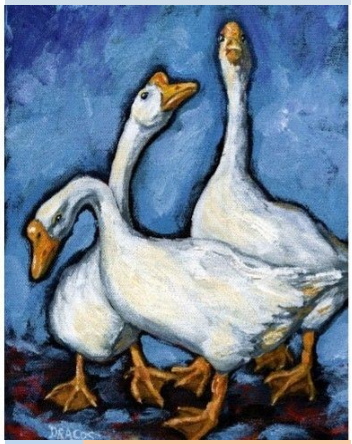
Fall 2021



The Gander The Newsletter of Thornbury Township, Chester County

Chairman's Update

Welcome to the latest edition of The Gander! We hope you all enjoyed your summer and took some time to reacquaint yourselves with friends and family. The kids will be back to school or off to college in no time!

We've been busy this hot summer maintaining and improving our township. The following outlines some of the highlights:

- Our new township building project is moving along. The roof and most of the siding is on and the mechanicals are being installed. Stop by Goose Creek and check it out if you haven't seen it lately. While you're there, stop in and say, "hi" to our manager Judy and the staff in our temporary office above the post office!
- Many thanks to Park and Rec for the new playground equipment at Goose Creek Park. It was a much needed update! Park and Rec will be working in conjunction with the Historical Preservation Committee to plan a Veteran's Plaza near the new township building also.
- Judy and I have been working with our police department, WEGO to ensure their staff and equipment are fully maintained and funded through our work with the police commission. Thornbury Township fully supports our police department and the work they perform on a daily basis keeping all of us safe.
- A thank you also goes out to the planning commission for their hard work in developing much needed new ordinances for our township. Their concise and clear writing provides a solid governmental framework.
- PECO and Aqua completed their work through the "hollow" and did a great job resurfacing it. Our road program is in full swing, keeping our township roads in good order. Thanks to Mike and his crew for completing the storm water piping on Concord Rd with minimal disruption. It was a tough project and they did a great job as always!

Consider coming out to a meeting or work session and get involved with the township. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are looking forward to a great autumn!

Best Regards,

Jim Benoit, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

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Historic Preservation Commission

The Thornbury Historic Preservation Commission has kept busy with several projects over the last year. Our first major goal began with an update to our township webpage. Our entire historic resource list with links to detailed information of each property has now been uploaded to the site thanks to the talents of Judy Lizza, our Township Manager. More information can be found at https://www.thornburytwp.com/index.php/historic-preservation-committee/

In February we hosted a zoom event, titled 'Why Old Places Matter". Michele Thackrah shared how to use the township historic resource map and navigated local websites where residents can learn more about our local properties and their history. Adam Travetti gave a virtual tour of his own home, a converted barn, to educate participants about how imagination and creativity can still be achieved while preserving an old structure. Randell Spackman shared a history of Thornbury Farm and how it stays a vital part of the community today. Reenactments, pipe organ concerts and a variety of other family friendly activities that share local history are just a few of the events held throughout the year. We are fortunate that the township and county have a long history from which we can draw inspiration and knowledge to continue to make our community one of the best places to live. Our goal as a commission is to share that knowledge and work collaboratively with homeowners in the process.

We continue to advocate on behalf of the township for the preservation of open space at properties such as Crebilly Farm and Sandy Hollow. As we look ahead, we hope to include future events such as a paranormal tour at Thornbury Farm and house tours of some of our local historic resources. The Commission also anticipates working with other local HPC groups to plan some celebratory events for the country's upcoming semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) in 2026.

We invite residents to join us for our quarterly meetings or send an email with questions about our historic properties or suggestions for future events.

-Thornbury Historic Preservation Commission

If you have an historic property in Thornbury Township you can review information about your property on the Township website: https://www.thornburytwp.com/index.php/historic-preservation-committee/

Did you know?

Thornbury Farm was the major battle point of the Battle of the Brandywine when the Crown Forces formed lines on the Continental soldiers. Two mass burials are believed to be on the property. Research reveals more all the time.

Parks and Recreation

The past year has been an eventful one here in Thornbury Township for the Parks and Recreation Commission. The 2019 Fall Festival and the Santa Train Ride were both cancelled as a result of the pandemic and we needed to officially close the parks to large group activities; however, the closures provided us with the opportunity to make some necessary improvements to Goose Creek Park (GCP). The GCP is now 25 years old and while the Township has done a good job of maintaining the Park, the play equipment was showing signs of wear and distress due to age and use. With the support of the Supervisors and the Township office a new playground design was proposed and adopted. This past July saw the new play equipment installed. From the comments received thus far it appears that the regular Park users consider it to be a positive improvement to the Park facilities.

Three years ago the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended and the Board of Supervisors adopted a Five-Year maintenance Plan for Goose Creek Park. Included in that Plan were recommendations for eliminating invasive species, restoration of the wildflower meadow, improving the riparian buffer and maintenance of the existing trees. This past year the Township's mowing service mowed the meadow every other month. This is an increase in the number of times the meadow was mowed compared to the past. This increased mowing was required because multiflora rose, blackberry brambles and poison ivy were overwhelming the grasses and wildflowers planted 25-years-ago. It is our goal to reduce and eliminate, if possible, these invasive species by increasing the number of times the meadow is mowed, so that in another two years, we can reintroduce native species into the meadow and reduce the amount of times the meadow needs mowing.

Also during the past year, the Township's maintenance crew removed several oak trees that were brought down by winter storms as well as removing dead limbs and diseased trees. The Township continues to remove vines and other invasive species from the hedge rows within the Park. This is a long-term project, but one that we feel is worth undertaking. If you are a regular user of the Park, you may have noticed a thinning of the small wood lot between the Park and the rear of the post office building. This is due in part to the construction of the new township building. Additionally some of the tree loss is also due to oak decline and sudden oak death, which are fungal diseases, requiring the removal of dead and dying trees. The Park's trees have also suffered from the invasion of the emerald ash borer. It is the hope of the Commission that at the conclusion of the township building construction that a plan can be implemented to replace some of the trees and shrubs lost with native species less susceptible to disease.

The Township also worked with the Chester Ridley and Crum Creeks Watershed Association (CRCWA) at the initiation of James Hammerman, a township resident, to plant several hundred saplings along the creek in the Thornbury Soccer Park. The purpose of the project was to increase the riparian buffer along the stream that flows through the soccer park. This two day event took place this past May. The trees were all donated and the work was completed by many volunteers provided by CRCWA and the township. It is hoped that CRCWA will work with the township in the future to extend the riparian buffer in Goose Creek Park. The CRCWA also ran a creek clean up in Goose Creek Park this past March. The Township appreciates all of the hard work that this organization does to help monitor and restore stream health in our community!

Finally, it is the hope of the Commission that with the pandemic lessening that we will be able to have a Fall event celebrating the official opening of the new Township Office Building and to celebrate the holiday season with a Santa Train Ride. Our tentative date for the train ride is the first Sunday in December at 5:00! The Commission wishes to thank the township office staff, the members of the Board of Supervisors and the community for their support of our Parks! We have many members of neighboring communities who regularly praise the quality of our Parks. Please come out and enjoy the Parks! And if you wish to volunteer your time with the Township, the Parks and Recreation has two openings. Please contact the township office if interested.

Cordially yours, Thornbury Township Parks and Recreation Commission

Why Use Native Plants?

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources describes a plant native to Pennsylvania as one that occurred naturally in the region before European settlement. These plants coevolved with other native wildlife and coexisted successfully for years. These grasses, ferns, annual and perennial wildflowers, woody trees, vines, and shrubs have been in this area longer than we have. Some examples may be growing in your garden already: garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*), beebalm (*Monarda didyma*), New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), and flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*).

Most conservation experts recommend that Pennsylvania residents use native plants on their properties. These plants offer unique advantages over exotic (non-native) plants and large lawns. Many of our native insects and other pollinators have evolved to only feed on certain native plants. These insects are also the food source for many of our favorite songbirds. Without native plants, native animals may not be able to survive. Native plants are also non-invasive and cheaper to maintain than exotic plants. While some native plants like the lady slipper orchid (*Cypripedium* spp.) have specific requirements, most native plants are well adapted to our climate. Once established they require less watering, fertilizing, deadheading, and pruning. Pennsylvania has such natural biodiversity of that you can find an native alternative with similar color, texture, and habit to most exotics.

Photo Credit: Kim Frey

Tips for using native plants from Pamela Hubbard, Master Gardener from Monroe County

- Integrate them into your perennial borders. A blending of natives and nonnatives is suitable for many sites. For example, in the shade garden the strong foliage of *Hosta sieboldiana* 'Elegans' (native to Japan) contrasts and complements the small leaves of the native wild ginger (*Asarum canadense.*)
- Naturalize a large area such as a meadow or woodland with more aggressive natives such as sunflowers, asters, and black-eyed Susans.
- Create a rain garden with natives; their root systems stabilize and hold the soil. Choose plants that tolerate fluctuating water levels such as blue flag iris *(Iris versicolor),* cardinal flower *(Lobelia cardinalis)*, great blue lobelia *(Lobelia siphlitica)*, and blue star *(Amsonia tabernaemontana)*.
- Create a butterfly garden. In mine I planted butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), marsh blazing star (*Liatris spicata*), phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), and beebalm (*Monarda didyma*).

Source : Penn State Extension

Paper Shredding Event

Bring documents that you want to shred to the Township building Saturday November 6th from 9am until 12pm to prevent identity theft and reduce clutter. We look forward to seeing you!

Cone with a Cop

Come out on Saturday, October 9th to the Salty Cow to have a "Cone with a Cop"! Spend some time with an officer and enjoy some ice cream. Event is from 1—3PM

Where Does Your Rain Go?

Ever wonder where a drop of rain water that falls on your property goes and how far? Now you can watch that drop on an interactive River Runner Map. Here's a link following a drop of water from BRC's Myrick Conservation Center to the Delaware Bay: https://river-runner.samlearner.com/?lng=-75.678293&lat=39.913435

You can follow the drop to the Brandywine Creek through Pocopson Township and 40 km (25 mi.) to Wilmington, DE and through the Delaware River to the Delaware Bay. Residents can type in their own address to better understand what watershed they live in and how their stormwater travels downstream from your municipality. Try it out !

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 third 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
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Robert Anthony, Vice-Chairman
Michael Gallagher, Supervisor
Joseph Lisa, Supervisor
Robert Wiggins, Supervisor
Judy Lizza, Manager
Teresa DeStefano, Secretary

August 17, 2021

WEGO Police Commission
Chairman John Hertzog, East Goshen Township
Vice Chairman Dick Pomerantz, Westtown Township

Re: Staffing of Westtown-East Goshen Police Department

Dear Commissioners John and Dick,

We are writing to request that the Police Commission maintain the WEGO Police force at its historic level, the level of staffing in place when Thornbury Township contracted with WEGO for service.

While Thornbury Township's citizens share the fiscal concerns of their neighbors, our citizens are grateful for the outstanding service and professionalism of the men and women of the WEGO police force and do not believe that that level of professionalism and prompt response times can be maintained if the police force is not properly staffed with fully trained full-time officers.

We hope that the concerns of Westtown and East Goshen citizens mirror those of our citizens and that we elected officials can work together to insure the continued vitality and professionalism of WEGO.

Very truly yours,

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

James Benoit, Chairman

Robert Anthony /s/
Robert Anthony, Vice Chairman

Michael Gallagher /s/
Michael Gallagher, Supervisor

Joseph Lisa, Supervisor

Robert Wiggins, Supervisor

This letter was sent by the Board of Supervisors to the WEGO Police Commission. Thornbury Township supports maintaining the historic staffing levels of the Department.

When you have the opportunity, thank an officer!

Mark your calendar!

A Train Ride with Santa Claus

Sunday December 5th, 2021

Tickets sales in advance

@ $15 per person

(over the age of 2) Seating is limited!!

Purchase your tickets at the Township

Train Leaves Promptly at 5:00 P.M.

Boarding at the Westtown Train Station

located near the Goose Creek Park

850 East Street Road

Fall Stormwater Tips

Thornbury Township would like to remind you of the importance of preventing storm-water pollution while you make the most of the fall season.

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.

Do not use fertilizers immediately before rainstorm, and do not apply them in excess. Always follow the directions on the bottle for safe application and disposal. Reduce 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 tour streams, and we thank you for cooperating with this effort.

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, Trixie 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.

It will be here before we know it … SNOW & ICE REMOVAL TIPS

* Avoid high piles that may obstruct your vision entering the roadway.
* 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 make it easier for the plows to maneuver through your neighborhood. When shoveling driveways, leave the last six feet un-shoveled until the road plowing is finished. Do not push snow into roads at any time!! It has the potential to create icy and hazardous conditions for drivers.
* 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.

Thornbury Township, Chester County
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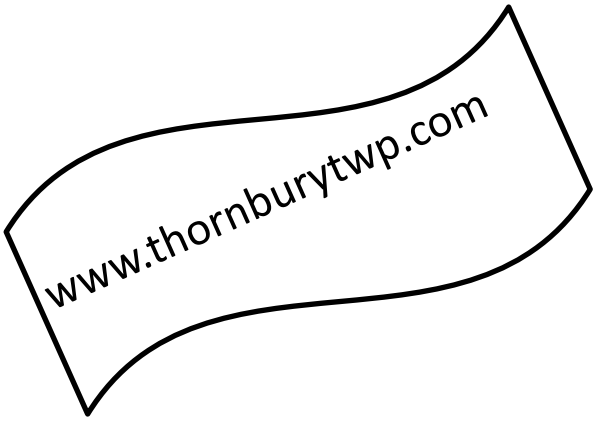
8 am—3 pm, M—F



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Joe Lisa, HPC Liaison
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Stay Informed!

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 gkerrigan@thornburytwp.com

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

The Gander