

Chairman's Update



The Gander

The Newsletter of Thornbury Township Chester County

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I would like to extend our best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2026. After a particularly cold and snowy winter, we are pleased to welcome the arrival of spring and a new season of opportunity. This edition of *The Gander* includes important community updates and highlights from the approved 2026 budget.

We remain firmly committed to preserving the quality, safety, and long-term stability of our community. In the coming month, we will begin evaluating road conditions throughout Thornbury, launching the 2026 Road Program. Paving is scheduled for the summer. This program combines thorough condition assessments, routine maintenance, and prioritized capital improvements to ensure safe travel and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

We have also requested increased enforcement from the Pennsylvania State Police on South Concord Road and other identified areas of concern. We appreciate their partnership in addressing speeding and the unauthorized use of local roads by overweight vehicles. Enhanced enforcement efforts, including ticketing and weight-limit monitoring, are underway to protect our infrastructure and strengthen public safety.

In October 2025, Township Manager Judy Lizza retired after more than 10 years of dedicated service. We are grateful for her leadership and many contributions to our community, and we wish her a well-earned retirement. We are pleased to welcome Audrey Hudak as our new Township Manager. Audrey has served since 2017 as Finance/Tax Liaison and Treasurer, bringing deep institutional knowledge and strong financial experience to her new role. We encourage residents to stop by the Township Building and introduce themselves.

The Board continues to prioritize high-quality services while maintaining fiscal responsibility. We are proud to report that the 2026 budget was balanced with no increase in property taxes.

There are many opportunities to serve on a commission or volunteer at community events. Your involvement strengthens our township. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Township Office at 610-399-1425.

On behalf of the entire Board, thank you for your continued engagement and support. We look forward to working together to make 2026 a productive and successful year for Thornbury.

Best regards,
Jim Benoit
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

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Meet the Manager

Dear Residents of Thornbury Township,

Hello everyone! My name is Audrey Hudak, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Township Manager for Thornbury Township. Many of you may already know me, as I've had the pleasure of serving as the Township's Tax Collector and Finance Liaison since 2017, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to now expand my role in service to our community.

I also want to take a moment to celebrate and thank Judy Lizza, who is retired after more than 10 years of dedicated service to Thornbury Township. Judy's commitment, knowledge, and care for this community have made a lasting impact, and her steady leadership will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Township, I wish her a very happy and well-earned retirement filled with new adventures and plenty of time to enjoy what she loves most.

As I step into this role, I'm eager to get to know the community and continue the great work already underway. Please feel free to stop by, reach out, or say hello—I'm always happy to connect.

Thank you for the warm welcome, and I look forward to serving you all.

Warm regards,
Audrey Hudak
Township Manager
Thornbury Township



2026 Budget Highlights

<u>Income Totals</u>		<u>Expense Totals</u>	
301.000—Real Estate Taxes	\$316,500.00	401.000—Administration	\$232,185.00
310.00—Local Enabling Taxes	\$1,150,000.00	402.000—Audit/Finance Administration	\$11,725.00
321.00—Fees, Fines Interest	\$84,500.00	404.000—Solicitor	\$15,000.00
342.00—Rents	\$167,259.50	406.000—Postage & Communications	\$12,200.00
354.000—State, & County Funding	\$144,901.90	407.000—IT-Networking	\$3,000.00
361.000—General Government Services	\$37,000.00	408.000—Engineering	\$75,000.00
362—Public Safety	\$27,100.00	409.000—Township Building	\$23,000.00
363.000—Highway & Sanitation	\$16,443.72	410.000—Police & Fire Safety	\$148,393.59
367.00—Culture & Recreation	\$500.00	413.000—Inspections & Enforcement	\$26,450.00
383.000—Hydrant Assessments	\$22,400.00	414.000—Planning & Zoning	\$15,000.00
		426.000—Sanitation & Wastewater	\$31,000.00
Total Income	\$1,966,605.12	430.000—Public Works-Highways, Roads	\$1,020,500.00
		450.000—Culture & Recreation	\$34,655.00
		468.000—Town Center	\$52,333.27
		481.000—Employer Paid Benefits	\$19,962.51
		486.000—Insurance	\$29,806.52
		492.000—Interfund Operating Transfers	\$216,394.23
		Total Expenses	\$1,966,605.12

Parks and Recreation

This past winter the two hundred plus-year-old white oak in Goose Creek Park succumbed to oak tree root rot. Root rot in oak trees is a common disease in oaks in this area. Root rot is rarely caused by pathogens alone; it is typically the result of environmental factors creating conditions favorable for infection. The primary culprit is saturated soil. The old oak was located in the flood plain in the park and was subjected to repeated flooding in recent years leading to conditions favorable to root rot. Increased flooding is occurring, in part, to factors such as climate change and upstream development. Homeowners with oaks or thinking of planting oaks on their properties can mitigate the causes of root rot. For better care of your oak trees, homeowners should consider the following:



- Provide your oak with full sun.
- Provide your oak tree with well-drained soil.
- Remove dead branches regularly.
- Fertilize young oaks regularly.
- Avoid mechanical injury to your oaks.
- Apply tree wound dressing or paint when performing out of season pruning.

Oak trees are a keystone species in the eastern United States. They support a vast web of life which rely on them as a food source. Their production of acorns supports deer, bear, squirrels, turkeys, and jays to name a few. They also host over 900 species of caterpillars, far exceeding any other genera. The caterpillars are a primary source of food for native and migratory songbirds.

In 2025, Thornbury Township received a grant from PECO to plant trees in Goose Creek Park. With this grant money, over 35 trees were planted in areas designed to extend shade in the riparian buffer along Goose Creek and to optimize future shade along the paved walking trail. A variety of tree species were planted. Planting locations were in areas similar to their natural habitat in order to optimize the growth and health of the specimens. Also, the species selected were designed to maximize species diversity and minimize loss due to current known disease and insect infestations. The Commission also continues to monitor tree health within the park. The seventy plus-year-old oak trees located along the path near the creek continue to be pruned as necessity dictates. The pruning helps to maintain the health of the trees and to provide a safe environment for those enjoying the benefits of walking in the park.

Spring Garden Tips

Be waterwise

Mulch beds with organic matter to suppress weeds and help retain moisture.
Use drip irrigation when possible, and water early or late in the day



Keep cool

Plant a tree to shade the patio or deck
Place a fountain, pool or small portable water feature near your patio for a cooling evaporation effect
Build an arbor and plant quick-growing vines at the base, or install a shade cloth

Add colorful containers

Keep annual containers looking their best with regular watering, fertilizing and deadheading.
Replace tired-looking plants with new ones

Mix it up

Don't be afraid to combine edibles with ornamentals.

Keep pollinators happy

Insects and hummingbirds are crucial for pollination of edibles and other plants.
Include a selection of native plants to attract a diversity of wildlife.
Check with your local nursery to find out which varieties are most suitable to your area.
Annual sunflowers and zinnias, or specialty wildflower mixes, are quick-growing options



Now's the time to assess the garden:

Fall and spring are the best times to move plants around, when the weather is cooler.
Make a list of what needs to be replaced and take a few snapshots on your phone as a visual reminder.

Beau's Barking News!










Please be advised that under Chapter 56 of the Township Code, dogs are required to be restrained with a collar and leash, chain, or other reasonable means. It is also unlawful to allow a dog to run at large through the neighborhood.

Please be aware that violation of this law can result in seizure and detention of the dog and/or fines up to \$1,000 per violation.

As the weather improves, we canines love to go outside just like you. If you take your dog for a walk at Goose Creek Park, please take notice that mutt mittens are supplied at the park kiosk to help you pick up after your pet, as required by law. It's just a friendly courtesy provided to you by the Township. This helps everybody enjoy the park, and the weather.

Safety First!

 PA MICROMOBILITY INFORMATION SHEET												
Description	MIN AGE	LICENSE	REGISTRATION	INSURANCE	HELMET	PASSENGER	LIGHTS	MAX CAPABLE SPEED	RIDE ON SIDEWALK	RIDE ON BIKE LANE	POSSIBLE DUI	PA VEHICLE CODE
 Electric Scooter Meets the PA Vehicle Code definition of a motor vehicle. It is a device with two in-line wheels, handlebars, a floorboard to stand on, and an electric motor, with or without a seat. Electric scooters cannot be legally operated on public roadways and may be used only on private property.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	§ 102, § 3802, § 1547
 Motorized Pedalcycle Meets the PA Vehicle Code definition of both a motor vehicle and a motorized pedalcycle. It has operable pedals, a design speed of no more than 25 mph, and an automatic transmission. If gas-powered, it is equipped with a motor rated at no more than 1.5 brake horsepower and a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters. If electric-powered, it is powered by an electric battery or a battery-pack-powered electric motor.	16	Class C	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	25	No	No	Yes	§ 102, § 3523(e), § 3525, § 3802, § 1547
 Motor Scooter Defined as a "motor-driven cycle." Motor cannot exceed five brake horsepower.	16	Class M if >50 cc, Class C if <50cc	Yes	Yes	Yes, under 21	Yes	Yes	Up to 5 brake horsepower	No	No	Yes	§ 102, § 3525, § 3802, § 1547
 Segway Defined as an "electric personal assistive mobility device." It is excluded from the definition of a motor vehicle. It is an electric, self-balancing, two-nontandem-wheeled device. Lighting must be used when operating between sunset and sunrise. A Segway is permitted on sidewalks unless prohibited by a municipality.	-	No	No	No	Yes, under 12	No	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	§ 102, § 3581-3583, § 3703 (c), § 3802, § 1547
 E-Bike Defined as a "pedalcycle with electric assist." It weighs less than 100 pounds and has a motor rated at no more than 750 watts (1 brake horsepower). It has operable pedals and is not capable of exceeding 20 mph on a level surface when powered by the motor alone. Lighting must be used when operating between sunset and sunrise.	16	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	20	Yes, not in business district	Yes	Yes	§ 102, § 3514, § 3802, § 1547
 Bicycle Defined as a "pedalcycle." Is moved solely by human-powered pedals. Lighting must be used when operating between sunset and sunrise.	-	No	No	No	Yes, under 12	Yes	Yes	-	Yes, not in business district	Yes	Yes	§ 102, § 3501 et seq., § 3802, § 1547

For more information, visit www.pa.gov/pennidot. PUB 944 (2-26)

- o Check smoke detector batteries, replace if necessary.
- o Clear smoke detector units of any dust.
- o Check CO detector batteries, replace if necessary.
- o Check fire extinguishers, recharge if necessary.
- o Check electric wiring for damage, replace if necessary.
- o Electric outlets and extension cords should not be overloaded.
- o Check air conditioning units and electrical cords.
- o Inspect barbeque gas grills (including gas hoses) and propane tanks prior to use.
- o Never use open flame devices to strip paint. This is very dangerous and illegal.
- o Never burn yard waste or trash. This is very dangerous.
- o Check windows to make sure they open and close properly, in case they are needed as exits.
- o Review your family's Fire Escape Plan.
- o Store fuels for lawn and garden equipment, etc. in an approved container only.
- o Store pesticides and chemicals in an approved container and away from children.
- o Store swimming pool chemicals according to manufacturer guidelines.
- o Store oil based paints and solvents in a metal cabinet
- o If you smoke, smoke outside, at an open external door or window, and never while under the influence. Always use an appropriate ashtray.

FIRE SAFETY



Preparing for Summer Weather

As summer approaches so does the chances of quickly changing weather. Summer is a time when things heat up and we all find ways to cool down.

- Remember to open your windows if you turn on a fan, or the fan will make it even hotter in the room.
- Keep checking on our older loved ones who are more susceptible to heat related issues.
- If you are hot, so are our furry friends, make sure they have a place to cool down and plenty of water.

Severe weather and summer go hand in hand and you should be ready. Having a plan in case of severe weather is always a good idea.

- It's helpful to have are flashlights, batteries, first aid kit, and water on hand.
- If your weather service is calling for storms or you hear thunder, head indoors.
- In case of a tornado, head to a basement or a room on the lowest floor without windows.
- Do not use any electronics that are connected to an outlet during a storm.
- If you lose power, call your service provider and they will get out when it is safe.
- Stay away from any fallen wires in your yard and on the road.
- If you must be out in severe weather, make sure to avoid any ponding water. Flash floods happen quickly and it only takes 12" of water to carry a car off.

<h3>Thunderstorm Warning</h3> <p>A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued when a severe storm is happening or imminent.</p> <p>Take shelter immediately!</p> <p>Check for forecast updates, as conditions can change rapidly.</p> <p>Take Action!</p> <p> weather.gov/safety/thunderstorm</p>	<h3>Thunderstorm Watch</h3> <p>A Severe Thunderstorm Watch is issued when severe storms are possible in the near future.</p> <p>Stay tuned to forecast updates and monitor sky conditions.</p> <p>Know where to take shelter.</p> <p>Be Prepared.</p>
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Remember to stay safe this summer and have fun.

Shredding Event



Destroy confidential information, clean out your files, and recycle. The spring **Shredding Event** will take place on Friday April 17, 2026. Bring items to be shredded to the Township Building (800 E. Street Road). This free event is from 9 to 11 AM.

Community Services

GOOD FELLOWSHIP AMBULANCE

600 Montgomery Ave • West Chester, PA 19380

When every second counts, count on Good Fellowship!

Lifesaving emergency medical care and transport can create unexpected financial strain. With a Good Fellowship Ambulance subscription, you will have **NO out-of-pocket expenses** if treated or transported by us, so you can focus on recovery, not the bills. Most insurance plans do not cover the full cost of ambulance service, especially if you have a high-deductible plan or copays. A subscription guarantees that whatever your insurance pays is accepted as full payment for our services.



Good Fellowship Ambulance is the largest and busiest emergency medical services (EMS) provider in Chester County, responding to more than 9,000 each year. We provide EMS to over 35,000 households in the greater West Chester and Exton communities. Our highly trained volunteers and staff respond every day at a moment's notice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to ensure you and your loved ones receive high-quality emergency care when you need it. For more information and to subscribe, use the QR code.



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