

Hainesport Community Chronicle

A Bimonthly Newsletter Supporting Hainesport's Commitment to Community

Elizabeth Gallagher, Editor

Spotlight on Hainesport Township Rain Garden

Janice Ludden and Elizabeth Gallagher

How many of us hear the words, “April showers bring May flowers” and think of this statement as a trite saying of the past? In light of a recent township collaboration, maybe we should think again.

Hainesport Township, in furtherance of its ongoing green mission, recently collaborated with the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program to install a rain garden adjacent to the Municipal Pavilion. The rain garden, a shallow depression with native plants that tolerate wet conditions, catches the rain that runs off the pavilion roof, allowing the rain water to slowly infiltrate through the plants’ roots in the soil. By enabling the stormwater to soak into the ground rather than flowing into drains, the rain garden prevents pollutants, like road sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, and eroded soil, from reaching our waterways. While one benefit of the rain garden may be obvious—preserving our waterways, the rain garden yields other significant benefits, including attracting pollinators, providing a real life, hands-on learning environment for local students, and fostering community-building among residents, as they undertake stewardship of the rain garden.

For those who are gifted with green thumbs or who are humble fans of Mother Nature, keep in mind that installing a rain garden is not a municipality-only project; residents who are interested in designing a rain garden to capture runoff from their homes are encouraged to take advantage of the Burlington County Land Makeover Program, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the William Penn Foundation. Pursuant to the program, any resident who wishes to install a garden should first attend a Rain Garden 101 webinar hosted by Rutgers University (or watch the Rain Garden 101 webinar recording at <https://pinelandsalliance.org/landscape-makeover-program/>) and then send an email to stephen@pinelandsalliance.org to arrange a 30-minute individualized design session with Rutgers’ engineers. Property owners in eligible areas (Hainesport Township is one of the eligible areas) can receive a maximum rebate of \$450 to install their own rain garden. More information can be found on the South Jersey Watersavers website:

<https://www.sjwatersavers.org/makeover-sessions/>

Our rain garden wouldn't be possible without several individuals' generous contributions of time and talent. Hainesport Township wishes to recognize and thank those who installed the rain garden, including Hollie Dimuro and Christopher Perez from Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Stephen Elliott from Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and Hainesport Township Committeeman, Bruce Levinson.

Now that you've learned a little bit about the Hainesport Township rain garden, come and see for yourself what April showers bring: clean waterways, natural classrooms, and community collaborations.

Business Buzz

Jennifer Koutsouris, Technical and Administrative Assistant

Looking and feeling your personal best is now not only just for you! These long-time, well-known business owners have now expanded to a new level! Many are familiar with Tranquility Salon and Spa, located in Hainesport's Creek Crossing, as well as Tenacity Fitness, located on Mary Way, but did you know about all the other businesses the Schaaf family owns in Hainesport, including their **NEW Pet Salon and Boutique by Tranquility**, located just a few doors down from Tranquility?

Tranquility Salon and Spa owners, Michele and Steve Schaaf, have truly broadened their business horizons since opening Tranquility in 2000. They, along with their son, Steve Schaaf, and business partner, Bill Jack, opened Tenacity Fitness in 2013. Since then, the Schaafs opened two additional businesses before their most recent venture: in 2020, the Schaafs, along with their son, Steve, and daughter, Amanda Roig, opened Permanent Makeup by Tranquility just three weeks before the Covid pandemic hit, and were still able to make the business survive through the hard times, and in 2022, they opened NL Bridal (an onsite bridal service) with their son, daughter, and business partner, Natalie Lokchine. Their new venture, Pet Salon and Boutique by Tranquility, is owned by Michele, Steve, and their son and daughter, and marks the fifth business the Schaaf family has established in Hainesport .

When asked about the reason for expanding the business to include pet grooming services, owner Steve Schaaf explained, "We have always loved animals and used to do dog rescue in the past. An end unit became available in the Tranquility complex and we and the landlord wanted to make sure it was occupied by a business which fit in with the existing businesses, fit into our expertise, and required minimal parking. The idea of pet grooming came up, and we decided it would be a great fit for the center!" The new salon is Hainesport's first only "pet grooming" business, and we wish the Schaafs nothing but the best. Given their business history here in Hainesport, they certainly have the plan and tools to thrive!

Hainesport Community Cats

Janice Ludden

“What greater gift than the love of a cat.” – Charles Dickens



When I first became involved with Hainesport Community Cats (HCC), I was surprised by how many “homeless” cats live here in Hainesport. HCC is a small, all-volunteer group working to manage the feral cat population in our town through TNR and, whenever possible, adoption. We work alongside Friends of the Burlington County Animal Shelter (FOBCAS), and we can use your help in several ways.

If you are someone who is kind enough to feed feral cats, please make sure the cats are fixed. To humanely control the cat population, HCC aims for all outdoor cats to be spayed or neutered. If they are fixed, they will have the tip of the left ear clipped. If not, contact us for help. Also, be sure to line any outside cat shelters with straw rather than hay or blankets which trap moisture. Remember: “Straw is for Strays!”

If you are interested in becoming more involved, we definitely could use help with trapping. Training and equipment will be provided. And if you need a kitten fix, we often have fostering opportunities. Contact us for more information.

Finally, donations are needed year-round. In several areas of Hainesport where there are a significant number of feral cats, HCC has set up shelters and feeding stations. Daily, volunteers make sure our community cats receive food and clean water. The food to feed these cats comes as donations from our generous residents. Donations of cat food – wet or dry – can be dropped off at the Municipal building. Monetary donations can also be dropped off at the Municipal building or at donation boxes in Diamond Diner and Ace of Spays. We also accept Venmo @HainesportCats.

There are several ways to contact us (We are volunteers, please be patient if we don’t reply immediately): Facebook message @hainesportTNR - and be sure to like our page

Email to HainesportCats@gmail.com

Call/text 848-228-3836

Hawks Highlights

Alex Fisher, Assistant Principal, Hainesport Township School

Positivity. A lot of us, especially adults in any walk of life, are in need of a little more positivity within our day. The same can be true for students, too! One of the Hainesport School programs that highlights the necessity of positivity is the Positive Behavior In School program, known as "PBIS." PBIS is truly a community endeavor: while the dedicated Counseling Department of Mrs. Orangers, Ms. Barnett, and Mrs. Murphy spearheaded PBIS, classroom teachers and staff implement the program. PBIS implementation includes motivating positivity through application of an incentive system. Students earn online tokens for their positive actions and words both inside and outside of the classroom and, in turn, use the tokens to purchase various items from the school store. Need cool pencils, stickers, slime, books, gift cards, or a lunch bunch with an old teacher? You name it, and Mrs. Orangers, Ms. Barnett, and Mrs. Murphy have it in the school store! The highlight for the students is at the end of the month teachers nominate a student for each class. All of the winners spin the Hawk Wheel (Hearing kids chant hawks during the spin is expected!) to win a prize of their choice. As we say at Hainesport School: "Make it a positive day, the choice is up to you!"

Profiles of Success at RVRHS

Vicki Bersch

AI. It seems that everywhere we turn in the news lately, we encounter the topic of artificial intelligence. In case you missed it, Rancocas Valley Regional High School was featured on NBC Nightly News on September 10th in a story on school safety and security and RVRHS's use of a new AI-powered gun detection technology that works 24/7/365 to monitor all areas of the school campus. Founded by a team of Navy Seals, "ZeroEyes" is human-verified, proactive gun detection and geolocation software that ties into a school's existing digital security cameras with the goal of stopping mass shootings and gun violence in schools. Saving lives while respecting people's privacy and rights, as related to the use of AI to detect guns, is the ultimate goal of this technology. Former military veterans and law enforcement personnel review each alert around the clock and then alert first responders and campus security teams of the weapon's location, with pinpoint accuracy, thereby enabling rapid response times by law enforcement and school security personnel. Another advantage of the AI is financial in nature: the detection system costs less than \$600 per year per digital camera stream. This cost is much more economical than RVRHS installing \$100,000 metal detectors at all entrances, requiring additional staff at each metal detector as well. At RVRHS, AI holds the promise of greater safety and security for the school community, with the additional benefits of respecting community members' privacy and containing costs.

Casey's Corner

Donna Casey, Recreation Director

As the trees don their garments of orange and gold, we welcome Fall 2023 and its festive events and activities. Take your pick—health, Halloween treats, movies, face painting, food trucks, antique cars, live music, fire safety, a scarecrow contest, a veterans luncheon—we've got it all for you in October and November!

What better way to usher in a new season than to enhance your health? **On October 19th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Stine's Apothecary will hold a vaccination clinic at the Kenneth Street Community Center.** Administration of flu and COVID booster shots is available to those who are 12+. You may schedule an appointment at www.stinesrx.com. Please bring a copy of your insurance card with you. A discounted price will be offered to those without insurance. Also, "Hope" on Halloween is coming our way: on **October 31st, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the Hope One mobile access unit will be available at the Municipal Building** to provide linkages for treatment and recovery support services to persons struggling with addiction and related issues.

Calling all Halloween fans: **Trunk or Treat is back on October 13th, from 6:00 - 7:00 PM!** Wear a costume and mingle with local business owners and members of the Hainesport Township staff, Fire Company, EMS, and State Police, who will provide treats, games, and other activities. Stick around after Trunk or Treat to see our last film in the **Movie in the Park** series, *Puss N Boots: The Last Wish*, sponsored by Parker, McKay, Attorneys at Law. If that isn't enough Halloweening for you, don't forget to participate in the spooktacular **Halloween House Decorating Contest**. Prizes will be awarded to the houses that place 1st (\$75), 2nd (\$50), and 3rd (\$25). The entry deadline is **October 20th at noon**, and the judging will occur on October 21st and 22nd. For further information, please contact Donna Casey at 609-267-2730 ext. 121 or dcasey@hainesporttownship.com.

It's **Fall Festival** time, and that means food trucks, face painting, pumpkin decorating, a scarecrow contest, a 4H petting zoo, an antique car show, and live music from The Bilco Band! **Did someone say scarecrow contest?** You know you want to participate, so you'll need the details. There are several categories: **2 kids categories** (10 & under AND 11-16), **adults** (17 and up), and **families**. Be sure to drop off your completed entry form at the Municipal Building or email it to Donna Casey at dcasey@hainesporttownship.com. The contest entry form may be found at: <https://www.hainesporttownship.com/home/news/scarecrow-contest> **and is due on October 6th. Once you construct your scarecrow, please bring it to the Municipal Building on October 11th by 4:30 PM.** Judging will take place at the Fall Festival between Noon and 3:00 PM, and the winners will be announced by 3:30 PM. As if that weren't enough for Fall Festival devotees, because October is Fire Prevention Month, the Hainesport Fire Company will present **fire safety awareness and prevention demonstrations** at the festival. Wait...there's more: members of the New Jersey State Police and Hainesport Township Committee will join in

the fun of **decorating pumpkins**. You can participate in all these wonderful **Fall Festival activities at the Municipal Park, on October 14th, from Noon to 4:00 PM.**

As Fall 2023 continues, so too does **Story Time, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM on October 20th and November 17th, respectively, at the Kenneth Street Community Center.** On October 20th, special guests from the South Jersey Food Bank will join us to teach us about nutrition and to make a healthy snack. Reminder: children are welcome to bring a book for our book swap (new or gently used books, please).

While we usually associate spring with cleaning, fall provides ample opportunity to tidy up, too, so be sure to mark your calendars for **Fall Clean Up Day. On October 21st, from 7:00 AM to Noon, at the Kenneth Street Community Center,** Hainesport residents may drop off various items, including paint, tires (4 max), car batteries, furniture, appliances, wood, computers, monitors, and household “junk.” Those who wish to participate in the **shredding event should come to the Municipal Building between 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, on October 21st.** Whether you’re headed to the Street Center or the Municipal Building, **remember to bring your ID.**

Fall in Hainesport would be incomplete without celebrating others who selflessly serve us—our veterans. **On Friday, November 10th, we will hold our annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon at the Hainesport Township Firehouse.** The event is free for veterans and \$10 per person for veterans’ guests. Join us for lunch, presentations, and keynote speaker, Ronald Aiello, co-founder and Chairman of the Board, United States War Dog Association. Luncheon registration forms may be found on the Hainesport app and website (www.hainesporttownship.com). Seating is limited, so please submit your completed form to Donna Casey at the Municipal Building by **October 25th.**