



Community Update

Volume 26, Issue 80

Spring 2025



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City of Hermitage Earth Day Festival

April 26th, 2025 @LindenPointe



3580 Prosperity Place Hermitage, PA 16148
9am to 12pm - Earth Day Cleanup
12pm to 5 pm - Earth Day Festival

SHENANGO RIVER WATCHERS EARTH DAY CLEANUP

9:00 AM
Meeting Location: Tractor Supply Parking Lot

Let's Spring into action and clean up the City! We're looking for volunteers to help with our Earth Day Cleanup!
-Coffee provided by O'Neill Coffee



HERB GROWING WORKSHOP

1st Session: 12:1-30PM | 2nd Session: 2-3:30PM
\$30 | Class Sizes Limited | Registration is required | LindenPointe



SCAN TO
REGISTER!

Discover the joy of growing your own fresh and aromatic herbs in the comfort of your home with our Herb Garden Workshop. Whether you have a sprawling garden or just a windowsill, this hands-on workshop will help you to create a thriving herb garden. Take home your own planter of herbs to grow with you this spring and beyond. Our experienced Master Gardeners will guide you through the techniques and practices needed to successfully cultivate herbs, regardless of your experience. All materials needed for the workshop, including, soil, seedlings, workshop handouts, & a Vego Self Watering Herb Planter will be provided. Just bring your enthusiasm and a willingness to learn!



MUSHROOM TALK & WALK

1:30 PM
TWDC ROOM 113

Join Josh Mowris from the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club to learn about mushroom basics, necessities for beginners, and commonly found species of the northeast. Participants will take part in a walk around LindenPointe in search of spring species with a hands on opportunity to learn about fungi in their natural habitats.



ADAPTATIONS & ENDANGERED SPECIES

Programs @ 12:15 & 1:30PM
TWDC ROOM 113

Uncover the fascinating ways animals adapt to survive in the wild, from physical traits like teeth, claws, and camouflage to survival behaviors such as bolting, blending, and biting. Explore the challenges animals face in their habitats and discover practical solutions for protecting wildlife. Led by the Erie Zoo, this interactive presentation provides an engaging look at the incredible resilience of wildlife.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 - Earth Day Cleanup
12:00 - The Yeggs - A Rockin Surf Trio
12:00 - Herb Growing Workshop
1:00 - Digester Tours until 3:00pm
1:30 - Mushroom Talk & Walk
2:00 - Herb Growing Workshop
2:00 - Nancy Bires - Earth Day Songs
2:30 - Art Contest Winners Announced
2:30 - Erie Traveling Zoo
3:15 - Better Late Bluegrass
3:30 - Erie Traveling Zoo

COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
• Free to all Mercer County residents.
• Limit of 5 bankers boxes.
• Remove all binder clips and metal bindings.
• Off-site shredding services provided by the Keystone Blind Association.
• Sponsored by the Mercer County Commissioners.



FOOD WASTE DIGESTER TOURS

1:00 PM & 3:00 PM
Bus Stop @ Prosperity Pl & Innovation Way
Please arrive 15 minutes before scheduled time
Transportation provided by COG

Did you know that the City of Hermitage is home to one of the most revolutionary Food Waste to Energy Facilities in the country? Take a tour of the City of Hermitage Waste Water Treatment Plant and Food Waste Digester and learn about how the City of Hermitage turns food waste into energy!

EDUCATIONAL Activities



City of Hermitage Ice Cream Cone Bird Feeders

Stop by to make an ice cream cone bird feeder to take home and play our collection of upcycled games.



Shenango River Watchers

Upcycle your cereal box into a Nature Journal! Being in nature helps relieve stress and promotes an active lifestyle, it helps children practice observation skills and patience. Please join us!



Buhl Park

Recycling can be confusing, let our recycling monster help you learn how to keep your bins at home in order!



Mercer County Conservation District

Get up close and personal with our collection of pelts, skulls, and more, learn about local wildlife and ways to support these critters in your own backyard.



Army Corps at Shenango Lake Birding Basics

Come explore and learn about birds of prey with the Shenango Lake Rangers and measure YOUR wingspan!



HopeCAT (TWDC Building)

Ready for a flower explosion? Come make a seed bomb to take home and plant in your garden!



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT @ THE MAIN STAGE



The Yeggs 12:00-1:45
Nancy Bires 2:00
Art Contest Winners Announced 2:30
Better Late Bluegrass 3:15-5:00

FOOD & BEVERAGE ECENTER LOT

Vegatier Express Vegan Food
Independent Taco
Penn State Creamery
Slow Hurry Coffee
Fitzgibbon Meadery



VENDORS ECENTER LOT

Rod & Needle
WestWinn Ag
Gargiulo Landscape
Green Acres Alpaca
Honey So Good Apiary
A Note for You Originals
A Dog Named Phin
Teachers Pet Goat Milk Soap
Dick Hetrick Hand Crafted Wooden Kitchenware
Red Run Farms
Tom Darby Nature Photography
Adam Darby Pottery
S&S Herbal Apothecary
Shenango Valley Gardeners
Local Author Katie Parr



spotlight business



Packard Paint Offers More Than Just Paint

Contributed by Joe Pinchot

Don't let Packard Paint Inc.'s name throw you. Yes, the company sells paint, but they also offer a whole lot more.

If you shop at Packard Paint's Hermitage location at 2400 E. State St., you can buy Benjamin Moore or PPG paints, but you also can buy PPG or Old Master stains, Hunter Douglas window shades or major brand flooring and carpeting. You also can seek advice on decorating colors and options, set up an in-home consultation for window treatments or flooring, or get a screen or window glass repaired.

"We really pride ourselves on knowing our product, knowing our clientele and being knowledgeable about what we sell," said Andrew Wilson, sales and design consultant and one of two brothers – the other is Joe Wilson IV – who run the three Packard Paint stores for their parents, Joe Wilson III and Terry Wilson. The brothers literally grew up in the business.

"The school bus used to drop us off at the store instead of home," Andrew Wilson said.

The original Packard Paint operated in Greenville for many years; Joe and Terry Wilson bought it in 1983. Then, they opened a store in New Castle in 2004 and the Hermitage location in 2009, a successor to what had been Wheeler's Paint and, before that, Erie Paint.

The flooring side of the business was added four years ago when the Wilsons bought Carpet Country and Reeher Flooring from Joe Wilson III's brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Judy Wilson. Judy Wilson still works part time out of

the Greenville store. Four non-family employees also are available to help customers at all three locations.

"Right now, we're focused on building our footprint with flooring and getting people in the valley aware of what we do," Andrew Wilson said, noting that they answer the phone with "Packard Paint and Flooring."

"We do the custom window treatments, custom draperies, and we've done that for many, many years now," he said. "We do the flooring now. Basically, the personal touch that you get from an independently-owned business."

But, just because Packard Paint is independent doesn't mean it's pricey, he said.

"That's a big misconception, when you come to an independent retailer, that you're gonna spend more than at a big-box retailer or corporate-owned retailer," Andrew Wilson said. "It's not true."

Those corporate-owned retailers are big competition for Packard Paint and part of the reason the company is still working hard to get its name out there despite having been in Hermitage for more than 15 years.

Andrew Wilson said the Hermitage location's business is strong and the family is committed to the local area.

"We operate on the notion that you should spend your money where we live, and we very much try to contribute to causes that are local in all three of our stores," Andrew Wilson said. "We

donate to countless nonprofits, silent auctions, golf scrambles."

Andrew Wilson enjoys the personal contact with customers and helping them decide on a product or service.

"I go into appointments all the time where people have absolutely no idea what they want and, once I meet you and see your house and learn how you're going to use the treatment, usually I can corral you down to two or three, and then from there we can make a decision," he said.

Packard Paint Inc.

2400 E. State St.
Hermitage, PA 16148

724-981-5990
www.packardpaint.com

Hours:

Mon - Wed & Fri: 8am - 5pm
Thursday: 8am - 7pm
Saturday: 8am - 3pm
Sunday: Closed

Follow us on Facebook!
Packard Paint

Packardpaint@gmail.com



Call For Artists

Artists, scan to apply!



Fran Bires

With 35 years of service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Fran has dedicated his career to education and the outdoors, working at Raccoon Creek and McConnell's Mill State Parks, McKeever Environmental Learning Center, and the Macoskey Center at Slippery Rock University. His passion for teaching seamlessly connects to his work in photography as both educators and photographers inspire and share knowledge. Through his lens, Fran captures moments in nature, offering viewers a window into the world of wildlife.



Francesca Baldarelli

Francesca Baldarelli, a Hermitage native, brings you Moon Dust Revival to share her love for art and sustainability with the community. Her focus is on creating unique, one-of-a-kind items from leftover materials, ranging from sketchbooks and jewelry to greeting cards, apparel, and tchotchkes. Francesca holds a BFA from Youngstown State University and an MFA from the University of Alabama, and she has been with HopeCAT for 6 years, recently becoming the Director of Arts. Each piece she creates brings new life to discarded materials, blending creativity with sustainability. We invite you to explore her collection and discover the beauty of upcycling!



UPCOMING EVENTS

HERMITAGE NIGHT MARKET

Thursdays 5-9PM
July 10th
August 14th
September 11th
October 2nd



Hop on Over to Trendy

EASTER WEEK
April 15-19



**Pick an Egg for
Egg-citing Savings**

**The Perfect Basket
Fillers**

**Easter Graphic Tee
Specials**

Join us for a Winery Tour

Geneva, OH
Saturday, June
7th

Four Wineries
\$40 per person
Includes Transportation
(Meals & Drinks on your own)



SUMMER REC SCHEDULE

Starts June 9th! Visit the City of Hermitage Parks & Recreation registration site for more information!

Cross Country

Grades 4th-6th

T/TH 9:10:15 am

Grades 7th-12th

M-TH 9:10:15 am

Buhl Park (starts June 4)

Girls Volleyball

Grades 3-5

T/TH 2:00-3:00

HHS Gym

Grades 6-8

M/W 2:00-3:30

HHS Gym

Grades 9-12

M/W 3:30-5:00 pm

HHS Gym

Lacrosse

Grades 5-12

TBD

Rodney White Field

Schedules are subject to slight changes. Please check the registration page for most up to date information.

The City of Hermitage & Buhl Park

Summer Camp

AT BUHL PARK

June 9 - July 18 • Monday - Friday • 9 am to 3 pm

Grades 1st-6th (2025-2026 school year)

REGISTRATION CLOSES MAY 19

Scan for Info & Registration



Thank you to our sponsors:



To Register Scan the QR code or visit hermitage.net and click the register button!



Recreation Projects Take Shape

Several recreation projects are in various stages of development across the city. At Rodney White Olympic Park, adjacent to the city building, new playground equipment is being installed. The old equipment was over 30 years old, rusted and beyond repair. A state Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant in the amount of \$177,327 will support the project. J&T Paving won the contract as low bidder and Jeffries Company has supplied the playground equipment. A handicapped accessible surface will be installed. The project will be completed this spring.

A new 2,300 square foot multipurpose building is planned for the Hermitage Little League Complex with construction activities expected to begin later this year. The building will provide modern restrooms, a concession area, meeting rooms, a first aid station, and storage capacity. A state Local Share Account grant in the amount of \$781,000 will support the project. The new building will replace old, existing buildings that lack functionality and needed amenities. The multipurpose building will help meet the growing usage and needs at the Little League Complex, which, beyond Little League play, hosts several regional tournaments and a summer camp.

There are multiple projects on the books at the Hermitage Athletic Complex. A PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in the amount of \$350,000 will support the construction of a trail connection from the Lorenwood Drive neighborhood into the complex and the extension of trail connections throughout the complex. Connectivity and pedestrian access is a priority at the complex and the project is expected to go out to bid later this year. A \$1.25 million state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant will support the construction of nine pickleball courts along with additional parking and pedestrian facilities. This project is likely to begin sometime in 2026 under state procedures and guidelines. Finally, a recently announced Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant in the amount of \$95,000 will support the installation of lights at Softball Field #1. Lighting will help meet growing demand for playing and practice time and will complement Softball Field #2 which already has lighting. The state grant contract has not yet been received and this project will not start earlier than sometime in 2026.

Real Estate Reassessment Update

In 2023, the Mercer County Commissioners voted to reassess all real estate in the county, including the City of Hermitage. The county contracted with Tyler Technologies to collect data and assist with the reassessment process. The purpose is to assess all properties at today's values as assessments are currently based on 1970 values. By law, a reassessment is to be revenue neutral, overall, but reassessment will result in some property owners bearing a higher tax burden, some bearing a lower tax burden, and others about the same, based upon the assessed value of their property versus the assessed value of all properties in the taxing district.

Field staff from Tyler Technologies have viewed the exterior of all properties in Hermitage and have recorded their observations along with available property data to establish pertinent information like square footage, number of rooms, age of buildings, existence of outbuildings, etc. In the coming months, Tyler Technologies will send data mailers to Hermitage property owners with the information that they have

recorded for the property. Property owners should review the data mailers carefully for accuracy, note any inaccuracies by writing corrections on the form, sign and date the form, list a contact phone number, and promptly return the corrected form to Tyler Technologies. The corrected form can be returned by scanning or photographing it and then emailing it to MercerCountyPA@TylerTech.com or it can be dropped off (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on weekdays) or mailed to the courthouse reassessment office at Tyler Technologies, 125 S. Diamond Street, Suite 504, Mercer, PA 16137. If there are no corrections to the form, then no action needs to be taken.

Value notices will be sent at a later date once all of the data has been collected and property owners have had the opportunity to review the data and make any changes necessary. There will be an informal appeals process for disputed value notices. In the meantime, any questions may be addressed to Tyler Technologies at 724-662-7549; MercerCountyPA@TylerTech.com or to Cathy Herriott, Chief Assessor at 724-662-3800, Ext. 2505; cherriott@mercercountypa.gov



2025 Cybersecurity Summit

On March 18th, the Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Center (PCC) and Penn State Shenango partnered to present the 2025 Cybersecurity Summit. The event included area high school students including a group from Hickory High School. Students heard from a Military/Government Panel and an Industry Panel about exciting and vital careers in the cybersecurity field. Bradley Calleja, Executive Director of the LindenPointe Development Corporation, which operates the PCC, and Carey McDougall, Regional Chancellor, Penn State Shenango and Penn State Beaver, delivered opening remarks.

Cybersecurity is defined as the practice of protecting computer systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, damage, or theft, encompassing technologies, policies, and procedures to mitigate cyber threats and ensure data confidentiality, integrity, and availability. It is one of the fastest growing fields for employment and there are over 10

Community Foundation Offers Philanthropy to All



The Community Foundation of Western PA and Eastern OH was established in 1981 and includes the Shenango Valley Foundation. The Community Foundation helps donors reach their philanthropic goals while expanding charitable giving throughout our region and has the motto that "anyone can be a philanthropist". The motto rings true by virtue of the Community Foundation being organized under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code which allows separate charitable funds to be underneath the Community Foundation's umbrella thereby relieving these charitable funds from seeking their own tax-exempt status. Therefore, most anyone can establish a charitable fund under the Community Foundation provided they follow the Community Foundation's procedures and guidelines.

There are hundreds of charitable funds under the Community Foundation and a complete list may be found at <https://comm-foundation.org/list-of-funds>. Some of these charitable funds relate to the endeavors of the City

million unfilled positions worldwide with over 11,000 current openings in Pennsylvania. The Midwest has emerged as the new hub for cybersecurity with cities such as Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis ranking in the top ten for cybersecurity employment and salary growth. Median salary in the cybersecurity field is \$120,000.

In October 2023, the LindenPointe Development Corporation secured a \$1.15 million Appalachian Regional Commission POWER grant to launch the Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Center. The PCC has partnered with Penn State Shenango to help fill the workforce gap by training and credentialing high school and college students, and adult learners, in cybersecurity. Penn State Shenango has developed curriculum and established a major in Cybersecurity Analytics and Operations. The 2025 Cybersecurity Summit was designed to spark the interest of local students and feed the pipeline to cybersecurity educational opportunities through the PCC and Penn State.

SHENANGO RIVER WATCHERS



Spring Wildflower Hike

April 12 TH

1:00pm

Kidds Mill Park

99 W Kidds Mill Rd. Greenville, PA

2 Mile Hike



Where the River Runs
10 Mile/15K Trail Race

May 3rd 9:00am

Shenango Trail

Register before April 30

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP - APRIL 26TH 9AM
HERMITAGE LOCATION TBD
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL - 12PM - 5PM

LINDENPOINTE

Info &
Register
on website



REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS @ SHENANGORIVERWATCHERS.ORG

New Playground opening at Buhl Child Development Center

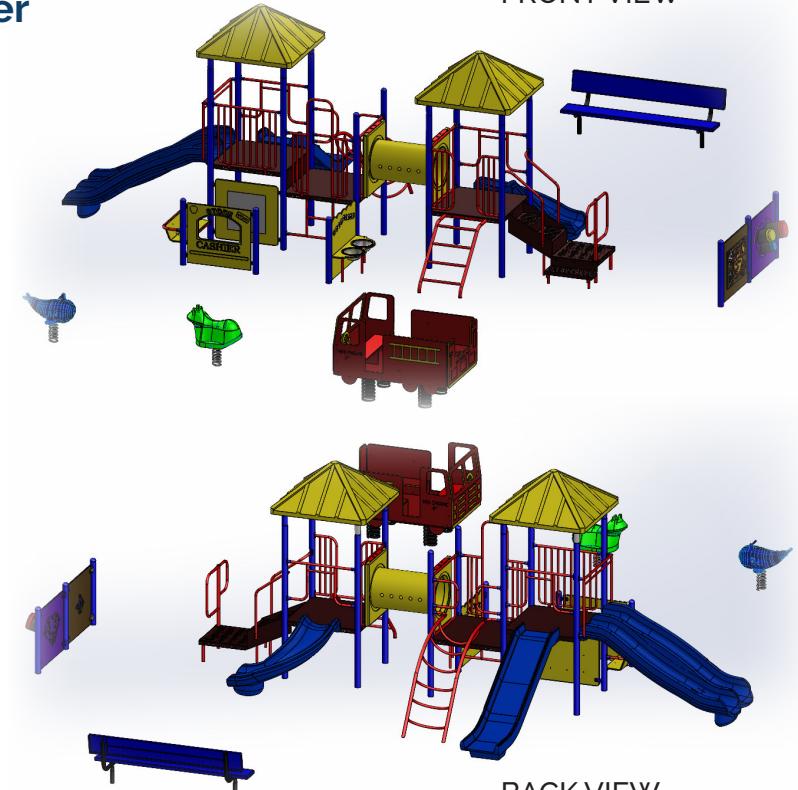


Exciting things are happening at the Buhl Child Development Center! We are thrilled to announce that a brand-new outdoor playground designed specifically for our little learners will open this spring 2025.

This new play space will provide a safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate environment where children can explore, play, and grow. Featuring age-appropriate play structures, interactive elements, and plenty of room to run and climb, the playground will support physical activity, social interaction, and creative play—all essential for early childhood development.

We can't wait to see our children enjoying this new addition to the Buhl Child Development Center! Stay tuned for updates and an official ribbon-cutting celebration as opening day approaches.

For more information, contact 724.981.3700 ext.108 or stop by the front desk.



FRONT VIEW

BACK VIEW

Hermitage Historical Society

5465 East State Street • 724-346-0419

Follow Us on Facebook (Hermitage Historical Society and Instagram (@hermitage_historical_society))

Thank you so much to the people of Hermitage, the city of Hermitage, and residents of the Shenango Valley for all your continued support. Our society is entering its 30th year of existence, and we are proud to maintain the history of such a wonderful community. All money and donations go towards maintaining our beautiful 1869 Stewart House mansion and preserving our local history 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.

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.
- 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.
- Any photographs, yearbooks, maps, books, or anything of local historical importance

Flea Market May 3rd 8am-2pm
Vendors can set up for \$10.
(rain or shine). Call Rod at 724-877-7996
if you have interest in setting up

New Members Are Always Welcome:

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

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:

Free & Open to the public
at the Stewart House

April 15 - 7pm

Tom Kavanaugh on Cottage Gardens

May 13 - 7pm

Connie White on the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour of America

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, Tom Darby



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 continues 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.



3rd ANNUAL R.A.M. FREE COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC:

BRHF, in partnership with Remote Area Medical, will host their 3rd 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 7th and 8th in Sharon High School's gymnasium. Comprehensive dental services will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Plenty of volunteers are needed to support the clinic, including medical and dental professionals as well as general volunteers. Anyone interested in assisting with the clinic can visit our website to complete a volunteer registration form.

CAMP COURAGE 2025:

Registration has begun for the 4th Annual Camp Courage program. Camp Courage, held at Buhl Park the week of July 28th - August 1st, is a week long program for children (K-7) 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, beginning in February.

OUR WEBSITE:

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



11. N Sharpsville Ave.
Sharon, PA 16146
(724)-981-4360
www.clsv.net

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



Summer Reading Kick-off Party

June 11th | 12pm-1pm

The theme for Summer Reading 2025 is "Color Our World".

Every week will highlight a different subject with games, activities, and special guests.

Registration begins Monday June 9th and ends August 9th

Check out our website to learn about our FREE programs for kids, teens, and adults!

**- Book Clubs
- Storytime
- Art & Crafts
- Gadget Workshop
- Chess Club
- Writers Group
- Gaming Club
And Much More!**



**SPEND THE WARM SUMMER DAYS AT THE BUHL PARK POOL!
SEASON PASSES NOW FOR SALE**



BUHLPARK.ORG

Looking for the latest updates on all things Buhl Park? Visit our website for the most up-to-date info on events, activities, and park amenities!

**Buhl Park's (FUTURE) NATURE CENTER
Presents...**

"LET'S GROW" SERIES

SCAN TO LEARN MORE:



BOOK TODAY!



MERCER COUNTY FOOD BANK
15th Race to End Hunger
5K/2 Mile Walk and Kid's Fun Run
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025

For more info on sponsorships and registration! [REGISTER NOW!](#)

REGISTER NOW!



summercamp
FOR KIDS ENTERING 3RD-7TH GRADES
Monday-Friday 9A-3P

SUMMER FUN AWAITS!

JULY 21-25 UNDER THE SEA
JULY 28- AUG 01 POP ART
AUG 04-08 WEIRD SCIENCE

\$250 FOR ALL OR
\$100/WEEK

REGISTER NOW!



Central Administration

Dr. Dan Bell, Superintendent



"Seussical the Musical" proved to be a phenomenal spring show at HHS!

The Hickory HS production of "Seussical the Musical" was nothing short of exceptional. With 50 cast and 17 crew members and directed by Mrs. Julie Kerr, the show proved to be a hit during each of their four performances, as well as during their in-school shows for our K-5th graders.

Hermitage School District Summer Academy 2025!

The Hermitage School District will be conducting our 16th annual Summer Academy with 66 course offerings covering a variety of academic areas! Each year our district teachers develop innovative and engaging courses centered on a variety of academic topics including Camp Invention, theater, robotics, entrepreneurship, the arts, science, reading, as well as field trip courses to museums, zoos, historical landmarks, and even trips to Niagara Falls and Washington, DC! Course brochures were sent home to all Hermitage School District students with their 3rd Marking Period report cards. Course information and

online enrollment is available on our district website, www.hermitagesd.net. Be sure to register soon as courses will fill up quickly. We hope your child will be able to take advantage of this wonderful and exciting learning opportunity!

HSD says farewell to School Resource Officer Phil Sciaretta; Welcomes Officer Luke Kovach

Hermitage School District is fortunate to have two full-time School Resource Officers working in our buildings. After two years of serving as Hickory High School's SRO, Officer Phil Sciaretta is leaving his position due to a promotion. He has been a phenomenal asset to the district, as he built relationships with our staff and students, and helped us to strengthen our efforts to keep our schools safe and secure. As Officer Phil Sciaretta returns to patrol, we are excited to welcome Hickory grad, Officer Luke Kovach, as the new Hickory High School SRO. He, along with Officer Ron Dague, who has served in the K-7 building for the past seven years, will continue to support our students, staff and school community. We are extremely grateful for this partnership with the Hermitage Police Department.



WILD IDEAS
A Kidpreneur Adventure

Friday, May 9th, 4-6pm
Training and Workforce Development Center
3050 Prosperity Place, Hermitage, PA

remake learning days

WILD IDEAS
Register Today!

Space is Limited to 25 Seats.

REGISTER NOW!



eAcademy Seniors will facilitate the student activity after the read aloud by local author, Katie Parr, who also happens to serve as the eAcademy Program Director. Every student in attendance will go home with a copy of the book, "Ranger Rowan's Guide to Yellowstone National Park."

Space is limited to 25 seats. Register today!

Hickory High School

Dr. Chris Gill, Principal, Grades 11-12 | Mr. Vince D'Angelo, Principal, Grades 8-10

HS Strives for excellence in Academics, Arts and Athletics

The Barbara A. Dzuricsko AAA Award for recognition of excellence in Academics, the Arts, & Athletics is an important part of the success at Hickory High School. In academics, 415 students received recognition for achieving either honor roll, high honor roll, and/or exemplary attendance at the completion of the first semester. At the YSU Physics Olympics, Hickory Team B won 2nd place and Hickory Team A won 3rd place. This makes 20 consecutive years that a Hickory Team has placed 1st or 2nd at the YSU Physics Olympics! We would also like to recognize and thank our six students who qualified for the National Academic Games Tournament. We appreciate our students making a commitment to **Academics**.

In the Arts program at Hickory High School, 45 students participated in art shows at the local level as well as the Congressional Art Show. The local art shows were held at Grove City College and Slippery Rock University. They highlight our student works in photography, ceramics, and painting and drawing. In the HHS orchestra program, nine students were selected for District Orchestra, one student qualified for Region and State Orchestra. In the HHS Band program, five students qualified for District Band, and one was selected for Region Band. In the HHS Choir program, eight students qualified for District Choir with four advancing to Region Choir. What an accomplishment for our students who represent our Arts program! Congratulations and thank you for your commitment in the **Arts**.

In Athletics, the winter sports season has concluded and we are proud of our student athletes!

Swimming: Team GPA=98%, two D10 Champions.

Competitive Cheer: Team GPA=95%, seven-time D10 Champions, PIAA State Runner-up, National Qualifier.

Boys Wrestling: Team GPA=92%, three State Qualifiers, one state medalist.

Girls Wrestling: Team GPA=87%, one State Qualifier.

Boys/Girls Indoor Track: Team GPA=96%, four PIAA Qualifiers, two state medalists.

Girls Basketball: Team GPA=93%, playoff qualifier, playoff winner.

Boys Basketball: Team GPA=92%, Region Champions, D10 #3, PIAA Qualifier.

Overall, 126 winter athletes combined for a GPA of 93.2%. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment in **Athletics**.

The AAA Program at Hickory High School recognizes excellence in receiving a well-rounded education. At graduation, we look forward to recognizing multiple seniors in the Class of 2025 who have achieved excellence at HHS in each area: Academics, Arts and Athletics.



Ionta and Delahunty Schools Showcase Club Offerings for Students

Mr. Eric Trosch, Principal, grades 4-7

Hello Hermitage Community Members!

We are proud to display the clubs and activities available for all students at Delahunty and Ionta Schools. We are excited for the social opportunities and inclusion benefits these particular clubs offer to our students. They provide them with a productive and positive avenue for serving others and help to make our schools an exciting and fun place to learn.

A special thank you to all of our club advisors for providing these exceptional opportunities for our students.

Go Hornets!

Traditional Club Offerings:

- **Art Club-** The mission of the art club is to explore arts outside of the four walls of the regular classroom and experience unique small-group projects.
- **Robotics-** The general purpose of the robotics club is to advance the study of robotics by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and procedures involving robotics. Students design, build and redesign robots, explore careers in related fields and learn new skills.
- **Student Council-** Students have the opportunity to develop leadership skills and represent their peers' interests by organizing school activities, service projects, and serving as a voice for students to the administration and professional faculty.
- **Video Production Crew-** Morning announcement crew is responsible for delivering daily announcements for the Delahunty Middle School in a fun and professional manner. They learn video recording, video editing, teamwork and time management skills.

New Club Offerings:

- **Break-Fast Club-** Is for students interested in puzzles and learning games. These games teach teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking, and troubleshooting by presenting participants with challenges that ignite their natural drive to problem solve. Students complete puzzles and escape-room type challenges both digitally and on paper.
- **Future Business Leaders of America-** Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club allows students the opportunity to investigate careers related to business, compete in business-related events, build leadership skills and interact with students with similar interests.
- **Future Teachers of America-** Is an organization that prepares and inspires students interested in teaching by providing them with hands-on experiences and knowledge to develop the qualities and skills essential for a future teacher.

• **Newspaper Club-** Students in seventh grade have the opportunity to write about topics that matter to them and share their journalistic aptitude with their peers. Students interview athletes, teachers, other clubs, and showcase student accomplishments. Students write about upcoming events, holidays, and fundraisers occurring at school. Newspapers are published monthly.

• **Science Club-** The Science Club provides students in grades six and seven engagement and exploration of the world of science beyond what they experience in the regular classroom. This club promotes interest in the different disciplines of science and students conduct experiments, and learn to contribute to group activities.

• **Students for Charity Club-** Is a group of compassionate and driven students who believe in making a difference in the lives of others. Through the organization's efforts, students are directed to incorporate empathy and responsibility by engaging young minds in meaningful acts of service.

This Month's Featured Clubs (pictured):



• **Character Connections Club-** Strives to create a welcoming and supportive space where all students, regardless of abilities, feel welcomed, loved, and supported. Students continue to learn about different abilities (Autism, Intellectual Disability, Other Health Impairments (OHI)). Students learn to communicate through AT devices and sign language. Students use these skills to create relationships with students in the Autistic support and Life Skills classrooms.

• **Ionta Essentials Club-** Ionta Essentials is a club where students get to take control of their own business! Students make decisions on what products to sell, what price they are sold at, and how to advertise for them. This is a real-world opportunity for students to gain experience handling real money, making change, and providing customer service.



Artman students, teachers and families are having an exciting spring!

Dr. Andrew Kemper, K-3 principal

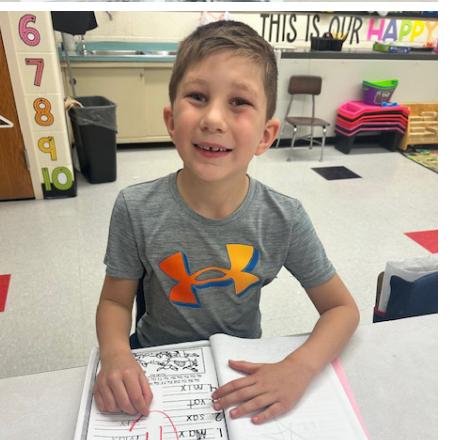
We always know spring is near at Artman when it is time for Kindergarten registration. This year was no different. Our registration screening event was held on March 5th and 6th. These two days provided a great opportunity to meet the Class of 2038, as well as their families. For many families, this is their first step into our schools and you can feel the excitement in the air. If you missed the registration and screening event and you have a child that you need to register, please call the Artman Office at 724-981-8750, ext. 5000.

As with previous years, we had our annual Care Fair during registration. The Care Fair is a great way for families to network with 15 community organizations who set up displays throughout our community room. This establishes school, community, and home connections that can be the groundwork for helping the students while in our district and beyond.

Once again, we also recently held our annual "Princess Ball". The Artman PTO orchestrated this amazing evening where we had over 300 attendees pack our community room to dance the night away with their classmates and 'dates'. We were able to provide many students with dresses for the event through the generosity of community donors.

Not to be out done by the princesses, this year the Artman PTO introduced the "Prince Soiree". This was similar to the Princess Ball but for the boys. As with everything our PTO does, this event was nothing short of amazing. We had a great turnout. Although it was their first dance, the boys wasted no time jumping right in, and may have even outdone the girls.

Some additional excitement beyond these wonderful social events is with our kindergarten students. We are seeing some amazing growth in our kindergarten students in reading! Our kindergarten team has been working in a partnership with the PA Training and Technical Assistance Network (PATTAN) and the Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4 (MIU4) to implement the Enhanced Core Reading Instruction program. The program supplements our reading series with a focus on direct phonics instruction. This year-long implementation has been no easy task for the teachers, but their hard work is paying dividends in student performance. The program will roll into first grade next year, and second grade the following year. With the support of PATTAN and MIU4, we are so excited to see the growth our students will continue to make in reading!



Water Quality Corner

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

The City of Hermitage is committed to protecting and improving stream & river quality in our community and region. Every resident can help to preserve our environment and water resources.

Rain gardens are a beautiful and environmentally friendly way of mitigating surface water runoff on your property. They act as a natural water filter, removing pesticides, fertilizer, and other common chemicals that are known to be dangerous to our waterways. These gardens also promote vegetation and wildlife biodiversity.

For more examples of rain gardens and how you can create one, visit extension.psu.edu/an-introduction-to-rain-gardens

Does it Belong in Your Recycling Bin?



Anything NOT Listed here... belongs in your trash or recycled elsewhere! The "recycling symbol" does not mean an item is recyclable.



Questions:
Aiken Refuse, 724-758-9400, www.aikenrefuse.com,
City of Hermitage, 724-981-0800, www.hermitage.net

Hermitage Recycling, Yard Waste, Garbage

2025 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 14th**.

(**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

FREE PRC's TRAVELING GLASS RECYCLING BIN

April 26th – May 1st
September 27th - October 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 Look for more information on the City's website and social media.

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.

BATTERIES SHOULD NOT BE DISPOSED OF IN YOUR TRASH OR RECYCLING CANS

- They are considered hazardous waste and can be disposed of at "special collections" held throughout Mercer County. Visit <https://lawrencecountypa.gov/departments/recycling-and-solid-waste> or hermitage.net for more details.

From the Desk of the Treasurer

Bernie Harry, City Treasurer

Welcome Spring!!

County/City tax bills were mailed on March 1, 2025. As you noticed, there was an increase in the County portion of your bill, while the city portion remains at only 5 mills!

This increase does not reflect any re-assessment, simply an increase from the County.

The combined amount of County/City tax is only one bill, and one check for the combined amount is sufficient.

To further explain, you may still combine "like" bills to one check.

For example, if paying more than one County/City bill, they may be combined to one check. The same holds true for multiple Per Capita bills as well as multiple School bills. You can no longer

combine any of the three to one check. They all have separate accounts and need to be paid with separate checks.

We want to thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Per Capita and School bills will be mailed August 1, 2025.

Anyone moving to or from Hermitage (including the Wheatland Neighborhood) is encouraged to notify our office to either add you to our Per Capita and census or to remove you as needed.

All residents over the age of 18 are required to register for Per Capita.

Please bring in both sections of your bills if needing a receipt. If you mail your bill, kindly include both parts along with your self-addressed stamped envelope, and we will gladly



return your stamped receipt.

Always notify us if you have not received your bills.

Landlords, please remember to update your rental properties with our office.

Business owners, don't forget to file your Business License Tax by April 15, 2025.

As always, our office is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for your questions and comments either in person, or by phone @ 724-347-4472.

We will be happy to assist you whenever possible. Enjoy the spring flowers!



From the Police Chief

Adam Picirillo, Chief of Police

Vehicle Code and Traffic Safety

Many vehicles when first in line at a red traffic signal stop too far ahead and often protrude into the intersection, making it especially difficult for vehicles at the right cross street to turn left and proceed in the opposing direction. Most intersections controlled by traffic signals are marked with a thick, white, perpendicular bar, referred to in the PA Vehicle Code as a "stop line." You will see these before any marked crosswalks. Section 3112 (a)(3)(i) of the PA Vehicle Code requires vehicles to stop at marked stop lines. This helps keep intersections clear and provides maximum allowable space for other vehicles.

Another situation I see frequently is opposing vehicles making right and left turns onto multiple lane roadways and not maintaining their lane as required by Section 3331(b) of the PA Vehicle Code. For example, a vehicle turning left onto a multiple lane roadway must complete its turn in the left (passing) lane, and a vehicle turning right must complete its turn in the right lane. This allows for opposing vehicles at such intersections to complete their turns simultaneously.

While these rules of the road may seem trivial, not following them can cause accidents.



Prescription Drug Disposal

Residents of Hermitage and Clark are encouraged to bring any unwanted or outdated prescription drugs to the Hermitage Police Department and discard them in our drug disposal box located in the lobby. Liquids, aerosols, syringes, or needles are not permitted. Hours for dropping off prescriptions are 8am-4pm.

From the Fire Chief

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

Spring time is upon us and a lot of us will be starting our outside spring cleaning. Just a reminder, the City of Hermitage has a burning ordinance regulating what you are allowed to burn, hours of burning and the type of container you must burn within. The ordinance was set-up for your safety and the safety of your neighbors. Here are a few highlights of the ordinance:

- Burning hours are Monday thru Saturday 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- No burning on Sunday or Holidays.
- You can only burn paper, cloth and wood, Class A materials.
- You are NOT allowed to burn leaves, trash, or anything that will create a noxious odor.
- Burning is prohibited within 15' of any structure or property line.
- Someone must be attending to the fire at all times.
- Recreational fires for outdoor cooking or bonfires are permitted, but cannot be bigger than 5' in length, width and height.
- No burning on windy days.
- Fines can be up to \$1000 per violation.

For a copy of the ordinance please contact the fire department or go to the city website.



FIRE SAFETY TIPS

How to Safely Ignite the Fire

An adult should always be present during open burning and children and pets should be kept a safe distance away. Use paper and kindling to start the fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood.

Safety Tips for Open Burning Season

Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire because the risk of personal injury is high. Burn one small pile at a time and slowly add to it. This will help keep the fire from getting out of control. Select a location away from any utility lines, structures, dry grass and keep a 5' square area around the container free of combustible debris.

Fire Must Be Attended Until Extinguished

While the fire is burning, an adult must attend the fire until it is completely extinguished.

Have Fire Control Tools On Hand

Have fire extinguishment materials on hand including a water supply, shovels and rakes. The water supply could be a pressurized water fire extinguisher, a pump can or garden hose, and be sure to test it out before igniting



the fire. You do not want to find out that the water is still shut-off at the house faucet or that the hose is cracked when you need it most.

Watch the Wind: Be Prepared to Extinguish All Open Burning

Be prepared to extinguish your fire if the winds pick up or weather changes. Use common sense and don't wait for the fire department to contact you that it has become unsafe to burn. Sudden wind change is how most open burning gets out of control.

Don't Delay a Call For Help

If for some reason, the fire should get out of control, call the fire department immediately by dialing 911. Use the utmost caution to prevent injury to yourself or family members or any damage by fire to your home. People conducting illegal burning, or who allow a fire to get out of control, may be held liable for costs of extinguishing the fire and/or fined.



Parks & Recreation

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City of Hermitage Board of Commissioners

From left to right: Cameron S. Linton, Bill Moder, John Morocco, 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



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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

