



A Newsletter for Residents & Friends of Thornhurst, Pennsylvania

March 2017

Local Dive Team Has Increased Capability

Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company's dive team has been working hard to revitalize their capabilities over the last few years. A need for the effort was identified after they assessed the community's potential exposures vs. available resources. With only one other Lackawanna County dive team and countless river miles, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs in the service area, the need was clear.

A plan was put into motion, led by Dive Captain, Daniel Kasulaitis. The plan consisted of three goals: 1) Recruitment and retention of qualified divers; 2) Upgrade to the latest dive equipment to be able to perform underwater dive rescue in the safest, most efficient manner possible; and 3) Train, train, and train.

Starting with just two divers at the beginning of the initiative, the team currently consists of eight divers, three NAUI Dive Masters, one ERDI2 Public Safety Diver, four certified ice divers, and a Dive Rescue International Med Diver. Over the past three years, the fire company invested in the latest dive equipment, including full face dive masks with surface to diver communications, dry suits for all weather diving, an air cascade system to fill SCUBA cylinders, and dive computers. The team has logged over 1,500 training hours during the past three years, focusing on classes for certification, non-emergency public safety dives, and training dives.

This year training is taking the spotlight. Two dive team members are becoming dive instructors to offer initial and advancement certifications. Cost savings estimated at approximately \$10,000 will be realized by the fire company over time by having in-house training abilities.

Pictures and videos of public safety and training dives may be viewed on their Facebook page and YouTube Channel (search "Thornhurst Dive Team"). For more information, call 570.842.2335 or stop by the fire house Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM.

Pinchot State Forest Update

The Pinchot State Forest, named for Gifford Pinchot (1865-1946) who was an American forester and politician, is open for many outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, bird watching, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling. All hunting rules established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission are applicable on State Forest land.

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 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 24 & 25

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 26. Call Joe Kasulaitis at 570.842.6524 for more information.

Dumpsters Available to Residents May 4 - 6

Dumpsters will be located at the Fire House from Thursday, May 4 through Saturday, May 6, from 8 AM - 8 PM daily. The site will close on Saturday when the dumpsters are filled to capacity.

Each household is limited to four free car tires. Extra car tires are \$2.00 and tractor trailer tires are \$6.50. Prices are the same for tires on or off rims. No machine tires larger than tractor trailer tires will be accepted.

Electronic items will be accepted this year. TVs must be whole. No building/construction waste will be accepted. The fee for disposing of items containing freon is \$20.00.

Thornhurst Township

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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 570.234.4591

Building Inspector

Building Inspector Underwriters
Aaron Palaskas 570.335.5917

Auditors

Michelle Jordan
Ken Kaspriskie
Candice Dibble

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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David Bentler
Donald Wombacker

Emergency Management Coordinators

James Howley 570.842.9412
Scott Jordan 570.983.8682

Newsletter & Website Editor

Chris Carroll 570.575.3028

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

A Message from the Thornhurst Township Board of Supervisors

IMPORTANT ORDINANCE & WEBSITE CHANGES

The Township is in the process of making adjustments to its web site. The changes will allow you to access the Township ordinances more easily. Upon entering the Township, at all access points, there is signage that informs you we are a zoned community. Easier access to the ordinances will allow residents to better understand our regulations. The new version of the website will also be mobile-friendly, as we realize that more residents and visitors are seeking information on smartphones. We anticipate the new website being launched in the coming months with a seamless transition.

The history of the area as a rural hunting, fishing, and camping destination has left its marks. We have made many changes regarding what activities are acceptable, and where they are acceptable. If you reside in an organized development, the guidelines of that community govern what will be allowed, unless the standard is more liberal than the Township's for the same activity, structure, and appearance.

Absentee owners are many times unaware of what activity is taking place on their property. This does not reduce the liability of the owner. If it becomes necessary for fines and legal action on a property, the owner is the responsible party. When the cost remains unpaid or ignored, a lien can be placed against the property. This not only affects new construction, but long term residents who ignore rules for any additions or changes on their property.

There are guidelines for campers, trailers, hook up to septic systems, and the number of unlicensed vehicles on the site. We ask all residents prior to taking steps to build, place, or add anything to your lot or home, to check the website or call the zoning or building inspector listed on the newsletter. Permits are required for additions, septic changes, sheds, and garages, and there are location requirements for sheds, pools, garages, and fences. It is your responsibility to check the necessary requirements. Find out prior to any actions or you may end up with legal costs. It is better to clear up any questions prior to making expenditures. If something is unclear, you are welcome to come to meeting, call, or check the website, and you will have your questions answered.

The Township wishes to thank the Thornhurst Volunteer Fire Company, 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 11th Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade will be held on Tuesday, 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 570.983.8682.

Thornhurst Historical Committee

The Thornhurst Historical Committee is interested in collecting old photos, postcards, and 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 10th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the cemetery on Monday, May 29 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 20 at 11 AM (raindate is May 27). Please remove all seasonal decorations. Anyone interested in helping with the clean-up or ceremony, call Pat Wincek at 570.842.3353.

History of Thornhurst Published

Long-time resident Jim Howley is the author of *Thornhurst and the Upper Lehigh River*, a compilation of stories about early industry in Thornhurst and the surrounding communities along the river. Originally published in 2001, the book is on its third printing and contains additional content, including photos. To purchase the book, contact Jim at 570.842.9412. The cost is \$30.00.

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 2017 beginning on March 9 at the Thornhurst Fire House from approximately 2-3 PM. Call 570.348.3000 ext. 3000 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 4:00 PM with confessions heard at 3:30 PM or upon request. The Mass schedule changes to Saturdays at 4:00 PM and Sundays at 8:30 AM from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Look for our new web page 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. or March)
2nd Wednesday of every month at 7 PM

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

Friday, Fellowship, Food & Fun
4th Sunday of every month at 1:00 PM

2017 Calendar of Events

March	Easter Eggs (while supplies last) Cost: \$5.00/Box of 6 eggs Peanut Butter, Butter Cream or Coconut Cream	
April 22 & Oct. 14	Pork 'N' Kraut Dinner Cost: \$10.00	4-7 PM
July 29	Blueberry Festival	9 AM-3 PM
Sept. 16	Pasta Dinner	4-7 PM
Nov. 25	Christmas Bazaar	9 AM-3 PM

Call 570.842.2810 or 570.842.9350 for info.
Email: ThornhurstUMC@gmail.com

Help Protect 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. Their goal is to maintain the exceptional fishing, swimming, and boating as well as clean drinking water for all.

Everyone is encouraged to be good observers of the waters around them. 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 or other developments may be impacting our streams. Volunteers are studying a few stream crossings regularly, with the assistance of a Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant and a William Penn Foundation grant, but there are many others to watch.

Want greater involvement? Use North Pocono CARE's basic kit to test the water quality. More people are needed to monitor and training is provided.

Please join us for our meetings and programs! Meetings are held on the third Monday of March, May, 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 listed 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, call Bonnie Smith at 570.472.3274 or e-mail NPCARE@att.net. New members are always welcome. For membership info, go to www.northpoconocare.org. We need your support!

2017 Program Schedule

- APRIL 10 Our Forests, the Threats to Their Health & Possible Remedies, presented by Tim Latz, Service Forester for Lackawanna County, Bureau of Forestry, at the Township Building, 7 PM
- APRIL 22 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, Games and much more! 10 AM to 4 PM See details at Mcearthday.org.
- JUNE 11 Over & Under Cleanup of Choke Creek Falls. Join the Thornhurst Vol. Fire & Rescue Co. Dive Team in this effort and enjoy a guided nature walk in Pinchot State Forest. 10 AM to 1 PM with refreshments!
- JUNE 19 Protecting the Pocono Plateau - One of the World's Last Great Places, presented by Bud Cook, Senior Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy, at the Township Building, 7 PM
- JULY 17 Marvelous Macroinvertebrates (Bugs!) in the Lehigh River, with Biologist Joseph Kasulaitis at the Wincek Residence, 610 Old River Road in Thornhurst, 6 PM. Great program for kids!
- AUGUST 21 Public Meeting focusing on the data from the study of transmission line impacts on Ash Creek, Choke Creek, Sand Spring Creek, and discussing possible mitigation measures, at the Thornhurst Fire House, 7 PM
- OCTOBER 9 Live Reptiles & Amphibians! WNEP-TV Pennsylvania Outdoor Life personality, Rick Koval, will bring live frogs, salamanders, snakes, and a turtle for you to experience up close, at the Thornhurst Fire House, 7 PM. Great program for kids!

North Pocono Cultural Society

The Cultural Society meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 PM at the Moscow Borough Building. Meetings are open to all interested North Pocono area residents or businesses. For more info contact Frank Goryl, President, at 570.357.1627 or moscowarts2@yahoo.com. Facebook: North Pocono Cultural Society.

Old Time Fiddlers Concert July 28

Through grants from the Lackawanna County Department of Arts & Culture, Thornhurst and Clifton Townships will sponsor this event at the Thornhurst Fire House. Doors open at 7 PM, show starts at 8 PM. Bring your own food and beverages. Desserts and coffee will be available. Admission is free of charge. For more information, call June Eck at 570.842.3916.

Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co.

2017 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:

APRIL

9 Kids Easter Party (AUX) 12-2PM

MAY

6 Night @ the Races (AUX) 6-10PM
BYOB & Free Snacks (Kitchen Open)
Pre-purchase horses for \$10 each by calling Michelle Jordan at 570.351.5203.
Need not be present to win.

JUNE

17 Guys BINGO (FIRE) 6-10PM

JULY

8 Designer Purse BINGO (AUX) 6-10PM

AUGUST

11 Kids Back to School BINGO (AUX) 6-8PM

OCTOBER

28 Kids Halloween Party (AUX) 7-9PM

DECEMBER

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

16 Santa Run (FIRE) 10AM-2PM

*Think about becoming
a volunteer...*

*Your support is needed
in many ways!*