



THE CITY OF HERMITAGE

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

# Community Update

Volume 19, Issue 59

Winter 2019



COVER PHOTO BY DOUG BUTCHY

## Spotlight Business

Ralph's Barber Shop • PAGE 2



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## Branca men keep cutting through the decades

Contributed by Dick Davis

Raffaele "Ralph" Branca thought he'd seen everything while creating every imaginable men's hairstyle since his barbering days started in 1956. Ralph, 82, cut hair for a few hundred thousand customers, styled long hair, short hair, curly hair, wavy hair, crew cuts, and the once-popular, slicked-back DA in shops he owned in downtown Sharon and Hermitage.

Then his grandson, Chad Branca, 26, joined Ralph's Barber Shop five years ago.

"Everything changed when Chad joined me and started doing those 'design' cuts," Ralph chuckles. "I'd never seen anything like those. I was doing just the regular cuts."

"Chad is doing great. We enjoy working together. He has a lot of energy. Business is up as he's brought in a whole new group of young people."

Spend a little time at the shop and it's obvious that Ralph and Chad enjoy working together.

"It is awesome, not too many people can say they work with their grandfather," says Chad. "He is old school, I'm new school, but we work together very well, tease each other, and learn from each other."

One recent business day, Ralph arrived as usual at 7:30 a.m. for the 8 a.m. shop

opening. Chad entered at 8:03 a.m. Ralph reminded Chad many times throughout the day that he was "late."

Chad learned the 'design' art styles on the job from practice and customers bringing in photos of what they want. He works his art forms with usual barber trimmers and razors to produce image designs such as logos, names, letters, or numbers into clients' hair.

Ralph's business increase is consistent with the US barber industry being up almost 2 percent in the past five years. Chad estimates about 5 percent of his clients are young women requesting 'designs' on the back of their head to be visible when their hair is up.

Ralph apprenticed back in the 1950s under the late Leonard "Pecky" DeCapua at the Cozy Barber Shop in downtown Sharon. Chad apprenticed with Ralph after starting at Raphaels Barber Academy in Niles, OH.

Today, Chad is full time while Ralph works a few days a week. Ralph retains several clients he's cut for more than 50 years.

"I still enjoy cutting hair," Ralph says. "It gets me out of the house doing something I love."



Other barbers at Ralph's shop are his brother, Ernie Branca; Seth Wallace; and Tom Anderson.

Chad teams with Ralph's daughter, Tina, in coming up with a line of Branca Men hair styling products. Manufactured at Tina's California base, products include shampoo, conditioners, beeswax paste, pomade, hairspray and gels. They are available at the shop, 2011 E. State St., Hermitage at Brannon's Square next to Burger King, [www.brancamen.com](http://www.brancamen.com), or the shop's Facebook page.

### Ralph's Barber Shop

2011 E. State Street • Sharon, PA

724-346-5007

[www.brancamen.com](http://www.brancamen.com)

# Hermitage Kindergarten Registration 2019-2020

## When:

Wednesday, February 20

9:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Last Names A-G

Wednesday, February 20

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Last Names H-M

Thursday, February 21

9:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Last Names N-S

Thursday, February 21

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Last Names T-Z

**Where:** The Artman Elementary Building  
Community Room

## Registration Online Process:

The Hermitage School District has now implemented a new registration process. All registrations are to be completed online. Please go to our Website @ [www.hermitage.k12.pa.us](http://www.hermitage.k12.pa.us) to access the online forms, fill in the required information, and \*upload the necessary documents to complete your child's registration.

**NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER, CHROMEBOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR YOUR USE; YOU WILL NEED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS TO UPLOAD.**

## \*MANDATORY FORMS TO BRING TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS:

- ✓ State Birth Certificate
- ✓ Immunization Record
- ✓ Proof of Guardianship (if not natural parent)
- ✓ Proof of Residence
- Please note that a driver's license is not an acceptable proof of residency. (Please bring the above checked forms even if you have uploaded online prior to registration.)

## Registration Day:

- Registration must be done by PARENT accompanied by the child.
- Please allow approximately one hour for the registration process.
- All children who register will participate in a screening, which includes assessment in several areas: School readiness check (reading - letter and sound recognition, rhyming; math - counting, number recognition) vision, speech and language screening.

## Other Requirements:

Your child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2019.

## Kindergarten Registration Makeup:

Wednesday, March 20

9:15 – 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

For those that are unable to attend our February sessions.



If you have any questions, please feel free to call Cindy Foster at 724-981-8750, Ext. 5001.

## HERMITAGE PARKS & RECREATION BUS TRIP

### Cleveland Great Big Home & Garden Show & South Park Center Shopping

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019



**Cost:** \$37.00 per person, includes round trip deluxe motor coach transportation and admission to the Home & Garden Show. All meals on your own. Payment due at registration. Absolutely no refunds without valid reason.

**Time:** Leave Hermitage Municipal Building @ 8:00 am  
Return to Hermitage around 7:30 p.m.

**Deadline to Register:** February 1, 2019 @ [www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net)

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

## HERMITAGE PARKS & RECREATION

### Yoga with Brittany

CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 29, 2019



**Cost:** \$25.00 / month or \$8.00 class

**Time:** Tuesdays @ 5:30 p.m.

**Location:** Hermitage Municipal Building  
800 N. Hermitage Road, Room 303

**For More Information or to register:** 724-981-0800 ext. 1210



# 2018 Hermitage Holiday Light Parade Wrap-up

## School

**First:** Penn State Shenango

**Second:** Kennedy Catholic

**Third:** Greenville Basketball & Wrestling Cheerleaders

## Bands

**First:** Hickory Hornet Marching Band

**Second:** Reynolds High Marching Band

**Third:** Greenville Trojan Marching Band

**Fourth:** Jamestown High Marching Band

**Fifth:** Farrell High Marching Band

## Entertainment

**First:** Miss Elaineous Dance Studio

**Second:** Twirling Angels

**Third:** Alessandra's Dance Academy

**Fourth:** Spirit Baton

## Clubs and Organizations

**First:** Boy Scouts Troop & Pack 52

**Second:** House of Jeeps & GenRight

**Third:** Greater Pennsylvania Super Kids

**Fourth:** Shiloh Ministries

## Corporate A, over 30'

**First:** McGonigle Funeral Home & Ambulance Service

**Second:** Northstar Powersports & Marine

**Third:** Styling One Salon & Spa

## Corporate B, under 30'

**First:** Sharon Regional Medical Center

**Second:** GW Becker, Inc.

**Third:** Georgia's City Lights

## Municipal Officials / Fire Departments

**First:** U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Shenango Lake

**Second:** Wheatland Volunteer Fire Dept.

**Third:** West Middlesex Volunteer Fire Dept.

## Nonprofit

**First:** Lighthouse Baptist Church of the Valley

**Second:** Neshannock Alliance Church

**Third:** Buhl Community Recreation Center

## Twinkle Award

Mercer County A.B.A.T.E.

## Santa's Choice

Eastgate Christian Church

## Most Unique

Georgia's City Lights

## Most Entertaining

Twirling Angels

## William Scanlon Award

Buhl Community Recreation Center

## Community Award

Shenango Valley Animal Shelter

## Rudolph Award

Hermitage Agway

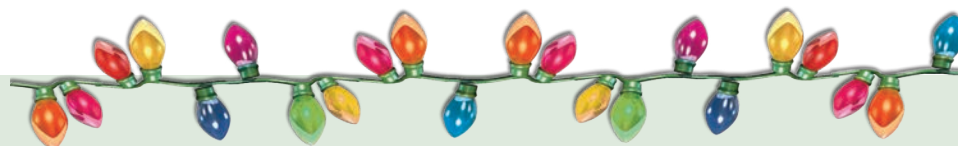
## Judge's Choice Awards

Jamestown High School Marching Band

Farrell High School Marching Band

TJ Maxx, South Pymatuning Fire Dept.

Flynn's Tire and Mighty Cubs



*Thanks to those who helped to make the parade a success...*

## Gold Sponsors

City of Hermitage

Shenango Valley Mall

Advance Auto Parts

Joy Cone Co.

Hermitage Towne Plaza, JJ Gumborg Co.

Tri-County Industries, Inc.

Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union

Greenville Savings Bank

Reinhardt's Insurance

Kraynak's

First National Bank

CT Consultants

Sharon Regional Medical Center

Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineers, Inc.

KAKE Development, Inc.

Hermitage Giant Eagle

PNC Bank

Hudson Construction, Inc.

UPMC Horizon

UPMC Jameson

## Silver Sponsors

WallacePancher Group

SCP Group

Black, Bashor & Porsch, LLP

Combine Construction, Inc.

HHSDR Architects/Engineers

JFS Wealth Advisors

McGonigle Ambulance Services, Inc.

Rein Construction Company

Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP

J & T Paving, Inc.

Pennstar Federal Credit Union

## A Special Thank You

John Durisko and Satin Sounds

First National Bank

PI&I Motor Express

Strimbu Trucking, Inc.

Reiter's Towing

Yourga Trucking, Inc.

Dave's Towing

Jones Performance

Lowrey Towing

Hermitage Fire Department

Hermitage Police Department

Hermitage Street Department

Hickory VFW Honor Guard & Women's Auxiliary

Parade Judges

Mercer County Community Transit

Lou Ann Nassar

Hermitage School District

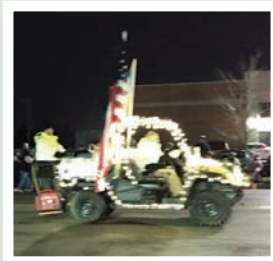
Hickory XC Boosters

Every Business, organization, family and volunteer who participated and everyone who contributed to the Faith Presbyterian Church & Community Food Warehouse Food Drive and Penn State Shenango's "Operation Warm Hands"



# Holiday Light Parade Fun

*Thanks to members of the community who posted these fun pictures of the parade and festival on our Facebook page.*





# Buhl Farm Park – Winter 2019

[www.buhlfarmpark.com](http://www.buhlfarmpark.com) • 724-981-5522



## In case you missed it!

Earlier this fall the park decided we wanted to take what we did last year up a notch. We had professional electricians install conduit, electrical panels, and timing mechanisms to allow the park to offer the community an even better light display. THANKS TO: Hermitage Lowes, Sharon American Legion Post 299, the Shenango Valley Chamber and an anonymous donor for their financial support and also students from Sharon and Hermitage schools for helping to hang lights and garland.

The light display was a community undertaking and could not have been completed without a tremendous amount of support. The Casino lighting was on display from November 19, 2018 - January 8, 2019. The park is excited to continue to grow our outdoor light display year after year!

**February 10**

## Buhl Park's Winter Fest

Bring on the snow! Come spend the day at Buhl Park on Sunday, February 10th from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. to enjoy everything that winter has to offer. This year's event will feature many fun outdoor activities, including dogsled demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides, a snow angel area, a freeze-pop scavenger hunt, Penguin bowling, penguin racing and so much more! Visitors to the event will also be able to enjoy roasted marshmallows on an open fire or purchase hot dogs, snacks, drinks and CHILI!!!

More information about the Winter Fest will be available on the park's website at [www.buhlfarmpark.com](http://www.buhlfarmpark.com) or on facebook.



**February 13**

## Wildlife Lecture Series: STATE OF OUR LAKE

Hosted by the Buhl Park Wildlife Committee. Join us for a talk from a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission biologist to learn about the past, present and future of our beloved Lake Julia. The lecture will be held inside the Casino Ballroom and begins at 6:00. This event is free and open to the public.



## Upcoming Events:

**March 9th** – NEW! Wedding Expo (12:00 to 4:00 pm), Buhl Casino and outdoor ceremony locations

**April 6th** – Park Clean Up Days, (9:00 a.m.) – FIRST Saturday of every month

**April 13th** – Pancakes with the Easter Bunny and Daffin's Easter Egg Hunt (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. \*Egg hunt begins promptly at NOON), Buhl Casino



## LOOKING FOR AN EVENT VENUE? WE'VE GOT PLENTY!

Buhl Park offers a variety of indoor and outdoor facilities that are available to rent all year long. Four Shelters, the Casino, and the Activities Building all have unique character and qualities. Each facility offers different scenery throughout the Park. Weddings, receptions, showers, birthday parties, graduation parties, conferences, family gatherings...the list goes on and on. Reservations can be made online at [www.buhlfarmpark.com](http://www.buhlfarmpark.com) OR by stopping at the Park Casino during office hours.

# Shenango Valley YMCA Events & Programs

*The Y has healthy activities for all ages— stop in today for a tour!*

[www.svymca.com](http://www.svymca.com) • 724-981-6950 • 925 N. Hermitage Rd., Hermitage



## Membership:

**MEMBERSHIP:** 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.

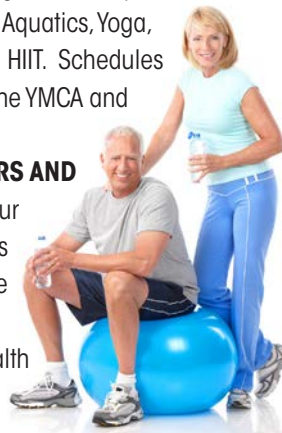
- **BUDDY UP PROGRAM:** Join the Y with a buddy and you both can save up to 20% off the monthly fee. For complete details and information, contact or visit the YMCA.

## Fitness:

- **GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES: FOR A STRONGER YOU- FOR A STRONGER US.** The YMCA Group Exercise program

has something for everyone! Y classes are FREE for YMCA members! Working out with a class provides not only a great workout, but also added support, motivation and accountability! Free classes include (but are not limited to): Cycling, Boot Camp, Line Dancing, Zumba, Aquatics, Yoga, Power Pump, and HIIT. Schedules are available at the YMCA and on our website.

- **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!

## Upcoming Youth Sports & Programs:

- **SPRING SOCCER**  
Co-ed instructional league for ages 3-12  
Register at the YMCA February 11th – April 1st. Season tentatively will start April 17th.
- **SUMMER T-BALL/COACHES PITCH**  
Co-ed instructional league for ages 3-7  
Register at the YMCA April 22nd – June 3rd.

## Community Library of the Shenango Valley

[www.clsv.net](http://www.clsv.net) • 724-981-4360

**Story Hour** resumes Jan. 22 @ 10:30 a.m. for preschoolers and toddlers. Stories, songs, crafts, and more!

**Funtime Fridays** every Friday morning @ 10:30 a.m. for preschoolers and toddlers!

**Afterschool Crafts** Tuesdays, 3:30-6 p.m.

**Fine Arts Painting** are held two Saturday mornings each month @ 10:30 a.m. for adults and teens.

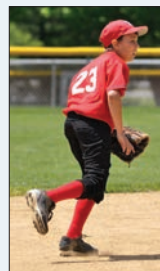
**Please call the library for more information on any of our many programs!**

- |                                             |                        |                 |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| • Story Hour                                | • Teen Movies          | • Adult Crafts  |
| • Build-a-Rama                              | • Knit, Crochet & More | • Book Clubs    |
| • Funtime Fridays                           | • Computer Classes     | • Lego Club     |
| • Homeschoolers and Cyber Schoolers Program | • Chess Club           | • Anime         |
| • Read to a Therapy Dog                     | • Teen Gaming          | • Teen Art      |
| • Family Movie Night                        | • Fine Arts Painting   | • Jr. Engineers |
|                                             | • Color Me Calm        |                 |

**HOURS: Monday thru Thursday • 10 a.m.-8 p.m.**  
**Friday & Saturday • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**11 N. Sharpsville Ave. Sharon, PA 16146**



## Hermitage Little League REGISTRATION

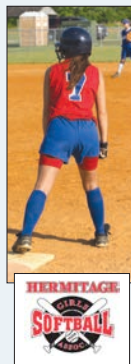


**Where:** Hermitage City Building  
**When:** January 21 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
January 26 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Deadline:** Feb. 4

**Info or to register on-line (returning players only):**  
[hermitagelittleleague.com](http://hermitagelittleleague.com)

## Hermitage Girls Softball REGISTRATION



**Where:** Hermitage Municipal Building

**When:** February 12, 2019 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
February 20, 2019 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Who:** Fast Pitch Division (Player's age as of December 31, 2018)  
8U ages 6 to 8 12U ages 11 to 12  
10U ages 9 to 10 14U ages 13 to 14

**Registration:** \$40/child \$60 (2) or more children per family

**Fundraising:** \$40/child \$80 (2) or more children per family

**Concession Deposit:** \$50/player at registration (returnable)

**More Information:** [www.leaguelineup.com/hgsa](http://www.leaguelineup.com/hgsa)

**Questions?** Call Joe White at 724-977-4329

All players must register every year to be eligible to play. Please bring your child's birth certificate, or copy, to registration to verify age.  
Skills Sessions (try-outs): Saturday, March 23, 2019.

Parents interested in Coaching or Assisting with your child(ren)'s teams must fill out a VOLUNTEER APPLICATION and have a valid Driver's License or equivalent form of ID.



# 2019 Budgets Approved

On December 19, 2018 the Hermitage Board of Commissioners approved the City's 2019 budgets which total \$20.1M, including the General and Sewer Funds. There is no increase in taxes or fees and staffing levels will be maintained. It is anticipated that revenues in 2019 will remain stable, enabling the City to sustain existing services and capital programs. City officials place a high priority on maintaining a sound infrastructure system. Several projects will be undertaken in 2019 including:

- Phase I of Block 6 of the Neighborhood Investment Program. Carroll Ln. and part of Michael Ln. will have stormwater facilities improved and added, the old pavement milled off, roadway base repaired and new pavement installed. Two additional street lights have been added to the neighborhood and new street signs will be installed with the project.  
**Estimated cost - \$500,000.**
- The Thornton Ave. Bike Lanes/Intersection

Improvement Project will involve reconstruction of the intersection with Forker Blvd. to eliminate the current "Y" intersection and replace it with the traditional "T" intersection. Also, the roadway from the Hermitage/Sharon line to Forker Blvd. will be repaved and widened to add bike lanes on both sides. A bike lane will also be constructed along Forker Blvd to the entrance with Buhl Park.

**Estimated cost - \$590,000.**

- The South Darby Rd. Stormwater & Roadway Improvement Project, between Virginia Rd. and Miller Rd. will make significant improvements to stormwater facilities and rebuild the roadway.  
**Estimated cost - \$430,000.**
- A project to improve stormwater facilities near the intersection of S. Keel Ridge Rd. and Morefield Rd. will involve increasing capacity during heavy rainfall events.  
**Estimated cost - \$50,000.**
- The traffic signals at Keel Ridge Rd. and E. State St. will be replaced, including poles,

most arms, signal heads and controller.

**Estimated cost - \$250,000.**

- Work will be completed on the Hermitage Athletic Complex Phase III Project which involves the creation of additional open playfields and extending the existing trail system at the complex.

**Estimated cost - \$245,000.**

- Work will begin on the Hermitage Athletic Complex Maintenance & Storage Facility Project which involves the construction of a storage building to house City equipment and equipment used by sports organizations.

**Estimated cost - \$240,000.**

Other capital expenditures include new vehicles and lab equipment for the Police Department, facility improvements at Fire Station #1, a large salt truck and 1-ton dump truck for the Street Department, new commercial mowers for building and grounds maintenance and miscellaneous improvements at the Municipal Building.



## First Use of Flashing Yellow Signals in Mercer County

**Oil City, PA** – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has activated a new type of left turn signal at two intersections along East State Street (Route 3008) in the City of Hermitage, Mercer County. Flashing Yellow Arrow signals, which have been proven to improve left turn safety, will be placed at the intersections of East State Street and Ellis Avenue, and East State Street and North Kerrwood Drive/ South Kerrwood Drive.

### Steady Red Arrow

Drivers turning left must stop and wait.

### Steady Yellow Arrow

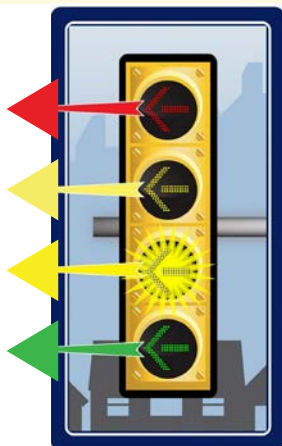
Drivers turning left should prepare to stop.

### Flashing Yellow Arrow

Drivers turning left may proceed after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

### Steady Green Arrow

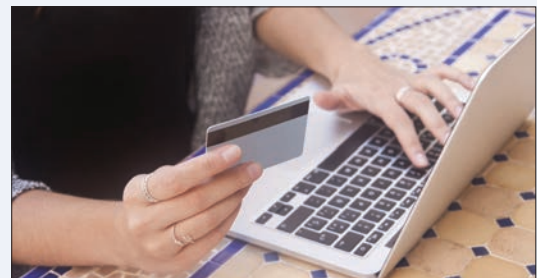
Drivers turning left have the right-of-way. Proceed with left turn.



More information on Flashing Yellow Arrow signals and more is available at [www.pennDOT.gov](http://www.pennDOT.gov) in the traffic signals section of "Travel In PA".

## Sewer Bill Payments in 2019

**Beginning March 1, 2019, the online bill payment for sewer bills will switch from Transaction Express to a Customer Self Service Portal.**



Customers will be able to reach the portal through our website by pushing the "Pay Now" button on our home screen. With the portal, customers will no longer be required to enter their Account # to reach the payment page.

Instead, customers will have the option to look up their bill online and pay by credit card or e-check OR create a login within the portal. By creating a login, customers can pay current bills, view billing history and link several account numbers to one username.

The current bill pay webpage will be under maintenance the last week of February while the website is updated. Customers who plan to pay their February bill by credit card should submit payment online before the end of the month. Otherwise, customers will need to pay by check via the drop box at the City building or through the FNB lockbox.



## eAcademy Wins 'Economic Development Program of the Year' Award



The LindenPointe Entrepreneurship Academy (eAcademy) in Hermitage has been named one of Pennsylvania's top economic-

development programs for its ongoing work in connecting talented area high-school students with business leaders and educational institutions. The award, from the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association, recognized the eCenter and other recipients for their "efforts to move Pennsylvania in a positive economic direction"

by "inventing new programs and strategies to respond to the rapidly changing business and community environments."

The recipients were recognized during the association's annual fall conference, and the association said the eCenter's unique achievements and position in the community highlight "the unique and innovative ways they are transforming communities."

The eAcademy is a dual enrollment program for high school seniors created through a collaborative partnership involving the eCenter @ LindenPointe, the City of Hermitage, and 11 local school districts: Commodore Perry, Farrell, Greenville, Grove City, Hickory, Kennedy Catholic, Mercer, Sharon, Sharpville, Union, and West Middlesex.

## eCenter ZenPilot Agency

ZenPilot helps digital marketing agency owners follow a proven process to build healthier teams, deliver better client results, grow revenue and profitability, and achieve their personal and business goals.

The ZenPilot Agency Accelerator combines training, tools, and templates to transform agencies from chaos to confidence in 90 days. Learn about the system and case studies at [zenpilot.com/case-study](http://zenpilot.com/case-study).



**ZenPilot co-founders, Andrew Dymski (left) and Gray MacKenzie, before MacKenzie's presentation at the INBOUND conference in Boston in September, 2018.**

ZenPilot co-founders Andrew Dymski and Gray MacKenzie moved to Hermitage in 2013 to join the incubation program at the eCenter @ LindenPointe and continue to be involved and invested at the eCenter and in the community. In addition to ZenPilot,

MacKenzie currently serves as the eCenter's Entrepreneur in Residence and as the head baseball coach at Hickory High School.

## 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.*



Cigarette butts are toxic to wildlife. Butts tossed on the street will wash into streams and rivers through the storm drain system. Please dispose of properly. **Thank You!!**

# From the Chief of Police . . . . .

Eric Jewell, *City of Hermitage Chief of Police*



## Do you know...

You may have heard via social or public media sources that certain members of the Hermitage

Police Department have earned several distinctions lately. I am please to recognize the following:

1. **Officer John Kudeklo** – Hermitage Police Department Officer of the Year Award
2. **Detective Derek Songer** – Northwestern Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association Officer of the Year Award
3. **Officer James Brown** – Mercer County Critical Incident Response Team Operator of the Year Award
4. **Officer Matthew Guthrie** – PA DUI Association Top Gun Award
5. **Officer Jason Burnett** – PA Aggressive Driving Enforcement and Education Program Award
6. **Deputy Chief Adam Piccirillo** – Graduation from the FBI National Academy
7. **Corporal Louis Squatrito, Corporal Chad Nych and Officer John Kudelko** – Graduation from Mercer County Crisis Intervention Team Training.



Attending quality schooling/training and doing quality work builds a quality police department that provides quality police services for all. If you see these

officers out and about, please thank them for their accomplishments and dedication to the City of Hermitage.

## Crime Prevention Tip:

Before your winter trip to Florida, a Caribbean resort or Arizona here is some

advice to help prevent home burglary. Don't advertise on social media you are going on vacation or will be away from home. Everybody is friends with someone on social media and your friend's friend may not be the kind of friend you want knowing you will not be home. With the internet it is fairly easy to search anyone's address online. You may also want to wait to post vacation pictures until you are home as posting a picture of you in real time on a Florida beach clearly says you are not home. "Checking in" at a popular restaurant in New York City also hints you are not home.

Have a trusted neighbor or family member keep an eye on your home and get your mail while you are gone. You know you have a good neighbor if they also shovel snow for you while you are gone to make your place look lived in. Though putting an interior light on a timer has been around forever it still helps deter some burglars. Dusk-to-dawn exterior lights work great too. Don't forget to lock those doors and windows and double check they are firmly secure before leaving.

The Hermitage Police Department still provides vacation house check services. Depending on how busy we are we will attempt to check the exterior of your home a couple of times a week. The forms are in the police department lobby.

## Traffic Safety Tip:

Pennsylvania allows the use of ice grips or studded tires on vehicles for better traction in snow and ice. Studded tires bite into snow and ice for better traction but can slide a little when rapidly breaking or accelerating on clear or dry paved road surfaces. Pennsylvania only allows the use of ice grips or studded tires between November 1 and April 15. Studded tires are a bit noisy (clicking sound) on good roads and draw the attention of most police officers especially during the summer months.

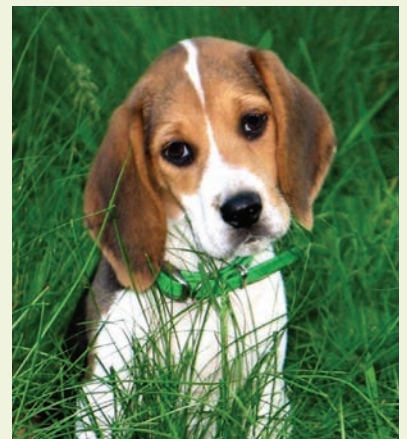
A good set of winter-tread or all-season tires works decently when driving prudently

on winter roads too. Using summer-tread tires in the winter in Pennsylvania is not advisable. Remember, the PA minimum for tread depth for tires is 2/32 of an inch, but tires with more tread are recommended for winter travelling. Banana skin tires (bald tires) are unsafe and illegal.

Follow the tire manufactures recommendation on tire pressure. Tires have the maximum cold pressure in pounds per square inch (PSI) listed on the sidewalls. Under or over inflated tires (too little or too much air pressure) can negatively impact traction (cornering, braking and accelerating), tire wear and fuel mileage. If you are unsure about how much air to put in your tires, see a qualified mechanic.



## Clean Up...It's the Law



**City Ordinance, Chapter 2/Animals, Section 111/Nuisance, Subsection 3 states:** Any dog or cat which scratches, digs or defecates upon any lawn, tree, shrub, plant, building or any other public or private property, other than the property of the owner or person in charge or control or such animal is hereby declared to be a nuisance.

### Sub-section 6 states the following:

It shall be the responsibility of the person or persons aggrieved by such nuisances to file the complaint with the District Justice. [Ord. 11-98].



# From the Fire Chief's Desk . . . . .

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



Happy New Year to you and your family from the entire Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department. The fire department is excited for the

up and coming year with many changes and improvements. We are so very grateful for the continued support by our residents and community leaders. Truly, without everyone's support, we could not be what we are today. Our annual Truck Fund Drive materials have been mailed and you should have received it by now. As always, any little bit will go a long way. Thank you in advance for any donation you are able to give.

Winter is here, so I would like to take a moment and discuss safety concerns about carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide is often referred to as the silent killer. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, natural gas, propane and oil burn incompletely. In the home,

heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. Like smoke detectors, we strongly suggest a carbon monoxide detector for every home.

Here are some things you need to know:

- CO detectors should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home, so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call your gas company or the fire department.
- If the CO detector sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors



or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.

- Never warm-up a vehicle inside a garage, even if garage doors are open. After starting your vehicle remove it from the garage immediately. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engines indoors. Make sure the exhaust pipes are exhausting to an outside uncovered location.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for your dryer, furnace, stove, wood burners and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Generators should be used in a well ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Signs and systems of carbon monoxide poisoning are: headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, shortness of breath, confusion, blurred vision or loss of consciousness.

**Safety and preplanning can go a long ways, so remember:  
"Keep safety in mind.  
It will save your behind."**

# From the Desk of Treasurer . . . . .

Bernie Harry, *City Treasurer*

With the start of the New Year, there are a few reminders I would like to share with you. Our tax bills are mailed twice a year. The County/City portion of your real estate bill goes out on March 1st of each year. There is no change for 2019 in your County/City bill. County remains at 23.65 mills and the City holds at 5 mills. The school bill along with the per capita bills are mailed on August 1st.

If you have not ever applied for the Homestead exemption, you should do so as soon as possible. You can download the form from the county website or pick one up in our

office at your convenience.

You only apply one time unless you change your deed or purchase a new house. Remember you may only collect the discount once. Your name must be on the deed and that parcel must be your residence. For example, if you have a home here and a vacation home or rental property, you cannot receive the exemption on anything except your main residence. So if this pertains to you, please contact our office.

Also, we are asking all rentals to register with our office even if a family member is

living in that house. This information is necessary to update our City census.

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to call my office at 724-347-4472 and we will be happy to assist you.



# City of Hermitage

## Parks & Recreation

800 North Hermitage Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148



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## City of Hermitage Board of Commissioners and City Treasurer

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

## Hermitage Recycling / Solid Waste / Bulk Trash Information

### E-Waste Recycling Program

- Year-round @ the City Garage  
5250 Virginia Road
- **1st & 3rd Fridays** – 7 a.m.-noon
- There is no cost to residents. Proof of residency required.

#### Acceptable e-waste includes:

- |                                                                |                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| • Televisions                                                  | • Cell phones                                           |
| • Computers (including monitors, keyboards, mice and printers) | • Other electronics banned in landfills in Pennsylvania |

### Tri-County Recycling Program

Hard to Recycle Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Collection Program – Tri-County Industries is now offering a voluntary curbside HHW and E-Waste collection service for Hermitage residents. By appointment only, additional fees apply.

For more information, please visit [hermitage.net](http://hermitage.net) or call TCI @ (724) 748-4705 or [tricityind.com](http://tricityind.com)

### Tire & Appliance Recycling

- Year-round @ the City Garage  
5250 Virginia Road
- **Monday-Friday** – 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
- There is no cost to residents. Proof of residency required.
- Number of tires per visit may be limited. (no tires with rims, or dirt in casings)
- All household appliances accepted without Freon.



### Spring Cleanup - Bulk Trash

**Spring Bulk Clean Up** - Week of Apr. 1, 2019  
Customers will place the bulk items out the night before their regular trash collection day.

#### Acceptable bulk trash items include:

- |                |                                                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| • White goods  | • Properly tagged freon-free items with any doors disabled |
| • Bulk items   |                                                            |
| • Larger items |                                                            |



City-of-Hermitage-PA



@Hermitagepa



City\_of\_Hermitage



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