

# Girls Volleyball Celebrates Record Season

by Mary-Theresa Watson

For the first time in program history, the Hampton Talbots are the reigning WPIAL champions in girls volleyball. Defeating local powerhouse North Catholic in the

championship game, Coach Danien Holler's varsity team found the third time to be the charm: the Talbots have reached the 3A championship match twice be-

fore—in 2016 and 2021—but this is the first time they've come away with the championship trophy.

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Photo submitted

Left to right standing: Coach Jenn Schrom, Anabel Fazzini, Kassidy Thompson, Anna Hensberger, Eva Hughes, Payton Galietti, Marin Katona-Bock, Marah Frischling, Jaclyn Bittner, Lilly Muczinski and Coach Dainen Holler Kneeling: Emma Rick, Avery Koontz, Sterling Thomson, Emerson Schrom, Brooklyn Eastly, Teagan Nolan, Allison Schepner, and Taylor Frankel

## Another Successful Bike Giveaway

by Julie Mikus

When Al Todd of Hampton Township attended an event hosted by the United States Marines Toys for Tots programs, he was moved to pose the question, "What are kids most excited to receive?" The answer was clear: bikes.

Al responded to the need, collecting funds to donate thirty-one bikes to Toys for Tots in 2007. The tremendous tradition of

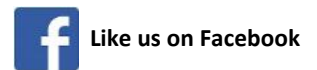
(Continued on page 18)

## Social Services Workers Brighten Holidays for Families in Need

by Mary-Theresa Watson

Christmas cheer filled the air last month as a dedicated group of merry makers took on the roles of holiday elves for several local families. It all began in early November when Hampton Township Police Department's (HTPD) Social Services Coordinator Angela Kenbok felt inspired to grant holiday wishes for families and children in need with whom she works daily. It

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## Police Information

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

A summary of noteworthy incidents that occurred are listed below. These incident statistics included, but WERE NOT LIMITED TO, the following between the dates of 11/28/2023—12/14/2023:

### Vehicle Accident

On 11/28/2023, HTPD were dispatched to William Flinn Highway between Titan Heating and Air and Mount Royal Boulevard for a report of a multi-vehicle accident involving a truck/trailer and a passenger vehicle. Upon arrival, Officers observed the roadway to be covered in a thin sheet of ice. PennDOT was contact-

ed and requested to respond at this time.

It was determined that Unit #1 was traveling in the northbound passing lane of William Flinn Hwy when he struck a thin sheet of ice in the roadway. As a result of this, the vehicle began to spin in a counter-clockwise motion. At this same

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## A Message from The Chief

*by Chief Thomas Vulakovich*

During the holiday season, it was you, the residents of Hampton, who allowed the police department to be the vehicle through which your kindness and generosity was spread. The Police Department's Presents from Police and Toy Drive was



### A NOTE FROM THE HAMPTON NEWS

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

Please support the advertisers this month since they help provide this publication, and remember to SUPPORT local!

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a huge success this past year! Some presents were delivered to facilities that care for children while others were sent to families within our community who are less fortunate. Those families were identified by the social workers embedded within the police department.

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

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

Happy Holidays!

## Todd Memorial Fund Benefits School District

by Julie Mikus

The Todd family is keeping their daughter's memory alive in Hampton Township School District, where she was loved by teachers and inspired many in the community.

"Initially our goal was to help struggling teens transition to college, because mental health care can be difficult to access," Amy Todd said. However, after consulting professionals, they decided to direct funds to the Hampton Township School District, where Abbey graduated in 2019.



Art teacher, Kate Owens and Abbey Todd in 2019

When Abbey took her life in 2020, at the height of the Covid lockdowns, the family created the Abbey Todd Memorial Fund, to which community members, families, and friends of the Todds donated as well.

After a fall from a horse in 2009, Abbey suffered from Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome (RSD) which caused chronic pain. Because of her illness, Abbey was at times confined to home and felt isolated from her peers. Additionally, she

suffered from migraines, autoimmune disease, chronic Lyme disease, and then depression set in. Abbey suffered in silence, hiding her health issues, which contributed to her depression. "Depression and chronic illness are closely related," Amy explained.

Programs funded in Abbey's memory, include bringing motivational speaker Alex Sheens' "Because I Said I Would" program to the middle school and the creation of a wellness center where students can find rest and inspiration. Most recently, a living wall in the art room of the high school added a calming focal point for students.

The living wall features a vertical wall of living plants. Experts agree that natural elements inside schools reduce stress and anxiety, while boosting moods and positive thinking. Abbey's love of plants was a consistent theme throughout her years in the Hampton school district, where her art is still displayed.

"My daughter loved plants because they were alive and thriving. They gave her hope," Amy emotionally offered. Abbey particularly loved succulent plants, a widely known symbol of tenacity, strength, selflessness and love. "Abbey loved plants because they speak life," added Amy.

Please watch for an extended article regarding Abbey Todd's legacy in the next 2024 Hampton Magazine!



The Living Wall



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## Library News



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January is here! The holidays are over and winter has finally settled in. Long gone are the merry decorations and bright lights. Spring is a few months away, so what do you do to keep the blues away? Stop in at the Hampton Library! We are ready to bring light and cheer throughout the winter months! See what new activities and events we have planned!

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

### It's a Winter-Wonder 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 \*

starting January 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m.- "Stories & Songs", 10:45- "Investigate and Create"

11:00 a.m.- "Stories and Songs", 11:30 a.m.- "Parachute Play"

11:50 p.m.- "Stories and Songs", 12:00 p.m.- "Stay and Play"

*\*times are subject to go longer or shorter*

### News and Views! First Fridays!

**Fridays, January 5<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 p.m. in the library.**

This longtime discussion group is led by local author and journalist Gerry K. Smith--with a new format inviting members to participate as guest leaders the *First Friday* of the month. Discussion topics welcome from all.

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

### Card Club!

**Wednesdays from 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

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

### Scrapbooking!

**Mondays Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Are you new to scrapbooking or maybe got away from it and looking for a reboot? This is the day for you. Come join us and

scrap to your hearts content! Marie Golio from Creative Memories will be here to share, teach, and support fellow scrapbookers and their goals! No need to register, class will be in the library!

### Murder by the Book! A Mystery Book Discussion

**Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.**

***The Never Game*, By Jeffrey Deaver**

The Mystery Book Group meets inside the library. Please call the library to request a copy of the book. Everyone who is interested in great reads is invited to join us!

### Betty's Book Buzz Discussion Group.

**Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 p.m.**

***Beneath a Scarlet Sky*, by Mark Sullivan.**

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

### Cooks-N-Books: It's in a Pot- One Pot Meals!

**Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.**

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

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

1) Check out a cookbook or magazines from the library.

2) Cook that dish and bring it to the group the evening of the discussion. Please bring a copy of the recipe as well.

3) Sample all of the amazing recipes!

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

### It's a "Soup"er Bowl Cookoff!

**Saturday, February 3, 2024 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Calling all home cooks to stir up their favorite homemade soups! Chicken noodle, French onion, beer cheese or salmon chowder- what is your claim to fame? Enter your soup in our "Soup"er Bowl Cookoff" and gain bragging rights for a year! Entry fee is \$10. Registration begins January 2, 2024.

### A Love for Story for the Ages!

**Thursday, February, 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.**

Join us at the Hampton Community Center to hear Deborah Leuchter Stueber recall her parents' harrowing story of love and resilience during the Holocaust.

Deborah is a volunteer at the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh in their Generations Speakers Series. She has spoken over fifty times at churches, schools, and libraries, sharing the tumultuous events that her parents endured: from surviving the Holocaust, to battling Nazis in the French Resistance, and finally to making a new life in the United States. Deborah continues her quest to educate others about the Holocaust and its relevant place in today's world. Deborah's presentation will be accompanied by a thirty-minute power point slideshow and a virtual Q&A via zoom with her parents, Edith and Kurt, themselves. There is no fee to attend, as mere attendance

*(Continued on page 5)*



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## Library

(Continued from page 4)

helps to unlock grant funding for the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh. Presented for you by the Department of Community Services and the Hampton Community Library.

\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*

Friday, March 1, 2024

### Trivia Night!

Get your team ready, space will be limited! More details to follow!

### Library Customer Service Position open at HCL

Do you love the smell of an unopened paper back? Do you have a list a mile long of books you want to read? Can you make recommendations to patrons who are looking for a good read? Can you provide great service to ensure all visitors are able to find what they need? We are looking for you!

Hampton Community Library is seeking a Customer Service Associate (\$11.00 /hour) for a part-time position to work daytime, evening and weekend hours with a flexible schedule to meet the needs of the Hampton community. The ideal candidate brings a love of the library and an interest in helping make HCL a great place for all readers. Prior library work experience is not required, - only a focus on customer service, a love of the library and an attention to

detail. High school diploma, GED or equivalent experience preferred. Strong computer skills required, including knowledge of Microsoft Office, Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check, and FBI fingerprint-based background check are required upon offer of employment. Please check the website [hamptoncommunitylibrary.org](http://hamptoncommunitylibrary.org) for more information. Please send your resume and letter of interest to Suzanna Krispli at [hampton@hamptoncommunitylibrary.org](mailto:hampton@hamptoncommunitylibrary.org).



The Hampton Community Library staff wishes you a happy and healthy New Year!

Edward Jones

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## Three Students Receive Recognition

The National Merit Scholarship Competition has notified three Aquinas Academy of Pittsburgh seniors with Letters of Commendation for their performance on the 2024 scholarship competition. Anne Marie Austin, Benjamin Everson, and Chase Harrison rank among approximately 34,000 Commended Students nationwide who are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

Although Commended Students will not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some may be candidates for special scholarships provided by corporate and busi-

ness sponsors. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2024 competition by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in their junior year of high school.



L to R: Benjamin Everson, Anne Marie Austin, and Chase Harrison



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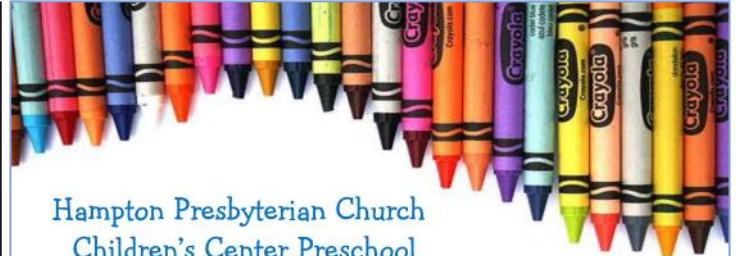
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ADDRESS	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
2700 Marra Drive, Unit #1B	\$619,990	\$619,990	62
3061 Seminole Court	\$475,000	\$470,000	5
4095 Branding Place	\$390,000	\$390,000	4
2584 Red Oak Court	\$375,000	\$370,000	39
5004 Meadowridge Lane	\$374,900	\$368,000	61
2501 Mae Drive	\$299,900	\$285,000	65
3278 E Hardies Rd	\$279,900	\$260,000	4
3041 Cummings Drive	\$259,999	\$250,000	5
2196 Duncan Avenue	\$239,900	\$230,000	5
3385 Wagner Road	\$229,900	\$200,000	40
3170 Cheltenham Court	\$195,000	\$165,000	24

## TIP OF THE MONTH:

Improve energy efficiency this month so you can keep your home functioning in optimal condition—plus, maximizing your home's energy output while minimizing your bills.

**Lighting:** Inspect and clean light fixtures, and change any lightbulbs that need replacing. (You can shop specifically for energy-saving options to reduce your electricity bill.)

**Windows:** Be winter ready by resealing all windows and, if necessary, adding weather protection to further insulate your home and cut back on how hard your temperature regulation systems have to work to keep your home at a pleasant temperature.

**Attic:** Check attic ventilation and ensure there are no holes, pests, mold or other obstacles that prevent your home from operating at its best.

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## Hampton Police Extend Charitable Efforts

As announced in the December 2023 issue of The Hampton News, the HTPD participated in the No-Shave November, and is continuing through Don't Stop December, January and February for two causes near and dear to the Department: The Mrs. Claus Club North Hills Chapter and for first grader Kaylee Manz, who has acute lymphoblastic leukemia.



Rob Kirsopp

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

Since Sergeant Rob Kirsopp said it so well that evening, we are going to let his words say it all. "Ladies and gentlemen, I have had the privilege of addressing the council several times while representing the HTPD and our charitable work. I'm quite sure you know our officers are hard working and provide a great service to this community. For the past few years, Chief Tom Vulakovich has graciously given us the opportunity to participate in No-Shave November. Female officers can wear their hair

in a ponytail and male officers can choose not to shave their face. It provides some comfort to us all while providing a talking point with community in support of killing cancer. In order to violate these policies, officers donate money into our charitable fund. I'd like to point out that some officers donate into the fund without taking advantage of the policy violations. In addition, we received donations from the chief, assistant manager, current township manager Chris Lochner and the new manager, Ryan Jeroski. We thank you for your generous support to our charities. The club provides valuable support to local individuals undergoing cancer treatments." Sergeant Kirsopp went on to say, "I can attest to their support as I'm sure council is aware of my current battle with cancer. I appreciate all

*(Continued on page 10)*



## Rotary Club: Reaching Out in Service in 2023

by Tracy Weigel

Rotary clubs consist of groups of caring people who find fulfillment in reaching out and helping others. These clubs, which began in 1905, bring together people across generations who wish to create lasting change in the world, in their communities, and in themselves by acting through service.

Our Hampton Rotary Club, established in and servicing our community since 1985, had a busy year in 2023, leaving in its wake a list of successful projects assisting our residents and local causes.

A few highlights of this past year's projects/activities include:

- Hampton Rotary Firecracker 5K, supporting the many charity organizations, events, and scholarships with which the Rotary is involved.
- 10th Annual Holiday Bazaar supporting North Hills Community Outreach
- Operation Troop Appreciation Veterans Day 5K
- Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence 5K Run & Walk supporting Hampton Township School District
- Supporting HEARTH's mission to provide families with the tools to thrive
- Milk Eggs Butter and Cheese project with NHCO

- Weekly Meals on Wheels assisting residents in need
- Hosting our exchange student, Pelin, from Turkey
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing supporting NHCO
- Hampton High School Student Scholarships
- Beattie Technical Institute Student Scholarships
- And much more!

The club meets weekly at Wildwood Golf Club on Thursdays at 12 noon, offering members a social environment to create friendship and solidify their citizenship in our community and the world.

Check out their page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HamptonTownshipRotaryClub/>

Interested in learning more: Contact Club President Tom Baker at [bakerleadership@gmail.com](mailto:bakerleadership@gmail.com) or visit their website at [Hamptontownshiprotary.com](http://Hamptontownshiprotary.com) to see how you can become involved in this wonderful organization.



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20328 R4-23



# Leadership Change a NHCO

by Lizzy Zimmerman

North Hills Community Outreach has announced the departure of its Executive Director, Tom Baker. During Tom's three-year tenure with NHCO he led the organization's expansion in response to the COVID pandemic, including the implementation of new programs focused on bringing resources to communities of need. He initiated the Young Community Leaders Board (YCLB) and the Teen Leadership Coalition (TLC) to bring diverse voices to the table as supporters and fundraisers. Tom collaborated extensively with government officials and community partners to secure funding for the organization's 20 services. A longtime supporter of NHCO even prior to his role as Executive Director, Tom used his voice and network to advocate NHCO as the leading social service organization in northern Allegheny County. Tom received numerous honors on behalf of NHCO including the Nonprofit Excellence Award from the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber in 2021 and the Pittsburgh Business Times C- Suite Award in 2023. Tom's hard work and support is very appreciated, and we wish him success with his next opportunity.



Tom Baker

"It has been an incredible honor to serve for over 3 years as the Executive Director of NHCO. While my professional career with NHCO will conclude, my dedication to our mission will continue. NHCO has an incredible team, and I am very proud of what we

*(Continued on page 10)*



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## New Approach to Speech Therapy for Children

Does your preschool-aged child struggle in group settings? Are you looking for a place that can offer intensive speech and language therapy services that will support growth across environments? Yellow Bridges Speech and Sensory Development Center is now open on Route 8 for Group Pediatric Speech and Language Therapy!



When you tour Yellow Bridges, you will find a warm and inviting space with visual schedules, thematic visual aids, tactile sensory walls, swings, quiet corners, and pretend play centers. The groups follow a curriculum,

and the weeks are theme based. The daily schedule is consistent to support emotional regulation and understanding of expectations. Lesson plans are curated weekly with individualized intentions for each activity to support engagement, participation, and overall speech and language development.

For example, the children may help take attendance during the morning meeting, but the intention is to practice listening for one's name and greeting peers. During art, children may be making snowmen out of Play-Doh but the underlying intention is negotiating with a friend for a turn. During snack, the group may be eating goldfish but the intention is to practice advocating for yourself with signs, words or your AAC device.

Brooke Baran is the sole owner and manager of Yellow Bridges, and a licensed Speech Language Pathologist. Working exclusively with preschool aged children for all of her career, Brooke developed a passion for supporting children who have difficulty learning in groups, or who are misunderstood as having behavioral concerns. Brooke has found that by creating connections, meeting sensory needs, incorporating play, supporting language skills, and being reliably consistent, children are best able to carry over new skills to a variety of environments.

If you are interested in learning more about Yellow Bridges, please visit our website [www.YellowBridgeSpeech.com](http://www.YellowBridgeSpeech.com) or contact Brooke Baran for a free consultation!

*advertorial*

**Brooke Baran M.S. CCC-SLP**

Owner/Manager

Licensed Speech Language Pathologist

 **P: 412-267-7185**

 **F: 412-685-3119**

 **@YellowBridgeSpeech**

 **4284 William Flinn Hwy, Suite 105,  
Allison Park PA 15101**

## Hampton Resident Leads Important Discussion on Addiction Issues in Older Teens and Young Adults



Navigating adulthood is a new and exciting time for older teens and young adults. The newfound freedom that comes with leaving home for the first time often brings fresh challenges and experiences — and new pressures.

The Ellen O'Brien Gaiser Center, the region's longest-running addiction treatment program, will host an important conversation on addiction issues unique to families with older teenagers and young adults in its second annual "Discover Recovery" community forum on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, at Butler County Community College.

Gaiser's 2024 community dialogue on addiction treatment focuses on family matters including:

- Genetics and addiction
- Mental health and addiction
- Early warning signs all parents should know

The free event also features a keynote address from certified addiction medicine specialist and Gaiser Medical Director Dr. C. Thomas Brophy, who lives in Hampton with his wife Brittany and their three children.

Register for Discover Recovery at <https://bc3.edu/discover-recovery>. You can also bring Dr. Brophy's addiction awareness and prevention programming to your school through Gaiser's #AddictionAware program. For information on scheduling an #AddictionAware session in your school, email [addictionaware@gaisercenter.com](mailto:addictionaware@gaisercenter.com).

### NHCO

*(Continued from page 9)*

have achieved together. There is no better example of people helping people in Northern Allegheny County than NHCO and getting to serve with our amazing staff, board, volunteers, and supporters has been absolutely inspiring."

With Tom's departure, Jacquyn Boggs has been named acting Executive Director as of January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jackie has been a key member of Tom's leadership team as NHCO's Director of Programs & Services. NHCO will be conducting a search effort for a new Executive Director.

### Police Charities

*(Continued from page 7)*

the support that I have received along the way from my friends, family, this great community, my employer Hampton Township, and groups like the Mrs. Claus Club. Recently I was given an opportunity to address approximately 450 supporters of the Mrs. Claus and many praised their efforts. The items in the care baskets are based on valuable experience and love. Just as the Hampton Police provide a valuable service to the community, so does the club. The HTPD charitable fund is proud to present \$2,000 to the Mrs. Claus Club." Kirsopp pointed out that over the past three years, Hampton Police has donated approximately \$8,000 to the club.

## Punch Out Parkinson's

by Brett Burkhart

Located on Route 8 in the heart of Hampton Township, the family-owned Fit 4 Boxing Club is home to Rock Steady Boxing Pittsburgh. Rock Steady Boxing is a rigorous and emotional physical fitness program designed for individuals living with Parkinson's Disease. This international program came to Pittsburgh shortly after Rich Mushinsky founded Fit 4 Boxing in February 2015. Ever since, the folks at Fit 4 Boxing Club have been busy completing their mission: Punching Out Parkinson's Disease.



Brett Burkhart/Rich Mushinsky

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the local fitness boxing club will host its 7th Annual Dr. Michael Bell Punching Out Parkinson's Fight Night Dinner Gala at The Pittsburgh Shrine Center in Cheswick, PA. With the doors opening at 5:00pm, this unique event will boast ten live, competitive amateur boxing matches along with a sit down dinner, DJ, dancing, silent auction, and more. The proceeds raised at the gala allow Fit 4 Boxing to cover its operating costs and continue to grow and market their program designed to improve quality of life for individuals with Parkinson's Disease. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.fit4boxingclub.com](http://www.fit4boxingclub.com), and standing room tickets can be purchased the night of the event for \$45. Visit Fit 4 Boxing Club's website or call them at (412) 213-3584 for more information.

## The Harlem Wizards Bring their Talent and Tricks to HHS

Over 400 attendees would agree that it was like a Broadway show on the basketball court at Hampton High School in early December.

The Harlem Wizards brought an emcee and a team of 6 talented players with electric personalities who delivered a choreographed trick and slam routine! They played a "dream team" of talented Hampton faculty, staff, and students. There were tricks, music, dunks, comedy, dancing, and audience participation. It was high-flying entertainment along with raising around \$5,000 for the Hampton boys basketball booster club, which benefits 7th grade through varsity with over 50 boys in the program.

Thanks to the 12 Hampton participants who challenged the Wizards: Carl Good - School Resource Officer, Joe Allison - Wyland Elementary, Haley Dietz - Hampton High School, Joe Lagnese - Hampton Middle School, Joe Cangilla - Hampton High School, Chris Anastas - Hampton High School, Megan Kallock - Central Elementary, Hanna Struble - Central Elementary, Julia Kritiotis - Central Elementary, Kyle Reece - Hampton Basketball Coach, Gavan Hamlin and Matthew Erka - Hampton High School seniors.



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**Hope to see you soon!**

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## Volleyball

*(Continued from page 1)*

Still basking in the glow of their victory, the Talbots immediately got right back to practice, this time preparing for the state playoffs. The undefeated team took to the road, advancing to the PIAA championships for the second time in program history. The route to the championship game pitted the Talbots against North Catholic once more, this time in the state semi-finals; Hampton continued their winning streak and advanced to the title game. Though they fell just short to Pope John Paul II from the Philadelphia area, the players and their coaches enjoyed the run, looking back at the season with pride. Coach Holler says he couldn't be more proud of the girls, lauding them for their determination, focus, and sportsmanship.

"They've had such a great perspective," he says. "They took one game at a time, even one practice at a time, and they continued to focus on the task at hand. I'm so proud of the way they represented Hampton at the final! It's a testament," he adds with a hint of pride in his voice, "to this group of girls as athletes and as people."

In his second year at the varsity level, Coach Holler first met several of his players during his three-year stint coaching at Hampton Middle School.

"Our seniors were in eighth grade when I started coaching at the middle school," he shares, "and it's been so great to see their journey. I've loved watching them grow as competitors and, even more so, as people."

After such a stellar season, it's tempting to wonder

how to approach the coming year. Coach Holler, however, takes it in stride, explaining, "Every season is a new opportunity with a new group of seniors who are ready to take on the leadership role. Next year's players should have a lot of confidence; they've got good, solid experience playing at the championship level, and they'll bring that experience with them next season."

Reflecting on the 2023 season, Coach Holler thoughtfully shares his hopes for the players moving forward, saying, "I hope they've discovered that if you surround yourself with good people and give your best effort, that's the true definition of success."



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## Depreciation Lands Museum

### Children's Doll Tea

An afternoon of tea, treats and activities for children ages five and older, accompanied by their favorite doll!

When: Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 2:00—3:00 pm.

Hear ye, Hear ye, young folks! You are cordially invited to attend a Doll Tea to be held at the Depreciation Lands Museum!

Did you know that children just like you have lived, learned and played right here in western Pennsylvania ever since America was born?

You and your doll companion can learn all about the Pennsylvania child's life in the early days of settlement at our delightful Doll Tea.

Dolls of all shapes and sizes are most welcome.

Admission per child: \$15/\$12 members

Space is limited, so register soon!

This event is geared to children, without adult assistance. However, one adult per family is invited to stay at no charge and observe the festivities. Children may be dropped off and picked up an hour later.

[www.dlmuseum.org](http://www.dlmuseum.org)



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## Police Log

*(Continued from page 2)*

time, Unit 2 was traveling in the opposing direction in the southbound curb lane of William Flinn. As Unit 1 continued to spin, he entered into the opposing southbound travel lanes and struck the rear wheel of the trailering unit of Unit 2.

Unit 1 sustained major disabling damage to its front end as well as multiple airbag deployments. Unit 2 sustained no damage to his tow vehicle, but the axle of his trailering unit became sheared from the wheel as a result of the collision. Leo's Towing responded to remove Unit 1 from the scene, while Ferrah's Towing responded to remove Unit 2's trailer from the scene.


 On 12/02/2023, HTPD was dispatched for a report of a white GMC SUV that had struck a guardrail and pulled into the parking lot across from the Hartwood Wine Cave. The third-party caller reported the two occupants of the SUV then exited the car and surveyed the damage before the caller left the area. Upon arrival, officers checked the immediate and surrounding area for the described vehicle with negative results. Officers then surveyed the area for damage to any associated guardrails; no immediately recognizable recent damage was observed.

 On 12/04/2023, as an officer was on patrol in the area of Aldi Foods, they observed two vehicles pulled into the entrance/exit to the property. Both operators appeared to be out of their cars, and she observed what appeared to be vehicle parts lying in the roadway. Upon making contact with the vehicle operators, they verified that it was a two-vehicle accident with no reported injuries.

Unit 2 stated that she was traveling north in the curb lane of Route 8, approaching the entrance/exit to Aldi, when she observed Unit 1 start to pull out of the Aldi parking lot onto the roadway. She stated that the operator was looking to the right and was not looking in her direction at the time. She stated that she had to stop abruptly in the roadway to try and avoid a collision with Unit 1. She stated that even after she came to a stop, the driver of Unit 1 continued looking to the north, never looked to the south, and drove into her vehicle. Unit 2 sustained substantial damage to the front driver's side bumper area. Unit 2 was able to be driven from the scene.


Unit 1 stated that he was trying to make a left out of the Aldi parking lot, and it appeared as though the roadway was clear. He tried to pull out of the lot and struck Unit 2. Unit 1 sustained damage to the front driver's side panel area and was able to be driven from the scene.

Both parties were provided all pertinent driver, vehicle, and insurance information to pass along to their designated insurance companies.


 On 12/05/2023, HTPD was dispatched to the area of 4284 William Flinn Highway for a report of a two-vehicle accident with unknown injuries. Officers arrived on the scene and observed two vehicles blocking both northbound lanes of William Flinn Highway and a male lying on the ground off to the side of the road.

Unit 1 stated they were traveling southbound on William Flinn Highway attempting to locate a dentist office in Castletown Square. Unit 1 stated they were not paying attention to the roadway and were looking for the office while executing a left-hand turn from the left-hand lane of William Flinn Highway to enter the plaza. As Unit 1 was executing the left-hand turn, Unit 1 struck Unit 2 as Unit 2 was traveling northbound on William Flinn Highway. Unit 1 sustained moderate damage to the 12 o'clock position. A passenger reported an injury to the right side of her abdomen and was transported to UPMC Passavant by Shaler Hampton EMS. Both occupants of Unit 1 were wearing their seatbelts. No airbags were deployed. Zang Auto Body towed the vehicle from the scene.

Unit 2 stated they were traveling northbound on William Flinn Highway in the right-hand lane. Unit 2 stated they observed Unit 1 executing a left hand turn which prompted Unit 2 to apply the brakes hard. Unit 1 then struck Unit 2 while both vehicles were still in motion. Unit 2 sustained moderate damage to the 10 and 11 o'clock position. The driver complained of a left shoulder injury and was transported to UPMC Passavant by Shaler Hampton EMS. Unit 2 was wearing their seatbelt. No airbags were deployed. Zang Auto Body towed the vehicle from the scene.

 On 12/14/2023, HTPD was dispatched to William Flinn Highway in the area of the Allison Park Industrial Complex for a two-vehicle crash with entrapment reported. Officers arrived on the scene with Shaler Police, and it was determined that the collision occurred within Shaler Township Police jurisdiction in front of Milano's Pizza. Officers remained on scene and assisted as needed.


*(Continued on page 15)*



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## Current Events

### Call Me Crazy Cookie Lady

The Department of Community Services are excited to host cookie decorating classes taught by Call Me Crazy Cookie Lady!

If you are new to cookie decorating and want to learn the basics, or if you are simply curious about the craft, then this is the class for you! Participants will learn the proper technique for decorating and will be able to brush up on their piping skills. It is also a great opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family while engaging in a fun and creative activity! Monthly classes will begin in January and continue through the first week of May. Kid and adult classes are available at \$30 and \$65 per participant, respectively! Registration begins on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Visit [www.hampton-pa.org](http://www.hampton-pa.org) for more details and to sign up.

### 2024 Pool Memberships

Pool memberships are available for purchase beginning January 2nd for residents at the early bird rate and for non-residents at the regular rate.

Visit [www.hampton-pa.org](http://www.hampton-pa.org) to purchase your 2024 membership! Please note, if you are registering online for a pool membership and you do not have a membership ID card from previous years, then you will need to visit the Community Center Service Desk to have your photo taken for your ID card.


### Recreational Dance Program Open House

Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm-7 pm at Hampton Community Center. 3101 McCully Road Allison Park, PA 15101


## Police Log

(Continued from page 14)

### Suspicious Persons, Auto, Circumstances

 On 12/02/2023, HTPD was dispatched to Willow Oak Drive to speak with a resident in reference to a hunting complaint. Upon arrival, officers were advised that they had observed a male in the woods neighboring their residence dressed in an orange vest and camo. and were concerned that the male was hunting illegally and was too close to her house. Officers observed the male in question sitting in a tree stand approximately 100-150 yards into the woods. The male was facing away from the residence and was not observed to have a weapon with him at this time. As no direct hunting/trespassing violations were observed, the male in the tree stand was not contacted at this time.

### Traffic & Parking Problems

 On 12/02/2023, HTPD was dispatched to Wildwood Road for a parking complaint. Allegheny County dispatch advised that a vehicle was blocking the driveway at that address. Upon arrival, contact was made with the reporting part. There was a red Ford truck blocking the driveway. As the officer was attempting to contact the vehicle owner he showed up on scene and advised that he had AAA enroute. The officer assisted with traffic control until the vehicle was removed by AAA. end

# BINGO BASH

**Saturday January 20th**  
**1pm-3pm**

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Join us for multiple rounds of the classic game. There will be plenty of opportunities to win big, including cash prizes and a flat screen TV grand prize! Concessions will be sold.



## Social Worker

(Continued from page 1)

didn't take long for an idea to take shape, and with a touch of holiday magic, Hampton Township staff members enthusiastically joined Angela in her mission.

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

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

"I have 27 families that were fully sponsored," Angela happily shares, "many by staff members from Hampton Township and some by business owners who heard about the program by word of mouth. Our caseload grows every year, so I can see the program growing in the future."

Angela organized the program

with the help of her fellow social worker Ashley Wilson, intern Maria Sheerin, and School Resource Officer Carl Good, who helped organize the family list. Volunteers gathered to wrap all the gifts, filling a room with packages destined to give several local families plenty to celebrate as they gathered around their Christmas trees.

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

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

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



Township Manager Ryan Jeroski and Angela Kenbok



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# The Hampton Band Association 12th Annual Holiday Extravaganza: A Rousing Success!

On Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> the Hampton Band Association (HBA) started off the season with slushies with the Grinch, a cookie walk, and of course the band performances! The HBA supports band students from 4th –12th grade. This year's extravaganza raised a record amount and featured over 150 vendors.



*Band Dads' Café provided refreshments including "Roast Beast!"*



*The Grinch enjoyed mugging for photos with event guests.*



*Marching Band volunteers crafted with visitors*



*HHS Marching Band students Julianna Benaglio and Nolan Smith served up slushies.*

## Residential Street Parking

As a reminder to all township residents and guests, please do not park on residential streets during the winter months. The Department of Public Works does an exceptional job keeping the township roads treated during inclement weather. Keeping cars off the residential streets will assist in maintaining cleaner and safer roads for everyone.

## Help Wanted:

**Hampton Township School**  
**District part-time cafeteria openings!**  
**Contact Metz Culinary Management**  
**412-492-6390**

## Exercise Instructors Wanted

The Department of Community Services is looking to expand upon their current exercise programs for 2024. If you or someone you know is a fitness instructor and is interested in learning more about employment opportunities, please contact Bill Ryder at [bill.ryder@hampton-pa.org](mailto:bill.ryder@hampton-pa.org). All fitness instructors must possess a valid group exercise certification or specialty certification in order to be considered for the position. Evening and weekend availability is preferred.

## Bike Drive

(Continued from page 1)

'Al's Bike Drive' was born and has grown annually, with 583 bikes donated this Christmas season.

In the Walmart Gibsonia parking lot on December 7, volunteers were welcomed by coffee and donuts by Al's team. They would need the fuel, as nearly 600 bikes were pulled from shipping containers and loaded on several dozen trucks, everything in size from Jeeps to 18-wheeler tractor trailers.

With the help of Hampton Police & Fire Department, along with Northern Regional Police, an escort was formed for the long line of trucks delivering the bikes to the next destination of Wildwood Country Club.

The procession was followed by a luncheon, where guests learned about the history of Al's Bike Drive, with the occasion marked by a total of 7,334 bikes donated since its inception. "I don't do this alone. I rely on family, friends and my team," Al shared.

He also explained the management team of Walmart was crucial to the project's success, as the cost of bikes increased dramatically since the pandemic and inflation.

Last year, Al's Bike Drive began partnering with 'Variety, The Children's Charity,' to collect funds for adaptive bikes. Adaptive bikes help individuals achieve therapeutic goals, such as increased range of motion, strength, and coordination. Charlie Lavelle, CEO of Variety, expressed his gratitude, "A part of you is with all the kids who received an adaptive bike." Fifteen adaptive bikes were donated this year, each costing upwards of \$2,500 for the customization.

Seventh grader Penelope attended the event with her mom, riding her adaptive bike, who explained her daughter had not been able to ride bikes with her siblings. "She's getting exercise! This is something we could have never done without an adaptive bike," she added.

United States Marines leaders also attended and spoke at the event. The representatives were in awe over the number of bikes which would be available to their families in need.

Todd also recognized the Hampton Police and Fire Departments, who competed to raise money for the event. "They keep us all safe. I am reminded how amazing our Hampton first responders are," he expressed.

He also encouraged volunteers to return next year to once again participate in Al's Bike Drive, while acknowledging the huge undertaking the event is... "I thank God for giving me the strength to do this," he added.

To learn more about Al's Bike Drive, or to make a donation, visit: [www.alsbikedrive.com](http://www.alsbikedrive.com). To learn more about Variety visit: [www.varietypittsburgh.org](http://www.varietypittsburgh.org).



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## Rep. Arvind Venkat

30<sup>th</sup> District  
Allegheny County

### Updates for Hampton Township Residents

by State Rep. Arvind Venkat

As we begin 2024, I'm reflecting on my first year in office as your state representative. In 2023, my staff and I engaged with almost 10,000 residents through outreach, constituent services, events, and people sharing their opinions on legislation. I am extraordinarily grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and will always welcome your input on the issues and the needs you might have. Should you need assistance, please contact my office at 412-348-8028

or email me at [RepVenkat@PAHouse.net](mailto:RepVenkat@PAHouse.net).

In 2023, we secured more than \$5.33 million in state funding for the 30<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, including \$250,000 to Hampton Township to replace the Clearview Road Bridge, \$175,000 for the replacement of infrastructure on South Pioneer Road, and \$20,000 to replace radios for the Hampton Township Police Department, among others. This funding will improve quality of life in Hampton Township, and I will work to secure even more funding to benefit our community this year.

I introduced 14 bills, such as the Medical Debt Relief Act and a bill to prevent sexually violent predators from residing near schools and day care centers. Additionally, I supported a state budget with record investment in our public schools, an enhanced child and dependent care tax credit, and increased property tax and rent relief, and legislation that would preserve reproductive and voting rights and enact common-sense gun safety regulations. I will continue to advocate for investment in our schools, first responders, and community, as well as legislation to benefit all Pennsylvanians.

Visit [www.PAHouse.com/Venkat/EmailSignup](http://www.PAHouse.com/Venkat/EmailSignup) to subscribe to my weekly e-newsletter to receive updates on my work as your state representative.



## State Representative Rob Mercuri

28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District of Pennsylvania

### Our Universities Should be Bastions of Civility & Respect



It has been heartbreaking to see the pervasiveness of antisemitism become more evident in our society over the past few months following the atrocious, unprovoked terrorist attacks on Jewish people in October. After the head of one of the Commonwealth's most prestigious universities refused to recognize antisemitism and calls for genocide as bullying and harassment against Jewish students, it has become clear we have to act. To combat antisemitism on campuses, I have introduced

legislation that would require any institution of higher education in Pennsylvania that receives direct funding from the state to acknowledge antisemitism as harassment and/or bullying as a part of their codes of conduct. Taxpayer funding should only follow a university's commitment to demonstrating leadership on campus by taking all actions to combat antisemitism and all forms of hate.

According to a November 2023 survey, 70% of students – both Jewish and non-Jewish – feel their university should do more to address antisemitism on campus. My legislation would help ensure this would be the case at those schools receiving funding from the Commonwealth. Our universities should be a place for ideas and discussion, but they must remain civil and free of violence.

In the future, our universities can continue to be, and be once again, bastions of education, civility, respect and a place where parents across Pennsylvania can be proud to send their young people to prepare in a responsible and respectful manner for their futures. This is what higher education should be and can be once again.



## State Senator LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS

38<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District



As we begin 2024 with a fresh start, this is the perfect time to look back at 2023 and all that we've done.

I'm incredibly proud of the work that my District Office did this year. We closed over 4,700 constituent service cases in 2023—everything from free faxing services and scheduling AARP tax appointments to helping navigate the Unemployment Claims System and working through thorny PennDOT issues.

We responded to over 10,600 constituent emails requesting assistance and sharing input on legislative topics that were important to the sender. I value the perspectives that constituents share on subjects that they are passionate about, and I'm always happy to hear from you. If you want to share your thoughts this year on upcoming legislation, please email me at [SenatorLindseyWilliams@PASenate.com](mailto:SenatorLindseyWilliams@PASenate.com).

I was the prime sponsor of 34 bills this year. The prime sponsor of a bill is responsible for introducing the legislative language for the bill and helping shepherd the bill through the legislature. I was a co-sponsor on 91 additional bills—meaning I signed on as a supporter of those bills, even though I didn't write the language myself. This Session is still ongoing, so all of these bills are still active through the end of 2024.

We also hosted 14 community events in 2023, including two Senior Fairs, a Hard-to-Read License Replacement Event, and two Shredding Events. We'll be planning our 2024 events calendar very soon, so please stay tuned for upcoming events!

I'm incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to serve the residents of Hampton and all of Senate District 38. I look forward to working with and for you in 2024. I wish you and your families a safe and Happy New Year! If you'd like to stay updated about upcoming events in the New Year, please subscribe to my weekly e-newsletter at [SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/subscribe](http://SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/subscribe).



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- Spaces from 200 to over 4,000 sq. ft.
- Ample Free Parking & High Visibility
- Utilities Included
- On Site Management
- Basic Build Out Included

