

# THORNBURG

## News • Community • Events

Issue: January 2021 • Thornburg Community Club

# TALK of the TOWN



### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Hello Thornburg,

*“Like the rainbow, After the rain  
Joy will reveal itself, After sorrow”- rupi kaur*

Happy New Year, Thornburg. Much like the rest of 2020, the end of December seemed to bring a few disappointments along the way. Winter solstice, or the longest night of the year, was supposed to bring stargazing that hasn't occurred in nearly 800 years. Of course, it's 2020 Pittsburgh, so all we could view was clouds. Then on Christmas Eve, my favorite holiday and Thornburg tradition, luminaria, was literally washed out. And of course, our Christmas gatherings were not the same this year. But then, some hope. The days started getting longer, COVID vaccines started rolling out, the calendar flipped to a new year, and to welcome it in, Thornburg made lemonade out of lemons, and displayed luminaria NYE and brought in the new year with light and hope.

In history, the most tragic of situations have brought forth positive results. Did you know that one of the deadliest pandemics in human history, The Black Death, was followed by the Renaissance? A period in history marking a transition to modernity, the Renaissance was based in humanism, which became manifest in art, architecture, culture, politics, science, and literature, or in other words, in all facets of life. The Italian word for which Renaissance is based, rinascita, literally means 'rebirth,' and that is part of what that dark period in history inspired: a complete evolution.

In fact, most dark periods of history, such as political upheavals, pandemics, and wars, are followed by periods of great advancements. Particularly in technology, science, and medicine, but also in legislation and the arts. World War I inspired the suffragette movement resulting in women's right to vote; we owe the invention of penicillin to World War II as well as the end of the Great Depression; and the upheaval of Vietnam drove needed social change, not to mention great music. When approached from this point of view, I feel so much hope for what is to come after this period of darkness that we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

PG 2 Borough Council Notes

PG 4 Around Town

PG 7 Article: Environmental Park: A lifesaver...

**UPCOMING**  
Borough Council Meetings -  
7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium

- Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>



See all of Thornburg's upcoming events on Page 4



# Borough of Thornburg COUNCIL NOTES:

Dear Neighbors,

At its December 2020 meeting Council adopted a 2021 budget, and approved a 2021 millage rate of 5.60 mills, unchanged from the previous year.

Thornburg Council made the following re-appointments at the Monday, January 4th ZOOM Council meeting;

Solicitor – Emily Mueller (GRB)

Engineer – Clint Reilly (NIRA)

Tax collector – Bill Linnert (Jordan Tax Services)

Secretary/Treasurer – Dorothy Falk

Vacancy Chair – Lorraine Runyon

Auditor – Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood

Newspaper of record – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Zoning Hearing Board – Joan Britten

UCC Appeals – Ken Marino

Planning commission – David Jose

Meetings of Thornburg Council will meet in 2021 on the first Monday of each month at 7 PM. For the foreseeable future these will continue to be virtual meetings held on ZOOM.

You are invited to attend the next ZOOM Council meeting on Monday, February 1st, at 7 PM. To join, send a message to Dorothy Falk ([thornburg.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:thornburg.secretary@gmail.com)) and you'll receive the ZOOM link. Join Council in the remote pledge of allegiance to the flag. Share your concerns during the "public forum." Listen as our Mayor, the honorable Tom Mackin, reads the monthly Police Report. Watch as Borough Secretary Dorothy Falk reviews check disbursements and responds to questions from Councilors. See motions made, seconded, discussed, and voted (most often unanimously).

Wishing every neighbor a safe and Happy New Year

Mark Perrott,

*On behalf of Borough Council*

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED ...

have been trudging through for the last year.

There is comfort to be found in the fact that goodness can stem from the terrible. That maybe someday, everything will be better in hindsight. "The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."-(Amanda Gorman)

Anne Dimond Molinero,  
President, Thornburg  
Community Club (TCC)



# TOWN TALK

## NEIGHBORLY NOTES:

Greetings,  
Congrats, &  
Sympathies

### GREETINGS

#### JAEMIN BERTOCCHI

We are excited to announce the newest member of the Thornburg community is Jaemin Bertocchi (560 Hamilton Road). Jaemin joined his big sister Sia, along with Mom and Dad (Mariann and Bob) just in time to celebrate Christmas with his new family. Welcome home Jaemin!

### SYMPATHIES

#### WALTER S. KRASNESKI SR.

We are so very sorry to report the passing of Walter s. Krasneski, father of Cindy Kroneberg (1104 Princeton Road). Walter passed on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Our deepest condolences to the Krasneski and Kroneberg families.

#### JOSEPH SCIULLI

We are sad to announce that on December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 71, Joseph Sciulli passed away. Joseph was the brother of Ruth Mackin (1176 Harvard Road). The Sciulli and Mackin families are in our hearts and prayers after this difficult loss. May healing and peace find their family in this most difficult time.

#### FRANCIS D. TYSON

We would like to extend our condolences to the Jameson family (1137 Cornell Road) on the passing of Colleen Jameson's grandfather Francis D. Tyson. Mr. Tyson was a distinguished Marine and served his country in WWII, Korean and Vietnam wars. Thank you for your service Mr. Tyson and our thoughts and prayers are with Jameson's during this difficult time.

#### JUDY GARNER

Former, long time Thornburg resident Judy Garner passed away on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Judy and Ron Garner and family lived at 1104 Cornell Road (now the Bell House) for many years.

#### HOLLY MCILREE

Our condolences to the Mcllree family on the passing of Holly Mcllree on January 20<sup>th</sup>, wife of the late Michael Mcllree. The Mcllree's lived in Thornburg for over 40 years at 570 Hamilton Road (now the Chiodi House).

Don't Forget!



Community Club Dues are now **OVERDUE!!**

Remember dues go towards all events, giveaways, general upkeep and replacement of Community wears (i.e. tables & chairs) for the Community Center, printing costs, etc.

Please send your \$30 check to Tony Szmul at 222 Tech Road or find us on the Venmo app (via @TCC-Account).

FEB



## 20 Chili Cook-off

When: Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:00 p.m.  
Where: From your home via zoom

Join us via zoom for the delicious Chili Cook-off. Sample your neighbors home-made chili safely from your home.

### Want to cook:

The TCC will provide the to go containers. All you have to do is cook. Then join the zoom event to taste other chili, see if your chili is voted the winner and have bragging rights for the rest of 2021!



### Want to taste & vote:

Come to the school auditorium on Feb. 20th to pick up your samples of Chili to taste and vote on your favorite Chili during our zoom event. Yum! Yum!

RSVP by February 12<sup>th</sup> [https://thornburg\\_chilicook-off.eventbrite.com](https://thornburg_chilicook-off.eventbrite.com) or email [ThornburgNews@gmail.com](mailto:ThornburgNews@gmail.com).

MAR

## Thornburg Blood Drive

When: TBD  
Where: Chartier's Country Club

Join us to save lives. The local blood banks are desperate for blood donors. The simple act of giving blood saves so many lives. We are working with the American Red Cross to finalize all of the details. Watch for email blasts for further details on how you can save a life.



## Monthly Food Trucks

When: Every Month, 5:00- 7:00 p.m.  
Where: Thornburg School

Looking to break up the monotony of the everyday cooking at home. How about we bring in a food truck to ease your daily chores. Look out for further details and when the food trucks will arrive via email blasts.



# Foster the Love Project Success and Wrap up

Our Thornburg service project for 2020 was in support of the Foster Love Project. Each year more than 15,000 kids are served through the foster care system in Pennsylvania. Through your kindness and generous donations we were able to fill 23 placement bags to be given to kids at the time of placement. The bags were so thoughtfully filled and will certainly go a long way to reassure these kids that they and their belongings are NOT disposable.

In addition to the bags, we also donated over \$400 in gift cards that will be provided to foster families to help purchase items to fulfill specific needs of their foster children. We were particularly gratified to hear that the staff at FLP remembered our donation of gift cards from last year and were thrilled to receive more.

Thanks to all of you for contributing to this special project. Kids in foster care face challenges that most of us cannot imagine – these contributions will help them to know they are not forgotten.

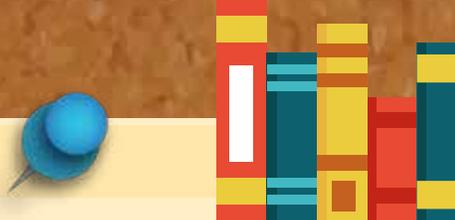


## Thornburg Pottery Sale

Interested in a piece of Thornburg pottery? There are plenty remaining in our inventory.

These pieces make a wonder addition to dining room centerpieces or kitchen decor. Not to mention embraces our fondness for community spirit.

Inventory is varied so contact Suzy Golitko, at either [sgolitko@verizon.net](mailto:sgolitko@verizon.net) or 412.922.1125 to purchase or ask about what pieces are available.



The Thornburg Memorial Library is located in the Municipal Building, 600 Hamilton Road. The library is open daily between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., corresponding with the hours of the Crafton Children's Corner, or you can make an appointment. To check out books, please fill out the library card inside the book and place in the box on the desk in the library. This is an "honor system" check out and return procedure, so please be sure to only keep the book for a reasonable period of time of three weeks. The library is only accepting donations of hardcover children's books. Please do not drop off anything that would not be acceptable in a children's library or books that are softbound and/or damaged. If you are donating books, leave them in a marked bag or box under the desk in the Thornburg Library and please include name or donor. If you would like to have them picked up at your home, please contact me at [judythecat@verizon.net](mailto:judythecat@verizon.net). Any questions, please call Janice Coppola 735-5973.

# Luminary on New Year's Bring Hope & Light

Luminary in 2020 was nothing short of breathtaking. The simple warmth of the light truly healed the soul, and prepared us for the new year to begin.

Thank you Tom Thompson for capturing these photos at 5:40 am on New Year's Day from his porch. It's wonderful to see that the candles burned all through the night, ringing in the new year with hope and light for our wonderful community.

Also, thanks are extended to Suzy Golitko and her luminaria distribution team. Without you none of this was possible.

Happy New Year to all Thornburger's. May it be a year of healing, growth, filled with joys and kindnesses.



## The Duquesne Light Tree Trimming Need to Know

The Duquesne Light tree crew has been spotted on our streets, so as a reminder here is the rundown regarding what's happening and what you can do. The ribbons and paint marks you've been seeing on trees, indicate the plans for that tree.

**Yellow Paint** = Trim

**\*Blue Paint** = Removing the entire tree

Ribbons = Unsure - waiting on decision

\*Note that any tree marked with BLUE (dot or ribbon) will be cut down even if the tree is living and healthy – but you have a right to object if the trees are healthy and on your property.

You should receive a door tag to indicate if any trees on your property are affected. If you have any questions, concerns or wish to decline tree cutting you are asked to call Duquesne Light. The contact is Timothy Potts (ACRT) at 412-415-9217.

## Phelps Nursery Gift Cards

Winter is here, so let's think about what plans we have for spring gardening.

Plan ahead and purchase gift cards through The Thornburg Community Club. You can purchase gift cards in \$25, \$50 or \$100 denominations to use for your purchases at Phelps Nursery, just 5 minutes from Thornburg on Route 60. The Community Club earns \$5 for every gift card sold.

To purchase your gift cards, please contact Suzy Golitko at 412.922.1125 or [sgolitko@verizon.net](mailto:sgolitko@verizon.net)

LaPrima Coffee fund-raiser features locally roasted coffee available in many delicious blends.

The price per pound is \$12.00. You may place your order through Gina Caliguire;

EMAIL: [ajcgmc@gmail.com](mailto:ajcgmc@gmail.com)

PHONE: 412.651.0209

MAIL: 1121 Harvard Road

Please specify blend preference:

- LaPrima House
- French Roast
- Columbian
- Ethiopian
- Paulies
- Whole bean or Ground
- Decaf or Regular



\*Monthly delivery can be set up by request.

# The Thornburg Environmental Park: A lifesaver in the time of COVID

The Thornburg Park has long been one of Thornburg's treasures. But from my standpoint, never more so than in the time of COVID-19. Previously I had ambled along the park's green pathways about once a month, but in the time of COVID these walks have been almost daily. At first, I was walking in March, through a leafless park that was seeing the end of winter. I would walk along the top of the levee, and would be startled out of my reverie, once or twice, by a shout of "Coming Through" as some fit young jogger would whistle by. I marveled at the first signs of spring, but I never expected to witness the full blossoming of spring because, after all, the quarantine was expected to be of short duration. I was wrong.

And then, in April, I was able to witness an unequal struggle between nature and technology. The Corps of Engineers arrived with two huge machines. One to hold and cut down trees, the other a giant shredder capable of projecting wood chips for tens of yards. And two men, equipped with these machines, were able to completely change the appearance and width of the levee. Walks along the top of the levee were now almost impossible because the surface was heavily rutted. The joggers disappeared. But spring pursued its inevitable path, and destruction along the levee was dwarfed by the emergence of foliage and blossoms in the park. And, as April merged into May, there was new life on the creek, new life in the form of ducklings and goslings.

The Chartiers Creek is always changing. It serves a watershed of more than 270 square miles and, in times of heavy and sustained rains, the creek can be a raging torrent. This was the case this March. And in 2004 it even overflowed its banks, as evidenced by the highwater-plaque on the side of the Scalo building. But usually, it is a shallow creek, and it has been a delight to observe the birds associated with that creek; from the occasional stately heron to the pairs of ducks and, in particular, to the flotillas of geese with their young; convoys of perhaps six goslings with guardian adults floating front and rear.

And as spring merged into summer, I became ever more aware of the animal wildlife in the park, the deer, the rabbits, and the squirrels. And I also got to know some of the dogs. There is Stanley, a large brown dog, who plunges into



TALK of the TOWN is published by the Thornburg Community Club to inform Thornburg residents and Community Club members of Borough news and Community activities and events.

Do you have any ideas, suggestions, or articles? Please send them to [ThornburgTOT@gmail.com](mailto:ThornburgTOT@gmail.com) or [ThornburgNews@gmail.com](mailto:ThornburgNews@gmail.com).

Like & follow us on Facebook at Thornburg Community Club.



Please consider receiving the Talk of the Town electronically. But if you have any questions in regards to the delivery of the TALK of the TOWN, please contact:

Eileen Mackin:

- 412.921.7876 (Paper delivery)
- [ThornburgNews@gmail.com](mailto:ThornburgNews@gmail.com) (Electronic delivery)

2020 due dates for article and news submissions are...

- **March 17<sup>th</sup>**
- **June 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **September 16<sup>th</sup>**

## Tiny Terrific Thornburg Heads Up!!!

The Crafton Food Back is in desperate need of clean, recycled grocery bags or green newspaper cover bags.

If you have any lying around, just toss them in the box on the porch of 220 Tech Road.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



## Thornburg Community Club Meetings

now on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. via zoom.

ALL ARE WELCOME  
Extra Help Appreciated

Mark your calendar for February, 20<sup>th</sup> and check Facebook/ e-blasts for the zoom link to attend.



the creek at the slightest provocation, and Jethro, a muscular dog of extremely friendly disposition, who hurtles through the undergrowth with scant regard for branches and thorns. And there are two dachshunds that trail behind their jogging owners, physically ill designed for high speed exercise.

And the people in the Park are without fail pleasant and interesting. Most are there to exercise their dogs, but there can be unexpected encounters. Once, with the creek in full spate, several youths in two rubber dinghies flowed by, heading rapidly downstream. Presumably, they survived. On another occasion, and by contrast, two men from India were quietly practicing cricket near the fire-pit. The batter was fully equipped with leg guards and batting gloves and the bowler was quite proficient. On another occasion I observed several families, probably originally from a Far East country, gathering leaves from shrubs along the creek-bank of the levee. The men were plucking the leaves and the women were sitting on the top of the levee, with large baskets, selecting leaves. I still have no idea about the purpose. And in the summer, there were always fishermen trying their luck, usually casting from the side of the creek, sometimes wearing waders and fly fishing in the middle of the creek, and one even casting a large circular net: Good luck on that one!

And with the end of summer and arrival of fall, the leaves changed in color and then fell in great profusion, some leaves quite dainty in appearance and others impressively large. And there was great activity on the creek as the goslings, now almost indistinguishable from their parents, joined in the overall preparations for migration. The geese would take off together, form a vee, and then splash down noisily. And this formation flying continued for several weeks until suddenly all was quiet—the geese had left for the south.

And here we are in winter, with finally an end in sight for the COVID-19 epidemic. And at that time, and with increased distractions, I may well revert to my monthly walks. But I owe a debt of gratitude to the Thornburg Environmental Park, with its seasonal changes, the creek, its friendly people, the wildlife, and my new friends such as Stanley and Jethro. During this time of COVID The Park has indeed been a particular treasure Thank you! -Clive Kimblin



## People's Potluck

Are you interested in having lively discussions about current topics with your neighbors? Join the People's Potluck, a group starting in January, hosted by Paco Mahone and Anne Dimond. Every other month we will discuss a relevant topic through book and film. The only rule is that you come to partake in civil discourse. Contact Paco for more information: [pacomahone@mac.com](mailto:pacomahone@mac.com).

