

# Buck\$ for the Bandstand

Give A Little To Help A lot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT HAWLEY BOROUGH PARKS & RECREATION

c/o [hawleyb@pdr1.net](mailto:hawleyb@pdr1.net) or 570-226-9545

(Hawley, PA) Recently several funding sources were secured by Hawley Borough Council for much needed repairs and revitalization of the historic bandstand in the borough's Bingham Park with a pricetag of \$154,000. Although the majority of the capital needed has been earmarked, there remains a shortfall to complete some of the desired updates and enhancements for the project. In order to ensure the full scope of the work can be done in its entirety (which is the most cost effective rather than in smaller phases), Hawley Parks & Rec is appealing to the greater Hawley community and beyond to consider helping by making a donation – large or small – to “Buck\$ for the Bandstand.”

According to the Park and Recreation Committee, “we are well aware that many more folks utilize the Borough park facilities than live in the Borough, consequently we are hopeful that anyone who has enjoyed the amenities in our Parks system, whether Bingham Park, Riverside Park, the Riverside Dog Park, or our walking trails, consider making a donation to enable us to properly rehabilitate our beloved Bandstand. Our goal is that it remain the crown jewel of the Borough for future generations to enjoy.”

## How to Help

Donations by check can be made payable to Hawley Borough Parks & Rec c/o Hawley Borough, P O Box 197, Hawley, PA 18428 with “bandstand” noted. Donations can also be dropped off at Borough Hall, 94 Main Avenue, Hawley, during normal business hours. In addition, numerous donation canisters will be available at various supporting businesses throughout the Hawley area. Should donations exceed the anticipated bandstand shortfall, monies received will be put toward overall park amenities only, and not to other projects. The majority of the bandstand work is set to be completed by the end of June (2023).

## About the Hawley Ellingsen Bandstand

The iconic bandstand was constructed as a part of a Public Works Project (WPA) around the time of the Great Depression and since that time has been the symbol of Bingham Park and many would say of the Borough itself. The structure was actually designed by Christopher Ellingsen, a Norwegian Civil Engineer who immigrated to the U.S. in 1904. One of the companies Ellingsen worked for was the prestigious NYC firm of Robinson and Steinman Engineers, *considered to be the foremost designer of bridges in the country*<sup>1</sup>. His work consisted of national and international projects, including consulting collaboratively on the famed Thousand Island Bridge spanning from NY to Canada. Ellingsen purchased property above Hawley's Spruce Street and while living in Hawley continued his professional work in NYC, commuting by train weekly. His professional education and experience made him well-qualified to turn a switching station and canal basin into the beautiful Bingham Park we have today, and to render the design of “our Hawley bandstand.”

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<sup>1</sup> Petrowski, H. Engineers of Dreams: Great Bridge Builders and the Spanning of America, 1996.