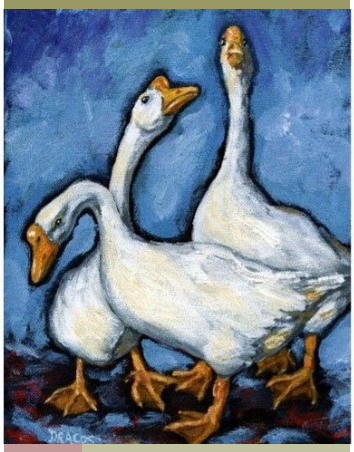
Fall 2018

Township Update



The Gander The Newsletter of Thornbury Township, Chester County

This edition of the Gander is a mix of announcing some fun events and sharing important information. We hope you find a little something to spark your interest. At this time of the year, the Township is developing its 2019 budget; defining the road program; and preparing for the seasonal changes (dare we say…SNOW?!?). You are invited to attend the meetings or to give a call to the office with questions. Hope you have the chance to enjoy the wonders of fall!

Email Blasts!

Are you on the Township email contact list? Sign up today on the Township website. Messages include information about special meetings like a historic resource demolition hearing, board meetings, articles about the environment like lanternflies, upcoming events and emergency notifications like township road closures. Stay informed of Township events. Sign up today!

www.thornburytwp.com

Fire is Everyone's Fight™

Look Listen Learn

Look for places fire can start. Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop. All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from heating equipment.

Listen for the sounds of smoke alarm.

Learn two ways out of every room.

Snow and Ice Removal Tips

Avoid high piles that may obstruct your vision entering the roadway.

Do not push snow into roads at any time!! It has the potential to create icy and hazardous conditions for drivers.

Clear an area in front of your mailbox or the carrier may not stop.

Remove vehicles parked on the roads or cul-de-sacs to your driveway to make it easier for the plows to maneuver through your neighborhood.

When shoveling driveways, leave the last six feet unshoveled until the road plowing is finished.

Please remember to be patient. Snow removal does take time. Our contractor will plow the most dangerous and heavily travelled roads first. They will get to your neighborhood as soon as possible.

Just because...

Apple Caramel Dip

Cream cheese, sugar, caramel dip, apple slices

* Place the cream cheese in a medium bowl and beat with a mixer until smooth and creamy.
* Add some sugar and beat until thoroughly combined. (I like to add some brown sugar and cinnamon.)
* Spread the cream cheese mixture into an even layer in a 3 cup serving dish.
* Pour the caramel dip or sauce over the cream cheese mixture. Spread into an even layer.

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Thornbury Township Presents

A Train Ride with Santa Claus

Sunday December 9th, 2018

Tickets sales in Advance @ $10 per person

(over the age of 2)

Seating is limited!!

Purchase Your Tickets at the Township

Train Leaves Promptly at 5:00 P.M.

Board at the Westtown Train Station

located near the Goose Creek Park 850 East Street Road

Thornbury Township supports having fun!

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.

Recycling Reversal: Overseas Ban on Waste Changes What Most Pennsylvanians Can Put in Their Bin

Townships Today: Third Quarter 2018

If you're like most Americans, you probably have not given much thought to what happens to that plastic bottle, glass jar, or newspaper you put in your recycling container. You figure it is being recycled somehow, and by keeping it out of the landfill, you are doing your part to make planet Earth a better place.

This "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" mentality came to a screeching halt earlier this year when the recycling industry was rocked by action out of China. What most people did not realize until then was that the items they had been recycling, week in and week out, were likely being shipped to China, the world's largest consumer of recyclables.

On January 1, in an anti-pollution crackdown, China implemented a ban on certain recyclables from other countries, most notably mixed paper (such as junk mail) and mixed plastic (those labeled three through seven), and enacted stricter rules about the level of contamination it would accept on other materials. As a result of a decision made halfway across the globe, what can now go in your recycling bin has likely changed, and if it hasn't yet, it will soon. Without China as a major market, recyclers are being forced to find other outlets, and until new markets pick up the slack, what was once considered a recyclable has become trash.

Communities and consumers are scrambling to adapt to the new realities of recycling. For some, China's ban has forced local recycling programs back to the basics and shifted their focus to materials with traditionally strong markets, such as corrugated cardboard, plastic bottles and jugs with necks, metal food and beverage cans, and glass bottles and jars. Others are exploring whether it makes sense to halt recycling altogether until the marketplace rebounds.

Meanwhile, amid these changes, Pennsylvania's recycling law is celebrating its 30th birthday. The trouble is, the future of recycling has never looked murkier.

A shift in recycling

Thirty years ago, Pennsylvania developed the most sweeping recycling program enacted by any state at that time. Today, recycling has become a way of life for most Pennsylvanians. More than 11.6 million residents — about 94 percent of the state's population — have access to recycling, including about 79 percent who have the convenience of curbside pickup.

Over the years, recycling initiatives have faced challenges as markets ebbed and flowed, and despite current conditions, the commonwealth's program will rebound again, state Secretary of Environmental Protection Patrick McDonnell predicts. Still, the latest news out of China has sent a large shock wave through the recycling industry and caused a major disruption to the recycling loop, which consists of the user or sorter, the processor, and the buyer.

> "Suddenly, the buyer went away, and there was nowhere for the material to go," Kathryn Sandoe, chief communications officer at the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, says.

With limited markets, communities mandated to recycle are re-evaluating what items are valuable enough to still collect and sell. Earlier this year, Lancaster County, one of the first areas in Pennsylvania to react to the market collapse, cut out some long-time recycling staples and trimmed its curbside recycling to

Recycling Reversal: What Most Pennsylvanians Can Put in Their Bin *(continued)*

four items that it believes have had traditionally strong domestic markets.

> "We looked at marketability and wanted to ensure that the materials could still be sold six months, a year, two years from now," Sandoe says.

With such a major change to its program, the authority has focused its efforts on re-educating people on what can be recycled and how to prepare it **(flatten cardboard, empty and rinse containers, remove lids).**

"We know we are challenging many long-held beliefs of recycling, and the initial reaction has been surprise and shock," she says, noting that she's hopeful that curiosity, understanding, and finally adaptation will follow. And while it may seem that the changes took place overnight, they were in the making for a while.

Reducing contaminants

For many years, China's insatiable appetite for recyclables masked the problems of contamination in the nation's recycling stream. Part of the problem can be traced back to how easy recycling had become, especially once many programs implemented single-stream collection, allowing all recyclables to be placed together for pickup and sorting later at a processing facility. Too many people made assumptions that just about everything could be recycled — tin foil, drinking glasses, plastic toys, even garden hoses — when in reality, they couldn't.

And now that China has lowered its boom, communities that still want to recycle — whether because of a state mandate or because they believe it's the right thing to do — must find ways to provide a clean, quality product. According to Earth911.com, a website dedicated to encouraging less waste, the answer to U.S. recycling woes starts with clear recycling guidance for consumers, who sort recyclables from the rest of their waste. An effective education program could help to put an end to what the industry calls "wishful recycling," trying to recycle things that aren't recyclable.

Many solid waste handlers have begun asking customers to be more diligent about their recycling habits, and **"when in doubt, throw it out"** has become the mantra of the new post-China recycling guidelines.

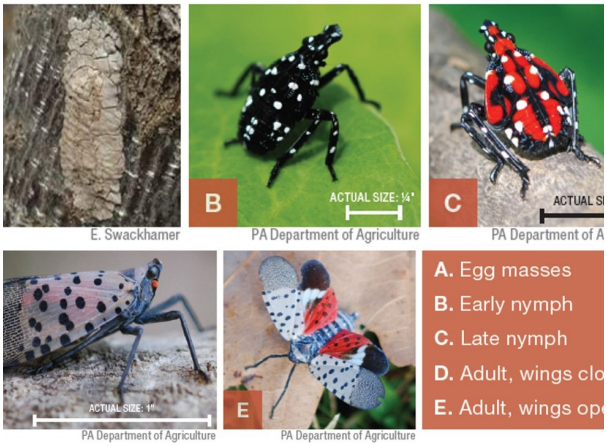
While it remains to be seen how recycling rebounds from this latest market setback, in the short term at least, costs for local programs will almost certainly rise as recyclers pass on increased costs to customers.

Some in the industry, however, see this latest crisis as just another blip in the inevitable rise and fall of markets. Only time, of course, will tell.

Upcoming Township Event:

The fall **Shredding Event** will take place on Saturday, October 27, 2018. Bring your items to be shredded to the Township Building (8 Township Drive). This free event is from 9 AM to Noon.

Spotted Lanternfly: What to Look For



Spotted Lanternfly, Lycorma delicatula, is a new threat to Pennsylvania. The spotted lanternfly is an invasive planthopper (a type of insect) in the U.S. It is native to certain parts of Southeast Asia. Spotted lanternflies go through five stages of growth after hatching from eggs. The first four stages are called nymphs, which are incapable of flight. The young nymphs are black with bright white spots and are roughly the size of a pencil eraser. The next stages of growth are similar, but the nymphs become larger. The fourth stage of spotted lanternflies, prior to adulthood, is vibrantly red with distinct patches of black and equally distinct bright white spots. The adult spotted lanternfly is a leafhopper with wings about 1" long. Adults have grey wings with black spots. When the spotted lanternfly opens its wings, it reveals a bright red underwing. Spotted lanternflies live through the winter only as eggs. Adults lay eggs in masses in the late fall on trees, under bark, posts, lawn furniture, cars, trailers, outdoor grills, and on many other surfaces.

Can I prevent spotted lanternflies from getting on my property?
The best thing any property owner can do is become informed about spotted lanternflies. By becoming informed, property owners can choose to remove and/or treat the Ailanthus (tree-of-heaven) trees on their properties, which attract the insects. In addition, property owners can reference our Spotted Lanternfly Management for Homeowners guide for using contact pesticides and treatments on a variety of trees and plants.

What is being done?
Both the U.S. and Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture are working on control and eradication measures in the quarantine zone. Primarily, this involves removing their preferred host (an invasive plant called tree-of-heaven), and leaving "trap trees", which are trees baited with insecticides to kill the spotted lanternflies.

What control options do homeowners have?
There are a few control options for homeowners. In the fall and winter, it is recommended to scrape egg masses. In the spring, it is recommended to band highly infested trees with sticky tape to trap the nymphs crawling up the trees to feed. For both nymphs and adults, insecticides can be used. Find out more information by downloading our Homeowner's management guide. https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-homeowners

Report your sightings of spotted lanternfly using the online reporting tool, or by calling 1-888-4BAD-FLY. Make sure you are not moving any life stage of spotted lanternfly when traveling within or out of the quarantine zone. And finally, tell your friends, family, and neighbors! The more you can spread awareness about the insect, the better chance we have against fighting it!

More information can be found at: https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly
Tree of heaven, 5 minute video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSpMRZCyF-c

The Historic Preservation Commission meets quarterly, the second 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.

The Manor House: Thornbury Farm

The Manor House on Thornbury Farm was built and ready for occupancy in 1709. The name "Thornbury Farm" came from the homestead of the wife of the first owner in the 1600's before the stone house was built. It reflected the name of the estate in England where she lived before coming to Penn's colony.

The house is built of a local stone quarried on the property. It is brown in color and when quarried, has a very flat face. The stone has shown little or no deterioration over the years, unlike the serpentine stone quarried nearby. The house was built by Swedish builders who, prior to this, built the 1704 Brinton House, now a museum located on Old Wilmington Pike. It took several years to build the house, because the builders had to quarry the stone, cut and shape the wood beams, as well as the wood floors, and a blacksmith had to be found to make the hinges, latches, etc. There is a limestone quarry on the farm and also an oven where the limestone was smelted into black powder. The lime was used in the fertilization of the fields and the flux used in the making of iron.

The attached picture demonstrates that this was a grand house in its time. Many of the owners were closely associated with the Birmingham Friends Meeting. The original driveway to the house would later become Meeting House Road and went directly by the Meeting House and Octagon School.

Perhaps the most famous person who lived in the house was Dr. William Darlington, Congressman, world-renowned botanist and the original designer of what is now Longwood Gardens, who lived there from the late 1700's to approximately 1820. Dr. Darlington built a serpentine addition onto the house that became the first lending library in Chester County. His records and writings are now preserved in Wilmington at the Hagley Museum Library.

The house originally had 2 rooms and 2 fireplaces on the first floor and 2 rooms on the second floor. The third floor had one large finished room used for the farm workers and children. In 2008 – 2009, the house was basically restored, including repointing, rebuilding all first floor windows and putting in original glass from the period, where needed, from other buildings on the property.

Much of the Battle of the Brandywine was fought in the meadow to the south of the house and up the hill to Sandy Hollow. The barn, which was built in the 1720's, may have been used for holding Revolutionary War prisoners for a short period of time.

The 110 acres of land around the house are permanently eased so that no development can occur within sight of the battlefield area. The H.B. Spackman Family Trust placed this easement on the land and is in the process of easing 60 additional acres to protect the total Brandywine battlefield area in Thornbury Township, Chester County.

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 make 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.

Fall Stormwater Tips

It is that time of year again- fall is here! Thornbury Township would like to remind you of the importance of preventing stormwater pollution while you make the most of the fall season. Stormwater is formed when rainwater makes its way into storm drains or runs off our properties directly into streams. On its journey to the stream, stormwater can pick up harmful substances that pollute our watershed.

There are many sources of stormwater pollution unique to autumn, and we need your help to control them. The leaves are falling, and their improper disposal poses a threat to our water resources. Leaf litter and any yard waste dumped into a stormwater basin or near a waterway can cause harmful nutrient accumulation. Leaves swept into the street can easily enter storm drains and make their way into the nearest creek as well.

Fall is the time for seeding and fertilizing your lawn. If excess fertilizer is applied, however, it cannot be absorbed by the soil and washes away with the rain. If you are working on a landscaping project in your yard this season, bare soil can also run off into streams and cause sediment pollution. The Skippack Creek is already categorized as impaired because of silt, so let's keep our soil in place! All of these problems can be avoided by putting some of our pollution prevention tips into practice:

Dispose of leaf litter and yard waste in a compost pile and never in the street or stream! You can shred yard and leaf waste to use as mulch or fertilizer for your yard and garden. Or, check with your municipality for yard waste collection opportunities.

Do not use fertilizers immediately before a rainstorm, and do not apply them in excess. Always follow the directions on the bottle for safe application and disposal whenever you use a chemical product. Reduce outdoor and household chemical use as much as possible.

A little extra caution while you keep up with your fall to-do list can make a big difference for the health of our watershed, and we thank you for cooperating with this effort. If you have any questions or concerns about stormwater management this fall, visit our website at http://www.thornburytwp.com/index.php/storm-water-info/

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Office Hours:
8 am—3 pm, M—F

www.thornburytwp.com

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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 .