Winter 2011

Westtown Train Station C.1890

The Gander The Newsletter of ThornburyTownship, Chester County

The Chairman's Corner

As we approach the end of another great year for Thornbury Township, I am struck by the amount of activity that we have had in maintaining the Township for 2011. Highlights and the notable upcoming events include:

We are reaching the end of Brody Bovero's first full year as Township Manager – and it has been a great one! Brody has done a wonderful job of running the Township for us. His hard work and innovative ideas have saved the Township money, time, and worry. Supervisors, vendors and co-workers have all praised his efforts this year, and we look forward to many more years of the same.

It has been another great year for the Township's staff (both paid and unpaid). Many thanks are due to Dee Ann Manley and Teresa DeStefano for their hard work and long hours keeping the Township financially steady and responsive to the needs of our residents. They are the first and most important interface with our citizens and with the many people who do the Township's work - those individuals who are responsible for maintaining the roads, keeping the park area pristine and the streets clear and safe, and providing inspection and enforcement services for our homes and public buildings. Most larger townships have a large staff to oversee all of these duties. We have Dee Ann and Teresa – and they continue to do a wonderful job.

Special thanks are also due for the many volunteers who sit on the Township commissions. These residents give freely of their time and talents to support Township planning efforts, historic preservation, and our township recreational programs. From the Chairpersons to the individual members they are all deserving of our most heartfelt gratitude. In this holiday season, an extra nod goes out to the Parks and Recreation volunteers (and Teresa who supports them) for activities like the Fall Festival and Santa's Train Ride, which require so much planning and even more hard work.

It would be impossible to pass the year's end without thanking Mike Aiello for another terrific year of giving his time as Roadmaster and for stepping up to the plate when Ed Travis was forced to resign his Board seat a few months early due to medical concerns. 2011 was a year of big snows, traffic issues in our neighborhoods and on our highways, hurricanes, and challenging road repair work. Mike handled all of it – often in the middle of the night – and has returned to sit on the Board in Ed's absence on top of all of his other responsibilities.

2011 will mark the end of the terms of two of our Supervisors – Percy Neall and Ed Travis. Six years is a long commitment to service to the Township, and both of these individuals spent that time, in addition to prior time on commissions and other township activities. Ed also served as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for two years and was a visionary leader during all of his time on the Board.

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Chairman's Corner (continued from pg.1)

They will be replaced in 2012 by our most recently elected Supervisors – Jim Oliveira and Mike Gallagher. We look forward to these two new members joining our nucleus of Bob Anthony, Bob Miller and myself, and hope that we can continue to run the Township in a responsible, responsive, and civil fashion over the next few years.

We have received grant funding for our proposed park on the Squire Cheyney property, and are awaiting further funding and final plans for this significant addition to the recreational opportunities here in Thornbury. The park will be completed in at least two stages, and we are currently evaluating the role of agricultural, historic and active recreation components for the acreage. This will include disposition of the historic Squire Cheyney farmhouse and barn, which we will soon receive ownership from Orleans builders. The composition of the park and the fate of the house and barn are still both far from certain and are among the most important decisions that the Board of Supervisors will be making during the coming year.

Work is progressing nicely on one of the largest recent projects that the Township has undertaken. Public sewers for the residents of College Hill will require significant construction work and negotiation with Cheyney University and PASSHE (the PA state higher education people). Grants for funding the project have been secured, discussions are well underway, and we have begun the process of applying for all of the permits required for such an undertaking. We hope that by next fall, all of the work has been completed and the new wastewater management project is a reality.

Finally, at our December Board of Supervisors meeting we will be approving the Township Budget for 2012. Once again this year the budget will be balanced with no tax increases for our township's residents. Everyone is invited to that meeting to ask questions and to provide comment. The annual budget represents a lot of hard work by your Supervisors, and especially by Dee Ann and Brody. We have had several work sessions where individual line items and the components of this budget have been hammered out, and are proud of the work product that has resulted.

I hope that 2011 was a good year for each of you, and that 2012 brings a broad economic recovery and many good things to each and every one of our Thornbury residents. On a personal note, it has been a very rewarding task to be the Chairman of your Board of Supervisors this past two years and I wish to thank all of my fellow Supervisors for their hard work and cooperation during that time. I want to give special thanks to Bob Miller, who has filled the thankless positions of Vice Chairman and Treasurer for those years. Bob – I couldn't have done it without you.

Happy Holidays, and a joyous New Year to all,

Mike Gast

Board of Supervisors to Survey Residents on Police Services

The Township's contract with the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department expires at the end of 2012. Since the police contract is the single largest expense for the Township (approximately 47% of the budget), the Board has decided to get input from the residents on this important issue.

The Township has partnered with West Chester University's Center for Social and Economic Policy Research to conduct a Township-wide survey of households as a practical step in forming the future of police services in the Township.

The survey is designed to help the Board gain an understanding of residents' preference about level of service and the fiscal realities of funding such service.

The survey will be mailed to all households in the Township. We encourage you to take the time to fill out the survey so that your voice may be heard.

The survey is expected to be out in the mail within the next month, so please keep an eye out for it.

Driving Safely this Winter and all Year Long….

With the Winter season firmly upon use there are a few things to remember to prepare yourselves and your loved ones for a safe time while driving:

Clear ALL snow and ice off of your windows, lights, roof, trunk and hood areas….not only will this increase your vision but it will also prevent snow or ice from dislodging from your vehicle and potentially causing an accident. In Pennsylvania if snow or ice from your vehicle causes an accident involving death or serious injuries you could be liable and given a citation with a fine of between $250-$1000.

Prepare your vehicle for winter driving by ensuring that you have tires with adequate tread depth to provide traction in snowy and icy conditions. Put a winter ready kit in your car that contains the following items:

* Flashlight with extra batteries
* Flares of reflective triangles
* Jumper cables
* Cell phone with extra batteries
* Extra car fuses
* Rags or paper towels
* General first aid kit
* Blanket, extra set of clothes
* Winter formula window washer solvent
* Non-clumping kitty litter to use for extra traction
* Ice-scraper, snow brush and shovel
* Tire chains

3. USE your headlights….By PA law you are required to use your headlights between sunset and sunrise as well as when you cannot discern something on the highway from 1000 feet away due to weather conditions (ie snow, rain, etc) and anytime that your windshield wipers are in use due to weather conditions. If in doubt turn them on…it makes you more visible to those around you and your surroundings more visible to you.

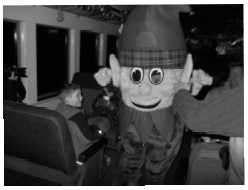
4. If the weather conditions are questionable….DON'T drive unless it is absolutely necessary. By reducing the amount of traffic on the road you allow emergency vehicles to get around easier and have fewer non-emergency calls to respond to as well as allowing the plow truck operators greater ease in getting the streets cleaned up quickly and safely.

5. And lastly, this one applies all year long….PA has what is known as the "Steer Clear Law". When approaching a scene with emergency vehicles present (police, fire, ambulance, tow trucks, etc) you are required to move over or if that is not possible you must SLOW down. Those in violation are subject to fines and possible license suspension.

Township Hosts Successful Events in Fall & Winter

Thornbury Township's Park and Recreation Commission welcomed the arrival of autumn on October 16 at Goose Creek Park to celebrate the Fall Festival. Makin Music provided musical entertainment while children decorated and painted pumpkins for display. Families enjoyed hot dogs and snacks as the children enjoyed pony rides and a petting zoo.

The annual Train Ride with Santa was also a great success. The whole train sang along with Makin Music and their helper "Pixie". Cookies were served for all to enjoy. The Parks & Recreation Commission would like to thank all those who attended and helped in any way.



Keep an eye out for more information about future events!

Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association & Penn State Brandywine

jointly welcome

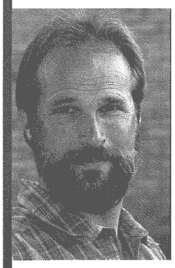
Mark Gormel

Native Plant Horticulturist, Consultant, Lecturer, and Nature Photographer

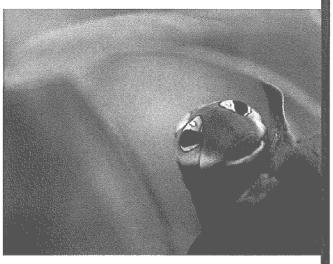
Sunday, February 12, 2012
2:00pm-3:30pm

Penn State Brandywine
Tomezsko Building Auditorium
25 Yearsley Mill Road, Media, PA 19063
http://www.brandywine.psu.edu/Information/map.htm

"Native Plants, Birds, Bees, Butterflies, and Healthy Watersheds: What's the Connection?"



Mark Gormel is Horticultural Coordinator for the Brandywine Conservancy



Photos © and courtesy of Mark Gormel.

Free and open to the public.
Preregistration requested: Contact CRC at: **crc@nni.com** or 610-892-8731
Cell phone contact in case of questionable weather 610-470-6960

For more information please see: ***www.crcwatersheds.org***

Openings on Historic Preservation Commission

Thornbury Township is soliciting letters of interest and resumes for our Historic Preservation Commission. If you are interested in serving your Township by helping to preserve the important historic resources in Thornbury, please forward a resume to the Township building for future consideration.

This is a great way to serve your community!

Protect the Absorption Area of Your On-lot Septic System

The absorption area (trenches, seepage bed, elevated sand mounds, etc.) requires very little in the way of maintenance as long as the effluent being discharged to it is nearly free of solids. Solids entering the absorption area can cause considerable damage to the system by clogging the openings in the pipes or by forming an impermeable sludge layer over the stones.

To further insure that the absorption area continues to function properly, the following actions are suggested:

1. Prevent heavy vehicles from entering the area in which the on-site system is located to avoid breakage of pipes in the distribution system and the compaction of the soil;

2. Do not plant trees and shrubs in the area of the on-site system to avoid damage from root penetration;

3. Do not use drain cleaners or other additives containing chemicals that might destroy biological activity in the septic or aerobic tank;

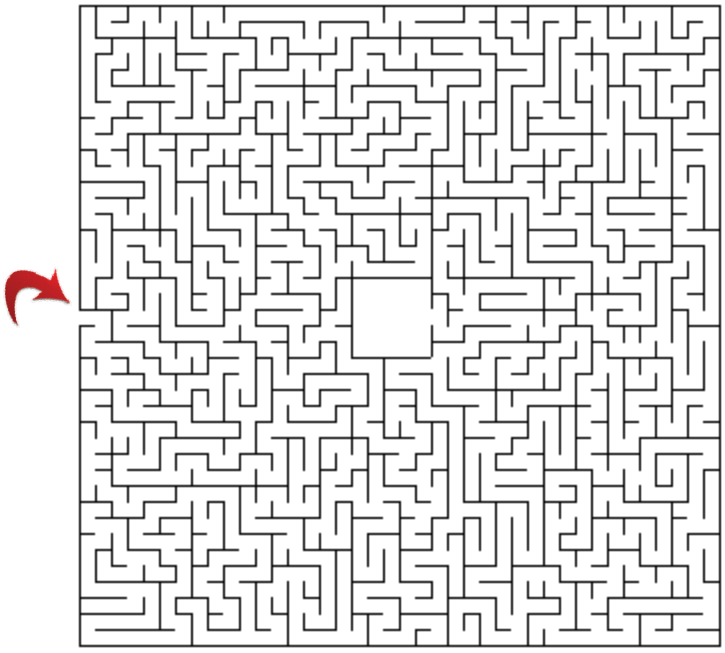
4. Do not build any structures (including swimming pools) on or near the absorption area;

5. Check plumbing fixtures frequently for leaks that might add substantial amounts of water to the on-site system;

6. Direct rainwater away from absorption area to avoid placing an additional water burden on the system;

7. Do not re-grade the area in such a manner that rain water runoff pools over the absorption area.

Maze:



Current Township Projects

College Hill Sewer Project

Project Summary: Install low-pressure sewer main to serve 32 homes.

Current Status: Obtaining Permits; construction scheduled for Spring 2012

Funding Source: Federal Grant, State Grant, Private Contributions

Brine Storage Tank Installation

Project Summary: Install 10,000 gallon brine storage tank for pre-treatment of roads

Current Status: 95% complete; Expected to be operational by January 1

Funding Source: Township Capital Fund

Squire Cheyney Park Project - Phase 1

Project Summary: Construct walking trail and parking

Current Status: Preliminary Engineering; waiting for grant

Funding Source: County Grant, State Grant, Township Open Space Fund

Concept School

Tax Reminder:

2011 Township Taxes

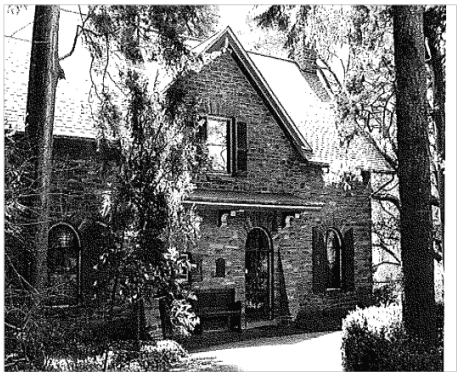
Deadline Nearing

2011 Township Real Estate Taxes are due by noon Friday 12/30/11. If not received by the deadline they will be turned over to the Chester County Tax Claims Bureau for Collection.

Also the 2011 Fire Hydrant Assessment is due by 12/30/11, if not received they will be turned over to the Township Solicitor for collection.

Green Shadows

In this issue of the Gander, our description of Thornbury township's historic resources moves to the early 20th century. Constructed between 1900 and 1907, "Green Shadows," together with "Green Echo," its former stable, is an "extraordinarily preserved and well-documented"(*TTHRS)* example of an early architect-designed house in rural Chester County and unique to the township. First described in West Chester's *Daily Local News* (9/6/1900) as "of a peculiar style of architecture," very soon it achieved recognition as "a handsome new stone mansion"(*DLN 10/16/1901).* Its designer was W. E. Jackson, a Chester County born architect, who was an associate of Wilson Eyre, Jr., a nationally prominent Philadelphia figure, known for his original interpretations of the Queen Anne style. It was built for William Jackson Barnard, a descendent of Richard Barnard who first owned property in the county in 1683. W.E. Jackson was W.J. Barnard's cousin.



"Green Shadows" is banked into a hill on the south side of Street Road (rte. 926). Built of stone and faced with coursed "Brandywine Granite" rubble stone, it is close to Westtown railroad station, established in 1858, which linked it to Philadelphia. The property was then in what was considered a rural location and was known as Thornbury Lodge. The structure integrated local vernacular traditions with professional architectural design and standards and has changed very little since it was built. On the one hand, its local rural heritage is implied in the use of conical stone porch columns on the south elevation which resemble regional 19th century barn forebay supports. Also common to the area's stone barns are the round-arched windows on the first level, as well as the buttresses on the north and west elevations. There are dual entrances opposing front and rear doors, a corner fireplace with crane, and a three room plan. The kitchen cabinets, all doors and windows, and pump niche are original as are the well and cooling cellar still in use. The laundry and outhouse, formerly outside, were enclosed in 1940. On the other hand, the wing wall and the "peculiar" steeply pitched roof with cross gable on the north elevation resemble English Cottage style. "Green Echo" contained quarters for the groom, a hayloft, tack room, and carriage turntable. It was refurbished into living quarters by Davis and Poole in 1948.

In 1981, the current owner, intending to reassemble the original farm, added adjoining land to his property, which now stretched down to Goose Creek. Subsequent to the discovery of Native American artifacts on the property, the owner and his wife donated that eleven plus acres to the Delaware Indians of Western Oklahoma in 1999, with the express condition that it not be used for "gaming."

"Green Shadows" remains one of only two properties in the township listed on the National Register of Historic Properties. The plans and other materials relating to the house are on file also at the Atheneum and the American Institute of Architects.

This article is the fifth in a series on historic properties included in the Thornbury Township Historic Resource Survey, on view at the township office.

Chester County Shares National Award for HHW Program

The Regional Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Program, consisting of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, has been named by the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA) as the 2011 Longstanding Program Excellence award winner.

The partnership allows any resident the opportunity to attend nearly 30 HHW collection events in the five-county region, allowing for a disposal option almost every other weekend of the year. In 2010, the regional program collected approximately three million pounds of HHW and Electronics and served nearly 30,000 households.

Since 2004, the program has nearly doubled .

For additional info on the HHW program log on to the Chester County Solid Waste Authority website at www.chestercountyswa.org.

In early 2012, the annual HHW drop off schedule will be posted on the Thornbury Township website.

Advertising in the Thornbury Township Quarterly Newsletter

On behalf of Thornbury Township, Chester County please allow me to thank you for providing products and services to residents and businesses within our community.

The Township publishes "The Gander", which is a quarterly newsletter that is sent to every residence and business in Thornbury Township. It is published in June, September, December, and March of each year. The distribution covers approximately 1,250 residences and 50 businesses, reaching over 3,500 people here in our community.

We are opening advertising space first to businesses that are located in, or primarily serve the residents of Thornbury Township. If you are interested in advertising in The Gander, please call 610-399-1425 to reserve a space.

Advertising space is limited to ensure the integrity of the newsletter. Attached to this letter are the guidelines and advertising rates per issue. Payment and a camera-ready image for an ad in the March newsletter must be received by February 25th.

Thank you again, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Teresa DeStefano

Township Secretary

South Westbourne Road Gets Needed Makeover

Say goodbye to the teeth-jarring potholes and suspension-testing patchwork that plagued South Westbourne Road for the last several years. "In all the roads in the Township, this one was by far in the worst condition," stated Township Manager Brody Bovero during a recent Board of Supervisors meeting. The Township's 2011 paving program included over 900 tons of shiny new asphalt to help residents and school buses alike travel more smoothly on South Westbourne Rd.

The project price tag totaled $113,000 and was funded mostly by state gas tax revenue. The Township delayed the South Westbourne Road project by one year due to the budget-busting snow plowing costs incurred during the historic winter of 2010. Although the winter of 2011 wasn't much easier, the Board of Supervisors kept it a priority to move forward with the paving program.

Fun Fact: The Township maintains approximately 18 miles of roads each year.

Trevor Talks

Trevor's Feline Friend "Friendly" would like to share some pet tips with you, since he is vacationing in Hawaii.

Meet Friendly:

Hi residents,

Since Trevor has given you tips for your pet dogs as the weather gets colder let me fill you in on my friends.

With a little ingenuity, caretakers can provide the added warmth that feral cats need by constructing a homemade shelter. A shelter may provide warmth for two, three or more cats, depending on its size and the sociability of the cats. Feral felines who compete for food at other times of the year may find they are willing to overlook their differences when temperatures drop. "There are no enemies in a snowstorm," says another veteran caregiver, Joanna Harkin, an attorney and director of Alliance for Stray Animals and People (a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C.) The reason for these newfound alliances is a practical one. "Cats give each other body warmth in the cold months," explains Louise Holton, president of Alley Cat Allies, another Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization dedicated to non lethal feral cat control. Holton has seen as many as 12 cats come out of one shelter during a blizzard.

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8 am—3 pm, M—F

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Teresa DeStefano, Twp. Secretary

Road Master
Mike Aiello

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 email: tdestefano@thornburytwp.com

Sincerely,

Teresa DeStefano, Editor

The Gander