
NEWSLETTER



The Election Edition November 7, 2023

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Get out and Vote on November 7, 2023!

This issue of The Apple will offer messages from candidates running for Avalon Council as well as the Northgate School Board. The more you know about how a candidate influences your community, we hope you will exercise your right and VOTE!

The Mayor oversees the Police Department. The most important piece is keeping up with the needs and concerns of the department and reporting directly to council.

Council members have the final vote in creating and approving ordinances that affect various areas of the borough.

Your vote for the school board directly affects the education of students in K-12 schools.



***"Voting is the expression of our
commitment to ourselves, one
another, this country and this world."
- Sharon Salzberg***

Avalon Candidates

AVALON MAYOR AND COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Mayor

Brigitte Jackson, 2 Year Term

Council

Ward 1 - 2 Council Seats

Paul Morack, Republican, 4 Year Term

There are no candidates for the second seat

Ward 2 - 2 Council Seats

Bill Pascale, Republican, 4 Year Term

Lee Nelson, Republican, 2 Year Term

Ward 3 - 1 Council Seat

Justin Harkleroad, Democrat, 4 Year Term



“Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people.”

—Harry Emerson Fosdick

Northgate School Board Candidates

NORTHGATE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Republican and Democrat Ballot

Katrina Eames, 4 Year Term
Michael Rajakovic, 4 Year Term

Democrat Ballot

William Bergmann, 4 Year Term
Wendi Lee, 4 Year Term
Abigail Marx, 4 Year Term
Laura Pollanen, 2 Year Term





And Now A Message From...

Avalon Council, Mayor Incumbent, Brigitte Jackson

I am Brigitte Jackson and I am seeking re-election because I care about our community and its residents. It's vital to give back to the neighborhood that you live in to make it better a place. I have served the community in many roles over the years. I've been on School Board, the Chamber of Commerce Board, and the Tri-Boro Planning Commission. In all of those roles, I was a voice for Avalon. I spoke up to make sure that Avalon and its residents were represented.

I've enjoyed my time as Mayor of Avalon Borough. The mayor oversees and advocates for the Police Department. The Mayor is the communication liaison between Police Department and Council.

One of our community's greatest strengths is its walkability. Interacting and getting to know those in your borough promotes unity. Avalon is close to the city and there are many great activities this region has to offer.

As Mayor of Avalon for the past year, I've learned finding funding to account for increasing costs without raising taxes is one of the biggest challenges to navigate.

My husband and I were both born and raised in the North Boros. We reside in Avalon and choose to raise our children here. We both care deeply about this community. I hope to continue to do that as Mayor. Thank you for your continued support and I hope I've earned your vote on November 7th.



And Now A Message From...

Avalon Council, Ward 2 Incumbent, Lee Nelson

Hello, I'm Lee Nelson. I have served two terms on the Avalon Borough Council, and was recently appointed to fill a vacancy. I lead the North Boroughs Community Day Fireworks Committee.

We live in a reasonably safe small town where we can walk to our destinations and get to know our neighbors along the way. Access to downtown Pittsburgh, major highways and the availability of public transportation are great strengths for our community.

Our town is landlocked, there is no room for new housing editions or an expanded business district. It is a major challenge to maintain services and infrastructure, while trying to not raise taxes. We work very hard to remain good fiscal stewards. We have secured 1.2 million dollars in grant funding for various projects.

Avalon has been blessed over the years with strong leadership. I enjoy being able to actively contribute to my community and will continue the good work being done with your vote on November 7th!



And Now A Message From...

Avalon Council, Ward 2 Incumbent, Bill Pascale

Hello, my name is Bill Pascale and I am running for Avalon Council because I'd like to continue to serve my neighbors as a member of Avalon Borough Council. My time and experience on Council as the Chairman of the Finance Committee for over 7 years, and now serving as the Streets, Engineering, and Infrastructure Committees Chair for the past 2+ years....has taught me a great deal. These responsibilities and experiences make me uniquely qualified for this position.

Avalon Borough has been my hometown for over 23 years. My wife and I raised our kids here because we love this place. Avalon Borough's greatest strength is built upon the 4,600+ other folks that are also working hard and taking care of their families...then still taking time to volunteer in our local community. Our residents work tirelessly in service to our local churches, youth organizations, sports organizations, food banks, and much more.

Small communities like Avalon are under constant fiscal pressure based on decisions that are made at the state and federal level. Unfunded mandates that require massive investments to our local infrastructure are also competing with key labor shortages, along with never ending increases to medical insurance costs, all with record high inflation.

I have had the honor of serving as an Avalon Borough Council member for the past ten years. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to continue the hard work that is required in holding this office.

I'd like to ask that everyone gets out to the polls on Election Day . I feel that it's the civic duty of every citizen to cast their vote for those who will represent them.

I appreciate your vote on November 7, 2023.

Please contact me directly via email at: wpascale@boroughofavalon.org

Thanks to all of you that make Avalon Borough a great place to live!

Thank you!

Bill Pascale



**And Now A Message
From...**

**Avalon Council, Ward 3
Candidate, Justin Harkleroad**

Hello, my name is Justin Harkleroad. I am running for Avalon Council because I want to create positive change for the borough I live in. I am running for public office for the first time, but I believe in my leadership skills and ability to work with others. I have management skills which were honed during my many years in the inflight catering industry and an ability to think outside the box.

Avalon is a great area with a close proximity to the city, and a short drive to great shopping and dining. That being said, I would love to see our Borough with a bustling business district and more restaurants and shops to increase commerce and build an even stronger community.

I feel in any small town or borough, finding funds to support what will advance the community is probably the most difficult problem to solve. Together we can work towards a better Avalon.

The most important thing I can say is to get out to the polls and vote for your local candidates, your local elections have a large impact on everyday life in your community. I appreciate your support on November 7th!



And Now A Message From...

Northgate School Board Incumbent, Bill Bergmann

I was appointed to the Northgate School Board In August 2022. Prior to my appointment, I followed school board meetings because I have a child in the district. Now that I am on the board, I have a broader and deeper understanding of the district's operations, finances, and activities.

School boards generally need strong leadership to advance quality public education. As a university professor of 18 years and chair of my department, I'm familiar with challenges of budgeting and administration. I am interested in teaching methods and work with undergraduate education majors. These experiences have made it easier to understand the work of the district and challenges it faces.

It is all about the Northgate community. We have committed educators, an administration that has been recognized regionally and nationally, and a business community interested in partnering with the district for the success of our students. And we have passionate parents and community members who volunteer their time. As a member of the school board, I will work to foster the synergies that strengthen the educational and extracurricular experiences for our students.

One of the most important skills a candidate can possess is open-mindedness. School board members need to listen to experts, educate themselves on issues, listen to students, parents and community members, and be open to exploring alternatives before making decisions. Students continue to experience consequences from lost learning during the pandemic. I will work with administrators to ensure that the curriculum is designed to help students catch up and that students have the resources necessary to achieve their academic goals. The district also needs to work toward a fiscally-secure future even as it addresses decades of underfunding of the physical plant of the schools. I will work with administrators to create responsible plans for equipment replacement and repair that does not burden the district with excessive debt or the community with excessive taxes.

I have demonstrated a strong record of working to improve my community and the district. Since 2017 I have been a leader in the Bellevue Avalon Baseball Association, including service on the executive board. Before joining the School Board, I brought Odyssey of the Mind to the district. Now I seek election to the school board so that I can continue working toward a stronger district.