



# Community Update

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Winter 2024



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## spotlight business



### Scotto's Pizza dishes up authentic Italian cuisine

Contributed by Dick Davis

True Italian fare from a menu rivaling a thick New York City telephone book blends with a jovial atmosphere at Scotto's Pizza, 2090 E. State Street between Rent-A-Center and Monro Auto Service.

The Ferraiolo brothers, owners Carlo and Rosario, put decades of Italian restaurant experience to use in offering pizzas in numerous styles and toppings, stromboli, wings, pepperoni rolls, calamari, appetizers and antipasto, sandwiches and wraps, Romaine salads, and about a dozen pasta dinners with a grand finale of a New York City favorite, Junior's Most Fabulous Cheesecakes.

"We love doing this," says Carlo. "We enjoy our customers in this small-town atmosphere and getting to know many of them. This is a nice community that appreciates quality Italian food. Many of our current customers followed us from the (Shenango Valley) mall."

The brothers were born in Naples, Italy and came to the U.S. about 35 years ago. First up was owning and operating a Scotto's Pizza franchise in the Eastwood Mall, Niles, Ohio, then a Scotto's in the Shenango Valley Mall.

The current State Street location is the brother's restaurant since 2012. New York style thin crust pizza is Scotto's most popular item.

Topping choices are roasted red peppers, fresh basil, ground beef, anchovies, sausage both hot or sweet, ham, spinach, shrimp, bacon, broccoli, meatballs, and many more.

Gluten-free and low-carb cauliflower crust pizzas are quite popular, Carlo says, since their menu introduction about five years ago. Patrons say these alternatives are very tasty, unlike many gluten-free options, he adds.

Diners come for the traditional Italian treats and get a side order of goodwill at no extra charge.

#### Scotto's Pizza

2090 E. State St.  
(between Rent-A-Center and  
Monro Auto Service)  
Hermitage, PA 16148

724-342-0100

Hours:  
Wednesday-Sunday  
11 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Closed Monday and Tuesday

Facebook at Scotto's Pizza



# THE YEAR IN REVIEW AND A LOOK AHEAD

The City of Hermitage experienced a year of growth in 2023 and is poised for further expansion in 2024, with several community and economic development projects pending. In 2023, nearly 150 building permits were issued with total construction costs of over \$66 million, highlighted by a new 250,000 square foot, \$34 million FedEx distribution center adding hundreds of new jobs to the local economy. Other notable projects include a new 10,000 square foot, \$3.5 million headquarters for Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union, to be completed in March; a new DQ Grill and Chill on E. State Street; a 2,500 square foot expansion of the Buhl Park Golf Center, to include golf simulators; and building renovations for a new MP Coney Island, which will include a restaurant and Chili Sauce canning facility. Retrofits include the first Pennsylvania location of One Hot Cookie, in the Hermitage Square Plaza, and Jersey Mikes, coming to the Hermitage Towne Plaza.

The slate for 2024 includes a 212,000 square foot addition to the Joy Cone Cookie Plant, a \$40 million project. Joy, the world's largest ice cream cone manufacturer, has diversified into cookie and wafer production, and expects to reach 1,000 workers over the next few years. Construction will also start for a new Starbucks, a \$2.3 million project, and for McAlister's Deli and Valvoline Instant Oil Change located on adjacent parcels, each representing \$1.4 million projects.

The redevelopment of the 54-acre Shenango Valley Mall property into a mixed-use Town Center is expected to start in 2024, with litigation finally resolved. Butterfli Holdings

acquired the property and affiliated developer, Flicore, will raze the mall and redevelop the property to include retail, restaurant and entertainment establishments. The City will deploy \$5.5 million in grant funds to buildout the Town Center, to include pedestrian connectivity, outdoor gathering space, and recreational amenities, and envisions residential development onsite. The location is the busiest intersection between suburban Erie and suburban Pittsburgh and is primed for development.

An emphasis on quality-of-life investments also marked 2023 and will carry over into 2024. A record \$2 million was invested in neighborhood paving and stormwater projects with additional projects identified for 2024. Over \$1.4 million in grants will bring sewer extensions to another 92 residents and afford residential growth along the S. Neshannock Road corridor. New Master Site Plans were adopted for the 42-acre Stull Nature Reserve, a passive park/environmental learning space, and for the Hermitage Athletic Complex (HAC), envisioning additional ballfields and flat fields, and new pickleball courts, a bicycle pump track, and youth climbing area. At the close of 2023, a new Dek Hockey Facility was constructed at the HAC, supported by a \$231,000 state grant; and a state award of \$350,000 will help construct trails into the complex.

Overall, the city continues to grow and officials are excited to welcome new businesses, residents, and visitors as we enter 2024.

## Winter Road Maintenance Services

The winter maintenance services provided by the City of Hermitage Street Department covers an extensive network of over 98 miles of city streets, including coverage of over 5 miles in the Wheatland neighborhood. Additionally, the city extends its winter maintenance services to specific state roads through an annual payment arrangement.

1. North & South Neshannock Road (city line at Clark to city line at Shenango Twp.)
2. North & South Keel Ridge Road (Valley View Road to city line at Shenango Twp.)
3. Dutch Lane (entire length)
4. Lamor Road (city line at Sharpsville to city line at Jefferson Twp.)
5. Ohio Street (Church Street to South Stateline Road)
6. Highland Road (North Hermitage Road to city line at Sharon)

7. Maple Drive (East State Street to Freeway)
8. Mercer Avenue (Freeway to city line at Farrell)
9. Mercer Avenue (Farrell city line to Broadway Avenue)
10. Council Avenue (Mercer Avenue to Broadway Avenue)
11. Church Street (entire length)
12. Thornton Avenue (city line at Sharon to Forker Avenue)

In a change from past practice and effective with this winter season, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PENNDOT) will now handle winter maintenance services for the entire length of East State Street (PA 0062) within the City of Hermitage. This marks a departure from the previous agreement where the city maintained a section of East State Street under an

arrangement with PENNDOT.

The Street Department is also involved in winter maintenance activities on Buhl Park roadways while the Building & Grounds staff contributes to the upkeep of driveways and parking lots at city parks and at all city buildings. City streets and state roads are divided into winter maintenance routes with the department utilizing 11 large trucks and 3 small trucks, all equipped with salt spreaders and plows, operated by city employees. On average, approximately 5,000 tons of road salt are used each winter.

A reminder is issued to property owners and residents to refrain from parking vehicles along streets during winter weather events. This is emphasized due to the adverse impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of winter maintenance efforts, as parked vehicles can impede snow removal and result in them being "plowed in."





# 2024 CITY BUDGET APPROVED

The approved 2024 budget maintains the same real estate and earned income tax rates for the 33rd consecutive year. The General Fund budget totals \$16,242,406 of which \$2,016,036 will be transferred to add funding to capital budgets for infrastructure maintenance and major equipment purchases. Capital project expenditures planned for 2024 include \$2M in street paving and stormwater system improvements, \$800,000 in public safety equipment, \$250,000 for public works equipment and for improvements to parks and recreation facilities, and continued investment in technology upgrades and building maintenance. The 2024 budget includes allocating \$450,000 for capital improvements to infrastructure in the Wheatland neighborhood funded by former Borough of Wheatland reserve funds coming to the City of Hermitage because of the merger. The city intends to make some improvements to Esther Viglio Hall at the former Wheatland Borough building and continue community rental opportunities there.

The 2024 Sewer Fund budget totals \$7,828,467, including additional revenue from the Wheatland neighborhood area of the city. The Food Waste to Energy Program, which accepts food waste from various parts of the food industry and converts it to electricity, will be expanding after two years of reduced capacity due to required repairs to equipment. During 2024 the Hermitage Municipal Authority will be expanding the municipal sanitary sewer system with a project along South Neshannock Road and parts of Virginia Road and Miller Road, adding customers and making vacant land available for development.

Planning is underway to implement scheduling at the newly constructed DEK hockey facility at the Hermitage Athletic

Complex to allow for maximum use by the community, as well as to expand access to other facilities at the Complex and add more trails there. Existing community events – Night Markets, Earth Day, Arts Festival, Winter Solstice, Holiday Light Parade, the Summer Recreation Program and Summer Youth Camp will all return with plans to expand and improve. The city will continue to publish the quarterly newsletter with information from the city, Hermitage School District, and various regional non-profit organizations along with the monthly e-newsletter and maintain our robust social media initiatives, all to better inform the Hermitage community. Programs such as free library cards to the Community Library of the Shenango Valley and outdoor pool passes at Buhl Park at 50% discount will remain available to residents.

An initiative to work with our small business owners in support of their efforts to create an organization to promote small, locally owned businesses will move forward during the upcoming year, along with continued work with the new owners toward the redevelopment of the former Shenango Valley Mall property. New, or expanded, businesses in the city projected for 2024 include the Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union, Starbucks, Valvoline, McAlister's Deli, MP Coney Island, Jersey Mike's, and Joy Cone's new cookie plant.

The budget provides a high level of municipal services as well as investment in infrastructure and equipment. It also supports a high quality of life for the community – strong, effective public safety forces, the promotion of economic development, and varied and numerous opportunities for arts and recreation – to keep the community vibrant and property values strong.

## Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Hermitage resident, Kara Wasser was awarded the 2023 Entrepreneur of the Year by the Haller Enterprise Institute, during a ceremony at Thiel College on November 14th. Wasser is Founder and CEO of OhanaLink Technologies, which is based at the eCenter@LindenPointe in Hermitage. She previously founded Dub Diversified, LLC where she created the concept for OhanaLink Baby, a smartphone app that bridges communication gaps between patients (expectant mothers) and their families and friends. Specifically, it provides a virtual waiting room where information may be shared securely.



OhanaLink has grown into a mobile technology solutions company that has developed and marketed cutting-edge mobile device applications. Its product, OhanaLink Purple, has transformed the way agencies and advocates deliver services to victims of domestic abuse and their families. It also represents a partnership between domestic violence agencies across Western Pennsylvania.

At the ceremony, Wasser related the ups and downs of her personal journey in the entrepreneurship space. She emphasized her perseverance and determination to successfully take her product to market and she encouraged budding entrepreneurs to take advantage of local and state resources in building out their concept.

## Young Economic Development Professional to Watch Award



Jake Rickert, Director of Workforce Development for Penn Northwest Development Corporation, was presented the Young Economic Development Professional to Watch Award at the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association Fall Conference in Reading, PA. Jake spearheads the Homegrown Initiative, which aims to grow our local population by matching young adults to rewarding jobs in Mercer County.

Penn Northwest Development Corporation is Mercer County's lead economic development agency and is headquartered in Hermitage at the eCenter@LindenPointe. The City of Hermitage is a member and long-standing supporter of Penn Northwest and has partnered with the agency to deliver several economic development projects in the city.

We congratulate Jake on this significant recognition and appreciate all his work in growing the workforce in Mercer County and helping our next generation to prosper here.



## WHEATLAND MERGER COMPLETE

On January 1st, the Borough of Wheatland merged into the City of Hermitage and the area will now be referred to as the Wheatland neighborhood of the City of Hermitage. While there will be several changes, a few things will remain the same. Mail service will not change as it is handled by the U.S. Postal Service, which is not affected by the merger. The Wheatland Post Office will continue as will the Wheatland mailing address and zip code. School attendance boundaries are also not affected by the merger, so children residing in the Wheatland neighborhood will continue to be part of the Farrell Area School District.

Sewer billing for the Wheatland neighborhood will now be handled by the City of Hermitage. A letter was sent to all Wheatland residents and businesses detailing this change. In a nutshell, in early January a final bill will be sent to residents and businesses served by the Farrell Water Pollution Control Plant, by the City of Farrell. In February, these residents and businesses will receive their first sewer bill from the City of Hermitage. The residential charge is a flat monthly fee of \$47.50 regardless of water consumption. Businesses will be billed a fee based upon their consumption.

The City of Hermitage also assesses an annual Business License fee of \$200 with certain exemptions available for businesses with \$50,000 or less in annual gross sales, and exemptions under state law for non-profits, manufacturers, banks, and insurance companies. A form must be completed and filed with the office of Hermitage Treasurer, Bernie Harry. Exemptions must be claimed using the form. The completed form and fee are due by April 15th of each year.

Property owners in the Wheatland neighborhood of the City of Hermitage will experience an 80% reduction in their municipal property taxes as the city has a much lower property tax millage than Wheatland had. City/County property tax bills are mailed in March and property owners will notice the reduced millage on the

city portion of this property tax bill.

School property tax bills are mailed in August and property owners in the Wheatland neighborhood of the City of Hermitage will continue to be assessed school property taxes based upon the Farrell Area School District rate. This is because these properties will continue to be within the attendance boundaries of the Farrell Area School District. In August, Per Capita taxes are also mailed. This is a flat tax on each adult resident with \$20 assessed by the city and \$10 assessed by the Farrell Area School District, for a total of \$30. A low-income exemption is available but must be applied for annually, with proof of income supplied. Individuals with an annual income of \$5,000 or less may be exonerated from the entire \$30 while those with incomes between \$5,000 and \$12,000 may be exonerated from the city portion only, which is \$20.

Since residents of the Wheatland neighborhood now live in the City of Hermitage, those who are employed will be subject to the Hermitage rate for the Earned Income Tax (EIT), which is 1.75% plus the Farrell Area School District rate of .5%, for an overall rate of 2.25%. This is higher than the former Wheatland/Farrell Area School District combined rate of 1.5%. Employers were notified by Berkheimer Tax Collection to apply the higher rate beginning in 2024, but employees should double check with their employer to avoid a tax bill at tax filing time.

Of course, Wheatland neighborhood residents and businesses will enjoy all the municipal services and benefits provided by the City of Hermitage. These include free library cards through the Community Library of the Shenango Valley, a 50% discount on swimming passes at the Buhl Park swimming pool, and access to Hermitage youth recreation and summer camp programs. Additionally, the former Wheatland Borough Building will continue to have office hours on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the Esther H. Viglio Social Hall will continue to be available for rental.

## UPMC Horizon and the City of Hermitage Partner to Launch Minutes Matter

In an emergency, minutes matter. A crisis can happen anytime, anywhere, and even the most basic education can turn a bystander into a life-saving neighbor, friend, or family member. Minutes Matter, a new partnership launched this week between UPMC Horizon and the City of Hermitage, provides community members access to fundamental emergency information and education about life-saving interventions.

"We're proud to partner with the city on this important initiative because you don't have to be a trained medical professional to make a difference in someone's life," said Zachary Lenhart, vice-president, operations, UPMC Horizon. "Learning simple, easy-to-understand emergency skills empowers bystanders to provide critical help during these life-threatening and highly stressful situations."

UPMC's Minutes Matter teaches community members how to respond to common, life-threatening emergencies related to opioid overdose, mental health crisis, uncontrolled bleeding, and cardiac arrest through training in the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), Narcan usage and a tourniquet, as well as how to administer effective CPR.

"This training impacts everyone; the parent of a child whose heart suddenly stops, or someone who comes home to find their partner overdosed, or the person whose friend was just shot in front of them," said Gary Gulla, assistant city manager. "This is not the time to bury our heads and pretend like this stuff doesn't happen. Thanks to this training, you can be the one to save their life. This does not have to be their time to go."

From calling 911, to clearing a path for emergency responders and securing pets, even the most basic education can save lives and improve outcomes. With training, bystanders will recognize a problem more quickly and know what to do until first responders arrive.

"How those first few minutes are handled during a medical or overdose emergency greatly impacts a person's survival rate of that event," said Michele Albaugh, nurse coordinator, UPMC Horizon "One in ten will survive a cardiac arrest if the only intervention provided is dialing 911. Five in ten will survive a cardiac arrest if chest compressions are provided and an AED is used."

For more information on how you can get involved with UPMC's Minutes Matter, visit [MinutesMatter.UPMC.com](https://MinutesMatter.UPMC.com)



HERMITAGE  
ARTS

*Festival*

July 27 & 28, 2024

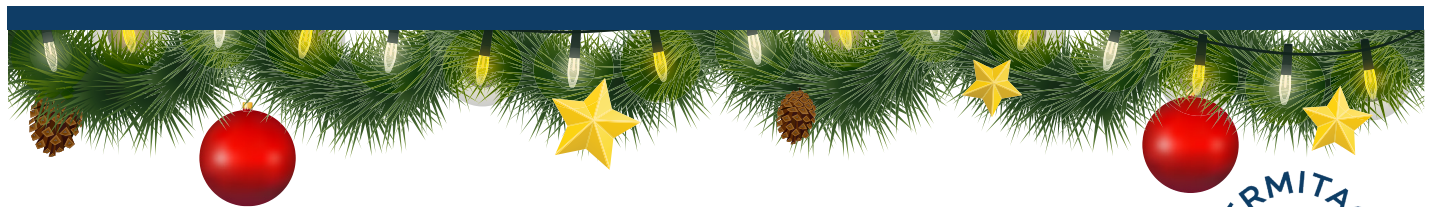
# Call For Artists

The Hermitage Arts Festival Committee is seeking talented individuals and food truck vendors to participate in our Summer Arts Festival, always held the last weekend in July! **To apply, please visit [hermitage.net](http://hermitage.net) and click the 'Forms Center' button - Or- Scan the appropriate QR code. The paper application will no longer be accepted.** All applications/registrations MUST be done online. For more information, please contact us at [events@hermitage.net](mailto:events@hermitage.net) or give us a call at 724-981-0800.

Artists, scan to apply!



Food Truck Vendors,  
Scan to apply!



## 25th Hermitage Holiday Light Parade

So many great floats & entries, congrats to all!



*Thank You!* to the following for helping to make the  
25th annual Holiday Light Parade a tremendous success:

### Fireworks Sponsor

City of Hermitage  
Diehl Toyota Chevrolet of Hermitage  
FLICORE, LLC  
Joy Cone Co.

### Platinum Sponsor

GEM Building Contractors and Developers, Inc.  
Helping Hands Home Care Service, Inc.  
Hudson Group, Inc.  
Protech Asphalt Maintenance, Inc.  
Shenango Honda  
Wallace & Pancher, Inc.

### Gold Sponsor

Brouse McDowell  
Combine Construction, Inc.  
First National Bank of PA  
IAG Consulting, LLC  
KAKE Development (Fred & Ena George)  
Kraynak's  
Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union  
Reinhardt's Agency, Inc.  
UPMC  
Advance Auto Parts  
Hermitage Towne Plaza / J. J. Gumberg Co.  
I C Electric  
Satin Sounds  
Tri-County Industries

### Silver Sponsor

Black, Bashor & Porsch, LLP  
J & T Paving, Inc.  
SCP Group  
Greenville Savings Bank  
HHS DR Architects/Engineers  
Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering, Inc.  
McGonigle Ambulance Service, Inc.  
J. Bradley McGonigle Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc.  
Giant Eagle  
O'Neill Coffee Co.

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



# RECREATION & COMMUNITY EVENTS

## MINUTES MATTER A UPMC Community Initiative



### Open Forum

Monday, February 26th  
6:00-7:00 pm  
@ LindenPointe  
Training & Workforce Building  
3050 Prosperity Place

The City of Hermitage and UPMC are partnering in support of Minutes Matter, a UPMC Community Initiative. Minutes Matter aims to provide Mercer County and surrounding communities with emergency education and information on cardiac events, overdoses, uncontrolled bleeding, and mental health crisis. By attending our open forum, you will gain the knowledge necessary to provide critical assistance when minutes matter.

**No  
Registration  
Required!**

RAISE YOUR GLASS TO UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

## WINE TOUR

GENEVA, OH

SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST

FIVE WINERIES

\$40 PER PERSON

INCLUDES ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION  
(MEALS & DRINKS ON YOUR OWN)



### Yoga Class ALL LEVELS FLOW

with Brittany Yoho

This class is an all-levels flow with a focus on strength, balance, breathing techniques and alignment drills that will enhance one's awareness.

Tuesdays 5:30-6:30  
January, 9th-April, 9th  
Per Class \$10

• Whole Life Services  
1565 E State Street

Registration Open!  
Visit the City's Recreation  
Registration Site!



A class on how to save a life

## CPR Infant & Child

AHA Family and Friends Course

**Performing CPR while waiting for medical assistance can greatly increase a child's chance of survival and lessen the chance of brain damage.**

Join us for a free community training brought to you by  
The City of Hermitage & UPMC - Register Early, seats are limited!

Monday, March 18th from 6:00-7:00 pm  
TWDC @ Linden Pointe- 3050 Prosperity Place



Register on the City's Recreation Site!  
Questions? Email us at [parks@hermitage.net](mailto:parks@hermitage.net)

## COMMUNITY SAFETY CLASSES

PRESENTED BY: THE CITY OF HERMITAGE POLICE DEPT.

- FEB 6** SEX TRAFFICKING AWARENESS  
6PM - 7PM
- MAR 12** SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH/ WELLNESS  
6PM - 7PM
- APR 9** SAFE SOCIAL MEDIA & DECISION MAKING  
6PM - 7PM
- MAY 7** SCHOOL VIOLENCE & STUDENT THREATS  
6PM - 7PM

**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**ALL CLASSES HELD AT THE CITY OF HERMITAGE MUNICIPAL OFFICES**

QUESTIONS? EMAIL  
[SSTAPLES@HERMITAGE.NET](mailto:SSTAPLES@HERMITAGE.NET)

**TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS:  
VISIT HERMITAGE.NET AND CLICK  
THE "REGISTER BUTTON"**

### LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024

**EARTH DAY FESTIVAL**  
April 20th | 12:00-5:00 pm |  
eCenter @ LindenPointe

**NIGHT MARKET DATES**  
July 11 | August 8th |  
September 12th | October 3rd

**ARTS FESTIVAL**  
July 27th | July 28th

**ADULT KICKBALL  
TOURNAMENT**  
August 3rd

**2ND ANNUAL CORN ROAST**  
September 12th in conjunction with  
Night Market

**RIVERS CASINO BUS TRIP**  
September 25th



# THE CITY OF HERMITAGE & BUHL PARK Summer Camp AT BUHL PARK

Be a part of the adventure!

Join The City of Hermitage and Buhl Park for another great year of outdoor fun at Summer Camp! Registration opens Feb 14! Register early to take advantage of installment payments!

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



## Who

All students entering grades 1st through 6th

## What

Outdoor Educational & Recreational Activities All Day Every Day!  
Water Activities  
Environmental Ed  
STEM, Art, Music, Sports & Games, & Special Guests

## When

June 10 - July 19  
Five Days a Week  
9am - 3pm

## How

Visit the City of Hermitage's website & click the 'Register Now' button!  
Registration opens Feb 14 and closes May 19. Register early for installment payment options  
City of Hermitage Residents receive a discount!



SCAN ME

Registration opens: Feb 14

## 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

## Shenango River Watchers



DO YOU ENJOY NATURE? HIKING?  
KAYAKING? VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME?  
**BECOME A RIVER WATCHER!**  
NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE  
ALWAYS WELCOME!

## Public Meeting

March 27th 6:00 PM  
Buhl Park Casino  
715 Hazen Rd. Hermitage, PA



## Family Cleanup

April 6th | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Clark Boat Launch  
2840 Lake Rd. Sharpsville, PA



## 2024 Calendar

March 27 - Public Meeting  
April 6 - Family Cleanup  
April 20 - Earth Day Cleanup  
April 28 - Wild Flower Hike  
May 5 - Fly Casting Clinic  
May 18 - 10 Mile Trail Race  
June 15 - Spring Paddle Fest  
July 13 - July River Cleanup  
August 10 - August River Cleanup  
August 24 - Lake to Lake Paddle Challenge  
September 28 - Fall Paddle Fest  
November 28 - Gobble Wobble



# DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

**REGISTER TODAY- PROGRAM STARTS :  
February 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 (Wednesday) Time: 1pm**

**This is a 12- month program and is taught by a trained Lifestyle Coach. The 12-month lifestyle change is divided into 16 core sessions (1 per week). Followed by 6 post core sessions (1 per month). The program goal is to reduce bodyweight by 7% and to increase physical activity by 150 minutes per week.**

**Call the YMCA and talk with Lifestyle Coach.  
Phyllis Mammarelli 724-981-6950**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**EMPTY BOWLS**  
MERCER COUNTY

**April 25, 2024 • 4-8pm** Hickory VFW Post 6166  
5550 E. State St. Hermitage, PA



Join us for a simple meal of soup and bread and receive a hand crafted bowl as a reminder that food insecurity persists in our local communities. The event features basket raffles, silent auction, live entertainment and cash bar.

**Stay tuned for sponsorship and ticket sale information by visiting our website:  
[www.MercerCountyFoodBank.org](http://www.MercerCountyFoodBank.org)**

## 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.grovecityymca.org](http://www.grovecityymca.org)  
(Select "Valley" branch for the Hermitage location)

### UPCOMING YOUTH SPORTS \*\*Register online or at our Front Desk\*\*

#### Spring Soccer

Co-Ed ages 3-12  
Program runs April 6th - May 11th  
Registration Deadline March 18th

#### Spring Flag Football

Co-Ed Ages 5-12  
Program runs April 13th—May 18th  
Registration Deadline: March 18th

#### Girls Only Spring Flag Football

Girls Ages 7-12  
Program runs April 22nd-May 20nd  
Registration Deadline: April 8th

#### T-Ball

Co-Ed Ages 7-12  
Program runs May 15th-June 25th  
Registration Deadline: May 3rd

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!**

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.

Curious about **PICKLE BALL?** Come in and see what it's about! **Indoors! Rain or Shine!**

**925 N. Hermitage Rd., Hermitage, Pa, 16148 | 724-981-6950 [WWW.GroveCityYMCA.ORG](http://WWW.GroveCityYMCA.ORG)**



## 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.

Pet waste is a contributor to stormwater pollution, contaminating water bodies with bacteria, parasites, and viruses. One gram of dog waste can contain as much as 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which can cause cramps, intestinal illness, and kidney issues in humans, which can leach into the water if dog waste is not properly disposed of. Please make sure to pick up after your pet!

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

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



**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.*

### SCHOLARSHIPS:

Buhl Regional Health Foundation encourages graduating high school seniors in Mercer County to consider a career in healthcare, as we recognize the need for additional healthcare professionals in our area. Our scholarship program provides financial support to local students pursuing secondary education in a wide range of health-related fields, including those in pursuit of an Associates or Bachelors Degree, a Diploma, or Certificate in a health-related field of expertise. Qualified applicants will attend an accredited College, University, Trade, Career, or Vocational school during the 2024-2025 academic school year. Scholarship applications will be accepted through March 31st, 2024 and applicants can "apply their way" this year by submitting a written essay, video essay or a digital presentation. Visit our website to apply!

### GRANTS:

BRHF has released a Request for Proposals (RFP), seeking local organizations with intention to optimize the health of Mercer County children. Letters of interest (LOI) will be accepted through February 9, 2024 for this year's grant cycle. BRHF's 2024 grants will fund collaborative

programming initiatives that strive to improve the health and well-being of local children and/or improve their access to quality, holistic healthcare. Access the grant portal on our website to submit your LOI today.

### 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 training, and CPR Certification to all eligible non-profits, schools, and organizations in Mercer County. Interested parties should apply for the program on our website.

### 2ND ANNUAL FREE COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC:

BRHF will host their 2nd annual community dental clinic this summer, providing crucial dental care to hundreds of Mercer County residents for FREE! The clinic will be open to the public for walk-in dental care on June 8th and 9th at Sharon High School's gymnasium. Comprehensive dental services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. The clinic is volunteer-run and registration is now open for those who wish to support this endeavor with their time and talents. Dental, medical and general volunteers should visit our website to complete the volunteer registration form.

### TEEN GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:

As part of the Youth Grief Support Program, BRHF, in collaboration with Baker Professional Counseling, offers a grief support group for adolescents and teens in 7th-12th grade. The support group

meets on Saturday mornings at Grace Chapel, offering 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 help navigate their grief journey. Registration is required via the intake form on our website.

### CAMP COURAGE 2024:

Registration will open in February for our 3rd Annual Camp Courage program. Camp Courage, held at Buhl Park the week of July 29th – August 2nd, is a weeklong program for children (K-6) who have experienced grief and loss. The camp is free to families and provides both professional and peer support to grieving children, through a thoughtful curriculum focused on the development of coping mechanisms, social skills and therapeutic activities. Registration is required to determine each camper's eligibility. Please register your camper on our website.

### YOUTH FEEDBACK CAMPAIGN:

BRHF has launched an initiative seeking the voices and ideas of youth in our community. Children, youth and teens are invited to complete a brief survey regarding Mercer County's overall health and wellness. All submissions are anonymous and all ideas are welcome! Ask the youth in your household to complete the survey today. Surveys can be accessed via our website's homepage.

### OUR WEBSITE:

For further information regarding our programming and grants, or to access registration or application forms, please visit [www.buhlregionalhealthfoundation.org](http://www.buhlregionalhealthfoundation.org)



# BUHL PARK

HERMITAGE, PA

## Merry & Bright Season Recap

We hope that you had time to enjoy our 2023 Holiday Light display. Please join us in thanking our Holiday Light Display title sponsor, Diehl Chevrolet of Hermitage. 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 9th Annual Benefit Dinner that was held in the Avalon Buhl Ballroom in December. Special thanks for many hours of hard work putting the event together goes to the Benefit Dinner Committee made up of: Mary Cricks, Linda Evans, Mary Anne Grasso, Sandy Gurgovits, Sally Jazwinski, Deanne Koch, Mitzi Kuster, Denise Meier, Maryann Weiner, and Amy Wood.



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

**WINTER LEAGUES:** Whether you're a seasoned pro or just getting started, our indoor golf league is perfect for all skill levels. Grab your clubs and join us for our 2nd session and an unforgettable golfing experience! This session runs for 10 weeks and costs \$25 per week. Location: Buhl Park Golf Course

**Shelters**  
RENTED PER SECTION

**Features:**

- BUILT IN PICNIC TABLES
- PLENTY OF GREEN SPACE
- ELECTRICITY ACCESS
- CLOSE BY RESTROOMS

BUHLPARK.ORG

**Browse or Book:**  
[BUHLPARK.ORG/RENTALS](http://BUHLPARK.ORG/RENTALS)

Starting Date: January 22nd  
Call to register: 725-308-7884

## Outdoor Playgroup

The benefits of outdoor play year-round are numerous, but it's certainly harder to get this valuable outdoor time when it's cold. Join us each week in Sandy's Place for a loosely structured playgroup for preschool and elementary kids. Make new friends, read new stories, and explore Sandy's Place in a new way!

**Winter 2024: January - March**  
**Every THURS 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM**  
**No cost, but email/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**

## Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament Buhl Park July 26-28, 2024

Gus Macker is an organization that facilitates 3-on-3 basketball tournaments all over the country. It was a staple of summertime fun in the Shenango Valley over twenty years ago. The planning committee is bringing the tournament back to the area in July 2024 hosted by our very own Buhl Park. In order for this event to be successful, we need to raise \$50,000. This money will be used to pay for the Gus Macker staff and equipment including hoops and balls, local referees, volunteer swag, security services, medical services, a reduction in registration cost for players, and much more.

The Gus Macker 3-on-3 basketball tournament is designed so that anyone can play. This maintains the purity and integrity of the driveway game. Since 1987, the Macker tour has expanded, holding a total of 972 tournaments with over 2.2 million players – male and female from 7 years old to 50+ – and more than 23 million spectators.

If you are interested in being a partner for this event, please let us know! Your support would provide exceptional brand visibility, networking opportunities, and the chance to showcase your commitment to community events in the Shenango Valley. Thank You!

*Louis Brown, Geoff Evans, Kelsey Gavin, John Heustche, Neil Hosick, Markee Juranovich, Katie Parr, Tom Roskos, Claire Stauch, and Rhonda Stauch*

**2024 Buhl Park Gus Macker Planning Committee**



### Dribble Sponsor

\$250

- Business name listed in the event program
- Logo small on photo backdrop
- Opportunity to provide a promo item in player bag

### Pass Sponsor

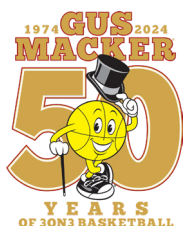
\$500

- Your logo on player tee
- Business listed in program
- Logo mid-size on photo backdrop
- Opportunity to provide a promo item in player bag

### Shoot Sponsor

\$1,000

- Court named after the business
- Logo on 2 banners at court
- Business name on brackets
- Business name announced throughout the tournament
- Logo large on photo backdrop
- Opportunity to provide a promo item in player bag



### Select a level:

- ☐ Dribble
- ☐ Pass
- ☐ Shoot

### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form to:

Buhl Park  
Attn: Markee  
Juranovich  
715 Hazen Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

Make checks payable to  
Buhl Park Corporation

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

Follow us on Twitter @hermitagepa

Like us on Facebook!



# Buhl Community Recreation Center

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

Now is the time to join the Buhl Club! We at the Buhl Club remain committed to providing you with the best experience possible through our facility improvements, program development, staff recruitment, and community engagement. We are thankful for the community support during our much anticipated, state-of-the-art creation of our new Buhl Club facility.

We are very proud to offer to all of our community the recent \$7 million improvement project that includes:

Access to two recently renovated facilities with fully equipped Wellness Centers – Buhl Club (Sharon, PA) and the Baughman Family Community Center (Greenville, PA).

**NEW!** Brand new state-of-the-art workout equipment and free weight room with a new bodyweight training room at the Buhl Club Wellness Center.

Over 50 Group Fitness, Water Aerobics, and Cycle Classes are available weekly, all included in membership.

**NEW!** Free Drop-In Child Watch at both locations for children ages 6 months to 8 years old.

**NEW!** Two accessible Youth Centers with table games and supervision after school.

**NEW!** Elevator to all three floors of the Buhl Club.

Recreation and lap swim for youth, adults, and families are included at no cost.

Monthly events in the gym or pool for youth and families at no cost to family members.

Three classically constructed high-quality handball/racquetball courts.

Basketball and Pickleball courts.

Birthday parties available in the pool and youth center.

Open seven days a week and only closed for select holidays.

**NEW!** One free youth program each year with a family membership and lower cost for all youth programs, including summer camp. Youth programs include swim lessons, basketball skills and drills, dance, gymnastics, preschool sports, soccer skills and drills, art, stem, homeschool programs and more!

This is only the beginning of the next chapter for the Buhl Club. We look forward to the journey. The sky is the limit on what this historic organization can be, and we are excited to shape it with our staff and members. Together, we will strengthen and make our community a better place to live, work and play.

## Monthly Membership Rates

Family \$58  
Adult \$36  
College Student \$25  
High School (13-18) \$20  
Youth (0-12) \$15

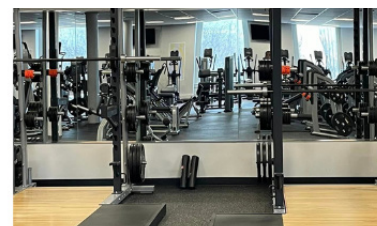
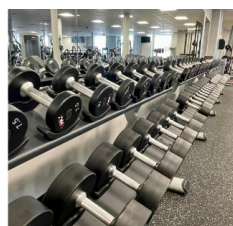
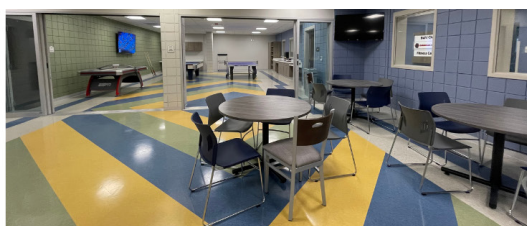
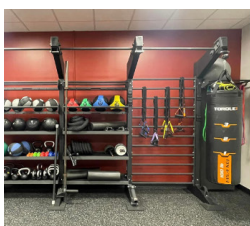


## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

– For over 120 years, the Buhl Club's mission and commitment to the community has been never to deny access due to an inability to pay. We remain committed to that promise today. We encourage anyone to apply for financial assistance should the membership rate present any affordability or financial challenges.

To join now, please scan the QR code or visit our website at [www.buhlclub.org](http://www.buhlclub.org). If you have any questions please contact:

Michelle L. Bower  
Director of Operations  
[mbower@fhbuhlclub.org](mailto:mbower@fhbuhlclub.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



### For Children

**Lego Club:** Tuesdays at 4-6:30 PM

**Story Time:** Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

**Ooey Gooley Art:** Friday, Jan 26

*'To be announced for upcoming months'*

**Read to a Therapy Dog:** Thursdays, Feb 15, Mar 21, at 6:00PM

*'One Friday per month to be announced for upcoming months.'*

### For Teens

**Gaming Club:** Wednesdays, Jan 24, Feb 28, and Mar 27 4-6pm

**Clay Creations:** Wednesdays, Feb 14, and Mar 13, 4-5pm

**Anime Club:** Feb 21, and Mar 20, 4-6pm

*'More teen programs to be announced'*

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



The eCenter continues to add to the economic development in Mercer County by fostering a supportive community and is the launchpad for successful business enterprises. The facility is currently at full capacity and has entrepreneurs in all suites as well as many tenants occupying the co-working spaces. This creates a unique collaborative and supportive work environment. The eCenter recently welcomed the Mercer County Builders Association (MCBA) to co-working. Since its inception in 1977, this organization has paved the way in promoting and improving the relationships of the building industry through political advocacy for common sense building codes, educating builders, and referrals. Earlier this fall, the eCenter family celebrated Kara Wasser, founder and CEO of OhanaLink Technologies as she was recognized on November 14th by Thiel College's Haller Enterprise Institute by receiving the prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The eAcademy has had a great school year so far both in and out of the classroom! Students have had the opportunity to go on a variety of different field trips this year spanning across multiple business and entrepreneurial industries. In October, students got to see the industrial side of Mercer County by visiting Reynolds Services, Inc. in Greenville, known for its distribution of flat rolled steel and tin mill products across the country. It was here that students had the opportunity to explore the elements of creating a quality product which are research, innovation,

safety, quality assurance, durability, and usability. Students also got to experience a sweeter side to business by visiting the Daffin's Candy Factory in Sharon. This facility is 45,000 square feet and creates over one million pounds of chocolate every year. It was here that students learned all about organizational planning which includes using resources efficiently, establishing goals, managing factors of risk, team building, and creating competitive advantages. Another favorite was a fieldtrip to Cycle Life Studio in Downtown Sharon. Instructor Jammie Clark led eAcademy students on a ride focused on building endurance and strength, key factors in not only maintaining good physical health but also traits needed to succeed as an entrepreneur. Back in the eA classroom students got to hear from guest speaker, Amy Javens, who serves on Cycle Life Studio's executive board as a CMO in addition to being a former pro triathlete, and IronMan Champion. With this vast list of experience spanning across not only athletics but also business, she discussed with students the 9 Essential Mental Skills needed to succeed. Local high school juniors can now apply to the eAcademy for their senior year 2025! Interested individuals are encouraged to reach out to their guidance counselors or program director, Katie Parr, directly at [kparr@lindenpointe.com](mailto:kparr@lindenpointe.com) to schedule a tour or to learn more about the program.

The Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Center (PCC) at LindenPointe has had a great first semester with the initial launch of the

program in September. Prior to this, the pilot programs launched in both 2021 and 2022 garnering over 67 total participants. This fall 16 local college students from PSU and SRU, in addition to 16 high school students from Sharon, Hickory, Farrell, Union, and Greenville have embarked on the journey of a lifetime in hopes of filling the 3.4M cybersecurity positions currently unfilled worldwide. The program offers students a unique and effective learning experience as it is virtual, live instructor led, and facilitates real-world experience in the field by assisting participants with job placement services. Through the PCC, students have the opportunity to obtain 2 industry-recognized certifications, CompTIA Network+ and CompTIA Security+. As of recently, the PCC was 1 of 19 PA-based projects chosen to receive funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission's POWER grant and was awarded \$1.15M to expand their efforts. This funding will be the launchpad for future program growth as the PCC will use this for the expansion of its job training and placement program into seven new counties. The PCC is making a local impact as the program was also able to host the Cyber Patriot competition this year. This national youth cyber education program helps direct students toward careers in cybersecurity or other STEM fields and is taught at Hickory High School by computer science teachers Megan Geisel and Joe Kulbacki. The PCC is still accepting new students for 2024. Secure your success today by reaching out to us at [pcc@lindenpointe.com](mailto:pcc@lindenpointe.com)!



## APPLY NOW!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE @  
**HOPECAT.ORG**

## ADULT TRAINING PROGRAMS

### Medical Assistant

HopeCAT offers a one-time institutional grant to cover tuition, materials, and fees.

MA Graduates can be eligible to become double certified in both MA and Phlebotomy

**Must be 18+ with HS diploma or GED**

# Winter Happenings at Artman Elementary

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

December kicked off at Artman with the annual Craftland experience. Craftland is an Artman tradition implemented by the PTO and parent volunteers. Our students work alongside the volunteers to create crafts to share with family and friends. The PTO and volunteers do a great job of coming up with craft ideas that change from year to year so the families are receiving new items each year.

Once again the holiday season came with our annual Angel Tree program. The generosity of school staff, community members, and local businesses enabled us to provide gifts for more than 200 children this year. This effort was coordinated by our elementary guidance

department staff in conjunction with the Delahunty Middle School Students for Charity club and Hickory High School student council.

We are excited to announce that our K-5 Title I Math and Literacy Night will be in February. Our inaugural event last year was a great success with over 100 participants! This will be a relaxed evening of fun math and literacy stations for students and their parents. We will have a group of future educators from Slippery Rock University who, along with Artman and Ionta staff, will plan this wonderful evening. 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?:

Thursday, February 8th, 2024,  
from 6:00-7:00.

## Where?:

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



## 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.

### Gearing Up For Kindergarten:

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 2024

**When:** Tuesday February 13, 2024  
from 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Wednesday February 21, 2024  
from 5:30pm - 6:30pm

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.

### Kindergarten Registration 2024-2025:

#### Online Registration Process:

The Hermitage School District utilizes an online registration process for all incoming students. Registration window for incoming Kindergarten students opens February 1st, 2024. You MUST complete the online registration process in order to set up a Kindergarten screening appointment (see Kindergarten Screening Process below). 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 biological parent) Proof of Residence (deed, lease, two current utility bills, property tax bill) Please note: if you do not have access to a computer, 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 registration process includes an academic screening for kindergarten readiness, a speech/language screening, and vision screening. Our kindergarten screening will take place March 6-7, 2024, 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. If you cannot make your scheduled appointment time, please call to reschedule.

#### Other Requirements and Important Information:

Your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1st, 2024, 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.



# Celebrate its Spelling Bee Winners and Student Service!

**Eric Trosch, Principal,**  
Grades 4-7

Hello Hermitage Community Members! Once again, I am excited to share with all of our Hermitage families the amazing and wonderful school happenings occurring at Ionta and Delahunty Schools. We have been both fortunate and blessed to have the opportunity to work with such quality students and families. I look forward to continuing this school year and watching all of our students become productive citizens.

## Spelling Bee Champions!

Just prior to the winter and holiday break, students in grades four, five and six competed in the Ionta and Delahunty annual Spelling Bee Competition. I am pleased to announce that both Ionta and Delahunty Schools will be sending three students to represent the Hermitage School District in the Mercer County Spelling Bee Competition this year. A special congratulations to our fourth grade Champion, Reese Piccirilli; fifth grade Champion, Ryan Wible; and sixth grade Champion, Kabir Mahli.

This year's Mercer County Spelling Bee Competition is scheduled to take place on



Friday, March 15, in the Sharon City School District.

## Student Service!

The Delahunty Middle School Students for Charity organization is committed to empowering its students with the understanding that other children's needs exist within our community, and that there are opportunities for them to become involved. The primary purpose of Students for Charity is to volunteer or raise funds for charitable purposes each month.

Some of the organization's endeavors of 2023 included the following: a craft drive for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; toiletry baskets for the Building of Hope; grocery bag decorating for the Community Food Warehouse food drive; sandwich preparations for a local homeless shelter; snack bag assembly for the Ronald McDonald House Families; and Christmas present wrapping for younger students in our schools.



Mrs. Kimberly Ghirardi, fifth grade ELA teacher, has been the driving force behind the Students for Charity organization. It is great to watch Mrs. Ghirardi working with all of our Delahunty students in this capacity. Mrs. Ghirardi's passion and commitment for serving others has certainly made a healthy and lasting impact with our students and they, in turn, have made a significant impact on the lives of many children and adults outside our school walls.

"I was so excited to see all the donated toys. It was fun to wrap the gifts knowing that the kids would be so happy to receive them over the holiday break. I think it is more fun to give gifts than to receive." Vice President, Julian Ghirardi

"When helping wrap presents, it made me feel like I did something really good. I hope the kids loved everything we wrapped for them." President, Grace Kapusta

Thank you to all of our students who give back to their community in some way!



# Hickory High School Unified Bocce team thrives in its eighth season

**Chris Gill, principal, grades 11-12, Vince D'Angelo, principal, grades 8-10**

The Special Olympics Unified Bocce program began at Hickory High School in the fall of 2015. This program was initiated in schools to promote social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences for people with and without intellectual disabilities. According to the Special Olympics Unified Bocce handbook, this means that, "every player is given an opportunity to contribute to the success of his or her team through their unique skills and qualities." At the time of its inception, Hickory High School, the Special Olympics Association, and Slippery Rock University collaborated to institute a pilot program. Veteran special education teacher, Mrs. Kim Smith, took on the role as the head of the new program. Mrs. Smith worked with Special Olympics and Slippery Rock University students to build a team and a program that, to this day, engages all team members in "meaningful involvement". Through the collaboration between Mrs. Smith, SRU student-coaches, and students from the Life skills and general education classrooms, the program continued to grow; and, in the fall of 2019, the bocce team doubled from one team to two. Currently, the team is coached by Mrs. Laura Mount, Mrs. Cheri Manners, and Mrs. Kerri McCowien. Mount and Manners have been with the teams since 2019; while McCowien joined in 2022, upon Mrs. Smith's retirement. There are 18 student athletes on the 2023-24 team.

A unique additional component to all Unified Sports programs is that each team is required to develop and implement a fundraising event. The results of the team's efforts have increased just as the participants have. In fact, Hickory High School, through its "April Showers" fundraising campaign, has been a

top fundraising school for all of Western Pennsylvania for several years.

The Bocce program now includes a Bocce Club as one of the building's organized clubs. It supports the team and its fundraising efforts. HHS Bocce also enjoys a growing student fan base in the school; and, more importantly, has opened the doors of inclusion. Our HHS Bocce team is breaking down stereotypes and demonstrating that all students have the value and the skills to make a lasting impact on the school community. We are extremely proud of what the program has brought to our school!

## Hickory High School hosts its 13th-annual Business Week

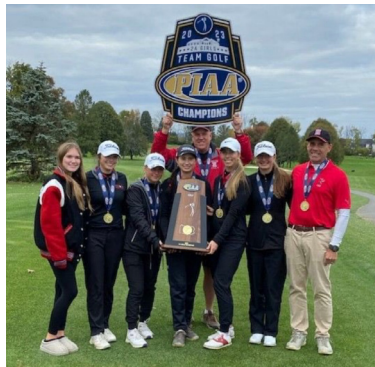
Hickory High School and the Hermitage School District is proud to partner with the Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System in offering our annual Business Week program to the Class of 2024 for the 13th consecutive year. Through generous support from both Cronimet Specialty Metals and The Hudson Companies, Hickory High School is able to offer this worthwhile & meaningful program. During Pennsylvania Business Week, Hickory seniors focus on team building, financial literacy, and creativity. Congratulations to our winning team and to the Class of 2024 for their participation and positive energy.





# Hermitage School District Central Admin

Dan Bell, Superintendent, Hermitage School District



## Several HSD teams earn District, Region and State accolades

Hickory High School is proud to highlight three of our fall PIAA competitive teams that earned District championships and beyond, as well as five individuals who earned a spot in state-level competitions.

**Girls' golf team:** 2023 District and State Champions. 3rd straight state championship.

**Girls' golf individual state qualifiers:** Seniors Ava Liburdi and Sasha Petrochko, and junior Luciana Masters.

**Football:** 2023 District Champions and State Semi-finalists. 4th time in school history.

**Competitive Cheer:** 2023 District Champions. 6th consecutive year.

**Cross country state qualifiers:** Senior Macie Horvath and junior Caden Reithmiller.

## HSD and Hermitage Goodfellows join forces in food drive

The Hermitage School District and the Hermitage Goodfellows organization once again joined forces to hold a December food drive where our students and staff donated a total of over 4,000 non-

perishable items. The Goodfellows have been an ongoing support to our schools by donating money annually to be used for students who demonstrate need. Thank you to the Goodfellows, our students, and families for your overwhelming support and generosity!

## Cyber Security class competes in CyberPatriot competition

Mrs. Megan Geisel's Cyber Security class at Hickory High School is at the forefront of preparing students for the challenges of the digital age by competing in the CyberPatriot Competition. Mrs. Geisel partnered with Penn State University faculty member, Mr. Matthew DeMaria, to support the students during the competition. Mr. DeMaria has been a welcome resource in helping the students with some of the more technical aspects of the competition, such as the Cisco Packet Tracer activity.

CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air & Space Forces Association to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future.

CyberPatriot is a national competition that is open to all schools and approved youth organizations throughout the

United States. The competition, which is for 9-12 graders, is broken into rounds where it challenges students to secure virtual operating systems and networks. In each round, students get a number of virtual machines that are loaded with computer viruses, malware, unidentified users, users with incorrect permission, or any number of other issues that could compromise an organization's network. The virtual machines could be Debian, Ubuntu, Windows 11, Windows Server 22 and more. The students are given three to four hours to find the compromising issues in each of the virtual machines for points. Each security issue they find and eradicate gives them points towards their team total. At the end of each round, the points are totaled and the teams are ranked. In this year's competition, two of our HHS teams advanced to the semi-finals, which took place Friday, January 19th. You can go to <https://hermitagesd.net/hickory-high-school-2/> for semi-final results.

We are excited for the opportunities the Cyber Security class has to offer our students. In addition to the competition, students can enroll in a cyber security certification program through Linden Pointe or Penn State University, as well as earn PSU college credits.



Follow us on Twitter @hermitagepa

Like us on Facebook!

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



# Bulk Trash Collection Days

April 29th-May 2  
September 23-26

## 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.

## 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.



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.

## FREE PRC's TRAVELING GLASS RECYCLING BIN

April 27th – May 2nd  
7 a.m. to Sundown

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.

## Hard-to-Recycle (H2R) 2024 Event Calendar



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

# YES

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

# NO

- Cell Phones
- Fluorescent Tubes
- CFLs
- Electronics
- Paint, Chemicals, etc.
- Batteries

## NEW in 2024: BRING US YOUR BOOKS!

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.

February 13	Slippery Rock Township Municipal Building 4334 US Route 422, New Castle, PA
March 12	Springfield Township Municipal Building 406 Old Ash Road, Mercer, PA
April 9	Hermitage City Building 800 North Hermitage Road, Hermitage, PA
May 14	North Beaver Township Road Department Garage 437 Kyle Road, New Castle, PA
June 11	Ellwood City Public Works Garage 105 Sixth Street, Ellwood City, PA
July 9	Hempfield Township Municipal Building 278 South Mercer Street, Greenville, PA
August 13	City of Farrell Municipal Building 500 Roemer Boulevard, Farrell, PA
September 10	Mahoning Township Building 4538 West State Street, Hillsville, PA
October 8	New Castle Public Library 207 East North Street, New Castle, PA
November 12	Munnell Run Farm/Mercer County Conservation District 753 Greenville Road, Mercer, PA
December 10	Lawrence County Recycling/Solid Waste Dept. Gettings Annex at Lawrence County Courthouse, New Castle, PA

# From the Fire Chief

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



The members of the fire department are hoping you had a safe and happy holiday season. You have probably received our annual truck fund support packet. This packet was mailed

to all the businesses and residents of Hermitage. We encourage everyone to help support the fire department and our mission. This is the only packet we send out to our residents during the year. If you receive something in the mail other than our packet, or get a phone call requesting a donation from us, it is not us.

We are excited to announce our new program, Community Connect. This program is a great tool for our responding firefighters. This program is free to Hermitage residents and can make a big difference if you need our services. When you set up your account, which is a very secure account, you will be asked several questions about your home, hazards, special needs, and contact information. It is best to complete the entire questionnaire. If you have an emergency and need the fire department, we will be able to access this information while we are enroute to your location. When time is of the utmost importance, the information you have provided will make us more prepared when we arrive on scene.

So far, we have had a couple hundred people sign up for this program. One resident put in their description that their bedrooms are on the second floor. The master bedroom is at the front of the

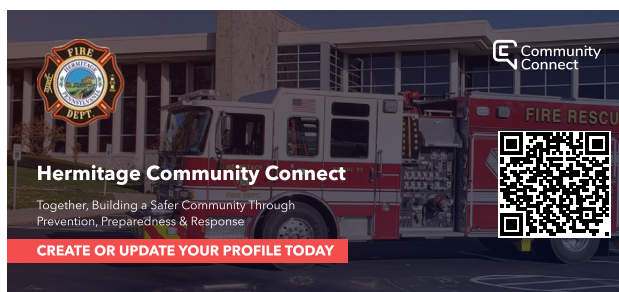
house and the two children's bedrooms are at the back of the house. In the event of a fire at night, we will know immediately where to look for any of their missing family members. The program also can tell us if there is someone living in the home that needs extra help getting out, or is bed ridden. You can tell us about your pet's, friendly or aggressive, and even upload a picture so we can identify them quickly.

Our firefighters' safety is also very important. With this program you will be able to tell us about different hazards within your home. For example, we know there are a lot of homes within Hermitage that have oxygen bottles inside their homes due to health issues. During a fire, this can be very dangerous to our firefighters and has the potential of injuring one of them during a fire attack. With the Community Connect program, you can identify this type of hazard and the storage location of these oxygen bottles. This information will help us make safer decisions and, in the end, will help us keep our firefighters safe.

I have created an account for my home, and I have shared information about my family members and our pets, three bulldogs. It

is easy to set up an account, and filling out the information only took a few minutes. Here is the website to create your account for your home and family: <https://www.communityconnect.io/info/pa-hermitage>

Community Connect is not just for residences but can also be used for businesses. We are strongly encouraging all businesses and residents of Hermitage to sign up and let us help you more efficiently during your time of need.



## 1 Create account

Sign in for free and get started doing your part. It just takes your email, phone number and address.

## 2 Enter the info that matters most

Enter valuable information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.

## 3 Help your Fire Department when seconds count

That's it. Just keep us updated when things change overtime so we can always be prepared.

### WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION CAN I PROVIDE?

#### For Households

Any information you provide through Community Connect is completely voluntary and based on what you are comfortable sharing. We have made it easy for you to know what may be important by organizing your secure portal into buckets of information you can enter.

#### For Businesses

Enable your business, school, age-care facility or other public location First Responders with critical information, valuable emergency plans and more - available at a moment's notice in the event of an incident. Stay aware with notifications from First Responders through text messages in the event they are ever dispatched to your property.

### HOW SECURE IS MY DATA AND HOW IS IT USED?

Data that you provide Community Connect is secure and is used only for the purpose of better serving you during emergency situations. Your information is never used for any other purpose. All logins are password protected with bank level encryption and security. If you're comfortable logging in to your online bank you'll be comfortable logging in to Community Connect.



Your Property



Your People



Your Plans



Your Pets



Your Needs



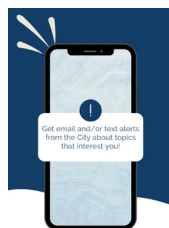
Your Property



Your Contact Info



Community Connect is Safe & Secure



Sign up for SMS alerts!

## Sign up for Notify Me

Love our e-newsletter but looking for more? Have you heard about the 'Notify Me' feature? Get email and/or text alerts from the City about topics that interest you by subscribing to various modules on our website.

You can sign up for 'News Flash' or our Events Calendar to receive the

latest updates on upcoming City-sponsored events. Additionally, registering for our 'Agenda Center' will ensure you never miss important updates from our various boards.

To subscribe, visit [www.hermitage.net/list.aspx](http://www.hermitage.net/list.aspx)

## Call for Volunteers

Community is more than where we live or the name of our city. It's 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](mailto:parks@hermitage.net) | (724)981-0800 ext. 1240





# Hermitage Historical Society

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

Thank you to ALL for making our annual Christmas tree tours a success. Since 1999, the Hermitage Historical Society has decorated our beautiful 1869 Stewart mansion for the holidays, and each year, we are overwhelmed by the support from our community. Our sincerest thanks.

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 are \$27 and available from any Hermitage Historical Society member. Thank you to everyone who helped with information for the book and/or allowed their homes to be part of this book.

## New Members Are Always Welcome:

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

The Hermitage Historical Society is launching a 2024 fundraising campaign for building and maintenance needs. Monetary donations may be brought to any public meeting OR be mailed to:

**Hermitage Historical Society**  
**Attn. Treasurer**  
**c/o 4200 Morefield Rd.**  
**Hermitage, PA 16148**

The Hermitage Historical Society is in need of donations of gently used items for sale at our flea markets. All proceeds go to the maintenance of the house and other Hermitage Historical Society endeavors. We are also 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. Lastly, Aluminum pull tabs from any container (pop, soup, pet food, etc.) for donation to the Ronald McDonald House. If anyone is interested, please contact the society at 724-877-7996 or message us on Facebook. Thank you in advance.

## Flea Market May 4th 8am-2pm

It's hard to believe, but our first Flea Market of 2024 is only a few short months away. Vendors can set up for \$10. (rain or shine). Call 724-877-7996 if you have interest in setting up

## 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 19 - 7pm

Ron Viglio on the history of Wheatland and the merger with Hermitage

#### April 16 - 7pm

TBD.

#### May 21 - 7pm

Dan Maurice on postcards chronicling the history of the Shenango Valley

### Historical Society Officers:

President: Cameron Linton  
Vice President: David Gibb  
Second Vice President: Dan Maurice  
Treasurer: Rod McAdams  
Secretary: Barb Matejka  
Assistant Secretary: Cindy Cox  
Board Members: Brenda Kulka, Maria Koledin, Dave Fodor, Michael Ristvey

## From the Desk of the Treasurer

### Bernie Harry, City Treasurer

Welcome 2024 and welcome to all 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.

For your convenience, we carry forms for Rent and Tax rebates as well as Homestead applications in our office.

Just a reminder that tax bills are mailed twice a year. The County/City portion of your real estate bill goes out on March 1st of each year. 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 home-owners responsibility to know the due dates of taxes. It is important to keep your original bill for payment.

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! School bills and December courtesy notices both explain that we cannot accept personal checks for any payment after December 15th of the current year. After that date, you may still pay until December 31st by bank check, cash or money order. Personal checks received after Dec. 15th will be returned to the owner.

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. 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.



Remember 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.

Sincerely,

**Bernie Harry,**  
**Hermitage Treasurer**



## Parks & Recreation

800 North Hermitage Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

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

ECRWSEDDM  
Hermitage  
Postal Customer

## City of Hermitage Board of Commissioners

Duane Piccirilli (Board President), William Moder, III (Board Vice-President), Cameron S. Linton, 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](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/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 [eaalerts@hermitage.net](mailto:eaalerts@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



@cityofhermitage



@hermitagepa



City\_of\_Hermitage



@hermitagepa



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