



A Newsletter for Residents & Friends of Thornhurst, Pennsylvania

March 2021

More Than 500 Acres Added to Pinchot State Forest in North Pocono

The addition of more than 500 remote acres to the Pinchot State Forest will enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in the North Pocono area, state officials say. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently announced the acquisition of a 528-acre property known as the Blumer tract within the forest's Thornhurst section that expands the state forest to more than 49,635 acres.

The Blumer tract offers a chance for rustic wilderness experiences, with remote and primitive pockets. It is accessible by foot using the Pinchot Trail and Watres Loop Hiking Trail, or overland from Pittston Road.

The tract divides the Susquehanna and Lehigh River watersheds, and its donation to the DCNR by the nonprofit Conservation Fund will help bring protection to both. Part of the property drains into the Watres Reservoir, a public water supply, and part into a creek that feeds the exceptional value waters of the Upper Lehigh River.

"This is a great addition, especially now more than ever with the whole want and need to get outside and enjoy the outdoors," said Kyle Shenk, northeast regional director of the Conservation Fund. He called the tract an important piece for the state forest and its recreational offerings, including its outstanding trail system.

Source: Scranton Times-Tribune.

Pinchot State Forest Update

If you're looking for outdoor activities, the Pinchot State Forest offers a plethora of options to enjoy. The forest is open for many outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, bird watching, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. During the hunting seasons all rules established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission are applicable on State Forest land. The six campsites on the Thornhurst Tract saw significant usage this past year. For more information and to make reservations call the Pinchot State Forest Office at 570-945-7133. Hours are Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm.

Open fires are not permitted from March 1 through May 25. The use of the fire rings in the Manny Gordon Picnic State Forest Recreation Area and on designated campsites may be prohibited. 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

Due to the Coronavirus, events listed in this newsletter are subject to change.

Take Pride in Our Community

Dumpster Days May 13 - 15

Dumpsters will be available to residents only at the Fire House from 8am - 8pm daily. The site will close on Saturday when the dumpsters are filled to capacity. Proof of residency may be required.

This service is offered to help keep our area beautiful and should not be abused. It is meant for the removal of a reasonable amount of normal household trash. Anyone arriving with an excessive amount of trash may be turned away.

Each household is limited to four free car tires. Extra car tires are \$2.60 and tractor trailer tires are \$8.00. 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.

Road Cleanup Cancelled

Amid concerns about the potential spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its partners, the Pennsylvania Departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, are suspending their annual litter cleanup program, Pick Up Pennsylvania. Due to this, there will be no scheduled road cleanup this year.

Thornhurst Township

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

A Message from the Thornhurst Township Board of Supervisors

There is no denying this past year has altered many things. Adjustments in behaviors and schedules do not begin to describe the depth of life changes in so short a time. Many annual community events in the Township were cancelled or, if possible, redesigned to meet the new protocols. We must keep moving forward even if only with baby steps.

Our spring community cleanup will take place again this year. We ask for your cooperation with the program. We have never put limits on the volume of trash being disposed of by individuals, but we must remind you this service is for the entire community. Last year we had some people bring over five pickup truck loads of trash. This quantity of trash reduces the access for many others and is unacceptable. The workers at the site have been told if they believe there is an abuse of the opportunity that they may refuse to take the material. Time and dates are listed in this newsletter. Please refer to that schedule and to the list of unacceptable items. We have discontinued the document shredding due to a lack of interest.

The Township is adopting a new ordinance addressing short-term rentals in the Township. The work on this ordinance has been in the process for over a year. We have yet to receive the court decision concerning our lawsuit addressing zoning violations related to this subject. The new ordinance will require registration of short-term rentals within the Township and will be available for review shortly.

We are applying for a grant to readdress the need for funds to develop the park land on the river. The North Pocono CARE organization has agreed to assist in preparing the materials necessary for submission to the state.

Township Meeting Dates & Times

The Planning Commission meets at 7pm on the first Tuesday of March, May, September and November, with additional meetings as needed. The Board of Supervisors meets at 7:30pm 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 *Tri-County Independent*. Information about local events and other township news or activities is posted on the bulletin board outside of the building.

North Pocono Senior Center

The North Pocono Senior Center is closed until further notice. Call 570.843.6485 for more information. The Center is located at 10 Moffat Drive, Covington Township.

Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet is sponsored by a mission of the Daleville United Methodist Church. Free clothing is available for men, women and children in Bill's Shopping Plaza next to the laundromat. Donations of new or gently used, clean clothing and shoes will be appreciated and accepted Thursdays 11am-1:30pm and Saturdays 11am-1pm. For clothing needed in emergency situations, leave a message at 570.842.6776.

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 11:30am - 1pm. They are also open the first Wednesday of each month from 5-7pm. This time is only for the working poor, who must show proof of employment. For more info, or to determine eligibility for these services, call 570.842.4741.

Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade

The 13th Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade will be held on Sunday, July 4 at 2pm, beginning at the corner of Pine Grove and Bear Lake Roads, and will continue on Old River Road back to Pine Grove Road. Line up for participants will begin at 1pm 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 the 14th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the cemetery on Monday, May 31 at 11am, weather permitting. 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 22 at 1pm. Please remove all seasonal decorations. Anyone interested in helping with the clean-up or ceremony, call Jim Learn at 570.905.0364.

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 ages 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 is currently undergoing repairs and will not be available until further notice.

Call 570.348.3000 ext. 3000 or visit www.lclshome.org/bookmobile for more information. Hopefully this service will return to our area in the near future.

St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church News

Mass is celebrated Saturdays at 4pm with confessions heard at 3:15pm or upon request. The Mass schedule changes to Saturdays at 4pm and Sundays at 8:30am from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Watch 10:30am Sunday Mass live or view at a later time on the church Facebook page under Videos.

For more information about events or schedules, call 570.472.3061 or email stelimar@ptd.net. Visit www.churchofstelizabethstmark.org.

Thornhurst United Methodist Church News

Worship Service: Sundays in person at 9am or via Zoom at 11am (call for link)

United Methodist Women group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm

2021 Calendar of Events

May 1	Pork 'N' Kraut Dinner Cost: \$10.00	4-7pm
July 31	Blueberry Festival, Flea Market, Vendors & Food Available	8am-2pm
Oct. 9	Pork 'N' Kraut Dinner Cost: \$10.00	4-7pm
Nov. 27	Christmas Bazaar Christmas Items & Food	9am-3pm

Call 570.842.1434 or 570.842.9350 for info.
Rev. Donald DeGroat 570.646.9298
Email: ThornhurstUMC@gmail.com

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan consists of four phases. Currently, at the time of this publication, we are in phase 1A. This consists of mostly health care workers, people over the age of 65, and those with particular high risk health conditions.

To see if you are eligible to receive the vaccine at this time, go to: <https://covidportal.health.pa.gov/s/Your-Turn>. If it is your turn, you will be able to see a list of facilities administering the vaccines.

North Pocono CARE - Protecting the Lehigh River Headwaters

North Pocono CARE was formed 25 years ago to address threats to the pristine water quality of the Lehigh River. It has worked successfully to combat pollution from sewage plants, industrial parks, and other sources, and it has put in place the highest level of protection for the Lehigh River and its tributaries, as Exceptional Value waters. It has worked with The Nature Conservancy and others to add more woodlands to the Pinchot State Forest and State Game Lands and more water access to the Lehigh River and Choke Creek.

It is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, with teams testing water quality, addressing threats to clean water, working on grants, and providing community environmental programs. We always welcome input and participation from area residents.

The Lehigh River is the lifeblood of our community, and the abundant forests and wetlands are critical to protecting its water quality. It provides exceptional fishing, swimming, and boating as well as clean drinking water for all. It is our goal to maintain this wonderful resource for future generations.

For the second half of 2021, NPC will offer a variety of free programs, open to all. Membership and pre-registration are not required. For updates, check the Thornhurst Bulletin Board or our website www.northpoconocare.org. For more information, call Bonnie Smith at (570) 472-3274, Joan Halle at (570) 842-9120, or e-mail NPCARE@att.net. Our schedule may change due to COVID-19 restrictions.

New members are always welcome. Regular meetings will be held on June 15 and November 15 in the Thornhurst Township Building, 356 Old River Road, at 7 PM. For membership information, go to www.northpoconocare.org. NPC needs your support!

2021 Programs

July 19 - Marvelous Macroinvertebrates (Bugs!) in the Lehigh River. Biologist Joseph Kasulaitis will lead us in finding and identifying the bugs that fish eat. Wincek Residence, 610 Old River Road, Thornhurst, 6 PM. Bring wading shoes and a towel. Great program for kids!

Aug. 14 - A Saturday Walk at the Thomas Darling Preserve in Blakeslee with herbalist Nathaniel Whitmore will interest all outdoor enthusiasts! Meet at the trailhead on Burger Road, off Route 115 at 10 AM. Carpooling encouraged.

Sept. 20 - What's with Those Insects? Find out from the experts the latest on invasive insects and what we can do to protect our plants and trees. Township Building, 7 PM.

Oct. 11 - Wildlife Around Us. Angela and Shane of Second Chance Wildlife Center will bring several native animals to help people of all ages gain a better understanding of wildlife and how we should safely interact with our wild neighbors. Thornhurst Fire House, 351 Old River Rd., 7 PM. Great program for families!

Dec. 13 - Holiday Gathering. The community is invited to an open house to celebrate the season. Potluck snacks and desserts. Township Building, 5 - 7:30 PM.

Thornhurst Vol. Fire & Rescue Co.

We would like to extend our thoughts with each and every one in our coverage area. We know that the last year has been rough on us all, we all have felt the effects of this pandemic in one way or another. Before you know it, we will be resuming our daily lives as if nothing ever happened. Remember that this is temporary, but let's make the best of it. Today is a great day to make that phone call to someone you have not spoken to in a while. We are sure that they have thought the same about you. Let's reconnect with ourselves and discover what strengths we have inside to weather the rest of this storm. We can't wait for the day when we can see your smiling face, yes - your entire face. Until then, stay healthy and stay happy. Special shout out to those on the front lines fighting in places where no one else wants to go.

Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co.

2021 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.

Due to the threat of the Coronavirus, these events are subject to change.

APRIL

- 1 Tech & Tools Drawing (FIRE)
In place of BINGO, a drawing will be held for items that have been donated.
See Facebook page for more info.

AUGUST

- 29 Back-to-School BINGO (AUX) 7-9pm
& Ice Cream Social

OCTOBER

- 23 Kids Halloween Party (AUX) 6-8pm
& Halloween House Contest
See Facebook page for more info.

DECEMBER

- 11 Kids Christmas Party (AUX) 10am-12pm
& Holiday House Contest
See Facebook page for more info.

During the year, we ask that you keep an eye on our signage and our Facebook page for updates to our events.

Children's parties are scheduled above, but are subject to change due to current conditions. A few of our events will be virtual this year on our Facebook page.

Our Facebook group can be found at TVFRC - Thornhurst Vol Fire and Rescue Co.

For more information about these events, please call the station at 570-842-2335 or email tvfrcevents@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!