



A Newsletter for Residents & Friends of Thornhurst, Pennsylvania

March 2022

Riverfront Park Will Be A Reality

One year ago, the Township distributed postcards asking residents whether they wanted a community park by the Lehigh River and, if so, what was important to have in the park. A high percentage of residents filled out the postcards and clearly said that they want a park with access to the Lehigh River. They want to see the River, fish in the River, picnic by the River, and want it to be accessible to all.

The Township was able to secure funds through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The first phase of the park will provide a road and pathway to the River, both handicap accessible, as well as handicap accessible parking, picnic tables and other amenities. It will also include the necessary stormwater controls, including a rain garden of native shrubs and perennial plants to be designed and built by volunteers of North Pocono CARE as an in-kind gift. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the rain garden, please e-mail NPCARE@att.net.

The Park will be on land along Old River Road near the Luzerne County line. It is the site of a former sand and gravel operation, and before that a camp. The Township acquired the land in 2006 and a committee of residents worked on a plan to turn the land into a park. Supervisors approved the plan in 2011, but there were no funds to build it. The recent grant will allow the Township to develop the first phase of that plan - access to the River.

When will the Park be a reality? It is hard to say! It takes a surprising amount of work to create a park! Most of the grading and construction will occur in 2023 and hopefully access will be allowed shortly thereafter. If you want to take an exploratory walk on the site, join North Pocono CARE on May 28.

Pinchot State Forest Update

The Pinchot (formerly Lackawanna) State Forest has been in your backyard since 1902. 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.

Visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us to view the Calendar of Events for upcoming interpretive programs in the District or to register as a conservation volunteer. 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

Road Cleanup April 25 & 26

Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering for the road clean-up in the community on April 25 and 26. Meet at the Township Building at 5pm. Later enjoy pizza, soda and dessert at the Fire House. Call Joe Kasulaitis at 570.842.6524 for more information.

Dumpster Days May 12-14

Dumpsters will be available to residents only at the Fire House May 12-14 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 allowed four free car tires. Extra car tires are \$3.25 each, on or off rims. No truck or machine tires will be accepted.

Electronic items will be accepted this year. TVs must be whole. No building/construction waste will be accepted.

**“WITHOUT A SENSE OF CARING,
THERE CAN BE NO SENSE
OF COMMUNITY.”**

- Anthony J. D'Angelo

Thornhurst Township

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TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

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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

In addition to COVID delaying many aspects of life, it has impacted the church project. We have grants and committed Township funds, but supply problems and inflation created new issues. Bids initially received were five and six times more than the original estimates due to the increased cost of building materials. In order to move forward in a responsible manner, we needed to change our approach. We are working with our engineering firm to establish plans addressing the project in phases. We are reissuing the bid request that reflects the new approach. Drew Wagner, Thornhurst Volunteer Fire Co. Chief and an engineer by profession, has assisted the Township with the initial grant request and again with extension requests. His assistance has been critical to this project.

Our spring cleanup is scheduled again for this year and the details are in this publication. Please consider clearing your property of unused or broken items and take advantage of this opportunity to dispose of them. Your cooperation with the workers at the dumpsters is key to the Township continuing to offer this service.

A major change for the better is that North Pocono CARE organization has volunteered to oversee the park project. You will find details in this newsletter. This is an important step to ensure the longevity of the project and making the resources available to the community for years to come.

The Board has passed a Short-Term Rental Ordinance. If you are considering renting your home on a short-term basis, it is critical to familiarize yourself with the requirements and follow the guidelines. Consult the Zoning Ordinance to verify that you're in a zone that allows short-term rentals. Ordinances are on the website at www.thornhursttwp.com/ordinances/. Also, be sure your septic system is adequate. Note that short-term rentals are not allowed in Thornhurst Country Club Estates or Pine Grove Acres.

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 and Saturdays from 11am-1pm. Do not leave clothes when no one is there to accept them. For clothing needed in emergency situations, leave a message at 570.842.6776.

North Pocono Food & Dry Goods 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 5-6:30pm. Proof of NP residency is required. For more info, or to determine eligibility for these services, call 570.842.4741.

Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade

The 14th Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade will be held on Monday, 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 with a goal of preserving as much history as possible about the people and places that shaped the community. Items will find a forever home in the future Thornhurst Historical Center. They can include fliers, programs, souvenirs, bar memorabilia, family and business histories, awards, and newspaper clippings. Copies are preferred unless originals do not need to be returned. Call Pat Wincek at 570.842.3353 if you have items or information to share.

Pine Grove Cemetery News

A clean-up will be held on Sunday, May 22 at 12pm. Please remove all seasonal decorations. Anyone interested in helping with the clean-up, please 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.

North Pocono Public Library

Use your library card or stop in to register for a free library card to check out books, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs, and CDs for children, teens, and adults. The Library is open Monday-Thursday, 9am-7pm, Friday-Saturday 9am-5pm. Free use of computers and Wi-Fi are provided. For more information or to register for programs and special events, call 570.842.4700, visit lclshome.org/north, or search North Pocono Public Library on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & LinkedIn.

St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church News

Mass is celebrated Saturdays at 4pm with confessions heard at 3:30pm 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

Calendar of Events

Homemade soups and baked goods are sold every second Saturday of the month.

March 11	Chocolate Easter Egg Sale Begins	
April 9	Pork 'N' Kraut Dinner	4-6pm
June 24 & 25	Rummage Sale	9am-4pm
July 30	Blueberry Festival, Flea Market, Vendors & Food Available	8am-2pm
Oct. 8	Pork 'N' Kraut Dinner	4-6pm
Nov. 26	Christmas Bazaar Christmas Items & Food	9am-2pm

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

The SILVERS Series

The Lackawanna County Elder Justice Multidisciplinary Team works collaboratively to address cross-system elder justice issues in the County to detect abuse, educate stakeholders, identify system weaknesses in mitigating abuse and share solutions. They provide a monthly education series for older adults, caregivers, and those looking to plan for their own senior years called The SILVERS Series. Topics include isolation, safety, lifelong planning, aging in place, abuse, scams and exploitation.

Events will be held virtually with the hope of moving to an in-person presentation in the coming months. Email ejmdt@lackawannacounty.org or call 570.963.6740 ext. 1438 for more information.

North Pocono CARE - Protecting the Lehigh River Headwaters

North Pocono CARE was formed more than two decades 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, 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 2022, NPC will offer a variety of FREE programs, open to all. Membership and pre-registrations are not required. For updates, check the Thornhurst Bulletin Board or our website www.northpoconocare.org. Our schedule may change due to health restrictions.

New members are always welcome. Access information about our meetings and how to become a member through the North Pocono CARE Website, www.northpoconocare.org. North Pocono CARE needs your participation and support!

2022 Programs

May 28 - A Walk in the Park! Join us as we explore the future location of the Thornhurst park along the Lehigh River, where the proposed NPC rain garden will aid in protecting the River. Meet at Thornhurst Fire House parking area, 351 Old River Rd. at 10 AM to carpool.

June 18 - Julian Maza, Service Forester, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Pinchot Forest District will lead a Saturday exploration of the health and condition of our local forests. Check NPC website for location. Meet at 10 AM.

July 18 - Marvelous Macroinvertebrates (Bugs!) in the Lehigh River. This year we'll have a guest biologist who 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. Wonderful program for kids and families!

Aug. 15- Improving your property! Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards will lead a discussion on how to make your property more watershed friendly. Find out what we can plant in our yards that prevent runoff into our waterways and create a habitat for wildlife. 7 PM at the Thornhurst Township Building.

Sept. 17 - At 10 AM, Naturalist Jane Frye will lead outdoor explorers on a 4-mile Saturday walk at the Bear Creek Camp trails, a scenic and nature-lovers adventure with autumn foliage too! GPS address 3601 Bear Creek Blvd., Wilke-Barre for the turn leading to the Camp. Carpooling encouraged (meet at Township Building at 9:30 AM)

Oct. 10 - Up close and personal chance to visit with animals of our area with Catherine Uhler of the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center. Thornhurst Fire House, 351 Old River Rd., 7 PM. Great program for kids and families!

Dec. 12 - 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 Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co.

2022 Events

The following events are organized by members of the Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company and Auxiliary. Please help support the community through these fundraising efforts.

MARCH

18 Fish Fry (FIRE) 4-7pm

APRIL

10 Kids Easter Party (AUX) 12-2pm

MAY

7 Night at the Races (AUX) 7-10pm
Doors open at 6pm

21 Tech & Tools BINGO (FIRE) 6-10pm
Doors open at 5pm
Must be age 18 or over to play

JUNE

18 Fire EXPO & Community Demonstration (FIRE) Time TBA
Fire Safety, Food, Activities & Tricky Trays

JULY

16 Designer Purse BINGO (AUX) 6-10pm
Doors open at 5pm
Must be age 18 or over to play

AUGUST

13 Family Fun Day (AUX) 1-4pm
Face Painting, Ice Cream
Magician & Activities

SEPTEMBER

3 Gun BINGO (FIRE) Starts at 4pm
Doors open at 3pm
Tickets \$50.00
Must be age 18 or over to play

17 Farm to Table Dinner (AUX) 6-10pm
Must be age 21 or over to attend

OCTOBER

29 Kids Halloween Party (AUX) 6-8pm

NOVEMBER

26 Santa Run (FIRE) 10-3pm
Visiting Through Town on Fire Truck
Route to be Posted on Facebook

DECEMBER

10 Kids Christmas Party (AUX) 10am-12pm

See Facebook page for more info.