



*Mayor Kelly F. Yacobi*

**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP DIVISION OF HEALTH, RECREATION,  
SENIOR SERVICES AND VETERAN AFFAIRS**

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# **2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

**JEFFREY J. PLUNKETT, DIRECTOR/HEALTH OFFICER**

**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP DIVISION OF HEALTH  
2100 GREENWOOD AVENUE  
HAMILTON NJ 08609**

## **2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

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NURSING DIRECTOR**

# HAMILTON TOWNSHIP DIVISION OF HEALTH 2016

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Hamilton Township Division of Health is dedicated to maintaining the health and wellbeing of our residents and visitors by means of prevention, health promotion, and education.*

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The Hamilton Township Division of Health balances three-core government Public Health Functions. These functions are essential to the maintenance of population-based services:

- 1) Assessment of the health of the community and its resources;
- 2) Development of health policy which addresses the defined needs of the community and;
- 3) Assurance that high quality, effective services are provided or are available to the residents of this community.

## HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020/ HEALTHY HAMILTON 2020

Healthy People 2020 have a ten-year plan for improving the nation's health. Healthy People 2020 envision a society in which all people live long, healthy lives.

**Mission Healthy People 2020** strives to:

- Identify nationwide health improvement priorities.
- Increase public awareness and understanding of the determinants of health, disease, and disability and the opportunities for progress.
- Provide measurable objectives and goals that are applicable at the national, state, and local levels.
- Engage multiple sectors to take actions to strengthen policies and improve practices that are driven by the best available evidence and knowledge.
- Identify critical research, evaluation, and data collection needs.

Our goal for Hamilton Township mirrors the goals set forth by Healthy People 2020 in striving to:

- Attain high quality, longer lives free of preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death.

- Achieve health equity, eliminate disparities, and improve the health of all groups.
- Create social and physical environments that promote good health for all.
- Promote quality of life, healthy development, and healthy behaviors across all life stages.

The Hamilton Township Division of Health provides programs mandated under Minimum Standards, to be known as Practice Standards. These traditional programs are recognized as necessary in order to protect and improve the health of the residents of Hamilton Township. “A strong public health system not only identifies and addresses health problems, but also assures healthy communities by preventing conditions that threaten health” (Healthy New Jersey 2010). Great strides have been made over the past decade: life expectancy at birth increased; rates of death from coronary heart disease and stroke decreased. Nonetheless, public health challenges remain, and significant health disparities persist. It is recognized that lifestyle and environmental factors are key elements in disease prevention and health promotion. Therefore, this Health Division utilizes health promotion, health protection, and provision of preventive services to best achieve the goals for a Healthy Hamilton 2020.

## Public Health Nursing Section

In the last two decades, there has been a tremendous increase in not only the services provided by this section, but a change in how the services are delivered.

This Public Health Nursing Section strives to provide effective public health actions, based on accurate knowledge of the causes and distribution of health problems and of effective interventions.

**Public Health Nursing is the practice of promoting and protecting the health of populations using knowledge from nursing, social, and public health sciences.**

The Core Functions of Public Health

- 1) **Assessment**
- 2) **Policy development**
- 3) **Assurance**

The Public Health Nursing Section has been responsible for and has provided programs in **Maternal/Child Health, School Health, Communicable Disease, Chronic Disease/Adult Health Services, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Blood Borne**

**Pathogens/Employee Health, Bioterrorism/Emergency Management Planning, and Community Education/Health Education.**

Outreach to every population, including infant, pre-school, school age, adolescent, young adult, middle age and older adult, has benefited by the increase and improved delivery of services, and with the continued support of this administration.

**Maternal/Child Health**

**I. PRENATAL PROGRAM**

**High Risk Prenatal Home Visiting**

**Health Start** is a health services program for income-eligible pregnant women and children under two years of age. Area hospitals are Health Start providers of primary care prenatal services. Home visits are seen as a vital component for women and children at risk. "High risk" patients may have physical, mental, social, and/or environmental problems. In Hamilton Township, home visits are provided by the Public Health Nurses when requested or a referral is made.

- In the year 2016, there was (9) referrals for a high-risk prenatal checks requested.

**II. POSTPARTUM/INFANT PROGRAMS**

**Postpartum/Newborn Visits**

Home visiting to families with newborns is another valuable way to provide information and guidance on physical, emotional, nutritional, and cognitive development of infants. Home visiting was identified through Minimum Standards as a necessary component of the Maternal/Child Health program. The Hamilton Township Public Health Nursing Section has been visiting postpartum mothers and their newborns for many years.

**Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital was the birthing hospital in our township. On March 2015, RWJUHH closed its maternity unit. With the closing of the maternity unit, postpartum and newborn home visit referrals have declined.**

- In 2016, there were (11) births in Hamilton Township. These births were home births and enroute births.
- In 2016, there were (9) post partum phone interviews with post-partum and newborn education completed by the public nursing section.

### **III. CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCE**

#### **1) Assessment/Immunizations**

In an attempt to find medical homes for indigent populations, Medicaid has expanded their program into NJ Kid Care and most recently, Family Care. It was also recognized that insured individuals should receive their well care and immunizations through their physicians.

The Vaccine for Children Program (VFC) is a federal program in which vaccines are provided to the health departments and private physicians free for all eligible clients. Clientele serviced at this health department are the uninsured or Family Care Plan A clients. The underinsured, by law, must be referred and serviced at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

- In the year 2016, there were **(77)** Child Health Conferences held on Wednesday and every other Thursday.
- In the year 2016, there were a total of **(451)** children ( infants, preschool, school age, and college age children) seen in our Child Health Conferences.
- Approximately **(1,172)** immunizations were administered to clients aged 2 months through nineteen years.
- **(130)** physical exams for uninsured school ages children were performed by the Advanced Nurse Practitioner.
- All walk-in clients are accommodated as needed or by appointment depending on their needs.
- Clinic clientele reflects a large number of foreign-born patients/immigrants, many of who need medical records translated from various languages, which are difficult, and time consuming. Clinic time length has increased due to time spent on each family's complex medical needs and language barriers.
- The NJIIS (New Jersey Immunization Information System) was implemented by the State to record electronically all the immunizations received by children being serviced by health providers in the NJDHSS.
- Children seen here at the Child Health Conference are enrolled into the NJIIS system with parental consent. Each immunization given is inputted into the NJIIS system and becomes the child's permanent health record that can be accessed by professionals trained in the NJIIS system.

### **IV. LEAD ASSESSMENT/INVESTIGATION/REMEDICATION**

#### **1) LEAD TESTING**

- The State ended its relationship with Medtox labs in 2014 to provide free lead testing to the under insured and uninsured. Local health departments were unable to perform this free testing for most of 2014. On September 24, 2014, the State Department of Health contracted with Tamarac Medical Agency to resume lead testing for the under insured and uninsured. The Hamilton Township Local Health Department has an account with Tamarac Medical Agency and resumed lead testing services in 2015.
- All children through the age of six years receive testing for lead poisoning through the Child Health Conference or by referral from a physician.
- In the year 2016, a total of **(23)** children were lead tested with the Tamarac filter paper blood testing system. **0** positive results ( BLL >10) were found. For any BLL>10, family education is provided with a referral for follow up. All children and parents are provided with education regarding the hazards of elevated blood lead levels and risk reduction measures during CHC clinics.

## 2) **LEAD TRAX**

*State Law NJAC 8:51 governs childhood lead poisoning.*

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Information Database system must be checked daily for notification of any new cases of elevated blood lead levels. There are currently two PHN's, and one REHS certified to use this system.

- **In 2016, (1) new lead case report was received.**
- **In 2016, (9) ongoing lead cases were followed.**
- **In 2016, there are a total of (10) lead cases being case managed.**

With the guidelines, case management involves in-depth assessment to determine a plan of care by the REHS and PHN. All case management are documented in the Lead Trax system.

Lead Education and prevention remain an ongoing Public Health measure to protect children from adverse health effects from lead exposure including neurological damage during their brain development.

## **V. WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)**

In 2016 the WIC Program (a supplemental food program), is under the administration of a private agency, The Children's Home Society. Enrollees of this program receive checks, which must be spent at local vendors who are WIC designated stores. Hamilton Health Department remains a vital, busy site for this program providing Nursing services for these clients. In June of 2016, WIC relocated to the Hamilton Township McManimon Building located at Scully Avenue. This moved allowed for a better location and facility to service the WIC clients. WIC services are provided three Fridays a month.

- **800 Hamilton residents were serviced by WIC in 2016 in the Hamilton site**

## **VI. ANEMIA TESTING**

In 2016 there were **(22)** children tested during the Child Health Conference Clinics (CHC) for hemoglobin levels. Education was provided during CHC clinics on proper child nutrition on foods high in iron and nutrients are performed during this testing.

## **School Consultation/Coordination**

### **I. PRE-SCHOOL**

There are presently **52** Nursery Schools in Hamilton Township. Every Pre-School receives services from this Nursing Section, which may include all or some of the following programs: Immunization Audits, Lead Testing, Health Education Programs and Communicable Disease Follow-up.

**There are 2831 preschool children enrolled in Hamilton Township preschools receiving services from the public health nursing staff.**

### **II. ANNUAL IMMUNIZATION AUDITS**

Public Health Nurses conduct immunization audits on every pre-school, elementary, middle and high school in Hamilton Township.

Immunization audits are conducted annually on all preschools, elementary school grades kindergarten and first, all sixth graders and all newly transferred or new students from out of state or out of country.

The middle and high schools are audited annually for all new students.

- In the year 2016, there were approximately **(3071)** immunization records audited in Hamilton Township schools. Public health nurse school audits are conducted for kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, all 6<sup>th</sup> grade, all new transfer students and new students.
- In addition to immunization auditing, the nursing staff provides ongoing daily guidance, interpretation, and education of immunization records of all schools in Hamilton Township.
- These audits, re-audits, nursing intervention and fines have resulted in exemplary high immunization compliance rates for Hamilton Township.
- In 2016, **(12)** preschools were fined for inadequate immunizations compliance with the influenza vaccine and other State mandated vaccines for school admission. Fines were \$50 for each vaccine that was delinquent during nurse audits.
- In 2016, private flu clinics for Hamilton preschools with low immunization rates in 2015 were conducted at the Hamilton Township Department of Health. Forty-five **(45)** preschool children with and without insurance were immunized with the influenza vaccine from these preschools.

### **III. SCHOOL PHYSICALS & WORKING PAPERS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

- In 2016, **(130)** school physicals were performed by the Advance Practice Nurse.
- In 2016, **(6)** pre-employment physicals to obtain working papers were completed for high school students who have no health insurance and were applying for their first employment opportunity.

## **Communicable Disease Prevention Program**

### **I. REPORTABLE DISEASES**

*Chapter 57, Reportable Communicable Diseases (N.J.A.C. Title 8)* mandates the reporting and follow-up of specific diseases to the Health Officer in each municipality. The Public Health Nursing Section is responsible for the Communicable Disease Program in Hamilton Township. Follow up is conducted

on all reportable diseases, including outbreaks in any institution or facility. The focus is on the basic principles of epidemiology as they are applied to the surveillance, prevention, and control of communicable disease. Institutional outbreaks require immediate attention and much time is spent with the facility coordinating prevention and control measures.

Underreporting of communicable diseases is an ongoing problem in the State of New Jersey. Laboratories are mandated to report specific diseases but physicians often neglect to report the mandated reportable diseases. Therefore, it is known that the reported numbers below are probably an understatement and not a true indicator of the diseases present in this community.

- All reportable diseases are reported and/or obtained through the State CDRSS Program, or reporting by health facilities. Daily input of case management activities, laboratory test results and diagnosis analysis is performed.
- Public Health Nurses investigate all reportable diseases, and collaborate with clients and environmental health staff. Improved reporting procedures have resulted in better laboratory reporting, however, physician reporting continues to be problematic.
- Outbreaks in the community and nursing homes and long-term care facilities require intense investigation and constant follow up and education by the Public Health Nurses.

## **II. COMMUNITY BASED COMMUNICABLE DISEASE**

In order to protect public health, certain diseases and conditions are required to be reported in a timely manner by health care providers, administrators, and laboratory directors as per *New Jersey Administrative Code Title 8, Chapters 57 and 58*.

- In 2016 there were **(437)** various diseases reported via physician, lab slips and by the statewide electronic reporting system (CDRSS).
- Of these reported diseases, **(164)** were “confirmed positive” cases.
- **(111)** were deemed to be “not a case” in that they did not meet the required criteria for diagnosis
- **(33)** were “possible” cases
- **(40)** were “probable” cases
- **(89)** are ‘still under investigation’.

## **ENTEROVIRUS D-68**

According to the CDC, Enterovirus D 68 is one of more than 100 non-polio enteroviruses. This virus was first identified in California in 1962. EV-D68 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness. Mild symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches. Severe symptoms may include wheezing and difficulty breathing. Since EV-D68 causes respiratory illness, the virus can be found in an infected person's respiratory secretions, such as saliva, nasal mucus, or sputum. EV-D68 likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches a surface that is then touched by others. People are more likely to get infected with enteroviruses in the summer and fall. In general, infants, children, and teenagers are most likely to be infected with enteroviruses and become ill. That is because they do not yet have immunity (protection) from previous exposures to these viruses. We believe this is also true for EV-D68. Adults can be infected with enteroviruses, but they are more likely to have no symptoms or mild symptoms. Children with asthma may have a higher risk for severe respiratory illness caused by EV-D68 infection.

**In September 2014, Hamilton Township experienced the death of a four year old child caused by EVD-68. Due to this unfortunate event, Hamilton Townships Health Officer and Public Health Nurses provided extensive education to Hamilton community residents, families and Hamilton school staff members on proper hand washing and respiratory hygiene.**

**EV-D68 written education and public flu vaccines are offered free to the public.**

- **In 2016, there have been no reported casualties due to EV-D68.**

## **EBOLA**

The CDC reports, Ebola, previously known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola virus strains. Ebola can cause disease in humans and nonhuman primates. Ebola viruses are found in several African countries. Ebola was first discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since then, outbreaks have appeared sporadically in Africa. Symptoms include severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal (stomach) pain and unexplained hemorrhage (bleeding or bruising). Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola, but the average is 8 to 10 days. Recovery from Ebola depends on good supportive clinical care and the patient's immune response. People who recover from Ebola infection develop antibodies that last for at least 10 years. When an infection occurs in humans, the virus can be spread to others through direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes in, for example, the eyes, nose, or mouth) with blood or body fluids (including but not limited to urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola. Objects (like needles and syringes) that have been

contaminated with the virus. Ebola is not spread through the air, by water, or in general, by food.

- Hamilton Township Police were formally educated on Ebola and the use of PPE by the Hamilton Health Department.
- Hamilton Township Fire Fighters were formally educated on Ebola and the use of PPE by the Hamilton Health Department.
- Hamilton Township School nurses were formally educated on Ebola and the use of PPE by the Hamilton Health Department.
- In 2016, there was **(0)** Ebola surveillance cases in Hamilton of Ebola who reported daily temperatures and answered questions about their health and Ebola exposure history to the Public Health Nurses at the Hamilton Township Local Department of Health for 21 days upon arrival into the United States.

#### **MRSA OUTBREAKS:**

In 2016, there were no MRSA cases. Policies and procedures that are set up within the Hamilton school system and have been followed to prevent MRSA outbreaks.

#### **MENINGITIS:**

- **In 2016, the Hamilton Township Division of Health began providing Trumemba vaccine to uninsured college bound young adults 19 years of age or older through the State of New Jersey Adult 317 funds. Trumenba is a vaccine indicated for individuals 10 through 25 years of age for active immunization to prevent invasive disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* group B**
- **No cases of meningitis were reported in 2016.**

### **MUMPS:**

- In 2016, there was **(1)** “probable case” of mumps investigated.

### **VARICELLA:**

- In 2016, **(5)** cases of varicella were investigated
- In 2016, **(3)** were “not a case”.
- In 2016, **(2)** were “probable” varicella cases. Of the two cases, **(1)** was a school aged child who was vaccinated for varicella. No other cases evolved in the school from this case.

### **PERTUSSIS:**

- In 2016, the number of residents investigated for Pertussis was **(21)**.
- In 2016, **(3)** were “confirmed” cases
- In 2016, **(12)** were “probable” cases.
- In 2016, **(6)** were not a case.

Pertussis outbreaks tend to be cyclic with peaks seen every 3-5 years. To reduce the risk of Pertussis in new mothers and their young children the CDC now recommends that pregnant women receive a dose of Pertussis containing vaccine prior to going home after delivery.

All students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade and turning 11 years of age are also required to have a booster dose of a pertussis containing vaccine (Tdap). The Hamilton Township Health Department provides this immunization free of charge to those students who are uninsured.

### **III. OTHER DISEASE OUTBREAKS:**

In 2016, **(2)** long term care facilities were investigated for Norovirus.

In 2016, **(1)** long term care facility was investigated for **(2)** cases of legionellosis.

In 2016, **(2)** long term care facilities were investigated for Scabies outbreaks.

In 2016, **(1)** long term care facility was investigated for influenza outbreak.

#### IV. HEPATITIS A

State guidelines mandate Hepatitis A as an immediately reportable disease.

In December of 2014, it was reported that a community member who was a food handler at a local well-frequented restaurant was infected with Hepatitis A. This prompted an immediate investigation and immediate measures to stop the spread of the disease in our community.

The Hamilton Township Health Department conducted four public Hepatitis A Vaccination Clinics where community members received the Hepatitis A vaccine prophylactically in 2014.

- **In 2016, there were (8) investigations for Hepatitis A**
- **(3) were confirmed cases of Hepatitis A. Family members were immediately brought in to the DOH and received Immunoglobulin(IgG) and Hepatitis A vaccine to prevent the possibility of further spreading of Hepatitis A in the community.**
- **(5) were “not a case” of Hepatitis A.**

Public Health Nurses (PHN) continue to educate the public regarding Hepatitis A immunization importance. Uninsured residents are eligible to receive free Hepatitis A, as well as Hepatitis B immunization through our Adult Clinic.

#### III. HEPATITIS C

Hepatitis C is a contagious liver disease that ranges in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness that attacks the liver. It results from infection with the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is spread primarily through contact with the blood of an infected person. Hepatitis C can be either “acute” or “chronic.”

**Acute Hepatitis C virus infection** is a short-term illness that occurs within the first 6 months after someone is exposed to the Hepatitis C virus. For most people, acute infection leads to chronic infection.

**Chronic Hepatitis C virus infection** is a long-term illness that occurs when the Hepatitis C virus remains in a person’s body. Hepatitis C virus infection can last a

lifetime and lead to serious liver problems, including cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) or liver cancer.

Hepatitis C is usually spread when blood from a person infected with the Hepatitis C virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. Today, most people become infected with the Hepatitis C virus by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs.

- **In 2016, Hamilton township has (60) “newly diagnosed cases” of Hepatitis C.**
- **In 2016, there were (60) “confirmed cases” of Hepatitis C and (34) cases “under investigation.”**

The Hamilton Township Health Department has noticed an increase in the amount of Hepatitis C cases in the 20 – 34 year old age group.

In 2014, there were seven newly diagnosed cases of Hepatitis C in the 20 -34 year old age group.

In 2015 there were 10 newly diagnosed cases of Hepatitis C in the 20 – 34 year old age group.

In 2016, there are 20 newly diagnosed cases of Hepatitis C in the 20 – 34 year old age group. Nationally, Hepatitis C rates are rising, due in part, to needle usage in the growing heroin epidemic.

#### **IV. LEGIONELLOSIS**

- **In 2016, there was (3) “confirmed cases” of Legionellosis. One case was related to an ongoing outbreak at a local nursing home.**

#### **V. VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE**

Prior to the late 1970’s, tick-borne diseases in NJ were relatively rare and not considered a major public health threat. The first cases of Lyme disease were reported in NJ in 1978 and since then, it has been the most commonly reported tick-borne disease in the United States.

**Lyme Disease:**

- In 2016, there were (32) lymes cases “confirmed” since they met all aspects of a clinical picture for lyme disease.
  - In 2016, (28) were ‘possible cases.’
  - In 2016, (3) were “probable cases.”
  - In 2016, (38) were found to be “not a case.”
  - In 2016, (16) lymes cases are “still under investigation” at this time.

**Chikungunya:**

- In 2016, (1) ‘probable case’ of chikungunya

**Babesiosis:**

- In 2016, there was (3) “confirmed cases” of babesiosis
- In 2016, there was (0) cases of babesiosis that are still under investigation.

**Dengue Fever:**

- In 2016, there were no cases of Dengue Fever

**Ehrlichiosis:**

- In 2016, there was (10) investigated cases of ehrlichiosis and (7) was “not a case” and (3) were “probable” cases of ehrlichiosis.

**Campylobacter:**

- In 2016, there was (14) confirmed case of campylobacter.
- In 2016, there were (8) probable cases.

**Chyptosporidiposis:**

- In 2016 there were (2) confirmed cases of Chyptosporidiposis

**Vibrio:**

- In 2016, there was (1) confirmed case of vibrio

**West Nile Virus:**

- In 2016, there was (0) cases of West Nile Virus investigated in Hamilton Township but it was deemed “not a case. “

### **Zika Virus:**

On July 20, 2016 the New Jersey State Department of Health required testing for Zika infections for all clinically eligible persons. The local health departments' plays a vital role in assuring that testing be done on appropriate persons and lab specimens be sent in a timely fashion to the lab. Local health department clinical staff guided Hamilton township health care providers in this process through determining eligibility for Zika testing as well as guiding the healthcare providers in specimen collection and completion of the appropriate State forms.

Several NJ State run educational in services were held to educate the local health department clinical staff.

All approved persons for Zika testing are entered into the Communicable Disease Surveillance System (CDRSS) to generate a case number for tracking. This is done by the PHN.

- **In 2016, (36) Zika cases were approved for follow up by the Hamilton Township Health Department.**
- **(2) Zika cases were 'confirmed' in Hamilton Township**
- **(2) Zika cases were "possible" cases.**
- **(2) Zika cases were "probable" cases.**
- **(24) Zika cases were "not a case."**
- **(6) Zika cases are "pending additional testing."**

## **Blood Borne Pathogen Program**

### **I. EMPLOYEE PROGRAM**

Hepatitis (Hepatitis A, B, and C) and HIV/AIDS are diseases caused by blood borne pathogens. Therefore, *since July 1992* PEOSHA has mandated a blood borne pathogen prevention program which must be offered to all employees determined to be in high risk positions, including health personnel, police officers, and other designated titles at risk due to their job duties. Education must be provided to employees with specific job titles on an **annual basis**, and **Hepatitis B vaccine** is offered to employees determined to be at high risk occupationally for contracting this disease. Hepatitis B requires a series of three (3) vaccinations and

all administration and follow-up is conducted by this office. Education is also provided regarding the Ryan White Act which covers first responders who are exposed to specific diseases. *New* employees designated as high risk must be offered the educational program and vaccine within ten (10) days after their hire date.

Twinrix is a vaccine, which protects against both Hepatitis A and B. This vaccine is now used for the Blood borne Pathogen Program in Hamilton Township. Hepatitis A may be contracted through direct contact with an infected person. Although Hepatitis A is not, for most, considered to be a job related risk, it is now offered as an option for any employee who has not received the Hepatitis A or Hepatitis B vaccination series.

- All employees considered at risk occupationally for tetanus are offered the Tdap vaccination that provides protection for 10 years. Employees in the Animal Control Department, Water Pollution Control and Grounds and Maintenance were offered this vaccine.
- **In the year 2016, a total of (23) Twinrix vaccines, (7) Hepatitis B vaccines, (1) Hepatitis A vaccine and (3) Tdap vaccines were administered to Hamilton Township employees through the Blood borne Pathogen contracts as defined below.**

## **II. HAMILTON CONTRACTS- BLOOD BORNE PATHOGEN (BBP)**

The following agencies function under the same PEOSHA mandate regarding Blood Borne Pathogen Prevention. These agencies have contracted with this Health Division to provide training and Hepatitis Vaccine for their employees. Contracts (Inter-Local Agreements) already in place prior to 2000, were with the following agencies:

1. DeCou Fire Company
  2. Whitehorse Fire Company
  3. Colonial Fire Company
  4. Groveville Fire Company
  5. Hamilton Township Board of Education
  6. Mercer County Special Services School District
  7. Hope First Aid & Company
  8. Head Start Program
- **In 2016, there was (1) class, with (4) at-risk employees receiving blood borne pathogen education.**

### **III. BLOOD BORNE PATHOGEN (BBP) – COMMUNITY PROGRAM**

Blood borne Pathogen education is provided to the Mercer County Vocational School for Allied Health Students. The Public Health Nurse is responsible for Blood borne Pathogen instruction. These students are also offered free flu vaccine to help them to comply with the guidelines set by the agencies in which they do their experience with.

**In 2016, (18) students from Mercer County Vocational School received free flu vaccinations.**

## **Tuberculosis Screening Prevention Program**

### **I. EMPLOYEE PROGRAM**

As of September 1995, PEOSHA required that employees must be protected from occupational exposure to TB. As a result, education to designated at-risk employees has occurred. In addition, screening for TB exposure is provided on an annual basis to those designated employees. Reports of exposures to tuberculosis are required along with continued follow-up. The Public Health Nursing Section conducts the education, screening and follow-up of all employees on a continual basis.

- **In the year 2016, approximately (5) designated employees were screened with the Mantoux PPD test.**
- **(5) employees received education regarding tuberculosis exposure, transmission and treatment.**

### **II. COMMUNITY PROGRAM**

Tuberculin testing is performed on specific high-risk community populations, including teachers, healthcare professional, students in healthcare professions, volunteers at specific organizations, and at times, pre-admissions to long-term care facilities.

- **In the year 2016, there was a total of (54) adult and (67) child mantoux tests administered.**
- **There were (7) adult and (11) child with positive results which required referral to the Mercer County TB Services located at Trenton Health Team located at 218 N Broad St. (Trenton Health Dept) for assessment, follow-up and treatment as needed.**

### III. DIRECTLY OBSERVED THERAPY (DOT) PROGRAM

Residents diagnosed with active tuberculosis are required to be treated for at least six months to a year. In an effort to assure compliance and adherence to the treatment regimen, DOT is mandated for a certain length of treatment time. Public Health Nurses make home visits on a daily basis (excluding weekends and holidays) to observe and monitor patients as they take their tuberculosis medication. This program increases patient treatment compliance and ultimately the spread of TB in our community.

- **There were 0 patients visited on a daily basis for DOT in 2016, resulting in a total of 0 home visits.**

### **Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV Testing Site**

The Hamilton Township Division of Health/STD/HIV clinic is a qualified testing site. This clinic is located at the Hamilton Township Division of Health and provides exams and treatment.

In 2016, we continued to provide RAPID HIV testing. This test allows the client to be pre counseled, tested and post counseled all in the same day. The client is given their results within 20 minutes after being tested. We received the lab license to perform this test in October 2011. This program is overseen by Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick. The license is issued by the State of New Jersey. RWJUH New Brunswick has assisted us in applying for the license and they continue to assist us for reapplying annually. Monthly site visits are made to evaluate our progress and to replenish our supplies.

Public Health Nurses must monitor temperatures for minimum and maximum daily for proper maintenance of our storage area of test kits (room temperature) and refrigerator storage area for controls.

An HIV counselor must run control testing of our rapid HIV test kits (ALERE DETERMINE)) weekly to ensure quality control.

The rapid blood test and the mandatory pre counseling and post counseling are all done by Public Health Nurses that are certified in HIV counseling. The entire test takes approximately 30 minutes per client. Rapid HIV testing is done on a walk-in basis one day per week.

Along with our walk-in HIV testing program, testing of other sexually transmitted diseases occurs. One day a week, an Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner runs

this clinic. A Public Health Nurse (PHN) serves as a certified STD counselor, an additional PHN providing services in the exam room and a family nurse practitioner provides physical exams, diagnosis and treatment. Four PHN's are certified STD/HIV counselors and PHN's are qualified to perform venipuncture.

- **In the year 2016 there were (50) STD adult clinics**
- **A total of (411) clients were counseled, examined, treated and educated during the Adult STD health clinic.**
- **(263) HIV tests were performed.**
- **There was (1) confirmed case of HIV.**
- **Seventy seven (77) vaccines were given during STD/HIV clinic. Vaccines included Hepatitis A & B (Twinrix) (46), Tdap (21) and Hepatitis A vaccine (10).**
- **Inter-Local Agreement contracts include Hopewell Township, Princeton, East Windsor, Hightstown, Lawrenceville, Ewing, Robbinsville and West Windsor.**

## **Adult Health Services**

Chronic diseases are the leading cause of death and disability in the U.S. Baby Boomers account for nearly one third of national health care expenditures. Among seniors, the fastest growing segment of the population are people 85 years and older.

Extending years of life is a major focus in public health; however the quality of life during those years is important also. This Health Division has programs to detect elevations of blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol and provides Health Education as needed.

### **I. NURSING EVALUATION CLINIC**

This clinic is offered monthly, by appointment, at both of the Senior Centers in Hamilton Township (Bernice Muha Senior Center and the John O. Wilson Senior Center). Blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol tests are performed and referrals made when indicated.

- **In the year 2016, a total of (116) assessments were performed.**
- **Follow up is conducted on all referrals. All positive screening tests are referred for private medical follow up. Health teaching is provided as needed by the Public Health Nurse.**

### **II. COMMUNITY HOME EVALUATIONS**

Referrals are made to this agency to assess and follow up on public health concerns/situations by other agencies as well as individuals. They range in ages of infant through adulthood as well as elderly/senior citizen referrals. These referrals range from sanitary/living condition complaints to child/elder neglect issues.

Public Health nuisance threats such as head lice, bed bugs, etc are responded to in a timely fashion by the Public Health Nurses with RHES consultation as needed.

- **In 2016, (2) Home Health Evaluations were acted on including assessment and actions as needed.**

### **III. FLU/PNEUMONIA PREVENTION PROGRAM**

According to Healthy New Jersey 2020, in the United States, more than 90% of deaths attributable to influenza occur among persons aged 65 or older. Influenza vaccinations among the elderly have been shown to reduce the mortality and hospital admissions by sixty to seventy percent. Recommended vaccination from CDC have been expanded to include all persons 6 months and older.

This Health Division, through the Nursing Section has a very aggressive Influenza/Pneumonia vaccine program. Multiple mass immunization clinics are offered annually and the public health nursing staff makes home visits to homebound residents. Flu vaccine is also offered to all Hamilton Township employees.

The Pneumococcal vaccine is offered on a continuous basis annually. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) updated their recommendations for pneumococcal vaccine administration. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended routine use of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13 [Pneumovax 13, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a subsidiary of Pfizer Inc.]) among adults aged  $\geq 65$  years. PCV13 should be administered in series with the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23 [Pneumovax23, Merck & Co., Inc.]), the vaccine currently recommended for adults aged  $\geq 65$  years. Due to this recommendation, the Hamilton Township Division of Health offered both the Pneumovax 23 and Prevnar 13 vaccine.

The public who were 65 years of age or older were individual counselled by the Advance Practice Nurse to assure they were receiving the correct pneumonia vaccine based on their previous vaccinations.

- **In the year 2016, there were approximately (53) flu clinics held at various community sites in Hamilton Township and in Hamilton Township Schools.**
- **Approximately (3,548) influenza vaccines and were administered.**
- **There were (54) *Pneumovax 23* Pneumonia vaccines administered.**
- **There were (228) *Prevnar 13* Pneumonia vaccines administered.**
- **There were approximately (35) home visits made to homebound residents for flu shot administration.**
- **There were (3) home visits for pneumonia vaccine administration.**

#### **IV. COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

##### **1) HEALTH FAIRS/EVENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

Health fairs are held yearly throughout Hamilton Township. Educational materials are provided to the public on various topics regarding health and safety. The Public Health Nurses are available to answer any questions and for Health Consultation and Education.

- In 2016, there was **(1)** Health Fair/Presentation.
- In 2016, there was **(1)** Employee Blood Drive in the month of July. **(18)** employees donated blood.

##### **2) OCTOBERFEST**

In 2016, the Health Department had a health screening/educational tent at Octoberfest. PHN and health professionals offered BP screenings, influenza vaccine and presentations on:

- Nutrition For Longevity
- Diabetes Prevention
- Heart Health
- Fitness and Exercise
- Health Body Weight & BMI
- Stress Reduction
- Smoking Cessation
- Cancer Prevention
- Vaccine Information
- Emergency Preparedness
- First Aid and CPR
- Injury Prevention & Safety

## **Emergency Preparedness & Bioterrorism**

### **Public Health Nursing is a vital component of Emergency Preparedness & Bioterrorism**

#### **II. SMALLPOX RESPONSE TEAM**

The CDC and local health departments are working to identify health care workers and first responders who could serve on response teams following a smallpox release. Participation on these teams and in the vaccination program is purely voluntary. Public Health Nurses are seen as necessary personnel since it is only RN's, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and MD's who may vaccinate others and provide critical services in days following an attack. *Only health care workers who have been vaccinated with the smallpox vaccine will be allowed to inject the smallpox vaccine in others.* There are five regions in the State of New Jersey. Each region will have a response team. Hamilton Township is in the "Central West Region" and will be sent to Hunterdon County for education.

#### **III. SMALLPOX PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE PLAN**

These plans were provided to the health departments, which defined a timeline of activities and educational programs. The programs were initiated in 2003, and remain in place and are updated yearly.

#### **IV. BIOTERRORISM CERTIFICATION**

The New Jersey State Department of health (NJDHSS) has contracted with Rutgers University to provide training, which is a critical component of New Jersey's public health preparedness and response plan and has been developed specifically for local health departments in support of the importance to prepare for public health threats and emergencies. The NJDHSS expects that *all* local health departments' *professional staff* complete the 40-hour certificate program. The Nursing Staff have all attended classes and have completed the required 40-hour certification or are in the process of obtaining their certification. Mandatory training for updates occurs yearly for all PHN staff.

## V. **REGISTER READY**

The NJ Register Ready program continues to expand. This long-term care assisted living and group homes were included in Register Ready Residents or facilities, for example long-term care, in need of assistance during an emergency are currently being enrolled. Anyone who requires assistance during an evacuation can register for first responder help. A dedicated laptop has been provided to the Public Health Nurse responsible for this program to identify and register residents and facilities in case of evacuations due to natural emergencies or bioterrorism events. The Register Ready program has grown in numbers to include housing complexes as well as private residences. We anticipate these numbers to continue to grow as our elderly and disabled population grows.

### **Educational Training Site**

This Nursing Section has served as a clinical education site for the College of New Jersey, Drexel University, University of Wisconsin and other nursing education institutions for many years. At TCNJ Public Health Nursing, courses are offered in the spring semester. Two clinical rotations take place from January through May. **(1)** students rotated through this clinical site.

The Public Health Nursing staff serves as preceptors for the students as they learn the skills necessary for Public Health Nursing

The Supervisor of Public Health Nursing precepts many students from various distance-learning universities to enable them to complete their community health clinical rotation. This preceptorship is free of charge to the students. This year we have added the role of preceptor to TCNJ's Advanced Nurse Practitioner Program rotating students through various adult and pediatric clinical experiences. It is extremely important to encourage students, especially nursing students to enter the Public Health Nursing field. The extreme shortage of nurses presents a problem that needs to be addressed. It is very important to support academia to assure quality professionals for the future of Public Health.

### **Interlocal Agreements/Contracts**

Agreements, letters of understanding and contracts exist with surrounding communities in order to provide services determined to be core activities.

Services provided by the Nursing Section include:

1. Health Officer services to East Windsor Township.

2. STD/HIV Testing for residents of every Township in Mercer County except Trenton. Interlocal agreements exist between Ewing, Lawrence, Robbinsville, Hightstown, East Windsor, West Windsor, Hopewell Township, and Princeton
  3. Child Health Conference Services to Robbinsville Township
  4. Nursing Services for WIC program with Children's Home Society of New Jersey
  5. Nursing Services for Head Start Programs through Gateway Communities Action Partnership
- In addition to services provided to Head Start – One Senior Public Health Nurses serve on the Health Advisory Council, which is composed of dentists, physicians, and local and state agencies that collaborate with Head Start.

### **Holiday Community Activities**

The Public Health Nursing section coordinates all community holiday activities. This is accomplished by adopting needy families and providing gift baskets to schools and churches to assist their families in need.

#### **I. THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

*Easter & Thanksgiving Food baskets* are donated from various organizations such as churches, schools, etc. Hamilton Township municipal employees in various offices also contribute food baskets for needy families. The baskets are delivered prior to the holiday.

- **In 2016, (6) Thanksgiving food baskets were donated and delivered to needy families as well as \$300 Shop-Rite gift cards.**

#### **II. ADOPT-A-FAMILY & FOOD BASKETS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Various organizations and Hamilton Township municipal employees adopt families and are provided with “wish lists” on members of the family. The list includes ages, sizes, toy requests, etc. This program has grown every year. Food baskets and grocery store gift cards are donated by local churches.

- **In 2016, there were (20) families “adopted” to receive gifts and food gift cards.**
- **(24) \$25.00 food gift cards were donated.**
- **Two local organization donated toys that were distributed to needy children associated with our health department.**

## Health Education & Screenings

*Health education is a vital component of every program offered by the Hamilton Township Division of Health. The Advanced Practice Nurse offers many educational programs throughout the township for residents and employees. The Advanced Practice Nurse and/or Public Health Nurses provide health education.*

### III. EMPLOYEE SCREENING PROGRAM

1. **Prostate Screening** was offered to all male employees of Hamilton Township who are 50 years of age and older. This program was offered in June during regular working hours.

Dr. Brackin M.D. performed the screening at Hamilton Urology. The urologist conducted a digital exam and the public health nurses performed a PSA blood-screening test. Robert Wood Johnson at University Hospital laboratory processed the blood samples and reported the results back to Hamilton Urology and the PHN.

- In 2016, there were **(17)** male employees tested for prostate cancer.
- Follow-up and health education was provided to each male participant.

2. **Skin Screening** was offered to all employees of Hamilton Township. This program was offered in May 2016 during regular working hours. The skin screening was conducted by a Board Certified Dermatologist named Dr. Abello Poblete. The screening was an area of concern and the employee followed up any suspicious lesions for treatment.

- In 2016, there were **(25)** employees screened for skin cancer.
- There were **(3)** employees who needed follow up and skin biopsies.
- Follow-up and health education was provided to all employees.

3. **BP & Cholesterol Screening for Hamilton Female Employees** was offered to all female employees of Hamilton Township in 2016 during February Heart Health Month. Our Advanced Practice Nurse and the PHN's conducted the screening. The screening entailed a BP check, cholesterol screening via finger stick and counseling services on all results.

- In 2016, there were **(10)** female employees who participated in the screening.

4. **Osteoporosis Hamilton Employee Screening** was offered in February of 2016. The screening was conducted in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in Hamilton. The screening was done by placing a bare foot on a bone densitometer and bone density measurement were obtained.

- In 2016, **(22)** employees participated in the osteoporosis screening
- Follow-up and health education was provided to all employees

### **III. EMPLOYEE EDUCATION**

Employee AED/CPR training was offered to all Hamilton Township employees by Garden State J.I.F. in May 2016. A total of **(70)** Hamilton township employees were trained in AED use and CPR.

### **IV. SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

#### **1. STD/HIV**

Educational classes on STD and HIV are conducted at Nottingham High School, Steinert High School and Hamilton High West.

- In 2016, there were no classes conducted for STD/HIV

#### **2. HEROIN/ DRUG ADDICTION PROGRAM:**

A weeklong educational program for freshman and sophomore students was conducted at Nottingham High School, Steinert High School and Hamilton West High School for drug awareness and prevention during health classes in December 2016.

Under the partnership between the Hamilton Township Municipal Government and the Hamilton Township School District with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, the students in ninth and tenth grades learned about New Jersey's Overdose Prevention Act and received classroom instruction on various drugs and the negative consequences substance abuse has on users and families. The students also heard from guest speakers who discuss their own personal struggles with addiction.

During the spring of 2017, high school juniors and seniors in Hamilton Township School district will also receive a weeklong program of drug awareness and prevention activities.

- **In 2016, Hamilton Township Department of Health Public Health Nurses were trained on the use of injectable Naloxone (Narcan). Naloxone is indicated for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. The Overdose Prevention Agency Corporation (TOPAC) conducted the training.**

## **COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

### **1. Lyme Disease Prevention Program**

Healthy People 2010 has defined Lyme Disease as a problem, which needs to be addressed by the public health sector. Lyme Disease is a tick-borne illness, which may result in a debilitating illness if unrecognized. If left untreated, the bacterium travels through the bloodstream, establishes itself in various body tissues and can cause many symptoms, including headaches, painful arthritis, swelling of the joints, cardiac abnormalities and cognitive disorders. Education regarding prevention, high-risk tick locations, and prevention was distributed throughout the township. The Lymerix vaccine is no longer available and therefore, cannot be offered to high-risk employees. Therefore, prevention through education becomes a vital component in the fight against this disease.

### **2. West Nile Virus Program**

This disease has become a major topic in the educational material offered through this health department. Target groups for education included: residents, schools, nursing homes and employees. The message focused on prevention since there is no vaccine available against this disease. Awareness was a major initiative through community talks, newspaper articles, WZBN announcements, the Hamilton Web site, and in-service education to community groups and health personnel.

Awareness education included mosquito control activities taking place in this township, the method of transmission, and signs and symptoms of the West Nile Virus.

## **GREATER MERCER PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP**

The Health Department and the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership (GMPHP) participated in a health needs assessment of our community.

*The mission of the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership is to measurably improve the health of greater Mercer County residents. GMPHP's vision is to take a leadership role and become a catalyst for change in improving the healthcare status of greater Mercer County residents by fostering collaboration, innovation, accountability, and continuous improvement based on evidence based best practice.*

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) was completed. This was a collaborate effort of our eight local health departments, and our four community hospitals and the United Way. This was a comprehensive community health planning effort to identify the health related needs and streets of our community.

This is a plan to revive our community's health, here and now. Improving the health of our community is critical for not only enhancing residents' quality of life but also supporting their future prosperity.

## **CONSUMER HEALTH 2016**

The Consumer Health section of the Township Health Department is responsible for issuing licenses for all retail food establishments, public pool facilities, vending machines, and camp facilities. A yearly health inspection of all establishments is completed in accordance with State and Township guidelines. The same is required when there is a change in ownership or a complaint regarding a retail food establishment is received.

As the Township continues to grow in population; so do the retail food establishments. This requires the Health Inspectors to review floor plans and issue approvals for new or remodeled retail food establishments. The Health Department Inspectors are then responsible for the final inspection of the completed project and all routine inspections that follow.

All public swimming facilities are inspected twice yearly during the operating season and are monitored on a weekly basis for their quality of water. Water reports are submitted to the Health Department for review.

Inspectors are required to obtain 15 Continuing Education Units (CEU's) annually for Registered Environmental Health Specialist License renewal.

The totals for this section for 2016 are as follows:

577	Retail Food Licenses
253	Vending Machine Licenses
38	Public Swimming Facility Licenses
107	Retail Food Complaints
107	Investigated Retail Food Complaints
756	Routine Retail Food Inspections
92	Retail Food Re-Inspections
113	Public Swimming Pool Inspections
12	Youth Camps
64	Enforcement Actions (retail violations)
31	Plan Reviews

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 2016

The Environmental section of the Township Health Department focuses on all environmental health issues that affect the residents of Hamilton Township. Inspectors enforce the State sanitary codes, environmental codes, and all Township Health Ordinances. Inspections are made based on citizen complaints that are reported to this office. Permits for the construction and alteration of septic systems within Hamilton Township are also issued by this Department.

A typical Environmental complaint is for concerns such as high grass and/or weeds, stagnant water, or junk, rubbish, and debris. However, because of the increased construction within the township and the declining use of pesticides, the number of insect and rodent complaints has also increased. Environmental Health is also taking complaints and investigating unused motor vehicles on residential properties and vehicles parked on grass.

Inspectors are continually going to seminars to increase their knowledge regarding Environmental concerns. This includes lead testing, air and water pollution and noise control.

The totals for this section for 2016 are as follows:

927	Complaints
1794	Inspections/Re-inspections
675	Enforcement Actions (Violations sent)
9	Septic Permits
11	Septic Plan Reviews

- **Neighborhood Improvement Program (N.I.P)**

The Neighborhood Improvement Program is a multi-departmental program that was started in April 2016 and ran through October. The NIP program included inspectors from Environmental Health, Zoning, Housing, and Police Officers. Once weekly, inspectors and officers would walk a selected neighborhood looking for any Housing, Zoning, or Health violations that needed to be addressed by the homeowner. The program then issued violations to homeowners. At times if the violation was not corrected by the homeowner; work orders or court summons were issued.

775 Violations Issued  
(352 Health Violations, 195 Zoning Violations, 228 Housing Violations)

17 Neighborhoods

69% Completion Rate

## VITAL STATISTICS 2016

The Vital Statistics section of the Township Health Department is responsible for taking applications for marriage and civil union licenses. Issuing birth, marriage, civil union, domestic partnership certificates, disinterment permits, and burial permits

Hamilton Township had one birthing hospital (January 1, 2015 to March 2015), ten Hamilton Township located funeral homes and four nursing homes.

Home Birth/En-route	11
Birth Certificates	760
Death Certificates	1570
Marriage Certificates	1194
Marriage Licenses	594
Out-Of-State Marriage Lic.	0
Domestic Partnership	0
Domestic Part. Certs.	1
Civil Union Licenses	0
Civil Union Certificates	2
Disinterment Permits	4
Burial Permits	1
Corrections (Birth, Marriage & Death appointments)	33

(Statistics as end of December 2016)

*SVP 01/03/2017*

**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP  
ANIMAL CRUELTY AND CONTROL  
2016 REPORT**

	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Daily Field Assignments</b>	<b>7,171</b>
<b>Animal Bite Investigations</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Animal Cruelty Investigations</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>Kennel Inspections</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Re-Inspections</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Summonses Issued</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Licenses Issued</b>	<b>4,437</b>
<b>Service Dog License</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Rabies Clinic Count</b>	<b>Dog 887 Cat 115</b>

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**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES  
AND VETERAN AFFAIRS**

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

**KATHLEEN FITZGERALD, RN, BSN, CALA, CDP**

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## DIVISION OF SENIOR & VETERAN SERVICES

### Mission

The Mission of the Hamilton Township Senior Center is to promote the most enriching quality of life for our seniors. The Senior Center is a community focal point where older persons can gather for activities and services, which enhance their dignity, support their independence and encourages involvement in and with the community. We will continue to develop and implement programs and activities in the areas of health and fitness, education, recreation, socialization and volunteerism.

Our vision is for our senior center to be recognized as a center of excellence in providing innovative programs and services for our seniors and the community. We will serve as a catalyst to partner with our community to strive for continuous growth in serving our diverse and changing community into the future.

We strive to increase the public's awareness of the senior center and promote active participation of our senior population. We promise to listen with respect, to serve with compassion and commitment, and to respond in a timely and professional manner to the current and future needs of the community.

The Hamilton Senior Center is very proud of its unique standing as a Nationally Accredited Center in the State of New Jersey and in the United States by having satisfied and passed the highest of requirements for national certification. Such certification requires an extraordinary amount of time and effort along with the development of written comprehensive policies and procedures and the development of significant programming. Hamilton is one of only three senior centers in the State of NJ and in the top 1% of senior centers in the country to have met this prestigious standing.

Currently, we serve and care for over 400 senior citizens each business day. When they arrive each morning and throughout the day, each member can choose from an extensive list of activities that were specifically designed by in-house staff to meet their nutritional, health, emotional, physical, recreational, educational, and social and other needs. They “sign in” on our state of the art computer software program that allows us to keep track of our members and the activities they participate in while at the center. We set up this procedure to both facilitate the seniors experience as they arrive and to enhance our administration and monitoring of members and program usage daily and throughout the year. These activities include but are not limited to: health education classes, fitness programs, socialization, dancing, exercise, billiards, team/league events, nutritional lunch (sponsored by Mercer County Office on Aging), field trips, dinner dances, annual picnic, transportation for medical appointments and food shopping, in house choral and theater productions, handyman program, special festivities and holiday events, tax preparation assistance, computer class instruction and open lab assistance, swimming, swim fitness programs, bocce court, recreational tournaments, card playing, movies, TV/media room, puzzle making, game playing, counseling and assistance in resolving a personal urgency or family inquiries. In addition to this extraordinary provision of activities, the center serves as a focal point for members and families offering a secure and friendly place where life remains active, members feel cared for and all can count on as a home away from home. The center’s staff is acutely aware of and sensitive to the need for being vigilant, compassionate and quickly responding to a person in need.

We are committed to serving the full spectrum of seniors, from the healthy, active “Baby Boomer” senior who wants to use a lifetime of skills and experience to make a difference in our community through participation and volunteering, to the frail elder who requires assistance meeting the needs of daily life. We have the capacity, the skills, the passion and the environment to provide affordable, accessible, and cost-effective services to older adults and their families, and adults with disabilities, keeping them as healthy as possible. We are innovative and adaptive in our programming by creating new programs that may not currently exist to meet needs that do of our residents.

In 2016, we have continued to implement new programs to encourage and meet the needs of the “Baby Boomer” generation. We have added a more vigorous swim exercise class, pool volleyball, and yoga classes to name a few. As a result of the type of new programs, our younger membership has significantly increased and the participants are becoming more active as indicated in our statistics.

Another area of extreme importance, that is easily overlooked, is the tremendous need for urgent health care in a facility such as this. Many members have special needs and require special attention. This begins with maintaining an up-to-date data base and by being equipped and prepared throughout each day to respond to emergency needs. Many seniors utilize assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, walker, canes, oxygen or breathing devices that require additional care. This in part is due to the aging process where some of our frailer seniors require vigilant monitoring to prevent injury or accidents in our facility. As our membership numbers continue to grow and the population ages in place longer, the seniors that attend the facility will become older and more fragile requiring even more assistance from management and staff.

The roadmap to achieving the goals of a senior center will be unique for each center or agency. This uniqueness is paramount. Each center has its own assessment of its community and the result of their needs assessment determines the goals and objectives of the center.

Some of the Strategic Goals for the Hamilton Senior Center have been:

- Goal 1:** To promote a greater public awareness of the senior center
- Goal 2:** To promote greater senior participation
- Goal 3:** To promote program expansion
- Goal 4:** To expand our volunteer program
- Goal 5:** To enhance transportation services

**Goal #1:** To promote greater public awareness of the senior center in our Community and reaching out to our seniors has been a priority this year.

We have taken steps to reach this goal as developed in our action plan. A presentation packet of programs and services was developed and distributed to interested seniors and community organizations, assisted living facilities and age restricted communities, senior clubs, etc. In addition, scheduled visits were made to various organizations to personally discuss services and programs offered at the senior center. Our web page has been updated with current programs, services and activities and we continually add to the list of postings as needed. Several times a year, we advertise our events in local newspapers to establish a greater awareness of the senior center activities.

The Senior Center Newsletter, which is published quarterly, announces programs and activities at the senior center as well as a message from the Mayor. Our newsletter promotes communication between our senior center, senior clubs and the community. In 2016, we distributed approximately 6,000 senior newsletters throughout our community. Through our new computer software program and electronic communication, we also email seniors directly with important information. In addition, we participate in a partnership with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital ~ Hamilton's Health Check Magazine, Capital Health Community News and Princeton Health Care News Magazine Editions. In each edition, the Senior Center has a designated Page Promoting our Programs.

We currently have 20 +Senior Clubs and 10 senior communities (The Alvin E. Gershen High Rise, Pond Run High Rise, McCorristin Square, Evergreen, Locust Hill, Woodlands, and Villages at Hamilton, Enchantment in Hamilton, Traditions and Montage). There are several Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Centers and local assisted living facilities that also partner with us to promote enhanced communication between residents and the services offered at the Senior Center. We continue to be the focal point where they may obtain information and services for their members. It is through communication with these organizations that we are able to provide all clubs and agencies with important information through our senior center, where individual mailboxes are provided for them.

**Goal #2.** Promoting greater senior participation in the senior center and increasing senior center membership has been met in the following ways:

The number of visitors to the Senior Center has steadily increased over the last year. As anticipated, the center continues to attract more and more seniors. The average scanned number of visits to the Senior Center in the year 2016 was 361 per day. With the addition of evening hours, evening visits for 2016 were 2,262 with a total 93,860 for the year of visits to the Senior Center.

In 2016, we issued 278 new senior member identification cards. Approximately 17,750 Hamilton seniors have received ID's through this program.

The Supervisor has visited and will continue to visit the age-restricted communities, attend the association meetings and encourage residents to become active participants in the senior center. Senior Center membership numbers have steadily increased within an average of 23 new members' registering each month.

**Goal #3:** Expanding our programs and services to our seniors

Expanding our programs and services is always a challenge and a never ending task for our senior center staff. Developing and implementing programs for senior adults ranging from the age of 60 thru 101+ years requires intense research and creativity.

The operation/process objectives are to identify what programs the seniors are interested in and what programs they would like to have offered at the center. This is done through various avenues such as surveys, direct interviews, researching other senior program providers and daily suggestions made by Senior Center Members.

We offer programs in the areas of Health Education and Health Screenings, nutritional meals, daily fitness programs and activities, special events, travel and trips, evidenced based programming, recreational games and activities, arts and creativity classes, technology classes and assistance, tax assistance programs, socialization and volunteerism opportunities.

Educational Programs and Services provided during 2016 at our senior center are as follows:

Health Screenings and Health Education programs were coordinated with the Hamilton Township Division of Health 121 seniors, and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital ~ Hamilton 259 seniors, Capital Health Systems at Hamilton, Princeton Health Care 28 seniors, Care One, and Acorn Glen Assisted Living Facility, Samaritan Hospice and Care Alternatives. The Hamilton Township Health Department administered 300+ Flu and pneumonia vaccines to our seniors at the senior center.

Lunch is provided Monday through Friday at our center through the Mercer County Nutrition Project for the Elderly. The number of resident's meals served in the senior center continues to rise. In 2016, Nutrition served 37,763 meals, an average of 3,143 per month.

The Fitness Room has an average monthly usage of 607 participants. Two (2) new recumbent bikes have been added to the Fitness Room. In 2016, our fitness equipment was utilized by 7,284 senior participants.

Daily activities also had a significant increase in participation this past year. In 2016, the Line Dancing Classes averaged 143 attendees per month. Ballroom dancing and tap dancing classes continue to draw in more participants this year. Chair Exercise program was expanded to six (6) times per week because of participant demand and in 2016 averaged 312 attendees per month. In 2016, a total of 1,117 swimmers enjoyed the programs offered to the seniors with the opportunity to swim in a safe indoor facility year round with lifeguard services and water exercise instruction. Due to the installation of new heating equipment and renovation of the swimming pool and room, the swimming pool was closed for approximately (3) three months.

Two new enhanced walking club (144 seniors) exercise classes Step It Up and Walking Exercise with a total of 307 participants.

This past year, our Spring and Fall Senior Dinner Dances were very successful with approximately 500 senior residents attending the spring as well as in the fall. More than 500 senior residents attended the 15th Annual Senior Center Picnic in 2016.

Other Special Social Events this year included a Masquerade Ball, Drumming Circle Event, St Patrick's Day Party, Volunteer Appreciation Event, Under the Stars Senior Prom Intergenerational Event, Ice Cream Sundae Social with St Gregory the Great Students, Lawrence Community Band Concert Event, Grandparents Pizza Party Event, The Mercer County ARC Choir Event, Chant Tones Concerts, Hawaiian Dance Event, YMCA Campers Bocce Tournament, Halloween Glow Party Event, Holiday Craft Fair, Samaritan Hospice Tree Lighting Event, Holiday Social Event.

We started a "Just Dance" on Thursday nights once a month for 7 months in which 1,164 seniors participated.

Three (3) Intergenerational Programs were coordinated with High School and Middle School and Elementary students in 2016.

Painting programs were held through the year with 121 senior participants. One of these programs included our participation in the "Hamilton Rocks" program.

An Intergenerational program with volunteer students from Nottingham High School to help the seniors to use and understand their iPhones, iPads, Kindles or any electronic device. This program ran during the school year with 50+ seniors participated in this program in 2016.

Social Activities included this year are as follows: Day trips to Atlantic City (monthly March through November), (2) trips to Ace in the Hole in Northern NJ, (2) trips to Delaware Park Casino and Racetrack in Pennsylvania and a 2 night, 3 day trip to Williamsburg, VA. Total participation in trips this year was 693 seniors.

The Choral Group, which meets weekly, has performed 6 times before lunch celebrating of some of the major holidays. The Choral Group performs at numerous Senior Facilities in Hamilton Township and Mercer County.

Other recreational activities, such as card playing, bingo, puzzle making, Rummikub, Scrabble, Mah Jongg, and Dominoes are available daily at the center. Daily morning and afternoon bingo sessions average 987 participants per month. Additional recreational programs offered at the senior center in 2016 included:

Weekly Yoga and Ballroom Dance classes, 4 Ping Pong Tournaments with 25 senior participants per tournament and a Drumming Circle with 15 participants.

Evening participation in activities include; Bocce Ball, Billiards, Fitness Room, Cards, Ping Pong, Puzzles, Just Dance and Special Events for a total of 2,262 participants this year.

In Coordination with the State of New Jersey SHIP Program and the Surrogate's Office, we continued our assistance program for seniors. Assistance was given in PAAD/SHIP Applications; in 2016; 60 SHIP person to person counseling sessions and numerous over the phone assistance calls were completed. In 2016, AARP tax preparers assisted 412 seniors with their income tax completion and Property Tax Rebate completion.

The senior center is a site for Hamilton Senior residents to apply for New Jersey Shares (emergency financial help with their gas and electric bills). This year funding was very limited at NJ Shares and very few applications were accepted.

The Handyman Helper Program was introduced many years ago and has continued to assist senior residents with small safety repairs. This program will enable seniors to call the senior center with simple requests for household safety repairs.

In addition, to providing programs and activities for our seniors, the senior members gave back to the community in several ways. They participated in providing donations of used medical equipment to the Goodwill Organizations, collected Box Tops for education, collected used eye glasses for the Lions Club organization, donated Toys for Tots, performed musical and tap dancing concerts in several area Nursing Homes and Assisted Living facilities, and participated in numerous Intergenerational Events with our youth.

**Goal #4: To expand our Volunteer Program**

Senior Center Volunteers continue to assist our staff in the preparation and implementation of many of our programs and activities. With every new program developed, we have willing volunteers to help lead these activities. In the year 2016, we have over 100+ seniors that volunteer for us. With the increase of

membership, activities and tracking of volunteer hours, the 2016 hours of volunteer service totals 9,014 hours. If we equate this with a monetary value using just minimum wage, the senior center saved \$74,365.00 in wages by utilizing volunteers.

**Goal #5:** To enhance Transportation Services

Transportation services are provided for non-emergency medical transportation, Monday through Friday to senior residents and qualifying disabled persons for Doctor's visits, rehabilitation programs, food shopping, and transportation to the Senior Center facility. This service is free of charge to participants. We have provided a steady increase in the number of requested transportation services and through the diligent planning of trips have been able to keep the miles traveled and cost to taxpayers to a minimum.

In 2016, we have provided 200+ transportation requests to the Senior Center, 3,361 trips for food shopping and transported 2,424 trips to Doctor's offices while traveling a total of 31,411 miles. In 2016, we have tracked the number of new seniors requesting our transportation services to 95. However, we have many requests for transportation services that we are unable to fulfill due to the limited number of hours of service and the number of staff of drivers employed. We are in the stages of increasing our availability of transportation services for 2016.

**Major Assets/Accomplishments**

The Hamilton Township Senior center earned the official status of National Accreditation by meeting the standards and adhering to the policies and procedures developed by the National Institute of Senior Centers and the National Council on Aging.

Accreditation is an official national recognition that a senior center is meeting its mission in a professional way. It also demonstrates that a center complies with national standards for senior centers. Accreditation confirms that a senior center is a viable, fundable, and qualified provider of services to its community. This distinction assures its consumers, as well as their families and caregivers that the

center is operating out of a common senior center philosophy without compromising its own ethnicity or other unique features.

Another accomplishment this year continues to be the success of our Senior Center and its programs and services. It opens the door to a vast increase in services that we are able to provide to the seniors in our community.

The Senior Center's My Senior Center software program is continuously updated and new initiatives implemented as needed.

The senior center staff continues to act as a liaison for veterans in need of assistance.

### **Highlights for the Senior Center during 2016:**

A new 15 passenger van was purchased allowing many new seniors to be transported to the local food stores.

The swimming pool renovation was accomplished in 2016. This included the resurfacing of the pool surface, the addition of a tile lap lane and step supports, the painting of the interior walls, doors, window frames, deep cleaning of the tile floor areas, repainting of the benches, cleaning windows and replacing all signage and water safety equipment such as life rings, body boards and lifeguard belts.

The outside shed was renovated and painted for improved preservation.

A serenity water fall was added to the sun room for a greater connection of peacefulness for the resting senior.

A new evergreen tree was planted on the front grounds of the center in addition to new shrubs in the patio area and entrance area.

Established through grant funding, the first adult playground exercise area in NJ was installed on the back grounds of the center. This allows the senior member to participate in exercise while enjoying the outdoor air and serene environment.

Twenty two chairs were replaced in the Billiards room to insure comfortable and safe seating for participants.

The development and distribution of our senior center newsletter/weekly schedule of activities sheet and program flyers all contributed to making our seniors aware of the center's programs and services.

The Hamilton Township Senior Center Web page offers a vast array of information and services available at the senior center.

Publications of Programs and Events at the Senior Center are advertised in the Hamilton Post Monthly edition. Advertising of special events, computer classes and other activities takes place in the Trentonian and The Times newspapers and The Hamilton Post.

The creation of a DVD virtual tour of the facility playing on a TV at the entrance to the center captures the programs and activities offered at the center for old and new members to see.

Improvements of lighting at the Main Entrance were completed.

Replacement of ceiling tiles installed in various rooms throughout the facility.

Painting of various rooms throughout the facility was accomplished.

Maintenance and replacement of parts on various appliances throughout the facility as needed.

The installation of Internet radio throughout the building was completed.

Offices were hard wired for internet access. The entire senior center has wireless internet services for participants.

In addition, we have developed and implemented a Title VI Policy and Procedure for our Senior Transportation Program to insure a non-discrimination policy is in place and this policy has been approved and posted by NJ Transit.

**In 2017, the following projects will begin:**

Renovation to the main dining hall to include removing of the old wall paper, painting of all of the walls and the installation of all new ceiling tiles.

Re-painting of the Billiard room walls and additional wood working to enhance the aesthetics of the room.

A new custom sign to be installed on the front lawn of the center.

Regrading, repaving and restriping of the existing parking lot; an extension and connection of the two smaller parking lots.

Installation of new sidewalks along Cypress Lane road and along the parking lot to the entrance to allow greater pedestrian safety.

The outside Bocce Court Building to be completely renovated, re-sided, along with the addition of a back door ramp and retaining wall to prevent erosion and promote improved drainage.

Senior Center Staff has been trained in CPR, AED and first aid training this year.

### **So where do we go from here?**

The United States' older adult population is growing at a rapid rate due to the aging of the baby boomers and medical advancements that are increasing the population's overall longevity. According to the institute of medicine, the U.S. is not prepared for the impact that this population increase will likely have on healthcare services, including the need for appropriately trained geriatric professionals.

As the varying needs and interests of older adults become more apparent (e.g., opportunities for baby boomers versus health supportive services for elderly seniors), leaders of community based programs may be interested in learning new ways of addressing the increasing diversity of the population. Senior center directors and their staff may have to pursue new or expanded program ideas to address the changing needs of the aging population.

Between 2010 and 2030, the population 65 and older (65+) is projected to grow at a rate four times faster than the population as a whole. In comparison, New Jersey's 65+ will increase by approximately forty percent between 2010 and 2030.

The projected increase of the older adult population is attributed to the aging of the baby boomers- a generation identified as a more active and healthier group

than in generations past. In part, this is due to the advancement of medicine, technology, and health education as well as the generations desire to remain active. Programs that create awareness for physical and mental health fitness among older adults may promote an increased desire to take personal responsibility for improving one's health and overall quality of life. These programs and services can be made accessible through community based organizations such as senior centers.

Furthermore, it is important to develop an understanding of the diverse characteristic within the older population in order to appropriately address the needs of the aging population. For example, older adults can be classified into four subgroups: baby boomers, young seniors, middle aged seniors, and elderly seniors. Baby boomers, individuals ages 43-64 years, are classified as healthier than their parents, are more racially and ethnically diverse, and are larger in numbers than older generations. Young seniors, ages 65-74 years are more mobile and healthier in comparison to previous generations, but are not as large of a group as baby boomers. Middle-aged seniors, the 75-84 year old sector, will call for an array of services to address their developing needs, since this segment has been growing at far faster rate than the population as a whole. Finally, elderly seniors, the 85+ age sector are not only living longer than past generations, but are likely to have the lowest income, this putting a great demand on the availability and accessibility of health-supportive services.

### **What does this have to do with the Hamilton Senior Center?**

We must be constantly vigilant to the changing needs of our 65+ population. We must continually evaluate, re-evaluate, develop and implement programs and services that meet the populations changing needs and requirements for healthy successful aging. In order to do this, we must research daily the resources and options available to our senior population. We must ask ourselves, "Will population aging be accompanied by a longer period of good health, a sustained sense of well-being and extended periods of social engagement and productivity, or will it be associated with more illness, disability and dependency?"

The answer has implications for social, economic, and political conditions. The longer people can remain functionally independent, the lower the costs to families and societies. Equally important is the end result that older adults who remain active continue contributing to their families, peers, and community.

The Senior Center's role is to provide an environment with programs, activities and services that support active aging and the opportunity for creating change and positive direction for successful aging. Having long embraced the multidimensional nature of health and wellness, our evidenced based programming provides accessible options that are proven to support physical and mental health.

We encourage individuals to make choices toward a lifelong engagement- which is staying active and involved. And in promoting the independence of seniors, we help dispel the notion that growing old has to mean growing frail.

The outcomes from everyday activities at the Center has meaningful results for our community. Active aging is cost-effective; investing in it brings a return that becomes obvious as soon as one considers the alternatives of costly medical and long term care.

Although senior centers are not a panacea for the potential economic and social issues associated with the nation's increasing elderly population, they do provide physical and mental health promotion venues, which not only increase life expectancies and decrease long-term disabilities but may help control inflating healthcare costs associated with the nation's aging population.

Along with creating outcome-based programs, the Center is working to raise awareness of the importance of seniors staying active and continuing to contribute to society. The Hamilton Senior Center has proven its mission in promoting the most enriching quality of life for our seniors. We have accomplished our current goals and have obtained the highest level of excellence by receiving the National Accreditation Status from the NCOA and NISC. Always pursuing to reach even higher standards, our staff continues to research, develop and implement new programs to further promote healthy and successful aging for our senior population.

In conclusion, the staff of the senior center continues to strive to meet our goals and objectives set forth in our action plan. As with any senior center, the centers goals and objectives are being continually re-evaluated and rewritten as needed. The cost and effectiveness of our programs are continually being re-evaluated by the Supervisor and staff of the senior center. All of the programs currently implemented are performed within the budgetary restrictions. Statistics are tallied daily, weekly, monthly and annually and are entered into our computer data system by our staff. A program evaluation survey is being implemented to determine participant's satisfaction and effectiveness. I think it is safe to say that participant satisfaction as supported by our data has dramatically increased due to the addition of the new Senior Center programs and services now available to the senior residents of Hamilton Township.

In order for any program to be successful, it needs active participants and leadership. Continued marketing or advertising to promote awareness and support of these programs is necessary. The development of our Hamilton Senior Citizen Newsletter and the Senior Center Webpage via the internet continues to enhance our programs.

The Hamilton Senior Center, as we know it today, is a major transformation from its early beginning of a small group of about 35 seniors who gathered together socially in the 1990's at a neighborhood firehouse. The acquisition of a new building in the year 2001 provided the added impetus to grow this program and elevate its standing organizationally to a high level comparable to all other programs. Within a relatively short period of time, and as a direct result of new emphasis, hard work and relentless dedication, its membership grew exponentially, and 'the center' became treasured as a magnificent facility for over 17,600 members; a facility with comprehensive and diverse programming designed and administered by dedicated in house staff to serve the community residents. It is a focal point within the township and a well know resource that is often praised and visited by state officials including NJ Governors. The unique and exceptional nature of this Hamilton senior center program and success is further exemplified by its national recognition and standing as one of the best facilities and best administered senior program in the country... sited as a 'model' for all others to follow.

**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP DIVISION OF RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC HOMES**

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

**PATRICIA A. KRZYWULAK PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL EVENTS**

**DIVISION OF RECREATION – OFFICE OF HISTORIC HOMES**

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

**MISSION:** *The Mission of the Division of Recreation, Office of Historic Homes is to promote greater appreciation and understanding of the history and significance of Hamilton Township to residents and the general public. The Historic Homes are focal points where many visitors can enjoy tours as well as gather for special events.*

*Future goal: To raise awareness of these homes through published materials, media, tours, programming and special events.*

**KUSER FARM MANSION:**

Since 1979, Hamilton Township open the doors of this elegant Victorian home to the public for free tours by trained Tour Guides. Today, visitors can still enjoy guided tours on the weekends. Kuser Farm Mansion received many visitors from New Jersey and many other states and countries. Visitors from schools, clubs, churches, and other organizations, such as the New York Historical Society, Red Hat Society, East Windsor Senior Center, Elite Caring Senior Group, Glassboro Senior Citizen Center were able to benefit from one of Hamilton's well known historic attractions. More than **7,862** guests have visited Kuser Mansion in 2015; **an increase of 207 more visitors from 2015.** Admission to the house is free; however donations are always graciously accepted.

**KUSER MANSION WEDDING PHOTOS & CEREMONIES:**

Kuser Mansion continues to receive requests from prospective brides to be married in the Mansion or take wedding photos. However, with the expansion of the other two historic homes and a minimal number of tour guides, these requests are not feasible. Currently, if a request is made for photos during the week, all efforts are made to accommodate client.

**KUSER FARM PARK GAZEBO:**

The Gazebo today is still a popular attraction for Brides and their families. In 2014, an ordinance was implemented to utilize the Gazebo for ceremony and/or photos for 1 hour. The current fee is \$50.00 for a Hamilton Resident and \$75.00 for a non-resident. In addition, the gazebo continues to be used for summer concerts.

**KUSER MANSION MOVIE NIGHT:**

The Mansion continues to host a movie night monthly with the exception of July, August, November and December. Movies are viewed on the large screen which is located inside the dining room and was once the room of celebrity guests. Chairs are provided by Kuser Mansion, but visitors are welcomed to bring their own. Mostly, Century Fox films are shown due to the connection with the Kuser Family. The total number of guest who attended Movie Night in 2016 was **178.**

**KUSER MANSION SPECIAL PROGRAMS:**

Tom Glover, past president of the Hamilton Township Historical Society has had a lifelong interest in local history as well as the Kuser Family. In 2016, Mr. Glover continued to provide guest of the Mansion with special presentation and his sing-a-longs at the Kuser Gazebo during the summer months. In 2017, Mr. Glover as well as other performers/presenters will be scheduled throughout the year. In 2016, the Kuser Mansion

hosted *“Wedding & Victorian Dresses from the Past”* display. This event was popular for all ages and we have decided to host this event annually. In 2016, we extended the display during the month of May AND June which included not only wedding dresses, but homemade Victoria dresses as well.



*Above are just a few dresses displayed during May & June at the Kuser Mansion*

#### **KUSER MANSION TOURS GUIDES:**

The tour guides of the Kuser Farm Mansion have been trained in customer service and that is what makes a tour or visit to the mansion excel beyond other historic house tours. Employee's provide individual attention to guests and frequently tailor their tours to them, thus ensuring that their visit is one that will be remembered for a long time to come. Tour Guides work schedule and payroll is done through the Program Coordinator. Currently, there are eight part-time Tour Guides.

#### **GHOST INVESTIGATION NIGHT:**

This annual event has grown largely in popularity over the past few years. A team from *Old City Paranormal* demonstrates ghost hunting techniques and equipment and share their experience in ghost hunting. The group conducts a pre-investigation at the mansion, prior to the Ghost Investigation evening. The team also answers any questions the audience might have. Guests are able to take a tour with a member from the *Old City Paranormal* during this evening. This event is so popular that we are considering adding an additional night in the future!

#### **WINTER WONDERLAND & HOLIDAY TOURS:**

Yearly, the Kuser Mansion plays an immense part in the Winter Wonderland with their ever so popular Christmas Tours. This year, the Winter Wonderland took place on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup>. Visitors of all ages were

able to enjoy the beauty of the Kuser Mansion. The theme this year was brought back to the Victorian area. The docents were dressed in period attire to add to the atmosphere of this time period. Large crowds were on hand not only during Winter Wonderland, but throughout the month of December. Over **6,818 guests** visited the Mansion throughout a 9 day period during the month of December. The Mansion received **1,905 additional visitors** in 2016. On Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, Santa and Mrs. Claus were also a popular attraction in the Kuser Mansion when children and their families had an opportunity for a meet and greet and photo opportunity. Eight hundred and ninety-two (892) guests visited the Mansion during this weekend alone.



**Kuser Mansion**



**Rose Bedroom**



**Boy's Room**



**Kuser Mansion Docents**



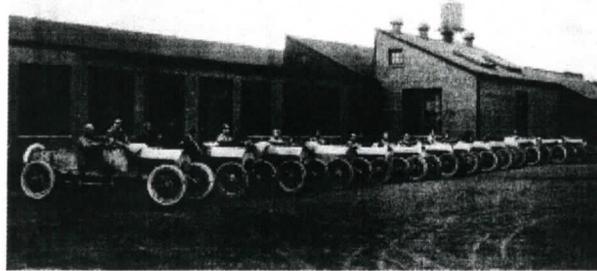
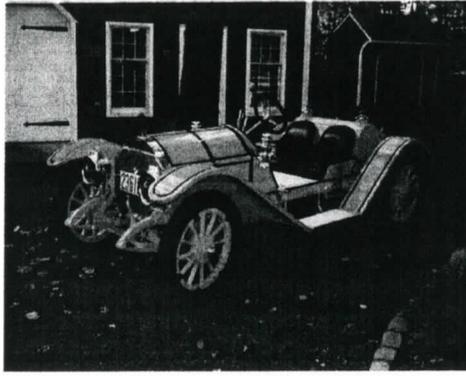
*Morning Room*

#### **NEW JERSEY VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB:**

The Program Coordinator acts as the liaison between the New Jersey Valley Model Railroad Club and the Township of Hamilton and arranges for them to participate in Township special events. The Club meets on Wednesday evenings from 6-9 p.m. If there is a problem in the basement meeting site, these issues are reported by the Program Coordinator to Public Works via the Q-Alert system. The New Jersey Valley Model Railroad Club also participates in the Winter Wonderland Festivities.

#### **SPECIAL PROGRAMS & HOLIDAY EVENTS:**

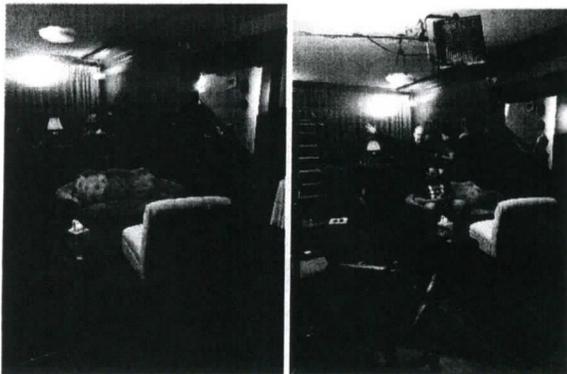
The Mansion continues to provide special programs, lectures and holiday events, all free of charge to the public. Kuser Mansion participated in the Winter Wonderland event in 2016. **In 2016, award-winning author and historian, Clifford W, Zink visited the mansion to talk about his new book, "Mercer Magic"; the complete story of the Mercer Automobile, built in New Jersey at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Mercer Automobile Company, was founded in New Jersey in 1909 by two industrialist families, the Roebblings and the Kusers. The book was written with input from some of the descendants of the Kuser Family. Two (2) Mercer Cars were also on display in front of the Mansion**



**New Mercers lined up at the factory for road testing – 1912**

**TLC's "Long Lost Family 2"**

**This year brought some excitement to the Kuser Mansion as the TV Show, TLC filmed one of their segments of "Long Lost Family 2" right inside the Mansion!! American Entertainment Reporter & Television Host, Lisa Joyner was the interviewer.**



**Television Crews prepared all day for the interview**



**Siblings reunited for the first time in front of the Kuser Mansion**

Enhancements inside the Kuser Mansion continued throughout 2016, including;

- **Upstairs Bathrooms:** Both hallway bathroom walls/floors were cleaned extensively. Stripping of buildup and replacing grout was done professionally by a tile & grout restoration specialist
- **Main Staircase Walls:** The repair of large cracks above the beautiful stain glass window was repaired/painted by our Public Works Department.
- **Kitchen:** The Kuser Mansion kitchen went through extensive remodeling including; scraping, spackling and painting of the ceiling and walls. The brass fixtures were also removed and repolished.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- **Increase Awareness of Hamilton's History by:**
  - ✓ Placing more information such as brochures and flyers in local and surrounding areas (In 2016 advertised in Times of Trenton and Hamilton Post. Free advertisement with the Hamilton Observer, Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Community Newspaper, and the Princeton Packet).
  - ✓ Increase outreach through the internet, press releases and Township Website, Twitter and Facebook Accounts
  - ✓ Support our community based programs
  - ✓ Increase programs for various age groups
  - ✓ Explore opportunities for grants to assist with the preservation of the Mansion and the Farm buildings.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- **Inside Building Maintenance:**
  - ✓ Continue with inside refurbishing the Mansion
  - ✓ Replace existing rugs that are torn
  - ✓ Repair Dining Room ceiling
  - ✓ Custom Curtains in Dining Room
  - ✓ New curtains for kitchen
  - ✓ New shades/curtains for nursery

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- **Outside Building Maintenance:**

- ✓ Replace second floor railings that were rotting and falling apart. Presently, they were taken down for security issues and replaced with temporary railing.
- ✓ Repaint entire outside of Kuser Mansion including Laundry House
- ✓ Professional services: Window Washing

**SAYEN HOUSE & GARDENS:**

The Sayen House, home to more than 1,000 azaleas and nearly 500 rhododendrons became the property of Hamilton Township in 1988. Today, it is known as the “Sayen House & Gardens”. It is an extremely popular venue for special events, especially weddings. Numerous phone calls and email inquiries come into the office on a daily basis. The house is shown by appointment only.

Currently, there are 3 caterers exclusive to the Sayen House by contract with the Township of Hamilton. The clients must choose from one of the three caterers. Each caterer is required to pay the Township a percentage fee based on each event.

The Program Coordinator maintains the catering schedule and provides a weekly schedule updating the caterers, Sayen House groundskeeper and the Public Works staff. The Program Coordinator keeps in contact with all the catering managers if any issues should arise and handles any problems that might occur.

**The following are statistics from Sayen House & Gardens for House Rentals, Wedding Ceremonies, Photos and catering fees from January – December 2016:**

Month	Total
January	\$5,850.00
February	\$4,850.00
March	\$8,300.00
April	\$17,445.60
May	\$8,910.80
June	\$3,545.00
July	\$7,500.00
August	\$7,755.40

September	\$14,614.38
October	\$4,992.78
November	\$5,975.00
December	\$4,439.40
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$94,178.36</b>
<b>Increase of:</b>	<b>\$11,286.04 from 2015</b>

**CROSSING GUARDS:**

Crossing Guards are hired during our special events to assist with the flow of traffic in the parking lot and provide assistance as needed. Schedules for guards are dropped off at the Sayen House each week. All Coordination of guard's schedules and payroll hours are handled by the Program Coordinator. Any issues during the weekend events are handled by the Program Coordinator.

**SAYEN HOUSE ITEMS:**

- The Sayen House & Garden website continues to be a popular source for clients planning a special event with many inquiries being received on a daily basis. All inquiries are answered via email or telephone by the Program Coordinator.
- Sayen House & Gardens continues to be featured in the popular wedding magazine, "The Knot" as one of the best places to have a wedding. **In 2016, the Sayen House and Grafton House continue to be featured on an online search for wedding venues on the popular search engine site; "Wedding Spot".**
- **In 2016, the Sayen House and Gardens won the "Vintage" Award through Wedding Spot. Every year, they showcase the top venues that many couples choose when they search, price and compare with other venues. As a Wedding Spot Awards winner, the Sayen House will be featured on their award page!**
- The Program Coordinator continues to oversee the care and cleaning of all linens used in Sayen and Grafton Houses. This includes these serviced by the Sanitary Linen Company and those laundered in house by the Program Coordinator.
- The Program Coordinator coordinates the outside cleaning service as well as the Township Public works employees. This includes, scheduling, payroll for the outside services, and any necessary troubleshooting.
- The very popular Annual Azalea Festival brings thousands of visitors to Sayen Gardens. As the house is open to the public that day, the Program Coordinator will have the site decorated for a special event, to generate positive publicity and interest. Brochures and catering packages will also be available.



*Sayen House*



*Temple Gardens*

Enhancements inside/outside the Sayen House continued throughout 2016, including;

- Purchase of a new bar to replace existing old one.
- New water glasses and martini glasses were purchased to replace existing broken ones
- A New Commercial dishwasher was purchased to replace exiting old unit. The new dishwasher meets the NJ State Department of Health and the Township of Hamilton Health Department sanitary and safety standards.
- Sayen House floors were sanded and buffed.
- A portable sound system was purchased for outside use for couples wishing to provide music during their ceremonies.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- **Increase Awareness and revenues generated by the Sayen House:**
  - ✓ Placing more information in local and surrounding areas.
  - ✓ Increase outreach through press releases, Township Website; Update Sayen website
  - ✓ Increase outreach through the Township's Facebook and Twitters accounts
  - ✓ Complete Sayen Garden pamphlet. In doing so, this pamphlet would be more thorough and give a professional appearance when Program Coordinator meets with potential clients.- Completed 2014. Updated May 2015. Updated 2016
- **Outside Building Maintenance:**
  - ✓ Replace existing Trellis on back porch/paint porch and steps (In Capital)

- ✓ Increase lighting around Sayen House (In Capital). **Lighting has been purchased and on the scheduled to be installed in 2017. Also, purchase and install additional up lighting.**

- **Inside Building Maintenance:**

- ✓ Sand/Refinish Sayen Floors
- ✓ Replace outdated curtains
- ✓ Purchase new stove (electric)
- ✓ Replace microwave
- ✓ Remodel Kitchen
- ✓ Repaint and update bathroom

**GRAFTON HOUSE:**

The Grafton House was once the home to the first Sheriff of Mercer County, NJ. The Grafton House can accommodate a variety of functions and special gatherings. This historic jewel quietly sits behind the Hamilton Marketplace in south-east Hamilton, NJ. Commencing, June 6, 2012, the Township of Hamilton and two caterers entered into an agreement to provide catering services at the Grafton House. Currently, D & D Catering and Rosa's Catering are the two caterers for the Grafton House. From January-December 2016, there were 50 catered events booked with total revenue of **\$18,237.09**. This home is shown to clients by the Program Coordinator by appointment only. Increase interest and inquiries continue for the Grafton House.

**The following are statistics from Grafton House for House Rentals from January – December 2016:**

Month	Total
January	\$1,500.00
February	\$2,400.00
March	\$2,100.00
April	\$1,098.80
May	\$623.00
June	\$2,750.00

July	\$600.00
August	\$1,069.85
September	\$1,500.00
October	\$2,068.44
November	\$300.00
December	\$2,227.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$18,237.09</b>

We believe in providing quality service to our clients. Therefore, to help us continually improve our venue and catering services, a “Post-Event Client Evaluation Form” was created by the Program Coordinator.

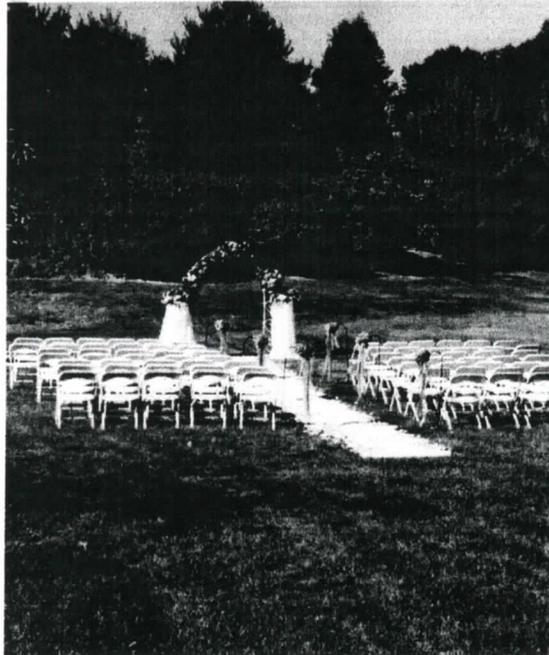
A new Grafton House brochure was also created by the Program Coordinator. This brochure tends to be a useful resource for information pertaining to the Grafton House. It includes caterers contact information, rental fees as well as many FAQ’s. This brochure can be downloaded by visiting the Township website at: [www.hamiltonnj.com](http://www.hamiltonnj.com).



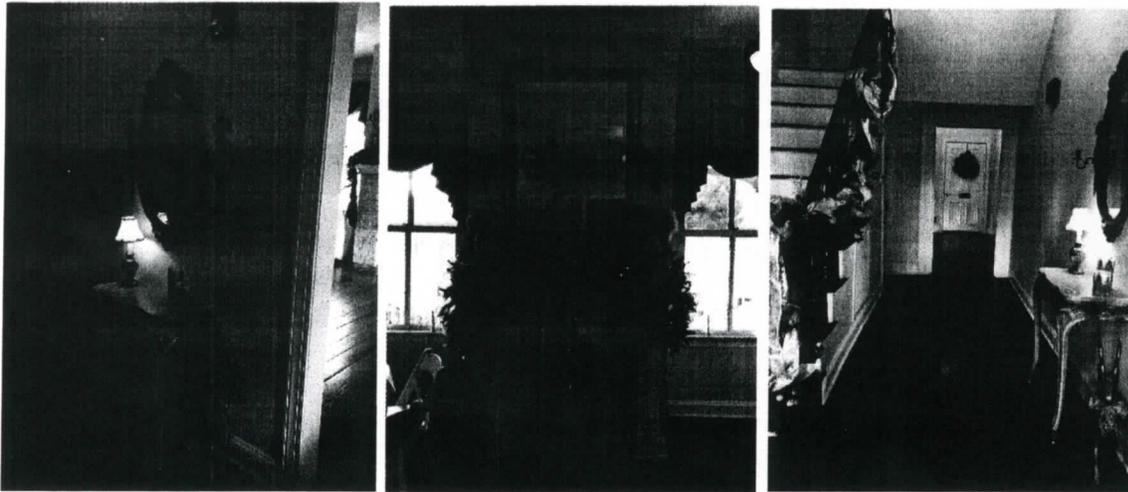
*Grafton House*



*Grafton House Event*



*Outdoor wedding ceremony on the grounds of Grafton House*



*Christmas Time at the Grafton House*

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- **Increase Awareness of the Grafton House:**
  - ✓ Placing more information in local and surrounding areas
  - ✓ Increase outreach through press releases, Township Website
  - ✓ Increase outreach through the Township's Facebook and Twitters accounts

- ✓ **Purchase sign in front of building**

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- **Inside Building Maintenance:**

- ✓ Add crown molding around the 3 main rooms
- ✓ Purchase decorations/furniture to make house more appealing to clients – **Some items were purchased in 2016**
- ✓ Install window sheers

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- **Outside Building Maintenance:**

- ✓ Add additional up lighting surrounding the house.
- ✓ Install white gazebo to include an electrical outlet and install walkway leading to gazebo
- ✓ Add additional lighting in the parking lot and replace existing gravel lot with asphalt

- ✓ **Purchase sign in front of building**

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- **Inside Building Maintenance:**

- ✓ Add crown molding around the 3 main rooms
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**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP DIVISION OF RECREATION**

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

**NICOLE ZOLLER  
COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL EVENTS**



# HAMILTON TOWNSHIP DIVISION OF RECREATION

## MISSION

The Hamilton Township Division of Recreation has long demonstrated a major commitment towards fulfilling the recreation needs of its residents. This is evident in the numerous existing municipal parks and extensive recreational programs sponsored by the Township.

Hamilton Recreation's goal is to expand programs to meet the ever changing needs of today's community. Whether it's passive or active recreation, or simply enjoying a special event, there is something for everyone.

### **Hamilton Township Division of Recreation offers:**

- Special Events
- Youth Programs
- Adult Programs
- Youth Summer Camps
- Recreational Facility Usages

We strive to offer programs that allow for leadership, mentoring, teamwork, and relief from the stresses of everyday life.

# YOUTH PROGRAMS

Hamilton Recreation aims to provide the highest quality of life for our residents, especially our youth, by offering ample recreational programs and facilities. The Recreation Division coordinated the usage of field and space requirements, and also assisted with scheduling and various related administrative functions. In addition, financial assistance was provided to local youth organizations by way of donations.

These diverse programs offered in 2016 include:

## SOCCER:

- **Four youth soccer leagues, girls and boys, operated over a two season, seven month period.**
- **219 teams played, which represents approximately 2,900 participants.**
- **HTRGSL – Hamilton Township Recreational Girls' Soccer League**
  - **Fall Season: 38 teams, 526 participants, 420 games**
  - **Spring Season: 28 teams, 350 participants, 336 games**
- **Girls Competitive Division (Wildcats)**
  - **Fall Season: 11 teams, 221 participants, 132 games**
  - **Spring Season: 12 teams, 212 participants, 144 games**
- **HTRSA – Hamilton Township Recreation Soccer Association (Boys)**
  - **Spring/Fall Season: 13 teams, 185 participants, 346 games**
- **Six (6) seasonal soccer licenses** were obtained from the Hamilton Township Board of Education to assist with scheduling of games.
- Many of the fall and spring soccer seasons games were scheduled on fields at Veterans Park, including Cowell and Kater Field.
- In addition to accommodating our youth leagues, the Division of Recreation **scheduled a total of 15 high school games** on three (Veterans Park) fields.

## **FOOTBALL:**

- **Three youth leagues** played over a **four month season**.
- **21 teams** played, representing **approximately 408 participants**
- **Hamilton PAL Football** (games played at Crockett Middle School)
  - 13 teams, app. 210 participants, 104 games
- **Pop Warner Football** (games played at Shadybrook Park)
  - 9 Teams, app. 198 participants, 100 games

Pop Warner Football also hosts a Cheerleading division. The division consists of 4 cheer squads, a total of 60 participants.

In addition to scheduling the leagues on our **two** (off-season) softball fields, **two field licenses** were obtained from the Hamilton Township Board of Education for practice purposes.

## **BASKETBALL:**

- The Recreation Office helped organize and supervise **two youth leagues** over a **five month period**.
- Over **610 area youth** participated in **app. 550 games**. A total of **58 teams** were involved.
- **Hamilton Little Lads Basketball (Girls & Boys)** – 31 teams, 365 participants, 372 games.
  - Games are held at Nottingham High school, Crockett Middle School, and Grice Middle School.
  - In addition to the above teams, Little Lads provided an additional 50 participants, an 11 week instructional program.
- **Hamilton PAL Basketball (Girls & Boys)** – 30 teams, 300 participants, 300 games

## **BASEBALL / SOFTBALL:**

- Over a **six month period**, approximately **3,000 local youth** took part in **11 baseball and softball leagues**, with a total of **202 teams**.
- **Sixteen field licenses** were obtained from the Hamilton Township Board of Education to accommodate playing practice demands. Practice permits were issued to leagues March 28 – July 31, 2016.
- Over **450 field permits** were issued to coaches for practices.
- **15 tournaments** were accommodated.
- **10 high school baseball games** were scheduled on DeMeo Baseball field in Veterans Park.

***Individual League participation was as follows:***

- Sunnybrae Little League – 30 teams, 280 games
- Hamilton Little Lads - 38 teams, 650 games
- YMCA - 8 teams, 74 games
- Nottingham Little League - 32 teams, 400 games
- HTRBA - 22 teams, 225 games
- Hamilton PAL tball - 12 teams, 36 games
- HGSA - 30 teams, 200 games
- Hamilton Babe Ruth - 8 teams, \* games (see NBR)
- Nottingham Babe Ruth - 12 teams, \*250 games total including HBR
- Lou Gehrig League - 6 teams, 37 games
- American Legion - 8 teams, 65 games

**LAWN BOWLING:**

Kuser Farm Park hosts the Lawn Bowling League. **50 lawn bowlers** participated in **324 games**.

**NOTTINGHAM RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE PHYSICALLY LIMITED**

The Division of Recreation helped co-sponsor programs for ***Nottingham Resource Center for the Physically Limited***. This group provided various recreational programs to approximately **20 individuals** with physical limitations. The program meets on Mondays at the McManimon Building.

**BACKGROUND CHECKS**

Hamilton Township Ordinance Section 2-281, requires that all individuals affiliated with Hamilton Township co-sponsored youth programs undergo background checks. This ordinance is in place to help protect our children, youth leagues, and the Township of Hamilton.

Effective March 10, 2008, ALL non-criminal fingerprinting was taken away from local Police Departments and now must be done electronically through Sagem Morpho, Inc. The Division of Recreation is responsible for maintaining its volunteer coach database and all affiliated records. Presidents of all youth sports leagues are updated monthly on the eligibility of their volunteer coaches.

This database currently consists of **720 individuals** during 2016.

# ADULT PROGRAMS

Throughout the year, the Division of Recreation directly organized, scheduled, supervised, and conducted recreational programs serving our adult population.

## ADULT SOFTBALL

- Over a four ½ month period, approximately **600 adults** took part in four softball divisions, playing a total of **250 games**.
- Men's Softball League – 9 teams, 225 participants, 160 games
- Women's Softball League – 10- teams, 250 individuals, 56 games
- Co-Ed Softball League – 4 teams, 100 individuals, 20 games

## ADULT SOCCER

Bromley Park and Grice Middle School was the host site for **Adult Men's Soccer Leagues**. These leagues were scheduled for a 3 month period during both the spring and fall 2016 season.

## ADULT VOLLEYBALL

- **Winter Volleyball** took place January through April. Over **390 individuals** took part in the 4 leagues, with a total of **800 games played** at local school gymnasiums.
  - Men's Volleyball – **8 teams, 183 games**
  - 2 Women's Volleyball – **16 teams, 462 games**
  - Co-Ed Volleyball – **8 teams, 122 games**
- **Summer Co-Ed Volleyball** was held outdoors at Veterans' Park May through August.
  - Three Leagues, **21 teams**, approximately **315 individuals** played a total of **288 games**.

## ADULT STREET HOCKEY

- The Hamilton Men's Street Hockey League played Sundays at Veterans Park complex from October – February.
- A total of **11 teams** involving **315 individuals** played a total of **198 games**.

# RECREATIONAL FACILITY USAGES

## PARK PERMITS

Hamilton Township has one of the most extensive park systems and recreational facilities within Mercer County. With a total of **21 Township owned parks**, few *municipalities* match our parks, which include active parks and passive gardens. The park system has become a popular spot for family picnics and outings. The Recreation Division issues permits to residents and local groups for usage of these sites. In 2016, the following permits were issued for Veterans and Kuser Parks:

- **Kuser Park**                    **17 permits issued**
  - **Veterans Park**                **77 permits issued**
  - **ShadyBrook Park**            **2 permits issued**
  - **Bromley Park**                 **2 permits issued**
  - **Homedale**                      **2 permits issued**
- 
- In addition, with its paved measured course and large pavilion, Veterans Park was the perfect host site for **15 charitable walk-a-thons** and **5 K's** during 2016.
  - Various Girl and Boy Scout activities are held throughout the year Veterans Park. In March, Boy Scouts Troop 91 conducted a three day clean up event in Veterans Park.

## HAMILTON GOLF CENTER

The Hamilton Golf Center, which was acquired in 2010, opened for the 2016 season on April 1, 2016. It once again proved to be a popular destination for affordable family recreation. This year we conducted a total renovation on the miniature golf course and the ponds utilizing capital funds.

The 2016 season showed the following sales:

- Small Buckets of Balls Sold - app. 2,961
- Large Buckets of Balls Sold - app. 11,744
- Children's Mini-Golf Games – app. 2,912
- Adult Mini-Golf Games – app. 4,180
- Total revenue collected - \$ 117,000.00

## **BUILDING USAGE PERMITS**

Hamilton Township Recreation supports and helps generate community involvement by allowing various athletic, senior citizen, community service, and non-profit social groups to use meeting space at Township owned facilities. **Three** municipal owned **buildings** are booked throughout the year for these groups with usage taking place during the day and evening.

In 2016, the following bookings occurred:

- **McManimon Building – 24 groups, 221 usage dates**
- **Dwier Center – 4 groups, 144 usage dates**
- **Switlik Pavilion – 22 groups, 207 usage dates**
  - These bookings do not include the dates used by permanent residents of the buildings

The buildings now also serve to accommodate more of a permanent usage space for the following groups:

**McManimon Building – Tender Hearts, Project Freedom**

**Raymond Dwier Center – City of Angels**

**Raymond Dwier Center – Mom’s Club of Hamilton & Groveville Seniors, Hamilton Pop Warner Football**

In 2016, both the McManimon Building and the Dwier Center were used as Voting Sites for elections.

# SUMMER PROGRAMS

## HAPPY DAYS CAMP

2016 marked the **39th year** of *Happy Days Camp*. This day camp is targeted for special needs children between the ages of 5 – 9. This six week program is held at Switlik Park in Yardville. In addition to the six week program we incorporated weekly field trips from Zumba, Philadelphia Zoo, and Mad Science which all took place at Switlik. The Hamilton Golf Center were also incorporated into the program this year. Trips were paid by the parents no cost to the Township.

Children were recommended by their teacher in order to be screened for this program. Over **242 children** were referred from the Hamilton Board of Education, 90 children were screened for the **50 eligible openings**.

## SUMMER RECREATIONAL CAMPS

Over a three month period, the Division of Recreation organized, supervised, and conducted various youth summer programs. A total of **208 youth** were serviced by these programs. Due to a lack of interests for the summer 2016, many camps had to be cancelled.

## TENNIS

Tennis camp programs were offered in partnership with First Play Sports. All camp sessions were held in Veterans Park using trained staff members to teach sessions. Weekly half-day sessions were offered.

- **4 one-week** Half day camps were offered
- **22** half day registered campers

**Tennis lessons** were offered throughout the spring and summer season in partnership with Princeton Tennis Program. Lessons ran one day a week for eight weeks. There were a total of **225** participants.

In addition to summer camp, residents, schools, and various tennis associations took advantage of the Veterans Park facilities. Usage in 2016 was as follows:

- **334** ID cards issued
- **68** Daily Resident guest passes were issued
- **35** Tournaments (including scholastic and USTA sanctioned)

### **ART CAMP**

Art Camp was held in partnership with KidzArt, a local business that has been hosting camps in others towns and schools for many years. Campers were introduced to the delightful world of creative arts by employees of KidzArt. All weeks of this program were held at the McManimon Building.

- 1 one-week sessions were offered
- 12 registered participants

### **GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY CAMP**

This camp was designed to be a learning environment where all participants, regardless of age or experience, could reach their highest potential. Camp was held at Veterans Park and was instructed by Hamilton High School West Field Hockey instructor, Judy Goldstein.

- **Cancelled due to lack of participation**

### **TRACK AND FIELD CAMP**

Camp was held at Steinert High School Track. This was an introduction to track activities with its goal being to educate and motivate each child. It was taught by certified physical education teachers and track coaches from area high schools.

- 1 week program ran
- 17 registered participants

### **NATURE'S KEEPERS CAMP**

Once again, we could not keep up with the popularity of this camp. Held at Sayen Botanical Gardens, children were taught the basics of landscaping and how to identify many different flowers, leaves, and bugs. Camp was taught by Jasenka Derrico, a retired teacher and a former member of the Nottingham Garden Club.

- 1 one-week program ran ( Four Week program offered)
- 9 registered participants

## **PLAYGROUND GAMES**

This program was held at the Steinert High School Track. It was a basic camp designed to get children moving and exercising while having fun. Camp was taught by a physical education teacher from a local high school.

- 1 week offered
- 5 registered participants

## **US SPORTS INSTITUTE CAMPS**

Sports camps were held *in partnership* with US Sports Institute. Camp was held at different areas throughout Veterans Park. **Two** different types of sports camps offered:

**Soccer** – Soccer camp progressively taught children ages 6 - 13, the fundamental skills of soccer.

- 1 week offered
- 13 participants

**Lacrosse** – Children were introduced to lacrosse in a both fun and safe environment, while being taught different skills and strategies.

- 1 week offered
- 12 participants

**Golf**- Golf Camp taught fundamental skills that all athletes, no matter their skill level, need to succeed. The program was taught at the Hamilton Golf Center lessons provided by Larry Ditullo.

- 2 week offered
- 17 registered participant

## **THEATER CAMP**

Theatre camp was held *in partnership* with Odd Act Theatre Group. Students were instructed in technique, preparation, and character creation. Students then created a short play that was preformed at the conclusion of camp. All sessions were held at the University Heights Elementary School and were taught by Robert Thompson, a professionally trained actor, director, and playwright who owns Odd Act Theatre Group. Robert was assisted by college students who are majoring in Theater.

- 4 one-week programs were offered
- 29 registered participants

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Community events are a major part of the Recreation Division's efforts. Residents have become accustomed to traditional events, such as the *Independence Day Celebration, and Winter Wonderland*. In early 2008 it was evident due to the financial status of the Township that these events were in jeopardy of not being offered. However, due to the Mayor's commitment to ensure residents enjoy the events they have become accustomed to, the **Mayor's Recreational and Community Event Sponsorship Initiative** was created. The goal was to secure 100% funding to subsidize events. Thanks to the generosity of the local business community and the many vendor fees collected the cost of the events could be subsidized. Corporate sponsors included Hamilton Honda, Robert Wood Johnson, PNC Bank, Grand Bank, Prior Nami, and Borden Perlman.

**This year a total of \$62,200.00 in revenue was collected.**

### CONCERTS in the PARK

Once again, *Tom Glover, Sr., a civic minded musician, stepped up to the plate and provided residents with eight concerts*. Not only were these concerts free to the public, they were offered at no cost to the town as well. Concerts were held on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer at the Kuser Farm Park Gazebo.

### AZALEA FEST

Azalea Fest took place in Sayen Botanical Gardens on, Mother's Day, May 8, 2016 While the main objective is to showcase the trails of azalea blooms, the public was able to tour the Sayen House, enjoy musical entertainment, and shop the craft and food vendors.

- Estimated attendance was **10,000**
- **38** crafters
- **7** Food vendors
- **3** musical groups performances all day
- **2** informational display booths

## **INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

The annual Independence Day Concert & Fireworks was held Thursday, July 2, 2016, at Veterans Park. Concert goers of all ages were able to enjoy a free concert featuring *The Renaissance Orchestra*. Following the concert was a fireworks display put on by International Fireworks.

The park was completely decorated with patriotic decorations including American flags, bunting, and a brand new American themed stage backdrop.

This year's event was made possible by a generous donation from Hamilton Honda. In return they were recognized as the event's main sponsors.

- Estimated attendance was **30,000+ people**
- **14 Food Vendors** were present
- Displays included
  - Hamilton Honda
  - The Hamilton Township Patriotic Committee

## **9-11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY**

In conjunction with the Mayor's Office the Recreation Department held a 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony in honor of the 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001. The ceremony was held on September 11, 2016 in Veterans Park. Local high schools, Fire Departments, Police personnel, Hamilton Patriotic Committee and EMT's participated in the ceremony.

Estimated attendance **200+**

## **Oktoberfest**

This event was held on Saturday, October 15, 2016 and Sunday, October 16, 2016 at Veterans Park. The event was a kicked off with a concert and fireworks. The park was decorated with autumn themed flags, cornstalks, hay bales, pumpkins and mums. Walking through the park you could snack on various food items as well as purchase crafts. Spectators could also interact with Touch a Truck which was located on the Northside of the park. Many family photo-op area on display throughout the park.

This year Hamilton Honda, Doctors Express and PNC Bank were the event's main sponsors, and were prominently displayed throughout the park.

### ***Children activities included:***

- Trunk or Treat
- 2 Hayrides in the Park
- Face Painting
- Sand Art
- Petting Zoo
- Pony Rides with Free Photos
- Scarecrow Building Event (Tender hearts)
- Bounce Houses
- Photo Booth
- The favorite attraction was the **hay ride** , which took children to the pumpkin patch were they were allowed to pick their own pumpkin.

Adults were entertained by country themed music and enjoyed a variety of crafts and foods.

- Estimated attendance was **15,000 +**
- **40 crafters**
- **26 food vendors locations**
- **75 Display booths and Small Businesses**
- **2 Musical Entertainment**
- **2 Children's Entertainment Area's**

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## WINTER WONDERLAND

The Annual Winter Wonderland was held at Kuser Farm Park on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. A great deal of effort was once again placed in dressing up the interiors of the holiday houses which included Santa's House, Sweet Shoppe. A ride through the wooded area, all decorated with colored lights, twinkling from the tree's and displays scattered in the trail.

The park was transformed into a "Wonderland" by the thousands of various colored lights that adorned all the trees and shrubs. The "main" holiday tree was Hamilton's own version of "Rockefeller Center," displaying innumerable twinkle lights, including LED's and strobe lighting. Kuser Mansion and the gazebo, which was adorned with icicle lights, LED's and pine roping to give it an added flair.

Once in the park, families were able to visit with Santa, make personalized stocking and ornaments in the Toy shop, make Reindeer food in Sweet Shoppe courtesy of Hamilton Recreation.

Children were also able to visit the petting zoo where they were allowed to feed the animals. Santa's elves and many favorite children's characters were on hand for photos. This event owes its tremendous success in part to the numerous volunteers that help it come alive.

- Estimated attendance was **8,000 +**
- Costumed volunteers
- **Several non-perishable food items** were collected for needy families

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In 2016 the Division of Recreation had many new accomplishments which included renovations to our soccer and baseball field at Veterans Park.

The following projects were completed in 2016.

- New Scoreboard on Demeo Baseball Field
- Replacement of fence on Demo Baseball Field
- Replacement of all windscreens/ top rail fencing on Demo
- Fertilization on Demo Baseball
- Fertilization on Cowell Soccer Field
- Installed new fencing on Cowell Soccer
- New Bleachers on Demeo Baseball Field
- New Bleachers on Cowell Soccer

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