



Community Update

Volume 25, Issue 78

Fall 2024



In This Issue

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|---|----|
| Spotlight Business - | Hermitage for the Holidays..... | 8-9 | Buhl Club..... | 16 |
| King's Jewelery..... | Recycling/Yard Waste/Garbage | 10 | Comm. Library of SV..... | 17 |
| Holiday Light Parade..... | School District..... | 11-14 | Shenango River Watchers..... | 17 |
| Annual Merry Christmas Mile..... | Cares 4 Kids Backpack Project..... | 14 | Buhl Park | 18 |
| Hermitage Trick or Treat | Holiday Angel Tree Program..... | 14 | Water Quality Corner..... | 18 |
| Winter Solstice..... | Buhl Reg. Health Foundation..... | 15 | White House Cyber Director Visits | 19 |
| Night Market Recap..... | Hermitage Historical Society | 15 | From the Desk of the Treasurer..... | 19 |
| Upcoming Events | YMCA..... | 16 | How to Stay in the Know..... | 20 |

spotlight business



King's Jewelry Opens New Store

King's Jewelry has a storied history in Hermitage and now a new location at 2220 E. State Street, across from the Hermitage Towne Plaza. King's relocated after the Shenango Valley Mall closed, opening its new store, which is beautifully appointed with two stories of space to show off its exquisite inventory. "This is our first standalone, company-owned building," said co-owner, David Perelman. "We even included a minibar stocked with refreshments and snacks for our customers," remarked Jennifer Perelman, his sister and co-owner.

Founded by their great grandfather, Jacob Perelman in Wheeling, West Virginia in 1914, David and Jennifer purchased King's in 2014. In addition to the Hermitage location, King's has stores in New Castle, Cranberry Township, Monaca, Washington, and St. Clairsville and East Liverpool, Ohio. "With seven locations, we have the buying power to compete with the large chains while offering the customer service and attention to detail of a locally owned business," said David. Jennifer distinguished the business from online stores which only offer computer images, observing, "A picture doesn't tell the whole story."

Carrie Necastro is the long-time Manager of the Hermitage store, and she and her team have helped thousands of satisfied customers purchase that special piece of jewelry.

over the years. "The knowledge and experience of our staff really sets us apart and is invaluable to meeting the needs of our customers," said David. King's offers a wide selection of engagement, wedding, and anniversary rings, women's, men's and children's jewelry, top brands, watches, licensed products, and gifts. King's is also a full-service jeweler, providing financing, insurance, repairs, purchasing, and education.

Family, philanthropy, local business and caring are the cornerstones of King's philosophy, and the company supports numerous charities in each of its locations. The business is built on longstanding relationships and integrity and King's is a proud member of the American Gem Society, Jewelers of America, the Continental Buying Group, and Preferred Jewelers International. "I remember watching my grandfather sorting the smallest of diamonds and making everything just perfect," said Jennifer. While David recalled wrapping employee Christmas gifts with Jennifer in their father's store when they were young.

"We enjoy being a part of our customers' special moments by helping them select that unique piece of jewelry," David remarked on their passion as jewelers. On their decision to open the new store, Jennifer related that so many customers have told them "We're so glad you decided to stay."

**KING'S
JEWELRY**

2220 E. State St.
Hermitage, PA 16148

724-347-7735

Hours:

Monday - Saturday
10AM - 6PM

Closed Sunday

www.kingsjewelry.com

Follow us on Facebook!
Kings Jewelry



SEIKO

Hermitage

Holiday Light Parade

The 26th Annual Hermitage Holiday Light Parade is scheduled for **Saturday, November 23rd 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 Towne 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. Register by Sunday, November 10th



Annual Merry Christmas Mile

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024 - 5:50pm Sharp - No delay on start time

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

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

Register by mail or for an additional fee there is [online registration](http://www.runhigh.com) 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 16)

***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: Jenna Riethmiller
2329 Valley View Rd, Hermitage, PA 16148

Registration Fees are Not Refundable

For more information email inquiries to: jriethmiller717@gmail.com

*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: _____

Trick or Treat



**CITY OF
HERMITAGE**

**Thursday,
October 31, 2024
5:00-7:00 PM**



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

As the days grow cooler and the nights stretch longer, we invite you to come together, embrace the warmth of community, and celebrate the magic of the Winter Solstice. This special time marks the shortest day and longest night of the year, offering us a chance to reflect, reconnect, and welcome the return of light.

Join us fireside for our third annual Winter Solstice Celebration and the timeless tradition of the Yule Log burning. On December 21st, let's leave behind the past year's worries and set intentions for the bright new year ahead.

Winter Solstice & Burning of the Yule Log
Located at Rodney White Olympic Park

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

Live Music & Entertainment

Roasted Chestnuts & Savory Brats

Cozy Beverages & Delicious Treats

Beer Wagon & Seasonal Favorites

Gather your friends and family for an evening of warmth, joy, and celebration!



HERMITAGE SECOND ANNUAL CORN ROAST & NIGHT MARKET

As part of our September Night Market, the City of Hermitage organized a corn roast, with corn generously provided by Lengel Brothers Farms. All proceeds were directed to support the Stull Nature Reserve. Thanks to the community's participation, we raised over \$800 in funds. If you missed out on purchasing one of our exclusive 'Shuck Yeah' Corn Roast t-shirts, they're still available at the City of Hermitage Municipal Offices for \$20. This corn roast was our second annual event, and we appreciate your support in making it a success. Thank you for helping us support Stull Nature Reserve and for your continued involvement in our community activities.





**Yoga Class
ALL LEVELS
FLOW**

**Tuesdays 5:30-6:30
w/ Brittany Yoho**

**Thursdays 5:30-6:30
w/ Laurie Joanow**

\$10 per class

**@ Whole Life Services
1565 E State Street**

Registration Open!

Twice the Flow:
Check Out Our
New Flow
Yoga Schedule

**SCAN
ME! »**



GET YOUR SHARE OF \$1,000,000 TO GROW YOUR IDEA!



Discover how Mercer County is fueling innovation with a \$1,000,000 fund dedicated to growing the most groundbreaking ideas.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PROPEL YOUR BUSINESS OR IDEA FORWARD! VISIT US AT BFCNP.ORG/MCF

**SCAN
ME! »**





Penn-Northwest DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 

Make it in!
MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Trendy
SoSoTrendy.com

Pink Friday SALE

Join Us for Special Savings

**Friday, November 22
11-5pm**

3642 E State St. Hermitage, Pa 16148

BOO-TIQUE HOP

OCT. 24TH | 4-8:00 PM | HERMITAGE, PA

WEBB WINERY
OF HERMITAGE

Diane's Boutique
women's and children's clothing

Poppy Rd. BOUTIQUE

Best Life
Boutique

Trendy
SoSoTrendy.com



**Munnell Run Farm
Workshop Series**

A Collection of Walks, Talks, & So Much More

Bats

Tuesday, October 8th
6:00 PM

Munnell Run Farm, Mercer, PA
\$5/Person

Register at MercerCountyCD.com

4TH ANNUAL MONSTER MASH

**OCTOBER
19TH 12:30-3PM**

VISIT US ONLINE @ HopeCAT.org

724-308-5135 | 115 Anson Way | Sharon PA | 16146

HOPE
CAT



**MERCER COUNTY
FOOD BANK**

Truck-Full of Hope

FOOD DRIVE

November 1st – December 15th

Help to feed our food insecure neighbors in Mercer County this holiday season! Bring 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, November 1st through December 15th.

DIEHL
AUTOMOTIVE
2757 E. State St.
Hermitage, PA

LindenPointe
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

eAcademy eCenter@LindenPointe Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Center

TRUNK OR TREAT

FREE Community Event



JOIN US FOR SOME:

- Candy, of course! with over a dozen businesses hosting trunks this year!
- "Spooky Sidewalk" with children's activities for little ones!
- Kettle Korn for Sale
- Halloween Cookies for Sale & a special visit from the Hermitage police and fire departments!

Don't forget to wear your costumes!

Saturday October 26, 2024 | 12PM while candy lasts | eCenter Parking Lot 3580 Innovation Way Hermitage, PA 16148

Field & Facility Reservation Requests Go Online!

To reserve fields or facilities, all requests must be submitted through the City of Hermitage's ActiveNet Registration and Recreation website. You will need a customer account to make a reservation.

Available spaces for reservations include:

- Virginia Road multipurpose fields
- Hermitage Athletic Complex multipurpose and softball fields
- Rodney White Park gazebo and multipurpose fields
- LindenPointe trails
- Training Workforce Development Center at LindenPointe
- Wheatland Community Center

To get started, simply visit our ActiveNet website, create your account, and submit your reservation requests!



DEK Hockey Rink Open!



We are excited to announce that the DEK hockey rink at the Hermitage Athletic Complex, located at 750 S Darby Road, is now open to the public and free for use!

The rink offers a great space for casual play, pick-up games, and league play. If you're looking to host a private event, the rink is available for reservation at just \$20 per hour. To reserve the rink for your event, please visit the City of Hermitage's registration and reservation site.

Come out and enjoy this wonderful community resource!



Hermitage for the Holidays

The holiday season kicks off on Saturday, November 23rd with the 26th annual Hermitage Light Parade. The family friendly event starts with a pre-parade 1-mile run followed by the parade beginning promptly at 6:00 p.m., and includes fireworks, decorative floats, high school bands and much more. The parade starts on East State Street at the intersection of Kerrwood Drive (Kraynak's) and ends near the Shenango Valley Mall property. Awards for best presentations are conferred in several categories including schools, bands, clubs and organizations, government, and entertainment, as well as the Iceberg Awards for best corporate and nonprofit floats, and the Twinkle Award for brightest lights.



The Hermitage Historical Society begins their Christmas Tree Tours on Saturday and Sunday, November 30th and December 1st from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The free event is held at Stewart House, 5465 East State Street, and continues on December 6th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; December 7th and 8th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; December 13th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and December 14th and 15th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It features three floors of thematic decorated trees, over 30 in total, as well as various Christmas decorations throughout the mansion.



Kraynak's Santa's Christmasland is open from now through December 31st and draws visitors from across the region. Santa's Christmasland is a 300-foot, indoor starlight avenue of uniquely designed artificial Christmas trees. Each tree has a specific theme that is enhanced and complimented by surrounding scenery and a cast of life-like animated characters. Kraynak's is located at 2525 East State Street.

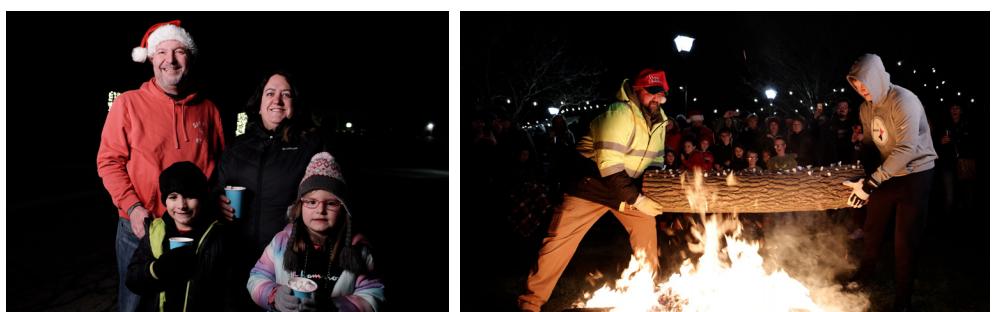


Buhl Park



Buhl Park is always a favorite for the holiday season and this year is no exception. Carols and Choirs will take place on December 7th from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. with local high school choirs presenting traditional carols and modern-day holiday favorites, from the Casino steps. Warm beverages and seasonal treats will be available for purchase and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to enjoy the evening. The annual Buhl Park holiday fundraiser, "Celebrate the Season" will be held at Avalon at Buhl Country Club on December 13th from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event features a festive dinner, live entertainment and a silent auction. Tickets may be obtained by contacting the Buhl Park office at 724-981-5522. Of course, the park will be beautifully decorated for the holidays with over 60 illuminated trees along the circumference of Lake Julia, and the Casino building will be brightly decorated with holiday wreaths and lights.

The city's 3rd Annual Winter Solstice Celebration is set for Saturday, December 21st from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Rodney White Olympic Park (just behind the Hermitage City Building). The event features serene music, horse drawn carriage rides, food and beverage vendors, and the burning of the Yule Log, containing personal, handwritten messages reflecting on the past year and expressing intentions for the year to come. Winter Solstice marks the shortest day of the year, in terms of daylight, and the return of light as the days grow longer thereafter.



Shopping for holiday gifts and personal indulgences is always a big part of the holidays in Hermitage. Small Business Saturday, a national event to support local small businesses, is set for Saturday, November 30th. Many Hermitage small businesses will offer sales and giveaways as part of the celebration. Enjoy this opportunity to find those special items while supporting your neighbors and friends who make the Hermitage business community special.



RECYCLING DO's & DON'Ts

What to toss into your recycling bin can be confusing. It is important that residents and businesses follow the rules, policies, and guidelines established for their local programs.

People often think that because something is "plastic" that it is recyclable. This is not the case. The same holds true with the "recycling" symbol and number commonly found on plastic items. The purpose of the symbol and number is to indicate the resin type. It has nothing to do with recycling!

Instead, focus on the shape of item. When it comes to recycling, think "plastic bottles/jugs, metal cans, and clean paper." If you're holding a plastic item, consider if it is a bottle. For example, butter tubs, yogurt containers, and clam-shell/take-out food containers are plastic and usually have a recycling symbol and number on them. But—they are not a bottle/jug and belong in the trash. When in doubt, throw it out. RECYCLING SHOULD BE LOOSE, NOT BAGGED.

What Can I Recycle?

ACCEPTED

#1 & #2 Plastic Bottles & Jugs, • Metal Cans (Aluminum, Steel, and Bi-metal), • Clean Paper (Cardboard, Magazines, Newspaper, Mixed Paper). • Junk Mail.

Not Accepted:

Any Plastics (other than bottles/jugs), Plastic Bags, Styrofoam, Glass Bottles, Vinyl Siding, Construction Material, Wood, Contaminated Papers and Boxes, Ceramic Cups, etc.

Does it Belong in Your Recycling Bin?



Hermitage Recycling, Yard Waste, Garbage

E-Waste Recycling Program

- Year-round @ the City Garage 5250 Virginia Road
- **1st & 3rd Fridays** – 7 a.m.-noon
- \$20.00 tag / item. Purchase at the Municipal Building.

Acceptable e-waste includes:

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

Tire & Appliance Recycling

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

2024 Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste collection will take place as part of your normal curbside collection on a weekly basis starting the week of April 15th.

(Green-lid) yard waste carts or biodegradable bags may be placed at the curb on a weekly basis on your regular collection day. There is no limit to the amount of biodegradable bags a household can place at the curb.

Acceptable yard waste includes: Leaves, Grass clippings, Plants and flowers, Roots, Sawdust, Shrubbery and pruning, Branches, tree limbs under 3" in diameter, Brush up to 3' in length

For more information, please visit hermitage.net or call

Aiken Refuse @ (724) 758-9400
www.aikenrefuse.com

City of Hermitage @ (724) 981-0800
www.hermitage.net

Bulk Trash Collection Dates - FALL 2024

Aiken Refuse, the new curbside provider of solid waste, recycling, and yard waste collection services in the city of Hermitage, will be providing customers with a FALL bulk trash cleanup, similar to years past. The collection schedule will be different from past years. Please see below for details on when to expect your Fall bulk trash collection to occur. Questions may be directed to Aiken Refuse, 724 758-9400, contact@aikenrefuse.com or www.aikenrefuse.com. Aiken will only collect bulk trash from residents who are current on their quarterly garbage bill.

For Thursday Collection Residents - please set out your bulk items for pick up by Sunday, October 13th for collection the week of October 14th-18th*

*Residents with other collection days, your bulk pickup week was prior to this publication's printing.

Accepted Items

Lawn Chairs, Lamps, Bicycles, Carpet Rolls (no more than 4 feet in length), Appliances (large and small), Furniture, Tables, Washers, Dryers, Stoves, Window glass, Mattresses (any size), Freon - Air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, and freezers must have their doors disabled and Freon removed and be properly tagged by a certified technician.

Items Not Accepted

Bagged Leaves, Computers, TVs, Fluorescent light bulbs, Construction material

This collection is for bulk items only, so extra regular garbage put in bags, boxes or other trash receptacles will not be accepted

HSD welcomes new board members and professional employees

The Hermitage School District was pleased to welcome two new School Board Directors in December of 2023, as well as five new permanent employees to our district for the start of the 2024-25 school year. Enjoy a quick introduction from each of them:



Victoria Tomko
Hermitage School Board of Directors

I was born and raised in Hermitage and graduated from Hickory High School in 2013. I went to Lock Haven University where I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with concentrations in Marine, Ecology, and Environmental Sciences. Since graduating college, I've worked at the South Carolina Aquarium, in the oil & gas industry completing environmental inspections, and for the EPA conducting fish surveys in the New England States. I currently work at the Water Pollution Control Plant/Food Waste to Energy Facility for the City of Hermitage, where I am the Environmental Operations Coordinator and Sewage Enforcement Officer. Outside of work I enjoy traveling, golfing, and spending time with family, friends, my boyfriend Jonathan, and our dog, Bruce.

What I enjoy most about being on the school board is learning all the different dimensions of the school district and how they operate separately, but ultimately come together as one. It is a very different perspective than just being a student at the school. I am glad I have been able to be a part of the community since moving back to the area by serving on the school board.



Lucy Nicastro,
Hermitage School Board of Directors

I have been married to Edward Nicastro for 25 years, and have worked at Interstate Chemical for 16 years. I have a daughter and three step-sons: Bianca Napolita, a Hickory grad and now a Pharmacist in Pittsburgh with her fiancé Josh Cafarella; Eddie Nicastro and his wife, Tina, and their three children, Sophia, Giada, and Mila; Gino Nicastro and his wife, Angela, and their two children, Kiera and Nina; and Justin Nicastro and his wife, Lisa, and their three children, Francesca, Luca, Gia. I am on the Board for the Animal Protection League of western PA and was previously on the Board for the Shenango Valley Animal Shelter. My hobbies include helping animals by supporting various fundraisers, playing Bocce and watching my grandkids in all their activities.

I enjoy being on the school board to be able to support our staff, teachers, and students, with our number one priority being safety.



Gianna Brown
7th grade learning support teacher

I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education and Special Education from Thiel College. This is my second year as a special education teacher. I got married this summer, I am one of five sisters, and I have many nieces and nephews. I enjoy horseback riding and traveling. I look forward to getting to know the students and doing my part to help them reach their fullest potential.



Jennifer Cardon
3rd grade general education teacher

I have my degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood Development, and a Master's in Educational Leadership. Both are from Edinboro University of PA.

I am married to an amazing man, Frank, who coaches football at both the elementary and high school level for Hickory. We have five beautiful children! Our oldest daughter, Emersyn, is a junior; our second daughter, Annistyn, is a freshman; our oldest son, Jett, is in 5th grade; our youngest daughter, Giovanna, is in 2nd grade; and our youngest son, Frankie, is in kindergarten, all within the Hermitage School District. I'm the happiest when spending time with my family. I love attending their sporting events and watching them grow in all areas of life. In my free time I enjoy baking, the outdoors, and taking long walks with my kids and our dog.

I am so excited to be a part of the Hermitage School District and feel fortunate to be a part of the positive and supportive group of educators that provide a love of learning in all of their students while building the pathway to help them reach their dreams.



Duncan McCoy
12th grade social studies teacher

I am a graduate of Slippery Rock University with a bachelor's degree in Social studies and secondary education. I grew up around Slippery Rock and went to Slippery Rock High School. My parents are Drew and Holly McCoy and I have one younger sister named Bronwyn who currently goes to the University of Pittsburgh. At SRU, I was a

member of the varsity men's soccer team for three years, something I am very proud to be an alumni of.

In my free time, I enjoy going on distance runs, watching soccer, football and basketball, as well spending time with my family and friends.

I look forward to becoming part of an amazing town, school district, and building at Hickory High School. Immediately, when I started my student teaching here last Spring, I knew how special of a school HHS is. I also look forward to growing as a teacher and role model for students for years to come. There is no place I would rather be than Hermitage, PA.



Mara Weekley
3rd grade general education teacher

I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from John Carroll University in 2023. I am currently working toward my Master of Education degree at Youngstown State University.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, being active and outside, doing crafts, and reading. I love to design and create different shirts, signs, and educational materials for use in both my personal and professional life!

As an alumna of the district, I have learned so much from the educators within Hermitage and look forward to collaborating with the staff at Artman to gain new ideas to better myself as a teacher and create the most conducive learning environment for students



Sarah Zets
K-3 Certified School Nurse

I attended Jameson Nursing School for my RN licensure, and earned my Bachelor of Science degree from Slippery Rock University. This is my 6th year as a school nurse.

I have been married for 14 years. We have three children, Conner, age 8, Sadie, age 6, and Scarlett, age 2. I enjoy gardening and reading in what little spare time I have between activities and sports for the kids.

I look forward to helping everyone at Artman have a happy and healthy school year!

Artman Elementary Back to School 2024

Dr. Andrew Kemper, Principal, grade K-3

Artman is back at it again in 2024 and we are as excited as ever. This year we welcome 145 new kindergarten students to the school community. Now that we are a few weeks in, our new students are quickly becoming part of our wonderful Artman family.



The first few weeks of school serve as a time to review our expectations of being Ready, Respectful, and Responsible. During these weeks, the students have

opportunities to go to different locations of the building to

learn what those expectations mean outside the classroom setting. School staff teaches lessons on hallway, restroom, cafeteria, arrival/dismissal, playground, and bus expectations complete with demonstrations. We have found this to be a great way for our youngest students to quickly learn what is expected while also serving to solidify the skills for our veteran students. The lessons culminate with our Principal's 200 program kickoff assembly where Buzzy the Hornet pays a visit. Buzzy demonstrates the expectations and is awarded a Principal's 200 ticket. This officially begins our PBIS Principal's 200 program with the goal of our students being 'caught in the act' of doing great things where they too can be awarded a ticket.

Continued Focus on Growth

As educators we are constantly reviewing our data and refining our approach to better meet the needs of our students. An area of change for this current year is a change to using Acadience Learning for our math and reading global benchmarking assessments. Acadience is not new to us as we have used it in various grade levels for several years. This year we look to streamline our assessment process in order to increase efficiency and obtain data sources that are uniform across the grade levels. The teachers will participate in professional development sessions aimed at data analysis to identify strengths and areas of growth ranging from whole building level down to the individual student.

Last year we added the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness program to our reading curriculum K-2. We saw amazing growth among our students through the use of this program. In the spring, we coordinated with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit (MIU4) and the Primary Health Network Charitable Foundation to provide Heggerty materials and training to many of the pre-k providers in the Shenango Valley. As a result of this collaboration, elementary schools throughout the valley will receive incoming kindergarten students with a deeper grasp of early literacy with a focus on phonemic awareness.

This year we are introducing the Enhanced Core Reading Instruction (ECRI) program in kindergarten. This program will help to enrich our phonics instruction, which when combined with Heggerty's phonemic awareness will create a stronger foundation in literacy for our students. The plan is to roll out ECRI over the course of three years, each year moving up a grade level until we reach second grade. We have partnered with the PA Training and Technical Assistance Network (PATTAN) and the MIU4 to help with our training and professional development with ECRI through this multi-year endeavor.

"Back to School Bash" 2024

This year's Back to School Bash saw an incredible turnout, with students, families, volunteers, and vendors participating in record numbers. Nearly 1,000 backpacks were distributed this year.

The impact of the Back to School Bash goes beyond just providing backpacks and school supplies. Parents and caregivers had the opportunity to connect with professionals from various social and human services. These included resources for transportation, health, vision, dental care, mental and behavioral health support, child care, before and after school programs, hygiene and grooming services, and literacy resources.

The expansion of this year's Bash was made possible by the generous support of community sponsors and donors. A special thanks goes to Title Sponsor Roscoe Physiotherapy, along with Class Act Sponsors First National Bank, The Sharon American Legion Post 299, and The Betty Lou Artman-Heritage Education Fund. St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church generously provided the use of its social hall for the event. Families enjoyed delicious pizza donated by several local restaurants, cookies from Eat'n Park, and refreshing treats from Rita's Italian Ice on a hot day.



This event was made possible by a dedicated community that came together to create a special day for everyone. The committee members of the Back to School Bash include Kayla Lockhart from Artman Elementary, Erin Flaherty-Harris from PHN, Kristen Piccirilli from FNB, Tracy Schliep and Bonnie Dickson as Community Advocates, Lisa Smith from Link the Valley, and Kylee Lewis from Walberg Family Pharmacies.

Looking ahead, the committee is already gearing up for the Back to School Bash in 2025. We welcome your recommendations, donations, and comments, which can be submitted to Kayla Lockhart at 724-981-8750 ext. 5901.

Ionta and Delahunty Schools off to an exceptional start!

Mr. Eric Trosch, Principal, grades 4-7



Hello Hermitage Families!

We have had an incredible start to the 2024-2025 school year at both Ionta and Delahunty Schools. I am extremely excited and happy to see all of our returning students and it has been an absolute pleasure meeting and welcoming all of our new students and their families to the Hermitage School Community.

Just prior to the first day of school many of our students and families had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the **"Back to School Bash"** event. This event is an opportunity for families in our community to attend in order to get free school supplies that includes; backpacks, notebooks, binders, pencils, pens, highlighters and other various items needed for back to school. This is always an exciting event and one that we are extremely grateful to be a part of.

On Wednesday, August 14, Ionta and Delahunty Schools once again proudly opened their doors for our yearly **"Open House Event"**. Parents and students were invited to meet their teachers and visit their new classrooms. At this time students were able to view the course syllabi, identify their lockers/cubbies and become familiar with their new schedule.

Our technology administrators, Mr. Frank Gingras and Mr. Joe Kulbacki, presented a workshop on how to access and operate our PowerSchool system, which allows our parents to view their students' grades and other relevant academic information.

I would like to give a special thank you to all of our presenters, students, and families that were able to attend. To all of our teachers and staff, great job in preparing your classrooms along with making all of our students and families feel welcomed in our schools.

During our first week of school, I was fortunate enough to meet with each grade level across Ionta and Delahunty Schools to review a variety of important school initiatives for the upcoming school year. Areas discussed included: the importance of academics, attendance and school safety. We also reviewed our social and emotional learning curriculum, **"CharacterStrong,"** the CharacterStrong Student of the Month program, as well as the schoolwide motto on how to be "Ready, Respectful and Responsible".

We are eagerly anticipating the kickoff to our Schoolwide Positive Behavior Program (SWPB) at IES and DMS. SWPB is strongly connected

to our school culture and provides incentives to students who display qualities of being "Ready, Respectful and Responsible". Through this program, teachers and staff distribute Gold and Red Tickets to students who are observed making good choices. We have also established a system within the cafeteria that assists with behavior monitoring. Our Delahunty students can participate in our **"VIP Table"** weekly and our Ionta students can win the **"Golden Spatula Award"** bi-weekly.

We are only weeks into the start of the school year and I truly believe that our students at Ionta and Delahunty Schools have been provided with an excellent foundation for success. Through these initiatives and programs, we will strive to provide exciting events, educational opportunities, fun incentives, and the continuation of belonging to a safe and nurturing learning environment.



2024-25 school year at Hickory High School is off to a great start!

Dr. Chris Gill, Principal, grades 11-12

Mr. Vince D'Angelo, Principal, grades 8-10

The Hickory High School administration would like to compliment both our staff and students for a positive and enjoyable start to the 2024-2025 school year. In both our faculty and first day student meetings we revealed our theme for the school year: GRIT. To have passion, perseverance, and success in all that you do. At Hickory High School we believe that no matter the obstacle, we can work through the difficulties and find a path forward that benefits our school community.

In our class meetings, Hickory High School also revealed and outlined our areas of focus for the 2024-2025 school year: Academic Excellence, Arts Excellence, Athletic Excellence, a focus on Voluntary Community Service through our Silver Cords program, and exemplary attendance for our students. Our Hickory High School team of educators believes that when we set high expectations for success, we all work diligently to achieve those expectations. We also know that, when we take the time to form positive bonds and relationships in the school community, our staff and students are able to grow in a multitude of ways.

Hickory High School has many points of pride. We hope the 2024-2025 school year is filled with memorable moments, success for all, and incredible achievements by our students and especially the Class of 2025.

Go Hornets!!!



The Cares4Kids Backpack Project through Grace Chapel Community Church continues to provide children in the Hermitage School District with a bag of food each weekend throughout the school year. This mission serves children whose families struggle with food security

and we have over 150 students from Kindergarten through 12th grade as recipients for the current school year. We anticipate the number of children in need will continue to grow as the school year progresses.

With rising costs of food and more students in need, we welcome support from people and businesses in our community. If you would like to financially contribute to this program, checks can be made to Grace Chapel Community Church, with Backpack Project in the memo line or online at <https://www.grace-chapel.net/outreach> (please choose one time payment and Backpack in the drop down menu). We also invite you to join us as we pack on Wednesday nights at 5:45pm in the Artman Elementary cafeteria. Any questions can be directed to Jennifer Lauer at 724-962-5000, ext. 235.

Community Outreach: Holiday Angel Tree Program

Over the past 12 years, we have been incredibly grateful for the generous donations from our community, which have allowed us to provide outreach programs for our students and families. We are excited to announce that this year, we will once again be offering support through The Holiday Angel Tree Program.

Last year, our district successfully provided gifts to 213 children, a success made possible only by the kindness and generosity of our community members, including staff, families, local churches, and local businesses. As we prepare for this season, we look forward to continuing this wonderful tradition.

The Holiday Angel Tree Program aims to provide holiday gifts for children from families facing financial challenges. All children living in the Hermitage School District, ages birth to 18 years, are eligible to enroll. For the 2024-25 school year, referrals to participate in the program are being accepted now through October 11th, 2024.

If you are interested in helping a family, please contact:

kayla_lockhart@hermitage.k12.pa.us

or 724-981-8750, ext 5901.

or Mary Mild at mary_mild@hermitage.k12.pa.us

or 724-981-8750 ext 3040.





BUHL REGIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

Promoting a Healthy Community

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, 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 2025-2026 academic school year. Scholarship applications will be accepted from November 18th – April 18th and can be accessed via our website.

MINI GRANTS

BRHF is currently accepting applications for their Mini-Grant program. Local organizations may apply for grant money, in amounts up to \$5,000, to support collaborative programming focused on the health of our community. Eligibility guidelines, additional information, and the BRHF Grant Portal are available on our website.

AED+ PROGRAM

Buhl Regional Health Foundation, Staying Alive LLC, AHN Grove City, and the UPMC Jameson and Horizon Foundations 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 may apply for the program on our website.

OUR WEBSITE:

For further information regarding our programming and grants, or to access registration or application forms, please visit www.buhlregionalhealthfoundation.org

Hermitage Historical Society

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



We appreciate all who came out in September to help make our 155th anniversary celebration a success! Thank you so much to the community for all your continued support. All money and donations go towards making our beautiful 1869 Stewart House mansion and our local history preserved for all to enjoy. Anyone interested in attending, volunteering, joining, or donating to the society can feel free to contact the society at 724-346-0419 OR Rod at 724-877-7996.

Our annual Christmas tree tours at the Stewart House will begin after Thanksgiving. They are free to attend and open to the public. Dates are:

Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 - from 1:00pm-5:00pm

December 6 - 5:00pm-8:00pm

December 7-8 - from 12:00pm-5:00pm

December 13 - 5:00pm-8:00pm

December 14-15 - 1:00pm-5:00pm

The Stewart House

Stewart House Rentals

The Stewart House is a beautiful home to host your next important gathering! (showers, weddings, meetings, etc.)

Upcoming Speakers:

Tuesday, October 15

Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department

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

Assistant Secretary: Cindy Cox

Board Members: Brenda Kulka, Maria Koledin, Dave Fodor, Michael Ristvey

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

(Select "Valley" branch for the Hermitage location)

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!****

UPCOMING YOUTH PROGRAMS

Register online or at our Front Desk
Children do not need to be members to participate in our Youth Programs. We do have discounts on most of our Youth Sports if a child is a Member.

FALL BASKETBALL

Co-Ed Ages 3-12

SKILLS CLINIC

Program runs
Nov. 9th—Dec. 21st
Registration ends: October 25th

FALL BASKETBALL

Co-Ed Ages 3-12

3V3 LEAGUE

Program runs
Nov. 9th—Dec. 21st
Registration ends: October 25th

ADULT SPORTS

18+ Pick Up Basketball

Every Thursday – 8-10 PM
\$5 Dollars At The Door

Pickle Ball

Indoors Rain or Shine!
For Members and Non-Members

Tuesdays: 1:45-3:45
Wednesdays: 12:15-2:15

Thursdays: 1:45-3:45
Fridays: 11:30-1:30



WE CONTINUE TO OFFER : DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

Are you Interested ?
Please call our Front Desk & ask to speak with our Lifestyle Coach.



The Buhl Club



We are thrilled to announce that the third phase of our renovation project is nearing completion! This phase, which has focused on enhancing the exterior of the Buhl Club,

project then moved to the upper section of the parking lot and is now wrapping up on the lower lot. These improvements are designed to create a more welcoming and safer environment for all our members and visitors.

The project is progressing well, and we are on track to meet our completion goal by October 1st. We can't wait to unveil these enhancements soon!

Stay tuned for more updates as we approach the finish line, and thank you for supporting the Buhl Club!

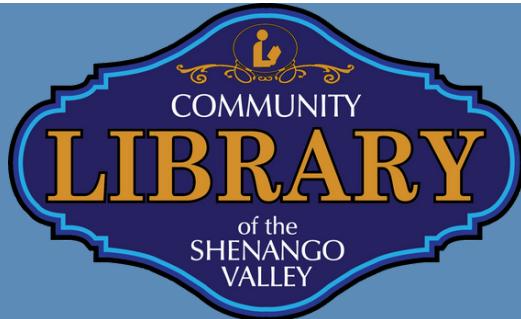
includes leveling and resurfacing the parking lot, installing new sidewalks, adding beautiful landscaping, and upgrading our outdoor lighting with new energy-efficient LED lights.

Work began outside the gymnasium doors, where a rubber base has been installed for a future playground area. The



Main Library - Sharon
11 N. Sharpsville Ave.
Sharon, PA 16146
(724) 981-4360

Hours:
Monday-Thursday
10:00-8:00
Friday-Saturday
10:00-5:00
Closed Sunday



Stey-Nevant Branch
1000 Roemer Blvd.
Farrell, PA 16121
(724) 983-2714

Hours:
Monday - Thursday
11:00-6:00
Saturday
10:00-2:00
Closed Friday and Sunday

Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale

October 16-19, 2024

Wednesday

9:00 AM - 7:30 PM

Thursday

10:00 AM - 7:30 PM

Friday & Saturday

10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Main Library

Stey-Nevant Family Fall Festival

Friday, November 1, 2024

Stay tuned for more details on this
fun-filled fundraiser and other
programs on our website:



SHENANGO RIVER WATCHERS



JOIN US!

Become a member
or sponsor



TIRE RECYCLING

Saturday October 12
9AM-1PM
(or when the truck is full)
at FedEx,
2970 S. Hermitage Rd.
SPONSORED BY



37th Annual GOBBLE WOBBLE 5K

a Shenango Valley Tradition!
Thanksgiving morning
Buhl Park
8AM registration
9:30AM start
gobblewobblerace.com



Shenango Trail Historical Hike

Sunday November 17th



Buhl Park – Fall 2024

GOLF



SCAN ME

Exciting things are happening at the Buhl Park Golf Course! Our course is open year-round, in great shape, and provides a beautiful and challenging experience whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player. We've expanded our offerings with indoor golf simulators, and Puttview technology. Our

free 9-hole course remains the only one of its kind in the country, welcoming everyone to enjoy golf without the cost. With the recent addition of new golf carts, a newly renovated First Tee Building, and an upgraded driving range, there's always something to keep your game sharp. Plus, our friendly staff and instructors are always here to help. Whether you're here for a casual round or serious practice, Buhl Park Golf Course has something for everyone, all year long! Scan the QR code to learn about upcoming leagues and events.

UPCOMING EVENTS



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMING

Preschool Program

Join us for a Fall series of Little Explorer Preschool programs! Each week, preschoolers, caregivers, and younger siblings are invited to Sandy's Place at Buhl Park for a loosely structured program for preschool kids. Make new friends, read new stories, and explore Sandy's Place in a new way! Sept. 26 to Dec. 19, 2024, every Thursday from 10-11:15 am. The cost is \$5 for each preschooler. Younger siblings are welcome - no fee if under the age of 3. We plan to be 100% outside so dress for messy and muddy play!

Email/call Katie before your first time to get on the email list. We will cancel if the weather is bitterly cold or raining hard. Meet at Sandy's Place, near Polly's playground and 730 Forker Blvd Hermitage.

Katie@buhlpark.org
or 724-981-5522x105.

Carnivorous Houseplants, with Penn State Extension Master Gardener Carolyn Krachkowski

October 23, from 6-7:30 pm. Discover the captivating world of carnivorous plants. This presentation will explore their diverse species, guide care, and help you through the creation of a backyard bog garden. **\$5.00 per person Must pre-register**



Water Quality Corner

Invasive species are a growing threat to our local waterways, disrupting ecosystems, and harming native plants and animals. These non-native species can spread rapidly, outcompeting local wildlife and altering the balance of our aquatic environments. Invasive species like zebra mussels, water chestnuts, and Asian carp can clog water systems, degrade water quality, and cause economic damage by impacting recreational activities and commercial fishing.

To protect our waterways, it's crucial to prevent the introduction and spread of these invaders. Residents can help by cleaning boats, fishing gear, and watercraft thoroughly before moving them between water bodies. Additionally, avoid releasing plants, fish, or animals into the wild. By staying vigilant and practicing responsible water use, we can all play a part in preserving the health of our local waterways for future generations.

White House Cyber Director Visits eCenter



On September 17th, White House Cyber Director, Harry Coker, Jr., and his team, visited the Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Center (PCC) headquarters at the eCenter@LindenPointe in Hermitage. Director Coker, a career Naval Officer and former senior executive with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Agency (NSA), is tasked with advising the President of the United States on cybersecurity policy and strategy. Cybersecurity involves the protection of technology devices, including computers and smartphones, networks and data from digital threats. These threats include actions by foreign adversaries, including China, Russia, Iran and North Korea, as well as terrorist organizations and international crime syndicates, to compromise our national infrastructure, steal assets, and interrupt commerce. Cybersecurity is critical to our national security.

The PCC has trained over 120 area high school and college students, and adult learners, in cybersecurity and has helped them gain valuable industry certifications

to work in the field. A \$1.15 federal grant will help the PCC train even more individuals and expand to reach students at 69 school districts in the region. Director Coker celebrated the PCC as a grassroots effort to train cybersecurity workers needed to fill 12,000 open cybersecurity jobs in Pennsylvania, and as a model to replicate nationwide. He recognized local resident Rick Bruckner, a former dispatcher at the Mercer County 911 center, who wanted to do more to help people who are victims of cyber attacks and scams. He called Bruckner, and other students, "patriots" who want to help others and protect their country.

During the visit, Mercyhurst University announced a collaboration with PCC to provide high school students on the autism spectrum an opportunity to receive both high school and college credits (dual enrollment) for cybersecurity coursework through the university. The program draws from Mercyhurst's Brad McGarry Center for Neurodiversity and its Cybersecurity Program. According to Mercyhurst, the program will address a critical workforce need while also creating opportunities for students on the autism spectrum to excel in a field where their unique skills and attributes are incredibly valuable.

Director Coker and his team spent several hours at the PCC engaging in a Student Listening Session and conducting an Ecosystem Roundtable that included local

educators and workforce development professionals. Additionally, the day included public remarks from Director Coker, Bradley Calleja, Executive Director of the eCenter, and Craig Columbus, chairman of the LindenPointe Development Corporation, as well as a panel discussion involving Dr. Christopher Mansour, chair of the Computing and Information Science Department at Mercyhurst University, Dr. Kathy Richardson, president of Westminster College, Rear Admiral Hank Bond (U.S. Navy, Ret.) co-founder of the cybersecurity firm ForceNow, and Jeff Meier, former eCenter Executive Director.



From the Desk of the Treasurer



Hello Everyone,

Each homeowner in Hermitage including the Wheatland neighborhood should have received your school real estate bill, and every resident should have received their per capita bill. This includes residents both home-owners as well as renters over

the age of 18. If you have not received yours, please notify us.

The per capita bill although showing amounts for the city and for the school, is only one combined bill of \$30.00, and therefore **requires only one check** for the full amount due.

Those owning multiple parcels may combine all Hermitage school payments to one check payable to Hermitage Treasurer, Wheatland school payments to another check made payable to the Farrell School District.

Multiple Per capita bills may also be combined on one check and all the county/city payments to another check each made payable to Hermitage Treasurer. **We are unable to accept**

payment for different types of taxes combined on one check.

If you qualify and have not yet applied for the 2023 tax year rebate, contact your tax preparer before December 31, 2024 to do so.

Also, if your property is owner -occupied and your prime residence, make sure you are homestead approved. If unsure, call our office and we will be happy to assist you.

All taxes will be collected through December 31st after which time they will be filed delinquent.

We are available in our office Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, so as always, feel free to contact us in person, by phone at 724-347-4472, or by e-mailing bharry@hermitage.net.

Have a happy, healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Bernie Harry,
Hermitage Treasurer



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

Parks & Recreation

800 North Hermitage Road
Hermitage, PA 16148

ECRW/SSEDDM
Hermitage
Postal Customer



City of Hermitage Board of Commissioners

From left to right: Cameron S. Linton, Bill Moder, John Moroco, Duane Piccirilli, and Louis Squatrito

HOW TO STAY IN THE KNOW.....



Sign up for 'Notify Me'

The City's 'Notify Me' feature provides updates, via email or text alert, 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. To stay in-the-know with important updates from our Boards, sign up for our 'Agenda Center'.

To subscribe, visit www.hermitage.net/list.aspx



Subscribe to the City's eNewsletter

Stay up-to-date with news and events involving the City and local businesses and organizations.



Every month, we will spotlight a local business and/or organization. If you are interested in having your content featured in our e-newsletter, email us at ealerts@hermitage.net.

To subscribe, visit <https://hermitagepa-services.app.transform.civicplus.com/forms/30465>

See Click Fix



Customer service and engaging with our residents are a top priority. Download our free app, See Click Fix, that allows residents to submit service requests on the fly from their smartphones or on the web. Residents can also access important city information regarding events, alerts, and more.



DOWNLOAD THE APP



SUBMIT A CONCERN

NOTICE TO HERMITAGE RESIDENTS:

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

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



hermitage.net

