



# Community Update

Volume 24, Issue 71

Winter 2023



**Burning of the Yule  
Log at Winter Solstice  
2022**

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## spotlight business



# Cucina di Cianci's dishes authentic Italian cuisine at 489 S. Hermitage Rd.

Contributed by Dick Davis



Authentic Italian cuisine and heartfelt family traditions are on the menu at Cucina di Cianci's. From its beginning over 70 years ago in Greenville, to its opening three years ago at 489 S. Hermitage Rd., Hermitage, the Cianci family brought its American dream from the Abruzzi region of east central Italy.

"We are so very grateful to the community for their support," says Chris Cianci, CRNP. "We opened our business in Hermitage during very shaky times with COVID. Thankfully, due to amazing community support, we have been able to weather that storm and continue to do what we love to do and share our great Italian food with the community!"

Cam Cianci II and his wife Chris started the South Hermitage Road venture as a return to their previous restaurant in Greenville, while

bringing in son, Cam III, to learn the business and someday possibly carry on the family tradition.

Cam II had extensive restaurant experience that started after college in the 1980's working for Sanray as a restaurant manager at several Perkin's restaurants, then buying into the family business, Cianci's Restaurant and Motel, in Greenville in 1992.

Due to complications of COVID, Cam II passed away in February 2021. This was a tremendous loss for the family and friends as well as the community. Chris and Cam III were determined to keep the late Cam II legacy alive and keep the business running. With much hard work and dedication, the business has continued to thrive.

Cam III now puts in many hours in the kitchen and running the general operations of the restaurant. Chris

### Cucina di Cianci's

489 S. Hermitage Rd. (Rt. 18)  
Hermitage, PA 16148

**724-308-6199**

#### HOURS:

Daily 11 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Closed Sunday and Tuesday

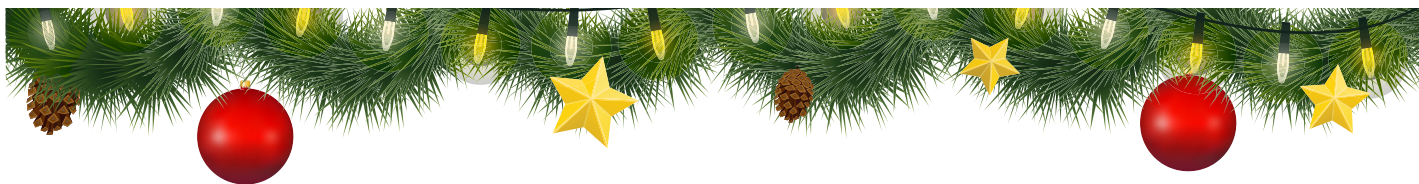
[www.ciancisrestaurants.com](http://www.ciancisrestaurants.com)  
We're also on Facebook!

**DINE IN • CARRYOUT • CATERING  
• GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE • BYOB**

oversees operations and provides support to her son and the restaurant, while maintaining her position as Director of Campus Health and Wellness Services at Thiel College.

Along with about a dozen employees, they concoct Cianci's Italian menu with hints of the Abruzzi region. Sausage gnocchi, lasagna, and lobster linguine top Cianci's most popular items, says Cam III. Other selections include a variety of pastas, pizzas, Italian fried greens, soups, salads and boneless wings with a choice of 15 sauces. Codfish is a Friday feature.





# 24th Hermitage Holiday Light Parade Winners

So many great floats & entries, congrats to all!

## School

1st place - Kennedy Catholic  
2nd place - Penn State Shenango  
3rd place - West Middlesex Transportation

## Bands

Host Band - Hickory HS Marching Band  
1st place - Greenville HS Marching Band  
2nd place - Jamestown HS Marching Band

## Entertainment

1st place - Misselaineous Dance Studio  
2nd place - Alessandra's Dance Academy  
3rd place - Pennsylvania Dance  
4th place - Twirling Angels

## Clubs & Organizations

1st place - Cub Scout Pack 52  
Boy Scout Troop 52  
2nd place - Mercer County Jeepers  
3rd place - Jordan family  
4th place - Shenango Valley Girl Scouts

## Corporate A - over 30

1st place - Hermitage Agway  
2nd place - Estes Express Lines  
3rd place - Citizens Bank

## Corporate B - under 30

1st place - Dream Builders Child Care  
2nd place - Waterstone Mortgage  
3rd place - Fette Veterinary Clinic

## Municipal

1st place - PennDOT  
2nd place - US Army Corps of Engineers  
3rd place - Sharon Fire Department

## Nonprofit floats

1st place - Lighthouse Baptist Church  
2nd place - Mercer County ABATE  
3rd place - Animal Protection League

## Twinkle Award

*presented to the entry with the brightest lights*  
Alessandra's Dance Academy

## Santas Choice

*presented to the entry exhibiting the most holiday spirit*  
Fette Veterinary Clinic

## Most Unique

*presented to the entry demonstrating a creative and unique float design*  
Berkshire Hathaway

## Most Entertaining

Treehouse Preschool

## Community award

Community Food Warehouse

## Judges choice awards

Dean Dairy  
M&D Paving  
Honest Amish  
Children's Aid Society  
Jolly Ranchers 4H  
Diehl Automotive of Hermitage

## Rudolph Award

*presented to the entry escorting Santa*  
Hermitage Fire Department



**Thank You!** to the following for helping to make the 24th annual Holiday Light Parade a tremendous success:

## Fireworks Sponsor

City of Hermitage  
Diehl Toyota Chevrolet of Hermitage

## Platinum Sponsor

Flicore  
Hudson Group, Inc.  
Reinhardt's Agency, Inc.  
Shenango Honda  
Wallace & Pancher, Inc.

*From*  
**The Hermitage Holiday  
Light Parade Committee**

## Gold Sponsor

Combine Construction, Inc.  
First National Bank of PA  
Hudson Construction, Inc.  
IAG Consulting, LLC  
KAKE Development  
Kraynak's  
Mercer County State Bank  
PNC Bank  
UPMC  
Advance Auto Parts  
Hermitage Towne Plaza / J. J. Gumberg Co.  
I C Electric  
Satin Sounds  
Tri-County Industries

## Silver Sponsor

Greenawalt Excavating, Inc.  
Ekker, Kuster, McCall & Epstein, LLP  
Black, Bashor & Porsch, LLP  
SCP Group  
HHS DR Architects/Engineers  
J & T Paving, Inc.  
Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering, Inc.  
J. Bradley McGonigle Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.  
McGonigle Ambulance Service, Inc.  
Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union  
Vey's Pub & Grille  
Bob Evans

*A look back at the*



2022

# Winter Solstice

## Upcoming Community Events & Activities

**Meditative Movement Yoga Class-** This 60-minute class will be offered in a 4-class series and will explore relaxation techniques through gentle movements. Classes will be held on January 26th, February 9th, February 23rd, & March 9 from 4:15-5:15 at the Hermitage Municipal Building (800 N Hermitage Rd). Registration is \$20. Registration is open!

**Valentine's Heart Chakra Sound Bath-** Open yourself to love and kindness and re-align your energetic body with a 60-minute sound bath focusing on balancing your heart chakra. Join us Monday, February 13th, at 6:00 at the Hermitage Municipal Building (800 N Hermitage Rd.) Registration is \$25. Registration is open!

**Community CPR & AED Training-** Join the City of Hermitage and UPMC as we end American Heart Month with a free hands-only CPR and AED training class. This class will be held Tuesday, February 28th from 6-7 pm @ the Training and Workforce Building @ LindenPointe (3050 Prosperity Place). Registration is open!

**Earth Day Festival-** Saturday, April 22nd at the eCenter @ LindenPointe. Join us for a day of environmental stewardship, educational classes, children and family activities, food & entertainment! Pre-register for Composting Workshops and receive a free composting bin- Registration is Open Now! Keep a look out for more information to come!

**Guided Rock Climbing and Repelling Trip at McConnell's Mill-** spend the day with ASCEND climbing gym at McConnell's Mill experiencing the adventure of outdoor rock climbing and repelling! The trip is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th & has a Registration fee of \$125. Keep a look out for additional information & mark your calendars-Registration opens March 1st!

Please Contact the City's Recreation and Community Events Department for more information  
[parks@hermitage.net](mailto:parks@hermitage.net) - 724-981-0800

To Register  
SCAN ME







The Hermitage Arts Festival Committee is seeking talented individuals to participate in our Summer Arts Festival. Contact MaryEllen McKendry at (724) 981-0800, ext. 1210 for more information. **This application also available online at [www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net)**

## Artists' Marketplace Application

Artist's Name

Company (if any)

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone (daytime)

(evening/cell)

E-Mail

Fax

## Art Categories

Please indicate the category in which you will be displaying and selling artwork.

### Two-Dimensional Fine Arts

- ☐ Painting ☐ Photography ☐ Mixed Media  
☐ Drawing (including pastels) ☐ Printmaking ☐ Computer Generated

### Three-Dimensional Fine Arts

- ☐ Sculpture ☐ Clay (non-functional) ☐ Mixed Media

### Fine Crafts

- ☐ Jewelry ☐ Clay (functional) ☐ Wood (functional) ☐ Leather  
☐ Metalsmithing ☐ Glass ☐ Fibers/Textiles ☐ Other:

Please indicate if your art does not fit the major categories listed here. The Hermitage

Arts Festival committee will make the final decision. The committee will evaluate art on the basis of uniqueness, quality, and excellence of conception and execution. All work must be original and designed and executed by the artist applicant. Only work of the type and quality shown in submitted photos may be displayed and sold.

## Artist Release

The undersigned and all persons in the booth agree to all the terms of the Hermitage Arts Festival. Any injury or damage to persons or property caused by either items for sale or display is the sole responsibility of the artisan and his/her representative. Property owners and/or agents of Hermitage Arts Festival shall be held blameless from any liability thereof. Because space is being reserved for the undersigned, the undersigned understands that the application fee is fully refundable only until July 14, 2023; after that date, refunds for cancellations are at the discretion of the festival organizers. Hermitage Arts Festival reserves the right to accept/reject any application at its discretion without explanation.

Your signature on this application is an agreement to these terms.

Signature

Date

## Artist's Brief

Please describe the work that you will display and sell at the Festival. This information may be used for promotional purposes.

Signature

Date

## Artwork Description

Please submit at least three photos (no slides) of the work to be displayed and sold. If possible, at least one photo should represent the overall look of your display booth. Photos will be returned to you. Please list below the photos submitted and describe the artwork shown.

Would you like to demonstrate your art talent during the festival? ☐ Yes ☐ No

## Fees

- ☐ \$50.00 for 10' x 10' booth space Number of spaces requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ \$10.00 for electricity per space (if needed)\*

\*Limited number of spaces available. Must provide your own extension cords.

**Total amount enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to City of Hermitage. Return completed application with fees and photos of artwork to:

**Hermitage Arts Festival** | Attention: MaryEllen McKendry  
 800 N. Hermitage Road, Hermitage, PA 16148

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Applications must include fee. Please make checks payable to City of Hermitage.
- Application fee is \$50 per 10'x10' display space. Electricity fee is an additional \$10.
- All Artists must exhibit their own, original work; all items must be handcrafted. Only the types of items indicated on the application form may be sold.
- No flea market or commercially produced items will be permitted.
- At least three photos (no slides) of work to be displayed must be submitted. Acceptance is up to the committee's discretion. If possible, at least one photo should represent the overall look of your display booth.
- Space will be assigned according to art category, variety of artwork sold, and on a first-come, first-serve basis. Application fee is non-refundable for cancellations received after July 14, 2023.
- Exhibitors must furnish their own displays and must furnish their own tables, table coverings, chairs, and any extension cords for electricity.
- All exhibitors must be set up for the two days of the event. Set up is 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 29, and 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 30.
- No early breakdowns permitted. Teardown permitted only after show hours.
- Instructions for unloading and parking area designation for exhibitors will be available at the registration booth.
- Proper insurance and protection of work and displays are the responsibility of the artist. Hermitage Arts Festival will not be responsible for damage to work or display due to weather or unrelated incidents. Security will be provided overnight.
- No more than two artists may share a regular 10'x10' space. Each artist must submit photos of work to be displayed and sold.

# BUHL PARK

HERMITAGE, PA

MORE ABOUT US

BUHLPARK.ORG

## Merry & Bright Season Recap

We hope that you had time to enjoy our 2022 Holiday Light display. Please join us in thanking our Holiday Light Display title sponsor, Chevy All Stars, and Diehl Automotive. In addition, 38 trees of red, white, and green around Lake Julia were brought to you by community members and local businesses. Without all their support, our display would not be possible. Nothing complimented the beautiful light display better than the 8th Annual Benefit Dinner that was held in the Avalon Buhl Ballroom on December 9th. Special thanks for many hours of hard work putting the event together goes to the Benefit Dinner Committee made of up: Mary Cricks, Linda Evans, Mary Anne Grasso, Sandy Gurgovits, Sally Jazwinski, Deanne Koch, Mitzi Kuster, Denise Meier, Maryann Weiner, and Amy Wood.



for \$30/HR Mon-Thurs and \$40/HR Fri-Sun. Please call 724-308-7883 for more information.



## Launching Our New Memorials Platform

After a lot of legwork and effort over the past 7 years (yes you read that right, 7 years), we now offer an online platform where all memorials are displayed on a searchable, user-friendly, geographical map. We invite you to visit [buhlpark.org](http://buhlpark.org), under the Memorials tab, you will be navigated to a list of options for each of our memorial offerings. Once you click on one of the options it will direct you to the "StoryMap" webpage which will show you the precise locations of every memorial in the Park. From trees to benches, bricks to butterflies, and everything else in between, you will now be able to locate memorials for loved ones. Huge thanks to Willow Artherholt, Jessica Gotch, Neil Hosick and the Buhl Park Arboretum Committee in their help to get this project to the finish line!

## Employment Opportunities:

It's never too early to start thinking about a summer job! We are looking to hire help for the upcoming summer season at the Park. Positions include summer camp counselors, lifeguards, concession stand, & boat rentals. If interested in more information or applying, please contact Markee Juranovich: [markee@buhlpark.org](mailto:markee@buhlpark.org)

## Trackman Indoor Golf Simulator

Are you tired of being stuck inside during the cold winter months? Come join us and enjoy the virtual outdoors with our Golf Simulator. Our simulator offers the ultimate indoor practice experience, and whether you're a beginner looking to learn the game or a seasoned pro looking to fine-tune your swing, it has something to offer for everyone. We also offer indoor leagues. Simulators are available to rent

Follow us on Twitter @hermitagepa

## Pruning 101

Hosted by the Buhl Park Arboretum Committee



Winter can be a great time of year to prune - but not for ALL plants!

Join us for a free one hour hands-on class to learn WHAT to prune WHEN.



**Two options:**

Feb. 8 at 11am or 6pm

No cost but **registration is required**  
Scan QR code or go here:  
[tinyurl.com/pruning101](http://tinyurl.com/pruning101)

**Bring a pair of pruners!**

Location: Buhl Park Activities Building  
near 730 Forker Blvd. Hermitage, PA 16148

Class will start inside and then go outside for hands-on experience (weather depending).

Questions: [katie@buhlpark.org](mailto:katie@buhlpark.org) or 724-981-5522x105

Join us for our 'Winter '23 Bird Walk

**Feb 18 @ 9:30am**

No make-up date for weather

*All skill levels are welcome!*

*Bring binoculars if you have them.*

Meet at **Shelter 3** and be sure to dress for cold and mud. No registration required.

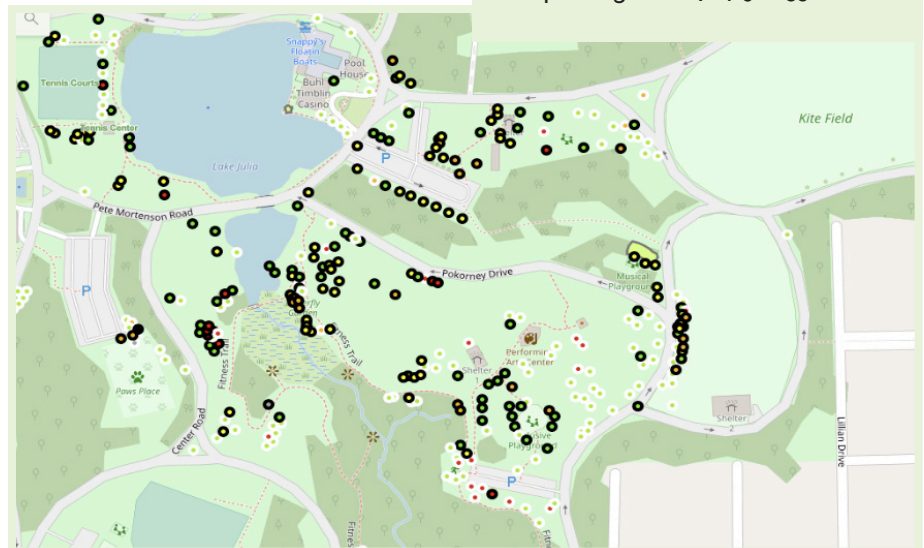
near 730 Forker Blvd.  
Hermitage PA 16148

Hosted by the Buhl Park  
Wildlife Committee



Have a Boy or Girl Scout troop or other youth group? Contact Katie ([katie@buhlpark.org](mailto:katie@buhlpark.org)) to schedule your own group bird walk!

Interested in purchasing a Memorial at Buhl Park, reach out to our Director of Operations, Ryan Voisey, email [ryan@buhlpark.org](mailto:ryan@buhlpark.org) or call 724-981-5522 x 101



Like us on Facebook!

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



THE CITY OF HERMITAGE & BUHL PARK PRESENTS

# Summer Camp

AT BUHL PARK

NEW FOR 2023!

**Be a part of the adventure!**

The City of Hermitage and Buhl Park are partnering to bring new and exciting things to the City's Summer Rec Program legacy.

"Through partnership with Buhl Park we will be able to offer a new outdoor summer camp experience with great enrichment opportunities!"

Jessica Gotch, City of Hermitage  
Director of Recreation & Community Events

For more information about Summer Camp @ Buhl Park or income based scholarships please contact the city's Director of Recreation & Community Events  
parks@hermitage.net or 724-981-0800x1240

**When**  
June 12 - July 21  
Five Days a Week  
9am - 3pm

**What**  
Outdoor Educational & Recreational Activities All Day Every Day

**Who**  
All students entering grades K through 6

**How**  
Registration opens Feb 16 and closes June 1

**Cost**  
\$150 for Hermitage & Wheatland residents- Income based scholarship available!

**Hermitage & Wheatland Residents**  
Register through the City of Hermitage's Recreation Site

**All Other Residents**  
Register through Buhl Park's website

**SCAN ME**

Registration opens: Feb 16




## NOW HIRING! SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS

The City of Hermitage in partnership with Buhl Park are taking applications to fill counselor positions for our outdoor Summer Camp at Buhl Park! For more information and to apply, please scan the QR codes!



Job Description



Apply!

## Buhl Community Recreation Center

www.fhbuhlclub.org  
724-981-3700 ext 121

### What's New In Group Fitness for 2023

**Cardio Fusion with Lena**  
Monday 6:15pm

**Tuesday yoga with George**  
Tuesday 6am

**Cardio Kickboxing with George**  
Thursday 6am

If you are not already a member, join a class for free 3 times as the instructor's guest!

More information please call 724-981-3700 ext. 101. For full schedule, please visit our website at www.buhlclub.org.

### What's New in Aquatics for 2023

Our first annual Lifeguard Olympics fundraiser for the Aquatics Team will be held the weekend of April 22.

Come root for your favorite lifeguards as they compete against each other in endurance, skill, and life saving competitions against each other! More info to come in February as we prepare and train. We will be looking for volunteers to judge and participate as guests in the water for certain scenario based challenges. If you are interested in volunteering time please contact Brandon at bcowie@fhbuhlclub.org.

### What's New in The Buhl Child Development Center in 2023

Power Up nutrition classes and music classes have been added to our preschool program. These classes are in addition to swim and dance classes. Babies and toddlers enjoy learning and playing every day and also receive music classes and gross motor skills. For more information on our daycare services, please call 724-981-3700 ext. 107.



**Parents Night Out-**  
February 11th from 3:30pm-7:30pm.  
Call to register! 724-981-3700 ext. 101

**Easter Egg Splash-**  
April 1st  
Buhl Club Pool

**Dance Recital**  
May 13th  
Thiel College

Follow us on Twitter @hermitagepa

Like us on Facebook!

www.hermitage.net

# SHENANGO RIVER WATCHERS 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



March 28 | Public Meeting | 6:00 pm | Buhl Park Activities Building  
 April 1 | Family Cleanup | 9:00 am | Clark Boat Launch  
 April 22 | Earth Day Cleanup | 9:00 am | LindenPointe  
 April 30 | Wildflower Hike | 1:00 pm | Big Bend  
 May 7 | Fly Casting Clinic | 1:00 pm | Buhl Park  
 May TBD | Intro to Kayaking Course  
 May 27 | Tire Recycling | 9:00 am | TBD  
 June 3 | Spring Paddle Fest | 7:30 am | Pymatuning State Park  
 July TBD | River Cleanup  
 August TBD | River Cleanup  
 August 26 | Lake to Lake Paddle Challenge  
 September 30 | Fall Paddle Fest | 7:30 am | Pymatuning State Park  
 October 22 | Fall Foliage Hike | 2:00 pm | TBD  
 November 17 | National Take a Hike Day  
 November 23 | 36th Annual Gobble Wobble | Buhl Park

SHENANGO RIVER WATCHERS



FOUNDED 2001

Check our website or Facebook page for updated event information!  
[shenangoriverwatchers.org](http://shenangoriverwatchers.org)

## Community Library of the Shenango Valley

11 N. Sharpsville Ave. Sharon, PA 16146  
 724-981-4360 [www.clsv.net](http://www.clsv.net)  
 Monday—Thursday: 10 AM—8 PM  
 Friday & Saturday: 10 AM—5 PM



## CLSV Stey-Nevant Library Branch

1000 Roemer Blvd. Farrell, PA 16121  
[www.steynevantlibrary.com](http://www.steynevantlibrary.com)  
 724-983-2714  
 Monday - Thursday: 11 AM—6 PM  
 Saturday: 10 AM – 2 PM

## Love your Library Fundraiser, Saturday, Feb. 11, 4-7 PM

Fundraiser for the Community Library! Wine, beer, and spirits, plus sweets and charcuterie will be served. Attendees will receive a commemorative wine glass. Raffles, holiday and literary activities will also be available. Tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased online @ [www.clsv.net](http://www.clsv.net) or in person at the library.

Story Hour • Lego Club • Ooey Gooley Art • Therapy dogs • Writers' Group  
 • Book Club • Knit & Needlework • Chess Club • Gadget Workshops •  
 STEM Programs • Game Room • Music with Miss Jess

Get a complete schedule of all our the library's programs at [www.clsv.net](http://www.clsv.net)  
 Call 724-981-4360 or 724-983-2714 for more information!



## BUHL REGIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

Promoting a Healthy Community

*The Buhl Regional Health Foundation is committed to improving the health and well-being of the neighbors we serve. We believe that through partnerships, education, and grant-making, we can creatively impact the quality of life in our communities.*

## Health Education Scholarships

Buhl Regional Health Foundation will, once again, distribute scholarships to high school seniors in Mercer County who wish to further their education in a health-related field. For 2023, we will open up the applications to include all secondary health education programs at an institution of higher education. This will include those working towards a degree, certificate or diploma in a health-related field. The application process opens on January 18th and applications will be accepted

through March 31st. Interested high school seniors will find the application on our website's education tab.

## AED+ Program

Buhl Regional Health Foundation has partnered with Staying Alive LLC, AHN Grove City, UPMC and Sharon Regional Hospitals to initiate a life-saving skills program in the community. The program is available to all non-profits and organizations with a 501(c)3. Interested organizations can apply on our website [www.buhlregionalhealthfoundation.org/](http://www.buhlregionalhealthfoundation.org/) programs to receive an AED for their facility along with staff training on the use of the AED, CPR, CPR Certifications, etc.



## Dental Clinic

BRHF has commissioned Remote Access Medical to provide a free dental clinic to those in our community who lack access to affordable dental care. The clinic

will be held June 10th and 11th in Sharon High School's gymnasium. Comprehensive dental services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Further information can be found on our website. Anyone interested in volunteering during the event can contact BRHF at 724-301-3645.

## Camp Courage

Buhl Regional Health Foundation, in collaboration with Community Counseling Center, Buhl Park, The Highmark Caring Place and more, will host Camp Courage for the second year July 31st – August 4th at Buhl Park. Registration for this camp for grieving children will open in Spring 2023. Volunteers who are interested in contributing may reach out to BRHF. Children K-6 who have lost a loved one and would benefit from this camp can access the registration information on the programs tab of our website.



# News and Updates from the eAcademy @ Lindenpointe



The eAcademy at LindenPointe is in full swing this year! Director, Katie Parr, is teaching high school seniors from multiple districts across Mercer and Lawrence county about entrepreneurship and what it means to create economic value within their communities. Along the way, students hear from community leaders as guest speakers, visit a variety of local businesses on field trips, and learn valuable skillsets that guide students to be career ready after graduation.

We are now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year. If you are a current Junior and would like more information about the eAcademy program, please email Katie Parr at [kparr@lindenpointe.com](mailto:kparr@lindenpointe.com) and ask for an application today!

Here's what the current class of 2023 has to say:



**Avery Teasdale,  
West Middlesex High  
School**

"I feel as though through this program I am learning about myself more than I ever imagined. I came in with an expectation, yet it was a thousand times better than expected."



**Anna Kavulla,  
PHAA**

"This program instills in high school seniors the entrepreneurial skills that gives them the confidence as upcoming leaders in the next generation. We have the ability to become better problem solvers and public speakers in an interactive classroom environment, that will equip us to become the leaders of tomorrow."



**Libby Kent,  
Hickory High School**

"The eAcademy has shown me how much of an impact I can have on myself and other people. I have learned to grow through uncomfortable situations. The eAcademy has been my best resource for real life application of my unique skills, talents, and interests."



**Jacob Haun,  
Sharpsville High School**

"Being at the eAcademy is an enchanting experience. Meeting people from new schools, being out in the real world, meeting real business people. Thanks to the eAcademy I feel like I will really be able to branch out in my career and make a difference."



**Joseph DeRaleau,  
Union Area High School**

"The experience has been nothing but an outlet for my creativity and a catalyst for new friendships. Every skill I learn will be useful in my life down the road. I am truly grateful for this program."



**Sean Yeager,  
Kennedy Catholic High School**

"eAcademy allows us to experience real life, outside of the classroom. It gives us the opportunity to expand your entrepreneurial mindset. From conversing with kids from districts across the county to connecting with entrepreneurs who have already gained success, it gives us a world of opportunities."



**Ella Labbiento,  
Sharon High School**

"The eAcademy program provides necessary life skills. From public speaking to networking connections, you will leave the program with an entrepreneurial mindset and skillset. The program prepares students to further their education professionally and successfully."



**Ben Pollock,  
Sharon High School**

"The eAcademy helps students excel in various high valued skills such as public speaking, problem solving, and networking. I am very grateful for the eAcademy and consider myself very fortunate to have this experience."



**Tyleigh Stinedurf,  
Farrell High School**

"When you walk in, you see a class full of different students from different schools. Every day, I walk out with more knowledge of not just entrepreneurship, but the people there that I build bonds with, the same people that may aid me in my endeavors in the future."

The eAcademy program is a dual enrollment program where high school seniors can earn college credits through our partnership with Penn State Shenango. The academic curriculum within our program is based on a nationally acclaimed college textbook and a combination of programs, publications, labs, and lessons that are specifically tailored for high school seniors.

Learn more about the eAcademy program by visiting: <https://ecenterlindenpointe.com/eacademy/>

# First Friday Training Series from the eAcademy @ Lindenpointe



The eCenter@LindenPointe will be hosting a "First Friday" training series every month starting after the New Year as we continue to build our entrepreneurial ecosystem and strengthen our economic development in the Shenango Valley, and we'd like to invite our local businesses and community members to attend!

Topics will vary, but you will see agendas relating to the field of business, entrepreneurship, social media, cybersecurity, defining success and anticipating failure, marketing, fundraising, growth mindset, and more. Our speakers/presenters are all experts in their fields and bring with them a wealth of knowledge.

To attend, an RSVP is required on EventBrite using the links below. Cost to attend is \$15.00 and funds raised will be used to further support the eCenter's three main programs: Business Incubator, eAcademy, and the PA Cybersecurity Program. Any students interested in attending may do so for FREE! Please reach out for a promo code that can be used at checkout for free admission.

You can keep up to date with upcoming events at the eCenter@LindenPointe by visiting our website at [ecenterlindenpointe.com](http://ecenterlindenpointe.com) and clicking on the Events menu, and by following our socials!


SCAN THE QR CODES  
BELOW TO REGISTER  
RSVP REQUIRED

FEBRUARY  
FIRST FRIDAY  
REGISTRATION





MARCH  
FIRST FRIDAY  
REGISTRATION





## FIRST FRIDAY Training Series

Friday, February 3rd, 2023  
12:00-2:00pm  
Training & Workforce Development Center

### About The Presenter

A serial technology entrepreneur with several successful exits, Brian Slawin is now a Director and Portfolio Manager for the nation's most impactful early stage investor: the Ben Franklin Technology Partners. In his role, Brian identifies, mentors, and invests in startup and accelerating companies and directly participates in dozens of investments annually. By leveraging the "No Wrong Door" approach to network partner collaboration, Brian helps entrepreneurs start their ideas and take their companies to the next level!

### Questions?


Katie Parr  
[kparr@lindenpointe.com](mailto:kparr@lindenpointe.com)

### Financing for Startups

- How to Talk with Investors
- Avoiding the Valley of Death
- Mercer County Innovation Fund



With more than three decades of experience in the startup world, both as an entrepreneur and an investor, Brian Slawin will share his insights for how to acquire financing for your next venture. He tells the story of the pivotal moment when "My Dad Stole My Startup Money" helped him become an entrepreneur and how the Mercer County Innovation Fund will support, grow, retain and attract entrepreneurs in February's FIRST FRIDAY training series.

RSVP Required on EventBrite  
\$15.00 Event Fee



## FIRST FRIDAY Training Series

Friday, March 3rd, 2023  
3:00-5:00pm  
Training & Workforce Development Center

### About The Presenter

For more than 17 years, Warren King has been acting President of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Serving Western Pennsylvania. Warren is a highly skilled and seasoned non-profit management professional, who has worked in both the corporate sector and independent organizations. He is knowledgeable and experienced in providing support in community outreach efforts and is committed to assisting in advancing and advocating for the mission of an organization.

### Questions?

Katie Parr  
[kparr@lindenpointe.com](mailto:kparr@lindenpointe.com)

### How to Earn the BBB4Good Seal

- Higher Purpose Standards
- Community Engagement
- Authentic Marketing

For more than 100 years, the Better Business Bureau has been recognizing businesses that demonstrate integrity and performance. Today, more businesses are integrating social impact into their business plans. By connecting purpose to their bottom lines, these organizations are reshaping economies and reinvigorating communities. By choosing a higher purpose, businesses can make significant social and/or environmental impacts in their communities.

RSVP Required on EventBrite  
\$15.00 Event Fee



# Kindergarten Registration Information

## Attention Incoming Kindergarteners!

Believe it or not it is time to start thinking about next school year! Our planning begins well in advance, beginning with several events for our soon-to-be kindergarten students.

The transition program provides students with hands-on learning experiences led by Artman Elementary teachers. Important academic and social/emotional learning information will be shared with families to help support student achievement.

**Who:** Students who plan on starting Kindergarten in 2023

**When:** Wednesday February 8, 2023 from 6:00pm - 7:00pm & Thursday February 23, 2023 from 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Registration forms are available at the school office, district website (<https://hermitagesd.net/> > Schools > Artman ES > Parent Forms and Information > Gearing Up for K), or from your pre-k provider. Pre-registration is required so we can accurately prepare.

## Little Hornets:

Little Hornets is an additional transition activity for children ages 3-5. This program is an opportunity for parents and their children to visit the school for story time and some fun, hands-on activities.

**Who:** Hermitage residents ages 3-5 and their parents/guardians.

**When:** Friday, February 10, 2023 from 11:00am - 12:00pm.

Registration forms are available at the school office, district website (<https://hermitagesd.net/> > Schools > Artman ES > Parent Forms and Information > Little Hornets), or from your pre-k provider. Pre-registration is required so we can accurately prepare.

## Kindergarten Registration 2023-2024:

### 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 1st, 2023.

The registration information can be found on our Hermitage School District website: <https://hermitagesd.net/> > Offices > Student Registration

Forms to be uploaded during the registration process:

- State Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Proof of Guardianship (if not natural parent)\ Proof of Residence (deed, lease, two current utility bills, property tax bill)

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:

Our Kindergarten screening process includes an academic screening for kindergarten readiness, a speech/language screening, and vision screening.

Our kindergarten screening will take place March 8-9, 2023, by appointment only. All students must be registered PRIOR to attending the Kindergarten Screening.

Please go to the Hermitage School District website to register for your appointment or call Mrs. Cindy Foster at 724-981-8750, ext. 5001.

We ask that no more than 2 parents/guardians attend with each child. Please arrive at your scheduled appointment time. If you cannot make your time, please call to reschedule.

### Other Requirements and Important Information:

Your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1st, 2023, to register.

Please do not wait to register. It is extremely beneficial for each student to participate in the registration process so that we can build our class rosters with as much information as possible.

## Winter Happenings at Artman Elementary

### Andrew Kemper, Principal, Grades K-3

The winter season brings excitement to the students at Artman with several events. December kicked off with the annual Craftland experience. Craftland is an Artman tradition coordinated by our wonderful PTO and implemented by the PTO and parent volunteers. All students create several crafts to be shared with friends and family.

In addition to Craftland, the holiday season also brought the annual Angel Tree program. The generosity of many staff, community members, and local businesses enabled us to provide gifts to more than 175 children this year. This effort was spearheaded by the K-3 school counselor, Kayla Lockhart, and secretary/data coordinator, Megan Lowry. Delahunty Students for Charity club and

Student Council, and the HHS Student Council also helped with this event.

In February, we are excited to announce our inaugural K-5 Title I Math and Literacy Night. This will be a relaxed evening of fun math and literacy stations for students and their parents, planned and implemented via a collaboration of Slippery Rock University education students, AES staff, and Ionta staff. Registration is necessary so please call Mrs. Beth Stefano at 724-981-8750 ext. 5913 for information.



**Who?:**

Hermitage School District students and their parents/guardians.

**When?:**

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, from 6:00-7:00.

**Where?:**

Artman Elementary School Community Room (Enter through the Artman office).

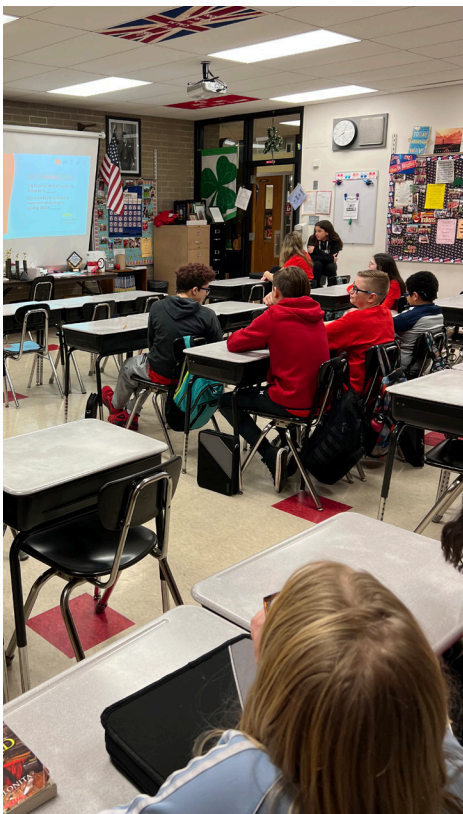
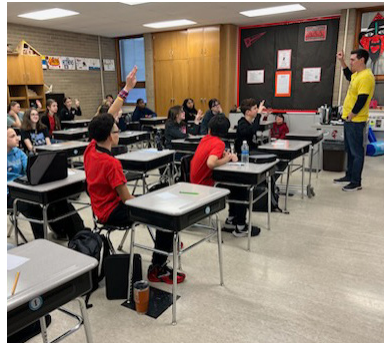


# Character Strong Hits Ionta and Delahunty Schools in 2022

Eric Trosch, Principal, Grades 4-7

I have had the honor and privilege of working within the Hermitage School District for the past 28 years. I am excited to have this wonderful opportunity to share exciting news regarding school happenings occurring at both Ionta and Delahunty Schools, grades four through seven, in the Hermitage School District.

We have many great programs throughout our school district in grades K-12, and I am pleased to describe one in particular, which is our social-emotional learning curriculum called Character Strong. Schools across the country have always sought out ways to help students improve their academic performance, increase their attendance rate and, ultimately, graduate high school. To date, that same belief holds true for our schools, but with the impact of the pandemic, we are also faced with the added emphasis of helping students deal with stress, resolving conflicts, developing relationships, respecting others' opinions and more. Now, more than ever, our teachers, support staff, school counselors, and administrators must focus on the whole student. Our students' social and emotional well-being are vital for healthy maturation, growth and development.



The Character Strong curricula is a research-based curriculum designed with an intentional focus on the development of competencies that include: self awareness, social awareness, self management, responsible decision making and relationship skills for all students. It helps students to understand and manage life tasks, and know how to adapt to challenges and expectations in life. Five key components of the Character Strong curriculum places an emphasis on the following:

- **Emotion Understanding & Regulation:** How We Feel & How We Act
- **Empathy & Compassion:** What We Understand & How We Care
- **Values & Purpose:** Who We Are & What We Do
- **Goals & Habits:** The Dreams We Have & The Actions Necessary To Get There
- **Leadership & Teamwork:** Developing Responsibility & Working Together

With the implementation of the Character Strong program, we are encouraged and confident that all students will have an improved set of skills that supports individual student well-being, a deepening of academic student involvement and an improvement in student attendance. We want all students to feel a deep sense of belonging to their school community.



# Spotlight 8th Grade: Gateway to High School

**Diane Brest**, Principal, Grades 8-10

**Chris Gill**, Principal, Grades 11-12

Eighth grade is an exciting year in the Hermitage School District. This is the time when students begin attending classes at Hickory High School. The administration, faculty and staff at HHS understand the importance of this transition and the "student jitters" that accompany it, and have developed programming and activities to help students make this move in a comfortable and successful manner.

The transition begins with a visit to HHS at the end of the seventh grade year. This is an organized event that allows the students to meet the eighth grade administration, faculty and staff; to visit classrooms and tour the building and grounds; and to meet a variety of upperclassmen. It also provides the opportunity to ask questions; gather information about athletics, the arts and other activities; and to hear current eighth grade students address frequently asked questions and share personal reflections relating to their own "pre-eighth grade" anxieties.

In August, students and their families have the opportunity to become familiar with 8th grade



personnel, class room locations and expectations of their new school by attending a combined eighth grade orientation/open house. The goal of this program is that students will leave the evening with a feeling of confidence about the upcoming year.

Each month of school, eighth grade students have the opportunity to be nominated for the Fantastic Four.

This is a program that is based around the character words-of-the-month developed from the District's Character Strong social-emotional learning curriculum: September: **Conduct**; October: **Selflessness**; November: **Respect**; January: **Patience**; February: **Honesty**; March: **Forgiveness**; April: **Commitment**. On a monthly basis, faculty who teach eighth grade select students who they believe best exemplify the essence of these words. A committee of teachers then meets to determine the four student winners from those who were nominated. In an effort to recognize this honor, Fantastic Four students have the opportunity to meet with the principal and school counselor to discuss eighth grade-related issues, have their pictures placed in a dedicated display case and are presented with several award items. In May, all Fantastic Four students are treated to a celebratory lunch.

The eighth grade class maintains their own Student Council. Any student who gathers 15 signatures from their peers can be a member of the group. Once the Council is set, the participants elect their officers. The



Student Council conducts a variety of activities including eighth grade fundraising, planning of special theme days and coordination of class activities and events. One such event is wrapping Christmas gifts alongside HHS Students for Charity.

The majority of eighth grade classrooms are on the 3rd floor of the high school. This hallway is unique as it has a Learning Lounge that contains an eighth grade library. Teachers and students enjoy using this room as a resource to the traditional classroom and find it a quiet place to study and read.

Eighth grade is the final year that students remain largely together as a class. From Kindergarten through eighth grade, the dynamics of



activities and functions are predominantly by grade level, thus promoting a closeness and friendship between the students. Eighth grade students participate in a variety of

fundraising events with a portion of the proceeds going toward one last, much anticipated, year end whole-class activity.

Should upcoming eighth grade students or families have thoughts, questions or concerns about the 8th grade year, please contact the high school office at 724-981-8750, ext. 1000.

# Hermitage School District Central Admin

## Dan Bell, Superintendent, Hermitage School District

The Hermitage School District is extremely fortunate to be a part of an active and supportive community. Because our doors remained open and our staff made simultaneous in-person and virtual learning possible during the 20-21 school year, we know that we lessened the impact of the pandemic for the students in our District. One way this is evident is based on the state assessment scores from last spring. We continue to outperform statewide averages on our PSSA Testing. Our district average proficiency over the statewide averages are:

English Language Arts ... +16.1%  
Mathematics ..... + 17.9%  
Science ..... +13.2%

This is a testament to our teachers and their efforts to adjust and support our students and their varying needs. This is also a testament to all of the hard work our students and their

parents/guardians put into their learning each day.

With that being said, we know that we still have work to do, as the pandemic impacted our children in various ways. We continue to offer Summer Academy courses, as well as provide additional academic support throughout the year where needed. We also have taken several steps to strengthen our support for students' social-emotional well being by implementing a social-emotional learning curriculum weekly, K-12. Finally, we have hired a school social worker this fall through a grant as an additional resource to children and families.

As 2023 begins, we are excited about the daily experiences we provide our students, and we are thankful to do so with the support of the Hermitage community.

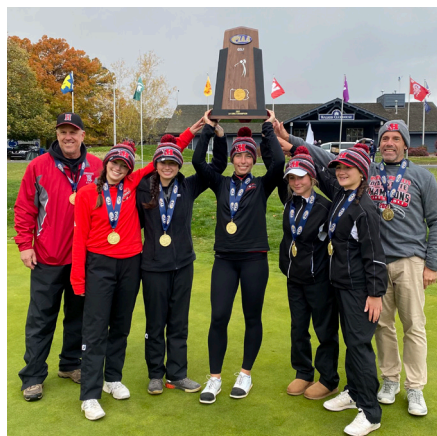
## Hickory Highlights



### School Board of Directors for 2022-2023:

Front Row: Nicole Hamelly, Staci Perman, Chris Ruffo (Vice President), Bethany Becker. Back Row: Dr. Steven Hand, Timothy Kizak (President), Matthew Ristvey (Treasurer), Andrew Bucci, Keith Fustos

**Hickory Varsity sports wins the Si Lyman athletic award for the 21-22 school year.** This award is for the highest cumulative win percentage for all Varsity sports teams in Mercer County. Hickory has won this award for 11 out of the last 16 years.



### The 2022 Girls' golf team earned the title of State Champions this fall.

Head Coach Craig Antush, Madeline Myers, Sasha Petrochko, Ava Liburdi, Luciana Masters, Ava Miklos, Assistant Coach Matt Liburdi.



### Our fourth-grade students' talents shined through as they performed a Christmas Readers' Theater, "A Christmas Truce".

Many of our students have heard of "Snoopy's Christmas", yet have no reference to the miracle of the truce between the German and British soldiers on Christmas Day during WWI. The purposeful and intentional focus of our program was two-fold. The first was to help students build connections from a historical reference that relates to our new "CharacterStrong" curriculum. The second was to help our students understand the importance of displaying concern for one another, expressing gratitude, and showing empathy for others in need.



# 2023 Event Calendar Hard-to-Recycle (H2R)



## NEW in 2023: Bring Us Your Plastic Bags & Film!



The Lawrence-Mercer Recycling/Solid Waste Department offers a program for the collection of select hard-to-recycle items. **Collection days are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 9 AM to 1 PM**, and transition between locations in Mercer and Lawrence counties. This makes the program accessible to as many people as possible. Please contact us with any questions about acceptable materials.

### 2023 LOCATIONS: Tentative locations listed with an \*.

January 10	Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Dept. Gettings Annex at Lawrence County Courthouse, New Castle, PA
February 14	Penn State Extension—Mercer Office 463 North Perry Highway, Mercer, PA
*March 14	Sharon City Hall Building 155 West Connelly Boulevard, Sharon, PA
April 11	Greenville Borough Municipal Bldg. 125 Main Street, Greenville, PA
*May 9	Stoneboro Borough Building 59 Lake Street, Stoneboro, PA
June 13	Mercer Area Library 110 East Venango Street, Mercer, PA
July 11	Ellwood City Public Works Garage 105 Sixth Street, Ellwood City, PA
August 8	Grove City Borough Building 123 West Main Street, Grove City, PA
*September 12	Mahoning Township Building 4538 West State Street, Hillsville, PA
October 10	DON ReClaim 424 North Croton Avenue, New Castle, PA
November 14	Munnell Run Farm/Conservation District 753 Greenville Road, Mercer, PA
December 12	Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Dept. Gettings Annex at Lawrence County Courthouse, New Castle, PA

### Program Details:

- This program is for **RESIDENTIAL** households only. No commercial or institutional materials are accepted.
- The program is currently free.
- Materials collected are subject to change depending on costs and markets.

Visit our webpages or follow us on Facebook!  
[lawrencecountypa.gov/recycling](http://lawrencecountypa.gov/recycling) and [mercercountypa.gov/recycling](http://mercercountypa.gov/recycling)

## FREE PRC's TRAVELING GLASS RECYCLING BIN



**Sept. 30th – Oct. 5th**  
**7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

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

### 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 & 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)

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

## Hermitage Recycling, Yard Waste, Garbage

### 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

### 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.



## Bulk Cleanup

The bulk cleanup days have been scheduled for the week of May 1-4, 2023 (on regular collection days) and the week of September 25-28, 2023 (on regular collection day).

## ATTENTION 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.

# Pandemic Tax Credit Available to Most Businesses



The federal Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERC) provides up to \$26,000 in tax credits to many businesses, including tax-exempt

organizations, per full-time employee on the payroll, yet only about 10% of small businesses have applied for these tax credits. As a refundable tax credit, this is money that businesses can receive even if they don't have to pay federal taxes. While it relates to tax years 2020 and 2021, businesses have up until three years from the tax filing deadline for those years to file an amended return and claim the tax credit. Businesses should discuss the ERC program with their accountants or tax professionals, and should also recognize that not all such professionals are knowledgeable about the program.

The ERC was another federal program designed to encourage employers to retain employees during the pandemic, and it also recognized the financial hardship businesses endured during the pandemic. The program considers wages, and qualified health plan expenses, paid to full-time employees for each quarter of employment from March 13, 2020 (the beginning of the pandemic) through December 31, 2020, for the 2020 tax year, and for the first three quarters of the 2021 tax year (January 1, 2021 through September 30,

2021). Full-time employees are those who worked at least 30 hours/week and 130 hours/month. Majority owners of a business, and their close relatives, are excluded from being considered full-time employees.

There are different rules of eligibility for businesses in regard to tax year 2020 versus 2021, and different levels of tax credits for those years. For both years, businesses need to either show a "significant decline in gross receipts" or they must have experienced a full or partial suspension of their business operations due to a governmental order. However, for 2020, a significant decline in gross receipts is a decline of 50% or more as compared to the same quarter in 2019; while for 2021 it is a decline of 20% or more as compared to the same quarter in 2019. If business eligibility is instead based upon a full or partial suspension of business operations due to a governmental order, the standards for both 2020 or 2021 are the same. If the business was completely shutdown during quarters of those tax years, due to a government order, eligibility is clear. A partial shutdown, which is less clear, could be caused by government orders restricting restaurants to takeout only, or outdoor dining and takeout only, for example, and, for other businesses, government orders that affected commerce, travel, group meetings, etc.

The tax credit level for 2020 is up to \$5,000/full-time employee on the payroll. It is calculated as one-half of the wages paid to the employee for the first \$10,000 in wages. For 2021, the tax

credit is calculated quarterly and is up to \$7,000/full-time employee on the payroll/quarter. In this case, it is 70% of the wages paid to the employee for the first \$10,000 in wages, but per quarter. In 2020, businesses with 100 or fewer full-time employees can count wages paid even if the employee worked, while those over 100 employees may only count employees retained on the payroll who didn't work. For 2021, that threshold is increased to 500 full-time employees.

Businesses that began operations after February 15, 2020, known as "recovery startup businesses", may also be eligible for tax credits for the third and fourth quarters of 2021, as long as these businesses have annual gross receipts of less than \$1 million. For these businesses, the tax credit is capped at \$50,000 per quarter.

While the tax credit payments are not subject to federal taxation, businesses will need to file amended tax returns to reduce their business payroll deduction by the amount of the credits. The resulting increased tax liability will be a small fraction of the benefit received through the tax credits, however. Additionally, businesses should know that they cannot use the ERC to "double dip". For example, they cannot count the same wages for the ERC benefit that they counted for receiving a forgivable Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan/grant and they cannot count the same wages that were paid by a Restaurant Revitalization Program grant.

## Water Quality Corner

**The City of Hermitage is committed to protecting and improving stream & river quality in our community and region.**

When discussing polluted waterways, there are two types of pollutants: point source & non point source pollutants. When there is a direct water contamination issue that can be followed, that is considered point source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution includes cars leaking motor oil, littering, and fertilizer use. These items, along with many others, are sources of pollution that greatly impact the health of our waterways and can lead to long last effects including fish kills and hazards to human health.



**Every resident can help to preserve our environment and water resources.**



# Hermitage Historical Society

5465 East State Street • 724-346-0419 • Follow Us on Facebook

The Hermitage Historical Society would like to convey our deepest thanks to the community for making our annual Christmas tree tour a success. This proved to be our most successful year ever as an organization. The money received from our Christmas tours, our spring/summer flea markets, and through generous donations from community members ensure that our beautiful 1868 Stewart House is able to be maintained and that we are able to host upcoming activities. Our deepest thanks and appreciation to the community, and especially to the city of Hermitage for their help and for making our existence as an organization possible!

The Hermitage Historical Society is in need of volunteers to help at the society's Stewart House on East State Street. Members and volunteer duties include: general cleaning, upkeep, and welcoming visitors during open hours. If anyone is interested, please contact the society at 724-877-7996 or message us on Facebook. Thank you in advance!

## Flea Market

It's hard to believe, but our first Flea Market of 2023 is only a few short months away. Vendors can set up for \$10. (rain or shine)

### Dates:

May 6th & June 10th

## The Stewart House

### Stewart House Rentals

The Stewart House is a beautiful home to host your next important gathering! (*showers, weddings, meetings, etc.*): \$150 per 4 hours

### Upcoming Speakers:

*Open to the public at the Stewart House*

#### March 21

Gealy Memorials

#### April 18

Ernie Smith from Parker Bros.

#### May 16

Tom Darby on the history of Neshannock

**New Members  
Are Always Welcome:**

Students=\$5 per year  
Individuals=\$10 per year

Family=\$25 per year  
Lifetime=\$150 once

## From the Desk of the Treasurer

**Bernie Harry, City Treasurer**

It's the new year and we would like to welcome the new Hermitage residents! Our office is open to the public from 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m., Monday through Friday except legal holidays, and you can reach us by phone or e-mail with any concerns you may have.

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. As you may have noticed, there is no change for 2023 in your County/City bill. The school bill along with the per capita bills are mailed on **August 1st**. If you do not receive your bills around the mailing dates, please notify us and keep in mind that it is the homeowners responsibility to know the due dates of taxes.

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 total amount due. Should you own more than one parcel, all 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!

Whether you rent or own your home, you must register with the city for per capita tax billing. Per Capita tax is a head tax levied on anyone over the age of 18, living in the City of Hermitage. It remains at \$30.00 per person.

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. 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 you to register all rental properties with our office even if a family member is living there. This information is necessary to update our City census.

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

Follow us on Twitter @hermitagepa

Like us on Facebook!

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

# From the Fire Chief

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

The Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department would like to wish everyone a happy and safe New Year. The Fire Department has mailed its annual truck fund drive letter out and encourages all Hermitage residences to support and donate, no matter how big or small, to this worthwhile fundraiser. These funds will help secure the future of the fire department with the best equipment possible. We thank you in advance for your generous donation.

The Fire Marshal's Office wants everyone to stay safe and warm during winter weather and offers the following safety tips on how to best care for yourself and your family when temperatures plummet:



## Protect Yourself:

- Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, which will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat.
- Mittens provide more warmth to your hands than gloves.
- Wear a hat, preferably one that covers your ears.
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.
- If working outside, take frequent breaks and stay hydrated.

## Protect yourself at Home:

- Be careful with candles – do not use candles for lighting if the power goes out. Use flashlights only.
- Use generators correctly –never operate a generator inside your home, including the basement,

garage or porch. Run the generator as far away from the house as possible and point the exhaust away from open doors and windows to avoid potential carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Install and/or check carbon monoxide detectors.
- Prevent frozen pipes - when the weather is very cold outside, open cabinet doors to let warm air circulate around water pipes. Let the cold-water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Never attempt to thaw pipes using a blow torch or any open flame device. Use warm water or a UL-listed device such as a hand-held hair dryer.
- Keep the thermostat set to a consistent temperature.
- Check smoke alarms once a month by pressing the test button and replace batteries as necessary.
- Don't forget your pets. If you can't bring them inside, provide adequate shelter to keep them warm and make sure they can get to unfrozen water.
- If you plan on using an alternate



heating source, never use a stove or oven to heat your home.

- Keep a glass or metal fire screen around the fireplace and never leave a fireplace fire unattended.
- If using a space heater, follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to safely use the heater. Place it on a level, hard, nonflammable surface. Turn the space heater off when you leave the room or go to sleep. Keep children and pets away from your space heater and do not use it to dry wet clothing. Plug the space heater directly into a wall receptacle, never plug into an extension cord or multi-plug strip.

Another safety tip for winter; always carry a jacket or warm clothing when traveling, even if you are going to the local store. If you happen to be involved in a motor vehicle accident or your vehicle breaks down, hypothermia can come on fast while you are waiting for help. Be prepared for the unexpected.



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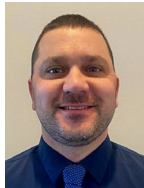


# City Management Staff Changes

Several personnel changes have occurred in the city's management staff over the past few months. Some of the changes welcomed new employees due to staff retirements and promotions and some have been the result of job title changes due to adjustments in job descriptions and duties.



**Chief of Police** – Adam Piccirillo has been named Chief of Police following the retirement of Eric Jewell. Piccirillo is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and has been a Hermitage officer for 14 years, serving the last 9 as Deputy Chief – Operations.



**Deputy Chief – Operations** – Chad Nych has been named Deputy Chief – Operations following the promotion of Piccirillo to Chief of Police. Nych is a graduate of Youngstown State University and has been a Hermitage officer for 14 years, serving the last 8 as a patrol corporal.



**Director of Recreation & Community Events** – Jessica Gotch was appointed Director to replace former Director Ed Chess, who retired. The title and job description were changed to place more emphasis on coordinating community events and programming at city facilities. Gotch is a graduate of Slippery Rock University and was previously employed by Mercer County.



**Director of Business & Community Development** – Mark Longiatti was appointed Director to fill this newly created position. He will work with various economic development agencies, real estate professionals, developers, and county, state, and federal officials to provide support to existing and potential new businesses, and to market the city. Longiatti is a graduate of Westminster College and Boston College Law School and previously served for 16 years as the Pennsylvania State Representative for the 7th Legislative District.



**Director of Technology & Administrative Services** – Rachael Manuel previously served as Assistant Finance Director. In this new position she will provide services to strengthen the city's ever-expanding use of technology across all departments, will continue to manage the annual computer replacement/upgrade program, administer payroll and pension programs, and will expand and manage the city's social media platforms with an emphasis on marketing the city. Manuel is a graduate of Youngstown State University and has been employed with the city for 8 years.



**Assistant Director of Finance** – Sarah Kephart previously served as Finance Supervisor. She will continue her duties as employee benefits coordinator, manager of delinquent accounts and will add duties to support the Director of Finance, Vikki Gruitza. Kephart is a graduate of Youngstown State University and has been employed with the city for 2 years.

City Manager Gary Hinkson said the changes strengthen an already strong management team and prepare it to take the city into the future.

## Hermitage Welcomes New Police Officers

Three newly hired police officers began their service with the Hermitage Police Department during the month of January 2023. The officers are replacing three veteran officers, two of which have retired and one who will be retiring in March. The new officers are:



Tyler Reardon – a graduate of Hickory High School, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve veteran, is a graduate of Mercyhurst PA Act 120 Municipal Police Course and previously worked as a full-time officer at Sharpsville Police Department.



Derek Jeziorkowski – a graduate of William Floyd High School, Long Island, N.Y., is a graduate of the Community College of Beaver County PA Act 120 Municipal Police Course and previously worked as a full-time officer at Greenville Police Department.



Lucas Kovach – a graduate of Hickory High School, business degree from Laurel Technical Institute, is a graduate of the Community College of Beaver County PA Act 120 Municipal Police Course and previously worked as a full-time officer at Sharpsville Police Department. The city welcomes these new officers to our Police Department.



## Street Dept. Adds New Employee

Anthony Antus has been hired to the position of Mechanic in the Hermitage Street Department. The vacancy was created due to retirements and related personnel adjustments. Antus has 16 years of experience in the private sector, has many job-related certifications and is a welcome addition to the workforce.



## Parks & Recreation

800 North Hermitage Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

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## City of Hermitage Board of Commissioners

From left to right: William Moder, III (Board Vice-President)  
Cameron S. Linton, Michael Muha,  
Duane Piccirilli (Board President), and Louis Squatrito

## Call for Volunteers

Community is more than where we live or the name of our city. It's about meaningful interaction, fostering relationships and doing something together that makes living here matter. If you would like to be a community volunteer for some of our long-standing traditions like the Hermitage Holiday Light Parade and Arts Fest, please contact the city.  
[parks@hermitage.net](mailto:parks@hermitage.net) | (724)981-0800 ext: 1240

## Subscribe to the City's eNewsletter



Beginning in January, the City of Hermitage is releasing its first e-newsletter. The monthly newsletter is sent out at the end of each month to all email subscribers. Each edition will feature news and events involving the City, local businesses and local organizations.

If you are interested in subscribing, please visit [www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net) and click the 'Forms Center' button from our home page or email us at [eaalerts@hermitage.net](mailto:eaalerts@hermitage.net)



<https://hermitagepa-services.app.transform.civicplus.com/>

Every month, we will spotlight a local business and/or organization. If you are interested in having your content featured in our e-newsletter, use the link above or email us at [eaalerts@hermitage.net](mailto:eaalerts@hermitage.net)

### NOTICE TO HERMITAGE RESIDENTS:

MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOURS ARE 7:30AM - 4PM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY OR CALL 724-981-0800



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