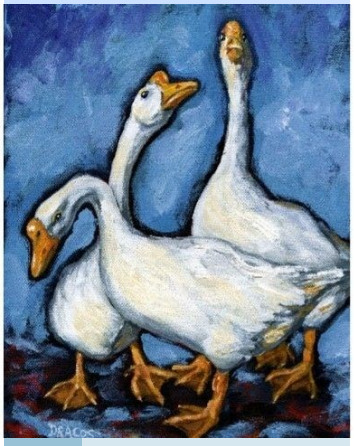
Spring 2020



The Gander The Newsletter of Thornbury Township, Chester County

Chairman's Update

2020 is in full swing in Thornbury Township. We hit the ground running welcoming Bob Wiggins as the newest supervisor in the Township. The board appreciates his enthusiasm and willingness to roll up his sleeves and jump right in. He is a welcome addition and we look forward to having Bob on the board.

We also want to express at the same time how we will miss Bill Reilly! Bill stepped down when his term expired at the end of 2019. Thornbury appreciates his contributions to the township during his six years of service.

March is here and the snow appears to have spared us. We plan for the worst when it comes to budgeting for road clearing and hope for the best. Perhaps this year the township and its residents won!

Our police services are on track and WEGO PD is doing great work within the township keeping our residents and businesses safe and secure. We continue to work with WEGO ensuring that our residents receive the service we need.

The township road program is set to kick off once the spring actually arrives. As always, we work with our engineer and road master to ensure our township roads are maintained and receive the attention they need in a proactive manner.

If you have a chance, come out to a meeting. The board has workshops on the first Tuesday of the month and regular public meetings on the third Tuesday. Both meetings start at 6:15 pm. Come see what's going on and let us know if anything is on your mind. Better yet, get involved! Our many committees have openings from time to time and are always looking for a bit of help.

Feel free to stop in the office and say hi to our incredible staff: Judy Lizza, our manager, Teresa DeStefano, our secretary, and Audrey Hudak, our tax collector. They are here to help and ensure that all runs smooth in our great township!

Please contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns regarding our township.

Respectfully,

Jim Benoit

READYChesCo.org

In the event of an emergency (weather, police activity, etc.) information will be disseminated using **ReadyChesco.org**

Take a minute and register.

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2020 THORNBURY TOWNSHIP BUDGET SUMMARY

The 2020 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 2020.

General Fund

The General Fund is used to pay for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of Thornbury Township. The 2020 budget for the General Fund is $1,860,954.48, which represents no tax changes from the approved 2019 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 expected in the revenue line items. The projected revenues for the 2020 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 56% of the Township's revenue ($1,035,000.00). The Real Estate Tax accounts for 17% of the Township's revenue ($314,100.00).

Expenses:

General Government – This portion of the budget includes Township personnel, consultants, communications, rent, tax collection costs, and office expenses. The 2020 budget allocates $379,894.21 for the general government and administration services of the Township. This is a 2% increase from the approved 2019 budget.

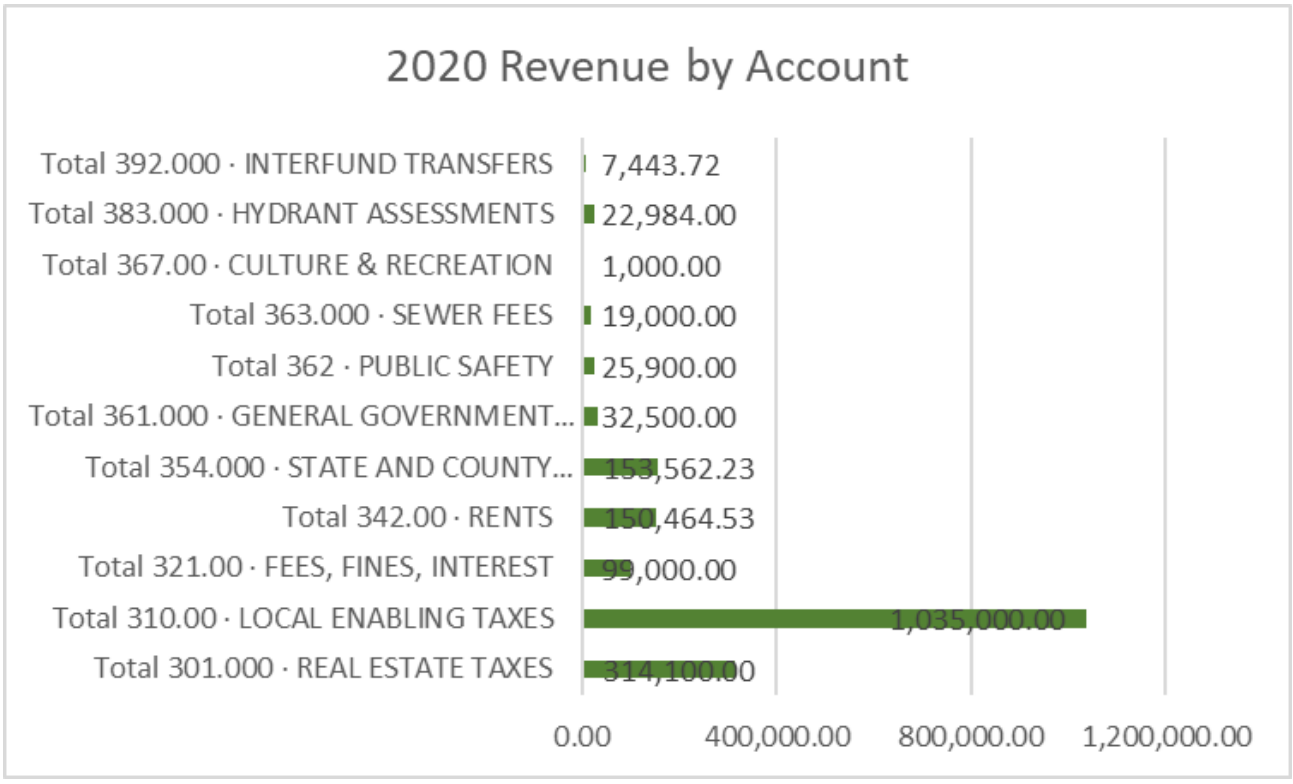
Public Safety – The Public Safety portion of the budget includes funding for police services, fire protection, building inspection, code enforcement, and animal control services. The total budget for Public Safety is $720,252.60 (39% of the Budget). The 2020 budget includes $597,400.00 for the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department contract. The Police contract constitutes 32% 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 contract expires in 2023. The budget also includes $79,474.00 for the fire protection contract with the West Chester Fire Department. This contract expires December 2023.

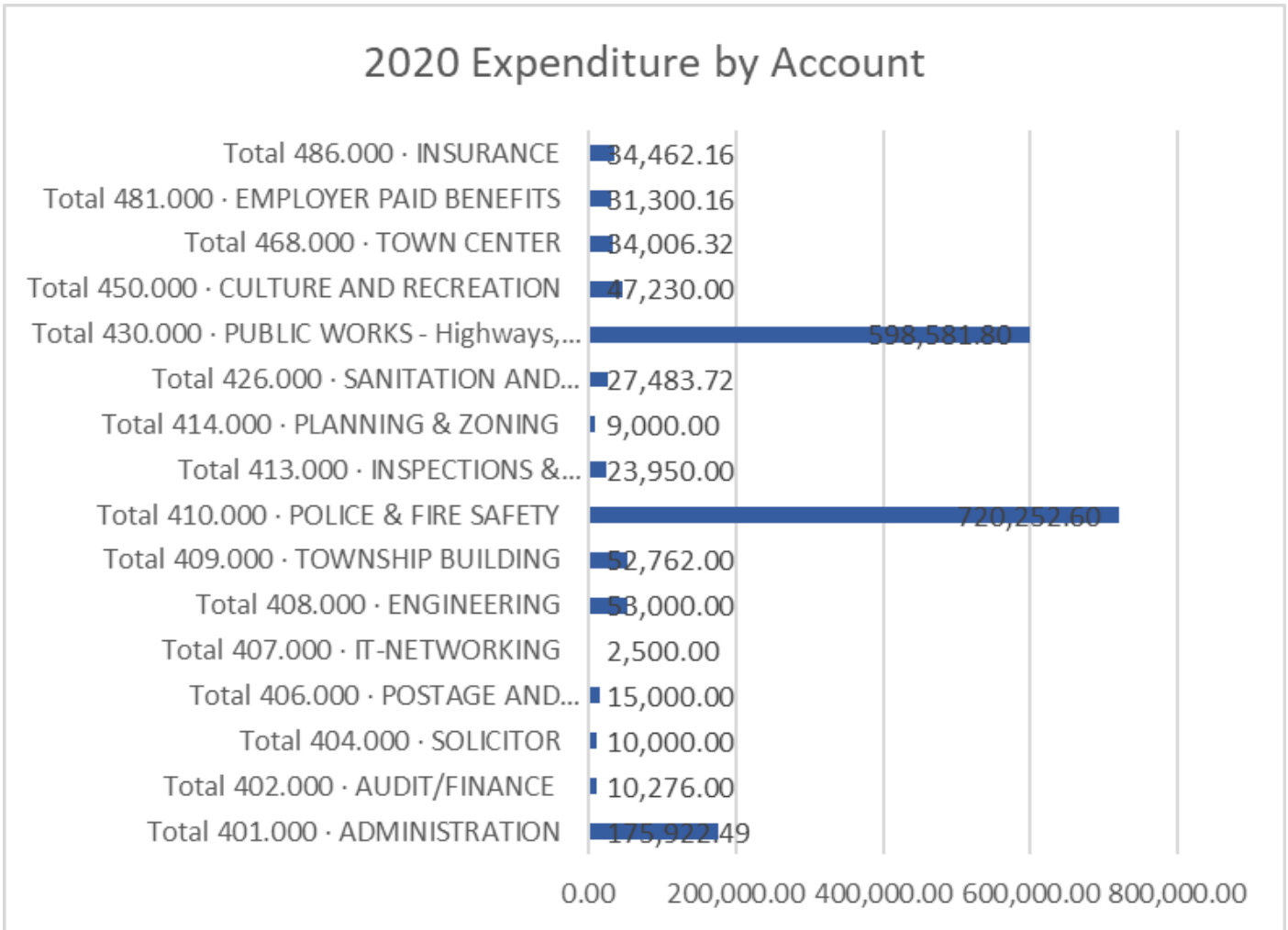
Planning & Zoning – Funding for legal counsel and advertising as it relates to ordinance revisions, as well as Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board administration, is included in the budget. The budget for Planning & Zoning totals $9,000.00. Most expenses are reimbursed by the applicant to the Township. The largest expenditure is for the Zoning Ordinance update which will be completed 2020. The update is being completed with the leadership of the Planning Department of Chester County and partially funded with a grant from Chester County Council.

Public Works – The 2020 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, stormwater inlet maintenance, and snow & ice control. If a particularly harsh winter requires additional funding, Township management will need to make proper adjustments to keep the budget balanced. 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. For 2020, the Township has budgeted $300,000.00 toward road paving, which will be funded partially by the State Liquid Fuels revenue. The total budget for Public Works is $598,581.80 and comprises 32% of the total budget.

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 $42,000.00. In 2020, The Park and Recreation Commission developed a a comprehensive long-term capital as well as the reintroduction of community activities. Discount tickets sales for local activities, parks, and museums will continue as a service to residents.

Town Center – The budget provides for continued maintenance and repair for the Town Center facilities. ($34,006.32)


2020 Revenue by Account
Total 392.000 · INTERFUND TRANSFERS
7,443.72
Total 383.000 · HYDRANT ASSESSMENTS
22,984.00
Total 367.00 · CULTURE & RECREATION
1,000.00
Total 363.000 · SEWER FEES
19,000.00
Total 362 · PUBLIC SAFETY
25,900.00
Total 361.000 · GENERAL GOVERNMENT...
32,500.00
Total 354.000 · STATE AND COUNTY...
153,562.23
Total 342.00 · RENTS
150,464.53
Total 321.00 · FEES, FINES, INTEREST
99,000.00
Total 310.00 · LOCAL ENABLING TAXES
1,035,000.00
Total 301.000 · REAL ESTATE TAXES
314,100.00
0.00
400,000.00
800,000.00
1,200,000.00


2020 Expenditure by Account
Total 486.000 · INSURANCE
34,462.16
Total 481.000 · EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS
31,300.16
Total 468.000 · TOWN CENTER
34,006.32
Total 450.000 · CULTURE AND RECREATION
47,230.00
Total 430.000 · PUBLIC WORKS - Highways,...
598,581.80
Total 426.000 · SANITATION AND...
27,483.72
Total 414.000 · PLANNING & ZONING
9,000.00
Total 413.000 · INSPECTIONS &...
23,950.00
Total 410.000 · POLICE & FIRE SAFETY
720,252.60
Total 409.000 · TOWNSHIP BUILDING
32,762.00
Total 408.000 · ENGINEERING
53,000.00
Total 407.000 · IT-NETWORKING
2,500.00
Total 406.000 · POSTAGE AND...
15,000.00
Total 404.000 · SOLICITOR
10,000.00
Total 402.000 · AUDIT/FINANCE
10,276.00
Total 401.000 · ADMINISTRATION
175,922.49
0.00
200,000.00
400,000.00
600,000.00
800,000.00

Richard Webster, Thornbury Township Historical Preservation Commission

Pennsylvania German Barn

In the spring issue of *The Gander* we looked at the English barn. Now it is the Germans' turn in the spotlight. The Pennsylvania German barn is so physically distinctive in the rural landscape that it is often called simply the Pennsylvania Barn. Less obvious, but equally impressive is how well thought-out the Pennsylvania German barn is.

The Pennsylvania barn's roots lie in the heart of Germanic Europe: in central and eastern Switzerland and in Bavaria's and Austria's Alpine regions. Admittedly, the Pennsylvania German barn is foreign to Thornbury Township. The English overwhelmingly outnumbered Germans here from the township's beginning.
Elsewhere, however, where Germans were more numerous, such as Lancaster and York counties, Pennsylvania barns were once rife. In short, where Germans went, their barns followed: south into Maryland and the Shenandoah Valley and west into Ohio and Indiana.

Germans built their barns of many materials. When we look around today, stone appears to have been the preferred building material. In fact, however, tax records show that in the 1790s most Pennsylvania barns were at least partially log. Stone just enjoys better survivability.

The Pennsylvania barn has many variants; no two are the same. Often built into a bank, it usually faces south, and invariably has two levels. Its dominant feature is its forebay, or overhang, running the length of the south front. The forebay gave the farmer shelter during chores and feeding animals, which were kept on the bottom level. The forebay also reduced splash erosion of the foundation during heavy rains and reduced the work of snow removal in the winter.

Beneath the forebay, split doors (often called "Dutch" doors), opened onto the stables and pens, providing the animals with light, ventilation, and a degree of solar heat during cold days. The same southern light helped to promote the decay of manure in the stone-walled barnyard in front of the barn. Meanwhile at the back of the barn's ground floor, livestock benefitted from the solid rear wall, and if the barn were built into a bank, natural insulation against northern winds.

The upper level held hay and straw mows and grain storage, which flanked the large threshing floor. During threshing, front and back doors were opened to create a breeze for blowing the chafe out over the forebay into the barnyard. Floor boards were laid parallel to the doors to afford better traction for the grain-laden wagons entering the barn on a rear ramp. Granaries were usually placed in the front corners, above the forebay, to benefit from the sun's warmth and the ventilation through the floorboards and vertical siding. Ventilation of the mows was provided by loop-holes (vertical slits) in the masonry end walls, which were whitewashed inside to intensify available light. The splay inside the loop-holes generated an aerodynamic that pulled air out and prevented rain from coming in.

These barns grew in size to keep pace with the increased agricultural production, as farmers moved from subsistence farming into the market economy. The barns' functions and appearance stayed the same but their scale expanded. In the early nineteenth century, many barn builders, particularly in our area, added whitewashed stone pillars, resembling squat columns, under forebays.

The efficacy of the Pennsylvania barn became apparent rather quickly. Many non-Germanic farmers learned about these barns from first-hand observations and word-of-mouth, but perhaps more widely from the agricultural press. The first book praising the Pennsylvania barn came out in 1801, and articles in farm journals appeared into the Civil War. Perhaps the most effective promoter, however, was the federal government. In 1865 it published a report complete with plans recommending national adoption of the Pennsylvania barn.

Today the challenge is not to persuade farmers to build Pennsylvania barns but how to save them from suburbanization and changing agricultural practices.

THORNBURY FARM CSA

610-793-2933

www.ThornburyFarmCSA.com

Join us for our 2020 season.

We are your community farm. Join our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and pick up produce all season long. Sign up today for the 2020 season. Call us to set up a tour and see the wonderful history right here in Thornbury Township!

http://thornburyfarmcsa.com/

Randell Spackman

your local farmer

Eagle Scout Project Squire Cheyney Park

153 out of St. Agnes parish, assembled and installed 7 Bluebird nest boxes. They also weeded and mulched the entrance gardens.

If you have noticed new additions to Squire Cheney Farm Park recently, they are bluebird nest boxes. This was an Eagle Scout service project by Thornbury resident, David Thomson. Earlier this summer, he and several youth and adult members of Boy Scout Troop

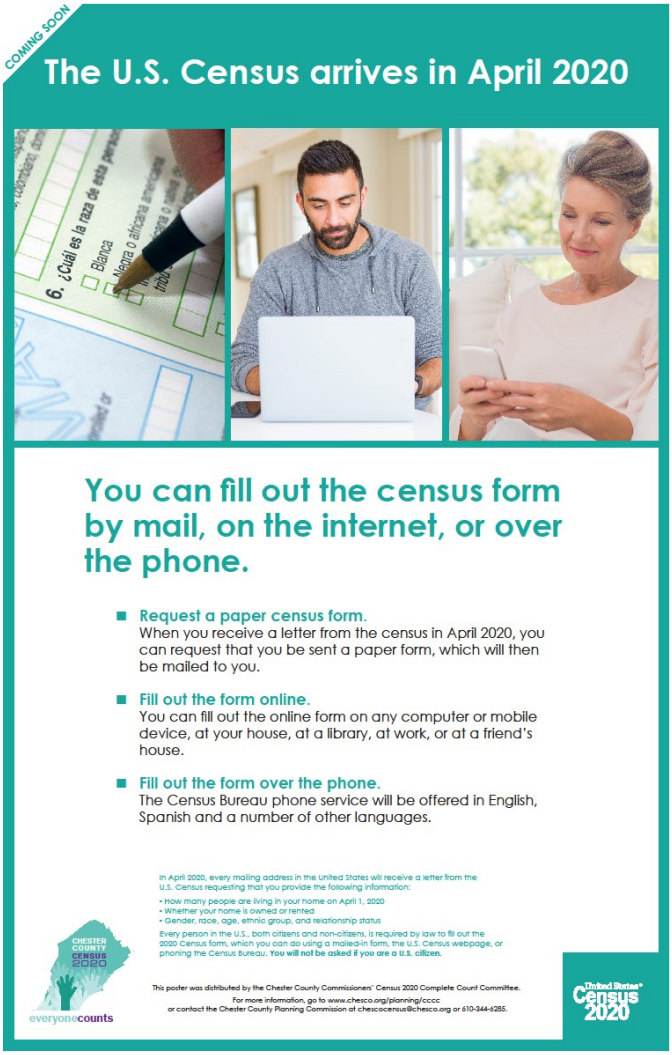
The nest boxes support the township's goal of supporting local wildlife. David researched the most advantageous materials, height and placement to attract Eastern Bluebirds. Hopefully you will see more of these beautiful residents in the coming year.

Park and Recreation (Chairman Ron Miller)

Thornbury Township is privileged to have several parks designed to provide recreational opportunities for the residents of our community. The Township began the process of acquiring land for parkland in the mid-1990s. These acquisitions were made possible by County grants that resulted from the passage of referenda designed to raise funds for protecting open space and historical resources, which were passed by the citizens of Chester County in the late 1980s in the face of increased land development. Additional money was made available from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and from Thornbury Township. The first step taken by the Township was to create an Open Space, Historical Resource, and Recreational Plan, which was adopted by the Township in 1993. The end result is that we now have several parks designed to meet the various needs of the citizens of Thornbury Township; Goose Creek Park, The Thornbury Soccer Park, Squire Cheyney Park, and Waln Run Park. The members of the Thornbury Township Parks and Recreation Commission invite you to come out and enjoy these wonderful resources!

Goose Creek Park was the first park developed by the Township. Development began in the mid-1990s. This Park was designed as a passive recreation park. It includes a pavilion for picnics, a tot-lot, a half-mile of paved walking trail, a wildflower meadow, and a large wetland area. If you are interested in using the pavilion it is necessary to contact the Township office to reserve the pavilion for use by large groups. The park is open from sunrise to sunset. At the same time that the Township acquired the land for Goose Creek Park, the Township acquired land for what is now The Thornbury Soccer Park. This property is leased to the West Chester United Soccer Club. The Club uses the Park for soccer tournaments and as practice fields for many of the children in the area. Our third park, Squire Cheyney Park was partially acquired in the 1990s with additional land acquisition occurring in the first decade of the 21st-century. Development of the Park was begun within the past few years. Currently Squire Cheyney Park has a one and a half mile paved walking trail and signs explaining the property's historical significance. The park is named after Squire Cheyney, who owned the (park) property during the time of the American Revolution. He is credited with warning General Washington that the British were going to attack with a flanking maneuver, rather than a direct frontal assault, which resulted in a deadly one-day battle at the Birmingham Meeting House and what is today the Spackman Farm. The Battle of the Brandywine is considered to be the deadliest day for the Patriots in the American Revolution. Squire Cheyney's actions saved George Washington and the American army from capture, which may have ended the fight for independence in 1777. The only remaining parkland is Waln Run Park, which is currently undeveloped and remains a nature area.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is actively involved in providing advice regarding the future of the park system to the Township Supervisors. Currently the Commission is preparing long-term maintenance plans for use by the Township office and the supervisors. In addition the Commission is planning a Fall Festival. We also will host a Santa's Train ride. All are welcome! The Commission is comprised of a group of volunteers, who live in the Township. At the moment we have openings on the Commission. If you are interested in volunteering your time and expertise, please contact the Township office at 610-399-1425. Become involved in your community!



Rental Registration Update:

If you own a property in Thornbury Township that you lease, you are required to register the property as a rental. There is no fee for the registration. However, there are penalties up to $600 for those landlords who choose to ignore the rental registration. The Tenant Report form is available online and may be submitted via email to tdestefano@thornburytwp.com.

The spring shredding event is April 25th at the township building (8 Township Drive) from 9 AM until 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.

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.

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

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Bob Wiggins, P & R Liaison

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Sign up for email blasts from the webpage at www.thornburytwp.com
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 .

Consider joining a commission! Send an email, resume and what interest you have!

The Gander