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## Da Vinci Science Center To Development Of A 21st-century Science Center In Downtown Allentown

By Brian Strohecker

ALLENTOWN, PA. October 20, 2020 — The Da Vinci Science Center announced today that its proposed new 21st-century science center in downtown Allentown will receive support from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the City of Allentown in the form of a \$5.6 million HUD Section 108 loan award. The award represents a major milestone in the development of the Da Vinci Science Center project in the City's revitalized downtown.

"We thank HUD and the City of Allentown for supporting our vision to create a 21st-century science center that will improve access to high-quality STEAM education, drive economic development, and enhance the quality of life for residents of the Lehigh Valley," said Lin Erickson, Executive Director and CEO of the Da Vinci Science Center. "We are especially grateful to Mayor O'Connell and his entire team in Community and Economic Development, including Leonard Lightner, Maria Quigney, and Tom Williams for their expertise and hard work preparing the application and working closely with HUD to secure its approval."

The commitment will help to bring a major new economic development project to downtown Allentown, improve access to high-quality

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## Sen. Browne Honored for Early Childhood Education Caucus Leadership

By Vicki Wilken

Lehigh Valley, PA – Senator Pat Browne has been honored as a "Legislative Champion" by state education advocates for his work as chairman of Pennsylvania's bipartisan, bicameral Early Childhood Education (ECE) Caucus.

Browne (R-16), the co-founder and co-chair of the Early Childhood Education Caucus, said that he was honored to have been selected and pleased with the progress that the Commonwealth is making in prioritizing high-quality early education in order to ensure it is available to all Pennsylvanian families.

"I am humbled to have been selected by this distinguished group of education advocates as a 'Legislative Champion'," said Senator Browne, who is also the Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman. "Since its creation in 2010, the Early Childhood Education Caucus has been a leading voice for the advancement of high-quality early education for the children of the Commonwealth. We remain

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## St. Luke's and Volunteer Seamstress Design Clear Mask for Speech Therapists

By Sam Kennedy

LOWER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP - Valerie Dozier of Lower Mount Bethel Township loves spending time in her craft room sewing quilts, painting pottery and crocheting blankets. But in March, when the coronavirus pandemic led to a shortage of PPE, the retired elementary school teacher quickly set aside her projects to help.

Dozier reached out to St. Luke's University Health Network, and soon found herself spending hours at her sewing machine turning out masks. "I wanted to do something but I don't have the skills to go be an essential medical worker," Dozier said. "But I sew and I have all this fabric, so I figured this is something I could do."

Dozier's passion led St. Luke's to tap her for a special assignment – making a face mask tailored for speech therapists. Physical Therapy at St. Luke's, which offers speech therapy throughout the region at eight outpatient locations, treats patients for a variety of speech disorders, including difficulty producing speech or difficulty with language, feeding problems, swallowing disorders and cognitive-linguistic disorders.

Amy Taylor, MS, CCC-SLP, Director of Outpatient Speech Therapy, said treatment for these disorders is highly visual. "We have to open our mouths wide," Taylor said.

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Valerie Dozier

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The Salvation Army of the Slate Belt is currently seeking individuals willing to stand kettles this Christmas season.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Captain Barbara Cure at 610-863-6677

## Journaling Workshops offered at Minsi Lake

By Michael Ortoski / Co Chair

Northampton County Parks & Recreation and the Friends of Minsi Lake will hold three workshops at Minsi Lake on November 1, 2020 at 10AM-11AM, 1:00PM-2:00PM, and 3:00PM-4:00PM. Participants should meet in the West Shore Parking Lot at Minsi Lake Park at the intersection of Lake Minsi Drive and Blue Mountain Drive in Upper Mount Bethel Township, PA 18013 (40.912402, -75.178513). The hour-long workshops will involve walking along the shores of Minsi Lake, with stops at journaling benches, where time will be spent learning about the nature of Minsi Lake and writing and sketching your thoughts and impressions.

This program is sponsored by Northampton County Parks & Recreation and Friends of Minsi Lake and is available to the public free-of-charge, but registration is required. To register, contact Jim Wilson at 610-829-6404 or [jwilson@northamptoncounty.org](mailto:jwilson@northamptoncounty.org)

Five brand new journaling benches designed by the Nurture Nature Center in Easton, and built by Eagle Scout Adam Tucker of Bangor, were recently installed on the shores of Minsi Lake in Upper Mount Bethel Township. These journaling stations are for local residents to use spending time in nature, observing, asking questions and journaling.

us for one of three journaling workshops to unveil the benches and hear tips from local experts about how to get started observing and documenting your experiences in the great outdoors. Jim Wilson, Recreation Specialist with Northampton County Parks and Mike Ortoski, local writer, artist and Vice Chair of Friends of Minsi Lake, will guide the workshops.

Due to COVID-19, workshops will be limited to six participants, masks must be worn and social distancing practiced.



One of 5 Journaling stations installed at Minsi Lake with some art supplies in the stations for the public

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