January 2025

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PUBLISHING!

Vol. 20 No. 5

A Bike Under Every Tree

by Julie Mikus

Todd Financial Services has mobilized the generosity of hundreds of donors to achieve a remarkable goal of ensuring that United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots

Christmas morning.

This initiative is supported by three

For the seventeenth consecutive year, children awaken to a new bicycle on organizations, which distribute bicycles to marginalized children. For over seventy years, the Marines, alongside thousands of (Continued on page 3)



Left to right back row: Kurt Herbst, Jennifer Kremer, Gary Laird, Vince Kremer, Mark Kuehn, Christine Sonson, Christina Grzybek, Ryan Kramer, Bonnie Janeda, Alan Caulkins, Heath Kaydo, and Eric Spiker.

Front kneeling: John Hill, Joslyne Counselman, Brooke Kuehn, Dona Bajet, Steven Hill, Ashley Pappert, and Luke Kuehn. Lying in front: Al Todd.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

by Julie Mikus

Boy Scout Troop 17, affiliated with Parkwood Church on Mt. Royal Boulevard in Hampton Township, conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony on election night at the fire ring of the Hampton Community Center. One-hundred and fifty flags were retired this year by the troop.

Committee Chair Bjorn Dakin emphasized the necessity of the retirement ceremony,

From Dough to Donations

by Laurie Rizzo

When Thi Malesky, a sophomore at Hampton High School, approached HHS principal Marguerite Imbarlina with an idea for a short-term community project, the response was immediate. Malesky had previously led a successful cookie baking project for NHCO during middle school, and says, "It was a huge success, and I've worked with them [NHCO] multiple times. I

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Police Information

The Hampton Township Police Department (HTPD) is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of our residents and guests by providing the very best in law enforcement services. Thank you to the staff for helping to keep our community safe.

A summary of noteworthy incidents that occurred are listed below. These incident statistics included, but WERE NOT LIMITED TO, the following between the dates of 11/5/2024— 12/16/2024:

Accident

On 12/16/24, HPD was dispatched to the intersection of William Flinn Hwy and Anderson Dr. for a report of a three-vehicle accident. Upon arrival, contact was made with all occupants of the vehicles and confirmed that one patient was requesting to be evaluated by medics.

Unit #1 stated that he was travelling south on William Flinn Hwy when he observed the vehicle in front of him stopping abruptly. He was not able to stop in time and struck unit #2 in the rear end.

Unit #2 stated that she was stopping in traffic for Unit #3 to make a left hand turn onto Anderson Dr. when she was struck from the rear by Unit #1. Unit #2 then struck Unit #3 in the rear end from the impact of Unit #1. The driver was evaluated by Shaler Hampton EMS and was transported to the hospital for further evaluation.

Unit #3 stated that he was stopped on William Flinn Hwy to make a left hand turn onto Anderson Dr. with his turn signal activated when he was struck in the rear by Unit #2.



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Structure Fire

On 12/12/24, HPD was dispatched to Fernwood Lane for a report of a structure fire. Dispatch advised that there was an active fire in the chimney within the residence and that 6 occupants were currently evacuating. Upon arrival, all residents were located outside of the home and advised that the fire had since been extinguished. Officers assisted Hampton Fire units on scene until a time when they were no longer needed.

Wires Down

On 12/10/24, HPD was dispatched to Tall Timber Dr. for a report of a garbage truck that stuck the electric lines and pulled them

(Continued on page 12)





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Bike Drive

(Continued from page 1) volunteers nationwide, have delivered hundreds of millions of toys to over three hundred million economically disadvan-



Finley C., age 7 with his mom, Samantha

nature, adaptive bikes typically cost over \$2,500. This year, the bike drive successfully donated fifteen adaptive bikes.

This effort is made possible through a partnership with Variety -The Children's Charity, based in Wexford. Variety empowers children with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives by supplying essential mobility and communication equipment, ensurtaged children. However, the Toys for Tots program has restrictions on toy donations, and value of \$30, such provided as direct cles. donations to recipients.

significant need by their customized



ing that the children participate in various activities. The organization serves fifty-nine counties in Pennsylvania, tailoring adaptive bikes to meet the unique needs of each child.

Additionally, the bike drive items exceeding a collaborates with Walmart, where Al and his team coordias bicycles, must be nate the delivery of the bicy-"I want to thank Walmart and their team!" Al remarked. "I also want to Al's Bike Drive express my gratitude to my addresses another colleagues at Thrivent who helped manage the program," providing adaptive he added. Todd Financial Serbicycles for children vices is situated on Ferguson with disabilities and Road near Hampton Town-



The youngest volunteer braved the bitter cold elements!

special needs. Due to ship, and Al's Bike Drive operates entirely as a volunteer initiative. The outcome of this year's efforts was impressive, with the bike

> drive collecting 589 bicycles and 15 adaptive bikes, enabling children to wake up on Christmas morning with joy. For these children, the gift is not merely a toy; it represents a significant milestone in their lives. Many individuals cherish the memory of receiving a new bike, as it symbolizes freedom, independence, along with the development of new skills and confidence essential for a healthy and active lifestyle.



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A NOTE FROM THE HAMPTON NEWS

As The Hampton News continues to strive to bring you informative and interesting stories, we welcome feedback, ideas and submissions. We are always happy to hear from you and want to help keep the neighbors connected! The deadline for submissions is on the 15th of each month.

Please support the advertisers this month since they help provide this publication, and remember to SUPPORT local! Production, Print and Design: Laurie and John Rizzo **Proofreading:** Deb Brady

Writers: Jenn Edmonds, Julie Mikus, and Michael Burchill

P.O. Box 243 * Wildwood, PA 15091 * 412-818-6491

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Library News



3101 McCully Road Allison Park, PA

hamptoncommunitylibrary.org

January has arrived! The holidays may be behind us, and winter has fully taken hold, but that doesn't mean the fun has to stop. While the festive lights and decorations are packed away, spring is just around the corner! Need a boost to shake off the winter blues? Come visit the Hampton Library! We're here to brighten your days with exciting activities and events all season long. Stop by and see what we've got in store to keep the cheer going!

Please note: While we do our best to be here, sometimes winter weather works against us! Please call the library, check Facebook or the website to make sure we did not have to cancel a program due to Mother Nature!

It's a Wonder-ful World! Drop-in Storytime! **NEW DAY ADDED!**

Join us as we fill our mornings with stories, songs and crafts designed to celebrate discovery as we interact with our environment. All ages and abilities welcome! Come early and stay for all the activities or come later and stay for a few; you decide!

Tuesdays, WEDNESDAYS and Thursdays* starting January 14th from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m.- "Stories & Songs" 10:45- "Investigate and Create" 11:00 a.m.- "Stories and Songs" 11:30 a.m.- "Parachute Play" 11:50 p.m.- "Stories and Songs" 12:00 p.m.- "Stay and Play" *times are subject to go longer or shorter

Try a New Hobby This Winter: Discover the Art of Origami! Tuesdays, January 7th, 14th and 21st 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Looking for a cozy and creative indoor activity to brighten up the winter months? Join us for an exciting introduction to **origami**, the Japanese art of paper folding! Whether you're a beginner or looking to expand your crafting skills, this handson class is perfect for all levels. Mary Garnett will teach you the basics of folding techniques; create simple, beautiful designs and go home with a beautiful piece of art. Please note, this is an adult only class. Sign up today and bring the joy of origami into your life! Spaces are limited; please call the library to reserve your spot now!

News and Views!

Friday, January 10th @ 1:00 p.m. in the library.

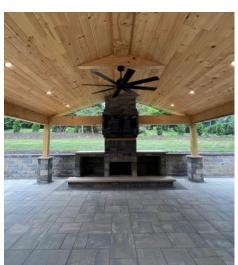
This longtime discussion group is led by local author and journalist Gerry K. Smith--with a new format inviting members to participate as guest leaders the First Friday of the month. Except this month, we'll meet on the 2nd Friday!

(Continued on page 5)



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NOW BOOKING FOR 2025

Library

(Continued from page 4)

Discussion topics welcome from all.

New members are welcome to come share-- or just listen.

Meet Me at the Movies! Tuesday, January 14th @ 1:00 P.M.

The Department of Community Services and the Hampton Community Library are excited to partner in this new program for adults. Join us in Great Room A of the Community Center to watch a movie filmed here in Pittsburgh! This months showing is *A Man Called Otto*. Snacks are encouraged! No registration is necessary.

Card Club! Wednesdays, from 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Adults! Join us Wednesday afternoons for a game of 500 Bid or something new! Come out and show your skill, teach someone a new game or just enjoy some time out with friends new and old!

Murder by the Book! A Mystery Book Discussion Wednesday, January 15th @ 6:30 p.m.

Everyone on this Train is a Suspect, by Benjamin Stephenson.

The Mystery Book Group will meet back in the library.

Please call the library to request a copy of the book. Everyone who is interested in great reads is invited to join us!

Betty's Book Buzz Discussion Group.

Friday, January 17th @ 1:00 p.m. *Princess of Las Vegas,* by Chris Bohjalian.

Betty's Book Group meets in the library. Please call the library to request a copy of the book. Everyone who is interested in great conversations and good reads is invited to join us!

Cooks-N-Books: Ultimate Comfort Food! Thursday, January 23rd, 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.

Cooks-n-Books is a cookbook and food discussion group for people who love to cook and make new friends! No real experience or culinary expertise is needed- just a desire to share recipes and food!

We meet in Great Room A in the Hampton Community Center. Here's what to do...

- 1) Check out a cookbook
- 2) Cook that dish and bring it to the group the evening of the discussion. Please bring a copy of the recipe as well.
- 3) Sample all of the amazing recipes!

Please note there will be a \$2.00 fee to cover the cost of supplies.

Kick off the New Year by Saving Your 2024 Memories! Friday, January 24th 10:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m. in Activity Room 1.

Bring your photos, memories, and creativity to start the year off right, preserving the highlights of this brand-new year. Whether you're looking back on cherished memories or planning to document fresh ones, this is the ideal opportunity to

(Continued on page 6)

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20328 R4-23

Blood Drive: We Need Your Help

by Sophie Shelkey

Every year, Hampton High School hosts three blood drives that run from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. The value of blood donation should not be minimized, as it can save so many lives. Hospitals all over the world need a constant supply of blood for their patients, making the demand very high. Donating blood is a great way to help your community, and to make a big difference to someone in need. To emphasize the importance, patients in hospitals need about 30,000 units of red blood cells, and 6,000 units of both platelets and plasma per day in the US. If you are interested in getting started in donating blood, Hampton's blood drive is a great way to get involved. To make matters even better, this is listed as a scholarship blood drive, because the monies for the scholarships come from the number of donors per drive.

The next drive is Wednesday, January 29th, 2025. We hope to see you there!

Sophie Shelkey is a Junior at Hampton High School. During this school year, she is involved in track and field, FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), and as a student council officer for the class of 2026. Hoping to pursue a career in the healthcare field, she values how crucial blood donations can be. Having seen the impacts of donations through her grandmother, who underwent many life saving transfusions, she truly values the importance of donating.

Hampton High School and Community Blood Drive

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Hampton High School - Auxiliary Gym 2929 McCully Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

To make an appointment: **Students:** See Ms. Nelson, School Nurse. **Community members:**



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Library

(Continued from page 5)

create something meaningful. There will be plenty of workspace, access to tools and supplies, and inspiration from fellow scrapbookers!

Don't miss this chance to get creative, make new friends, and save your 2024 memories in a special way! Spaces are limited; call the library to reserve your spot today!

Save the Date! It's a "Soup"er Bowl Cookoff! Saturday, February 8, 2025 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Calling all home cooks to stir up their favorite homemade soups! Chicken noodle, French onion, beer cheese or salmon chowderwhat is your claim to fame? Enter your soup in our "Soup" er Bowl Cookoff and gain bragging rights for a year! Entry fee is \$10. Registration begins January 2, 2025.

This is the Book Club You've Been Looking For! Friday, February 14th @ 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Title: *Cold Comfort Farm*, By Stella Gibbons.

Are you a book lover who craves variety, fresh ideas & rich discussions? Join our newest group: *This is the Book Club You've Been Looking For!* Explores new genres each month including short stories, memoirs, historical fiction & more. Help build a community that loves to explore every corner of the literary world. If interested, stop by the library so we can order the book for you!



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Collecting Names of Service Members for Gulf War Memorial Plaque

Hampton Township, The Hampton Community Association and Hampton American Legion Post 296 are collecting the names of service members who previously lived in Hampton Township or currently live in Hampton Township and served on active duty during the Gulf War beginning on August 2, 1990 through the current date. We wish to recognize their service to our country and create an additional plaque to be added to the Hampton Township Veterans' Memorial. This list will be closed for submission of names and information no later than January 16, 2025 so that preparation and presentation of the plaque can occur on Memorial Day 2025.

We encourage current or past active duty Hampton Gulf War Veterans to submit their information for coordination and review of eligibility. The period of Gulf War wartime service continues through a future date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation.

In order to verify and confirm accuracy of residency and eligibility, we encourage early submission of information to:

www.hampton-pa.org/HamptonGulfWarVeteran

Are you a past or current resident of Hampton Township Gulf War Veteran that:

- 1. Served in the military on Active Duty; or a Member of the National Guard and Reserves who was called to active duty and served on active duty from August 2, 1990 through the present;
- 2. Awarded an Honorable or General Discharge from Active Duty for military service August 2, 1990 through the present.
- Received a National Defense Service Medal?

Who is considered a Gulf War-era veteran?

For the purposes of benefits eligibility as per the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Gulf War period is still in effect-meaning anyone who served on active duty (in theatre or stateside) from August 2, 1990 through the present is considered a Gulf War-era veteran.

This includes Operations Desert Storm; Desert Shield, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

National Guard and Reserves who are called to active duty and who serve for the entire period for which they were called will be eligible.

National Guard and Reservists who are not called to active duty are not eligible.

The names collected to date are:

Barton, Michael Ference, John Bianco, David Coffield, Eric Craig, Jr. William Crump, Mark Csellar, Edward Culley, Evan Culley, Tom Daehnick, Christian Eddy, Bruce Edwards, Kenneth English, Harold Pike, Jason Ensminger, Jeffrey Schmitt, Christopher Essig, Keith Sinwell, James

Gust, John S. Hazlett, Theodore, Jr. Hieber, Mark Katz, DeAnna Kerns, Robin Kessler, Brian Kramer, James T. III Lindsay, Christopher Merrit, Zachary Ott, William

Smith, Steven Thompson, Michael Tibi, Christopher Tibi, Robert Wagner, David Wisser, Michael Yund, Nicholas

Neighborhood Santa Tour

Santa and Mrs. Claus were escorted through the neighborhoods on their sleigh on Saturday, December 14th with the help of the Hampton Volunteer Fire Department!





Aquinas' High School Students Perform High School Musical on Stage!

by Michael Burchill

Aguinas Academy of Pittsburgh high school students performed High School Musical on Stage! a theater adaptation of the Disney movie High School Musical. The cast of fifty-two students performed the evenings of November 15 and 16 in the Rhodora J. Donahue Multi-purpose Building on the campus of Aguinas Academy of Pittsburgh.



Lucy Fowler, 12th grade (Gabriella), and Joseph Chufo, 12th grade (Troy Bolton)

High School Musical is director Mike Flynn's fortieth drama production at Aquinas Academy. Flynn was assisted by many students and teachers who helped produce the show: Felicity Koble (11th grade, Music Director), Joseph Chufo (12th, Choreography), Lucy Fowler (12th, Choreography), Ashlin Knox (12th, Choreography), Brynn Burnsworth (12th, Dance Captain), Mrs. Rosemary Meland (Costumes), Mr. Brady Buchanan (Set Design), Ms. Jenny Fetchko (Set Design), Meghan McGee (11th, Stage Crew), Tim Crawford (9th, Stage Crew), Anthony Rossi (11th, Stage Crew), Harold Tarr (12th, Stage Crew), Henry Hynds (11th, Lights), Louis Bentivegna (11th, Lights), Anthony Keane (9th, Sound), Claire McMann (12th, Hair & Makeup), and Nadine Hokaj (12th, Hair, Makeup, and Play Book).

The cast included leads Joe Chufo (12th, Bolton). Trov Fowler (12th, Gabriella), Guillen (12th. Jacob Chad Danforth), Buchanan (12th, Taylor), Osburg (12th) Sharpay Evans), JJ Ortiz (12th, Ryan Evans), Felicity Koble (11th, Kelsi), Daniel Hartle (11th, Zeke Baylor), and Maddison Bradley (12th, Jackie Scott).



John Ortiz, 12th grade (Ryan Evans)

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Cookie Baking

(Continued from page 1)

and I presented the project to Dr. Imbarlina, and she referred us to the clubs. I have a passion for making people smile, and what better way to do that than making cookies for a cause?"

The project involved baking cookies to sell at the Busy Bean, the school's coffee shop, with all proceeds going to NHCO. Janice Wolff, a Hampton resident and sponsor of the Interact Club at Hampton High School, eagerly took on the task. Reflecting on her five years as a sponsor, Wolff noted the Interact Club's growth from just three active members to around twenty participants.

Interact Club president Lizzy Saponsky shared, "Sisters Olivia wanted to extend this into my high school years. Sophia Nguyen and Maya Tirpak reached out to Shop-N-Save on Route 8 in Hampton for baking supplies. The grocery owners, Bradley Zupancic and Kevin Verikes, generously donated the ingredients needed." On December 9th, the students gathered in the high school's family and consumer science kitchens directly after dismissal. Hampton Rotary members Larry Vasko, Rebecca Cunningham and Michael Loughead joined the students for the baking process, using a hand mixer to help with the Toffee Chocolate Chip and Grinch Cookies. Members of the Hampton Rotary and Hampton Interact Club came together for a sweet deal, packaging and delivering the cookies to the Busy Bean to sell the next day. Between both sales the Interact Club raised \$338!



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2374 Delo Drive	\$399,900	\$360,000	213
2341 Sample Road	\$349,900	\$342,500	42
4532 Bucktail Drive	\$279,000	\$279,000	15
4499 Mount Royal Boulevard	\$289,900	\$270,000	163
2918 Clearview Road	\$260,000	\$267,000	39
2901 Harts Run Road	\$159,900	\$152,000	50

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Prevent exposed pipes from freezing as temperatures drop. A frozen pipe can crack or burst, flooding your home. If you're planning a winter vacation, don't forget to wrap pipes with heat tape you can control with a thermostat. And if you haven't turned off water to outdoor spigots yet, consider yourself lucky—if they haven't yet burst, shut off water valves and open spigots to drain existing water.

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A Very Special Visitor

On Tuesday, December 17th, Belle from Beauty and the Beast made an appearance at the Hampton Community Center to share her kindness and independent spirit. The children enjoyed a story time, coloring and refreshments with their favorite princess making this event a stand out evening!



Violet and Hanna enjoyed spending time with their favorite princess.

Meet An Officer

Evan Egerter

by Jenn Edmonds

Hampton Township Police Department welcomed a new full-time police officer in



October, Evan Egerter. Egerter currently resides in Ross Township with his wife, Christina, his almost 6year-old son Liam, his 3-yearold son Landon, and his Springer spaniel Millie, and comes to HTPD with a lot

of accolades and experience.

After high school, Egerter served six years in the U.S. Air Force as part of the Military Police, and knew he wanted to pursue being a police officer after his service concluded. "I'm not built for a 9-5 desk job or doing the



Christina and Evan at the Seven Springs award ceremony in November

same thing every day," explained Egerter on why he chose police work. "Every day is different in this job."

After graduating from the Police Academy, Egerter worked for the Reserve Township Police Department and the Millvale Police Department. While at Millvale, Egerter was recognized with the DUI Award by the PA DUI Association four years in a row. Now in its 27th year, the DUI Award is given to officers that excel or dedicate themselves to DUI enforcement. Winners are determined based on metrics such as the number of officers in the department, call volumes, and the number of arrests

When asked what he enjoys about being a police officer, Egerter explained, "I like being able to help people at their worst times, to change perceptions in the community, and to have a positive impact." Egerter has ties to Hampton in that his mother works in Hampton and his brother-in-law, Ben Colosimo, is a current Hampton

Township police officer.

Egerter has primarily worked the night shift, which he said was a good shift to work with young kids at home, but Hampton rotates 12-hour shifts. This shift rotation will

allow him every other weekend off, which also works well for the family. Egerter played hockey growing up and enjoys watching sports, going to parks with his kids, and hiking the trail at Fall Run Park.

Getting to Know Officer Evan Egerter

Favorite candy: Chocolate Cadbury Eggs

Favorite book: Hatchet
Favorite movie: Forrest Gump
Favorite music genre: Country
Favorite subject in school: History

Beverage of choice: Coke

Favorite food: Anything seafood

Favorite season: Summer
Favorite holiday: Christmas
Favorite sport to watch: Hockey
Favorite sport to play: Hockey

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? "Growing up I can remember dressing up as a police officer for Halloween and thinking how cool it would be but I really wanted to be a professional motocross rider or BMX rider. After joining the Air Force my goals were set on becoming a police officer."

If you had an extra \$10 in your wallet, what would you buy? I would spend it on gifts or treats for my two sons.

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Police Log (Continued from page 2) down onto the truck, it was reported that burglary in progress. The property owner for various traffic violations and 4 individthe driver of the truck was still inside the stated he was watching three unknown uals were administered field sobriety test. vehicle. Upon arrival, Duquesne Light was notified to respond as it was confirmed that the driver was still inside the garbage truck. Hampton Fire and Shaler Hampton Sheriff Deputy arrived on scene and locat-EMS arrived on scene. Upon arrival of Duquesne Light, they removed the power lines and the Verizon cable lines and the truck was able to leave the scene.

Water Main Break

the intersection of Route 8 and Duncan Avenue for a report of a water main break. An officer arrived on scene and located a water main break near 2527 Duncan Avenue. County Dispatch notified Hampton Shaler Water Authority for the main break and County DPW for icy road conditions on Duncan Avenue. HPD provided traffic control until HSWA arrived on scene.

Suspicious Persons, Autos, Circumstances

😭 On 12/5/2024, HPD was dispatched to Franklin Park along various state roads.

Mount Royal Boulevard for a report of a There were 91 vehicles that were stopped males on video climbing on ladders and attempting to gain access through the ing under the Influence. There were 10 windows. Hampton PD, Shaler PD and a ed the three males near their vehicle. Officers explained to the males on scene that the property owner called 911 and reported a burglary in progress. The males stated they are with a window cleaning those tested, 1069 have been arrested. service and realized they were at the On 12/5/24, HPD was dispatched to wrong address just prior to law enforcement's arrival. All males were identified and released from the scene.

DUI Task Force

The North Hills DUI Task Force of Allegheny County, PA had a DUI detail on 12/13/2024 that was in conjunction with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration Checkpoint Strike Force. The Task Force conducted a Roving DUI Patrol in McCandless, Ross, West View, Pine, Marshall, Bradford Woods and

Of those tested, 3 were arrested for Drivcitations, and 92 warnings issued for various vehicle code violations. This is the 28th year for the North Hills DUI Task Force and to date, 262 checkpoints/roving patrols have been conducted. There have been 2262 individuals tested for DUI, and of

The North Hills DUI Task Force is comprised of officers from the police departments of Borough of Etna, Indiana Township, Northern Regional, O'Hara Township., Ross Township, Shaler Township, West Deer Township, Borough of West View, West Deer Township, Etna Borough, Blawnox Borough, Shaler Township, Franklin Park Borough, Ross Township, McCandless Township, O'Hara Township, Aspinwall Borough, Indiana Township, Millvale Borough, Hampton Township, and the Northern Regional Police Department serving: Pine, Richland, Marshall, and Bradford Woods.









FAMILY ◆ SENIORS ◆ CHILDREN ◆ PUBLICITY ◆ SPORTS ◆ WEDDINGS

Nominations Being Accepted for the Heart of Hampton Award

This year's HAEE 5k brought in roughly \$30,000, surpassing last year's total and meeting the organization's fundraising goal. HAEE president Lissa Shulman said, "Our board really stepped up to meet our fundraising goal of \$30,000 and it is the

hard work of every member doing their part that leads to a successful event each year!"

More exciting things are to come in 2025. For the first time ever, HAEE will present the Heart of Hampton Award. Historically, the award had been conferred by Hampton Magazine, but for many years had been shelved before HAEE set out to reconceptualize and



Nominate here

reintroduce this important honor within the Hampton community. The award will be given to an individual or group within the community who exemplifies criteria such as innovation in education, commitment to excellence, impact on the community, leadership and mentorship, and collaboration and teamwork. HAEE will host an award ceremony and cocktail party at Lucky Sign Spirits Distillery in Gibsonia on Saturday, February 22, 2025. Tickets will go on sale in the new year and will be open to the community. In the meantime, HAEE invites and encourages people to nominate potential award recipients at https://www.hamptonalliance.org. Shulman stated, "This award is a way to acknowledge organizations and individuals who contribute to our excellent school district and the broader

Hampton community. We also see the celebration

event as a way to add a second signature event (especially for non-runners or non-athletes) which will help to raise additional funds, allowing us to grow our scholarship awards and grants to the schools."





Sarah Shook (L) and Tiffany Habib (R), HAEE Scholarship winners for the 2023-2024 school year.

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Ben Lish graduated with great praise from Farmer School of Business at Miami University of Ohio in December 2024. He majored in supply chain with a minor in international business. Lish starts his career as an information technology consultant with Plante Moran, one of the nation's largest certified public accounting and business advisory firms located in Columbus, Ohio. He is the son of Hampton residents Lisa and Hank Lish.

Flac

(Continued from page 1)

which was prompted by the success of the flag retirement boxes located at both the Community Center and the Hampton Volunteer Fire Department on Duncan Avenue. These boxes were established as part of an Eagle Scout project by Patrick McClelland, a 2024 graduate of Hampton High School, aimed at facilitating the honorable retirement of flags within the community.

"I decided to place a box at the [Hampton Community Center] to provide community members with an accessible way to ensure their flags are retired properly. Retiring flags is a meaningful tradition that shows our respect for this national symbol," McClelland said.

The flag retirement ceremony exemplifies the respect afforded to our nation's symbols, a fundamental aspect of scouting. The scouts adhere to specific protocols for the dignified retirement of the American flag.

The American flag was first adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777—almost 250 years ago. Scout master



Keith Essig said Hampton residents can fly a flag at their residence "to show pride in our country and support for the military."

As part of the ceremony, the troop rescued stars from the retired flags to

create accompanying cards for veterans at the VA Hospital in Aspinwall, delivered on November 12, 2024. These cards explained the origin and significance of the stars. Dakin noted, "Using the stars of the flag in this manner for veterans is permis-

sible and does not constitute a desecration of the flag." These mementos were also handed out to veterans at the Hampton Heroes event held at Fridley Field.

When flags are deemed unfit for display, the stars are carefully removed and placed in small plastic bags accompanied by a note that reads: "I am part of an American flag that has flown over the U.S.A. I can no longer fly. The sun and winds have caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that you are not forgotten."

From its inception, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has demonstrated a strong commitment to patriotism. The Scout Oath and Law emphasize a duty to America and respect for the nation's laws, making the honoring of the flag a central tenet of scouting. Such civic engagement fosters a sense of national pride, encouraging scouts to become active, responsible citizens.

The high regard for the United States flag is well-founded, as the boy scout handbook articulates that the flag is "...the symbol of America; it stands for the past, present, and future of our country. It represents our people, our land, and our many ways of life."

For Troop 17's Scout Master, the flag has deep meaning. "I'm a U.S. Navy Veteran. The flag represents the country I served. It is a symbol that represents those heroes who sacrificed their lives for our country," Essig expressed. He also reminded the times when the flag is used to commemorate service. "For all who served, the flag is placed over their casket and then given to their family as a lasting reminder of their service," he added.

For more information on the United States Flag Code, please visit: https://www.military.com/flag-day/us-flag-code.html.



A Multi-Generational Holiday Gathering

On Friday, December 13th, residents, families and friends of Hampton Fields Village enjoyed a festive holiday gathering. The evening included story time with Conductor Tom and his Polar Express train experience, plus a visit from Santa Claus with cookies and hot chocolate for everyone.







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Depreciation Lands Museum

Doll Tea

January 26th, 2025 2-3 p.m. Hear ye, young ladies age 5 and older! Treat your favorite doll to an afternoon of tea,

treats, and crafts, and learn what life was like for girls in the 18th century.

Come to the Depreciation Lands Museum's Doll Tea. \$15 per child and doll companion: \$12 for museum members. Space is limited; register by visiting our website: dlmuseum.org/events



Early American Textile Display



Explore the fascinating world of early American textile production at the Depreciation Lands Museum's interactive textile area. Our collection includes a variety of looms, such as a barn loom and a table loom, where visitors can witness the intricate process of weaving firsthand. Our knowl-

edgeable interpreters demonstrate how these looms operate, providing a hands-on experience that brings history to life.

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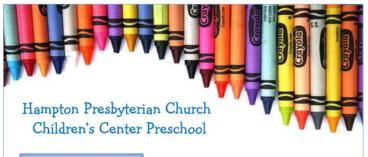


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SENIOR COMMUNITIES

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Local AARP Supporting our Libraries

You might be interested to know about the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) Community Service Project that has recently benefited the Hampton, Shaler, and Northern Tier Libraries.

Members of the local AARP Chapter 595 collected over 100 books to donate to these libraries. Additionally, they received a \$1,000 grant from the National AARP to support books and special programs at these libraries.

This group promotes an active and fulfilling life after retirement, focusing on fellowship, social interaction, and community service. They also participate in other service projects for the Lighthouse Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, and Hosanna Industries, Inc. This is the first time Chapter 595 has reached out to local libraries and qualified for the organization's grant program.

Most members live in the North Hills area. If you're interested in joining, they meet on the first Tuesday of each month at Hampton Presbyterian Church. With 345 members, it's one of the largest chapters in Pennsylvania! Membership dues are only \$10 a year. For more information, you can contact them at 412-486-7465.



Left to right: Janet Rushmore, President of AARP Chapter 595, Suzanne Krispli, Hampton Librarian and Leslie Molyneaux, Community Service Chairperson for AARP

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NEW Community Center Hours Beginning January 2, 2025

FALL HOURS: Labor Day—October 31st

Sunday—CLOSED

Monday-Friday 6 am—9 pm Saturday—8 am—6 pm

WINTER/SPRING HOURS: November 1st—April 30th

Sunday; 12-4 pm

Monday-Friday 6 am—9 pm Saturday 8 am—6 pm

SUMMER HOURS: May 1st—Labor Day

Sunday—CLOSED

Monday-Friday 6 am—8 pm Saturday—8 am—4 pm

Youth Recreational Dance Program Spring 2025 Information

The Township of Hampton offers a recreational dance program for all ages. Classes are held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Hampton Community Center. Classes begin the week of January 20th and will continue through April 24th. No classes April 14-18th. A dance performance is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 26th for participants and their families to enjoy. For additional information or questions, email hamptondanceprogram@gmail.com. Registration can be done online at www.hampton-pa.org or by visiting the Community Center Service Desk.



Santa's Sparktacular

Hundreds of residents participated in the festivities on Thursday, December 5 at the community center. The center was beautifully decorated and festive music played inside and out by D.J. Rick Wirth from Life of the Party Productions. After the fireworks, Santa made his grand entrance into the park on his sleigh! More photos on the website and in Hampton Magazine.



There were several options for food and spirit: Chicks n' Waffles, Hoshi Food Truck, Travelin Tom's Coffee, Lucky Sign Spirits, Bella Terra Vineyards and Acrospire Brewing.



Premier Dance Academy performed to get the evening started



Two children whom were fortunate enough to get a seat on Santa's sleigh!



Angela Leake, Rachael Schafer and Christine O'Neil offered to capture photos with Santa courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus toured the streets of Hampton courtesy of the Hampton Volunteer Fire Department.



Dear Neighbor,

As a new year begins, I'm struck by the enormous honor it is to represent all of us and to serve as our Congress-

man down in Washington. I will never take this job, or the responsibility it requires, for granted.

In my first term, I've been dead set

on lowering costs, confronting the corporate powers that are price gouging and ripping us off, fighting against monopolies squeezing out small businesses, making more goods here, and standing up for workers. We've made some progress, but I'll be straight with you: there's a lot still to do.

Right now, people work hard, follow the rules, and yet too many still can't achieve the American Dream of a good job, a home to call their own, and dignity in retirement. That's devastating. My goal is simple: to make life better and to start charting a path back to the American Dream.

My office is available to help Hampton residents with issues they are having with federal agencies, including tax refunds, passport renewals, Social Security and Medicare, veterans' benefits, and more. Please call or message my office at 412-344-5583 or deluzio.house.gov/services/.

Very respectfully, Congressman Chris Deluzio



Back to Work for Pennsylvanians

Dollars for School Safety and Mental Health Resources

by State Rep. Arvind Venkat

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. I am incredibly honored to continue serving all of you in the 30th Legislative District, and look forward to the year ahead. I will again advocate for several key health issues and more as a new legislative session begins.

I am set to reintroduce multiple bills, including establishing the Pennsylvania Medical Debt Relief Program so no one is forced to choose between putting food on the table or getting the medical care they need.

Providing opioid overdose and food allergen awareness materials in

public places are two pieces of legislation I look forward to getting across the finish line as well. Too many individuals have lost their lives to these health crises, and it is my goal to unite colleagues on both sides of the aisle to empower our neighbors and communities in addressing these public health challenges.

I am also happy to share that the Hampton Township School District was awarded a state grant of nearly \$150,000 to make its facilities safer for students, teachers, and staff, and to address behavioral health needs. I am proud to be a physician-legislator and privileged to help secure these dollars to assist keeping our kids healthy and safe inside and outside of the classroom.

For more information about legislation I have introduced or how my staff and I can help you with state services, please call my office at **412-348-8028** or email me at RepVenkat@pahouse.net. We are always available to address your concerns.







Many people I talk to don't know that they have a State Senator or they have little positive to say about who represents them. I am doing my best to change that.

I want everyone who interacts with my office feels listened to, supported, empowered, and helped. We have a "no wrong door policy" here—we may not be able to resolve your issue in-house, but we'll work with you to identify other resources who can help.

This extends to my work in Harrisburg. As we begin the New Year, the Senate is starting a new Session in Harrisburg, which brings a chance to make the legislative process more open, accessible, and bipartisan.

My colleague Senator Katie Muth and I are again introducing Senate rules that would make Harrisburg work better for Pennsylvanians. First, we want to take the guesswork out of what bills are being voted on, giving people a chance to voice their opinions to their State Senator on the bills before a vote takes place. We are also introducing reforms that would ensure popular, bipartisan legislation passed by the State House receives a vote in the Senate. It should not take years for the legislature to pass common-sense solutions to address real problems that people are facing. If you want to learn more about our rules reforms efforts, please visit my website at

www.SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/rules.

My staff and I wish you a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2025, whether that is at one of our events, out in the community, or in our office. Please give us a call at 412-364-0469 or stop by the Ross Township Office at 5000 McKnight Road, Suite 405, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Looking Forward to Serving You

As the new year begins and a new session gets underway in Harrisburg, it is my distinct honor to begin my tenure as the state representative of the 28th Legislative District. My commitment to you is to give my all to work with both parties to ensure our community

and Commonwealth are second to none.

Jeremy Shaffer

ernment.

As my term begins, my ambition is to establish policy which will grow our Commonwealth into a prosperous and welcoming place for all generations to succeed. Improving our quality of life in Western Pennsylvania starts with a focus on improving infrastructure and strengthening our communities by supporting families, teachers, and our valued first responders.

I am honored to be your voice in Harrisburg to work to reduce taxes and regulations, help support our businesses and families, and always advocate for reasonable, effective gov-

Our state government is unfortunately ranked near the bottom on several metrics. We need to work in a bipartisan way to fix this broken system. I am pleased that the first bills I have co-sponsored are for term limits for state legislatures and downsizing our state

house and senate which are some of the largest and most expensive in the country.

Our team has already hit the ground running, with my offices set up and ready to serve you. In Wexford, my office is located at 5500 Brooktree Road, Suite 100, and can be reached at 412 -369-2230. My Gibsonia office is located at 4411 Gibsonia Road and can be reached at 724-939-6265.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you as your state representative; it is truly an honor. I look forward to serving you and building our area to be the envy of Pennsylvania.





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