



THE CITY OF HERMITAGE

www.hermitage.net

Community Update

Volume 17, Issue 55

Fall 2017

Hermitage Trick or Treat

Tuesday
October 31st
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Friday
Nov. 17 Saturday
Nov. 18



20th Annual
Hermitage Holiday
Light Parade Festival

COVER PHOTO BY TOM DARBY

Spotlight Business

THE HAPPY EGGPLANT • PG. 2

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THE HAPPY EGGPLANT

Gourmet Food & Kitchen Shoppe

Offers more than 7,000 unique items . . .

Contributed by Dick Davis

A lifelong love of food and the art of cooking fine food brought Pamela Drobney across Pennsylvania to current ownership with husband Michael of The Happy Eggplant Gourmet Food & Kitchen Shoppe, a slice of gourmet heaven in Hermitage.

While a student at West Hazelton High School, Pamela started an experimental cooking class, then followed it up with a BS in Food Service, Restaurant and Hotel Management at Penn State University. Pamela's desire to enrich culinary experiences for others endures today in Hermitage.

The Happy Eggplant, located in the former Je'Riel Fashions space, 1550 E. State St. in the Philadelphia Candies Plaza, has more than 7,000 unique items, about half are food items and half are equipment for cooking and enjoying fine food. (The shoppe isn't a restaurant) If you can't find your favorite olive oil, vinegar, pasta, salad dressing, packaged snack or mix, or cookware and utensils at The Happy Eggplant, it probably can't be found.



"We have the most wonderful customers who share my passion," says Pamela. "We are so grateful for their support, their patronage, and their friendship."

Ariston cold-pressed, extra virgin olive oil from Greece and 12-year aged balsamic vinegar from Modena, Italy is the heart and soul of the store, Pamela

says. Ariston Specialties began as a small family business in Connecticut in 1997. Its goal is to provide a quality cold press extra virgin olive oil to the U.S. market at an affordable price. To achieve this, Ariston decided to produce their product in the Kalamata region of Greece using koroneiki variety olives.

The Happy Eggplant has a Refill and Save Program for both Ariston olive oil and balsamic vinegar as a way to protect the environment and keep the prices reasonable.

Food items include Bob's Red Mill, Robert Rothchild Farm, Garden Spot, Rossi Pasta, and Tony Packo Pickles, while



cookware, accessories and gadgets include Ann Clark, Cole and Mason, Fox Run, Le Creuset, Kyocera Ceramics, Out of the Woods of Oregon, and Rada Cutlery, which is made in the U.S.

The shoppe also has a website of www.happyeggplant.com, a blog, and a Facebook page.

The original owner came up with The Happy Eggplant moniker: it is named after a Le Creuset eggplant-shaped French ceramic oven that was a gift from his mother years ago.

The Drobney's initially turned down the previous owner when approached about a purchase in 2010. The couple said they were happily retired.

But regular patron Pamela was grateful to have it in the community and didn't want to see it close. After much consideration, she and Michael purchased the business.

"I wasn't interested," Michael jokes. "But Pamela was, so we compromised and bought it."

And the rest, as they say, is Happy Eggplant history.





- 20th Annual -

Hermitage Holiday Light Parade Festival

Friday & Saturday • November 17 & 18

Look for more information @ hermitage.net and our facebook page!

Light Parade

The 20th Annual Hermitage Holiday Light Parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The route for the parade begins at the intersection of East State Street and North Kerrwood Drive (Kraynak's and Hermitage Town Plaza), travels east on State Street to the intersection of Route 18, turns left and proceeds to the entrance of the Shenango Valley Mall. Entries are judged on: originality, creativity, the use of lights & music, and a holiday theme. Results will be posted on www.hermitage.net. You may pick up your prizes at the Hermitage Municipal Building starting Monday, November 20th.

This yearly community event draws over 15,000 people to our Central Business District, and we are asking all businesses along East State Street (especially those along the parade route) to participate by decorating with holiday lights.

To enter a float or decorated vehicle, or for more information, contact Amy Gargiulo at 724-981-0800. Space is limited, so please register early.

Holiday Light Parade Committee

Friday
• "Eat, Drink and Be Merry" around Hermitage

Saturday

- **Kids Area inside SV Mall** – 2-5 pm (First 100 kids receive a free t-shirt)
- **Vendors Area outside the SV Mall** – 4-8 pm (tent area)
- **Ice Sculpting outside SV Mall** – 3 & 5 pm
- **Fireworks** – 5:40 pm
- **Walk/Run Event** – 5:50 pm
- **Parade** – 6:00 pm

Hey Kids . . . Junior Parade Marshal!

One boy and one girl between the ages of 5 and 12 will be randomly selected from the entries to serve as Junior Parade Marshal and ride along in the 20th Annual Hermitage Holiday Light Parade Saturday, November 18, 2017.

The winners will receive a prize package donated by the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce. Entry forms can be dropped off or mailed to the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce, 41 Chestnut Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146 by Oct. 31, 2017.



20th Annual Hermitage Holiday Light Parade Junior Parade Marshal • November 18, 2017

Age (5-12) boy girl

Name: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Forms will also be available to print online @ hermitage.net

Community Drives to Support this Holiday Season. . .



Community Food Warehouse Food Drive

The Community Food Warehouse provides food to over 4,200 households in Mercer County and the need continues to grow. Your generosity during this holiday season is greatly appreciated!

HELP US LINE THE PARADE ROUTE WITH BAGS OF FOOD!!!!

1. Fill a shopping bag with non-perishable food items (especially canned meats, canned tuna, canned fruits, and cereal). No glass please.
2. Bring the bag to the Holiday Light Parade and place it on the side of the road along the parade route.
3. Volunteers from the Faith Presbyterian C.E. Youth Group float will collect the bags and deliver them to the Community Food Warehouse.

Hillcrest-Flynn Pet Food Drive

Hillcrest-Flynn Pet Care Foundation has set a goal . . . to feed five local rescue groups for one year: Animal Advocacy, Cat Landers, Club Pet Adoption, Humane Society of Mercer County, Pet Solutions.

Supplies to donate: dog or cat dry food (unopened and unexpired), bleach, blankets, cat or dog toys, cat litter, dog or cat treats, paper towels, laundry detergent.

Donations should be delivered to: Hillcrest-Flynn Pet Funeral Home, 2619 E. State Street, Hermitage. M-F 9-5, Sat. 9-12. Contact us for more information: 724-347-5100 or mrecord@hillcrestflynn.com

Penn State Shenango Mitten-Glove-Hat-Sock Drive

Penn State Shenango faculty, staff and students will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats, and socks to donate to Joshua's Haven, the Prince of Peace, and West Hill Ministries as part of its **"Operation Warm Hands."** Look for the decorated collection bins beside the Penn State Shenango's float. Donations will also be accepted at the Shenango campus in Sharon Hall room 200, located on Penn Avenue in downtown Sharon, Pa. For more information, call 724-983-2860.

McGonigle Ambulance Service Toys for Tots

For more information call the City of Hermitage at 724-981-0800.

Artman Elementary Fall 2017 Transition Programs Little Hornets Camp

Artman Elementary invites all 3-5 year olds and their families to attend our Little Hornets Camp. During this hour, children and parents will have the opportunity to play, listen to a story, make a craft, and have a light lunch.

- Tuesday, Oct. 24 and Friday, Dec. 8 • 11:00 am-12:15 pm
- Artman Elementary Community Room.
- To register: visit www.hermitage.k12.pa.us or call Patti Buzzese, Child Services Specialist 724-981-8750, ext. 5901 or patricia_buzzese@hermitage.k12.pa.us



Fall of 2018 Kindergarten Students

- Wednesdays • October 11, 18, 25, 2017 • 6:00-7:30 pm
- To register: visit www.hermitage.k12.pa.us or call Patti Buzzese, Child Services Specialist 724-981-8750, ext. 5901 or patricia_buzzese@hermitage.k12.pa.us

Hickory Band Booster Organization presents Old Hickory Craft Show

Saturday, October 21, 2017 • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Hickory High School • 640 N. Hermitage Rd. • Rte. 18



- Quality Crafts • Over 100 Exhibitors
- Delicious Homemade Lunches • Chinese Auction

Admission \$2.00 • Free Parking

Hermitage Recycling Yard & Leaf Waste

Please don't rake leaves into the street, ditches or streams. Why not?

Large amounts of leaves and yard waste clog storm drainage pipes and basins and require more city maintenance to keep these systems working properly. They can cause flooding when they cause systems to back up or overflow. Excess leaves also increase phosphorus and other nutrient loads in streams and rivers, which greatly damages water quality leading to fish kills, algae blooms and other problems. Leaves are best handled by using City yard waste collection, composting them yourself, or using a mulching mower and leaving them on the turf. **GREEN LID** yard waste carts or **BIODEGRADABLE BAGS** may be placed at the curb on a weekly basis on your regular collection day. Yard waste will take place weekly @ the curb through the end of November.



Acceptable yard waste includes: leaves, grass clippings, plants & flowers, roots, sawdust, shrubbery & pruning, branches, tree limbs under 4" diameter, brush up to 4' length.



Eagle Scout Honors

We would like to recognize two Hermitage School District students on their recent accomplishments. Drew Slezak and Matthew Mowry have both received the Eagle Scout badge for their completed projects at LindenPointe. Each project was designed to help beautify the park. Drew Slezak installed two sets of horse shoe pits and landscaped a small park area in the green space between the Training and Workforce Development Center and the Sharon Regional Data Building. Matthew Mowry landscaped and installed a LittleFreeLibrary around the trailhead at LindenPointe. Check out their work next time you visit LindenPointe. Congratulations Drew and Matthew!



Matthew Mowry's LittleFreeLibrary project at LindenPointe.



Drew Slezak's Horse Shoe Pit project at LindenPointe.



Adult Kickball League



Hermitage Parks and Recreation Adult Kickball coed league finished up their season this fall. "Sharitage" (pictured here) won the regular season championship and the single elimination end of the year tournament for the second year in a row.

For more info about this program and other programs offered thru the Hermitage Parks and Recreation Department go to <https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityofhermitage>

Playground Ninjas

Playground Ninjas is a class offered to students currently in 2nd grade through 5th grade for the 2017-2018 school year. This class models similar activities and challenges that are centered on the popular show American Ninja Warrior. The tasks will challenge student's physical activity levels, critical thinking skills and the ability to work as a team or group. Challenging parts of the course include changes in terrain, changes in equipment and the ability to adapt to difficult situations while thinking outside of the box. This class provides a unique opportunity for guided discovery with the students, as well as the teachers and allows them to push limits and discover skills they didn't realize were possible. Playground Ninjas has been an exploration in play during the past 5 years at Artman Elementary's summer academy. This class provides an excellent opportunity for students to meet and grow friendships, while also creating challenges that we all enjoyed as young kids. This class is provided and instructed by Jim Boyd and Shawn Valenly, both employed by Hermitage school district as health and physical education teachers. Below are pictures associated with Playground Ninjas during previous summer academies at Artman Elementary School.



Buhl Farm Park

Just in time for the Holiday season.....our new merchandise makes your holiday shopping much easier! Stop by our Buhl Park Gift Shop, located inside the Park Casino, open Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:30. OR visit our online store at www.buhlfarmpark.com/shop



Merchandise for SALE:

- Buhl Park Vintage Logo t-shirts and hoodies
- "Dum Dum" Golf Course t-shirts
- Hats
- Photo Coasters made by Blissed Out Design
- Men's and Women's Polos
- Postcards...and more!

Upcoming Events:

Buhl Park's 3rd Annual Fall Fest! October 14. Fall Fest is a family event not to be missed and has something to please everyone! Visit over 60 craft and specialty vendors as you stroll through the beautiful fall foliage. Be sure and check out the kid's activities, including inflatables, face painting, balloon art and pumpkin painting. Take a hayride or sample some of the delicious food – gyros, burgers, fries, elephant ears and much more! There is a \$2 charge for the children's area and for the hayride. Fall Fest is located near the Performing Arts Center (outdoor stage) and hours are noon to 6:00 p.m. Admission to Fall Fest is free.



Oldies Funk and Fun Night! Get ready to dance the night away to your favorite tunes played by DJ Platter! This 21 and over dance is just \$5.00 per person with drinks and snacks available. 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. in the Casino Ballroom. Tickets available at door or ahead of time at Buhl Park office.

Breakfast with Santa! December 3. What better than a stack of fresh, hot pancakes dripping with maple syrup? Visiting with Santa at the same time! Stop in the Casino Ballroom anytime from 9:00 a.m. to noon \$5 regular/\$3 small.

www.buhlfarmpark.com • 724-981-5522

Shenango Valley YMCA

Upcoming Events & Programs

Don't wait for New Years to get started on your healthy resolutions...The Y has healthy activities for all ages—stop in today for a tour!



Membership:

- **YMCA MEMBERSHIPS:** Y Memberships are available for all ages and provide a variety of programs and other opportunities to get/stay active and healthy. Flexible payment plans are available, as well as financial assistance scholarships so that no one is ever turned away due to an inability to pay the fees.
- **SILVER SNEAKERS AND SILVER & FIT:** Our YMCA participates with both of these great programs. Through your health insurance, you may qualify for a free membership to our Y. If you are unsure, call or stop in and we can check your eligibility and get you started!

Adults and Older Adults:

WELLNESS PROGRAMS: The following evidence-based programs will help prevent/treat chronic diseases and ailments through support, expertise and measurable outcomes.

- **ENHANCE FITNESS:** Treating arthritis through fun, laughter and friends.
- **SIX STEPS BALANCE SYSTEM:** Simple Steps to prevent falls and related injuries.
- **DIABETES PREVENTION:** Lifestyle change program with a certified coach.

GROUP EXERCISE: So much more than a workout! Join a class, and reach your goals with like-minded members and instructors who provide support and motivation!

- Over 60 classes are offered weekly.
- **FREE FOR ALL MEMBERS.**
- Huge variety of classes: times, types and intensities for anyone.

Specialized Services:

Qualified, competent, caring, here to help!

- **PERSONAL TRAINING:** Whether you're an exercise veteran, have never been to the gym or even someone in between...A personal trainer will keep you motivated and organized, and will make sure you perform properly. FREE SESSION AVAILABLE FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS!
- **MASSAGE THERAPY:** Options are available for full-body or upper-body specific. 1 hour massages. Non-Members welcome!

Youth Programs:

- **BASKETBALL LEAGUE:** Co-ed instructional league for ages 3-12. Season starts in January. Register October 23-December 31.
- **F.I.T. FOR KIDS (Fun Interactive Training):** Fun activities & games; nutrition & exercise tips and demonstrations; take-home challenges & more!
- **WORKOUT INSTRUCTION FOR TEENS (WIT):** For ages 12+. (Any beginners). 4-week instructional program designed to educate students about exercise techniques and the benefits of health and fitness.

Information: 724-981-6950 or svymca.com

Community Library

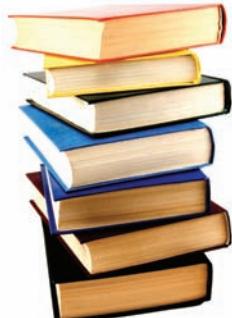
of the Shenango Valley

Friends of the Library Book Sale: October 11-14



Thousands of gently used books, DVD's, and more. The latest bestsellers, the best classics, and everything in between at unbelievable prices.

Wednesday, Oct. 11 9 am-7:30 pm
Thursday, Oct. 12 10 am-7:30 pm
Friday, Oct. 13 10 am-4:30 pm
Saturday, Oct. 14 10 am-4:30 pm



Fall Fling:

Thursday, October 19 • 5-8 am Join us at our annual fundraiser—fine wine & beer, great food, a Chinese Auction, music, and more! Donation \$25. Get your tickets at the library, or get them online through either library's website: www.ccsv.net

Fall Fun Fest:

Tuesday, October 17 • 3:30-6 pm Join us for a fun filled afternoon with crafts, snacks and Halloween and Fall themed games. Ages 5-up.

Halloween Horror Nights:

Wednesdays, Oct. 4-Oct. 25 8-5-7 pm Chilling cinematography, DIY zombie masks, horror trivia, and mummy munchies!

Free Programs:

• Story Hour	• Teen Movies
• Music & Movement	• Knit, Crochet, & More
• Lego Club	• Chess Club
• Preschool Block Party	• Fine Arts Painting
• Parent/Child Play and Learn Workshop	• Monthly Movie Night
• Read to a Therapy Dog	• Color Me Calm
• Family Movie Night	• Great Issues
• Anime Club	• Adult Crafts
• Gaming Night	• Book Clubs
• Trivia Night	• Pennwriters
	• Computer Classes

Free downloadable books and more to borrow for Kindles, Nooks, iPads, computers, and phones. No late fees – items are borrowed for two weeks and automatically expire from your device.

Information: 724-981-4360 or www.ccsv.net

Library Hours: Monday thru Thursday • 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

eAcademy

empowering. engaging. enterprise.

eAcademy Welcomes Class of 2018

The eAcademy welcomed 24 students from 10 school districts to the fourth year of the program. The eAcademy provides local high school seniors with a unique, school year long, immersive experience to develop leadership and entrepreneurial skills as well as confidence to be successful in an ever-changing, global economy. "I couldn't be more proud to be a part of what I know is a surefire path to success for me, Mercer County, Appalachia, and the world." –

Hickory Student Jonah Montgomery on his expectations for the class and what is to come over the course of the year. Students will take field trips to a variety of businesses and facilities throughout the year that are local to the region. Acclaimed speakers with diverse backgrounds will



share their experiences, advice and life lessons that tie in with the fundamental aspects of the eAcademy. Throughout the year students will learn a lean methodology-based curriculum that will be used first hand in creating a business idea, business plan, and working prototype by the end of the year.

Adventure Team Building

eAcademy students absolutely love the adventure team building program at the George Junior Ropes Course in Grove City, PA. It is a class favorite every year. Students arrive at the ropes course as classmates and leave as a cohesive, committed team. The eAcademy team will pre-incubate 7 new business this year all while earning high school and college credits.



Meszaros FUNd Feast

Gary "Moe" Meszaros, thought differently when he founded Quaker Steak and Lube. The eAcademy program is designed to immerse the students in economic development, personal development, and the essential aspects of the unlimited opportunities a different way of thinking can provide. The eAcademy was honored to accept \$5,000 from the 2nd Annual Meszaros Family Charitable Foundations FUNd Feast!

Pictured from left to right, Program Director for the eAcademy Lisa Evans, eAcademy Student Emily Messina, eAcademy Student Re'yon Hammonds, eAcademy Alumni Brianna Dzuricsko, and LDC Board Treasurer Sarah Palmer.

eCenter Accelerator Program

The eCenter@LindenPointe has created a new accelerator program as the next step to the VIA eCenter Business Competition, which was held in June and drew in applicants from across the country. The results exceeded all expectations and saw four of the six finalists join the eCenter accelerator program. The eCenter is now a unique hybrid with components of both a business incubator and accelerator. The goals of both programs are the same: improve the odds of entrepreneurial success for startups. However, this goal is approached in different ways for each. The incubator program is focused on the development of startup and fledgling businesses where entrepreneurs are provided guidance, form an advisory board, connect with expert mentors and goal-based tracking of progress with no set end date. The accelerator program has many components of the incubator but in a 20-



week, growth-driven program. The 20-week course is a blend of immersive, educational workshops and seminars with themes like: marketing strategy, legal consultation, customer discovery, accounting, leadership, preparation of financials, pitching to investors, and avenues to funding. The culmination of the program will be a Y Combinator-style "Demo Day" where the teams will pitch to the community in December. There are currently 6 unique businesses involved in the accelerator program: KOPO, Baby Arrival Monitor, Rezian, Hippo, Priority Bridge and ATP Resources. Kara Wasser, the CEO of Baby Arrival Monitor, recently received a \$10,000 grant from Ben Franklin Technology Partners for her business! KOPO has received \$25,000 in seed funding from the VIA competition that was also provided by BFTP is being used to develop an indicator to increase the availability of clean water in developing countries.

Penn State University funds \$50,000 for new business incubator at the eCenter@LindenPointe in Hermitage

Contributed by Dick Davis

Hermitage is the latest site of a Penn State University effort to spur entrepreneurship throughout its regional campuses. VenturePointe, housed at the eCenter@LindenPointe and affiliated with Penn State-Shenango, received \$50,000 from Invest Penn State during an early August ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"As of today, we have 17 incubators across the state of Pennsylvania," said Penn State President Eric Barron, PhD., who attended along with other Penn State officials including Shenango Campus Director Jo Anne Carrick, PhD. "I expect that we'll probably have more."

Penn State-Shenango's VenturePointe is the result of an initiative started two years ago called Invent Penn State, Barron said. The plan leverages the university's resources and develops incubator hubs in communities that could nurture new ideas and

innovations.

"The community support for VenturePointe has been extraordinary and it has created the type of entrepreneurial environment needed for breakthrough innovations," Barron added. "This is what we envisioned when we launched Invent Penn State nearly two years ago, and I'm thrilled to celebrate the early success with our Shenango students, faculty, staff and community."

"It is said that character, like a photograph, develops in darkness," said Ketaki Desai, PhD., executive director of the eCenter. "And our region had witnessed more than it's fair share for several years. And while some had no choice but to resign to challenging times, some others – like the city of Hermitage (its elected leaders and its officials) – looked at the challenge as an opportunity."

Penn State incubator CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The incubator currently houses two Penn State-Shenango start-up businesses: The Guardians Nest, a veteran's resource center; and ATP Resources, a medical device developer and distributor. Also under the auspices of the VenturePointe incubator, the Shenango campus established its first internship this spring to immerse Shenango students into the entrepreneurial incubation process, which now has a Maker's Studio with 3D printing capabilities.

Desai said VenturePointe is a major addition to eCenter programs started when she was hired about two years ago.

"When a college like Penn State decides to take on the role of a leader in fostering a culture of collaboration to nurture an innovation mindset, we know that everyone will want a partner in such a laudable and much needed initiative," Desai said. "It is said that those who dream by night wake up in the day to find



it was vanity, but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act on their dreams with open eyes, and make it possible."

Ketaki Desai, PhD., executive director of the eCenter@LindenPointe, leads team to silver award at international conference in Denmark



Contributed by Dick Davis

Ketaki Desai, PhD., says she didn't know what she was getting into when selected to attend the Unleash Lab in Denmark for 10 days. Then, her years of advanced education including several degrees, managing large grants, leading several business start-ups, and extensive consulting experience came to fruition as Desai, executive director of the eCenter@LindenPointe, led an international team to a silver award in a technology/education competition.

Desai had the honor of being among 1,000 global talents selected from 10,000 applicants and the only attendee from western PA. The all-expenses-paid conference with a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) theme was created for aligning everyone - public and private - towards a more sustainable future.

Because there hasn't been much progress since they were introduced, the Danish Government, along with several United Nations organizations and corporations like Deloitte and Microsoft, decided to come together and host an event that would bring the most talented leaders from all over the world to work together and build unique and implementable solutions to address the SDG goals.

The silver-award winning "Edu Locker" five-member team led by India-native Desai included a United Arab Emirates native, a Kenyan, a Bosnian and an Iraqi national. While all participants spoke English, Desai says her knowledge of other cultures and ability to speak and write some other languages helped immensely.

Desai pitched her team's idea that technological development is rapidly outpacing formal education, rendering a plurality of technical skills increasingly redundant – lifelong learning is the only way to prevent this social disaster from taking place. Massive Open Online Courses, or MOOCs, were believed to be the solution to this issue- however, they failed because they lacked employer credibility.

She says her team's solution will verify and aggregate MOOCs in partnership with employment entities to give them real credibility, revive their value and spark true lifelong learning. Desai hopes to make her Denmark experience help the eCenter.

"The biggest impact is obviously the connections I was able to make across the world," she says. "I am hoping to draw in these connections when our teams here need either grassroots support for piloting a project or our high school students need speakers to broaden their perspective."

"I was also connected to some very senior executives from Microsoft, Deloitte, etc. and you never know how such connections might be able to participate in what we do!"

Personal highlights at the conference were singing "Imagine" with change-makers from 42 different countries at a morning assembly and a diversity night where attendees celebrated differences and everything that brought them together. The keynote speaker was Sal Khan, Khan Academy founder, who made participants feel truly connected to the world.

From the Chief of Police

Eric Jewell, City of Hermitage Chief of Police



K-9 Program Update:

Shallow Creek Kennels and Officer Marc Frampton recently selected a two year old Belgian Malinois named Willem to be his (Officer Frampton's) partner. Officer Frampton and Willem will be dual certified in tracking and narcotics detection and they will begin six weeks of formal team training on October 2nd. Thanks once again to all those individuals, organizations

and businesses who generously donated to make this program possible.



Traffic Safety Tip:

The Hermitage Police Department's (HPD) Traffic Safety & Enforcement Unit is exclusively dedicated to improving traffic safety in the City by conducting safety and enforcement operations in high traffic zones, high crash (accident) locations and areas with citizen traffic complaints. Obedience to traffic statutes saves lives, reduces crashes and traffic enforcement improves overall compliance with traffic controls such as speed limits, stop signs, red signal lights, etc. Traffic enforcement in areas with higher crime also helps to reduce crime. HPD uses marked and unmarked police vehicles to conduct patrol and traffic operations. Officers also use electronic speed timing devices, certified speedometers and stopwatches to enforce speed limits. Recently, HPD teamed up on several occasions with the PA State Police to use radar for speed enforcement in certain areas. Please be mindful of posted speed limits, wear your seatbelt, obey traffic control devices and signals, don't text & drive and always watch out for children, pedestrians, bicyclists and school buses picking up or dropping off students.

Personal Safety Tip:

Domestic violence is a terrible crime. Many victims who are repeatedly assaulted or abused remain silent out of fear of harm or embarrassment, an odd sense of loyalty or a false hope the abuse may stop. If you are assaulted or threatened with violence during a domestic dispute, please call Hermitage police immediately by dialing 911. If you don't want to involve police, at least call Mercer County AWARE at 1-888-981-1457. AWARE will provide you information

on counseling, legal and medical advocacy, emergency shelter and safety planning. Both police and AWARE will provide you information on how to apply for a protection from abuse (PFA) order. A PFA is a judge's court order that may help protect you from an abuser.

Crime Prevention Tip:

In the criminal world desire + ability + opportunity = crime. We can't always control a criminal's desire and ability to commit crime but we certainly can decrease his or her opportunity (to commit an offense) through good crime prevention practices and education. They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If you are a member of a group, organization, club, church or business, you can request a Hermitage police officer come to your location and present on fraud awareness, personal safety and general crime prevention.

From the Treasurer



Bernie Harry

I'd like to remind everyone that the **School Real Estate** bills and the **Per Capita** bills were mailed on August 1, 2017. **It is your responsibility to notify the Tax Office in the event you do not receive them.**

Per Capita is a head tax, waged on every resident over the age of 18 and this year remains at \$35.00. **All residents are responsible for this tax and are expected to notify the tax**

office in the event they do not receive one. Likewise when moving from Hermitage, you are also to notify the tax office to have your name removed from our tax rolls. There are exemptions (based on income from all sources) available to those who qualify. If your income is \$5,000.00 or less annually, you may be exonerated from the entire per capita bill. If your income is between \$5,000.00 and \$10,000.00, you may only be required to pay a portion of that bill. Upon receipt of your Per Capita bill, all proof of income must be brought into our office, and a form filled out and signed by the person to be exempt. **This process must be followed each year.**

The **Homestead/Farmstead Act.** If you are using the payment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

From the Fire Chief's Desk

John R. Flynn, Fire Marshal-Chief, City of Hermitage Division of Fire

The Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department officers and members would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the annual Steak Fry and Gun Raffle. We would also like to thank all those who donated to the fundraiser. Your continued support has helped the advancement of our department and will continue to build for the future.

The fire department is proud to announce we have added a new component to our rescue abilities: Trench Rescue. In 2016 we applied for a State Grant to purchase equipment that can be used for multiple types of rescues: trench rescue, structural collapse and heavy vehicle stabilization. We received the grant and put the equipment into service after the department conducted a training session for trench rescue. The equipment is currently being kept on our heavy rescue engine and an emergency trailer housed at the Highland Road Station. The Hermitage Fire Department hosted two classes on trench rescue with multiple departments from within the county and other counties participating. All of the firefighters worked hard for three days. The training consisted of a classroom session where they learned the "dos and don'ts" around a trench rescue and a two day "hot session" working within a 8'x32'x10' deep trench. Firefighters

had to shore-up the sides to prevent additional collapses, remove a large amount of dirt with shovels, handheld garden shovels and their hands to free a dummy that was placed in the hole and covered over. Trench rescue is a time consuming and an exhausting rescue operation. These firefighters are dedicated to making our community safer.



In the wake of the hurricanes we need to do a little self-examination. Are you prepared for a natural disaster? What is your plan in the event of a natural disaster? Most of us react to situations instead of preplanning for an emergency or natural disaster. When we react to situations, we generally get caught with "our pants down": no food, no water and no shelter. Even though we cannot plan for every emergency, we can take steps to help ourselves and family members by developing a basic overall plan that can be used no matter where you are when a natural disaster or emergency occurs. There are some basic needs we need to have to survive a situation; such as food, water, warm-dry clothing, shelter and some form of communication to call for help. Another important part of your plan is to know your escape route, whether you are sitting in a restaurant or evacuating from a community. FEMA has a great in-depth citizen's preparedness guide that can help you begin to develop a plan and a checklist for natural disasters (https://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/areyouready_full.pdf). Please take the time and read this information and begin to formulate your plan.

"Preparedness costs you nothing. Being unprepared can cost you your life." Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by the destruction of the hurricanes.



Treasurer CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

plan for your School Taxes, remember that payment #2 is due by Oct. 31 and #3 is due by Dec. 15th, 2017.

Please remember that all homestead approved properties must be owner-occupied. This means that the name on the deed must match the name of the person or persons who live in that house. You can only receive the credit on one parcel.

Anyone who receives the homestead credit and does not qualify, is required by law to notify their tax collector of the necessary correction.

Also if there is any change to your deed, through selling or simply a name deletion or change, the Homestead will not automatically follow.

You will need to re-apply. Forms are available on the County website as well as in our office, for your convenience.

County/City taxes will remain due at the penalty amount until Dec. 31, 2017. At the recommendation of our auditors, we are now requesting separate checks for County/City, School and Per Capita tax bills. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The deadline for filing 2016 tax rebate forms is Dec. 31, 2017. We have forms available in our office for your convenience.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to call our office at 724-347-4472, and we will be pleased to assist you.

City of Hermitage

Parks & Recreation

800 North Hermitage Road
Hermitage, PA 16148

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Hermitage Board of Commissioners

Front left to right: Duane J. Piccirilli - Vice President
Rita L. Ferringer - Commissioner

Back left to right: Maria A. Koledin - Commissioner
Timothy J. Ruffo - Commissioner; William J. Moder III - President

Water Quality Corner

The City of Hermitage is committed to protecting and improving stream & river quality in our community and region. Every resident can help to preserve our environment and water resources.

Shenango River Watchers We All Live Downstream



Shenango River Watchers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit watershed group formed to protect the environmental, scenic, and recreational attributes of the Shenango River Watershed.

Fall Paddle Fest • October 21

From Pymatuning State Park to Riverside Park in Greenville. Registration and more information about River Watchers' projects and activities at:

www.shenangoriverwatchers.org

730 Forker Blvd., Hermitage, PA 16148
724-342-5453 • info@shenangoriverwatchers.org



Festival of Trees Christmas Tour

**Presented by the Hermitage Historical Society
Over 30 Decorated Trees, Hallway and Stairs!**

**Nov. 25, 26 • 1-5 p.m.
Dec. 1, 8 • 5-8 p.m. Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10 • 1-5 p.m.**



5465 East State St. • Hermitage • **724-854-0712**



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hermitage.net