



THE CITY OF HERMITAGE

[www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net)

# Community Update

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Fall 2018



COVER PHOTO BY TOM DARBY



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## Spotlight Businesses

**KRAYNAK'S • PG. 2**

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# Kraynak's

## Santa's Christmasland

### Kraynak's Christmasland welcomes visitors for another holiday season

Contributed by Dick Davis

If it's fall it must be time for Santa's Christmasland at Kraynak's.

Work on Christmasland begins right after Easter with a September 10 opening of the 300-ft. lane with decorated artificial trees, blinking lights, a Nativity scene, animated characters, model trains, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and realistic animals.

Kraynak's starts the purchasing process for its Christmasland display about 12 months prior to the display opening. Christmasland is free and for all ages.

"We started a basic display in 1963 then an animated, decorated display followed in 1965" says George Kraynak, CEO and co-owner with his brother, John Kraynak, Jr. "Each scene is new every year. Each item--the motorized, animated parts of each display--is made by our employees. We have quite a team to make everything in-house."

Dan Zippie, general manager, and Justin Kraynak, assistant manager, estimate about 3,000 visitors tour Christmasland during November-December weekends. Locals know to visit during the week.

Easter Bunny Lane, a similar display of spring flowers and animated figures, began in 1983. Early January is its set up start with a February 20 opening to visitors.

Kraynak's was founded as a nursery in 1949 by John Kraynak, Sr., George and John's father. Its current 45,000 sq. ft. retail building on E. State St., at the intersection of Kerrwood Drive, Hermitage, was constructed in 1969. It houses the holiday displays, decorations, floral department, toys, gifts, candy, sports merchandise, and potted plants from the greenhouse.



Kraynak's Lawn & Garden was built in 1984 at 180 N. Kerrwood Drive and is 1,000 ft. behind the retail store. This 20,000 sq. ft. division offers trees, shrubs, garden supplies, fountains, and outdoor furniture.

A third Kraynak's division has six nurseries, all located in Mercer County, where trees and shrubs are grown for retail and wholesale sales.

Kraynak nursery and greenhouse employees make it self-sufficient in evergreens, trees, potted plants, annuals, and vegetables. The company has 70 full time and 35 seasonal or part time employees.

September through December is Kraynak's busiest quarter of the year while the spring months of March through June are next, according to George Kraynak.



Christmasland and the retail store are open daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day through the end of the year.

Hours are Monday-Saturday  
9 a.m.-9 p.m. and  
Sundays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Visit Kraynak's website at [www.kraynaks.com](http://www.kraynaks.com)



## Cottage Gardens features family fun for December holiday season

Contributed by Dick Davis

The coming December holiday season means special weekends with horse-drawn wagon rides, food, refreshments, and live music at Cottage Gardens Greenhouse & Nursery, 4945 East State St., Hermitage. Live Christmas trees named by staff and decorating workshops are also featured during the season.

"It is all about family here, especially during the holidays," say Ryen Roberts and Erin Marchand, sisters involved in operating the business founded by their parents, Tom and Elaine Kavanagh. "Christmas is one of our favorite seasons of the year. Our goal is for families to come here and make memories."

Many features are weather dependent. Ice cream was a special treat for visitors in 2015 thanks to a warmer than usual holiday season.

Tom and Elaine in 1969 bought the former Brane and Foreman nursery that included about six employees, two greenhouses and a house. Having no background working with plants, the couple dived into an on-the-job training program.

First, they took an intensive, two-week class operated by Ball Seed Co., near Chicago. Plus they read lots of books, took classes, and visited other nurseries. That learning process continues today with the Kavanagh's.

"We were 21 at the time and felt we could do most anything," says Elaine. "We thought everything would be just fine."

"Just fine" turns out to be quite an understatement. Approaching its



50th anniversary, Cottage Gardens has grown to 20 employees with six acres at the corner of East State Street and Robertson Road, 20 acres in Transfer, greenhouses and nurseries, and landscaping services.

Greenhouse services include custom planters, perennials, annuals, garden décor, and trees and shrubs. Its landscaping business includes new landscapes, water features, lighting, patios and walkways, mulching, installation of flowerbeds, graveling and stone work, and spring and fall cleanups.

Erin says spring with Mother's Day in May is its busiest time of the year.

Tom and Elaine are pleased and proud of their family and their business and credit daughters Erin, Ryen, and Shannon McConnell for new ideas and growth. Son, Major Ben Kavanagh, is director of the Reserved Officer Training Corps program at Edinboro University.

For holiday updates or more information, check the Cottage Gardens website of [www.cottagegardens.org](http://www.cottagegardens.org), its Facebook pages, or call 724-981-2911.



(The Kavanagh's are not associated with Cottage Garden Designs.)

**“We've taken it the first mile and they can take it the next ten,”**  
says Tom.

## Community Food Warehouse Holiday Food Drive



The Community Food Warehouse continues to serve over 4,000 households throughout Mercer County. Help us Starve Hunger. Feed Hope during this holiday season.

- **Truck-full of Hope Food Drive**

**November 1 through December 20**

Bring your food donations to Taylor Chevrolet of Hermitage to fill the truck in the showroom.

- **Hermitage Light Parade**

**November 17**

Parade goers may also bring their food donations to the parade to be collected also, as in previous years!

**Much needed items:** are canned meats, tuna, fruits, peanut butter, vegetables and cereals. *No glass items please.*

## Community Resource



**2-1-1** is an easy to remember number that helps people cut through what can be a confusing and overwhelming maze of information and resources for non-emergency human service needs.

Trained Resource Navigators help people assess their needs and link them directly to resources and information that could change their circumstances for the better.

Whether a person is seeking essential services or looking for volunteer opportunities in his or her community, 211 is there 24 hours a day, seven days a week via phone, text, and chat.



Dial 2-1-1 or  
888/665-6923



Visit  
[www.pa211sw.org](http://www.pa211sw.org)

## Hermitage Parks & Recreation Bus Trip IX Christmas Connection Cleveland, OH & The Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park, OH

**Sunday, November 18**



Kick off the Christmas shopping season with more than 700 booths filled with unique gift ideas, crafts, specialty foods, home décor, jewelry and more. Finish the day with some Casino time.

**Cost:** \$38.00 per person includes admission to the Christmas Connection, \$25.00 in free play at the Casino and deluxe motor coach transportation. On your own for meals.

**Time:** Depart Hermitage Municipal Bldg. @ 8:15 am, return approx. 7:30 pm

**Register:** Online @ [www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net) by Friday, November 8

**More Information:** 724-981-0800 ext. 1210

## Artman Elementary Fall 2018 Transition Programs

### Little Hornets Camp



All "Little Hornets" are welcome to join us on Thursday, October 18th for our *Little Hornets Camp*. All children ages 3-5 are welcome. Registration for this program may be found on our Hermitage School District website, or for more information please contact Patti Buzzese at 724-981-8750, ext. 5901 or [patricia\\_buzzese@hermitage.k12.pa.us](mailto:patricia_buzzese@hermitage.k12.pa.us).

## Fall of 2019 Kindergarten Students

Our Fall 2018 Gearing Up

For Kindergarten program is scheduled for October 3, 10, 17 and 24th. All families with children entering Kindergarten

in the Fall of 2019 are eligible to register. Registration forms are available on the Hermitage School District website, or for more information please contact Patti Buzzese at 724-981-8750, ext. 5901 or [patricia\\_buzzese@hermitage.k12.pa.us](mailto:patricia_buzzese@hermitage.k12.pa.us).



## Hickory Band Booster Organization Old Hickory Craft Show

**Saturday, October 20, 2018 • 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**

Like us on Facebook!

[www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net)

## Hermitage Parks & Recreation Hermitage Athletic Complex



Construction beginning at the Hermitage Athletic Complex to build a new open playfield located just north of Field #1 and construct additional trails.



Through the support of Senator Michelle Brooks and Representative Mark Longietti, the City received a \$150,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Finance Authority to assist in construction of a new Youth Sports & Maintenance Facility @ the Hermitage Athletic Complex. The building will house space for City maintenance equipment and supplies, as well as storage for youth sports organizations that utilize the facility on South Darby Road. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2019.

## City CDBG Funds Put to Use Community Counseling Center



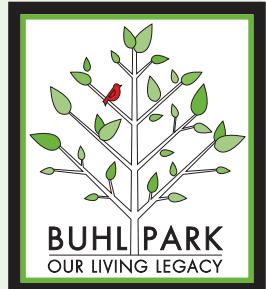
City CDBG funds assist the Community Counseling Center of Mercer County at their facility on East State Street to improve the Psychiatric Rehab Program kitchen facility.

## Buhl Farm Park

### Buhl Park Merchandise

Stop by our Buhl Park Storefront, located inside the Park Casino, open Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:30. OR visit [www.buhlfarmpark.com/shop](http://www.buhlfarmpark.com/shop)

- "Dum Dum" Golf Course t-shirts
- Hats • NEW Cat's Meow! • Jewelry
- Glassware • Postcards • and more!



### "The Tracks"

Buhl Park's Pump Track and MTB Trails are done and open to the public!! Helmets must be worn and all posted rules and regulations must be followed. "The Tracks" are located on the Golf Course & Driving Range side of the property at 1290 Forker Blvd. Happy riding!

### Buhl Park Golf Course Update

Golf Simulator THIS FALL! Stay tuned for more information!

### Upcoming Events:

**Breakfast with Santa!** What's better than a stack of fresh, hot pancakes dripping with maple syrup? Visiting with Santa at the same time!

**December 5** • Casino Ballroom • 9-Noon \$5 regular/\$3 small

**NATURE NIGHT OUT** SANDY'S PLACE  
Buhl Park's Environmental  
Outdoor Learning Center

**\$5 PER EVENING**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>September 19</b> | <b>October 10</b>  |
| <b>November 1</b>   | <b>December 13</b> |

Meet us at Sandy's Place for a night out! Maybe we will take a nature walk, maybe we will make a messy craft, maybe we will watch a movie outside, maybe we will surprise you! **DROP-OFF PROGRAM FOR KIDS AGES 5-8** 6:00-7:30pm

The cost is \$5 per event and you can register for as many events as you want. Dress for the weather! Pre-registration REQUIRED - children must be registered at least 24 hours prior to each event. Register at [www.buhlfarmpark.com/sandysplace](http://www.buhlfarmpark.com/sandysplace)

**KID'S CRAFT NIGHT** SANDY'S PLACE  
Buhl Park's Environmental  
Outdoor Learning Center

| DATE    | PROJECT        | COST |
|---------|----------------|------|
| SEPT 26 | STEPPING STONE | \$7  |
| OCT 18  | TOAD HOUSE     | \$7  |
| NOV 14  | BIRD HOUSE     | \$7  |

Join us at Sandy's Place for an evening of creative fun! We supply everything you need for the craft of the month. Tell a friend! **Drop-off program for kids ages 9-12** 6:00-7:30pm

The cost is \$7 per event and you can register for as many events as you want. Dress to get a little messy! Pre-registration REQUIRED - children must be registered at least 24 hours prior to each event. Register at [www.buhlfarmpark.com/sandysplace](http://www.buhlfarmpark.com/sandysplace)



[www.buhlfarmpark.com](http://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 November 5-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

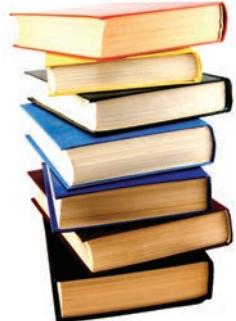
## of the Shenango Valley

### Friends of the Library Book Sale: October 17-20



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

Wednesday, Oct. 17 9 am-7:30 pm  
Thursday, Oct. 18 10 am-7:30 pm  
Friday, Oct. 19 10 am-4:30 pm  
Saturday, Oct. 20 10 am-4:30 pm



### Teen Read Week:

**October 8-13** It's Teen Read Week across the nation! Come in anytime and fill out a Teen "Pick Me!" form and be entered to win a prize! Then sit down and crack open a new read in the Teen Lounge! This year's theme is "Written in the Stars" so find yourself an "out-of-this-world" read!



### Harry Potter Day:

**Saturday, October 13 • 1-4 pm** Join us for a day filled with all things Harry Potter! From meeting live owls, to making wands it will be a celebration of Harry Potter.

### Fall Fling:

**Thursday, October 25 • 5-8 pm** 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.clsv.net](http://www.clsv.net)

### Free Programs:

- Story Hour
- Music & Movement
- Lego Club
- Preschool Block Party
- Parent/Child Play and Learn Workshop
- Read to a Therapy Dog
- Family Movie Night
- Anime Club
- Gaming Night
- Trivia Night
- Teen Movies
- Knit, Crochet, & More
- Chess Club
- Fine Arts Painting
- Monthly Movie Night
- Color Me Calm
- Great Issues
- Adult Crafts
- Book Clubs
- 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.clsv.net](http://www.clsv.net)**

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

# Hermitage 2030: Comprehensive Plan Update

## Economic Development Spotlight Workshop

For all the positives about living in Hermitage – the schools, the parks, the safety forces, the stores – there are things about the city that even its biggest admirers would change.

Take the Shenango Valley Mall. Once an integral part of the economic, social and cultural life of town, the mall has become a victim of the changing shape of American commerce, which is moving away from brick-and-mortar stores.

At a workshop September 17 on economic development focus areas in town, a majority of attendees supported tearing down the mall, said Hermitage Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Member Matt Liburdi, the spokesman for a focus group on the mall.

That's not something the city can waltz in and do, but it shows that people can envision a very different future for the city, and that they see the decline of the mall as an opportunity to reinvent the city.

Even if the mall building remains, attendees could foresee many positive changes: from incorporating uses outside of retail – including housing and light manufacturing – to creating green space within the sea of parking.

Some people would like to see a casino and/or hotel on the property. Others see it potentially as a center for nightlife, even attractions without alcohol.

"The future of the Shenango Valley Mall and its uses is very, very dear to many in this room," Liburdi said.

The workshop, undertaken as part of the city's #Hermitage2030 comprehensive plan update process, also looked at downtown Hermitage, the industrial corridor on Broadway Avenue, and LindenPointe, the business park on South Hermitage Road.

Surprisingly, there were identical elements to these areas. Childcare was seen as important to attracting businesses to LindenPointe and the industrial corridor. Wouldn't it be great, folks said, if there were opportunities for lunch in LindenPointe and on Broadway without having to drive to East State Street?

In each area, attendees said they would like to see a loosening of city zoning rules to allow a wider variety of uses.

Speaking of LindenPointe, attendees said they would like to see more recreational opportunities there. The existing trails are very popular and green space is used for flag football practice and other activities. Senior housing would fit well with the medical offices now there, and a school of nursing would complement the Butler County Community College and the eAcademy@LindenPointe.

"It can almost be a park for all things," said steering committee

member John Hudson.

As to discussion of downtown, there still is a question as to where that is, said steering committee

member Erin Houston. For purposes of discussion, it is assumed to be the area around East State Street and Hermitage Road. But, that place doesn't present itself as a downtown, she said.

The city could create that area's identity as a downtown by adding public spaces that connect to shopping, entertainment and professional offices, said city Commissioner Michael Muha. Houston said simply putting up signs that say you're in downtown would help people to identify it.

A downtown should provide family activities that are free or cost little, said Stephanie Gantz, steering committee member.

When considering the industrial section, discussion ranged from big-ticket items such as widening Broadway and building a new road to connect the industries on Broadway with those at Stateline Industrial Park, to something as simple as reaching out to existing businesses and asking them how the city could help them grow.

The city, which has some economic incentives for new and existing businesses, could create economic packages that might spur growth.

There also was talk of finding ways to get the existing businesses to talk to each other, and establishing an industrial incubator similar to what the eCenter@LindenPointe does for tech firms.

Jerry Paytas, vice president of research and analytics at Fourth Economy, the Pittsburgh firm hired to aid with the economic development piece of the comprehensive plan update, said the

results of the workshop will be integrated with the market analysis his firm has already done and will influence a series of recommendations.



## Program Director Honored by Chamber of Commerce



Ms. Lisa Evans to be honored as "Ambassador of the Year" at the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner.

The Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce announced plans to honor Lisa Evans, Program Director, eCenter@LindenPointe, Hermitage, as their Shenango Valley Business Ambassador of the Year at the Chamber's Annual Dinner Nov. 8 to be held at Park Inn by Radisson, West Middlesex. "By honoring a Shenango Valley Business Ambassador, we are putting an emphasis on those that help get the Shenango Valley 'on the map' as well as inspire a mindset change that matches the revitalization in the

region," said Sherris Moreira, Executive Director of the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce. "And Lisa Evan's creation of the innovative eAcademy is teaching our young people to develop entrepreneurial businesses right here in the Shenango Valley!"

Ms. Evans, working with an advisory board of representatives from several local school districts, has built a dynamic, entrepreneurial-based program curriculum map focusing on business creation,

real-world experiences and life skills. The program includes a diverse eSpeaker series and field trips to community businesses, higher education and non-profit organizations. Juniors from 11 local school districts are eligible to apply through their host school district to participate in this program held at the Training & Workforce Development Center in the LindenPointe Business Campus for 3 hours a day, 4 days a week during their senior year. Under Lisa's instruction, guidance and mentoring the students are transformed from high school seniors to young adult leaders and are connected to the educational, workforce and entrepreneurial opportunities in the region. The students learn key life skills such as leadership, communication, ethics and conflict resolution.

Ms. Evans has three goals with the eAcademy students: to help them have an empowerment mindset, a resourcefulness mindset and a community mindset. "We try to show them that they can do anything they want NOW with their lives – that they don't have to wait to be certified smart," Evans said. "We try to help them see that they are in charge of their own education and future and give them the tools to be independent. We try to give them more confidence in their community – the more we expose them to their community and all the companies and opportunities here, the more they may build their identity around where they live and may have more interest in staying, not leaving."

## Co-Working Update

**Dorian Cunningham and Brandon Phillips are new co-workers at the eCenter.**



### ◀ Dorian Cunningham: Cunningham's Construction Companies

Dorian is working on a construction business stating that he is, "Establishing a startup minority run construction business open to a wide range of construction projects. Since it is a startup there's still a lot of work to be done."

**Dorian D. Cunningham | 412.584.2176**  
**cunninghamdorian0125@gmail.com**  
**3580 Innovation Way, Hermitage PA 16148**



### Brandon Phillips: AMG Enterprises ►

Brandon is the founder and CEO of AMG Enterprises a real estate investing company focused on multi-unit apartments in the United States. He stated, "the e-Center is a cheat code to success for entrepreneurs."

**Brandon Phillips | 724.931.1636**  
**brandon@amgaffiliates.com | brandonphillips707@yahoo.com**

## Bob Casey Visit

Senator Bob Casey visited the eCenter and the eAcademy students over the summer. The senator was addressing the need for accessible broadband in rural Pennsylvania. Casey said in Mercer County alone, 22 percent of people in non-urban areas don't have broadband access.

Gray MacKenzie, co-founder of GuavaBox, a website design and inbound marketing agency he started in college seven years ago, relocated his company to Virginia from Crawford County, Pennsylvania for a few years because there was no access to high-speed internet. Another impact that flies under the radar is mindset, he continued. "When you're doing market research, you realize there is a big gap between someone without access to internet versus most of the world," he said.

The omnibus spending bill approved in March included a \$600



Gray MacKenzie with Senator Casey



Senator Casey with Michael Bonnett

million pilot program to expand broadband to rural areas that lack such service, he said. The senator said he has been pushing Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue to finalize the framework for the program.

"It's just a pilot program but it's good for the nation," Casey said. The farm bill recently passed by the Senate – which awaits approval by the House of Representatives – authorized increased funding for broadband grants, loans and loan guarantees.

"We also need to make sure broadband is affordable," he said. That means supporting initiatives such as the FCC's E-rate program, which subsidizes broadband expenses for schools and libraries. The program can pay up to 90% of the connectivity costs, he said.

Michael Bonnett from the eAcademy's inaugural Summer Accelerator program was able to speak one-on-one with the Senator and said he, "Had a great time today talking with U.S. Senator Bob Casey about rural economic development here in Mercer County."



### Class of 2019

The eAcademy@LindenPointe welcomes the Class of 2019 which is the 5th year of the program; the first of its kind in Pennsylvania. Highlights from the past five years include over 700 hours of community service, 85 alumni, 11 participating high schools, 15 optional college credits, 25 pre-incubation businesses, and 12 continuing startups. The programming consists of four focus areas: 1. Entrepreneurial Mindset: how to be independent and resourceful. 2. Business Creation: how to fail fast and learn. 3. Real World Experiences: how to bridge the gap between theory and practice. 4. Workplace Skills: how to lead by influence no matter your title.

The program is designed to strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems and support local business development through education and incubation. The program empowers the youth to succeed, exposes them to new opportunities, builds next generation leaders and retains young entrepreneurs and business minded professionals in the community curbing declining population trends and contributes to the future economic growth in the region.

This past summer the program expanded to include a 10-week Summer Accelerator Program. Ten eAcademy alumni were given

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

# From the Chief of Police . . . . .

## Eric Jewell, City of Hermitage Chief of Police



### Traffic Safety

Please remember to use your turn signals when making turns or shifting lanes. Letting other motorists know your intention to turn or shift lanes is courteous, safer for all and the law. Turn signals must be used 100 feet before a turn at speeds less than 35 MPH

and 300 feet before a turn at speeds in excess of 35 MPH. Also, don't forget to use your signal when pulling out onto a roadway from a parked position.

### Turn signals



as a local police officer, state trooper or federal law enforcement officer, high quality people from all demographics are needed to uphold the U.S. Constitution, protect lives and property, keep public order, enforce the law, and most importantly—maintain public trust. Therefore, hiring standards for police are necessarily extensive but attainable for those interested in law enforcement.

Candidates who want to be a Hermitage police officer undergo a lengthy application process. For starters, an applicant must be a U.S. Citizen, hold a high school diploma or GED certificate, have a valid driver's license, be at least 21 years of age and have completed the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officer Course (PA Act 120) or another state's equivalent. Qualified candidates must then pass a written test, oral interview, polygraph examination, a background investigation, medical exam, drug screen, and psychological examination. The background investigation includes, but is not limited to, verifying age, citizenship, education, military service, criminal history, credit history, driving record, work history, associations, etc. Reference checks during the background involve interviewing personal and professional references, family members, neighbors, co-workers, current and former job supervisors, and checks with police agencies wherever a candidate lived.

In addition to suitable character, any candidate with a college education, honorable military service, prior police experience, or other steady work experience demonstrating dependability and responsibility is attractive to a law enforcement employer. Integrity, good decision making skills, problem solving capabilities, fairness, leadership, teamwork, courage, coolness under stress, investigative prowess, attention to detail and good report writing are just a few of the many attributes sought in a police applicant. Falsifying or omitting any application information, certain drug abuse, drug use within a prescribed time frame and/or that is considered beyond experimental, certain criminal arrests, and a history of behavior that would not reflect favorably on the Hermitage Police Department automatically disqualifies an applicant. If you are a mature, honest, intelligent and hard working individual with good moral character; you have the foundation for becoming a police officer.



### Crime Prevention

Identity theft is a huge and growing crime that victimizes individuals, businesses and governments. Thieves steal your identity to steal money, products, credit and services and stick you with the bills and/or debt. In addition to pecuniary loss, victims of identity theft often suffer from frustration, stress and credit problems while trying to clear up the fraud. ID theft is difficult to prosecute because of the often anonymity of the perpetrators, the overseas location of many fraud rings, and the use of complex schemes, fraudulent identifications, use of unwitting persons, hi-jacked websites, anti-tracking software, and sometimes uncooperative online businesses. Guard all your personal identification/information closely and disclose it only to those you know and trust or have vetted.

### Mental Health Safety

Tragically, each year Hermitage police respond to several calls involving residents who take their own life. Many people who commit suicide have acute or chronic depression or stress related to relationship difficulties, financial troubles, drug or alcohol abuse, loss of a loved one, poor physical health, criminal charges, social isolation, loss of employment and others. Every life is precious and help is available now. Call the Mercer County Mental Health Crisis Hotline at 724-662-2227 or the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255 or if a veteran, the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (Option 1).

### Did you know...

Police work is a noble and honorable profession requiring men and women of great character to fill the ranks. Whether employed

# From the Desk of the Treasurer . . . . .

**Bernadette Harry, Treasurer**



Hello everyone. I hope you enjoyed our great summer weather!

As you may have noticed on your bills, the auditors have requested we have separate checks for all bills. To further explain, you may still combine "like" bills to one check. For example, **if you have more than one Per Capita bill, they may be combined to one check. The same holds true for multiple County/City bills as well as multiple School bills.** You can no longer combine any of the three to one check. They all have separate accounts and need to be paid with separate checks.

The note on the bills seemed a bit confusing at first, but we want to

thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

School Tax bills and your Per Capita bills were mailed on August 1st and are due at the face amount from October 1st through November 30th. Penalty begins on December 1st. If you chose the payment plan for School taxes, the 2nd payment is due by October 31st and the 3rd one by December 15th.

**Please notify us if you have not received your bills.**

There is a partial exoneration from Per Capita if your annual income falls under \$10,000 from all sources. You must come in to the office with proof of all income each year to receive any exoneration.

Anyone moving to or from Hermitage should notify our office to either add you to our Per Capita and census or remove you as needed. All residents over the age of 18 are required to pay the Per Capita Tax.

As always, our office is open to your questions and comments either in person, or by phone @ 724-347-4472. We will be happy to assist you whenever possible.

## eAcademy CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

seed funding to kickstart their own startup. The startups included: Japanese anime streetwear clothing, wholesale yoga products, succulent party favors, digital marketing, commercial app-controlled patio umbrella, internet security, impact testing for recycling behaviors, repurpose military parachutes, youtube channel, and a photography business. Nine of the startups had customers by the end of the summer with the tenth company working on a market-ready prototype with Innovation Commons at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.



### Hickory Students Class of 2019

Madison Gavin, Gianna Cataloni, Marissa Gordon, Allison Sanford, and Laney Kantner (l to r) have been selected through a competitive based application process to participate in the eAcademy; the eAcademy selects 25 students from area school districts.

**L to R: Madison Gavin, Gianna Cataloni, Marissa Gordon, Allison Sanford, Laney Kantner**

# City of Hermitage

## Parks & Recreation

800 North Hermitage Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Sharon, PA  
PERMIT No. 83



## City of Hermitage Board of Commissioners and City Treasurer

Front left to right: William Moder, III (Board President), William McConnell, Michael Muha, Bernie Harry (City Treasurer), Louis Squatrito, and Duane Piccirilli (Board Vice-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.



Try mulching leaves in place (on the lawn) with your mower. It's good for the grass and good for the environment. If you must rake, please compost leaves on your property or use the green-lid yard waste bins or biodegradable leaf bags for pick-up by Tri-County. Don't rake leaves into streams or ditches or onto the road.

## Festival of Trees Christmas Tour

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

Nov. 24, 25 • 1-5 p.m.  
Nov. 30, Dec. 7 • 5-8 p.m. Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9 • 1-5 p.m.



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



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@Hermitagepa



City\_of\_Hermitage



hermitage.net