his wife thought she heard a burglar trying to enter the station. She awoke Marshall, and as he was dressing to investigate the noise, he collapsed from a sudden and fatal heart attack, at age 42. It was a shock but not a surprise. He and his wife knew he had heart disease, an ailment that also afflicted his sons.

His widow, Caroline, was appointed to his position and served ably for ten years. She retired in 1883 and moved into the borough of West Chester, finding quarters over Brick and Sullivan's grocery store on East Market Street, near Walnut. Her son, George S. Taylor, succeeded her. He resigned once, in 1884, but was back a year later to oversee the moving and remodeling of the station house. The months of work greatly inconvenienced the family, forcing them to move out of the house and to board elsewhere. Finally, in the spring of 1893, he left the railroad business to try his hand at the agency business.

The West Chester Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad named Millard Fillmore Taylor to replace his brother George. Fillmore, as he was known, was a well-trained railroad man, prepared to work with the many improvements to the line that Pennsylvania Railroad made in the early twentieth century. He learned telegraphy in the 1870s, at the West Chester Branch terminus in West Philadelphia. He then began his thirty-seven years of service with the Pennsylvania Railroad, working in Upland and Wallingford before being assigned to Westtown. When heart disease rendered him an invalid, his wife Hettie cared for him while also taking charge at the station and performing her duties as Westtown's postmistress, essentially performing three jobs. She continued in his post for a while after his death in February 1910.

Hettie Fitch Taylor was the last of the Taylors in the station agent post. Her only child, Horace F. Taylor, M.D. of Ridley Park, was certainly not going to succeed her. He was dedicated to treating patients rather than greeting passengers.

Trixie's Seasonal Reminders:

Tricky Treats: No human Halloween treats for pets. Candies containing xylitol and chocolate can be poisonous to pets. Candy wrappers can cause intestinal blockages. Store candy in cupboards that your pet can't reach.

Boo!: Reduce stress for pets. Provide exercise before trick-or-treating starts. Keep pets inside the house away from trick-or-treaters either in a crate or in a room away from the front door. Provide pets with their beds and toys,

Cute, huh?: Choose safe, comfortable costumes for your pet. Make sure the costume doesn't impede your pet's ability to breathe, walk, drink, or go to the bathroom. Check for choking hazards like buttons, bells. Etc.

No Bones About It! Although, Fido may say "yes" to a turkey drumstick, keep bones away from your pet. Turkey bones can cause serious injury to your pet if they splinter and become lodged in or puncture your pet's digestive track.

Please … look at those eyes!!: Limit table food treats. Too many fatty, rich, or unfamiliar foods can cause painful and serious medical conditions.

Sage Advice: No stuffing for pets. Sage and other herbs often used to male stuffing contain essential oils and resins that can cause stomach upset and central nervous system depression in pets if eaten in large quantities, Cats are especially sensitive to the effects of these oils.

Westtown-Goshen Rotary Club

Saturday, September 23rd was a beautiful, but rather warm day. Members of the WE-GO Rotary came out to Squire Cheyney Park along with residents and Township staff. They planted 9 tress as well as over **300 plants** as part of a beautification project. A HUGE and well deserved "thank you" to the Rotarians for all of their dedication and support. This project's completion is due to their service and hard work. A special note of praise to Howard Cuerel for all his assistance in planning and coordinating the project.

Native plants were used in the project since they provide the keystone elements for ecosystem restoration. You may want to consider them in your next project. Advantages of native plants include:

- add beauty to the landscape and preserve our natural heritage
- provide food and habitat for native wildlife
- serve as an important genetic resource for future food crops or other plant-derived products
- decrease the amount of water needed for landscape maintenance
- require very little long-term maintenance if they are properly planted and established
- produce long root systems to hold soil in place
- protect water quality by controlling soil erosion and moderating floods and droughts

Thornbury Township, Chester County
8 Township Drive
Cheyney, PA 19319
Phone: (610) 399-1425
Fax: (610) 399-6714

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8 am—3 pm, M—F

www.thornburytwp.com

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Teresa DeStefano, Twp. Secretary
Maryann Furlong, Assistant Treasurer/Bookkeeper

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 .