

# ZELIENOPE NEWS

FALL 2024

VOL. 10, ISSUE 1

## Stormwater Management in Southwestern Butler County

In previous years, including this past spring, Southwestern Butler County communities have experienced record-breaking rainfalls that have caused severe flooding and stormwater issues. These conditions have led to erosion, significant property damage, financial losses, the destruction of invaluable possessions, and extensive cleanup efforts. As a result, local communities face ongoing uncertainty about when the next storm will occur and its potential severity.

In 2019, Zelienople, Harmony, and Evans City Boroughs, along with Jackson Township, began meeting to identify regional stormwater management needs and necessary funding for stormwater management and flooding mitigation strategies aimed at



controlling runoff to minimize pollution and reducing flood risks. These municipalities have been diligently working to find solutions to mitigate these impacts and fund a regional approach to stormwater management. We are dedicated to enhancing education and implementing regional stormwater management standards to protect our water resources, building community support for these programs while encouraging environmental involvement.

In June, the Borough Council held a hearing to discuss the creation of an Authority composed of representatives from Zelienople Borough, Jackson Township, and the neighboring boroughs of Harmony and Evans City. The purpose of the Authority is to secure funding and act as a liaison for projects affecting multiple municipalities and their infrastructure. After thorough consideration, Zelienople Borough Council unanimously adopted the Resolution to establish the Authority on August 26, 2024.

Visit [https://zelieboro.com/faq\\_s/stormwater.php](https://zelieboro.com/faq_s/stormwater.php) to learn more about Stormwater Management in Southwestern Butler County.

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## *Zelienople's* Comprehensive Plan Update

The Zelienople Borough Comprehensive Plan continues to move forward in Phase 3 of the 4-phase process. The Steering Committee is currently reviewing potential changes to zoning to reflect the requests of the community. The goal is to have a series of action steps and recommendations that are vertically aligned and directly linked to the overall community vision. The final document will be prepared in plain text and provided in a variety of formats, both electronically and in print.

# Phil Lope Named Volunteer of the Year

The Borough started the Volunteer of the Year award program in 2014 to honor outstanding individuals who as a volunteer, has served the Borough of Zelienople with dedication and distinction.

These people give their time, talents, and efforts to serve the citizens of this borough and surrounding area, to make people's lives easier, eliminate suffering and improve the quality of life.

Phil Lope volunteers at Glade Run Lutheran Services where he has been involved with the organization for several years. In 2023, Phil logged over 100 volunteer hours with the Adventures Program. This program provides equine therapy to a wide population of individuals, which include at risk youth, children on the Autism spectrum, and adults in addictions recovery. His love and devotion to the horses and his community shows when he arrives at the crack of dawn to care for them. Phil takes on various laborious tasks around the grounds, such as cleaning stalls and spreading manure, to keep the facility safe and clean for those that visit and use the complex.

In addition to his hours spent on the farm, Phil accepted a position on the Board of Directors of Glade Run Foundation at Glade Run Lutheran Services in 2023. Since joining the board, he has become involved in committees to help move forward Glade Run's mission. His professional knowledge and expertise about the agency have positively impacted the foundation. Phil has also solicited many donations for Glade Run over the years, which is essential for keeping the non-profit operational.

Outside of Glade Run, Phil is also very involved in the Zelienople Rotary Club. You can see him at many community Rotary events, including pancake breakfasts, parades, community yard sales, races, and more!



## Upcoming Events in *Zelienople*

*Zelienople Area Business Association Presents*



*Zelienople Fall Festival*  
*October 11th-12th-13th, 2024*

For complete schedule and more information visit  
[www.zeliefallfestival.com](http://www.zeliefallfestival.com)



**ZELIENOPLE**  
COMMUNITY PARK

### Autumn Fun Fest

GAMES | FOOD TRUCKS | RAFFLES

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024**  
**12:00-3:00PM**

**SPONSORED BY:** **KARSKI & SPOKANE**  
ORTHODONTICS



## HALLOWEEN

**LION'S CLUB HALLOWEEN PARADE**  
Tuesday, October 29 at 6:30pm

**MAIN STREET MERCHANT TRICK-OR-TREAT**  
Tuesday, October 29 at 4pm-6pm

**TRICK-OR-TREAT**  
Thursday, October 31  
6:00-8:00pm





# Summer Recap: Zelienople Community Park

*We've had a wonderful summer at Zelienople Community Park!*



There were many who contributed, but a special gratitude to the following, for your contribution to a successful summer at Zelienople Community Park:

**2024 Concert Series:** Funding was provided by The Ayers Foundation for a season of sweet sounds by Angel Blue and the Prophets, BB Steel 80's, This That & The Other Thing, Spin Cycle, Eldorado, and Z-Town Street Band.

**Movies in the Park:** The Ayers Foundation also sponsored the movies in the park, where families got to enjoy League of Superheros, Turning Red, and CoCo.

**Earth Day:** MPLX employees teamed up with Zelienople Borough resident and long-time volunteer, Penny English to help landscape areas throughout the park.

**Community GrOWN Day:** Penny English organized Seneca Valley students and team leader/teacher Eric Gove for mulching, planting trees, painting, and assisting with the pool for Opening Day.

**Community Day:** The Community Park Advisory Board and all their hard work planning, organizing, and setting up such a fun event. MLPX and NextTier Bank sponsored the day, making it extra special.

Big thanks to the numerous volunteers and instructors who organized Mad Science, Soccer Shots, Swim Lessons, Zelienople Area Swim Club, Get Fit Families, the Concert Series, and Movies in the Park. These Programs were enjoyed by residents and visitors of all ages!

**Our Sponsors:** Armstrong, Harold Zeigler, Knoechel Heating, Kampas Orthodontics, Karski & Spokane Orthodontics, NextTier Bank, Dambach Lumber, Studio Z Yoga, Sandstone Self Storage, PMF Trailer Rentals, and Rotary Club of Zelienople.

**Tom Murray** for his generous contributions to the park.

We look forward to another successful season in 2025!

[www.myzeliepark.org](http://www.myzeliepark.org)



## Community Park Association Advisory Board of Directors

President: Bryan Branby  
Vice President: Beverly Leasher  
Treasurer: Lois Young  
Secretary: Jeff Flood  
Lyndsey Granata: Park Manager  
Carol Schneider  
Nicole Plesnick  
Lisa Salak

**A friendly reminder, early registration for pool memberships for the 2025 season will start in October. Please be sure to follow the Community Park on Facebook and Instagram for details and updates.**



# Zelienople Area Public Library Update

*Amy Kellner, Adult Services Librarian, Zelienople Area Public Library*

Do you like to dig into history? Or maybe meditate while you exercise? Are you a fan of board games, Super Smash Brothers or Dungeons & Dragons? Or maybe you just need a place away from home to read a magazine or surf the internet? The Library is the place for you!

The Library offers over 40 programs each month for all interests and ages. We have story time for infants to preschoolers along with Lego Club and Wacky Wednesdays for elementary students. The Library has groups for language speakers, chess players, crafters and seniors. For history lovers, we offer a "Hands on History" program each month and host a genealogy group. We will soon be adding a Senior Resource Center of materials like fidget blankets and easy to read stories for those with memory issues and dementia as well as their caregivers and families. These resources were made possible with a gift from Randy and Cindy Hart. The Library is a place for people of all ages and abilities to connect and meet.

The Library will once again be holding a decorated pumpkin contest in conjunction with the Zelienople Fall Festival. Participants of all ages select a pumpkin at the Library for a dollar, decorate the outside only of their pumpkin (no carving), and return the pumpkin to the Library for judging. After judging, the pumpkins are used to decorate Main St. business windows.

For the over 21 crowd, the Library is hosting a 1980s Murder Mystery Dinner on Saturday, November 2nd, as a fundraiser. The event will be held at Glade Run. Cost per person is \$75. Sponsorships and tables will also be available. So dig out those leg warmers and jams and tease that hair for a fun night out!

**\*21 and Older\***

The Zelienople Area Public Library Presents

# 80's MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

November 2nd at 5:30pm  
Buffet Dinner  
80's attire  
Glade Run  
30 Glade Run Drive,  
Zelienople, PA

**\$75 Per Ticket**

Sponsorships & Table Purchases are Available  
For More Information Go to:  
[www.zelienoplelibrary.org](http://www.zelienoplelibrary.org)

The Library's online catalog and eResources are always available so you can download an eBook or eAudio anytime, or place and hold a book in the middle of the night if you wish! Can't find the book or DVD you want anywhere? We can search for it throughout PA and beyond. You can also find answers to all your questions at [powerlibrary.org](http://powerlibrary.org), Pennsylvania's Electronic Library. Topics include auto and engine repair, business and health information, science news and DIY topics, along with job resources.

All these services are free with your Library card!

Give us a call at 724-452-9330 to get started or stop in to get your Library card today.

# Harmony Fire District Update

**Kevin Behun, President, Harmony Fire District**

Hello again Zelianople! The Harmony Fire District is excited to have our new building completed and to call 424 S Main Street home. This project was identified as necessary over a decade ago when the Harmony Volunteer Fire Company and the Zelianople Fire Department began discussing a merger. We are glad to have this project behind us as we continue to move forward and better serve our communities.

While the construction of this building has wrapped up, our next focus will be on long-term staffing and training of our members to ensure they have every necessary skill and tool to perform the tasks necessary for our growing population. This new building allows for adequate training resources on site to increase our skills and competency, while having the comforts needed to encourage firefighters to spend time staffing the station. This is ultimately the biggest difference in determining the outcome of your calls for help. By decreasing the time it takes to get out the door, we increase the likelihood of a positive outcome for your emergency.

Along with the new building, we have some other big things coming our way. As most of you are aware, we have successfully attained numerous grants over the past few years. These grants have varied from small grants of a few hundred to a few thousand dollars, up to a total of \$2.8 million in grants towards our new building. We are currently in the final stages of working with elected officials in Washington to secure appropriations funding for \$1.2 million, which will likely be included in the 2025 federal budget. This funding will allow us to purchase a new Rescue Engine, often referred to as a Squad. This new unit will replace two aging apparatus with one dual-purpose piece, reducing long-term maintenance costs and improving our long-term capital plans. This is in addition to a replacement engine which was ordered last year, which is expected to arrive in 2026.

Another grant we received this year is a \$500,000 SAFER grant. This grant will allow us to fund a stipend program, making us more competitive with neighboring areas in recruiting members, as well as an advertising campaign, new gear and physicals for new members, funding for training, and other benefits spread out over the four-year duration life of the program.

As we are closing in on a decade of service as the Harmony Fire District, we feel confident that we are stronger than ever and prepared for the future. Part of that future is you. We are still in need of more volunteers. With this new home, upcoming apparatus, funding, and training opportunities, we look forward to meeting with anyone interested in serving alongside our members. This could be through full membership and becoming an interior firefighter, a support member, or our associate program, which encourages trained firefighters from other areas to come and spend time with us and volunteer their time as able. Our Junior program has also been very beneficial, allowing members as young as 14 to begin training and start the process of becoming a highly qualified firefighter by the time they turn 18.

***Thank you, to all of you who have supported us in the past, and continue to do so. We hope you never need our services, but we are here for you, if you do.***



**HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT  
OPEN HOUSE!  
October 12th from  
3:00pm-7:00pm**

Come see your new fire station at  
424 South Main Street!

We will have our usual activities  
available for kids and we welcome  
all to tour our new building.

This is a great opportunity to  
come meet our members and  
discuss how you can contribute  
to your community.



# Zelienople Fire Bell Restoration Project

On May 8, 2024, the fire bell was restored and returned to its original location in front of the Zelienople Borough Municipal Building, where it was first put into use in 1900. A community poll was conducted to decide whether the bell should remain in front of the Municipal Building or be moved to the new Harmony Fire District building. The results were very close! Based on the feedback from the community, it was decided that the bell should remain in front of the Municipal Building due to its historical significance. Respondents noted in the poll that it should stay in its current location because it is “a piece of history” and “it marks the original fire station”.

The restoration project was made possible by the Randall and Cynthia Hart Family Community Enhancement Fund. Many of you are familiar with Mr. and Mrs. Hart and their support of our community through their involvements with other organizations such as the Seneca Valley Foundation, Zelienople Community Park, Harmony Fire District, Zelienople Historical Society, The Strand Theater, and other community organizations.

The new memorial plaque was installed on the bell frame on August 27, 2024, completing the restoration project. Thank you, Randy and Cindy Hart, for your generous contributions to our community!



Before the Restoration



After the Restoration

## Want to know what's going on in *Zelienople*?



### It's Zelienople in your pocket!

Get community notifications, Find where to park, Discover things to do, Pay your utility bills ... and more!  
on the Zelienople Mobile App!

It's the fastest and easiest way to submit *non-emergency* requests.

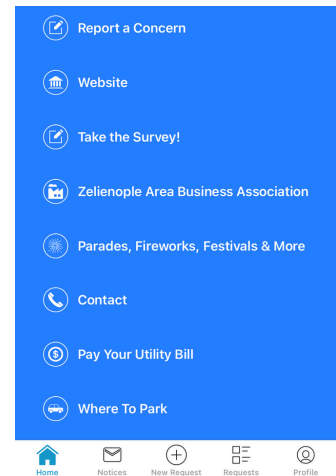
Download the app today...



or visit our website!



[www.zelieboro.org](http://www.zelieboro.org)



**Our After-Hours-Call-Out-Service Phone Number is Changing Soon!**

We're currently transitioning our after-hours call-out service to the Cooperative Response Center (CRC). As a result, our after-hours contact number for reporting service interruptions will be changing soon.

For now, you can continue using the after-hours phone number listed on the back of your utility bill until the transition to CRC is complete. Please stay tuned for the updated contact information.



## Donations Needed for Foundation Repair of the Passavant House

The Zelienople Historical Society was incorporated as a nonprofit in 1975 to preserve and share the history of Zelienople.

In 1978, the Society purchased and restored the Passavant House at 243 S. Main St., creating a museum featuring artifacts and memorabilia of the Passavant family and of the town's historic past. The Passavant House was built in 1808 by Philippe and Zélie Passavant, the daughter of Dettmar Basse, the town founder, and is Zelienople's oldest remaining structure. It is the only structure in Zelienople on the National Register of Historic Places.

While still being open for tours and being the administration offices for the Zelienople Historical Society, the Passavant House is in need of "major" foundation repair. This will be a significant undertaking that will require substantial funding.

As the family grew, additions were added to the house. The materials used for the foundation of these additions are disintegrating and need replaced to keep the house from sinking.



Architects and engineers familiar with restoring historical properties have been consulted and we are waiting to receive their cost analysis. As a result, the Zelienople Historical Society will be launching a "GoFundMe" fundraising campaign.

Until the GoFundMe website is operational, donations can be made on the Zelienople Historical Society's website at [www.zeliehistory.org](http://www.zeliehistory.org) or checks can be mailed to Zelienople Historical Society, 243 S. Main Street, Zelienople, PA 16063.

*Please help us maintain this historic house which is a source of community pride and national historical significance. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.*

*Thank you for your generosity!*

## Leaf Pick Up

Curbside leaf pickup will tentatively begin on October 28th, 2024.

Once leaf pick up has begun, leaves may be placed on your curb (not on the street). Please note that there will be no set schedule for leaf pickup.

Once an official start date has been determined, it will be posted on the Borough website, [www.zelieboro.org](http://www.zelieboro.org), social media pages, and the Zelienople app.

You may also call the Zelienople Borough Office at (724) 452-6610 for more information.



# Meet Zelienople Police Department's School Resource Officers

Since the beginning of the 2023 school year, Seneca Valley School District has contracted with the Zelienople Police Department to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) at the Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School. Officer Logan Brink was the school's SRO for the 2023-2024 school year. This school year, Officer Matthew Setnar has joined Officer Brink as an SRO! The SROs do more than patrol the hallways and premises; you will see them throughout the school greeting students, visiting with teachers and students, and attending various events outside of school, such as the 1.43 Mile Fun Run. The Zelienople Police Department also conducts daily patrols at St. Gregory School and St. Stephen's Academy throughout the school year.

## Get to know Officer Logan Brink

- Attended IUP and obtained a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice
- Attended Allegheny County Police Training Academy
- Started with the department in March of 2023
- Enjoys fitness activities such as going to the gym and hiking, as well as going on dinner dates and catching up on his favorite TV series and movies with his fiancé



## Get to know Officer Matthew Setnar

- US Marine Veteran
- Attended IUP and obtained a bachelor's degree in Criminology
- Completed IUP's Municipal Police Academy
- Started with the department in September of 2023
- Member of the Butler County ESU
- Enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his wife and 3 sons



### Borough of Zelienople

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