Fall 2013

Westtown Train Station C.1890

The Gander The Newsletter of Thornbury Township, Chester County

2013 Update

The Board of Supervisors has been busy with a number of projects and issues related to services in the Township. Below is a quick summary of the actions taken thus far in 2013:

Road Maintenance & Improvements

2013 Paving Project: The Township completed a $135,000 resurfacing project for Cricklewood Road.

Road Maintenance Contract 1-yr Extension: Under the current road maintenance contract with Neff Construction, the Township has an option for a 1-yr extension. This extension expires in the spring of 2014.

Improvements to Stormwater Inlet Boxes: The Township made repairs and conducted preventative maintenance on the inlet boxes along Cricklwood Road and Woodbine Road.

Snow & Ice Control Contract 1-yr Extension: Under the current contract with The Groundskeeper, the Township has an option for a 1-yr extension. This extension expires in the spring of 2014.

Park Maintenance & Projects

Squire Cheyney Park Project– Phase 1: The Township is currently in the permitting stage of a $500,000 park improvement project at Squire Cheyney Park. The project will include trails, historic interpretive signs, and parking. It is schedule for construction in spring of 2014

Subdivision and Sale Portion of Waln Run Park: The Township is proceeding with the subdivision of Waln Run Park into two parcels. The southern portion will be sold and the northern half (6 acres) will be retained as open space and future trail improvements.

Waln Run Park Mowing Contract 1-yr Extension: Under the current park mowing contract with Ralph Jennings, the Township has an option for a 1-yr extension. This extension runs through the 2013 growing season.

Goose Creek Park Mowing Contract: The previous contract expired, so the Board advertised for competitive bids. The Township periodically puts contracts out to bid in order to ensure the most competitive pricing for services.

Historic Preservation

Squire Cheyney House & Barn Easement and Sale: The Township is moving forward with the sale of the Squire Cheyney house and barn. A façade easement will be placed on the buildings to ensure their historic integrity as it is turned over to private ownership.

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Historic Preservation Commission:

Each issue of the Gander includes an article by the Thornbury Historic Preservation Commission about one of our Historic Home Resources. This is another in the Series.

The Thomas Woodward House at 1295 South New Street.

In 1726 Henry Nayle bequeathed several parcels of land in both Thornbury and Birmingham townships to the Woodward Family. This property was eventually given to Thomas Woodward, who by 1795 had constructed a small two-story stone farmhouse on it. When Thomas died in 1843, the property was given to his son, John Woodward II, who in 1858 added to the stone house a larger brick addition, which is most visible from the road today. Unfortunately, John did not get to enjoy much time in the house he built as he was ill for several years before his death in 1880, when the estate was sold to Minshall P. Sharpless.

Over the next fifty years, because the property was considered to be some of the best farming land in the county, it passed through several generations of farmers, under the 'Brandywine Dairies' name. At one time it held the largest barn in the county '115 feet long by 100 feet wide', a creamery, tenant houses, fourteen acres of chestnut trees and various outbuildings that served the farm. Eventually the land was subdivided leaving only the house and one lone chestnut tree to remain on a one-acre parcel.

The original stone house is quite typical of the local farmhouse vernacular utilizing field stone and iron stone. Over time porches were added to the south and east facades. The brick addition which dominates the structure and the west side of the original stone house is an excellent example of the Italianate style. It is 3 ½ stories tall with a large belvedere centered on the main roof. It is rumored that long ago one could see the dome at Immaculate College from this vantage point. The south and west facades are adorned with large wrought-iron porches with original wood decking that was removed over time. Although many mistake this structure for a former school, most likely because of the mass of the brick façade, there is no evidence of this being the case, as all records indicate it was a 'home farm'.

The interior of the brick addition boasts a long center hall with soaring ceilings and gracious sized rooms, quite contrary to the original stone section of the home. The original plaster walls and southern yellow pine floors remain although some modern amenities have been added over time. The first and second floor windows have interior shutters, hence the lack of shutters on the exterior of the home. All in all, the home remains very true to its original condition and purpose as a private residence.

The Thomas Woodward House now stands as the only brick country house in the township, significant for its reflection of the establishment of gentlemen farms in Thornbury Township in the mid-Nineteenth century.

Chester Creek Watershed

Impaired Reaches

Seventeen miles of Chester Creek are listed as impaired reaches not attaining their designated water quality designations and uses. They are:

- Goose Creek: Due to alteration of natural stream (hydrologic) flows, sedimentation, and municipal point sources, this large tributary does not meet its modest standards for Warm Water Fisheries. Goose Creek has also been listed as impaired for fecal coliform based on the 2003-2004 CRC/DEP Goose Creek Study, which found average levels significantly in excess of standards.
- East Branch of Chester Creek from the confluence with Goose Creek in Thornbury to the confluence with Rocky Run, and
- A section of the Main Branch in Brookhaven below the Southwest Municipal Treatment plant.

The goal of the Clean Water Act is to address these failing segments, and eventually get them up to standards.

A Restoration Plan (TMDL) for Chester Creek in the works

The non attaining (failing) sections of Chester Creek are now the focus of several TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) studies being completed by DEP and EPA. TMDL is a scientific determination of the assimilation capacity and the required reduction for specific pollutants impacting an impaired stream to bring it up to standards for its designated uses.

The required pollutants loading will be allocated to discharge permits for industry and municipal and private waste water treatment plants to the extent possible, with the remaining required reduction will be allocated to stormwater runoff discharged through municipal storm sewers systems. These targets will most likely require municipalities to require changes in existing stormwater facilities and municipal ordinances.

What Are Impaired Waters?

All of Pennsylvania's streams are periodically assessed by DEP to determine whether the waters are meeting their designated uses. Biannually, DEP publishes **the Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report**, which includes the **305(b) assessment**. Segments which fail to attain their designated uses are then listed on the 303(d) Impaired Waters list and placed on a schedule for DEP to develop a control plan for discharges to the stream, including stormwater runoff, that strives to bring that stream segment back into compliance. The Integrated 305(b) Assessment and 303(d) Listing is available at:
http://www.depweb.state.pa.us

2013 Update Continued

Capital Improvement Projects

College Hill Sewer System: The Township completed the $500,000 sewer project in the College Hill neighborhood. The project was financed largely through state and federal grants.

Roof Installation for Salt Storage: The Township is currently constructing a $10,000 roof installation to cover its salt storage. This roof will keep the salt dry, thereby improving the efficiency of salting the roads. It also provides an environmental benefit by minimizing the amount of salt that drains into the storm inlets while in storage.

Board Room Improvements: IT and visual display enhancements were installed in the Board Room. This has improved the communication and presentation of information during meetings.

Upcoming Issues

2014 Budget: Public discussions will take place this fall with final approval in December.

Fire Service Contract: Negotiations with West Chester Borough for fire protection.

Fireworks & Noise Ordinances: Examination and adjustments to these ordinances to better protect residents.

Office/Retail Space For Lease Near Goose Creek Park

842 E. Street Road (Route 926)

Above the 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 near the Goose Creek Grill. The location is easily accessible and visible from Route 926 (Street Road) and is situated at the entrance of Goose Creek Park. 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 Brody Bovero, Thornbury Township Manager, at (610) 399-1425.

Recycling Drop Off Center Reminders

When dropping off recyclable material at the Drop Off Center, do not put materials in garbage bags.

The recycling depository views anything in garbage bags as garbage, not recyclables.

Thank You.

The recycling drop off center is located behind the Westtown Post Office (next to Goose Creek park) at 844 E. Street Road.

Thornbury Township, Chester County

Parks and Recreation Commission

Invites you to the

2013 Fall Festival

Goose Creek Park (behind Goose Creek Grill)

Saturday October 26

1:00pm—3:00pm

See **the Friendly Farm Animal Petting Zoo and enjoy a pony ride!!**

Dance to the beat of **Makin Music**!

There will be food, music, face-painting and fun for the entire family!

ALL events are FREE!

Trevor Talks:

Fall Is Here, Is Your Dog Ready?

The ASPCA offers dog owners tips as colder weather begins to roll in.

Fall has arrived, and that means colder, wintry weather – and the holidays – are just around the corner. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has issued several tips to keep dogs safe as temperatures begin to drop and as holiday baking and decorating abound.

Keep dogs warm and dry. Pets should have a warm place to sleep that's off the floor and away from drafts. Wipe dogs' legs and stomach when they come inside from the snow, sleet or ice. Don't leave dogs alone in parked cars, as temperatures can fall quickly in a short period of time.

Clean up after yourself. Coolant and antifreeze are toxic to dogs. Pet owners should thoroughly clean up any vehicle spills and be aware of melting ice that may be contaminated with toxic chemicals.

Keep pets close. Dogs should be kept on a leash during inclement weather as they can more easily become lost; make sure dogs' identification tags are up-to-date.

Keep pets on their regular diets. As the season filled with treats and goodies approaches, pets should remain on their normal diets. Changes can affect their digestive system causing indigestion and diarrhea.

Keep alcoholic beverages out of pets' reach. If dogs accidentally ingest alcohol, they can become sick and weak.

Consider dogs when decorating for holidays. Lilies, mistletoe and holiday berries can be toxic for pets. And decorations such as ribbons and tinsel can cause intestinal obstruction if swallowed.

If a dog has accidentally ingested a harmful substance, contact a veterinarian immediately.

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DO YOU THINK YOUR TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT IS SOCIALLY AWKWARD?

THINK AGAIN!

STAY UPDATED, LEAVE COMMENTS

Like us!
Thornbury Township, Chester County

Follow us!
Twitter.com/thornburychesco

Shredding Event:

Shredding Event

Saturday October 19, 2013

10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Protect your identity– shred your unneeded personal documents!

J & K will be at the Thornbury Township municipal building to shred your personal documents for

FREE!

Township Residents only; limit **4** boxes per household. No businesses please!

Management Program for Sewage Systems

Thornbury Township adopted an ordinance in 2004 which called for the establishment of a management program for sewage systems so as to effectively prevent and abate water pollution and hazards to the public health caused by improper treatment and disposal of sewage.

A summary of the provisions of this program are as follows:

1. The **Township** will provide residents with educational materials and/or information on the proper use and maintenance of a sewage system.

2. **Township lot owners with on-lot sewage systems** (e.g. septic tanks, cesspools, etc.):

   A) Must have tanks pumped and the contents disposed of once every three years.

   B) Must use a Chester County Health Department licensed septic tank contractor for pumping and disposal.

   C) Must submit proof of the pumping and disposal to the Township Zoning Officer .

   D) Must submit annually to the Township Zoning Officer, a copy of his/her contract with a Chester County Health Department licensed septic tank contractor.

3. **Township lot owners with stream discharge systems**:

   Must register the system with the Township by filing a copy of the current PADEP permit and copies of any tests verifying the system's operational integrity with the Township Zoning Officer.

4. **Operators of Community on-lot disposal systems** must submit regular reports to the Township.

5. **The Township Zoning Officer** will determine whether an individual or operator is in compliance with these provisions and may begin penalty proceedings for those who are in violation. Some violations may be reported to the Chester County Health Department and become subject to their rules and regulations.

   The complete provisions of this program are contained in the Township Code, Part II (General Legislation), Chapter 105 (Sewers), Article VI (Management Program for Sewage Systems), which can be found on the Township website www.thornburytwp.com

PROTECTING THE CHESTER CREEK

Approximately 90% of Thornbury Township drains to Chester Creek. Understanding the sources of pollution in Chester Creek is key to protecting its environmental and functional value.

Sediment from excessive stream alteration is the largest single source of impairment to Chester Creek. The primary source of sediment is excessive stormwater runoff volume resulting from increased impervious surfaces (e.g. paved surfaces such as roads, driveways, buildings, and sidewalks) and reduced tree canopy. Impervious surfaces ratios in the Upper Chester Creek watershed are nearly double the levels in the Upper Ridley and Upper Crum watersheds. This increased stormwater runoff leads to increased bank erosion, which releases sediment into the stream flow and deposits downstream, reducing desirable aquatic habitat and further destabilizing downstream sections.

Inadequately contained construction sites are also a source of sediment, and should be reported to the Chester County Conservation Districts. Here are some ways that you can help reduce stormwater runoff and reduce sedimentation in Chester Creek:

- Use pervious material (allows rainwater to absorb into the ground) when planning yard projects.
- Incorporate rain gardens into your landscaping. Rain gardens collect rain water from your property and allow it to absorb into the ground.
- Install a rain barrel to your downspouts. Rain barrels store water that can be used during dry spells. For more information, visit the Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association website: www.crcwatersheds.org .

Peanut Butter Granola

Ingredients:

Makes four ¼ c servings

2 tbsp. creamy peanut butter
2 tbsp. honey
¼ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. vanilla extract
1 c. oats

Directions: Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Spray cookie sheet with non-stick cooking spray and set aside. Combine peanut butter and honey in a bowl and microwave until peanut butter melts (approximately 20 seconds). Stir cinnamon and vanilla into peanut butter and honey mixture. Add oats and stir until oats are completely covered in peanut butter mixture. Spread out oat mixture onto prepared cookie sheet and bake for 7 -8 minutes until granola is slightly browned. Let cool until granola is crunchy.

Attention Residents

Submit a family favorite recipe to administration@thornburytwp.com to be compiled into a Thornbury Township Residents Cook Book.

Thornbury Township, Chester County

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Office Hours:

8 am—3 pm, M—F

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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

Sincerely,

Teresa DeStefano, Editor

To all our residents, like us on Facebook - Thornbury Township, Chester County to keep informed of all that is happening in the Township.

Thornbury Township is now on Twitter, Follow us @ twitter.com/thornburychesco to be informed of all that is happening.