

Hamburg hosts legislators

By Deena Kershner, Executive Director

Hamburg was in the spotlight on April 28th when several legislators or their staff visited the town to participate in a "Fam Tour" which was organized by Our Town Foundation and the Greater Reading Berks Development office. The purpose of the tour was to familiarize the legislators with the town, as several have been newly elected to represent the community and were not aware of the town's charm, assets and needs. When applying for grants to assist with community projects, many times letters of support are required from the legislators, so it is important that they are familiar with the town and proposed projects that may need funding in the future.

The tour started with a luncheon in the Hamburg Strand Theater party room. During the luncheon I provided a brief overview of Hamburg and how it has evolved over the past twenty years. I noted several major improvements that were made in the downtown and beyond through Our Town Foundation's efforts.

I also spoke of the value of the statewide Main Street Revitalization Programs and how significant it is to reinstate administrative funding to the programs. Twenty years ago, when Our Town Foundation was formed, funding was provided by the PA Department of Economic and Community Development to pay for Main Street Managers salaries. At one time there were over 140 successful programs throughout the state. Unfortunately, under Governor Wolf's administration the program funding was cut from over \$15 million to \$6 million and all funding for the Main Street Managers salaries was eliminated. Currently the state has less than twenty communities that are still considered as a designated Main Street community.

After seeing all the improvements made at the Hamburg Strand Theater since the Foundation purchased it ten years ago, everyone hopped on a shuttle bus to the first stop, which was the Hamburg Field House where we were greeted by Scott Thren. The legislators were enlightened to the history of the building and how it is currently used today. The Field House is owned by the Union Fire Company #1 of Hamburg and has been utilized since the 1950s to host such activities as professional wrestling and basketball, weekly dances, circuses, and so much more. The facility is in need of several renovations including new bathrooms, air conditioning, and flooring, so it can continue to be a viable option for people seeking to rent a facility of that size.

The next stop was State Street Square where the legislators were informed of the proposed community facility to be built on the lot and how it will be used to host events which will attract people to the downtown; thereby increasing the economic vitality of the town. I discussed the hurdles we have faced over the past several years including the doubling of construction costs from when we received an initial grant of \$200,000 in 2021.

From State Street Square we traveled to the Hamburg Community Park where Mayor George Holmes spoke to the group about the proposed pickleball courts to be built in the area of the tennis



(left to right) Front row: Sabrina McLaughlin - Lehigh Valley/Reading Regional Representative for U.S. Senator John Fetterman, Katie Hetherington Cunfer - Greater Reading Chamber Alliance, Don Bost - District Director for Senator Christopher M. Gebhard; middle row: Madison Colaco - Field Representative for U.S. Congressman Dan Meuser, Debra Millman - President of Greater Berks Development Fund, Amy Cozze - Regional Manager for U.S. Senator Bob Casey; back row: Craig Lutz - Legislative Assistant for Senator Christopher Gebhard, Deena Kershner - Our Town Foundation Director, George Holmes - Mayor of Hamburg, Denise Weaver - Constituent Services Representative for U.S. Congressman Meuser, State Representative Jamie Barton

Photo taken by County Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach

courts which have been in disrepair for years. The Borough has applied for grant funding from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in hopes of receiving funding to install the courts. Mayor Holmes also informed the group that the Hamburg Community Pool needs re-plastering.

The group continued on their tour to the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area where they learned about the great things Blue Mountain Wildlife, the Schuylkill River Greenways, and other groups have made to the basin. Twenty years ago, the entrance to the dam was nothing but a barren area filled with silt. It is now an ecological treasure teeming with birds, reptiles, and other wildlife. Thousands of people visit every year, many of which hike or bike the Bartram Trail, which is accessed at the parking lot area.

We were then shuttled to 215 Pine Street where the legislators got a first-hand glimpse of the ongoing redevelopment of the old industrial building that is being transformed into a beautiful new banquet hall to be named The Wherehouse of Hamburg. Dave and Kim Shefter, former owners of the Penn-Werner Hotel and Restaurant, purchased

Hamburg hosts cont.

the property two years ago and have been tirelessly working on renovating the building. They recently hosted the Hamburg Area High School's prom, the first of many events that will be held in the facility.

Our last stop was at the Art & Craft Gallery of Hamburg where everyone learned about the success of the Hamburg Area Arts Alliance and how we incorporate art and culture into the community.

A special thanks to Deb Millman and her staff from the Greater Berks Development Fund for assisting me with organizing the tour. The Alliance's staff arranged for all the legislators to attend, which is quite the task to find a day that everyone was available. According to Deb, it was a momentous day.



Tour stop at the Wherehouse of Hamburg

OTF receives 2023 Main Street America Accreditation

Our Town Foundation has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America™ program for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of Accredited programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach™.

Main Street America announced 862 Main Street programs earned the Accredited status in 2022, which is its top level of recognition.

In 2022, Main Street America programs generated \$6.2 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 7,657 net new businesses, generated 29,174 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 10,688 historic buildings, and leveraged 1,528,535 volunteer hours. On average, for every dollar that a Main Street program spent to support their operations, it generated \$24.07 of new investment back into Main Street communities.

Our Town Foundation's performance is annually evaluated by the PA Downtown Center, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify the local programs that meet rigorous national performance standards. Evaluation criteria determines the communities that are building meaningful and sustainable revitalization programs and include standards such as, fostering strong public-private partnerships, supporting small and locally owned businesses, and actively preserving historic places, spaces, and cultural assets.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Wherehouse of Hamburg,
on its recent opening!

Join us in welcoming Hamburg's new banquet hall and catering facility to town with a ribbon cutting at 2pm on June 16th.

Stop by on July 26th between 5:30 and 7:30pm for a fun networking mixer. Refreshments will be provided. Please call Our Town Foundation at 610-562-3106 to RSVP no later than Friday, July 21st.

The Wherehouse of Hamburg is located at 215 Pine Street.



2022 REINVESTMENT IMPACT

of Nationally Designated Main Street Programs

\$6.25 Billion
Reinvested
Locally

7,657
Net New
Businesses

29,174
Net Gain
in Jobs

10,688
Buildings
Rehabbed

1.5 Million
Volunteer
Hours



**Our Town Foundation
is still accepting
Redner's receipts!**

*Redner's generously donates 1% of the
Save-A-Tape total to OTF*

*Please drop off your receipts at the Our Town
Foundation office at 320 State St, Hamburg*

New business member

KRE Security, LLC.

KRE Security was founded in 1990. It was in 2016 that Jarrod K. Emes took over and restructured the business, starting from the ground up. KRE Security, LLC has grown and the company's main office is now based at 783 State St., Hamburg, PA - Berks County. It has four other regional offices including its operations office also located in Hamburg, and three auxiliary offices; one in Reading, Lancaster and Downtown Harrisburg. KRE now proudly serves not just event clients, but major corporations all over eastern Pennsylvania and the Susquehanna River Valley Region of central Pennsylvania. KRE Security proudly employs over 150 guards and nine full-time day-to-day operational/management staff along with multiple part-time operations members. KRE Security is a proud supporter of the veterans' community and the company founder, Mr. Kim Emes, was a proud veteran.



KRE Security operates and provides a large-scale level of services to its clients, including unarmed and armed security services, event services, private investigation services, and public safety training.

KRE Security, LLC. values its employees and practices exceptional customer relations and interactions, while living up to its mission statement for its firm. KRE prides itself on providing honest and trustworthy services to its clients to protect property, loss to and safety of the venues it provides services to.

Phone: 610-562-0971

Website: www.kresecurity.com

"Serving- Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Union and Wayne Counties in Eastern Pennsylvania and the Susquehanna River Valley Region Since 1990"

CONGRATULATIONS
Mema's Memories
Antiques & General Store
on its recent expansion!

Providing close to an additional 600 sq. ft. of retail space filled with antiques, vintage, and collectible items. Mema's Memories is located at 21 South 3rd St. in downtown Hamburg and is owned by Carolee Powell. Stop by to see all of the unique finds!



Francis L. Werley, Inc. is a family owned and operated company which started in 1948 by Francis Lester Werley. We specialize in home heating oil, off-road diesel, on-road diesel, kerosene, Sunoco branded gasoline and ethanol-free gasoline delivery. Francis L. Werley, Inc. is a full-service energy company serving Berks, Schuylkill, Lehigh, and Lebanon counties. FLW, Inc. specializes in automatic oil delivery to residential, commercial, and industrial accounts. We have an excellent furnace crew who install & service all warm air furnaces, A/C units, boilers, and oil fired heating devices.

Werley's is located on Route 61 just before the entrance to Hamburg. Our four bay automotive garage services all make and model vehicles: oil changes, state inspections, emissions inspections, and specializing in alignments are some of our daily activities. Francis L. Werley, Inc. is an independent Goodyear Tire dealer offering a complete line of automotive, light truck, trailer, and specialty tires.

Francis L. Werley, Inc. also provides wet fueling diesel service to construction, warehouse, cell towers, yard jockeys, and mountainous terrain work sites. For example, FLW, Inc. provides the diesel fuel for the JD Eckman bridge project at the Route 78 and 61 corridor. Werley's fuels cranes, loaders, light towers, and all types of equipment. Basically, anywhere diesel service is needed FLW, Inc. has the equipment to deliver the fuel. No job is too big or too small!

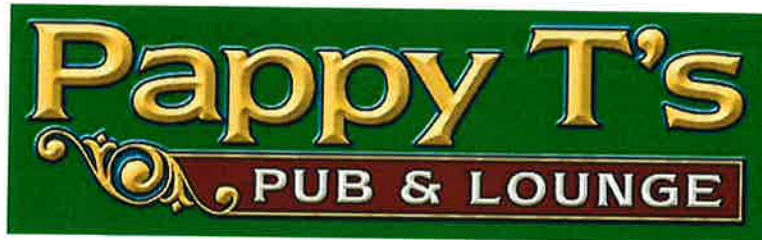
Francis L. Werley, Inc. also has a second location dba: Werley Energy at 717 Lancaster Ave, Reading, PA 19607, formerly FM Browns & Sons. Werley Energy serves the city of Reading and surrounding areas with oil and coal deliver. Werley Energy stocks Blaschak Anthracite which is the highest quality anthracite. The anthracite is available for pickup or delivery.

Dwight Heckman is the President of Francis L. Werley, Inc. He is a third generation business owner. He is assisted by his family Ryan Wilhelm-Vice President, Ruth Wilhelm-Treasurer, Jeanette Heckman-Secretary, Veronica Heckman-Administrative Assistant, and Customer Representatives, Brayden Heckman and Olivia Wilhelm. FLW, Inc. employs a dedicated staff of customer service reps, technicians and delivery drivers ready to serve everyone's needs. Please call 610-562-2236 or visit werleyenergy.com for any needs.

Francis L. Werley, Inc. is a proud supporter of Our Town Foundation and would like to thank the staff of OTF for all their efforts to support Hamburg!



New business member



Pappy T's Pub & Lounge is located adjacent to the Microtel Inn & Suites just north of Hamburg in the foothills of the Blue Mountain along Industrial Drive. Pappy's, as it is fondly nicknamed by long-time customers, opened in 2004 as northern Berks premier establishment featuring great food, refreshing drinks, and friendly atmosphere. Pappy T's Pub hosts 12 beers on tap, along with a large selection of bottles & spirits.

Currently Pappy T's is open seven days a week hosting live music Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The grill is open serving pub food from 4pm to 9pm and specials are run weekly. Manager, Tirza Winn, celebrates various holidays and events with inspired food and beverage specials. As an example, St. Paddy's day was celebrated with Irish traditions like Guinness Shepherd's Pie, Pappy T's Irish Colcannon, and Corned Beef and Cabbage along with Irish inspired drink specials. May 5th - Cinco De Mayo Specials include chicken chimichanga, tacos, taco fries, and more. Locally, the Pub is known for its perfected grilled burgers, fries, and wings.

The live entertainment venues also vary. If you are in the mood for Karaoke, stop by on a Wednesday to listen or join in on the fun. Thursday is a staple for open mic night 8pm - 11pm. You never know who will show up to play. Friday enjoy acoustics with dinner and beverage. Saturday brings in the live bands. Visit the pub or check Pappy T's Pub Facebook for upcoming event dates and times.

Pappy T's contributes yearly to the Rotary, local service providers, and community activities. In the start-up days of the Hamburg's annual Hamburg-er Festival, Pappy's contributed stages and marketing presence. In the past, Pappy T's also contributed award winning walkers and floats in King Frost Parades. Each year annual contributions are made toward some of the long time standing organizations in the area.



Pappy T's Pub & Lounge offers a familiar atmosphere, good food, and beverages to suit most anyone. The pub also offers billiards, darts, music, and more for the game players. The bartenders and the rest of the team at the pub are happy to serve and welcome all. Since the pub is adjacent to the Microtel Inn, it is also a 'home-away-from-home' place to relax for many out of town residents, travelers, and business folks alike. On occasion, an Appalachian hiker will wonder in for refreshments and a break from the trail. Some hikers have posted

their time spent in the Hamburg area and at the pub. Pappy T's Pub, like Hamburg is truly and interesting place to visit!

Pappy T's Pub & Lounge is happy to be a part of Our Town. Updates for Pappy T's Pub & Lounge can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pappytspub. Cheers!

Around town



Local artist Brian Warfel, sprucing up the utility box mural on State Street. Fellow artists, Jay and Martha Ressler, assisted with the project. They will also be enhancing the utility box at 4th and Pine Streets in the near future.

Photo by Marta Ressler



Members of Our Town Foundation enjoying a networking mixer on April 19, 2023 at The Vibe: Connect & Thrive.





**SHOP FOR
FATHER'S
DAY**

Gifts

IN DOWNTOWN HAMBURG

**FIND GIFT IDEAS IN:
AUTO CARE SHOPS
BARBERSHOPS
BREWERIES
EATERIES
& MUCH MORE!**

**FATHER'S DAY IS
SUNDAY, JUNE 18**



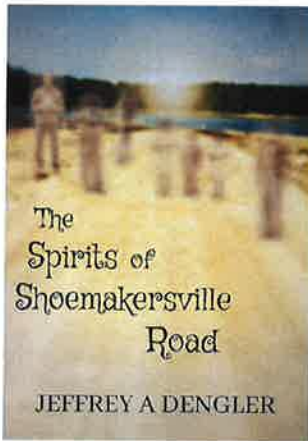




New artist member

Jeffrey A. Dengler

Jeffrey A. Dengler is a husband and father of three foremost. Family is everything. Jeffrey's involvement in the paranormal began many years ago. The catalyst for his involvement started in a home that has been part of his family for over 30 years. He experienced everything one would imagine living in a haunted house. Later in life, Jeffrey experienced a traumatic event that opened him up even more to the spirit world. This event was truly humbling, and it affected him to his core. It was all part of his awakening. Jeffrey has a passion to help others by utilizing his knowledge of the paranormal field and what he believes are his God given gifts and abilities to tune into the spirit world to help individuals and their soul heal. He feels it is a divine guidance and push to be there for others in this way. Jeffrey has two books published to date. Both books are true hauntings in which he describes his own experiences.



The Minersville Mansion

Teresa decided she needed a change. She sold her home in a small town in eastern Pennsylvania. She finds this 23 - room mansion about an hour north in the coal regions of the state. This Romanesque style mansion that dates back to 1904 was in need of some repairs. Teresa didn't mind because she felt drawn to this house. As soon as the renovation began, they started seeing figures, hearing voices, knocking sounds, feeling of being watched, and other unexplainable experiences. It was all becoming increasingly unsettling to the point where Teresa wanted someone to come to the mansion and investigate why these things were happening.

This story is the true chronological account of a three-year journey of investigating and researching the mansion. During this quest we encountered a concealed staircase and uncovered a hidden room. Our personal experiences along with the evidence captured made it clear that this mansion had a story to tell. We set out to find the answers. While we unearthed many mysteries of the mansion, some seemed to be buried so deep that they may never see the light.

They say you don't pick the house; the house picks you.

The Spirits of Shoemakersville Road

This is a true story of a haunting that took place just outside Hamburg. The activity centers around an 84-year-old woman by the name of Mary Lou, her son Todd, and her granddaughter Tina. Mary Lou was a widow and the last surviving out of all her siblings. She didn't understand why she was the only one remaining. This story takes you through when I was first called to the home, the investigation, research, how my gifts/ abilities come into play, and how family on the other side as well as spirits of the land made their presence known. It is a tale of lingering spirits, a story of love and how our passed loved ones are always with us even when we may think otherwise.

Let the spirits guide you to the Art & Craft Gallery of Hamburg to purchase your copy of the books. They are available for \$14.99 plus tax.

Upcoming art class

PICTURE PERFECT GIFT

Sunday, June 11

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Deadline to register: June 8



\$40 includes supplies. Participants will be shown how photographs can be transformed into various gift items. Suitable for ages 10 and over. The class will be held in the party room at the Hamburg Strand Theater. Class presented by photographer and author, Olapeju Simoyan. Pre-registration is required!

To reserve a spot, please contact the Hamburg Area Arts Alliance/ Our Town Foundation office at 610-562-3106 or email hamburgarts@verizon.net.

Hawk Mountain Arts Tour



Examples of art from artists participating in the Hawk Mountain Arts Tour

On Saturday, June 3rd from 9am to 5pm, pick your own route, set your own pace, and enjoy a wide variety of art by numerous talented artists displaying and selling their work in their home studios or host locations.

This free self-guided driving tour winds about a 25-mile radius through Kempton,

Lenhartsville, and Kutztown areas, along with a satellite location in Hamburg at the Etchberger Memorial Park (North 2nd & Island Streets), where eight local artists, including seven members of the Hamburg Area Arts Alliance, will be displaying and selling their work.

This tour is a great opportunity to get to know local artisans and businesses within your community. Check out the host locations too, as many of them will be open for regular business. Discover various styles and types of art on the tour as well, such as jewelry, oil paintings, fine art landscapes, photography, pottery, woodturnings, sculptures, and so much more! For a full list of participants and to download a printable tour map, please visit www.hawkmountain.org/visit/events/hawk-mountain-arts-tour.

After stopping at the Etchberger Memorial Park to support the Hamburg Area Arts Alliance members, be sure to visit the Art and Craft Gallery of Hamburg to see artwork on sale from over forty local artisans and crafters. The Gallery will be open from 10am to 5pm the day of the tour.

The Hamburg Area Arts Alliance's sector of this event is sponsored in part by the PA Council on the Arts.

Garden tour

On Saturday, June 24th, from 10am to 2pm, tour several gardens in the Hamburg area.

Presale tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at The Art & Craft Gallery of Hamburg (320 State Street) and Kay Greenawalt's State Farm office (124 S. 3rd Street).

On the day of the tour, start your journey by picking up your Tour Guide at The Art & Craft Gallery of Hamburg, where you may also purchase tickets for \$6. Additionally, there will be light refreshments and door prizes. Door prizes will be drawn at 1:30pm, but you do not need to be present to win.

Please note that the Hamburg Garden Tour is a rain or shine event. If you have questions, please contact Kay at (610) 562-4329.



Community garden



There are still plots in the community garden available to rent. It costs \$30 per plot and guidelines are available at the Our Town Foundation office. We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with garden maintenance. If you are interested in renting a plot or assisting at the garden, please give OTF a call at 610-562-3106.

Example of community garden plot

Community Cleanup Day review

On Saturday, April 22nd, volunteers of all ages took to the streets of Hamburg for the Keep Hamburg Beautiful Cleanup Day. Our Town Foundation partnered with the Rotary Club of Hamburg in efforts to help keep the town clean. Fifty volunteers collected twenty-eight bags of trash and six bags of recyclables. The cleanup concluded with a light luncheon for all volunteers.

OTF would like to thank the members of the Rotary Club of Hamburg and local residents for all of their help and support with the cleanup efforts. Without dedicated volunteers, these cleanup events would not be possible.



Zoom over between 4-8pm to VJ Wood's property at 2291 Old 22 in Hamburg to experience the car cruises that take place on the third Friday of each month through October. The cruises previously took place at the State Street Square lot next to Sweet Treats, but construction has begun on the lot and VJ Wood has graciously offered up a location to continue the ever-popular cruises.

Car enthusiasts will enjoy the selection of local cars while others will just like being outside around so many varieties of vehicles. At the April car show, there were approximately 100 cars - mostly classic cars and some antique motorcycles. To the delight of many, there was also a running 426 hemi engine displayed on an engine stand. A big thank you goes out to Blue Rocks Campground for displaying a 1968 Hahn Firetruck, which was built in Hamburg. Additionally, a timed pit crew challenge took place that tested for the quickest time for tire rotation. Bill's Open Pit BBQ was also on site with delicious food to keep attendees going while they walked around taking in the nostalgic scene.

Be sure to stop by the upcoming car cruises!



Sampling of cars at the April Car Cruise

OTF would also like to thank the Journey Café for allowing the use of their facility as the starting and ending point and to our sponsors: Kay Greenawalt, State Farm Insurance Agency, the Rotary Club of Hamburg, Keep America Beautiful, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the donation of supplies, the Borough of Hamburg for the use of their dumpsters, St. John's Thrivent members for their donation of hotdogs, Pure Wild Tea for their donation of drinks, and the Hamburg Grange for their monetary donation.



Group photo of the Cleanup Day volunteers on April 22, 2023



It is hard to believe that the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this year on September 2, 2023! Organizing an event of this magnitude is quite an undertaking and wouldn't be possible without the dedicated volunteers who spend many hours attending monthly meetings and working on their specific tasks. This year we welcomed Sue Bear and Diana Kull to our team.

Entertainers have been secured, merchandise is being ordered, applications for street closures have been submitted, sponsors are being pursued, advertising is being scheduled, and contests are getting organized.

Due to this monumental anniversary, the committee has decided to make the festival even more memorable by offering new contests and activities. The American Xcellence Wrestling (AXW) group will be providing plenty of entertainment for the whole family to interact with and enjoy, so be sure to visit their stand which will be located at 2nd and State Streets.

Additionally, the committee has a new twist on the Professional Burger Eating Competition, which is now being referred to as the All-star Burger Eating Contest. The new contest will feature the return of two fan-favorite professionals competing against four new and exciting eaters from American Xcellence Wrestling. This will be one contest you don't want to miss!

The festival committee is also introducing a new contest called "You Lucky Duck" which is being sponsored by Joe Jurgielewicz & Son and Deitsch Eck. Participants may purchase a rubber duck for \$5, then at the scheduled time, toss the rubber duck at the target, which will be a large charcoal grill. The closest duck to the center of the target will win up to \$500, dependent on the number of rubber ducks sold. The 2nd place winner will receive the charcoal grill and a bag of charcoal.

Please note that we are currently accepting applications for vendors and welcome any new participants. We are always looking for additional burger stands to complement the existing ones that grill up your favorites. If you are an artisan or crafter, home based businesses, or food vendor that may be interested in participating, applications are available on the website at www.tasteofhamburger.com.

American flags

Volunteers from the Wagner -Good VFW Post 216 recently hung brand new American flags, which were donated by the VFW, throughout downtown Hamburg. OTF would like to thank the volunteers for taking the time to hang all of the beautiful flags and giving the town a sense of patriotic pride.



From left to right: VFW members Vince Reilly, Steve Cashman, and Paul Shollenberger

Featured artists

May: Patricia Falco



Shot with her favorite Olympus camera, Pat's photography is ever evolving. While her roots are in nature and landscape, she constantly travels locally and afar, seeking out the history and beauty of the world around us. Experimenting with different styles of photography, such as macro, street, and

still life, help stretch her imagination and boundaries and keep her energized. Beyond the image itself, Pat feels the framing, medium on which the photo is printed- paper, canvas, metal, or wood and the presentation- are all integral parts of the expression of her art. The elements combine to complete the story caught in her vision.

June: Candace Thomas

Candace is a self-taught painter from east coast, Pennsylvania. Her art is faith centered, and the core of her passion. It's synonymous with soft subtle hues with an old rustic edge. The contemporary designs of her painted artworks include angels, prayers, and ethereal landscape paintings. They are meant to serve as a gentle call for prayer and reflection.



Meet Candace on June 11th from 1-3pm at the Art & Craft Gallery of Hamburg. Light refreshments and entertainment will be provided.



July: Ken Liskey

Ken Liskey is a resident of Bernville and has been affiliated with several artist groups in Schuylkill and Berks Counties. Ken started painting around 1980 as a hobby, and then took classes for five years in oil painting. When he started painting, he tried a variety of mediums but

chose oil paintings as his personal favorite. He strives for realism in his art, for he uses oils to paint outdoor scenes of wildlife, places of interest that he's visited, lighthouses and historic places.

July: Martha Ressler

Martha sees her art quilts as impressions of place – real or imagined. She likes to include items discarded by humans as a kind of archeological thumbprint. An object discarded or lost might merge with pages of timeworn books or sheet music, or swatches of rescued embroidery, unfinished quilt tops, linens or clothing. Drawings, used postage stamps, and found objects, along with fabrics and hand embroidery, are reborn in a stitched story about human imprints on the earth, evidence of new and old secrets there to be discovered or imagined.



Featured artists' work available at the Art & Craft Gallery of Hamburg.

Theater talk

Several students from the Hamburg Area Drama Club recently took to the stage to present the comedic short play *Bad Auditions* by *Bad Actors* at the Hamburg Strand Theater, bringing a new form of entertainment to the theater.



Students from the short play

The synopsis of the short play is that a local community performance group has three weeks to prepare a production of Shakespeare. Auditions are held and the actors who attend are quickly revealed to be the "bottom of the barrel". The play consists of each actor's bad audition.

Student actors participated, many of whom took on the challenge of playing more than one part in the show. It was directed by Barry Dreisbach, the Drama Club Director at the school. Bethany Sholl, the Strand's manager stated, "The show was really funny! Very talented group of kids!"

The theater hopes to offer additional short plays in the future to provide an off-site location for the school students to perform. For a listing of all upcoming theater activities, visit www.hamburgstrand.org or follow the theater on Facebook.

Faith Nights

The second Tuesday of each month at 7pm

June 13: *Shadowlands*

July 11: *American Underdog*

August 8: *The Reliant*

September 12: *Rudy*

October 10: *Letters to God*

November 14: *Midnight Clear*

December 12: *The Christmas Blessing*

Classic Nights

The fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm

May 23: *An Officer and a Gentleman*

June 27: *Terminator*

July 25: *Kissin' Cousins*

August 22: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

September 26: *Thelma & Louise*

October 24: *The Shining*

November 28: *American President*

Ticket prices for Faith and Classic Nights are \$8 and include a complimentary small popcorn and soda. Yearly passes cannot be used for these features.

State Street Square update

After many delays, it appears the State Street Square Development Project will finally be getting underway! The Foundation has selected Ontelaunee Builders from Lenhartsville to construct the next phase of the project, which is constructing the shell of the building at a cost of approximately \$300,000. The grant we received from the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development office was for \$200,000; therefore, we have kicked off a capital campaign in hopes of receiving the additional \$100,000 through community support. We have included a separate information piece in this newsletter for your review. Please note that if you care to donate electronically, you can scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3nGxiJq



"Hamburg 1939"

Come see old films from 1939
Hamburg, in black and white,
on the big screen!

**Tuesday, June 6
7pm**

Tickets \$8 include
popcorn and soda.
Tickets sold at the door that night only.



**Copies of the dvd
will be on sale!**

Hamburg Strand
6 South 4th Street
Hamburg, PA
hamburgstrand.org

**STARTING
FRIDAY. MAY
26 THROUGH
THURSDAY.
JUNE 15**

**THEATER WILL
BE CLOSED
MONDAY. MAY
29 FOR
MEMORIAL
DAY**

Disney
THE
LITTLE MERMAID

The Campaign for

STATE STREET SQUARE

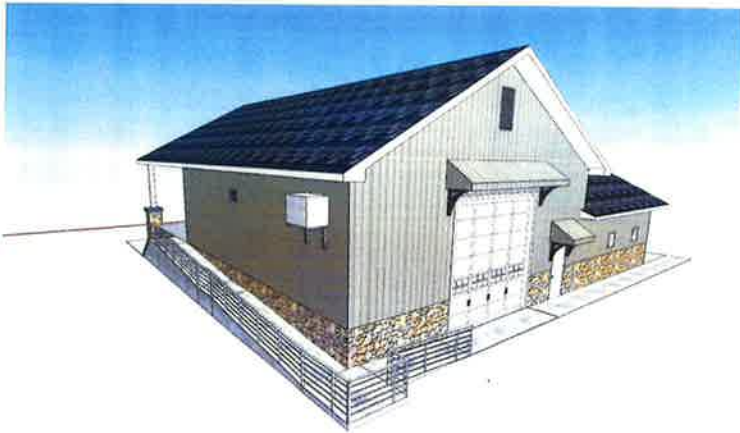
An Our Town Foundation project that will serve the community today and tomorrow

THE GOAL

In 2015, Our Town Foundation purchased a one-acre vacant lot in downtown Hamburg with a goal of developing the property into an outdoor community hub – one where friends and families gather to enjoy outdoor events, live performances, and cultural activities. These events will create an engaging, vibrant community thereby increasing the economic vitality of the town.

THE PLAN

Development plans include erecting an approximate 3,000 sq. ft one story structure which will have a storage area for equipment and furnishings (tables, chairs, canopies, street barricades, etc.) that are necessary to host events. The structure will include a stage with roof cover in the front of the building. A seating area will be placed on the side of the structure. If funding permits, public restrooms will be installed as well as a kitchenette with access windows for serving food to the public. A parking lot will be constructed at the rear of the lot.



Rear view of projected building design
**Design dependent on funding, changes may apply*



Side view of projected building design
**Design dependent on funding, changes may apply*

PROPOSED EVENTS

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES
HAMBURG HOOPLA
CRUISE NIGHTS
BOCCE BALL COMPETITIONS
GAME NIGHTS

POETRY READINGS
STORYTELLING FOR KIDS
OUTDOOR THEATRICAL PLAYS
ARTS FESTIVALS
WINE TASTING EVENTS

LOCAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCES
MUSIC IN THE PARK LUNCH SERIES
EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS
MONTHLY FLEA MARKETS AND
YARD SALES

THE COST

Due to the increasing expense of building materials, the cost of the project has skyrocketed over the past few years. The initial cost of the building was estimated to be around \$200,000. The actual contractor bids received were over \$500,000! Therefore, the overall development will be completed in phases as funding is received. Several phases have already been completed using funding from several grant sources. Our next phase is construction of the shell of the facility as well as the stage, which is estimated to cost \$350,000. Our Town Foundation has received a grant from the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development office in the amount of \$200,000 to assist with this expense; however, we must secure the additional \$150,000 before we can proceed.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are asking for the community's support in making the State Street Square Development project a reality. Businesses or individuals can make a one-time donation or pledge a three-year commitment. Our goal is to secure a minimum of \$150,000 which is needed to construct the building shell and stage area. Once this phase is completely funded and built, the Foundation will focus on the next phase of the project. If for some reason the project cannot come to fruition, all donations received will be returned to the respective donor. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Our Town Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered with the PA Department of State, Bureau of Charitable Organizations.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE

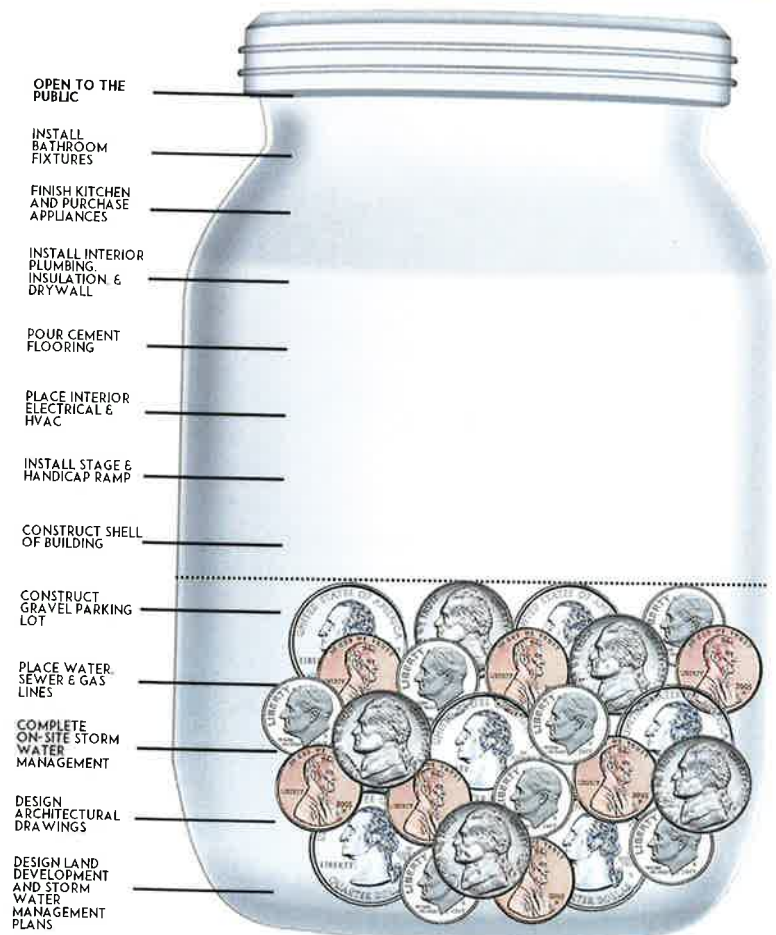
Construct shell of building - partially funded by DCED (\$200,000)

Place water, sewer, and gas lines - funded by Giant Corp./Keep America Beautiful (\$15,000)

Complete on-site storm water management and construct gravel parking lot - funded by Berks County American Rescue Plan (\$115,000)

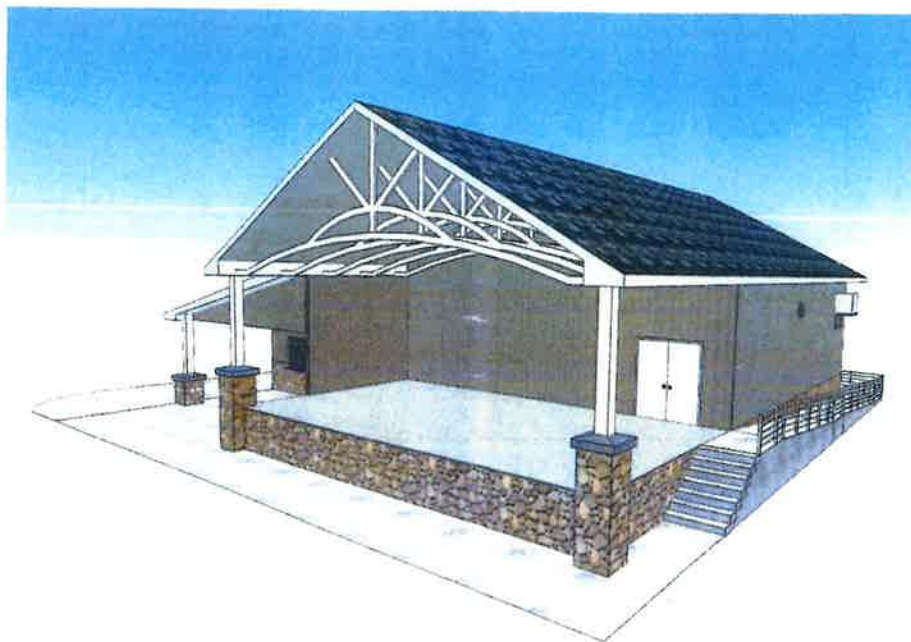
Design architectural drawings - funded by the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival (\$25,000)

Design land development and storm water management plans - funded by Berks County Community Foundation and the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival (\$20,000) and services donated by Crossroads Engineering Group, LLC



GIVE CHANGE TO MAKE A CHANGE

- ◆ All donations will receive a federal tax deduction of 100% of donation as permitted by law
- ◆ Donations of \$2,500 or more may be split into three yearly payments
- ◆ Prominent name recognition will be displayed on the property for any donation of \$5,000 or more
- ◆ In-kind donations of services will also be appreciated



Stage view of projected building design
**Design dependent on funding, changes may apply*

**Naming rights are available for the facility, stage, and concession area
 (for more information, please contact Our Town Foundation)**

To donate, scan the QR code, visit bit.ly/3nGxiJq
 or fill out the form below and return it with your contribution to
 Our Town Foundation, 320 State Street, Hamburg, PA 19526



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

I will be making a: _____ One-time donation, _____ Three-year pledge,
 or in-kind donation of _____

Amount Enclosed (*checks shall be made payable to Our Town Foundation*): _____

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Our Town Foundation is organized to preserve and revitalize downtown
 Historic Hamburg for our families and future generations to enjoy.

Bingo recap

The Hamburg Area Arts Alliance hit the jackpot with its recent Bingo, Beer and BBQ event held on April 1st at the Hamburg Field House, raising over \$13,000 to support the arts in the Hamburg community. Approximately 350 people lined up at the Hamburg Field House doors in hopes of winning one of the twenty prize baskets filled with items donated by local businesses and individuals or one of the four cash payout specials.



Sandy Christman winning bingo prize basket
Photo taken by Martha Ressler

In addition to the bingo games, there were several tables lined with impressive baskets and auction items such as admission tickets to PA attractions, gift certificates to local eateries and shops, baskets of alcohol, artwork, and so much more! There were a total of 79 baskets or items that were won through the auction!

Several home-based vendors set up booths to sell their products while gold level sponsors were on hand to promote their services. Chef Shef's Catering sold BBQs, burgers, and other delicious food.

This was the second annual Bingo, Beer & BBQ event the Arts Alliance Committee held and due to its success, next year's event is already being organized and planned.



Fans pack the Field House for Bingo, Beer & BBQ
Photo taken by Nevin Dries

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Copper Level:

Berks Family Deals and Savings

Berks Foot & Ankle Surgical Associates

Hamburg Grange #2103

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New Life Thrift Store

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Allentown Art Museum

American Xcellence Wrestling

Ann Steffel

Art & Craft Gallery of Hamburg

Art Plus Gallery

Art Suite at Blue Mountain

Avon-Nikki & Janet Just

B the NV Salon

Baskets in the Wood

Bear Creek Mountain Resort

Bee Silky Soap

Bella Jules

Berks Family Deals and
Savings

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Brightbill Remodeling

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Hamburg Area Historical Society

Hamburg Public Library

Hamburg Strand Theater

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Norwex-Jodi Brossman

Pampered Chef-Velvet S.

Pappy T's

Pennsylvania Firebacks

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Reifsnnyder's Ag Center

Ressler Art

Rev. Mark & Karla Jensen

Rico Casa Restaurant

Rita's of Hamburg

RM Palmer Company

Rustic Wildflower Designs

Scentsy-Jen Weidner

Scentsy-Nikki & Janet Just

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Sorelli Jewelers

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Styles by Maureen Porter

Sue Rothacker

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Tastefully Simple

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The National Civil War

Museum

The Old Jail Museum

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Our Town Foundation
320 State Street
Hamburg, PA 19526

Our Town Foundation administers the following programs:



Taste of
Hamburger Festival



Our Town Foundation's mission is to revitalize, preserve, and promote downtown historic Hamburg for our families and future generations to enjoy.

Our vision of Hamburg is one of vibrant streets adorned with restored historic buildings filled with shops, restaurants and professional services. The town will build on and prosper from the abundant natural, cultural, and historic resources with the community. Hamburg will once again be the premier location in Northern Berks to shop, dine, and be entertained.