

# TALK of the Town



## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...

### Winter Blues, Black-and-Gold, and the Light Ahead

There is a particular moment each year in Thornburg when it starts to feel as though someone quietly turned down the dimmer switch on life. The sun disappears before dinner. The trees stand bare and skeletal. And for many of us—especially those who measure time in football seasons—the Pittsburgh Steelers remind us, with grim consistency, that hope is a fragile thing.

This season has tested even the most resilient members of Steelers Nation. Sundays that once felt ceremonial now feel heavy. Promising drives stall. Close games slip away. Optimism becomes conditional. We squint at the standings, convince ourselves of scenarios, and then do it all again the next week. It is exhausting in a way only long-term loyalty can be.

Layer that on top of winter itself—the early darkness, the cold mornings, the sense that everything takes just a little more effort—and it is not hard to understand why this time of year can feel bleak. Motivation wanes. The calendar feels stuck. Even small tasks seem heavier when daylight is rationed and the season we love most refuses to cooperate.

But here is the counterweight, and it matters.

Winter is not an ending; it is a pause. And pauses are often where communities quietly strengthen themselves.

While the days are shorter, our connections do not have to be. Thornburg remains full of life: neighbors waving on walks, kids bundling up for outdoor play, families gathering for meals that linger a little longer. There is comfort in routines—weekly games, shared complaints about the weather, mutual eye-rolling over the latest Steelers outcome—that remind us we are not experiencing this season alone.

And then there is what lies ahead.

The light does return. Almost imperceptibly



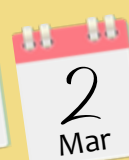
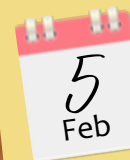
*Inside this issue...*

2 Borough Council Notes

4 Around Town

7 Holiday Wrap up & Photos

*Upcoming*  
Borough Council Meetings  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month at  
7:00 p.m.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

AROUND

TOWN

See all of Thornburg's upcoming events on Page 4



# Borough of Thornburg

## Council Notes:

Dear Neighbors,

Congratulations to Mayor Tom Mackin, Council President Vincent Coppola, Council Vice-President Lauren Melfa Catanzarite, and members Tony Szmul and Sigo Falk on their reelection. All five were officially sworn in during this cycle's reorganization meeting on January 5, 2026. On behalf of Council, we look forward to working with and for our Thornburg community for the next four years. We will be aided in that process by our newly-hired Borough Secretary, Colleen Kamnikar.

Colleen and her family have been residents of Hamilton Road for over a decade. Colleen has an extensive background in graphic design, marketing and project management. Since moving to the Borough, she has dedicated her talents to the Thornburg Community Club and the Capital Campaign. Colleen designed the Capital Campaign media package, as well as the recently revamped Talk of the Town newsletter and community email, both of which she edits and distributes. As vice-chair of the Capital Campaign, Colleen (and her adorable product testers, Rita and Will) undertook an extensive evaluation of available equipment and manufacturers to determine the most cost-effective, aesthetically-pleasing and inclusive design for our new playground.

Colleen brings a wealth of experience to the Secretary position and Council looks forward to working with her in her new role! As she transitions into her position, Colleen will be aided by outgoing Secretary Kris Szmul. Like Colleen, Kris is an organizational force, as anyone who has attended Memorial Day can attest. There simply isn't enough space to list Kris's contributions to our Borough, or to thank her for the same. Council is incredibly grateful for Kris's service as Secretary and wishes her nothing but the best in her (for real this time!) retirement!

Lauren Catanzarite,

Borough Council Member

*On behalf of Borough Council*

*Note: Borough Council Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Thornburg School Auditorium. Your attendance and participation are welcomed and encouraged.*

Interested in receiving email blasts from the TCC about upcoming events and happenings?

Send us an email at [ThornburgNews@gmail.com](mailto:ThornburgNews@gmail.com). Let us know you wish to be added to the group.



# Neighborly Notes: Town TALK

*Congratulations*



## BOWMAN CHRISTOPHER BOGOSTA

Please join me in welcoming the newest little neighbor Bowman Christopher Bogosta. Sean and Mary Allison Bogosta of Hamilton Road welcomed their little bundle on 1.14.26. Congratulations to your beautiful family.

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT... CONTINUED

at first, but reliably. Spring follows winter every single time. New sports seasons arrive. New community events fill the calendar. Gardens are planned, courts reopen, conversations move back outside. Even the Steelers—perennially frustrating, endlessly compelling—reset, recalibrate, and give us reason once again to believe.

Hope, it turns out, is not about ignoring disappointment. It is about recognizing that disappointment is temporary, while community is durable.

So yes, this stretch of the year can feel heavy. The losses sting. The darkness creeps in early. But Thornburg is still Thornburg: connected, resilient, and quietly optimistic. There are brighter evenings ahead, better Sundays to come, and plenty of good moments between now and then—many of them right next door.

We will get through the winter together. And when the light returns, we will be ready for it neighborhood. A quick wave or “Happy Holidays!” on the sidewalk goes a long way.

Sincerely,

**Sashi Segu**

President, Thornburg Community Club

*Weekly*

WHAT TO DO IN

*Thornburg*

MONDAY

*Pickle-ball*

When: 6:00 p.m.

Where: Thornburg Park  
Tennis Courts

Bring your tennis shoes, and a paddle if you have one. All are invited to come and learn and join in **WEATHER PERMITTING**. Any questions, contact Linda Froehlich - Lfroehlich720@comcast.net

WEDNESDAY

*Tai Chi - Winter Sessions*

When: 11:00 a.m. - Session starts Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>

Where: Community Center Auditorium

Shake off the winter and come join your neighbors for some slow and gentle exercise! Tai Chi is proven by medical science to reduce stress and improve balance, flexibility, and memory retention. Contact Celia Bauer for more info or just show up. All adults are welcome.

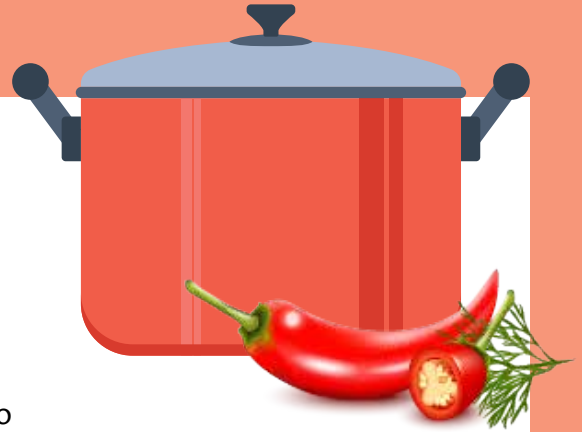


15

## Chili Cook-off

When: Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>  
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Where: Thornburg School Auditorium



Thornburg Chili Cook-off is a great way to beat the winter dull drums and get a your fill of all different kinds of chili. Watch for emails for any updates and contact Brian Catanzarite to enter this years competition. (brian.catanzarite@gmail.com) Even if you don't enter a chili please come to enjoy. It's "BYO" drink and sides to accompany the chillies. Let's fill our bellies and souls with great food and good conservation. We've also invited Rosslyn Farms to compete and join in the fun. So lets have a good Thornburg presence and meet some new folks. Good luck to those chili connoisseurs.

Feb

## What's New & Upcoming in the TCC

Getting Involved: Got an idea for a community event? Come to a TCC meeting every 3rd Saturday of the month a present it to the group or email us today. Everyone is welcome. Here is what the TCC is working on for the next few months...

March

**THORNBURG EASTER  
EGG HUNT**

April

**CONSERVATION PARK  
CLEANUP  
2026 FOOD TRUCKS**

May

**COMMUNITY YARD SALE  
MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC**

Watch for email blasts for more information and details

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



## Thornburg Community Club Meetings

are now on Saturday mornings!  
9:00 a.m. in the Library

ALL ARE WELCOME  
Extra Help Appreciated

All TCC meetings will be held on  
the 3rd Saturday of every month.  
Mark your calendars today for

**February 21<sup>st</sup>!**

## Thornburg Pottery Sale

Our inventory for the pottery sale is replenished! Lots of new quart jars, vases, and many more.

These pieces make a wonderful addition to dining room centerpieces, kitchen decor or gifts.

To purchase contact Suzy Golitko, [sgolitko@verizon.net](mailto:sgolitko@verizon.net) or 412.922.1125.

## Thornburg Library

The Thornburg Memorial Library is located in the Community Building, 545 Hamilton Road. Our 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. 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. The library is not taking any book donations at this time. Any questions, please call Janice Coppola 412.735.5973 or email [judythecat@verizon.net](mailto:judythecat@verizon.net)

## Phelps Gift Cards

The Thornburg Community Club has a great idea to get you started on the perfect backyard or garden space. **These gift cards make great gifts for friends and family.** You can purchase gift cards in \$100, \$250 or any other amount available upon request to use for your purchases at Phelps Nursery, just 5 minutes from Thornburg on Route 60. For every \$50 purchased, The Community Club earns \$10!

To purchase your gift cards, please contact Kris Szmul 412.922.5417 or [krisandtonyo504@gmail.com](mailto:krisandtonyo504@gmail.com)

## Thornburg Cookbook Submission

The TCC is interested in creating a Thornburg inspired cookbook. Submit your favorite recipe from Chili Cook off, Bake Sale, Memorial Day potluck, or holiday party crowd pleaser to [ThornburgTOT@gmail.com](mailto:ThornburgTOT@gmail.com)



## 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.



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 [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:

Colleen Kamnikar:

- 412.689.3479 (Paper delivery)
- [ThornburgNews@gmail.com](mailto:ThornburgNews@gmail.com) (Electronic delivery)

2026 due dates for article and news submissions are.

- **March 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **June 17<sup>th</sup>**
- **September 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **November 18<sup>th</sup>**

## Walkers and Speeding through Town

Just a neighborly reminder to everyone to obey all traffic signs and speed limits. It is a courtesy as well as the law to obey speed and signs in the neighborhood to keep everyone safe at all times.

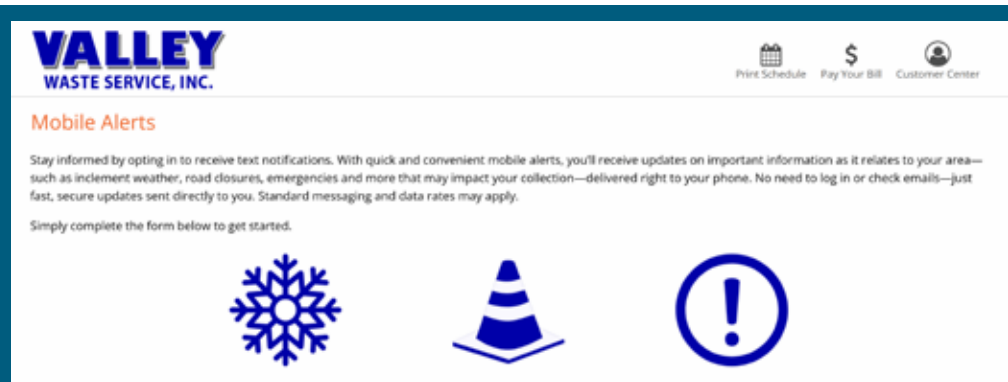
Also, keep a sharp eye out for neighbors walking and walking their pets. Many neighbor enjoy a stroll even at dusk and darker hours. Make sure your careful and watch for those out and about. Keep in mind there are no sidewalks in Upper Thornburg so walkers have to use the streets and curbs.

Let's keep everyone safe!

## Valley Waste Mobile Alert System

Valley Waste Service can send alerts to customers in the event a route is delayed. The link below is available if you want to include it in a newsletter or your website. It is available on our website. It is not a requirement, but we wanted to give you the opportunity to decide if it is something you may be interested in. To find out more visit...

<https://www.valleywasteservice.com/notifications>



## Our Local Food Pantry Needs Donations

Your donations go a long way to help families in need, a number that has almost tripled since the pandemic 2019-2020. You have a lot of choices when it comes to donating, and the Food Pantry is very grateful for our support. Any size donation of non-perishable foods, and of course, the plastic grocery bags can be dropped off on my front porch at 220 Tech Road or 80 Bradford Avenue on Tuesdays & Wednesdays between 9-12. If you have any questions or would like to help more please call 412-921-2293, ext. 3.



Please help support and nourish our less fortunate community members and make a donation today.



Santa was back in the auditorium and it was magical! So much to see and do. Write your wish list to Santa, decorate mini-houses, ornament building, create snowmen, decorate cookies, hot chocolate bar, pizza for days, and of course meet the man himself - SANTA!

Thank you to everyone who made this event so magical but especially Alica Sevdik. She is the hardest working elf this community has ever seen. Everyone had an amazing time, even the dads!



# Thornburg is Aglow - Luminary 2025

On December 24<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting, Thornburgers welcome the holiday season with the traditional luminaria candle lighting. What a glorious night we had this past December. A dry, windless evening was the perfect conditions to set our neighborhood aglow. My sister and I drove through the streets after 10 o'clock that evening and there were quite a few cars out there with us taking in the sights.

There is a devoted committee of volunteers who keep the candles burning. Many thanks to the street coordinators who, in a 2-week period, deliver the order forms and collect the payments in time for kit making day. I am fortunate to have these ladies help year after year after year. This crew includes Anna Mihalega, Vera Quinn, Laura Irwin, Janice Coppola, Gina Caliguire, Mary Kubiak, Rita Deluzio, Shai Lin Horstman, Mary Ditmore, Brenda Mack, Meg McConomy, Mary Grogan, Carol Ashby, Heather Pessy, Elisa Rosenblat and Julie Simelis. A special thank you to Kelly Chiodi who did a section of Hamilton Road for many, many years and passed her baton to Janice Coppola.

Our borough maintenance team, Rob and George, not only filled 200 sandbags and delivered them to each home, but they also cleared snow off the sidewalks and steps of the community building for kit building Sunday when a snowstorm arrived the previous night. They never faltered when I phoned in a last minute delivery. The sand is generously donated each year by our very own Mayor. Thank you very much.

Kit packing day went very smoothly with good-neighbor assistance from Lorraine and Sam Runyon and mascot Wilma, Kris and Tony Szmul, Mayor Tom Mackin with granddaughter Jane Mackin, Douglas and Rebecca Price, new neighbor Evonne Kaye from Smith Lane and first time kit builders, the entire Kamnikar family, Colleen, Zac, Rita, Will and Jack. Jack entertained us with his rendition of chopsticks on the piano.

Additional thanks to Sam Runyon and Doug and Becki Price who loaded the boxes of kits into their cars and delivered them to the street coordinator's homes. And our refreshment coordinator, Sam Runyon, delivered outstanding donuts and hot chocolate.

And a sincere thank you to each and every neighbor who is able to participate, folding down their bags, and perhaps those of an elderly or out-of-town neighbor and lighting their candles to create the continuous glow of street lanterns.

