



A Newsletter for Residents & Friends of Thornhurst, Pennsylvania

March 2016

PPL High Voltage Line Status

In the last few years, the community mounted an impressive campaign to defeat, move or modify the PPL Electric Utilities Corp. (PPL) high voltage transmission line. Many residents provided valuable testimony at the Public Utility Commission public hearing in 2013 and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) public hearing in 2015 and wrote well-reasoned letters. We received the support of a dozen environmental organizations, pleading for modifications to protect this fragile landscape. In spite of our best efforts, PPL received permission to construct the line, with few concessions or modifications.

One concession was moving the line away from a popular local attraction, Choke Creek Falls and the path to the Falls. Another was a promise to treat our streams and wetlands with greater care - hand cutting in the wetlands and within 150' of the streams. This has been followed along some streams but not on others. In addition, there were a few adjustments made on individual properties. Given the small return on our efforts to date, it would be easy to give up, but it is important that we remain vigilant.

Several residents have reported problems to the Lackawanna Conservation District (LCD). This has resulted in eight site inspections by the Conservation District, with six of the last seven inspections showing significant violations of PPL's permits and the Clean Streams Law. This should not be business as usual. In each case, LCD ordered correction of the violations it found. Reporting is critical!

Contact information for the LCD, DEP and PPL can be found on our website at www.ThornhurstTwp.com, or call Jerry Stiles, District Manager, LCD at 570.382.3086 or Michael Bedrin, Regional Director, DEP at 570.826.2511.

Pinchot State Forest Update

Lackawanna State Forest's name was officially changed in August 2015. The District is now referred to as the Pinchot State Forest. Gifford Pinchot (1865-1946) was an American forester and politician. He served as the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and was the 28th Governor of Pennsylvania.

As a reminder, there is one annual fire season in Pinchot State Forest. Open fires are not permitted from March 1 through May 25. The use of the fire rings in the Manny Gordon Picnic Area and on our designated campsites may be prohibited as well. Please contact the District Office with any questions regarding fires.

Pinchot State Forest office hours are Monday through Friday 8 AM - 4 PM. The phone number is 570.945.7133. Visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us to view the Calendar of Events for upcoming interpretive programs in the District. The Department of Conservation & Natural Resources is proud to be your neighbor and wishes to continue to foster good relationships.

"Remember, only you can prevent forest fires." ~ Smokey the Bear

Take Pride in Our Community

Take advantage of these opportunities to help keep our town free and clear of clutter!

Road Clean-up April 18 & 19

Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering for the road clean-up in the community. Meet at the Township Building at 5 PM and later enjoy pizza at the Fire House. Rain date is April 20. Call Joe Kasulaitis at 570.842.6524 for more information.

Dumpsters Available to Residents May 5-7

Dumpsters will be located at the Fire House from Thursday, May 5 through Saturday, May 7, from 8 AM - 8 PM daily. The site will close on Saturday when the dumpsters are filled to capacity. No building/construction waste will be accepted. Tires will be accepted and are limited to four free car tires per household. Extra tires are \$2.00 and truck tires are \$7.00. There is a \$20.00 fee for disposing of items containing freon.

Due to regulations, no electronic items will be accepted, including computers, TVs, VCRs, etc. (nothing that transmits radio waves). These items may be taken to Best Buy or Staples for proper disposal.

Thornhurst Township

356 Old River Road
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Email: Thornhurst356@gmail.com
www.ThornhurstTwp.com

Join us on Facebook @ Thornhurst Township

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Supervisors

Elaine Evans, Chair 570.842.7032
Scott Jordan 570.983.8682
Charles Stout 570.842.4303

Roadmaster

Scott Jordan 570.983.8682

Secretary/Treasurer

Kim Grab 570.842.4273

Real Estate Tax Collector

Tammara Berry 570.472.2266

Wage Tax Collector

Berkheimer Agency 866.701.7206

Sewage Enforcement Officer

Will Evans 570.842.7032

Nuisance Officer

Gerald Lindner 570.430.1600

Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer

William Imhoff 570.903.3199

Building Inspector

Building Inspector Underwriters
Aaron Palaskas 570.335.5917

Auditors

Michelle Jordan
Ken Kaspriskie
Candace Yeaples

Planning Commission

Will Evans, Chair 570.842.7032
Bonnie Smith, Vice-Chair 570.472.3274
Frank Repholz, Jr.
Joseph Ritz
Patricia Wincek

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Joseph Kasulaitis, Chair 570.842.6524
David Bentler
Donald Wombacker

Emergency Management Coordinators

James Howley 570.842.9412
Scott Jordan 570.983.8682

Newsletter & Website Editor

Chris Carroll 570.842.5567

Annual Newsletter Info. Deadline: February 1st
Submit items to: Thornhurst356@gmail.com

A Message from the Thornhurst Township Board of Supervisors

IMPORTANT PERMIT & ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

This year the Township will begin new procedures and contacts for zoning, violations of ordinances, and building permits. Please keep your newsletter for names, phone numbers, and steps to follow in reporting problems, or securing a permit. The initial change in the building code is the result of new state guidelines and the change in code enforcement is the result of George Stefanski accepting a new position with a building inspections company.

Your first step to any building on your property covered by permits or ordinances begins with contacting the Zoning Officer and the Sewage Enforcement Officer. Either of these gentlemen can supply you with an application for a building permit which cannot be obtained without the Zoning and Sewage Enforcement Officers' approval. The application will outline the steps necessary to secure your building permit. The building permits are issued by an independent third party. You will not be given a permit without clearance from zoning and sewage; you cannot skip steps. Upon receipt of your approved permits the Building Inspector Underwriters will contact you to issue your permit and set up inspections. The new procedures and the third party inspections are now taking place throughout Pennsylvania. Township personnel and phone numbers are listed in the newsletter.

Violations of ordinances will be handled by Gerald Lindner. If, as a concerned party, you are calling attention to what you believe is a problem or a violation, per standing procedures, you will need to file a complaint form describing the issue. You may request a form from Township personnel.

In a continuing effort to prepare for emergencies the Township has purchased two (2) lap top computers. The computers' cases are designed to withstand rough handling and poor weather. This is one step in addressing communication needs in times of emergency. The computers are presently being used by the Emergency Management Coordinators to keep in touch with local and state authorities as they continue to bring the emergency plans in line with mandated guidelines.

The foundation on the church building has been repaired to avoid any additional damage to the property. The Township will begin to work on the preliminary plans presented by the architect to move ahead on this project, now that the foundation has been corrected.

The Township road has received much needed attention. The final phase in road repair will take place this spring or early summer with the application of a topcoat.

No word has been received on the grant application for the next phase of the park. We do continue to get fill. The estimate for the fill necessary was a couple hundred thousand dollars. The acquisition of the fill to date has been a great step forward.

The Township wishes to thank the Thornhurst Fire Co., Ambulance Squad and Auxiliary for their continued service to the community.

Township Meeting Dates & Times

The Planning Commission meets at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of March, May, September and November, with additional meetings as needed. The Board of Supervisors meets at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month. Both meetings are held at the Township Building on Old River Road. Public notices and meeting changes are published in *The Moscow Villager*. Information about local events and other township news or activities is posted on the bulletin board outside of the building.

North Pocono Food Pantry

The NP Food Pantry and Dry Goods Pantry are located in the Shop-Rite Plaza in Daleville behind the ice cream shop. They are both open every Thursday from 12-1 PM. For more info, or to determine eligibility for these services, call 570.842.4741.

Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade

The 10th Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade will be held on Monday, July 4 at 2 PM, beginning at the corner of Pine Grove and Bear Lake Roads, and will continue on River Road back to Pine Grove Road. Line up for participants will begin at 1 PM on Pine Grove Road. Any reliable mode of transportation is allowable. Floats and costumes are highly encouraged. Show your community spirit. Township residents and friends have enjoyed participating in and watching such a great community event. In order for this event to continue being held, participants must stay in line at all times. Misbehavior will not be tolerated and offenders will be removed from the parade line. Call Scott Jordan for details at 570.848.2759.

Thornhurst Historical Committee

The Thornhurst Historical Committee continues to be interested in collecting old photos, postcards, and any memorabilia about the community. Call Pat Wincek at 570.842.3353 if you have items or information to share.

Pine Grove Cemetery News

All residents are invited to attend our 9th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the cemetery on Monday, May 30 at 11 AM. Refreshments will be served outdoors immediately following the ceremony. Cookie donations are welcome. Memorabilia relating to Thornhurst is also available for viewing at this event. In preparation for the ceremony, a clean-up will be held on May 14 at 10 AM (raindate is May 21). Please remove all seasonal decorations. Anyone interested in helping with the clean-up or ceremony, call Pat Wincek at 570.842.3353.

Old-Fashioned Christmas Caroling

Join in the holiday spirit at the Township Building on Sunday, December 18 at 4 PM for some old-fashioned Christmas caroling. Celebrate the coming holidays and visit with friends and neighbors. Light refreshments will be served.

Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging

The Area Agency on Aging is an advocate for the rights of older adults and adults with disabilities. The following services are available: Home-delivered Meals, Adult Day Care, In-home Personal Care, Personal Emergency Response Systems, and Chore Services (includes minor renovations to help safeguard people inside their homes). To qualify for In-home Care options, residents must present a need and be financially eligible. Some cases may qualify for partial eligibility. For more information, contact the Area Agency on Aging at 570.963.6740.

Transportation for Residents with Disabilities

Reduced fare transportation may be available for persons with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, if aged 18-64, and a resident of Lackawanna County. Fare is free for those age 65 and over; ages 18-64 are reduced fare. Applications are available by mail from Lackawanna County Coordinated Transportation System, 800 North/South Road, Scranton, PA 18504, or by calling the office at 570.963.6795.

Library Bookmobile Service

The Lackawanna County Library System's Bookmobile will visit Thornhurst every fourth Thursday in 2015 beginning on March 10 at the Thornhurst Fire House from approximately 2-3 PM. Call 570.348.3000 ext. 3002 to request or renew materials and include your phone number and your Bookmobile stop in the message. You may also request or renew materials online at www.lclshome.org/bookmobile.

St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church News

Mass is celebrated Saturdays at 4:30 PM with confessions heard 4 PM or upon request. The Mass schedule changes to Saturdays at 4:30 PM and Sundays at 8:30 AM from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Look for our new webpage and like us on Facebook! Please join us at our summer picnic.

For more information about events or schedules, call 570.472.3061 or email: stelimar@ptd.net.

Thornhurst United Methodist Church News

Worship Service & Meeting Schedule

Sundays at 9 AM: Worship Service

Choir Practice
Mondays at 3 PM

UMW (no meetings Jan. & Feb.)
2nd Wednesday of every month at 7 PM

Food & Faith
3rd Wednesday of every month at 6 PM

Friday, Fellowship, Food & Fun
4th Friday of every month at 6:00 PM

2016 Calendar of Events

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| March | Easter Eggs (while supplies last) Cost: \$5.00/Box of 6 eggs Peanut Butter, Butter Cream or Coconut Cream | |
| April 16 & Oct. 8 | Pork 'N' Kraut Dinner Cost: \$10.00 | 4-7 PM |
| TBA | Pasta Dinner | |
| July 30 | Blueberry Festival & Flea Market | 9 AM-2 PM |
| Dec. 3 | Christmas Bazaar | |

Call 570.643.6605 or 570.842.9350 for info.
Email: ThornhurstUMC@gmail.com

North Pocono CARE Seeks Help in Protecting Our Lehigh River

The Lehigh River is the lifeblood of our community and the abundant forests and wetlands are critical to protecting its water quality. North Pocono CARE is a local nonprofit organization formed to protect the Lehigh River, the streams that feed it and the surrounding lands. It is our goal to maintain the exceptional fishing, swimming and boating as well as clean drinking water for local residents and downstream communities.

In 2016, we urge everyone to be good observers. Watch the streams and Lehigh River near your home and note any indications of pollution, such as cloudy or discolored water, or eroding banks. The transmission line right of way may be impacting our streams. Want greater involvement? Then, contact us to use our basic test kits to test the water quality. We need more people to monitor, and no experience is necessary. Training is provided.

Please join us for our meetings and programs! Meetings are held on the third Monday of March, August, September and November in the Township Building at 7:30 PM. Most programs are also held at the Township Building and the dates and times are set out below. All meetings and programs are open to the public and are free of charge. Check the Thornhurst Bulletin Board for updates. For more information, please call Bonnie Smith at 570.472.3274 or e-mail NPCARE@att.net. New members are always welcome. For membership information go to www.northpoconocare.org. We need your support!

2016 Program Schedule

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| APRIL 23 | Earth Day Celebration! Join with our neighbors in Monroe County for a celebration at the Monroe Campus of Northampton Community College in Tannersville. Exhibits, Music, Give & Take, Games and much more! See details at Mcearthday.org , 10 AM to 4 PM. |
| May 16 | Who is Gifford Pinchot and Why is Our State Forest Named after Him? w/ Melody Remillard, Visitor Services Information Specialist, U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers National Historic Site, 7 PM |
| June 20 | What Fish and Wildlife are Telling Us About Global Warming w/ Ed Perry, National Wildlife Federation, 7 PM |
| July 18 | Marvelous Macroinvertebrates (Bugs!) in the Lehigh River w/ Biologist Joseph Kasulaitis @ Wincek Residence, 610 Old River Road, 6 PM. Great program for kids! |
| October 10 | The Wildlife Around Us - Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center will bring live birds of prey, mammals and other wildlife for you to experience up close. 7 PM. Great program for kids! |

North Pocono Cultural Society

The North Pocono Cultural Society meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 PM at the Moscow Borough Building, 123 Van Brunt Street, Moscow. Meetings are open to all interested North Pocono area residents or businesses. Watch for more information in the "Cultural Corner" section of *The Villager*.

For more information contact Frank Goryl, President, at 570.357.1627 or moscowarts2@yahoo.com.

The Old Time Fiddlers to Play July 29

Through grants from the Lackawanna County Department of Arts & Culture, Thornhurst and Clifton Townships have planned a cooperative event to feature the musical group, The Old Time Fiddlers at the Thornhurst Fire Hall on Friday, July 29. Doors open at 6:30 PM and the show will run from 7:30-9:30 PM. The Auxiliary will sell desserts. Bring a picnic dinner and relax at this family friendly event. Admission is free of charge. For more information, call June Eck at 570.842.3916.

Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co.

2016 Calendar of Events

The following events are organized by members of the Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co., Ambulance Squad, and Auxiliary.

Please help support the community through these fundraising efforts:

MARCH

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| 20 | Kids Easter Party (AUX) | 12-2PM |
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APRIL

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| 16 | Hoagie Sale (FIRE) on Trout Opening Day (Pre-order & Pick-up/Eat-in) | 6AM-2PM |
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| 16 | Boot Drive (AMB) | 6AM-12PM |
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MAY

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| 7 | Night @ the Races (AUX) BYOB & Free Snacks (Kitchen Open) Pre-purchase horses for \$10 each. Need not be present to win. Call Michelle Jordan to purchase a horse, 570.848.2759 | 6-10PM |
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JUNE

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| 12 | Golf Tournament (FIRE) (Rain Date: June 26) | 8AM-6PM |
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| 17 | Movie Night - Home (AUX) | 7-10PM |
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| 19 | Father's Day Breakfast (AMB) | 8:30-11AM |
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JULY

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| 9 | Designer Purse BINGO (AUX) | 7-10PM |
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AUGUST

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| 6 | Chicken BBQ Dinner (FIRE) (Eat-in or Take-out) | 4:30-7PM |
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| 19 | Kids Back to School BINGO (AUX) | 6-8PM |
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OCTOBER

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| 29 | Children's Halloween Party (AUX) | 7-9PM |
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NOVEMBER

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| 12 | Vendor Fair (AMB) | 10AM-3PM |
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DECEMBER

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| 10 | Kids Christmas Party (AUX) | 10AM-12PM |
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