

FREE The Hampton News

April 2026

From the Neighborhoods of Hampton Township, PA

Vol. 21 No. 8

Celebrating the Leaders Who Make Our Community Strong

by Laurie Rizzo

The Heart of Hampton Award ceremony was held at Wildwood Golf Club on the evening of Saturday, March 14th. Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence, (HAAE) board members Hannalore Merritt and Rick Gazica emceed the program with

warmth and professionalism. Congratulations to this year's winners Matthew Mays, Jacqlyn Boggs, Lynn Zdinak, and Luke Martin.

Jacqlyn Boggs was nominated by Angie Spess for the work she has done for the

North Hills Community Outreach when she joined in 2016 and rose from volunteer tax preparer to Senior Director of Programs and Services, overseeing 17 staff and core

(Continued on page 10)

Photo by Danielle Marcus



At the Heart of Hampton awards ceremony: the HAAE Board with the four honorees.

Left to right — Gail Scott, Christy Zelch, Michelle Espinosa Clark, Hannalore Merritt, Matthew Mays (Honoree), Jacqlyn Boggs (Honoree), Luke Martin (Honoree), Lynn Zdinak (Honoree), Rick Gazica, Danielle Marcus, Allie Nulf, and Dan Simone.

A Powerful Showing For Speech & Debate Team

by _____

The Hampton High School Speech & Debate Team earned top honors and competed in late March at the PA High School Speech League State Tournament at Bloomsburg University.

Coach Alison McBee, who began coaching at Knoch in 2012 and at Hampton in 2014, praised the students' preparation and versa-

(Continued on page 14)

THON 2026 A Success

by Daniela Khoury

THON is an amazing event in which the entire high school and community come together to raise money and awareness for childhood cancer. We had a great high school showing with a bout 250 participants and we also had amazing community hours where we got to see the many people who allow our community to thrive. Together we raised \$35,150. 100% of which goes directly to UPMC Chil-

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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 2/28/2026—3/15/2026:

Disorderly Conduct

 On March 12, 2026, officers responded to CVS Pharmacy for a disorderly male who threatened an employee. The suspect left the store, damaged a vehicle in the parking lot, and fled in his vehicle. A witness saw him breaking the vehicle's mirrors and a window and obtained the license plate number. The victim reported that the suspect confronted her inside the store, yelled at her, and threatened to kick in the office door. An employee confirmed witnessing these threats and the vehicle damage. The vehicle sustained damage to both mirrors and the front passenger-side window, and the victim declined to pursue charges. The suspect was instructed not to return to the property and informed that a disorderly conduct citation would be filed.

Fire

On March 9, 2026, HTPD were dispatched to Farmview Dr. for a report of a smell of natural gas inside the residence. Officers arrived on scene alongside Hampton Fire. Hampton Fire conducted an investigation and determined the odor was coming from a gas can leaking into the foundation of the home.

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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.

Production, Print and Design: Laurie & John Rizzo

Proofreading: Deb Brady

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THON (Continued from page 1)

dren’s Hospital for childhood cancer, \$5,000 more than our goal. Our top donor, Darren Dunlap, a childhood cancer survivor herself, raised \$9,370 alone! Way to go Darran! Right behind her was Brody Barry another childhood cancer survivor raising \$4,635. We are beyond proud of Darran, Brody and everyone who made this event and all the fundraising possible! We cannot wait to see what we can do next year!



Darran Dunlap spoke to the student body describing her childhood cancer and recovery



Arya Vyas, Daniela Khoury, and Maddie Rossi



Mia Veverka, Brody Barry, and Landon Gosey



More THON participants playing mini golf



1st graders from Wyland Tessa and Lucy

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Police Log

(Continued from page 2)

On March 15, 2026, officers were dispatched to Harts Run Road for a reported transformer explosion and brush fire. Upon arrival, officers observed an active fire on the wooded hillside and multiple power lines down in the area. Hampton Fire responded and extinguished the fire. Duquesne Light was notified and arrived on scene to address the downed and energized power lines.

Vehicle Accident

On March 4, 2026, officers responded to a single vehicle crash on Mt. Royal Boulevard involving a vehicle that struck a telephone pole. There were no injuries, and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

On March 10, 2026, the HTPD were dispatched by Allegheny County Emergency Service to William Flinn Highway near the KFC restaurant for a reported vehicle-motorcycle crash. One individual was transported to the hospital, and both vehicles were towed from the scene.

On March 12, 2026, HTPD responded to a multi-vehicle crash near 4035 William Flinn Highway. Three vehicles were involved, two of which were on fire and later extinguished by Hampton Fire units. One person sustained minor injuries and was transported to the hospital. Two vehicles were towed from the scene.

Property Damage

On March 9, 2026, an officer returned a phone call request from a resident regarding vehicle damage that occurred overnight. Upon speaking with the complainant, he reported that his vehicle had been scratched in a zig zag pattern, consistent with damage caused by a key. There are no cameras on the property, and neighboring residences are too far away to have captured any video footage of the incident. A report was completed for insurance purposes.

Public Assistance / Support

On March 11, 2026, while patrolling William Flinn Highway, an officer observed a young male walking in the roadway. Upon contact, the individual stated he was

traveling to a friend's residence in Butler County and had no other options for transportation. Due to the safety concerns associated with walking on a major highway, the Officer provided a courtesy transport to the Sheetz in Butler.


North Hills DUI Task Force

The North Hills DUI Task Force had a DUI detail on March 6, 2026 in conjunction with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration Checkpoint Strike Force.

The Task Force conducted a Roving DUI Patrol in all jurisdictions of the North Hills along various state roads. There were 156 vehicles that were stopped for various traffic violations and 3 individuals were administered a field sobriety test. Of those tested, 1 individual was arrested for driving under the influence. There were 31 citations and 151 warnings issued for various vehicle code violations.

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Library News



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Show your LOVE and stop by the Hampton Library! The sun's setting later and we're ready to brighten your days with lively programs, engaging events, and plenty of spring cheer. Come see what's waiting for you!

Please note the library will be closed on Friday, April 3rd and open Saturday, April 4th from 9:00am-1:00pm.

The library will close at 1:00 pm on Monday, April 13th for a staff training event.

The French and Indian War!

Sunday, April 26th @ 1:00 p.m. -3/3:30 P.M.

Celebrate America's 250 in a war game that laid the foundation for the American Revolution.

Spend the afternoon navigating the battle in miniature! Are the British truly an elite fighting force who can outmaneuver the French and the Native Americans or will the British falter? Using a physical diorama, this strategy/miniatures game will recreate the opening contact between the British and the French and their native allies at the start of the Battle of the

Monongahela, right there in modern day Braddock! You may place soldiers on a table, lay out the terrain, and use rules to simulate how real troops might have behaved. It's immersive, educational, and surprisingly close to how military historians study battlefield movement.

Please Register by April 24th. 412-684-1098, no experience or knowledge of the war is necessary, just a desire to have fun and learn! Please note this program is designed for high-school through adults.

Hop into a Spring-Filled Drop-in Storytime!

Join us as we fill our mornings with stories, songs and crafts designed to create discoveries in the world around us. All ages and abilities are welcome! Come early and stay for all the activities or come later and stay for a few; you decide!

Now through May 7, 2026 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays *

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*

(Continued on page 6)



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Library

(Continued from page 5)

Teens and Tweens Dungeons and Dragons!

Saturdays, April 25th and May 2nd @ 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

Hampton Community Library's Genealogy Group

Tuesday, April 7th @ 1:00 p.m.

Curious about your family's past? Then stop in at the library and join our NEW program, hosted by Trish Buben, a professional genealogist. Whether you're just learning or have been researching for years, you'll find support, shared knowledge, and helpful resources at each meeting. This program is designed to meet monthly and build upon previous successes or solve roadblocks! Everyone will learn research tips, discover the library's genealogy tools, and connect with others who enjoy uncovering family stories. All are welcome—no experience needed!

Origami! Tuesdays @ 1:00 p.m.

Join Mary Garnett and fellow creative enthusiasts as we learn basic folds and create simple models, with a special focus on the elegant Origami Butterfly. Initial supplies will be provided. Class size is limited, adults only, advance registration is required—please call the library (412-684-1098).

Mahjong Club Thursdays @ 1:00 PM

Are you interested in learning Mahjong or connecting with others who enjoy this exciting, strategy-filled tile game? Then stop by and play. We will be using the American Mahjong. If you have a set- bring it! All experience levels are welcome—from complete beginners to seasoned players. If you've ever been curious about Mahjong, this is the perfect opportunity to learn more and get involved.

News and Views!

Friday, April 10th and May 1st @ 1:00 p.m. in the library.

This long-time discussion group provides an opportunity for participants to engage in thoughtful, peer-facilitated discussion in a small, respectful setting. Designed to encourage listening, reflection, and the exchange of ideas, all are welcome who enjoy civil and engaging dialogue.

Dungeons and Dragons: The Dolmenwood Edition!

Saturday, April 11 and May 9 @ 12:00 p.m.

Come join 'Winter's Daughter', travel back to ancient times to a knight's tomb, a forgotten treasure and a sinister Drune cult. This adult program is for anyone who enjoys role-play, meeting new people and just having fun! Registration is appreciated – 412-684-1098.

Betty's Book Buzz Discussion Group

Friday, April 17th @ 1:00 p.m.

The Holy Ghost, by John Sandford

(Continued on page 7)

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Trivia Night

Everyone had a fantastic time at the Hampton Community Library's Trivia Night on Saturday, March 20th! Thank you to everyone who came out and made the evening so memorable.

At the end of the night, we did experience a technical issue with our scoring, and we appreciate everyone's patience and understanding. After reviewing the results, the Madhatters claimed first place, with the Smartini's finishing in a very close second.

We sincerely apologize for the mix-up and are already working on improvements to ensure an even smoother experience next year. Thank you again and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another fun-filled night!

Library

(Continued from page 6)

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!

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

You are Fatally Invited, By Ande Pliego.

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!

Cooks-N-Books: Thursday, April 23rd @ 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m. Slow Cooker Meals!

Love food, friends, and fun conversation? Join *Cooks-n-Books*, our welcoming cookbook and food discussion group for anyone who enjoys cooking or eating! We meet in the Adult Lounge inside the Hampton Community Center. There is a \$2.00 fee to cover the cost of supplies.

Craft Swap

Thursday, May 7th 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Did you start a hobby like scrapbooking, knitting, or cardmaking and now you don't have the time and wonder what to do with the stuff? Join us in our Craft



Top Left: The Madhatters

Row 1: Lesley Cowles, Lisa and Lou Gibson,

Row 2: Karen Schmidt, Mary Modlin, Annette Sparrow

Row 3: John Carlins, Jamie Morrill, Jason Modlin, Mark Sparrow

Bottom: Smartinis

Ken Napierkowski Family and Friends.



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Student Excels in Emergency Response Training

by Laurie Rizzo

Preston Cochran, a senior at Hampton High School and second year student at A.W. Beattie Career Center, is earning real world experience and credentials in Emergency Response Technologies. Preston recently received his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) license from Beattie and volunteers after school with Shaler-Hampton Emergency Medical Services (SHEMS) while working a part time job in construction.

A.W. Beattie Career Center Emergency Response Technology Instructor Lee Silnutzer highlighted the program's new cutting edge training tools: "The program received a grant for \$85,000 for a simulated ambulance and dummy for the career center. The technology of the dummy mimics certain respiratory conditions even as advanced as dilated pupils for



Preston Cochran and Instructor Lee Silnutzer inside the new simulated ambulance

learning. The simulated ambulance is equipped with cameras so the students in the classroom can observe." The new technology enhances classroom learning and bridges simulation with live observation.

Preston described how the course prepares students for certification and hands on work: "you learn all the fundamentals in Emergency Response Technologies and gets you fully prepared to pass your Emergency Medical Provider psychomotor and cognitive tests. At SHEMS, I learned more advanced skills like helping the paramedic with various tasks and being more confident in my abilities."

After graduation, Preston will serve in the United States military at Lakeland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, taking his EMT training into a disciplined, and military service focused career. His instructors and peers say his combination of classroom excellence and volunteer experience sets a strong example for future Beattie students.

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Hues & Harmony Celebrates the Arts

by Mary-Theresa Watson

On a cool, breezy March evening, Hampton High School resembled a museum of sorts, as student-created visual art and music filled the halls for the district's biannual Hues & Harmony event. The two-day exhibition showcased the creative work of Hampton students in grades 3 through 12, from unique visual art displays to a variety of musical performances featuring ensembles from the middle and high schools.

HHS Fine Arts Instructor Dan Franklin always looks forward to the event, explaining, "Hues and Harmony is biannual, which allows the interest to really build up. [With so many grades represented,] the viewer gets a complete yet birds-eye view of the entire visual arts track at Hampton." Looking to future generations of artists, Dan adds, "We like to have student artists at the exhibition, demonstrating to the younger students. I think this helps the younger kids to see what they could accomplish when they reach secondary."

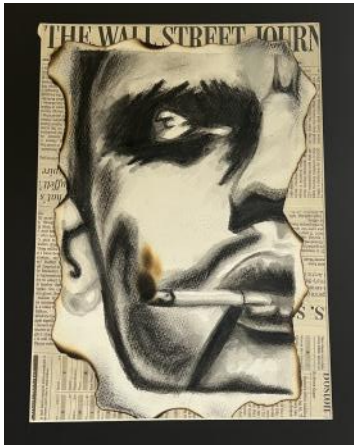
Thrilled to see all the beautiful artwork on display, HMS Visual Arts teacher Lisa Woods found herself bearing witness to the evolution of young artists. "It's fantastic to see the work of former students!" she exclaims. "I find myself captivated by their

personalities emerging in the content of their artwork. I suppose it's a little bit like being a relative of a young person you don't get to see frequently. You know them as a bright young person, full of potential, and after a few years pass, you see them again as this poised student artist making skillful and meaningful artwork. It's really a privilege to watch the development of young artists."

Of course, no celebration is complete without music, and there was plenty to enjoy, courtesy of a variety of HTSD music ensembles. Further showcasing the meaningful collaboration between all the art departments within the district, the Harmony portion of the event featured something for everyone, creating a true celebration of the arts in Hampton. Visitors were serenaded by a range of performers, including the HHS orchestra, the HMS and HHS jazz bands, the HHS Concert Choir, the HMS Show Choir, the HHS brass quintet, and the Talbot Chamber Orchestra.

In reflecting on this year's event, Lisa shares, "I am so proud of all the Hampton art students and my amazing colleagues. Creating art takes courage. Making art—something new and fresh that only your hands and your heart can imagine and put together—is remarkably human."

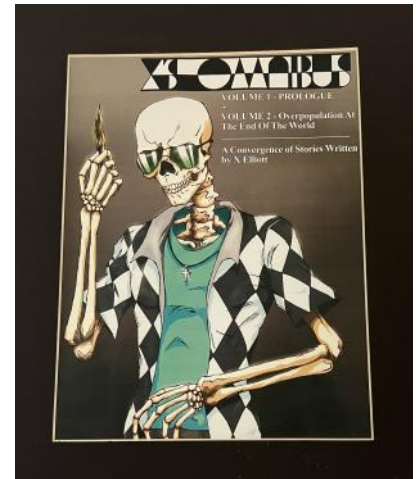
Scholastic Arts Awards 2026 Winners: Ellie Alexander, Elliott X. Domske, Elyse Fontana, Hannah Gaydos, Madelyn Goode, Maria Graper, Olivia Hays-Reagan, Marin Katona-Bock, Libby Sheets, Taylor Whitman.



12th grader Ellie Alexander Wall Street Drawing



At Hues & Harmony, Elyse Fontana finds joy at the pottery wheel, supported by her friend Kayden who plays violin and her brother Ethan, a 2021 HHS graduate.



10th grade Elliott X. Domske award winning piece Prologue Silver



Emma Kridler 5th grader at Poff in front of her self portrait.



12th grader Elyse Fontana's ceramic piece, Messy Kitty!

Your Partners in Real Estate Present:

HAMPTON HOME SALES (2/16/2026 - 3/15/2026)

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

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2167 S Villa Drive	\$1,250,000	\$1,175,000	17
3001 Swansea Crescent West	\$749,000	\$749,000	69
4573 Sylvan Drive	\$535,000	\$520,000	40
4112 Buckboard Trail	\$480,000	\$450,500	47
3151 Seneca Court	\$460,000	\$450,000	52
3278 Cramlington Drive	\$400,000	\$380,000	12
5136 Polo Fields Drive	\$325,000	\$300,000	175
4360 Hemlock Circle	\$205,000	\$205,000	5

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Maintain It: Make sure all your windows open smoothly for those perfect spring breezes.

Refresh It: Gallery wall time! Grab those photos sitting in your phone, mix in some art you love, and create a wall that tells your story. (Bonus points if it makes you smile every time you walk by.)

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Heart of Hampton (Continued from page 1)

programs like Free Tax Prep, housing assistance, and education support. She led NHCO through a sensitive transition as Acting Executive Director, trains volunteers, and builds community partnerships that stabilize families and support student success. In addition to her professional role, she serves as vice chair of the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber of Commerce and is a former president of the Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence. She is an active Rotarian and recently earned her Master of Business Administration along with several awards.

Luke Martin was nominated by Ashley Lynn Priore for exemplifying Hampton leadership through quiet service, innovation, and mentorship. He created and taught a summer chess program at the Hampton Community Library, volunteers at Poff Elementary, and organized a charity chess tournament. As Rotary® Interact president he redesigned fundraising, doubling

profits, and as Co-President of the Chess Club he builds participation and mentors younger players. Honored with the Golden Heart Award, Junior Achievement 18 Under 18, and Top 10 Outstanding Young Citizen, Luke's empathy, humility, and collaborative leadership deeply strengthen Hampton's youth and community.

Matthew Mays was nominated for Heart of Hampton 2025 for outstanding leadership as the president of the Hampton Junior Football Association and 10U head coach. He organized preseason training, secured modern protective gear and athletic trainers, involved and educated parents, and led the 10U team to a super

bowl win. He built partnerships with middle and high schools, creating a safe, nurturing program that developed skills, character, and long term success in Hampton football.

Lynn Zdinak has served Wyland Elementary for 23 years as a third-grade teacher, mentor, coach, and community advocate. A Hampton Township native, she brought deep local commitment to innovative, student-centered instruction, hands-on literacy, inquiry-based science, and technology integration. Lynn was nominated for her tireless dedication, fosters academic growth, social-emotional development, and inclusive classroom

culture. She coached varsity softball and volleyball for decades, mentored athletes in resilience and leadership. As an HAAE board member, she strengthened district-wide opportunities. Colleagues praise her mentorship, collaboration, and leadership. Lynn's sustained excellence, compassion, and community rooted service made her a deserving embodiment of the Heart of Hampton and lasting impact.



Honorees: Matthew Mays, Jacquelyn Boggs, Lynn Zdinak and Luke Martin accepting their awards at Wildwood Country Club.

Sports

Hockey In Hampton Is More Than A Sport, It's A Family Tradition

by Brett Burkhart

In Hampton, hockey is more than a pastime, it's a way of life. These are a few of the families with multiple players and who pour their time and passion into the sport.

Gynn Family

Dan and Jamie Gynn have four children who were on skates almost as soon as they could walk and formally started at age six. The family builds a backyard ice rink each winter, giving the kids extra ice time and a place to hone skills together. Dan has more than 20 years of coaching experience and currently referees several times a week. He is the founder and owner of StatZone, a software company that provides tools for hockey organizations; registration, tryouts, video review, team communications and more.

The oldest Gynn, Erica played for several club teams as well as three years of varsity at Hampton. She now competes for Penn State's ACHA D1 women's team while finishing an actuarial science degree. Her dad jokes because her teammates voted her "most likely to carry the team's GPA."

Danica (Dani) Gynn joined a club team and later moved with her sister Erica to the Armstrong Arrows in 2022-23 and helped the team medal at a national level. She is now a freshman in the

dental hygiene program at WVU and plays on their women's hockey team.

Elijah (Eli) is a defenseman and junior on Hampton's varsity squad. Jonah the youngest, returned to hockey and finished his freshman year on Hampton's varsity Talbot roster.



Gynn family at the Hampton Hockey Alumni game at the Frozen Pond Arena on December 26th, 2025. Left to right: Danica, Erica, Dan, Jonah and Eli.

Fogle Family

Lisa and Brian Fogle have spent countless hours at the rink supporting their three hockey playing children. For the past dec-

(Continued on page 18)

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Community Basketball Teams

The Purple Pythons, coached by Darrin Henderson, captured the championship in the Hampton Community Center 3rd-6th grade girls league after an outstanding season. The team finished 7-1, a record that reflects not just wins but steady improvement. The Pythons learned early season fundamentals, and showed tremendous growth and teamwork to earn every trophy



Above: Girls 3rd through 6th grade (Purple Pythons)

Below: Boys 7th and 8th grade team champions record 9-1, ranked 1st place!

Top left to right: Sofia Maier, Laney Ferketic, Emma Demmler, Mona Mauro, Olivia Henderson, Samantha Murray, Ella Henderson, Riley Enright and not pictured Xander Vinciguerra

Bottom left to right: Coach Brian Rampulla, Alex Ruffa, Liam Arvay, Lucas Rzoski, Logan Rampulla, Blake Frauenheim, Tyler Florcik, Wyatt Szramowski, Coach Adam Frauenheim Not pictured: Jacob Moore



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Thrivent provides advice and guidance through its Financial Planning Framework that generally includes a review and analysis of a client's financial situation. A client may choose to further their planning engagement with Thrivent through its Dedicated Planning Services (an investment advisory service) that results in written recommendations for a fee.

20328 R4-23

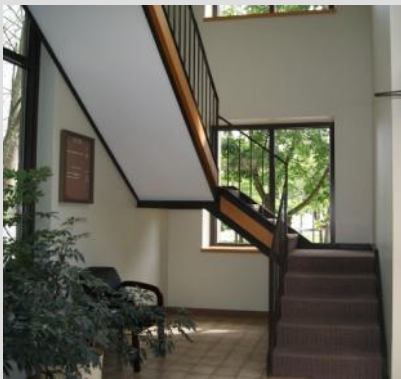


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Speech & Debate

(Continued from page 1)

tivity. "It depends on the event," she said, describing the various demands and topics the competitors face. "The students who do commentary and extemporaneous speaking get their topics 30 minutes prior to their speaking time and they present speeches memorized commenting on what they researched. Although there's not much planning ahead, students have to really know the event rules and their timing and practice organized delivery."

McBee explained interpretation events: "In Poetry and the other interpretation events, students prepare a work of literature and deliver a reading of it in 10 minutes." She noted that Thi Malesky and Zoe Galone who competed combined selections from classic and contemporary works to craft powerful programs.

Standout performances included junior William Zhang, who placed 5th in House Congress and reached the super session for the third consecutive year; Thi Malesky and Zoe Galone,

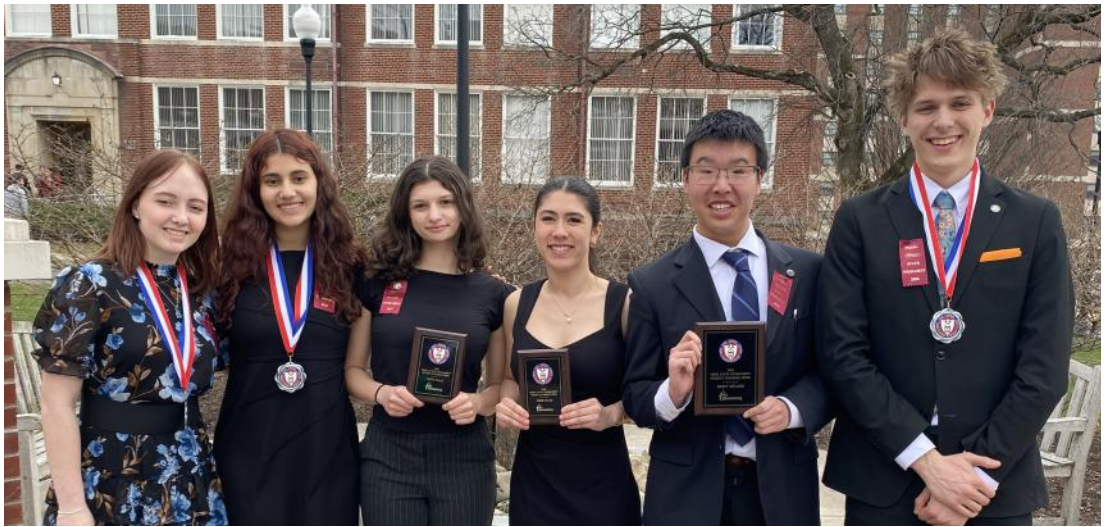
who finished 3rd and 5th in Poetry Reading; semifinalists Sonia Troiana and Vivian Sattler in News Broadcasting; and Leo Stadt, a semifinalist in Commentary.

McBee highlighted the program's legacy: "We had a state champion in Commentary back in 2019, Chris Chengshi, a National finalist (3rd place) in Extemporaneous Debate in 2016, Jack Evans, and two members who were on the 6th place World School Debate team Chris Chengshi and Megan Kang when we competed online at Nationals in 2020." She also praised the supportive speech-and-debate community and alumni who continue to judge and coach.

On preparation, McBee emphasized commitment: "Preparing for a state level tournament requires a lot of after school practices and during Lunch and Learn, as well as quite a bit of time on their own, since the program is an extracurricular club, no classes are associated with it." The team is student driven!

Hampton awaits additional results on March 28th.

Pictured below HHS juniors: Vivian Sattler, Sonia Troiana, Zoe Galone, Thi Malesky, William Zhang, and Leo Stadt at Bloomsburg University.



Blessed Trinity Academy Forensics Team Wins Regular Season Championship

by Meredith Kandravy

Blessed Trinity Academy's (BTA) forensics team capped a spectacular season on March 7th with strong showings at both the Finals Meet and the All-Star Tournament. The squad tied for fourth place out of 20 teams at the Finals Meet and finished the regular season as champions, the top-scoring team across the season.

At the All-Star Tournament, top readers from each category advanced to two final rounds. Blessed Trinity sent four students to the second round: Ryan Chase (Poetry), Lucy Williamson (Prose), Rowan Blauvelt and Stefania Quattrocchi (Group Read), and Ashley Stonfer (Impromptu). In a standout performance, 8th-grader Ashley Stonfer was crowned Impromptu Diocesan Champion.

BTA was the only team to score triple digits at all three regular-season meets, and every reader placed in each round at every meet this year. The achievement is especially impressive given the program welcomed 12 new fifth and sixth graders this season. All participants attended at least two meets, reflecting strong commitment and depth across the roster.

The team's results highlight both experienced leadership and promising new talent, setting high expectations for next season.

Sitting at the bottom of steps to top: Francesco Papa, Henry Lohr, Vincent Sciulli, Henry Seagraves, Evie Kovacs, Harper Stehle, Will DeSanzo, Evan Tinsely, Stefania Quattrocchi, Henry Rau, Audrey Kibler, Felicity Makuta, Emer Corrigan, Muiriel Tunno, Juliet Kibler, Ryan Chase, Lily Repp, Lucy Williamson, Ashley Stonfer, Rowan Blauvelt



Where Are They Now?

A Magical Night and a Bright Future

by Brett Burkhardt

Adanna Smith still remembers the moment her name was announced as Hampton High School's 2024 Homecoming Queen. "The surprise made me feel special, because my classmates voted for me," she said. One of her favorite memories was the homecoming



dance, which she describes as a "magical moment." Now a graduate of Hampton, Smith is preparing for her next chapter: college. Living with Down syndrome, she will begin the Compass program at Duquesne University in fall 2026. The four-year program supports students living with intellectual and developmental disabilities, pairing them with one-on-one mentors while they take college classes. Smith says she is excited about the transition and eager to keep learning. After participating in UPMC's Project Search program, she said the experience helped inspire her to continue her education. In college, Smith is con-

sidering several courses of study, including music, theater, performing arts, hospitality, and possibly medical studies. Looking ahead, she hopes to build a meaningful career and one day live on her own, continuing to grow and follow her dreams. Her story continues to inspire the Hampton community.

Dancing Through Life

by Jenn Edmonds

Kosha Dolan (Oleniacz) danced her way through the halls of Hampton High School (class of 2007) and is now dancing through life as a dance studio owner, choreographer, and mom. Her love for dance started at the relatively late age of 10 when she saw her cousin perform in a group dance and knew she wanted to dance. "I really had to work hard and stand out to make it on the competitive team," said Dolan.

In high school, Dolan was part of the dance team (Captain in her senior year), student choreographer for the musical, and taught aerobics to other students during study hall or gym class. She started working and teaching at dance studios at a young age and was motivated by things that she observed that could be done better.

Dolan created a business plan and opened her own dance studio/LLC, at age 17, right out of high school. Her studio, *Dance Unleashed*, changed locations a few times leading to her current location in Hampton. Kosha also ran the dance

(Continued on page 16)

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Dancing (Continued from page 15)

program at the Hampton Community Center for four years.

“Our main mission at *Dance Unleashed* is to unleash every child’s potential; to follow their dreams and to give them the tools to get there,” Dolan explained. “Every child has their own path.” She has a staff of nine and a virtual assistant located in Tokyo,

Japan. The studio offers a variety of dance classes for all ages from babies to adults.

You may see Kosha out and about at community events or as choreographer and director of the Pine-Richland Middle School musical. She earned a teaching degree for dance teachers to teach dance in schools from PADEO (Pennsylvania Dance Education Organization) and is on the committee for the organization.

Dolan lives in Fawn Township with her police officer husband John, her daughter Rebel, and her pet pig and chickens. Ginger the Pig is a 130-lb mini pig that roams both outside on their 12 acres and inside their house. Ginger sleeps on a

couch inside the house when it’s cold. In her spare time, Kosha likes to take Rebel to the library, play cafes, and the zoo and loves a good Bingo night.

For more information on *Dance Unleashed*, you can visit them on Facebook, Instagram, or at danceunleashedllc.com

Students Place in C-SPAN StudentCam

Congrats to Hampton 8th graders Eli Wharton and Evan Hartman for earning 3rd place in the national C-SPAN StudentCam Documentary Contest. Their documentary was one of more than 4,000 entries which examined the enduring power and relevance of the Declaration of Independence.



Kosha and John with their one year old daughter Rebel



Elijah Wharton



Evan Hartman

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Current Events

Step Forward for Inclusion:

Best Buddies Friendship Walk in Pittsburgh

Mark your calendars for a meaningful and uplifting community event! The 2026 Best Buddies Friendship Walk – Pittsburgh will take place on April 26th, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Highmark Stadium.

This annual walk brings people together to support inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). It's more than just a walk—it's a celebration of friendship, community, and opportunity. Attendees can enjoy a high-energy atmosphere filled with food, entertainment, and inspiring connections.

Join 50,000 participants at 70+ Walks across the globe to support Best Buddies programs in schools, workplaces, and communities—helping to create opportunities for friendship, leadership, and inclusion for people with IDD.

Whether you walk, donate or simply show up to cheer others on, your support helps create a more inclusive and welcoming world. You can become a part of the Pittsburgh Citizens Team and be part of something truly impactful.

Visit <https://www.bestbuddies.org/pennsylvania/friendship-walk/> to join us!

2026 Pine Creek Cleanup

Join the community for a morning of camaraderie and environmental stewardship on Saturday, April 11th, 2026, from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Meet at the ball field parking lot across from St. Ursula's Church on Duncan Avenue. Dress for mud—boots and old clothes recommended. Bring friends and earn community service hours. Special thanks to our sponsors: Hampton Township, Shaler Township, Pasquale's Pizzeria, Giant Eagle, and Dunkin' Donuts. www.allisparksportsmensclub.org.

Win a Rain Barrel

Feeling lucky? The Township of Hampton is giving away two free rain barrels.

Spring will be here before you know it and what can you do with some of that rainwater runoff from your gutters and downspouts? It can be used for watering gardens, car washing, and many other outdoor needs, helping you save money while supporting eco-friendly practices at home.

Residents can enter the giveaway in one of two ways:

- Visit the Hampton Community Center to view one of the rain barrels and complete a registration form in person.
- Register online through the Township's website: www.hampton-pa.gov/rainbarrelgiveaway2026.

Participants must be a Hampton resident and only one entry per family. The deadline for registration is April 15th and winners will be notified on April 16th. Good luck to all who enter!

2025–26 Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations

Hampton Township School District is accepting nominations for the 2025–26 Athletic Hall of Fame. Established in 2001, the Hall of Fame honors individuals who have brought prestige and pride to the district's athletic program as players, coaches, or administrators.

Eligibility: Nominees must be graduates of Hampton High School and have graduated at least five years prior to nomination.

What to include: Please provide the nominee's full name, class year, current address, phone number, email, and a brief statement explaining why the nominee should be inducted. Also include your name, email, and phone number.

Deadline: Submit nominations by Sunday, April 19, 2026.

Send nominations to:

Mail: Mr. Michael Gavlik, Athletic Director

Hampton Township School District

2929 McCully Road

Allison Park, PA 15101

Email: Michael.gavlik@ht-sd.org

Phone: 412-492-6389

Nominations are an important way to recognize those who have made lasting contributions to Hampton athletics. Thank you for helping celebrate our Talbot tradition.



Volunteers Needed for 2026 Hampton Community Cleanup Day

Saturday, April 18th—registration begins at 8:00 a.m. at the Hampton Community Center. Roads to be cleaned will be assigned to individuals and/or groups. Bring your family, co-workers, friends to help clean up the roadways in our community. Great for community service hours. Visit www.hampton-pa.gov or call 412-486-0400 for more information or to register.

Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable

Ronald Kirkwood presents "Too Much for Human Endurance: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals"

Monday, April 20th at 7 p.m.

Hampton Township Community Center, 3200 Lochner Way, Allison Park. Presentation is free and open to the public.

Hampton Township Community Center

3200 Lochner Way

The presentation is free and open to the public.

Volunteer Fire Department

Station 329 Monthly Chief's Report February 2026

Fire Alarm	10
Motor vehicle, accident clean-up	9
Smoke / smoke odor investigation	4
CO Alarm	3
Sprinkler / water flow alarm	2
Gas leak / gas odor investigation	2
Transformer / Wires	1
EMS Assist	1
Vehicle fire	1
Fire Police / Assist HTPD	1
Car fire	1
Mutual aid standby	1
Brush fire	1
Extinguished fire	1
Calls for the month of February	38
Calls in 2026	99

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Station 2

2881 Wildwood Rd. Ext.
Allison Park, PA 15101

Station 3

2536 Duncan Ave.
Allison Park, PA 15101

Hockey

ade Brian has coached their teams as either head coach or assistant. Morgan skates for the Pittsburgh Vengeance girls program as well as the Hampton Middle School team and



Front: Taylor (8U) taking a turn as the goalie and the rest of the Fogle family behind helping to coach: Dillon, Brian and Morgan.

(Continued from page 11)

is considering playing for varsity next year so she can be on the ice with her older brother Dillon. Dillon suits up for Hampton varsity team and according to his mom, he led the team in points into the playoffs. Dillon also just wrapped up his 3rd season as the captain of his club team, The Pittsburgh Aviators. The youngest Fogle, Taylor, a third-grader at Poff, first set foot in an ice rink at four days old and began skating at age four; she now plays for the Pittsburgh Yetis club and is

Hampton High School and Community Blood Drive

When: Wednesday, April 8th, 2026

Time: 9 a.m.—7 p.m.

Where: Hampton High School, Old Library
2929 McCully Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

To make an appointment: (recommended)

-Go to vitalant.org and search with Account Code -UHS010029 or by zip code

-Call 1-877-25VITAL

-Or scan the code for a list of available times

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eager to join the Hampton Talbots. The family's constant presence at the rink reflects the daily dedication and hard work behind every successful youth player.



The Sarris boys:
left Kosta and right Xavier

Sarris Family

Beth and Thanasi Sarris juggle schedules for two devoted sons. Kosta, a junior, is in his fifth year with Hampton hockey as a goalie while Xavier, a freshman, serves as a backup goalie and the middle school goalie. Their busy schedule keeps them on the move; as their mom puts it, "They cannot get enough time on the ice and in the net." The family's enthusiasm and support are a big part of the boys' development and love for the game.

Mussari Family

Tammie and Jonathan Mussari's sons Ayden (8th grade) and Jaxton (7th grade) have been on the ice since ages five and four, respectively, and have essentially grown up around the rink. Jonathan, a Level 5 USA Hockey instructor, has coached them since they began playing, guiding their development with experience and dedication. The family's long standing commitment to hockey has made the ice a central part of their lives and the boys' childhoods.

Wharton Family

Tim Wharton's sons Eli in the 8th grade and Abe in 6th grade both play on the Hampton Middle School team, which enjoyed a strong 7-5-3 season finish.

Other Multi-Player Families

The Kohlers (David, Daniel), Cummings (Michael, Patrick), Warrens (Theresa, Colleen), and Karems (Ellie, Calista) also contribute multiple skaters to Hampton teams.

Hockey in Hampton is a way of life.

Depreciation Lands Museum

May 3, 2026: Museum Opening Day - Join us as we kick off the 2026 season! Throughout the summer and fall, we'll have a variety of events and activities scheduled, including our grand Independence Semi-Quincentennial Ball in September.

May 17, 2026: May Market Faire - During regular hours, come and meet some 18th-century-inspired vendors and exhibitors while you visit the Village of Talley Cavey!

We are staffed on Sundays, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, May through September, with special events, lectures, and our famous Lantern Tours on various other days. Check our website www.dlmuseum.org for complete details and tickets (if needed). Help us celebrate 250 years of American Independence!

Adventures in Pioneer Living returns June 15–19, and enrollment is now open for children ages 8–12. This beloved day camp invites young participants to step into the shoes of 18th-century settlers, Native peoples, or frontier rangers as they explore hands-on crafts, games, songs, and activities inspired by daily life on the early American frontier.

Campers are provided with a costume to borrow each day, helping them fully immerse themselves in the experience. Sessions run from 9 a.m. to noon at the Depreciation Lands Museum, with a snack included.

Spots fill quickly each year, so families are encouraged to register soon and give their child a history filled adventure.

LOCAL AUTHOR PUBLISHES FIRST NOVEL

REG RIP BY
LAINY CARSLAW

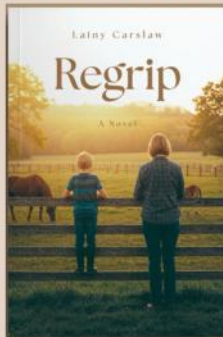
Spanning the 1980s and 1990s, *Regrip* is a story of resilience, forgiveness, and the unsteady art of starting over. Heart-rending yet full of grace, it reminds us that healing isn't about holding on—it's about finding the courage to reach again.

COMING
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When Jesse Warsaw's father abandons him at nine years old, he learns that survival means self-reliance. Left with a stranger and a suitcase of broken promises, he begins to understand that loneliness can make and unmake inside a person. From that moment, Jesse is caught between the ache of abandonment and the fierce hope that somewhere, someone might stay.

Years later, gymnastics becomes his lifeline - A world of chalk and calluses where control feels possible, and every fall can be fixed with one motion: Regrip but when loss and addiction threaten to unravel everything he's rebuilt, Jesse must confront the pain he's spent a lifetime outrunning.



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AIDEN'S HELPING HANDS GOLF OUTING

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Aiden Hanna, diagnosed with Osteosarcoma in July 2022, founded Aiden's Helping Hands with the wish to financially support other families with children battling cancer. His goal is to reduce their financial burden so they can focus on fighting the disease. To date, Aiden's organization has paid mortgages and bills, assisted with transportation for treatments, and much more.

Help Aiden spread kindness by donating, golfing, or sponsoring.



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Website: AIDENSHelpingHANDS.COM

Donate Outside of golf event: Venmo/ Paypal: Aiden's Helping Hands

Please send raffle basket donations to:

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3381 Cramlington Drive
Gibsonia, PA 15044



Sponsorship Opportunities: email for inquires
info@aidenshelpinghands.com

*Unique sponsorship options may include golfers' registration and/or items to be given to golfers.

If you would like to pay by check please write sponsorship option on memo line and mail to:

Aiden's Helping Hands
3381 Cramlington Drive
Gibsonia, PA 15044

If you need more information please email: info@aidenshelpinghands.com



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UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE Fishing Day

Dan Wagner Memorial Kids' Fishing Day returns to North Park on Saturday, May 2nd, offering a fun, free morning for young anglers ages 2–12. Families can gather at the Rochester Pavilion, just steps from the boathouse, for registration from 8–10:30 a.m., with fish measuring open until noon. Every child who catches a fish gets first pick from a wide selection of prizes. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided, thanks to generous support from Trout Unlimited, Rogue BBQ, Dunkin Donuts, Giant Eagle, Bucks and Bows, and Greater Pittsburgh Specialty Advertising.



Pink Tag Sale returns for it's 22nd Year!

Saturday, May 2nd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Berkshire Hathaway Hampton Office
4100 Route 8 at Harts Run Road

Benefits A GLIMMER OF HOPE and breast cancer research and care in Pittsburgh. Last year the event raised \$24,000!

Indoor sale featuring a huge array of household items, decor, toys, books, clothing, jewelry, a 25-cent room, Pinktique Boutique and more.

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Friday, May 15, 2026

6 – 10pm; VIP at 5pm

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Supporting Crisis Center North



Entertainment

Spring Concert *America in Harmony*

The North Hills Chorale will present its spring concert, "America in Harmony: 250 Years of Song," featuring 50 voices on stage, including Hampton resident and first year member Laurie Berkow. A self described female tenor, Berkow never imagined joining an organized singing group. "I've never sung with a group before," she said. "This is my first year, and I absolutely love it."

Music has long been part of her life: "My family has a passion for music. I've played piano, flute, oboe, and saxophone. I've always had an ear for music." While she especially enjoys the Chorale's holiday repertoire, her favorite piece for the spring program is "Give Me Your Tired," inspired by the Statue of Liberty. "It's so powerful," she said.

The Chorale welcomes adult singers of all experience levels with no auditions required. The group invites anyone curious to attend a rehearsal: Mondays, 7:30–9:30 p.m. at St. Vincent Hall, 8150 McKnight Road. "It's a welcoming group," said Tara Berdik, Choir Manager.

Spring concerts are Friday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 10th at 2:00 p.m., at Vincentian's St. Vincent Hall in McCandless Township. The program traces the nation's optimism, division, and enduring hope for unity. Free will offerings support the Chorale's mission. Learn more at nhchorale.com. Founded in 1993 and now a 501(c)(3), the North Hills Chorale continues to bring community voices together.

Mark your calendar

Friday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m. and
Sunday, May 10 at 2:00 p.m.
Vincentian, St. Vincent Hall
8150 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237




PennState Extension

Master Gardeners of Allegheny County



30th Annual

Garden & Landscape Symposium

and Garden Marketplace



Saturday, April 25, 2026

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hampton Community Center
3101 McCully Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

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Benedictine Farm	Jen Schnakenberg Jewelry	Pgh. Botanic Garden
Cherry Valley Organics	Kellar Farms Nursery	Penn State Master Gardeners
Cutting Root Farm	Lamb's Ear Farm	Penn State Master Watershed
DJs Greenhouse	Locust Spring Nursery	Stewards
Ernst Seeds	Michael Brothers Nursery	Sunny Sprouts
The Future is Nuts	North American Rock Garden	Tree Pittsburgh
Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society	Society Allegheny Ch.	



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Doors open at 9:15 AM

9:30 AM

Three Seasons of Color:

The Perennial Garden

Bill Goff

Penn State Master Gardener

10:45 am

**Trees for Streets and Yards--Their
Selection and Care**

Joseph Stavish

Tree Pittsburgh Director of Education

12:30 PM

**Hydrangeas for the Home Garden –
Culture, Flower Color, Pruning,
Pests, and Propagation**

Silloo Kapadia

Penn State Master Gardener

1:30 PM

Adaptations for a Lifetime of Gardening

Pat Johnson

Penn State Master Gardener

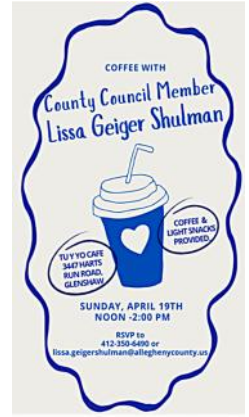


LISSA GEIGER SHULMAN
 COUNTY COUNCIL
 District 3 Council Representative

Coffee with Your County Councilor

I would like to invite the residents of Hampton to join me on Sunday, April 19th at Tu Y Yo Café on Harts Run Road for coffee and conversation. I would like to hear how you feel I am doing at representing our com-

munity. Additionally, County Council will be considering many substantive issues in the coming months including: property reassessments, term limits on County elected officials, and next year's County budget. If you have opinions on the issues mentioned above or another matter of community concern, I welcome you to stop by and chat with me about what is important to you! In order to effectively represent our communities, I need to hear from you! You can also send me your thoughts at lissa.geigershulman@alleghenycounty.us or call 412-350-6490 to request a meeting.



Rep. Arvind Venkat
 30th District
 Allegheny County

Keeping Money in Seniors' Pockets by State Rep. Arvind Venkat

One-in-five Pennsylvanians are aged 65 or older, one of the highest shares in the nation. Many of our older neighbors face health conditions that make it unsafe for them to continue driving, and this often leads to them surrendering their driver's license and receiving a free state photo identification card in its place.

However, subsequent renewals on these ID cards

include an unreasonable fee of \$44.50. As many seniors live on fixed incomes, it is important that they not pay a significant fee for a government document they need in day-to-day life.

That's why I am partnering with Rep. Lindsay Powell in [introducing legislation](#) that would eliminate this renewal fee for seniors who surrender their license for health reasons.

Giving up a driver's license can be difficult, especially when it is due to a medical condition. This legislation would allow seniors to make the responsible decision to give up their license while not having to worry about extra financial hardship.

As a lawmaker, I fight for lower costs for all Pennsylvanians. In addition to this bill, I have introduced many bills this session that would do just that – including those to establish a medical debt relief program, prohibit fees for paper account statements, reduce Medicaid costs for GLP-1 medications, and protect homeowners entering shared appreciation agreements.



State Senator
LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS
 38th Senatorial District



People have a lot of questions and concerns about data centers coming into their neighborhoods. They fear their utility bills getting even higher, increasing power outages, and the overall impact on their community. That's why I have introduced [Senate Bill 724](#), the Data Center Fair Share Act. My legislation helps customers lower their utility bills, gives them a say in what's going to happen in their community, and makes our grid more reliable.

Some highlights of this legislation:

- [Requiring data centers to pay for their own utility infrastructure upgrades.](#) Public utilities cannot pass costs incurred because of a large data center onto ordinary ratepayers — through base rates, riders, surcharges, or any other mechanism. There is a rebuttable presumption that infrastructure costs driven by data centers belong exclusively to those data centers.

- [Requiring Community Benefits Agreements \(CBA\).](#) The data center must enter into a CBA with the host community, which is defined as a community within a 10-mile radius. The CBA must also include at least three established community-based organizations and a monetary payment that is at least 10% of the total cost of project. The commu-

nity decides how that money is spent: workforce development, environmental benefits, public safety, infrastructure, affordable housing, monitoring energy consumption, or other beneficial uses. This CBA is legally binding and must be filed with the PUC's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement.

- [Supporting Low-Income Families.](#) Currently, only residential customers pay into universal service and energy conservation programs that help low-income households. This legislation requires data centers to support those programs. It also creates the new Data Center LIHEAP Enhancement Fund to fund a supplemental low-income energy assistance program, including a summer cooling component.

- [Prioritizing ratepayers in an emergency.](#) During grid emergencies, such as extreme cold or heat, data centers are scaled back or cut before small businesses and residential customers.

UPCOMING FREE PAPER SHREDDING EVENT:

Saturday, April 25, 2026
 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 Shaler Area High School
 381 Wible Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15209
 2 boxes per car limit, please!



Jeremy Shaffer



country with this tax, which has contributed roughly \$1.2 billion to our General Fund since July of last year.

Not only is this tax disrespectful to those who have lost loved ones, but it also drives away those who might choose to retire or relocate their businesses to our state.

I'm co-sponsor of [House Bill 1394](#), which would eliminate the inheritance tax in Pennsylvania.

While getting rid of the tax would no doubt reduce significant revenue, at least a portion of the gap can be addressed by reducing the size of the state Legislature, which is one of the most expensive state legislatures in the country. My "Reform for Pennsylvania" plan proposes other cost-saving measures to bring greater transparency and responsibility to Harrisburg.

With these changes, we can build a state government that spends wisely, respects its limits and better serves the people who fund it.

Representative Jeremy Shaffer
28th District
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
717.772.9905

I've made the point we deserve a government that works effectively and responsibly.

The inheritance tax, better known as the "death tax," is a prime example of where the government needs to reassess how far its authority should extend and whether it's using the money wisely.

This "death tax" unfairly punishes families for simply receiving what was already theirs. It's a tax on money or property you receive when someone dies, and the money you pay depends on your relation to the person. In Pennsylvania, you may be taxed as much as 15%, a burden that can take a significant bite out of a loved one's legacy. Even worse, the tax starts at dollar number one.

Our state is one of only six in the



3rd graders from Wyland: Lan... and Olivia came out to supp...

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