

W I N T E R 2 0 2 3

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP

DELAWARE COUNTY

INCORPORATED 1687



Junior Park & Recreation Board

The Park and Recreation Board works to have events that are applicable and enjoyable for all ages. Many of our events are geared toward families with children. It is with that in mind that we are considering a Junior Park & Recreation Board made up of 5-10 residents, ages 10 to 15 years old. This committee will meet and report to the Park & Rec Board monthly, and will communicate information such as the programs they like and dislike and what they would like to see at the parks and in the newsletter. If you are interested in participating, please email susan@thornbury.org. We look forward to hearing from you and possibly working with you. *T*

Mike Ciocco, P.E., S.E.O. is Delaware County's 2023 Engineer of the Year

Mike graduated from Villanova University with honors. He has been an engineer for 27 years and has been serving as the Thornbury Township Engineer, (working for Catania Engineers Assoc.) for over 10 years, taking over for Lisa Catania. He and his team review all of our grading permit & subdivision applications and plans, and Mike is the Township's go-to-guy when it comes to Civil Engineering. He is always patient and helpful with the Thornbury Township staff, as well as residents with questions about their projects. We are so happy Mike is on our team. Congratulations Mike Ciocco! *T*

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

We are now accepting nominations for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Please submit your nominations to Township Manager, Jeff Seagraves, at Jeff@thornbury.org. We are looking for a volunteer that contributes their time and energy generously to the Township. Someone who is passionate about our hometown and is always willing to help with a positive attitude. *T*



Township Manager Letter

Hello fellow residents. Thank you for taking the time to read this article. The purpose of this article has always been to help inform you of the recent actions of our Board of Supervisors as well as activities that we have either held or are planning to schedule. I thought it would be good to take some time in this article to cover some items that many or most of you are aware of, but some of you may not know.

I was recently told by one of our supervisors that he was in the company of a long-time resident that was infuriated by our high taxes and wanted to know how the “five” council members could vote for such increases. Well... first off, we do not have a township real estate tax. We are the only municipality in Delaware County that does not have a real estate tax. We derive the majority of our income from two primary sources, first is the Earned Income Tax. We receive ½ of 1% of your income and the West Chester Area School District receives the other ½ of 1%. Second is the Real Estate Transfer Tax. When residents sell/buy their home, there is a 2% PA deed transfer tax. Of that 2% tax, 1% is again split between Thornbury Township and the West Chester Area School District.

To clear up another area of question is the local representation of Supervisors. There are three (3) Supervisors who lead our township. They run “at large” meaning that there is no division or assignment of “precincts” to a particular elected official.

Each of our supervisors is elected to a six-year term, and those terms are staggered so that there are never two supervisors running at the same time. The Board of Supervisors re-organizes each year by electing a Chair and Vice Chair. This year JP Kelly will return in his second year as the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, and Sheri Perkins returns as the Vice Chair. Together we look forward to a great year.

There is a wealth of information on our website www.thornbury.org. If you are not an internet surfer, feel free to call the township so we may be able to answer your questions. The number to the Township office is 610-399-8383 and my extension is 104. I welcome your questions and look forward to helping with any issues you may be experiencing. *T*

Jeff Seagraves,
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

SEWER BILLING UPDATE

Due to increases in the cost to operate and maintain our Township’s public sewer system, Thornbury Township has increased the sewer rental rates \$5.00 per quarter. The new rate, \$145.00 per quarterly

billing cycle, represents a 3.6% increase over the previous four years. The last time we raised sewer rates was in January 2019. The new rate increase will begin with the sewer bill you receive in mid-April

2023. If you are a property owner who pays by credit card, the service fee will rise to \$3.84. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Deb Zitarelli at 610-399-8383, ext. 520, or email deb@thornbury.org.

RECENT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTIONS

September 7, 2022

- The annual contributions to the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum in the amount of \$500.00, and to Bournelyf Special Camp, in the amount of \$2,500.00 were approved.
- The proposal from Bore It, Inc, for the installation of a water line and frost-proof hydrants at Thornbury Park, at a cost not to exceed \$4,750.00, was approved.

September 21, 2022

- Approved Ordinance 3 of 2022, Amending the Thornbury Township Code of Ordinances, Chapter 19, Stormwater Management, to implement certain stormwater management changes and updates as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- The 2022 Contributions to the Concordville Fire Department in the amount of \$66,000.00, the Edgmtown Fire Department in the amount of \$38,000.00, and the Chester Heights Fire Department in the amount of \$29,000.00, were approved.

October 15, 2022

- The Proclamation recognizing October 2022 as World Down Syndrome Awareness Month was approved.



Continued on next page



Board Chairman Letter

RECENT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTIONS CNTD.

- The purchase of a new Imperial Range from the Webstaurant Store, for the Township comfort station at Thornbury Park was approved.
- The proposal from Sugarsbridge Contractors, for maintenance and repairs to the roof at the Township Administration Building was approved.
- The annual donation to the Rachel Kohl Library in the amount of \$42,000.00 was approved.

November 16, 2022

- Resolution 2022-11, authorizing the Township Manager to execute and file the appropriate forms and application for the Delaware County Municipal Green Ways Grant was approved.
- The purchase of a new Case 580 Super-N T4 Backhoe from Eagle Power and Equipment Corp., under Costars Vendor was approved.

December 2, 2022

- Payment No. 2, (Final), for Steve Botella Construction & Excavating Inc. in the amount of \$1,539.50, representing final payment for all work completed under the Isabella Lane contract was approved.

December 7, 2022

- Authorizing the Township Engineer to prepare plans and specifications and to advertise for public bidding of the Timber Lane Drainage Project, was approved.

Left: We are all grateful for the service of the Concordville F&P Association's President Lee Weersing and Vice President Richard Beebe.



We recently swore into office our 14th Junior Supervisor, Jake DeMarco. Jake is a junior at Rustin High School. He plays Football, Bocce, serves on the Rustin Student Council, is a member of Best Buddies, Class Cabinet, Model UN and holds part-time jobs at Giant and also Concord Country Club. Jake has volunteered for many township events with his father, Greg DeMarco. You may have even seen him as an assistant at the polls on Election Day. I know Jake personally and I know I can speak for the Board when I say that we are all looking forward to working with him. I am confident he will represent Rustin High School as well as Thornbury Township with respect, enthusiasm and responsibility.



*The Board of Supervisors welcome Junior Supervisor, Jake DeMarco!
Left to Right: Mike Mattson, Jake DeMarco, Sheri Perkins, JP Kelly*

We are really proud of the Junior Supervisor program. It started in 2013 and over the years we have had the privilege and honor to work with some really great students. Many students volunteer and yet don't see a connection between volunteering and



political engagement or activism. Most teens volunteer to help others, but do not necessarily see that they are capable of making a change. We hope to instill in these students the importance of volunteerism and contributing to their community. So, Jake, we welcome you and we invite you to bring your friends and family to the Board of Supervisor meetings.

We have an incredible group of residents who volunteer their time, and the Board of Supervisors is grateful to them. We always welcome volunteers, and we welcome all residents to attend our meetings.

We cannot successfully run Thornbury Township without feedback from you, the resident. We invite you to attend our meetings. In addition, you can keep yourselves informed by frequenting our website, reading this newsletter, and signing up for our bi-weekly emails. Email or call us with any questions that you may have. We are here for you. *T*

J.P. Kelly, Chairman
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Subdivision and Land Development

LAND DEVELOPMENT

Cheyney University Preliminary Land Development

*Foster Parking
Lot Expansion*
At the September meeting Cheyney University proposed to reconstruct and expand an existing parking lot just north of Creek Rd. which serves the Foster Student Union. Handicapped parking and a new sidewalk will be added, along with up-to-date stormwater management. At this meeting various waivers were discussed, as well as landscaping, lighting, traffic/circulation pattern, stormwater management, and parking.

D'Antonio, Preliminary Minor Subdivision Plan

251 Glen Mills Road
At the November meeting the applicant proposed to divide the 7.09-acre

property into three lots – one for the existing historic house and 2 new lots. At this meeting the following items were discussed: steep slopes, Historic Resource Study, legal permitted use of Long Lane, sight distance, landscaping, stormwater management, and rain gardens.

VMDT, Preliminary Land Development Plan *282-286 Dilworthtown Road*

At the December meeting Mr. Ciocco's 10/11/22 review letter was highlighted and a discussion ensued regarding the deviations in the settlement agreement. At this meeting the members recommended denial of the plan. The applicant's professionals returned in January of 2023 to continue the discussion of Mr. Ciocco's review letter. Discussion will resume

after a site visit and details/ calculations are revised.

2 Derry Drive, Preliminary/ Final Minor Land Development *Barn and Improvements*

Discussion began at the December meeting regarding landscaping, buffering, and stormwater management. The discussion will resume once revised plans have been submitted.

STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Small Water/Sewer Grant Application

At the December meeting the members discussed the matching \$500,000.00 grant that the Township is applying for. The members voted for Mr. Quinn, Chairman to execute the Small Water/Sewer Grant Application letter.

CREEK FRIENDLY YARD CARE - WINTER TIPS

Even though it is winter there are still some things that can be done to your yard which will help reduce the need for pesticides next growing season.

- **Spray Dormant Oil** on bark surfaces of disease and pest prone ornamental trees and shrubs. Dormant oil is non-toxic and works to kill overwintering insect eggs and fungal spores. Spray this heavy oil before leaves or buds appear and when temperatures are above 40 degrees. Check product label for a list of plants that are sensitive, such as azaleas. Also do not spray on blue needled conifers such as blue spruce.
- **Spray a Leaf Protectant**, such as Wilt-pruf, to hollies, rhododendrons, and other broadleaf evergreen plants to protect against winter moisture loss. Spray early in the winter season when temperature is above freezing.
- **Late Winter (I.e. March) Overseeding of Lawns** and seeding of bare spots is a good time to begin to increase turf before weed seeds have time to germinate.

Source: Penn State Cooperative Extension
<http://turfgrassmanagement.psu.edu>,
www.extension.psu.edu/hort/html

SNOW TRIVIA! ANSWERS ON PAGE 8

What country has the snowiest city in the world?

A. Switzerland B. Norway C. Japan

What percent of the earth is permanently covered in snow and ice?

A. 6% B. 12% C. 25%

Answers on page 8



SPRING SHREDDING EVENT

**Saturday, April 29
9:00am - 12:00pm**

Bring your documents to the Township Building (*truck will be at meeting room entrance*) to be shredded free of charge.



Park and Recreation Updates

ABOUT OUR PARKS: LOCATIONS AND FEATURES

Thornbury Township boasts five public parks. We invite you to enjoy!

BARRETT'S MEADOW

30 acres at Creek & Tanguy Roads



Walk the trail and enjoy the naturally occurring wild flowers in the spring and summer.

BONNER PARK

65 acres on Blossom Hill Road



Visit the historic Frazer Ruins and an old, unused quarry. Enjoy plenty of good hiking.

MARTIN PARK

45 acres on Stony Bank Road



Home to our Annual Fishing Derby. Enjoy plenty of walking, picnicking, and fishing.

PALMER ARBORETUM

21 acres on Brinton Lake Road



Climb the giant adirondack chairs, play hopscotch and bocce ball and walk the trails.

THORNBURY PARK

56 acres at Glen Mills & Thornton Roads



Home to many of our Township events. Enjoy scenic walking and running paths, basketball and tennis courts, playground equipment, the pavilion, and much more.

Paint Night at Grace Winery

Thursday February 16, 2023

Let the ambiance of the Grace Winery Barn nurture your creativity. Grace beverages sold separately. Call 610-399-8383, ext. 101 to register or email susan@thornbury.org.

Place Grace Winery Barn

Time 6:30-9:30

Cost \$20.00 per person



St. Patrick's Day in West Chester

Friday March 17, 2023

We are all Irish today!

Place Depart from Thornbury Park

Time 6:00-10:30pm
(bus departs at 6 sharp)

Cost \$10.00 bus into West Chester
Register at www.thornbury.org

Senior Winter Luncheon

Friday February 24, 2023

Bring a \$20.00 gift for the White Elephant Gift Exchange. Enjoy a delicious lunch and a fun game with friends. Call 610-399-8383, ext. 101 to register or email susan@thornbury.org.

Place Duffer's Restaurant on Rt. 352

Time 12:00pm

SAVE THE DATE:

Easter Egg Hunt & Decorated Egg Contest
Saturday April 1, 2023



*Santa is always a big hit on the Holiday Express!
Photographer: Dave Milowicki*



Trooper Naab thanks the Board of Supervisors for their generous support.



Environmental Advisory Council

While we all want to keep our planet and people healthy, it can be difficult to juggle all the priorities in our lives. The Thornbury EAC has you covered!

Sustainable Swaps is a newsletter that provides suggestions of easy to do and cost-effective home swaps of non-sustainable products for more sustainable alternatives. Our goal is to save you time and give you practical information to make more sustainable choices. Be on the lookout for the first newsletter, *Paper Towels And Napkins*, via the following outlets:

1. Thornbury E-Newsletter
2. Township Trail Kiosks
3. Thornbury EAC website
at www.thornbury.org/environmental-advisory-council

You can help! Send us your sustainable swap ideas at eac@thornbury.org, post to the EAC Facebook, or come to our monthly council meeting the 3rd Thursday of each month, 7pm-8pm at the Township building, 6 Township Drive, Cheyney PA. 



Barrett's Meadow Kiosk installed by the PWD and sponsored by the EAC.

RACHEL KOHL COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Whether you're looking for information to help you complete a homework assignment, or if you're a lifelong learner hoping to increase your knowledge on, literally, any topic you, with your library card, have access to databases and tools that can help you achieve your goal.

PA POWER Library

PA POWER Library is Pennsylvania's electronic library, developed by the State Library of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. You can explore resources like historical Pennsylvania photos and documents, Bookflix, job banks, academic databases provided by Gale, and much more.

E-Resources

Delaware County Libraries have access to over two dozen databases to help you with your digital research needs. With offerings like Ancestry Library Edition, HelpNow, Hoopla, Novelist, Philadelphia Inquirer archives, ProCitizen, SAT/ACT Prep, and much more, there's something for everyone to explore—all you need is your library card!

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

- Try ice skating, snow tubing or sledding
- Take up an exercise class
- Go bowling
- Find a new recipe and cook together
- Organize your closets
- Take a dance class
- Volunteer for your kids' school, the boy scouts or girl scouts, SPCA or a homeless shelter
- See a show or go skiing
- Visit www.thornbury.org and click *Recreation*, then *Discount Tickets & Coupons* then *Discounted Tickets Available Online!*
- Discounted tickets to the amusement parks, movies, Broadway/Off-Broadway Shows are available via the following link: www.prps.org/memberdeals

Enter the following password information to gain access to discounted tickets:
Username: Recreation
Password: Tickets22



The Board of Supervisors presented the annual donation of \$42,000 to Rachel Kohl Library.



Historical Commission Letter

“When the well is dry, we will know the worth of water” – Ben Franklin

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATES

All residents are invited to attend meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.

ORDINANCES:

Comprehensive Plan

At the April meeting it was reported that all chapters were fine except for #2 Population and #6 Housing, which were affected by the pandemic. The Planning Commission's discussion is scheduled on March 8, 2023.

Outdoor Dining Ordinance

An updated draft ordinance was first discussed at the March meeting and the following items were discussed: neighbor impact, water, sewer, lighting/glare, landscape buffering, parking, and noise. The discussion continued at the April meeting and centered on accessing the outdoor dining area; music/entertainment; and shut-down time. The members recommended adoption conditioned upon the Board of Supervisors reviewing and considering various item options. At the June meeting a revised draft was reviewed and recommended for adoption by the members in accordance with the Delaware County Planning Department's staff recommendations.

Stormwater Ordinance Amendments

At the August meeting the members discussed numerous revisions, such as pet waste, impervious pavers, and riparian buffers. The members recommended adoption of these amendments in accordance with the Township Engineer's review letter.

2022-YEAR END UPDATES

Historic Resource Property (HRP)

Research Reports

The five Historic Resource Property (HRP) In-Depth Research Reports for 2022, have been completed and delivered to their caring property owners. With the addition of the five additional reports, we now have 39 of our township's 204 properties listing extremely accurate information in their files. These full reports are available at Douglass Cottage in the Thornbury Historical Society's (THS's) research library. A more streamlined version of each is available online. Our commission is in the process of contacting five participants for the 2023 calendar year. Once those property owners have committed, we shall ask the Supervisors for permission to continue this project for 2023. Pictured is a typical binder alongside the very top notch Thornbury Historical Society tote bag the research report is delivered in.

Historic Maps

Two colorful historic maps were chosen to best represent Thornbury's lot boundary changes. Starting from the 1600's, The Early Grants and Patents Map details land divisions from the Penn Land Grants to present day. The second map, The Historic Resources Map, shows our HRP's. Framed copies of these maps are hung on the walls in the township building offices and meeting room as well as THS headquarters at Douglass Cottage. These are wonderful resources whether or not you are researching the history of a property. Along with the historic maps, a



2022 map of our township is also available in the same rooms, to easily compare

the past to the present. These maps are also available online. *TF*

REAL ID DEADLINE EXTENDED AGAIN

May 3, 2023 was the deadline for enforcement of the REAL ID requirement however the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) just announced in December that they moved the deadline to May 7, 2025. What is to blame for this most recent extension? COVID-19 of

course. The residual effects of the pandemic on the state agencies issuing REAL IDs are the cause. The same rules apply. After the May 2025 deadline travelers within the United States, 18 and older on commercial flights must have a REAL ID compliant drivers license or state photo ID card.

Real ID will also be required to enter some federal facilities. So far about 52% of state issued drivers licenses and ID cards are REAL ID compliant. *NOTE: PA DOT recently increased the cost of the PA driver's license or photo ID photograph from \$9.50 to \$15.50.

STAFF & OFFICIALS

Township Manager

Jeffrey T. Seagraves: 610.399.8383 x104

Municipal Secretary

Geoff Carbutt: 610.399.8383 x107

Township Events

Susan Daudert: 610.399.8383 x101

Public Works

Art Risley: 610.399.8383 x106

Code Enforcement Officer

Keystone Municipal Services

WC Area School District: 484.266.1000

State Senator (9th District)

John Kane: 717.787.4712

kane@pasenate.com

U.S. Representative (5th District):

Mary Gay Scanlon: 610.626.2020

State Representative (168th District):

Craig Williams: 610.358.5925

U.S. Senators

John Fetterman: 215.241.1090

Bob Casey, Jr.: 717.231.7540

District Justice

Honorable Wendy B. Roberts Esquire

District Court 32-2-49: 610.558.3605



Thornbury Township

6 Township Drive

Cheyney, PA 19319

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #129
19464

BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Supervisors

1st & 3rd Wednesdays: 7:00pm

James Kelly, Chairman

Sheri Perkins, Vice Chairman

Michael Mattson, Supervisor

Zoning Hearing Board

1st Monday (if needed): 7:00pm

Board of Health

1st Tuesday: 7:00pm

Park & Recreation Board

2nd Thursday: 7:00pm

Environmental Advisory Council

3rd Thursday: 7:00pm

Historical Commission

3rd Tuesday: 7:00pm

Planning Commission

2nd Wednesday: 7:00pm

Sewer Committee

4th Thursday: 7:00pm

CONTACT

6 Township Drive | Cheyney, PA 19319

TEL 610.399.8383 | FAX 610|399|3162

www.thornbury.org

M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm

Township Calendar

FEBRUARY 2023

Park & Recreation Board Mtg..... 2|9|23
Board of Supervisors Mtg..... 2|15|23
PAINT NIGHT GRACE WINERY..... 2|16|23

EAC Mtg 2|16|23
PRESIDENT'S DAY Township Closed 2|20|23

Historical Commission Mtg 2|21|23
Sewer Advisory Committee Mtg 2|23|23
Senior Luncheon 2|24|23

MARCH 2023

Board of Supervisors Mtg..... 3|7|23
Planning Commission Mtg 3|8|23
Park & Recreation Board Mtg..... 3|9|23

Board of Supervisors Mtg..... 3|15|23
EAC Mtg 3|16|23

Bus to West Chester..... 3|17|23
Historical Commission Mtg 3|21|23
Sewer Advisory Committee Mtg 3|23|23

APRIL 2023

EASTER EGG HUNT 4|1|23
Board of Health Mtg..... 4|4|23
Board of Supervisors Mtg..... 4|5|23
GOOD FRIDAY Township Closed 4|7|23

Planning Commission Mtg 4|12|23
Park & Recreation Mtg..... 4|13|23
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAY 4|13|23
Historical Commission Mtg..... 4|18|23
Board of Supervisors Mtg..... 4|19|23

EAC Mtg 4|20|23
Sewer Advisory Committee Mtg 4|27|23
SHREDDING EVENT 4|29|23
YARD SALE DAY 4|29|23

Would You Like to Reduce the Amount of Mail You Get?

You can opt-out of receiving paper copies of our newsletter and have access the newsletter via our website at www.thornbury.org. **Go to Residents and click on Newsletters.**

If you would like to stop the paper copy of our newsletter from being mailed to your house, please email Susan@thornbury.org.

SNOW TRIVIA ANSWERS from page 4: #1 Answer: C, #2 Answer: B