



Community Update

Volume 27, Issue 78

Fall 2025



In This Issue

Holiday Light Parade.....	2	Hermitage Performing Arts.....	10	School District.....	14-17
Annual Merry Christmas Mile.....	2	Small Business Advantage	10	Holiday Angel Tree Program.....	17
eAcademy.....	3	Council Ring Project.....	10	Water Quality Corner.....	18
Winter Solstice.....	4	Cyber Summit.....	11	Recycling/Yard Waste/Garbage	18
Seasonal Events.....	4-8	Comm. Library of SV.....	12	From the Desk of the Treasurer.....	19
Buhl Club.....	8	Shenango River Watchers.....	12	From the Fire Chief.....	19
Spotlight Business -		Buhl Park	13	How to Stay in the Know.....	20
Twisted Yoga and Barre Studio.....	2	Hermitage Historical Society	13		

Hermitage Holiday Light Parade

The 27th Annual Hermitage Holiday Light Parade is scheduled for **Saturday, November 22nd 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 Indian Run Road signalized intersection, where the parade concludes.

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 30,000 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, scan the QR code or visit www.hermitage.net.

For more information, contact Amy Gargiulo at 724-981-0800, ext 1120. Register by Friday, November 7th



Annual Merry Christmas Mile

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025 - 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 over **30,000** 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 GMC Parking Lot. There will also be awards for the top three costumes!

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



Early Registration:

\$12 without T-shirt or \$24 includes a short-sleeved T-shirt or \$30.00 for a long-sleeved shirt.

(NEW: due to postal delays, mail in entries must be RECEIVED by Saturday, November 15th)

******Availability of race shirts guaranteed only to those pre-registered by November 8th.**

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 - Short Sleeve: YM YL S M L XL XXL
T-shirt Size - Long Sleeve: 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: _____

HOLIDAY Hustle

A LOCAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FAIR

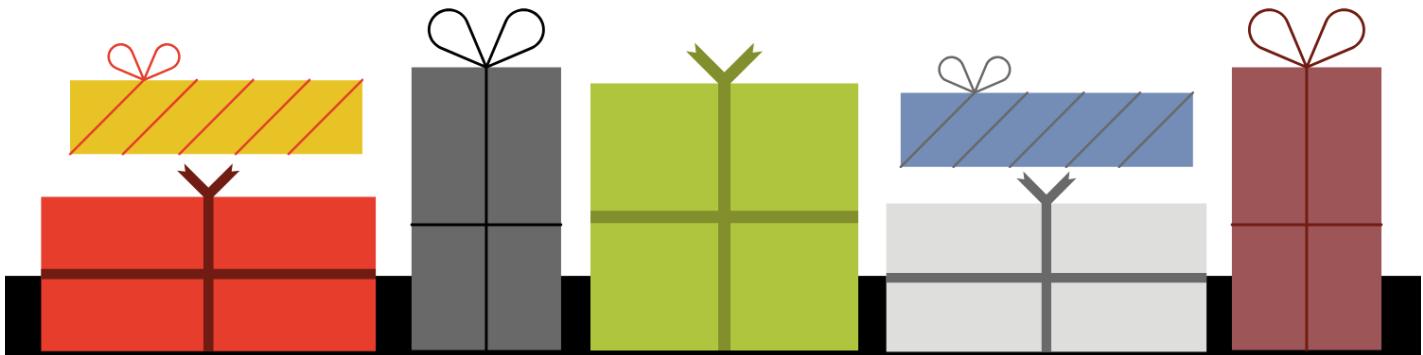
FREE ADMISSION &
OVER 30 VENDORS

SUPPORT LOCAL
ENTREPRENEURS

FOOD TRUCKS
COFFEE & WINE

Celebrate the holidays and Global Entrepreneurship Week by shopping our seasonal market Saturday, Nov 22nd and Sunday, Nov 23rd from 10AM-3PM at the LindenPointe Development Corporation.

Parking available at the eCenter (3580 Innovation Way, Hermitage) and vendors will be spread throughout our two buildings, both within walking distance of our parking lot. Please refer to event map for details.



Global Entrepreneurship Week is a massive campaign to celebrate and empower entrepreneurs in every country and community around the world- especially those individuals who face structural barriers or may have never considered the idea of launching a startup. Like the color spectrum depicted in the logo of the Global Entrepreneurship Network, entrepreneurship embraces different realities, all equally important for the development of competitive and inclusive economies. The Holiday Hustle is an eAcademy fundraiser.



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

Sunday, December 21st from 4:30 to 7:30

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!



Christmas Market @ GRACE CHAPEL

An illustration of various market stalls. One stall is labeled "Fruit Stand", another "Pet Treats", and a third "Candles". There are also signs for "Milk Shakes" and "Ice Cream".

FREE ADMISSION!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 • 9AM-1PM

SAVE THE DATE

Hope for the Holidays

7th Annual Artisan Market

Saturday, December 13, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
115 Anson Way, Sharon, PA

HOPE
C A T
HopeCAT.org

A row of colorful Christmas trees in various shades of green, purple, and blue, set against a purple background.

Handcrafted Gifts | Local Makers | Support the Arts

2026 Hermitage Bus & Travel

★★ HERMITAGE GOES TO ★★

NASHVILLE

March 20-22
Bus Trip
2 NIGHTS!
EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN!
EARLY-BIRD BUS \$236
HOTEL \$299 PER NIGHT PLUS TAX

REGISTER BY JAN 7 FOR EARLY BIRD PRICING

Join us for a Winery Tour
Geneva, OH
Saturday, May 30
Four Wineries
\$40 per person
Includes Transportation
(Meals & Drinks on your own)

NYC EXPRESS

HOLIDAY BUS TRIP

Dec 5th, 2026

Take in the magic of the season and explore the Big Apple for a full day at your own pace!

Round Trip Bus Fare:
\$150/pp



For more information and to register, visit www.hermitage.net or scan the code



The City of Hermitage Parks & Rec presents...
Discover America's Cowboy Country

September 1-8, 2026

Join us on an 8-day adventure through the American West!

Trip highlights include:

Badlands National Park • Custer State Park • Crazy Horse Memorial

Mt Rushmore • Yellowstone National Park • Jackson Hole

Grand Teton National Park • Deadwood

**Book By March 1st, 2026 • Book Now & Save \$250 per person
Double \$4,249**

Rate includes: Hometown pick-up, round-trip air from Pittsburgh Intl Airport, air taxes and fees, hotel transfers, room accommodations, 7 breakfasts & 3 dinners, all tour and travel accommodations.

collette



For more information and a full itinerary, scan the QR code or contact us at parks@hermitage.net





OCTOBER 23RD. 3-8PM

BOO-TIQUE HOP

Hermitage, PA



Fall 2025
Enrollment
OPEN

Youth Arts

Sept 22 - Dec 11, 2025

- Grades **3-12**
- **Monday-Thursday** After School
- Must enroll in **two-day class**
- **Painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking,** and more.
- **Join anytime** during the semester.



HOPE
C A A T



Scan to Register



Join Our Computer Class Today!

Unlock your digital future one click at a time!

CLASSES OFFERED:

- Computer Basics**
October 7-30, 2025 T/TH
- Create with Canva**
October 14, 2025
- Using Technology in Daily Life**
November 18, 2025
- Excel Workshops**
Basic December 9
Advanced December 11

www.mercercountyadulted.org  



Henry & Catherine Evans Community Service Award Dinner

On September 11th, 2025, the Buhl Club proudly hosted the annual Henry & Catherine Evans Community Service Award Dinner, celebrating community members who embody a spirit of service and leadership.

This year's honorees were Joseph and Kristine Altenor, owners of Haitian Sensation. Through their business and personal dedication, the Altenors have made a lasting impact on our region by fostering cultural connection, uplifting families, and supporting countless community initiatives.

The evening included a formal dinner, recognition of the honorees, and an opportunity for neighbors to come together in celebration. Proceeds from the dinner support Buhl's Scholarship Program, which ensures that no one is ever turned away from programs and services due to financial need.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our sponsors, volunteers, and attendees who helped make the evening a success, as we continue honoring the legacy of Henry and Catherine Evans and building a stronger community.

Mercer County Adult Education

LIFELONG LEARNING CLASSES

FALL 2025

-  Creative Writing Classes
-  Culinary Art Classes
-  Sewing Classes
-  Spanish Classes
-  Succulents and Self Care
-  Computer Classes
-  Water Color Classes
-  Cardmaking Classes

 C.FUSS@MERCERCOUNTYADULTED.ORG
 MERCERCOUNTYADULTED.ORG
 724-458-7270





spotlight business



TWISTED
YOGA + BARRE STUDIO



Twisted Yoga and Barre Studio

In her early 20s, Jackie Stewart did not like yoga. The owner of Twisted Yoga and Barre Studio had been athletic all her life, taught aerobics all through college, and also had started teaching kick boxing and cycling.

Yoga was "too calm," she said.

But, in her late 20s, Stewart started looking for a way to unwind. She signed up for a hot power yoga class.

"Oh my word. I was like, 'Wow, that was really challenging,'" Stewart said. "It was probably the hardest class I ever took. I really started to like it."

She enrolled in a 200-hour yoga certification course at Amazing Yoga in Pittsburgh.

"I really got into it," Stewart said. "It was the only thing I wanted to do."

Yoga, she said, "has so many layers to it. You can't come to your first yoga class and be like, 'I've learned everything there is.' I've been doing it for 20 years and every single day I feel like I learn something new, whether it be from another instructor or a client."

She later completed a 500-hour yoga training class at Practice Yoga in Naples, Fla.

After having worked numerous jobs, Stewart decided to work for herself and opened Twisted in 2013. In 2022, Twisted moved to its current location, 3565 E. State St., in the Cornerstone Plaza.

Over that time, Stewart has expanded into barre and cycling classes, and developed a loyal clientele.

"I would say 60 percent of my clientele started with me 12 years ago," she said.

The heated power yoga class is the studio's "bread and butter," Stewart said, but she also offers gentle, slow-flow yoga and adds specialty classes from time to time.

The barre class has "a tad of ballet movement in it," but also incorporates light weights, physical therapy movements and squats, some of it off the barre.

"It's a no-impact, high-intensity environment," Stewart said. "It's not quiet and zen like yoga. The music's going – you're moving."

The stationary bikes are "fused" with other classes. Referring to the Pedal and Power class, she said, "Half the class is done on the bike, half the class is yoga that counterbalances all the hunching and tightness you would use on a bike. We've also combined that (bicycling) with barre classes as well."

Classes are offered in the morning and in the evening, and Stewart teaches most of them herself. All ages and abilities are welcome. She said a woman with multiple sclerosis participates in one of her classes.

"She can't do everything in a power class or a barre class, but she says coming here is better than physical therapy because that's her time out, that's her time away," Stewart said. "Even though she can't do everything, that's her improvement. She does what she can. She's been coming for over 10 years, now."

Yoga, barre and cycling are not exclusively female activities as men and boys, including high school and college athletes, come to her classes, Stewart said. Yoga helps athletes with

the mental aspects of the game, as well as the physical, she said.

Although Stewart said she wasn't sure the studio would last a year when she first started, she now offers 20 classes a week and is open seven days a week. Her promotion has largely been from clients telling others about what she offers.

"It's a lot of work, but I do enjoy it," Stewart said.

**TWISTED
YOGA + BARRE
STUDIO**

3565 E. State St.
Hermitage, PA 16148

724-882-9562

EMAIL

jackie@twistedyogabarre.com

WEBSITE

www.twistedyogabarre.com
(Enroll in classes online)

Follow us on our socials!

Facebook
Twisted Yoga and Barre Studio

Instagram
twistedyogabarre

Welcome Hermitage Performing Arts Academy



The city is pleased to welcome the Hermitage Performing Arts Academy (HPA) to its small business community. Located at 2925 E. State Street (Hot Rod's Subs Plaza) the HPA began classes on September 8th and offers morning, evening, and weekend classes in dance, theater and performance for children of all ages, as well as dance classes for adults. Offerings include ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, lyrical, tumble, baton, contemporary dance, acting, and singing.

Owner, Teri Nobbs has over 45 years of experience in dancing and teaching dance as a career and draws on a diverse staff of trained instructors. Teri has successfully operated the Columbiana (Ohio) Performing Arts Center for many years and has now expanded to Hermitage. Registration is available through their website at: www.hermitageperformingartsacademy.com or by calling 330-518-0020.

Small Business Advantage Grants Available

The PA Department of Environmental Protection's Small Business Advantage Grant program is now accepting applications from eligible small businesses for pollution prevention, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation projects. Projects must save the business at least \$500 annually in energy or pollution costs and reduce annual energy or pollution related expenses by at least 20%. Certain project types are eligible with Lighting, HVAC, boiler and Digital Medical X-Rays and Scanners being the most common.

This is a first-come, first-served program that is available until the funding runs out or through March 13, 2026, whichever comes first. Funding ranges from 50% or \$7,500 (whichever is less) up to 80% or \$12,000 (whichever is less) based on environmental impact and project location. It is a reimbursement grant with funding provided after the approved project is completed. Pennsylvania registered for-profit businesses with 100 or fewer full-time equivalents are eligible; sole proprietorships are ineligible. More information and applications are available at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/grants-loans-rebates/small-businessombudsman-s-office/small-business-advantage-grant>

Council Ring Project Taking Shape

The City of Hermitage is collaborating with the United Way of Mercer County to construct a Council Ring at Stull Nature Reserve. A Council Ring is a circular, stone, seated area with an opening leading to the middle, which can also feature a fire pit in the center. The design was popularized by Danish-American landscape architect, Jens Jensen, and it is conducive to group discussion and learning.

The United of Mercer County secured a \$25,000 grant from the National Fuel Gas Foundation to help fund the project. The city will deliver the project, which is currently in design. Once completed, the Council Ring will be available to the public and may be used by area schools, scouting organizations, and community groups. Its location at Stull will encourage in-nature, hands-on environmental learning opportunities.



Pennsylvania
Cybersecurity
Center



THIEL
COLLEGE

2025

Cyber Summit on October 22nd

The Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Center (PCC), headquartered at LindenPointe, will hold a Cyber Summit on October 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Thiel College, 15 Packard Avenue, Greenville, in the Lutheran Heritage Room located on the first floor of the Howard Miller Student Center. The Cyber Summit begins with registration and a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and includes an Industry Panel, Education Panel, and a Military and Governmental Panel, as well as two networking segments.

If you are interested in exploring a career in the burgeoning Cybersecurity field, the Cyber Summit is an excellent opportunity to hear from local experts on career opportunities and



applications, and educational pathways. There is also an opportunity for a guided campus tour of Thiel College at

the conclusion of the Summit. Register by October 13th to rlove@lindenpointe.com.

Your Career Starts Here!

EVENT SPONSORS

Penn-Northwest
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Affordable Solutions For Corporate Expansion

 **HERMITAGE**
PENNSYLVANIA

GUEST PANELISTS INCLUDE:

 **Zekelman**

 **U.S. ARMY**



 **CRONIMET**

 **MERCER COUNTY**
STATE BANK



11. N Sharpsville Ave.

Sharon, PA 16146

(724)-981-4360

www.clsv.net

Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10AM-8PM

Friday-Saturday 10AM-5PM

Sunday Closed



Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale

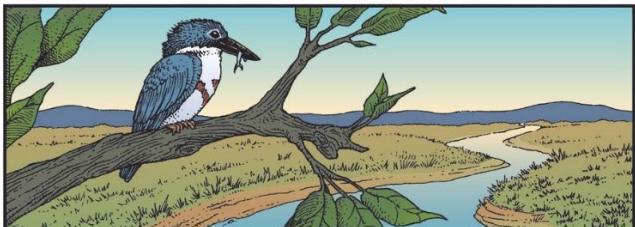
The Fall book sale will be held from **Wednesday, October 22nd to Saturday, October 25th**. If you missed the book sale in the Spring, here is your second chance!

We cannot wait to see everyone and hope you will leave with bags full of books.



Stay connected and up-to-date with events and programs at CLSV by following us across social media

SHENANGO RIVER WATCHERS



To find out about our events, register, become a member, volunteer or sponsor scan this QR code or visit: shenangoriverwatchers.org



TIRE RECYCLING

Saturday October 11
9AM-1PM
(or when the truck is full)
at FedEx,
2970 S. Hermitage Rd.

SPONSORED BY



FOUNDED 2001

38th Annual GOBBLE WOBBLE 5K

Thanksgiving Morning
A Shenango Valley Tradition
Buhl Park
8AM registration
9:30AM start
gobblewobblerace.com





OCTOBER 4TH

FALL FLICK

@ BUHL PARK'S OUTDOOR STAGE
MOVIE TBD. BEGINS AT DUSK
FREE ADMISSION. SNACKS, WITCHES
BREW BUBBLE TEAS AND POPCORN
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.



FALLING PICKLES BEGINNER TOURNAMENT

This tournament is for beginner players (2.5 and below) aged 45 and over. It is an OPEN tournament, allowing registration for women's, men's, or mixed doubles teams.

MORE INFO &
REGISTRATION:



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!



INDOOR GOLF

Buhl Park Golf Course
1290 Forker Blvd.

Buhl Park operates TrackMan golf simulators (three in total) inside The Shop at Buhl Park Golf Course. These simulators are high-end, tracking the full trajectory of shots, from short pitches to long drives, and providing 26 data points related to impact and ball flight. Buhl Park

- Available daily from 8 AM to 8 PM. Reservations are handled through The Shop by calling [724-308-7883](tel:724-308-7883)
- \$30/hour Monday through Thursday, and \$40/hour Friday through Sunday.

**MORE ON GOLF
OPPORTUNITIES
@ BUHL PARK:**



Hermitage Historical Society

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

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. We are in search of donations of gently used items for sale at our flea markets; all money and donations go towards making our 1869 Stewart House mansion beautiful 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 Rod at 724-877-7996.

Marketplace

We will have our garage open in October (date TBD) to sell items left over from our summer flea markets. All proceeds go back into the maintenance of the historical society. Please check our Facebook page for the date.

Christmas Tours

Our annual Christmas tree tours will kick off after Thanksgiving. Come see our beautiful Victorian mansion decorated with dozens of trees and other holiday decorations. This year's Christmas theme will be: **Deck the Halls**

Admission is free and open to the public on the following dates:

- November 29-30
- December 5, 6, 7
- December 12, 13, 14
- Fridays are open from 5:00-8:00pm
- Saturday and Sundays are open from 1:00-5:00pm

If any local group or family is interested in decorating a tree in the historical society, please contact Brenda at 724-854-0712

Historical Society Officers:

President: Cameron Linton

Vice President: David Gibb

Second Vice President: Dan Maurice

New Members Are Always Welcome:

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

Treasurer: Rod McAdams

Secretary: Barb Matejka

Assistant Secretary: Cindy Cox

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

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:

*Open to the public at the Stewart House
5465 East State Street*

September 16th - 7pm

Tom Darby on coal mining and history of Neshannock

October 21st - 7pm

TBD

Hermitage School District Welcomes New Educators!

We are excited to introduce 11 new educators who have joined the Hermitage School District family for the 2025–2026 school year! Each of these dedicated professionals brings new energy, fresh perspectives, and a strong commitment to our students' success. To help our community get to know them better, each teacher has shared a short introduction below their photo. We encourage our families, students, and community members to take a moment to learn more about these new faces and join us in giving them a warm Hermitage welcome. We are confident they will make a positive impact as we continue our journey together!



Jada Abrams

What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?

8th and 9th grade ELA

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

As I begin my teaching career with HSD, I am most excited about getting to know the Hermitage community and becoming more involved with it.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school, I enjoy reading, going on walks, cooking, and spending time with my family.



Breanna Acklin

What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?

8th grade American Cultures

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

What excites me most as I begin teaching with HSD is the opportunity to spark curiosity, share my passion for history, and inspire the youth of Hermitage as they grow into confident, motivated scholars.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school, I value spending time outdoors with my family.



Lauren Currie

What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?

Kindergarten ELA, math, social studies and science

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

The most exciting aspect of beginning my teaching career with HSD is being able to join the amazing community and to help make a difference in the students' lives that I teach.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school I enjoy reading, cooking, baking, and spending time with my family and friends.



Zach Gagliardi

What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?

Kindergarten through 7th grade

Emotional support

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

I am most excited about helping students with exceptionalities grow, succeed, and become the best versions of themselves. I am thankful to be surrounded by amazing individuals in the district that are willing to work with me and guide me to become a teacher that future generations deserve.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school, I like spending time with my dogs and watching sports.



Macey Hamilton

What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?

Grades 8-11 high school math: Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and College Algebra/Trigonometry

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

As I begin my teaching career with HSD, I'm most excited to rejoin/give back to the community that shaped me to be the professional and person I am today.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school, I enjoy hanging out with my family and friends, shopping, going to pilates, watching sports, and trying new restaurants.



Mackenzie Kulik

What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?

4th grade social studies and science

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

What excites me most about being part of this school district is the strong sense of community—where staff, parents, students, and local partners work together to create a welcoming and supportive environment for all. I have felt so welcomed by the entire

HSD community, and am very thankful to help make a difference.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school I enjoy the outdoors, hiking at local state parks, baking, and spending time with friends and family.



Erycka Munnell

What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?

3rd grade ELA, math, social studies and science

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

I'm really excited to get to know a new group of students and to work alongside new colleagues as we help students learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

Going for walks, baking fancy cakes, playing pickleball, and spending time with my two boys.



Erica Murdock

What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?

4th grade Learning Support teacher and co-teaching both ELA and Math.

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

I'm most excited to be part of a district that values innovation and forward-thinking goals—and even more excited to see those visions come to life in the classroom. I look forward to growing through collaboration, not only with my students but also alongside inspiring colleagues.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

Outside the classroom, I love staying active by walking with my dog and family and discovering new places to explore. Traveling—whether near or far—is one of my favorite adventures, especially when it involves trying new foods. Most importantly, I love cheering on my kids in all their activities—whether it's volleyball, baseball, track, or dance, I'm always their biggest fan!

**Mikayla Puzzuto****What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?**

Grades 9-12 Spanish 1 and 2

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

What excites me the most of being here is being with such amazing kids that are so polite and excited to learn.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

My hobbies include reading, singing, gardening, and crafting.

**Alicia Sciaretta****What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?**

Grades 8-12 School Counselor/ Interventionist

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

I am so excited to be a part of the Hermitage School District. I am most excited about getting to know and work with the incredible students and staff, and to be immersed in Hornet Nation for many years to come.

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my husband and our two children, hiking with our dogs, taking dance classes, trying out new restaurants, reading, and traveling.

**Justin Walter****What grade(s) and subject(s) are you teaching this year?**

Grade 8 learning support ELA and science

What excites you most about beginning your teaching career with HSD?

What excites me most about joining HSD is the opportunity to connect with students and the community where I grew up. As a Hickory graduate, I'm grateful to be back home and look forward to inspiring students to be their best selves. I'm excited to watch my students grow, learn, and succeed!

What hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school, I enjoy running at Buhl Park, going on adventures with my wife, and spending time with friends and family.

Artman Elementary Back to School 2025

Dr. Andrew Kemper, Principal, grade K-3

Artman is so excited to be back in session. This year we welcomed 151 new kindergarten children to our family and they are quickly learning how to be ready, respectful, and responsible students. We also had the wonderful Back to School Bash the week prior to school starting and over 1,000 backpacks were distributed to students from throughout the Shenango Valley. We are so thankful to our wonderful sponsors who help with this event.

A Focus on Reading

We continue to enhance our reading instruction through targeted staff professional development and research-based instructional materials. Last year we introduced our kindergarten students and teachers to the Enhanced Core Reading Instruction (ECRI) program. This year, as those students move onto 1st grade, the program will move up

with them. Finally, our 2nd grade team will be trained next year to complete the three-year implementation cycle. We are excited to see our students develop as better readers through the hard work of our teaching staff in implementing this program.

The 'Beautification of Artman'



If you have ever been through Artman, you have noticed the wonderful design of the building and community feel of the instructional pods for each grade level. This year, our amazing art teacher, Mrs. Jessica Gibb, added some beautiful artwork to our cafeteria. What started as an idea to enhance an older piece of artwork, turned into a design that spans the entire room. There are a wide variety of familiar characters throughout the piece, including our very own Buzzy the Hornet! Her incredible design and amazing work has really transformed the cafeteria

- The students and staff give a giant THANK YOU to Mrs. Gibb!!!

Ionta and Delahunty School Counseling in 2025

Mr. Eric Trosch, Principal, grades 4-7

Twenty years ago, school counselors were commonly referred to as guidance counselors. Their primary responsibilities focused on scheduling classes, assisting with college applications, and career planning—especially at the high school level. In elementary and middle schools, the role was more limited, often involving test coordination or occasional student support.

At that time, mental health was only minimally addressed. It carried a stigma and was often pushed into the background.

Today, in 2025, a significant and positive paradigm shift has taken place. The role of the school counselor has broadened into a vital part of each school community. We are excited to highlight the multifaceted and essential work of the School Counseling Department at Ionta and Delahunty Schools. In speaking with Mrs. Mary Mild, our grades 4-7

School Counselor, and guidance secretary, Mrs. Suzanne Hart, both shared valuable expertise and insight into the evolution of school counseling and the inner workings of our department.

Mrs. Mild emphasized how the role has expanded. Counselors are now recognized as integral school leaders who support academic achievement, social-emotional learning, and career development.

Mental health support is now a major priority. Counselors help students manage stress, anxiety, bullying, conflict resolution, and resilience. In addition to administrative tasks, school counselors deliver classroom lessons, facilitate small group sessions, and provide one-on-one support.

As a former guidance counselor, I have witnessed firsthand the significant changes in



collaboration. Today, Mrs. Mild and Mrs. Hart, each in their respective roles, work extensively with teachers, families, and community mental health providers in ways that were far less common fifteen or twenty years ago. Supporting students with a wide range of mental health needs has become a routine, essential part of their daily work.

Key Aspects of the School Counselor's Role

Student Supports

- Meeting with students for academic, social-emotional, and career needs.
- Advocating for students in challenging situations and helping them identify solutions.
- Collaborating with the School Social Worker to identify students for counseling or skills-based groups.
- Focusing on prevention and early intervention to stop small issues from becoming larger problems.
- Partnering with families to connect students with school-based therapy, the SCORE program, behavioral health therapists, and community agencies.
- Full-time school social worker through contract with Community Counseling Center.

Special Programming

- Hornet Hive Clothing Closet – provides clothing, shoes, toiletries, and backpacks for students in need.
- Problem-Solving Team Meetings – monthly meetings with staff representatives to determine interventions and supports for students facing academic, social-emotional, or behavioral concerns.
- CharacterStrong Student of the Month Recognition.
- Positive Peer Relationships Program – supports healthy peer interactions.
- Check-In/Check-Out Program – daily monitoring to ensure students are prepared for school and transitions home.

Looking Ahead

The role of the school counselor has changed dramatically. The services, programming, and supports provided today are instrumental in fostering student growth, achievement, and well-being. Navigating the intermediate and middle school years is a journey filled with new challenges and opportunities, and the partnership between students, families, teachers, and counselors makes all the difference.

In grades 4-7, the counseling department serves as a bridge between elementary and high school, guiding children as they discover their interests, manage responsibilities, and build healthy relationships. Our school counseling department is proud to partner with families to support students through these exciting—and sometimes challenging—years.

A Huge Congratulations to Our Students and Staff at Hickory High School!

What an incredible start to the school year! The energy, commitment, and enthusiasm shown by our Hickory High School community set the stage for what promises to be another outstanding year.

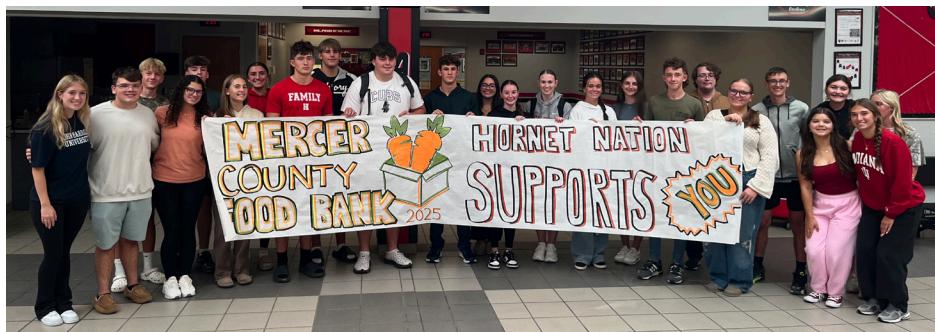
As we continue to build on our tradition of excellence, we are thrilled to announce our theme for the 2025–2026 school year:

“This is the Year, I...”

This theme is a powerful reminder that Hickory High is more than just a building made up of bricks and walls. It is a community built on relationships, culture, and pride. Whether it's in Academics, Arts, or Athletics (AAA), the spirit of Hickory runs deep in our halls.

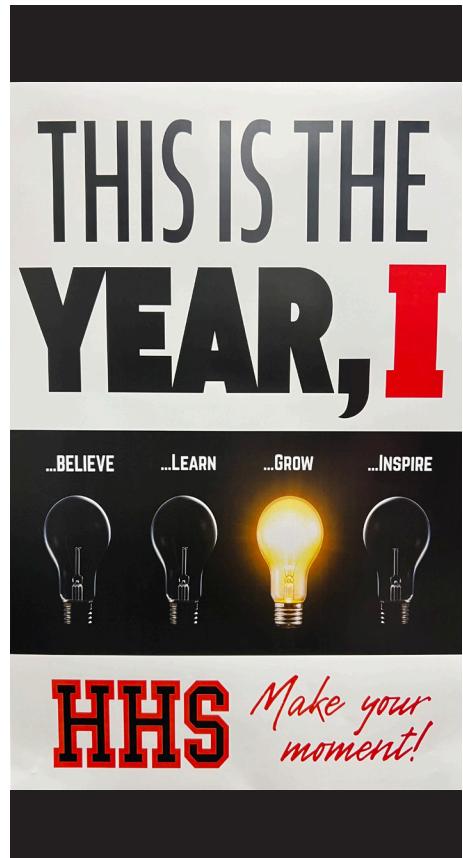
“This is the Year, I...” encourages each of us: students, staff, and community members to set goals, embrace challenges, and make meaningful strides toward personal growth. It's a call to action for everyone to create milestones, achieve accomplishments, and write their own stories of success.

Under this theme, and united under the banner of Hickory High School, we strive to foster a culture of unity, pride, and purpose. Let this be the year you step forward, get involved, and create memories that last a lifetime.



Already, our Hornet community has shown how powerful it can be when we come together with purpose. In recognition of Hunger Action Day, students from the Art Club, Hornet Nation, Student Council, Drum Majors, and several fall sports captains joined forces to support the Mercer County Food Bank and reflect the heart of our theme by standing behind this great community resource. We are grateful to the Mercer County Food Bank for the vital work they do to support families throughout the Shenango Valley.

We are proud to be part of an extremely special Hermitage Community. This is our community. This is our year. Let's make our moment. We wish all students, staff, and our Hornet Community a safe, productive, and positive 2025-2026 school year.



Community Outreach: Holiday Angel Tree Program

The Hermitage School District is thrilled to announce the return of the Holiday Angel Tree Program, a cherished initiative that relies heavily on the generosity of our community. Over the years, the program has received significant support, enabling outreach efforts for students and families in need.

Last year, the district successfully provided gifts to 198 children, thanks to the kindness of community members, including staff, families, local churches, and businesses. As the holiday season approaches, we are eager to continue this heartwarming tradition.

The Holiday Angel Tree Program focuses on providing holiday gifts for children from families experiencing financial difficulties. All students from the Hermitage School District, from Kindergarten through Senior year, are eligible to enroll. For the 2025 school year, referrals to participate in the program are being accepted now through October 10, 2025.

Community members interested in supporting a family this holiday season are encouraged to reach out to:

Kayla Lockhart
kayla_lockhart@hermitage.k12.pa.us
or 724-981-8750, ext 5901.

Mary Mild
mary_mild@hermitage.k12.pa.us
or 724-981-8750, ext 3040.

Thank you for your continued support in making the Holiday Angel Tree Program a success!



Water Quality Corner – Fall 2025



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.

With the leaves starting to fall, now is a good time to prepare your yard for next year. Did you know that composted leaves and other yard waste provides nutrients for gardens? Collect your fall leaves into a pile and spread them around your garden for a beautiful and healthy garden come spring!



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 from the 3rd week in April through the 2nd week in December.

(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

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

NEW - Please contact Aiken Refuse @ (724)-758-9400 x5 prior to dropping off tires, they will provide residents with a confirmation code to be used at drop off.

Location: The City Garage, 5250 Virginia Road

Time: Mon-Fri, 8AM-3PM

Requirements: The year round tire and household appliance drop-off program is for Hermitage residents only. Proof of residency will be required upon disposal

Accepted Items: The number of tires per visit is limited to four (4) tires. No tires with rims or tires with dirt inside the casings, will be accepted. All household appliances will be accepted. Items containing Freon must have any doors disabled, Freon removed and be properly tagged by a certified technician. For additional information, call the Hermitage Municipal Building at 724-981-0800



Does it Belong in Your Recycling Bin?



From the Desk of the Treasurer

Bernie Harry, Hermitage Treasurer



Hello everyone. **School Real Estate** bills and **Per Capita** bills were mailed on August 1st and we are happy to inform you that there is **NO** increase for tax year 2025! There was an increase in the Homestead/Farmstead allowance. The amount for approved parcels is \$193.20 for 2025. **Hermitage School District** taxes only will remain at the face

amount this year from October 1st through December 31, 2025, since the Hermitage School District has decided to not charge the 10% penalty again this year. All taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2025, will be filed for collection at the penalty amount.

Wheatland neighborhood residents pay Farrell School tax and their bills will be at the face amount until November 30th and then will go to the penalty amount until December 31st, at which time they will be filed for collection.

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

Per Capita is a head tax on every resident **over the age of 18** and this year is **\$30.00**. All residents are responsible for this tax and are expected to notify the tax office if they are not yet on our tax rolls. This includes the Wheatland neighborhood of Hermitage. **Any exemptions must be addressed in our office annually.** When moving from Hermitage, please notify the tax office to have your name removed.

All Homestead/Farmstead approved properties must be owner-occupied. This means that the name on the deed must match the name of the person or persons who live in that house. This only applies to your main residence. **Anyone who receives the Homestead credit and does not qualify is required by law to notify their tax collector of the necessary correction.**

If you have any questions, feel free to call our office at 724-347-4472.

From the Fire Chief

Michael Wadlow, Fire Marshal-Chief



The Importance of Carbon Monoxide Alarms in the Home

Carbon monoxide (CO) is often called the "silent killer", and for good reason. When inhaled, this colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas replaces oxygen in the bloodstream, preventing vital organs from receiving the oxygen they need. Symptoms of CO poisoning can include headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, and fatigue. In severe cases, exposure can lead to loss of consciousness, permanent brain damage, or death. Because we cannot sense carbon monoxide, alarms are the only reliable way to detect dangerous levels in the home. These devices monitor the air and sound an alert when CO concentrations rise, giving residents time to evacuate and address the source of the problem. To protect yourself and your home, it's important to be aware of common sources of CO in the home, install and maintain a CO alarm, and follow prevention and safety measures. Here is what you need to know:

Carbon monoxide can come from a variety of everyday household sources, including:

- Gas stoves and ovens
- Furnaces and boilers
- Fireplaces and wood stoves
- Water heaters
- Generators
- Vehicles left running in attached garages

Experts recommend:

- Installing CO alarms on every level of the home, especially near sleeping areas.
- Testing alarms monthly to ensure they are working.
- Replacing batteries regularly (or choosing models with sealed, long-life batteries).
- Replacing the alarm itself every 5-10 years, depending on the manufacturer's guidelines.

While alarms are crucial, prevention is equally important. Regular maintenance of fuel-burning appliances, proper ventilation, and safe practices, such as never using grills or generators indoors, all reduce the risk of CO buildup. By installing and maintaining alarms, as well as practicing safe habits with fuel-burning appliances, families can protect themselves from the dangers of carbon monoxide and create a safer home environment. If you need assistance installing or servicing a carbon monoxide or smoke alarm in your home, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office.



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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.....



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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'.

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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:

