



A Newsletter for Residents & Friends of Thornhurst, Pennsylvania

March 2023

Junior Volunteers Needed for Fire Co.

The Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company has a junior firefighter program and is seeking teens aged 14 to 17 to help continue this vital service to our community. In the 1970s there were approximately 300,000 volunteer fire fighters in Pennsylvania, today we are down to 38,000 volunteers. PA has nearly 2,500 fire companies in the state, supported 90% by volunteers. The volunteer companies save the Commonwealth \$10 billion dollars annually.

The Fire Co. was established in 1967 and has been all-volunteer since then. At that time the closest fire company was Gouldsboro Vol. Fire Co. and it would take 30 minutes or more to get to Thornhurst for an emergency. The next generation is needed to keep the Fire Co. going today and in the future. It takes a special person to become a volunteer. It means a lot to give of yourself for your community.

The Fire Co. complies with the Commonwealth of PA Child Labor Laws regarding its junior firefighters. Parents or guardians need to sign a permission paper and membership application to enroll. Volunteers learn aspects of service such as fire suppression, vehicle rescue, wildland fire fighting, search and rescue. They learn about teamwork, responsibility, and gain self-confidence. Training is important to keep up with the latest information and technology in Emergency Services. The Fire Co. provides and pays for training and issues firefighting gear and other equipment. Not everyone wants to be an active firefighter and there are many other jobs that need volunteers, such as fundraising, equipment maintenance, building and ground maintenance.

If interested, visit the station on Wednesday nights at 7 PM and meet some of the members. Training is held on Tuesday nights and work/maintenance on Wednesday nights. Contact Assistant Chief Dan Serfass at 570-499-5115 for more info.

Pinchot State Forest Update

The Pinchot State Forest has been in your backyard since 1902. Whether you enjoy walking, hiking, camping, bird watching or winter activities like snowmobiling and cross-country skiing, the state forest offers it all. One change for 2023 and moving forward is that designated campsites that provide a table and fire ring now require a permit for a nominal fee.

During the hunting seasons, all 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 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 interpretive programs or to register as a conservation volunteer, or call 570-945-7133. Hours are Monday through Friday 8am-4pm. 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 17 & 18

Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering for the road clean-up in the community on April 17 and 18. 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 11-13

Dumpsters will be available to residents only at the Fire House May 11-13 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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www.ThornhurstTwp.com
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Join us on Facebook @ Thornhurst Township

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Secretary/Treasurer	
Kim Grab	570.842.4273
Roadmaster	
Scott Jordan	570.983.8682
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
Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer	
George Stefanski	570.290.0996
Building Inspector	
Building Inspector Underwriters	
George Stefanski	570.290.0996
Constable	
Jeffrey LeClair	570.650.1122
Short-term Rental Enforcement	
Jim Learn	570.905.0364
Auditors	
Michelle Jordan, Ron Mateyka & Candice Dibble	
Supervisors	
Elaine Evans, Chair	570.842.7032
Scott Jordan	570.983.8682
Charles Stout	570.842.4303
Planning Commission	
Will Evans, Chair	570.842.7032
Bonnie Smith, Vice-Chair	570.472.3274
Frank Repholz, Jr.	
David Berry	
Patricia Wincek	
Zoning Hearing Board	
Joseph Kasulaitis, Chair	570.842.6524
Donald Wombaker	
Bob Hayward	
Emergency Management Coordinator	
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

This past year has been one of contrasts. We moved along on some projects, but on others we are at the mercy of our contractors. Two significant ordinances have been passed. One involves Solar Farms and the second Short-term Rentals. The Short-term Rental ordinance does not include Thornhurst Country Club Estates. The guidelines in existence at the Country Club supersede those of the Township unless they are less stringent.

We have been fortunate in that two residents have expressed an interest in overseeing the Short-term Rental ordinance. The board appreciates any resident's interest in the Township's activities. Jim Learn and David Keiper have been attending the meetings and participating in the discussions on actions being considered. Jim will be the primary contact for the short-term rentals. Problems are always solved more quickly if you have checked the ordinance that addresses your particular issue and are only concerned with clarity. We are presently engaged with a short-term rental issue in PA Superior Court. We will defend our ordinances and actions. All township ordinances are available for review on the Township website at www.thornhursttwp.com/ordinances/.

Lehigh Riverfront Park Update

It is true that the Riverfront Park land looks about the same as it did a year ago. Behind the scenes, however, many steps have been taken to make the Park a reality. The township's engineers have been working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Lackawanna County Conservation District to refine the Park plan, making it a good fit for the unique environmental conditions on the site. This will highlight passive recreational activities such as picnicking, fishing, and kayaking access. The updated Park plan will be available soon and The Township will make it available for review and public comment this spring.

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 Community Senior Center, located at 10 Moffat Drive, Covington Township, is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am-3pm. Mondays: Dominoes, games, etc. Tuesdays: Twice a month are movie days and crafts. Wednesdays: Bingo or pinochle tournaments. The also host holiday parties, luncheons, and birthday celebrations. As membership builds, short trips may be included as activities. Call 570.843.6485 for more information.

North Pocono Kids Closet

The North Pocono Kids Closet supplies free clothing to area children in need. Donations of new or gently used shoes and sneakers of any size, as well as socks and underwear, are needed. To make a donation or an appointment, call Sara Keating at 570.689.4383.

North Pocono Food Pantry

The North Pocono Food Pantry is located in the Shop-Rite Plaza in Daleville next to the Tasty Swirl ice cream shop and is open every Thursday from 11:30am - 1pm. Proof of NP School District full-time residency is required. Dry goods donations are appreciated. For more info, or to determine eligibility for this service, call 570.842.4741.

Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade

The 15th Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade will be held on Tuesday, 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 21 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

The late Jim Howley, a long-time resident, authored *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 fourth printing and contains additional content, including photos. To purchase the book, contact Dawn Werner at 570.704.7735. 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. To keep Pennsylvanians in their homes for as long as possible, residents who are 60 years of age or older may be eligible for in-home and community based services such as Adult Day Care, Transportation, Home-Delivered Meals, Personal Care Services, Home Modifications, and Care Management. An assessment will be completed to determine need and eligibility. There may be a cost-share applied to these services. For more information, contact the Area Agency on Aging at 570.963.6740.

ACE of NEPA Launches Free Ride Program

The increase in gas prices highlights the many transportation obstacles people face in Lackawanna County. The Agency for Community Empowerment of Northeastern Pennsylvania has launched a new Rise & Ride program to help people be self-sufficient by getting them to work or medical appointments. ACE can chauffeur qualifying residents to essential places within 30 minutes of their home for free. For more information, call 570.963.6836 x2226.

North Pocono Public Library

Use your library card or stop in to register for a free 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

We welcome all to our faith filled Roman Catholic community. Our Church building is bright and spacious with air conditioning for the warmer days. The Church is located at 1052 Bear Lake Road in Thornhurst.

Mass at St. Mark's is celebrated Saturdays at 4pm. Sundays at 8:30am is added from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Mass at St. Elizabeth of Hungary is celebrated Saturdays at 6pm and Sundays at 10:30am at 5700 Bear Creek Blvd., Bear Creek, PA 18602. CCD classes meet at St. Elizabeth location Sundays at 9:15am. Call to register for CCD.

Find us on Facebook @ The Roman Catholic Community of St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Mark. 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

Sunday Worship Service is held at 9am.

United Methodist Church Women's group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

Calendar of Events

Homemade soups are sold the second Saturday of each month from 11am to 1pm.

March 4	Chocolate Easter Egg Sale Begins	
April 22	Pork 'N' Kraut Dinner	4-6pm
June 23 & 24	Rummage Sale	9am-4pm
July 29	Blueberry Festival, Flea Market, Vendors & Food Available	8am-2pm
Oct. 14	Pork 'N' Kraut Dinner	4-6pm
Nov. 26	Christmas Bazaar Christmas Items & Food	9am-2pm

Call 570.842.1434 for more info.
Email: ThornhurstUMC@gmail.com

SILVERS Series

The Lackawanna County Elder Justice Multidisciplinary Team works collaboratively to address 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. 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 2023, 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!

2023 Programs

All programs are FREE and open to the public.
Please check our website www.northpoconocare.org
or e-mail NPCARE@att.net for updates.

May 20 - 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. Meet at 10 AM at the corner of Tannery Road and Phelps Road in Thornhurst Tract of the Pinchot Forest. PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR MAP TO LOCATION.

June 3 - TBD - Please check the Website for updates.

July 17 - 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!

Sept. 10 - Michael P. Leggiero, Biologist Surveillance and Enforcement Section Pocono Area Field Office, will lead a walk through the Thornhurst Riverfront Park. Michael is an expert in wetlands and will discuss how to recognize wetland areas and how important they are to maintaining our Exceptional Value Waters in our watershed. 12 Noon at Thornhurst Riverfront Park On Old River Rd.

Oct. 7 - Frank Disteffano will lead an evening of learning about moths and caterpillars the Pinchot State Forest Manny Gordon Recreation Area. 6:00 PM. RAIN DATE October 8th. PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR MAP TO LOCATION

After a presentation, we'll spend time outdoors to view these beauties of nature and discuss the best methods and conditions for attracting moths. A retired research chemist and materials engineer, Frank DiStefano began photographing moths twelve years ago, after similar enchantments with butterflies, dragonflies, and native orchids. He found moths to offer several advantages to the photographer. Most moths are readily attracted with light or bait. They are easy to photograph close-up, as they land still and flat-winged (butterflies move around more and tend to fold their wings closed). Frank has travelled to numerous locations in the U.S. and has been to Costa Rica fifteen times in pursuit of his passion.

Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co.

2023 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

24 Fish Fry Take-Out 4-7pm

APRIL

1 Trout Opening Day Boot Drive 6-11am

2 Kids Easter Party 10am-12pm

15 Trivia Night & Food 7pm

MAY

6 Night at the Races 6-10pm

Doors open at 5pm

Must be age 18 or over to bet

20 Tech & Tools BINGO 5-10pm

Doors open at 4pm

Must be age 18 or over to play

JULY

8 Designer Purse BINGO 6-10pm

Doors open at 5pm

Must be age 18 or over to play

SEPTEMBER

2 Gun BINGO 4-10pm

Doors open at 3pm

Must be age 18 or over to play

23 Chicken BBQ Take-Out 4-7pm

OCTOBER

TBA Comedy Night Time TBA

28 Kids Halloween Party 6-8pm

NOVEMBER

25 Santa Run 10am-2pm

Visiting Through Town on Fire Truck

Route to be Posted on Facebook

DECEMBER

9 Kids Christmas Party 10am-12pm

During the year, keep an eye on our signage and Facebook page for updates to our events. 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!