Mayor’s Message

Hello Nazareth Borough Residents!

We have made it through another winter season, and a mild one at that! I am happy to say I did not have to declare any snow emergencies during the winter of 2022-2023. I am sure that those who love snow were disappointed in the little snow accumulation we received.

I want to remind residents about volunteerism and becoming active in your Borough. If you love Nazareth, and want to be involved, we have plenty open board seats on various commissions and committees. One such committee is The Nazareth Day Committee. They help plan one of the Borough’s big summer events. There are also civic groups to consider joining such as Rotary Club of Nazareth and the Nazareth Lions Club, which invests in giving back to our community.

If you would like more information on the Borough’s Boards and Commissions that have open seats, please contact the Borough Office at 1-610-759-0202. We would love to see residents involved!

One of the biggest concerns I continue to receive from residents is pet waste left on sidewalks, private residents yards, and in the Circle.

The Borough recently added a pet waste station with bags in the circle. Please be a responsible pet owner when walking your dog and pick up the waste from the sidewalk, your neighbor’s lawn, or in the circle. It really is the right thing to do.

Spring and summer will see our farmers market Opening on May 6th, and annual events such as The Food Truck Festival, The Kazoo Parade, Martin on Main, and the popular Sip N Shop Events. Thanks to the Nazareth Chamber, the NEDC, and our Downtown Manager Lisa Borick for keeping things fun in our Borough.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Spring & Summer.

Regards,

Lance E. Colondo
Mayor

Larry Stoudt...A Legacy of Public Service For A Man We All Knew And Loved

Few, if any, who volunteer for public service, can boast of their devotion to their hometown and count that devotion in decades like the late Larry Stoudt. Stoudt, who passed away on December 19, 2022 was serving his eleventh term representing the Borough’s Second Ward. First appointed to Council in the mid 1970’s and then elected for an additional ten, four year terms, Stoudt...
led the Police Committee until 2014 and then, the Borough’s Finance Committee until his passing. A devoted Army veteran and officer in our local American Legion Post, a member of the Nazareth Kiwanis Club, a football and high school basketball official and umpire, Stoudt also found time to serve on the Borough’s Zoning Hearing Board and the Nazareth Ambulance Corps Board of Directors while being a 50 year fire fighter with our Vigilance Hose Fire Company and serving an additional 25 years as a Special Fire Police Officer. Larry’s hat was “always in the ring” if his time and service were needed. Stoudt proudly served as the Grand Marshall of the Borough’s Kazoo Parade in 2019 and its guest speaker that year, he was the announcer for the Borough’s Halloween Parade and also donated the flag and flagpole that grace the Nazareth Regional Ambulance Corps headquarters to honor his late wife Theresa, who he lost five years ago. Larry was never shy about his love for his hometown and his unselfish devotion to all things Nazareth, will likely never again be matched. His passing marked the end of a lifetime of volunteering, helping others and public service to help make things better for our community. Council paid an emotional tribute to Larry Stoudt at its January 2, 2023 meeting as its members openly recalled fond memories of a man we all loved and whose contributions we certainly appreciated. Thank you Larry Stoudt for a half century of dedicated public service to the Borough you genuinely loved and you proudly called your hometown! For all of your years and how much you cared, there will likely never be a public servant like you ever again.

**Senator Boscola Helps Nazareth Borough Secure A Grant For A New Playground Coming To Veteran’s Memorial Square In 2023**

Thanks to the intervention and continuing help of State Senator Lisa Boscola and her staff, the Borough has been awarded an $85,000 special COVID related grant to subsidize the construction of a new playground and park at Veteran’s Memorial Square. Borough Council had anticipated a Northampton County Liveable Landscape Grant for the development and construction of the playground but that grant initiative was unsuccessful. Noticing the grant denial and the need for a play area in that neighborhood, Boscola and her staff stepped in to suggest a COVID-19 Recovery Grant which would cover even more of the financial needs of the proposal than its Liveable Landscape counterpart. Boscola’s staff helped to guide the Borough through the complicated application process and final submission of the grant proposal in August of 2022. In late November, the news of the award was received and plans for the construction began immediately. The playground will include a play-set, swings, teeter totter, benches and picnic tables on a raised mulch floor pad along Church Street, south of Council Chambers. The facility will be landscaped and accessible to residents and visitors of all ages and will be the Borough’s first playground in its Second Ward. The $85,000 grant award will cover all but approximately $3,000 of the entire expense. A dedication ceremony is planned for later this year upon completion of the playground installation.

**Council Honors the Blue Eagle Marching Band & Retiring Director Rick Hilborn**

Few schools, if any, in the area have seen the repeated successes and honors that the Nazareth Blue Eagle Marching Band has enjoyed. Year after year, our Band has won competitions across the state and the region and once again, during the Fall of 2022, another undefeated competition campaign was achieved. Retiring Music and Band Director Rick Hilborn, his staff and the proud musicians and bandfront received well deserved Council honors at the January 2023 Business Meeting as they received Borough honorary resolutions and the applause and congratulations of all meeting attendees. Our Nazareth Blue Eagle Marching Band has had a string of major successes over the last 20-30 years and outgoing Director Rick Hillborn has added to that legacy by amassing an unparalleled level of yearly honors and competition victories. Hillborn received a special Council resolution citing him for all of his contributions and thanking him for his work in the classroom as well as with the school orchestra and the marching band. Congratulations and thank you once again for all of the pride you bring to our Borough.

**Jeffrey Corpora Appointed to Council**

The untimely December passing of Councilman Larry Stoudt left a Second Ward vacancy on Borough Council.
As he has done so many times before in a variety of Borough roles, former Councilman Jeff Corpora stepped up and volunteered to serve the remaining twelve months of the Stoudt term. Corpora was a Borough Councilman from 1998 - 2002, served multiple terms on the Library Board and Civil Service Commission and was our Pool Manager for two successful and profitable years before his teaching and volleyball coaching duties in the Easton School District and at Lafayette College took him away from that position. Corpora will head the Borough’s Finance Committee and will serve until the last day of December 2023.

**New Borough Clerks**

The lifeblood of Borough business is now in the competent hands of Borough Clerk Theresa Fedele and her new assistant Trish Rogers. Together, they take care of the bulk of the Borough’s general accounting plus the day to day requests of citizens, property owners and landlords while also answering questions and taking all complaints involving our weekly refuse and recycling services. Add to that, all Park and Pool reservations plus rental registrations, handicapped parking, refuse and recycling problems and billing and you have a pretty busy slate of daily duties. Both of our clerks are very competent with today’s technology and have brought our Borough new advances in online payments, an entirely new accounting system, the Rec Desk Park booking portal plus a registry system for property inspections. Fedele and Rogers bring a wealth of experience and on the job competence to the workplace and just as importantly provide a welcoming and considerate human voice when calls with questions come during business hours. In this automated age, with recorded messages and lengthy phone waits for answers, their quick, very pleasant and helpful responses are a welcome reminder of days gone by. Our Borough is fortunate to have them both as they continue to resolve not only our intricate professional needs but they do so in a considerate way that more than satisfies our residents. Have a question or need some help...call the Borough Office at 610-759-0202 and get the answers you are seeking.

**Watch For The Park Basketball Courts Re-Do**

Look for a total demolition and reconstruction of the basketball courts in the Park during 2023. Borough Council has budgeted $147,000 to strip away the old courts, apply a new base and then entirely pave two new basketball courts at the existing location. The project will include new backboards, nets and pole supports along with lining of the actual courts. The project is partially subsidized by a 2022 Northampton County GrowNorco Grant in the amount of $25,000 which the Borough has been awarded. Right now the timeline is uncertain and dependent on warmer weather to properly do the resurfacing.

**New Recycling Center On Gracedale Boulevard...A Very Good Possibility**

The Borough is pursuing a recently announced DEP Grant opportunity to build a new drive-thru Recycling Center on the parcel it owns on Gracedale Boulevard. The DEP is offering this grant opportunity which would fund the entire planning, development and construction of this facility on the triangular 5.5 acre parcel to the west of the Public Works Garage and the Essroc Soccer Fields. Councilman Charles Donello has done all of the early legwork, and in coordination with the Borough’s Recycling Specialist, Cindy Oatis, they have spent the last several months doing the initial research and aerial photography of the parcel. A consulting firm which has constructed these types of centers nationwide has been brought in to expand on Donello’s plans which include a full range of stations for the drop off of segregated recyclables like cans, bottles, cardboard and paper products plus the usual yard waste materials which the Borough has collected since 2008. The facility would serve only Borough residents and businesses and would be staffed by an attendant. Entry and exit for the facility would be on Gracedale Boulevard only. If awarded, the Borough would have the Pennsylvania DEP fund the entire project meaning there would be no Borough expense. Plans would include dismantling the current Yard Waste Recycling Center and placing additional parking at that location for patrons of the Essroc Fields Soccer facility.

**Eight Full Time Police Officers Now Make Up Our Department**

Over the last nine months, the Nazareth Police Department has added three, new full time police
Get Ready For Another Great Pool Season

Our Pool Manager and her great staff are gearing up for another wonderful Summer season. Morning Swim Lessons will again be offered along with both afternoon and evening Pool Parties in the Poolside Pavilion. The Rec Desk portal is open for party bookings. Partygoers can bring their own food, cakes and desserts or purchase packages from the Refreshment Stand and then enjoy all that our Pool offers. There will be four event dates featuring a new DJ for great music and entertainment in a great and welcoming atmosphere. Check the Rec Desk portal and the Borough website for a calendar of events, rates for Pool passes and daily admissions. Log on to Rec Desk at www.nazarethboro.recdesk.com.

The Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity is excited to announce an abundance of wonderful happenings for Spring and Summer 2023!

Kick off summer reading with a Pet Parade and pet contest with various fun awards on May 20 at 10am. The event begins and ends at Veteran’s Field, at Green and Center Streets. Registration is required, at $10 per pet. Register by May 1st to receive a free T-shirt and swag bag. All proceeds benefit the library. Details and registration forms are available on the library website (www.nazarethlibrary.org), at the library, and at Fidelity Bank in Nazareth. Special corresponding tumblers from Seiple Engraving Co. are also available. For every “Nazareth Farmer’s Market” and “Pet Parade” tumbler purchased at https://www.seipleengravingco.com/shop-drinkware, Seiple Engraving Co. is donating $5 to the library.

Did you know that with your library card you have a wealth of FREE amazing electronic resources at your fingertips? Via the “Collections” then “eBooks & Audiobooks” tab or the “Research” tab on the library website, you have access to THOUSANDS of ebooks, audiobooks, comic books, movies, TV shows, magazines, music, puzzles, games, and research tools like genealogy resources, homework helps, language learning, maps, newspapers, and scholarly databases. And did you know that we circulate 250 e-books through cloudLibrary and 400 streaming content items per month, on average? Also check out our newest e-resource: Kanopy!

Unleash your inner artist with Star Wars character impersonators at Free Comic Book Day on May 6.

Share your opinions with the Audiobook Lovers’ Book Group, Daytime Book Group, Wednesday Night Book Group, and Brainy Bibliophiles Book Group. Call the library for a current schedule. All are welcome – especially first time attendees!

Try a new hobby. Make monthly crafts for adults or join the Rogue Crocheters, Bobbin Lacers, the Cookery and Conversation Club, Board Game Club, Cube Club…

Children are invited to meetings of the Junior Friends of the Library on every third Tuesday of the month at 4:30pm and can contact Ms. Berry Steiner at
bsteiner@nazarethlibrary.org for more information.

Stop in for ongoing infant and toddler storytimes and toddler Shake-and-Boogie sessions, as well as a host of special children’s activities and events, at the library as well as in Bushkill Township and Lower Nazareth.

Teenagers are invited to contact Ms. Anneliese Warnke at awarnke@nazarethlibrary.org for information about TAB, the Teen Advisory Board, and its regular meetings

Get ready for “Animalia,” a jam-packed Summer Reading 2023 program, which will focus on animals and financial literacy! Children can look forward to a piggy bank pageant, events with live animals, an author visit, kids’ concert with Lolly Hopwood, and much, much more! Registration opens at the end of May.

Young adults and adults are invited to free financial literacy education sessions, presented by Moravian University and Northampton Community College faculty, in the latter half of May and beginning of June, made possible by a grant from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation.

Mark your calendar NOW for the 2023 Touch-a-Truck Festival on October 7! See more information at https://www.nazarethlibrary.org/touch-a-truck/.

There is always something to do at the library, besides browsing for books! Help assemble themed jigsaw puzzles, participate in our houseplant swap and magazine swap, play with the Lego wall, try your hand at our Children’s Department scavenger hunts…

Participate in the Windows to the Future Campaign! The library is seeking funding to replace its original 1927 boiler and windows. This effort is focused on ensuring the functionality and maintenance of the heating in the building while at the same time increasing efficiency so that the library can reduce operating costs. The total cost to replace the boiler and windows is estimated to be $800,000. Please consider making a donation to this campaign through our website, www.nazarethlibrary.org, or sending a donation to the library at 295 E. Center St., Nazareth, PA with “Windows to the Future Campaign” in the memo line.

Do you love the library? Do you like to have fun? The library is looking for individuals who are willing to volunteer their time to help run book sales, promote the use of the library and the love of books, and make friends at the same time! If you are interested in joining a newly forming Friends of the Library group, please contact Holly Bennett at hbennett@nazarethlibrary.org.

Thank you to all patrons and many community organizations who support the library: the library’s four municipalities, readers, donors, volunteers, and event presenters and attendees. Together, we can achieve our mission.

These are just a few upcoming highlights. Call the library at 610-759-4932 or see the library’s vestibule posters, website, and social media outlets for updates, additions, changes, and registration details. Sign up for the emailed monthly newsletter; note that there are also hard copies of the newsletter available at the borough office beginning this month. Pick up a new monthly calendar filled with programs and events for ALL ages at the library as well.

Patrons are always welcome to stop in and check out items from our continually growing collection of books, graphic novels, educational resources, films, CDs, computer games, magazines, cake pans, museum passes, and Wonderbooks.

See you at the Library!

Nazareth Regional Ambulance Will Host An Open House on May 20, 2023

Following on the heels of the Pandemic and its effects on emergency healthcare staffing, the Nazareth Regional Ambulance Corps can now boast of a full roster of employees who are ready to respond when called upon, to do their life saving mission. The last six months have brought the Corps two brand new Chevrolet ambulances, a new Ford Transport van and a new Ford Expedition “chase” vehicle. Over 30 new and well trained employees fill the rolls with paramedics, EMT’s, drivers and aides at its 519 Seip Avenue home and that facility will welcome guests, visitors and even potential new employees on Saturday, May 20, 2023 for tours, a meet and greet with staff members and even some opportunities to learn more about emergency transport. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for Ambulance memberships at the event. The doors open at 12:00 noon and things will end at 4:00 pm and
everyone is invited. Call 610-759-5422 during business hours for more information or with any other ambulance questions.

**Six More Major Grant Awards Hit Our Borough Coffers**

Following on the heels of some substantial grant awards during 2021 and early 2022 which helped purchase Borough vehicles and lots of essential police and public works equipment, the Borough was most recently able to apply for and secure six more major grant awards. In late November of 2022, the Borough received an $85,000 COVID Relief Grant for the Playground at Veterans Memorial Square and it was quickly followed by two Northampton County Public Safety Grants, a $14,300 grant for a Police Total Station Device for crime scene evidence collection and crime re-creation and a $6,200 grant for new radios for our Fire Chiefs. In January of 2023, the Borough learned that it had received $283,000 to totally redo the radios and communication network within the Police Department. Northampton County has mandated extensive changes to county communications and all new radios are needed. The really good news came on March 22, 2023 when the Statewide Local Share Account Gaming Grant awards were announced and the Borough received a $700,000 award for a new Pierce Pumper Fire Truck and a second grant for $40,000 for a GMC Sierra pickup truck for our Park and for recreation use. In case you’re counting, that’s over $1.2 million in grants in the last five months which equates to almost 10 Mills of taxation saved for our residents. It means more money in your pocket and lots of great equipment and vehicles for Borough Public Works, our Police Department and the Vigilance Hose Volunteer Fire Company.

**Borough Street Repairs Continue As New Gas Lines Are Installed...When Will The Traffic Woes End?**

For the last three years and on any given day, you can likely find construction crews on one of our Borough streets as workers continue to install new gas lines. Orange signs, detours, closed streets and flagmen have become kind of the standard around here and the good news is that the Borough will benefit from safer and more efficient natural gas service for decades to come. The initiative is part of UGI’s plans to replace the decades old gas lines that criss cross our Borough and are badly in need of updating. Upon conclusion of the work, likely in late 2025, a host of Borough streets will be resurfaced as the Borough and UGI will share those costs on a 50/50 basis when all of the street excavation work is finally done. The bad news is that repairs will likely not be totally completed until the end of 2025. On balance, you could say we’re currently not enjoying most of these temporary and annoying traffic inconveniences but we will certainly benefit from all of the long range improvements.

**Mitch’s Market...That Corner Store We Have Always Relied On, Is Now 98 Years Old**

Years go by and the landscape of businesses in our Borough constantly sees change. Some of the changes are departures and are not welcome ones but fortunately, one Borough market on the corner of Belvidere and New Streets, has survived the test of time, prospered and met the needs of those looking for lottery tickets, candy bars, tobacco products, milk, bread, eggs and just about everything else that keeps us going. You even get a pleasant comment, welcome smile and a polite send off after a purchase and that’s what makes this type of business so very unique. Students heading home after a day of school are frequent shoppers and so are those looking for a quick, in and out purchase on their way home from a day’s work. Owner Mitch Redline, who bought the corner store in 1977 from Wayne Ruloff, proudly displays the chronological history of the market behind the main counter and it shows its humble beginnings in 1925 when someone named Leonard Gaumer first opened the shop before selling it two years later to Buzz Jackson who ran the store for 19 years until just after World War II ended. In 1946 a fellow named Zip Zipf took over till 1948 before selling it to the The Florey’s. The Florey’s ran the establishment two different times for eleven years from 1949 through 1959 and then again from 1962 until 1965. In between, Corinne Ott Frantz had a three year reign and then Wayne Ruloff was there from 1965 to 1977 when Mitch took over and it has been his pleasant and welcoming legacy at that location ever since. Mitch knows his customers, most on a first name basis, and as a hometown guy he’s that
familiar face and a great connection to a better time when stores like his populated neighborhoods all over the Borough. Now it’s just Mitch’s and Ressler’s Market and I’ll be doing a segment on Ressler’s in the Fall 2023 issue. Congratulations to the store on 98 years and to Mitch Redline on his own 46 years of ownership there. Mitch’s Market might be a small store but it’s a very big part of the fabric of our town!

STOP BEFORE YOU CHOP!

As spring approaches, we begin to look outside to spruce up our houses. We look to our yard landscaping: what flowers to be planted, to fertilize or not to fertilize our lawns...that is the question (lol) and what trees to be trimmed. It is a great time to look at our sidewalks. If you see a problem with a tree and a sidewalk… STOP before you CHOP. Permits are required before chopping down any trees along the borough sidewalks. Please visit the Borough office for a permit. This PSA is brought to you by your Nazareth Borough Council Environmental Steering Committee. Call us for all tree issues and you must get approvals before doing any streetside removals or plantings… call 484-274-2235.

Calendar of Coming Events

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