



ZELIENOPLE NEWS

Fall/Winter 2021

Borough of Zelienople

Volume 7

Borough of Zelienople · 111 West New Castle Street · Zelienople, PA 16063 · www.zelieboro.org · (724) 452-6610

Main Street Revitalization

By Don Pepe, Borough Manager



The Main Street revitalization project is continuing with the completion of the Phase II portion between Spring Street and Beaver Street. This project is continuation of what was completed from New Castle Street to Spring Street. Completion of Phase II will not be until Spring of 2022 when the electric lines will be connected to each property and the light poles and signals installed. Most of the construction of sidewalks and curbs will be completed in 2021.

Phase III from New Castle Street to the bridge going north is in planning now and hopefully will be let out to bid before the end of the year. Further Main Street revitalization is being considered but will depend on funding availability and other resources and needs. There is no set timeline for the completion of the entire project. We will keep you apprised as we move forward.

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Park Study

By Don Pepe, Borough Manager



To improve our Parks and Recreation delivery of services to our citizens as well as how to better manage them, Borough Council has commissioned a Parks and Recreation Management study to be completed prior to our 2022 budget process being completed. The goal of this study is to make recommendations on how to improve our operation and management of our parks and recreations services, provide staffing needs, and to enhance the already positive relationship that exists between the volunteer Community Park Board and the Borough of Zelienople. Stay tuned to find out the results of this study.

Staff Update

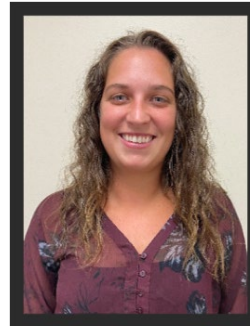
By Don Pepe, Borough Manager

We want to note that we have made some significant staffing changes that will be a great benefit to the Borough. Andrew Spencer is now the Assistant Manager; Cindy Edwards is now the Assistant to the Manager and Systems Administrator for IT Services. Also, Erin Norton is our new Finance Director and Jason Sarver is our Zoning and Codes Officer. Office staff for Accounts Payable is Amy Ellis and for Utility Billing is Shalaine Marchwinski.

These promotions and additions will make for enhanced customer service and has already born

fruits as these fine folks take on these positions. You may contact them through our phone and email system.

Meet Our New Staff!



Erin Norton
Finance Director



Jason Sarver
Zoning & Code Officer

Curbside Leaf Collection

By Chad Garland, Public Works Director



Residents of Zelienople Borough can have their leaves picked up curb side as a service provided by the municipality at no cost. The

leaves that are collected in town are taken to a state approved dumping site to be composted and used to enhance the soil. With that being said, the same principal can be used for the leaves in your yard. Mulching the leaves with your mower or composting leaves in the garden and flower beds is a 100% organic way to add nutrients to your soils.

Last season the Borough collected and hauled over 450 cubic yards of shredded and compacted leaves to the composing site.

Leaf collection is just for leaves. Mixing leaves with brush, lawn clippings, trash, pet waste, or other items is not acceptable. The equipment is designed to collect leaves through a vacuum and any other items can damage the equipment or the operator often leading to suspension or delays in the leaf collection. If anything other than leaves are identified, the entire leaf pile will not be collected.

Leaves should be raked and placed at the curb. Keep piles away from fire hydrants, street sign posts, storm sewer grates, and other objects that can interfere with the equipment or operator's safety. Piles left in the middle of the yard are not collected, we assume you and the children are still enjoying the pile. Also, leaf piles cannot be collected if a car is parked on or in front of the pile. Piling leaves in the street is also not permitted and can cause unsafe conditions for motorist.

Leaf collection begins once it has been determined that there has been a significant loss of foliage and the equipment and staff can operate efficiently. Collection is tentatively scheduled for October 25th, 2021. Once the curbside collection has begun, the crews will start on the east side of Main Street, then proceed to the west side of Main Street and onto the three housing developments. They continue through this cycle until December. We do not collect leaves on an on-call basis or schedule specific leaf collection. The cycle can take up to two weeks to complete.

Please be courteous to our staff while they are collecting leaves, they are operating slow moving equipment often in inclement weather.

Possible Rezoning Process

By Don Pepe, Borough Manager

As you may have heard, the borough is in process of considering a rezoning of a large parcel of land owned by Glade Run Lutheran Services. The prior ordinance relating to the property was deemed by the borough as insufficient to effectively protect the best interests of the borough and it was repealed with the intent to replace it with legislation that would better control growth to fit the interests of the borough and its citizens.

Proposed Ordinance #878-21 was drafted for the purpose of beginning that process through the Borough Planning Commission, the property owner, neighboring property owners, the public at large, and the Borough Council.

Two public hearings were held on August 9, 2021 and October 4, 2021. Both were well attended and the public and property owners had the opportunity to voice their concerns and their ideas relating to the ordinance.

Unfortunately, it was evident that there was a lot of misinformation, misunderstanding, and lack of knowledge that lead to misplaced and untrue accusations levied on council and staff relating to the intent and reasons for this ordinance. The true and accurate facts have been noted and will continue to be shared with the public in detail so that we all can move forward and arrive at an appropriate solution to this issue.

It must be understood that the property owners' rights and the public's interests must be addressed and preserved by the borough and it is our intent to do so. With that in mind there will be a working committee developed to discuss this matter in detail and prepare an ordinance that will address all concerns in a legal and appropriate manner for the benefit of our borough.

Blade Sign Initiative

By Cindy Edwards, Assistant to the Manager/IT

The Borough has encouraged an initiative to promote blade sign use in our Main Street corridor. This project has improved the look of signs on Main Street and enhance the visibility of store fronts who use them.

Council approved the use of Borough Sign Grant program funds, on a first come first serve basis, to pay for the blade sign brackets and waive the hanging sign permit cost for any blade sign application. The cost of the sign itself and the installation is at the business owner's expense and the permit still must be submitted even though the permit fee for this sign is being waived.

The cost of the brackets was originally funded through the Borough Blade Sign Grant Initiative and a portion of the redistributed funds from the



remaining balance of unused funds at the conclusion of the one-time Yiftee eGift Card program and additionally funded through other General Fund savings. This program has been very successful with the following signs being erected or in process: Mathew Jewelers, Maddalon Jewelers, Eva Bryn Shoetique, Entasis/EXP Realty, Enhanced Beauty by Erica, Curio, Spring & Main, Boutique 16063, Haute Designs, and Eric Rice's Corporate Company. Any local business wishing to participate in this program should contact Ray Roccon at Sign Innovation at (724) 452-8699.

Winter Driving Tips

By Jim Miller, Chief of Police



With the upcoming winter season upon us, the Zelenople Borough Police Department would like to provide you with a few winter driving tips:

- Be sure you have refreshed yourself on the do's and don'ts of skid control and take the time to practice a bit in an empty parking lot.
- Remember the reality of reduced traction during snowy, slippery weather and stay doubly alert for sharp turns and curvy roads.
- Don't assume that you'll be able to stop within a normal distance when approaching a stop sign or traffic signal. Plan ahead and test your braking ability in slippery weather.
- How's the tread on your tires? The service garage takes care of that for you? Check anyway!
- Remember that snow banks are tempting for sledding kids. Be vigilant while travelling in residential areas.
- Don't assume that other drivers are prepared to deal with slippery road surfaces appropriately. Keep your distance as much as possible when driving gets slick.
- Don't be overconfident if you have a vehicle with four or all-wheel drive.
- It is always wise to have the following items in your car during the winter months: flashlight, first-aid supplies, extra clothes/blanket, jumper cables, and cat litter or sand in case your car gets stuck.

We would also like to remind all Zelenople Borough residents and businesses that the Borough has a snow/ice emergency declarations and snow emergency ordinances.

Highlights of these ordinances include:

- Snow emergency declarations that would prohibit parking on any street in the Borough or municipal parking lot for a period of time commencing after the accumulation of three or more inches of snow and continuing until the snow has been removed from the full width of the borough street, municipal parking lot, etc.
- Zelenople property owners are also required to clear their entire sidewalk of snow within 24 hours after any given snowfall and to keep the entire sidewalk free of snow and ice.
- It is a state and borough law violation to shovel snow onto the street.

To review all ordinances and details, please visit our website at www.zelieboro.org.

In the event of an emergency, the *Swift911* system will send out notifications via phone, email, and/or text to those affected. If you are not receiving these calls or emails, or wish to update your contact information, please contact the Zelenople Police Department or by visiting www.zelieboro.org and clicking on the *Swift911* logo.



Just as a reminder, if you need police assistance, either emergency or non-emergency, you must call 911. **All** calls for police services must be dispatched through 911.

Stay safe!

Harmony Fire District



Between calls for help, public events, an open house, and trainings, this summer was busy for the Harmony Fire District, and as we move into fall, we will continue that pace. The biggest task in front of us is the construction of the new station that will be located at 424 South Main Street in the Borough. The initial design phase has been completed and we now move into design development as we continue to secure funding for the project. Site preparation is already under way and groundbreaking is currently planned for the second quarter of 2022, which will be finalized early next year as we continue to pursue all funding opportunities, including state and federal grants, which will ultimately determine when we can award the project.

We are kicking off a fundraising campaign for the new station which will be arriving in your mailboxes before the end of the year. All funds received from this fundraiser will be restricted for use towards the building project. As a part of this drive, donors who meet different donation levels will be memorialized on a plaque in the station

and our highest donors will have early tours of the building upon its completion. Donors will also have the option to remain anonymous if they choose. All donation amounts are appreciated, however, recognition for donations will start at \$500 with a Lieutenant level donation and finalizing at Chief level with \$20,000 and above. The public has always been a wonderful partner and willing to support our operation. You have supported our 100% volunteer department for many years in the past and we look forward to maintaining our relationship moving forward. This new "Zelienople Station" will serve as the headquarters for Harmony Fire District for decades to come.

Aside from this project, we have received our first eight new sets of structural firefighting gear through a grant awarded to the Fire District in 2020. The Fire District recently been awarded another grant to purchase an additional twenty sets. This will allow us to ensure all our interior firefighters are outfitted with current NFPA compliant structural firefighting gear. Through grants secured by the Fire District in the last few years, the organization has been able to save over \$300,000 that was used in other areas of the organization.

Kevin Behun, President



INITIAL RENDERING OF THE NEW STATION LOCATED AT 424 SOUTH MAIN STREET IN THE BOROUGH

**Final design, lighting, and exterior coloring may change*

Library News

By Library Staff



Your Library is always evolving to better meet the needs of community members. With that in mind, we would like to share what is new at the Library and

what events are coming up. We are pleased to announce that Alyssa Smith has recently joined the staff. Ms. Alyssa is delighted to be the Zelenople Area Public Library's Children's Services Coordinator. Before coming to Zelenople, Alyssa began her career as a special education teacher before spending the last four years working in the children's department at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Oakland. Alyssa is currently working toward completing her Master's Degree in Library Science, scheduled to be completed this December. Stop by to say Hi to Alyssa!

We have several special events coming up as 2021 ends and 2022 begins. On November 4th, the Library will host mystery author Annette Dashofy for a presentation and book signing. Annette is the author of the bestselling Zoe Chambers mystery series about a paramedic and deputy coroner in rural Pennsylvania. Her latest work is the standalone *Death by Equine*. Her appearance at the Zelenople Area Public Library is also a Pop-Up event of the Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books. The Library will also be hosting a children's author as part of the GPFB in January 2022 (Brittany Thurman, author of the upcoming children's picture book, *FLY*). The Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books is planned for May 14, 2022 in East Liberty and the Festival will be holding Pop-Up events throughout the rest of 2021 and winter and spring 2022 to celebrate Western Pennsylvania's vibrant literary history and its role in the modern national and international literary stage. Events will connect readers, writers and booksellers throughout our area.

For aspiring young writers, we have "Unleash the Magic" Writer's Workshops through November 23rd for ages 12-14. Sign-up on our website. In December, the Library will hold the always popular Polar Express event for families. We also offering a Holiday Book Sale with gently used books, DVDs, puzzles and prepared holiday gift bags, December 2nd through the 6th. On Thursday December 9th, representatives from the Maridon Museum will be at the Library to introduce our patrons to the Museum's collection as part of the *Zelenople Library Presents* speaker series. Cost is \$5 for adults, children free. In addition to these special events, the Library continues to provide regularly scheduled programs such as Spanish Conversation Hour, Sign Language Hour, Chess Club, Genealogy Group, Craft Chat, Anime Club, and German Conversation Hour. These groups are open to all ages and abilities and welcome new members.

The Library is pleased to announce that it has recently participated in connecting folks without laptops or internet access to obtain both, by way of the Zelenople Area Public Library having participated in the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund program. Also, the Library is moving forward with plans to build an addition on the lot the Library owns (south side of the building), as well as to build a small parking lot. The new addition will house a new Children's Library, bringing up the Jennifer Adham Children's Library above ground, into a space with windows. We are excited about offering both an expanded and improved-upon public space and services for the next 100 years, excited for the communities we have the honor to serve. We are excited for your families in the future having the opportunity to enjoy an updated and expanded Public Library. Construction is targeted to begin in 3 years. The Library will apply for a Pennsylvania Keystone Grant which will cover half of the cost; the Library will need to raise the other half, or \$540,000 in 3 years, as the match

Zelienople Historical Society News



The Zelienople Historical Society would like to take this opportunity to thank all Zelienople residents and businesses that collectively turned the town red, white, and blue during the 2021 Patriotic Porch Tour. Thanks for your creativity and patriotic spirit. The results were amazing! Please save your decorations for next year when we'll do it again!

Our Annual Christmas House Tour is returning this year on Saturday, December 4th. Come and be inspired as you tour several area homes, all decked out in their Christmas best. Tickets will be on sale in November during ZHS office hours, 9 am to noon weekdays, 243 S. Main St., or by calling 724-452-9457. Also, visit our Christmas Gift Shop at the Passavant House beginning on Small Business Saturday, November 27th and continuing weekdays, 9 am to noon. Health and happiness from the ZHS during the coming holiday season!

Trail of Tin Project

By Cindy Edwards, Assistant to the Manager/IT



A new program initiated by Randy Hart, of the Zelienople Historical Society, allows individuals to view original decorative pressed tin ceiling panels on Main Street, most dating back to the late 1800s and early 1900s. The society's preservation committee found the panels in 10 building on Main Street. One building has three different panel designs. Each of the 13 panels are unique and range in size.

The historical society created a brochure that is available at each Main Street shop on the Trail of Tin which contains details of businesses that had occupied the building over the past 100-plus years. Each building on the self-guided tour has a replica tin panel hanging in their window. In nine of the buildings, the tin panels can be viewed on the ceiling and pictures of the panels are also available for viewing by those on the tour.

Zelienople App

By Cindy Edwards, Assistant to the Manager/IT

With the Zelienople mobile app, borough citizens can find information and report non-emergency issues such as a pothole, damaged street sign, graffiti, or other local issues as soon as they are discovered all from their mobile device in just a few taps making reporting a problem quick and easy! The app uses GPS to recognize the exact location of the issue being reported. Pictures, videos, and specific descriptions can be uploaded to accompany a request. Requests are automatically routed to borough departments for quick resolution and provides a unified location for tracking citizen requests. Emergency utility and public safety items must be reported directly to 911 and other listed emergency phone numbers to insure they are handled quickly and promptly.



Please see *Zelie App* on page 8

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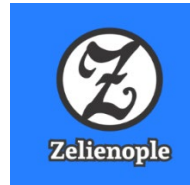
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**"A Modern Place with
Old Fashioned Grace"**

We're on the Web!
Visit us at:
www.zelieboro.org

Zelie App from page 7



You can also receive useful information and important updates from the borough by means of push notification, email, and directly within the applications. The borough distributes a lot of information to the public such as road closures, power outages, etc. and the Zelienople app allows for another way to get such information out to our citizens.

We understand that it can be hard for the public to find information when and where they need it and the Zelienople app is the solution, providing citizens with "everything Zelienople Borough, in their pocket"!

Download and start using the Zelienople App today!



Search for Zelienople

Glade Run Hosts Free Polar Express Event

Saturday December 4th at the Strand Theater, 11:00 am or 2:00 pm showing. No admission fee, donation of gift card or toy is requested. Seating Limited. Reservations Required. Visit www.gladerun.org for more information or call (724) 452-4453 x 1277.



SIDEWALK SNOW & ICE REMOVAL REMINDER

As a friendly reminder, owner, occupant, or tenant are responsible for the cold weather maintenance of their sidewalks. As foot traffic continues to increase, be sure to have snow and ice removed within 24 hours of forming.



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, December 2ND 4:00pm to 8:00pm
CARRIAGE RIDES - LIVE NATIVITY - LIVE REINDEER - PERFORMERS - GIFTS & REFRESHMENTS AT MAIN STREET STORES - ELF ON THE SHELF MERCHANT HUNT - CAROLERS - COOKIE DECORATING WITH MRS. CLAUS - LIGHT-UP CHRISTMAS TREE - LIGHT-UP CHRISTMAS PARADE - SANTA'S ARRIVAL

NEW THIS YEAR "A GRISWOLD CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST" - Get your Street Involved & Win Prizes for the Most "Christmassy Street" Prize for Best Decorated Business

THIS YEAR'S CHARITIES: Toys with the Grinch - Southwest Butler County Food Bank - SW Butler County Back Pack Program - Coats for Children - Gifts for Seniors - Salvation Army Donations - Gas Gift Cards for Single Moms

Sponsored by Zelienople Area Business Association