

# Hainesport Community Chronicle

A Bimonthly Newsletter Supporting Hainesport's Commitment to Community

## **Spotlight on Earth Day 2023: Nature Celebrated in Text and Images**

**-featuring excerpts from Harbor Baptist Academy students' essays  
and the photography of Gary Hessel**

The following words of wisdom appear in essays that several Harbor Baptist Academy students composed in the course of competing in an Earth Day-themed essay contest. The theme, "Invest in Your Planet," challenged the young writers to focus on man's responsibility to the environment.

*The earth is a gift to humanity from our Creator, and we should be good stewards. Its resources and beauty should be preserved, not for their own sakes, but to improve the quality of life for ourselves and future generations.*

*Young people don't think that they have as much impact on this planet as an adult does, but they are equally responsible for it.*

*...[I]f people can find a way to effectively replace the use of limited resources with renewable resources, they should do everything in their power to make the change.*

Courtesy of photographer, Gary Hessel, the following images capture some of the nature-inspired projects created by the many children who participated in Hainesport Township's celebration of Earth Day.



# **Business Buzz**

**Paula Kosko, Township Administrator**

Wouldn't it be nice to enjoy a home away from home, just around the corner? With its recent "facelift," that's exactly how you'll feel about the Kenneth Street Community Center, where many, like the Girl Scouts, senior citizens, and Story Time tots, gather to attend events that build community. Named for Kenneth Street, who generously served Hainesport residents for years as its mayor, the Street Community Center boasts eye-catching renovations, including new carpets, windows, and front door.

By way of history, the building opened in 1965 and served as Hainesport Township's municipal building. Decades later, in 1998, the Township purchased the Yost Farm property at 1401 Marne Highway for the purpose of constructing a new municipal building and community park. In 2002, the current municipal building was dedicated, and the Street Community Center came to be. Many local non-profit, youth, social, and civic organizations and clubs utilize the Street Community Center for meetings, training programs, and small events. The center is also available to the Hainesport Emergency Squad for in-house nighttime duty crews. Additionally, the Recreation Commission utilizes the center for many recreation programs and partnerships throughout the year.

The many recent renovations to Hainesport's community building reflect the center's value and importance. Last year's renovations include repainting of the inside by the Public Works Department and installation of new carpeting. This year, Friant's Inc. installed new windows and a new front door. New landscaping beds with new plantings will soon adorn the perimeter of the building. Furthermore, plans to refurbish the surrounding concrete walkways are on the horizon.

The Street Community Center occupies a valuable place in Hainesport's history. Our local taxes fund the center's improvements, ongoing maintenance and associated costs for the present and future use and benefit of all Hainesport residents. Consequently, if you haven't visited the Street Community Center lately, drop by 100 Broad Street, and bring your family and friends along to admire its transformation!

# Profiles of Success at RVRHS

Vicki Bersch

**Shane Canning**, a Rancocas Valley Regional High School senior and Hainesport resident, will attend West Chester University, where he plans to major in Criminal Justice. Shane, a varsity football and baseball player, supported his school community through participating in various extracurricular activities, including Homecoming and Red/White Night. Shane also contributed to his local community through serving as an altar boy at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Hainesport and raising money for veterans in the RV Devil Dash. Best of luck to Shane as he pursues his aspirations to work for the FBI!

**Madison Moore**, a Hainesport resident and senior at Rancocas Valley Regional High School, was recently awarded the LaSalle University Christian Brothers Scholarship, which covers full tuition for four years. She won the scholarship among hundreds of applicants by composing an essay addressing how academics and extracurricular activities have shaped her intellectual and personal outlook. Maddie has earned a 3.5 GPA and a weighted GPA of 4.7, as a result of taking many honors and AP classes throughout her four years. She played soccer and lacrosse for two years before Covid hit and then decided to get two full-time jobs to save money for college. Maddie worked for a year at Top Golf and for three years at Chipotle, where she was promoted to a manager position. Since many of her customers and co-workers speak little English, Maddie took the initiative to teach herself Spanish! She plans to major in political science and wants to pursue a career as a family lawyer or corporate lawyer. Congrats, Maddie, on a job well done!

## Casey's Corner

Donna Casey, Recreation Director

### *SPRING REVIEW*

Before looking forward to the summer, let's take a moment to sample highlights of the Township's celebration of spring:

The season wouldn't be the same without the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which was a rousing success, thanks to the children who participated in the hunt, Mr. Bunny, and a surprise visit by a local celebrity, ShopRite's Scrunchy the Bear. Mr. Bunny and Scrunchy, who were escorted parade-style into the celebration courtesy of our hardworking Emergency Squad personnel, New Jersey State Police troopers, and Fire Company firefighters, joined the children for fun, high fives, and photo ops.

Hainesport residents also gathered in April to celebrate Earth Day and to participate in programs designed for children and adults alike: Hainesport Environmental Commission master

gardener demonstrations, including how to plant tomatoes, Story Time with crafts, during which the children turned ordinary paper towel rolls into seed pods, Starchild Nature Center hands-on, nature-based activities, and a Harbor Baptist Academy workshop, during which the children constructed birdhouses out of milk cartons. It's amazing what the pairing of recycling and creativity can produce, and what our community can accomplish for our environment each year!

### ***SUMMER PREVIEW***

After reflecting on the accomplishments of spring, our thoughts turn to the promise of summer: "Trees swayin' in the summer breeze/Showin' off their silver leaves..." It's June, and that means summer is almost here, and what a summer it will be in Hainesport!

Calling all runners (and their devoted fans): In conjunction with Community Wellness day, join us on **Saturday, June 3, 2023, at 8:30 AM for the Hainesport 5K, at Hainesport Township Municipal Park**. Packet pick-up is available from 7:30 - 8:15 AM on race morning. Registration is required, so be sure to visit **beastcoastpro.com** to download the registration form and waiver.

If running isn't the way you get your weekend off to a racing start, then bring your family and friends to **Community Wellness Day, on Saturday, June 3rd, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Hainesport Township Municipal Park** (Rain date: June 10, 2023). Highlights of the event include the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Mobile Cancer Screening Van, Jefferson Hospital's Teddy Bear Clinic and varied entertainment from the 4-H Cloggers, a DJ, karate schools, and Dance XPerience. Wait...there's more: New Jersey State Police Canine, Marine, Mounted, Bicycle Patrol and Aviation (Yes, their helicopter will land in the back baseball field of the Municipal Park!) Units activities, Fire Company demonstrations, food trucks, inflatables, a hula hoop contest, and for animal lovers of all ages—Starchild Nature Center pygmy goats and 4-H small animals.

Music fans, if the Community Wellness Day entertainment program puts you in the mood for **more music**, then mark your calendars for the **Concerts in the Park Series**, featuring live performances by multiple artists **on Sunday evenings in July and August, in the Municipal Park, starting at 7:00 PM**. Just look at the line-up for **July**: The Kootz Band (classic and current rock) on July 9th, Old Man's Garage Band/OMGB (rock, country, blues, and funk) on July 16th, Wayne Palmer and Friends (American standard blues and jazz) on July 23rd, and Tookany Creek BlueGrass Band (bluegrass) on July 30th. And if you need to take a snack break amidst all the fun, be sure to visit the concession stand, where refreshments will be sold.

## **Join the Green Team!**

**Anna Evans, Township Committeewoman**

Hainesport is forming a Green Team as part of its commitment to the Sustainable New Jersey program. The Green team will document existing environmental programs and promote new areas of "green" activity. If you are interested in serving as a resident volunteer, please email a resume and letter of intent to [aevans@hainesporttownship.com](mailto:aevans@hainesporttownship.com) by June 30, 2023.