

# SUMMIT TOWNSHIP

# News

FIRST QUARTER 2025  
814/868-9686

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 1  
[www.summittownship.com](http://www.summittownship.com)

## PLEASE BE SURE TO FOLLOW SUMMIT TOWNSHIP'S WINTER SAFETY REGULATIONS!

Whether we like it or not, winter will be around for a while longer. Every property owner in Summit Township must adhere to the following winter safety regulations:

- **No parking on Township roadways - we can't plow if your car is on the road!**
- **No plowing or depositing of snow across or upon Township roads.**
- **Sidewalks must be cleared of all snow/ice in excess of two (2") inches within 24 hours after the snow stops. A path 36" wide must be cleared.**



## REMINDER:

### Time to renew DOG LICENSES for 2025

Licenses must be renewed for the current calendar year.

Summit Township has Erie County dog licenses available at the Municipal Office Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

There is a \$2.00 discount for Disabled Citizens and Senior Citizens 65 years of age or older.

To apply for a dog license online please visit [www.eriecountypa.gov](http://www.eriecountypa.gov).

Lifetime Licenses can only be obtained from Erie County. Please visit their website above for more information.

### TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED:

February 17 – President's Day

April 18 – Good Friday

Sorry, We're  
**CLOSED**

## MEET THE STAFF

**TOWNSHIP:** 814-868-9686

**Jack Lee, Jr. –**

Supervisor/Treasurer/Dir. Land Development

**Mark A. Welka –**

Supervisor/Chairman/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, Joe Passerotti, Jeff**

**Matheis, Andrew Fox, Joe**

**Malinowski, Dan Wilder &**

**Tim Eliason**

**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 –**

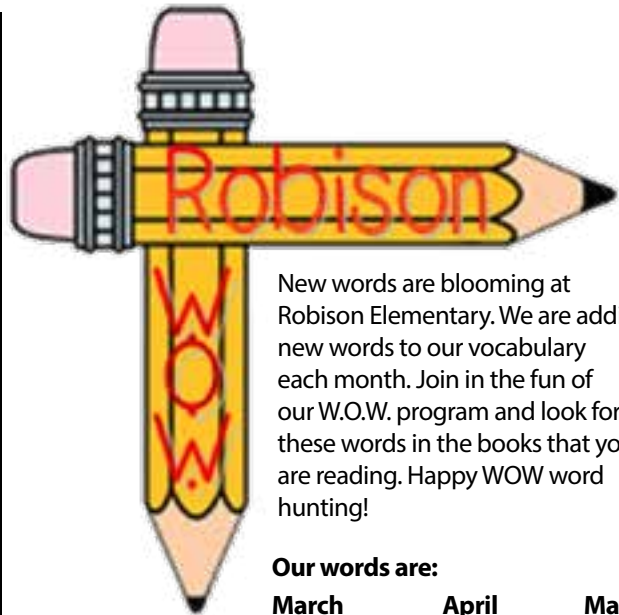
Billing Clerk

**Chris Hodge –**

GIS Specialist/Asst. Project Manager

**Andrew Larson, Scott Snyder –**

Maintenance Technicians



New words are blooming at Robison Elementary. We are adding new words to our vocabulary each month. Join in the fun of our W.O.W. program and look for these words in the books that you are reading. Happy WOW word hunting!

**Our words are:**

**March**

felicity

deft

chartreuse

**April**

keen

**May**

decorum

## PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

### Board of Supervisors:

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, 6:00 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, 4:30 pm

### Planning Commission:

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, 6:30 pm

### Sewer Authority:

Last Thursday of each month, 9:00 am

### Water Authority:

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 9:00 am

### 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 pm

As needed and advertised only

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

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, 7:00 pm as needed.

### Debra Cameron, Summit Township Tax Collector

1754 Townhall Rd. West, Erie, PA 16509 | (814) 866-2653

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 10 am–2 pm | Monday evening 5–7 pm

By appointment: May, September, and November 1–March 1

## LeBoeuf Little League

Registration for the Little League season is open at [www.flbll.org](http://www.flbll.org) through mid-March. We are excited for another great baseball and softball season! Please mark your calendars for our annual community fundraiser the weekend of May 16 in downtown Waterford



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next deadline for submission of newsletter articles is **April 4**. Our next newsletter will be published at the end of April or early May.





## SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Hello all,

We ran into a bad stretch of winter weather from Thanksgiving right on through January, with over 100 inches of snow and bitter cold. Many townships and the City of Erie were locked down, and I-90 closed. Thankfully, we had one thaw in between to help break the snow down. Our Summit Road crew has done an excellent job on the roads. Most say the best maintained roads in Erie County. Tough winter, like years ago.

During the 3rd week of January, we experienced an arctic deep freeze clear down to the Gulf of Mexico, with some southern coastal states getting up to 8 inches of snow. The only plus with the bitter cold is that Lake Erie is nearly 100% frozen, and that will slow down the lake effect snow events. None of us can control the forces of Mother Nature, but I hope everyone has been getting by. Please always check on your neighbors and elders.

We all must do the best we can to deal with it. The power company had many employees out working around the clock, replacing poles and repairing wires from downed trees. I hope everyone has recovered with minimal damage and stress. We must improvise, adapt, and overcome, like Marines. Make the best of a bad situation.

Summit Township continues to grow with more businesses and future state road improvements to keep up with traffic and be safer than ever. But still, none of us can control reckless driving, so keep a lookout for drivers who are not paying attention or

even have their heads down using their cell. Texting while driving is illegal in PA, but unfortunately, that does not stop it. I ride motorcycles and try to avoid busy traffic while always watching the vehicles around me, just to be safe and avoid being hurt.

Summit Township is very fortunate, so I plan on keeping it that way with all of us here keeping a watchful eye on our local budget. There is no reason we cannot enjoy that financial good future and keep things like our Homestead Act in place for homeowners who live in their own homes. We also live in an area with a wonderful school district.

Like any municipality, zoning does not make everyone happy, but it does help keep peace for all residents and businesses. By following the ordinances, we treat them all equally. Very busy areas and neighborhoods cause zoning regulations that are mostly complaint-driven. Without zoning, we would have chaos. Summit Township, Erie County, DEP, and even State Police receive many complaints from people about other's actions.

Let's have a happy, healthy, prosperous 2025. An old friend of mine, and custom bike builder, does a motivational minute on his Facebook and YouTube blogs. I would like to pass on a line of his. "Remember to stay positive and never give up trying. If what you have been doing is not working, try something else. You can change your future".

Thank you, *Supervisor Jack Lee*

Hello Summit residents,

Well, it has been a good old-fashioned winter here in Summit Township. The last couple of years really spoiled us. The road crew has been working a lot of overtime to keep the roads clear and free of snow. Our truck fleet has been incredible, and other than a few minor issues, it has proven to be a great investment and worth the money. Talking to other townships and hearing their horror stories reassures me that we made the right decision.

The snow came early, long before the ground had a chance to freeze, and with the amount of snow we received, we did

our best to clear the roads while attempting to keep the damage to yards and mailboxes to a minimum. We will be out in the spring to make the necessary repairs. Spring is a few weeks away, and I sure hope it is a good old-fashioned spring.

Take care and be safe,

*Supervisor Mark Welka*

Greetings Summit Township residents,

As I write this article, it is snowing and 18°. We have had quite a winter so far. The road crew has been very busy this season keeping our roads clear to afford safe travel to those who visit, work, and live in Summit Township. It is always nice to hear that Summit Township has some of the best-kept roads in Erie County, and we do. Keeping up with the roads is no small task. A lot goes into the maintenance of our roadways, such as planning and scheduling the work to be done and keeping track of what roads were done and when and which roads need to be done next. As long as it doesn't get ahead of you, it's not too bad when you have talented employees like ours.

We have also been very busy in the garage, keeping our equipment in top-notch order for the season ahead and our snow removal equipment on the road doing what it does best.

Looking forward, we were awarded a DCNR grant of \$200,000 to go toward the upgrade of our playground at Picnicana. I would like to thank Matt Jonas, Tammy Cass, and Lisa Vallimont for the hard work they put into this grant. I am finding out that getting grants is not an easy task. I will have more updates as time goes on and the project progresses.

Until next time, stay warm and be safe, enjoy the time you spend with your family and friends.

Best regards, *Supervisor Tony Davis*

# Here We Grow Again

**TROPICAL SMOOTHIE** recently opened its new location at 6803 Peach Street. Tropical Smoothie began as a single location on a beach in Destin, Florida, and has grown to be a lifestyle brand for people looking for better-for-you alternatives to fast food serving nutritious food and smoothies at more than 1,500+ locations in the U.S.

**TOYOTA OF ERIE** recently opened its new dealership at 9140 Peach Street. Toyota of Erie is part of the Preston Auto Group, one of Western PA and Eastern Ohio's largest automotive groups, with 11 dealerships representing 15 brands in Erie, New Castle, Sharon, PA, and Boardman, OH. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. Inc. was established in 1957.

**NEW MOTORS** recently completed renovations to their BMW showrooms, Service Write-Up, exterior façade, and a 15,612 sq. ft. addition. New Motors started as a gas station in 1927 in Hartstown, PA, until moving the dealership to Erie, PA, as an exclusive Volvo dealer in 1970. Today the dealership sits on 80 acres with facilities combining 42,500 square feet of workspace with 2 showrooms housing the current pre-owned department and three franchises (Subaru, Volkswagen, and BMW).

## IN THE WORKS

**CLAYTON HOMES** has started through the process of opening a new location at 8191 Peach Street.

**CICI NAILS** has started through the process of opening a new location at 7200 Peach Street Unit 485.

**L. L. BEAN** has started through the process of opening a new location at 6718 Peach Street.

**CRUMBL COOKIE** has started through the process of opening a new location at 6839 Peach Street.

**PILOT** has started through the process of constructing a 7,875 sq. ft. addition to the existing building located at 8035 Perry Highway.

## Summit Community Food Pantry

Winter Wishes!

I think at this point we can all say our winter wish is for spring to arrive early!

The SCFP had another successful year. At Thanksgiving, the pantry distributed food and essentials to 56 families. Thanks to Summit United Methodist Church for their in-gathering of food collected by Parishioners. At Christmas, the pantry distributed to 50 families and along with All Saints Church, provided Christmas gifts to 14 children.



The thanks do not stop there – The FLB National Honor Society collected canned goods, personal care items and money. This food (2,424 pounds!!!) was split between the Waterford Food Pantry and the SCFP. Also \$990.00 was collected for the local food banks.

Countryside neighborhood hosted a Friendsgiving and collected \$630.00 for our local food pantry while Palermo Realty presented a check for \$2,500.00. The generosity of our Summit and Waterford community is awesome!

We are moving from a paper sign in system to an electronic one. The delay in time now should save time in the future. The SCFP thanks our families for their patience during this transition.

We continue curbside pickup and the hours remain the same, 2:30 pm–4:00 pm on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. A gentle reminder to not line up until 2:00 pm to ensure business can be conducted at the township building uninterrupted and to make space for employee vehicles in the back parking lot who may be coming and going.

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

## CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION

Beginning in 2025, residents can opt to have their leaves picked up curbside. There will be a collection week in May and October. **Residents must contact the township office at 814-868-9686 ext. 222 to register.** All leaf

waste must be placed in clear/transparent bags and placed at the curb during the scheduled leaf collection week. Clear bags may be obtained from any retailer of your choice. Bags must be placed separate from trash and recycling, and CANNOT contain grass clippings. Consider mulching your leaves onto your lawn instead of bagging for an eco-friendlier alternative.





Greater Erie Area Habitat for Humanity is Building Erie Better in 2025! With Executive Director Dr. Roché Vermaak at the helm, three exciting builds are planned; however, we need lots of helping hands from the Erie community. Visit [www.habitaterie.org](http://www.habitaterie.org) and click on Volunteer to complete our easy online

signup. Choose the day that's convenient for you and help build a dream for your friends and neighbors. If you prefer something a little less physical, call our ReStore, 814-464-8946, at 4922 Pittsburgh Avenue to volunteer your time and talent.

It's not too early to Save the Date for our **35th Annual A Round to Remember Golf Tournament** in Memory of Bob Baran. Join us Monday, June 2 at Lawrence Park Golf Club. Registration and sponsorships will be open soon at [www.habitaterie.org](http://www.habitaterie.org).



**PennState Extension**

Dear Summit Township Residents,

Penn State Extension will be moving to Knowledge Park, located on the Behrend Campus, at the end of January. Our address will be: 5240 Knowledge Pkwy, Suite B, Erie, PA 16510. We would like to thank Summit Township for hosting Penn State Extension and for the excellent service we have received from the Township Staff. We also would like to thank the Township Supervisors for their support. This move will bring better service to Erie County residents as we work closer with Penn State Behrend. Come see us at Knowledge Park; we look forward to continuing to serve you!

Your Friends,  
Penn State Extension

**Craig Conforti**

Client Relationship Manager, Penn State Extension  
Area 1: Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango,  
Crawford & Erie Counties  
814-409-7971; [cxc1688@psu.edu](mailto:cxc1688@psu.edu)

## FROM YOUR SUMMIT TAX COLLECTOR:

Happy New Year!

As I am writing this, it is a very frigid 9 degrees! Was it too much to hope for another mild winter?

All taxes that were issued and mailed in 2024 and were not paid by December 31, 2024, have been turned over to Erie County Tax Claim as delinquent. They will notify you of the amount due which will include penalties and interest. You may contact them directly at 814-451-6206 instead of waiting for your letter in hopes that you can pay before interest starts to accrue.

If you will be filing for the Property Rent Rebate (PA 1000) you will need a paid receipt from the tax collector to file. You will be using receipts from 2024. The proper way to receive a receipt is to include both copies and a S.A.S.E if sending through USPS or putting in the lockbox (this is stated on your tax bill) and if paying in person, bring both copies. Only those that have their taxes escrowed should be asking for a receipt.

If you have just moved to Summit and wish to apply for the Homestead Exclusion, applications must be made before March 1, 2025 to receive the exclusion on the 2025/2026 taxes. The Homestead Exclusion is from gaming dollars across the State of PA. Its purpose is to provide tax relief for taxpayers. You can download an application online at [eriecountypa.gov](http://eriecountypa.gov). You can also look up your parcel number (it starts with 40 and is under the barcode) and see if you are receiving it. In 2024 the amount excluded for school taxes was \$266.54. Each year the amount changes.

The 2025 County/Township taxes are issued and mailed March 1. Whatever address you provided to the assessment office is where your bill will be mailed. If you need to change your mailing address, contact Erie County Assessment at 814-451-6225. This is also the time the tax office resumes normal business hours. There has been a mill increase for the County in 2025. Mills have increased from 6.61 (2024) to 7.12 (2025). That is a mill increase of .51 which means for every \$100,000.00 assessed value, your taxes will increase by \$51.00.

Many things you may require can be sent through email. Email is [summittaxcollector@yahoo.com](mailto:summittaxcollector@yahoo.com). If you do not have access to email, you can leave a message on the answering machine and I will call you back as soon as I can.

Stay warm and safe and see you all in March!

See you soon!

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, 10:00 am–2:00 pm  
Monday evening 5:00–7:00 pm  
By appointment May, September  
November 1–March 1





# Perry Hi-Way News

**Happy New Year!** We sure have been making up for the low snowfall from the past 2 years this year. Mother Nature has returned to a more regular Erie winter with snow and cold temps. The members of Perry Hi-Way Hose Company stand ready to respond to medical emergencies, rescues and fires and hope that our services are needed as little as possible. Be careful when dealing with the snow. Do not overexert yourself when shoveling or clearing snow. When using a snow blower, be sure to keep your hands and fingers well away from the spinning augers. As a reminder, there may still be tension on the auger even when shut off. Use caution to avoid a trip to the ER with cut and broken fingers. More and more automobiles are coming with the vehicle starters that allow you to start up the vehicle to get it warm. Be sure not to start up the vehicle in an enclosed garage as the buildup of carbon monoxide could be dangerous. Be sure to have the garage door open if starting the car in the garage. Finally, be careful on the roads, drive for the conditions, leave a few minutes earlier than in summer and be sure to have good tires on your vehicle.

## PERRY HI-WAY HOSE COMPANY

### REMINDS RESIDENTS OF WAYS YOU CAN HELP US TO HELP YOU.

1. Keep your address clearly visible this winter by dusting off the snow from your mailbox and house numbers. Make sure the numbers are displayed for us to see day or night.
2. For those who have a fire hydrant near their home, please take a few minutes to clear a path to the hydrant and a clear space around the hydrant. Also, ask the people who plow your driveways not to plow snow into the hydrant.
3. For medical emergencies, keep a current list of medications for all the members who live at your home. Put this list on the refrigerator or a place that is easy for our crews to find without going through your cupboards or drawers. This can help identify medical problems and let our ambulance crews know the medications taken on a regular basis so we do not give you medications that may not mix well with your medications.
4. Make sure you have working smoke detectors in your home. If you need a new smoke detector or new 9-volt battery for your home smoke detector we have them available at the Oliver Road Fire Station or at the Summit Township Building. We ask for proof of residence when picking up these items.
5. Business Fund Drive 2025 kicked off January 1, 2025. All Summit Businesses should have received their fund drive request by this point. Businesses run out of a home will get their fund drive with the residential fund drive. Send your donation to Oliver Road Station 8281 Oliver Road, Erie, PA 16509.
6. Finally, we ask residents to donate to our annual residential fund drive campaign that starts on May 1, 2025. All residents should receive a fund drive request the first week of May. This year we will also be selling address number signs to better identify your address. Watch for information in the fund drive mailer.

## PERRY HI-WAY HOSE COMPANY Emergency responses for 2024

### TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE 2060

#### Apparatus response:

• E-432 .....	81
• E-434 .....	193
• L-429 .....	78
• T-435 .....	39
• Brush 439 .....	29
• U-438 .....	62
• S-427 .....	1025
• S-437 .....	809
• Medic 42 .....	97
• Chief truck .....	44
• POV (Mostly fire police).....	208

#### CALL BREAKDOWN FOR 2024

##### EMS1580

(1533 EMS, 47 Medic assist)

#### Rescues..... 147

• MVA ( 3 pin-ins).....	130
• General MVA cleanup .....	4
• MVA pedestrian .....	6
• Elevator .....	4
• Remove from Building .....	2
• Animal rescue .....	1

#### Fire Related ..... 241

• Structure Fires .....	44
• cooking fires .....	5
• Vehicle Fires .....	18
• Brush / Grass .....	11
• Trash/ rubbish.....	14
• Fire Alarms .....	149

#### Hazardous Calls..... 48

• Natural Gas / propane leak .....	13
• Gasoline / chemical spill.....	4
• CO alarms .....	7
• Wire overhear .....	2
• Power line down .....	14
• Arching electric .....	8
• Other.....	4

#### Service Calls ..... 31

• Lock Out .....	1
• Water leak.....	3
• Smoke Investigation .....	5
• Fire police / traffic .....	15
• Person in distress.....	6

#### Good Intent..... 13

• Canceled en-route .....	6
• Controlled Burning.....	4
• Smoke scare.....	1
• Haz Mat release nothing on investigation.....	2



## UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### SPRING CRAFT FAIR

Saturday & Sunday, March 8 & 9  
(Open for sales 9 am – 4 pm / Kitchen open)

### PURSE BINGO

Sunday, November 9  
(Doors open at 12 noon, Bingo at 2 pm)

### FALL CRAFT FAIR

Saturday & Sunday, December 6 & 7  
(Open for sales 9 am – 4 pm / Kitchen Open)

## ELECTION DAY for PERRY HI-WAY HOSE COMPANY

Sunday December 9, 2024, was Election Day for the officers and directors of Perry Hi-Way Hose Company. After lunch from Serafin's catering, the meeting and elections were completed. Results for 2025 leadership:

### Line officers:

- Fire Chief – Kip Hayford
- Fire Lieutenant 1 – Steve Sample
- Fire Lieutenant 2 – Jason Goodwill
- Fire Police Captain – Rob Trojanovich
- Fire Police Lieutenant – Richard Smith

### Board of Directors

- President – John Spaulding
- Vice President – Don Harvey
- Secretary – Patty Sample
- Treasurer – Gretchen Hayford
- **FF board members** – Jason Goodwill, Steve Sample, Rob Trojanovich, Richard Smith, Erin Smith
- **Business Board** – Josh Lydic, Mark Woods, Jim Jageman, Jack Lee, Kip Hayford (Chief), 1 opening

**GOOD LUCK AND THANK YOU TO THESE  
INDIVIDUALS WHO MAKE PERRY HI-WAY  
THE BEST IT CAN BE.**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE  
VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ANSWER  
EMERGENCY CALLS.**

**STOP IN TO THE OLIVER ROAD FIRE  
STATION MONDAY NIGHTS 6:00 PM TO  
9:00 PM FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

## From the Water Authority

### 2025 PROJECTS

#### Old Hershey Road booster pump station -

Design work continues on several updates to our Old Hershey Road booster pump station. These updates include a small addition, a new electrical service, and replacement of the pumps to more energy-efficient models.

**Hershey Road water main replacement** - Also in the design phase is the replacement of 1.6 miles of water main on Hershey Road, one of the oldest lines in Summit Township. As the planning progresses, and details are available, we will publish updates in the newsletter and on our website.

Congratulations to the following employees who will celebrate milestone anniversaries in 2025.

Brian Hiles	30 years
Gretchen Hayford	30 years
Lisa Culbertson	5 years
Adam Wilps	5 years
Kathy Hiles	5 years

*On behalf of the Summit Township Water Authority, a special thank you to all of the customers who assisted with our November 2024 lead and copper sampling.*

*Brian Hiles, Manager*

### ADOPT-A-HYDRANT

In the dead of winter, with record amounts of snowfall and sub-zero temperatures, small acts of kindness can make a big difference. Clearing snow from fire hydrants may seem minor, but it can save lives in an emergency.

We want to extend our thanks to everyone who has gone the extra mile to keep the fire hydrants accessible, especially to the following residents who have been nominated for our adopt-a-hydrant program. Each will receive a \$50 Visa gift card.

Pete Frink  
Max Manning  
Doug Trabert  
Basil Yurchak



# Championing the Citizens of Greater Erie

By State Rep. Bob Merski, D-Erie

As we step into 2025, I am honored to share some of the recent accomplishments that have been instrumental in improving the quality of life for our community. Together, we have made significant strides in various areas, and I am excited to continue working on your behalf.

In November 2024, we were pleased to receive the news that a \$200,000 grant was awarded for the rehabilitation of Picnicana Park through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program. This much-needed investment will enhance the park's recreational spaces, making it a more attractive destination for outdoor activities and improving the quality of life for all residents. Properly funding our local parks and trails is not just an investment in our natural environment but in our community's well-being and future. By allocating these funds, we are ensuring that Picnicana Park will continue to serve as a vital green space for the community, offering opportunities for recreation, health, and social connection.

We have also seen the successful implementation of the Emerge 2040 plan. This 25-year strategy aims to create a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous Erie County. The plan, which arose from the collaborative, community-wide Destination Erie planning process, has made significant progress in areas such as economic growth, job development, and tourism. For example, the Erie County Redevelopment Authority's StARTup Business Development Awards have provided crucial support to local entrepreneurs, while the Erie Sports Commission has accelerated sports tourism in the region.

In addition to infrastructure and economic development, we have also made significant progress in supporting our retired community members. A new state law, which includes significant changes brought about by legislation I championed, has gone into effect. This law raises the annual income threshold for retired Pennsylvania residents to qualify for a reduced vehicle registration fee of \$11. Previously, the income threshold was set at \$19,200. As of Dec. 16, 2024, the threshold increased to \$29,906, with future adjustments subject to the annual Consumer Price Index. This change will allow more retired individuals to benefit from reduced registration fees, providing much-needed financial relief.



Furthermore, I am pleased to inform you that the 2025 application window for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is now officially open.

This program provides financial assistance to eligible Pennsylvanians, including seniors and individuals with disabilities, to help them with property taxes or rent payments. I urge all eligible Pennsylvanians to take advantage of the valuable program by submitting their applications before the June 30, 2025, deadline.

Also, The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is here to help you keep your home warm and safe during the coldest months. The 2024–25 LIHEAP season is open through April 4. To be eligible, your household income must be at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. That means a household of four with an annual income of \$46,800 or less will qualify. You must also be a resident of Pennsylvania and responsible for paying your heating costs, either directly or as part of your rent.

To apply, you can use the COMPASS online tool for health and human service programs or download, print, fill out, and return the paper application to your local county assistance office. If you're experiencing a heating emergency, such as broken heating equipment or lack of fuel, you may be eligible for additional crisis grants. Don't wait—apply today to ensure your home stays warm and safe this winter. For more information, visit Pennsylvania's LIHEAP website.

These initiatives are just a few examples of the positive change that can be achieved when we work together as a community. I am grateful for the dedication and hard work of our residents, local organizations, and government partners in making Erie County a better place to live, work, and thrive. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future for all.

As always, my office is here to help you with any government-related needs. Please feel free to visit the district office at 3921 Buffalo Road in Erie, give us a call at (814) 455-6319, or check out my webpage at RepMerski.com.

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

# From the Office of District Judge McGowan

## Robison Elementary Mock Trial

On January 13, 2025, we welcomed Mrs. Dahn and the gifted students to the courtroom for a mock trial. This year we actually conducted 2 trials, giving more students chances to participate as witnesses and attorneys. All students got to sit on at least 1 jury.

One of the trials was criminal, the other was a civil trial. This is the first year I recall conducting a civil trial and it presented a good opportunity to discuss the difference in the burden of proof between the two.

Conducting two trials did not leave any time for questions. If you have a student who has any questions about the law or would like to observe some actual hearings in my court, please feel free to contact me at [bmcgowan@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:bmcgowan@eriecountypa.gov).

*Brian M. McGowan, MDJ*



# Summit Township Emergency Management

## Are you ready? Winter Storms



- ❄️ **Follow local area radio, NOAA radio, PA 511, TV stations and media for the latest information and emergency alerts.**



- ❄️ **Review your emergency kit and replenish items in short supply, especially medications and medical supplies. Gather food, water and supplies to be able to stay home for several days without power.**



- ❄️ **Be sure you have ample heating fuel. Consider secondary or emergency heating types such as wood burning stoves or portable heaters. Only use them if it can be done properly and safely. Consider installing a portable generator.**



- ❄️ **Bring your companion animals inside and ensure that your horses and livestock have blankets if appropriate and access to shelter, food, and non-frozen water.**



- ❄️ **Check on relatives, neighbors, and friends, particularly if they are elderly, live alone or have special needs.**



- ❄️ **Be smart when working outside. Strain from the cold and overexertion may cause a heart attack. Sweating could lead to a chill and hypothermia.**



- ❄️ **Be prepared to evacuate if you lose power or heat. Know your routes and destinations. Find a local emergency shelter. Tell someone your plan.**



# SUMMIT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY

## ENNIS SUBDIVISION SANITARY SEWER REPAIRS

The Summit Township Sewer Authority applied for a grant of partial funding of repairs to the public sanitary sewer system and the Ennis Subdivision in November 2022. The Commonwealth Financing Authority approved funding toward the project on December 19, 2023, in the amount of \$70,000. Ennis Subdivision Sanitary Sewer Repairs Project was advertised on May 1 and 5, 2024. The Summit Township Sewer Authority received bids on May 30, 2024. There were five bids at the opening. The lowest qualified bid was Mansfield Sanitation Services in the amount of \$232,447.14. Work began in mid-August, and construction was completed mid-October. During the repairs, additional damage was found and corrected, costing \$8,912.80. The contractor is currently performing testing and there will be some minor restoration work in early spring 2025.

## SEWER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: WHAT NOT TO FLUSH

As a homeowner, it can be tempting to dispose of certain items down the toilet or sink. However, doing so can lead to clogs, costly repairs, and environmental issues. Homeowners who flush inappropriate items may face fees ranging between \$150–\$460 (averaging \$250) per event in plumbing-related expenses. Adopting minor changes can prevent these problems and keep our municipal systems running efficiently.



### Top Items to Avoid Flushing:

- 1. Paper Towels, Wet Wipes, Baby/Flushable Wipes, and Cotton Balls** – These items do not break down like toilet paper and can cause serious blockages.
- 2. Feminine Hygiene Products** – Designed to absorb and expand, they easily create clogs in your pipes.
- 3. Fats, Grease, and Oils** – These substances solidify in pipes, leading to impenetrable buildups.
- 4. Coffee Grounds and Eggshells** – Their small, grainy texture contributes to pipe clogs, especially when combined with grease.
- 5. Kitty Litter** – Even “flushable” varieties contain clumping agents and bacteria harmful to water supplies.

By keeping these items out of the drain, you can save money and avoid headaches. If you encounter clogs, don't hesitate to call a professional plumber to address the issue quickly and efficiently.

It is important to note that homeowners are responsible for maintaining their sewer lateral, the pipe that connects your home to the public sewer system. If you wouldn't flush it to your septic system, don't flush it to the public system.

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

## Celebrating a Remarkable First Half of the School Year

We have shared many positive and enriching experiences this first semester with our Robison Family. From fostering academic achievement to celebrating festive traditions, our students, staff, and families have truly made this a memorable time. I would love to highlight some of the incredible events that have shaped our school year so far.

We started the year with a splash of excitement, literally! First-grade students who completed their summer work packets were rewarded with the joy of throwing water balloons at their teachers. Adding to the positive start, we held a Math Breakfast, where students celebrated the completion of their summer math work with a breakfast with their current and previous teachers.

In October, we held a first-quarter assembly to honor our students' achievements in attendance, academics, personal growth, and exemplary Bison Behavior. This event was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and inspire them to continue striving for excellence.

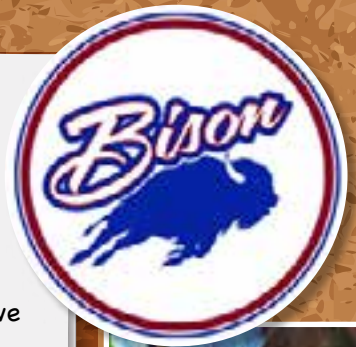
November brought festive events that embraced the season of gratitude. Our Junie B. Jones Thanksgiving Feast delighted our 2nd-grade students, where they were able to feature their handmade turkeys, while the first-grade Thanksgiving play showcased our young students' talents and creativity. These events highlighted the importance of gratitude, tradition, and togetherness.

A secret spirit week kept our students guessing as teachers dressed up for the secret theme each day. Teachers surprised students by dressing up each day in fun and creative outfits, bringing smiles and laughter throughout the building. This unexpected celebration of school spirit was a reminder of how much joy we can find in the little moments.

December was filled with wonderful holiday traditions. Our Breakfast with Santa event was a magical morning where families could come and enjoy crafts, breakfast, balloon animals, dancing, and Santa. Polar Express Day invited students to wear their pajamas, enjoy hot chocolate, and immerse themselves in the traditions around the world. The month concluded with a schoolwide Holiday Sing-Along, featuring a special performance by the talented Robison Rockets. We returned from break with a fun Noon Year's Celebration where students focused on setting goals for the future.

I am so grateful for this incredible Robison family and community. I look forward to continuing to share their accomplishments throughout the school year.

Your Proud Principal,  
Mrs. Hopkins







# Kiwanis

CLUB OF FORT LeBOEUF

We have been embracing all of the snow this winter! We held our annual Snowman Day in January and the creativity of the participants was amazing. We had participants from Summit, Waterford, Mill Village and Union City. Family groups were prepared with their water for the snow and colors for their project. Pictured are two of the animal entries. We love this outdoor activity each year.

In February, we will be celebrating our elementary level Kiwanians called K-Kids. We have groups at all 3 FLB elementary schools and they will all get together to have a pizza party and work on a service project together during International K-Kids Week.



The following week we will join our Builders Club in the middle school for a "make your own pizza" celebration. All of these kids are doing great service in their schools and community.



We also hope you can join us as we work together with the Waterford Lions Club at their annual Sportsman's Raffle. This will be held on Saturday, March 29, from 1:00–6:00 pm at Rainbow Gardens. The \$20 donation includes refreshments and food and over 30 prizes and cash. Tickets can be purchased from any Kiwanian, or at [www.waterfordpalionsclub.com](http://www.waterfordpalionsclub.com).

# Engineer's Report

It was an exciting end to 2024 regarding grants for Summit Township. Summit received two grants totaling \$450,000. Below are details of the funded projects.

**The Picnicana Park Playground Improvements Project** received \$200,000 from the DCNR's Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2). The total project cost is \$400,000 to replace and upgrade the playground at Picnicana Park. The Township is currently pursuing a \$100,000 grant from Erie County to use for part of the match. The existing equipment that is still in good condition will be relocated to Community Park to upgrade the existing playground there.

There will be two areas upgraded with this project. The upper playground area will be regarded to provide a larger flat play area. The swings will be completely removed from this area so that it can be an open, free-play area. A larger playset will be provided as the centerpiece of this playground, and other standalone pieces may be added as space allows.

The lower playground area will be the swing area. All the swings installed as part of this project will be installed here. Having all the swings in this area will reduce safety-related conflicts that currently exist in the playgrounds. This lower area is also away from trees and other obstructions, leaving a wide-open area for the swings.

**The Downs Drive Improvements Project** received a \$250,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority. The goals of this project are to repair and reconfigure the existing Downs Drive west of Peach Street into a two-lane road with dedicated left turn lanes and remove the excess asphalt to make the road more intuitive and user-friendly. The east side of Peach Street will be repaired and repaved. Sidewalks will be installed along the road to fill pedestrian gaps and provide connections between the various uses located along the road.

Finally, the **culvert over Elk Creek on Hamot Road** has been repaired. The areas of corrosion were cleaned and painted with rust-inhibiting paint. After which, a steel reinforced grout wedge was installed along the length of the culvert to patch the existing holes and to prevent water from pooling against the steel which was causing the deterioration in the first place.





# Summit Lions Club News



## SUMMIT LIONS CLUB NEWS SUPPORTING VETERANS AND THE SUMMIT SENIOR CENTER

Most of the residents in Summit Township are aware of our annual golf tournament at Venango Valley Inn and Golf Course on June 6, 2025, which is our main fundraiser which allows us to provide books to the students at **Robison Elementary School**, our Scholarships for **Fort LeBoeuf High School** Students and **Pediatric Cancer Program at Four Diamonds**. The golf tournament letters for ad sponsors and registration forms for golfers will be mailed out soon. You are so very important to us and our mission. New Golf Tournament Sponsors and golfers contact Lion Bob Mitchell for details at [daddiepop@aol.com](mailto:daddiepop@aol.com) or 814-864-9194.

In addition to the programs we support with our annual golf tournament, we also support **Project New Hope** for Veterans living with a Service-related disability and their families. Project New Hope takes place at Pennsylvania Lions Beacon Lodge Camp in Mount Union, PA.

Project New Hope is FREE for PA Veterans with a Service-related disability and their immediate family. You need your DD214 and your Letter of Determination to apply. This is a mini vacation for the Veteran and their family of 5 days/4 nights retreat. Each family is given their own cabin, which is air-conditioned with a private bathroom and individual storage cabinets for personal belongings. There are three bunk beds, a loft bed that includes

three drawers, an area to hang clothing or towels, a desk, and a single bed. There are many activities for the family to participate in, from fishing to swimming, zipline, mini golf, paddle boats, bowling, shuffleboard, climbing tower, lawn games, and so much more.



Project New Hope is designed to promote healing and understanding for each family member so that they can deal with the trauma and become reunited as a family unit after the long separation. Email Lion Janet Mitchell at

[MitchellHRC@aol.com](mailto:MitchellHRC@aol.com) for the brochure or contact the Beacon Lodge Camp at 814-542-2511. Go online and see the camp for yourself at [BeaconLodge.org](http://BeaconLodge.org). Feel free to email Them for more information at [OFFICE@BEACONLODGE.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@BEACONLODGE.ORG).

Summit Lions are also working with Presque Isle Downs and Casino to benefit **Summit Township Senior Citizens**. The casino will be collecting a \$5 donation, which will turn into \$10 of betting money

at the casino during the month of February. With the proceeds, the Summit Lions will be working in conjunction with the Summit Township Supervisors regarding updates at the Summit Senior Center.



Summit Lions also have access to programs such as the Western PA Hearing Foundation that can benefit Senior Citizens who have trouble affording hearing aids or need vision readers through multiple sight-related programs.

Along with the betterment of the Senior Citizens and the Summit Township Senior Center, the Summit Lions have discussed with the Casino to use \$4,000 of the proceeds from this event to add to their Scholarship Program to support four Seniors at Fort LeBoeuf High School from the 2025 graduating class. Each year, we choose two Seniors who are Summit Residents to receive our scholarship, but we also choose two Summit Resident Leos to receive a scholarship. The FLB Seniors can apply for these scholarships through the guidance office. Each scholarship awarded from Summit Lions for 2025 will be \$1,500 instead of our usual \$500 that we could award from the profits of our Golf Tournament. (I will give you a hint on getting awarded; the committee does read the essays when deciding on candidates.)

As always, the Summit Lions are looking for new members. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Summit Township Senior Center at 7:00 pm.

Thank you for your support, *Lion Janet Mitchell*

Read Across America Chair  
814-864-9194  
[MitchellHRC@aol.com](mailto:MitchellHRC@aol.com)



## 2025 DRIVE-THRU RECYCLING EVENTS








**SCAN TO REGISTER!**

### ***EVENT DATES (9AM - 1PM)***








March 15 at 9333 Tate Rd. Erie, PA 16503  
April 26 at 1230 Townhall Rd. West Erie, PA 16509  
May 24 at 1001 Atkins St. Erie, PA 16503  
June 14 at 36 Bessemer St. Albion, PA 16401  
August 16 at 9333 Tate Rd. Erie, PA 16503  
October 18 at 1230 Townhall Rd. West Erie, PA 16509  
November 15 at 9333 Tate Rd. Erie, PA 16503



### **ACCEPTED CHEMICALS**

-  Paint/Workshop Products
-  Automotive Products
-  Cleaning Products
-  Batteries & Bulbs
-  Lawn & Garden Products
-  Flammables
-  Pool Chemicals and **MORE!**

### **ACCEPTED ELECTRONICS**

-  TVs
-  Computers, Printers, Laptops
-  Phones
-  Window AC Units
-  Mini Fridges
-  Gaming Devices
-  Microwaves and **MORE!**

***\$0.50/LB FOR ELECTRONICS & CHEMICALS  
\$5.00/LB FOR PROPANE CYLINDERS***

**CONTACT US**

***412-567-6566  
nobleenviro.com***

# 2024 Zoning & Land Development Recap

**Zoning  
Demolition  
Signs**

**Permits Issued**

**113**

**Construction Cost Total**

**\$39,817,191**

## Land Development & Subdivision Plans

- 8 Subdivision Plans
- 2 Amended LDP
- 1 Land Development Plan
- 1 Sewage Module
- 1 Road Vacation
- 1 Sketch Plan
- 1 Replot
- 1 Preliminary Subdivision



## Zoning Hearing Board Requests

	Requests	Granted	Denied
Variance	5	4	1
Special Exception	1	1	0
Appeal	1	0	1

## Sign Permits

**\$432,374**

**31**  
permits

Wall  
Pylon  
Pole  
Monument  
High Rise

**Agricultural  
Structures  
\$659,300**

**6 PERMITS**

**Wireless Communications / Co-Location**

**3**

**CO-LOCATION**

**\$105,000**

## Miscellaneous Permits Issued



Burning  
104



Operations  
1



Portable Sign  
11



Driveway  
2



Floodplain  
1



Road Occupancy  
13



Special Event  
10



Short-Term Rental  
19

**Commercial / Industrial  
Construction Cost  
\$36,184,644**

## New Commercial Sites

**\$33,186,000**

**PA State Police \$32,000,000**

**Flagship Fireworks \$686,000**

**Take 5 Oil Change \$500,000**

**Commercial Renovations/ Build Outs  
\$2,666,774**

### Renovations

**Frito Lay \$400,000**

**Wyndham Garden \$300,000**

### Commercial Build Out

**Warhammer Games \$36,000**

**Shafer Law Firm \$53,800**

**CICI Nails \$75,000**

**Clayton Homes \$100,000**

**Crumbl Cookie \$165,000**

**Tropical Smoothie \$250,000**

**L. L. Bean \$536,974**

**Adler Tool \$750,000**

**Commercial Accessory Structures  
\$331,870.00**

**Pilot Charging Stations \$200,000**

**Perry Hi-Way Pole Barn \$131,870**

### Commercial Demolition

**Commercial  
Buildings**

**3**

## Residential Zoning & Demo Permits \$2,435,873

### Accessory Structures

**\$233,235**

Sheds (10)

**\$74,070**

Detached Garages (5)

**\$60,165**

Pole Barns (2)

**\$56,000**

In-Ground Pools (1)

**\$40,000**

Greenhouses (1)

**\$3,000**

### Additions/Renovations

**\$546,638**

Additions (4)

**\$277,700**

Decks (6)

**\$136,000**

Attached Garages (3)

**\$107,000**

Roofs (4)

**\$25,938**

### New Dwellings

**\$1,656,000**

Single-Family Dwellings (5)

**\$1,656,000**

### Demolition Permits

**14**

Barns/Sheds (2)

Decks (4)

Single-Family Dwellings (6)

Mobile Homes (2)



## GLASS RECYCLING IN SUMMIT

Summit Township has partnered with Bayfront Glass, LLC to provide glass recycling to Summit Township residents. Bins are placed next to the Township Garage on Old French Road where the old Municipal Building used to be. Please follow the attached use instructions which are also posted on the bins.



## SNOWPLOW SURVIVAL: HOW TO KEEP YOUR DRIVEWAY CLEAR

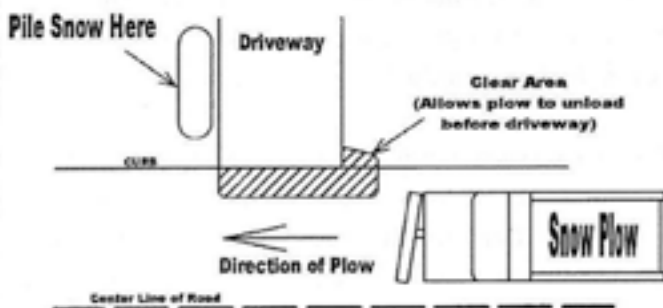
Throughout the winter, the crews plow snow, apply salt and anti-skid to the Township roads to make winter travel safe for township residents and visitors. **Residents are required to help the crew's work by obeying the law and removing their cars from public streets from November 1 to April 30.**

Because the front of a plow will unload snow wherever there is a cleared area, clear an area to the right side of your driveway (as seen in the diagram) so when the plow comes down your street it will push the snow into that area instead of your driveway. Just make sure it's at least five feet long and 3 feet wide to accommodate the snow. Plus, remember

not to push snow into or across the roadway as this creates a safety hazard for motorists.



### Driveway Plowing Policies



KEEP PENNSYLVANIA  
*Beautiful*

Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has offered an adoption program as a way for caring individuals and groups to 'adopt' local areas they care about and help keep them clean and beautiful. Our adoption program compliments PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program and is available for most municipal roads, trails, waterways, and city blocks as long as we have the consent and support of the owner/maintainer of the property (usually the municipality).

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful provides one sign per adoption and requests the support of the municipality to provide the signpost, install the sign and provide trash disposal options as needed.

To maintain an adoption, the adopter must agree to:

- Clean their road/area twice a year – Please contact your county or township for any scheduled road work before selecting a date for your road cleanup.
- Report your results within 2 weeks of each cleanup by email to Stephanie Larson. Online reporting will be available.
- Sign, and have all participants sign, a volunteer waiver form. Please email Stephanie Larson for a copy of the waiver form.
- Always make safety a priority – Volunteer Safety Guidelines and the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Adoption Program Video are to be reviewed with all participants before any cleanup begins.

Supplies of bags, gloves and vests are available by participating in our annual Pick-Up PA program that runs from March 1 through May 31 and September 1 through October 31 each year.

Visit [keeppabeautiful.org/programs/adoptions](http://keeppabeautiful.org/programs/adoptions) for more information or contact Stephanie Larson at [slarson@keeppabeautiful.org](mailto:slarson@keeppabeautiful.org) or 877-772-3673 x 104.



# 2025 AARP TAX LOCATION SITES

## **SALVATION ARMY SENIOR CENTER-ERIE SENIOR DAY CARE**

1022 Liberty St, Erie, PA, 16502-1265

Tue, 09:00 am – 01:30 pm

Wed, 09:00 am – 01:30 pm

814-454-6497 (APPOINTMENT REQUIRED)

### **Dates Open**

2/1/2025 – 4/15/2025

## **MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

3608 W 26th St, Erie, PA, 16506-2059

Mon, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fri, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

814-833-1111 (APPOINTMENT REQUIRED)

### **Dates Open**

2/1/2025 – 4/15/2025

## **HARBORCREEK MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

5601 Buffalo Rd, Harborcreek, PA, 16421-1625

Mon, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Tue, 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

814-824-9480 (APPOINTMENT REQUIRED)

### **Dates Open**

2/10/2025 – 4/14/2025

## **UNION CITY SENIOR CENTER**

27 Johnson St, Union City, PA, 16438-1465

Wed, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Thu, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

814-438-2146 (APPOINTMENT REQUIRED)

### **Dates Open**

2/1/2025 – 4/15/2025

## **Summit Township mourns sudden loss of road crew employee**

Summit Township is mourning the loss of long-time road crew employee Larry Hudacky who died suddenly on December 7, 2024.

Larry started his career at Summit Township in 2000 bringing with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in excavation and heavy equipment operation as well as mechanical expertise. Larry will be greatly missed by his Summit Township family.





1230 Townhall Road West  
Erie, PA 16509

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Erie, PA  
Permit No.279

**Supervisors:**

Mark A. Welka, *Chairperson*

Jack F. Lee, Jr.

Tony Davis



## Once Upon A Time...

Due to the winter weather, we are continuing the 'Honoring Our Veterans' display. This will give everyone an opportunity to come in to see the display. We need more photos and mementos of Summit residents for this display; originals will be returned. This means the National Guard, Coast Guard, and all military branches, including medical services.

The Summit History room is open Thursdays from 9:00 am to 11:00 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.