

ZELIENOPE NEWS

FALL 2023

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An Inside Look at Borough Council with President Mary Hess

Mary Hess, who has played a pivotal role in the enhancement of Zelienople Community Park and Main Street revitalization efforts, has served as borough council president since January 2022.

With a background in construction and technology and a desire to continue improving the Zelienople community, Hess ran for council as a write-in candidate in 2008 and won. "I had an interest in improving the economy in Zelienople," she said, "there was so much potential, and the main street didn't reflect the vibe of the community."



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It wasn't long after she was elected to council that she, along with a group of residents, started the Zelienople revitalization group in an effort to enhance Main Street. Revitalization efforts, which have, thus far, included increasing public parking spots, undergrounding electrical lines, and improving and maintaining storefront facades, will continue in 2024.

Phase II of the ongoing Main Street Revitalization project (Spring Street to Beaver Street) was estimated to be completed in 2023. Unfortunately, supply chain disruptions created delays beyond the Borough's control.

Although Phase II is temporarily halted until the necessary supplies are received, planning Phase III (New Castle Street to Grandview Avenue and Four Corners Park) is underway. According to Hess, new designs of Four Corners Park and the East New Castle Street Lot are being developed.

Earlier this year, Council voted to extend the Western Butler County Authority (WBCA) charter, which ensures essential sewage services and infrastructure for Zelienople Borough, Harmony Borough, Jackson Township, and Lancaster Township, for an additional 50 years.



Front Row (L to R): Borough Manager Andrew Spencer, Council President Mary Hess, Council Vice President Drew Mathew, Mayor Tom Oliverio

Back Row (L to R): Councilperson Doug Foyle, Councilperson Marietta Reeb, Councilperson Gregg Semel, Councilperson Ralph Geis

"One of my priorities is making sure the legacy of what this council leaves protects the future," she said, "we wanted to make sure we are protecting not only our community but also the other communities involved in that."

Borough administration, in accordance with council, is in the process of developing a Comprehensive Plan that will establish a framework for the future of Zelienople over the next 20 to 30 years. Zelienople residents, business owners, and visitors are encouraged to provide feedback to be considered for this project by completing the Zelienople Community Visioning Survey at www.tinyurl.com/zeliesurvey2.

Volunteer of the Year Award Presented to Neal Jackson

Neal Jackson, a lifelong Zelienople resident, has been selected as the 2022 Volunteer of the Year Award recipient.

Neal has been involved with the Rotary Club of Zelienople and Zelienople Area Business Association (ZABA) since 1994. He is the secretary of the Rotary Club and has served as one of the chief coordinators of the Fourth of July Parade, a Zelienople staple, for more than 15 years. For the past 20 years, Neal has coordinated the operation of Santa's House in Four Corners Park as part of ZABA, where he now serves as the treasurer.

He also serves as a board member and treasurer for Zelienople PA Revitalization (Explore Zelig). "I wanted to make sure Zelienople remains a vibrant community and has a strong downtown district," he said, "It so important, and it's something I wanted to help foster."

A graduate of Seneca Valley High School and Geneva College, Neal has spent his life in this area and always had a desire to be involved. He serves as treasurer of the AmSpirit networking group in Cranberry Township and board member of the Seneca Valley Band Foundation. He is a board member and serves on the Finance Committee of the Community Development Corporation of Butler County.

While he spends much of his free time serving the community, he has also worked diligently to establish a successful career. For the past 29 years, Neal has not only lived, but also worked in Zelienople, where he is now the Vice President and Business Development Officer at WesBanco Bank.

Zelienople Borough Council Members express their gratitude for Neal's dedication to enhancing the community. His service is a gift to the residents, businesses, and patrons of Zelienople. He exemplifies volunteerism and leadership through his unwavering commitment, and the Borough of Zelienople is proud to present this award to him. "I'm not in it for the recognition," he said, "I enjoy being able to contribute something that makes the community better. It benefits my family as well as everyone else."



He was nominated for this award by former Borough Manager, Don Pepe, who commended Neal's years of service with local organizations. "His love for Zelienople and its people shows through the many hours of service he performs," Don wrote.

Neal noted Zelienople's community park and "top notch" school system as a few things he loves about Zelienople. "It's a great place to live," he said.

Neal was presented the 2022 Volunteer of the Year Award on August 28, 2023 at the Borough Council Meeting. "It's good to be able to make a difference," Jackson said, "and I am honored to be recognized."

Tell us what you think about *Zelienople* !

We want your feedback!

The Borough of Zelienople is in the process of developing a Comprehensive Plan that will establish a framework for the future of Zelienople over the next 20 to 30 years.

Help shape the future of Zelienople by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/zeliesurvey2> or scanning the QR code and completing the survey.



Summer Recap: Zelienople Community Park



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

In addition to our usual programs, such as swim lessons and our summer concert series, we were excited to launch new events like Soccer Shots and Mad Science at the Park.

Duck Derby and Zelienople Community Day, organized by the Community Park Association Advisory Board of Directors, also made a splash this summer with residents and visitors.

"It's been a great summer with our additional programming," Parks and Recreation Director Jason Mentel said, "and we are looking forward to continuing to expand our events and programs."

Thank you to the outstanding volunteers and organizations that have dedicated time and resources this season to keep the park beautiful and well-maintained. Volunteers helped with landscaping, cleanup, and restoration of the gaga pit.

"Thank you to everyone who made this summer amazing," Mentel said, "and we can't wait to see you again!"

Pool memberships for the 2024 season will open this fall. Make sure to follow the Zelienople Community Park Facebook and Instagram pages to stay up-to-date.

See you soon!

Community Park Association Advisory Board of Directors

President: Bryan Branby
Vice President: Maria Venazindis
Treasurer: Lois Young
Secretary: Jeff Flood

Beverly Leasher
Carol Schneider
Lisa Salak



Thank you for a wonderful summer!

James A. Ayers Amphitheater Enhancement Project

The James A. Amphitheater Enhancement Project aims to improve drainage and increase accessibility and seating in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

This summer alone, the amphitheater hosted four Summer Concert Series events, Shakespeare in the Park, and many community performances.

"Being able to improve the amenities we have at the park is great. It's wonderful to provide more opportunities for our community," Parks and Recreation Director Jason Mentel said.

Donations for this project can be made online at www.myzeliepark.org/donate or via mail by sending cash or check to:

Community Park Association
 PO Box 402
 Zelienople, PA 16063



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

- Report a Concern
- Website
- Take the Survey!
- Zelienople Area Business Association
- Parades, Fireworks, Festivals & More
- Contact
- Pay Your Utility Bill
- Where To Park

Harmony Fire District Update

Kevin Behun, President, Harmony Fire District



On August 31, the Harmony Fire District held a groundbreaking ceremony for the long-awaited new building. The event was attended by local, county, state, and federal representatives and others who have helped make this project finally move forward. Something that was so evident at the event was the collaboration that it has taken to get the shovels in the ground and make this project happen. No one person, group, or committee alone could handle this project on their own. Many residents understand that a 3-mill tax is assessed on real estate, and that is controlled by the borough council, but so much more has gone into this project than just millage. We solicited, and continue to accept, donations - a capital fund drive specific to this project. We worked with the county to secure Brownfield funds which helped to clean the site of any potential contaminants. We worked with county and state representatives to unlock state funding through the RACP program and worked with Congressman Mike Kelly's office to secure appropriation funding to help close the final gap in funding that was needed to move forward. This community should be proud of this building, and we believe you will be next fall when we host a public open house and invite you all in to see what these tax dollars are paying for. While we have discussed many times how the community will benefit from this building, soon you will be able to see it.

The Harmony Fire District is strong. While we still need more volunteers, we are doing very well compared to many of our peers. Time and time again, we turn out trucks of qualified firefighters who are ready to answer your calls for help. However, there are still times of the day that we do struggle. Specifically, daylight during normal working hours, or while many of our members are getting kids to and from school or the bus stop. Moving into this new building, which will better allow and encourage, members to work from "home" or staff the station, will make a big difference in our response.

We want to thank you all for the support of our raffles. This year, we were able to bring back our Car Raffle, which was a massive success, and other raffles such as the quad and trailer package, and a few other large raffles that are in the pipeline will start later this year and over the winter months. We continue to work to streamline our fundraising and find the most efficient means of operation for our committee members who have taken significant amount of time away from the mission of the fire service to conduct these administrative tasks. While our long-term plan for raffles will be adjusted as needed to support our operation, we do intend to conduct a vehicle raffle each year for the foreseeable future.

Please keep an eye on our social media pages for updates as we continue with construction to see the latest information on the Harmony Fire District. If you have interest in joining our organization, please visit www.harmonyfire22.org for more information.



Harmony Fire District Groundbreaking Ceremony on August 31, 2023

Miracle on Main Street Returns to Zelenople

Bringing HOPE for CHRISTMAS!

Miracle on Main Street will be **Thursday, December 7, 2023** from 4:00- 8:00pm.

Come and celebrate the miracle of Christmas at this free event!

Join us for:

- Carriage rides
- Live reindeer
- Live nativity
- Christmas cookie decorating with Mrs. Claus
- Angel Walk to participating Main Street stores with special activities
- Lighting of the Christmas tree
- Light-up Christmas parade featuring Jolly Old St. Nick
- Free coats for tots to teens
- Prayers of Encouragement tent
- Butler County Food Pantry donation tent
- Butler County backpack program donation tent

This year, all proceeds will go to in Toto Community Resource Center.

Please drop off donations to Haute Designs on Main Street. You may also donate so that we can keep this a FREE event for all by visiting www.miracleonmainzelenie.com.

Questions? Contact Donna Zeigler at 724-816-8206 or daughtersofjudah@zoominternet.net.

Glade Run Hosts Free Polar Express Event

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 2, 2023** at The Strand Theater (show times at 11:00am and 2:00pm).

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. Seating is limited and reservations are required. This event fills quickly.

Reserve seats by calling Cheryl Martin at 724-452-4453 x1277 or by emailing cmartin@gladerun.org.



Officer Melanie Dodson Receives Hometown Hero Award

Officer Melanie Dodson, who was recently recognized for 25 years of service with the Zelenople Police Department, was honored with a hometown hero medal for Police Officer of the Year by Rich Gigliotti, president of the Rotary Club of Zelenople, on Friday, September 8, 2023.

Officer Dodson was nominated by Gigliotti for her “ability to create a culture of love, respect, and positive relationships between the police department and the community, especially for our youth.”

Congratulations, Officer Dodson!

Zelienople Area Public Library Update

Amy Kellner, Adult Services Librarian, Zelienople Area Public Library

Thanks to all of you, we had a great summer at the Zelienople Area Public Library, and we plan to keep that momentum going through the fall! Over the summer, 206 people registered for our summer reading program and 982 people attended children's programming... which makes a grand total of 1,143 attendees for our summer events! We welcomed over 10,500 visitors through our doors, and 41,137 items were checked out between June and August.

Heading into fall, we have a busy schedule of events for all ages. Storytime, Lego Club, and Wacky Wednesdays returned for children starting September 5. For teens, we have Teen Book Club, DND Adventure Night, Tabletop Game Night, and Teen Leadership Council. "Z-town and Beyond," our latest scavenger hunt, is now ready to pick up at the Library for teens and others. For adults, we have Craft Chats, Writer's Group, tai chi, mah-jongg, chess, Genealogy Club, Spanish Conversation Hour, German Conversation Hour, and Memory Lane meeting monthly. We will also be welcoming local authors this fall: Christian Shane on October 10, and Christina Weigand in November. Call us at 724-452-9330 or check our website/Facebook page for times and dates for these and other events.

Special events in the works include an Autumn Gathering at the Library on October 12 at 7 pm. In December, we will host a Gingerbread Fair on December 11 at 6 pm and Grinch Night on December 13 with Stories and Santa. Life-size Candyland returns December 20, 2023-January 20, 2024.

Don't forget about the excellent online resources available with your library card too! Stream movies, download eBooks, search Consumer Reports, get help from Tutor.com, and access a wide variety of other resources from home.

If you need a library card or need to replace a lost one, stop in and make it official. Library cards are free to all residents of Butler County with proof of address.

Zelienople Represented at PMEA Conference

The annual Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association (PMEA) Conference was held September 6-8, 2023 in Bedford.

This conference provided an opportunity for continuing education and networking to learn about utility equipment and services. PMEA represents the 35 boroughs, including Zelienople, in Pennsylvania which own and operate public power systems.



Finance Director **Erin Norton**, Assistant Borough Manager **Cindy Edwards**, Borough Council Vice President **Drew Mathew**, Borough Manager **Andrew Spencer**, and Public Works Director **Chad Garland** attended the annual PMEA conference.

Sidewalk Maintenance Reminder



With the winter months approaching, this is a friendly reminder that the owner, occupant, or tenant of every property fronting upon or located alongside any street in the Borough of Zelienople is responsible for removing snow or ice from their sidewalks within 24 hours of accumulation. The snow and/or ice removed from the sidewalk cannot be dumped or piled onto any public street or alley to the extent that it interferes with vehicular traffic.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held at the Zelienople Municipal Building at 111 West New Castle Street at 7:30pm on the following dates:

October 9, 2023
October 30, 2023
November 13, 2023
November 27, 2023
December 11, 2023

THE ZELIENOPLE AREA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PROUDLY PRESENTS

38TH ANNUAL

Zelienople Fall Fest

OCTOBER 13, 14 & 15



KICK-OFF BLOCK PARTY



CHILI COOK-OFF



BOUNCE BLVD



CAR CRUISE



TAILGATE ZONE



CRAFT/FOOD VENDORS

FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE AND MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT WWW.ZELIEFALLFESTIVAL.COM

Upcoming Events



Lion's Club Halloween Parade
Thursday, October 26 at 6:30pm

Trick-or-Treat
Tuesday, October 31
6:00-8:00pm

**Zelienople Historical Society
Christmas Home Tour**
Saturday, December 2
9:00am
\$25/person - includes lunch
and door prizes
Call 724-452-6471 for more
information.

**Passavant Community's
Abundant Lights Christmas
Festival**
Saturday, December 2
4:00-8:00pm

Leaf Pick Up

Curbside leaf pickup will tentatively begin in October.

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 a start date has been determined, it will be posted on the Borough website, www.zelieboro.org, social media pages, and Zelienople mobile app.

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

Borough of Zelienople

111 West New Castle Street
Zelienople, PA 16063

(724) 452-6610 (phone)
(724) 452-6613 (fax)
(724) 453-4299 (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

