



Community Update

Volume 25, Issue 74

Fall 2023



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spotlight business



Pita a Sandwich Stop is more than pitas

Contributed by Dick Davis

Pita a Sandwich Stop is much more than simply pitas at its location of 2560 E. State St., Hermitage, across State Street from Kraynak's.

Along with numerous pita sandwiches, the family-owned-and-operated restaurant's extensive menu includes salads, fresh cut French fries, rice bowls, and smoothies.

"All our food items are made fresh daily," says Abdou Saada, owner along with wife, Elyse. "We are building a brand with fresh foods and establishing a relationship with our customers and the community."

Traditional Middle Eastern favorite pitas include the gyro with either lamb or chicken, feta cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, and cucumber sauce, and the "meaty garbanzo" with chicken, red pepper hummus, grilled green peppers, onions, portabella mushrooms, chickpeas, lettuce, tomato, and feta cheese.



Pitas with only vegetables are available, too.

The Saadas bought the building in 2018, completely renovated it and opened almost two years ago. Originally Mr. C's diner in the 1960s, the Hermitage restaurant is like the couple's New Castle pita stop on Grove Street it opened in 2016.

"We have invested our love and sweat into creating an environment where community members can come to fill their bellies with fresh food, while enjoying a relaxed space," says Elyse. "As a Mom and Pop shop, we developed our menu to assist with different tastes and to hopefully make you smile. We can't wait to get to know you."

The Saadas also are involved with New Castle restaurant, Elham Middle Eastern Cuisine, 2001 E. Washington Street.



Follow us on Twitter @hermitagepa

Like us on Facebook!

www.hermitage.net

Pita A Sandwich Stop

2560 E. State St.
Hermitage, PA 16148

724-658-4787

Hours:

Monday - Saturday
11AM - 9PM

Closed Sunday

www.gopitago.com

Follow us on Facebook!
Pita: A Sandwich Stop

Deliveries by Doordash



Public Meetings Held as Part of Wheatland Merger

On January 1, 2024, the Borough of Wheatland will officially merge into the City of Hermitage following overwhelming public support for the merger by voters in both communities at the November 2022 General Election. As both communities work to implement the merger, a series of public meetings have been held to explain how the merger will affect residents and businesses and to gain input for a new Zoning Map that will be adopted to incorporate Wheatland properties into the Hermitage Zoning Ordinance.

On August 16th, a public meeting of Wheatland residents was held at the Wheatland Borough Building and was well attended. Various Hermitage officials were introduced and an explanation of the merger process as well as a profile of the Hermitage form of government were provided to residents. Property owners were informed that their municipal property taxes would decrease by 80% due to the much lower Hermitage property tax rate (5 mills vs. the Wheatland rate of 24.75 mills), while the earned income tax, paid on wages earned, would increase some to 2.25% from the Wheatland rate of 1.5%. It was also explained that the merger does not affect school district boundaries, in accordance with Pennsylvania law, so children in the Wheatland area would still be within the attendance boundaries of the Farrell Area School District (FASD). As such, properties in the Wheatland area

would continue to be subject to FASD school taxes. Additionally, the U.S. Postal Service is not affected by the merger so the Wheatland Post Office will remain as will the Wheatland mailing address and zip code. All other matters will fall under Hermitage, including trash collection, sewer rates, and city ordinances. A number of questions were also answered at the meeting.

A similar meeting was held for Wheatland businesses on September 14th. While that meeting covered some of the same information, it also focused on matters specifically affecting businesses. For example, Hermitage requires an annual Business License Assessment of \$200 on businesses with exemptions for smaller businesses and certain types of businesses. A filing with the Hermitage Treasurer is required each year by April 15th. Businesses were also informed that they will need to work with Berkheimer regarding the collection of employee earned income taxes and local service taxes. City officials presented information on low-interest Revolving Loan Funds available through the city for certain business expansion projects, as well as strong relationships the city has with local economic development agencies, and county, state and federal officials to help assist businesses. A brief discussion occurred regarding long-range planning to address Wheatland infrastructure needs.

Finally, the meeting also referenced the commercial building construction review and inspection process and solicited input on third party review and inspection.

Later on September 14th, a public meeting was held to present a proposed new Zoning Map to incorporate Wheatland properties into Hermitage zoning and to receive public input. The meeting was also well attended and public comments received will be used to further develop the new Zoning Map. While both communities currently have zoning ordinances in place, the Wheatland Zoning Ordinance will go away on January 1, 2024, the effective date of the merger. Therefore, Wheatland properties need to be placed within Hermitage zoning districts and a new map needs developed to reflect the same. The proposed map assigned Wheatland properties to Hermitage zoning districts that accommodated the current uses of those properties while providing for future growth. Additional public meetings will occur as the map is further developed and presented to the Hermitage Planning Commission and ultimately to the Hermitage Board of Commissioners for consideration.

The merger process continues to move forward and we believe that it will result in a stronger community with the provision of robust city services to all residents and businesses.

Small Business Advantage Grant Available to Hermitage Businesses

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for its Small Business Advantage Grant program through March 22, 2024, or until funds are exhausted. The program is a first-come, first served program so it is important to apply early. It provides reimbursement grants up to \$5,000 to \$8,000, based upon the environmental impact of the project, and requires a match of 50% to 20%, based upon the same factors. Over the years, a number of Hermitage businesses have accessed this grant program.

Eligible projects must improve energy efficiency or reduce pollution or waste by upgrading or replacing equipment or supplies, improving processes, or reducing runoff into affected waterways. Additionally, eligible

projects must save the small business a minimum of \$500 per year and at least 20% of annual energy consumption or pollution-related expenses. Lighting, HVAC, boiler, and digital x-ray upgrades are the most common project types, but a wide variety of projects are eligible for funding.

In order to qualify, an entity must be a Pennsylvania-based, for-profit business with 100 or fewer full-time employees. Application guidance, required forms and information are located on the Department's website at www.dep.pa.gov. Once at the website, look for a link for the Small Business Advantage Grant under the "Popular" listing or use the search function and type in Small Business Advantage Grant Program.



Trick Or Treat



CITY OF HERMITAGE

October 31, 2023
5:00–7:00 pm



TRUCK-FULL OF HOPE FOOD DRIVE

Help to feed our food insecure neighbors in Mercer County this holiday season by bringing a bag filled with non-perishable food items (please, no glass) to the Diehl Automotive of Hermitage Chevrolet showroom, and fill the bed of their truck, through December 15th.

November 1 - December 15

2757 E. State Street, Hermitage

COMMUNITY
FOOD
WAREHOUSE
OF MERCER COUNTY



DIEHL
AUTOMOTIVE

The Angel Tree Holiday Program

Every year, the Hermitage School District has helped to provide gifts for children in our School District for Christmas.

If you are interested in helping a family, please reach out to Kayla Lockhart at: 724-981-8750 ext. 5901 or Suzanne Hart at 724-981-8750 ext. 3041.

Starting **November 1st**, community members will have the opportunity to support children in our district.



Hermitage

Holiday Light Parade

The 25th Annual Hermitage Holiday Light Parade is scheduled for **Saturday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m.**

The route for the parade begins at the intersection of East State Street and North Kerrwood Drive (Kraynak's and Hermitage Town Plaza), travels east on State Street to the intersection of Route 18, turns left and proceeds to the entrance of the Shenango Valley Mall. Entries are judged on: originality, creativity, the use of lights & music, and a holiday theme. Results will be posted on www.hermitage.net.

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

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



Annual Merry Christmas Mile

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023 - 5:50pm Sharp-No delay on start time

Runners and walkers are welcome! Benefits the Hickory Cross Country Team

*Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

*Age on Race Day: _____

*Gender (Circle One):

Male or Female

T-shirt Size: **YM YL S M L XL XXL**

I hereby certify that I am in good physical condition and hereby assume all risks and liabilities related to my participation. I understand the race course is on public roads and could include uneven surfaces. I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, release the Hermitage School District, All Race Sponsors, any municipalities or other public entities (and their respective agents and employees) and all volunteers from all claims for injury suffered by me while participating in this event. I understand that the entry fee is non-refundable. I also give permission for free use of my name, picture, or likeness for any purposes related to the race.

*Signature: _____

*Signature of Parent/Guardian
if age 18 or under: _____

Course description:

1 mile race for runners - as well as walkers - that starts 10 minutes before the Hermitage Light Up Parade. This Holiday Mile will be run on the parade route where 8,000 to 10,000 spectators line the entire distance.

Come prepared to run your PR in the mile! The start will be on Kerrwood Drive near Kraynaks, proceed down East State Street hill towards the Shenango Valley Mall, finishing on Rt. 18 just beyond Hickory United Methodist Church.

We strongly encourage participants to dress in costume, but please DO NOT add glass or fragile ornaments to your costume. They will fall and break on the run, causing a hazard on the roadway. We will ask you to remove them at registration.

Awards will be given to the top 3 Open Male and Female finishers, the top Male/Female masters and for the top finishers in the following age categories:

Men and Women 10 and under/11-14/15-19/20-29/30-39/40-49/50-59/60-69/70 and up. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the race in the Hickory UMC

Parking Lot. There will also be awards for the top three costumes!

Register by mail or for an additional fee there is online registration at www.runhigh.com.



Early Registration:

\$12 without T-shirt or \$24 includes T-shirt
(NEW: due to postal delays, mail in entries must be RECEIVED by Saturday, November 11)

'Availability of race shirts only guaranteed to those pre-registered by November 11th.

Race day Registration:

\$14 without T-shirt
Both pre-registration packet pick up AND race day registration will be from **4:30pm-5:40pm** in the Kraynaks parking lot (side facing Kerrwood Drive)

Mail the form and check payable to:

Hickory Cross Country Boosters

Attention: Jennifer Lauer

1782 Lori Lane, Hermitage, PA 16148

Registration Fees are Not Refundable

For more information email inquiries to: jennifer.lauer2@gmail.com



HERMITAGE NIGHT MARKET

X CORN ROAST RECAP

As a feature of the September Night Market, the City organized a corn roast in collaboration with the event, thanks to the generous contribution of corn by Lengel Brothers Farms. All proceeds from



the corn sales were dedicated to supporting Stull Nature Reserve. Additionally, the City introduced special edition 'Shuck Yeah' t-shirts for the occasion, with the proceeds from these sales also benefiting Stull Nature Reserve. Thanks to your help, we successfully raised a total of \$729.

If you missed out on getting one of our exclusive corn roast T-shirts, don't worry! They are still available for purchase at the City of Hermitage Municipal Offices. The cost of each T-shirt is \$20 (cash only). Your support is greatly appreciated!

Embracing the Magic of Winter Solstice: A Celebration of Light and Renewal

As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, nature seems to beckon us to gather around fire, embrace the warmth of community, and celebrate the Winter Solstice. The Winter Solstice marks the shortest day and longest night of the year, and offers a moment of reflection, connection, and anticipation for the return of light. Come together with friends and family by the fireside as we commemorate our second annual Winter Solstice Celebration and the traditional Burning of the Yule Log.

Join us on December 21st to cast aside our worries from the past year and celebrate our intentions for the new year. Experience the magic of a moonlit horse-drawn wagon ride, revel in the melodies of Jane Gregg and Mark DeWalt, and round off the festive evening with roasted chestnuts, comforting beverages, or a bite to eat! It's a night of gathering together that you won't want to miss!

Winter Solstice & Burning of the Yule Log

Thursday, December 21st from 5:30 to 8:00

Live Music by duo Jane Gregg & Mark DeWalt

Horse-drawn wagon rides by Emptynest Farm

Roasted Chestnuts from the Apollo Maennerchor Club

Draft Horse Warm Beverages

Big Rail Brewing Beer Wagon

Independent Taco



FRIDAY AT THE FARM

Get to know our native reptiles & amphibians with herpetologist April Claus of Interactive Environmental Programs & our 2023 Pioneers in Conservation Educator Awardee.

Learn more about April at www.AprilClaus.com

We will conclude the evening with a campfire, hot dogs, & s'mores.

When: Friday, October 20th at 6:00 PM
Where: Munnell Run Farm, Mercer, PA
Who: Open to All Ages - \$5 per Person

Register by 10/13 at www.MercerCountyCD.com

Mercer County Conservation District

WATERSHED RESOURCE FAIR

Join Mercer County Conservation District on October 21st for a Fall Morning of Watershed Education and Other Activities

Guest Speakers

- 10:00- Harmful Algal Blooms with Sarah Magyan of the Regional Science Consortium
- 11:00- Aquatic Invasive Species with Amber Stilwell of Pennsylvania Sea Grant
- Information Booths
- DCNR Pymatuning, Army Corps of Engineers Shenango, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Sea Grant, Penn State Master Watershed, Shenango River Watchers, Mercer Mosquito and Tick Control, Neshannock Trout Unlimited, and more!
- Trout Nursery Open house 9am-1pm

Event Information

Where: Munnell Run Farm Education Building, Mercer County Conservation District, 753 Greenville Road Mercer PA, Follow event signs.

When: 9am to 1pm on Saturday October 21st

Free Popcorn and other refreshments

Contact: (724) 662-2242

3RD ANNUAL MONSTER MASH: COMMUNITY BASH

OCTOBER 21ST 12-5 PM

Hermitage BOO'TIQUE WALK

Thurs., Oct. 26 4-8 pm

VISIT EACH LOCAL BIZ FOR SIPS & SAVINGS

Poppy Rd - Trendy - Best Life - Diane's - Webb Winery

JOIN US FOR PINK FRIDAY

HERMITAGE, PA

• FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 17TH

POPPY RD.
TRENDY
BEST LIFE
DIANE'S
WEBB WINERY

BARBIE LOCK IN

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 26TH
5PM TO 8PM

There will be a variety of activities for your children, giving you the opportunity to network with professionals from all over Mercer County.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE NIGHT WILL INCLUDE:

Roller Skating

Laser Tag

Gift Card Raffle

Find the Barbie Game

Sash Decorating.

Olympic Fun Center
East State Street
Hermitage, PA

Shenango River Watchers events

SHENANGO RIVER WATCHERS Fall Historical Hike

SUNDAY OCTOBER 22ND SHENANGO TRAIL 1:00 PM

Join us for a 4 mile hike on the Shenango Trail from New Hamburg to Big Bend and learn about the history of the Erie Canal Extension and the role the Shenango River played in moving goods throughout the region. We will meet at the Big Bend parking area at 1:00 PM. Hikers will be shuttled to New Hamburg and hike back to their cars.

Big Bend - 201 N Bend Rd. Mercer, PA 16137

36th Annual Gobble Wobble

Thanksgiving Day @ Buhl Park gobblewobblerrace.com

EAGLE FEST

SATURDAY JANUARY 13TH 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

CHESTNUT RUN SWIM BEACH 5500 SARANAC DR. TRANSFER, PA

Shenango River Watchers
Founded 2001

Shenango River Watchers
Erie Canal Corps of Engineers

Follow us on Twitter @hermitagepa

Like us on Facebook!

www.hermitage.net



Sponsored By:
LindenPointe
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

eCenter Parking Lot
3580 Innovation Way
Hermitage, PA

JOIN US FOR SOME:

- Candy, of course! with over a dozen Trunks to Trick or Treat from this year!
- Spooky Tunes
- Mini Pumpkin Tic-Tac-Toe
- Halloween Character Craft
- Kettle Korn for Sale
- Food Truck

& a special visit from the Hermitage City Fire and Police departments!

Don't forget to wear your costumes!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesdays | Yoga Flow | 5:30 pm | Whole Life Services

Join certified yoga instructor Brittany Yoho for a 1-hour yoga flow class. Classes are \$10 and require pre-registration. To register, visit hermitage.net and click the 'Register Now' button!

October 20th | Friday at the Farm | 6:00 pm | Munnell Run Farm

Get to know our native reptiles & amphibians with herpetologist April Claus or Interactive Environmental Program & our 2023 Pioneers in Conservation Educator Awardee. Open to all Ages \$5 per person. We will include a campfire, hot dogs, & s'mores.

October 21th | Monster Mash: Community Bash | 12:00 - 5:00 pm | Hope Center for Arts and Tech., Inc

Monster Mash is a fundraiser that brings together talented youth artists from local schools to create monsters of their imagination.

October 21th | Watershed Resource Fair | 9:00 am- 1:00 pm | Munnell Run Farm

Join Mercer County Conservation District for a Fall Morning or Watershed Education and other activities.

October 26th | Barbie Lock In | 5:00-8:00 pm | Olympic Fun Center

Activities for the night include roller skating, laser tag, a gift card raffle, a find the barbie game, and sash decorating.

October 26th | Boo'Tique Walk | 4:00-8:00 pm | Poppy Rd - Trendy - Best Life - Diane's - Webb Winery

Visit each local business for sips and savings!

COMMUNITY CLASS SERIES WITH HERMITAGE PD

October 11th | Safe Social Media | 6:00-7:00 pm | City Building

This class will discuss the benefits and risks of social media, the decision-making process, and the concept of accountability.

November 8th | School Violence & Threats | 6:00-7:00 pm | City Building

This class will address concepts and applications of the assessment and management of student threats.

November 13th | CPR/AED Training | 6:00-7:00 pm | Training & Workforce Development Center at LindenPointe

This is a free community training sponsored by the City of Hermitage and UPMC. To register, visit hermitage.net and click the 'Register Now' button!

November 17th | Pink Friday | Poppy Rd - Trendy - Best Life - Diane's - Webb Winery

Visit each local business for sips and savings!

November 18th | Hermitage Holiday Light Parade | 6:00 pm | E. State Street and head north on Route 18

Join us for our favorite holiday tradition, the Holiday Light Parade!

December 21st | Winter Solstice & Burning of the Yule Log | 5:30-8:00 pm | Rodney White Olympic Park

Gather around the fire and join us for live music, horse drawn wagon rides, and food & beverage!

December 21st | Winter Solstice Sound Bath | 8:00-9:00 pm | City Building

Join us for the Winter Solstice Sound Bath, a time for letting go. This class has a \$25 fee and registration is required. To register, please visit hermitage.net and click the 'Register Now' button!

Shenango River Watchers



FOR MORE EVENT INFO VISIT
SHENANGORIVERWATCHERS.ORG

SCAN ME



SHENANGO RIVER WATCHERS 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



730 Forker Blvd Hermitage, PA 16148
(724)342-5453

October 22 | Fall Foliage Hike | 2:00 pm | Big Bend

November 17 | National Take a Hike Day

November 23 | 36th Annual Gobble Wobble | Buhl Park

January 13 | Eagle Fest | 9AM-2PM | Chestnut Run Swim Beach

Check our website or Facebook page for updated event information! shenangoriverwatchers.org



Buhl Community Recreation Center

www.fhbuhlclub.org

724-981-3700 ext 121



Register now for the following fall programs: 724-981-3700 ext. 101

Fall Programs at the Buhl Club

Pickleball

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: Buhl Club Gymnasium

Guitar Lessons

Tuesdays

Time: 5:00pm-8:00pm

Ages 8 to adults

Call for available time slots

724-981-3700 ext. 101

Dance Classes

Ages 3-12

Tap, Ballet, Jazz, Lyrical, Hip Hop

Registration ends October 31st!

Register now by calling

724-981-3700 ext. 101

Fall 2 Youth Programs

Classes begin the first week of November.

Programs include: Swim Lessons, Synchronized Swimming, Preschool Sports, Youth Basketball Skills and Drills, Conditioning Confident Kids, Art/Stem and more!

Visit our website for more information: www.buhlclub.org

Upcoming Buhl Club Events

Pumpkin Swim

October 21st at 6:00pm

Buhl Club Pool

Event includes:

Family swim time

Pizza, Popcorn, Cotton Candy
Halloween activities

Halloween treats

One pumpkin per child

Free for family memberships

\$10 youth members

\$15 non members

Register now by calling

724-981-3700 ext. 101

Parents Night Out

October 28th

Time: 5:00pm-9:00pm

Ages 5-12

Fall themed games, snacks, and more!

Family Memberships: Free

Youth Members: \$5

Non Members: \$10

Register now by calling

724-981-3700 ext. 101



Old Hickory Craft Show

Location: Hickory High School

SATURDAY

**October 14, 2023
9am - 3pm**

Buhl Park – Fall 2023



Indoor Winter Golf League

Buhl Park's Indoor Golf League session one will begin on Monday, November 6th. Using state-of-the-art trackman simulator software, our indoor league is truly one-of-a-kind.

Call 724-308-7883 to sign up or for more details.



each preschooler. Siblings welcome - no fee if under 3 years old. We plan to be 100% outside so dress for messy and muddy play! Email or call Katie before your first time to get on the email list. We will cancel if the weather is bitter cold or raining hard. Katie@buhlpark.org or 724-981-5522x105

DATES: Sept. 21, 28 - Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 - Dec. 7, 14

Holiday Light Display

We know it may seem early, but we're so excited to once again offer our community a beautiful Holiday Light Display around The Casino Ballroom and Lake Julia. On November 17th, the display will be turned on for all to enjoy throughout the entire holiday season. Enjoy!



Carols & Choirs Event

Local high school choirs will be performing festive carols on the front steps of the Casino, surrounded by the Park's magical light display! Come enjoy the sights and sounds of the season with entertainment by Mercer, Sharpsville, Sharon, Hickory, Greenville, West Middlesex, Wilmington, and Sharpsville High

School choirs! There will also be a live stream of the concert available on the Buhl Park Facebook page. A live FM radio broadcast will also be available and the station will be announced on our facebook page the night of the event.



Follow us on Twitter @hermitagepa

Like us on Facebook!

www.hermitage.net

Save the Date

Celebrate THE Season with Buhl Park!

Buhl Park Benefit Dinner
Avalon at Buhl
December 8, 2023

Dining and Dancing

Friday, December 8th
Avalon at Buhl

Cocktails at 5:30 pm
Dinner at 6:30 pm

Live Entertainment by
Featuring John Reese
Beginning at 6:00 pm

Seating is Limited - Prepaid Reservations Required
Questions, contact annie@buhlpark.org

Facility Rentals

For more information on Buhl Park's Facility rentals, visit buhlpark.org or contact Annie: annie@buhlpark.org

Casino Ballroom: This facility is a popular venue for weddings, corporate events, parties, and other special occasions. It features a beautiful ballroom with hardwood floors, large windows overlooking Lake Julia, and a stage for performances or presentations. The facility also included a catering kitchen and access to the veranda.

Outdoor Shelters: Buhl Park has several outdoor shelters and pavilions available for rent, making them ideal for picnics, family reunions, and other outdoor events. These spaces include picnic tables and access to electric and nearby restroom facilities.

Performing Arts Center (outdoor stage): The park's amphitheater is a unique venue for outdoor performances, concerts, and community events. It offers seating and a stage area, creating a fantastic atmosphere for ceremonies or entertainment.

VALLEY YMCA

We have a new facebook page & a new Website!

Find us on Facebook at "VALLEY YMCA OF HERMITAGE"

Our new website is: www.groveicityymca.org
(Select "Valley" branch for the Hermitage location)

UPCOMING YOUTH SPORTS

****Register online or at our Front Desk**** Children do not need to be members to play our Youth Sports! We do have discounts on most of our Youth Sports if a child is a Member!

Fall Outdoor Soccer

Co-Ed ages 3-12

Program runs Sept 16th - Oct 28th

Registration Deadline September 2nd



Fall NFL Flag Football

Co-Ed Ages 5-12

Program runs Sept 23rd—Nov 4th

Registration Deadline: September 1st

Fall Youth Basketball

Co-Ed Ages 3-12

Program runs Nov 13th-Dec 23rd

Registration Deadline: October 30th



We participate in certain Health Insurance Programs that may qualify you for a free membership! Ask your Health Insurance if they are offering you any of these programs:
or call us for more info:

**"Silver Sneakers", "Fitness-Your-Way", "Renew Active",
"Silver & Fit", and "Active & Fit"**

We have Individual Memberships for all ages, as well as Family Memberships and Day Passes! We offer Financial Assistance for those in need. No one is ever turned away.

All of our classes are FREE for Members!

Stop in and check out our new
KICK BOXING class!



We're moving forward with some great changes!
Stop in and try our new Prime Equipment!
Visit us for a tour!

**925 N. Hermitage Rd., Hermitage, Pa, 16148 | 724-981-6950
WWW.GroveCityYMCA.ORG**

Community Library of the Shenango Valley

11 N. Sharpsville Ave. Sharon, PA 16146

724-981-4360

www.clsv.net

Monday—Thursday: 10 AM—8 PM

Friday & Saturday: 10 AM—5 PM



For Children

Lego Club: Tuesdays at 4-6:30 PM

Story Time: Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

Ooey Gooey Art: Fridays, Sept 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

To be announced for upcoming months

Read to a Therapy Dog: Thursdays, Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 21 at 6:00PM

Music with Miss Jess: Friday, Sept 22 @10:30AM

One Friday per month to be announced for upcoming months.

Upcoming homeschool activities to be announced

Upcoming Maker's Club to be Announced

Watch for seasonal special activities!

For Teens

Gaming Club: Thursdays, 4-6pm

Writing Group: Wednesdays, Oct 4, Nov 1, and Dec 6th, 4-5pm

Clay Creations: Wednesdays, Oct 11, Nov 8, and Dec 13, 4-5pm

Anime Club: Wednesdays, Oct 18, Nov 15, and Dec 20, 4-7pm

Cosplay with Recyclables: Saturday, Oct 21 @ 10:30 am

HummingBird Kit and Animated Video Game Characters:

Saturday, Nov 18 @ 10:30 am

3D Design of Dungeons and Dragons: Saturday, Dec 30 @ 10:30

For Adults

Writers Group: Mondays, 1:30-3 PM

Knit, Needle Work, & More: Tuesdays, 12:30-2 PM

Coloring, Coffee, and Calm: Wednesdays @ 5:00 PM

Chess Club: Thursdays, 5-7:30 PM

Gadget Workshop: Thursdays, Oct 5 & 19, Nov 2 & 16, Dec 7 & 21
by appointment

Fine Arts Painting: Saturdays, Oct 14 & 28, Nov 11 & 25, Dec 9 & 23
@ 10:30-12:30 PM

Ancestry Workshop: Tuesdays, Oct 24, Nov 28, & Dec 26
@ 2:00 PM

Adult DIY: Wednesdays, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, & Dec. 20 @ 6:00 PM

Evening Book Club: Wednesdays, Oct 25, Nov 22, & Dec 27
@ 6:00 PM

Great Issues Discussion: Thursdays, Oct 12, Nov 9, & Dec 14
@ 2:00 PM.

Afternoon Book Club: Thursdays, Oct 26 and Dec 28 @ 2:00 PM

All programs are free and open to the public. Call the library for more information or to sign up for an event.

Check out our Friends of the Library Book Sale from
October 18th-21st!



BUHL REGIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

Promoting a Healthy Community

Scholarships

Buhl Regional Health Foundation will, once again, distribute scholarships to high school seniors in Mercer County. Our scholarship program focuses on supporting students pursuing a career in the healthcare world, including students enrolling in a 2-year Associate's or 4-year Bachelor's program at a College or University, as well as those working towards a Diploma or Certificate in a health-related field at an accredited Trade, Career or Vocational School. We recognize the need for health care professionals in our area and we want to give our youth every opportunity for future success. Do you know a graduating high-school senior who is interested in the healthcare field? Don't let this opportunity pass them by! Scholarship applications for 2024 graduates will be accepted via our online portal from November 13th, 2023 – March 31st, 2024. Visit www.buhlregionalhealthfoundation.org/scholarships to apply!

Grants

Beginning in January 2024, Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will, once again, be accepted from local organizations who wish to create collaborative programming that supports the health of the youth in Mercer County. Now is the time to work out the details of your organization's proposal so that your letter of interest can be submitted during this upcoming grant cycle. Questions about the grant opportunity can be directed to Kimberly Porsch, Director of Grantmaking at BuhlRF: kimberly@buhlrfh.org

AED+ Program

Buhl Regional Health Foundation, Staying Alive LLC, AHN Grove City, and the UPMC Jameson and Horizon Foundations will continue their collaborative AED+ Program, a life-saving device and skills program for the community. The AED+ Program offers

free AED's, staff training on the use of an AED, Hands-Only CPR and CPR Certification to local non-profits, schools, and organizations with a valid 501(c)3. The program began in 2022, and has already supplied nearly 80 AEDs to organizations in Mercer County while providing life-saving training to over 300 individuals, all for free! Mercer County 9-1-1 has every AED we provide mapped as well, so they can assist in finding an AED nearby when they're contacted for an emergency! Interested organizations can apply for the program on our website www.buhlregionalhealthfoundation.org/programs.

Free Community Dental Client

BRHF hosted their first annual Free Community Dental Clinic this past summer, providing crucial dental care to hundreds of Mercer County residents for FREE! As we work towards next year's clinic, we are asking the community to SAVE THE DATE, whether you are interested in volunteering or attending as a patient! Volunteers are the heart of the clinic, with 192 kind souls donating their time and talent at 2023's clinic. Dental, medical and general volunteers are needed, so make sure you keep your calendar open! The clinic will be held June 8th and 9th, 2024 in Sharon High School's gymnasium. Comprehensive dental services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Further information and volunteer registration can be accessed on our website www.buhlregionalhealthfoundation.org/dental.

Courage Continued

As part of the Youth Grief Support Program, BRHF, in collaboration with Baker Professional Counseling and Grace Chapel, has begun offering a grief support group for adolescents and teens in 7th-12th grade (under 18) who have experienced any kind of loss. Grieving can be a challenging and isolating experience, and our goal is to provide a safe and supportive space where adolescents and teens can connect with others who are going through similar experiences, share their thoughts and feelings, and learn coping strategies to navigate their grief journey. For more information, call 724-201-2779 or email bakerprofessionalcounseling@gmail.com.

Hermitage Historical Society

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

The Hermitage Historical Society has just published a book titled Black Gold: Boomtowns, Prominent Men, and Grand Farmhouses of Hickory Township. The book chronicles the history of Hickory Township/Hermitage and showcases many prominent farmhouses from the 19th century, many of which are still standing! Books will be available at the next Hermitage Night Market, at our speaker events, at the Christmas tree tours, on Facebook, or from any officer of the historical society for \$27. Thank you to everyone who helped with information for the book and/or allowed their homes to be part of this book.

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: welcoming visitors during open hours, general cleaning, gathering historical information, etc. If anyone is

interested, please contact the society at 724-877-7996 or message us on Facebook. Thank you in advance.

Our annual Christmas tree tours at the Stewart House will begin after Thanksgiving and are:

November 25 and 26 - from 12:00-5:00 at the Stewart House.

December 1 - 5:00pm-8:00pm

December 2-3 - from 12:00pm-5:00pm

December 8 - 5:00pm-8:00pm

December 9-10 - 12:00pm-5:00pm

If any organization, club, business, etc. is interested in decorating a tree at the society, please contact Brenda at 724-854-0712.



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:

Tuesday, October 17

@ 7:00pm The McConnell Family on life in the McConnell family prior to the mall construction in the 1960s

Our speakers are free and open to the public at the Stewart house at 5465 East State Street

New Members Are Always Welcome:

Students=\$5 per year

Individuals=\$10 per year

Family=\$25 per year

Lifetime=\$150 once

Historical Society Officers:

President: Cameron Linton

Vice President: David Gibb

Second Vice President: Dan Maurice

Treasurer: Rod McAdams

Secretary: Barb Matejka

Board Members: Brenda Kulka, Maria

Koledin, Dave Fodor,

Michael Ristvey, Cindy Cox

The Medical Equipment Recycling Program Supports Area Residents



The UPMC Horizon Community Health Foundation operates the Medical Equipment Recycling Program, also known as "MERP", with locations in Farrell and Greenville. The Program loans durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, bathroom equipment, crutches, and other devices, to area residents at no cost. The program is available to any area resident, and seeks to keep members of

the community safe, independent, and mobile.

To learn more about the program and how to borrow equipment, please visit the Foundation's website at www.upmchorizonfoundation.org/merp or scan the QR code with your smartphone. Equipment must be picked up from and returned to one of MERP's locations, and customers can apply for equipment online before visiting MERP or can drop in during MERP's open hours. The Farrell MERP site is located at 707 Sharon-New Castle Road, Farrell, PA and is open Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Greenville location is on the 2nd floor of UPMC Horizon – Greenville hospital at 110 North Main Street in Greenville, PA and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please note that some items,

such as wheelchairs, require a doctor's prescription before it can be loaned out.

Want to help support the program? Both MERP locations accept donations of brand-new or like-new durable medical equipment which can then be loaned out to members of the community in need. Because not all types of medical equipment can be used by MERP, please call ahead at (724) 347-6377 to ensure that MERP can accept the equipment you intend to donate and to schedule a drop-off time. You can also directly support MERP via a charitable donation – for more information visit MERP's website listed above. Your gift is tax deductible and is 100% utilized to support MERP's operations and services.



News and Updates from the eCenter @ Lindenpointe

The Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Center (PCC) has launched the first cohort for high school and college students. Our high school program consists of 15 students from Mercer County schools including Sharon, Hickory, Greenville, Farrell, and Union. They will begin the year learning an overview of computer concepts and computer systems, which include hardware, software, computer ethical and social standards, safety and security, networking, and telecommunications. Introductions to the Windows operating system and Linux operating system are covered. This intro class is perfect for students who have no or limited experience with computer concepts or systems to prepare them for CompTIA Network+, which will be taught in the spring. The College program consists of 14 students from local universities who will be taking the CompTIA Network+ which will focus on technical skills including networking fundamentals, implementations, operations, security, and troubleshooting. The PCC is excited to welcome these students and to foster their start in the field of cybersecurity. We hope to welcome adult learners to our



program in January 2024.

The eAcademy Class of 2024 is now in session! This year's cohort consists of 30 local area high school students from the following districts: Hermitage, Grove City, Pennsylvania Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency, Sharon, and Sharpsville. They will begin the school year learning all about the entrepreneurial mindset and its key characteristics- resiliency, resourcefulness, and always remaining solutions-oriented- even when the conditions say otherwise. Although not every student may be interested in pursuing entrepreneurship as a

career path, they will all benefit from the skills learned along the way. The eAcademy largely focuses on 21st century skills needed to be successful in the workplace regardless of a student's chosen industry, which include critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration across networks, agility, adaptability, initiative, effective communication, accessing and analyzing information, curiosity, and imagination.



**Pennsylvania
Cybersecurity
Center**

www.hermitage.net

Follow us on Twitter @hermitagepa

Like us on Facebook!

HSD Welcomes Nine New Teachers

The Hermitage School Board of Directors hired nine new teachers in preparation for the 2023-24 school year. We asked each of them to provide a few details about their background and expertise to help our community get to know them a little better. We are pleased to welcome them to our schools!



Matthew Fowler

Grades 8-12

Dean of Students

1. Degrees earned: Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, and a Master of Education in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.
2. Previous experience: I have worked in the Farrell SD for 20 years in various teaching and administrative roles, most recently as the high school principal for the past eight years.

3. What are you most excited about in starting a career in the Hermitage SD?: I am most excited about working with the students, faculty, and community. I have always heard of the wonderful things going on at Hickory High, like the AAA and the Character Strong programs, but watching the students and staff put these programs into action and the level of buy-in from everyone involved is extremely exciting. I have had a great first month at the school and am looking forward to a long career working with the Hickory HS community. My prayer is that I will be able to make a positive impact in the lives of the students, staff, and community.



Andrew Garay

Grades 5-12 Band

1. Degrees earned: Bachelor of Music Education, and a Master of Music Performance.
2. Previous teaching experience: Five years of teaching experience in Grove City Area SD.
3. What are you most excited about in starting a career in the Hermitage SD?: I am most looking forward to building meaningful connections with my students, their families, and my colleagues.



Regis Kimwanga

Grades 8-12 French

1. Degrees earned: Bachelor and Master of Science in Philosophy degrees, and a degree equivalency in French Education.
2. Previous teaching experience: Mozambique and Italy for 14 years, Lawrence County for two years, long-term substitute in Hermitage School District for eight years.
3. What are you most excited about in starting a career in the Hermitage SD?: HSD is very organized and the collaboration between the staff is excellent.



Jordan Mastrangelo

Grades K-7 Emotional support

1. Degrees earned: Bachelor of Music Education, and a Master of Special Education.
2. Previous teaching experience: I am in my seventh year of teaching. I taught one year in Moon Area SD, and five years in Sharpsville Area SD.
3. What are you most excited about in starting a career in the Hermitage SD?: I am most excited about starting my special education career using my experiences in education and in life to help those students who need it most.



Jessica Patton

Grade 7 English

1. Degrees earned: Bachelor of Arts in English Writing, with a certificate in Children's Literature and a Related Concentration in Latin American Studies, and a Master of Education in Secondary English Education.
2. Previous teaching experience: This is my 15th year teaching! I have previously taught grades 9,10, 11, and 12 at both West Middlesex Area School District and the Sharon City School District.
3. What are you most excited about in starting a career in the Hermitage SD?: I am most excited about teaching middle school! I have long been anticipating a change and am excited to apply what I know from my upper level experience and refine my lessons around what I know my students will need to be successful students in the future. Also, as an HSD alumna and mother of students in the district, I am thrilled to represent this district as an educator here.



Ashlyn Richards

Grades 8-9 math

1. Degrees earned: Bachelor of Arts in Telecommunication and Design, and a Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics.
2. Previous teaching experience: This is year 10 of teaching math. I previously taught two years in Sharon SD and seven years at McNabb Middle School in Mt. Sterling, KY.
3. What are you most excited about in starting a career in the Hermitage SD?: I am most excited about being a part of the school community where I live and where my son will grow up and learn.



Jessica Squatrito

Grade 5 science

1. Degrees earned: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, a Minor in Special Education and a Certification in Early Childhood Education.
2. Previous teaching experience: I have subbed in the Hermitage SD for 11 years.
3. What are you most excited about in starting a career in the Hermitage SD?: I am most excited about building a classroom community where students feel safe, connected, and excited to come to school and learn.



Brenden Warner

Grade 7 social studies

1. Degrees earned: Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education, and a Master of Education in History.
2. Previous teaching experience: This is year one of teaching.
3. What are you most excited about in starting a career in the Hermitage SD?: I am most excited about building rapport with my students in a great school district, as well as being involved in an awesome community.



Kaylen Woods

Grades 11-12 physics

1. Degrees earned: I have a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology and Atmospheric Science, a Minor in Astronomy and Astrophysics, and a Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary Science.
2. Previous teaching experience: This is my second year of teaching. I taught for one year in the Allegheny Valley School District.
3. What are you most excited about in starting a career in the Hermitage SD?: I am excited to teach in the same room where I learned to love Physics as a student!

Hickory High School: "We All Have Value"



As summer vacations fade into memories, Hickory High School opened the doors and welcomed students back for a new academic year filled with a promise to create even more lasting memories. Teachers and school staff display unwavering dedication by working tirelessly to prepare classrooms, curricula, and resources to ensure a smooth start to the year.

In supporting our AAA philosophy, we started our year with an opening

theme: "We All Have Value". This theme underlines our core beliefs as a school. Hickory High School's culture is that every student, every family, every staff member has a purpose and a value within our community. This theme was discussed with the students of each grade level when communicating our goals for the year. On a daily basis, we will continue to promote our positive school culture where all students feel valued and have a purpose.

As you have read the descriptions of the Schoolwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) in our K-7 buildings, you can see that their programs have been productive for many years. While SWPBIS programs are not as prevalent in high schools, we are proud to bring it to Hickory High School this year. It was co-designed by students and staff, to support students in a more adolescent-focused approach than what they have experienced at the younger grades. The HHS plan serves as a means to recognize students who, through action, demonstrate our

building expectations of "Being Ready and Responsible", "Being Respectful", and "Building Positive Relationships". Students who demonstrate these expectations are recognized by teachers and earn items such as school spirit clothing, extra lunch choices, and other teenager-approved rewards. The program continues to implement the universal strategy of increasing positive behaviors, improving school safety, and promoting a positive school climate. It also provides several ways to further support students who may need it, from providing students additional academic help, to a daily check-in with students who are working through one of the many challenges a teenager might be facing. All in all, we know this new program will continue to build a supportive school climate and culture, and we are excited that it is up and running.

Wishing all a great year with lasting memories,

Dr. Chris Gill and Mr. Vincent D'Angelo

Artman has a great start to the 2023-24 school year!

At Artman, we are excited to welcome 150 new Kindergarten students to the Artman family. It is so wonderful to see the bright smiles and anticipation of our newest students coming through our doors. We also take time to talk with our 3rd grade students about being the leaders and 'example setters' in the building now that they are the oldest students.

We spend much of the first few weeks reviewing our Artman Expectations of being Ready, Respectful and Responsible as part of our School-Wide Positive Behavior Support program. We identify specific learning targets and behavioral expectations for all locations in and outside the building. Each student, K-3, participates in instructional lessons 'on location' to learn what it means to be Ready, Respectful,

and Responsible at the playground, cafeteria, restrooms, hallways, arrival/dismissal, and the bus. The lessons culminate in our Kick-Off Assembly where we celebrate our expectations and partner with our PTO for a rowdy presentation of our upcoming fundraiser.

As you will read throughout our District messages in this newsletter, all of our grades use a Schoolwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports system (SWPBIS). At Artman, we are in year 10 of SWPBIS and have been recognized by the Pennsylvania PBIS Network as having implemented tiers 1, 2, and 3 with fidelity. This means that we are continually developing levels of behavioral support for all students in our building. SWPBIS is under our Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS)



initiative which provides the framework for all of our academic and behavioral supports. This year we have created a Problem Solving Team (PST) consisting of administration, counselors, teachers, and a Behavioral Health Commission liaison to analyze our academic and behavioral data to help plan for student success. We use data to drive our decision making and it truly takes a team effort to ensure that our students have the best school experience possible!

Continued on page 16

Thank you to Hudson Companies for renovating our courtyard!

Continued from page 15



For those who have been in Artman the past several years, you may have noticed a beautification of our center courtyard. It started with wonderful murals painted by our high school

students under the direction of Artman Art teacher Mrs. Jessica Gibb. Shortly after, an amazing plaque and reading area was dedicated to the late Mrs. Linda Hickman, who was a longtime Hermitage educator who spread her love for reading with so many students during her time with us.

Our latest installment was provided through the generosity of the Hudson Companies, and the leadership of Tyler Hudson. The new project includes an outdoor amphitheater style classroom which can house up to an entire grade

level for a wide variety of learning opportunities. This outdoor learning area will have seating for well over 150 students, shade sails to keep the sun at bay, and walkways to access the area from multiple entrances. To call the courtyard beautiful is truly an understatement and we are so excited for our students and staff to use it for so many years to come. THANK YOU HUDSON COMPANIES!!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Kemper

Ionta and Delahunty Schools Celebrate Seven Years of School Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS)

Hello Hermitage Community Members!

As always, I am excited to share with all of our Hermitage families the wonderful school happenings occurring at Ionta and Delahunty Schools. This school year marks the seven-year anniversary of our SWPBIS program in grades 4-7.

What is SWPBIS? SWPBIS is a proactive approach to teach, monitor, and support appropriate school behavior for ALL students. The focus of SWPBIS is centered on preventing behaviors of concern for each student at the school-wide, classroom, non-classroom and individual levels by acknowledging and celebrating the good choices students make.

What does a SWPBIS School look like?

- The number of positive adult-to-student interactions exceeds negative ones
- A continuum of behavior support is available for all students
- 80% of our students can state the school rules and give the appropriate behavior examples (The Three R's: Ready, Respectful, Responsible)
- Teachers, Staff Members and Administrators are active Participants

• Ongoing data collection, team planning and implementation are reviewed and discussed

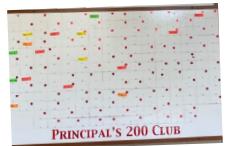
The collection and analysis of behavioral data plays a significant role in helping us with developing and implementing the appropriate interventions for our students. Through the data collection process, we have developed a Positive Reinforcement Program that is centered on catching students being **Ready** for School, Being **Respectful** to their Teachers and Peers, as well as Being **Responsible** people.



Students obtain their positive recognition in the format of earning Gold and Red Tickets, a specific delineation for Ionta and Delahunty students. All adults working within the school setting have the opportunity to present our students with this form of positive recognition, where they congratulate the student for the positive behavior they witnessed, and then reward them with the ticket.



The next component that allows us to celebrate our students' behavior is the "Principal's 200 Club". Students who earn a ticket write their name on the Principal's 200 Club board, which makes them eligible for receiving particular bigger awards throughout the school year, such as a certificate for a cafeteria snack, or a pizza party.



Over the seven-year span of implementing SWPBIS, we have seen the positive effects of the program across students' entire school day. Behaviors of concern have been reduced, and positive behaviors have increased. We continuously strive to create a school environment that fosters success with all children, and we are determined to catch our students doing good. We are truly grateful and appreciative for the implementation of this worthwhile and essential program.

Sincerely,

Mr. Eric Trosch

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 or call TCI @ (724) 748-4705 or tricountyind.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.



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



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.
- Ending second week in December.
- **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.

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.

Electronics can still be taken to the City Garage on Virginia Road from 7 a.m. to noon on the 1st & 3rd Friday of each month.

A \$10 electronics tag must be purchased at the Hermitage City Building or thru TCI for each item.

2023 Event Calendar Hard-to-Recycle (H2R)



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.

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.

2023 LOCATIONS:

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

YES

Holiday Lights, Thermostats,
Shoes (athletic pairs, no holes),
Media, VHS Tapes, Cassette
Tapes, CDs and DVDs, Floppy
Disks, Plastic Bags & Film

NO

Cell Phones, Fluorescent
Tubes, CFLs, Electronics, Paint,
Chemicals, Batteries

Sewer Bill Payments: Options & Reminders

Automatic payments of the current month's charges can be deducted from your bank account. Sign-up forms are available online at www.hermitage.net or at the Municipal Building. Payments are deducted on the 5th of the month or the next business day after the 5th in the case of a weekend or holiday. Past due balances cannot be automatically withdrawn and will continue to accrue penalties and interest. It is the customer's responsibility to pay past due balances separately and to read each month's bill.

Checks may be mailed in the envelope provided with your bill. You MUST include the remit stub from your bill in order for your payment to be processed correctly. Payments without remit stubs may be delayed and late fees will accrue. These envelopes and the address printed on them are for sewer bill payments only. Payments for things other than sewer bills

should be sent to the address printed on them.

Online payment – Go to www.hermitage.net and choose the "Online Bill Pay" icon. A convenience fee of 3.5% is charged to use a credit card and a flat \$0.50 fee is charged to use a bank account/e-check.

Online bill pay through your bank. Please remember your sewer account number must be included with each payment entered. If not, payment may be delayed, and late fees will accrue. It can take up to seven days for the payment to process so please allow for this additional time.

Payments can be dropped off anytime in the drop-off box located on the north side of the parking lot at the Municipal Building. *CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS ONLY* **CASH PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE

ACCEPTED** You must include your sewer bill remit stub or indicate the property address or sewer bill account number that you want the payment applied to. You may write that information on the memo line of your check or include it on a separate piece of paper in the envelope with your check.

When a check is returned for insufficient funds, a \$50 NSF (Non-Sufficient-Fund) fee will be charged.

We are unable to accept phone payments.

Any questions regarding these payment options, please contact Amy Nelson 724-981-0800 ext. 1360 or email anelson@hermitage.net

If you have a delinquent sewer account balance, please contact Sarah Kephart 724-981-0800 ext. 1300 or email skephart@hermitage.net to set up a payment plan.

Questions about your Medicare?

We are here to
HELP

Open Enrollment Dates



Follow us on Twitter @hermitagepa

Call PA MEDI Helpline 1-800-783-7067

Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM

Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. | 133 N. Pitt Street, Mercer, PA 16137 724-662-6222

Understanding Medicare can be difficult.

PA MEDI counselors are specially trained staff and volunteers who can answer your questions and provide you with nonbiased, objective, easy-to-understand information about Medicare.

They can help you:

- Make informed choices about Medicare coverage options, Medigap policies and Medicare Advantage Plans
- Understand Medicare eligibility & enrollment
- Understand what services are covered under Medicare Parts A and B and your Medicare Summary Notice
- Understand your Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) benefit
- Apply for Medicare Savings Programs to save you money... and more!

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Like us on Facebook!

www.hermitage.net



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.

As we begin to enter fall, please consider mulching leaves in your yard. Some of the benefits includes improvements in soil fertility and water retention. If you do rake your yard, please place the leaves in your green-lid yard waste bins or biodegradable leaf bags for pick-up by Tri-County. Do not rake leaves into streams or roadside ditches.

Every resident can help to preserve our environment and water resources.
www.stormwaterpa.org | www.dcnr.pa.gov

Call for Volunteers

Community is more than where we live or the name of our city. It's not about meaningful interactions, 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 | (724)981-0800 ext. 1240



From the Desk of the Treasurer

Bernie Harry, City Treasurer

I'd like to remind everyone that the **School Real Estate** bills and the **Per Capita** bills were mailed on August 1, 2023. We are happy to inform you that the school taxes will remain at the face amount this year from October 1st through December 31, 2023. The school has decided to not charge the 10% penalty this year. All taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2023, will be filed for collection at the penalty amount.

Please notify the Tax Office if you have not received your bills.

Per Capita is a head tax on **every** resident over the age of **18** and this year is **\$30.00**. All residents are responsible for this tax and are expected to notify the tax office if they are not yet on our tax rolls. Likewise, when moving from Hermitage, please notify the tax office to have your name removed from our tax rolls. There are exemptions (based on income from all sources) available to those who qualify. If your income is \$5,000.00 or less annually, you may be exonerated from the entire per capita bill. If your income is between \$5,000.00 and \$12,000.00, you may only be required to pay a portion of that

bill. Upon receipt of your Per Capita bill, all proof of income must be brought into our office, and a form filled out and signed by the person to be exempt.

This process must be followed each year.

Please remember that all homestead approved properties must be owner-occupied. This means that the name on the deed must match the name of the person or persons who live in that house. You can only receive the credit on one parcel. The 2023 Homestead/Farmstead allowance for all approved home-owner parcels, is \$136.48, which comes off your original School tax amount due.

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

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



Forms are available on the County website as well as in our office, for your convenience beginning October 1st. All completed forms must be received at the Mercer County Courthouse by Mar. 1st.

County/City taxes will remain at the penalty amount until December 31st.

You still have time for the property tax rebate if you qualify, since once again it has been extended to December 31, 2023.

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

Sincerely,

Bernie Harry
Hermitage Treasurer



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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

Subscribe to the City's eNewsletter

In January 2023, the City of Hermitage released 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 and click the 'Forms Center' button from our home page or email us at ealets@hermitage.net • <https://hermitagepa-services.app.transform.civicplus.com/forms/30465>

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 ealets@hermitage.net

Subscribe to our YouTube channel for more! <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofhermitage/>



See Click Fix



Customer service and engaging with our residents are a top priority so please check out our free mobile app in collaboration with See Click Fix. Residents are able to submit service requests on the fly from their smartphones or on the web and access important city information regarding events, alerts and more.

If a question arises, city workers will be able to have direct communication with residents to resolve issues together. See Click Fix features access to the following city resources:

- Submit Requests/Concerns with the easy access "Start Request" button
- Provide multiple photos when submitting a request
- Access to our website, socials and online form submittal



DOWNLOAD THE APP



SUBMIT A CONCERN

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



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