

**Hermitage  
Trick or Treat**  
Thursday  
October 31st  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Holiday  
Light Parade**  
Saturday, Nov. 23  
Fireworks &  
Ice Sculpting

## Spotlight Business

**BioRemedial Technologies/  
Compliance Environmental Services • PAGE 2**



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COVER PHOTO BY JOHN SOKOLOWSKI

## spotlight business



# Hermitage companies operated by the Perry family work to cleanup the environment

Contributed by Dick Davis

Don Perry's lifelong passion of being a steward of the land and working with environmental agencies dates back to Perry Brothers coal and limestone company in Jefferson Township. His passion mixed with administrative and business leadership operating restaurants, hotels, housing developments, and Oak Tree Country Club and led in 1993 to Don's creating BioRemedial Technologies, a biological remediation subcontractor in Hermitage.

Don's goal, while hiring Ph.D. researchers, was to generate a biological remediation solution that focused on the natural occurring bacteria found within the soil or groundwater to degrade a contaminating of concern within a specific site.

Don is president and chief executive officer of BioRemedial. Sons Matt and Tyler share his concern for the land and joined their father's

business when they completed college, Matt in 2001 and Tyler in 2005. Matt earned a BA in Economics from Grove City College with a focus on environmental studies. Tyler earned a BA in Economics from The University of Pittsburgh and a Masters in Business Administration with a focus on management from Youngstown State University.

In 2008, Matt and Tyler became partners in Compliance Environmental Services (CES), a full service consulting business that focuses on all aspects of environmental concerns.

Services from environmental site assessments, complex treatment of toxic chemicals, gasoline, water, and acid mine drainage to comparatively basic remediation of mold and asbestos take the sister companies of BioRemedial Technologies and CES throughout the Shenango Valley, the U.S., and around the world.

For Hermitage residents, the Perry's feel site investigation is a very important service they provide. Site assessment is known as a Phase I report by state and national environmental regulatory agencies. It is prepared for a real estate holding that identifies potential or existing ecological contamination liabilities.

"We can't stress enough the importance of an environmental site assessment when buying a property," says Don. "We inspect the property, do a historical search, and look for any red flags for the potential buyer."

The companies have nine employees



L to R: Tyler Perry, Don Perry, Matthew Perry

including PhD. microbiologists, professional geologists, and experienced field technicians to handle any situation. Experience and expertise enable the Perry's to adapt their technology to meet the needs of the site in a cost effective manner.

The company's sites have been given "No Further Action" declarations from regulatory agencies that result in no deed restrictions and attainment of drinking water standards.

Business and government contacts led Don and Tyler to South Africa in 2010 for two weeks of work on a railroad project. The bulk of work is in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, New York, and New Jersey.

### BioRemedial Technologies Compliance Environmental Services

2700 Kirila Drive | Hermitage, PA 16148  
724-981-1994 | 724-342-1990  
[www.bioremedial.com](http://www.bioremedial.com) | [www.ces-env.com](http://www.ces-env.com)



## Hermitage Holiday Light Parade



The 22nd Annual Hermitage Holiday Light Parade is scheduled for **Saturday, November 23 at 6:00 p.m.** The route for the parade begins at the intersection of East State Street and North Kerwood Drive (Kraynak's and Hermitage Town Plaza), travels east on State Street to the intersection of Route 18, turns left and proceeds to the entrance of the Shenango Valley Mall. Entries are judged on: originality, creativity, the use of lights & music, and a holiday theme. Results will be posted on [www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net).

This yearly community event draws over 15,000 people to our Central Business District, and we are asking all businesses along East State Street (especially those along the parade route) to participate by decorating with holiday lights.

**To enter a float or decorated vehicle, or for more information, contact Amy Gargiulo at 724-981-0800. Space is limited, so please register early.**

## Community Food Warehouse Holiday Food Drive



The Community Food Warehouse continues to serve over 4,000 households throughout Mercer County. Help us Starve Hunger. Feed Hope during this holiday season.

- **Truck-full of Hope Food Drive**

**November 1 through December 20**

Bring your food donations to Taylor Chevrolet of Hermitage to fill the truck.

- **Hermitage Light Parade**

**November 23**

Parade goers may also bring their food donations to the parade to be collected also, as in previous years!

**Much needed items:** are canned meats, tuna, fruits, peanut butter, vegetables and cereals. *No glass items please.*

## Merry Christmas Mile Race Benefits Hickory Cross Country Team

**Saturday, November 23**

**Race begins at 5:50 p.m. sharp @ Kerrwood Drive near Kraynaks**  
**Race route follows the Light Parade route.**

### Race Entry Form:

Register by mail or for an additional fee **Online Registration at [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com)**  
Early registration \$8 without t-shirt or \$18 includes t-shirt (**postmarked by Nov. 14**)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Age on Race Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (circle): Male or Female

T-Shirt Size: YM YL S M L XL XXL

Mail form and check to: **Hickory Cross Country Boosters, Attn: Tiffany Wolf, 1600 Idaho St., Hermitage, PA 16148** (registration fees are not refundable)

Both pre-registraion packet pick up and race day registration start at 4:30 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. Race Day registration \$10 without t-shirt or \$20 includes t-shirt  
\*upon availability.

**For more information, email [tiffwolf81@gmail.com](mailto:tiffwolf81@gmail.com)**

## Hermitage Historical Society Christmas Celebration

**Nov. 30 • 1-5 p.m**

**Dec. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 • 1-5 p.m. Dec. 6, 13 • 5-8 p.m.**

5465 East State St. • Hermitage



Come celebrate the Christmas season at the Hermitage Historical Society's Stewart House in Hermitage. Every year the Victorian home is adorned with 30 beautifully designed trees as well as joyous inspirations throughout each room of the elaborate 150 year old dwelling with a different theme and displays of delightful holiday spirit. Tickets will be available for Chinese Auction

baskets in the house as well as gently used Christmas items for sale in the garage.



## Prepare your child for Kindergarten success

All 4 and 5 year olds who will enter Kindergarten in the Fall of 2020 and reside in the Hermitage School District may enroll in this 4 week program. You and your child will explore as you are learning skills in science, math, reading, and sensory development. Registration information can be found at [www.hermitage.k12.pa.us](http://www.hermitage.k12.pa.us) or you may contact Patti Bruzzese at 724-981-8740, ext 5901 or at [patricia\\_bruzzese@hermitage.k12.pa.us](mailto:patricia_bruzzese@hermitage.k12.pa.us)



## Buhl Farm Park

[www.buhlfarmpark.com](http://www.buhlfarmpark.com) • 724-981-5522

### Upcoming Events:

**OCTOBER**  
**October 12th**

#### – 5th Annual Autumn Arts & Craft Show!

Formerly known as Fall Fest, The Autumn Arts & Craft Show features over 60 craft and specialty vendors as you stroll through the beautiful fall foliage. Take a hayride or sample some of the delicious food – gyros, burgers, fries, elephant ears and much more! Located near the Performing Arts Center (outdoor stage). Hours are Noon to 6:00 p.m. Admission is free. Performance by Grant Street Exit from 2:00 – 4:00 at the outdoor stage.



**October 23rd – Kid's Craft Night: "Something Pumpkin"** Join us at Sandy's Place for an evening of creative fun! We'll supply everything you need. You must register ahead of time. \$7 per event. More information and registration at [buhlfarmpark.com/sandysplace](http://buhlfarmpark.com/sandysplace).

DATE	PROJECT	COST
SEPT 11	NATURE BOOKMARKS	\$7
OCT 23	PUMPKIN CRAFT	\$7
NOV 13	THANKSGIVING CRAFT	\$7
DEC 3	STAMP & HOLIDAY CARDS	\$7

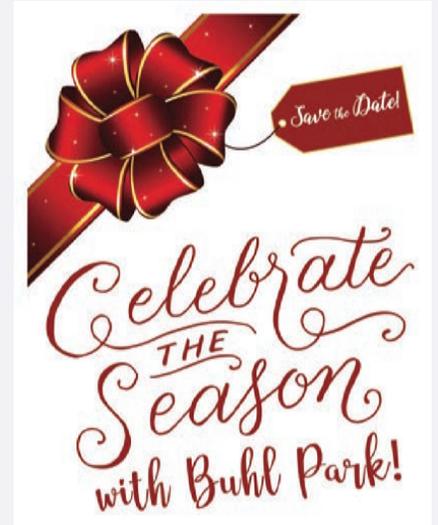
**Drop-off program for kids ages 9-12 6:00-7:30pm**

Join us at Sandy's Place for an evening of creative fun! We supply everything you need for the craft of the month. Register for as many programs as you want!  
 Dress to get a little messy!  
 Look for the Facebook event for more info on each craft.  
 Pre-registration REQUIRED - children must be registered at least 24 hours prior to each date.  
**Register at [www.buhlfarmpark.com/sandysplace](http://www.buhlfarmpark.com/sandysplace)**  
**Questions? 724-981-5522x105**  
 Programs with less than 8 children registered may be cancelled/refunded

### NOVEMBER

#### December 7th – Breakfast with Santa!

What better than a stack of fresh, hot pancakes dripping with maple syrup? Visiting with Santa at the same time! Stop in the Casino Ballroom anytime from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. \$6 regular/ \$4 small.



#### December 13th Annual Buhl Park Benefit Dinner

Get a jump on your holiday plans this year. It's easy!

First, bring your friends, family and co-workers to Buhl Park's "Celebrate the Season" Annual Benefit Dinner on Friday, December 13th at the Avalon at Buhl.

Next, do some holiday shopping at the silent and live auctions... there will be something to please everyone!

Finally, get in the holiday spirit as you enjoy the champagne tower welcome, food stations, and dancing to The Four Kings and Queen.

Tickets are \$75 each and all proceeds benefit Buhl Park. There is open seating, but reservations may be made for tables of eight or ten.

Visit [www.buhlfarmpark.com](http://www.buhlfarmpark.com) for the latest event updates.

# Shenango Valley YMCA Events & Programs



*Don't wait for the New Year. The Y has healthy activities for all ages— stop in today for a tour!*

[www.svymca.com](http://www.svymca.com) • 724-981-6950 • 925 N. Hermitage Rd., Hermitage

## Membership:

- **YMCA MEMBERSHIPS:** Y Memberships are available for all ages and provide a variety of programs and other opportunities to get/stay active and healthy. Flexible payment plans are available, as well as financial assistance scholarships so that no one is ever turned away due to an inability to pay the fees.
- **SILVER SNEAKERS AND SILVER & FIT:** Our YMCA participates with both of these great programs. Through your health insurance, you may qualify for a free membership to our Y. If you are unsure, call or stop in and we can check your eligibility and get you started!

## Adults and Older Adults:

- **WELLNESS PROGRAMS:** The following evidence-based programs will help prevent/treat chronic diseases and ailments through support, expertise and measurable outcomes.
- **ENHANCE FITNESS:** Treating arthritis through fun, laughter and friends.

- **SIX STEPS BALANCE SYSTEM:** Simple Steps to prevent falls and related injuries.
- **DIABETES PREVENTION:** Lifestyle change program with a certified coach.
- **GROUP EXERCISE:** So much more than a workout! Join a class, and reach your goals with like-minded members and instructors who provide support and motivation!
  - Over 60 classes are offered weekly.
  - **FREE FOR ALL MEMBERS.**
  - Huge variety of classes: times, types and intensities for anyone.

## Specialized Services:

Qualified, competent, caring and here to help!

- **PERSONAL TRAINING:** Whether you're an exercise veteran, have never been to the gym or even someone in between. A Personal Trainer will keep you motivated and organized, and will make sure you perform properly. **FREE SESSION AVAILABLE FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS!**

- **MASSAGE THERAPY:** Options are available for full-body or upper-body specific. 1 hour massages. Non-Members welcome!



## Youth Programs:

- **F.I.T. FOR KIDS:** Fun Interactive Training Fun activities & games; nutrition & exercise tips and demonstrations; take-home challenges & more!
- **WORKOUT INSTRUCTION FOR TEENS (WIT)** For ages 12+ (Any beginners) 4-week instructional program designed to educate students about exercise techniques and the benefits of health and fitness.

## Community Library of the Shenango Valley

[www.clsv.net](http://www.clsv.net) • 724-981-4360



### Wine & Beer Walk to benefit the Library: October 5 • 3 to 6 p.m. • Tickets \$25

Visit downtown Sharon businesses and sample wine, beer, coffee, hors d'oeuvres and more! Don't forget to swing by the library for a basket raffle and for more food!

### Friends of the Library Book Sale: October 9-12

Thousands of gently used books, DVD's, and more. The latest bestsellers, the best classics, and everything in between at unbelievable prices.



Wednesday, October 9                      9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, October 10                      10 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday, October 11 & 12    10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Please call the library for more information on any of our many programs!

- Story Hour
- Build-a-Rama
- Funtime Fridays
- Read to a Therapy Dog
- Family Movie Night
- Teen Movies
- Knit, Crochet, & More
- Computer Classes
- Chess Club
- Tail Waggin' Stories
- Fine Arts Painting
- Color Me Calm
- Adult Crafts
- Book Clubs
- Lego Club
- Anime
- Teen Art
- Jr. Engineers

*Both libraries offer free downloadable books and more to borrow for Kindles, Nooks, iPads, computers, and phones. No late fees – items are borrowed for two weeks and automatically expire from your device.*

**SHARON BRANCH: Mon.-Thurs. • 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

11 N. Sharpsville Ave., Sharon, PA 16146

**CLSV STEY-NEVANT BRANCH: Mon.-Thurs. • 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
1000 Roemer Blvd., Farrell, PA 16121**

# Hermitage 2030

*In 2030, the City of Hermitage is committed to providing the highest quality of life for all of its residents; featuring a vibrant and walkable city center, safe and pleasant neighborhoods and prosperous economy.*

**Vibrant. Healthy. Thriving. Prosperous. Complete.**

## What is Hermitage 2030?

Hermitage 2030 is the City of Hermitage's Comprehensive Plan. A comprehensive plan is an educational tool for understanding current conditions, issues and opportunities, an assessment and prioritization of needs, a statement of the optimally desirable vision of future growth and development, and a

public policy guide to community decision-making. On June 26, 2019, the Hermitage Board of Commissioners adopted Hermitage 2030 to articulate a collective vision for the City's future and strategies to achieve it. Input from the public and stakeholders framed the plan, which will shape the

nature and location for future development, redevelopment and preservation as well as plans for future economic and social conditions. The full plan can be viewed online at [www.hermitage2030.com](http://www.hermitage2030.com).



**Vibrant**

**Center** Hermitage is a vibrant City, featuring a walkable city center that is home to a mix of residential and commercial uses.



**Healthy**

**City** Hermitage is a healthy City, featuring interconnected neighborhoods, accessible healthcare, high quality recreation and preserved rural landscapes.



**Thriving**

**Neighborhoods** Hermitage is a thriving City, featuring safe and pleasant neighborhoods that offer a variety of housing types.



**Prosperous**

**Economy** Hermitage is a prosperous City, featuring a bustling economy that serves as the commercial and employment hub of Mercer County.



**Complete**

**Corridors** Hermitage is a City that offers complete corridors, that effectively move people through the region.

## Hermitage 2030 – Zoning Update

The zoning ordinance is the most widely used tool to implement the comprehensive plan. As such, the City began the process of updating its zoning ordinance, which was adopted in 1993 and amended many times over the years since. The update will allow the City to implement the comprehensive

plan and ensure that it meets the goals and objectives established by the plan. It presents an opportunity to make the ordinance more user-friendly, incorporate best practices and address any outdated terms and regulations.



# Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union Partners with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Authority to Provide a Low Interest Loan Program

Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union (MCCFCU) will be partnering with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Authority (PHFA) and the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) to provide a low interest loan program for residents who need to connect to the public sewer.

The impetus for the multi-agency collaboration with the City of Hermitage is the Hermitage Municipal Authority (HMA) sanitary sewer extension projects on North Neshannock Road, North Darby Road and South Darby Road. The HMA sewer extension project is scheduled for completion in mid-2020 and the residents will be required to connect to the municipal sewer within 90 days after the sewer project is complete.

The state program provides low interest loan funds for those in need to repair or replace individual on-lot septic systems or to connect to a public sewer system for the first time. MCCFCU staff went through an extensive, eight-month qualification

process to be able to assist the community residents by providing local administrative services on behalf of PHFA. Sandi Carangi, Chief Executive Officer, MCCFCU commented "We're happy to be able to help our community by partnering with PHFA to offer this program."

The stimulus for this collaboration was the upcoming HMA projects in the City of Hermitage and all Mercer County community residents will benefit from this unique loan program. The program offers low interest loans for up to 20 years. The improvements made utilizing this program will eliminate deficient on-lot sewage systems, which in turn, will remove pollutants from the environment, improving the health and safety of residents and will increase the value of properties.

The terms of the loan program are:

- Interest rate of 1.75%
- Up to 20-year terms
- Maximum loan amount is \$25,000

Roberta Schwalm, Manager of Special Initiatives, PHFA, visited the city the week of September 16th and met with the MCCFCU staff, contractors and residents to discuss the particulars of the PHFA / PENNVEST program. Ms. Schwalm added "At PHFA, we know that connections to a public sewer, or repairing a home septic system, can be costly. That's why we worked with PENNVEST to create this loan program – to help lessen the burden on homeowners."

Additional information can be found at:  
[www.phfa.org](http://www.phfa.org)

or by contacting:



559 N. Hermitage Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

1-724-981-9410 | 1-866-384-0244

Fax: 1-724-981-9412

[contact@mercomfcu.org](mailto:contact@mercomfcu.org)

## CENSUS 101: What you need to know

**Everyone counts.** The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

**It's about fair representation.** Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

**It's about redistricting.** After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.

**It's in the Constitution.** The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living

here. The first census was in 1790.

**It means \$675 billion.** Census data determine how more than \$675 billion are spent, supporting your state, county and community's vital programs.

**Taking part is your civic duty.**

Completing the census is required: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"

**Census data are being used all around you.**

- Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.
- Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.

- Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.

**Your data are confidential.** Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.

**2020 will be easier than ever.** You will be able to respond to the census online.

United States<sup>™</sup>  
**Census**  
Bureau  
[census.gov](http://census.gov)

# Federal-Local, Public-Private Partnership Delivers Award Winning High School Entrepreneurship Academy

The eCenter and the City of Hermitage, collaborated with local school districts and the local business community to provide high school seniors with nationally-acclaimed programming centered around four focus areas. The Entrepreneurial Mindset, Startup Business, Real World Experience, and Soft Skill Development.

The eAcademy participants are not limited to those pursuing business endeavors, but include students interested

in a diverse range of careers. Lisa Evans, Program Director, "There is no exact procedure that guarantees a smooth transition from high school to the world. Our program combines the environments of workplace and college where the students develop and practice: independence, self-resourcefulness, time management, self-motivation, communicating through conflict, and leading a team, all while introducing them to a network of community leaders

and career choices that help prepare them for whatever is next in their lives."

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) provided a \$90,000 grant to support the program. The purpose of the program is to empower the youth to succeed in the Mercer County region, to expose them to new opportunities, to build next generation leaders, and retain young professional in the community.



**Site Visit**  
*Neuromodulation Center  
and Thiel College Lab  
Greenville, PA*

## Guest Speaker

*Julie Zunker  
Global Affairs, Chief of Staff,  
Technology and Corporate  
Responsibility Microsoft*



## Guest Speaker

*Art Hammond  
Owner Hoffman Industries*



## Site Visit

*Berner International  
Air Curtin Manufacturer  
New Castle, PA*



## Overview of the eAcademy ARC Grant Period (two-year) Outcomes

- 1 Trip to Harrisburg
- 4 Pitch Events
- 6 Regional Economic Development Events
- 12 Pre-Incubated Startup Businesses
- 14 Sustained Businesses
- 18 Accelerated Businesses
- 44 Regional Site Visits
- 55 Students
- 70 Guest Speakers
- 126 Completed PSU Credits - Penn State University Based Course Curriculum in Partnership with PSU Shenango
- 840 Community Service Hours



## Site Visit

*Joy Cone Company  
Hermitage, PA*

## Strimbu Communication Studio



The Strimbu Foundation provided funds for the eAcademy@LindenPointe to create a podcasting and video production studio inside the Workforce and Training Building at the LindenPointe Business Campus.

As soon as the studio was finished, it was used by, Allana Jaussen, Founder and Host of "By Grace She'll Make It" Podcast. Follow Allana's podcast here <https://www.instagram.com/bygraceshellmakeitpodcast/>



**Jake Morgan**, Greenville High School Class of 2015, Thiel Class of 2019, Founder Beards United.



**Allana Jaussen**, Commodore Perry High School Class of 2018, Slippery Rock University, Founder of By Grace She'll Make It Podcast

## Purpose Wins FedEx Contest



Purpose was one of 10 winners of the FedEx competition out of over 13,000 entries. Purpose: The Therapeutic Subscription Box LLC was founded last year by occupational therapy assistants Ali Izzo and Holly Masters. Included in their prize is an all-inclusive trip to FedEx headquarters in Memphis Tennessee where they will gather insights from FedEx experts to help them grow their business. Ali and Holly want to thank everyone who voted for them! You can follow their journey through their website or social media pages <https://purposetherapybox.com/>.



**Ali Izzo and Holly Masters**, Founders and CEOs of Purpose The Therapeutic Subscription Box and Occupational Therapy Assistants, Penn State Shenango Graduates

## eAcademy Partners with Purpose The Therapeutic Subscription Box for Tech Savvy Senior Workshops



Tech Savvy Senior Workshops are events designed to assist our senior neighbors with their smart devices including phones, tablets, and laptops. They are provided 1 on 1 assistance to answer questions, learn something new, or help with a problem. Tech Savvy Senior Workshops have been held at LindenPointe a few times with such success that the program is expanding. Purpose The Subscription Therapy Box and the eAcademy@LindenPointe are partnering to bring monthly Tech Savvy Senior Workshops to retirement communities in our area during the 2019.2020 school year.

**Tech Savvy Senior Summer Workshop at the eCenter@LindenPointe** with the eAcademy Summer Accelerator Founders and the Founders and CEOs of Purpose the Therapeutic Subscription Box

## eCenter Hosts College Connector Events

Local colleges and universities turn out 5,000 graduates annually, many of whom are eager to pursue professional opportunities and live in Mercer, Lawrence, Venango, and surrounding counties. The College Connector program is designed for college students who want to meet and connect with the region's largest employers and learn about the opportunity pathways that their degree can provide. For more information, please visit our web site at <https://www.ecenterlindenpointe.com>.



### Upcoming Events

#### Thursday, October 17th

First National Bank College Connector Day.

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Featuring presentations from FNB's Charyn Faenza and Kara Beresh.

#### Friday, October 25th

UPMC College Connector Day

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Featuring presentations from UPMC's Rachel McKee, Nicole Petruska, and Mark Simon.



# From the Chief of Police . . . . .

Eric Jewell, City of Hermitage Chief of Police



## Traffic Safety Tip:

Tragically, distracted driving kills and injures drivers, passengers, pedestrians, motorcycle riders and

bicyclists everyday in America. Distractions such as eating, smoking, adjusting the radio, talking to passengers, reaching for something, grooming, 'rubbernecking', etc. are traditional causations of inattentive driving crashes. These momentary distractions take drivers' eyes and minds of the road just enough to prevent one from seeing or recognizing a slowing or stopped vehicle ahead, a red light, speed zone reduction, a stopped school bus with flashing red lights on, a pedestrian in a crosswalk, a work zone, a curve in the road ahead, a school zone or other traffic or safety hazard.

Now add the latest and most concerning distracted driving cause - texting while driving. Most people of driving age have cell phones with texting capabilities. Many people feel the immediate need to reply to a text just received, and it causes some motorists to feel the need to type/send and read texts while driving. Texting while your vehicle is in motion will shorten your reaction gap (distance and time) between your vehicle and a hazard. In some cases an otherwise avoidable hazard is never realized by a texting driver until the crash.

Pennsylvania Vehicle Code Section 3316(a) says in part "No driver shall operate a motor vehicle on a highway or trafficway in this Commonwealth while using an interactive wireless communications device to send, read or write a text-based communication while the vehicle is in motion." Many drivers use stop lights at intersections to quickly read and respond to a text. Some drivers start texting as they begin slowing down in traffic for a light ahead, and others attempt to finish and

send their text while pulling away from the intersection after the light changes to green. Some drivers stopped at intersections get so distracted by texting they don't realize the traffic light has been green until the sound of the horn of the vehicle(s) behind them.

If your vehicle is moving, do not read or write texts. The best practice is to pull over (stop) at a safe location if you must read or send a text. If a safe pull off is not available, wait and send your message after you arrive at your destination. The law does allow you to make or answer a voice call.

## Crime Prevention Advice:

Running or walking on our streets and roadways is great exercise enjoyed by many in all City neighborhoods. Below are some common sense safety tips to make your jaunt a little more safe.

- Don't exercise alone if possible. Find a partner or a group to exercise with as there is better safety in numbers.
- Run or walk facing traffic. Running/walking on the far left side of the road allows you to see oncoming vehicles to assess any potential danger.
- Change up your exercise course and time schedule regularly to avoid being place and time predictable.
- Ignore verbal harassment to prevent unwanted badgering from escalating into a physical confrontation.
- Don't wear visible expensive jewelry to reduce the risk of being targeted for robbery.
- Don't run or walk at nighttime. If you must run or walk at night, wear highly visible colors and/or light-reflective material. Carry a flashlight too.
- Know locations along your route you can go to in an emergency. Having predetermined safe havens to flee to could be life saving.
- Tell someone or at home write down your route, direction of travel and start time. This gives police a starting point and time frame if they have to look for you.
- Music motivates and passes time but tunes out your surroundings. Always be aware of your surroundings including sound. Don't wear headphones or

earbuds. If you must wear earbuds, wear just one.

- Carry some form of identification on you so police know who you are should you be incapacitated.
- Bring a cell phone to summon help and a whistle or alarm to scare away an aggressive animal or would be attacker.

## And just one more thing....

If you are a Hermitage resident and have never been to your Hermitage Police Department, I'd be glad to give you or your small group a short tour. Just give me a call at 724-983-6780 to schedule your visit. Security restrictions will apply.



## Do you know .....

Sergeant Michael Martin joined the Hermitage Police Department (HPD) as a patrol officer in 2007. He is currently assigned to the Patrol Division, where he serves as a patrol supervisor. In 2012 he was promoted to corporal and in 2014 to sergeant. Sergeant Martin initially worked in construction, graduated from Mercyhurst Municipal Police Training Academy in 2003 and worked as a patrolman in the City of Sharon for four years prior to employment with HPD. He attended Aurora (Colorado) Community College and has completed advanced law enforcement training in supervision, crisis intervention, hazardous material operations and DUI enforcement. SGT Martin has received multiple commendations for meritorious service and numerous citizen and organization praises for professionalism, empathy and community service. He enjoys helping the community and plans to advance to positions of greater responsibility within HPD. SGT Martin enjoys basketball, golf and time with his family.

# From the Fire Chief's Desk . . . . .

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



The volunteer fire service is facing a crisis. The number of volunteers is dwindling across the nation. Departments all over the

country are struggling to balance high call demand with low staffing. The most striking example has been in our state. In the 1970's, PA had 300,00 volunteer firefighters and now we are down to 38,000 volunteer firefighters in its ranks. More than 90% of PA's 2,400 fire companies are volunteer based. The Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department is an all-volunteer fire department facing the same crisis.

The City of Hermitage has a Fire Marshal's office within its community structure of Government. The office consists of a paid Fire Marshal, two paid Deputy Fire Marshals, one fulltime and one part-time paid administrative assistant, and a paid maintenance person. The Fire Marshal is also the volunteer Fire Chief and the two Deputy Fire Marshals are volunteer firefighters within the volunteer fire department. Part of their daily responsibilities is to respond to emergency calls, code enforcement, and handle non-emergency requests.

A residential house fire takes a minimum of 20 to 30 firefighters to safely and effectively extinguish the fire. On a larger commercial fire, that number could double or triple. The Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department needs your help. If you are a resident of Hermitage, 18 years of age, in good physical and mental health,

of sober and good moral character and have no adjudicated criminal background, we want you to strongly consider becoming a member of the department.

## Who Are We?

Your neighbors, friends and maybe even your relatives make up the Hermitage Fire Department team. We are doctors, laborers, students, farmers, businessmen, nurses, carpenters, contractors, electricians, office workers, mechanics, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. We are people just like you with families, jobs and active lifestyles who still find time to give back to our community. The Hermitage Fire Department offers a friendly environment for you to discover your capabilities and make the most of your investment in volunteering. The Hermitage Fire Department is seeking volunteers to increase its ranks to help us serve our community.

## Why Volunteer?

Ask any volunteer firefighter why they accept the challenges they do, and they will tell you that they feel a need to help others and give back to their community. As firefighters work to fulfill their need to help others, they also meet the ever-growing needs of their community. When you join the Fire Service, you are joining a profession steeped in

tradition and you belong to a strong sister/brotherhood dating back to the beginning of time. Today you can walk into any firehouse in the country, tell them you are a firefighter and you instantly have this connection and shared sense of pride to something greater than yourself.

Firefighting is very demanding of an individual. Many hours of training are involved, requirements must be met, and regulations and standards are to be upheld. There is no monetary bonus or financial incentive to work harder. However, there is a reward... It comes from the pride the volunteer receives both individually and as part of a team. It comes in the form of a friendly handshake from a grateful citizen or a smile of gratitude.

When you see a child's face as they see the inside of a fire truck or see the flashing red lights while talking to one of the firefighters; the smile from a neighbor, friend, or family member in your community who thanks you for being a part of a thriving, valuable and irreplaceable community organization; many volunteers like the feeling they get when they help people in their time of need, and some feel it's their obligation to serve the community; yet others just want to belong to the team. Whatever motivates you to volunteer, everyone gains the self-satisfaction of being at their best when others are dealing with what is often

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# From the Desk of Treasurer . . . . .

Bernie Harry, City Treasurer

Hello Everyone. I hope you enjoyed your summer. As a reminder, you may have noticed on your bills, the auditors have requested we have separate checks for all bills. To further explain, you may still combine "like" bills to one check, for example, **if you have more than one Per Capita bill, they may be combined to one check. The same holds true for multiple County/City bills as well as multiple School bills.** You can no longer combine any of the three to one check. They all have separate accounts and need to be paid with separate checks. The note on the bills seemed a bit confusing at first, but we want to thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

School Tax bills and your Per Capita bills were mailed on August 1st and are due at

the face amount from October 1st through November 30th. Penalty begins on December 1st. If you chose the payment plan for School taxes, the 2nd payment is due by October 31st and the 3rd one by December 15th.

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

Please notify us if you have not received your bills.

There is a partial exoneration from Per Capita if your annual income falls under \$10,000.00 from all sources. **You must come in to the office with proof of all income each**

**year to receive any exoneration.**

Anyone moving to or from Hermitage should notify our office to either add you to our Per Capita and census or remove you as needed. All residents over the age of 18 are required to pay the Per Capita Tax.

As always, our office is open to your questions and comments either in person, or by phone @ 724-347-4472. We will be happy to assist you whenever possible.



## Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project & Food Waste to Energy Facility News . . . . .

### North Neshannock Road/North Darby Road/ South Darby Road Sewer Expansion Project

This project, to extend low-pressure sanitary sewers to serve properties and alleviate malfunctioning on lot systems in these areas of the City, is anticipated to be under construction in the late winter and early spring of 2020. Once construction is ready to begin, the Hermitage Municipal Authority and the City will provide updated information to property owners regarding construction details, when connections to the new system can be made, contractors licensed to make connections and other related information.

### Food Waste to Energy

Food waste continues to roll into the Food Waste to Energy facility at the Broadway Road treatment plant. This facility produces

electricity that ultimately offsets electricity costs of operating the wastewater treatment plant that serves the City of Hermitage as well as parts of South Pymatuning Township, Clark Borough, Jefferson Township, Shenango Township and Wheatland Borough. A typical month has 400 to 500 tons of waste food products processed through the Food Waste to Energy facility. These products are diverse and have included expired dairy products, inedible fruits and vegetables, bulk dog food, cheese, sauces and purees, meatballs, condiments, and the list goes on. These items, normally trucked to and deposited in a landfill, are being used by our facility to create energy by cooking the waste to generate methane gas, which is then converted to electricity.

Watch for our new logo on department vehicles as new vehicles come into the fleet.



## Fire Chief CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

the worst that life has to offer.

The personal rewards and satisfaction received from what we do are often beyond description. There is a sense of accomplishment when you control a structure fire, or you extricate someone from

an automobile crash. There is fulfillment from teaching fire safety to children and the community.

Protecting life, property and the environment are always our priority. Volunteering in emergency services is one of

the most important decisions you may make. We hope you give a serious consideration to joining the ranks of the Hermitage Volunteer Fire Department. Our human resources are our greatest assets and we want you to be a part of our team.

# Sewer Bill Credit Card & eCheck Payments . . . . .

On September 3, 2019, the City of Hermitage implemented a 3.5% processing fee for all credit card payments and a .50-cent processing fee for all eCheck payments made through the City's website.

**Please remember, the City no longer accepts payment at the counter for sewer bills.**

The City provides our customers several options when it comes to remitting payment for sewer bills:

1. Direct Debit by EFT. Direct Debit authorization forms are available on the City's website at [www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net) or at the City of Hermitage Municipal Offices. Payments are deducted on the 5th of the month or the next business day in the event

- the 5th falls on a weekend and/or Holiday.
2. Mail your payment to the City of Hermitage lock box. Envelopes provided with customers sewer bills. Please include remittance stub with your payment to ensure your payment is properly processed.
3. Deposit your check (No Cash) in the drop box located outside the City of Hermitage Municipal offices, at the north-end of the back parking lot. Again, we do not accept cash payments in the drop box.
4. Online bill pay options through your personal bank. Account or customer ID number must be included with each payment entered. It can take up to seven (7) days for payments to process.
5. Online payment through the City of

Hermitage's website ([www.hermitage.net](http://www.hermitage.net)) by credit card, debit card, or eCheck. Please click the 'Pay Now' button from the City of Hermitage's home page to submit payment for sewer bills or other general bills. It is highly recommended to view our site using Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome or Safari. Customers can also submit payment through the City of Hermitage's mobile app (CivicMobile – Apple store/Hermitage PA Connect – Google play store)

For questions or more information regarding your payment options, please call Danielle at (724) 981 – 0800 ex. 1360 or by email at [dschreckenghost@hermitage.net](mailto:dschreckenghost@hermitage.net)

## Hermitage Recycling, Yard Waste, Garbage



### Blue Lid = RECYCLING

#### Acceptable Materials:

- Household Plastic Bottles – #1, #2, #5 only
- Cans – aluminum & steel
- Foil Containers
- Cardboard
- Magazines
- Newspaper
- Other Clean Paper – junk mail, office, paper bags



### Green Lid = YARD WASTE

#### Acceptable Materials:

- Leaves, grass clippings, plants and flowers, roots, sawdust, shrubbery and clippings, branches, tree limbs under 3 inches in diameter, brush up to 3 feet in length
- **DO NOT use plastic bags.**



### Brown Lid = GARBAGE

#### Acceptable Materials:

- Everything that cannot be recycled in your blue or green lid carts.
- Bag all garbage before placing it into the cart.

## Glass Recycling Pop-Up Event

**800 N. Hermitage Road**  
**Adjacent to Rodney White Park**  
**Saturday, November 2**  
**9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

### Types of Glass Accepted:

- All colors of glass bottles, jars and jugs ONLY
- Caps, lids and labels are acceptable
  - Empty all containers

### NOT ACCEPTED:

- window glass • drinking glasses/stemware  
dishware • ceramics  
mirrors • lightbulbs • TVs  
all other materials including recyclables

For a complete schedule of PRC glass recycling "pop-up" collection events, visit [prc.org/glassrecycling](http://prc.org/glassrecycling)

**Residents shall place their garbage, recycling and yard waste at the curb for collection no earlier than 24 hours before the day of the scheduled service. Carts shall be moved back away from the curb once collection service is completed.**

**Electronics can still be taken to the City Garage on Virginia Road from 7 a.m. to noon on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. Starting August 1, 2019, a \$10 electronics tag must be purchased at the Hermitage City Building or thru TCI for each item.**



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## City of Hermitage

### Parks & Recreation

800 North Hermitage Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148



## City of Hermitage Board of Commissioners and City Treasurer

**From left to right:** William Moder, III (Board President)  
William McConnell, Michael Muha, Bernie Harry (City Treasurer)  
Louis Squatrito, and Duane Piccirilli (Board Vice-President)

**Hermitage Parks & Rec Bus Trip**  
**Handmade Arcade**  
David Lawrence Convention Center  
**Peoples Gas Holiday Market**  
Outdoors  
**Market Square**  
Pittsburgh  
**Holiday Magic, Festival of Trees**  
Phipps Conservatory

**Saturday, December 7, 2019**

**Cost:** \$48.00 per person, includes bus and admission to the Phipps Conservatory. On your own for meals.

**Time:** Leave Hermitage Municipal Building @ 9:30 a.m. Return around 9:00 p.m.

**Register:** <https://apm.activecommunities.com/cityofhermitage>

**Deadline to Register:** November 15 due to limited tickets  
*Absolutely no refunds without valid reason.*

**Information:** 724-981-0800

## 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.**



**Leaves make great mulch!**

When added to your garden, leaves feed earthworms & beneficial microbes. They lighten heavy soils & help retain moisture. They're a great source of carbon to balance the nitrogen in your compost pile.

[www.stormwaterpa.org](http://www.stormwaterpa.org)



City-of-Hermitage-PA



@Hermitagepa



City\_of\_Hermitage



hermitage.net