

## Boscola Announces \$100,000 State Grant to Restore Historic Easton House with Ties to American Revolution

By Senator Lisa Boscola

BETHLEHEM (June 12, 2026) - - Senator Lisa Boscola announced today that the City of Easton has been awarded a \$100,000 Keystone Historic Preservation Grant by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) for the rehabilitation and restoration of the Hooper House, which was owned by Colonel Robert Lettis Hooper Jr., who served as the deputy quartermaster general during the American Revolution and served as the colonel's headquarters during his tenure.

"As America is on the verge of celebrating the 250th Anniversary of our Independence, it is so fitting that the state will be collaborating with the City of Easton on bringing the Hooper House, which served as Colonel Hooper's headquarters during the Revolutionary War, back to life," Senator Boscola stated. "Restoring it as another educational landmark for future generations to learn about the important role Easton played in our country's independence will be a tremendous asset for the City of Easton and the Lehigh Valley."

The PHMC Keystone Construction grant will allow the City to rehabilitate and restore the structure, located at the corner of Fifth and Northampton Streets in the historic Downtown District. Despite its rich history, the Hooper House has been unoccupied for decades and, in 2012, was deemed blighted by the City. The project consists of repointing the Hooper House as it is not weatherized, and repairing the roof and windows.

## Da Vinci Science Center Names Conor Hepp as New Executive Director and CEO

By Tamara Krizek

ALLENTOWN, PA, June 9, 2026 - Da Vinci Science Center announces the appointment of Conor Hepp as its next Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer. Hepp will assume the role on July 6, 2026.

A respected nonprofit and museum leader with nearly two decades of experience, Hepp joins Da Vinci Science Center from the Chester County History Center, where he currently serves as President. Throughout his career, Hepp has built a reputation for growing audiences, strengthening community partnerships, advancing educational initiatives, and leading mission-driven organizations through periods of innovation and growth.

"Conor brings a unique combination of strategic leadership, operational excellence, and a deep commitment to educational impact," said Dan Bosket, Chair of Da Vinci Science Center's Board of Trustees. "His experience leading cultural institutions, engaging communities, and building strong organizational foundations positions him well to guide the Science Center as we continue to inspire curiosity and create transformative STEAM learning experiences for people of all ages."

Prior to leading the Chester County History Center, Hepp served as Director of Visitor Experience at the Barnes Foundation, where he oversaw visitor engagement, revenue strategy, and operational planning. His professional background also includes leadership roles at the University of Pennsylvania and the Franklin Institute, where he developed extensive experience in museum operations, educational programming, customer experience, and organizational development.

"I am honored to join Da Vinci Science Center and build upon its remarkable legacy of inspiring exploration and discovery," said Hepp. "The Science Center plays a vital role in connecting people with science and creating opportunities for lifelong learning. I look forward to working with the talented staff, dedicated Board of Trustees, educators, community partners, and supporters to expand access to STEM experiences and deepen the Science Center's impact throughout the region."

Since opening its new home at Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion, the organization has become a premier destination for science learning and exploration in the Lehigh Valley, serving families, students, educators, and visitors through immersive exhibits, educational programming, and community partnerships.



## Greater Lehigh Valley Athletics Launches Inaugural Girls Flag

By About Greater Lehigh Valley Athletics

BETHLEHEM, PA – June 10, 2026 – Flag Football, no longer a niche sport, is a now a movement that includes a sports debut in the 2028 Olympics in LA. This summer, Greater Lehigh Valley Athletics (GLVA), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Lehigh Valley youth sports organization, offers girls in the Lehigh Valley the opportunity to experience this exciting non-contact sport in an "girls only" NFL flag football league.

According to Aspen Institute's Project Play, flag football was the only team sport from 2019 to 2024 that experienced growth in regular participation among youth ages 6 to 17 and, since 2019, about 500,000 girls ages 6 to 17 have taken up flag football. Research from Children's Hospital Colorado found that girls who play flag football report more daily activity, higher energy levels, and stronger positive mental health outcomes compared to non-athlete peers.

Flag Football's non-contact format makes it an accessible, welcoming entry point for girls of all skill levels, including those who have never played a sport.

"We have been watching the growth of flag football at the national level, and we knew it was time to bring a dedicated girls' league home to the Lehigh Valley," said Keri Neidig, VP of the

Board of Greater Lehigh Valley Athletics. "Our co-ed league attracts some girls, but a dedicated league gives them the confidence to grow, compete, and lead in a way that is truly their own."

Games will be held on Sundays at the Charles Chrin Community Center, 4100 Green Pond Road in Palmer, PA. The league will run from late May June through late July, with practices within fifteen minutes of home whenever possible, expanding access and reducing transportation barriers for families across the Greater Lehigh Valley.

### **Every Girl Plays. Period.**

A unique founding commitment across all co-ed and girls GLVA programs is that every child plays, every single game, no exceptions, which sets GLVA apart from the competitive travel team programs. Each participant receives an official NFL FLAG jersey and flag belt.

GLVA has no tryouts, no benching, and no pressure to be the best athlete in the room. GLVA teams are intentionally capped at twelve players to ensure meaningful playing time for everyone who registers. There are no fundraising requirements for parents or players, no mandatory volunteer shifts, and no hidden obligations.

Player safety is a priority at every level of GLVA operations. St. Luke's Health Network staffs all GLVA games with a certified athletic trainer. Safety incidents are tracked each season, and coaches receive extensive training in injury prevention and participant welfare. GLVA follows established safety protocols aligned with NFL FLAG rules, including required safety equipment for all participants.

As an added commitment to its programs, all coaching staff are trained through GLVA's partnership with Positive Coaching Alliance, ensuring age-appropriate instruction rooted in positive youth development. All coaches and volunteers are required to complete National criminal background checks and PA State child abuse clearances.

Learn more at [www.glvathletics.org](http://www.glvathletics.org).

