



# Community Update

Volume 28, Issue 80

Winter 2026



## In This Issue

### Spotlight Business -

### **Shenango Valley Animal Shelter.....2**

County Property Reassessment.....2

From the Fire Chief.....3

Horse Rescue .....3

Summer Camp.....4

Upcoming Events.....4-5

Hermitage Arts Festival.....5

City Roundabout Tree.....6

Mercer County Adult Education .....6

Shenango River Watchers.....6

Buhl Regional Health .....7

Buhl Park .....7

Hermitage Historical Society .....8

Buhl Club.....8

Mercer County Food Bank.....8

Streets Department.....8

Community Library.....9

eAcademy .....9

School Districts.....10-13

Water Quality Corner.....14

Trash Collection and Recycling .....14

Water Pollution Control Dept.....15

From the Treasurer.....15

Stay in the Know .....16

# spotlight business



## Animal Shelter Closes In On Goal for New Building

The construction of a new Animal Shelter on Lynnwood Drive in Hermitage is underway and fundraising to complete the project is building momentum. Rien Construction was awarded the low bid for the construction of a pre-engineered 6,000 square foot building that will more than double the capacity for dogs and cats and provide a clean and safe place that will advance the shelter's mission of promoting adoption. The current building on Broadway Road was built in 1966, is well overcapacity, and lacks proper ventilation and space for treating and exercising animals. The new location is adjacent to Tails of Hope Spay and Neuter Clinic, which will facilitate

further partnerships through these animal care organizations.

Shenango Valley Animal Shelter, Inc. (SVAS), is a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation with 501(c) (3) tax-exempt status, that is a collaboration between the communities of Farrell, Hermitage, Sharon, Sharpsville, Shenango Township, and West Middlesex. The municipalities provide operational support for animal control, while the SVAS accepts donations for the construction project. A series of state grants, bequests, private foundation grants, and donations, totaling nearly \$1 million, have provided funds to prepare the site and erect the building. The SVAS Board set a

goal to raise an additional \$750,000 to address the interior of the building, including HVAC, electrical, plumbing and constructing the various rooms. Almost 60% of those additional funds have been raised to date, and contributions are being accepted to reach the goal and complete the project this year.

Donations may be made through the website, [www.sv-as.com](http://www.sv-as.com) or by sending a check made payable to the Community Foundation of W. PA and E. OH, 7 W. State Street, Suite 301, Sharon, PA 16146 – Write “SVAS” in the Memo line.

## County Property Reassessment Update - Look for Value Mailers

Hermitage property owners will receive Value Mailers, starting in January, as part of the county-wide property reassessment process authorized by the Mercer County Commissioners. The Value Mailer will contain a dollar figure that should reflect what your property would sell for on the open market in today's dollars. If you agree with the figure contained in the Value Mailer there is no action that you need to take. If you believe that the value is too high and that your property would not fetch that price in an arms-length transaction, then you should pursue an Informal Appeal.

The Value Mailer will explain the Informal Appeal which is an in-person meeting or telephone discussion

with Tyler Technologies, the contractor handling the reassessment process for the county. It is an opportunity for you to provide evidence, discuss the assessed value and ask questions. If you are not satisfied after the Informal Appeal, you will have an opportunity to request a Formal Appeal before the Mercer County Board of Appeals, later in 2026. The Board of Appeals decision is appealable through the courts. The reassessment process is scheduled to wrap up before property tax bills go out in 2027.

# From the Fire Chief

Michael Wadlow, Fire Marshal-Chief

## Safe Haven Baby Box Planned for Hermitage Fire Station 1

The Hermitage Fire Department is pleased to announce plans to install a Safe Haven Baby Box at Hermitage Fire Station 1, located at 2511 Highland Road.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes provide a secure, anonymous, and legal option for parents in crisis to safely surrender an infant. The box is climate-controlled, monitored 24/7, and immediately alerts on-duty personnel when it is opened, ensuring a rapid and safe response.

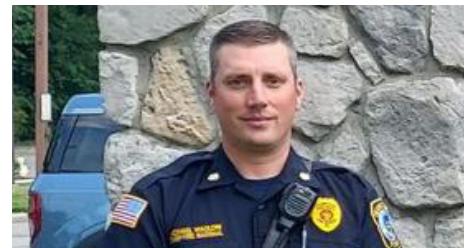
The installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box reflects the Hermitage Fire Department's continued commitment to public safety and community well-being. Once installed, the box

will offer a compassionate alternative for families facing overwhelming circumstances, while ensuring infants receive immediate care.

Additional details regarding installation timelines and community support opportunities will be shared as the project moves forward.

For more information about Safe Haven Baby Boxes and their mission, visit [www.shbb.org](http://www.shbb.org)

For those wishing to donate to the project, scan the QR Code provided.



**SCAN HERE**



**to bring a SHBB to  
Hermitage, PA!!**



## Horse Rescue in Transfer

On January 8, 2026, the Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department responded to an unusual rescue request from Transfer Volunteer Fire Department involving an adult male horse that had become trapped in a stable doorway at a local farm. The horse was found on its left side, pinned between the stable door and an adjacent wall, and unable to stand under its own power. It was estimated that the animal had been down for nearly four hours prior to HFD arrival.

After assessing the situation and making the horse as comfortable as possible, crews quickly realized this would require some creative problem-solving. A large-animal veterinarian arrived on scene and advised that returning the horse to its feet was critical to its survival. HFD crews then demonstrated exceptional ingenuity by adapting specialized rescue equipment, typically used for human and vehicle rescue, for a large-animal application. Access was gained to the hay mow above the stall, where crews carefully cut an opening in the floor directly over the animal. Using heavy-duty lifting straps, cable winches, and a rope haul system to create mechanical advantage, the horse was slowly and safely lifted under the veterinarian's supervision. Rescue airbags were placed beneath the



animal during the lift to help support its weight and reduce pressure. After several hours of teamwork, the horse was back on all fours and soon grazing in its pasture. We're grateful for the positive outcome and proud to have been able to lend a hand (and a few rescue tools) to help our neighbors to the north.

*Be a part of the adventure!*



More info at:  
[www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net)  
[parks@hermitage.net](mailto:parks@hermitage.net)

# THE CITY OF HERMITAGE & BUHL PARK SUMMER CAMP AT BUHL PARK

Register by May 11th

Who

All students  
entering grades  
1st through 6th

What

Outdoor Educational  
& Recreational  
Activities All Day

When

June 8 - July 17  
Five Days a Week  
9am - 3pm

Discounts

Hermitage  
residents receive a  
discount!

Scholarships  
Income Based  
Scholarship  
Available!



## NOW HIRING SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS

The City of Hermitage in partnership with Buhl Park are taking applications to fill counselor positions for our outdoor Summer Camp at Buhl Park! For more information and to apply, please scan the QR codes!



## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2026 EVENTS

APRIL  
25



EARTH DAY FESTIVAL  
12PM - 4PM

JULY  
25 & 26



ARTS FESTIVAL  
NOON - 9PM, 11 AM - 4PM

DEC  
21



WINTER SOLSTICE  
5:30PM - 7:30 PM

NIGHT MARKET  
5 PM - 9 PM

JULY-  
OCT



HOLIDAY LIGHT  
PARADE  
6PM - 8 PM

NOV  
21



For more information on these events & our  
many programs & recreational activities  
visit [www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net)

A class on how to save a life

# CPR



## First Aid, Stop the Bleed, & AED Training

Performing CPR while waiting for medical assistance can greatly increase a person's chance of survival from cardiac arrest.

Join us for a free community training brought to you by The City of Hermitage & Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department. Register early, seats are limited!

**Tuesday, March 10th, 6-8 pm**  
**TWDC @ LindenPointe**  
**3050 Prosperity Place**

Scan the QR code to register!  
 For more information email [lclark@hermitage.net](mailto:lclark@hermitage.net)



## FREE TREES FOR KIDS

The City of Hermitage is

partnering with  
**@NeighborhoodForest** to help green our community & inspire our youth this Earth Day! Seedlings can be picked up at the City of Hermitage Earth Day Festival Saturday, April 25th 12-4 pm at the eCenter at LindenPointe.

*Scan to register by March 15th!*



## Join us for a Winery Tour

**Geneva, OH**  
**Saturday, May 30th**

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





## NYC EXPRESS

**HOLIDAY BUS TRIP**  
**Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 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**




## Call For Artists

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

**ARTISTS,  
 Scan to apply!**



**FOOD TRUCK VENDORS,  
 Scan to apply!**



# City's Roundabout Tree

The City of Hermitage shines a grateful spotlight on two generous community Christmas donations. Spring Valley Golf Club and Lodge of Mercer, PA donated our community Christmas tree and T. Bruce Campbell Construction Co. of West Middlesex, PA donated equipment and services to aid in installing the tree. These donations transformed our roundabout into a festive holiday centerpiece that remained illuminated throughout the season, inspiring holiday spirit to residents and visitors. Thank you to Spring Valley Golf Club and Lodge and to T. Bruce Campbell Construction Co. for your beautiful contributions and for inspiring community spirit!



Mercer County  
Adult Education

## LIFELONG LEARNING CLASSES

SPRING 2026

Creative Writing Classes

Culinary Art Classes

AI for Professionals

Spanish Classes

Succulents and Self Care

Computer Classes

Water Color Classes

Canva Class

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



### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Year!

We are a non-profit watershed group formed to restore and protect the environmental, scenic, and recreational attributes of the Shenango River Watershed. Join us as we celebrate the first 25 years and look forward to the future!



#### SHENANGO RIVER WATCHERS

#### Save the Date!

Celebrating 25 years of restoring and protecting the Shenango River Watershed! Here's to another 25 years of stewardship for our watershed!

Banquet - Live Music  
Basket Raffle - 50/50



FRIDAY APRIL 17, 2026, 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
THE CORINTHIAN  
47 VINE AVE, SHARON

See our website for details on specific events as they become available:  
[shenangoriverwatchers.org](http://shenangoriverwatchers.org)

#### Additional Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 25 - Public Meeting  
Saturday, April 25 - Earth Day Clean Up & Hermitage City Earth Day Festival  
Sunday, May 17 - Wildflower Hike

There will be ONE Paddle Fest in 2026  
Plan to float the Shenango River on  
Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Details will be posted soon.



## 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.

## SCHOLARSHIPS:

Buhl Regional Health Foundation Scholarships start at \$5,000 and provide financial assistance to graduating Mercer County high school students pursuing higher education or training—including degrees, diplomas, and certificates—in fields that support the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community. Eligible paths include both direct patient-care professions and broader wellbeing careers—for example, nursing, EMS, dental and hygiene fields, medical assisting, nutrition, and physical education, along with other roles that help people live healthier, more

supported lives. We believe that supporting students in these professions helps build a strong and thriving future for our entire community. Eligibility information, and this year's scholarship application, can be found 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.

## REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS:

BRHF has released two new requests for proposals. Letters of interest for initiatives focused on Humane Housing or Basic Health & Safety Needs in the community will be accepted via our grant portal through February 13th. The grant portal, and further information, can be found on our website.

## NINJA COURAGE – TEEN GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:

In partnership with Baker Professional

Counseling and Elite Ninja, this grief support group for teens in 7th – 12th grades will provide structured interaction, experiential activities, and a safe space for sharing experiences and coping with loss. The group will meet weekly beginning in February. Interested? Contact Dr. Scott Baker at 724-201-2779.

## CAMP COURAGE 2026:

Registration for our 5th Annual Camp Courage program will begin in March. Camp Courage, held at Buhl Park the week of July 27th – 31st, is a weeklong 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 March.

## OUR WEBSITE:

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

**BOOK TODAY!**

2026 SHELTER RENTALS ARE NOW OPEN. OUR SHELTERS FILL UP QUICKLY, BOOK NOW: [BUHLPARK.ORG/RENTALS](http://BUHLPARK.ORG/RENTALS)

**INDOOR GOLF SIMULATORS!**

AVAILABLE TO RENT DAILY  
CALL THE SHOP 724-308-7883

**BUHL PARK**  
OUR LIVING LEGACY

[BUHLPARK.ORG](http://BUHLPARK.ORG)

**PAWS PLACE**

Dog Park Registration

[PAWSPLACE.ORG](http://PAWSPLACE.ORG)

SMOOV BRUNCH PRESENTS

**2000s SMOOV**

**SUNDAY FEB. 22**

Brunch Party

DOORS OPEN 12PM-4PM

CASH BAR  
21+

@SMOOVBRUNCHEXPERIENCE  
@DJ\_SMOOV

**BUHL PARK - THE CASINO**

715 HAZEN RD HERMITAGE, PA 16148

TICKETS INCLUDE  
BUFFET  
ADMISSION  
MOCK-TAILS

**THIS ISN'T YOUR AVERAGE BRUNCH!**

THE CITY OF HERMITAGE & BUHL PARK BRING TO YOU

**Summer Camp**

Outdoor day camp program for children entering Grades 1 - 6

**SCAN ME**

[SUMMER.CAMP](http://SUMMER.CAMP)

# Hermitage Historical Society

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

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

As always, our society is grateful for any donation of gently used items for sale at our flea markets; all money and donations go towards preserving our beautiful 1869 Stewart House mansion, and 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.

## 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*

#### March 17th - 7pm

Trails End Conservancy by Lisa Gibson and Ron Gilkey

#### April 21 - 7pm

Hermitage Rotary with Barb Hawkins and TBD

#### May 19 - 7pm

History of Oil, Gas, and Coal in Mercer County by Lindell Bridges

### New Members Are Always Welcome:

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

## Flea Markets

### May 9th - 8am-2pm

Vendor fee is \$10 (Rain or Shine)  
Call Rod at 724-877-7996 with any interest

## 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, Lindell Bridges, Tom Darby

## Rooted in our Mission

2025 was an incredible year at the Buhl Club, defined by growth, momentum, and meaningful community impact. Guided by our mission to serve all members of our community, we continued to expand programs, strengthen our facilities, and create inclusive opportunities that make health, wellness, and connection accessible to everyone.

Throughout the year, thousands of participants engaged in youth, adult, swim, and group fitness programs, supported by family-friendly events and strong community partnerships. We remained deeply committed to accessibility by offering financial assistance opportunities that help remove barriers and ensure individuals and families can participate regardless of financial circumstances.

As we look ahead, we are proud of what we accomplished together in 2025 and grateful to the members, families, donors, and partners who made it possible. Rooted in our mission and energized by our community, we are excited to continue building a welcoming, supportive environment for all in the years to come. For more information about the Buhl Club, please call 724.981.3700 ext. 101 or email [info@fhbuhlclub.org](mailto:info@fhbuhlclub.org).



**EMPTY BOWLS**

**MERCER COUNTY FOOD BANK**

**April 23rd • 4-7pm**

**Hickory VFW Post 6166**

**5550 E State St. Hermitage**

**Scan me**

A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the collage.



## Streets Department

During the winter plowing season, we kindly ask residents to place garbage totes as far back from the roadway as possible and to remove garbage totes and vehicles from the road promptly. Keeping roads clear helps our plow operators work safely and efficiently, ensuring better winter road conditions for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation.



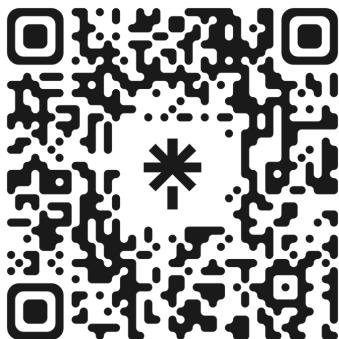
11. N Sharpsville Ave.

Sharon, PA 16146  
(724)-981-4360  
[www.clsv.net](http://www.clsv.net)

Hours:

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

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!



eAcademy students with Jessica Gotch

The eAcademy attended the Global Impact Forum at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center during Pittsburgh's Tech Week presented by Google and Citizens Bank, sponsored by Duolingo, Chase Bank, and IBM. Students were introduced to various new technologies including VR headsets, a STEM coding lab, Google's AI models, and interactive tablets.

Shout out to Jessica Gotch from City of Hermitage, PA for speaking to the eAcademy students about "Developing

Customers through Community Events." Ms. Gotch serves as the Director of Recreation and Community Events for the City of Hermitage and talked about her strategies for fresh ideas, marketing, partnerships, and retention when she's working with the public.

Entrepreneurship is not just a method, but rather a mindset that requires practice and continuous improvement. Students will leave the eAcademy with the ability to anticipate setbacks, problem-solve, and thrive in their own environment. Not all the students at the eAcademy will continue to a degree or career in business, but they will all leave with the skills necessary to succeed in any workplace. Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is now open to high school juniors and seniors. Contact us to schedule a tour or to learn more about the eAcademy Program today!



eAcademy students at Tech Week PGH



Tablet pictures show Jose Abalos who turned a picture of his buddies Kevin Swartz and Matt Hassel (pictured) into a "hand-drawn" sketch.

# Hermitage School District Experiences Changes in Leadership



## Dr. Amy Wanchisn, Superintendent

As I begin my role as Superintendent of the Hermitage School District, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our staff, students, families, and community members. Having served the Hermitage School District for

the past seventeen years, I have witnessed firsthand the collective commitment to student success and community pride demonstrated by all stakeholders. I am truly honored to have the opportunity to lead a district that has meant so much to me both personally and professionally.

For more than sixteen years, Dr. Daniel Bell has provided outstanding leadership to our district, grounded in a clear vision for student achievement, staff development and retention, and fiscal responsibility. I am committed to building upon this foundation by continuing to strengthen our student support systems, supporting staff through professional learning communities, and working collaboratively with our leadership team to provide an exceptional educational experience while remaining fiscally responsible.

I am honored to begin this new chapter and look forward to continuing our shared work in support of our students and the Hermitage community for years to come.



## Dr. Andrew Kemper, Director of Special Services

Dr. Andrew Kemper assumed the role of Director of Special Services on January 1, 2026. Prior to this appointment, Dr.

Kemper served as Principal of Artman Elementary beginning in the fall of 2022. He has also held administrative positions within Sharpsville Area School District and Grove City Area School District before joining the Hermitage School District. Dr. Kemper began his career in education as a special education teacher and later expanded his professional service into administration, providing him with a comprehensive perspective on the needs of students, families, and educators alike.

Dr. Kemper's professional background, coupled

with his passion for continuous improvement, will serve the district well as he leads special education programs and related services. We look forward to his continued leadership and positive impact on our schools and community.



## Mrs. Amanda Raabe, Artman Elementary Principal

As we begin the new year, Artman Elementary is excited to welcome our new building principal, Mrs. Amanda Raabe. Mrs. Raabe comes to us from the Slippery Rock School District, where she spent over

five years teaching in the elementary school and served in numerous leadership roles including principal of their summer school program. She earned her Master's degree in Education from Pennsylvania West University, California.

Mrs. Raabe is thrilled to start her administrative journey at Artman Elementary and has already begun getting to know our students and staff. She looks forward to working with our administrative team and collaborating with teachers to continue providing a positive, supportive, and engaging learning experience for all of our students.

## Hermitage School District Welcomes New Teachers



Due to a printing error in our previous issue, an incorrect photograph was published as we introduced one of our new teachers. We apologize for the error and are pleased to share the correct photo (left) of Jada Abrams, grades 8-9 ELA teacher, who was highlighted in the fall, 2025 issue.



We are also pleased to introduce Kayla Asche, a former long-term substitute who joined our staff full time at the start of the 2025-26 school year as the kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade autistic support teacher. Welcome, Kayla!

# Local Partnerships, Real-World Learning at Hickory High School

**Dr. Chris Gill, Principal, grades 11-12 & Athletics**

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

Welcome to the second semester of the 2025-2026 school year! We extend our best wishes to the Class of 2026 as they begin their final semester at Hickory High School. As graduation approaches, students and families are encouraged to connect with the Guidance Office for support with post-secondary planning, including college and technical school options, scholarship and grant opportunities, financial aid, and pathways directly into the workforce. Our staff is here to help students confidently plan for their future.

One of the ways Hickory High School is preparing students for future career pathways is through partnerships with local industry. In collaboration with Penn-Northwest Development Corporation, the school is participating in Workforce Thursdays at HHS. Juniors and seniors have taken part in hour-long sessions with companies such as NLMK and Yourga Trucking. During these meetings, company leaders shared valuable information about qualifications, hiring processes, pay and benefits, and training opportunities. We look forward to continuing these meaningful conversations with local employers throughout the remainder of the school year.

In addition, Hickory High School and the Hermitage School District proudly continue their longstanding partnership with Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System (ACES). This marks the 13th consecutive year of collaboration to offer our annual



Business Week program to the senior class, made possible through the generous support of our major sponsors, Cronimet Specialty Metals and The Hudson Companies, as well as Joy Cone Co., Thiel College, Reinhardt's Agency, Inc., Erie Bank, and Castle Maintenance Products.

Pennsylvania Business Week is an immersive, hands-on experience that emphasizes teamwork, financial literacy, and creativity. Seniors work collaboratively to design, market, and sell a product while managing a balanced budget. Teams present their business plans to local community members, who evaluate each proposal and select a winning group.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated community advisors who volunteered their 40-hour work week to support our students: Tom Darby, Lauren Garthwaite, Michael Graham, Jeff Simmons, Abby Postlewaite, Sgt. Matthew Taylor, David Grande, Blase Cindric, Sarah Palmer, and Dan Bolena. We also thank the local sponsors who donated gift cards: Laurel Technical Institute, Subway, Dairy Queen, Hot Head Burritos, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Burger King.

Together, these experiences represent just a few of the ways Hickory High School is committed to preparing students for success beyond graduation, whether that path leads to college, career training, or the workforce.

## A New Look at Title I Services and Intervention Programming at Ionta Elementary School

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

Ionta Elementary School is pleased to welcome Mrs. Jaci Barker as our new Title I School Coordinator and Intervention Specialist. While Mrs. Barker is new to the Math and ELA teams at Ionta, she brings extensive experience within the Hermitage School District and beyond.

Mrs. Barker joined the district in

2014 as a third-grade teacher at Artman Elementary School, after teaching at Shenango Elementary School from 2007-2014. During that time, she earned her Master of Education Degree as a Reading Specialist from Edinboro University.

Under the mentorship and guidance of the Title I Teacher/

Instructional Coach for Artman, Mrs. Beth Stefano, Mrs. Barker and the grade 4 and 5 teams have developed a Title I program that models the very successful structure of Artman's Title I program. The program takes a two-fold approach, which is both teacher-oriented and student-centered. Mrs. Barker supports

classroom teachers by providing practical instructional resources while also implementing research-based interventions to improve student achievement in reading and mathematics.

Title I services are determined through a comprehensive review of data, including global assessments in Math and ELA, classroom performance, benchmark and state assessments, teacher recommendations, and progress monitoring results. Eligibility is based on academic need, and services are supplemental to core classroom instruction.

This year, Mrs. Barker has led the implementation of a new initiative known as WIN (What I Need) Time. During WIN Time, students receive targeted reading and math support through small-group or individualized instruction

focused on specific skill needs. Interventions emphasize comprehension, fluency, problem-solving, conceptual understanding, and the use of instructional strategies and visual models.

Title I services are delivered through a variety of models, including pull-out and push-in support, as well as designated intervention blocks, all designed to minimize disruption to core instruction. An essential component of this work is the dedication of our trained paraprofessionals, whose commitment greatly contributes to student success.

Student progress is monitored regularly through formative assessments and data reviews. Data team meetings are held quarterly to evaluate progress and adjust interventions as needed to



ensure meaningful growth.

We are proud of the progress our students continue to make and are excited about the positive impact the Title I Intervention Program continues to have at Ionta Elementary School. The collaborative efforts of our teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents have made this a successful and rewarding experience for our school community.

## Artman Elementary Welcomes a New Principal!



I am honored to introduce myself as the new principal of Artman Elementary. It is a privilege to join such a caring and supportive community. Stepping into a school mid-year is a unique opportunity to listen, learn and build relationships. During the remainder of this

- Supporting high-quality teaching and learning by working collaboratively with teachers and staff to ensure students continue to grow academically and socially.
- Strengthening communication and collaboration with families and the community by participating in community and school events.
- Listening to and learning from input from students, staff, and families to better understand Artman's strengths and opportunities for growth.

I am committed to honoring the traditions of Artman, while working together to ensure a strong finish to this school year and a thoughtful transition into the next. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and becoming an active member of this community. Thank you for your support as I begin this new chapter as a Hornet.

**-Mrs. Amanda Raabe, Principal, grades K-3**

school year, my primary focus will be to get to know our students, staff, and families, while supporting the exceptional work already taking place in the classrooms each day.

As we move forward together, my goals for the remainder of the school year include:

- **Maintaining a safe, supportive, and welcoming school environment where every child feels valued, respected, and ready to learn.**

# Hermitage School District's Angel Tree Program Continues to Bring Joy this Holiday Season

This year our annual Angel Tree program once again demonstrated the incredible impact of community collaboration. Local businesses, churches, dedicated staff, and compassionate community members came together to ensure that more than 150 students in our district had a joyful holiday season. As always, our staff members went above and beyond to coordinate the program to make it successful. Additionally, a group of our 8th grade student council members (pictured) gave their time to organize all of the gifts. As we reflect on this



year's achievements, we are filled with gratitude and inspiration to continue the beloved program for years to come.

-Mrs. Kayla Lockhart, School Counselor, grades K-3

## Attention Incoming Kindergarteners!

It's hard to believe we are thinking ahead to next school year! The planning process begins well in advance, starting with these events for our soon to be kindergarten students.

### Gearing Up for Kindergarten:

This transition program provides students with authentic learning experiences led by Artman Elementary teachers. Important academic and social/emotional learning information will be shared with families to help support student achievement and a smooth transition to kindergarten.

**Who:** Students who plan on starting Kindergarten in fall 2026

**When:** February 11th, 2026 from 5:30 - 6:30pm & February 26th, 2026 from 5:30 - 6:30pm

Registration forms are available at the school office, district website, or from your pre-k provider. Pre-registration is required so we can accurately prepare.

[www.hermitagesd.net](http://www.hermitagesd.net) > Artman ES > Parent Forms and Information > Gearing up for K

### Kindergarten Registration 2026-2027:

#### Online Registration Process:

The Hermitage School District utilizes an online registration process for all incoming students. The registration window for incoming kindergarten students opens February 1st, 2026. You must complete the online registration in order to set up a kindergarten screening appointment. The registration information can be found on our Hermitage School District Website.

**When registering you will be required to upload:**  
**State Birth Certificate, Immunization Record, Proof**

**of Guardianship (if not the biological parent), Proof of Residency (deed, lease, two current utility bills, property tax bill). ALL INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE CURRENT.**

Please note: If you do not have access to the online resources, contact our Central Administrative Offices at 724-981-8750 ext. 6000 to schedule an appointment. You will need to bring all of the documents listed above with you to the appointment to complete your child's registration.

[hermitagesd.net](http://hermitagesd.net) > Offices > Student Registration

#### Kindergarten Screening Process:

Our Kindergarten registration process included an academic screening for kindergarten readiness, a speech/language screening, and a vision screening. Our kindergarten screening will take place March 11-12, 2026, by appointment only. All students must be registered PRIOR to attending kindergarten screening. Please go to the Hermitage School District website to register for your appointment, or call Mrs. Cindy Foster at 724-981-8750 ext. 5001.

We ask that no more than 2 parents/guardians attend with each child. If you cannot attend your scheduled appointment time, please call to reschedule.

#### Other Requirements and Important Information:

Your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1st, 2026 to register. Please do not wait to register. It is extremely beneficial for each student to participate in the registration process so that we can build our class rosters with as much information as possible.

# Water Quality Corner

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

Littering is very harmful to our environment! Plastics and other non-biodegradable trash that enters our waterways disrupts local aquatic ecosystems and is an eyesore. Be sure to clean up after yourself to protect our beautiful environment for future generations!



## 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 yearround 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



## Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule - Spring 2026

Bulk trash pickup week follow the regular collection schedule. Items should be set out by Sunday, as pickup may occur any day during the week

### One-Time Bulk Pickup for Eligible, Curbside Customers Only

Monday Residents with Monday Regular Collection	Tuesday Residents with Tuesday Regular Collection
WEEK 1	WEEK 1
Place items out: Sunday, March 29	Place items out: Sunday, March 29
Collection Starts: March 30	Collection Starts: March 30
Wednesday Residents with Wednesday Regular Collection	Thursday Residents with Thursday Regular Collection
WEEK 2	WEEK 2
Place items out: Sunday, April 5	Place items out: Sunday, April 5
Collection Starts: April 6	Collection Starts: April 6

**ATTENTION RESIDENTS: GARBAGE, RECYCLING, AND YARD WASTE SHOULD BE PLACED AT THE CURB NO EARLIER THAN 24 HOURS BEFORE THE DAY OF THE SCHEDULED SERVICE.**

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

## Hard-to-Recycle (H2R) 2026 Event Calendar

Visit our webpages or follow us on Facebook!

[lawrencecountypa.gov/recycling](http://lawrencecountypa.gov/recycling) and

[mercercountypa.gov/recycling](http://mercercountypa.gov/recycling)

724-658-6925



# Water Pollution Control Department Update



We are pleased to report that the S. Neshannock, Miller, and Virginia Roads sewer extension project is nearing completion. Mortimer Construction will finish with landscaping and general punch list items in the spring. The project will connect 93 homes to the sewer system

replacing on-lot systems that had a high failure rate. State grants helped offset the project cost. Most recently, letters were mailed to homeowners outlining the next steps for connecting to the system.

The Water Pollution Control Department prides

itself on providing essential and reliable services at a reasonable cost. Over the years, our food waste to energy program has generated revenues helping to contain costs. As a result, sewer rates have been frozen for the past 12 years. However, the system includes over 150 miles of collection and sewer interceptors and 17 pump stations. These facilities and equipment require regular maintenance and replacement, as they age, and the effects of inflation require additional revenues to address the same. In response, the Board of Commissioners approved a phased-in sewer fee increase to maintain the integrity of the system and to continue to provide reliable service to our customers.

Please know that the department is dedicated to providing a high level of services to the homeowners, renters and businesses that we serve. We wish all a safe and prosperous New Year!

## From the Desk of the Treasurer

Bernie Harry, Hermitage Treasurer



Hello Everyone. I hope you had a nice Holiday season and are now enjoying the daytime hours increasing as each day goes by. January has greeted us with quite a bit of snow, but hopefully it will warm up soon.

This is the time of year to take a break from property taxes. All unpaid taxes have been turned over to the County and the unpaid Per Capita bills have gone to Sharp Collections. Keep in mind that we only collect for current year taxes and they must be paid in our office by December 31th of each year, in order to keep from being filed for collection. All those with 2025 unpaid taxes will hear from either the county for real estate or sharp for per capita sometime in February.

This is a good time of year to have your receipts handy to prepare your tax rebate if eligible. Receipts are available in our office or by e-mail if needed. Forms will be available in our office if you don't receive one by mail, and they should be filed with your income taxes.

**Have you ever applied for the Homestead on your residence?** Generally, it's a one-time application unless you have a change on your deed. **Keep in mind that by law, you can only claim Homestead on the house in which you reside and is deeded in your name. You cannot claim the Homestead on more than one property!**

The county has announced no increase on their portion of the county/city bill, while the city portion will be set at 7 mills. These bills will be mailed to you on March 1st.

This bill labeled County/City is one bill and does not require one check for the county portion and another check for the city portion. Please remit one check for the combined amount stated on your bill.

As always, our office is available should you have any questions. Call us at 724-347-4472 or feel free to walk in during regular business hours.

— Stay in the Know with —

## Hermitage Happenings!

Get local news, events & recycling reminders

Get local news, events & recycling reminders delivered to your inbox!  [Subscribe Now](#)

**TIP:** To ensure you receive our emails, allow mail from [listserv@civicplus.com](mailto:listserv@civicplus.com)




### Parks & Recreation

800 North Hermitage Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

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

ECRWSSEDDM  
Hermitage  
Postal Customer



## City of Hermitage Board of Commissioners

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

## HOW TO STAY IN THE KNOW.....



### Sign up for 'Notify Me'

The City's 'Notify Me' feature provides updates, via email or text alert, about topics that interest you by subscribing to various modules on our website. You can sign up for 'News Flash' or our Events Calendar to receive the latest updates on upcoming City-sponsored events. To stay in-the-know with important updates from our Boards, sign up for our 'Agenda Center'.

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



### Subscribe to the City's eNewsletter

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



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

