

NAZARETH NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BOROUGH OF NAZARETH



Mayor's Message

Dear Fellow Citizens,

As everyone knows by now, I was appointed as the Borough's next Mayor on September 6, 2016. Having been involved in Borough government for eighteen years, I think I have a good idea of what our citizens really want and how our community works. Our Borough really is the envy of all in the County as we seem to have the best in Parks and recreational venues, a well trained Police Department, an up to date and properly equipped Fire Department and a Public Works Department that keeps everything working and looking top notch. I intend to do all that I can to make sure that we remain the community that everyone admires and wants to be part of while we move ahead in 2017 and beyond. Our Borough has character and charm, wonderful neighborhoods and businesses and residents who care about their homes, their families and the well being of their neighbors and friends. I have every intention of keeping it that way while never losing sight of the fact that we need to move forward with improvements to our streets, our property maintenance and to ensure the safety of our citizens. They are the reason that Nazareth is truly great...our citizens are indeed something very special.

One of the things which makes Nazareth unique is its network of Boards and Commissions which support Council and do a great deal of civic work for our citizens. Volunteers staff these Boards and Commissions without compensation and meet on a monthly basis to make recommendations on planning issues, zoning decisions, represent our Borough on the Library Board, oversee the Municipal Authority, make arrangements for Nazareth Day and to send representatives to the Nazareth Ambulance Corps Board of Directors. The dedicated people who serve on these Boards and Commissions do so for love of our Borough and most of our citizens don't even know their names or what they do. We need more volunteers for these positions as there are many openings to be filled for next year. I ask that you get involved and throw your hat into the ring. We need your help and your dedication to our hometown. During my first week in office I met with every full time and part time police officer, our chief of police and our police commissioner. My goal was to get their opinions about our Department and how we could make it better. I told each of them that I strongly believed in community policing and that I hoped to see them park their patrol cars on occasion and get out and talk to our residents about the problems they see and also so that our officers can get to know our neighborhoods and the people

that live there. That type of interaction tells our citizens that our officers are there to protect them and their property. Not so long ago, all of us knew every police officer by name but that is no longer the case as officers are no longer subject to a Nazareth Borough residency rule. So the interaction with citizens is all the more important as our officers get to know our citizens who likewise get to know our officers and what they do. Right now we are looking at hiring another full time officer with the hope that one day soon we might return to six full time patrolmen. Time and economics will of course play a role in just how soon that happens. Our Public Works employees too do their part to keep our town clean and safe and working properly. Look at all our parks and our streets and how good they look and how well they are maintained. Nazareth has never looked better thanks to our Public Works Superintendent and his crew.

I know we are in the early stages of Fall, but please know that a snow emergency will be called when there is a likely snowfall of four or more inches. When a snow emergency is called, please follow the rules and move your vehicles off of the emergency routes to off street parking so that our Public Works employees can quickly and efficiently clean our streets. Parking is available at the Park, at the new Main Street Parking Lot and at Bill Gold Field on South Green Street. Please also remember to clean your walks within hours of a snow event. The safety of children, other residents, our mail carriers and those delivering fuel to keep our homes warm is ensured if you shovel your snow and remove ice. I urge you to be a responsible citizen and do what's necessary when the snow flies.

One of my more memorable moments since being named Mayor was welcoming our Silver Medalist, Joe Kovacs Jr., to a Borough Meeting. Joe is a special young man and a great ambassador for Nazareth and we are all very proud of his medal winning performance. Joe is an example of what Nazareth is all about... hard work produces positive results. We're all very proud of Joe and thankful to have him at a Borough meeting.

Last but not least is the fact that our town has changed in many ways over the years. The downtown has seen shop owners retire without anyone to take over their businesses and there has been a steady influx of apartments to fill the vacancy gaps. The Borough to its credit recently passed an ordinance limiting apartments from occupying the first floors of downtown storefronts and this is a step in the right direction. We now have a Downtown Manager who has brought us several new stores in conjunction

with our Chamber of Commerce. There has been progress here but I urge everyone to patronize our Borough businesses and our Farmer's Market in an effort to keep that revival going. We still have a long way to go but the new parking lot and more new businesses should help. I know it will take time but I am optimistic that we are headed in the right direction. We all have a stake in our community and each and every one of us can help to make a difference.

In closing I would like to say that although my term as Mayor is short, I will do everything I can to see that Nazareth keeps moving ahead and provides the very best for all of our residents. Our Borough has always been a great and a safe place to live and I intend to keep it moving in the right direction.

Sincerely,

John N. Samus, Mayor



Olympic Silver Medalist and Nazareth Resident Joe Kovacs Jr. Gives Us A Night To Remember

Most in our Borough held their breath on the evenings of August 17th and August 18th as Nazareth native and the only known Borough resident to ever participate in the Olympics, Joe Kovacs Jr., competed in the shot put event at the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. A little more than five inches separated Kovacs from a Gold Medal but he did win the Silver Medal for placing second. Joe is the son of the late Joe Kovacs and Joanna Rampulla Kovacs, both of whom once ran the Park Refreshment Stand for our Borough. A former Nazareth Pool lifeguard and a graduate of Holy Family School and Bethlehem Catholic High School, Kovacs now resides in Chula Vista, California to train at the Olympic facility there. Council passed a resolution in July wishing its native son good luck in the Olympics but he was unable to attend and receive the

tribute as he prepared for Rio but he did accept Mayor Samus' invitation to attend a future Borough Meeting and was there on October 3rd to accept the Resolution, sign autographs and take pictures with all who were there. Joe spoke that night of his Nazareth roots and the work ethic he feels he inherited which is part of the Nazareth culture and which helped to carry him through his training and the actual Olympic competition. With a small entourage of family and close friends and proud mother JoAnna at the rear of the Chamber, Kovacs placed the silver medal around the necks of all who wanted a picture with him for a photo opportunity which lasted over 45 minutes. It was a memorable night for Council and our honoree and Joe Kovacs Jr. made it a night we will not soon forget. As he departed, Kovacs stated that he planned on competing at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and that he hoped to appear at another Council Meeting with a gold medal around his neck. One thing is certain, Joe Kovacs Jr. impressed us all and made a lot of friends that night and we'll all be cheering for him in 2020.

Public Service...Some Of Our Residents Just Keep On Giving And We Need More Just Like Them

Over its many years, our Borough has been blessed with people who love our town so much that their generosity has no bounds. Nazareth has been blessed with individuals and families who pitch in and do what they can to make our situation all the better. Three years ago our Pool was shut down and the initiative to rebuild a new one needed plenty of volunteers. A group led by Harry Adams, Amy Lutte, Keith Knecht, Erin Bowers, Jeanette Hartzell, Peggy Barry and former Borough Engineer Don Keller stepped forward and did the investigating, surveys, planning and recommendations for what would best serve the Borough. Group members spent countless hours talking with other municipalities about potential costs and the type of attractions which would draw more Pool patrons. Keller singlehandedly wrote the 30 page "Request for Proposal" (RFP) seeking bids and specifications for the approved design saving the Borough over 100 hours of engineering fees while Adams, Lutte and Hartzell visited nearly every other local Pool for all the information they could gather. In addition to his Pool involvement, community minded Harry Adams, for many years also took care of the Veteran's Memorial Garden at the Shafer School and is currently serving a three year term on the Library Board and he

deservedly received the Mayor's Award for Citizens In Service to the Borough in 2014. Twenty years ago the Borough received a substantial grant aimed at expanding our existing Library. The project was extensive and an unpaid "Clerk of the Works" with considerable construction experience was needed. Former Mayor Elmer Yeakel stepped forward and efficiently oversaw the work to be done till its completion.... and without a penny of compensation or public acclaim. Yeakel was our Mayor too for a four year term beginning in 1970 after serving two terms as a Councilman while wife Alice put in countless years as a Library volunteer and now writes small booklets about places and periods of Nazareth history. Resident Harry Lance is another example of a citizen willing to pitch in and help wherever he can. Harry has served on the Borough's Civil Service Commission, the Planning Commission, the Library Board and the Municipal Authority. But Harry is not alone in his volunteerism. Glenn Boerstler has been the anchor of our Planning Commission for more than twenty years while Don Broad spent many years on the Civil Service Commission and as President of the Recreation Commission while handling all the yearly duties of arranging Nazareth Day. Barbara Fischl wears many hats too as President of the Library Board, head of the Civil Service Commission and a member of our Planning Commission. Community minded Fairview Street resident Jeff Corpora served a term as Councilman, then several terms on the Recreation Commission, Library Board and Civil Service Commission before applying recently to fill the vacant Second Ward Council seat. Then there's John and Cathy Huber who have led our Zoning Hearing Board for nearly a decade making the tough but necessary decisions to keep our Borough free of controversial land and development problems. The late and ever popular Bill Gold, however, may have the record for Borough volunteerism. In addition to all of the help he gave to Nazareth High School sports by keeping statistics and doing stories for newspapers, Bill ran Nazareth Baseball for over three decades, served on the Borough's Recreation Board and as its president for almost that long and was one of the founders of Nazareth Day, an event he ran until five years ago. Go back through Nazareth's history and you'll find super citizens...people named Joe Lantzer, John Waha, Evelyn Huth, Jim Hontzer, Floyd Kostenbader and a host of volunteer firemen and fire chiefs all willing to help. Wages aren't an issue for all of these good hearted citizens...there aren't any wages...but all of these people give our Borough plenty of service and lots of their personal time. Their sacrifices are enormous so shake their hand and thank all of them when you see them...we would be ever so lucky to have more like them. They have all had a positive hand in making Nazareth what it is and keeping it what it is...a great place to call home!



John Samus Is Borough's New Mayor

At the September 6, 2016 Business Meeting, Borough Council unanimously voted to appoint John N. Samus as the Borough's new Mayor to serve until the first Monday of January of 2018. Samus joins a long line of Borough Mayors and Burgesses (Nazareth had Burgesses until 1962) and has served as a Councilman from the Second Ward from 1986 till 1998, again from 2004 till 2008 and again from 2014 through this appointment in September of 2016.

Nostalgia Corner...You Need Grey Hair To Remember These "South Side" Nazareth Businesses

Who can forget former Nazareth businesses like the Planing Mill where in the old days, lumber and wood was actually planed to make it smoother and straighter or its Green Street neighbors, Charley Sandt's Gas Station...now a veterinary office, the Nazareth Burial Vault Company across the street or the Saint Regis Paper Products plant further on down South Green Street? Not far away was Snyder's Feed Mill just across the street from Joe Tanhauser's Steak Shop and neighbor Ressler's Market. Pete Yeisley had a furniture store nearby on South Main which eventually became The Nazareth School Store and now that vacant lot is the community garden plot for the Nazareth Area Food Bank. Our all-volunteer Food Bank now occupies the old Lackawanna Train Station across the street which not so long ago was an Essroc Cement Company office building and once was the home of Karl Butz's public accounting firm and tax business The Nazareth Steel Fabricators was close by too and so was a Met-Ed substation and Johnny's Carpet which probably has been in business for forty years and still is. Pizza Joe's still occupies the space next to Johnny's Carpet although the original Pizza Joe sold the business to current owner Jerry Bubba some time ago. Bell Box occupied the

very large building right next to the current Pizza Hut before it became Quality Box Company and moved across the street and years later became McClean Packaging. Well before the Nazareth Diner was there, Trumbauer Coal and Supply occupied that corner selling lumber, hardware and delivering coal for winter heating. Gas stations were everywhere at the Route 248 and Route 191 crossroads run by guys like Louie Messenlehner who had his Sunoco station there...later to be Ralph Murante's Citgo Station just across the street from Charlie Potocek's Atlantic Gas Station which later became the AM/PM self-service gas station it now still is. Eddie Snyder had a Citgo Station that he sold to Larry Beulieu on the northeast corner of South Main Street and Easton Road well before it became J.D. Snyder's Auto Parts, then a furniture outlet store and now again an auto parts store. Close by was Charlie Wagner's Laundromat and his wife's House of Flowers which later became Betty Engler's business with the same name. Until the mid 1950's, the Fairgrounds Hotel proudly occupied the corner of Route 191 and 248 with Joe Wzontek's Melody Music Store where Tuscan's now stands and next to the Fairgrounds Hotel was the original Sara J's Drive In which at some point later became fast food pioneer but now defunct Burger Chef before the Orwig Family bought the building and made it into their first restaurant. Across the street was the Speedway Diner, a polished steel original diner that was open 24 hours a day and longtime Nazareth favorite, the Rainbow Diner had the entire corner now the home of the Rite Aid Drug Store. You had to fight your way in the front door of the Rainbow at lunch time which in the mid 1980's became Howard's Restaurant and Lounge before the Rite Aid takeover of that corner. Next door was Charlie Mitch's Used Car Sales along Route 248 and its neighbors, Lambert Snyder's Produce Market and Al's Meat Market run by Al "Hindu" Toth. Curt's Shoe Repair, now Curt's Cyclery, ended the run of Borough businesses along the north side of Route 248 headed west. But then only those who have been with us for a long, long time would remember any of this.

Jessica Teel Gets Appointment To Second Ward Council Seat

Four candidates submitted resumes and letters of interest to be named Councilperson to fill the vacancy left when John N. Samus was named Mayor on September 6, 2016. At its September 29, 2016 Workshop Meeting, Maurice Heller, Steve Narracci and Jessica Teel all told those in attendance of their interest in the position and how they could serve our Borough. Former Councilman Jeffrey Corpora was unable to attend the Workshop but his correspondence told everyone of his willingness to serve. At the Borough Business Meeting on Monday, October 3, 2016, Vice President Larry Stoudt moved to appoint Nazareth native Jessica Teel and a unanimous vote of approval followed. Teel was sworn in that evening to serve a term which ends on December 31, 2017.

Pool Has Another Banner Year

Despite losing seven days to bad weather and at least another eight days to early closures, our Park Pool set a record for receipts and shattered all previous marks for end of season profits. Pool/Park Manager Diane Mullen and her staff capably kept patrons safe and happy throughout the three month season and her list of Pool Pass purchasers shows that swimmers came from as far away as Stroudsburg and Alpha, New Jersey to enjoy all that our new Pool offers.

Many expected a drop off from the amount of 2015 swimming revenues but that was certainly not the case as attendance was up by 22% and use of the pavilions and the Gazebo showed similar gains. In the final analysis, Pool profits were up 31.7% and from the Borough's perspective, that's a very good thing. It's an even better thing that our residents and visitors enjoyed a first class facility with plenty to offer to all ages.

Borough Receives Air Conditioning Grant, Police Car Grant and Main Street Parking Lot Shrubbery Grant

The third quarter of 2016 brought more very good grant announcements for our Borough as three new awards are headed our way. In September of 2015, our Borough placed a request for a \$116,000 Monroe County LSA Gaming Grant to redo the heating and air conditioning at the Municipal Building at 134 S. Main Street. New roof mounted air conditioning units, a new and updated heating system and ductwork for the entire HVAC system were part of the plan. On July 1, 2016, Senator Mario Scavello's Office called to tell the Borough that the request had been honored and that \$100,000 of funding was coming our way.

In early August a grant request was submitted to the Northampton County Gaming Authority to fund a new Ford Interceptor SUV police vehicle and by late September the Borough learned that \$25,000 of the expected \$40,000 total cost would be granted to us to update the Police fleet.

Finally, the Borough was made aware of available funding for a Main Street Foundation Grant through the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's Downtown Improvement Program. The new Main Street Parking Lot needed some accent shrubs and plantings to improve its overall look so the grant was written to add mulch and arbor vitas to the entrance and northern perimeter of the property at 128 S. Main Street. In late July, the Borough was told by the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce that it would receive the requested \$2,000 of the \$4,000 total cost and the work was completed before the annual Martin on Main celebration in early August.

The Borough has now received fifteen of the last eighteen grants it has applied for since 2011 saving us over \$900,000 in expenditures.

Four Council Positions, Tax Collector and the Mayor's Seat Are On the 2017 Election Docket

Next year may bring the potential for a whole new look for Borough Council as several positions will be open for filling during next November's general election. Four different "4 year" Council positions will be decided by popular vote along with the Mayor's position and the Borough Tax Collector. Interested persons will need to contact the Northampton County Election Office for further information, turn in petitions signed by residents of their respective wards which will get their names on the ballot for the May Primary election before those winners compete in the November 2017 General Election. There are two Council seats up for election in the Borough's Third Ward and one Council seat in both the First and Second Wards. All Nazareth Borough registered voters can vote for Mayoral and Tax Collector candidates without a Ward restriction

Walk-In Payment of Borough Refuse & Recycling Bills Will Now Only Be Accepted at ESSA and Embassy Banks

Mid Summer changes in the ownership of the former KNBT Bank on Broad Street where the Borough did most of its day to day banking initiated a review of all Borough accounts and their management. After listening to proposals from four banks, the Borough's Finance Committee chose Embassy Bank who was willing to collect and administer Refuse and Recycling payments along with ESSA Bank who will continue to receive payments for the quarterly billings. Residents who prefer to walk in their payments are cautioned to use only ESSA Bank on the southwest quadrant of the Circle or Embassy Bank at the northeast corner of the Circle. Starting with the next quarterly billing, B.B. & T. Bank on Broad Street will no longer accept garbage payments.

Keep Your Yards Free of Leaves and Your Sidewalks Clear of Snow and Ice...Winter Is Coming

Winter will soon be upon us and with it comes the responsibility of keeping your walks clean of snow and ice. Meanwhile, leaf collection has begun across the Borough so remember to bring unwanted leaves to the curbside for collection by our Public

Works employees. There is no charge for leaf disposal. When the snow falls and the ice accumulates, homeowners have twenty four hours to clean their sidewalks and dangerous ice should be salted and chopped for the safety of those passing by. The Borough's Code Enforcement Officer will issue warnings and fines for those who do not comply with the snow shoveling Borough Ordinance. Remember to watch Channel 69 News for the announcement of a Snow Emergency and more importantly don't forget to move your vehicles off of Snow Emergency routes.

Borough Budget Will Have a 1/2 Mill Tax Increase

Council reluctantly agreed to a .5 Mill tax increase to balance the 2017 Borough Budget. Next year's spending plan features outfitting a new police vehicle, increased security cameras for the Park and Public Works Garage, street repairs to South Liberty Street, the mapping of the Borough's storm sewers, increased full time police hiring and the funding of soaring medical insurance costs for Police and Public Works employees. The average assessment for a Borough house is approximately \$55,000 so the half mill increase will cost the average homeowner about another \$28 for 2017. Pending December passage of the 2017 Borough Budget and the Tax and Levy Ordinance, the new tax rate for Borough real estate will be 15.5 Mills.



Introducing Nazareth Helping Hands

A group of volunteers has started a new initiative to "help" with revitalizing the Borough of Nazareth. Spearheaded by Becky Butz and Chris Erdo, the group hopes to clean up some of the challenged areas in the borough, add beauty and color to our town and improve function and safety. Property maintenance will be at the forefront.

The group started with the property at Main Street and Route 248. Jason Kaniper of Prolific Landscaping in Wind Gap designed the corner and offered the project at a discount. Shrubs and perennials were planted and the eyesore has been turned into a "show place".

Future projects include refreshing the Circle, the Library and the downtown area. Already volunteers have weeded downtown and trimmed trees.

The group is driven by community pride and they hope this pride will become contagious so businesses and residents will become involved.

To become a volunteer with Nazareth Helping Hands, to offer suggestions and ideas, or to donate, call Becky at 610-759-8963.

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the newsletter?**

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Nazareth Borough Highway Department 610-759-0401
Nazareth Borough Tax Collector 610-746-1507
Nazareth Borough Code Enforcement 610-759-8227
Nazareth Borough Park Reservation 610-759-3522
Nazareth Borough Refuse/Recycling 610-759-0202

Important Phone Numbers

Nazareth Borough Council

Councilpersons

First Ward
Michael Kopach
Frank S. Maurek
Brian F. Regn

Third Ward
Daniel Chivaroli
Lance E. Colondo
Charles A. Donello

Second Ward
Carl A. Fischl
Larry Stoudt
Jessica Teel

Daniel Chivaroli President
Larry Stoudt Vice President
John N. Samus Mayor
Paul A. Kokolus Secretary/Treasurer
Alfred S. Pierce Solicitor
Albert R. Kortze Engineer
Thomas A. Trachta Chief of Police
Randall P. Miller Police Commissioner
Bob Reimer Public Works Superintendent
Dennis Huth, Keller Zoning and Inspections
Zoning and Code Officer