

HAINESPORT COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

A Bimonthly Newsletter Supporting Hainesport's Commitment to Community



Hainesport Township Committee Members, from left: Committeewoman Karen Tordy, Deputy Mayor Kenneth Montgomery, Mayor Leila Gilmore, and Committeeman Gerard Clauss, Not pictured: Committeewoman Anna Evans

Spotlight on Hainesport's 100th Anniversary: A Commemorative Township Meeting

Keva Elie, Sophomore, Moorestown Friends School

On March 12, 1924, the first meeting in the new township of Hainesport was held after Hainesport's secession from Lumberton Township. Exactly one century later in 2024, with cake, decorations, and artwork, Hainesport commemorated this day, the anniversary of which fortuitously fell on the evening of a monthly township meeting.

In a special gathering that blended routine governance with historical reverence, Hainesport Township commemorated its 100th anniversary during one of its regular township meetings.

Township officials, residents, and honored guests gathered to formally mark this significant milestone, blending the traditional proceedings of a township meeting with the celebratory air of the historic occasion. The meeting commemorated the retirement of one of Hainesport's EMTs, Don Platt, and his longstanding contributions to our community. The meeting subsequently moved into celebrating Harbor Baptist Academy and Hainesport School students and their artwork depicting various historical sites in Hainesport, a project illustrating one of the centennial celebration's themes: "Viewing the Past through the Eyes of the Future."

Rich history, bright future.

Additionally, township leaders highlighted recent achievements and ongoing projects that promise to shape Hainesport's future, as initiatives focusing on sustainability, recreation, and infrastructure development were discussed. Perhaps the most poignant aspect of the centennial celebration was the overwhelming sense of unity and pride shared by Hainesport residents.



William Kwadwo Akwamoah and Sakura Ashley Falchetta, Sophomores at BCIT

Spotlight on Hainesport's 100th Anniversary: Viewing the Past through the Eyes of the Future

Elizabeth Gallagher, Newsletter Editor

Pearl S. Buck, writer and novelist, wisely advised: "If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday." Two local students, Sakura Ashley Falchetta and William Kwadwo Akwamoah, sophomores at Burlington County Institute of Technology, have searched Hainesport Township's "yesterday" to help us rediscover many of the historic sites located in the town we call home.

Under the guidance of veteran history teacher, Mr. Steve Jamrogowicz, Sakura and Will conducted research to compose the site descriptions that will appear in the upcoming guide, *Hainesport Township's 100th Anniversary Driving and Walking Tours Guide*.

The event underscored the township's legacy as a community that remains tightly knit and supportive of its members, despite changes and challenges that spanned a century.

In marking this 100-year milestone, Hainesport honored its history and reaffirmed its commitment to a brighter future. Here's to the next one hundred years of growth and achievements for Hainesport Township!

In the course of responding to questions about their work, Sakura and Will reflected on the historic sites project and its impact on them:

***What do you like best about studying history?**

Sakura: It's actually my favorite academic subject. I think the thing I like best is the story. History to me is like a makeshift storytelling class but with real events and real people. Piecing together primary and secondary pieces of information to get a full understanding of what happened at the time is fascinating. The way people thought, ate, spoke, felt, and acted during different times in history is worth understanding and looking into.

Will: I like how history relates to or affects what is going on in our day.

***What was the most difficult challenge you encountered during the project?**

Sakura: I think just finding resources outside of the [Hainesport] biography. I had to look to the Internet...I tried to stick to official websites, but even then sometimes the information didn't line up 100 percent. I used resources like official websites of stores and churches, as well as Google Earth, and community boards.

Will: Trying to find the most accurate information on Hainesport, since some articles were decades old and hard to search for!

***What was your favorite part of working on the project?**

Sakura: My favorite part of the project was definitely coming up with a way to put this information and past into more of a tale. I wanted to rewrite it into more of a story rather than just facts. Thinking about how these people at the time thought of the situation.

Will: Looking back at all I had written, and deciding I was done. Basically, being happy with what I had accomplished.

***How, if at all, has working on the project changed your view of local history?**

Sakura: It definitely makes me realize that sometimes small towns like Hainesport have just as much history as the whole region. I mean, how would I know Ben Franklin's daughter resided there?

Will: I realize a little more that every town does have its own story.

***How does it feel to know that you made a valuable contribution to a town's celebration of its 100 years of history?**

Sakura: Honestly, for not even knowing where Hainesport was located before this project, it's cool.

Will: After everything I learned about this historical town, I just hope I did Hainesport justice!

Perhaps Sakura and Will's insights will provide a new lens through which we can view our township and its rich history. Perhaps their reflections will inspire us to appreciate Hainesport's unique past. Perhaps, at the very least, their words will move us to a greater sense of stewardship of our community and its history.

Business Buzz: A Heartfelt Thank You!

Jennifer Koutsouris, Technical and Administrative Assistant

Helen Keller once said, "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." These wise words capture the spirit that Hainesport Township has witnessed among its business partners over the past 100 years. Hainesport Township would like to express its thanks and gratitude to all the businesses in our township.

Many of our Recreation Department's events are such a success because of the generous support and donations made by our local businesses.

These events include our annual Easter Egg Event, Community Wellness Day, Halloween Trunk-or-Treat, movies and concerts in the park, and many more! Hainesport Township is very fortunate and proud of each and every business that calls Hainesport its home. We look forward to continuing great relationships with our businesses and many more successful events in the future, especially our 100th Anniversary Celebration, on June 1, 2024. We hope to see our businesses and residents celebrating this event with us!

Hawks Highlights

Maddie Minero, Sixth Grade Student, Hainesport Township School
Alex Fisher, Assistant Principal, Hainesport Township School

March 12, 2024 was a historic day for our town as it turned 100 years old. In honor of this event, many students and teachers were asked to discuss their favorite things about our township. Although there were a variety of answers, all of them pointed to one thing: the people of Hainesport love their town! Fifth grade teacher, Mrs. DeSimone noted, "The town is very close knit." Ms. Soltesz, a middle school teacher, commented that it was so nice to "...always see people you know wherever you go." The students of Hainesport Township School District also possess a very high opinion of our town.

Students noted, "The people in our town are so nice." Other students remarked, "It is so quiet and suburban." Due to the small class sizes, some students pointed out that Hainesport "...is like one big family because you know everyone and all the teachers, too." Katelyn Haber, Student Body President, also weighed in on the survey: "We always have fun school and town activities, like the Christmas tree lighting at the park and other things, and it makes everything more fun." Hainesport students cannot wait to celebrate Hainesport's 100th anniversary in June and see what everyone else loves about our special town!

Profiles of Success at RVRHS

Vicki Bersch

Dawn Flanagan, a Rancocas Valley Regional High School guidance counselor, has been chosen as the 2024 Counselor of the Year by her Burlington County School Counselors Association colleagues. Dawn has served in the guidance department at RV since 2003 and, in 2021, became Guidance Coordinator.

Dawn's career in education began with her first job as a math teacher from 1989 to 1995 at Maple Shade High School, after which she took a five year leave to raise her daughter. Dawn then resumed teaching math at Sterling High School, where she also was an assistant field hockey and lacrosse coach, ultimately becoming the varsity lacrosse coach, a role she undertook for six years. Dawn also served on the Delran Township Board of Education from 2018 to 2021, before moving to Mount Laurel.

Dawn earned her Master's Degree in Counseling in 2002 and soon thereafter became a guidance counselor at Palmyra High School. She then joined RV's community in 2003, where she has been a counselor for 21 years! In addition to performing her counseling duties, Dawn participates in several other programs at RV and is a member of several professional organizations.

It comes as no surprise that Counselor of the Year is not Dawn's first recognition for outstanding work in her field. She was named Educational Services Professional of the Year at RV in 2017 and has been recognized by her peers and students as Staff Member of the Month and Most Organized.

Dawn draws her inspiration from the students at RV, emphasizing their incredible resilience: "Despite facing various challenges,

Rich history, bright future.


they demonstrate remarkable determination and resilience. It's truly a privilege to witness their growth and development. I'm blessed to help them as they navigate their high school journey."


Dawn has truly been an asset to RVRHS and the community, and her commitment to guidance, support, and mentorship has set high standards for others. Congratulations to Dawn Flanagan—Keep up your excellent work!


Casey's Corner

Donna Casey, Recreation Director

 It's Spring 2024, and that means we're ready for our 3rd Annual Earth Day event! Come out on April 20, 2024, from 9:00 AM to Noon at the Pavilion, for "Planet vs. Plastic" environment-focused programs, including a recycling art project with Harbor Baptist Academy, a recycling demonstration on the use of recycled house and yard debris, and dedication of the "Buddy Bench" to the Hainesport Township School District (11:45 AM). Representatives of the Green Team, Hainesport Environment Commission, Hainesport Community Cats, and the Burlington County Library System will be in attendance. Hainesport Community Cats will accept food donations (canned or dry food) and monetary donations to help defray the expenses of spaying or neutering, as well as any medical needs.

 Speaking of the environment, what better way is there to take care of our environment than a community-wide clean-up event? Residents who wish to participate in direct efforts to make our community as pristine as possible should consider participating in the Township's Clean-up Day, on April 20, 2024, from 7:00 AM to Noon, at the Street Center. Please consult the township website for guidance regarding which items are included in the clean-up. Shredding will take place at the Municipal Building from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

 Our ever-popular Story Time events continue in April and May. Our April event will occur in conjunction with the April 20th Earth Day festivities at the Municipal Complex from 9:00 AM to Noon. Our May Story Time event will be held on May 17th at the Street Center, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The May event will be our last Story Time event until September, so be sure to join us for engaging stories, fun, and light refreshments!

 Wait...there's more in store for Spring 2024: as part of our centennial celebration, our resident genealogist, Elyse Vahjen, joined by Hal Pshunder, will present historic highlights in the first of our centennial celebration discussion series, "Our Town's Founder, Enoch Barclay Haines," from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on April 27th and again on April 30th.

The series continues into May, with Conley Brooks' discussion of "Commerce and Catastrophes" from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on May 11th and again from 7:00 to 8:30 PM on May 21st. All centennial celebration series discussions will take place at the Street Center.

🇺🇸 Additionally, consistent with celebrating Hainesport's 100th Anniversary, we are mindful of the sacrifices many of our residents have made over the past 100 years—and continue to make—in the course of serving our country. Be sure to join us in honoring our veterans* on Memorial Day, May 27, 2024, during the Hainesport Township's Memorial Service at 9:00 AM, at the Municipal Building. Highlights of the service include placement of wreaths at the Veterans Monument and an address by keynote speaker, Lt. Colonel Geoffrey Noble, who served with the New Jersey State Police for 26 years.

During that time, he served in various roles, including general-duty road trooper, detective in the Major Crimes Unit, Commanding Officer of the Forensic and Technical Services Section, and Deputy Superintendent. Lt. Colonel Noble, who earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice and an M.A. in Education from Seton Hall University, is a 1995 graduate of the New Jersey State Police Academy and a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He resides in Hainesport with his wife and three children. Also, there is still time to purchase a Hometown Veteran Hero Banner. The banners are on display in the township park from Memorial Day until Veterans Day. Additional details may be found on the township website and app.

🎆 That's right FIREWORKS...and soooooo much more: Join us on June 1st, from 4:00 to 9:30 PM, at the Municipal Complex for outstanding music from nationally-known tribute band, Hollywood Nights-Bob Seger Tribute, featuring Hainesport's own Rick Murphy, the band's founder and lead singer and Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers tribute band, Pure Petty; delicious food from 10+ food carts; and fun displays and games, including a trackless train, antique cars, inflatables, and a cornhole tournament!

The fireworks display will begin around dusk and will include a special playlist presented by DJ Nick Rossi.

Get into the June 1st celebration spirit now by purchasing commemorative items, such as Hainesport's 100th Anniversary Garden flags (\$20 per flag), Shirts (Long sleeve \$20.00, Short sleeve \$15.00, Children (large only) \$10.00), Air Balloon Raffle (\$25 per ticket) --winner announced at event, 20 VIP-designated spaces with canopy tents (yours to keep) and will be sold for \$175 each, MEGA 50/50 (\$10 per ticket), and Commemorative Cups. If you are interested in purchasing any of our 100th Anniversary items, please contact Donna Casey, Recreation Director at dcasey@hainesporttownship.com



Tulip Poplar along the Arbor Walk

The Arbor Walk at Hainesport Township Municipal Complex: Welcome, Spring!

Janice Ludden, Co-chair, Hainesport Township Environmental Commission

Arbor Day is an annual celebration of trees during which residents and groups are encouraged to take part in planting trees. This year, Arbor Day will be celebrated on Friday April 26th.

Part of the beauty of Hainesport Township's Municipal Complex are the numerous trees.

Trees in our residential neighborhood provide us with so many benefits throughout the year. Trees provide shade in the summer with relief from the heat and a feeling of relaxation. In the spring and fall, trees provide beauty with blossoms and changing colors. Trees improve air quality by trapping particulate pollutants, providing oxygen, and absorbing carbon. Trees reduce flooding by retaining stormwater and preventing erosion. Trees provide habitat and food for birds and other wildlife. And a property that is landscaped with trees and other plants is more desirable than a barren landscape.

If you haven't experienced the Municipal Arbor Walk yet, please consider a spring outing. The walk follows the perimeter of the municipal grounds primarily along Deacon Road. There you will find a variety of trees that were selected to showcase those which are either native to our area or ones which provide year-round interest. As you stroll the walking trails, you will discover the labeled trees. If you wish to learn more details about specific trees along the walk, you can find additional information about each tree on the Environmental Commission section of the Hainesport website: https://www.hainesporttownship.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf3211f/uploads/arbor_walk_web_content.pdf