




SUMMIT  
TOWNSHIP

# News

FOURTH QUARTER 2024  
814/868-9686

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[www.summittownship.com](http://www.summittownship.com)



Wishing you a joyous holiday season,  
and may the coming year be filled  
with health and happiness.

# Happy Holidays!

➤ Your Summit Township Supervisors and Staff

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Summit Township Municipal Offices will be closed:

- November 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving.
- December 24 and 25 for Christmas.
- December 31 and January 1 for New Years.

## MEET THE STAFF

**TOWNSHIP:** 814-868-9686

**Jack Lee, Jr. –**

Supervisor/Chairman/Treasurer/  
Dir. Land Development

**Mark A. Welka –**

Supervisor/Roadmaster

**Tony Davis –**

Supervisor/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

**Matthew Jonas –**

Township Engineer

**Joe Whitmer –** Code Enforcement/  
GIS/MS-4 Technician

**Gina Erbin –** Receptionist

THE ROAD CREW:

**Mike Hanas –** Road Foreman

**Darrell Sayers –** Garage Foreman

**JD Chase, Tim Eliason, Andrew**

**Fox, Larry Hudack, Joe**

**Malinowski, Jeff Matheis, Joe**  
**Passerotti, & Dan Wilder**

WATER AUTHORITY: 814-864-2323

**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: 814-868-4495

**William Steff, P.E. –** Manager

**Wendy Burbules –**

Administrative Supervisor

**Amy McCaslin –**

Billing Clerk

**Chris Hodge –**

GIS Specialist/Asst. Project Manager

**Andrew Larson, Scott Snyder –**

Maintenance Technicians

Hello Summit residents,

It's hard to believe that it has been nine years since I first took office. It has been challenging and a great honor to work in this great township. The staff here are truly committed to the residents and take pride in their job. They are truly the backbone and deserve all the credit.

As we approach our favorite season of the year, we at the streets department ask for your patience with us. We honestly don't try to plow in the ends of your driveways; we also have our own driveways to shovel out at the end of a long day. It is very important that you don't plow your snow across the road or park your vehicles on the road (Nov 1–Apr 30).

We run two shifts and divide the township into four plow routes. We start at 4:00 a.m. and run until 3:00 p.m. If there is a heavy snow event, we will run the clock to keep the roads as safe as possible.

Please inspect your mailboxes, as most are knocked down by wet snow and not typically hit by the plows. It is a fine line between the center of the road and your mailboxes. The plow and wing are 13' wide, which does not give us much wiggle room.

Enjoy the season,

*Supervisor Mark Welka*

## PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

### Board of Supervisors:

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, 4:30 p.m.

### Planning Commission:

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

### Sewer Authority:

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

### Water Authority:

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 9:00 a.m.

### Recreation Board:

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, 4:30 p.m.

### LeBoeuf Little League:

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

### Zoning Hearing Board:

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m.

As needed and advertised only

### Summit Township Industrial and Economic Development Authority (STIEDA):

4<sup>th</sup> 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

After having a great summer, we have a nice start to our fall season. The weather has been warmer than normal and a bit drier, which has allowed us to get everything done at the park without scrambling in the rain and snow.

I'd like to thank the road crew guys for cleaning up the trails at Picnicana. They did a wonderful job, and it looks really nice, making it much safer for hikers and the kids to run cross country. As I write this article, we have just closed the parks for the season. Everything is ready for downtime until next spring.

On another topic, the senior center has seen a couple of upgrades. Six of the original windows were replaced with new, more efficient windows. Also, the sliding glass door on the east end of the building was replaced with a French-style fiberglass door, making it much easier and safer for people to move in and out of the building.

Until next time, stay safe, enjoy your time with family and friends, and have a wonderful holiday season.

Best regards,

*Supervisor Tony Davis*

## SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Hello all, as a REFRESHER and an outsider, not an emergency responder, I would like to tell you some facts about Erie County's EMS or (Emergency Medical Service or Ambulance), and lack of availability in many areas of Erie County.

I am very thankful that we have the Perry Hi-Way Hose Company, (PHHC). Summit Township is very fortunate to have the funding to help support PHHC to protect our residents and businesses. Please continue to support PHHC. They are always looking for volunteers too.

We live in a very busy municipality with two heavily traveled exits off I-90. At last count, we have over 7,400 residents, 14,000 employed in our township, as well as thousands of visitors.

Our township has 15 multiple lane traffic signals we take care of 24/7. We have many subdivisions, hotels, restaurants, retail stores, agricultural, industrial, and commercial businesses, like Parker LORD, Waste Management, and the Casino. Just facts. For that reason, Summit Township has the homestead act in place since 2009. No local Summit Township tax to homeowners who live or reside in that home. We all pay Erie County tax and FLB School tax.

Just a few years ago we increased our Local Service Tax, (LST) to the maximum limit of \$52 per year, per employee who works in our township, and we earmarked that money to help fund PHHC EMS paid service which operates 24/7, 365 days a year with EMT's and Paramedics. This is much fairer than putting all the burden on local taxpayers, from all the outside travelers and employees, and equals \$1 per week to help support PHHC's EMS services. The LST totals more than \$300,000 annually, "except for some exemptions" and little of nothing during Covid.

Summit Township currently has a "Funding Allocation Agreement" with PHHC and contributes one million dollars per year to help support their 24/7 EMS paid staff.

One of PHHC's biggest burdens is Mutual Aid. The definition of Mutual Aid is responding to calls outside of the township. For example, one weekend, PHHC had 5 EMS calls including 2 in downtown Erie, 1 in Edinboro, 1 in Union City, and 1 in Elk Creek Township near Albion. Not just our four neighboring townships that I would consider mutual aid.

This happens when Erie County 911 sends out a call to respond to the nearest fire department and they are out of service. Then the next available department is called and so on. These are accurate statements. EMS service should not be driving through four townships to rescue a patient with a laceration, heart attack symptoms, stroke, or to give life supporting care to a patient in need. That is unacceptable first aid. Some may argue all they want, until the lack of EMS service happens to them, who may be waiting during that critical first aid response time.

Rural areas in Erie County should be aware of the lack of immediate first aid and even consider first aid education per household. You are welcome to share my thoughts. There is no easy fix. I know that. I just want people to understand the urgency. I have shared my long-winded letter with all elected officials, Local and State, so they are aware. The public needs to be aware and step it up too. People who live in rural areas must realize emergency services are not just around the corner anymore.

PHHC and Summit fixed their problem and sacrificed most

of Summit's ECGRA money, (Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority), to help fund PHHC EMS. Now it has turned into an abusive game because many of the mutual aid calls for PHHC have been to all corners of Erie County, and they are averaging 30 mutual aids calls per month. This is a problem if there is an emergency in Summit Township, and PHHC is not available. The call volume to all over Erie County is very hard on PHHC employees and equipment too.

Erie County VFD's have started moving forward with problem solving ideas but must do more to be available. Even more consolidation of VFD's because of the lack of volunteers.

Some EMS departments go out of service, or emergency response availability for medical transports for patients going home from a hospital or rehab stay, leaving a void in response time in their respective area. They do charge for medical transport.

Some more data, just for the record, some monthly highs for mutual aid from PHHC response have been 42, 50, 61, and a record 67. That does not include PHHC's local calls in Summit. I feel these are alarming figures to prove the lack of EMS service in Erie County. The Erie County 911, "Emergency Services Committee" has been collecting data and talking about ways to fix the shortage for the past six years.

Yes, this is also a nationwide and statewide problem. During the late 70's there was an estimated 350,000 volunteer firefighters in PA. Now it is estimated there are 35,000 in PA.

It is very hard to recruit and keep volunteers because of all the hours of education that are required for certifications. Without certificates, fire departments have a liability risk.

So far, the only resolve is to find money to support the fire departments, and/or consolidation, which most will not accept. One example is 3 ladder trucks, at 3 different locations, all less than 10 minutes apart, and in some cases, with a very limited amount of volunteers, to even get the ladder truck out of the station. A new ladder truck cost approximately \$1.6 million and up. A very important assessment is how often a ladder truck has been used on a fire in the past five years. Just being honest and realistic. If a company cannot supply a driver, the ladder truck may have trouble leaving the station. Also, all modern buildings are much safer than ever and are sprinklered per the PA State Code.

Another example is when two fire departments are about a mile apart but will not share resources or work together because "this is my fire department". We have a couple of those scenarios in Erie County that we know of. They do not have enough people to answer a call but will not join forces to be stronger and adequate, because they do not get along.

I hope the state gaming commission does not revamp the disbursements someday. That kind of budget cut would be a huge shock to Summit Township, and an even bigger shock to Erie County. Everyone has grown to expect that money, but there are no guarantees. Along with prosperity, comes other multiple problems.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards, *Supervisor Jack Lee*



# Here We Grow Again

**FAMILY FARM & HOME** recently opened their new location at 7200 Peach Street Unit 180. Family Farm & Home is a family-owned and operated company based in West Michigan with over 70 store locations across five states. They supply a wide variety of products in departments such as tools, hardware, automotive, pet, work and casual clothing, footwear, farm supplies, horse and livestock feed, bird food, lawn and garden, and alternative heating.

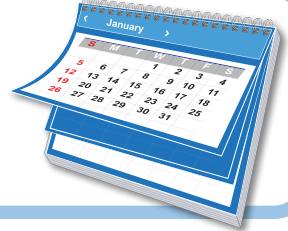
**TAKE 5 OIL CHANGE** recently opened their location at 7541 Peach Street. Take 5 was founded in 1984 and created the first stay-in-your-car oil change. Since beginning in Louisiana, over 60 locations have opened across the country.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next deadline for submission of newsletter articles is **January 24**. Our next newsletter will be published in mid-February.



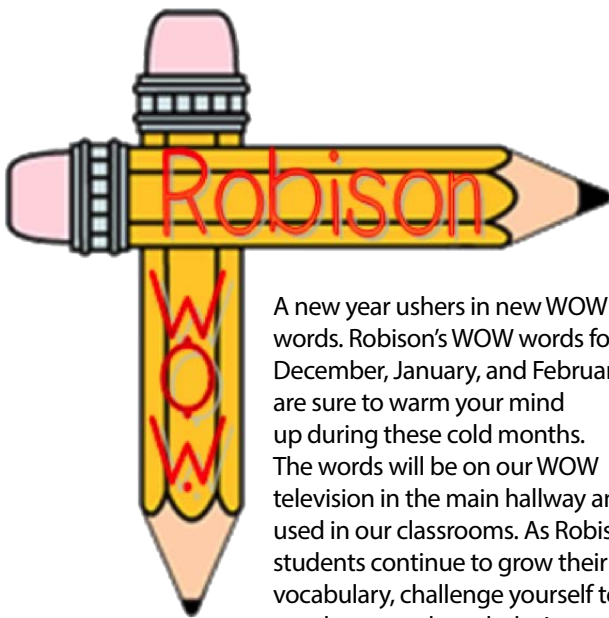
The 2025 Summit Township Recycling Calendar will be mailed out to all residents by **January 1**.



## 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!



A new year ushers in new WOW words. Robison's WOW words for December, January, and February are sure to warm your mind up during these cold months. The words will be on our WOW television in the main hallway and used in our classrooms. As Robison students continue to grow their vocabulary, challenge yourself to use these words each day!

### OUR WORDS ARE:

December	January	February
steadfast	yonder	gregarious
rhetoric	penchant	meme
	veritable	

\*This past October, M. Kupniewski's class wrote a persuasive letter to add a WOW word to our list. They did a great job convincing us to use the word "peachy-keen". The other classes enjoyed learning a new (and possibly old to some Summit residents) word!

## LeBoeuf Little League



LeBoeuf Little League (LBLL) is coming off another great Spring and Summer and looking forward to the 2025 season. Early Bird registration will open on December 1 at [flbll.com](http://flbll.com). The Board and LBLL families wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

*Heath Strasser*

Be sure to like and follow the official Summit Township Facebook Page for up-to-date news and information.

[www.facebook.com/summittownshiperiecountypa](http://www.facebook.com/summittownshiperiecountypa)  
or @summittownshiperiecountypa



## SUMMIT COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Autumn Greetings!

Hopefully, everyone had a great summer. Enjoy autumn because we all know what comes next...

It is with a heavy heart that I report that our longtime president of the SCFP and volunteer, Ed Randall, passed away suddenly. He and his wife, Mary were dedicated distribution volunteers. We will miss him greatly.

Since this is the last newsletter of the year, the board of the SCFP would like to say a big "thank you" to all our volunteers in many different capacities. We would not be in operation if not for these many dedicated volunteers.

Please note the change in distribution days in November and December because of the holidays. They are as follows: November 7 and November 21 (Thanksgiving distribution). December 5 and 19 (Christmas distribution). Hours remain the same, 2:30pm to 4pm. A gentle reminder to not line up until 2pm to ensure business can be conducted at the township building uninterrupted.

The board of the SCFP wish all a happy holiday season!! Do something priceless this season—just be kind.

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



## FROM YOUR SUMMIT TAX COLLECTOR:

Happy Fall Y'all!

I know I say it every year, but another one is flying by! Enjoy the splendor of changing leaves, crisp air and pumpkin spice everything!

All taxes issued in 2024 are now at 10% Penalty. If you have not paid your taxes by November 10, 2024, you would have received a "Final Notice" reminder in the mail, which included the insert below. We seem to be having a lot of issues with delivery by the USPS. To ensure that your payments are received by me, I suggest using the lockbox to the right of the office door. If your check is not cashed in 7 days, please contact me!! Also, if you put your phone number on your check, I can contact you immediately if there is an issue with your payment.

### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

#### IF YOUR TAXES ARE UNPAID, THEY WILL BECOME DELINQUENT IF NOT PAID BY 12/31/24

- 1) Payments after December 15 MUST be in certified funds —cash, cashier's check, or money order. Please put your phone number on checks and money orders. Non-certified payments will be returned.
- 2) Payments must be in my possession December 31, 2024. Postmark is not accepted.
- 3) Office hours November 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 lock box to the right of the office door at any time.

Delinquent taxes are turned over to Erie County Tax Claim on January 1, 2025. I have deadlines I must meet as required by law, so please follow these instructions. If you have any questions, please either email me or leave a message on the phone. Even though I do not have office hours for walk-ins, I am still working and will get back to you.

Happy Holidays! May you enjoy with your family, friends and loved ones, good companionship, laughter, love and many blessings for the New Year!!

Debra Cameron  
Summit Twp. Tax Collector  
1754 Townhall Rd., West  
Erie, PA 16509

(814) 866-2653

Email: [summittaxcollector@yahoo.com](mailto: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

## WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

It will not be long before we see the snowflakes falling and the temperature dipping below freezing. Please make sure when the snow does arrive, you keep address numbers visible and not covered with snow. Be it on the house, on the mailbox or some other means of displaying your house number, if it is covered with snow, we will not be able to see the numbers and get to you should an emergency occur. In addition to keeping your house numbers clear, homes with a fire hydrant near their home need to help us save valuable time by keeping the hydrants cleaned out so we can access them should it be needed.

Speaking of snow, please make sure to have your snow removal people make sure your driveways are cleared to at least 8 ft. in width to make sure our big trucks can get to your homes should an emergency happen. **Also, make sure tree branches and bushes are trimmed back out of the driveway to prevent them from damaging our equipment.** Most of our fire trucks need 12 ft. height to clear, much more than your regular vehicle. We have had some recent emergency responses where our bigger trucks could not fit down the driveway to the home.

Now is a good time for residents who burn wood or coal for heat to have their chimneys checked by a chimney sweep to be sure it is clean and ready to go for the upcoming season. Chimneys that are not well maintained can have a buildup of soot and can catch fire. The fire can get hot enough to cause the wood in the walls or roof of your home to catch fire and do significant damage.

Finally, we ask all residents to check their smoke alarms to be sure they work. If you have an older model detector, put in a fresh 9v battery to get through the winter season. You may have a newer detector with a 10-year lithium battery, and these are discarded when the battery dies. We have 9v batteries as well as replacement smoke alarms for any home in Summit Township that finds they need one. Stop in the Township Building to speak with Gina to pick up a replacement. Replacements are also available at the Oliver Road Station during the hours of 9:30 am to 3:30 pm except Thursday, which is 12 pm – 6 pm. Proof of Township residency will be required.

**From our family to yours, have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a blessed New Year!**

**Perry Hi-Way Hose Company**



**Residential donations:** 1099 for \$107,587, just 33% of Summit Homes  
**Business donations:** 70 for \$40,985, just 26% of Summit Businesses  
**THANKS TO THOSE WHO MADE THEIR DONATIONS.**

You can still send your donation for 2024 by sending it to:

**Perry Hi-Way Hose Company**  
8281 Oliver Road  
Erie, PA 16509



## UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### WINTER CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

December 7 & 8, 2024

9 am to 4 pm

In Social Hall @ 8281 Oliver Road

Free Admission with 40+ vendors at 52 tables

## 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 1 to April 30.** 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 plows are not lifted at driveways because this would leave snow

# SUMMIT TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## WINTER SAFETY

Old man winter will be here soon and who knows what he will bring. Let's take a quick look at a few things that can help prepare us for when winter hits us hard.

**Home Safety:** Have a minimum of 3 days' worth of food, water, and necessities on hand in the event of a power outage or a storm that keeps you housebound. Have a bag of ice melt or salt for icy stairs and walkways to help save from slips and falls. If you shovel your drive or walkways take your time, drink water, take breaks often, and stop if you feel out of breath, strained, or sore. Use a smaller shovel when the snow is wet. Also, have wood stoves or fireplaces inspected and cleaned.

**Auto Safety:** Install snow tires and have a snow brush/scrapper to keep windows clear for 360-degree vision. Be sure to clear off your headlights and taillights so others can see you. Leave a little early so you are not rushed. Have an extra blanket, winter coat, boots, and gloves in the car in case you become stranded.

**Driving Safety:** Keep a safe following distance. Only use cruise control on dry roads. Stay out of other vehicle's blind spots. Limit abrupt steering and braking.



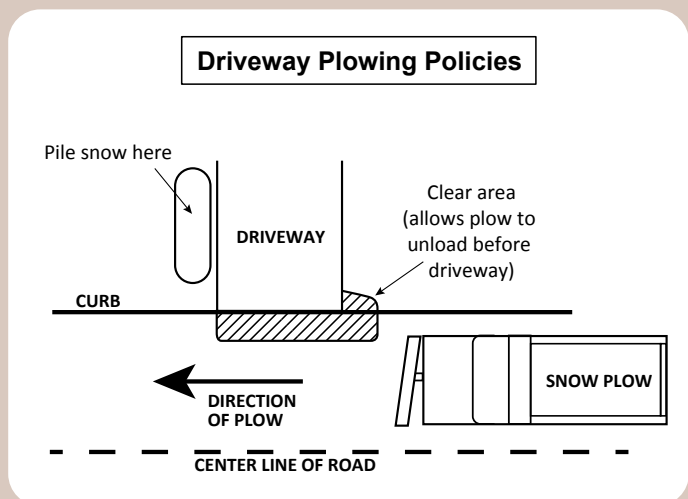
on the street; creating a hazard for drivers. Residents should be advised to wait as long as possible to shovel or clear at the end of their driveway. Also, **when removing your snow, deposit the snow to the right of your driveway as you face the street.** By doing this, when the plow returns, it will 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*





# Prioritizing the People of Greater Erie

By State Rep. Bob Merski, D-Erie

As we prepare for a holiday season full of making cherished memories with loved ones, I am eager to share updates on several progressive initiatives that we have been diligently developing, both locally and in Harrisburg.

One of our most notable achievements was successfully securing over \$1 million in grant funding geared toward public safety. This funding has been instrumental in ensuring that our law enforcement and first responders have the resources they need to keep our neighborhoods safe while offering much-needed support to individuals affected by violent crimes.

Additionally, organizations in Erie have been awarded over \$1.4 million to enhance broadband connectivity, marking a significant stride towards achieving our overarching aim of bridging the digital gap. The Erie Regional Library Foundation was awarded \$943,817, that will be earmarked toward renovating the children's library. Furthermore, Erie's Black Wall Street was awarded \$500,000 for the Project Cornerstone initiative, which aims to revitalize a property into a multifunctional community center.

We've also made substantial progress in economic redevelopment, particularly in Erie's East Side. By focusing on policy that supports local businesses and encourages economic growth, we've laid the groundwork for a thriving local economy that will benefit generations to come.

Community engagement continues to be the lifeblood of our area. The annual Senior Fair, co-hosted with my colleague, Representative Harkins, is a prime example of our commitment to staying connected with you, our constituent. Hundreds of seniors eagerly explored the diverse programs and services

at their disposal, gaining direct experience as we bridged the gap between them and these essential resources. These events provide invaluable opportunities for us to listen, learn, and lead with your voices guiding us.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program delivers over \$304 million to Pennsylvanians



The enhancement of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program has proven to be a tremendous boon, providing essential aid to citizens throughout Pennsylvania. A staggering 500,000 tax rebates have been issued, injecting over \$304 million directly into the pockets of Pennsylvanians. This effort not only offers financial assistance but also affirms our dedication to the welfare of our elderly and disabled community members.

Thanks to bipartisan cooperation, this program continues to be an indispensable aid for homeowners and those managing daily expenses. I encourage every qualified Pennsylvanian to apply by the December 31, 2024 deadline.

Our team is ready to guide you through the application steps for the improved Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, as well as offer support with various state-related services. Should you need help, seek answers, or require direction, feel free to reach out to us at 814-455-6319. We're here to assist you.

Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant 2nd Legislative District. I am honored to serve as your representative and look forward to achieving even more in the days ahead. Thank you for your trust and support.

Let's keep moving forward, for a brighter future is well within our reach.

*State Rep. Bob Merski, D-Erie, represents the 2nd Legislative District.*

## SUMMIT WELCOMES NEW CREW MEMBER



Summit Township is pleased to welcome James (JD) Chase to our road crew staff.

JD brings with him 6 years of construction experience. JD resides in Summit Township and enjoys hunting, riding his dirt bike, golfing, and spending time with family and friends. Please join us in welcoming JD to our team!

## From The Office Of District Judge McGowan

It's time again for the sophomore panel discussion at Fort LeBoeuf High School. The school groups professions according to type. Then it invites people from a variety of professions to come speak with the sophomores. Students sign up for 2 schools or classes of professions that they may be interested in pursuing. The panels introduce themselves and we spend most of our time answering questions. The sessions are completely driven by the students. I will be attending the Sophomore Panel discussion Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at the High School. The students get more engaged each year, and I'm sure this year will be no exception.

*Brian M. McGowan, MDJ*



# Senior News



We had a great time dressing up for our Halloween luncheon; looking forward to wearing our ugly sweaters for Christmas! Chair exercise is perfect for the cold months ahead. Bingo gives us a great reason to get out of the house.

A special thanks to Jeremy Laurin for coming to explain the changes to Medicare for 2025. It was very informative.

An even bigger thank you to the Summit Township Supervisors for purchasing new windows for the center. They have been installed and look great; next, the glass sliding door will be replaced. These improvements are well worth it!

Enjoy the holidays!

*President Jan Birkner*



## Kiwanis

CLUB OF FORT LeBOEUF



*Kiwanis Club of FLB members delivered dinner to Perry Hi-Way Hose Co*

We had a busy Fall...escorting all of the FLB 3rd graders to the Waterford Fair for a field trip, making blankets for children in Foster Care, collecting items for Foster Care placement bags, and hosting a Fall Fun & Fire Safety Day at Stancliff. We also took part in the Trunk or Treat at Robison Elementary and Haunted Halls at FLB High School. It was fun seeing the kids in their costumes. One of our highlights was making dinner for the firefighters at Perry Hi-Way Hose Co. We are truly thankful for all that they do to protect us, and making dinner was a small way to thank them.

We are also excited to announce that we have started a Builders Club at the Middle School this year. The Builders Club is the middle school version of Kiwanis and they started the year with "Socktober" where they collected new socks to donate to the Waterford and Summit food pantries for Christmas gifts. Mrs. Laura Friedman is their faculty advisor. All 3 FLB elementary schools have K-Kids, which is the elementary version. We sponsor all four clubs and support their service and fundraising efforts.

Please plan to support us at our Purse Bingo on Feb. 2nd at St. Francis Ushers Club. Follow us on Facebook at "Kiwaniis Club of Fort LeBoeuf" or call Val at 814-602-9175 for information.



# Hello from Robison Elementary School!

We were absolutely thrilled to welcome our students back, ready to learn, grow, and make new memories! The excitement in the air is contagious as we embark on another great school year together.

Our fifth-grade students took part in an exciting project that brought their reading to life. They decorated pumpkins to depict characters from their novels, focusing on the key traits that made those characters special. This creative and hands-on approach helped students connect with literature on a deeper level while showcasing their artistic talents and understanding of character development.

For our kindergarten through second grade, the highlight was a visit from the Perry Hi-Way Hose Company firefighters. This engaging and informative event was a fantastic way for students to learn about fire safety in an interactive environment. They explored a real fire truck and had the chance to put out a demonstration fire using a real fire hose! These experiences not only taught them critical safety lessons but also made lasting memories.

Additionally, our annual science fair was a huge success. Families worked together with their students as they explored different scientific concepts and presented their findings to our school. Throughout the school day, students were able to visit the science fair, and in the evening, they showcased their projects at our Science Fair Showcase and award ceremony. We couldn't be prouder of the hard work each student put into their projects.

The start of our school year has been filled with meaningful connections, hands-on learning, and a spirit of exploration. We're excited to see how these early experiences will continue to shape our students' growth and learning throughout the year!



*Jenna Hopkins*, Principal Robison Elementary  
Fort LeBoeuf School District





# Summit Lions Club News



Welcome New Residents and our current Residents that have lived and supported Summit Township for years:

The Summit Lions is the only International Service group in Summit Township. We are part of a group of men and women in 210 countries and providences around the world. We have seven Service guidelines that we commit to: Humanity, Disaster, Youth, Diabetes, Pediatric Cancer, Environment, and Hunger.

In our area, we try to help in all these areas of Service. Humanitarian, support fire victims and assist with Ramps of Hope. Disaster, donate to our Lions International Foundation, which contributes to disasters all around the world. Youth, we donate books to the students at Robison School to take home and keep. Diabetes, encourage healthy eating and exercise. Pediatric Cancer, we try to make families aware of the Four Diamonds program, which is like St. Jude Hospital, where care is given for free, but Penn State is a lot closer. Hunger, Summit Food Pantry was originally started by the Summit Lions Club, and to this day, we participate in the workings of its success. Environment, we do plastic film recycling to get Trex benches for our community.

Our membership is open to all people over 18 years of age. We have yearly membership dues, which offsets expenses at the district, state, and international levels in the form of training for leadership and members. There are reduced rates for former Leos and family members.

Every cent that we make from the public goes back into the public—YES, 100% of profits made from public events gets invested back into helping members of our community and beyond. We are the only Service group that can prove this fact.

As you read this article, think of ways that the Summit Lions have touched your life and now, we need you to help pay it forward through your membership and a little of your time and talents. As our group is aging, we realize that younger, newer talent is needed to make us continue to be successful, and we are open to new ideas like Pay Pal. Just like fire extinguishers are being replaced by reusable Fire blankets, our club members would like to have members who can modernize our way of doing things.

Speaking of Fire blankets, Summit Lions have been selling them for \$20 each. So, call Lion Steve or Lion Patty Sample to order a Fire blanket at 814-440-7857 or 814-440-7856.



Please come and visit us on the Second Wednesday of each month at the Summit Township Senior Center located at 1450 Townhall Road West at 7 p.m. to learn more about our INTERNATIONAL organization or call Lion Bob or Lion Janet Mitchell for more details at 814-864-9194. Come hear of the 12 grants totaling \$350,000 our foundation has sent to Hurricane Relief in the United States.

See you soon,

*Lion Steve Sample, President*

# ENGINEER'S REPORT

I'm sure everyone has seen the utility flags along Peach Street between Robison Road and Dorn Road. PennDOT is starting a safety improvements project along this stretch of Peach Street. I would like to point out that this is a good example of the public's involvement in pushing projects forward.

A few years ago, this project was not on the radar. However, during the Comprehensive Plan process, it was recommended that Peach Street needed to be widened with a center turn lane installed. So, it was included in the Township's 2018 Comprehensive Plan. From there, we updated the Official Transportation Map of the Township in 2020 to include it as well. With these two documents, the Township had the means to advocate for this project as well as others with the County and State. Then, when the County updated the Long Range Transportation Plan in 2022, we encouraged you to take the surveys to let them know what projects were needed. Meanwhile, we pushed for the projects on the Transportation Map and Comprehensive Plan to be included in the Long Range Plan.

With that, this project was not only added into the Long Range Transportation Plan, it was given priority and included into the Transportation Improvement Plan. From there, it has quickly moved up in priority received

funding, and as you have seen this fall, the surveying and design work has begun. I know it is a long and cumbersome process, but keep in mind that PennDOT has many projects in Erie County, and there is only so much funding. So, they need to make sure the projects that they complete are the best use of funds. With that, everyone who made comments during the planning processes really pushed this project to the top of the list, and is why it is being started now. Now, realistically, we probably will not see any actual construction work until 2026 at the earliest, as there are utility and right-of-way aspects that need to be addressed, and those take time.

We can't celebrate too long as there are many more projects that still need to be done. We will keep advocating and pushing to get our priority projects done. Just keep a lookout for when those surveys and public comment periods happen and make sure that you participate because it does have a big impact on what gets funded and what does not.



## MS4 NEWS

The Township had an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) inspection this fall, and our program is doing very well. Currently, we monitor 181 storm sewer outfalls. 52 of those outfalls have dry weather flow attributed to groundwater. There are 123 privately owned stormwater management systems in the Township which are inspected on a routine basis. The Township owns and operates 6 stormwater management systems located at the Municipal Building, Municipal Garage, and the parks.

The Township has completed 1 of 2 pollutant reduction plans (PRP). The Leboeuf Creek PRP, which comprises the rain garden at Community Park and a detention basin in the construction yard, helps address nitrogen impairment of Leboeuf Creek. The Walnut Creek PRP is currently being revised from the original plan. There will be a 30-day public comment period as we finalize the plan. The Walnut Creek PRP is to help address sediment impairment of Walnut Creek.

No significant illicit discharges were observed over the past year. Please report illicit discharges if you see them. If the water is cloudy, has a sheen, or has an odd smell, notify Summit Township immediately. You can call us at 814-868-9686, email [sumtwp@summitpa.us](mailto:sumtwp@summitpa.us), or use the "Contact Us" form on the website ([summittownship.com](http://summittownship.com)).



## SUMMIT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY

### Sewer Disconnect Permits — Important Requirements

If you are planning any demolition work that requires a building demolition permit, please be reminded that a Sewer Disconnect Permit is also necessary. These permits are free of charge and must coincide with your demolition permit. The Authority will continue to bill for sanitary sewer services until the sewer line has been properly disconnected.

To complete the disconnection, the sanitary sewer must be dug up, capped, and inspected to prevent any groundwater from entering the public sewer system. This inspection is essential to ensure the integrity of our infrastructure. If you are in the process of obtaining a demolition permit, please ensure that you coordinate with us for the sewer disconnect inspection.

### Oliver Road Gravity Sewer Replacement Project (Contract 2021-1) — Update

As part of the Oliver Road Gravity Sewer Replacement Project, we encountered an issue with the newly installed sanitary sewer line, which did not maintain the properly engineered slope. While this situation is less than ideal, please rest assured that our contractor, Terra Works, is fully committed to correcting the problem.

To restore the correct slope and ensure the long-term functionality of the sewer system, the affected sections will need to be replaced. These repairs will require open-cut excavation, a method that is more disruptive than the pipe-bursting technique initially used.

We understand that this may raise concerns regarding potential impacts on your property

or business operations. Please know that any surface restoration required due to the excavation will be performed in kind. Our goal is to return private property to its original condition—or better—with as little disruption as possible. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to resolve this issue.

### Online Payment Services

To make bill payments more convenient, the Municipal Authority has partnered with Payment Service Network (PSN) to offer online and phone-based payment options. Through PSN, you can securely pay using credit cards or electronic checks.

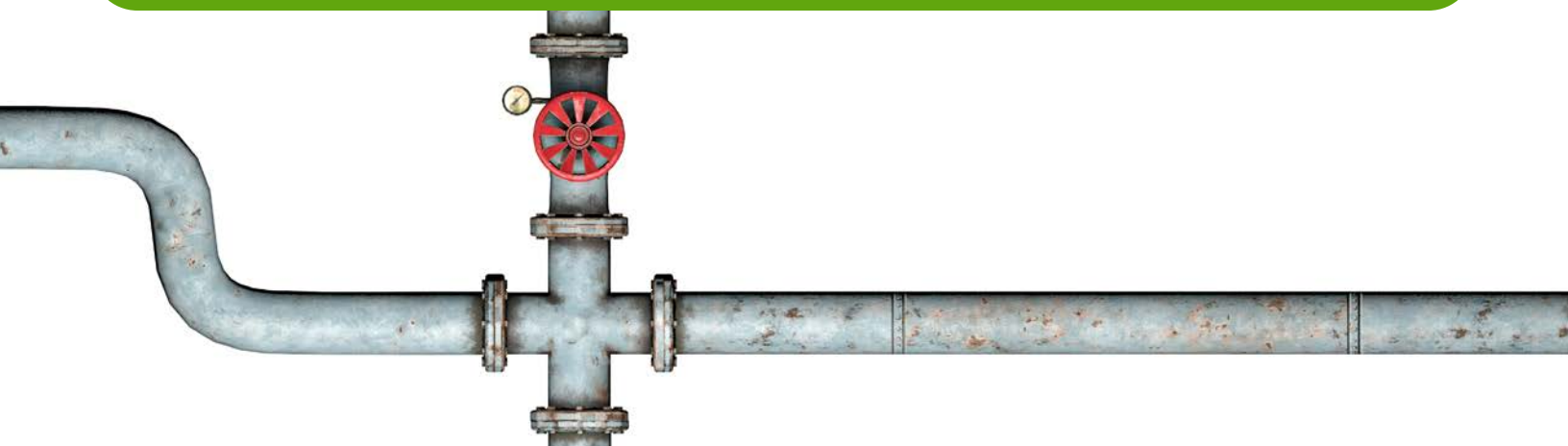
Please be aware that there are service fees associated with these payment options:

- ACH/eCheck payments: \$1.10 per transaction
- Credit and debit card payments: 3% of the transaction amount
- +\$0.50 per transaction under \$100

PSN provides a secure server network and offers customer support for online and telephone payments. We hope this option provides flexibility and convenience for those who prefer electronic payments.

Any sewer customer with questions pertaining to the sewer system or billing concerns is invited 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



# From the Water Authority

## PROTECT YOUR WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

Don't let winter weather catch you unprepared!

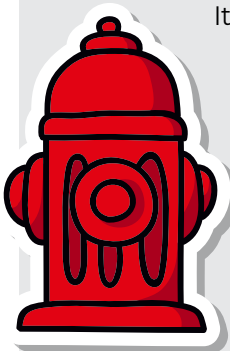
As temperatures begin to drop, now is the time to make sure your water lines are protected from freezing. Lines located in inadequately insulated crawl spaces, vacant structures, and under mobile homes are the most vulnerable and can lead to inconvenient outages and costly repairs.

### 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](mailto: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

## KEEP'EM CLEAR

If there's a fire hydrant near your house, help keep it accessible this winter:

**DO YOUR PART SO THEY CAN DO THEIRS**



\$50 Visa gift cards to the winners as our way of saying thanks.

### GO GREEN. GO PAPERLESS.

Customers who would like to receive their water bill via e-mail rather than through the mail can do so by calling our office at 814-864-2323 to sign up.

There is no charge for paperless billing, and you are not required to pay online. Payments can still be made with cash, check, or card through the online portal, first-class mail, or in person.

Reminders of upcoming due dates will also be sent to your email.

*Brian Hiles*, Manager

**Teacher:** "What's the chemical formula for water?"  
**Student:** "HIJKLMNO!"  
**Teacher:** "What are you talking about?"  
**Student:** "Yesterday you said it's H to O."



Once again, the Township, Water, and Sewer Authority staff enjoyed their annual pumpkin carving contest, followed by a Halloween luncheon. With Supervisors Mark, Tony, and Jack as the judges, this year's winners were:

1st place – Joe Passerotti

2nd place – Tammy Cass

3rd place – Gina Erbin

Thanks to all who participated...it was a lot of fun!



From left: Gina Erbin, JD Chase, Tim Eliason, Dan Wilder, AJ Fox, Lisa Culbertson, Rabbecca Spencer, Adam Wilps, Mike Hanas, Misty Statkun, Joe Passerotti, Kathy Hiles, Amy McCaslin, Wendy Burbules, Matt Jonas, Michelle Nesselhauf, Tammy Cass, Joe Whitmer, Deb Jageman



From left: Gina Erbin, Joe Passerotti, Tammy Cass





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**Supervisors:**

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

## 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 1 through April 30. 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

## Once Upon A Time...

This quarter, we are Honoring Our Veterans of all wars. We need more photos and mementos of Summit residents for this display.

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

Is your Summit group interested in using the display case?  
Also, we accept 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.

