



A Newsletter for Residents & Friends of Thornhurst, Pennsylvania

March 2026

Help Our Fire Co. Help You

The Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co. is looking for people to help them, to help you, at a time of need. Firefighters and volunteers are needed to help with fundraising, light vehicle maintenance, building and grounds upkeep. An active Auxiliary provides various free community events and fundraisers, such as Purse Bingo, and children's Halloween and Christmas parties. With help from the Auxiliary they were able to purchase tablets, life-saving AED devices, and trauma bags.

In 2025 our firefighters logged approximately 1,300 hours of in-house, local, state and federal training, attended classes throughout the state and out of state. They are updating and upgrading equipment, a very costly endeavor. They rely on their fund drive, fundraisers, local, state and federal grants. Grants are not guaranteed. The fire company was able to obtain a new digital sign for upcoming events. This was possible with financial assistance from the Thornhurst Township Supervisors and Peoples Security Bank & Trust in Covington.

Teens aged 14-17 can join the fire company as junior members and train with active fire fighters, gaining knowledge and skills in firefighting. Stop at the station on Tuesday or Wednesday nights at 7pm or talk to one of our members. Please follow us on Facebook for updates, events and our on-line raffles

Pinchot State Forest Update

Another year has passed at the Pinchot State Forest, attracting visitors for recreation and hunting. While most visits were without incident, there were situations that could have been prevented with proper planning and preparation. Search and rescue missions involved State Forest Officers, Pennsylvania State Police, Thornhurst Volunteer Fire Co. (and neighboring fire companies), Covington and Gouldsboro Ambulances. Responses occur day and night, regardless of weather.

To ensure a safe experience, bring paper maps of the location or save an offline map to your phone (a portable charger is also recommended). Carry extra water and food, wear appropriate clothing and footwear for conditions, and most importantly, let someone know your destination and expected return time.

A few places within the district that offer unique aspects are the Pocono Trail system, located just outside Moscow; the Balish/Ore Mine Rd. entrance, approximately 2 miles south of Lake Scranton; and the Mocanaqua Loop Trail, located at the end of Main St. near the Shickshinny Sewer Authority.

Camping is allowed in designated areas with a permit obtained from the forest's website. Overnight backpacking is allowed along the Pinchot Trail System if you let the office know ahead of time. And, as always, picnicking at the Manny Gordon pavilions is first-come, first-served. Fires are prohibited on all State Forest Land from March 1st through May 25th. Contact the District Office at (570) 945-7133.

"Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."
President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Take Pride in Our Community

Road Cleanup

Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering for the road clean-up in the community on April 13 and 14. Rain date is April 15. 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

Dumpsters will be available to residents only at the Fire House May 14-16 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 and four extra car tires for \$3.25 each, on or off rims. Tractor trailer tires are \$9.25 each (no rims). No off road 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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Thornhurst, PA 18424

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www.ThornhurstTwp.com
570.243.1466

Join us on Facebook @ Thornhurst Township

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Secretary/Treasurer & Real Estate Tax Collector

Jennifer Mateyka 570.243.1466

Supervisors

Elaine Evans, Chair 570.842.7032
Scott Jordan 570.983.8682
Jimmy Learn 570.905.0364

Roadmaster

Scott Jordan 570.983.8682

Wage Tax Collector

Berkheimer Agency 866.701.7206

Sewage Enforcement Officer

David Lamereaux 570.878.2513

Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer

George Stefanski 570.789.0248

Building Inspector

Building Inspector Underwriters
George Stefanski 570.789.0248

Short-Term Rental Enforcement

Preferred Mgmt. Associates 570.842.2705

Auditors

Michelle Jordan & Ron Mateyka

Planning Commission

Bonnie Smith, Chair 570.472.3274
Frank Repholz, Jr., Vice-Chair 570.842.6938
David Berry
Kathy Hossler
Patricia Wincek

Zoning Hearing Board

Joseph Kasulaitis, Chair 570.842.6524
Donald Wombacker
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

2025 was a busy and productive year for Thornhurst Township!

Several projects were completed this past year including a total re-pavement and tree trimming of Pine Grove Road, sealing the Township Building parking lot, and a new furnace and fuel tanks in the Township Building. The Township also saw long-term planned projects being kicked off including the restoration of the Church building and the groundbreaking of the Riverfront Township Park project. Both projects will be completed in 2026.

Contractors wishing to complete work on behalf of the Township must be licensed and insured and kept on record with the Township for future project bidding. All bids will be reviewed and approved by the Township Board of Supervisors.

The Township Board of Supervisors would like to thank Kim Grab, who has served as our Township Secretary and Treasurer for 35 years of remarkable service to our community. Congratulations on your retirement! The Township would also like to thank Will Evans (Sewage Enforcement Officer) and Tami Berry (Tax Collector) for their years of service.

Jennifer Mateyka is our newly elected Real Estate Tax Collector. She will also serve as the new Secretary to the Board of Supervisors and Township Treasurer. David Lamereaux will serve as the new Sewage Enforcement Officer. All new official contact information can be found in this newsletter and on the Township website.

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.

They 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.

The Free Store

The Free Store offers more than clothing. It is located in the basement of Spring Brook Congregational Church, 209 Beech Road, Spring Brook Township. They are open on Thursdays and Saturdays 9am to 1pm. Donations can be made during these times.

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.

“ALONE, WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER, WE CAN DO SO MUCH.”

- Helen Keller

Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade

The 18th Annual Redneck 4th of July Parade will be held on Saturday, 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 to preserve as much history as possible about the people and places that shaped the community. 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 spring clean-up will be held on Sunday, May 17 at 12pm. Please remove all seasonal decorations and pick up tree limbs and leaves. Anyone interested in helping with the clean-up, please call Jimmy Learn, Cemetery Grounds Keeper, at 570.905.0364. Light refreshments will be provided. Bring equipment.

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. Residents 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 Agency for Community EmPOWERment of NEPA offers a 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. Call 570.963.6836 x2226 or visit www.acenepa.org/riseandride.

North Pocono Public Library

Stop in with your card or register for a free one to check out books, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs, and CDs for children, teens, adults, and seniors. Check out Everhart Museum passes and access 24/7 online resources. For a small fee, we offer faxing, copying, and printing services; scanning is provided at no cost. We provide free public computers and free Wi-Fi. The Library holds weekly, monthly, and special events throughout the year for all ages. For more information or to register for programs, please call 570.842.4700, visit lclshome.org/north, or search for us on Facebook and Instagram. Hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-7pm, Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed on Sunday.

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 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.

Calendar of Events

March-Nov.	2nd Saturday Soup	10am-1pm
March 7, 14, 21 & 28	Easter Egg Sale & Soup	10am-1pm
April 18	Chicken & Biscuit Dinner	4-6pm
June 26 & 27	Rummage Sale	3-6pm 9am-3pm
July 25	Blueberry Festival	9am-3pm
Oct. 3	October Dinner	4-6pm
Nov. 27 & 28	Christmas Bazaar	9am-3pm 9am-2pm

Call 570.507.6540 or 570.575.0503
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 has been addressing threats to the pristine waters of the Lehigh River for over 25 years. This all-volunteer nonprofit organization has successfully prevented pollution from sewage plants, industrial parks, and other sources. They've seen to the designation of the upper Lehigh River and its tributaries as Exceptional Value Waters, the highest level of protection for high quality waters in Pennsylvania.

The Lehigh is the lifeblood of our community. The surrounding forests and wetlands are critical to protecting its water quality to ensure exceptional fishing, swimming, and boating — as well as clean drinking water. Their goal is to maintain this wonderful, but highly vulnerable, resource for future generations.

NPC volunteers are working with PennFuture and other conservation groups to keep our residents informed about potential environmental concerns related to proposed oversized warehouses and data centers that impact our watershed. We've increased our impact by coordinating with others.

NPC created their popular environmental education programs with community interests and families in mind. For 2026, NPC will continue to offer FREE programs, open to all. No pre-registration or membership is required to join in the fun. Below is what is scheduled to date. Check the Thornhurst bulletin board, the NPC website www.northpoconocare.com or their Facebook page for program updates and the latest on protection efforts.

2026 Programs

All programs are FREE and open to the public.

Please check www.northpoconocare.org for more details and updates.

April 11 4pm — The Wonders of Waterfowl. Interesting facts about ducks, geese, and swans, including topics like the food resources they use, how they nest and raise young, special adaptations that help them live in aquatic environments. Thornhurst Fire House, 351 Old River Road.

TBA — Trout Unlimited White Haven Trout Festival. Join the Western Pocono Chapter and others in celebrating the Lehigh River with displays, fishing demonstrations, activities and food. NP CARE will have an informational table there. White Haven Library and Community Center, 121 Towanda St. Come down and have a great time.

May 17 11am — Choke Creek Falls Trail. A discussion of current forest management projects with an opportunity to ask questions about changes in our forest. Meet at the parking area for Choke Creek Falls off Philips Road. Directions on Website.

June 20 10am — Marvelous Macroinvertebrates (Bugs!) in the Lehigh River. Collecting and identifying the bugs that fish eat. Wincek Residence, 610 Old River Road, Thornhurst. Bring wading shoes and a towel. Wonderful hands-on program!

Aug. 1 10am — The Beauty of our Forest. Tour the 737 acre Barton Brothers Property in Clifton Township. Learn how vernal pools, wetlands and the forested lands create a unique environment.

Oct. 12 4pm — Live Birds of Prey and other Wildlife. Raptors, small mammals, and reptiles to see up close, and learn about Amazing Animal Adaptations. This popular program is great for kids and families. Thornhurst Fire House, 351 Old River Road.

Lehigh Riverfront Progress

The Township's Riverfront Park, Phase 1 will be constructed this year. When completed, there will be access for all to a beautiful section of the Lehigh River! Contractors ask that there be no trespassing until the work is complete. This will provide necessary protection of the work and allow for completion by the all-important grant funding deadline this year.

Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co.

2026 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

20	Fish Fry	4-7pm
29	Children's Easter Party	1-3pm

APRIL

4	Boot Drive	6am-12pm
18	Paint Night (18+ BYOB)	6-8pm
25	Cash BINGO* & Buffet Dinner	Dinner 5pm & Bingo 6pm

MAY

2	Night at the Races*	Doors 5pm & Races 6pm
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JUNE

20	Tech & Tools BINGO*	Doors 4pm & Bingo 6pm
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JULY

18	Purse & More BINGO*	Doors 5pm & Bingo 6pm
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AUGUST

15	Family Fun Day	12-3pm
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SEPTEMBER

5	Cash BINGO* & Buffet Dinner	Dinner 5pm & Bingo 6pm
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OCTOBER

10	Cash BINGO* & Buffet Dinner	Dinner 5pm & Bingo 6pm
17	Children's Halloween Party	6-8pm

NOVEMBER

27	Black Friday BINGO* & Buffet Dinner	Dinner 5pm & Bingo 6pm
28	Santa Run (Weather Permitting)	Time & Route TBD

DECEMBER

12	Children's Christmas Party	10am-12pm
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** Must be 18 years old to play.*

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 tvfrcevents@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!