October 2025

From the Neighborhoods of Hampton Township, PA

Vol. 21 No. 2

Aiden's Mission to Uplift Others

By Brett Burkhart

Hampton graduate and current University of Pittsburgh student Aiden Hanna was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in August of 2022, at the age of fifteen. After experiencing severe leg pain, a chiropractor suggested he see a doctor who diagnosed him with the cancerous tumor of the bone. Aiden underwent ten weeks of chemotherapy followed by surgery to remove the tumor in his left calf. Nine months later, a routine cancer scan re-

vealed that the cancer had spread to his right leg, and he would need to undergo further chemo treatment and surgery. Again, nine months later, another scan revealed that the cancer was still attacking Aiden's leg, and he would need to either live with it while trying to manage symptoms, or undergo a below-knee amputation in an effort to eliminate the cancer. Aiden and his family chose the amputation.

Aiden, a former baseball player at Hampton, is now eighteen years old, and is a freshman majoring in accounting at the University of Pittsburgh. He lives on campus in Oakland with his three roommates, one of whom was a best friend growing up. Aiden, now experienced with his prosthetic leg, continues to play softball, baseball, and golf. When asked about his transition from high school to college

(Continued on page 3)



Left to right: Brady Smith, Justin Dubee, Zach Williams, Keira Palmer, Ray Kirsopp, Emerson Pryal, Danny Kenst, Aiden Hanna, Ty Schmitt, Porter Kelly and Olivia Mayer

HHS Senior Witnesses Rocket Launch Carrying Student Science Projects

by Mary-Theresa Watson

In the early morning hours of August 24th in Cape Canaveral, Florida, a select group of high schoolers watched in awe as a rocket launched into space laden with very special cargo: science experiments five student teams had worked on for over a year, bound for the International Space Station (ISS),

(Continued on page 19)

A Visit to Remember from the Pittsburgh Penguins

by Jenn Edmonds

On September 15th, an ordinary day became extraordinary for one Hampton family, thanks to the Pittsburgh Penguins. Every year, Penguins players hand-deliver hockey season tickets to a few lucky season ticket holders and this year, Hampton's own Christina and Tom Carlin and their family were selected. They received a phone call from the Penguins' office about a week before that they were going to

(Continued on page 7)

What's Inside

Police Log	2
Library	
Sports	7-12
Real Estate	12
Current Events	15-17
Fire Department	17
Upcoming Events	18-20
Representatives	22-23

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 7/26/2025—9/9/2025:

Vehicle Accident

On 9/3/2025, the Hampton Township Police, (HTP) were dispatched to the area of 2643 W. Hardies Rd. for a report of a two vehicle accident. Upon arrival, Officers made contact with all parties involved and confirmed one injury. EMS transported one individual to the hospital, and one vehicle was towed from the scene.

On 9/4/2025, officers were dispatched to the area of McNeal Rd. for a report of a single vehicle accident into a telephone pole. Upon arrival, Officers observed the driver to still be in the vehicle and the pole to be sheered and held up only by wires. One person was transported to the hospital. Duquesne Light responded to the scene for the pole and wires

On 9/9/2025, the HTP were dispatched to the area of McDonald's on William Flinn Hwy for a report of a three vehicle accident. Shaler Hampton EMS evaluated and transported two individuals. Hampton Fire assisted with traffic control as well as

(Continued on page 18)



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Chris Lochner
Allegheny County Council
District 3

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As *The Hampton News* continues its mission to bring you informative and engaging stories, we welcome your feedback, ideas, and submissions. Your voice helps keep our community connected, and we always love hearing from you!

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month, so be sure to send in your stories, announcements, and insights.

We also encourage you to support this month's advertisers, whose contributions make this publication possible. And most importantly, remember to support local businesses—they are the heart of our community!

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Mary-Theresa Watson
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Helping Hands

(Continued from page 1)

while undergoing such a major surgery, Aiden said, "Nobody here treats me any different. We played wiffle ball the other day; it's really cool."

When asked about learning to use his prosthetic leg, Aiden explained, "The first couple weeks after amputation were really painful and I couldn't sleep, but now, I've adjusted. The crazy thing is my surgeon [who performed the amputation] had the same cancer and went through the same thing when he was sixteen years old. He even brought me a birthday cake in to the hospital two days after surgery. It was real heartwarming, because he celebrated his sixteenth birthday in the hospital too."

Aiden credits his mom and dad and two sisters with being very supportive and helping to provide him the strength to carry on through cancer treatment, which currently consists of oral chemotherapy, requiring Aiden to take two pills each night before bed. With a nudge from his family, Aiden and his parents started a nonprofit organization called "Aiden's Helping Hands." The charity is designed to help families experiencing financial hardship with expenses such as mortgage payments, medical bills, and prosthetics or other equipment through the Children's Hospital Network. Recently, the organization raised \$21,000 at a softball tournament on September 6th at the Hampton Community Park.

A total of eighteen teams were divided into two divisions, one for the recreational adults and the other for the high school students. Each team got to play two games for a shot at the playoffs, in which one team in each division would be crowned victorious and granted bragging rights. Food trucks, a basket

raffle, local vendors, Kona Ice, and pop up mini golf made it a family friendly event for the community. Aiden, his mom and dad, his two sisters, and all his high school friends all played in the tournament. Aiden said, "All my high school buddies flew in and we all played on a team. We finished third. We are not hap-

py about it! [But] it was a lot of fun. My friends came down to Pitt on Friday night and then we drove to the tournament Saturday. It was exciting to see everybody."

When asked how it makes him feel that his organization can help other families that may be overcoming challenging circumstances, Aiden responded, "It's a sense of relief, and it gives me fulfillment that these battles are worth fighting, not just



Aiden's crew working the raffle table

for me, but for everybody. The reason I started this is because when I was in the hospital, I was so down on myself. Then my mom took me on a walk through the hallways, and I could see the kids playing hide and seek in the hallways. The kids had IV poles, but they were living like it was normal. That's when I said to my dad, we should start something up to help kids like this."

Aiden's Helping Hands continues their mission to help offset costs for families in need through Children's Hospital with events such as the softball tournament at Hampton's baseball field. For more information on this charity and how you can become a supporter, visit www.aidenshelpinghands.com.

More photos on page 10.

Angelo & Angelo, LLC Michael Angelo Maccagnan, Esq. Attorney at Law



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Library News



3101 McCully Road Allison Park, PA 412-684-1098

hamptoncommunitylibrary.org

What a Wonder-Fall World! Drop-in Storytime!

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* Now through Oct. 17^{th**} from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m.- "Stories & Songs" 10:45- "Move and Groove"
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
** No Storytimes the week of Oct. 21st.

Dungeons and Dragons Pick-Up Game Saturdays, Oct. 18th, and Nov. 15th starting @1:00 p.m.

Calling all Gamers! Dust off your dice & get ready for new adventures! We are excited to announce our fall DnD Pickup Sessions. Experienced players, newbies & curious fans are all welcome. The program will run from 1:00pm-3:00pm*with option to extend the game until 4:00. This program is for players ages 11-17.

Make the Shift, A Wellness Workshop! Tuesday, October 14th @ 6:30p.m. -7:15p.m

Learn the 5 reasons your health and wellness goals don't stick — and the simple SHIFTS that could change everything. Join Board Certified Health Coach Mary V. as she helps you to discover the habits that are holding you back from your best life! Please call the library to register: 412-684-1098.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame! Monday, October 13th @ 6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

"Back to the wall goes Berra. It is over the fence! Home run! "The Pirates Win!" - Chuck Thompson. 65 years ago, Bill Mazeroski made history, and the Pirates won their first World Series in 35 years! Pittsburgh has an incredible baseball history with great players, teams, and historic moments, but few realize that Pittsburgh has often been in the lead in ballpark design and development. Join us and author Mark Fatla as we relive Bill Mazeroski's historic home run and visit the nine ballparks that hosted major league baseball in Pittsburgh between 1876 and the present. Historic photographs illustrate design and construction phases, the major changes as parks expanded and aged, and eventually their demolition. There may even be some peanuts and crackerjacks! Please call the library to register: 412-684-1098.

(Continued on page 5)



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Library

(Continued from page 4)

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

The Trap, by Catherine Ryan Howard.

The Mystery Book Group meets 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, October 17th @ 1:00 p.m. *Big Sky*, by Kate Atkinson.

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!

News and Views! First Fridays! Fridays, October 3rd, November 7th and December 5th 1:00 p.m. in the library.

This long-running, thought-provoking discussion group is where neighbors come together to explore current, local and national issues in a friendly, open setting. Led by long-term journalist and author Gerry K. Smith, the salon offers a welcoming space for lively dialogue and diverse perspectives.

New members are always welcome!

Cooks-N-Books:

Thursday, October 23rd , 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m. Meatless Mondays!

Love food, friends, and fun conversation? Join *Cooks-n-Books*, our welcoming cookbook and food discussion group for anyone who

enjoys cooking (or just eating!). Starting this month, we will go through the days of the week. Each month will have a specific day/topic assigned to it. We meet in the Adult Lounge inside the Hampton Community Center. Please note there will be a \$2.00 fee to cover the cost of supplies.

NEW PROGRAMS for ADULTS

Dungeons and Dragons Friday, October 24th @6:30p.m.

Experienced players, newbies & TTRP curious come mix and mingle with Druids, Bards and Rangers. Program opens with a brief discussion about how to Game Master with samples of books & kits that patrons can borrow from the library. Gameplay will last appx. 1 hour, following character leveling. Dressing up is encouraged, however, no authentic weapons will be admitted into the building. Bring your own character or use one of ours. Light refreshments offered or BYO to share. (BYOB \$5.00 corkage fee.) Registration appreciated. This event is for adults ages 21+

"For what do we live, but to make sport for our neighbours and laugh at them in our turn?" - Pride and Prejudice, 1813

A Jane Austen Affair—Thursday, November 6th @ 5:30p.m.

What could be more fun than merging Jane Austen with tabletop role play games! Our fantastic Game Master, Erin, will lead us through the charm and intrigue of a game set in the world of

etterliving PATIO & SUNROOMS

(Continued on page 6)





Garden Club Contest Winners

At the August 6th Ingomar Garden Club meeting, several Hampton elementary students were honored for their winning poetry entries in the National Garden Club Youth Poster and Poetry Contest. The theme for the 2024-2025 school year was "I Have Vegetables to Share That I Can Spare".

Four students from Central Elementary School in the Hampton Township School District placed at the State Level of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, as follows:

1st Place - Lily Christopher

2nd Place - Mia Kavic

3rd Place - Kieran Li

4th Place - Maretta Bender

(not photographed)

Lily Christopher, Mia Kavic, and Kieran Li read their award-winning poems and were presented with their awards. Joell McMonigal, Central Elementary fifth grade teacher, was also in attendance.



Library

(Continued from page 5)

Jane Austen. Gameplay lasts approximately 1 hour. Dressing up is encouraged as well as snacks! (BYOB \$5.00 corkage fee). Registration appreciated. This event is for adults ages

Fall Hours!

Monday:

9:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday:

9:30 a.m. -7:30 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Saturday:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CLOSED- Saturday, October 25th, for the community's Annual Halloween Parade.

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Penguins

(Continued from page 1)

receive a personal visit, but didn't know which player would be visiting until that day.

"There are things that the Penguins do for the community that nobody else does," said Christina "We were completely shocked." The anticipation was through the roof and the kids were able to get out of school early to wait for the mystery player to arrive.

After being in Pittsburgh for only about a week, new Penguins defenseman Matt Dumba came into the Carlin home, started talking to the kids (daughters Abby, Haley, and Callie, and son Grady) signed some memorabilia, gifted a signed jersey to the family, and took some photos. Christina explained that the best

Left to right: Christina, Tom, Callie, Abby, Haley, Matt Dumba, and Grady

part was that "It was so personal. It was just us and him. You don't get that experience with other athletes."

Christina and Tom's oldest daughter, Abby, is a hockey player and a huge Penguins fan so it was especially exciting for her. The Penguins even posted the family visit on their Facebook page with the caption "Missing school to welcome Matt Dumba to Pittsburgh... best day ever." It was a bonus that Matt Dumba played with Marc-Andre Fleury on the Min-

nesota Wild team and looked forward to playing with Fleury in his retirement game with the Penguins.



Matt Dumba, Haley, Grady, Abby and Callie Carlin



HAEE 5K Run / Walk Returns for Its 33rd Year

On Sunday, October 12th, Hampton Township will lace up its sneakers and rally behind education at the 33rd Annual HAEE 5K Run/Walk, hosted by the Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE). This beloved fall tradition brings together families, students, alumni, and local businesses in support of educational enrichment across the Hampton Township School District.

Held at the Hampton Community Center, the event features both a 5K race and a 1-mile walk, welcoming participants of all ages and fitness levels. It's more than a race—it's a spirited celebration of Hampton's commitment to learning, community, and collaboration.

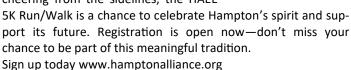
A Race with Heart and History

Founded in 1992, the Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE) was created to enhance educational opportunities for students in the Hampton Township School District. Initiated by Assistant Superintendent Paula Calabrese and led by founding president Aaron Walton, HAEE has remained an all-volunteer organization dedicated to supporting students through grants and scholarships. Over the years, HAEE has raised nearly \$1 million, with its largest fundraiser being the annual 5K Race and 1-Mile Walk—held every year since 1993. In 2012, HAEE introduced two scholarships for graduating seniors:

the Hampton All-Around Effort and Excellence Scholarship and the Anna Kuhn Memorial Scholarship, honoring civic virtues and academic achievement.

Join the Fun

Whether you're racing for the Alliance Cup, walking with friends, or cheering from the sidelines, the HAEE



Enjoy Free Admission to HTSD Events with the District Gold Card!

Hampton residents aged 60 and older are invited to take advantage of the District Gold Card, which provides free admission to a variety of Hampton Township School District events. This includes athletic games, Drama Club productions, and the annual spring musicals at both the high school and middle school.

To apply, simply visit the District Administration Building on weekdays between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Ask for Becky Parker and be sure to bring a valid photo ID.

For questions or additional information, please call 412-492-6321.



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National Baton Champion

by Laurie Rizzo

Hampton Township has a new reason to cheer—and it comes with a twirl. This past July, Hampton High School senior Dante Dew dazzled the nation at the AAU Junior Olympic Games in Houston, Texas, earning the prestigious title of 2025 AAU Junior Olympic National Baton Champion, Men's 15+.

Representing the vibrant and spirited Sensations Marching Unit, Dante brought not only his baton but his heart and discipline to the national stage. His performance was nothing short of spectacular, and his medals speak volumes about his dedication and talent:

- 3rd Place All Around National Champion (Age 16–18)
- 3rd Place Novelty Solo Beginner (Age 16–18)
- 3rd Place Novice Parade Strut (Age 16–18)
- 5th Place Basic Strut Novice (Age 16–18)

Dante's achievements reflect years of training, countless hours of practice, and an unwavering commitment. His success is not just a personal victory—it's a celebration for the entire community and the Sensations Marching Unit, who have supported and shaped his journey.

"Dante has grown tremendously," said Coach Joanne Gerardi of Sensation's Marching Unit. "Although he truly has a natural talent, his daily and regimented hard work and dedication is accredited to his growth success."

Dante's journey to the national stage began with family inspiration. "My sisters really inspired me to get involved," Dante shared. "My twin sister Destiny was already twirling, and my older sister, Stephanie, is the co-instructor. Having them by my side made me feel more comfortable—and now I absolutely love the sport."

His path wasn't without challenges. "I first tried baton when I was 9, but I wasn't really serious," Dante recalled. "I wanted to start back in 2020 when I was 12, but then COVID hit and pushed everything back. I didn't get to join again until I was 15."

Despite the delay, Dante's passion and perseverance propelled him forward. When asked about standout moments from the competition, he reflected:

"There were definitely powerful moments, but what stands out most to me was actually just stepping onto the floor at the AAU Junior Olympics for the very first time. Being out there with so many amazing athletes was a surreal feeling. Winning the men's baton national title was incredible, but honestly, it felt less about the medal and more about realizing how far I'd come after all the hours of practice and the people who believed in me. I felt really grateful to have that experience."

Coach Joanne echoed that sentiment, emphasizing the culture of growth and support within the Sensation's Marching Unit: "Dante has earned his title through his passion for twirling—putting in hours of practice in and out of the gymnasium on a daily basis. As an organization, we strive to help all performers

reach their goals. We are extremely proud of Dante and our many others who have also earned state, local, and national titles in addition to our competitive teams. It is always very exciting when our performers

With his baton in hand and his team behind him, Dante Dew has twirled his way to the top!

reach goals."



Chasing the Crown Again

For more than two decades, Kamelia Velkova has been the driving force behind the Pittsburgh Northstars, elevating the team to national prominence in the graceful yet demanding world of Rhythmic Gymnastics. A former Bulgarian National Champion herself, Velkova brings both technical mastery and a champion's mindset to her coaching.

When she's fortunate enough to work with a handful of elite athletes, Velkova often molds them into a cohesive group, shifting the focus from individual competition to synchronized team performance. Their routines require not only precision and artistry, but seamless coordination—tossing clubs, hoops, or ribbons across the floor with split-second timing and trust.



Lynsey Zhao, Coach Kamelia Velkova, Sophie Yan, Muriel Liu, Ella Huang, and Hanna Singhi

This year, the group's club routine dazzled judges at the National Championship in West Palm Beach, Florida, earning them a well-deserved third-place finish in June. It was a follow-up to last year's triumph, when they claimed the title of Rhythmic National Champions—the very best in the country.

Key contributors to this season's success included Lina Jewart, who performed with the group throughout the year, and Kassandra Mazurowski, a senior dance major at Point Park University, whose choreography and coaching support added depth and polish to their routines.

Looking ahead, this talented group, rising juniors at North Allegheny and Shady Side Academy, plans to continue their journey together through senior year, with eyes set on reclaiming the national crown.

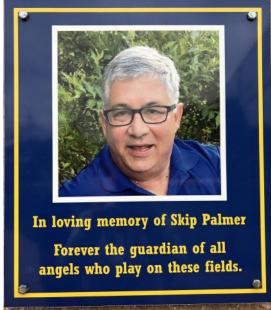
Aiden's Helping Hands













Aiden's Helping Hands fundraiser was held on his grandfather Skip Palmer's birthday. A rainbow arch of black and gold balloons marked Skip's heavenly celebration beside the dugout, where a plaque reads: 'Forever the guardian of all angels who play on these fields'—a tribute as timeless as his love for the game and his grandson, Aiden.

Girls Invited to Join **Preseason Wrestling**

by Laurie Rizzo

With preseason practices already underway, Coach Chris Ruggeri is inviting new girl wrestlers in grades 7–12 to "try-it" by joining practices every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:15-4:30 in the varsity wrestling room at HHS. The official season kicks off November 17, but Ruggeri says now is the perfect time to get involved.

Ruggeri emphasizes that success in wrestling isn't just about wins. "Sometimes avoiding getting pinned, or not getting teched, can be the difference in a match," he said. "It's all about getting 1% better every time you face a new obstacle."

He's proud of the program's growth, noting, "We had about 60 wrestlers last year and my networking skills brought on two D1 wrestlers to the coaching staff — Ethan Headlee from Pitt and Andrew Sherry from Missouri."

For girls unsure about joining, Ruggeri offers encouragement: "Even if wrestling isn't your main sport, what you learn and how you'll train your body will transfer to other sports. And if you don't play another sport, there's something to be said about pushing yourself through the season."

He adds, "To push yourself through adversity when the body says 'I'm done,' the mind must respond, 'We still have more to give.'"

Interested students can scan the registration QR code or stop by a preseason practice to see what wrestling is all about. As Ruggeri reminds us, "Once you've wrestled, everything else in life is easy."







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This information is supplied from the West Penn Multi-List. It is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	2
\$930,000	\$920,000	6
\$785,000	\$727,500	16
\$549,900	\$525,000	66
\$479,000	\$464,000	22
\$374,900	\$370,000	7
\$259,900	\$265,000	20
\$225,000	\$218,000	16
\$220,000	\$210,000	18
\$125,000	\$126,000	15
	\$1,200,000 \$930,000 \$785,000 \$549,900 \$479,000 \$374,900 \$259,900 \$225,000	\$1,200,000 \$1,200,000 \$930,000 \$920,000 \$785,000 \$727,500 \$549,900 \$525,000 \$479,000 \$464,000 \$374,900 \$370,000 \$259,900 \$265,000 \$225,000 \$218,000

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Labor and building materials are typically the least expensive around October. Use this to your advantage; if you've been needing to make household updates or renovations to increase the marketability of your home. Prepare for the colder months by making sure your house is sealed from water damage and pests.

Fix or replace any flooring, countertops, cabinetry or other major household projects while building materials and labor are cheapest. Hire an exterminator to spray for insects inside and outside home. (Bugs will be looking for a heat source when the weather gets colder and are more likely to be attracted to your home in the coming months). Or get a spray bottle and do it yourself! Clean rain gutters and downspouts for drainage or moisture problems, on average twice per year. HVAC and furnace filters need to be changed every three months (average; more if you have pets, use fireplace, allergen sensitivities, etc), so doing this quarterly will help set a schedule.

FOR A COMPLIMENTARY MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR HOME, GIVE US A CALL!



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Touchdowns, Tailgates, and Big-Time Giveaways at SHOP 'n SAVE!

Football season is heating up, and SHOP 'n SAVE is bringing the celebration with the launch of its first-ever Tailgate Zone Giveaway.

Now through December 21st, customers have the chance to win a tailgate prize pack valued at \$450. Each weekly prize is loaded with Pittsburgh favorites like Mrs. T's Pierogies, Heinz ketchup and mustard, and Uncle Charley's sausage plus tailgate staples like deli cheese cubes, veggie trays, chips, sweets and more! It's everything you need to host a winning game day with friends and family.

"As a locally owned store, we're always looking for ways to bring our community together, and nothing brings Pittsburgh together like food and football," said Bradley Zupancic, co-owner of the Richland SHOP 'n SAVE. "We're excited to be part of the Tailgate Zone Giveaway and to give our customers a chance to win big while celebrating what makes Pittsburgh game days so special."

With 18 total winners throughout the season, there are still plenty of chances to score. A new winner is selected every week from eligible entries—no purchase necessary.

Entering is simple:

Simply visit your local SHOP 'n SAVE, including the Richland SHOP 'n SAVE, and scan the Tailgate Zone QR code located on in -store signage. Fill out your name, contact info, and store loca-

tion to enter. Shoppers can also upload a selfie with the signage for a chance to be featured on SHOP 'n SAVE's social media channels.

The sweepstakes runs through December 21, 2025, with one winner drawn each week. Good luck!



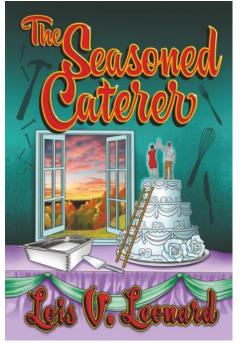
Cooking Up a Legacy of Family and Flavor

by Laurie Rizzo

North Side native Lois V. Leonard is serving up more than just recipes in her new book, *The Seasoned Caterer: Stories, Recipes, and Life Lessons from the Heart of the Four Seasons Banquet House*. It's a heartfelt tribute to the decades she and her husband, Joseph "Butchie" Leonard, spent running the beloved Four Seasons Banquet House in Hampton — a place that "was more than a business — it was family."

book blends The warm storytelling with cherished recipes and reflections on perseverance and community. "I was inspired by a lifetime in the catering business," Lois says. "Over the years, I collected so many stories, recipes, and life lessons that I wanted to preserve them-not only for my family, but for anyone who has ever worked hard behind the scenes in food service."

Readers are already praising the book's authenticity and heart. Lois hopes it leaves them "uplifted and en-



couraged," adding, "I want them to laugh, maybe shed a tear, and feel inspired that no matter what challenges come, you can keep moving forward."

Writing the book, she says, was "definitely like cooking a feast! At first it felt overwhelming—so many ingredients (stories, recipes, memories) spread out everywhere. But once I got them simmering together, it turned into a meal worth sharing."

Beyond her storytelling, Lois is also an accomplished inventor with six patents, including the WindBlocker chafing stand and Get-A-Grip food pans. "My first invention was sparked by a very

real problem—caterers getting burned by hot steam when lifting pans. I thought, there must be a safer way," she explains. "Necessity—and a little stubborn determination—truly became the mother of invention."

The Seasoned Caterer is available now on Amazon and TWBInnovations.com. It's geared toward "anyone who loves a good story, enjoys cooking, or appreciates the behind-thescenes world of catering and events."

With wisdom and a dash of humor, Lois V. Leonard invites readers to pull up a chair and savor the legacy of a life well-lived — one dish, one story, and one lesson at a time.







Innovation at its finest! Lois Leonard's 'Get-a-Grip' handles make buffet service safer, smoother, and smarter. In the top photo, her WindBlocker invention eliminates wire stands with a sleek, lightweight aluminum design—featuring foursided walls that fold flat for easy storage and extend fuel cell life. Just a glimpse into the brilliance behind her many practical creations!

Bishop's Tea **Honoring Service** and Tradition

On Sunday, September 21st, the Pittsburgh Field Club welcomed 98 remarkable young women for the annual Bishop's Tea, a cherished prelude to the Medallion Ball. Hosted in honor of this year's candidates, the event offered a moment of reflection, celebration, and gratitude for their extraordinary commitment to volunteer service.

The Reverend Bishop Mark Eckman greeted each candidate personally in a receiving line, offering warm words and blessings. Later, he addressed the group collectively, acknowledging their collective contribution of over 16,000 hours of service to the community. His message was one of deep appreciation: "Thank you for helping others," he



Addison Pozza and McKenna Restori with Bishop Mark Eckman at the Bishop's Tea

said, recognizing the spirit of generosity and compassion that defines the Medallion Ball tradition.

The Bishop's Tea, with its elegant setting and heartfelt tone, serves as a meaningful milestone for candidates preparing to be formally presented at the 62nd Medallion Ball. That celebration will take place on Friday, November 28th, 2025, at the Wyndham Grand Downtown Pittsburgh, where each candidate will be honored for her dedication to service and commitment to making a difference.

The photo of this year's candidates is shared, it captures more than just a moment-it reflects a legacy of kindness, leadership, and community spirit that continues to inspire.





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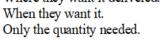


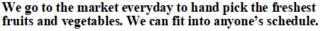


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Current Events

Farmer's Market

Wednesdays (Last Day October 8th) 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Community Center Parking Lot



Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable

Jake Wynn presents "Civil War Medicine." Monday, October 20th at 7 p.m. Community Center, 3200 Lochner Way Presentation is free and open to the public.



Halloween Parade

Saturday, October 25th, 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Trick Or Treat

Friday, October 31st—Please turn on your porch light if you plan on handing out candy 6:00—8:00 p.m.

For additional information on these events, visit www.hampton-pa.org

Spaghetti Dinner

Where: Parkwood Church by

Troop 17

When: Saturday, October 25th Where: Parkwood Church 4289 Mt. Royal Blvd. Time: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

All you can eat salad, pasta,

bread and gluten free options are available. \$10 adults \$5 kids (10-5) kids under 5 free



Talbot Tailgate Friday, Oct. 3



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Talbot Tailgate Shirt

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Hampton Middle School Back Lot, 3:30 -7:00 p.m.

Urgent Call for Donors: Hampton High School Blood Drive Needs You

The Central Blood Bank (Vitalant) is facing a critical shortage—and Hampton High School is stepping up to help. But we can't do it without you.



Three upcoming blood drives are scheduled at Hampton High, and every pint donated could mean the difference between life and death for someone in our community. The need is dire, and the time to act is now.

Blood Drive Dates at Hampton High School:

- Wednesday, October 29th 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 28th 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 8th 9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.

Whether you're a first-time donor or a seasoned giver, your contribution matters more than ever. Hospitals are struggling to keep shelves stocked, and patients awaiting surgery, cancer treatment, or emergency care are depending on us.

How to Sign Up:

Please contact School Nurse Kirsten Nelson to reserve your spot: 412-492-6384 Kirsten.nelson@ht-sd.org.

Let's rally together, Hampton. One hour of your time could save three lives. Be the reason someone gets a second chance.



Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest

We say it every year—and we mean it every year: Hampton knows how to carve a pumpkin! From spooky mas-



terpieces to silly squash with personality, the creativity our community brings to the annual Pumpkin Carving Contest never ceases to amaze us.

This October, we're thrilled to host the contest once again, and we can't wait to see what wild, whimsical, and wonderfully weird designs show up outside the Community Center. Whether your pumpkin is tall, tiny, lumpy, or lean, all real pumpkins are welcome—just no foam or craft pumpkins, please!

Key Dates to Remember:

- Pumpkin drop-off: begins Wednesday, October 22nd
- Judging day: Friday, October 24th at 2:00 p.m.
- Winners announced: By 4:00 p.m. on October 24th

How to Enter

Once you register, your contest number will print on your receipt. That number must be clearly displayed on your carved or painted pumpkin when you drop it off outside the Community Center. No number, no judging—so don't forget it!

Sponsorship for Community Events

We're committed to bringing fun and exciting events to our residents and community members—completely free of charge. Local businesses and organizations that sponsor our events receive recognition across multiple platforms, including our event webpage, social media channels, newsletters, and magazines.

If you're a local business or organization interested in sponsoring part of one of our annual events, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Matthew Hahn, event coordinator:

Phone: 412-487-7870 ext. 1315

Email: matthew.hahn@hampton-pa.org.

Parktoberfest

Get ready for Hampton's first-ever Parktoberfest on Friday, October 10th from 5–9 p.m. outside the Hampton Community Center! This free, family-friendly celebration promises an evening of live music, delicious food, refreshing drinks, and fun activities for all ages.

Groove to the sounds of Z Town Street Band while exploring tasty bites from Steel City Hot Dogs, PGH Crepes, Taqueria El Pastorcito, and Brisketburgh. Sip craft brews and spirits from Strange Roots and Lucky Sign Spirits, or enjoy non-alcoholic options. Kids can dive into games, face painting, and performances courtesy of Soulshine. All attendees under 21 must be accompanied by an adult. Vendor participation is subject to change, so stay tuned for updates. Come celebrate fall with music, flavor, and community spirit!





Volunteer Fire Department

Monthly Summary: August 1-August 31, 2025

Throughout the month of July, the Hampton Volunteer Fire Department responded to a wide range of calls, demonstrating unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community.

From emergency medical responses to fire alarms and public assistance, every call represents a moment when our volunteers stepped forward to protect lives and property.

We extend our gratitude to the firefighters and support personnel whose dedication continues to make Hampton a safer place for all.

August 2025 - 36 calls

Fire, structure	1
Fire, vegetation / brush	1
Rescue	1
Combustible / Flammable gas or liquid	1
Police assist	1
Fire, unauthorized burn	1
Motor vehicle, accident clean-up	2
Motor vehicle, rescue / extrication	2
Gas leak	6
Smoke / odor investigation	10
False alarm	10

Please visit us at the following events:

Home Depot Safety Day

Saturday, October 4th – 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Hampton Township Halloween Event

Saturday, October 25th – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

 $\label{thm:continuous} \mbox{Hampton Township Volunteer Fire Department DIAL\,911} \\ \mbox{for ALL emergencies}.$

www.HTVFD.org



We know how to enjoy fall at Hampton Fields Village...with activities, fun, and friendship. And forgetting all about foliage clean up and maintenance.

Call us at 412-492-8448 and set up a time to visit. See how true independence can mean more of things you want to do, and less of the things you have to do.

Hampton Fields Village

4480 Mt. Royal Blvd. Allison Park, PA 15101



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Pour at the Park North Park

Saturday, October 11, 2025 VIP 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm General Admission 6:00 – 9:00 pm North Park Lodge http://pouratthepark.com



Let us host or cater your

next event!

Call us to book your next event. 412.755.2121

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025

5:00 PM - 8:30 PM: Preview Party Tickets starting at \$150.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025

9:30 AM - 7:00 PM: \$10 admission \$45 admission with Luncheon.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

9:30 AM — 1:00 PM: \$10 admission \$45 admission with Luncheon.* *Advanced ticket purchase recommended

> For more information and tickets, visit: gcacpgh.org/pizzazz



Police Log (Continued from page 2) patient extraction and roadway clean-up.

DUI Arrest

On 9/5/2025, an officer observed a vehicle on William Flinn Highway travelling at a high rate of speed and appearing to be in the middle of both southbound lanes. The officer caught up to the vehicle and observed it failing to maintain its lane, changing lanes without using a turn signal and eventually hitting a curb as it was pulled over. Following the traffic stop and field sobriety testing the driver was arrested for suspicion of DUI.

Road Hazard

On 9/5/2025, officers responded to Cohasset Lane for a tree down, blocking the entire road. Hampton Department of Public Works quickly responded and removed the tree.

Safety Tip

Who Sent This Package? You Don't Want to Know

You may be familiar with QR codes. They are square black and white barcodes that you can scan with your phone's camera to be instantly directed to a website or mobile app. Unfortunately, cybercriminals can use QR codes to their advantage. This scam begins when you receive a package in the mail that you weren't expecting. There's no return address or sender information, but a QR code is printed on the box.

However, the package, which contains an item of little to no value, is just a trick to get you to scan the code. It was sent by cybercriminals, and they hope you will be tempted to scan the code to find out where the package came from. If you scan the QR code, you'll be taken to a fake website and asked to enter your personal information so that cybercriminals can steal it. The website could even secretly install malware on your device! Follow these tips to avoid falling for this QR code scam:

- Be suspicious of any package you receive that you didn't order, especially if it has no sender information.
- Never scan a QR code from a source you don't recognize or trust. Cybercriminals can use them to send you to malicious websites.

 Be careful about allowing websites and apps to access your phone's data after scanning a code. Cybercriminals can use these websites and apps to steal your data or download malware to your device.

Scams to watch out for this month:

This months scam alert: Watch for an email that looks like it's from a trusted brand, such as Costco or AAA. The email promises a free gift if you fill out a short survey and pay a small shipping fee so that the gift can be delivered to you. The email may create a sense of urgency by claiming that only a few free gifts are left. All you have to do is click a link in the email, which takes you to a website with the survey.

However, the website and survey are fake, and the gift doesn't exist. The small shipping fee is actually a trick to steal your financial information. If you enter your credit card details on the website, you'll give your payment information directly to scammers. Then, they can use your card for more expensive purchases or sell your data to other cybercriminals. Even worse, they can use the personal information you entered to steal your identity!

Follow these tips to avoid falling for this phishing scam:

- Legitimate organizations would not ask for your credit card details to cover shipping for a completely free promotional item.
- Instead of clicking links in an email, go directly to the organization's official website to check if the offer is real. Think before you click!
- Be skeptical of any offer that seems too good to be true, even if it appears to come from a brand you know and trust.

A Taxing Smishing Scam

Cybercriminals are targeting taxpayers in the state of California by sending text messages that look like they're from the Franchise Tax Board (FTB), a state tax agency. The message claims your tax refund has been approved and instructs you to select a link to enter your payment information. There is a very strict deadline, and the instructions state that you will lose your tax refund if you do not

enter your payment information quickly. However, this message is a smishing, or text phishing, scam sent by cybercriminals. The link doesn't take you to the official FTB website. Instead, it leads to a fake webpage designed to look real. If you enter your personal details or banking information on this page, the scammers will steal it!

Follow these tips to avoid falling victim to this smishing scam:

- Be suspicious of any text message that claims to be from a government agency like the IRS or a state tax board. These agencies will not contact you by text to ask for your personal or financial information.
- Never select links in unexpected text messages. If you need to check on the status of a tax refund, go to the official tax agency's website directly by typing the address into your browser.

While this scam targets taxpayers in California, watch out for messages that create a sense of urgency or use threats. Scammers do this to rush you into making a mistake without thinking. Always stop and think before taking action!



Monday, December 8th!

Rocket Launch (Continued from page 1) where they will spend the next six months collecting data. Among those students was HHS senior Andrew Craig, the only member of his team who was able to make the trip. With his father at his side, Andrew stood under a dark sky suddenly illuminated by the brightest of lights, feeling awestruck and immensely proud as he witnessed his team's work leave the confines of Earth.

Andrew, along with fellow HHS senior Daniel Tabokov and three other local high schoolers, began their journey in June 2024 when they attended a three-day Go For Launch! program, during which students were challenged to design a space experiment. The program is run by Higher Orbits, a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire students through spaceflight and project-based experiences that promote Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). The teams presented their ideas to judges-Higher Orbits founder and CEO Michelle Lucas and astronaut Wendy Lawrence who then chose one team to move forHigher orbits

Higher orbits

Higher orbits

Higher orbits

Hampton senior Andrew Craig (front right) joins fellow scientists from around the country to witness the launch of the SpaceX rocket carrying their experiments to the International Space Station.

ward to send their experiment to space. A total of four experiments from regional events around the country earned spots on

the SpaceX mission.

Andrew's team, the Cosmic Critters, created an investigation into the problem-solving abilities of a single-celled organism called slime mold; along with an ability to efficiently find food and adapt to changing situations, slime mold produces antibiotic and anticancer biochemicals. The Cosmic Critters are looking into how the organism will react when gravitational restraints are eliminated.

Reflecting on his launch experience, Andrew explains, "We were across a narrow river a few miles away from the launch but we could still see it clearly. They had a large screen that was showing close-up views of the launch, and when they began the countdown, everyone just got silent. Then," he continues, "I first saw the light, flames that were so bright it was like looking into the sun for a moment, blinding a spot in my vision. The rocket lifted and curved, and then I felt the shock waves and heard the roar from the rocket as it was lifting off. That was my favorite moment, that feeling as it washed over me. Then, as it kept going off into space, I lost track of it for a second because of the blind spot from the light. Then I saw what looked like a moving star and realized that was it, and I felt such a sensation of accomplishment as I watched it go into space."

Acting on advice from Ms. Lucas, Andrew kept his phone safely tucked away so he could remain firmly rooted in this moment of a lifetime: "She told us, 'Do not take video because you want to be in the moment; SpaceX and NASA will have great videos.' I took her advice, and I'm so glad I did. I truly lived that moment, my eyes locked on the launch."



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Upcoming Events

Cocktails and Mixology

Shake, Stir, Sip: Mixology Night with Lucky Sign Spirits

Get ready to raise your spirits—literally! Lucky Sign Spirits will lead a hands-on, 90-minute mixology experience at the Hampton Community Center, and it's one you won't want to miss.

This popular class introduces participants to two timeless cocktail templates: the Old Fashioned and the Sour. Whether you're a seasoned home bartender or just curious about the craft, you'll dive into the history, context, and colorful stories behind these classic drinks. Then, it's time to roll up your sleeves and get mixing.

With expert guidance from Lucky Sign Spirits, you'll learn proper technique and presentation, then experiment with ingredients to create your own personalized versions. From citrus twists to unexpected infusions, this is your chance to design cocktails that reflect your unique taste. Event Details

Date: Wednesday, November 5th

• Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

• Location: Hampton Community Center

Fee: \$50 per participantAge Requirement: 21 and up

Registration Deadline: Friday, October 31st

Please note: This is an adults-only program. All participants must be 21 years of age.

Hampton Heroes Veterans Recognition Event

November 3rd at 10 a.m. Fridley Field



HHS Drama Club Fall Play: "Death by Chocolate"

November 13th, 14th and 15th
All shows are at 7:30 p.m. in the HHS
auditorium



HMS Fall Musical: "Beetlejuice Jr."

November 20th and 21st at 7:30 p.m. November 22nd at 1:00 p.m. All shows are in the HMS auditorium



Hampton Township Community's Santa's Sparktacular

When: Thursday, December 4th Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Hampton Community Park

Stay connected with everything happening in the Hampton Township School District! Visit www.ht-sd.org for the latest news, updates, and event details—and don't forget to follow HTSD on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to see what's happening across the schools in real time.

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Protecting Access to Lifesaving Vaccines

by State Rep. Arvind Venkat

We are seeing an increasing amount of chaos in Washington, especially within health policy agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that oversee many important aspects of public health, including vaccines.

This turmoil is now putting policymakers with anti-vaccine ideology in charge of vaccine access instead of those prioritizing scientific evidence. We must make sure that Pennsylvanians who choose to receive vaccines can receive them without difficulty.

To make sure Pennsylvanians do not lose access to lifesaving vaccines, I have recently proposed two bills with several of my colleagues that would keep immunizations affordable and accessible in our state.

My first piece of legislation, H.B. 1828, would require private insurers to cover vaccines recommended by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The department would be able to draw upon the expertise of several professional medical societies in making these recommendations.

The second would bolster the ability of pharmacists to administer vaccines recommended by Pennsylvania's state health authorities, which may also be informed by the expertise of professional medical societies. Governor Josh Shapiro has stated he is fighting to protect vaccine access. The legislation would enshrine these protections in state law, overcoming this moment of antivaccine ideology.

Current state law bases private insurance coverage and pharmaceutical administration only on federal recommendations. These bills would ensure that Pennsylvanians can stay healthy and safe, even if the federal government wrongly pushes for the opposite.





I'm introducing a package of legislation to protect Pennsylvania utility customers from skyrocketing electricity costs caused by data centers.

Our families should not be paying more for their electricity because enormous data centers might move into our neighborhoods—and they certainly should not be subsidizing electricity costs for giant corporations. Western Pennsylvania has a long history of prioritizing the needs of industry billionaires at the expense of the people who built this country. This is our chance to reverse that trend and put the needs of our working families, our seniors, and everyday people first, ahead of corporate profits.

According to the PJM Independent Market Monitor, data center load growth is the primary reason for recent increases in capacity prices. If not for data centers, capacity prices would have been lower, leading to lower energy bills for Pennsylvania households.

Rising energy bills mean that more and more people will need help keeping their lights and heat on. But commercial data centers – the entities causing energy bills to rise – do not pay into Pennsylvania's customer assistance programs (CAP). Rather, the cost of these programs falls exclusively on residential customers, including the low income customers most likely to need the assistance.

Allegheny County United Way 211 consistently reports Electric Service Payment Assistance among its top identified needs from callers. With federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding in question for coming years, local customer assistance programs are more critical than ever.

This legislation is a first step towards keeping the lights on for our seniors, families, and children, while ensuring that our largest users of electricity are not paying the least.



CONGRESSMAN CHRIS DELUZIO Pennsylvania's 17th District

An Update from Congressman Chris Deluzio

Congressman Chris Deluzio Survey
Should smartphones be in classrooms?

In my last update, I shared how this summer, I asked every school district in Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional District a simple question: what will your policies be this coming school year around smartphone use in the classroom?

I did this because I'm a dad of four and I see the clear evidence that smartphones in the classroom are hurting learning. I think we've got to do more to help our kids learn in the face of Big Tech pushing their addictive and distracting devices and apps on our kids.

Now I want to hear from you as we start a new school year: do you think that schools should ban smartphones in K-12 classrooms? Take my one-question survey.

We've seen a lot of interest in this issue since I first announced my push to protect our kids from smartphone addiction and set them up to succeed at school. At the state level in Harrisburg, there is a bill backed by both Republicans and Democrats to make every PA school phone-free all day. I've heard from lots of parents, teachers, and Western Pennsylvanians from both political parties about how we've got to make our classrooms free of smartphone distractions,

so our kids can focus on learning.

What do you think? Please take a minute to let me know and fill out my survey.



Jeremy Shaffer



Working Together to Make Hampton Even Better

Western Pennsylvania is made up of wonderful communities like Hampton, where people can live, raise a family and find engaging employment. Our area should be one of the fastest growing, most dynamic in the entire country. However, high taxes and regulations are driving many of our own businesses and people away.

The good news is we are fortunate to have all the ingredients necessary for growth with our amazing workforce,

great schools (K-12 and colleges), cultural amenities, natural resources, world class health care, outdoor recreation and so



The PPG Innovations Center in Hampton helps lead the world in research. "I enjoyed my tour!"

much more. I am committed to working in a bipartisan manner with my colleagues in Harrisburg and local government partners to put these ingredients together and position our region for growth.

It's unacceptable the Pittsburgh region continues to stagnate and slowly lose population. I will continue to roll out a slate of reform initiatives to help streamline our state government and encourage growth.

As always, I look forward to your suggestions and comments. Please don't hesitate to visit our Gibsonia or Wexford offices for any assistance you might need.

Also, join me in supporting some of the many great events in our community including the HAEE 5K on October 12th and the Operation Troop Appreciation 5K on November 9th, both take place at Hampton Community Park.

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Re-elect for Hampton Township Council

Carolynn **Johnson**

Bethany Blackburn

Julie Fritsch

Connecting the Community

Through neighborhood pathways and community events, we're connecting our neighbors and building our community. The next 4 years will see more trails, like the Topnick path, and added activities for all ages.

Investing in Public Safety

By embedding social services in our police department, we're helping our most vulnerable while allowing officers to focus on law enforcement. Now it's time to focus on storm preparedness, rebuilding the Route 8/Wildwood intersection, and consolidating fire and EMS into a centralized facility.

Continuing Fiscal Responsibility

Despite inflation, responsible fiscal management has allowed us to improve on infrastructure and essential services, while maintaining emergency reserves. We've renovated the police department, updated the Community Center, pool, and park, increased road paving, and modernized police and public works equipment.



We are professionals. We are volunteers. We are your representatives. We want to continue to serve you to make our community even better!



VOTE Tuesday, November 4th!

Learn more: https://www.hamptontownshipdems.com/candidates.html Facebook:@Hampton Democratic Committee

Complete an application for mail-in ballot before 10/28/2025:

https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineMailInBegin

Paid for the Hampton Democratic Committee