Summer 2017

Township Update

The Gander The Newsletter of Thornbury Township, Chester County

Discount Tickets

Summer is on the way! Thornbury Township is excited to bring to you recreational discount ticket sales. The next page highlights the tickets available at the Township building. Quantities are limited. Plan ahead, save some money and enjoy the family!
AMC movie tickets are also available. The cost is $8.50 per ticket. Stay cool and see a movie!

2017 Road Program

The 2017 Road Program shall include work on Fox Meadow Lane, Red Lion and Audubon Roads, and Surrey Road. Notices will be sent to the immediate residents when actual paving dates have been scheduled. During the project there may be intermediate road closures but access shall be maintained for residences.

Please be attentive to the road closure notices. There are a lot of people who will be working along the Township's roads in the coming months. These workers are always just inches from harm, at the mercy of distracted and aggressive drivers.

Drive the posted work-zone speed limit. Stay alert and pay close attention to signs and flaggers. Maintain a safe distance around vehicles. Don't tailgate. Use four-way flashers when stopped or traveling slowly. Avoid distractions and give your full attention to the road. Always buckle up. Expect the unexpected. Be patient. If motorists follow these tips, everyone will be able to arrive alive.

Area Townships set to launch Citizen Education program

The West Chester Area Council of Governments is proud to announce the formation of the ***Neighborhood University of Greater West Chester***, set to begin in September 2017. The *Neighborhood University* is intended to provide area citizens with the tools necessary to be better advocates for their community by educating them on local government structure, and by increasing their awareness of available municipal services and resources. Developed by the staffs of several area Townships, ***the free training*** program will educate area residents on the inner workings of local government. *Neighborhood University* is open to any citizen 16 or older residing in one of the participating communities (East Bradford, East Goshen, Thornbury (ChesCo), West Chester, West Goshen, West Whiteland, and Westtown). Eleven, 2-hour sessions will be facilitated by local officials and will cover topics including:

- Structure of local government in Pennsylvania
- Fire, Police and Emergency Management
- Water Resource Management
- Zoning, Land Use and Development
- Public Finances and Transportation Management

Enrollment is required and class size is limited. Sign up at http://www.nugwc.org/

Thank You

Thank you to all commissions and board members who give so generously of their time and attention to Township matters. It is truly their efforts which add to the success of this community.
Possible land development, comprehensive plan updates, upcoming meetings and agendas can be at your fingertips… sign up for email updates at www.thornburytwp.com

Inside this issue:

Discount Park Tickets	2
Stormwater Friendly Lawn	3
Stormwater Friendly Garden	4
Thank you to John Neff	5
Rental Registrations	5
All Aboard! Westtown Station	6
Trixie's Tips	7

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*			
Blue Mountain Aerial Park	*Xtreme Laser Tag (2 hours, Ages 8+)*	**$25.00**	**$22.00**	**$3.00**
	Aerial Park age 8+	**$25.00**	**$22.00**	**$3.00**
Crayola Experience	*Admission (age 3 and*	**$19.99**	**$16.00**	**$3.99**
Easton, PA				
Dorney Park	*Adult (48" or taller)*	**$60.90**	**$44.00**	**$16.90**
Allentown, PA				
Dutch Wonderland	*Regular (age 3-69)*	**$43.60**	**$35.00**	**$8.60**
	(70+ Sr. tickets at park			
Franklin Institute -*NEW*	*General*	**$19.95**	**$15.00**	**$4.95**
Includes main floors and planetarium. Ticket may be upgraded at Franklin Institute to include IMAX and Ex-				
Hersheypark	*Adult (9-54)*	**$65.80**	**$51.00**	**$14.80**
	Child (3-8)	**$42.80**	**$40.00**	**$2.80**
	Senior(55-69)	**$42.80**	**$40.00**	**$2.80**
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*			
Morey's Piers	*Water Park (all day)*	**$44.00**	**$36.00**	**$8.00**
Wildwood, NJ	*Rides Only (48" & over)*	**$64.31**	**$47.00**	**$17.31**
	Same Day Ride & Water	**$83.27**	**$54.00**	**$29.27**
Philadelphia Zoo	*General Admission (age 2*	**$23.00**	**$18.00**	**$5.00**
Six Flags Great Adventure	*Regular (3+) Theme Park*	**$80.15**	**$41.00**	**$39.15**
Jackson, NJ	*Hurricane Harbor Water*	**$45.99**	**$32.00**	**$13.99**
Splash Zone	*All Day Ticket (all ages)*	**$39.99**	**$23.00**	**$16.99**
Wildwood, NJ				

Quantities are limited. Call ahead for availability.

Checks should be made out to Thornbury Township.

You Can Curb Water Pollution by Starting in Your Own Backyard

Stormwater, rain that runs off hard surfaces and eventually into local waterways, is a major and fast growing source of pollution that affects every watershed. This runoff may carry sediment, nutrients from lawns, waste from farms and pets, oil and litter from streets, and other contaminants into streams or storm drains. The following lawn and garden tips will help property owners partner with their community to manage stormwater and battle water pollution.

A stormwater-friendly lawn

A ***"stormwater-friendly" lawn*** *is one that can absorb rainwater and does not harm local streams due to the over-application of chemicals or uses organic compost as fertilizer to amend soil and minimizes or eliminates the use of chemicals. Reducing chemical applications and encouraging infiltration will help stabilize local water flows and also maintain natural nutrient levels in streams. Stormwater-friendly lawns and gardens will help you save money on fertilizers and time on upkeep once they become established.*

Following the steps below will not only help protect local streams and rivers but can result in direct and substantial cost savings to you, the homeowner.

- **Set mower height to 3 inches or higher.** Taller grass slows the rate of runoff and produces a deeper, denser root system, which will absorb more water, prevent erosion, and suppress weeds. Deeper roots also have access to more water stored in the ground and can reduce the need for irrigation during droughts.
- **Retain grass clippings and chopped leaves onsite.** A mulch-mower is ideal for retaining and spreading clippings on your lawn. The clippings decompose quickly, provide important nutrients for your lawn, and settle to create an organic layer on the soil that encourages stormwater infiltration. This technique can significantly reduce or eliminate the need for nitrogen fertilizers. Also, by spreading grass clippings on your lawn, you can reduce the amount of fertilizer needed.
- **Keep clippings and chopped leaves out of streams, off the street, and out of storm drains.** If mulching is not possible, bag the clippings and store them in a compost area where the organic material can be used as a fertilizer later. Blowing them onto a street or into storm drains deposits the clippings directly into local streams, where they decompose and become major pollutants by increasing nitrogen to unsafe levels for fish and other aquatic life.

Fertilizers for your lawn…do you need them? If so, what, where, when, and how much?
Many lawns do not need fertilizer because they are already fertile or you have carried out the previously discussed practices. Using no fertilizer is ideal, but if your lawn is thin or has bare spots, you should consider fertilizing it. A dense vegetated cover is the most "stormwater-friendly" lawn so take the following steps to determine if fertilizer is necessary for your property:

1) Test your soil or consult a local professional or certified applicator. There is no "one size fits all" when it comes to fertilizer. Needs vary drastically based on soil texture, pH levels, and nutrient levels. Contact the local Penn State Extension Office at 610-696-3500 to order a soil test kit.

2) Start with low amounts or fewer applications: Your lawn may achieve its ideal coverage and growth with reduced amounts of fertilizer, saving time and money.

A Stormwater-friendly Garden

Home gardens can contribute a considerable amount of nutrients and other pollution to streams and other water bodies if not cared for in a responsible way. Here are some options:

Garden fertilizers: Organic alternatives to chemicals include compost or manure. Compost can be created in your own back yard, is free, and contains the many nutrients needed for your vegetables. Also, be sure to apply organic fertilizers before planting to prevent runoff.

Pesticides: When it comes to pesticides, identify the pest and research your options. Many insects are harmless to people and play an important role in maintaining a healthy lawn or garden ecosystem. If there is a problem, however, identify the exact pest you have. Consult an expert because there are many nonchemical alternatives to controlling pests. Pesticides can infiltrate the ground water, contaminate drinking supplies, and severely harm downstream ecosystems if applied incorrectly or unnecessarily.

In the long run, little actions, such as taking a stormwater-friendly approach to your garden and lawn, will have a big impact as all of us work together to protect our water's quality.

Mosquito Repellent Plants

Fight mosquitos 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!

A Sincere Thank You to John Neff

In small communities like Thornbury Township, the loss of a longtime resident and contractor is significant. John Neff passed away on April 1st and will not be forgotten. If you didn't know John, you missed out on a unique opportunity. His company Neff Construction provided road maintenance, park support and town center services to Thornbury Township for many years. He resided in Thornbury Estates.

The effects of his passing are surreal. You still expect to get a visit into the Township building or a phone call about a road issue. And at this time of year, John assisted the Township in developing the road program. His extensive knowledge and history of the Township roads and infrastructure were truly a valuable asset that cannot be replaced. For every project, he was focused on the good of the Township.

John had a distinct manner in relationships. He was not one to show emotion but his actions spoke volumes that he cared. He had nicknames for staff. He brought flowers for birthdays and shared cake to celebrate. He took a keen interest in personal lives, inquiring about a relative or asking about an upcoming trip. He was brief in his encounters stopping in the Township, greeting everyone, and then getting down to business. He took great pride in his work (as he should, given the quality and attention to detail).

John had his opinions and was eager to share them. He was quick witted and enjoyed a good meal. People who knew John respected him. John saved the Township a lot of money over the years. Even though a contractor, he was conscious that it was tax dollars paying for projects, equipment, and time. Efficiency and workmanship were paramount. His work on inlets, road repairs, etc. will be a lasting tribute to his influence on the Township(s) in Thornbury Chester County, Thornbury Delaware County as well as Edgmont Township.

John wanted to be considered a "regular guy" but his life mattered deeply to many. He appreciated a sincere thank you. So, in conclusion, thank you, John, for all of your leadership, commitment, and talent shared with Thornbury Township. You are missed.

Memorial contributions in John's memory can be made to the American Cancer Society www.cancer.org with acknowledgements sent to his son Mark Neff, 1805 Pope Lane, Kernersville, NC 27284

Cheesecake (John's Favorite)

Ingredients

- 15 graham crackers, crushed
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 4 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 3/4 cup milk
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9 inch springform pan.
2. In a medium bowl, mix graham cracker crumbs with melted butter. Press onto bottom of springform pan.
3. In a large bowl, mix cream cheese with sugar until smooth. Blend in milk, and then mix in the eggs one at a time, mixing just enough to incorporate. Mix in sour cream, vanilla and flour until smooth. Pour filling into prepared crust.
4. Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour. Turn the oven off, and let cake cool in oven with the door closed for 5 to 6 hours; this prevents cracking. Chill in refrigerator until serving.

All Aboard!! History of the Westtown Station

Richard Webster, Thornbury Township Historical Preservation Commission

Westtown Station opened as a Philadelphia and West Chester Railroad station and post office nearly 160 years ago. The station's first agent, Marshall J. Taylor, built it and seems to have made it a family institution. He was succeeded as agent by his widow, then two successive sons, and a daughter-in-law. The long family tenure rested on jobs well done. As the *Daily Local News* notes in 1910, the station's patrons, "well-to-do farmers and wealthy suburbanites, and the famous Westtown Boarding School," had high expectations, yet "there never has been any discrepancy or serious complaint in a period of more than fifty years."

Within months after the station's completion in late 1858, the post office moved in, and stayed until 1982, when it went to its present location next door. A telegraph office opened at the station in the summer of 1873, affording another service to the community and giving another responsibility to the station agent.

Photo, 1901, showing the freight station that was moved into Westtown Township in 1886. Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA

Like many first-built nineteenth-century American railroads, the Philadelphia and West Chester was almost a ramshackle affair. Its four locomotives were loosely built to accommodate the light, uneven tracks and wooden bridge; its cars were small, and many of its stations were small vernacular structures. The Westtown Station appears to have been better built than most of its peers. It initially was called the Street Road Station. In 1883, three years after buying the line, the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad re-named many stations. Hemphill's in Westtown Township became Oakbourne, for example, and Street Road became Westtown.

Pennsylvania Railroad bought controlling interest in the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad in 1881 in an attempt to force the Baltimore and Ohio to travel to Philadelphia and New York over Pennsy rails on Pennsy's terms. The Wall Street wrestling of the rail mammoths had little impact in Thornbury; corporate names changed but not local service and nomenclature.

Despite rumors that the new owners would build a new Westtown station, the company instead in 1886 merely moved and upgraded the existing station. Clinton Frame, a "veteran building mover" already in his late 70s, arrived in late August with his jacks and timbers to move the rail buildings. To give the station agent a better view of arriving trains, he moved the freight station approximately 200 feet, into Westtown Township, and relocated the station house about thirty feet south of its original site, forming a drive where the station formerly stood. Frame finished the job by mid-October, allowing carpenters to remodel the station's interior. They plastered the waiting rooms, separated them from the ticket and telegraph offices, and added a bay window. By the first week of January 1887 all work was complete.

The transformation posed a great inconvenience for rail and postal patrons, who had to slog through the muddy site, but it presented an even greater inconvenience for the George Taylor family. The station agent and his family had to move out and board elsewhere and travel to the station daily, with Mrs. Taylor suffering from what was diagnosed as spinal-meningitis rheumatism. The rail company could do little for Mrs. Taylor's painful back, but it did respond to its mired customers' complaints. In 1890 it macadamized the grounds, working around the maple tree in the open space. (Macadam should not be confused with asphalt; macadam roads have layers of small stones with no binder.)

(continued on page 7)

Trixie's Seasonal Reminders:

Buckle Up! While most dogs love to feel the wind on their furry faces, allowing them stick their heads out of moving-car windows is dangerous. Flying debris and insects can cause inner ear or eye injuries, and abrupt stops or turns can cause major injury! Pets riding in cars should always be secured in a crate or wearing a seatbelt harness designed especially for them.

Pesky Little Critters: April showers bring May flowers—and an onslaught of bugs! Make sure your pet is on year-round heartworm preventive medication, as well as a flea and tick control program. Ask your doctor to recommend a plan designed specifically for your pet.

Out and About: Warmer weather means more trips to the park, longer walks and more chances for your pet to wander off! Make sure your dog or cat has a microchip for identification and wears a tag imprinted with your home address, cell phone and any other relevant contact information.

Hot Cars: Even with the windows open an inch, a car's temperature can reach over 100 degrees in ten minutes on an 85 degree day. One quick errand can turn dangerous in minutes, so leave your pet safely at home.

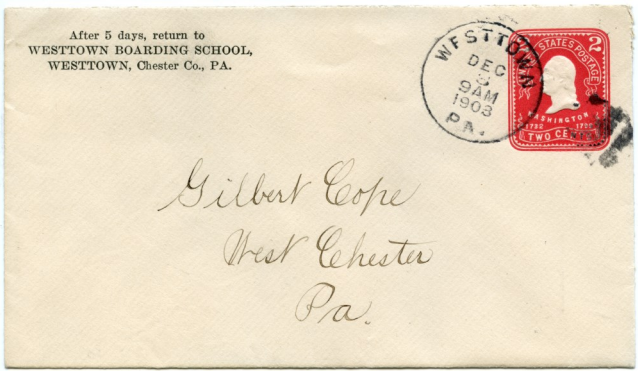
Continued from page 6: "All Aboard!! History of the Westtown Station"

June 1892 Gilbert Cope photo. Note the women in their white summer dresses and the horse "taxi" at the rear of the platform. Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA

The Westtown School in the 1850s opposed having the railroad built close to its campus. Soon, however, the school and its pupils became leading users of the road. By 1887 Westtown School wanted a siding to be run from the station to the school. That did not happen but the railroad did build a siding at the station for a coal yard dedicated to the school's use. The railroad also afforded the well-to-do a means of retreat from Philadelphia's notoriously humid summers and miasmic air. These "fresh-air refugees" erected the township's handsome post-Civil War country houses whose histories have been printed in *The Gander* over the past few years.

In the twentieth century the local road became the West Chester Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which gradually brought the line up to Pennsy standards. Its ridership peaked in the 1920s, which justified electrifying the line in 1928 with power generated at the new Conowingo Dam. Business declined after World War II until by the 1960s only six trains ran daily between Westtown and Media, and none on Sundays and holidays. Service ended in 1986.

Adaptive use has given the Westtown Station new life. In the late1980s, Ken Kazanjian rescued the building from imminent demolition and turned it into the Westtown Station Gallery, featuring high fire ceramics and Shelley Stultis's paintings.



The Westtown postmark on an envelope from the Westtown School to Gilbert Cope, co-author of the esteemed 1881 *History of Chester County*. Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, PA

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

Office Hours:
8 am—3 pm, M—F

www.thornburytwp.com

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

Board of Supervisors
Robert Anthony, Chairman
Jim Benoit, Vice Chairman
Joe Lisa, HPC Liaison
William Reilly, Treasurer
Mike Gallagher, Planning Commission, P&R Liaison

Tax Collector
Percy Neall

Auditors
Ron Giacinto,
Sandra Conn,
Jacqueline Kirby

Planning Commission
Ryan Estrada, Chairman
Terry Donohue, Vice Chairman
Dave Black
Tony Priestley
Mike Aiello
Dimitry Belokopyty
Chris Kirby

Zoning Hearing Board
Thomas Jaagus, Chair.
Peter DuFault
Kai Seelaus
Robert Wiggins
Merle Horwitz

Park & Recreation
Karen Mulligan, Chair
Teresa DeStefano, Secretary
Nicole D'Ulisse
Kim Spackman

Historic Preservation
Michele Thackrah
Kris Walker
Richard Webster
Pat Macpherson
Randell Spackman

Judy Lizza, Twp. Mgr.
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 .