



A Newsletter for Residents & Friends of Thornhurst, Pennsylvania

March 2024

Fire Co. Welcomes Junior Members

Over the past few years, The Thornhurst Volunteer Fire Company has started a strong Junior Firefighter program. Junior Firefighters are a great asset to the fire company and community. They are an integral part of their team and assist at emergency scenes, train, and help out around the station. The program offers free training, free uniforms, and members learn how to be part of a team. Some junior members continue their journey and become active firefighters once they turn 18. There are also many doors that are opened for junior firefighters. There are grants that are available specifically for firefighters to continue their education in the fire service and obtain firefighting related degrees. There are also careers available for paid firefighters around the world which accept many of the certificates obtained through their training programs. It also looks great on a resume or job application. The sky is truly the limit for these young individuals. If you are interested in becoming a member of the team, please stop down at the station any Wednesday evening at 7:30pm or reach out to them at pres54@ptd.net.

Pinchot State Forest Update

The Pinchot State Forest has been in your backyard since 1902. It's time to take advantage of the benefits that the forest has to offer. Whether you enjoy walking, hiking, camping, bird watching or winter activities like snowmobiling and cross-country skiing, the state forest offers it all.

The forest is open for all these activities and many more. One change for the 2024 season and moving forward is that the designated campsites in Thornhurst that provide a table and fire ring for your convenience now require a permit and the payment of a nominal fee. Visit www.dcnr.state.pa.gov for more information. During the hunting seasons all rules established by the Pennsylvania Game Commission are applicable on State Forest land.

As a reminder, there is an annual fire season in the Pinchot State Forest and throughout the state on forest land. Open fires are not permitted from March 1st through May 25th regardless of the possibility of a rainy spring season. This includes a restriction on fires in the fire rings provided on the designated campsites in the Manny Gordon State Forest Recreation area and the Thornhurst Tract. Also, the District Forester can declare a restriction on open fires, when the forest fire danger is determined by the Department to be high, very high or extreme. Please contact the District Office with any questions regarding fires. Pinchot State Forest office hours are Monday through Friday 8am-4pm. The phone number is 570-945-7133.

Visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us to view the Calendar of Events for interpretive programs or register as a conservation volunteer. If you are interested in being a part of the Forest Stewardship program, call the district office. 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 15 & 16

Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering for the road clean-up in the community on April 15 and 16. 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 9-11

Dumpsters will be available to residents only at the Fire House May 9-11 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. Tractor trailer tires are \$9.00 each.

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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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

Short-Term Rental Enforcement

Preferred Mgmt. Associates 570.795.4772

Auditors

Michelle Jordan, Ron Mateyka
& Candice Dibble

Supervisors

Elaine Evans, Chair 570.842.7032

Scott Jordan 570.983.8682

Jimmy Learn 570.905.0364

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

Fortunately 2023 was a good one for the Township. Significant progress on the old church building and the park site was achieved. Projects that are tied to grants and to time lines carry additional layers of details and accountability. Constant personnel changes for the contractors is also not a positive. We have moved forward on both projects. This push forward was assisted by the participation of many residents in the Township including Kim Grab, Bonnie Smith, Drew Wagner, Scott Jordan, Charlie Stout, Elaine Evans, Jimmy Learn, the Planning Commission and Barry Isett Engineering staff (thank you Amos).

Many programs are organized and run by residents. We would like to thank Joe Kasulaitis, who recognizes a need and addresses it. For decades he has run the Spring road clean-up. Details are in the newsletter.

The recent election has resulted in a change on the Board of Supervisors. Charlie Stout decided he needed a break after being on the board for 30 years. The Board members want to thank Charlie for his commitment to the Township and to wish him the best moving forward. The recent election resulted in the election of Jimmy Learn as Supervisor. Jimmy has been involved in the short-term rental program. That program will now be handled by Preferred Management Associates. All questions, guidelines and problems must be addressed with Preferred Management. The Township Officials list in this newsletter contains officials by responsibility with their phone numbers. You will get answers more quickly if you call the appropriate individual.

Lehigh Riverfront Park Progress

The Riverfront Park has been in the works for many years. In 2022, the Township was able to secure grant funds for the first phase of the Park, which will provide a road and walkway to the River, handicap accessible parking and picnic tables, as well as other amenities. It will also include the necessary stormwater controls, including a rain garden of native shrubs and perennial plants to be built by North Pocono CARE volunteers as an in-kind contribution. The Township is now at the point of applying for the necessary permits to make the Park a reality. The permitting process will take place in 2024, with most of the construction slated for 2025.

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 *Scranton Times*. 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 6 John J. Michaels 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.

Clothes Closet Boutique

The Clothes Closet Boutique is located next to the barber shop and laundromat in Bill's Shop-Rite Plaza in Covington Township and is open Thursdays and Saturdays, from 9am to 1pm for customers and drop offs of clean and gently used clothing, shoes, purses and small household items. All items are free to the community.

North Pocono Food & Dry Goods Pantries

The North Pocono Food & Dry Goods Pantries are located in the Shop-Rite Plaza next to the Tasty Swirl ice cream shop. Hours are 1st Wednesday of the month from 5-6:30pm and every Thursday from 11:30am-1pm. Families can visit the Food Pantry twice a month and the Dry Goods Pantry once a month. Donations may be dropped off on Thursdays from 8:30-11am. Proof of North Pocono School District full-time residency is required. Pantries are closed when schools are closed.

Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade

The 16th Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade will be held on Thursday, 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 perserving 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 memorabiia, 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 19 at 11am. Please remove all seasonal decorations. Anyone interested in helping with the clean-up, please call Jimmy 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. As assessment will be completed to dertermine 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 chauffer 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 and Sundays at 8:30am year round, weather permitting. Mass at St. Elizabeth of Hungary is celebrated Saturdays at 6pm and Sundays at 10:30am at 5700 Bear Creek Blvd. in Bear Creek. (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 Hungry 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 11:30am.

United Methodist Church Women's group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

Calendar of Events

Homemade soups and desserts are sold the second Saturday each month from 11am-1pm.

April 13	Pork 'N' Kraut Dinner	4-6pm
June 21 & 22	Rummage Sale	9am-3pm
July 27	Blueberry Festival, Flea Market, Vendors & Food Available	8am-3pm
Oct. 26	Chicken & Biscuits Dinner	4-6pm
Nov. 30	Christmas Bazaar Christmas Items & Food	9am-3pm

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.



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. This all-volunteer nonprofit organization has worked successfully to prevent pollution from sewage plants, industrial parks, and other sources, and has put in place the highest level of protection for the upper Lehigh River and its tributaries, as Exceptional Value waters. These waters rank as some of the highest quality waters in Pennsylvania.

The Lehigh 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.

NPC volunteers are active in addressing threats to the Lehigh River and its tributaries, monitoring water quality, working on grants, and provides community environmental programs, such as those listed below. We always welcome input and participation from area residents. Information about our meetings and how to become a member is on the North Pocono CARE website, www.northpoconocare.org. Please join us! North Pocono CARE needs your participation and support!

For 2024, NPC will offer the following 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.

2024 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 4th 7:30pm - Marvelous Moths! Frank Disteffano, known as the "Moth Man" will lead an evening devoted to moths in the Pinchot State Forest Manny Gordon Recreation Area on Bear Lake Road. After a presentation, time will be spent viewing these beauties of nature and discuss the best way to attract moths. Bring a flashlight and wear sturdy shoes. RAIN DATE May 5th.

June 1st 11am-4pm - Trout Unlimited White Haven Trout Festival. Join the Western Pocono Chapter of TU and other organizations and individuals in celebrating the Lehigh River with informational displays, demonstrations, activities and food. The event is at the White Haven Library and Community Center, 121 Towanda Street. Come down and have a great time.

June 15th 11am - The Forest Around Us. Julian Maza, Service Forester, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Pinchot Forest District will lead a Saturday exploration and discussion of current forest management projects in the State Forest around us, including timber harvesting and managing invasive plants. Meet at the Pittston Road parking area off Bear Lake Road. Carpool from there.

July 15th 6pm - Marvelous Macroinvertebrates (Bugs!) in the Lehigh River. This year we'll have a guest biologist and Master Watershed Stewards guide us in finding and identifying the bugs that fish eat. Wincek Residence, 610 Old River Road, Thornhurst. Bring wading shoes and a towel. Wonderful program for kids and families!

October 14th 7pm - Live Birds of Prey and Mammals. Kathy Uhler of Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center will bring live birds of prey and wild animals for you to see up close. Thornhurst Fire House, 351 Old River Road. This popular program is great for kids and families.

Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co.

2024 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.

APRIL

20	Comedy Night	Time TBA
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MAY

4	Night at the Races Doors open at 5pm Must be 18 years old to play	6-10pm
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25	Tech & Tools BINGO Doors open at 4pm Must be 18 years old to play	5-10pm
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JUNE

22	Cash BINGO	Time TBA
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JULY

20	Designer Purse BINGO Doors open at 5pm Must be 18 years old to play	6-10pm
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AUGUST

TBA	Sportsmen's BINGO Doors open at 3pm Must be 18 years old to play	4-10pm
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SEPTEMBER

21	Trivia Night	Time TBA
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OCTOBER

26	Kids Halloween Party	6-8pm
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NOVEMBER

6	Beef Raffle	
29	Black Friday BINGO	Time TBA
30	Santa Run Visiting Through Town on a Fire Truck Route to be Posted on Facebook	10am-2pm

DECEMBER

14	Kids Christmas Party	10am-12pm
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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 & Rescue Co.

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

Thank you for your support!