

ZELIENOPLE NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

VOL. 11, ISSUE 2

Mary Hess Resigns from Borough Council, Council Welcomes Karen Lyle

At the September 29th council meeting, long-standing Council Member Mary Hess resigned after 16 years of dedicated service to Zelienople Borough. Hess decided to step down to focus on her responsibilities as Lancaster Township Manager and other personal endeavors. During her tenure, she served three years as Council President and thirteen years as a Council Member. Her term was set to expire at the end of 2027. The Borough extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to Mary for her many years of commitment and exceptional leadership.



At the October 27th Council Meeting, Karen Lyle was appointed to fill the remainder of Mary Hess's council member term. Lyle, a long-time resident of Zelienople, will serve on the Police and Park Committees.



Please join us in welcoming Karen to Borough Council!



2025 Borough Council

Top Row: Andrew Spencer (Borough Manager), Dan Fritch, Spencer Mathew, Mary Hess, Steven Schoppe, Doug Foyle (Council Pro-Tem), James Miller (Chief of Police)
Bottom Row: Mayor Thomas Oliverio, Gregg Semel (Council President), Andrew Mathew (Council Vice President)

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ZELIENOPLE POLICE YEAR END UPDATE



Zelienople Borough Administrative Office Holiday Hours:

December 24th, 8am-12pm
December 25th, Closed
December 31st, 8am-12pm
January 1st, Closed



December 4th, 4pm-8pm
Miracle on MAIN STREET
Bringing hope for Christmas
Light up Parade: 7pm

Zelienople's largest charity event

Carriage Rides, Live Nativity, Petting Zoo,
 Kid's Coat Give-A-Way and More!

Visit www.miracleonmainzelie.com for event details
 and to register for the parade!

Lutheran SeniorLife
 Passavant Community

Abundant Lights

Christmas Market and Food Festival
Saturday, December 6
 10:00am, 5k Race
 with Jalapeno Hannah, the Pirates Pierogi
 1:00 – 6:00pm
 Market and Food Festival

Spend the day with us and enjoy

- 5k Walk/Run
- Basket Raffle
- Holiday Float Ride with Santa Claus
- Caricature Artist
- Photo Booth
- Amish Doughnuts
- Candy Sale
- Model Train Display, children 2yrs to 10yrs old receive wooden train whistle
- Craft Vendors and Food Trucks
- Children's Activities: letter to Santa, face painting, scavenger hunt, balloon artist, games and more!

724.452.5400
 105 Burgess Drive
 Zelienople, PA 16063

Celebrating 120 years!

December Events

December 4th

Miracle on Main Street - Main Street, 4pm-8pm
Holiday Train Display - Masonic Lodge, 4pm-8pm

December 4th-23rd

Santa's House - 4 Corners Park

December 5th

Holiday Train Display - Masonic Lodge, 4pm-8pm

December 6th

Holiday Train Display - Masonic Lodge, 10am-2pm
Glade Run's Polar Express - The Strand Theater, 11am & 2pm, Registration required
Abundant Light Festival - Passavant Community, 1pm-6pm, 5k at 10am

December 8th

Family Grinch Night - Zelig Library, 5:30pm & 7pm, registration required

December 11th

Gingerbread Night - Zelig Library, 5:30pm & 7pm, registration required

December 13th

Wreaths Across America - Zelienople Cemetery, 12pm
Holiday House Tour - Historical Society, registration required

December 17th-January 17th

Life-Sized Candy Land - Zelig Library, regular business hours

December 20th

Get Fit Families Reindeer Race - Masonic Lodge, 9:30am



All events can be found on our calendar!



32nd Annual Holiday House Tour

Support the Zelienople Historical Society and enjoy a tour of beautifully decorated homes during their 32nd annual Holiday House Tour on December 13th, 2025!

\$30 per person, luncheon included.

Purchase tickets at the Zelienople Historical Society or by calling 724-452-9457 or 724-452-6471.

This event will sell out!



Free Polar Express Screening at The Strand Theater

Friends and family are invited to kick off the holiday season at a FREE, private showing of the holiday classic *The Polar Express*, on Saturday, December 6 at The Strand Theater in Zelienople (show times at 11am and 2pm).

Little ones are encouraged to wear their pajamas and all guests will enjoy complimentary refreshments and a visit with Santa Claus! While there is no admission fee, a donation of a gift card or toy for a Glade Run child or family in need is requested. Items should be unwrapped and will be collected at the door. Visit www.gladerun.org for more information and a list of needed items.



GLADE RUN
LUTHERAN SERVICES



Seating is limited and reservations are required. This event fills up quickly. Use the QR code to reserve a spot or email at cmartin@gladerun.org or by calling 724-452-4453 x1277.



Free Holiday Train Display

Bring the family to see the Holiday Train Display at the Masonic Lodge (301 E Beaver St.)!

The display will be open to the public on December 4th and 5th from 4pm to 8pm, and December 6th from 10am-2pm.

Admission is free!





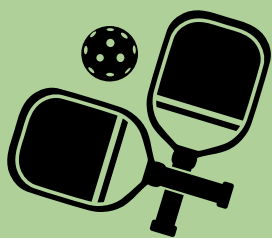
SANTA'S SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				7:30 pm to 8:30 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Back to the North Pole	Merry Christmas		

ZELIENOPLE PARKS AND RECREATION

PICKLE BALL IS COMING TO ZELIENOPLE!



Zelienople Community Park has partnered with Glade Run to bring pickle ball to Zelienople!

Starting in December, pickle ball will be available at the Glade Run Gymnasium on Saturdays. Play time may be on Sundays on occasion depending on gym availability.

Session times will be 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm. This will be for "fun play" for adults (18 & older). Each session will accommodate 24 players. Pre-registration will be required.

Stay tuned to our social media for more details!



POOL MEMBERSHIPS ARE ON SALE!

Buy your membership now to get the BEST deal of the year! Membership fees will increase on Jan. 31st, 2026 and again on April 1st, 2026. Pool memberships make great gifts!

FACILITY RENTALS

Planning a special occasion in 2026? Have it at the park! There are 6 shelters for any occasion! All shelters have electric and most have grills. Alcohol is permitted at most of the shelters with an additional permit. Plan ahead and book your shelter today!

ENGRAVED COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

Buy a brick for someone to commemorate a special occasion, to honor or remember a loved one, or to celebrate a friendship or accomplishment. Legacy bricks are a great gift that will last a lifetime! Use the QR code to download the application.



Holiday Box Display at the Community Park

Come to the Zelienople Community Park to see the Holiday boxes this Holiday Season!

The boxes will be on display beginning November 27th through New Years!

The boxes will be illuminated at 6pm every night.

Thank you to our 2025 Holiday Box Sponsors!



Get Connected!

Stay up-to-date on Park events, and news!



Purchase a pool membership, rent a pavilion, and more at www.zelieboro.org



402 E. Beaver Street,
Zelienople, PA 16063

zelienoplecommunitypark@gmail.com

724-452-0231

Harmony Fire District Update

Kevin Behun, President, Harmony Fire District



It has now been over a year since we finished our new building. We have enjoyed our time at the new location, which is finally feeling like home. We have responded to over 700 calls for help in the last year which marks our busiest year in our history.

This is no small task for our volunteers, and we continue to need your help. We are often asked what we need most for our operation and the answer remains the same. We need people. We are always looking for quality volunteers with a heart to serve. Our Junior Firefighter program, which accepts high school students aged 14-17 years old, is bursting at the seams. These Junior Firefighters can participate in drills, training, and respond to calls in accordance with child labor laws. These members are frequently children of senior members, or friends of other Juniors. While this area of our membership is growing fast, our Brigade Members, the interior qualified firefighters and rescue technicians, are still in need of help. Our recent SAFER grant award has allowed us to provide increased training opportunities for these members, NFPA compliant physicals for new members, and offset the costs of new turn out gear for those who are trained to a minimum of Firefighter 1, a national standard for basic training of firefighters. This award has also allowed us to implement a Stipend Program, which reimburses members a small stipend for staffing the Zelenople station during predetermined shift periods. We are working tirelessly to improve how we serve our communities.

While all these activities are going on, you may have also noticed a change in some of our apparatus. We were able to sell our tanker, which was no longer deemed necessary for our area, for the original purchase price. That sale allowed us to purchase a reserve engine and make a significant deposit into our savings account to move us into a much stronger financial position for long term capital planning. We also added a UTV to our fleet in the last year. This purchase was made possible by our Auxiliary Committee working hard to raise funds through various fundraisers to fill a void in our operation. This UTV is a Can-Am Defender and will allow us to respond further from the roadway for both brush fires and patient retrieval when needed. Finally, planning for the future, the District continues to work with local, state, and federal representatives to secure funding for our fleet replacement needs, which will include delivery of a new engine in 2026.

We would like to take a moment and thank all of you for your continued support. The District has grown as fast as our community has over the last several years. The financial support we receive from our fundraisers and our fund drive mailers continue to be vital to our operation. Our members look forward to continuing to serve our great communities.



New Reserve Engine



New UTV

4 Corners Park Redesign



The Borough, in partnership with private donors, the American Legion, and Explore Zelie, will be redesigning and rededicating the Veterans Memorial Park along Main Street. This meaningful project is dedicated to honoring the memory and service of all our local veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

The project includes a redesign of the memorial layout, including removing and replacing trees, cleaning and refinishing of the existing monuments, and the installation of additional monuments. Please note that residents and visitors can expect construction activity in the area of the Four Corner Park during this time, including the removal of some trees as part of the redesign.

This community effort is made possible through the collaboration and support of Explore Zelie, the American Legion, and private donors. The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 474, as part of this effort, invites you to support this worthwhile endeavor by purchasing a commemorative brick. These bricks will be placed in the central area of the memorial park in front of the monuments.

There are three categories of bricks available:

Veterans Bricks – Honor a friend or family member who has served

Legion Family Bricks –for Posts, Squadrons, Units, or Chapters to show their support


Donor Bricks – for individuals or businesses who want to show their support



Use the QR Code to
purchase a brick

You can be a part of this lasting tribute by purchasing a commemorative brick.





Donate to your community!

Connoquenessing Valley Community Chest - CVCC

CVCC's 2025-2026 campaign benefits Zelienople Community Park, Zelienople Area Library, Zelienople-Evans City Meals on Wheels, Southwest Food Cupboard, and in Toto Community Resource Center.



Donate Today! <https://cvcommunitychest.com>

THE Shindig
CHARITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

August 7, 8 & 9, 2026
at
Zelienople Community Park

PRESENTED BY


The best mix of local and regional bands playing all weekend long!
PLUS
Food/Beverage Trucks, Kids' Activities and much more!

Tickets go on sale December 1
Stocking Stuffer Special:
Buy one weekend ticket @ \$40, get one FREE
One-Day Ticket \$20

Learn more & Buy Tickets 

All proceeds benefit:
Rock Steady Boxing Program
Community Liver Alliance & 





Zelienople Police Wrap Up a Busy Fall Season

Lieutenant Kevin Mikulan

As our event and festival season winds down, the Zelienople Police Department reflects on another successful year of community engagement. The Fourth of July Parade was a tremendous success, Horse Trading Days brought strong crowds, and the Fall Festival capped off the season with beautiful weather and record attendance.

Pictured are SROs Brink and Setnar, Officer Myers, and our newest full-time officer, Taylor Placke, assisting with Zelig's Merchant Trick-or-Treat and Halloween Parade. Officer Placke joined the department in June and is now in Phase Three of her Field Training Program. She is operating independently and has exceeded expectations. Her Field Training Officers are confident she will continue to uphold ZPD's professional standards and community-first values.



While many of the year's major events are behind us, the department still looks ahead to two of the largest, Miracle on Main Street, which draws thousands of visitors to downtown Zelienople, and Harmony Borough's annual Sylvester New Year's Eve Ball Drop Celebration, another major community celebration.

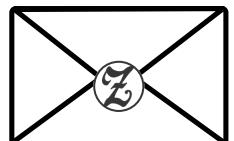
Our officers truly enjoy participating in these community traditions, ensuring that every event is safe, welcoming, and memorable for all who attend.

Now is a good time to check and verify your information is up-to-date in the Zelig-Harmony Notification System.

To verify your information, please call the Zelienople Police Department at 724-452-3003 ext. 0 or email zeliepd@zelienoplepolice.org.



Are you part of a local group and would like to be added to our newsletter submission list?
Email zelieboroughnewsletter@zoominternet.net to be added to the list!



Borough of Zelienople
111 West New Castle Street
Zelienople, PA 16063

(724) 452-6610 (phone)
(724) 452-6613 (fax)
(844) 740-7095 (after hours emergencies)
zelieborough@zoominternet.net

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM (M-F)
Office Open 9:00 am - 4:00 PM (M - F)



www.zelieboro.org

