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On the cover: Hampton’s new Municipal Manager, Ryan Jeroski, recently stopped by a community league basketball practice to say hello and shoot a few hoops with the kids and coaches.

Cover photo by Madia Photography and article on pages 6-7 by Mary-Theresa Watson
Hello Neighbors!

By now your home and office is most likely de-decorated from the holidays and you’re ready to welcome Spring on March 19th! The ever popular child-friendly Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd—see details on page 28.

You won’t want to miss the two-day celebration of arts and music in Hampton known as Hues & Harmony. More details for this event is on page 38.

Do you have news you would like to share or a story idea you want to see covered in the next edition? We’d like to hear your ideas! All submissions will be considered for coverage.

Respectfully, Laurie & John Rizzo

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New Municipal Manager Looks to the Future in Hampton

Ryan R. Jeroski

by Mary-Theresa Watson

Hampton Township Municipal Manager Ryan Jeroski has officially arrived, quietly stepping into his office for the first time in early November. He was greeted enthusiastically by the Hampton staff, who graciously welcomed the newcomer and began an orientation of sorts, offering support as Ryan got right to work learning the ins and outs of the Township. Just a few months later, on January 24, he was officially sworn in, and by then, he had moved to Hampton and had his sights on the big picture as he considered the promising future of Hampton Township.

An Oakmont native whose background includes an accomplished record of public service, Ryan served as Assistant Township Manager of Peters Township for seven-and-a-half years before coming to Hampton. He was happy in that role, and he had not planned to look for a new position. “Even though I was not looking,” he confides, “this is a top five job in the area; it’s one that’s always been in the back of my mind, so I had to consider it. I wrestled with myself a bit about it, to be honest, and I wanted to make sure I was doing it for the right reasons. This is a great community,” he continues, “and there are so many opportunities over the next few years; I realized I wanted to be a part of this. I knew if I didn’t try, I’d regret it.”

Soft-spoken and humble, Ryan’s enthusiasm for his new home shows as he shares, “This is such a great, stable community in a really desirable spot in the North Hills. One of the many things I like about this community — and there are so many! — is the fact that it’s in a transitional phase. Essentially,” he elaborates, “Hampton is at the end of its growth phase and is entering its redevelopment phase. By redevelopment, I don’t mean we’re going to see huge increases in density or anything like that, but we might, for example, see a different type of Route 8 corridor over the next 25 years.”

Ryan is particularly impressed with Hampton’s environmental accomplishments and foresight — such as the steps taken to preserve the Pine Creek Watershed — noting, “What this community is doing with stormwater management is as advanced as any community I’ve seen in this area. They’ve been very aggressive with it, and I love being involved in those kinds of projects.”

Considering the opportunities ahead, Ryan says, “Look at what’s being done with the wastewater treatment plant; not many communities would undertake a $60 million project. Bringing the plant up from 1970s and 1980s technology is going to be unbelievable in terms of improvements to water quality and plant operations, not to mention the impact it will have for our Department of Environmental Services.”

Grateful for the support he’s received, Ryan reports that much of his time has been spent meeting people and learning the nuances of
Hampton, laughing as he explains, “It’s been a bit of a deep dive, like getting thrown into the deep end of the pool. But that’s how I do things: I’ve got to learn by doing, just dive in and see if I can swim. I have to say,” he adds with obvious sincerity, “everyone here could not have been nicer. They’ve been so supportive and accommodating, and it’s made this transition easier.”

Noting that his primary short-term goal is to continue forming relationships with staff, residents, and organizations in the area, Ryan says, “I want to continue establishing that rapport and letting people know, ‘yes, I’m the new guy, and you can talk to me whenever you want.’ Establishing that relationship is first and foremost the most important thing for me.”

In the longer term, Ryan explains that much will be hashed out at the annual strategic planning meeting with Town Council this spring. For now, his sights are set on a comprehensive update to the zoning ordinance, the Fire and EMS building on Wildwood Road, a number of recreational improvements (e.g., a project to improve Meadows Field in an effort to expand options for youth sports teams), and a project to redo the intersection of Wildwood Road and Route 8.

As he settles into his new role, Ryan is clear in his desire to become acquainted with the community: “You’re going to see me around town,” he says, “so by all means, please don’t hesitate to say hello. I’m willing to talk to anyone at any time about anything. People in communities are unique, and interacting with and getting to know the community and its residents really helps me do my job better.”

On a snowy January day, as he prepares for some solo meetings with the school district and some youth sports associations, Ryan ponders a piece of advice he received from outgoing Township Manager Chris Lochner, who encouraged Ryan to be himself.

“Chris has been so helpful and,” he pauses thoughtfully, clearly looking for just the right word. “Well, he’s just been great. And trust me,” he adds, “I am me at all times.”

With that parting thought, Hampton’s new Municipal Manager prepares to dive in once more, clearly ready to swim in the deep end.

---

Getting to Know Ryan

As he becomes acquainted with Hampton residents, Ryan invites residents to get to know him. With that in mind, he agreed to a quick game of Ask Me Anything:

Favorite candy: Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups
Favorite book: Sea of Faith
("I’m a history nerd, thanks to my grandfather who was a history teacher. This book looks at Christian and Muslim interactions in the Mediterranean from around the year 500 to the Middle Ages, and it was very interesting.")
Favorite movie: Casino ("I like mobster movies.")
Favorite music genre: Alternative Rock
Favorite school subject: History
Beverage of choice: Coffee with half and half
Alcohol of choice: Bourbon
What superpower do you wish you had?: Teleportation ("I don’t like to fly.")
Favorite holiday: Christmas
("Growing up, Christmas was the time for aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins to get together, so it’s always had special meaning for me.")
Least favorite food as a child: Brussels sprouts
Do you like them now?: Yes!
Favorite season: Fall
As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?: Aerospace Engineer
How long did that dream last?: “It lasted until my senior year of high school when I realized how much I dislike math.”
Favorite sport to watch: College football
Favorite sport to play: Basketball ("I’m learning to golf, so a year from now, I’ll let you know if I change my answer on that one.")
**Academic Center Breathes New Life Into Old Building**

Children’s laughter is once again ringing through the halls of the former St. Ursula school building, which closed its doors more than 10 years ago. After debuting in Wexford eight years ago, Solid Foundations Academy (SFA) has been the talk of the North Hills, and now its second location has taken up residence in the erstwhile diocesan school; local families now have access to unique and varied options for educational and social support for all ages. Under the guidance of owner and educator Beth Rupert, every inch of the building has undergone a renaissance of sorts in recent months, as workers continue updates on everything from the windows and floors to the classrooms and library. The building has been transformed into a secure, beautiful, state-of-the-art academy!

SFA is an academic center with programming options for the entire family, including a family-flexible child care center that offers drop-in; half and full day preschool and kindergarten (including transportation to area elementary schools); extracurricular activities; summer camps; tutoring; a special needs program; before and after school care; ACT/SAT preparation and college planning; and even an intergenerational program that pairs elderly residents with children for a variety of activities. The academy is licensed by three governing bodies including the Board of Education, the Department of Human Services, and the Health Department. They are also a STAR and ELRC provider.

Beth is a Hampton resident whose natural enthusiasm fuels her work on behalf of children and families, and she describes SFA as an academic hub for the entire family.

“The business model,” she explains, “is everything under one roof for learning and education, so parents don’t have to go to five different places to access quality care or education. They can come to Solid Foundations Academy for it all.”

Beth began her career in psychology, and she worked professionally with children and families for over fifteen years, the last six with the Psychiatric Emergency Department at Saint Francis Medical Center. During her time in that environment, Beth conducted evaluations alongside psychiatrists, and she noted many children presented with problems that were not mental health issues, per se, but rather learning disabilities that were diagnosed either too late or not at all.

“I realized something was going on,” she shares, “because this is not something that kids suddenly develop. It was obvious there were skill gaps, and in many cases, those gaps were apparent before or at the preschool level. And if you’re trying to catch up on skills long after they should have been solidified,” she says with a slight shrug, “that’s really difficult to do, especially with large class sizes. Learning is scaffolded, and we need to fill in those skill gaps for that child to succeed.”

The name, Solid Foundations, defines SFA’s mission of serving as a gateway to elementary education and beyond, creating a firm base of skills for children to build upon. The SFA preschool curriculum provides an academic-based program that’s aligned to core standards while offering an appropriate, multi-sensory approach to learning by utilizing play and teacher-guided academics. No two students think the same way, so SFA’s accredited curriculum uses hundreds of programs to find the right fit for each child. The reading, writing, and math remediation and enrichment services also provide individualized programs to target each child’s needs.

Beth and her team partner with elementary schools and other providers, enabling SFA to serve as a bridge to ensuring all children have a free and appropriate public education. Interventions include comprehensive assessments, support referrals, tutoring, and working with families to advocate for 504 plans and IEPs. SFA has plentiful space to provide all levels of academic support.

In addition to housing a beautiful, full library, the building features support programs on site; an indoor gym; a commercial kitchen; a large multi-purpose room, which can be rented for special events; computers and technology in every classroom; and a state-of-the-art science room as part of the STEM program. The outdoor grounds include a large playground, blacktop for bike rides, and plenty of natural grounds for gardening and dirt play.

In discussing the many options available to families at SFA, Beth excitedly shares that she’s working on introducing the area’s first intergenerational program.

“Some children don’t have grandparents nearby, and they can learn so much from someone who’s been around for so long. And for the elderly participants, time with young children provides a dose of fun and excitement; it gives them a sense of renewal. It’s a beautiful experience for everyone,” she says with a smile.

In looking over her new space, Beth is grateful to have found such an ideal location to continue her mission of helping children and families obtain the support they need. In a building whose walls, were they able to talk, could share countless stories of school years gone by, it seems especially fitting for new families to add their voices to the echoes of the past. A solid foundation indeed.

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is open. For more information on Solid Foundations Academy, call 724-799-8038, email solidfoundationsacademy1@gmail.com or visit solidfoundationsacademy.com.
Veteran Spotlight: 
Hampton Heroes Ceremony
by Julie Mikus

On November 6th, a beautiful blue sky and mild temperatures provided the perfect backdrop for the Hampton Heroes event at Fridley Field. Commemorating its twenty-second year since its inception, this event honors military personnel who live in or are connected to Hampton Township.

As part of the remarkable ceremony, students took part in music, presentations, writing letters to veterans, fundraising, and a variety of other activities.

Peyton Szramowski, a Poff student, began the ceremony with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem, as flags waved proudly nearby, presented by Cub Scout Pack #13 and Girl Scout Troop #16718.

To explain what Hampton Heroes mean to them, students read biographies, poetry, and essays to the crowd. One student expressed their gratitude by saying, “They protect us. They are leaders. They make the world a better place.”

One student spoke of her mom who serves in the Reserves, bringing tears to those in attendance.

As part of their tribute to the Hampton Heroes, the Fifth Grade Elementary Band performed “Heroes and Glory,” composed by James Swearingen, under the direction of Mr. Sean Desguin.

Dr. Laura Tocci, Principal at Wyland Elementary, lovingly introduced her husband as the keynote speaker. With his life story, Lieutenant Commander Timothy Tocci, U.S. Navy, Ret., inspired students in the crowd and presented them with a unique challenge. He explained even students have an opportunity to be heroes, by practicing acts of kindness and helping kids who encounter bullies.

“It was such an honor and privilege to be honored today with my fellow soldiers and sailors. The whole event and the appreciation of the kids was so wonderful,” Tocci said.

Notably, the students also ran a fundraiser called Pennies for Patriots. $3,900 was collected for the Wounded Warrior Project, a non-profit dedicated to honoring and empowering military personnel who have suffered physical or mental injuries during their service.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Cunningham shared her enthusiasm and pride for the event. “We have the greatest country and we are so proud of our veterans who served. It is important for our students, faculty and our community to see how much Hampton Township School District values our veterans!” she said.

According to Pennsylvania State Representative Robert Mercu-ri, events such as Hampton Heroes can impart the values that define American citizenship.

“Veterans Day is an opportunity for us to not only honor our veterans who have served our great country, but also to teach the next generation the value of service and civic responsibility. What I saw here at Hampton was a ceremony that not only honored our veterans but also showed our young people what it means to be a citizen. Today was a wonderful example of what it means to be a citizen in America,” he explained.

Navy Captain Bill Marsh was also inducted into the Hampton Heroes. With tears in his eyes he expressed his deep love for the United States. “Serving this country is a labor of love. I love my country and I love America. I love passing this spirit on to the next generation.”

The inductees of the 2023 Hampton Heroes program were: Gavin Church, Mark D’Amico, Bill Daughtery, Wayne Koble, Robert Kuhn, Bill Marsh, and Timothy Tocci.

Continued on pages 10 and 11.

To learn more about the Wounded Warriors Project please visit www.woundedwarriorproject.org.
Veteran Spotlight: 
Hampton Heroes Inductees

Gavin Church of Allison Park served in the U.S. Army as an Infantry Officer and later in the U.S. Army Reserves as an Information Operations Strategist. He began his military career in February 2007 and underwent induction, Army Officer training, and additional training in Infantry tactics and specialties at Fort Benning, Georgia. After his training, Mr. Church was stationed at Fort Lewis-McCord in Tacoma, Washington, where he served as an Operations Planner for an Infantry Stryker Battalion. He was subsequently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he led an Infantry Stryker Platoon in combat in the Kandahar Province from 2009 to 2010. Following this deployment, he served as a Company Commander and Regimental Operations Planner for The Old Guard at Fort Myer, Virginia.

Gavin earned his B.A. in Psychology/Political Science from Duquesne University and later completed his M.B.A. from Kenan Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina. He and his wife, Laura Cord (Hampton ’02), have four children: Robert, Errett, Emmy, and Ella. In his free time, he is passionate about hiking, hunting, cooking, and gardening. Mr. Church has received several awards and commendations, including the Bronze Star with V Device, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and Combat Action Badge.

Mark D’Amico of Mount Pleasant enlisted in the U.S. Navy in November 1972 and received orders to report for active duty at the Naval Recruit Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois. Following his graduation from boot camp in January 1973, he was transferred to Naval Radio A School in Bainbridge, Maryland, where he underwent training to become a radioman. In May 1973, Mr. D’Amico graduated with the distinction of Academic Honorman and received his “dream orders” to Christchurch, New Zealand. There, he devoted the next two-and-a-half years to working in a naval communications unit in support of the U.S. Antarctic program, known as “Operation Deep Freeze.”

During his time in New Zealand, he attained the rank of Second Class Petty Officer as a radioman. Mark was then assigned to the USS Macdonough DDG39, a guided missile frigate, where he spent the next seven months on board the ship, patrolling the waters along the east coast of the United States and the Caribbean Sea. He was honorably discharged in November 1978.

He and his wife, Susie, have been married for 38 years. They have three children, Mark (Brittany), Luke (Emily), and Zach, and two grandchildren, Rita and Mia. He holds a bachelor of landscape architecture (BLA) from Ball State University and is a retired landscape architect. He enjoys writing, gardening, movies, and spending time with his beloved family.

Bill Daugherty, of Gibsonia, served in the U.S. Navy from July 1987 to February 2009. His naval career led him to perform submarine duties on the USS Francis Scott Key, Weapons Station Naval Magazine in Oahu, Hawaii; as an ordnance inspector at Mobile Mine Assembly in Misawa, Japan; on the USS Hunley (submarine tender); and with the Physical Security Office for Joint Base New Orleans post-Hurricane Katrina.

Bill Daugherty’s duty stations included Naval Submarine Base in San Diego, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Georgia, Norfolk Naval Station in Virginia, and Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut.

Bill is married to Heather Daugherty, and they have four children: Zack, Christie, Maya, and Grace. He is currently employed as the Global Field Services Operations Manager for Westinghouse. His hobbies include spending time with his wife and kids and golfing when he gets the chance.
Mr. Bill Marsh of Gibsonia served in the U.S. Navy, achieving the rank of Captain. He served on Active Duty from 1980 to 1985 and in the Reserves from 1985 to 2010. Mr. Marsh served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 2006 to April 2007. He later served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from February 2009 to January 2010.

Mr. Marsh has been married for 42 years to his wife, Mary Beth. They have three children: Kate, Lisa, and Michael. They also have two grandchildren, Grayson and Adelyn. In his free time, Bill enjoys sailing, camping, working on house projects, and spending time with family.

Wayne Koble enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1968. After completing Basic Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, he attended training related to military intelligence at Fort Devens, Massachusetts and became a member of the Army Security Agency (ASA). His next assignment was to Phu Bai, Republic of South Vietnam. This was the closest base to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that supported jets and also had a concentration of intelligence gathering facilities and antennas, which made it a key target for enemy mortar and rocket attacks.

After a year in Vietnam, Wayne was assigned to Asmara, Ethiopia for 17 months, where he was involved in gathering intelligence information about Soviet Union military activities in the region. Mr. Koble received an Honorable Discharge from the Army in February 1972. His decorations include the Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal and M-14 and M-16 Expert Marksmanship Ribbons. He attained the rank of Specialist 4th Class (SPEC4).

Wayne retired from PNC Bank in Erie as Senior VP of Wealth Management. He currently resides just outside Hampton Township with his wife of 48 years, Robin. Wayne and Robin have three grown children, Nathan, Brian (Suzanne), and Kelly, and five grandchildren: Felicity, Peter, Mary Emma, James, and Anastasia. In his spare time, Mr. Koble enjoys researching his German ancestry, cheering on the Pirates, and most of all spending time with his family.

Robert Kuhn of Allison Park served in the U.S. Army from 1970-72, achieving the rank of Specialist E-4. He was deployed to Vietnam and served with the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry unit during his 1971-72 Vietnam tour of duty, primarily in the central highlands of Vietnam. He is the recipient of a Bronze Star Medal.

Robert is married to Diane Kuhn for 51 years, and they have three daughters: Julie Legal, Kristin Wilson, and Sara Krampe. They have six grandchildren: Grace, Noah, Abby, Ally, Ryan, and Lola. Mr. Kuhn is retired and enjoys writing in his free time. He is the author of the book, “Rucksack Grunt - A Vietnam Veteran’s Memoir.”

Timothy J. Tocci of Pittsburgh served in the U.S. Navy, achieving the rank of LCRD - Lieutenant Commander. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He served on various bases, including Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Pensacola, Florida; Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View, California; Naval Air Station Brunswick in Maine; Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida; and Maritime Air Headquarters in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Mr. Tocci also had deployments to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Misawa Air Base in Japan, Air Station Diego Garcia, Kwajalein Atoll in the Indian Ocean, Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily, Italy, and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Timothy is married to Dr. Laurie Tocci, the principal of Wyland Elementary School. Mr. Tocci enjoys outdoor activities, walking with their Golden Retriever (Cooper), golfing, cooking, and working on handyman projects.
Hampton Community Library is a Big Deal  
by Suzanna Krispli, Library Director

Hey there!

So, as you stream through Netflix, Prime, and Apple+ for the 50th time and wonder will Pitt ever make it to the Sweet 16, you notice a library book on the coffee table and wonder “in the age of everything online, are they still a big deal?” Well, my friend, they are! Libraries are the unsung heroes of our communities. They do a whole lot more than just keep dusty old books on the shelves. Here are my top three things on why Hampton Community Library (HCL) is still a big deal!

1. **Cool Learning Stuff:**
   Picture this: a place where you can snag books, magazines, dvds, download movies that are not available on your streaming subscriptions, read the paper, dive into research, use a computer or do your homework on your own laptop connected to our wi-fi, all for FREE! That’s your local library. Whether you’re a student or just hungry for knowledge, libraries have your back with all sorts of cool learning resources.

2. **No-Tech Left Behind:**
   Not everyone has the latest gadgets, right? We get it. We’re like the tech hub for those who need it. Free internet, computers, free apps to download movies, books, audiobooks — libraries level the playing field for digital skills. In a world that’s all about being tech-savvy, libraries make sure nobody gets left behind.

3. **Hangout Spot for Everyone:**
   Libraries are not just about shushing and serious faces. Nope! Anyone who has visited HCL knows that! We’re buzzing with storytimes, card club, cooking groups, book clubs, sewing clubs, scrapbooking workshops and our famous trivia nights! It’s where people meet, chat, and share ideas. Libraries are like the cool spots in your community where everyone’s invited, and we mean everyone!

   In a nutshell, HCL isn’t an old, dusty, obsolete space; we’re a big deal! We are more like the superheroes of our neighborhoods (with new carpeting and blinds)! Always adapting, always revealing new tricks up our sleeves. You never know what we might be up to!

   So in-between scrolling through channels and watching the Sweet 16 stop in and give us a try. You might even find a book based on one of your shows!

   **Spoiler alert:**
   The book is way better!

   Hope to see you soon!

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On Friday, January 26, former Municipal Manager Chris Lochner received an honor to which few can aspire: 

With his wife, Janet, at his side, he learned that street signs bearing his name would be placed within the community park and on the facade of Hampton Community Center.

Council President Dr. Carolynn Johnson shared a few words, lauding the gentleman who has done so much for this community:

“For 37.5 years [Chris Lochner] has had one primary goal that he has aspired to: the betterment of the Township of Hampton...

Chris likes to point out that the Hampton Council Members are Hamptonites first. Not Democrats, not Republicans, but Hamptonites first and foremost. In part, I think that is because he has led by example and treated his position the same way. Hampton first. Always. That’s the Lochner Way.

So, it is with great pleasure that I have the privilege of announcing that the Township of Hampton will be naming the park road outside the community center Lochner Way. This is to honor Chris and his commitment to Hampton, and also remind all of us how we should approach our positions, whether it is as the new manager, a council member, controller, department head, staff, or board member. Hampton first ... The Lochner Way.”

Moments later, the Lochners’ children, Michael, Alex, and Erin, walked into the room carrying the Township’s newest street sign: Lochner Way. For years to come, as Hamptonites drive through the township park or walk into the community center—now officially located at 3200 Lochner Way—they will be reminded of a man who dedicated his career to making Hampton a happy, welcoming, thriving community that has become a jewel in the North Hills of Pittsburgh.
A Message From The Chief

by Chief Thomas Vulakovich

During the holiday season, it was you, the residents of Hampton, who allowed the police department to be the vehicle through which your kindness and generosity was spread. The Police Department’s Presents from Police and Toy Drive was a huge success this past year! Some presents were delivered to facilities that care for children while others were sent to families within our community who are less fortunate. Those families were identified by the social workers embedded within the police department.

Christmas is about the spirit of joy, kindness and giving without needing anything in return. For those of you who supported the toy drive through gifts and donations, I hope you feel that true spirit of giving. Because of you it made a family’s holiday truly special.

To each resident, business owner, or employee within Hampton Township, I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to celebrate in a way that brought you peace and happiness. Please take a moment to remember that through your thoughtful donations you were able to spread that same joy and happiness to a child. On behalf of the Hampton Township Police Department, thank you for your support!

Social Services Workers Brightened Holidays for Local Families

by Mary-Theresa Watson

Christmas cheer filled the air last month as a dedicated group of merry makers took on the roles of holiday elves for several local families. It all began in early November when Hampton Township Police Department’s (HTPD) Social Services Coordinator Angela Kenbok felt inspired to grant holiday wishes for families and children in need with whom she works daily. It didn’t take long for an idea to take shape, and with a touch of holiday magic, Hampton Township staff members enthusiastically joined Angela in her mission.

“I have quite a few families and kids on my list who are in need,” Angela explains, “so I reached out to Chief [Tom] Vulakovich and asked if I could create a program for people to sponsor families for the holidays. He loved the idea,” she continues with a smile, “and it took off from there.”

With the realization that time was short, Angela quickly got to work. The Hampton Family Sponsorship program was a hit, as staff members from the police, library, municipal, IT, and Environmental Services departments chose to personally sponsor families in need instead of purchasing gifts for each other.

“I had 27 families that were fully sponsored,” Angela happily shares, “many by staff members from Hampton Township and some by business owners who heard about the program by word of mouth. Our caseload grows every year, so I can see the program growing in the future.”
Angela organized the program with the help of her fellow social worker Ashley Wilson, intern Maria Sheerin, and School Resource Officer Carl Good, who helped organize the family list. Volunteers gathered to wrap all the gifts, filling a room with packages destined to give several local families plenty to celebrate as they gathered around their Christmas trees.

“We suggested sponsors provide three to five gifts per person, so that really adds up,” Angela says with a laugh, surveying a room that resembled a certain residence at the North Pole more than an interview room in Hampton Township.

Angela gratefully acknowledges the support, concluding, “We received such a generous amount of effort and time and gifts! It’s amazing what we were able to do within four walls. I’m truly grateful for all the staff members I work with—they really support the Social Services Department.”

On December 22, Angela, along with Chief Vulokovich, Officer Good, and a team of generous volunteers, delivered the gifts, ensuring a happy holiday for all. It’s safe to say the first year of the Hampton Family Sponsorship program was a resounding success.

Police Extend Charitable Efforts

The HTPD participated in the No-Shave November, continued through Don’t Stop December, January and February for two causes near and dear to the Department: The Mrs. Claus Club North Hills Chapter and for first grader Kaylee Manz, who has acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

At Hampton Council meeting on December 13th, members of the police department presented a check to board representatives from the Mrs. Claus Club, Jeana Watenpool and Melissa Bradfield.

Since Sergeant Rob Kirsopp said it so well that evening, we are going to let his words say it all.

“Ladies and gentlemen, I have had the privilege of addressing the council several times while representing the HTPD and our charitable work. I’m quite sure you know our officers are hard working and provide a great service to this community. For the past few years, Chief Tom Vulokovich has graciously given us the opportunity to participate in No-Shave November. Female officers can wear their hair in a ponytail and male officers can choose not to shave their face. It provides some comfort to us all while providing a talking point with community in support of killing cancer. In order to violate these policies, officers donate money into our charitable fund. I’d like to point out that some officers donate into the fund without taking advantage of the policy violations. In addition, we received donations from the chief, assistant manager, current township manager Chris Lochner and the new manager, Ryan Jeroski. We thank you for your generous support to our charities. The club provides valuable support to local individuals undergoing cancer treatments.” Sergeant Kirsopp went on to say, “I can attest to their support as I’m sure council is aware of my current battle with cancer. I appreciate all the support that I have received along the way from my friends, family, this great community, my employer Hampton Township, and groups like the Mrs. Claus Club. Recently I was given an opportunity to address approximately 450 supporters of the Mrs. Claus and many praised their efforts. The items in the care baskets are based on valuable experience and love. Just as the Hampton Police provide a valuable service to the community, so does the club. The HTPD charitable fund is proud to present $2,000 to the Mrs. Claus Club.” Kirsopp pointed out that over the past three years, Hampton Police has donated approximately $8,000 to the club.

2nd Annual Cabin Fever Concert Fund Raiser Benefitting Sgt. Rob Kirsopp

Sunday, March 3, 2024, Noon–4 p.m.
Where: Jergel’s Rhythm Grill, 285 Northgate Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086
Tickets can be purchased at e-tix.com for $15/adult and $10/kids 12 and under.
Tickets at the door day-of are $20/adult, $10/kids 12 and under.

Officer Thomas Adams was promoted to the rank of full-time officer at a township council meeting in January.
New Board Members

by Kate McKelvey

The Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE) welcomed 5 new members to their board in December. The new members bring a wide variety of community volunteer roles, lived experiences, and professional expertise to the board. Past president, Tom McKelvey, credits the hard work of all HAEE members in growing the board to the largest it’s been in recent years. “Everyone pitched in to update bylaws that helped to revitalize our recruitment process, ensuring that we are bringing in exceptional community members,” he stated.

Along with new members, the board also held their annual election for executive board members. Newly elected president, Lissa Geiger Shulman, looks forward to another year of successful fundraising while exploring a potential new event for Spring of 2025. “With excellent and motivated fellow board members, we have the potential to grow our base of supporters beyond race enthusiasts and encourage all members of the community to find ways to support our schools and their “Tradition of Excellence.”

Other executive board members elected were Jedd Cordisco, Vice President; Kristine Armstrong, Treasurer; Veronica Tirpak, Corresponding Secretary; and Dan Simone, Recording Secretary. HAEE recruits board members annually to fill vacancies created by trustees whose 3-year terms are ending with elections held in December. Interested in joining HAEE? Resumes and letters of interest can be sent to nominating@hamptonalliance.org for consideration.

The Importance of Blood Donation
by Daniela Khoury, HHS ’27

One person. One donation. One life saved. Did you know that Vitalant, a blood drive and supply organization, has seen a drop by over 25% in its supply over the past few months? That means a drastic number of people are not receiving the life-saving blood they need. You never know how big of a difference one donation can make.

According to Vitalant, “Every day in the U.S., patients in hospitals, surgical centers, and emergency treatment facilities need approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells, 5,000 units of platelets, and 6,500 units of plasma (Vitalant).” The shortage of blood in hospitals is affecting all types of patients, and the best way to help is by making a contribution to the blood drives. All types of blood are needed and can make a huge difference. Many people in our community and around the world rely on your blood donation and support. It affects the donor, patients, family, and friends of the patient in so many positive ways. One person, just like you, can make a significant impact on multiple people’s lives. A simple, non-painful donation allows for people to continue making memories, and for people’s lives to be lived to the fullest.

On October 18th, 2023 and January 17th, 2024, Hampton High School hosted two very successful blood drives. Over 221 students and people in the community came out to support and donate to the drives. As a whole, 206 blood products were collected and donated to people in need! These drives helped so many people, and will continue to. Come support Vitalant on April 10th at Hampton High School from 9 am to 7 pm to donate blood to those in need. You can make a difference; all it takes is one donation.

To sign up or if you have questions, please contact Hampton High School Nurse, Kirsten Nelson, RN, CSN 412-492-6384 or email: Kirsten.nelson@ht-sd.org.

Mark Your Calendar:
HHS Blood Drive April 10th, 2024
9 am — 7 pm

Representative Rob Mercuri hosted Justine Sullivan from Hampton Township on the Capitol House Floor in recognition of her academic success earning every point on the Advanced Placement Research Exam.

On Tuesday, January 2nd, three new council members were sworn in: left to right: Jerry Speakman as controller since 2009, Alfred Midgley IV and Daniel Sciulli.
Drama Club’s “Puffs” Wins Big  
by Jenn Edmonds

For the first time, the Hampton High School Drama Club entered the Prime Stage Drama Awards. On January 29, 2024 the students saw their hard work pay off at the awards ceremony as they performed a scene at the Hazlett Theater. The completely student-run fall production of “Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic” was nominated for a remarkable 15 awards out of 16 categories; more than any of the 12 participating high schools. The awards honor excellence by students in non-musical plays.

In her 2nd year as drama advisor, HHS English teacher Hannah Dunlap tasked the student directors Andrew Kaehly and Kiley Vande Geest, both seniors, with choosing a play that would widen the cast and broaden the drama club. Not only did they embrace that challenge, they took it a step further. “Kiley and Andrew did an excellent job of creating a sense of community among the cast members. That really came across to the audience and showed in the nominations,” said Dunlap. “It was pretty incredible when she (Dunlap) was listing off the nominations. It was indescribable in the moment to see everyone being recognized and our hard work being recognized,” said Kaehly.

The student directors were responsible for selecting the show, holding auditions, casting the show, and directing the cast. They worked closely with stage crew to communicate their vision regarding the set, sound, lighting, costumes, and promoted the show. “The amount of creative freedom that Andrew and I had was truly remarkable. With the help and support of everyone involved, we were able to make our vision become a reality!” said Vande Geest.

The directors transferred that creative freedom to the cast and crew, which made the disconnect between cast and crew nonexistent. “Kiley and I, from the beginning, wanted to give them as much freedom as possible and the ability to shine,” said Kaehly. He commended Jacob Baker, who managed an unheard of 300 lighting cues and Lily Stalewski, who led the design and building of an elaborate set.

“It’s such a success because students make it a success. They take great pride in what they do,” said Dunlap.

“Puffs!” was nominated for the following awards:

♦ Best Actor: Nathan Connelly
♦ Best Actress: Echo Schomaeker
♦ Best Supporting Actress: Ashley Kimmell
♦ Best Student Directors: Andrew Kaehly & Kiley Vande Geest
♦ Best Student Stage Manager: Margaret Sager
♦ Best Student Scenic Design: Jacob Baker, Margaret Sager & Lily Stalewski
♦ Best Student Lighting Design: Jacob Baker, Michael Petrucci & Garret Vasil
♦ Best Student Prop Design: Samantha Nicely
♦ Best Student Costume Design Team
♦ Best Student Makeup Design: Shane Noone
♦ Best Student Use Of Creative Special Effects: Jacob Baker
♦ Best Student Sound Design: Melanie Roth & Claire Topper
♦ Best Student Backstage Run Crew Team
♦ Best Student Program/Poster Design: Kiley Vande Geest
♦ Best Overall Production

And the winners are....

**Best Student Scenic Design:**
Jacob Baker, Margaret Sager, and Lily Stalewski

**Best Student Directors:**
Andrew Kaehly and Kiley Vande Geest

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Photos by Hannah Dunlap

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Student Directors Kiley and Andrew were invited to appear on KDKA’s Pittsburgh Today Live on January 30th to discuss the awards and their experience as directors this year.
2023 Hampton School District Holiday Card Design Contest Winners

Siena Pross, Grade 5
Port Elementary School
Mr. Brucker, Art Teacher

Morgan Bauer, Grade 7
Hampton Middle School
Mrs. Woods, Art Teacher

Olivia Marks, Grade 12
Hampton High School
Mr. Franklin, Art Teacher

The Elf’s first hiding spot!

2023 Elf On The Shelf contest winners:
Connor Arvay, Brady Concannon, Eloise Desanzo, Liam Drop, Lianna Fonzi, Violet Gendler, Olivia Henderson, Rowan Hornicak, Martyna Krys, Alice Labuda, Mac Leventry, Rory May, Giovanna Pavlecic, Eleanora Shulman, and Camila Synan

A Hampton Holiday Tradition
Mr. and Mrs. Claus were escorted by police and firefighters throughout the neighborhoods.

Photo by Joe Livoti (Drone)
Since the mailing of the 2024 garbage/recycling customer handbook in late January, some errors in the calendar were identified. Please refer to the updated calendar below for your 2024 bulk and yard waste collection.

**REVISED Hampton BULK Collection & Yard Waste Schedule**

### 2024

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<tr>
<th>January</th>
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* = Hampton BULK WEEK - (1)One large item 4TH Week  
** = Hampton Yard Waste Collection - 3rd FULL week of month, April - November
Sewer Rate Increase for 2024
In January 2019, residents saw the first increase in sewer rates for an extensive renovation, upgrade, and improvements project at the Allison Park Water Pollution Control Plant. The project got underway in September 2022 and the anticipated completion date is early fall of 2025. It is estimated that upon completion of all construction work the cost of this project will range from $57 to $60 million. In 2024, residents will see the final $5 per month increase in sewer bills, which was necessitated as a result of the debt incurred by the Township for this project.

Township of Hampton Community Clean-Up Day
The Township will be sponsoring a community-wide program to help clean up township roadside areas from debris on Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 8 am to 12 noon. All volunteers will receive a t-shirt as a small token of appreciation for their service. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by at least one (1) parent/guardian who can drive the children to the clean-up locations. All volunteers/volunteer groups must have a driver.

Enter To Win One of Two RAIN BARRELS
Deadline APRIL 15, 2024 (winners will be notified 4/16)
The Township of Hampton is giving away two free rain barrels again this year!

Spring is here and what can you do with some of that rainwater runoff from your gutters and downspouts? It can be used for watering gardens, washing cars, or for other multitude of needs for water outside the home.

There are two ways to register to win for one of two free rain barrels; stop by the Hampton Community Center to see one of the rain barrels and fill out a registration form, or you can register on-line through the Township’s website at www.hampton-pa.org/rainbarrelgiveaway2024.

You must be a Hampton resident, and only one registration per family. Good luck!

Township Council Happenings
Matters addressed by Township Council during the months of December and January included, but were not limited to:
- Dedicated the Community Park Playground in the name of Martha J. Hunkele
- Recognized the donation from the Police Department to the Mrs. Claus Club Pittsburgh North Chapter as part of the No Shave November and Don’t Stop December, January and February fundraiser
- Enacted Ordinance No. 863 establishing the 2024 Real Estate Tax Millage; no increase in real estate taxes
- Enacted Ordinance No. 864 adopting the 2024 General and Other Funds Budget
- Enacted Ordinance No. 865 adopting the 2024 Capital Improvements Budget
- Authorized the transfer of year-end General Operating Fund surplus, not to exceed $600,000, to the Capital Reserve Fund
- Certified volunteer firefighters eligible under Act 172 to claim local tax credits
- Adopted Resolution No. 1091 establishing 2024 rates for legal counsel and engineering consulting services
- Authorized the advertisement for bids regarding the 2024 Road Resurfacing Program
- Approved four Water Pollution Control Plant construction change orders
- Adopted Proclamations recognizing the service of former Councilmembers Joseph Dougherty and Richard Kernick to the Township of Hampton
- Swore in Ryan R. Jeroski as Municipal Manager
- Awarded separate three-year professional services contracts to Maher Duesel for auditing and financial reports services for the Township of Hampton and the Fire Department
- Promoted Thomas Adams to the rank of Full-time Police Officer
- Authorized the advertisement of a Proposed Ordinance and Public Hearing establishing the tap-in fee and connection charges for sanitary sewers; Public Hearing date scheduled for February 28, 2024
- Approved Bella Terra Vineyard Conditional Use application to operate a sit-down restaurant with table service at the existing Hartwood Wine Cave establishment at 3141 Harts Run Road
RESIDENT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Resident registration for spring programs are underway. Please refer to program information for their registration periods for both Residents and Non-Residents. For further questions on registration dates please call the Community Center service desk at 412-487-7870 ext. 1370.

- Hampton Residents will be given priority.
- Classes do fill quickly and registration is on a first come, first serve basis starting the first day of registration.
- First fee listed is for Hampton Residents / second fee listed is for Non-Residents.
- Fees subject to change without notice.
- We try our best to accommodate everyone; however, please do not ask us to exceed class size limits or to put your child in the wrong age, skill level, or class. Programs are designed according to age levels and instructor to student ratios that will benefit the students.
- Cash refunds are NOT given. However, credits to Department of Community Service online accounts will be issued.
- Registrations for memberships or programs can be done online at www.hampton-pa.org or in person at the Community Center service desk.
- All participants must create an online account in order to register for programs or memberships online or in person.
- Online transactions must be paid by credit card only. In person transactions can be paid by cash, check, or credit card.
- All credit card transactions online and in person will be subject to a 2.95% convenience fee.
- If a class becomes full, we will not be permitted to accept any additional participants. No exceptions.
- For the most up to date information on Department of Community Service programs and events visit our website at www.hampton-pa.org!
- In addition to the Hampton Highlights, the Township of Hampton electronically distributes a monthly e-newsletter highlighting different activities and events going on each month! Would you like to receive our monthly newsletter direct to your inbox? Register by going to www.hampton-pa.org and clicking the Recreational Registration button to create an account today!
- Please note programs and events advertised in this magazine edition are subject to change based on staff availability. Please stay up to date with programming and events by visiting our website at www.hampton-pa.org.
COMMUNITY CENTER

WINTER HOURS OF OPERATION

Dates: January 2nd - May 25th
Sunday: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Monday & Friday: 6:00 am - 9:00 pm
Tuesday - Thursday: 6:00 am - 10:00 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Hours are subject to change without notice.
Hours may be adjusted due to holidays/events.
Administrative hours are 8:00 am - 5:00 pm; Mon—Fri
Visit www.hampton-pa.org for additional information.

INDOOR TRACK

The three-lane walking and jogging track is open during normal Community Center hours unless otherwise posted. Thirteen laps around the track equals one mile. Appropriate footwear is required while using the track. Please follow the direction signs located above the track area.

Use of the indoor track is included with your Community Center or Fitness membership. If you do not have a current membership and would like to use the track a daily guest fee of $6 can be paid at the Service Desk.

COMMUNITY CENTER FOOD MARKET

A self-serve, self-pay food market is located on the lower level of the Hampton Community Center! Patrons can enjoy a vast assortment of beverages, both hot and cold, as well as a great variety of snacks and food items. Enjoy a light healthy snack to wind down after your workout or a fresh espresso to start off your day! It’s a great option for an after school snack spot for children using the basketball courts or the perfect breakfast place before going to the library for story time.

Food items will be replenished weekly so all items are guaranteed to be fresh! The market is a self-pay area which is monitored closely by cameras. Simply select the items you desire to purchase and scan them at the pay station as you would at any other self-check-out kiosk. After your payment has been processed your transaction is complete. Payments accepted include credit or debit card and VIBE cards (which can be picked up at the Community Center service desk).

COMMUNITY CENTER MEMBERSHIPS

Yearly Membership Includes Use of Track & Gymnasium Courts

Adult Memberships: $32 / $63
Youth Memberships: $19 / $38

COMMUNITY CENTER INFORMATION

COMMUNITY CENTER

FACILITY RULES

All members and guests must enter through the main doors of the Community Center. We require that all members scan their membership ID card at the Service Desk. All guests must check in at the Service Desk for assistance.

Any child under 10 years of age must be accompanied, at all times, by an adult (18 +) in the building; this includes the gymnasium.

Any person(s) using the amenities such as the track, fitness area, gymnasium, or lounges must either have a current membership or pay the daily admission rate. No exceptions.

No smoking inside the building. No loitering inside or outside of the building, and no skateboards or similar items are permitted to be used inside the building. Parking is not permitted around the area located in front of the Community Center; this area is a fire zone.
COMMUNITY PARK PAVILIONS

Hampton Community Park Pavilion reservations are now available to rent online! Pavilions are also available to rent, in person, by visiting the Community Center Service Desk during regular hours of operation. Payment must be made, in full, at time of reservation. Pavilion fees can be paid by cash, check, or credit card in person and by credit card only online. For additional information on pavilion amenities and locations, as well as date availability please visit our website at www.hampton-pa.org.

HAMPTON COMMUNITY PARK PAVILION RATES

Pavilion rate includes choice of pavilion and ABC Permit. First fee is for Residents / second fee is for Non-Residents.

Pavilion Choices:
Alcoa, Drake, Grubbs, Hardt, Kraus, Orchard - Ling, & Rotary

Pavilion Rates:
Monday-Friday $100 / $150
Saturday & Sunday $100 / $150
Holidays $114 (Residents Only)

Tent Site Permit - $25 Permit Change or Replacement Fee - $25

Residents are able to reserve pavilions one year in advance. Non-Residents may reserve pavilions beginning on April 1st of each year.

Hampton Community Park offers seven different park pavilions located throughout the park area that are available to rent. Each pavilion includes six picnic tables, a water pump, overhead lighting, electrical outlets and a charcoal grill. All pavilions have four electrical outlets except Kraus, which has three.

D.J.’s or live bands are not permitted in the Community Park.

Roasting fires are prohibited in the Community Park.

Tents or structures that need to be secured in the ground require a Tent Site Permit and permission is required prior to the rental date.
OUTDOOR POOL INFORMATION

2024 POOL MEMBERSHIP RATES

Early Bird Rate: Available to Hampton Residents January 2nd - March 31st
Regular Rate: Available to Hampton Residents April 1st
Non-Resident Rate: Available in limited numbers until sold out

2024 POOL MEMBERSHIP RATES

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<tr>
<td>MARRIED COUPLE</td>
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<td>INFANT (0 - 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SENIOR (60 +)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SENIOR COUPLE (60 +)</td>
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<td>$325</td>
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GUEST PASSES EARLY DISCOUNT (Now - March 31st) $6
GUEST PASSES $8

Guest Passes are only available with a valid pool membership. A limit of ten passes per membership applies.

POOL MEMBERSHIP POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Family Pool Memberships may only be purchased for immediate family members on tax list, or living in the same household. Babysitters, neighbors, nieces / nephews, and visiting relatives are not eligible to be included on your family pool pass.

Pool Membership / ID Cards are non-transferable and may not be borrowed or loaned. Non-compliance will result in the loss of your Pool Membership.

Guest Passes LIMIT OF 10 PASSES PER MEMBERSHIP. Available for purchase online or in-person at the Community Center and outdoor pool complex admission gate.

DAILY ADMISSION FEES

Ages 0 - 2: FREE
Ages 3 - 17: $8 / $13
Ages 18 - 59: $9 / $20
Ages 60 +: $6 / $10

SPECIAL SWIM SESSION RATES

Open Swim
Monday - Sunday: 4 - 7:00 pm $6 / $10 (Ages 3 and Up)

Township of Hampton

LITTER CLEAN UP
APRIL 6TH
8 AM START

RECYCLE RAMA
MAY 11TH
9 AM - 12 PM

COMMUNITY PARK

HAMPTON HIGHLIGHTS
WE ARE
HIRING
FOR SUMMER!

CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS
ASSISTANT POOL MANAGERS
CONCESSION & MAINTENANCE STAFF
PLAY CAMP COUNSELORS

APPLY ONLINE AT
WWW.HAMPTON-PA.ORG
TOWNSHIP OF HAMPTON EASTER EGG HUNT

Join us on Saturday, March 23rd from 11 am - 1 pm in the Hampton Community Park for an Easter egg hunt for children 10 years of age and under! In addition to our egg hunt there will be child friendly activities, delicious refreshments and an opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny! Please feel free to bring your own Easter basket for collecting eggs!

Registration for this event is now open!

Please understand that pre-registration is now required for this event to better prepare for supplies for the amount of attendees.

Registration will close at 5:00 pm on Thursday, March 14th. Please make sure you register by this date.

Please plan accordingly - walk-in registration will no longer be available for this Community Event.

Due to the ever growing popularity of our family-friendly holiday events, please note that the Community Park will be closed to the general public this day to accommodate for additional traffic and ensure the safety of all of our event guests. Pavilions, sports fields including the soccer fields, and access to the upper orchard will be unavailable until the event concludes. The Community Center parking lots will also be unavailable to use until the event concludes.

The Community Center will remain open during this event; however, the event will be held outdoors, rain or shine!

Registration reminders: Please understand that our registration system allows only members of your household to be put on your account. If you wish to register someone who does not live in your household, an account will need created for them prior to registering. Please also keep in mind if you need to add a child to your household, you must call the Community Center Service Desk at 412-487-7870 ext. 1315 to add each additional member to your household. Please make sure to do this prior to the registration deadline.

PINTS IN THE PARK

Join us at the Hampton Community Park on select Fridays during the summer months to enjoy our newest event: Pints in the Park! Come out to enjoy great food and fun with your neighbors and friends!

Pints in the Park features an evening lineup of delicious food trucks, an array of local vendors, and a live music performance! The event begins at 5:00 pm and ends promptly at 9:00 pm. A great idea for your next date night or a fun dinner for the whole family!

2024 Event Dates
May 17th, 5 - 9 pm
June 28th, 5 - 9 pm
July 26th, 5 - 9 pm
August 23rd, 5 - 9 pm
September 27th, 5 - 9 pm

FARMER’S MARKET

Hampton Township will once again have a Farmer’s Market in the Hampton Community Park every Wednesday beginning June 5th from 3 - 7 pm.

If you would like information on becoming a market vendor please contact Bill Ryder at bill.ryder@hampton-pa.org or at 412-487-7870 ext. 1316.

The most up to date information regarding the Farmer’s Market will be available on our website at www.hampton-pa.org and in the next edition of the Hampton Magazine.
SUMMER PLAY CAMP (311101)

The Summer Play Camp Program includes arts & crafts, afternoon swimming, daily organized sports games and special events. Morning and afternoon snacks are provided daily and included in the cost of camp. Detailed program information including daily schedules, program policies, as well as enrollment information can be found at the Community Center Service Desk as of April 1st. Resident registration begins April 1st and Non-Resident Registration begins May 1st.

Detailed program information regarding enrollment will be available in the upcoming months on the Township website!

PROGRAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Enrolling your child for the program will guarantee your child a place in the program. However, it is required that you register your child ahead of time for each week that they will attend the Play Camp program. Please keep in mind you will not be able to register your child for weekly attendance until you have completed the initial enrollment process. Weekly registrations for Play Camp will require your full weekly payment to be made at time of registration. For your convenience you can register your child online or in person for the weeks that you wish to attend Play Camp. It is the participants’ responsibility to register for the correct weeks of Play Camp. Weekly registrations must be done at least 5 DAYS PRIOR to the start of the week you wish to attend. Play Camp will not accept participants until they are registered and paid in full for the weeks they are attending.

Participants only pay for the weeks that they register their child for. The week of July 3rd will be pro-rated due to Play Camp only being available two days that week. Payment is based off the number of children per family as well as residency.

AGES: *6 – 12 yrs. old *
  Must be entering 1st grade Fall 2024

DATES: June 10th – August 16th
  *No program on July 3rd, 4th, & 5th

DAYS: Monday – Friday

TIMES: 7:30 am – 5:30 pm

Attendance fees will be in the Parent Manual which is available on April 1st.

POOL MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

Play Camp participants are required to purchase a season Pool Membership for the Community Park Outdoor Pool since we do go to the pool every afternoon. Please visit our website at www.hampton-pa.org to obtain a membership. Pool memberships must be purchased PRIOR to your child attending Play Camp. Proof of purchase may be required at initial drop off to Play Camp.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FEE INFORMATION

When your child’s completed enrollment paperwork is accepted at the service desk you will be required to pay an enrollment fee. This fee is not a deposit and does not count towards your child’s attendance. Enrollment fee structure is noted below. Please note that new this year along with the “Regular Enrollment Fee” there is a “Late Enrollment Fee” and a “Mid Program Enrollment Fee.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular Enrollment Fee</th>
<th>Late Enrollment Fee</th>
<th>Mid Program Enrollment Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(April 1st – May 31st)</td>
<td>(June 1st – June 9th)</td>
<td>(After program has begun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 child: $50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 children: $75.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 children: $100.00</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

ADULT PICKLEBALL
Pickleball is an easy game for all ages to learn. The game is a combination of tennis, badminton, and ping pong. The sport is played on a badminton court, with the net a little lower than a tennis net, and played with a hard paddle and a smaller version of a wiffleball. All levels are welcome to walk in and play. Pickleballs are provided but every participant must bring their own racquet.

AGES: 18 & up
DATES: January 4th - May 24th
DAY & TIMES: Monday / 9:00 - 11:30 am
Tuesday / 9:00 - 11:30 am & 12:30 - 3:00 pm
Thursday / 9:00 - 11:30 am & 12:30 - 3:00 pm
Friday / 9:00 - 11:30 am
LOCATION: Community Center Gymnasium
Courts A, B, C & D
No programs on March 28, 29 & April 1st
FEE: $5 per person / per session

ADULT VOLLEYBALL
Volleyball is a walk-in program for beginner to intermediate skill level players. Teams are formed each night and players rotate into games throughout the program.

AGES: 18 & up
DATES: January 4th - May 23rd
DAY & TIMES: Thursday / 7:30 - 9:30 pm
LOCATION: Community Center Gymnasium
Courts A, B, C & D
FEE: $5 per person; daily

BEGINNER LINE DANCING
Put on your dancing shoes, learn a new type of exercise and have some fun!
Instructor: Shirley Shultz

AGES: 18 & Up
DATES: April 11th - May 23rd
DAY & TIMES: Thursday / 1:30 - 3:00 pm
LOCATION: Community Center Dance Room
FEE: $37 / $42
MIN / MAX: 8 / 22
DEADLINE: Tuesday, April 9th, 2024

ADULT BADMINTON
This is a walk-in program for those of all skill levels who enjoy the finer points of the game. Birdies will be provided, but please bring your own racquet.

AGES: 18 & up
DATES: January 2nd - May 21st
DAY & TIMES: Tuesday / 7:30 - 9:30 pm
LOCATION: Community Center Gymnasium
Courts A, B, C & D
FEE: $5 per person; daily

FAMILY, SENIOR & ADULT SWIM
During this program, half the pool will be for adult lap swimmers and half for families and seniors to swim and enjoy themselves! This is a walk-in program and the daily fee is paid at the door each evening. Children under 3 years of age are FREE. Program dates subject to change.

AGES: All Ages
DATES: January 10th - April 24th
DAY & TIMES: Monday & Wednesday / 8:15 - 9:15pm
LOCATION: Hampton High School Indoor Pool
FEE: $4 per person; daily (ages 3 & up)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS BEGINS IN APRIL!

RESIDENT APRIL 15TH. 2024
NON-RESIDENT MAY 1ST. 2024
The Fitness Area is located on the upper level of the Community Center. This area is open during regular Community Center hours unless otherwise posted. Currently there are twenty-one pieces of fitness equipment available; eleven cardio and ten weight training pieces including free weights with varying weights.

The Fitness Area does not have direct supervision. The on-duty Facility Manager will provide routine monitoring. However, if at any time you should have any questions, or require assistance, do not hesitate to speak with the service desk staff.

For the health and safety of our patrons, two Automatic Electric Defibrillator (AED) Units are located in the Community Center. Should a circumstance ever arise that these life sustaining devices need to be used, they can only be used by a trained Community Center staff member or patron.

Fitness Members should scan their membership ID card at the service desk upon entering the center.

### YEARLY FITNESS MEMBERSHIP FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Membership*</td>
<td>$217 / $427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married Couple</td>
<td>$117 / $222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (18 +)</td>
<td>$67 / $134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Student**</td>
<td>$37 / $74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (ages 10 - 17)</td>
<td>$56 / $111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Family Membership pricing is for up to four persons. Each additional family member will be billed for the individual rate.

** College students must provide valid college ID during initial membership and renewing of membership to receive the discounted college rate.

Fitness Memberships can be purchased for individuals 10 years of age and older. If you are between the ages of 10 and 15 you must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times while in the Fitness Area. Children under the age of 10 are not permitted in the Fitness Area.

Children are permitted on the Walking / Jogging Track as long as they are under constant supervision by an adult. Small children under 10 years of age must be within at least arm’s distance of the adult while on the track area. Strollers are permitted on the track as long as the wheels are clean and in good condition.

If you do not have a current fitness membership or you are a fitness member and you have a guest with you, a $6 daily pass may be purchased at the Community Center service desk. Any patrons using the fitness area for the first time (daily guest or member) will need to have a brief fitness area orientation at the service desk prior to using the equipment.

Fitness area information packets are available at the Community Center service desk as well as on our website at [www.hampton-pa.org](http://www.hampton-pa.org).
COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS

Hampton Community Center offers various rooms and rental packages to fit every renter’s needs! We accommodate parties such as birthdays, bridal or baby showers, themed parties, and weddings! Reservations can be made as early as two years in advance (Hampton Residents) or eighteen months in advance (Non-Residents). Below is pricing information for each room that we offer for rent. Don’t see what you are looking for? Our on-site Rental Coordinator is happy to meet with you to discuss your desires and help create a wonderful experience for you! Our Rental Coordinator is available by appointment only. Any questions you have in regards to rental facilities, or date availability, please call our Rental Coordinator at 412-487-7870 ext. 1357.

HOURLY RATES FOR FACILITY RENTALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Rate 1</th>
<th>Rate 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Room A or B</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Room A &amp; B</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>$198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering Area (after hours)</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Room 1</td>
<td>$42</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Room 2</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasium (full)</td>
<td>$88</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasium (half)</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasium (quarter)</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance &amp; Aerobics Room</td>
<td>$42</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat &amp; Serve Kitchen</td>
<td>$220</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

PACKAGE RATES FOR FACILITY RENTALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Rate 1</th>
<th>Rate 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Room A or B</td>
<td>$230</td>
<td>$290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Hour Rate</td>
<td>$465</td>
<td>$585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Hour Rate</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>$865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Hour Rate</td>
<td>$815</td>
<td>$1,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Room A &amp; B</td>
<td>$115</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Hour Rate</td>
<td>$205</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Hour Rate</td>
<td>$290</td>
<td>$330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering Area (after hours only)</td>
<td>$115</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Hour Rate</td>
<td>$205</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Hour Rate</td>
<td>$290</td>
<td>$330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Birthday Party Packages includes 1/4 of the gym and either Activity Room 1 or Activity Room 2 for three hours.

Activity Room 1 Birthday Package: $90 / $140
Activity Room 2 Birthday Package: $135 / $190

Alcohol Beverage Consumption (ABC) Permit is also available for $32

Be sure to check out our newly renovated Great Rooms and Adult Lounge!
State Representatives:
State Senator Lindsey Williams
(38th District)
5000 McKnight Road
Suite 405
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-364-0469

State Representative Rob Mercuri
(28th District)
4375 Gibsonia Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044
724-939-6265

State Representative Arvind Venkat
(30th District)
9800 McKnight Rd. Building B / Ste 130
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-348-8028

County Representatives:
Sara Innamorato, Chief Executive
101 Allegheny County Court House
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-350-6500

Anita Prizio
(District 3)
Allegheny County Court House
436 Grant Street - Rm 119
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-350-6490

District Magistrate:
Tom Swan
724-265-2380

Local Taxes:
Jordan Tax Service
(Property & Stormwater Mgmt.)
102 Rahway Road
McMurray, PA 15317
724-731-2300
412-835-5243
custsvs@jordantax.com

Keystone Collections (Wages & LST)
546 Wendell Road
Irwin, PA 15642
888-328-0558

Township Council:
Carolyn Johnson, Council President
Bethany Blackburn, Vice President
Julie Fritsch
Alfred Midgley
Daniel Sculli

Controller:
Jerry Speakman

Monthly Meeting Dates:
Township Council
7:30 pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday*
*Unless otherwise noted.

Water Authority
7 pm on the 4th Monday

Zoning Hearing Board
7:30 pm on the 4th Tuesday

Hampton Community Association
6 pm on the 3rd Tuesday

Environmental Advisory Council
7 pm on the 2nd Tuesday

Planning Commission
7 pm on the 2nd Monday

Federal Representatives:
Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
310 Grant Street, Suite 2415
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-803-7370

Senator John Fetterman
200 Chestnut Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-241-1090

Congressman Chris Deluzio
11 Duff Road. Suite A3
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
202-225-2301

Police & Emergencies:
Hampton Police, Fire & E.M.S. Emergencies: Call 911

Hampton Police Non-Emergencies:
412-486-0400

Township Offices:
Municipal Building
3101 McCully Road
Allison Park, PA 15101
412-486-0400
412-486-5019 (fax)

Hampton Community Center
3101 McCully Road
Allison Park, PA 15101
412-487-7870
412-487-7871 (fax)

Township Employees:
Manager
Ryan Jeroski...Ext. 1305
ryan.jeroski@hampton-pa.org

Assistant Manager
Susan A. Bernet...Ext. 1303
susan.bernet@hampton-pa.org

Police Chief
Tom Vulakovich...Ext. 1317
tom.vulakovich@hampton-pa.org

Park / Rec Programs Administrator
Melanie Martino...Ext. 1374
melanie.martino@hampton-pa.org

Dept. of Environmental Svs. Director
James Degnan...Ext. 3312
jim.degnan@hampton-pa.org

Land Use Administrator
Amanda Lukas...Ext. 1307
amanda.lukas@hampton-pa.org

Water Authority
April Winklmann...412-486-4867
april.winklmann@hswa-pa.org
NOW BOOKING FOR SPRING

$1000 OFF Any Construction Project

Present coupon upon estimate. Book before 4/1/24
Dear Hampton Township Community,

In November, HTSD proudly launched our “Portrait of a Talbot” video, which we believe showcases the dynamic spirit and values of our exceptional school district. Through student and teacher voices, alongside scenes of engaging learning spaces and innovative practices, the video illuminates how collaboration, communication, empathy, perseverance, critical thinking, and a learner’s mindset are nurtured within our schools. We are confident that these real-world skills will empower our students throughout their lives, paving the way for a successful future.

We are committed not only to upholding the Portrait of a Talbot competencies but also to demonstrating their practical application in our students’ educational journeys. This issue of the District Dispatch will highlight how our schools are actively integrating these competencies to prepare students for a diverse and ever-evolving world. At Hampton, we firmly believe in the importance of a well-rounded approach to education, and we continue to celebrate the achievements of our students across academics, the arts, and athletics.

Additionally, the video captures some of our new innovative learning spaces, such as the high school’s Library Media Center, the middle school’s Learning Pavilion, outdoor learning spaces, and maker studios.

If you have not had the opportunity to watch the video, I encourage you to visit our website at www.ht-sd.org. The Hampton Township community has been passionate about education for generations, and thanks to your continued support, we’re keeping that Tradition of Excellence strong, paving the way for bright futures for all of our students.

As I write this letter, Hampton schools are starting the second semester, and I’m proud to say the year has been off to an amazing start. This fall, our elementary schools hosted a heartwarming Hampton Heroes program, honoring seven local veterans for their service and sacrifice. We’ve also been delighted by the musical talents of our students, showcased in numerous wonderful concerts. Hampton’s middle school and high school Drama Clubs delivered fantastic shows in November, with the high school’s production of “Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years in a Certain School of Magic and Magic” receiving 15 nominations in the Prime Stage Drama Awards!

Let’s also extend a huge congratulations to Hampton’s fall athletics: the Boys Cross Country Team for winning both the WPIAL and PIAA State Championships, the Girls Volleyball Team for capturing their first-ever WPIAL title, and the Boys Soccer Team for finishing runners-up in the WPIAL final.

On March 5-6, Hampton will celebrate its fine arts programming during a two-day exhibition at Hampton High School. In this issue, you will read more about this exciting opportunity to witness the power of the arts first hand. As a community, we look forward to the coming months filled with achievements in academics, the arts, and athletics.

Sincerely,
Dr. Michael R. Loughead
Superintendent
Hampton Township School District
The Portrait of a Talbot competencies aren’t just buzzwords at Hampton Township School District — they’re threads woven into the very fabric of the curriculum. Hampton teachers have been diligently embedding these competencies into their instruction, sparking students’ ability to collaborate, communicate, think critically, empathize with the world around them, embrace a learner’s mindset, and persevere.

**Science in Action**
Christine Ruffner led her 9th grade biology students through a three-day exploration of enzymes, focusing on lactase, while integrating key Portrait of a Talbot competencies. The first day emphasized foundational knowledge and collaborative learning through an engaging video and a lab activity interpreting data. The second day involved hands-on experiments comparing glucose content in regular and Lactaid milk, encouraging perseverance and critical thinking. The final day focused on empathy and a learner’s mindset, prompting students to consider the experiences of lactose-intolerant individuals. The lesson culminated in a Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) chart activity, showcasing a holistic educational approach in line with the Portrait of a Talbot competencies.

**Through an Animal’s Eyes**
Sheree Lucas and Mary (Davis) West’s 6th-grade reading classes participated in a culminating activity for their unit, “Through an Animal’s Eyes.” The activities included online games focusing on identifying point-of-view, reviewing plot elements, and vocabulary terms. Additionally, students read and responded to an article debating the ethics of zoos, worked on developing arguments for a Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA), engaged in a personification matching activity, researched exotic animals, mapped their locations, and wrote fun facts. They also applied their understanding of plot elements to the short story, “The Cormorant in My Bathtub,” created subheadings for a nonfiction article about “SuperCroc,” and clustered vocabulary terms. This comprehensive lesson aligns with the Portrait of a Talbot competencies of collaboration, empathy, and communication, as students collaborated across teams, communicated respectfully, listened, and offered help. Moreover, the lessons emphasized perseverance, learner’s mindset, and critical thinking, requiring students to use higher-order thinking skills and apply the skills and topics they learned in new ways.

**Reading Takes Flight**
Shanna Struble’s second-grade class at Central Elementary began with the ELA Wonders series story, “Little Flap Learns to Fly,” serving as a foundation for developing key ideas and details in storytelling. Mrs. Struble integrated the Portrait of a Talbot competencies, turning the lesson into a holistic reading experience. Utilizing Central’s Learning Courtyard, she assigned unique personas to various birds, such as Mindy Mindsey and Caleb Collaboration, aligning them with the competencies and making them central characters in captivating stories. Students, working collaboratively in small groups, identified birds based on textual clues, recorded their findings in Mystery Bird Journals, and reflected on which bird they most related to, fostering empathy and self-awareness. The lesson culminated in naming a special Hampton bird, “Hardy Hampton,” embodying the spirit of capability and excellence.

These are just a few examples of how Hampton Township School District is integrating the Portrait of a Talbot competencies into its curriculum, creating a learning environment that equips students for future success!
This past holiday season, the halls of Hampton Township Schools were filled not only with festive cheer, but also with an outpouring of compassion and dedication to bringing joy to those in need. Throughout the year, but especially during the holidays, students and staff across the District consistently demonstrate their commitment to giving back and making a positive impact in the community.

Wyland Elementary School’s Helping Hands Club collected nearly 100 toys for North Hills Community Outreach, ensuring that local children and families had a brighter holiday. Poff Elementary School’s #BeTheKindKid Club followed suit, bringing over 160 toys to children in need, while the Kids Care Club at Central Elementary School collected much-needed arts and craft supplies for Preferred Home Health Care. Fifth-graders at Central also made blankets for the residents of Concordia at Rebecca Residence and crafted cards with cheerful holiday messages for the residents.

Middle and high schools also stepped up to the plate. They organized successful food drives for Inspired Hearts and Hands during Thanksgiving, ensuring local families had the resources they needed for a joyful holiday. Additionally, students and faculty at Poff collected and packaged food for the North Hills Food Bank.

“We are incredibly humbled and inspired by the overwhelming generosity and participation in these drives,” said Dr. Michael Loughead, HTSD Superintendent. “Throughout my years here, I’ve consistently witnessed the incredible acts of care and support our students, families, and staff display, especially during the holiday season. This tradition of giving back is truly ingrained in the fabric of our school community.”
Celebrating the transformative power of the arts is a core value at Hampton Township School District. This spring’s Hues & Harmony event will showcase and promote the District’s fine arts programming during a two-day exhibition at Hampton High School on March 5 and 6.

Experience the fusion of Hampton’s visual and musical arts, showcasing an array of art displays, musical performances, and engaging art and music-making activities. Visit www.ht-sd.org for the full schedule of events.

“The festival aims to highlight the great music being made by our Hampton students throughout the school year,” said Music Teacher Sean Desguin. “Faculty and students are looking forward to showcasing performances by a wide variety of musical ensembles beyond the traditional larger band, chorus, and orchestra groups with which the community may be more familiar.”

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear a variety of musical performances by Hampton’s elementary, middle, and high school students.

On March 5, families may also create their own percussion instruments out of everyday materials at the “Found Sounds” drum circle and play them with other community members.

“We will also showcase several of our extra-curricular music ensembles such as the Talbot Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Bands from the Middle School and High School,” said Mr. Desguin.

In addition to musical performances, a variety of student artwork will be on display in various areas of the high school. Attendees can anticipate live demonstrations by students at pottery wheels and easels. There will be hands-on art activities available for families to engage in creative artmaking together. These offerings are provided to give the community a glimpse into the daily wonders experienced in the art rooms at Hampton.

Families may also choose to pursue a scavenger hunt through the art displays, enjoy a coloring page, draw a mini-artwork for a larger collection of masterpieces, create an origami piece or even screen print their own T-shirt. Hampton art teachers and student volunteers will be on hand to guide the activities.

“The Hues & Harmony event is truly a celebration of our Hampton artists,” said Art Teacher Lisa Woods. “We love seeing students proudly show their artwork to families and friends. It’s also a wonderful opportunity for everyone to view artwork made by students in other grades and other schools.”

The HTSD art curriculum encourages students to explore ideas through a wide variety of media. Paintings, drawings, prints, and other two-dimensional works will be showcased in the main lobby area. The new library area will feature displays of ceramics, sculptures, and other three-dimensional pieces. After departing from the library, additional art installations can be found near the Busy Bean, which will remain open during the event, where students will also have the opportunity to perform as soloists or in small group duets or trios.

“We are excited to utilize the updated spaces at HHS to make the Hues and Harmony event even better,” said Mrs. Woods. “Our goal is to exhibit great artwork that will inspire questions, conversations, and even more creativity!”
Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers: College Credit Now Offered in HHS Early Childhood Education Program

Shaping well-rounded graduates equipped for successful futures is a core mission at Hampton High School. This year, that commitment to preparing students for their future has taken a step further: a new Early Childhood Education program that bridges the gap between high school and higher education through a partnership with Carlow University.

For the first time, students who enroll in the course can elect to earn college credit through Carlow University, thereby expanding their educational opportunities.

Melinda Jackson has been teaching the Early Childhood Education course (previously called “Child Development”) at Hampton since 2008. The new program continues to provide students with an understanding of how children grow and learn, equipping them with knowledge and skills that can be applied in various settings such as parenting, education, and childcare.

In the fall, Mrs. Jackson took the Early Childhood Education class on a field trip to Carlow University where students were able to explore the different preschool programs and attend educational workshops. Hampton has aligned its curriculum with Carlow’s, allowing students to partake in a college-level course within the regular school day.

Early Childhood Education students experience the opportunity to apply their child development knowledge and teaching skills, and will be engaged in a variety of settings. In addition to classroom activities, students learn the industry and state standards for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children.

“During the first semester students learn about options for classroom set up, classroom procedures, and handling different behaviors,” said Mrs. Jackson.

Students gain deep knowledge of child development from birth to age five, through psychology-based units and practical sessions like lesson planning and preschool supervision.

“We cover school psychology, specific theorists, and their application to our current preschool class,” said Mrs. Jackson. “We spend time learning about different methods to teach children and practice using role-play scenarios.”

High school students also participate in the Wellness courses and have the opportunity to be certified in First-Aid and CPR as part of their classroom curriculum.

During the second semester, students become teachers themselves, coordinating the free Hampton High School Preschool program for children aged 3-5 (January 9 to May 24). Meeting three days per week, the preschool routine includes circle time, arts and crafts, story sessions, and games. Additionally, children focus on practicing practical skills to prepare for school such as walking in a line, fostering independence in hanging up coats and bags, and collecting items from bins.

“High school students plan all units and lessons for the program, receiving approval before implementation,” said Mrs. Jackson. “They put in an extreme amount of time and energy into creating activities that they think the kids will enjoy, that also align with the Pennsylvania Pre-K standards.”

For Mrs. Jackson, this class is the highlight of her day. “Their realization that they impact actual children is heartwarming,” she shares. “The preschoolers brighten everyone’s day.”

As Hampton High School expands career-based learning opportunities, this program is ideal for students interested in working with children, including elementary education and pediatric nursing.

“This class helps prepare students for careers more than before,” Mrs. Jackson noted. “It shifted from a parenting-based focus to a career-based one, discussing what a teacher would do in various job situations.”

For HHS senior Hailey Meyer, the course is helping to prepare her as she intends to attend Slippery Rock University next fall majoring in Early Childhood Education. Having also taken the course last year as a junior, she says the coursework provides her with practice in creating lesson plans and one-on-one experiences in teaching children.

“I feel like when I get into the real job I will be less nervous because I will have already had practice teaching,” Miss Meyer said.

Mrs. Jackson added that the Early Childhood Education course is crucial for high school students because they learn skills applicable in various life situations, emphasizing communication, empathy, collaboration, and perseverance. Additionally, students actively share best practices and observations through weekly debriefs, allowing everyone to learn and improve their future child interactions.

With “seamless teamwork and clear communication shining through,” Mrs. Jackson said, “they support not only the children but also each other, even when things get tough.”
Inspired by kindness, curiosity, courage, and the joy of learning, students in Hampton Middle School teacher Lisa Woods’ 8th-grade “Draw, Paint, Print” class conceptualized, designed, and installed a brand-new mural in the HMS cafeteria.

The images in the mural—such as butterflies, flowers, a dog, and a fawn—represent the Portrait of a Talbot and what Hampton Middle School stands for. The 8th-grade elective students played a key role in leading the project, taking charge of the drawing and painting process.

“I wanted them to have a really meaningful experience that would empower them to create something for our school that brings joy and is going to be a part of our school for years to come,” said Mrs. Woods.

Students in the class worked with California-based artist Amandalynn to brainstorm and develop the mural’s design. This process involved communication, collaboration, and perseverance as students worked together through various iterations of the design during visioning sessions with the artist. Students displayed leadership as they provided critical feedback on each design in deciding what imagery would be included in the final design representing the competencies.

“The students were the ones who really had ownership of the project,” said Mrs. Woods. “The project itself unfolded as a great example of all the skills the Portrait of a Talbot encompasses.”

The 24 students in the “Draw, Paint, Print” class worked together with Dr. Melissa Survinski (Enrichment Facilitator) to create an artist’s statement describing their interpretation of the Portrait of a Talbot:

The **butterflies** symbolize curiosity, which we have the freedom to explore at HMS.

The **dog** represents the joy of learning, because we are the Hampton Talbots.

The **hands** in the center symbolize our openness to communicate with each other and a tolerance to appreciate diverse perspectives.

The **book** represents how we need to keep an open mind and grow a learner’s mindset.

The **grasshopper** stands for the courage and confidence we need to keep trying and persevere.

The **fawn** represents kindness and empathy, because these are important to show to others.

The **flowers** are all different colors, but growing together in the same place, to show collaboration among our students.

The **bee** presents happiness and harmony, and the sun represents peace and calm.

“Every part of the mural represents the things we love about our school,” the students said. “We are proud that so many students helped design and paint this mural, because it shows how much we cared to make our school a happier place. We did something that we did not think was possible, and we hope this mural reminds everyone that our school has many different people in it, and we all need to work together to make the world a kinder place.”
Over the course of two days in November, students helped paint the background, sketch the design, and install the mural. Any students in grades 6-8 with an interest in the project had the opportunity to sign up and contribute to the painting.

This mural was generously sponsored and funded by the LIGHT Education Initiative—which aims to inspire, prepare, and empower students. Dr. Marlynn Lux, HMS Principal, says that the middle school partners with the LIGHT Education Initiative to provide students with leadership opportunities to empower them to cultivate positive initiatives that bring joy to the school community.

“Giving middle school students leadership opportunities is vital to their growth and development,” said Dr. Lux. “Oftentimes people underestimate what young teenagers can accomplish, and I was blown away by this project in what our students were capable of accomplishing.”

Mrs. Woods added that it’s important for students to have these types of experiences in school that “are beyond being in the regular classroom setting.”

“Those are the real strong memories that they are going to carry with them,” she added.

HMS also worked with the LIGHT Education Initiative on the “Butterfly Project” which began last year. In this project, 8th-grade students, during their Holocaust unit in English Language Arts, created ceramic butterflies to honor stories of children who passed away during the Holocaust. The ceramic butterflies are part of a permanent display at HMS which serve as a reminder of the importance of standing up for others and fighting against hatred.
HHS band director Chad Himmler observes that while school districts often find themselves in competition with each other, music is one area where school districts can unite as a team to accomplish something greater — an experience that can only be achieved by working together. This sentiment resonated profoundly during the 70th Annual Allegheny Valley Honors Band Festival, an event proudly hosted by HTSD on January 4th and 5th.

The festival featured both a Senior High and a Junior High Honors Band, culminating in an evening concert on January 5th in the Hampton High School Auditorium.


Thirty-five Hampton students earned positions in the Allegheny Valley Honors Band. To earn a spot in the festival, each student prepared a solo instrumental piece and faced blind auditions in front of a panel of judges in November. About 500 young musicians auditioned for the Allegheny Valley Honors Band.

"It is an honor to host this festival as it is a way to showcase the power of music-making to the Hampton community," said Mr. Himmler. "It's a beautiful thing to experience students from different school districts, with a very diverse set of beliefs and backgrounds, decide to work together and support each other in the pursuit of creating meaningful, emotional, and exciting music at the highest levels."

The Senior High Honors Band was conducted by Dr. Jason Worbyt, Professor of Bassoon and Adult & Community Bands Director at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The Junior High Honors Band was conducted by Dr. Zach Cheever, Assistant Director of Bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Research has shown that incorporating elements of nature into built environments reduces stress and anxiety, while enhancing creativity and mood. The recent installation of a living wall inside the art room of Hampton High School is aiming to do just that.

To celebrate the artistic spirit of their daughter, Abbey Todd, who passed away in 2020, the Todd family has gifted the stunning living wall to the school community. Abbey's family, knowing her passion for art, chose a living wall as a way to connect her love for nature and art permanently with the school.

Abbey graduated from HHS in 2019, where she was the art club leader her senior year. Kate Owens, art teacher, said one of Abbey's projects involved creating small terrariums containing succulent plants.

"Abbey talked about how plants were a life-giving thing for her and how they made her feel better," Ms. Owens said. "We wanted to bring plants into the art room as a way of keeping Abbey's spirit going here, as plants can provide a soothing and healing effect to students struggling with mental health."

During the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hampton Township community demonstrated remarkable empathy, joining together to raise over $32,000 for the Abbey Todd Memorial Fund. Abbey's challenges with mental health and chronic illness inspired a collective community effort to raise funds.

The outpouring of community support helped to fund contributions to the Hampton Middle School's Wellness Studio, including the "Reading Nook" and "Memorial Tree". The additions to the Wellness Studio, a space that helps students cope with stress and anxiety and improve their emotional well-being, and the Living Wall are the latest contributions of the Abbey Todd Memorial Fund.

The 4-by-10-foot living wall features a vertical structure containing living plants. Three seniors in the high school's Engineering Design class, instructed by Ryan Scott, were involved in the research and planning of the project. Kiera Palmer, Lily Stalewski, and Anna Stroud led the research and planning, conducting market research, taking measurements, and investigating the criteria and constraints for the living wall.

"Being in the class helped us learn about the engineering design process and how we can apply that to everyday things like our living wall!" said Stalewski.

Miss Stalewski said budget constraints were the main challenge of the project's design phase. Their original vision included the creation of three plant walls encircling the central pillar in the art room. They adjusted the design to cover one side of the pillar, but Stalewski said "it still serves the purpose of 'living art,' providing dimension, color, and life to the art room."

The students conducted research on companies and systems available in the market. Through the help of John Walsh, Director of Facilities Management, they selected Plantscape, Inc. to install the living wall in the art room.
“We hope the living wall will continue to grow and flourish for many years to come, serving as an inspiration to students, and a reminder of who the wall commemorates,” said Miss Stalewski.

The vision for maintaining the living wall involves collaborating with the Horticulture class, with the intention of identifying students who are interested in plants to commit to routine upkeep. These student volunteers would take turns watering, pruning, propagating the plants as needed, and pest control.

“Our hope is that students will be engaged in the maintenance of the living wall for many years to come,” said Ms. Owens.

The living wall was installed just before Hampton dismissed for winter break, but already students are noticing the benefits of the new space.

“The students are talking about how it feels brighter in the space, more lively and more positive,” said Ms. Owens. “Our hope is that it is a place that will enrich the art room and also uplift the spirits of students.”

The Hampton High School living wall is a testament to the power of nature, art, and community. It is a living reminder of Abbey’s spirit, and a source of inspiration and well-being for students and staff alike.

Music Professor and Athletic Bands Director at IUP, where he leads the Symphony and Marching Bands.

Hampton students in the Allegheny Valley Junior High Honors Band included Logan Brady, percussion; Mabel Buben, flute; Oliver Clark, trumpet; Joy Dakin, tuba; Gab Duarte, bass clarinet; Grace Girard, clarinet; Lucijan Huckle, percussion; Richard Ma, alto saxophone; Jordyn Moyer, horn; Sydney Osborne, trombone; Catie Parker, clarinet; James Parker, trumpet; Aiden Rauso, trombone; Jinwon So, trumpet; Celia Vitiello, bass clarinet; Meredith Wallace, percussion; and Liam Webb, horn.

Hampton students in the Allegheny Valley Senior High Honors Band consisted of Jason Andrews, trumpet; Meghan Armstrong, clarinet; John Bianco, bari saxophone; Aidan Casey, trumpet; Paul Dakin, trombone; Molly Ehman, flute; Brady Fanuele, tuba; Drew Girard, percussion; Branson Himmler, percussion; Braylee Himmler, trombone; Anna Houpt, clarinet; Tim Madden, trumpet; Samantha Nicely, clarinet; Tanner Paczan, tuba; David Poirier, tuba; Peleh Shaltes, trumpet; Nolan Smith, clarinet; and Jinho So, clarinet.
Student Records Policy: Hampton Township School District maintains a cumulative student record for each child. Such information assists staff in the day-to-day operation of the District's educational program, some of which is required by law. The student’s record includes student identification and attendance data, information on schoolwork completed, and examples of achievement and standardized group tests. Records of all standardized tests completed voluntarily by secondary students (usually for college entrance purposes) also are part of the student’s record. If a child transfers to another school system, the District will forward the record when a parent-initiated written request is sent from the new school. A high school student’s transcript may be released to post-secondary or prospective employers with written permission from the eligible student or the parents. The District’s policy on student records guarantees that parents and eligible students shall have the right to review and obtain a copy of the record, challenge its contents, refuse individual consent where permission is needed for releasing certain information, and file complaints with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office (FERPA), U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20201. This policy complies with the Pennsylvania State Board of Education’s regulations and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. Parents or students may request a copy of the District’s student records policy from the building principal. A listing of the types and locations of educational records maintained and the title and address of the officials responsible for these records also may be obtained. To view your child’s records, please contact the principal for an appointment.

Release of Information Policy: According to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), non-confidential information about students may be included in publications such as sports programs, newspapers, radio and television news reports, newsletters, award and graduation programs, yearbooks, musical and play programs and other school publications. This information may include the student’s name, address, study interests, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weights and heights of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees, awards received, and other similar information. Parents who wish to exempt their children from the release of such information should do so in writing to the principal.

Child Find and Special Education Services for Exceptional Students: According to state and federal special education regulations, an annual public notice to parents of children who reside within a school district is required regarding child find responsibilities. Hampton Township School District is required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled Implementation of Chapter 15. Also, school districts are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. For additional information regarding gifted services, the parent may refer to 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence. This notice shall inform parents throughout the Hampton Township School District of the child identification activities and the procedures to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities or eligible young children. Children ages three through twenty-one may be eligible for special education programs and services. If parents believe their child may be eligible for special education, they should contact Dr. Sharon Smith, Director of Special Education, at 412-492-6306. Identification procedures ensure that eligible students receive an appropriate educational program consisting of special education and related services that are individualized to meet student needs. These services are provided at no cost to the parents, in compliance with state and federal law, and are planned to ensure educational benefit for student progress. Screening activities are conducted on an ongoing basis to identify students who may be eligible for special education. Screening activities may include hearing, vision, physical, and speech/language screening; and a review of group-based data (cumulative academic records, aptitude and achievement test scores, enrollment records and health records, as well as parent and teacher responses to questionnaires) by the building-level Child Study or Response to Intervention & Instruction Team. When screening results suggest that a student may need special education services, HTSD will, with parental consent, conduct an Evaluation. Children aged three through the age of admission to first grade are also eligible if they have developmental delays and, as a result, need Special Education and related services. Developmental delay is defined as a child who is less than the age of beginners and at least three years of age and is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (i) the child’s score, on a developmental assessment device, on an assessment instrument which yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child’s chronological age in one or more developmental areas, or (ii) The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional, and self-help. For additional information, you may contact Dr. Sharon Smith, Director of Special Education, at 412-492-6306.

Potential Signs of Risk Factors: Your child may be eligible for special education if he/she has a disability as defined by 22 Pa Code 14.101 and requires specially designed instruction. Your child must meet both criteria to be eligible for special education. Some indications that your child may have a disability that meets the first part of the two-part definition are: has difficulty learning to read even with intense instruction; has difficulty communicating; exhibits a lack of interest or ability in age-appropriate activities; has difficulty seeing or hearing that interferes with the ability to learn or communicate; has health problems that affect educational performance; or exhibits an emotional disturbance over a long period of time that affects his/her ability to learn.

Services for School-Age Students with Disabilities: HTSD provides a free, appropriate public education to eligible students. To qualify as an eligible student, the child must be of school age, in need of specially-designed instruction, and meet eligibility criteria for one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities, as outlined in Pennsylvania State Regulations: Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Deafness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, or Visual Impairment including Blindness. Information regarding the appropriate developmental milestone descriptors for infants and toddlers may be found at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website at http://www.cdc.gov or The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) website at http://nichcy.org. For additional information regarding the signs of developmental delays or other disabilities, please contact Dr. Sharon Smith, Director of Special Education, at 412-492-6306.

The District engages in identification procedures to ensure that eligible students receive an appropriate educational program consisting of special education and related services, individualized to meet student needs. At no cost to the parents, these services are provided in compliance with state and federal laws and are reasonably calculated to yield meaningful educational benefit and student progress. Screening activities are conducted on an ongoing basis to identify students who may be eligible for special education. These screening activities include a review of group-based data (cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, report cards, ability, and achievement test scores); hearing, vision, physical, and speech/language screening; and review by a Child Study Team, Pupil Personnel Team, or Student Assistant Program (SAP) Team. When screening results suggest that the student may be eligible for special education services, the District seeks parental...
consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation. Parents who suspect that their child is eligible for special education services may request a multidisciplinary evaluation through a written request to the Building Principal, the District Psychologist/Director of Student Services, or the Director of Special Education. Services designed to meet the needs of eligible students include the annual development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), bi-annual or tri-annual multidisciplinary re-evaluation, and a full continuum of services, which include Itinerant, Supplemental, or Full-Time Levels of Intervention. The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the IEP team and are based on the student’s identified needs and abilities, chronological age, and the level of intensity of the specified intervention. The District also provides related services, such as transportation, speech and language therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, required for the student to benefit from the special education program. Parents may obtain additional information regarding special education services and programs and parental due process rights by contacting the child’s Building Principal or the Director of Special Education at 412-492-6306.

Evaluation Process: Hampton Township School District has a procedure in place by which parents can request an evaluation. Contact the school your child attends for information about evaluation procedures. Parents of preschool-age children, ages three through five, may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the intermediate unit staff. For more information, contact: Project DART, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, 475 E Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120.

Consent: School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation, or with the initial provision of special education and related services, without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice, which can be found on the PaTTAN website at www.pattan.net. Once written parental consent is obtained, Hampton Township School District will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

Program Development: Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and the parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program (IEP) team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the educational placement, Hampton Township School District will issue a notice of recommended educational placement/prior written notice (NOREP/PWN). The NOREP/PWN is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

Confidentiality of Information: Hampton Township School District maintains records concerning all children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Your consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Hampton Township School District protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at the collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. Hampton Township School District maintains, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information. For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the FERPA at the following URL: http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpcos/ferpa/index.html. This notice is only a summary of the special education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents. Contact the responsible entity listed below for more information or to request an evaluation or screening of a public or private school child.

Special Education Services for Students in Non-Public Schools: HTSD special education programs and services are accessible to resident students attending non-public schools. These students are permitted to enroll on a part-time, dual enrollment basis in a program of special education operated in public school. Special education programs are accessible to non-public school students through dual enrollment following the evaluation and development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Parents of non-public school students who suspect their child is exceptional and in need of special education may request an evaluation by written request to the school principal.

Services for Preschool Children with Disabilities (Act 212): The Early Intervention Services Act, entitles all preschool children with disabilities to receive appropriate early intervention services. Young children experiencing developmental delay or physical or mental disabilities and their families are eligible for early intervention services. At-risk children are eligible for screening and tracking through The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, Inc. (412) 431-1905. The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing services to preschool children (ages 3-5). For information, contact: Project DART, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, 475 E Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120, (412) 394-5942.

Chapter 15, Services for Protected Handicapped Students: In compliance with state and federal law, the Hampton Township School District provides services or accommodations to protected handicapped students. These services ensure equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student’s abilities. They are provided without discrimination or cost to the student or family. To qualify for services as a “Protected Handicapped Student,” the child must be of school age and have a physical or mental disability that substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. Services and supports for protected handicapped students (Chapter 15) are distinct from those applicable to all students with disabilities (Chapter 14) enrolled or seeking enrollment in special education programs. For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected handicapped students, please contact Dr. Sharon Smith, Director of Special Education, Hampton Township School District, 4591 School Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101, (412) 492-6306.

Chapter 16, Gifted Education: Parents who suspect that their school-age child is gifted may request a Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE). Multiple criteria, including an evaluation by a certified school psychologist, are used to determine gifted identification. The GIEP team collaboratively develops annual goals and short-term learning objectives for the student. For further information, please contact Dr. Jacquelyn Removcik, Assistant to the Superintendent, Hampton Township School District, 4591 School Drive, Allison Park, Pa 15101 (412) 492-6393.

Nondiscrimination Policy: As an equal opportunity employer, HTSD maintains a policy of nondiscrimination based on race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification, as applicable in its educational programs, activities, employment policies, and practices. Announcement of and adherence to this policy is required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, sections 503 and 504, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and all other applicable state, federal, and local laws and ordinances. Please contact Dr. Rebecca Cunningham, Assistant Superintendent, Hampton Township School District, 4591 School Drive, Allison Park, Pa 15101, (412) 492-6305.

All of the above information is available at www.ht-sd.org.
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