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On the cover: left to right: Director of Hampton Community Library Suzanna Krispli, Assistant Township Manager Susan BerNet, Land Use Administrator Amanda Lukas, Township Manager Chris Lochner, Chief Administrator of Police Tom Vulakovich, Director of Facilities J.R. Young, Finance Director Rob Omecene, Information Technology Director Rich Zech, and Parks and Recreation Programs Administrator Melanie Martino.

Missing from photo: Director of Environmental Services Jim Degnan.

Photo by Madia Photography and article on pages 6-7 by Mary-Theresa Watson

Hampton Magazine is a joint publication of the Township of Hampton and the Hampton Township School District. The magazine provides residents with information about programs, events and people throughout the community. Hampton Magazine publishes four issues annually: Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Hampton Magazine reserves the right to refuse publication of any information or materials deemed unsuitable for its readership and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or content of advertising. ©Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.
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Hello Neighbors!

Hampton High School fall sports are coming to an end and are recapped on pages 16-18. Moving forward, we are excited to share a new winter program, Introduction to Improv; see details on page 31. The very popular adult pickleball winter program starts up in January; see details on page 23.

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

Fall edition contributors:
Writers: Mary-Theresa Watson, Julie Mikus, and Jenn Edmonds
Photos: Madia Photography
Printing: Molnar Printing, LLC
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Township’s Municipal Manager to Retire after 37 Years of Dedicated Service

by Mary-Theresa Watson

In September of 1986, Hampton Township seemed like any typical, unassuming town of the time, a relatively nondescript suburb of Pittsburgh that was home to about 14,000 residents. What those residents did not know was that Hampton was set to enter an era of growth and change that would soon land the community in the number two slot on Family Circle magazine’s list of the “Top Ten Towns in America.” Today, of course, we all take pride in the vibrant, bustling, award-winning community we call home, and much of the credit for this metamorphosis can be placed at the feet of outgoing Municipal Manager, Chris Lochner, who arrived in Hampton that fall ready to begin a new chapter in his career.

Chris graciously deflects that credit with a wave of his hand, humbly admitting, “Honestly, destiny dealt Hampton a hand when [former Town Council President] Donald Wolfe and I came together. As a project manager at Westinghouse, Don had a great deal of experience in building things from the ground up, and he knew the situation here needed just that. I was young, eager, and ready, but truthfully,” he continues, “if it weren’t for the employees who were here when I walked in, I probably would have walked right back out.”

Arriving in Hampton fresh off a successful three-year stint as the youngest-ever Borough Manager of Edgewood, Chris had already earned a reputation for his forward-thinking outlook, his can-do attitude, and his no-nonsense approach to taking care of business.

“When I arrived,” he recalls, “there were some issues to address, and the employees were fabulous. That September,” he says, “we basically sat down together and said, ‘Okay, there are some things we need to fix, and we know how to

An avid runner since high school, Chris competes in races whenever he can and saves his race bibs for display.

Above, sitting: Administrative Assistant Jerry Lipke, and standing, Assistant Township Manager Susan Bernet. Susan has worked with Chris Lochner since day one: “I’ve had the honor of working with Chris for the past 37 years, first as his secretary, and then working my way into the Assistant Township Manager position. I couldn’t have achieved this goal without his mentoring over the years. We’ve seen Hampton Township grow as a community we can be proud of thanks to Chris’ wisdom, leadership, and guidance. We would like to say thank you for your dedication and commitment to this community, and best wishes on your retirement; cherish every moment and have fun!”

Below standing left to right: Controller Jerry Speakman, Rock Kernick, Joe Dougherty, Julie Fritsch, and Legal Counsel Michele Cromer. Sitting: Council President Carolyln Johnson, Township Manager Chris Lochner, and Township Council V.P. Bethany Blackburn.
do it. It should take six months to right the ship, and then another two or three years to move forward. Don had that foresight, so we got our house in order,” he finishes with a slight shrug.

By 1989, it was time to look ahead and decide how Hampton could move forward in a purposeful, orchestrated fashion. The first step, and one that became a requisite component of the developmental process every year, was the institution of annual strategic planning meetings. Each year, Chris and the town council members would essentially meet for a full-day retreat to comprehensively discuss subject matter relevant to the community.

“The first part of the [annual] agenda,” Chris explains, “was to outline what we were doing and why we were doing it so we could make well thought-out decisions. At that time, we as a community were in a massive growth spurt, and these meetings gave us the chance to step back and evaluate what was needed to promote the highest quality of life opportunities possible.”

Fast forward to today, and Hampton has made strides that few, save Chris Lochner and his team, could have predicted. Thanks to their strategic and financially responsible planning, Hampton Township has constructed a police building, a salt-storage facility, and baseball and soccer fields; plus, the community swimming pool has been expanded to include modern slides and a zero-entry play area. The largest project the township has ever undertaken is currently in progress, as the water pollution control plant is rebuilt and modernized.

“But the jewel of the whole thing,” Chris shares, “is the community center. It took eight years for us to walk our way through it, but our process allowed us to not only build it, but we did it without having to increase any taxes, and we actually finished about a half million dollars under budget.”

In looking back, Chris reflects, “You know, sometimes they say destiny is your partner. I was extraordinarily lucky that the key community assets were put in place. Township Council has been so supportive, and I’ve worked with some truly great department heads and employees over my career.

“To be a successful municipal manager,” he thoughtfully adds, “you need to put the right people in the right place at the right time, and you need to let them do their jobs. If you can do that, you’ll be successful.”

Chris is filled with gratitude to so many people, but perhaps no one more than his wife, Janet, who made it possible for him to do his job.

“My wife put up with so much!” he exclaims, showing a hint of wonder at his good fortune. “My kids tolerated a whole lot, too, but Janet was always right there, making it possible for me to do so many things. As a matter of fact,” he adds to underline his point, “when I wrote the letter announcing my retirement, I literally said, Janet, we did it.”

In discussing why he’s elected to retire now, he shrugs and says, “There’s a time for everything in your life, and I just think it’s time for me to step back. It’s also a good time for the township. The next five years will see some key staff members retiring, and [incoming Municipal Manager] Ryan Jeroski needs some time to work with them. Also, we’ll be between council elections when Ryan starts next year, so this timing gives him a chance to get a little bit entrenched within the community.”

As he prepares to welcome his successor, Chris’ primary piece of advice comes down to three simple words: “Don’t be me. Please remember, you got this job because of you, not because of me, so be you!”

Considering his legacy, Chris pauses and smiles, admitting, “It wasn’t only a job. I actually cared, and the employees I work with care, too. And I hope that continues, because when you care, you do little things that people don’t keep score for...they just happen. And they happen,” he finishes, “because they’re the right thing to do.”

---

**OPEN HOUSE**

A Farewell Celebration

All residents of Hampton are invited to personally offer their best wishes to Chris Lochner as he steps into retirement after 37 years of a long, successful run as Municipal Manager.

**Date:**
Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024

**Time:** Noon - 5:00 p.m.

**Place:** Hampton Community Center

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**Left to right:** Chris’ sons Michael and Alex, Chris and his wife Janet, their daughter Erin and son-in-law Bryant.
Fire Departments Poised for the Future

by Mary-Theresa Watson

Hampton Township has long been considered a gem of the North Hills, a forward-moving community with leaders, volunteers, and residents who work tirelessly to ensure the area continues to evolve. The township’s two volunteer fire departments are the latest beneficiaries of that forward-thinking scheme as merger plans are in place that will keep Hampton’s emergency services primed for the future. As of January 8, 2024, the two VFDs will officially merge and begin operations as a single entity to be led and commanded by unified administrative and operational officers.

For many years, the township has been home to two volunteer companies, each with its own organizational and operational leadership. North Hampton VFD owns two buildings, one on North Pioneer Road and one on Wildwood Road Ext., and Hampton VFD #1 owns one building on Duncan Ave. With the merger, all three firehouses will remain in operation but will function as one department.

North Hampton VFD President John Schwend explains, “We have been working behind the scenes for nearly five years to create joint bylaws and joint standard operating guidelines as well as to ensure the legal and financial aspects of the merger are completed in an appropriate manner. In addition, multiple committees have been formed, comprised of members of each fire department, to ensure continuity of operations during the merger process.”

A dedicated, seven-person committee—made up of three members of each VFD along with Township Manager Chris Lochner—has spearheaded the process, painstakingly working to facilitate the merger to exacting standards. Earlier this year, a vote was taken to officially adopt the merger plan, accept the bylaws and guidelines, and determine the official merger date.

According to Firefighter/Paramedic Fiore Londino, the merger will see the new Hampton Township VFD working much like operations in larger cities in which independent firehouses are all part of the same organization. Once the departments merge, a fire chief and other officers will be elected. From there, operational and leadership details will be determined by the officials.

“Operationally,” Fiore explains, “this will create a more unified plan of attack and take care of mitigating any situations for dispatch. We’ll be able to provide more cross training across the departments, and we will operate more uniformly and be more coordinated on calls.”

John adds, “The unified operation will reduce redundancies in equipment, streamline administrative and operational leadership, and, most importantly, it will properly position the emergency services of Hampton Township for the future.”

In addressing how residents can best support their volunteer fire/rescue squads, Fiore says, “We are always looking for folks to get involved. We need volunteers for all divisions, from administrative workers to firefighters. You know,” he adds with a chuckle, “we’re not in the business of turning away help!”
Albert L. Hahn, a 60 Year Public Servant, Honored with a Special Day

by Tracy Weigel

Albert Hahn, a long-time resident of Hampton Township, joined The North Hampton Volunteer Fire Department 60 years ago on July 9, 1963. Albert’s father, John A. Hahn, was a founding member of the department in 1956.

Al is a Hampton High School graduate from the class of 1965. He served two years in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 as a military police officer. Subsequently, he worked as an elevator mechanic for 40 years with the International Union of Elevator Constructors Union Local 6. Al is married to his wife of 54 years, Diane Wagner Hahn. Together, they have two children, Lori Rodgers and Thomas Hahn. They are grandparents to three grandchildren, Jackson, Maddie and Emma, whom they enjoy greatly.

Al has earned some impressive awards and held a variety of positions during his career such as lieutenant, captain, assistant chief and chief as well as financial secretary. He currently holds the positions of both treasurer and fire truck driver. He has responded to over 9000 calls. In 2005, he was named a Hampton Hero. Says Al, “My wife, Diane, is a real trouper. There were a lot of times when I would need to jump up from the dinner table, leave family events and run out on holiday gatherings to attend to a call. I had Diane’s full support through every one of those times.”

While Al recognizes his wife’s support and understanding, the Township of Hampton and its residents are honored to recognize Albert L. Hahn. The Council of the Township of Hampton, at its August meeting, formally proclaimed August 23, 2023, to be designated as “Albert L. Hahn Day.” The Council, on behalf of the Hampton citizenry, acknowledges Mr. Hahn’s sixty-year membership with the North Hampton Volunteer Fire Department and extends their sincerest gratitude for his unwavering public service.
Officer Goes Above and Beyond

by Mary-Theresa Watson

During a recent township meeting, Officer Ben Brown of the Hampton Township Police Department was recognized for volunteering his time to assist a resident in need. Standing to acknowledge Officer Brown, Social Services Coordinators Angela Kenbok and Ashley Wilson shared the story of a Hampton resident who has suffered in recent years from a variety of medical and personal difficulties and, due to those issues, has faced some code violations.

“I began working with this resident two and a half years ago when I was still an intern,” Angela explained. “He was struggling with some medical issues at the time, and then his partner died from cancer in 2021. We helped him through that grief process, and since then, our department has been working with him to obtain the resources he needs.”

Due to the gentleman’s medical issues, he is unable to cut grass, pull weeds, or keep up the outside of his home, which led to the code violations. The Social Services team has been working with him for about six months to get services in place for him, and they also have volunteered their own time to assist him.

“When Officer Brown heard us talking about [this resident],” Angela continued, “he offered to do some of the heavy lifting. So we spent about four hours landscaping as much as we could so the gentleman could work through those code violations, and now we’re almost there. We want to give our thanks to Officer Brown for volunteering his time off shift to come and work with us.”

Assistant Township Manager Susan Bernet added, “The difference is astounding! I saw before and after pictures, and it’s like a different place. There were vines covering the house and sidewalks so much so that you had to walk around the sidewalks to get to the driveway of the home. The work Ben did was amazing!”

Proudly explaining there are similar situations in which his staff helps every day, Police Chief Tom Vulakovich added his accolades and underlined the value of EMS working from the same location as police or fire departments. “When you mesh personalities and people are talking and sitting there having lunch together,” he said, “you form bonds. It doesn’t matter what color uniform you wear or what patch is on your sleeve; those bonds mean everybody works together.”
Veteran Spotlight:
Green Beret Served With Honor

by Julie Mikus

Hampton resident Larry Burke can easily remember being 17 and placing bets with his buddies on who would be drafted next into the Vietnam War. A high-schooler in Butler county back then, he had just received a gymnastics scholarship to Southern Illinois University, where he would spend just one semester before being drafted.

“I wasn’t afraid, but it sure was a big change!” Burke remembered.

Following boot camp at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Burke was sent to Advanced Infantry Training and then “jump school” in Fort Benning, to learn how to safely conduct airborne operations. A natural athlete, Burke easily rose to the challenge. “As a gymnast I didn’t fear heights. When you go to jump school, you run everywhere. If a sergeant saw you walking, you would drop down for push ups,” Burke said.

Burke was eventually sent to Fort Bragg in North Carolina. “Fort Bragg was for Special Forces. I received my notice to go to Vietnam, and was assigned straight to the Green Berets,” Burke recalled.

The Green Berets specialize in training indigenous forces and carrying out special reconnaissance missions, with their motto being, “To Free the Oppressed.” Burke and his unit carried out these operations in Vietnam and served during the Tet Offensive, a major turning point in the war. He lived with the Montagnards, a hill-tribe people from Vietnam, who were recruited by the U.S. Army during the war. The Montagnards were also targets for the Communist Vietnam government. “They lived in straw huts. These people had been forced into the mountains by the communists. They were loincloths and hunted with spears,” Burke said.

Burke did two tours in Vietnam. After his first tour, he said, “I stayed five days at home and reenlisted. It was safer for me in Vietnam than it was to live in the United States. I was verbally attacked all the time,” Burke remembered. Vietnam veterans returned home to a hostile environment, often met with protests and maltreatment by U.S. citizens.

On his second tour, Burke was gravely wounded during the Tet Offensive, a major escalation and one of the largest military campaigns of the war. “We were mortared and rocketed constantly. I hadn’t showered in 3 weeks. Our bodies were covered in clay. I went to a makeshift shower, quickly. Rocket mortars went off and I jumped in a ditch. However, the mortar exploded and metal shot me in the head,” Burke explained.

The soldier next to Burke noticed the profuse bleeding. “Get to medic!” he yelled at Larry. When he did make it to the medical, he was told this was “ticket home.” Burke responded, “How can you talk about a ticket home when we are overrun by rockets!”

However, Burke dove head first into the back of a plane, and when he arrived in California he was still dressed in full combat gear.

Sadly, harassment and protests still targeted him and his comrades. “We rode in buses through barbed wire cages. We were not even debriefed. People threw garbage at us,” Burke recalled. In the years that followed, he added, “You could not say you served in Vietnam. The anti-war movement didn’t allow you to speak.

Shortly after his return, he met a beautiful woman. “I told my buddy, ‘that girl there will be my wife’, Burke reminisced.

The responsibilities, leadership and structure the military offered pushed Burke to have a successful career and he instilled that work ethic in his family, raising three children with his wife Catherine.

His time in Vietnam has proved a lifelong journey of self-awareness. A graduate of Duquesne University, Larry majored in psychology. “There is a mental health aspect of war. I suffered from depression and isolated myself. I majored in psychology to save myself.”

An average of twenty United States veterans take their lives each day. A recipient of Moral Recondition Therapy, Burke believes that when someone departs the military, they should go right into therapy to rebuild their psyche. “Some veterans have thoughts lingering. Suicide is not the answer. Through therapy, I came to the realization that I could take a different course in my life.” Burke admits that he is still discovering himself and his purpose in life. He is currently helping other veterans navigate the pension process, with great success.

“I am proud to have been a Green Beret. I am proud of the things I accomplished. I am proud of my children and wife. I love this country and would not want to live anywhere else,” Burke said. Looking back, he humbly added, “Many don’t know what freedom and liberty means. I am fortunate because I actually saw communism. We ended communism in Vietnam. That is one success.”

If you know a veteran or their family member who is struggling with a mental health crisis, please contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 988 and then press 1. You don’t have to be enrolled in VA benefits or healthcare to connect with support today.
The months have turned colder and the air is crisp with anticipation of things yet to come. December is always filled with a bustle of activity: there’s shopping for gifts, sending out cards, catching up with old friends, and lots of parties. And then there’s the carpet!

Yet, in the midst of all this hustle and bustle, Hampton Community Library was the grateful recipient of additional RAD funds to help the library in any way needed. (Thank you RAD!!) And boy, do we need carpeting! Our carpet is original to the building and has definitely seen a lot of juice spills during storytime, coffee spills during book discussions and just general wear and tear from everyone coming and going; picking up books, dvds, audios and just stopping in to say hello! This carpet renovation will take quite a bit of skill and engineering to move the shelves and books from here to there. The library will be CLOSED Monday, December 11th through Saturday, December 16th. You can still drop off your books in the book drop, but we won’t be able to check items out, as all systems will be offline. We will try and keep you informed of updates through the website, emails and Facebook. We hope the new carpet will see just as much action as the old.

For 2023, the year has been busy so far!

- 201 different programs for adults and children were offered.
- 5093 adults and children attended these programs.
- Over 900 children and adults participated in our Summer Reading Programs.
- Over 100,000 items were checked out from the library.
- New items such as Launchpads and Wonderbooks were added to the collection.

It has been a very busy and rewarding year for the library. We are looking forward to 2024 with much anticipation. A major part of being able to be such a success with our programs and collections is through our Annual Appeal; to those of you who have already donated I would like to say THANK-YOU!! Your contribution helps make our library even better. Why donate? Because it’s the best investment for your dollar and it’s even tax deductible. Whatever your donation, it contributes to more lifelong learning classes, children’s programming, and new collections.

Finally, is there something you would like to see here? Let me know. Hampton Community Library is committed to being an integral, innovative part of the community! If you haven’t seen us in a while, stop in and see how things have changed. You’ll be amazed!
2023 Talbot Homecoming

Photos by Madia Photography

2023 Homecoming Queen and King: Adanna Smith and Brady Andrews

2023 Hall of Fame Inductees
Mary Alice Hennessey, Dante DiBucci, Elaina Balouris Tabb and daughter Kalliopi, Joe Raimondi, and Seve DiBucci.

2022 Homecoming Queen Molly Bernett crowned the 2023 Queen Adanna Smith.

2023 Honorary Talbot Mascot Piper Campbell
Piper with her family George, Joy, Regan (5th grade) and Quinn (3rd grade) Campbell.
Fall Sports Recap

Photos by Madia, J.M. Weber, and forty79photography

Cross Country

Both the boys and girls’ cross-country teams have achieved a lot of success this season. The boys won their third straight WPIAL 2A team championship. The team of 26 were undefeated in the regular season at 11-0, were team champions in the Division I race at Boardman, Ohio, team runners-up in the Red, White, and Blue Invitational, team runners-up at the Grove City Invitational and to top it off, 2023 PIAA Class 2A Champs! “This is a special group of motivated and hard-working kids,” said coach Dean Longwell. Senior Dale Hall was the individual winner at the Boardman and Grove City Invitationals and Chris Belch, Jacob Bonnar, Layne Haught, Josh Wukitch and Nathan Gardner have won some “all-invitational” awards. Seniors on the team include Jacob Bonnar, Liam Butler, Dale Hall, Layne Haught and Blaise White.

The team of 11 girls in cross country finished their season with a 10-1 record, were runners-up in their section, and moved on to compete in WPIAL’s. Team awards include winning the Grove City Invitational, placing 4th at the TriState Invitational and placing 6th at the Red, White, and Blue Invitational. Junior Kevyn Fish placed 2nd at the Red, White, and Blue Invitational and 3rd at the Grove City Invitational. Abby Hall, Rebekah Hall, and Claire McKinney also medaled. Winning the Grove City Invitational was a highlight for the team and for coach Heather Dietz. “The girls have been working hard all season and it was so exciting seeing their hard work pay off. We had four runners in the top 25 and won by a tie-breaker with the help of senior Lydia Bailey.” The other senior on the team this year was Reed Perry, who was new to the team this year.

Tennis

The girls’ tennis team has been on an upswing over the last four years and have worked their way into one of the best teams in school history. They ended the regular season with a record of 13-6. This is the first time the team has made it to the semi-finals, where they secured a third-place finish in the WPIAL Class 2A Championships on October 18. The WPIAL win qualified the team for the PIAA state Championships. Coach Grant McKinney said, “As freshmen this group of seniors won ZERO matches. We were 0-11. Their hard work over four years is a huge accomplishment.” The accolades for this team continue. Hampton junior Grace Stitt finished 4th in WPIAL Section 3 AA for singles, almost qualifying for states. Seniors Laniya Ward and Greta Hamlin had an outstanding record of 14-2 as a doubles team and the remaining seniors Emma Spiess, Samantha Jones, Addie Hastings, Melanie Malloy, and Elena Herchenrother have all had strong performances for the team. Their valiant journey to states ended with a loss to Erie Cathedral Prep in the first round of the tournament on October 24. Coach McKinney gives a lot of the credit for the success of the team to his assistant coach Milt Squiller. “He worked with the girls throughout the year to develop their skills and coached the JV team to a record of 11-2. The JV was one of the best in Pittsburgh and pushes the varsity team to be even better,” said McKinney.

Golf

The Hampton Talbots boys golf team returned to the 2023 season with five of their top six golfers from last year. They finished 4-6 in the six-team Section 8-3A. Coach Bruce Steckel’s team included seniors Peter Kramer, Robert Coll, Avish Vyas, Andrew Bagnato, James Elk, Gavin Hamlin and Samantha Shaughnessy.
**Volleyball**

The girls’ volleyball team set themselves up for a lot of success again this year. They won both the 6-team Mt. Lebanon tournament and the 12-team Shaler tournament and finished their regular season with a record of 18-0 after their final game against Woodland Hills. This is the second undefeated regular season in a row and the fourth consecutive sectional win. The Talbots went on to win their first-ever WPIAL Class 3A championship with a 3-0 victory over North Catholic!

Coach Dainen Holler has been the head coach for the last two years but it is her fifth year coaching in the district, previously as the Hampton Middle School coach. The program has 27 athletes, eight of which are graduating seniors. Senior Emmy Schrom will compete on the college level at Duquesne University and Avery Koontz will continue her volleyball career at Pitt Johnstown. Brooklyn Eastly, Teagan Nolan, Sterling Thomson, Emma Rick, Allison Schepner, and Taylor Frankel round out the roster of seniors. “This year has undoubtedly been a special year for our program. (The girls) have been committed to the sport, the program and each other throughout their time at Hampton,” said Holler. Best of luck as the team heads to the state playoffs.

**Girls Soccer**

The girls’ soccer team had a successful season and finished with a record of 14-4, securing a spot in the WPIAL playoffs. There have been injuries throughout the season, but the players came back in time for the playoffs. Hampton’s season ended in the first round of WPIAL’s, losing to Elizabeth Forward 2-0. The team of 34 has five seniors; Captains Julia Herrmann and Tiffany Habib along with Isabella English, Reagan Belau and Julia Bigante. “This year’s team is unique because of the youth of the team. We have a lot of underclassmen playing important roles this season,” said coach Bill Paholich, in his 24th season coaching (11th as head coach). “They are an unselfish bunch and they only care about the end result, not personal stats.”

**Boys Soccer**

The Hampton boys’ soccer team worked hard for another successful season, winning the 3A Section 1 title and earning the number two seed in the 16-team bracket for the playoffs. The team of 42 Talbots concluded their regular season with a record of 14 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie and made the playoffs for the eighth straight season. They won in an over-time thriller 1-0 against Trinity in round one of the WPIAL playoffs and beat Thomas Jefferson 2-1 in double overtime. The Talbots beat Franklin Regional 2-0 in the semi-finals and fell short to South Fayette in the finals, 4-2 at Highmark Stadium. Best of luck as they head to the state playoffs! Winning the section and overall team play impressed the other section coaches and resulted in awards including Section Coach of the Year (Head Coach Matt McAwley, 3-time winner), Section Player of the Year (senior Luke Fiscus), All-Section players (Luke Fiscus, Coleman Docherty, Oliver Spinola, Conner Killmeyer, and Hudson Struble), with an Honorable Mention for Xavier Ware. “Led by seniors Luke Fiscus and Coleman Docherty, along with sophomore Xavier Ware, the team has scored 79 goals through the regular season. Fiscus led the way with 32 goals nearing a single season record for Hampton, with Docherty close behind. The two complement each other very well assisting each other during play,” said Coach Matt McAwley.
Cheer

Each fall, rain or shine, the Hampton varsity cheer squad is on the sidelines, lifting up the football team, the crowd, and each other. The group of 13 start camp in the summer and are led by coach Chelsea Szramowski, along with Captains Ellie Myros and Maria Coleman, both Seniors. The girls sported new uniforms this year which were designed by the coaches. There are both home and away looks to match the football uniforms. One of the highlights of the season was when the varsity girls hosted the middle school squad on the track during the Homecoming game, 45 cheerleaders in all. They rotated cheerleaders through different quarters so that all had the opportunity to cheer. The girls set a record for their cheer clinic this year with 155 mini cheerleaders in training. Rounding out the seniors on the squad are Anna Stroud, Hailey Meyer, Jessi Lange, and Justyce Fink. “I love coaching the girls and building the cheer program that I myself am proud to be an alumnus of. I even get to coach alongside my sister-in-law Nicole Niehaus who is the middle school coach. It’s a lot of fun for us,” said Szramowski, who is in her 7th year of coaching.

Band

The Hampton High School Marching Band delighted crowds with their 2023 field show production entitled “No Storm Lasts Forever.” It depicts a group of sea voyagers who endure a dangerous storm through songs like “The Sound of Silence” by Simon & Garfunkel (covered by Disturbed) and “Mr. Blue Sky” by the Electric Light Orchestra. The show reflects that “we all experience difficult seasons (storms) in life from time to time,” said HHS Band Director Chad Himmler. Drum Majors Samantha Nicely (senior) and Owen Wallace (junior) have led the 135+ band members, dance team, and color guard through the storm to the light. The HHS Marching band participated in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association PIMBA competition at Norwin on September 23, the AV Band Festival at North Allegheny on Oct. 7, and a 2nd PIMBA competition at Deer Lakes on October 14th. The band had their final competition Oct. 28 at Moon Area High School where they performed in PIMBA Championships and scored over 90 for the second year in a row. Their fall season will end with a performance in the Pittsburgh Veteran’s Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 11. In late April 2024, the band will travel to Louisville, KY for the Kentucky Derby Pegasus Parade.

Football

The Hampton Talbots boys’ varsity football team have had many obstacles to overcome this year but have persevered. The team was 3-7 but the three wins were conference wins, a definite highlight of the season. It’s a down year in comparison with the last three years, but they have fought hard under trying circumstances. Led by Coach Steve Sciullo in his second year as head coach and captains Brock Borgo, Brady Long, Gabe Gannelli, Gryffin Keller and Nate Glock, the 50 teammates came together amid many injuries. Starting quarterback Adrian Midgely tore his ACL in the first practice of camp and having the potential to make the playoffs is a testament to this team. “Our seniors have refused to give up. They will be remembered for this season for quite some time. Most guys are banged up but played through pain because they are committed to each other,” said Sciullo. Borgo made his mark with another 1,000 yard season and has had over 3,000 yards rushing in his career. Sciullo is optimistic about the captains being represented in All-Conference voting in a few weeks.
As the holidays approach, it’s more important than ever to protect yourself and your loved ones from financial scams.

Our recent webinar with the PA Department of Banking and Securities on Investing In Women covered a lot of great tips and tricks on how to protect yourself, including how to check your credit report and how to register for the state and federal Do Not Call Registries and the federal Opt Out Prescreen list. You can watch the presentation for yourself at SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/InvestinginWomen Pennsylvania Do Not Call Registry; https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/do-not-call-list/or call 1-888-777-3406.

As your state representative, I continue to work for all the residents of Hampton, the other communities of the 30th District, and Pennsylvania. That’s why I voted for House Bill 1219, sponsored by Rep. Tim Briggs, D-Montgomery, that provided relief to hardworking taxpayers.

H.B. 1219 would invest $1 billion in our economy, allow Pennsylvanians to claim an Earned Income Tax Credit against their Personal Income Tax, expand the Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Tax Credit, accelerate the Corporate Net Income Tax reduction, increase the Net Operating Loss deduction, and so much more. The bill would also increase investments in the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund, public transportation such as Pittsburgh Regional Transit, and the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program.

Additionally, H.B. 1219 increases the Film Product Tax Credit’s limit from $100 million to $150 million, which would make the film industry in Pittsburgh and across Pennsylvania more competitive with other states. In the last 30 years, more than 120 productions have been filmed right here in Allegheny County, including major blockbusters and Oscar-winning films.

By passing this fiscally responsible legislation, we may continue to support hardworking Pennsylvanians, provide relief for taxpayers, and keep Pennsylvania open for business.

My office will be closed for the holidays December 22-25 and December 29-January 1. Otherwise, we will be open to assist you with any state related issues. You can stop by the office at 9800B McKnight Road in McCandless or call us at 412-348-8028. I wish you and your families a joyous holiday season and a prosperous 2024!
This year’s event, held on October 7th, garnered resounding success, raising over $20,000. The generous contributions from cash donors and gift baskets, alongside the dedication of over 300 racers and numerous volunteers, have solidified the HAEE 5K’s position as an institution within the community.

Tom McKelvey, HAEE Board President, expressed, "This community event has become one of the most anticipated traditions in Hampton. The success of this event reaffirms that in Hampton, education is not just a priority; it's a collective passion."

The HAEE 5K has become a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives, and the Portrait of a Talbot was on full display. This year’s event showcased the power of collaboration, as student volunteers and several local businesses rallied under the cover of darkness to contribute to this momentous occasion. The pre-race ambiance was set with a touch of grandeur as the talented Hampton Middle School Band took center stage, performing the national anthem, adding a profound layer of patriotic spirit to the event. As further proof of the Hampton community’s dedication to excellence, this year’s coveted Alliance Cup was claimed by Wyland Elementary School.

This year’s race would not have been as resoundingly successful without the unwavering support of dedicated donors like The Farrell Group-Baird Private Wealth Management. With a longstanding commitment to this event, The Farrell Group has not only been a generous contributor, but also active participants, showcasing their firm belief in the cause. Mrs. Christy Farrell, Financial Advisor, and a prominent figure within the Hampton community, expressed her family’s deep connection to the race and the district, saying, "Our three children are proud products of the Hampton Township School District. Two of our sons have played for HAEE’s kick-
off when in middle school, and our senior was there last year and this year with his drone capturing aerial photography of the event. We’ve been part of this wonderful event for years because we’ve seen firsthand the positive impact HAEE has on our community.” The Farrell family’s continuous dedication truly embodies the spirit of excellence that makes this event so special.

“As the current board members serve on rolling terms, HAEE is constantly seeking new board members who have a passion for educational excellence in Hampton beyond this one race. We are eager to find passionate, critical thinkers in our community who embrace our mission,” said Erica Kaehtly, a devoted board member. “It’s one of the ways that we can directly make a difference.” Use the QR Code to learn more about becoming a board member, or let HAEE know how to make next year’s race even better!

Why are you a sponsor of the HAEE 5K?

Our practice, Integrated Periodontics and Dental Implants, has proudly been an HAEE race sponsor for several years. We feel privileged to sponsor such a wonderful volunteer organization that provides educational enrichment in the Hampton Township School District through thoughtfully engineered learning spaces, distinctive academic resources, and multiple grants and scholarships. We think of our sponsorship as a “thank you” to the Hampton Township School District administrators and educators for their unwavering commitment to inspiring and motivating students to embrace modern day learning.

Why does HAEE matter to you and your family?

The HAEE 5K race is an event that our family, including our Golden Retriever, Rosie, looks forward to participating in each year. It’s a rewarding experience to cross that finish line! Our older son, Matteo, is a sophomore at Hampton High School and our younger son, Marco, is in 7th grade at Hampton Middle School. So, we have personally seen and experienced how giving back to the community through the HAEE 5K race fundraiser can make such a positive impact on innovative learning experiences.

Amber Foronda, Periodontist/Co-Owner
Integrated Periodontics and Dental Implants/Integrated Endodontics


Sincere thanks to: Hampton Township School District, Dr. Michael Loughead, Dr. Rebecca Cunningham, Darryl Fabian, Hampton Township, Shaler Hampton EMS, Hampton Township Police Department, Hampton and North Hampton Fire Police (volunteers), Hampton Soccer Club, Hampton Athletic Association, Creators of the Race Award (Caleb Custer designed and created the awards across all race categories), Mr. Stickney, HAEE Board Members past and present, Wagner’s Market and all of the race day volunteers and participants!
RACE WINNERS!

Top 20 Overall Results: (chip time)

- Brian Canny: 19:07.83
- Peter Stewart: 19:18.60
- Leo Jarrell: 20:04.78
- C. Hall: 20:08.17
- Tristan Albrecht: 21:24.63
- Scott Anderson: 21:58.14
- Elizabeth Morris: 22:03.96
- L. Barton: 22:57.78
- D. Adler: 23:12.93
- Eric Gardner: 23:14.18
- Kaden Mytinger: 23:14.34
- Lauren Mytinger: 23:19.51
- Beth Simone: 23:47.07
- L. Moyer: 24:04.92
- Lindsay Seekford: 24:02.07
- Jesse Belitz: 24:23.26
- Andrew Parker: 24:59.51
- C. Shaltes: 25:07.61

Male 8 & Under (chip time)

- O. McElhone: 26:22.33
- M. Moyer: 32:58.93
- A. Heffley: 33:19.97

Female 8 & Under

- E. Campos: 43:11.44
- T. Lieb: 45:39.81
- A. Hoy: 57:19.71

Female 9-11

- E. Hall: 30:09.94
- L. Gate: 30:52.95
- C. Rau: 34:13.70

Female 12-14

- Lyla Carroll: 22:51.48
- Grace Girard: 25:53.30
- H. Gate: 25:53.52

Male 15-19

- Auxence Gate: 25:49.63
- Andrew Kaehly: 44:05.69

Female 15-19

- Myla DeSabato: 34:25.89

Female 20-29

- Katie Spence: 32:35.39

Male 30-39

- Brian Canny: 19:07.83
- Joe Weinzierl: 35:36.87
- Seth Popick: 56:48.56

Female 30-39

- Lindsay Seekford: 24:02.07
- Catherine Arvay: 27:36.42
- Amanda McCay: 30:05.86

Female 50-59

- Rebecca Parker: 26:50.64

Male 50-59

- Eric Gardner: 23:14.18
- Andrew Parker: 24:59.51
- Jeff Bittner: 31:32.21

Male 60+

- Rock Kernick: 43:59.13
- Robert Shages: 44:02.77
Christmas In July, 2023

Pints In The Park—Something for Everyone!

Customer Appreciation Day at Hampton Pool
Annual Halloween Parade

Township police, fire, and EMS had their vehicles on display for the children to see and led the costume parade on October 21st. Some festivities included a free photo booth, pumpkin carving contest on display and a hayride through a “haunted” trail to the upper orchard.

After the parade, prizes were given and all of the participants received cookies, candy bags, and water. The winners for the Overall Group/Family Costume were the Zhikharev family for their portrayal of a sleeping Snow White, the Evil Queen and dwarfs.
Haunted hayrides provided throughout the day!

1st Place Winner: Jamie Gendler for her Witch Pumpkin.

2nd Place Winner: Austin Shapert for his Eddie Munson from Stranger Things Pumpkin.

3rd Place Winner: Neil Shrontz for his Skull Pumpkin.
2024 Budget in Progress

The development of the Township’s 2024 Budget is well underway. We are pleased to report that for the seventh consecutive year, there will be NO INCREASE in real estate property taxes. The Township Controller, Jerry Speakman, has been meeting with Township department heads in order to develop a comprehensive financial plan for next year.

Some of the Township’s 2024 Budget objectives are as follows:

- The establishment of a vehicle replacement strategy
- Creation of a Community Services/Public Works part-time summer laborer program
- Development of an updated permit/fee schedule for Township community park field space
- Review alternatives for the increased use of the outdoor pool rentals program
- Replacement of the current Township telephone system
- Installation of upgraded alarm system for the Depreciation Lands Museum
- Completion of a comprehensive engineering study for the possible installation of lights and a synthetic (turf) surface on Meadow Field
- Continued monitoring of the construction of a new sewage treatment plant
- Completion of a study to determine the proper number of employees to fulfill the Environmental Services Department responsibilities

In conjunction with the adoption of the Township’s annual budget is also the formation and adoption of a Capital Improvements Budget. For 2024, examples of capital projects the Township hopes to complete entails:

- The reconstruction of the Clearview Road bridge
- Stabilization of a hillside adjacent to Sample Court
- Installation of center rumble strips on South Pioneer Road
- The reconstruction of the Township’s tennis courts and the construction of pickleball courts
- Community park pond enhancement project

On Wednesday evening December 6th, a public hearing on the Township’s budget will be held by Council in the Municipal Building beginning at 7:30 p.m. At that time, public testimony will be taken and should you like to participate, please feel free to stop by.

Friendly reminder to our residents and motorists during this winter season:

- Our Public Works crews plow approximately 100 miles of Township-owned roads as well as 20 miles of state-owned roads (through an agreement with PennDOT). Middle Road and Duncan Avenue are county-owned and maintained. Route 8 is state-owned and maintained by PennDOT in the winter. It takes our crews three to five hours for one route (depending on if all trucks are running and what type of winter event they are dealing with). Main roads are taken care of first, followed by residential streets.

- Please help our snow and ice removal crews during winter snow events/emergencies by NOT PARKING on Township roadways.

- Please do not plow, shovel or blow snow from sidewalks or driveways into public streets. This slows snow removal efforts and can result in a dangerous condition for pedestrians and drivers.

- Plowing snow onto driveways and sidewalks cannot be avoided. Public Works drivers are not permitted to “steer” the plow away from driveways.

- If it’s snowing, our crews are out. Please do not call to find out when a particular street will be cleared - they will be there!

- If you must go out during a snow event, please give yourself extra time and use caution!

- And most importantly...STAY SAFE!
Resident registration begins January 2nd and Non-Resident registration begins January 15th. 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 INFORMATION

COMMUNITY CENTER
FALL HOURS OF OPERATION

Dates:
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 - 6:00 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

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
WINTER 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 pickleball. 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
Courts A, B, C & D
LOCATION: Community Center Gymnasium
FEE: No programs on March 28, 29 & April 1st
$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

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 - 9:15 pm
LOCATION: Hampton High School Indoor Pool
FEE: $4 per person; daily (ages 3 & up)
The Township of Hampton offers a Recreational Dance Program for all ages. Classes will be held on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at the Hampton Community Center.

Classes will begin the week of January 22nd and will continue through April 26th. No classes March 25th - 29th. A dance performance is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 27th for participants and their families to enjoy!

For additional information regarding this program please email hamptondanceprogram@gmail.com or visit our Recreational Dance Program section of our website.

Registration for the Dance Program can be done online at www.hampton-pa.org or by visiting the Community Center Service Desk. Resident registration begins November 27th and Non-Resident registration begins December 11th.

**DANCE CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Monday Classes:**
- Ballet & Tap 3 - 4 yrs. 4:30 - 5:30 pm $100 / $115
- Ballet, Jazz & Tap 5 - 7 yrs. 5:30 - 7:00 pm $145 / $165
- Ballet, Jazz & Tap 8 - 10 yrs. 7:00 - 8:30 pm $145 / $165

**Tuesday Classes:**
- Ballet, Jazz & Tap 4 - 5 yrs. 4:30 - 6:00 pm $145 / $165
- Acro 5 - 8 yrs. 6:00 - 6:30 pm $65 / $75
- Ballet, Jazz & Tap 6 - 8 yrs. 6:30 - 8:00 pm $145 / $165

**Wednesday Classes:**
- Ballet & Tumbling 2 - 3 yrs. 10:00 - 11:00 am $100 / $115
- Ballet & Tumbling 2 - 3 yrs. 4:30 - 5:30 pm $100 / $115
- Ballet & Tap 3 - 4 yrs. 5:30 - 6:30 pm $100 / $115
- Ballet, Jazz & Tap 6 - 8 yrs. 6:30 - 8:00 pm $145 / $165

**Thursday Classes:**
- Ballet & Tap 3 - 4 yrs. 10:00 - 11:00 am $100 / $115
- Ballet, Jazz & Tap 4 - 5 yrs. 4:30 - 6:00 pm $145 / $165
- Ballet, Jazz & Tap 9 - 12 yrs. 6:00 - 7:30 pm $145 / $165
- Adult Class (Ballet & Tap) 18 & up 7:30 - 8:30 pm $110 / $130

**DANCE PROGRAM ATTIRE INFORMATION**

Leotards and tights are suggested but not required as long as clothing is easy to move in and not loose fitting. Hair should be pulled back in a ponytail or bun. No jewelry. As for footwear, participants will need black tap shoes, white ballet shoes and foot under-wear for the show at the end of the session. You may purchase shoes and tights from Premier Dance Academy, Target, Walmart or All That Jazz. If you choose to buy them through Premier Dance Academy, they will measure for the shoes, order and deliver the shoes to the Community Center. You will be billed separately for your shoe order.
INTRODUCTION TO IMPROV

For anyone curious about what improv is, or just wants to try something new. Students will learn about short form improvisation starting with the basic rules of improv through a variety of fun games and improv exercises. Classes will build a base of skills that students can use to not only be creative and have fun, but also skills that they can use in their everyday lives as they grow. No experience of any kind is necessary! Instructor: Sarah McChesney

YOUTH EDITION (110603)

AGES: 12 - 18 yrs.
DATES: February 11th - March 17th
DAY & TIMES: Sundays / 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
LOCATION: Community Center Activity Room 1
FEE: $85
MIN/MAX: 6/12

ADULT EDITION (110604)

AGES: 18 yrs. +
DATES: February 8th - March 14th
DAY & TIMES: Thursdays/ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
LOCATION: Community Center Adult Lounge
FEE: $85
MIN/MAX: 6/12

MAD SCIENCE (210602)

VALENTINE’S STEAM PARTY

Join us for screen-free coding! We’ll start with the basics of electricity. What conducts it? What creates a spark? Then, your little scientist will create their very own Valentine’s day decoration using 8-bit binary code! We’ll learn all about the binary alphabet as well. This program is great for all levels!

AGES: 4 - 7 yrs.
DATE: February 16th, 2024
DAY & TIME: Friday 9:00 am - 11:00 am
LOCATION: Community Center Activity Room 1
FEE: $30
MIN/MAX: 10/20

DETECTIVE SCIENCE

In Detective Science, children will use science to crack a case! The crime happens just before the Bustertown bake-off. Mr. Baker’s big, fat, chewy, chocolate chip cookie is sabotaged, and his recipe is stolen! Analyzing all the evidence is what helps pinpoint the perpetrator.

AGES: 4 - 7 yrs.
DATE: March 15th, 2024
DAY & TIME: Friday 9:00 am - 11:00 am
LOCATION: Community Center Activity Room 1
FEE: $30
MIN/MAX: 10/20

Elf on the Shelf Search

Happy the Elf will be joining us once again at the Community Center this holiday season!
## EXERCISE PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DAY / DATES</th>
<th>LOCATION &amp; TIMES</th>
<th>FEES</th>
<th>MIN / MAX DEADLINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intro to Tai Chi</strong> 231204</td>
<td>This class is designed for individuals who have never participated in a Tai Chi class and are not ready for the Beginning class. We will learn and practice the basic postures and movements of the Tai Chi practice. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and flat shoes. Ages 18 &amp; up welcomed.</td>
<td>Session 1: Tuesdays</td>
<td>Community Center Dance Room</td>
<td>$28 / $34</td>
<td>8 / 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1:</strong> Feb 13th - April 2nd</td>
<td></td>
<td>12:15 - 1:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday, February 9th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning Tai Chi</strong> 231201</td>
<td>This gentle stretch exercise class aims to help increase flexibility, balance, muscular strength, and fitness. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and flat shoes. Ages 60 &amp; up. Instructor: Phil Jannetta</td>
<td>Session 1: Thursdays</td>
<td>Community Center Dance Room</td>
<td>$28 / $34</td>
<td>8 / 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1:</strong> Feb 15th - April 4th</td>
<td></td>
<td>12:15 pm - 1:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monday, February 12th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuing Tai Chi</strong> 231202</td>
<td>Intended for those who have taken the Beginner Tai Chi class here and are ready for the next level. This gentle stretch exercise class aims to help increase flexibility, balance, muscular strength, and fitness. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and flat shoes. If you are unsure what class you should register for, please see the class instructor to see which level is best for you. Ages 60 &amp; up. Instructor: Phil Jannetta</td>
<td>Session 1: Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</td>
<td>Community Center Dance Room</td>
<td>$56 / $68</td>
<td>8 / 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1:</strong> Feb 13th - April 4th</td>
<td></td>
<td>11:15 am - 12:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Friday, February 9th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASS</td>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>DAY / DATES</td>
<td>LOCATION &amp; TIMES</td>
<td>FEES</td>
<td>MIN / MAX DEADLINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Fit For Life**  
231701 | Low impact aerobic workout to energize, increase flexibility, balance, coordination, and core strength. Bring your own mat, water bottle, elastic bands & light hand weights. Wear gym shoes for athletic support. Ages 60 & up. Instructor: Angie Thomson | **Session 1:** Wednesdays  
Feb 14th-  
April 3rd | Community Center  
Exercise Room  
9:00 am - 10:00 am | $28 / $34 | 8 / 18  
Monday,  
February 12th |
| **Intro to Yoga**  
221401 | This class is designed for a brand new yoga participant. Class focuses on gentle movements, shapes of the postures, breathing, and language of the practice. Ages 18 & up. Instructor: Angie Thomson | **Session 1:** Wednesdays  
Feb 14th -  
April 3rd | Community Center  
Exercise Room  
11:00 am - 12:00 pm | $40 / $45 | 8 / 18  
Monday,  
February 12th |
| **Easy Yoga**  
221401  | Improve posture, strength and flexibility by doing Sun Salutations and various other yoga stances and moves; plus learn breathing exercises to help relieve stress, clam the mind, and unify the body & mind. Bring sticky yoga mat, towel, and yoga block. Ages 18 & up. Instructor: Angie Thomson | **Session 1:** Wednesdays  
Feb 14th-  
April 3rd | Community Center  
Exercise Room  
10:00 am - 11:00 am | $40 / $45 | 8 / 18  
Monday,  
February 12th |

*No class April 5th & 12th

**Session 2:** Fridays  
Feb 16th -  
April 19th  
*No class April 5th & 12th*  
11:30 am - 12:30 pm  
$40 / $45  
Wednesday,  
February 14th

**Session 3:** Saturdays  
Feb 17th -  
April 27th  
*No class Mar. 2nd April 6th & 13th*  
10:30 am - 11:30 am  
$40 / $45  
Thursday,  
February 15th
## EXERCISE PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DAY / DATES</th>
<th>LOCATION &amp; TIMES</th>
<th>FEES</th>
<th>MIN / MAX DEADLINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pilates 221501</td>
<td>Pilates uses a series of breathing and core exercises to strengthen abs, arms, legs, and back without bulking the muscles. It improves flexibility and agility to help prevent injury. Please bring an exercise mat and small weights. For participants 18 &amp; up</td>
<td><strong>Session 1:</strong> Tuesdays Feb 13th - Apr 2nd</td>
<td>Community Center Exercise Room 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>$40 / $45</td>
<td>8 / 18, Friday, February 9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zumba Gold 231302</td>
<td>A low impact, beginner level, exercise class designed for older adults who are looking for Zumba moves &amp; music at a low intensity. Please bring a mat for floor stretching. Ages 60 &amp; up. Instructor: Angie Thomson</td>
<td><strong>Session 1:</strong> Mondays Feb 12th - Apr 1st</td>
<td>Community Center Exercise Room 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>$28 / $34</td>
<td>8 / 18, Friday, February 9th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY EVENT

Santa Claus will be coming to our Township on December 7th at 7:00 pm with the help of the Hampton and North Hampton Volunteer Fire Departments!

Join us this evening at the Hampton Community Center for holiday fun with your family, friends and neighbors! Complimentary photos with Santa as well as a festive fireworks display are just a few of this year’s event activities!

Detailed information on this year’s holiday event will be available on our Township website mid-Fall as well as in our monthly Hampton Happenings Newsletter!

Be sure to stop by our Santa Mailbox, located inside the Community Center, to mail your letter to Santa too!

---

SANTA TOUR  
December 16th  
Beginning at 9 AM

HAMPTON HIGHLIGHTS
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 use, 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>Category</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.

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).
## Town & Government Contacts

### 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:
- **Rich Fitzgerald**, 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
  - 888-328-0558

### Township Council:
- **Carolynn Johnson**, Council President
- **Bethany Blackburn**, Vice President
- **Joe Dougherty**
- **Julie Fritsch**
- **Rock Kernick**

### 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**
  - W. Christopher Lochner...Ext. 1306
  - chris.lochner@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 Svcs. 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
**A Letter from the Superintendent: Continued Growth & Improvement**

**Dear Hampton Township Community,**

With cooler temperatures and the vibrant transformation of leaves, the fall season ushers in a time of change. This fall at Hampton Township School District was no different, as we have warmly welcomed fresh faces into the District and remained steadfast in our commitment to new initiatives that enhance the educational experiences of our students.

At the end of the previous school year, we had several longtime administrators, teachers, and staff members who retired, and we sincerely thank each of them for their unwavering dedication to Hampton students over the years. These were not easy shoes to fill, and we spent a great deal of time seeking the highest quality candidates to fill these positions. Fortunately, we are confident that these new hires will move HTSD forward in maintaining our Tradition of Excellence.

In this issue, you will read about some of the fresh faces at HTSD and how they plan on supporting the academic needs of our students, families, faculty, staff, and community. We are excited about the new and creative ideas these new hires will bring to our school district so that we can continue to be an innovative and future-focused organization.

To continue this Tradition of Excellence, we must also ensure our facilities meet these standards of a high-quality educational experience. Over the summer, our facilities team led by John Walsh, the new Director of Facilities, worked diligently on various projects and beautification efforts to make our schools a welcoming place for the first day of school. You will also read in this issue about our initiative to upgrade classroom display technologies, which will benefit teachers and students through enhanced capabilities.

Last year, we were thrilled to open the doors to the high school’s brand-new Library Media Center, and efforts are in the beginning stages of planning the second phase of the high school renovation project — which will include redesigning space for technology education, upgrading classrooms to meet the current demands of academic programs, a new entrance, and an internal redesign of the building to double the size of the musical arts area.

Overall, the 2023-24 school year has been off to a great start. We have reveled in celebrating our students’ achievements in academics, athletics, and the arts. Annual events such as Homecoming, the HAEE 5K Race, our Hampton Heroes celebration, and many more have filled us all with Talbot pride. We’d be remiss not to thank the Hampton Township community for your continued support of our school district!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael R. Loughead
Superintendent
Hampton Township School District

**Congratulations to the 2023 Homecoming Court!**
HTSD Completes Summer Facilities Upgrades

Hampton Township School District is committed to our “Tradition of Excellence,” and that includes recognizing the critical role that school facilities play in student success. With last year’s completion of the Hampton High School Gail V. Litwiler Media Center, Hampton continues to be committed to creating a high-quality learning environment. Our facilities team remained busy over the summer months to complete these recent upgrades:

HMS Roof Replacement
The District completed a significant roof replacement project at Hampton Middle School, which included the academic wing and library. The careful planning and execution of the project during the summer break were crucial in ensuring that students and staff were not inconvenienced during the academic year. The new roof comes with a 40-year warranty, reflecting the commitment of the District to providing a safe and comfortable environment for students and staff.

Gymnasium & Auditorium Upgrades
Hampton High School’s Gymnasium received a resurfaced floor, including new logos and fresh paint. Hampton’s Athletic Department secured a partial grant from AHN to cover the bulk cost of the project. New LED lighting was also installed in the Middle School Auxiliary Gym and the stage area of the Auditorium. Additionally, plans are underway to install LED lighting in the High School Gymnasium.

Fridley Field Updates
Fridley Field has seen significant improvements, with eleven new handicapped seats in the bleachers for spectators to enjoy various events, including sports and graduation ceremonies. Over the summer, the facilities team painted the field house and press box, pressure cleaned the bleachers, and applied fresh paint to the field’s goal posts to enhance visibility.

HHS Remembrance Garden Phase II
A new Talbot dog statue was installed in the Remembrance Garden over the summer, courtesy of funding from the Hampton Alumni Remembrance Garden Committee and the Class of 1974. This project included the installation of a bronze statue of a white Labrador, representing the beloved Talbot dog. The new addition to the garden now stands alongside the “Fly Away” memorial statue, which depicts a little girl setting a bird free with her hands raised in the air.

HTSD extends its profound gratitude to the Hampton Alumni Remembrance Garden Committee for generously funding this project and for their commitment to maintaining the beauty of the garden outside Hampton High School. The garden was originally dedicated in July 2014, and with the recent addition of the white new statue, it continues to serve as a space for remembrance and reflection.

Summer Beautification Projects
During the summer break, the District’s facilities team embarked on a series of projects to spruce up school buildings and grounds. Their efforts included installing new carpet in select classrooms at Central Elementary School, removing dead trees across all campuses, repainting parking lines and curbs at the elementary schools, completing the punch list for the high school renovation, replacing dumpsters at all buildings, and unveiling a new welcome sign at Poff Elementary School.
Hampton Township School District welcomed several new educators, administrators, and staff members who have become part of the Talbot family ahead of the 2023-24 school year. Notably, last year saw the retirement of long-serving administrators Rick Farino (Director of Facilities) and Bill Cardone (Athletic Director) after 30 and 29 years of dedicated service to the District, respectively. As the District bids farewell to them, HTSD warmly welcomes John Walsh as the new Director of Facilities and Michael Gavlik as the new Athletic Director. Furthermore, the District has expanded its team by adding a full-time elementary school counselor position at Poff Elementary School, and is delighted to introduce Ellen Giarrusso in this role.

**Director of Facilities Management**

**John Walsh**

John Walsh joins Hampton Township School District eager to “work with the administration to improve the facilities to give the students and staff a clean, well maintained and safe environment to learn and teach.” He previously served as Director in Facilities Management at Penn Hills School District and most recently Plum Borough School District. Before those roles, Walsh was the owner-operator of Walsh Refrigeration Company for over 20 years. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Suffield University. Walsh says he was inspired to pursue a career in school administration to “use my past experience and knowledge to maintain and improve school facilities.”

**Fun Fact:** He has been a volunteer firefighter for 40 years.

**Athletic Director Michael Gavlik**

Michael Gavlik brings over 20 years of experience to Hampton, having previously served as Athletic Director in Pittsburgh Public Schools (2001-2019) and Chartiers Valley School District (2019-2023). He joins Hampton as Athletic Director with the goal of “working with administration to maintain and improve the Athletic Department and continue the Tradition of Excellence that has been established.” Gavlik earned his bachelor’s degree from Slippery Rock University, where he also played baseball, before obtaining a master’s degree in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Gavlik was inspired by the coaches and teachers that he had in school who had a great impact on his life, and he was inspired to follow in their footsteps.

**Fun Fact:** He enjoys playing golf, watching his children play their sports, and sneakers.

---

**Elementary Counselor Ellen Giarrusso**

Ellen Giarrusso joins Hampton Township School District with a passion for helping children with their interpersonal, emotional, and academic success. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Penn State University and a Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Pittsburgh. Giarrusso previously worked in corporate finance for 10 years before deciding to stay home to raise her three children. Her interest in school counseling grew during her involvement with the Girls on the Run program, leading her to obtain a master’s degree in school counseling from IUP. She gained experience through internships and worked as a substitute school counselor at Mount Lebanon School District before joining Hampton. Through her own children’s school experiences and working for Girls on the Run, she witnessed the positive impact of holistic child development programming which inspired her transition to education. By teaching the Portrait of a Talbot competencies in classroom lessons, small groups, and individual counseling, she hopes to help Poff students succeed in the classroom, in their careers, and in life.

**Fun Fact:** She enjoys visiting national and state parks, hiking, and kayaking. She is also an avid photographer.

---

**High School Counselor Marisa Panzer**

Marisa Panzer joins the high school’s counseling department with enthusiasm for helping students identify their passions and future plans, enabling them to succeed not only in their academic pursuits but also in their personal aspirations. Panzer holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in school counseling, both from Slippery Rock University. After spending several years in the mental health field as a school-based therapist, she obtained her license as a professional counselor and worked as a substitute school counselor in various Pittsburgh area schools. In 2018, she joined Knoch School District as a full-time school counselor. Panzer was inspired to pursue a career in education after working as a mental health case manager, where she collaborated with innovative and helpful educators in assisting students with their transition back into the school building. Her diverse background has deepened her understanding of the available resources within the area, allowing her to provide support to families and students as needed.

**Fun Fact:** Panzer is passionate about watching her sons participate in their sports and activities. She also enjoys reading and paddle-boarding.

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The Hampton Township School District Newsletter, *The District Dispatch*, is published four times annually as part of Hampton Magazine. Its purpose is to keep Hampton residents informed of events, achievements, issues and opportunities concerning the District and its stakeholders. Letters, comments or article suggestions may be sent to the following address:

Hampton Township School District Communications
4591 School Drive • Allison Park, PA 15101
Email: communications@ht-sd.org • Phone: 412-492-6312

District Dispatch • Fall 2023
Everyone is welcome at Hampton Township School District, and new grant funding provided through the Disability Inclusive Curriculum Pilot Program will play a pivotal role in making this vision a reality.

In August, Hampton was one of three Allegheny County school districts and ten school districts statewide to be awarded this funding to expand inclusive programming and to focus on the contributions of individuals with disabilities. Hampton is eligible to receive up to $10,000 each year over a three year period.

Dr. Sharon Smith, Director of Special Education, said that funding the first year will focus on professional development for staff in understanding the resources available and conducting curriculum mapping.

“This will help us determine where best to implement the various topics, investigate how to best support increased participation in specific clubs at the high school level, and determine what additional signage is needed for all buildings,” said Smith.

As a focus with professional development, the District would also like to establish linkages with outside agencies to help support activities during the grant period and beyond.

HTSD recently updated its Strategic Plan, and this grant aligns with its goal of celebrating everyone’s unique and collective histories, and welcoming learners, staff, and families from different backgrounds, experiences, and cultures.

“We feel that our recently updated plan lays the foundation to allow us to successfully develop and make progress as part of the Disability Inclusive Curriculum Pilot Program grant,” said Smith. “As a team, we are fully committed to providing instruction to all students on the political, economic, and social contributions of individuals with disabilities.”

The aim of this initiative will benefit all students in friendship-making skills, respect for others, acceptance of differences, developing the ability to work with a variety of individuals, and the opportunity to learn from each other.

“When students are provided with inclusive experiences, they understand that each person has unique abilities – things they can do well and things they need to work on or may need help with,” said Smith.

The program will impact the overall culture and environment of Hampton by reducing the stigma of disability by including disability as a part of its school-wide strategic plan.

“The first steps are to increase awareness, provide education and offer positive, inclusive experiences,” said Smith. “Individuals with disabilities are part of our schools, neighborhoods, communities and families.”

Seven Hampton High School seniors have been recognized in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Three students — Ziqian Peng, Zachary Sutterlin, and Darren Wang — were listed among more than 16,000 semifinalists across the United States. Andrew Kaehly, Brandon Pascucci, Reed Perry, and Justine Sullivan were among 34,000 Commended Students.

Hampton’s three semifinalists have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly $28 million that will be offered this upcoming spring. From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Awards competition by taking the 2022 test.

HTSD congratulates these seven seniors on this outstanding accomplishment!
Hampton Township School District is one of just twenty school districts in the state offering the Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy program.

“It’s an award given by a school in recognition of students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation,” said Jessica Heranic, Hampton High School French teacher and World Language Department Chair. “So for us, it’s typically English and then one other language.” HHS offers the seal for studies in French, German, Mandarin, and Spanish.

The Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy received recognition from the Pennsylvania Department of Education in March 2022, and Hampton High School initiated the program during the 2022-23 school year.

In the previous year, 13 students earned the seal: Marilia Schmitt, Hannah Dietrich, Leah McConnell, Sadie Shelkey, Elizabeth Partee, Lucy Beyerl, Abigail Boyd (for accomplishments in French); and Jason Andrews, Sophia Riegel, Grace Gosey, Paige Allen, Carley Rodenbush, and Joseph Pascucci (for accomplishments in German).

Among the 20 Pennsylvania schools offering the program in 2023, Hampton awarded the fifth highest number of seals. To qualify for the seal, students must achieve an average of “Intermediate High Proficiency” on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency assessment, which evaluates the students’ reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. This comprehensive four-part exam is administered to students in the spring.

“It recognizes the skills that they are able to demonstrate — reading, writing, speaking, and listening in a second language,” said Heranic. “It serves as tangible evidence of their language abilities and establishes an official benchmark for linguistic skills that colleges and future employers look for.”
Violins of Hope Program Ties in with 7th Grade Reading Unit

“Violins of Hope” is a series of programs in which musicians play a private collection of violins, violas and cellos all collected since the end of World War II. Each instrument has a unique emotional history that tells a story of perseverance and hope.

On October 23, seventh-grade students at HMS were visited by “Violins of Hope Greater Pittsburgh” and had the privilege of hearing from guest speaker Christopher Edmonds. His father, Master Sergeant Roderick Edmonds, has been recognized by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel for his heroics in saving approximately 200 lives during World War II.

During WWII, Sgt. Edmonds found himself and his unit captured by Nazi soldiers and taken to a prison camp. A month later, when asked by his captors to identify and surrender the American soldiers in the unit who were Jewish, he bravely refused, insisting that they were all Jewish. This act of solidarity aimed to protect the Jewish soldiers from being sent to concentration camps.

“Christopher shared his father’s story and discussed the challenges of making seemingly impossible choices, emphasizing why such decisions are necessary to support those who cannot stand up for themselves,” said Melissa Survinski, HMS Enrichment Teacher. “Additionally, a violin from the exhibit was transported to the middle school, where a few violinists performed for our students after they heard Christopher’s father’s inspiring story.”

Seventh-grade students at HMS also learned powerful lessons in empathy and perseverance in their reading class through a unit on the novel Refugee by Alan Gratz. This historical fiction novel follows three young people who embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, all while facing unimaginable dangers, yet holding onto hope for tomorrow.

One of the stories in Refugee follows Josef, a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world. In the story, Josef and his family escape Germany during the Night of Broken Glass. As they journey to Paris, they’re captured by Nazi soldiers who demand Josef’s mother choose which child will remain with her and who will be sent to a concentration camp. Josef selflessly volunteers to go, not wanting his sister to grow up without their mother.

“And since Josef has to make that impossible choice for the sake of somebody else, it ties really nicely to the story that Christopher tells us about his father,” said Survinski. Janeen Bentz and Loriann Palmer teach seventh grade reading at HMS. Both teachers believe that the Refugee unit and Violins of Hope program will build on the empathy and perseverance competencies in Hampton’s Portrait of a Talbot.

“The Violins of Hope program will help build on the empathy component of our Portrait of a Talbot, as students can see the violins in person and hear personally from people who were directly impacted by the Holocaust, so it’s going to bring the event to life,” said Bentz.

Palmer noticed that her students connected with the stories and expressed interest in the unit.

Classroom Display Upgrades Enhance Students’ Learning Experiences

Over the summer, the District initiated a project to upgrade its classroom display technologies, replacing units that had reached the end of their operational life.

As part of this initiative, 52 classrooms received interactive ClearTouch panels during the summer, and ongoing work is underway to enhance an additional 84 classrooms this fall. This will involve installing a combination of 36 ClearTouch interactive panels and 48 flat-screen televisions with wireless screen-sharing capabilities.

These interactive displays contribute to a more engaging and collaborative learning environment, encouraging active student participation as they directly interact with the content.

“The interactive nature of these displays is powerful because it actively engages students in the learning process,” said Dr. Michael Loughead, Superintendent. “Another advantage is the enhanced screen visibility, making it easier for students and teachers to see what’s presented on-screen.”

At the high school and middle school levels, the focus has been on outfitting math and science classrooms with interactive displays, while other classrooms receive flat screens and non-interactive boards. Special education as well as K-5 elementary core subject classrooms are also receiving interactive displays. This strategic choice aligns the technology with the specific instructional needs of each classroom.

Funding of these classroom display upgrades was approved by the School Board and sourced from capital projects funds. These funds were designated to address significant instructional needs, benefitting all classrooms throughout the District. HTSD was fortunate to be able to begin upgrading select classrooms prior to this time through the generous support of the Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE) in combination with federal Title IV funds.

“Our students and teachers have shown great appreciation and are already reaping the benefits of these upgraded
“They liked the stories because it was about three children who were their ages, and they could put themselves in their shoes,” said Palmer. “So the empathy piece was significant, as well as critical thinking and decision making.”

In addition to Josef’s story, *Refugee* tells the stories of Isabel, a Cuban girl in 1994, and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015, who both seek refuge from their respective countries.

“They are all from different areas and time periods, but it all comes together in the end where we get to compare their experiences in class,” said Palmer.

displays,” said Dr. Loughead. “We sincerely thank our HTSD Technology Department and School Board for their support and efforts in making this project a reality, ultimately enriching the educational experience for all of our students.”
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