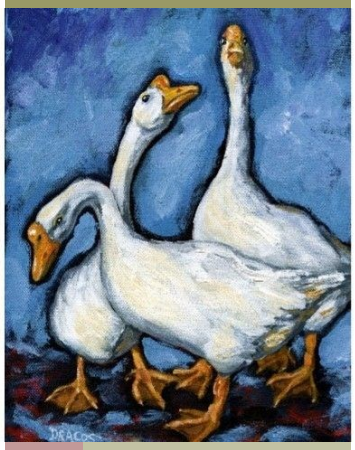
Winter 2018

"This Is Thornbury Township"



The Gander The Newsletter of Thornbury Township, Chester County

When you think of Thornbury Township what image comes to mind? What's your favorite place to have fun, take a walk, or just relax in Thornbury Township? The Parks and Recreation Commission have created a photo contest – This Is Thornbury Township.

The contest photos will be integrated into Thornbury Township's comprehensive plan. The photos can be of nature, historic structures, parks, activities, or businesses. The contest ends at noon, Thursday, March 15th.

Three winners will be selected by the Parks and Recreation Commission from the submitted photos. Monitory awards are offered; $100.00 for 1st place, $50.00 for second and $25.00 for third. In addition to the prizes for the top three photos, participants may have their photo featured in the Comprehensive Plan or on the website.

To submit a photo, please submit in .jpeg, .jpg or .gif format and email to administration@thornburytwp.com

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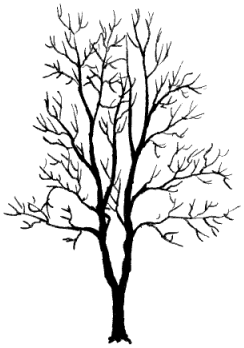


2018 THORNBURY TOWNSHIP BUDGET SUMMARY

The 2018 budget is the culmination of a process that takes into consideration the state and federal mandated requirements, and the goals and objectives set forth by the Board of Supervisors. The budget is the embodiment of how the Township will promote the safety, health, and general welfare of its residents in 2018. This budget summary will provide a brief overview of the General Fund.

The General Fund is used to pay for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of Thornbury Township. The 2018 budget for the General Fund is $1,949,633.13, which represents a 7.5% increase from the approved 2017 budget.

Revenue:

Due to economic conditions and limited prospects for population growth, forecasts indicate a continued flattening pattern for tax revenues, earned income taxes, and real estate transfer tax for the foreseeable future. No significant changes are expected in the revenue line items. The projected revenues for the 2018 Budget include the summary category of "Local Enabling Taxes" which comprises Local Service Tax, Earned Income Tax, and Real Estate Transfer Tax. This account comprises 53% of the Township's revenue ($1,025,000.00). The Real Estate Tax accounts for 16% of the Township's revenue ($314,400.00).

Expenses:

General Government – This portion of the budget includes Township personnel, consultants, communications, rent, tax collection costs, and office expenses. The 2018 budget allocates $374,428.70 for the general government and administration services of the Township. This is a 2.8% increase from the approved 2017 budget.

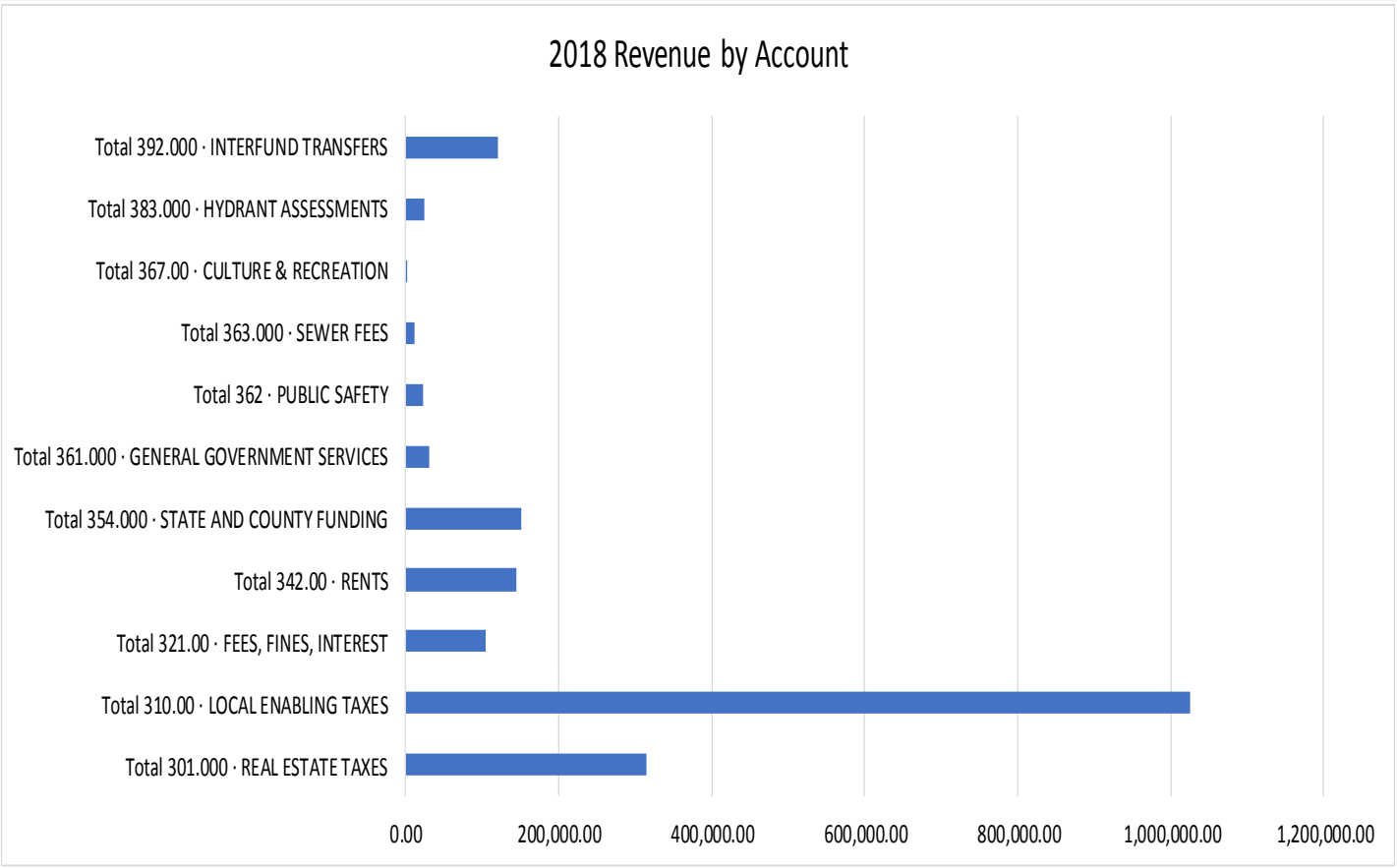
Public Safety – The Public Safety portion of the budget includes funding for police services, fire protection, building inspection, code enforcement, and animal control services. The total budget for Public Safety is $1,043,694.91 (53% of the Budget). The 2017 budget includes $902,486.00 for the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department contract, a 4% increase from 2017. The Police contract constitutes 42% of the total budget and is the largest single line item of the budget. The contract provides for all police services in the Township and expires December 2018. The budget also includes $81,849.00 for the fire protection contract with the West Chester Fire Department. This contract also expires December 2018.

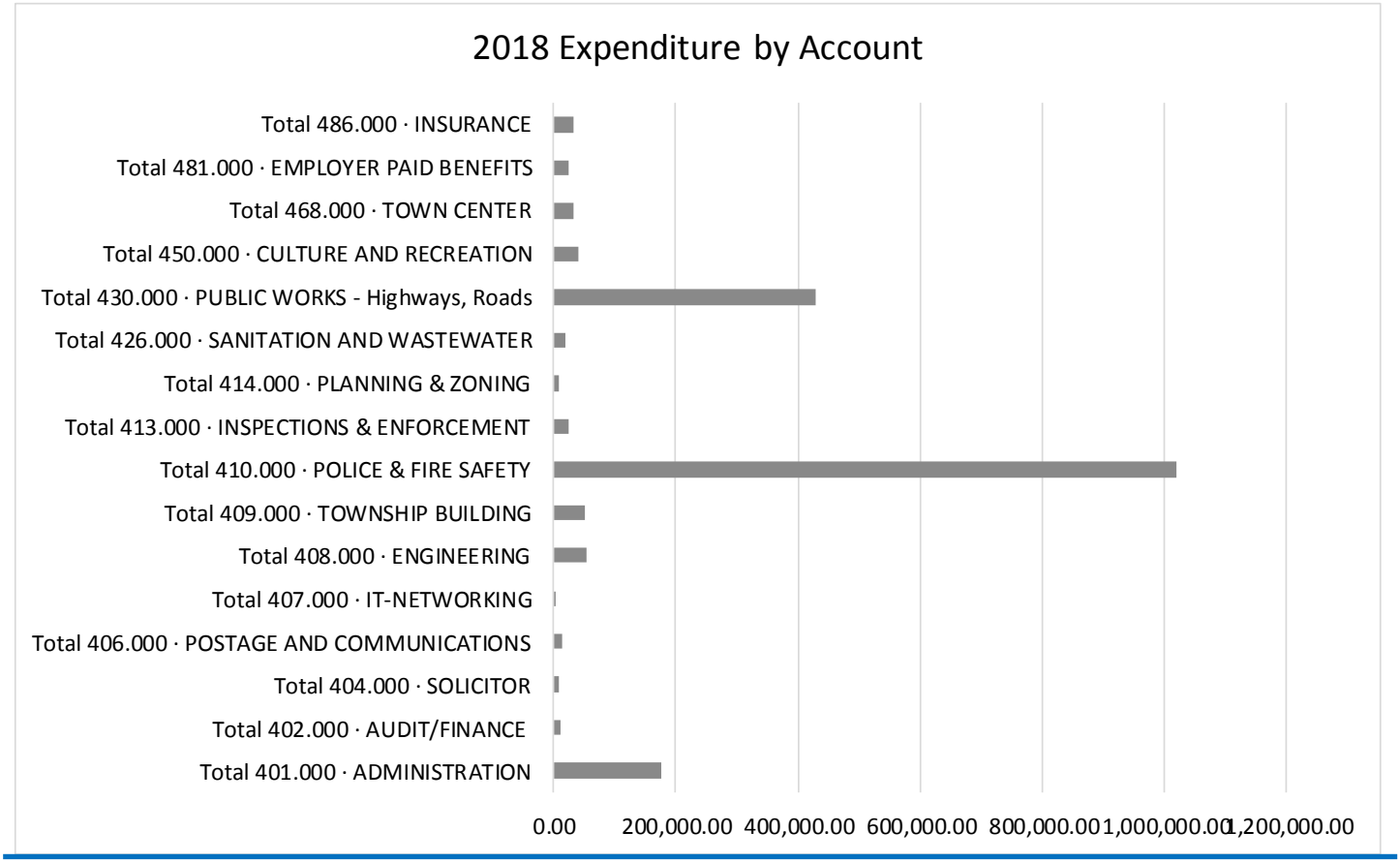
Planning & Zoning – Funding for legal counsel and advertising as it relates to ordinance revisions, as well as Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board administration, is included in the budget. The budget for Planning & Zoning totals $9,000.00. Most expenses are reimbursed by the applicant to the Township. The largest expenditure is for the Comprehensive Plan update which will be completed mid-year.

Public Works – The 2018 budget includes funding for the continued maintenance and repair of the approximately 18 miles of Township owned roadways. Included is road repair, roadside maintenance, traffic sign maintenance, storm-water inlet maintenance, and snow & ice control. The 2018 Budget includes storm inlet projects with estimated costs of $11,000.00 and a Road Program of $200,000.00. The 2018 Road program has had increase of funding of $75,000, compared to 2017, due to aging infrastructure. The Township also shares traffic signal maintenance responsibility with Westtown Township for seven intersections and pays for 50% of these maintenance costs, totaling approximately $15,000. The total budget for Public Works is $428,781.80 (increase of 21% from 2017).

Culture & Recreation - The budget includes funding for the continued maintenance of Goose Creek Park and Squire Cheyney Park. This includes grounds maintenance, mowing, landscaping, and playground maintenance. The total budget for Culture and Recreation is $35,000.00. In 2018, a comprehensive long term capital plan will be developed as well as the reintroduction of community activities.

Town Center – The budget provides for continued maintenance and repair for the facilities at Town Center. ($33,014.00)


2018 Revenue by Account
Total 392.000 · INTERFUND TRANSFERS
Total 383.000 · HYDRANT ASSESSMENTS
Total 367.00 · CULTURE & RECRECATION
Total 363.000 · SEWER FEES
Total 362 · PUBLIC SAFETY
Total 361.000 · GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
Total 354.000 · STATE AND COUNTY FUNDING
Total 342.00 · RENTS
Total 321.00 · FEES, FINES, INTEREST
Total 310.00 · LOCAL ENABLING TAXES
Total 301.000 · REAL ESTATE TAXES
0.00
200,000.00
400,000.00
600,000.00
800,000.00
1,000,000.00
1,200,000.00


2018 Expenditure by Account
Total 486.000 · INSURANCE
Total 481.000 · EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS
Total 468.000 · TOWN CENTER
Total 450.000 · CULTURE AND RECREATION
Total 430.000 · PUBLIC WORKS - Highways, Roads
Total 426.000 · SANITATION AND WASTEWATER
Total 414.000 · PLANNING & ZONING
Total 413.000 · INSPECTIONS & ENFORCEMENT
Total 410.000 · POLICE & FIRE SAFETY
Total 409.000 · TOWNSHIP BUILDING
Total 408.000 · ENGINEERING
Total 407.000 · IT-NETWORKING
Total 406.000 · POSTAGE AND COMMUNICATIONS
Total 404.000 · SOLICITOR
Total 402.000 · AUDIT/FINANCE
Total 401.000 · ADMINISTRATION
0.00
200,000.00
400,000.00
600,000.00
800,000.00
1,000,000.00
1,200,000.00

Thornbury Estates: "The Development"

Richard Webster, Thornbury Township Historical Preservation Commission

When you think of the 1950s, you are reminded of "I like Ike," cars with tail fins and excessive chrome, and Dinah Shore singing "See the USA in your Chevrolet." If you are old enough, you may remember about the same time batches of new houses sprouting in former meadows like daffodils on a spring day.

No Chester County community better embodied that decade, was more 1950s in the 1950s, than Thornbury Estates. In its beginnings the subdivision was occasionally referred to simply as "The Development," indicating its uniqueness in the township. Once a number of houses had been built, it was known as "Thornbury," a name reinforced by the entrance signs in simplified Old English script. By early 1960, the neighborhood had gained its present rather grand title of "Thornbury Estates."

When Thornbury began, it was more than a mere subdivision. It was as close to being a community as a collection of secular homeowners on one-acre-minimum lots could be. Thornbury was a "sudden subdivision" (nearly all of the present 105 houses were built in three years) inhabited by young families with race, values, and goals in common.

The Thornbury Civic Association appears to have formed with little ado. Still in existence, it has no legal authority, but has operated as its name implies, as a civic association. It has represented the residents' interests and concerns before the Board of Supervisors, has alerted residents to threats to the community, and remains responsible for the expense and maintenance of pole lights at the development's entrances.

In its early years the civic association served as both a neighborhood improvement group and a social and entertainment promoter. Members erected poles at culverts to alert snow plows to their presence and planted trees and shrubs at the development's entrances. The association also held festive dinner-dances (often at the Elks' Club), less formal supper socials, and rollicking summer picnics. Its newsletter shared family updates (in particular the latest infants joining the neighborhood) and promoted such events as theater trips and historical tours to Philadelphia. For children there were Easter egg hunts and visits from Santa Claus, who would go from house to house, child to child, dispensing small gifts while appreciative parents plied him with Christmas cheer. Santa was soon merry indeed.

Thornbury's 106 houses were built in the mid-1950s. (One house burned a few years ago, so only 105 dwellings stand today.) This was a boom time for housing construction in the United States. During the Great Depression few people had the money to buy a house. During World War II, when the country enjoyed full employment, people had money but no houses to buy; nearly all construction materials were dedicated to the total-war effort. A great pent-up demand waited for economy to adjust to peacetime. By the 1950s, young couples were eager to buy single-family homes and builders were just as eager to build them.

Reference to the development first appears in the supervisors' minutes in July 1955, when the supervisors discussed its progress. The developer, Lewis S. Hickman, had completed the plan a month earlier. In a township as small as ours, it surely was not a surprise. The plan was a conflation of a straight-forward grid plan (popular in Pennsylvania since William Penn laid out Philadelphia) and the new curvilinear plans that were popular in such large postwar developments as Levittown.

Once the township supervisors accepted the plan in mid-August, things moved rather rapidly. Chester County Planning Commission approved the plan the first of October and three weeks later the *Daily Local News* reported that Pymat Corporation, the development's builder, had organized to engage in general contracting and building. The paper had already noted that Crowl Construction Corporation of Wilmington, Delaware, had applied to engage in real estate activities in Pennsylvania. Its office was on Red Lion Road in the Thornbury development. By the spring of 1956 the dirt was flying. The boom was on. In that respect Thornbury Township was like much of the rest of the country.

The Historic Preservation Commission meets quarterly, the second Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. The Commission encourages preservation of the historical character of the Township; advises the Supervisors and the Planning Commission in matters involving historically and/or architecturally significant resources, including the review of zoning, subdivision and land development proposals and building/demolition permit applications to determine the impacts to historic and/or architectural resources.

Movie tickets for AMC theatre available: $8.50

Checks should be made out to Thornbury Township.

The spring **Shredding Event** will take place on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Bring items to be shredded to the Township Building (8 Township Drive). This free event is from 9 AM to Noon.

Township Commissions "What we do"

Planning Commission:

Meets the second Monday of each month at 7 PM.

Prepares, recommends and administers subdivision and land development. Makes recommendations to the governing body concerning the adoption or amendment to the zoning ordinance, subdivision and land development ordinance, official map, provisions for planned residential development, and such other ordinances and regulations governing the development of land amendments.

Parks and Recreation Commission:

Meets the first Thursday of each month at noon.

Plan, supervise and conduct a comprehensive and coordinated program of cultural and physical recreation; plan and implement programs of park-related activities for all of the present and future parks; and cooperate in developing plans for parks, recreation areas and for the preservation of open space within the township.

Comprehensive Planning Commission:

Meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM.

Working on the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan which includes a statement of objectives for the Township concerning its future development; a plan for land use to meet the housing needs of present and future; a plan for the movement of people and goods; a plan for community facilities and utilities; a discussion of short- and long-range plan implementation strategies ; and a plan for the protection of natural and historic resources.

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Office Hours:
8 am—3 pm, M—F

www.thornburytwp.com

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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 .