



# Community Update

Volume 22, Issue 64

Winter 2021

**Hermitage  
Historical Society**

Details on back  
page.

## Spotlight Businesses

**The Perfect Bite / The Simple Greek • PAGE 2 & 3**

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# spotlight business



## Lots of perfect bites and perfect drinks at The Perfect Bite

Contributed by Dick Davis



Ron and Lori Taylor, owners of two Towne Plaza restaurants

"Life gets a 'little' better, one bite at a time" is a marketing slogan for The Perfect Bite in Hermitage. It is among the most appropriate slogans in history.

With bite-sized treats from various cakes, brownies, fruit, and muffins, to mini cookies, fresh fruit smoothies and smoothie bowls, the new cafe has something to appeal to all tastes. Many baked goods are available gluten free.

"I love sweets; they are absolutely my weakness," says Lori Taylor, creator of The Perfect Bite. "It is hard to ever pass up a tremendous dessert or luscious piece of chocolate. More specifically, I love a perfect bite."

"On Thanksgiving, I like to take just a bit of turkey, a smidge of dressing, a smear of cranberry sauce, and just a touch of mashed potatoes and gobble it down all together. This love for combinations of flavors is what inspired me to create The Perfect Bite."

On the drink side, it features gourmet Branch Street Coffee, latte, cappuccino, espresso, hot chocolate and teas with many available hot or iced. Hot breakfast sandwiches are offered in the morning.

Lori says the smoothie bowls can be eaten like a meal. Taste after taste, spoonful after spoonful, each recipe is crafted to give you a Perfect Bite.

### The Perfect Bite

2429 E. State St.

Hermitage, PA 16148

**724-200-7051**

Hours:

Monday-Friday 8 am-6 pm

Saturday 9 am-5 pm; Closed Sunday

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

The Perfect Bite is also on Facebook



**The Simple Greek and The Perfect Bite complement each other in The Hermitage Towne Plaza**

The opportunity to open an Edible Arrangements shop brought Ron and Lori Taylor to Hermitage in 2008. The husband-wife team two years earlier started Edible Arrangement stores in Ohio locations of Youngstown and Fairlawn and wanted to develop the Shenango Valley market.

Though successful with Edible Arrangements, the Taylors wanted new ventures for Hermitage and started The Simple Greek in 2018 followed by The Perfect Bite last summer. Their Edible Arrangements closed in 2018.

Along with the two Towne Plaza establishments, the Taylors also operate seven other Simple Greek and Edible Arrangement stores in Ohio.

Ron was named chief operating officer for The Simple Greek franchise in November 2019. The appointment goes with the desire of Simple Greek originator and owner, Marcus Lemonis, that The Simple Greek system be run by its franchisees. Shortly after taking over, Taylor began training new franchisees and managers in a space behind the Hermitage location.

Ron and Lori met while at West Virginia University where both earned undergraduate degrees, Lori in broadcast journalism and Ron in accounting. Growing up in his father's restaurants in southern West Virginia sparked Ron's love of food and food service.

## spotlight business



# The Simple Greek thrives on quality Mediterranean cuisine

Contributed by Dick Davis



Most new restaurants enjoy a busy opening week as food lovers check out a new environment. If lucky, some new restaurants experience a daily, bustling house.

Or, if you're The Simple Greek Hermitage at 2431 E. State St., you smash franchise sales records for having the single largest opening week. The March 2018 opening of the Towne Plaza establishment was the highest ever among The Simple Greek restaurants in 17 states. Staff handled about 200 transactions during the first four hours of the opening.

"It is great to be in Hermitage and have so many people enjoy our food," says Ron Taylor, co-owner along with wife, Lori. "About 90

percent of The Simple Greek's offerings are made in-house and served to customers fresh from the kitchen."

The Simple Greek concept originated from Marcus Lemonis in 2015 and his CNBC reality television show "The Profit." Marcus wanted to find an opportunity to share his love of Greek food with the world and The Simple Greek was an

instant success. The Simple Greek concept was franchised in 2016.

Menu items include traditional Mediterranean fare such as gyros, falafel, pita breads, hummus, Greek potatoes, spanakopita, and sweets such as baklava and rizogalo, the sweet, creamy Greek rice pudding.

Like all Mediterranean restaurants, Hermitage staff hear numerous pronunciations of gyro, falafel, baklava, spanakopita and other food selections.

Taylor says the most popular items are bowls and Greek Fries. The bowls contain rice, lentils or mixed greens, plus toppings, dressing and choice of protein, if desired. The

Greek Fries are topped with feta cheese, red wine vinegar, and oregano.

His favorite is the chicken gyro with a new honey sriracha sauce.

Lemonis recently challenged Americans to give back to their local restaurants and help those who are food insecure during the holiday season. As part of the Plating Change program, the 24 Simple Greek franchise locations plan to donate at least 20,000 meals to those in need this holiday season. For every \$5 donated, one Bowl of Hope is dispersed locally to neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

### The Simple Greek, Hermitage

Hermitage Towne Plaza

2431 E. State St.

Hermitage, PA 16148

**724-200-7110**

Hours:

Monday-Thursday 11 am- 9 pm

Friday 11 am-8 pm

Saturday 11 am-6 pm; Closed Sunday

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

The Simple Greek, Hermitage is also on Facebook

# Buhl Farm Park – Winter 2021

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



## 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.

### In Case You Missed It!

Buhl Park's 2020 Holiday Light Display was a community undertaking and could not have been completed without a tremendous amount of support. A sincere thanks to the following sponsors:



**TAYLOR TOYOTA**  
OF HERMITAGE



### The Shop at Buhl Park Buhl Park Golf Course and Driving Range

1290 Forker Blvd., Hermitage, PA

724-308-7883 • 9am-9pm Daily

Monday-Thursday: \$30 per hour

Friday-Sunday: \$40 per hour

### Home to all of your Buhl Park

**merchandise needs:** drinkware, apparel, art pieces, many other accessories, golf and pickleball equipment, and our state-of-the-art Trackman Golf Indoor Simulators.

If you are looking to have some fun, play some unique games, have access to the top courses all over the world, or just want to improve your game, this is the place to do it.

Trackman is the best golf simulator technology in the world and it's at your fingertips right here in the Shenango Valley. Tee times are available daily, along with leagues, clinics and private lessons.

# 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:** 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.

**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:

### YOUTH ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE

**TRAINING:** Incorporates plyometrics, sport-specific, strength and agility training. Develops overall athleticism and ability in

young athletes. Boosts confidence, enhances focus and aids in Injury prevention . For groups of 2-6. AGES: 8 -14

**SPRING SOCCER:** Co-ed instructional league for ages 3-10. Register at the YMCA February 8th – March 29th.

### SUMMER T-BALL/COACHES PITCH

Co-ed instructional league for ages 3-7 Register at the YMCA April 19th – May 31st.



# Hermitage Kindergarten Registration 2021-2022

## Online Registration Process:

The Hermitage School District utilizes an online registration process for all incoming students. All registrations for incoming Kindergarten students may be completed online beginning February 1, 2021.

- The registration information can be found on our Hermitage School District website: [www.hermitage.k12.pa.us](http://www.hermitage.k12.pa.us) -> Offices -> Registration Forms

## THE FOLLOWING FORMS MUST BE UPLOADED DURING THE REGISTRATION PROCESS:

- ✓ State Birth Certificate
- ✓ Immunization Record
- ✓ Proof of Guardianship (if not natural parent)
- ✓ Proof of Residence

- Please note: If you do not have access to a computer, please contact our Central Administrative Offices at 724.981.8750 ext. 6000 to schedule an appointment. You will need to bring the above documents with you to the appointment in order to complete your child's registration.

## Kindergarten Screening Process:

We are planning to facilitate our Kindergarten screening in late March. This screening includes assessment in reading and math skills, speech and language, and a vision screening.

Additional information regarding our screening days will be published on our school

district website in the near future. Students must be registered for the 2021/2022 school year in order to participate in the screening process.

## Other Requirements:

Your child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2021.

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



## Community Library of the Shenango Valley

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

**Grant Writing Resource:** Can be found on the library's webpage under Resources in the Research Help category.

**Interview Room:** Equipped with laptop with webcam, facial lighting, green screen, and color changers. Call to reserve the room.

**Odd Holiday and Month Facebook Video Series:** Tune in every Tuesday to a new video tutorial and celebrate odd holidays and national months!

**League of Women Voters of Mercer County:** Keep an eye out as the League of Women Voters will be working with the library to bring you some of their programs through Zoom in the New Year!

**Zoom Book Club:** Join us for a discussion of Love Lettering by Kate Clayborn February 26 at 2pm on Zoom! This book will have unlimited availability on OverDrive online and through the OverDrive and Libby apps from February 10-24.

**Youth Mental Health First Aid:** A young person you know could be experiencing a mental health or substance use problem. Learn an action plan to help. February 18, via Zoom, 8am-3:30pm. Please contact Shawna K. at 724-662-1550 by February 5 to register.

**Adult Mental Health First Aid:** There are many people who are experiencing a mental health or substance use problem. Join February 25 via Zoom and Learn to create an action plan. More details to come.

**Music and Movement with Miss Jess:** Join Miss Jess at the library for some music time for kids on February 5 at 10:30am. Registration is required prior to the event.

**As always keep an eye on the Library Facebook page and website for more details and programs to come!**

**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**

## 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.**



Rain gardens are a beautiful and environmentally friendly way of mitigating surface water runoff on your property. They act as a natural water filter, removing pesticides, fertilizer, and other common chemicals that are known to be dangerous to our waterways. These gardens also promote vegetation and wildlife biodiversity. For more examples of rain gardens and how you can create one, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/an-introduction-to-rain-gardens> and <https://extension.psu.edu/rain-garden-biodiversity>.

[www.stormwaterpa.org](http://www.stormwaterpa.org)

[www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov)

# FREE PRC's TRAVELING GLASS RECYCLING BIN



**Saturday, April 3 – Thursday, April 8  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**City of Hermitage Fire Station #3 • 541 Mercer Avenue, Hermitage  
Across from Morefield Cemetery**

**Look for more information on the City's website and social media.**

## **Types of Glass Accepted:**

All colors of glass bottles, jars and jugs ONLY.

- Caps, lids and labels are acceptable
- Empty all containers

## **NOT ACCEPTED:**

cut glass • glass bakeware • mirrors • porcelain and ceramics  
stemware • light bulbs • TVs • all other materials including recyclables

**For a complete schedule of PRC locations, visit [prc.org/glassrecycling](http://prc.org/glassrecycling)**

# Hermitage Recycling, Yard Waste, Garbage



## Blue Lid = RECYCLING

### Acceptable Materials:

- Household Plastic Bottles – #1, #2, #5 only
- Cans – aluminum & steel
- Foil Containers
- Cardboard
- Magazines
- Newspaper
- Other Clean Paper – junk mail, office, paper bags
- **DO NOT use plastic bags.**



## Green Lid = YARD WASTE

### Acceptable Materials:

- Leaves, grass clippings, plants and flowers, roots, sawdust, shrubbery and clippings, branches, tree limbs under 3 inches in diameter, brush up to 3 feet in length
- **DO NOT use plastic bags.**



## Brown Lid = GARBAGE

### Acceptable Materials:

- Everything that cannot be recycled in your blue or green lid carts.
- Bag all garbage before placing it into the cart.

## Hard-to-Recycle Collection (H2R)

**All Events are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**February 9**

Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Dept.  
Gettings Annex at Lawrence Co. Courthouse, New Castle, PA

**March 19**

Munnell Run Farm & Mercer Co. Conservation District  
753 Greenville Road, Mercer, PA

**April 13**

Hermitage Municipal Building  
800 North Hermitage Road, Hermitage, PA

### Accepted Materials:

- Electronic Media – VHS tapes, CDs, DVDs, Floppy disk, 8-Tracks, Cassettes, etc.
- Compact Fluorescent Lights
- Fluorescent Tubes (less than 4' only)
- Shoes
- Christmas and Holiday Lights
- Cell Phones
- Thermostats

**These collections are open to all Mercer and Lawrence County residents**

**Residents shall place their garbage, recycling and yard waste at the curb for collection no earlier than 24 hours before the day of the scheduled service. Carts shall be moved back away from the curb once collection service is completed.**

### E-Waste Recycling Program

- Year-round @ the City Garage  
5250 Virginia Road
- **1st & 3rd Fridays** – 7 a.m.-noon
- \$10.00 tag / item. Purchase at the Municipal Building.

### Acceptable e-waste includes:

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

### 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.

## Bulk Cleanup

**The bulk cleanup days have been scheduled for the week of May 3, 2021 (on regular collection day) and the week of September 27, 2021 (on regular collection day).**



### 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 [tricountyind.com](http://tricountyind.com)

# 2021 Major Capital Infrastructure Improvement Projects

## 2021 Neighborhood Investment Program

The City will begin work on Phase 6, Block 2 of the Neighborhood Investment Program in late April and the project will be completed by late summer. Block 2 includes Michael Ln. from S. Hermitage Rd. to Armand Ave. and all of Armand Ave. The work will consist of storm water improvements, sign replacement, removal of existing pavement, roadway base repair where necessary and the repaving of the street. The project is estimated to cost \$515,000.

## South Darby Road Stormwater Improvement Project

The project area is on South Darby Rd. between Virginia Rd. and Miller Rd. The City will install new storm sewer facilities, make driveway adjustments as necessary and, through an agreement with PENNDOT, have PENNDOT repave the roadway.

## Capital Paving Program

The City will mill off old pavement and repave King Dr. from South Buhl Farm Dr. to Ellis Ave. and the full length of Donna Dr. and Charlotte Ave. Also to be repaved



is Homewood Dr. from Donna Dr. to Charlotte Ave. The remaining streets in this neighborhood will be paved in 2022.

## Lindenpointe Development Corporation – 2021



**eCenter Team – Jeff Meier, Executive Director, Lisa Evans, Program Director & Brendon Radcliffe, Program Manager**

**Welcome 2021!** As we usher in the new year, so are the programs for the Lindenpointe Development Corporation's (LDC) eCenter, located in the Innovative Business Campus on South Hermitage Road. The eCenter, created by the City of Hermitage in 2012, is an incubator for start-up businesses in the region. The center provides a business-centric environment for new and early start-up companies to locate and receive services necessary for them to focus on the creation and growth of their businesses.

The eCenter's strategic goals have been the same since its inception - to

promote economic development and create sustainable jobs by keeping talent in our region.

The eCenter also runs a highly acclaimed accredited program for high school seniors. The eAcademy teaches students business, entrepreneurial, and leadership skills, while exposing them to real-world business operations. In alignment with the

school year term, students develop reasoning, problem-solving, communication and task management skills.

The year 2020 saw many business process and infrastructure improvements made to the eCenter.

On the business process improvement side of the eCenter, merchant services such as credit card processing, ACH, and online banking has catapulted the overall eCenter operations onto a digital transformation journey. The center's web portal has been updated to provide better collaboration and information accessibility for future media

updates, events, and content sharing. The eCenter team has also implemented Microsoft 365 Cloud Suite for improved collaboration, productivity, security, and access to future services.

Infrastructure improvements included significant upgrades to the center's internet services capacity and wireless network technology resulting in expanded network services, connectivity, integrity, and reliability.

Major eCenter goals in 2021 include the launching of new lead generation initiatives to maintain the flow of technology-related start-ups through the eCenter program. This includes the expansion of the eCenter's community of volunteer business and industry professionals who lend their expertise in business practices and operations to start-up companies and their personnel.

Emphasis will also be placed on the re-engineering of the center's College Connector program whose activities were curtailed last year due to coronavirus restrictions.

The eCenter team, its current tenants and coworkers, and the LDC Board Members look forward to a successful and exciting year in 2021!

For more information on the eCenter, please visit <https://ecenterlindenpointe.com>

**Jeff Meier**, Executive Director,  
Lindenpointe Development Corporation

# From the Chief of Police . . . . .

Eric Jewell, City of Hermitage Chief of Police



**Thank you** again Hermitage residents, businesses and organizations for your outstanding support of the Hermitage Police Department (HPD) this past year. Your prayers, kind words, cards, great food, donations and other encouraging support is deeply appreciated. Your support strengthens HPD's steadfast commitment to provide compassionate and professional police services to all citizens. HPD also thanks our fire and EMS public safety partners for standing with us during the challenges of 2020. Lastly, thank you health care professionals and all essential workers who cared for and kept our community running during 2020.

## Recognition:

The Hermitage Police Department (HPD) is pleased to announce **Officer Zachry Barrett** is the recipient of the Officer of the Year Award for 2020. Officer Barrett earned this distinction through his friendly demeanor, assertive enforcement effort, investigative talent and professional development initiative.

Officer Barrett joined HPD in 2018 as a patrol officer. He completed his police



academy training in 2017 at Mercyhurst University and also graduated with an Associate's Degree in criminal justice. Officer Barrett attained advanced training in criminal detection, drug interdiction and crisis intervention. He has received a number of HPD awards, which include two traffic stop awards, a life saving award and a commendation award. Officer Barrett recently served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as an infantry sergeant. He aspires to become a K-9 officer in the future.

If you see Officer Barrett out on patrol, please congratulate him on his personal and professional achievements and great service to our community.

**Thank you** again Hermitage residents, businesses and organizations for your outstanding support of the Hermitage Police Department (HPD) this past

**Corporal Chad Nych** has earned the Hermitage Police Department's (HPD) Leadership Excellence Award for 2020. As a first line supervisor Corporal Nych demonstrated professional excellence and exemplary leadership within HPD's Patrol Division. He is leading several projects to improve officer safety and radio communications.

Corporal Nych joined the Hermitage force in 2008 and was promoted to his current rank in 2014. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in criminal justice in 2000 from Youngstown State University. Corporal Nych has advanced training in leadership, DUI enforcement, drug interdiction, field training officer, firearms instructor and crisis intervention. He has received multiple commendations and praise for his great service to the community.

## Traffic Safety: Pedestrians at Nighttime

General pedestrian safety was addressed in last spring's newsletter but was requested again to specifically remind residents of the dangers and obligations of nighttime foot travel. It seems this time of year the degree of darkness, the glare of often wet roads and the brightness of LED vehicle head lamps and other bright lighting can be especially difficult to see in when driving. Add some inclement weather and the situation worsens. Of course younger, less-attentive eyes and older, more tired eyes can also impact vision at nighttime. We all know it takes our eyes some adjustment time when going from a well-lighted location to a dark location. Though our eyes began to immediately adjust to the transition it can take quite a while for optimal night vision. Darkness just after sunset and just before sunrise can be more challenging too because of twilight conditions (solar elevation angles, etc.).

The factors listed above are just a few reasons why pedestrians walking along dark & rural roadways with no berms, partially lighted residential streets and even well-lighted business streets should always use extra caution and employ preventative measures to not become a fatal or injury crash statistic.

Walk where you should – on sidewalks, facing traffic, as far from traffic as possible, in crosswalks, etc. Walk where motorists expect pedestrians and follow pedestrian crossing signals where present at intersections.

Wearing very bright clothing is a must. People wearing dark clothing at nighttime are extremely difficult to see. Many drivers cannot see a pedestrian in dark apparel at nighttime despite good headlights and working street lamps until it is too late to avoid a collision. Bright, fluorescent clothing with reflective panels and a good flashlight is best. Police officers, firefighters and highway workers wear highly visible and reflective vests during the day and night to help improve visibility to motorists. Day or night you too should wear something comparable when walking, running or even bicycling.

Lastly, do not walk along any roadway while distracted (texting, daydreaming, etc.) or impaired (sleepy, medicated, intoxicated, etc.). Always pay attention to your surroundings as a motorist may not be paying attention to his/her surroundings. Look each way multiple times before crossing any roadway and while crossing always keep eye contact with approaching traffic to make sure they see you. Never assume a motorist sees you especially at nighttime. HPD's goal is for you to get to your walking destination safely. Check out more on pedestrian safety by visiting PennDOT's or the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration's website.

## Something New:

As part of the Presidential Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, dated June 16, 2020, the Hermitage Police Department (HPD) is committed to active community engagement to address the needs of the City of Hermitage. Positive, non-enforcement encounters via community engagement help to improve public trust, create positive attitudes, foster cooperation, promote relationships, reduce and solve crime and build greater legitimacy (acceptance). In the real world call volume and manpower constraints often limit available time to engage with the public in a regular and meaningful manner, but HPD remains committed to meeting community needs and solving the

# From the Chief of Police .....

Eric Jewell, City of Hermitage Chief of Police

challenges in modern, professional policing.

**Officer Sam Staples** has been assigned to a special, year-long role as HPD's Community Engagement Officer (CEO). The CEO will work with citizens, organizations and businesses to



build better relationships between the police and the community. Officer Staples will plan and facilitate various presentations, programs, and events with youth, seniors, business members, community

organizations, churches, diverse populations, community leaders, service clubs, etc. to address crime, race, drug abuse, poverty, and other law enforcement-related societal issues through awareness, crime prevention, communication and partnership building. He will also educate the public on contemporary policing (what we do and why) and encourage interested individuals of all diversities to join

the noble profession of law enforcement.

Officer Staples began his law enforcement career with HPD in 2010 as a patrol officer. He has a strong background in juvenile offender treatment, obtained advanced training in active shooter response and school threat assessment, holds a Master's degree in criminal justice and instructs criminal justice subjects at several local colleges and universities.

With winter and the pandemic in full swing, Officer Staples will be safely operating in small group mode and planning for larger events for Spring or beyond. If you have ideas and/or are interested in working with Officer Staples, please reach out to him at HPD at 724-983-6780, Extension 1766, or Chief Jewell at Extension 1600.

## Know the Law:

Occasionally, the Hermitage Police Department (HPD) receives complaints of persons target shooting in backyards, wooded areas and fields within the City. Complainants

are mostly concerned with stray or ricocheted bullets as a result of reckless shooting, having no backstop or using a poorly constructed or improvised parapet. Associated noise is also a factor in complaints. A large or small caliber bullet from a rifle or handgun can travel a significant distance with penetrating, lethal velocity. The proximity and number of houses/buildings, mostly flat lands and often small and thinly wooded acreages can make target shooting a safety concern and a noise nuisance within the City.

Per Chapter 6 - Conduct, Part 2 - Prohibiting the Discharge of Firearms, Section 201- Discharge of Firearms Prohibited, the local law states, in part, "Except in necessary defense of person and property..., it shall be unlawful for any person to use, fire, or discharge any gun or other firearm within the City." Some exceptions to the ordinance are lawful hunting and official law enforcement duty. Check out the full ordinance on the City's website for further information.

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

Bernie Harry, City Treasurer

Welcome to all the new residents of Hermitage, and Happy New Year to all. As you know our office is still closed to the public, but we are here should you need us. We can take your calls at 724-347-4472 which rings directly to the Treasurer's office.

Just a reminder that 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 2021 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. **I'd like to explain the note on your bills stating that we need separate checks for each bill. Your County/City bill is one combined bill requiring only one check for the entire total amount due. Should you own more than one parcel, all of those County/City bills may be made payable with one check if you so choose. School bills require a separate check as do your County/City, and Per Capita bills.**

## **Again, like bills may be combined but different bills cannot!**

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 for your convenience, call the office and we can mail one to you. You only apply one time unless you change your deed or purchase a new house. Remember you may only collect the discount on one parcel. **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.

If you are new to the area, whether you rent or own your home, you must register with the City for per capita tax billing. Per Capita tax this year is 30.00 per resident. It is a head tax levied on anyone over the age of 18, living in the City of Hermitage.

Remember, when making payments, it is not necessary to come in, you can mail your payment or leave it in the secure drop box on the north side driveway. Keep in mind that if you need a receipt, please include your entire bill along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, and we will return the stamped receipt to you.

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 any questions, please feel free to call my office at 724-347-4472 and we will be happy to assist you. Stay safe.



# 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 ways. Thank you in advance for any donation you are able to give. If you receive a solicitation by phone or out of state mail, it is not us. We never call you for donations and the return address is always to the central station on Highland Road in Hermitage.

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.

If you are able and willing to help your community; become a Volunteer Firefighter. The Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department is always looking for new people to help support our mission. If you are interested, please contact our office Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 724-342-0669 for more information. There is nothing more rewarding than helping others in their time of need.



## Before



## After



## Roundabout Project

PENN DOT District 1 completes the \$4 million Roundabout project in the Hermitage Town Center



## 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

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

## Hermitage Historical Society

5465 East State Street • 724-346-0419



Thank you for standing by us through the shutdowns and the pandemic. We plan on holding our next meeting (*for the public and members*) on March 16 at 7pm at the Stewart House (5465 East State Street). We eagerly anticipate resuming our normal activities and making our beautiful historic home and the artifacts within it accessible to the community.

The Hermitage Historical Society is seeking donations to replace two bay windows (*each with three sections at \$500/section*) at our beautiful 1869 historic home. Donations are tax exempt as we are a 501(c). The society is also seeking disposable face masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, spring flowers and mulch donations to help keep our home beautiful and safe.

#### New members are always welcome:

Students=\$5 per year • Individuals=\$10 per year  
Family=\$25 per year • Lifetime=\$150 once

**Stewart house Rentals (showers, weddings, meetings, etc.):**  
\$150 per 4 hours (no alcohol permitted)



City-of-Hermitage-PA



@HermitagePA



City\_of\_Hermitage



hermitage.net

For more information and schedules please visit our website [www.buhlclub.org](http://www.buhlclub.org) or contact: Michelle Bower, Program Director 724-981-3700 ext. 108 or [mbower@fbuhlclub.org](mailto:mbower@fbuhlclub.org)

## Buhl Community Recreation Center



[www.fbuhlclub.org](http://www.fbuhlclub.org) • 724-981-3700

#### Busy Bees, Beginners, Intermediate/Advanced:

Winter Session: February 6th-March 20th

Spring Session 1: March 27th-May 8th

Session Fee: \$30 members, \$65 non members

#### Annual Easter Egg Splash:

Saturday, March 20th at 2:00pm

Registration begins February 15th. 724-981-3700 ext. 102

#### Mother's Day Tea:

Saturday, May 1st from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

at the Park Inn by Radisson