

Jackson Township: HOMETOWN NEWS



WINTER 2024

BRIDGING TOGETHER COMMUNITIES

County and local officials, community members and volunteers; along with park sponsors Doug and Sharon Sippel; gathered at Sippel Reservoir Park for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the newly constructed Scholars Run Pedestrian Bridge on October 18, 2023.

The bridge provides a trail connection in the northern part of the park to a trail system that connects to the Harmony Trail. The system effectively provides access from Harmony Borough and Township neighborhoods to the north, to the park,

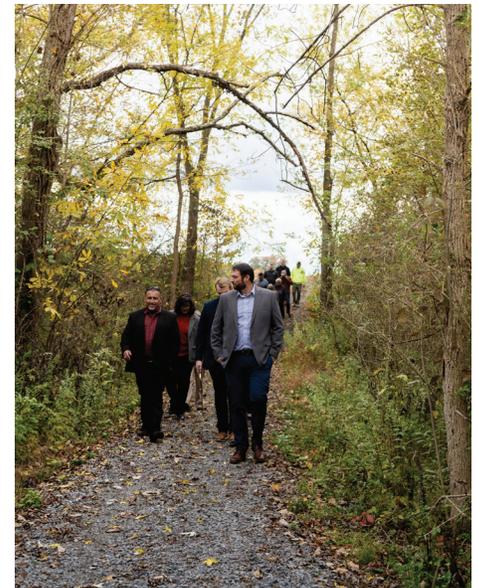


surrounding businesses and Zelenople's Main Street to the south.

"The Township appreciates the collaboration of property owners and funding sources that were required to bring this important project to completion," stated Township Manager Chris Rearick. ■



Photo credit: Jackson Township & Butler County Chamber of Commerce



Board of Supervisors

Jay Grinnell – Chairman
Allan Osterwise – Vice Chairman
Marianne Hall – Supervisor

Township Offices:
140 Magill Road
Zelenople PA 16063
724-452-5581

Police Department:
(Non-emergency calls)
724-452-5600

BUDGET APPROVED

The 2024 Township Annual Budget was approved at the Dec. 21, Board of Supervisors Meeting. To view the full document visit, <https://www.jackson-township.com/media/1966>.



DATES TO REMEMBER

February 7 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
February 12 Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
February 15 Board of Supervisors Voting Meeting, 7 p.m.
February 19 Presidents' Day
March 6 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
March 18 Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
March 21 Board of Supervisors Voting Meeting, 7 p.m.
March 29 Good Friday, Township Office is closed.
April 3 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

April 15 Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
April 18 Board of Supervisors Voting Meeting, 7 p.m.
April 23 Primary Election Day, Township Office is closed.
May 1 Planning Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
May 13 Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
May 16 Board of Supervisors Voting Meeting, 7 p.m.
May 27 Memorial Day, Township Office is closed.

For more meeting and event dates, visit <https://www.jackson-township.com/calendar>.

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TOWNSHIP RECEIVES H2O GRANT

Jackson Township is pleased to announce that, on December 19, 2023, the Commonwealth Financing Authority awarded \$500,000 of its H2O funding towards the Franklin Road Waterline Project, thus brining the long-needed improvements within reach of final design, permitting, and construction.

The project involves the installation of approximately one- and one-half miles of waterline to serve West Kaufman Road, the Timberview Plan, and Franklin Road, from the Cranberry Township line to approximately one mile north.

The system will provide access to public water to upwards of forty residences in a section of the Township with immediate needs and no short-term prospects of privately funded waterline extensions. The project has also received \$100,000 in committed contributions from Weaver Homes, developers of Woodland Reserve on Pattison Street Extension.

The Township, in cooperation with the Jackson Municipal Authority, will finalize plans for bidding and construction and will reach out directly to the residents of the corridor as the timeline is finalized.



The Township wishes to thank Senator Elder Vogel and Representative Stephenie Scialabba for their active support, advocacy, and understanding of the project, which was instrumental in the successful award of funding for this vital improvement. ■

NEXT STEPS

As a follow up to the “Pizza & Planning in the Park” neighborhood workshops, Township Officials are getting ready to take the next steps in revising the 2017 Comprehensive Plan and its Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Given growth and ongoing changes, both locally and regionally, the Township recognizes the importance of good communication between the Township and our residents. The series of workshops held in the Fall of 2023, kicked off the public input phase of plan development.

“We’d like to thank everyone who participated in our ‘Pizza & Planning in the Park Park’ series,” stated Jackson Township Planning Director Nikki Colton. “Your input is very helpful in determining the direction as we move forward in the planning process.”

Jackson Township’s updated Comprehensive Plan is intended to provide a vision for the future of Jackson Township for the benefit of its current and expected residents and stakeholders. The Plan’s vision is based on a comprehensive examination of the various qualities and functions that comprise the quality of life within the Township. The Plan is rooted in the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code that prescribes areas which this plan must examine and ensure including but not limited to housing for existing and expected residents, land use and compatibility of uses, transportation, recreation, environmental

and agricultural preservation, and public services and facilities. The Jackson Township Comprehensive Plan, therefore, is designed to provide short- and long-term guidance while requiring continual evaluation of its recommendations in light of continued change.

Some of the key findings from the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis exercises that were performed at the meetings identified the following:

Strengths	Weakness	Opportunity	Threats
Police Services	Connectivity	Growth	Growth
Snow Removal	Speeding	Recreation	Traffic
Communication	Lack of retail/ restaurants	Retail Services	Loss of Small-Town Feel

The next steps include the formation of focus groups that will work together with staff and the Township Planning Commission to discuss the specific topics covered in the plan: transportation, land use, economic development and recreation. The Township is looking for residents with varying backgrounds to volunteer for a few meetings to gain insight from the community for each topic. The meetings will be planned for the spring and conducted in the evenings. More information will be provided on our website and upcoming newsletters as we frame our plan for public outreach. If interested, please contact Ms. Colton at 724-452-5581 or ncolton@jackson-township.com. ■



WINTER'S HERE

In the fall, the Jackson Township Road Department completed winter maintenance training. In addition, they spent the last few months performing dry runs, prepping trucks and purchasing salt in the preparation for snow removal this winter and have already been out a few times during the inclement weather.

Here are a few reminders for residents as we head further into the winter season:

- To avoid interference with the plow trucks, do not park on the streets in housing developments or on any roadways. Also,

please remove all basketball hoops from roads and cul de sacs.

- When removing snow from your driveway, please do not throw it in the street. Instead, shovel snow on the opposite side of the snowplow's approach. (On a standard street, this would be on the right side of your driveway as you face the road).
- On days with lots of snowfall, if you are able, please stay home and off the main roadways.

Thank you in advance for your help! ■



FORGING NEW PATHS

In 2021, the Township secured approximately 18 acres of land south of Wise Road and extending to the Connoquenessing. The property surrounds the Harmony Trail which connects to Sippel Reservoir Park. Boardwalk



construction is anticipated throughout the wetlands onsite. Within Sippel Reservoir Park, work has continued over winter on the completion of Phase 2 of the Park's development.

As of February 1, the boardwalk over existing wetlands just north of the soccer fields was completed as a connection to the existing Harmony Trail, through the bridge over Scholar's Run and adjoining trail spur on the Groff Tractor property. This connection coincides with and maintains a section of the Connoquenessing Valley Heritage Trail which has been actively maintained by a group of local volunteers for decades. ■



PARK ACQUISITION

The Township closed on the purchase of 41 acres of land located between the site of the Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School and Spring Street on Thursday, Feb. 1. The property and surrounding area, owned by the Brenckle Family, has been historically referred to as Swampoodle.

The Township will engage in a master planning process to establish a plan that will help to meet long-term recreational needs of the Township and Zelenople and Harmony Borough residents while preserving and enhancing wetlands and key natural features of the property.

The Property lies at a key location within the network of the Connoquenessing Valley

Heritage Trail and nearby Zelenople Park, elementary school and Harmony's Swampoodle Park.

Trail connections will therefore be a priority in the development of the site. While the Township looks forward to outreach and planning, the first project slated on the property is for enhanced stormwater management with the goal of reducing the intensity of local flooding events in the area and within neighboring Harmony Borough. The Township thanks the Brenckle Family for their cooperation and Butler County for assistance in funding the stormwater enhancement phase of the project. ■

STRAIGHTENING THE ELBOW

"Devil's Elbow," the winding section of Pattison Street Extension between the Cranberry Township line and Hartzell Road is the primary focus of Jackson Township's 2024 Road Projects. The alignment of the road remains a concern with increased traffic and the construction of Ehrman Crest Elementary School. The Township is in the process of acquiring the necessary property to straighten the elbow and has applied for the necessary environmental permits. The Township's Road Department will provide most of the equipment operation, thus reducing costs. Funding is anticipated, partly through impact fees and zoning fees associated with nearby developments. The Township hopes to begin work on the elbow by early summer. ■

VROOM, BEEP, HONK!

We were revved up that approximately 500 people attended our second annual Jackson Township Touch-A-Truck event on October 21, 2023.

A big thanks goes to everyone who brought trucks, vehicles and equipment for kids to explore including our own Jackson Township Police Department and Jackson Township Public Works Department. We also appreciate our vendors and volunteers who were there to help with the event.

Finally, thank you to our residents and community members who came out to support us. It was a great day because of YOU.

If you are interested in sponsoring or donating to our 2024 Touch-A-Truck Event, or if your organization has a truck or unique vehicle and you are interested in participating in this event, please [contact us!](#)

Save the date: Jackson Township's 2024 Touch-A-Truck will be held earlier this year on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024. Mark your calendars now! ■



POLICE BLOTTER

WELCOME OFFICER MIKULAN

Jackson Township Police Department (JTPD) Officer Dan Mikulan might be new to the Township, but he is not new to service. Officer Mikulan is a graduate of the Allegheny County Police Academy



and began his law enforcement career with the Lancaster Township Police Department. His prior service includes seven years of military service with much of his time spent overseas in unwelcoming environments. In addition to service, Officer Mikulan specializes in cyber security analysis and engineering. He joins JTPD patrol operations as a full-time police officer. ■

NEW RANKS

The following Jackson Township Police Officers were promoted in the new year. Congratulations to all officers on this achievement.

- Lieutenant Timothy Amrhein
- Sergeant Zeke Reed
- Corporal Chris McGee
- Corporal Vaughn Pulgini
- Corporal Michael Murcko ■



SPEEDING CONCERNS

With increased regional traffic and access to I-79, traffic in Jackson Township has noticeably increased, along with concerns of speeding, a concern increasingly expressed by residents.

In Pennsylvania, local police departments are not permitted to use radar for speed enforcement, which severely limits the locations and expediency of speed enforcement available to local police. However, together, Township Officials and the Jackson Township Police Department have been working closely to combat this issue.

Some of the measures taken have included performing sight distance analyses,

focused speed enforcement, police collecting vehicle speed data, and engineers conducting field views of intersections examining overall functionality.

In introducing safety and traffic calming measures, the Township is subject to standards of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code and accepted national engineering standards. For example, increased average speeds have created sight distance issues at private and public roads and access drives, warranting stop signs which may also have the effect of traffic calming.

The Township is also examining the continued addition of chicanes and islands to slow the average speed of traffic. Speed “lumps” and speed “humps” may be



considered as well along with integration with and addition of trails and sidewalks to enhance pedestrian safety. The Township will continue to coordinate with residents and homeowner’s associations on affected corridors to institute such measures. ■

EXERCISE YOUR MIND AND BODY AT THE LIBRARY

The Zelienople Area Public Library has a variety of programs and events for all ages, interests and abilities. Try Tai Chi for free at their twice monthly classes, learn about the past with “Hands on History,” or get creative with a Decorating Egg Workshop.

Need help writing a resume or finding a job? CareerLink will be at the Library on Monday, Feb. 12, to help meet your goals. Have a job, but looking to retire? Tyler Bream from Edward Jones will be on hand Tuesday, Feb. 20, to fill you in on the “Rules of the Road” in preparing for retirement.

Are you curious? Find out what your handwriting says about you on Wednesday, March 20, when Paul Dau hosts a handwriting analysis. Learn a new game at the Newcomer’s table at the library’s Monday Mahjong afternoons or try your skill at chess the first and third Saturday of each month.

Learn how to find out the truth about your family’s past, with monthly

genealogy meetings or attend the special Genealogy Lock-In in April. Polish your language skills at German Hour or Spanish Conversation Hours each month or try a new hobby at Craft Chat.

The Library is a welcoming place for everyone. From Baby/Toddler Lap Sit to Memory Lane program for seniors, they have something for everyone! Aspiring writers gather once a month to consult and share. For teens and above, the library has Board Game Night, Smash Brothers Competitions, Teen Leadership Council, Hands on History and Dungeons & Dragons (DND).

In December 2023, and January 2024, the library had over 300 people of all ages and intellectual and physical abilities play life-size Candyland in the Community Meeting Room. A new session of children’s programs resumed January 22. Programs include story times for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, Lego Club and Wacky Wednesday Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities. The Zelienople Children’s



The Zelienople Area
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Librarian, Alyssa Smith, is also available for tours of the Library for scout troops or youth groups or to come read a story or do an activity with your class or group. “Adventure Begins at Your Library” this summer as the library partners with other libraries throughout the nation to have a great Summer Reading Program.

Another popular summer event is the library’s Summer Wine Walk in Harmony, scheduled this year for Saturday, June 8. Look for ticket information as the date draws near. The Zelienople Library trustees, volunteers and Friends of the Library all work together to create events to support the Library throughout the year, like the Winter Puzzle Sale, Annual Used Book Sale and Taste of Zelig. If you would like to be a helper, contact the Library at 724-452-9330 or email zelienople@bcfls.org. Find more information about any of the library’s programs or events on their website www.zelienoplelibrary.org or on Facebook.

Discovery does not end at their door! Want a book or movie that is not on their shelves? Request it from another library within Butler County, the State of Pennsylvania or beyond. Download eBooks and audios with the Libby app, stream shows and music with Hoopla, check Consumer Reports and find Tutoring help with their online resources. All you need is a Library card. Get yours today! ■



ZELIENOPE PARKS AND RECREATION

WINTER 2024

SOCCER SHOTS

Soccer Shots will be returning to the Park for soccer programming, character building, and fun on Thursday evenings from March 24 to May 16. Register now by visiting www.soccershots.com/Pittsburgh.

Summer MOVIES IN THE PARK

JUNE 20

LEAGUE OF SUPERPETS



JULY 11

TURNING RED



AUGUST 1

COCO

Register for swim lessons, rent a pavillion, purchase a pool membership, and more at www.myzeliepark.com.

COMMUNITY POOL NEWS

Zelienople Community Pool Memberships Available!

Zelienople Area Residents Zelienople Borough/Jackson Twp./Lancaster Twp. Residents

	Before 1/31/24	After 2/1/2024
Individual	\$88	\$108
Family of 2	\$139	\$160
Family of 3	\$180	\$205
Family of 4	\$210	\$247
Family of 5 or more	\$255	\$290
Nanny	\$88	\$88
Individual (Age 60+)	\$44	\$54
Couple (Age 60+)	\$69	\$85



PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS

Private Swim Lessons will be offered for the Summer of 2024. Registration will begin on February 1st for members and April 1st for non-members.

Lessons will be scheduled throughout the summer and will be available for children and adults. Private swim lessons offer individual instruction and will help gain confidence in the water. Basic swimming strokes and safety precautions will be covered during the sessions.

Members: \$95/4 lessons
Registration Opens February 1st

Non-members: \$105/4 lessons
Registration Opens April 1st



2024 ALARM PERMIT FEE

Those who reside in Jackson Township and have alarm permits were recently sent communication that their alarm permit expired on Dec. 31, 2023. As required by Jackson Township Ordinance 92-5-1 (amended); it is required to renew alarm permits annually. The renewal permit fee is \$20 and due no later than **Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024.**

If you no longer have an active alarm system, please call our office at 724-452-5581 and provide your name and address which will be removed from the mailing list. Please remit your payment to: Jackson Township Alarm Permit Account 140 Magill Road Zelienople, PA 16063.

Thank you. ■



DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!



Jackson Township



Jackson Township Police