

WARNING:

According to Ordinance 1991-03, it is unlawful to park a vehicle and/or place any structure on a public roadway in Summit Township from November 1st through April 30th. This allows our Road Crew to easily plow the roads from edge to edge with no obstacles in their way. Any vehicle/structure must be removed immediately and if parked/placed illegally, will be towed away at the expense of the owner.

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS Summit Township Erie County, PA

MEET THE STAFF

TOWNSHIP: 868-9686

Jack Lee, Jr. -

Supervisor/Treasurer/ Dir. Land Development

Mark A. Welka -

Supervisor/Roadmaster

Tony Davis -

Supervisor/Chairman/Director of Parks/Equipment Maint. Supervisor/ Assistant Roadmaster

Lisa Vallimont -

Municipal Secretary

Michelle Nesselhauf -

HR Director/Recycling Coordinator/ Newsletter Editor

Tamara Cass -

Zoning Administrator

Debra Jageman -

Zoning Administrative Assistant

Kip Hayford - Code Enforcement

Matthew Jonas -

Township Engineer

Joe Whitmer – GIS/MS-4 Technician

Gina Erbin - Receptionist

THE ROAD CREW:

Mike Hanas - Road Foreman

Darrell Sayers - Garage Foreman

Steve Skelly, Joe Passerotti, Larry Hudacky, Jeff Matheis,

Andrew Fox, Joe Malinowski, Dan Wilder & Tim Eliason

WATER AUTHORITY: 864-2323

Brian Hiles - Manager

Sean Miller - Foreman

Gretchen Hayford - Office Manager

Kathy Hiles – Administrative

Secretary

Brian Clark, Lisa Culbertson,

Adam Wilps, Chad Miller - Systems

Operators

SEWER AUTHORITY: 868-4495

William Steff, P.E. - Manager

Caitlyn Haener-Schwab -

Administrative Supervisor

Amv McCaslin -

Billing Clerk

Marty McAtee -

Operations Foreman

Chris Hodge -

GIS Specialist/Asst. Project Manager

Andrew Larson, Scott Snyder -

Maintenance Technicians

Hello Summit residents.

Everything is going smoothly at the municipal garage. We have been working on driveway pipe replacements. The corrugated metal pipes that carry the roadside ditch waters are rusting out and will be replaced with plastic pipes. If you have a steel pipe that is failing, please call the office with your address, and we will get you on the list to replace it.

We are working on a couple of grants for a bridge replacement project on Old Zuck Road and a pavement project on Downs Drive West. More to come on those projects.

We received our new Mack dump truck and will begin fabricating the plows and the hydraulic system. This will be replacing a 20-year-old plow truck. Our fleet of trucks is now updated and should be in good shape for many years. We try to keep the trucks for 15–20 years.

When we do go to sell them, we often have multiple neighboring municipalities bidding for them and are able to get good returns on our investment.

Please look at the condition of your mailboxes, as they are calling for a good old-fashioned winter this year.

Take care, Supervisor Mark Welka

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Supervisors:

1st Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m. 3rd Monday of each month, 4:30 p.m.

Planning Commission:

2nd Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Sewer Authority:

Last Thursday of each month, 9:00 a.m.

Water Authority: 1st Tuesday of each month, 9:00 a.m.

Recreation Board:

1st Wednesday of each month, 4:30 p.m.

LeBoeuf Little League:

2nd Sunday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at Waterford American Legion

Zoning Hearing Board:

4th Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. As needed and advertised only

Summit Township Industrial and Economic Development Authority (STIEDA):

4th Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. as needed.

Debra Cameron, Summit Township Tax Collector

1754 Townhall Rd. West, Erie, PA 16509 | (814) 866-2653 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 10AM-2PM | Monday evening 5-7PM By appointment May, September, and November 1 - March 1

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next deadline for submission of newsletter articles is **January 26**. Our next newsletter will be published in mid-February.

The 2024 Summit Township Recycling Calendar will be mailed out to all residents by January 1st.





Summit Township Municipal Offices will be closed:

- November 23rd and 24th for Thanksgiving.
- December 22nd and 25th for Christmas.
- December 29th and January 1st for New Years.

Hello residents.

I would like to explain and update you on the status of recycling. Please do not get upset with me. I will explain the truth. Unfortunately, it's turned into a very expensive program, and a tremendous amount of money invested for all parties involved. Most of us want to be green, but when you recognize the shortcomings, you begin to understand the challenges.

Summit Township had paid our previous recycling contractor \$7,500 a month to pick up the residents' recyclables. That company had trouble hiring employees and some bad luck like many other businesses. They were the only company to bid for the last contract on the recycle pickup for Summit Township. They went out of business on August 15, 2022.

Hauling companies do not want anything to do with recycling because it is extremely expensive and it's hard to be cost-effective. We have a call into the DEP, asking how anyone can handle this task if we cannot find a vendor and/or good uses for recycling.

Recycling has become so expensive that many of the municipalities in Erie County have dropped their own recycle pickup program and have decided to provide recycle bins at their garage or various locations for recycle drop off to help save money and try to balance their budget.

If people deposit trash in the recycle box, it is more than likely the whole box will be dumped at the landfill. It's all about supply and demand and the lack of need for recycled products. On the green side of things, you must also figure all the diesel fuel, oils, tires, and diesel exhaust from trucks driving around to haul the recyclables. That generates a lot of pollution itself.

Summit Township is mandated by DEP language to provide a pickup recycling program per our population. We have a letter from the DEP on file from 02-09-2022 that states Act 101, passed by the General Assembly in 1988, says we must provide curbside pickup for recycling. We are trying to accomplish the best solution for all.

I also wonder sometimes how much of the recycling is going into the landfill as trash because no one polices this. Even businesses and

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

many homes put all their recycling into the trash. Some businesses have removed their recycle dumpsters because they will not pay someone to police, sort, or clean containers from group events, where the incorrect materials are being disposed in recycling containers.

Fact: When we had curbside pickup, I saw many empty driveways on recycling day, with no recycling out. Just one area that I checked several months in a row averaged 7% participation.

In late 2022, I was at the Erie County Council of Governments meeting, and the glass recycling representatives were there. They foresee asking municipalities to make a larger monetary contribution to help cover the glass recycling cost. The company representatives said the hauling cost is twice as much as what the glass value is worth. They cannot work in the red either. Summit does have a free glass drop-off site at our municipal garage on Old French Road, along with recycling dumpsters. Even grants are ridiculous; those come from state and federal taxes that we all pay. Everyone needs to think about recycling at home rather than expecting the government to pretend or pay for it because that is all our tax dollars and could be put to much better use in other areas. So, whatever we all can do to help cut back on waste will help.

As for myself, I use a reusable water bottle or a thermos mug for my coffee everyday rather than Styrofoam cups or plastic bottles. I try to avoid the "throwaways" all I can.

This is a huge problem with no easy fix other than the public making our best effort to start at home by using fewer throwaway products. We cannot change everyone's mind about being green, but most of us are willing to try.

Please be careful driving and leave home early to give yourself extra time while traveling. Winter is almost here. Happy Holidays.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards, Supervisor Jack Lee

Hello Summit Residents.

Well, another summer has come and gone, and the parks are officially closed for the winter. Walk-ins are always welcome if you don't mind parking outside the gate. I have often thought it would be more convenient if the gates could remain open, but it seems like any time we do, someone decides to drive their vehicle through the grass and makes a mess for us to fix. At any rate, it has worked quite well for all the years, so there is no need to reinvent the wheel.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Kim Diemert-Schiemer for her years of service at the parks. Kim has always gone above and beyond the call to make sure the parks were in tip-top shape and ready for action. I always knew if she said she would be there or do something, it would get done without any intervention on my part. She made my job so enjoyable because everything was always in order, clean, and in the best possible condition that it could be. We will truly miss having Kim here with us, but it is time for her to enjoy a well-deserved retirement with her husband, Kurt, and the many animals they care for.

I would also like to thank Larry and Sue Kulik for their many years of service closing the parks at night. This is another one of

those jobs that takes special people to handle day in and day out. Imagine waiting until 9:30–10:30 in the evening, depending on the day, to leave your house to close both Community Park and Picnicana. They would check every door to be sure they were locked and make certain the lights were off. Perhaps they would have to extinguish a fire burning somewhere that was left behind, and then there was the wrangling with the folks who just were not quite ready to leave but were convinced it was time to go. Larry and Sue did an amazing job seven days a week from May 1 to October 15, even if one of them was under the weather or the one time Larry was in the hospital, but Sue came and locked up. They will be missed as well.

We will be looking for a park employee and someone to lock up the parks next year. If interested, please visit the office for an employment application or visit our website at www. summittownship.com.

Until next time, enjoy the fall weather and the holidays.

Best regards, Supervisor Tony Davis



TRACTOR SUPPLY CO recently completed a 3,450 sq. ft. greenhouse addition to their current location at 2275 Downs Drive. For 85 years, Tractor Supply Company has been passionate about serving the needs of recreational farmers, ranchers, homeowners, gardeners, pet enthusiasts, etc. Tractor Supply is the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the U.S., ranking 291 on the Fortune 500.

SHOE FLY recently completed renovations to their current location at 7520 Peach Street. Shoe Fly is one of the oldest shoe retail firms in the United States. With 12 locations in the eastern US, Shoe Fly offers numerous shoe brands and is committed to making sure your shoes fit perfectly from their first step to their last.

SOLA SALON recently opened its new location at 7165 Peach Street. Sola Salon has over 650 locations nationwide, with the largest community of independent beauty professionals offering a wide range of beauty services.

SMITH'S WHOLESALE APPLIANCE recently opened its new location in Summit Towne Center at 7200 Peach Street, Suite 410. Smith's Wholesale Appliance offers top-quality scratch & dent, open box, and like-new appliances at rock-bottom prices with no credit check lease-to-own and special finance options.

CHICK-FIL-A recently completed renovations to their restaurant and drive-thru at 7160 Peach Street. Headquartered in College Park, Georgia, Chick-fil-A operates over 3000 restaurants worldwide, offering a variety of menu items from the Original Chick-fil-A sandwich to America's favorite waffle fries.

IN THE WORKS:

HANSIK ENTERPRISES, LLC has started through the process of opening a location at 8800 Perry Highway.

ARBY'S has started through the process of renovating its restaurant at 7521 Perry Highway.

SALON CENTRIC has started through the process of opening a new location at 6714 Peach Street.

ATTENTION TOWNSHIP SNOWBIRDS



Before you fly south for the winter months, please call the township office at 814-868-9686 to be put on our snowbirds list. This way, we can ensure you receive your township recycling calendar when you return.

Thank you!

Summit Community Food Pantry

Happy Fall, Y'all!

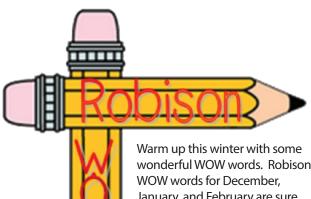
As I am writing this, it is a beautiful, colorful, sunny fall day! Soon, the snow will fly, and the holidays will be upon us. Distribution dates are as follows: November 9th and **16th (Thanksgiving)** and December 7th and **14th (Christmas)**. We will continue to have curbside pickup, and times will remain the same from 2:30–4:00 PM.



Regular distribution days are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 2:30–4:00 PM at the Summit Municipal Building, 1230 Townhall Rd., West, Erie, PA. If you are new to Summit and would like to sign up, please bring proof of residency to any regular distribution time. Don't forget to check out our Facebook page!!

From all the board members, staff, and volunteers at the Summit Community Food Pantry, we wish all a Happy Holiday Season filled with good cheer, good friends, many blessings, and the love of family.

Summit Community Food Pantry (SCFP) 1230 Townhall Rd., West, Basement Erie, PA 16509



wonderful WOW words. Robison's WOW words for December, January, and February are sure to keep your mind working. The words will be on our WOW television in the main hallway and used in our classrooms. Join in the fun of our W.O.W. program and challenge yourself to discover and use some of these words today!

OUR WORDS ARE:

December utmost pivotal

January tranquility meander resonate **February** elegant tome artistry

Summit Lions Club News



It's the time of year we are getting ready for the Read Across America event that is held at Robison Elementary every spring. There is a good bit of work that goes into that event. The books need to be ordered soon. Lion Angie and PDG Janet do a really good job of picking the books for grades K – 5. When the books arrive, they are all stamped so everyone knows the Summit Lions are donating them. Then, PDG Janet stores the books at her home until March. Several of our members will go to the school and set out the books so the children can pick out the book they want. We also read to them during the event. If this is something you would be interested in getting involved with, please call one of us or come to a meeting. Our President, Steve Sample, may be reached at 814-440-7857 or louisgzer@gmail.com. Our membership chair is Denny Franz, and he can be reached at 814-450-6033 or summitlionsclub@hotmail.com

One of our other projects is helping with the Food Pantry. We have several members who show up at the Township building to help pass out the food to the people who need it. If this interests you, again call us or come to one of our meetings.

We are starting to work on the plans for our Golf Outing, which is our only fundraiser at this time. This event is always the first Friday in June at the Venango Valley Golf Course. If you are interested in joining us as a golfer or a sponsor, please contact Bob Mitchell at 814-864-9194. This is what allows us to purchase books and give out scholarships to Fort LeBoeuf students in the spring, along with the other things we do.

This is just a short list to show you some of the ways we support our Summit Township residents. And we can always use more help and more members.

Our meetings are listed in the Summit Township Calendar. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from September through June. In July and August, we usually have one picnic each month.

Lion Steve Sample, President

FROM YOUR SUMMIT TAX COLLECTOR:

Greetings!

Hard to believe, but a new year will be upon us soon. I would first like to say that we have lost some very nice people in Summit this year. After 18 years, many of the taxpayers have become friends, and I look forward to seeing them each year. This year, we lost too many residents. My condolences to anyone who lost a loved one. I will miss them.

By now, if you have any tax bills that are unpaid, you should have received a Final Notice with an insert stated below. If you believe you received one in error, please contact me. If not paid by December 31st, unpaid taxes are turned over to Erie County Tax Claim as delinquent and collectible by them. There is a turnover fee per taxing authority (County, Township, School) and interest that will accrue. Please note these very important items:

YOUR TAXES ARE UNPAID. THEY WILL BECOME DELINQUENT IF NOT PAID BY 12/31/23.

- Payments after December 15th MUST be in certified funds-Cash, cashier's check, or money order. Please put your phone number on checks and money orders. Noncertified payments will be returned.
- 2) Payments must be in my possession December 31, 2023. Postmark is not accepted.
- 3) Office hours Nov. 1 until March 1 are by appointment only, as stated on your bill.

- 4) If you are paying with cash, please contact the office for an appointment.
- 5) You may use the lockbox to the right of the office door at any time.

I settle for the year at Erie County Tax Claim the first week in January. This is why all payments must be here by December 31, 2023. To ensure your payment is on time, I highly recommend using the lockbox to the right of the office door, as there have been issues with the USPS. **DO NOT SEND**PAYMENTS CERTIFIED FOR SIGNATURE!!! Payments must be cleared by my bank account by my settlement date, which is why only cashier checks, money order, and cash are accepted after December 15th. This is also noted on the back of your Final Notice bill.

I wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season filled with much love and blessings!

Debra Cameron Summit Twp. Tax Collector 1754 Townhall Rd., West Erie, PA 16509 (814) 866-2653

Email: summittaxcollector@yahoo.com

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 10am–2pm, Monday evening 5–7pm By appointment May, September, and November – March 1

Perry Hi-Way News

PROPER USE OF 911 / EMS SYSTEM

The EMS system (ambulance system) in Erie County and across the Commonwealth is experiencing problems with providing care in a timely manner. With fewer people choosing to become EMTs and paramedics and declining volunteer members, the ambulance system can be overburdened quite easily. One of the reasons for this is the use of the ambulance and the 911 system for non-emergency type responses. Calls for stubbed toes, small cuts, dental pain, sore throats, colds, and chronic conditions do not need the ambulance to transport you to the hospital. Many of these ailments can be treated at an urgent care facility or by your family doctor / PCP. Last year in Erie County, there were over 10,000 calls for an ambulance for these types of non-emergent ailments. Use of the ambulance for these "non-emergency events" ties up the ambulance, so it is not available to respond to heart attacks, strokes, traumatic injuries (car/motorcycle crashes, stabbings, and shootings), or overdoses and respiratory/cardiac arrest. Emergencies where time can mean the difference between life and death.

Lots of people think that taking the ambulance to the hospital will get them into an ER room and cared for faster. This is not true today. All ambulances arriving at the Emergency Room are screened by the complaint and vital signs provided by the EMS crew. Many times, people will be directed to the triage room for the nurse to see them and then into the waiting room until it is their turn to be seen. This can be a long or short wait, depending on the types of ailments and numbers of people being treated in the Emergency department. The Hospital will Triage all people presenting to the ER, and the sickest people with the most urgent conditions/problems go first.

Before calling 911 for the ambulance for a minor problem, please ask yourself if the problem can be cared for at your doctor's office or an urgent care center. Ask yourself if a family member, neighbor, or an Uber or Taxi can get you to where you need to go for your minor problem.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

DESIGNER PURSE BINGOSunday, November 12th

Doors open 12 noon BINGO starts @ 2pm 16 bingo games included in ticket cost. Early bird bingo for purse / 50 – 50 bingo Chinese auction / Small Games of chance / rip-open tickets

WINTER CRAFT FAIR

Saturday & Sunday, December 2nd & 3rd
Open for sales 9am – 4pm
Kitchen will be open for food
FREE ADMISSION
(We will be accepting donations)
Chinese auction
We anticipate 50 tables of Crafts for sale!

Ambulances only transport to hospital Emergency Departments. If the ambulance is being used for a non-emergency event, it will not be able to respond to a more serious emergency. Let's try to not overtax our emergency system with non-emergency type calls.

Help us help you; use 911 responsibly.

PERRY HI-WAY STUDY IN PROGRESS

The Township Supervisors have engaged the Department of Community and Economic Development to conduct an analysis of Perry Hi-Way Hose Company. The goal is to gain insight on the operations of the Fire Company and plan for the future of emergency services in the township. This study will provide recommendations from a fire consultant as well as a consultant for EMS (ambulance). As most residents know, Perry Hi-Way Hose Company personnel, both paid and volunteer, provide both fire and EMS services. In several municipalities, there are separate agencies for fire and another for EMS responses. Recommendations will deal with future funding, apparatus, and staffing of Perry Hi-Way Hose Company. This study is being conducted at no cost to the Township or the Fire Company.

Some of the questions to be answered are apparatus needs, apparatus replacement schedules, fire station adequacy, manpower needed, available funding sources, and fire department and EMS operations. A review of the call volumes, the commercial and residential development, the population of the township, and traffic patterns on our federal, state, and local roads will all be utilized in the evaluation.

A part of the study information needs input from you, the residents and business owners in Summit Township. What are your expectations should you have to call 911 for a fire or ambulance emergency? While we hope you do not need our services, the reality is fires, accidents, and medical issues can affect all residents at some point, and we need to be prepared to handle those emergencies. Please go to the link below to take our expectations survey.

https://forms.office.com/r/vb12tNUpCb

On the Roads Again!

Throughout the winter, the crews plow snow, apply salt and anti-skid to the Township roads to make winter travel safe for township residents and visitors. Summit township has six excellent snow removal trucks that can be used to clear the roads. Residents are required to help the crew's work by **obeying the law** and removing their cars from

public streets from November 1st to April 30th. This allows the Road crew to do a nice job of cleaning the roads. If a vehicle is left parked in the road, we do have the right to tow it away at the owners expense, for everybody's safety. Summit Township has enough equipment to be able to keep up with the weather better than most anyone and, in our busy community, people have come to expect that.

Roads are a public right-of-way. Township standards are to clear the road from edge to edge or curb to curb to provide safe travel conditions and provide storage space for subsequent snowfalls. To do this sometimes requires multiple passes. We move the snow from the centerline to the edge of the road. This means that, until the street is completely clear, the plow will come back again. The



TIME TO GET READY FOR WINTER

As the weather turns colder and the snow gets ready to fly, Perry Hi-Way Hose Company is sending out some reminders.

- 1. All homes that use a wood stove or fireplace should have their chimney inspected to be sure it is free of blockages and soot buildup.
- 2. If not done already, test your smoke detector and put in a fresh battery with the time change on November 5, 2023. 9-volt batteries are available at station 43 on Oliver Road or at the Township building for residents.
- 3. Make sure your driveways are open for our emergency apparatus in case you need us. Trim the trees and bushes back so there is at least a 10 ft wide and 12 ft high opening down your driveway. Keep in mind that heavy, wet snow can cause trees and bushes to bend down into the driveway area. Also, when clearing snow from your driveway, we need that 10ft wide path.
- 4. Adopt a fire hydrant this winter to keep it cleared of snow. A path to the hydrant and a 36" circle around the hydrant will save us valuable time should the hydrant be needed for a fire nearby.
- 5. Those of you who have a plow service clear your driveway, be sure they do not plow in any fire hydrants near your home. The plowed snow can become packed in and too hard to shovel out the hydrant, making it unusable. If we have to shovel the snow, it will take considerable time and allow the fire to grow as we shovel rather than operate our hoses to extinguish the fire.
- 6. Be careful using kerosene heaters in the home. These devices can produce dangerous levels of Carbon Monoxide in the home and be deadly. Never refill a hot kerosene heater, let it cool off, and never fill a heater in the home. It is best to do it outside in the driveway.

- 7. Space heaters can also be dangerous. Make sure the heater is not too close to drapes or furniture. If the heater is too close, it can heat up the surrounding materials to the point they catch fire. Also, make sure you are using the correct size electrical cord, and you do not overload the electrical circuit. A good rule for plugging in a space heater is not to have anything else plugged in with the heater. Do not put a rug over any electrical cords, as it may get hot and catch fire.
- 8. Homes using space heaters or kerosene heaters should have a Carbon Monoxide monitor in the home. Because Carbon monoxide is odorless, tasteless, and invisible, the only way to detect its presence is with a monitor device. The best practice is one monitor for each level of the home, but if you have just one monitor, put it where the people are the most. Check with the local home improvement stores for the best deal, or search the internet and make sure they are new and UL-certified.
- 9. Make an emergency kit to put in your car. A small shovel, bag of cat litter, flashlight, and jumper cables should be included. A blanket, a spare set of gloves, and a stocking hat are essential and can keep you warm should you become stranded. Some other items to have in the auto are a spare cell phone charger, some snack foods that can be eaten cold, and some water will make any time stranded more bearable. Other items could be a tow strap, battery-operated flares, and tire chains.

While we do not know what winter holds for us this year, we hope everyone is able to get through safe and sound. Keep an eye on your neighbor and do a phone check-in with family members daily — especially those who live alone.

In closing, the members of Perry Hi-Way want to wish all our residents a Wonderful Thanksgiving, A Merry Christmas, and a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

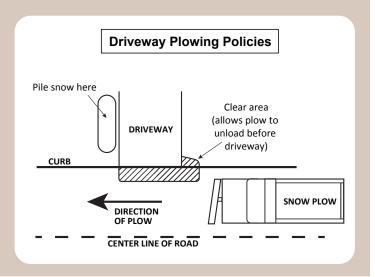
plows are not lifted at driveways because this would leave snow on the street; creating a hazard for drivers. Residents should be advised to wait as long as possible to shovel or clear at the end of their driveway. Also, when removing your snow, deposit the snow to the right of your driveway as you face the street. By doing this, when the plow returns, it will carry the snow you moved away from the driveway. Snow placed on the left side will probably end up back in your driveway the next time the plow makes a pass.

Not all of the streets or roads in the township are public. Some are private drives that are maintained by owners, homeowners associations, or developers. We also have many state roads in our Township which are maintained by PennDOT. We are not supposed to plow any part of the state roads, even if we think we are doing a favor. If we plowed a portion of a state road and then turned off onto one of our township roads, a motorist could be driving down the road on that plowed portion (thinking the road has just been plowed) then suddenly hit deep snow, causing them to have an accident where we turned off and did not finish.

Property owners and/or occupants are responsible for clearing snow and ice from adjacent sidewalks within 24 hours after the end of a snowfall. Owners or occupants failing to clear sidewalks may receive a citation, be fined and/or be responsible to reimburse the township for the cost of clearing the sidewalk.

Please drive safely, slow down, and allow extra time to reach your destination during winter weather events. This is the most effective way to prevent an accident. Thank you for your cooperation and happy holidays!

The Road Crew



When we work together to better our community, great things happen

By State Rep. Bob Merski, D-Erie

As the last of the autumn leaves fall from the trees, and we begin preparing for a holiday season full of making memories with loved ones, I wanted to update you on some happenings both at home and in Harrisburg.

The fall legislative session has been productive, and with that comes sifting through the array of bills being cleared by the oldest legislative body in the nation. I recently had two bills voted by the House that are awaiting consideration in the state Senate. These bills use pragmatic, commonsense solutions to issues affecting our community and the people that encompass it.

House Bill 250, legislation which I introduced, would raise the annual income threshold for retirees to qualify for a reduced vehicle registration fee.

The income threshold that allows retirees to qualify for a reduced vehicle registration fee hasn't been raised in 25 years, and with the recent 8.7% increase in Social Security payments, an overlooked ramification of that increase is that it pushes retirees above income thresholds for certain government programs or benefits.

Retirees spent decades showing up to work each day to provide for their families, and they deserve to worry less about their finances and focus more on reaping the benefits of retirement. The parameters of the bill include raising the qualifying income cap from \$19,200 to \$29,906 with future annual adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index. This would allow more retirees to renew their annual vehicle registrations for only \$11.

I also wanted to touch on another bill that I introduced, which was an idea inspired by working with our local police departments in Erie. House Bill 251 would lessen the financial burden on local police departments by giving them the option to purchase used state police vehicles at a fixed price before they are auctioned to the public. The program created via this legislation would be another arrow



House Bill 251 would aim to save taxpayer money by repurposing these police vehicles and giving them a second life. Currently, when municipally owned police vehicles need to be replaced, officials are faced with the difficult decision of making costly repairs on heavily used cruisers or choosing to purchase new police vehicles. This program would allow local officials some flexibility in making these decisions.

Additionally, the Erie City Water Authority (Erie Water Works) secured \$38 million through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority – including \$14 million in nonrepayable funding and \$24 million in low-interest loans – to allow Erie Water Works to perform major projects, including replacement of corroded, outdated lead piping for customers and construction of a new pumping station.

The championing of these community and people-driven proposals proves we have the wherewithal to cut through the partisan divide and deliver tangible results that better everyone's lives. We can continue to make positive changes in the world around us by shifting our focus away from negative distractions and committing ourselves to finding thoughtful resolutions to everyday issues.

Want to get into the Holiday Spirit? VISIT HABITAT HOLLY DAYS!

The Greater Erie Area Habitat for Humanity is opening its building for holiday tours. Areas have been decorated with different traditional Christmas themes. In addition, there will be a ticket auction and a place to write letters to Santa. The doors open at 6:00 pm each evening with the last entry at 8:30 with a 9:00 pm closing. Event nights are December 8, 9, 10 and December 15, 16, 17. Entry fee is \$5.00 per person or a family ticket for up to 6 people for \$20. The proceeds benefit the mission work of Greater Erie Area Habitat for Humanity.



Location: 4922 Pittsburgh Avenue. The building is located in the business park off of West Grandview Blvd; the building park entrance is across from the Quinn Law Firm. It is the 6th building on the right. The event entry door is on the north side of the building.

Senior News



Things are going great at the Senior Center, and we are enjoying all the new people who have joined our happy group. We have a new large TV and sound system; we are getting ready to host movie and popcorn time. Thank you, Tony and Al, for installing it for us. Anita hosts craft time for us once a month, and we have made some beautiful fall decorations to adorn our homes. Also, thanks to Millie, our chair exercise is every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 12 pm. We also have Bingo on the second Wednesday of the month from 1 pm to 3 pm. As you can see, we have plenty of activities for all to enjoy!

Happy Holidays!

President Jan Birkner





Make plans to attend our first **Kiwanis Craft Fair** on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10-3 pm. This will be held at Waterford Elementary in conjunction with Waterford's Colonial Christmas and Christmas in Waterford. As of the time of this writing, we have over 50 vendors displaying their wares,



including the Robison K-Kids. We will also have food and beverages for sale. If you are interested in having a booth, contact us at the email listed below.

We are proud that we have 32 fifth-grade **K-Kids at Robison**. These kids worked at the Trunk or Treat event at Robison and plan to sing to the residents at Springhill in December. We sponsor a K-Kids group at all three FLB elementary schools and have 83 kids involved in serving their community!

We are thankful for all of our **local volunteer firefighters** and have thanked them by taking them dinner. We served at Perry Hi-Way in late August, and they were very gracious and showed us around. All enjoyed the evening.

To see more about what we are doing, follow us on Facebook, "Kiwanis Club of Fort LeBoeuf," or our website-7440.site.kiwanis.org. If you have any questions, contact us at kiwanisflb@gmail.com.

From the Water Authority

Protect Your Water Lines from Freezing

Don't let winter weather catch you unprepared!

As temperatures begin to drop, now is the time to make sure your water lines are protected from freezing. Lines located in inadequately insulated crawl spaces, vacant structures, and under mobile homes are the most vulnerable and can lead to inconvenient outages and costly repairs.

Here are a few tips to help ensure you are ready for winter:

- Insulate around and apply heat tape to exposed water lines following the manufacturer's instructions. Make certain your heat tape is plugged in and working.
- Turn off water and disconnect hoses to all outside spigots.
- In vacant structures, maintain a minimum temperature of 55 degrees or completely drain all water lines.

In the event you do experience a freeze, use extreme caution when using a heat source to thaw your lines. Never use a torch or open flame, as this could quickly become a fire hazard.

Adopt-A-Hydrant Program

It's time once again to kick off our annual Adopt-A-Hydrant Program. We all know that quick access to a reliable source of water is critical when there is a fire. Unfortunately, so many fire hydrants are not accessible this time of year, forcing firefighters to spend valuable time shoveling them out during an emergency.

If someone you know does an outstanding job of keeping the fire hydrants clear of snow, we'd like to recognize them for their efforts. Nominations can be submitted to our office via email at hello@ stwa.us or by calling our office at 814-864-2323. Give us the person's name and location of the fire hydrant. At the end of the quarter, we'll award \$50 Visa gift cards to the winners as our way of saying thanks.

Code Red

Just a reminder that if you haven't already signed up for our Code Red alerts, please do so soon. This system is how we will alert customers via text messages, emails and phone calls of outages and other changes that affect their water service. For more information and to sign up, visit our website at www.summittownshipwater.com. There is no charge to participate.

Brian Hiles, Manager

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The township is applying for grants for two projects. The first project is for the reconstruction of Downs Drive and to fill gaps in pedestrian access along the route. The project will reconfigure the west side of Downs Drive to a two-lane road with dedicated left turn lanes and remove the portions of roadway that were never utilized. Pedestrian access will be provided along the corridor in accordance with the Township's Transportation Map.

The second project involves improvements to Old Zuck Road. This project will replace the narrow stream culvert with a wider culvert to provide for a full-width road crossing and sidewalk. A sidewalk is proposed from the culvert to Edinboro Road to provide an area for pedestrian traffic.

Finally, the roadway section will be improved to strengthen the

This is a Statewide competitive grant program, with award announcements not being made until 2024. So, the likelihood of these projects being funded is not guaranteed, but hopefully, we can have success.

pavement for truck traffic to the industry on the road.



SUMMIT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY

OLD PERRY RELIEF ELECTRICAL CONTRACT 2022-02

The Summit Township Sewer Authority recently awarded the Old Perry Relief Electrical Contract 2022-02 to Church & Murdock Electric, Inc. Work under this contract involves installation of service pole, light pole, equipment rack, conduit and wiring, relocation of existing ultrasonic senor, and related work.

All wastewater generated in the Summit Township Sewer System is measured and reported to both Millcreek Township and the City of Erie. Under the terms of our Transportation and Treatment Agreements with these adjacent municipalities, the Authority is charged per gallon. Millcreek charges for transportation, and the City of Erie charges for transportation and treatment. The existing measuring equipment is being upgraded to ensure the most accurate measurements and fair billing. We hope these facilities will be in service for at least 25 years.

The Authority received bids from five qualified bidders:

Church & Murdock Electric, Inc. (Lowest qualified bidder)	\$54,800.00
Zenith Systems	\$ 57,656.00
Geiger Electric, LLC	\$ 59,992.00
Newco Electric Company	\$ 86,800.00
L.P. Flectric. LLC	\$110.120.00

HOME INSURANCE REVIEW

All sewer customers should review their home insurance policy. Typically, standard homeowner policies do not cover damages due to a sanitary sewer backup,

whether it is a public system or a private on-lot disposal system. While we at the STSA work diligently to prevent conditions that would cause a backup, issues do arise that are out of our control. We want our customers to be aware that sometimes things go wrong. Please note our system is not notorious for malfunctions that cause backup, it is more common in older systems. However, our system continues to add new customers, and



the system is getting older, so all customers need to be made aware of the possibility of a backup.

What should you do to protect your property? A good rule of thumb to help prevent backups is: don't put anything in the sewer you would not put into your septic tank. For more protection, elevate, relocate, and/or insure your valuables. If you store valuables in the basement, like family photos sitting in a box on the floor, they may be lost forever with no compensation. Simply elevate or relocate these items to protect them. If you have a finished basement, insurance will provide the best peace of mind. Read your policy or call your agent and ask them to explain your coverage. Then, you can decide how to protect your property.

If you are a sewer customer and you have questions pertaining to the sewer system or billing concerns, please feel free to call the Authority at 814-868-4495 or attend a monthly meeting. Check your Township calendar for Sewer Authority meeting dates. The Authority office hours are currently 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. If you plan to attend a meeting, please call and let us know. We will be glad to put you on the agenda.

William C. Steff, P.E., Manager



MAILBOX REQUIREMENTS

House numbers must be affixed or painted on box in numerals not less than one inch, and placed on both sides of box.

IF A STORMWATER DITCH FRONTS YOUR PROPERTY:

- The post or pipe must be set in back of the ditch.
- The arm must extend over the ditch so that the face of the mailbox is between the front edge of the ditch and the edge of the pavement.
- Height (from the bottom of the box support) should measure 48"–52" from the road surface.
- The paper box should be attached to arm or mailbox to avoid snowplow damage.

IF NO DITCH EXISTS IN FRONT OF YOUR PROPERTY:

- The face of the mailbox should be a minimum of 14' from the middle of the road.
- Height (from the bottom of the box support) should measure 48"-52" from the ground surface.
- The face of the mailbox must not extend beyond the face of the curb.

Summit Township will not repair or replace any mailbox that is not built to these specifications.

Thank you for your cooperation, Summit Township Supervisors

14' from the center of the road to the face of the mailbox Edge of Pavement Sample Installation

From The Office Of District Judge McGowan

On October 18, 2023, I had another opportunity to participate in Fort LeBoeuf High School's Sophomore Panel discussion. The panel discussion is part of Fort LeBoeuf's Center for Post-Secondary and Career Development. This gives students an opportunity to explore multiple career opportunities in several different fields. The careers are grouped together according to different schools. The school my discipline is included in is Pre-Law and Human Services.

There are two sessions where the panel meets with students who are considering a career in our field. We introduce ourselves and then immediately open up to questions. Our discussions during the session are driven by the students, as they get to ask questions to individual panel members about something specific to our career or a general question to the whole panel. It's an excellent opportunity for the students to explore whether they may

consider working in our field one day.

In addition to the sophomore panel discussion, Fort LeBoeuf allows students to participate in several job shadows per school year. The school connects students with professionals who let the student personally observe them during the workday. I have had students observe what goes on in my courtroom in the past. Not so much to observe me, but it gives them a chance to see attorneys and police in action at court.

For those students that don't want to do an official job shadow during the school year or are unable to, please feel free to contact me at the district court. We are open to the public, and I would be glad to host a student for a day or any portion thereof. I, as well as the attorneys and police, would be available for questions as well. Additionally, if any student has any questions about law school or being an attorney, feel free to call the office or email me at brianmcgowanmdj@gmail.com

Brian M. McGowan, MD9



BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM



Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.

Winter storms and blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds.







IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Stay off roads.





Use generators outside only.

Stay indoors and dress warmly.





Listen for emergency information and alerts.

Prepare for power outages.





Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.



Check on neighbors.



Venison is growing in popularity as a good source of animal protein. Learn the health benefits of including venison into your diet.

Fall is fast approaching, and for many hunting enthusiasts in the commonwealth, the season can't come soon enough, particularly if you like to hunt deer. Venison, as a protein source, is gaining ground in many households. The nutritional value of venison outperforms red meat in leanness, less fat, and overall calories. Venison is high in essential amino acids and a rich source of thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, iron, and zinc. Venison meat is a perfect choice of protein for those who suffer from cardiovascular disease and are searching for low-cholesterol and saturated-fat protein choices.

Much of the venison consumed in Pennsylvania is harvested annually through hunting. In order to ensure the meat is of wholesomeness quality, hunters should prepare in advance to keep the meat safe. So, how is wild game at risk for contamination? It starts at the time of harvest from the field. Field dressing any wild game requires essential pre-planning strategies. For example, harvesting deer in the fall requires attention to temperature control of the warm carcass when outside temperatures rise above 41°F. Improper handling or lack of temperature control will allow those natural pathogens the opportunity to grow, resulting in highly contaminated meat that may impose serious health risks.

In addition to monitoring and maintaining temperature control, we need to focus on cross-contamination. Understandably, the environment that we make the harvest from is a source of contamination. There are actions to minimize this risk during field dressing wild game. One should plan to take paper towels or plastic to place down as a barrier between the ground and tools, minimizing the risk of cross-contamination. A plastic drop

cloth serves as a great barrier. Carrying a pair of disposable plastic gloves is a good practice. Always consider protecting yourself from the possible risks of contracting a foodborne pathogen, especially if you have any open wounds on the hand. Carry some prepackaged alcohol wipes to wash your hands before, during, and after removing the entrails.

When the outside temperature is above 41°F, consider taking coolers packed with either bags or blocks of ice. If you're working with small game, remove the hide as quickly as possible to allow the carcass to cool quickly when surrounded by ice. Large game should have the hide removed quickly after harvest if the outside temperature is above 41°F. The worst practice to perform and often seen is wrapping large game in plastic or a tarp to keep it clean when transporting it. Wrapping the carcass only traps the heat, leading the internal temperature of the meat to remain in the temperature danger zone of 41–135°F. If at all possible, try packing the internal cavity with bags of ice to cool the carcass down. The longer you let the carcass remain at temperatures above 41°F from the time of harvest till the time of processing, the greater the risk for foodborne pathogens to grow and become dangerous.

The carcass should be cut within seven days after harvest if it was chilled rapidly and sooner if warmer temperatures prevail. For best flavor, limit fresh venison to eight months of frozen storage and seasoned and cured venison to four months of frozen storage. The next time you go hunting, plan for the safety of the meat you harvest. As you know, it takes a lot of work, time, and patience to be successful in your hunt, and the last thing you would want is to mishandle the meat, leading to a foodborne illness.

Richard Andrew Kralj, M Ed., RDN, LDN

Food Safety and Quality Extension Educator

What is the Homestead Act?

In 2009 the Supervisors approved Ordinance #2009-01, which provides real property tax relief to owner-occupied residential property. However, to receive this tax relief, you must apply. If you are not receiving this tax relief, or are unsure, you can contact this office, the tax collector or the county assessment office and we can assist you.

The property tax bill that is received in March each year is a combined bill with both township and county taxes. An example is shown. To see if you are receiving the homestead exclusion, look at the top right of your bill under "property description", as highlighted on the example. The amount of township tax that you are liable

to pay is located just below that – on the example it is 0.00. The example bill amount - \$1,244.51, is the COUNTY tax.

Remember, this exclusion is only for parcels where your home is located – if you own multiple parcels (vacant land, rental units, businesses) then this exclusion does not apply.

AL NOTICE PAYABLE BY DEC. 31, 2023 2023 REAL ESTATE TAX SUMMIT TOWNSHIP - ERIE COUNTY TEO MARCH 1, 2023 ERIE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA WERENOD, JAN 1, 2023 THROUGH DEC. 31, 2023			PAGE HEAD INFORMATION ON REVENSE SIDE Unpaid taxes are lumed in to the Tax Claim Bureau on Jan. 1, 2024 and additional fees will be added. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION					
Receipt Info	Your Tax Receipt When Stamped Park							
				ASS		Section in	TAX	
ODE			ORIGINAL TAX EJABILITY		20	8810	123.20	
<u> </u>		HOMESTEAD EXCLUSION		20	8810	-123,20		
			FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION			0	0.00	
				MILLS	AMOUNT	n.	TEMIZED	
					0.00	Str	Street Lights	
				0.59	0.00	80	ra/Twp Tex	
TAXABLE LAND	TAXABLE PLDG	TOTAL TAXABLE		5.96	1,244.51	County Tax		
36100	172710	208	208810					
CHECKS	DISCOUNT MAR 1 - APR 30		ALTY DEC 31		FACE MAY 1 - JUN 30	Du	plicate ID	

NORTHWEST PA WINTER GROWER MEETING

January 10, 2024 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Location: Penn State Behrend Campus, Reed Hall 4701 College Dr, Erie, PA 16510

Cost is \$15, and lunch will be provided.

Penn State Extension is hosting a one-day conference at Penn State Behrend for Northwest PA agriculturists, landscape workers, and farmers. The morning session will cover worker protection standards, pesticide drift reduction practices, and information regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's new guidelines on herbicide risk mitigation and changes in label requirements. Afternoon break-away sessions will have industry-specific updates and research.

Pesticide Applicator Recertification credits (core:2 and category:2) have been requested in Pennsylvania and New York, as well as ISA credits and PCH credits.

Presentation Titles:

- Pesticide Labels are the Law
- Farm Stress Resources
- Optimizing Herbicide Applications in Corn and Soy Production.
- Landscape Pest Update: A review of problems in the landscape in 2023 and emerging pests to watch for
- Review of Tomato Disease Management
- IPM in Perennial Cropping Systems- A refresher for fruit growers and viticulturists

Contact Megan Luke at the Erie County Extension office for more information and to register.

MFL5873@psu.edu (716) 397-9674





1230 Townhall Road West Erie, PA 16509

Supervisors:

Tony Davis, *Chairperson* Jack F. Lee, Jr. Mark A. Welka

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Once Upon A Time...

We are featuring a sample of the items we maintain in our Summit History Archives. Please visit the History Room to see more.

The Summit History room is open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Thursdays. Other times and days are available by appointment.

Is your Summit group interested in using the display case? Also, we are accepting donations or loans of items for display. We welcome new volunteers. Please contact the Summit Township office at 814-868-9686, and we will return your call.



