



ZELIENOPE NEWS

Winter 2016

Borough of Zelienople

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

Main Street Revitalization Project Underway

By Don Pepe, Borough Manager

The first phase of the Main Street Revitalization project has begun. The area for the new municipal parking lot on the corner of West New Castle Street and Clay Street has been cleared and slated to begin construction in early April. The project will be bid out in February and the contractor chosen by late March. The design for the lot has been approved and a copy of it is here to see.



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The lot is planned to be completed by October of 2016 and opened for the holiday season.

This is just the beginning of a multi-year project that will be to the benefit of the Borough for years to come. Stay tuned.

Stormwater Projects for 2016

By Chad Garland, Public Works Director

With the warmer weather of spring approaching our focus can shift from snow and ice removal to stormwater management and flood prevention.

During the 2016 construction season Zelienople Borough will complete two stormwater projects and begin engineering phases on a multi-year improvement plan for areas west of Clay Street. The first project will collect stormwater overflow from the new municipal parking lot (construction to begin in early 2016) and install stormwater piping to West Grandview Ave. It will then be

Integrated into the existing stormwater infrastructure. Stormwater will also be collected at the intersection of West New Castle Street and Clay Street.

The second project for construction in 2016 will collect storm water runoff at and upstream of the Zelienople Community Park through a series of dry ponds. This project is designed to collect stormwater during severe weather events and allow a controlled discharge of flow to enter the underground stormwater system as it passes under Please see *Stormwater* on page 8

Zelienople Volunteer of the Year for 2015

By Don Pepe, Borough Manager

The second annual Zelienople Borough Volunteer of the Year award had many strong candidates nominated and after a considerable review the award was given to Mr. Tom Nesbitt for his outstanding work in memorializing the history of Zelienople in a book that was published this year with all proceeds going to the Zelienople Historical Society.

Mr. Nesbitt spent hundreds of hours compiling narrative and photographs documenting our town history. What an accomplishment. Tom was given his award at the 2016 Fireman’s Banquet



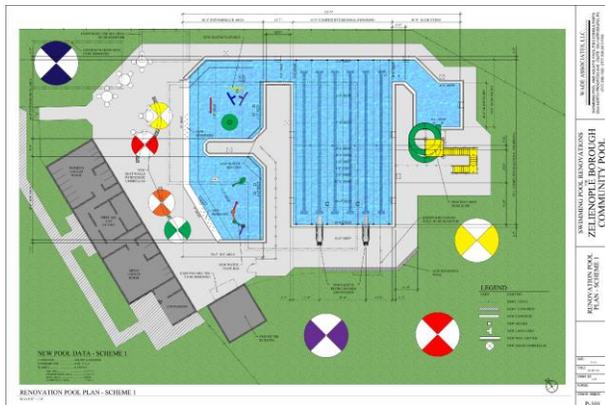
Tom Nesbitt Named 2015 Zelienople Volunteer of the Year

that was held on January 30th. Thanks Tom for a job well done and a much deserved award recognition.

Great News

By Jen Semel, Zelienople Community Park

Zelienople Borough and the surrounding communities are rallying around the newly awarded \$700,000 DCNR grant. These monies will aid in the construction of a new state of the art, heated swimming pool incorporating a general purpose competitive area, intermediate area, tot area, interactive water features, and filtration building. Other upcoming phases of the project include bathhouse upgrades to include ADA accessibility and greenspace improvements.



The Community Park Association Fundraising Initiative is actively seeking donations from local businesses and individuals to make this community based vision a reality. Visit www.myzeliepark.org to lend your support.

Zelienople Airport News

By Russ Robertson, Zelienople Airport Authority

The Zelienople Airport has gone through extreme changes during the past three years. Most of the old hangars have been demolished and replaced with new ones.



Hangar capacity has been doubled; over 20 acres of new aprons have been paved; navigational and other safety instrumentation have been upgraded; the runway is being upgraded; and more improvements are expected in the near future. One of the exciting things of the Airport, as a municipal entity, is that new users and businesses are being established. In turn this is a stimulus for creating jobs and housing in the Zelig area. Another attraction is the Airport, as a business, has no debt because of the extensive use of private capitalization.

We welcome you to visit us as well as our website at www.zelieairport.com . As a cautionary tip because we do not have all the safety gates installed, please do not drive on the aprons, taxiways or runway.

Zelienople Community Park News

By Alecia Flood, Park Manager & Rec Director

There is a lot of planning going on right now for 2016. If you have any ideas to share please email me anytime. Now is a great time as well to get on our park email list, so that you are updated with all of the local activities. There are many new things to keep an eye out for in March: the Family Scavenger Hunt 3/19 in Zelienople, the Park Ski Trip, March Madness and a raffle for a FREE family membership for this season. Just email flood@zoominternet.net to get on the list for more information. See the 2016 pool form in this newsletter to join. All may take advantage of the "early bird" special to save money by March 15. The second discount period ends April 30.

WANTED

A part time maintenance worker for 32 hours a week that could start March 28 for mowing, string trimming, garbage assistance, bathroom cleaning, and misc.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank all of those who have volunteered in 2015. We could not do all of this if it was not for YOU!! We have many volunteer opportunities in April....spring playground clean up, new picnic table assembly, trail clean up, etc. If you, your family, your group or team would like to volunteer, please contact me anytime.

Main Street Revitalization Update

By Don Pepe, Borough Manager

With the project underway for the new municipal parking lot, (see article in this edition), I wanted to give you an update on the overall project. Revitalization is broken up into Phases and parts. Phase I is multi-faceted and includes:

- Municipal parking lot land acquisition, demolition and construction
- Kaufmann House renovation of the restaurant and hotel and reopening
- Streetscape renovation of Main Street from New Castle Street to Spring Street. To include street and sidewalk design and replacements, lighting and signal upgrades, and the proposal to place all overhead utilities underground

Phase II is a less complicated effort and advance the streetscape design improvements from Spring Street to Beaver Street. Efforts are now underway for acquiring grant funds to assist in carrying out this plan.

Phase III would be to advance the new Main Street design north from New Castle Street to the bridge

including the 4 Corner Park area. That phase is still conceptual.

Phase I is funded through various grant awards, municipal funds and projected fund raising. This mix is important since it requires a considerable amount of money to make this happen. It is also somewhat complex and management of the project is critical.

Currently the parking lot is advancing as noted in another article. Concurrently the Tourism Bureau is moving ahead on the Kaufman House portion and if all goes as planned they are slated for opening by mid-year 2017.

The streetscape portion is the third piece of the puzzle and will go to bid by May or June of this year. Construction can begin by year end with an unsure completion date at this time; hopefully by the end of 2017. Both sides of the street will be included and we will do all we can to minimize impact to the merchants and shoppers during this time. But, we will work with the business community to make this difficult time manageable for all.

Signs and their Regulations

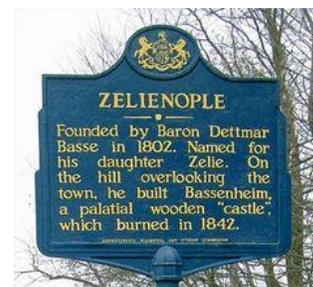
By Shelly Kaltenbaugh, Code Enforcement Officer

Business signs and their effective regulation; this is something that the Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer has set as a goal for 2016. It is a challenging ambition, striking a balance between meeting the needs of the business community while avoiding too many signs and ultimately visual pollution.

The first step in this goal, familiarization, with Main Street business owners provided a fact sheet regarding sign regulations and procedures. Results were immediate with some businesses removing illegal signage from their property while others have submitted applications for new signs.

Next, the Zoning Officer will be evaluating signage on properties, specifically concentrating on temporary signs, and requesting the removal of

those that are illegal. And what is a temporary sign? It is any sign, banner, pennant, valance or advertising display constructed of cloth, canvas, light fabric, cardboard, wallboard or other light material, with or without frame, which is used on a temporary basis and is not permanently affixed to the ground.



And what is a legal temporary sign in the C-1, Central Business, Zoning District? There are three groups that include:

1. Grand opening for a new business, maximum size 12 square feet per side, and only displayed for a time period not more than 30 days before, nor 30

Please see *Signs* on page 7

2016 Skatepark Newsletter/Update

- Project committee started in the spring of 2010 after the loss of our town's 3 amazing young men who lost their lives in a tragic car accident; their passion for this project is our drive.
- Local fundraising started in the summer of 2010 and to date we have raised some \$155k+ thru our town and local communities resident & businesses generous donations.
- The Zelianople Park Board and Zelianople Borough approve the Skateparks concept in the fall of 2015 after a public meeting.
- A current design shown on right selected by the Skatepark Committee after meeting publically with our local skaters for input.
- The Skatepark Committee is currently working with manufacturer for design cost analysis in order to apply for 2016 state and industry related grants.
- Donations of all levels are welcome to help this dream come true. Please visit the Skatepark's tab on the parks website for details relating to the skatepark: www.myzeliepark.org



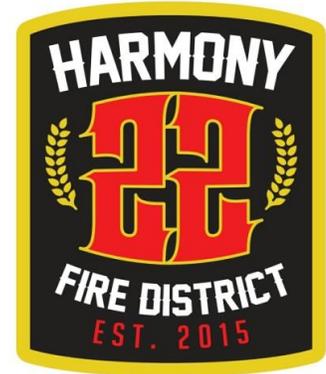
FOR THE DREAM
ZELIENOPE MEMORIAL SKATEPARK

The Future of Fire Protection is Here

By Captain Chuck Skillman, Harmony Fire District

You may not know it, but something extraordinary just happened to the fire protection you enjoy as a resident of our quiet little borough.

Less than one year after announcing their intention to do so, the Zelenople Fire Department and the Harmony Volunteer Fire Company merged on December 1st of 2015 to become the new **Harmony Fire District**. A new set of officers were elected, and we have consolidated to a single main station (543 Main Street in Harmony) and a satellite station on Route 19 in Middle Lancaster. Plans are underway to build a new main station somewhere near the line that divides Zelenople and Harmony Boroughs. The ultimate location will be selected based on property availability, projected response times, and impact on insurance rates. The new organization will provide primary fire and rescue protection to Zelenople Borough, Harmony Borough, Jackson Township, and Lancaster Township. The merger also includes the highly-valued Auxiliary and Fire Police functions as critical components of the new fire district.



The new logo of the recently formed Harmony Fire District.

So what does this merger mean for you as a resident of the Zelenople Borough?

- **A significantly stronger membership.** At a time when some volunteer departments are seeing their membership numbers drop into the single digits, the Harmony Fire District now boasts an impressive roster of ninety-nine members!
- **Faster response times.** With our increased membership, we are exploring options to staff the station during critical periods. In the middle of the night, a house fire is more likely to have deadly consequences. When every second counts, “live-in programs” or “duty-nights” (where some members would spend a designated night of the week at the station) will allow us to approach the response times of paid departments at a much lower cost to you.
- **Lower operating costs.** Maintaining two separate departments meant two sets of fire apparatus, two sets of expensive fire and rescue tools, and two buildings to heat, cool, and light. For perspective, our latest ladder truck purchase was nearly \$1,000,000. Consolidation of these facilities and equipment will mean better fire service at a lower cost to the taxpayers.
- **Better training and operational alignment.** Previously, the two companies trained separately and in some cases had two different ways of doing the same job. The new Harmony Fire District trains together as one group every week and now operates from a single set of Standard Operating Guidelines, or SOGs. The result is a well-trained crew operating as a single, highly-efficient unit when you need us most and we are getting better every day!

- **Access to state funding.** In 2015, the Harmony Fire District applied to the Pennsylvania DCED (Department of Community & Economic Development) for a grant to cover some of the costs associated with the merger. Despite a paralyzing state budget impasse, we were recently awarded \$48,700 to help defray costs associated with the merger (re-lettering of apparatus, gear, and uniforms; attorney's fees; relocation expenses; etc.).

While the benefits of the merger may be clear, losing some of the identity and pride associated with our former organizations was tough for our membership. One of the first challenges we faced was settling on a new name. An exercise that could have quickly torn the group back apart, remarkably, became our first of many rallying points. Originally, we thought a totally new name and station number would be necessary for a fresh start. Instead, each of us kept a meaningful element of our former identities (the Zelienople Fire Department, Station 22 and the Harmony Volunteer Fire Company, Station 23), and the **Harmony Fire District, Station 22** was born!



Members of the new Harmony Fire District pose during the First Annual HFD Christmas Party.

Our members embraced this new name and have since shown time and again they are fully committed to each other, regardless of which station we called home just one year ago. To be certain, you can be very proud of the collaboration and unity displayed by this highly impressive group of men and women.

To keep up with the latest Harmony Fire District news, we invite you to visit and like our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Harmony-Fire-District-130318579785/>). And the next time you see one of our members wearing the HFD logo on their chest, please offer them handshake and a heartfelt “thank you.” It may seem like an insignificant gesture, but it could be all the motivation they need to show up for the next training or answer the next overnight call.

We'll see you around The District!

Signs from page 4

days after the opening of an establishment;

2. Onsite promotional event, limited to two permits per year, a maximum of 30 square feet per side, to be posted for a time period not exceeding 30 days;

3. Sandwich board signs available to any business in the C-1 Zoning District. A sandwich board sign has a maximum size of six square feet per side with a height of 42 inches. No more than one sandwich board sign per business and that sign must be renewed annually by March 31.

Another important phase, is evaluating the current sign regulations. The Zoning Officer intends to gather input from the business community regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the sign regulations, and improvements that could be

made that will be both beneficial in promoting local business while maintaining an attractive and pleasing Main Street. Your comments regarding signage is welcomed, and can be received at the Office of Code Enforcement and Zoning, 724 452-3002, or cezozelieboro@zoominternet.net.

What is the Eckhart Trust?

The Eckhart Trust was created for residents of Zelienople Borough having polio or cancer and in need of financial assistance. Please contact Thomas Oliverio at (724) 452-8685 if you or you know of someone living in Zelienople Borough who may benefit from this trust.

-Eckhart Trust Fund Board of Trustees

My Day Out

By Lutheran SeniorLife Passavant Community

Loretta loves her new job helping people at the “My Day Out”, Adult Day Program at Lutheran SeniorLife Passavant Community! Her daughter brings her in to meet her “supervisor”, Lesley McGregor, the LPN who manages My Day Out. Loretta loves Lesley, values her opinion on everything and works beside her to make the other participants feel welcomed and loved. As a former event planner, this is Loretta’s strength and makes her feel fully engaged in life. John, as a former physical education teacher, leads the exercise class and Pat uses her skill on the keyboard to lead the hymn sings!

Loretta, John, and Pat have found community. Their families have found peace of mind, knowing that they are in a safe and secure environment. Just as important, the caregiving family member has some personal freedom to take care of other tasks, other people, and themselves – the person most often neglected in this equation.

My Day Out fully opened in March of 2015, and has the capacity to handle 28 participants at a time. There are fully equipped, accessible bathrooms for giving personal care, complete with roll-in showers, lockers for participants personal

belongings (extra sets of clothing, favorite games), a quiet room to accommodate the need for a nap or just to get away from the busyness of the common engagement room including living room, kitchen prep area, dining and activity space.

Participants share their talents, strengths, and interests with one another and the well-trained staff to develop programs that engage them fully and hold their attention through a half day or full day program. Exercise, arts, cooking, word games, puzzles, crafts, spiritual endeavors, music, and singing engage the whole person and help them live their Abundant Life. The *Telekin* interactive computer allows them to drop a family member an email during the day to crow about their latest craft project or look up information about local singing groups of the 1940’s in the little town in Ohio where they grew up.

My Day Out is currently available Monday through Friday, 7:00am-5:30pm, for a half day (up to 5 hours) or full day (over 5 hour) program. It is located on the second floor of the new Abundant Life Center at Passavant Community in Zelienople. My Day Out is available to the entire community, for those who need Please see *My Day Out* on page 8

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My Day Out from page 7

need socialization, structure, purpose, and involvement in their day, and assistance with physical or cognitive needs. My Day Out is in the process of qualifying for county assistance funds through the options program of the Butler County Area Agency on Aging. For more information, call Lesley McGregor at 724-452-3611 to schedule a tour or personal appointment.

Today is Friday and Jim's birthday. Lesley and her helpers have baked him a special birthday cake. He loves his family, but it will be hard leaving today, as he has made so many new friends at My Day Out and he misses them when he isn't here. Although living with his family is his and their choice, it can be lonely when they are at work or busy with the kids over the weekend. He is so glad his family found My Day Out! Don't you and your loved one deserve it?

SAVE THE DATE

Zelienople Historical Society will hold their annual Spring Tea on April 9th at the Rock Lake Clubhouse in Zelienople. Cost \$18.00. For more information call (724) 452-9457 or (724) 452-6471.

Stormwater from page 1

High, Beaver and Main Streets and continues west towards the Connoquenessing Creek.

Zelienople has several small unnamed tributaries collecting water in town, they are often a mixture of both open channels and underground piping. It

is very important if you live near one of the open waterways or culverts to keep them clear of debris and yard waste. Even small items can and do collect together to plug a pipe or dam the stream which can cause flooding with property damage.

Great Gardening Event

By Lutheran SeniorLife Passavant Community

Don't miss the 17th Annual Glade Run Spring Gardening Symposium on Saturday, April 2nd from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at



Glade Run's Zelienople campus. This gardening workshop, *Garden to Plate*, features entertaining speakers, luncheon, vendors, plant sale, silent auction and much more. Take note as KDKA Radio's Jessica Walliser and garden designer and

writer, Martha Swiss, share their wit and wisdom on creating healthy, edible gardens... even in small spaces. Learn about growing in containers and raised beds, integrating edibles into established landscapes, tips and techniques for a high-yielding vegetable garden and favorite varieties for organic growing. Meet and have your lunch served by local farmers and learn what's up and coming at each of their farms. All proceeds benefit the therapeutic programs at Glade Run Adventures. Visit www.gladerun.org to download a brochure. Registration required. Call 724-452-4453 x1277.