



FALL 2023

# THORNBURY TOWNSHIP

DELAWARE COUNTY

INCORPORATED 1687



## Recreational Opportunities

Thornbury Township has long been blessed with supervisors who have made the preservation of open space and development of outdoor recreational space for residents a priority. Recently a group of residents attended a Park and Recreation Board meeting with a request for additional recreational options. The Park and Rec. Board forwarded that request to the Board of Supervisors. This request was very timely in that the Board of Supervisors recently received a grant to help fund a comprehensive park and open space plan. The goal is to develop a plan that will help guide the township in the development of recreational opportunities. This starts with a review of parks, open space and walking trails, and eventually the recommendation of how to further develop the prospects these spaces have to offer.

We are seeking an array of representation from the residents to form a committee. Ideally, the committee will consist of 7-9 members. Members will meet regularly for around six months and produce a living document that will act as the blueprint for future development of our outdoor recreational spaces. If you are interested in participating, we will be taking letters of interest until early October and make selections soon after the application process is closed. Please email your letter to Jeff Seagraves at [Jeff@thornbury.org](mailto:Jeff@thornbury.org). *T*

## TOWNSHIP PICKLEBALL



We are thrilled to announce our newest partnership, bringing you a venue to enjoy the popular sport of pickleball. At the Glen Mills School's recreation center, residents now have additional opportunities to stay active and engaged alongside other on-campus rental facilities. To stay updated and join the pickleball mailing list, please share contact information at [rent@glenmillsrentals.org](mailto:rent@glenmillsrentals.org). Embrace the thrill of the game and connect with fellow residents with this new township collaboration!

**LEAF  
PICKUP  
NOV  
20-29**

**The township leaf collection week is Monday, November 20 through Wednesday, November 29, 2023.** Decomposable bags are available at the township building for \$2.00 each (price covers the bags and the pick-up). Come into the Township building, buy your bags and register your address for pick up and place bagged yard waste on the street for pick up. *Bags will not be picked up if not registered.*



# Planning Commission

Hello fellow residents,

I was thinking about you on Monday, August 7, 2023, as I sat on the tarmac in Savannah, Georgia, waiting to return to Philadelphia. I received notification earlier that heavy storms and possible tornadoes were predicted that evening in our area. My mind flashed back to Halloween night 2019. I thought about the destruction and heartache that evening's weather brought to many of our residents.

After sitting on the plane for an hour, we returned to the terminal for a two hour delay. Around 6:00pm, I was contacted by emergency personnel from Chester Heights that the storm had taken down a number of trees on Forrest Hills Drive and severely damaged one home. My fears had been realized. Fortunately, we have a very thorough Emergency Management Plan and a super team of township staff, volunteers, and professionals. I knew we were prepared to deal with the aftermath, but I wanted to be there to help with the response.

As many of you have probably noticed, our weather pattern has changed, and not for the better. This, combined with many diseased trees, has been the recipe for damaged homes, road closures, and loss of both power and communication lines. We continuously remind residents to be prepared for these situations. The township maintains a list of residents that may have special needs during emergency responses. This information is shared with first responders and enables them to be best prepared should that residence require attention. In closing, I would like to leave you with a couple of thoughts to ponder. Do you have an emergency plan? Have you registered anyone in your household that may require special assistance during an event? Do you have trees that should be removed because of their health or proximity to your home? We encourage you to create a plan before an emergency strikes so you and your loved ones are as prepared as possible. *T*

Jeff Seagraves, Township Manager

## RECENT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTIONS

### May 17, 2023

- The Proposal form MOR Construction Services, Inc., for the Hampton Lane Drainage Improvements Project was approved.
- Approved the proposal from Knight Brothers, Inc., for the removal of trees and stumps at Stony Bank & Glen Mills Road, Martin Park, and Station Road.

### June 7, 2023

- The waiver request to allow a new home addition within the 75' Riparian Buffer located at 44 Blossom Hill Road, in accordance with the Township Engineer's recommendation letter dated June 2, 2023 was approved.
- Approved a \$250.00 donation to the Western Delaware Valley Lions on behalf of the Thornbury Township Historical Commission.

*Continued on page 3*



**Fourth of July Award Winners:**  
Best Car, Best Wagon and Best Bike





## Board Chairman Letter

### RECENT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTIONS CNTD.

#### June 21, 2023

- Ordinance 2023-1, supporting the authority of First Responders serving Thornbury Township, to seek reimbursement for materials, equipment and supplies expended in response calls was approved.
- The proposal from McGuire Painting for the exterior painting of the Thornbury Park Comfort Station at Thornbury Park, was approved.
- The proposal from Cloudpermit, for the purchase of Permit Software for a three year contract was approved.
- Approved the Stormwater O&M Agreement with Andover Homeowners' Association, Inc., and Sunoco Pipeline L.P. in accordance with the Township Solicitor's recommended revisions.

#### July 19, 2023

- Approved the fabrication and installation of an Information Sign at Thornbury Park.

### QUARTERLY SEWER BILLING REMINDER

**You can Pay your Quarterly Sewer fee (\$145/quarter) online!**

Go to [www.thornbury.org](http://www.thornbury.org) for the instructions. There will be a minimum fee of \$3.00 or 2.65% per transaction. (\$3.84 for \$145 payment) Concord Chase Residents – this does not pertain to you as you pay Concord Township directly.

Mike, Sheri and I hope you all had a great summer. We hope you enjoyed the township events and continue to do so throughout fall and winter. We believe that these events foster community and that is very important to us. In an uncertain world with tragedies reported daily, it is easy to become jaded, irritated and angry. Psychologist Bernard Golden says “We are all born with the capacity for aggression as well as compassion. Which tendencies we embrace requires mindful choice by individuals, families, communities and our culture in general.” Let’s all work together to embrace kindness and compassion in Thornbury Township.



To all of our students returning to school, please be careful getting to and from your bus stop. Drivers – please drive carefully and allow extra time in your morning commute. Pay close attention and never pass a school bus with lights flashing. There are very serious consequences for school bus violations.



The Brandwine Valley Senior Softball league had a great spring season.

Founders Day is Saturday September 16th. This date was set last year. We were made aware that this happens to fall on Rosh Hashanah. We apologize to our Jewish residents who will not be able to attend Founders Day and we wish you a happy and sweet new year.

We look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings and township events. Please visit [www.thornbury.org](http://www.thornbury.org) frequently to stay informed. *TJ*

J.P. Kelly, Chairman  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



# Planning Commission

### 40 Broomall Lane

*Goodman Sketch Plan for Multiple Additions*  
At the June meeting Mr. Goodman proposed a 50 ft. by 50 ft. steel building to be used for storage. The discussion centered around stormwater requirements, septic, and front yard setback requirements due to having two street fronts. Discussion will resume upon receipt of preliminary plans.

### 168 Stoney Bank Road

*O'Connor, Preliminary/Minor Land Development Plan*  
This project proposes to subdivide about 4,000 sq. ft. of land from a neighbor's five-acre parcel into Mr. O'Connor's parcel. This subdivision was needed due to an addition that was added which extended into the rear yard setback for an accessory structure. This plan submittal includes land development because the total square footage of the proposed garage exceeds the 1,000 sq. ft. maximum. The garage is intended for

storage. Discussion involved steep slopes, a concrete wall, stone washing onto Stoney Bank Rd., landscaping/tree requirements, and driveway sight distance. Discussion will resume upon receipt of revised plans.

### 282 & 286 Dilworthtown Road

*VMDT, Preliminary Reverse Subdivision and Land Development Plan*  
The discussion continued at the July meeting. Topics included deed restrictions, lighting requirements, vehicle/truck circulation, parking, and stormwater management. At the conclusion of the meeting, the members recommended preliminary approval conditioned upon compliance with the Township's engineer's review comments. Discussion will resume upon receipt of final plans.

All residents are invited to attend meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. *T*

## RUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL UPDATES

Dear Rustin parents and families,  
Welcome back for the '23-'24 school year!

I just wanted to remind you to please check your email on a regular basis for communication from the school district and from Rustin. Weekly newsletters are sent with a lot of information, and there are also a number of communications that are sent from various district departments and school offices, not to mention communication from teachers!

Parent Open House is September 21, 2023! Look for more information on that evening soon.

Good luck this year and as always please contact us if you need any help at all.

Dr. Marano  
Rustin High School Principal

## SENIOR GAME DAY

### Thursdays, starting September 7, 2023

Are you retired but your competitive streak is not? Interested in getting together to play games with your neighbors? Classic games like Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit and Pictionary and cards will be available or you are welcome to bring your favorite. Contact Susan if you are interested. Email Susan at [susan@thornbury.org](mailto:susan@thornbury.org) or call 610-399-8383 ext. 101.

**Day** Thursdays, starting September 7  
**Time** 1:00pm  
**Place** Township Meeting Room



The Atellas enjoy crabs at the Crabfest in July



# 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.



### ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY

Saturday,  
September 16, 2023

Food, games and live music.

Place Thornbury Park

Time 4-8pm

Details [www.thornbury.org](http://www.thornbury.org)



### Beats & Burgers | Fall Happy Hour

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Take off from your busy fall schedule and enjoy dinner and music at the park. (Weather permitting.) Enjoy Buddy's Burgers Truck and FunZaLuv.

Place Thornbury Park

Time 5:00-8:00pm

### Annual Fishing Derby

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Martin Creek Park will be stocked and ready. Park will be CLOSED on Friday. Must be a resident to win prizes.

Place Martin Park on Stony Bank Road

Time 9:00am

### Halloween Parade Train

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Parking in West Chester is scary – take the train to enjoy Halloween!

Place Station Road Train Station

Time 6:00pm

Cost \$5.00

### Annual Halloween Parade & Fall Festival

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Pie baking contest, carving pumpkins, hay rides, games and making scarecrows.

Bring your own scarecrow outfit and carving tools.

Parade starts at Yellow House Parking Lot on Glen Mills Road. Festival is at Thornbury Park

Time 1:00-4:00pm

### Senior Fall Luncheon

Friday, October 27, 2023

Residents over 65 years old – your lunch is on us! Please RSVP to Susan at 610-399-8383 ext. 101 or email

[susan@thornbury.org](mailto:susan@thornbury.org)

Place Duffer's Tavern

Time 12:00

### West Chester Parade Train

Friday, December 1, 2023

Ride into West Chester and enjoy the annual Christmas Parade!

Place Station Rd. Train Station

Time Board train at 5:00pm

Return by 10:00pm

Cost \$5.00

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Holiday Wreath Workshop

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

### Annual Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 2, 2023

### Light Up the Township Night

Friday December 15, 2023

### Holiday Express

Saturday, December 9 & 16, 2023



# Environmental Advisory Council

The EAC has many fun events and activities planned for the fall. Hikes, birdwatching, giveaways at Founder's Day and yes...the Trees for Ten is back! Stay tuned for ordering information.

### Not Just for the Birds

There are two Saturday birdwatching events this fall. Whether you are experienced, brand new, or looking for something fun and different to do with your kids, we have you covered. Bring binoculars if you have them, there will be a limited supply of binoculars provided by the leader. Email [eac@thornbury.org](mailto:eac@thornbury.org) with any questions. Come see the Fall Warbler's on September 23rd 8:30am. Meet at Martins Park entrance. Please note that this is a 2.6 mile hike, partially uphill, and it may not be suitable for young children. There will be a beginner's walk birdwatching led by local birding expert John Mercer of the West Chester Birding Club. This family-friendly 0.75 mile walk is on November 4, 2023 at 9:30am at the Barrett's Meadow entrance.



### Founder's Day Booth

Your local EAC is teaming up with the Master Watershed Stewards during our upcoming Founder's Day celebration. Learn more about how to get involved and even better, walk away with a free sapling for your family!

### Family Stream Ecology Event

Our June Stream Ecology Event was our largest ever with many families coming out to learn and play. Educator Noah Grill enjoyed the time with our residents and was able share some of our stream animals and insects. Thank you for joining us!

### Sustainable Swaps

And of course, your next issue of Sustainable Swaps is coming soon! Be on the lookout for tips for your yard coming out soon in the e-newsletter and posted on our parks' kiosks. *T*

## BOARD OF HEALTH CORNER

We hope everyone is having a fun, safe summer and are enjoying vacations and outdoor activities. The Thornbury Township Board of Health has been meeting on a regular schedule and would like to make a suggestion to those residents who have complicated medical conditions. One of the biggest problems that EMS services has to deal with in the setting of a medical emergency is not being able to get a person's medical history or medication list. Patients are often unable to speak for themselves or they are too upset, or their family/caregiver are too upset, to answer questions. Healthcare workers not being able to have this information in a timely manner can prevent or delay crucial treatment.

There is a product called **The Vial of Life** which we would suggest anyone with complicated medical problems consider obtaining. It consists of a form that you will complete that will contain medical history, medication list, and allergies. It can also contain insurance information and people to notify. The form is then folded and placed in a provided vial. A sticker stating what it contains is then placed on it and it is put in the refrigerator either on the top shelf or the condiment shelf. A decal is then placed on the outside of the refrigerator notifying EMS that the information is present.

EMS personnel are trained to look for this. Some people also put a second one in the glove box of their car. It is available at [www.vialoflife.com](http://www.vialoflife.com) site and also on Amazon.



# Historical Commission Letter

“WHEN THE WELL IS DRY, WE WILL KNOW THE WORTH OF WATER” – BEN FRANKLIN

## RACHEL KOHL COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Rachel Kohl Community Library is coming to the end of an exciting summer of music, dance, reading, puppeteering, astronomy and physics projects and yoga for all ages. It was hot (did you notice?) and sweaty but so much fun and learning was shared by all. And now, we are looking forward to an exciting fall.



September will see the beginning of our major project of reclaiming 1500 square feet of space, previously rented. This area will be rebuilt as a new children’s library. The space where the children’s room used to be will become our computer/printing lab, as well as small study rooms. We are expanding our Young Adult section reading and relaxation area. The community room will be unavailable for rentals and programming for at least September and possibly longer. This construction will be disruptive, but oh so worthwhile for all of our patrons in the end.

Back by popular demand, we are hosting our 3rd Annual Fundraising dinner at Il Granaio on September 19 at 5:30 pm. Please contact the library at [rkdirector@delcolibraries.org](mailto:rkdirector@delcolibraries.org) or call 610-358-3445 for further information or to purchase tickets. Hope to see you there.

### God Bless America ...

The link at the end of the article will take you to a video showing the very first public singing of “God Bless America.” The history is interesting.

The time was 1940. America was in a terrible economic depression. A time of hardship and worry for most. Hitler was taking over Europe and Americans were afraid we’d have to go to war.

Being the era just before TV, radio shows were HUGE. In the evenings, American families sat around their radios, listening to their favorite entertainers. No entertainer of that era was bigger than Kate Smith. Kate Smith might not have made it big in the age of TV but with her voice coming over the radio, she was the biggest star of her time.

Kate, being very patriotic, was hurt to see Americans so depressed and afraid of what the next day would bring. She had hope for America and faith in her fellow Americans. She wanted to do something to cheer them up, so she went to the famous American songwriter Irving Berlin (who also wrote White Christmas) and asked him to write a song that would make Americans feel good again about their country. When Kate described what she was looking for, Irving knew he had just the song in his files; one he had written but never published, 22 years before – in 1917.

With song in hand, she and her studio orchestra set to work. Kate and Irving Berlin were not sure how the song would be received by the public, but both agreed they would not take any profits from God Bless America. Any profits would go to the Boy Scouts of America. Over the years, the Boy Scouts have received millions of dollars in royalties from this song.



This video starts out with Kate Smith coming into the radio studio and an audience. She introduces the new song for the very first time and starts singing. After the first couple of verses, with her voice in the background, scenes are shown from the 1940 movie, You’re In The Army Now. At the 4:20 mark of the video you see a young actor in the movie, sitting in an office, reading a paper; it’s Ronald Reagan.

To this day, God Bless America stirs our patriotic feelings and pride in our country. Back in 1940, when Kate Smith went looking for a song to raise the spirits of her fellow Americans, it is doubtful whether she realized just how successful the results would be for her fellow Americans during those years of hardship and worry... and for many generations of Americans to follow. Many people don’t know there’s a lead into the song since it usually starts with God Bless America. Here is the entire song as originally sung.



## 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

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## 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

## SEPTEMBER 2023

**LABOR DAY** Offices Closed .....9|4|23  
Board of Health Mtg .....9|5|23  
Board of Supervisors Mtg .....9|6|23  
Planning Commission Mtg .....9|13|23

Park & Rec. Board Mtg .....9|14|23  
**FOUNDERS DAY** .....9|16|23  
Historical Commission Mtg .....9|19|23

Board of Supervisors Mtg .....9|20|23  
**BEATS & BURGERS** at the Park.....9|21|23  
EAC Mtg.....9|21|23  
Sewer Advisory Mtg.....9|28|23

## OCTOBER 2023

Board of Health Mtg .....10|3|23  
Board of Supervisors Mtg .....10|4|23  
**ANNUAL FISHING DERBY** .....10|7|23  
Planning Commission Mtg .....10|11|23

Park & Rec. Board Mtg .....10|12|23  
Historical Commission Mtg .....10|17|23  
Board of Supervisors Mtg .....10|18|23  
EAC Mtg.....10|19|23

Shredding Event.....10|21|23  
**FALL FESTIVAL** .....10|22|23  
**HALLOWEEN PARADE** Train to WC...10|25|23  
Sewer Advisory Mtg.....10|26|23

## NOVEMBER 2023

Board of Supervisors Mtg .....11|1|23  
**ELECTION DAY** Offices Closed .....11|7|23  
Planning Commission Mtg .....11|8|23  
Park & Rec. Board Mtg .....11|9|23  
**VETERANS DAY** Offices Closed.....11|10|23

Board of Health Mtg .....11|14|23  
Board of Supervisors Mtg .....11|15|23  
EAC Mtg.....11|16|23  
Sewer Advisory Mtg.....11|16|23

**HOLIDAY EXPRESS** Train Ticket sale....11|18|23  
Historical Commission Mtg .....11|21|23  
**THANKSGIVING** Offices Closed.....11|23|23  
Offices Closed .....11|24|23  
**HOLIDAY WREATH WORKSHOP** .....11|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](http://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](mailto:Susan@thornbury.org).*