

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP

News

THIRD QUARTER 2025
814-868-9686

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 3
www.summittownship.com

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- September 1 Labor Day (Township Offices closed)
- September 15 Picniana 2026 Reservations Open for **Residents Only**
- November 4 Election Day (Township Offices closed)
- November 11 Veteran's Day Observed (Township Offices closed)



★ ★ Honor a Veteran ★ ★

Veteran's Day is Tuesday, November 11. The Summit Township Veterans Memorial has plenty of bricks available! Summit families who wish to honor their veteran(s) can purchase an engraved brick for the memorial sidewalk at just \$25 each. What a great way to show your veteran(s) the Respect, Honor, and Gratitude they deserve, not just on Veterans Day, but every day! To purchase your brick(s), please visit the Summit Township Municipal Building.

ELECTION 2025

MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 4, 2025

- Polls are open on election day from 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.
- Last day to register to vote: October 20, 2025
- Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: October 28, 2025

CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION October 27–31

Residents may opt to have their leaves collected curbside during the week of **October 27 through 31**. To participate, **you must register in advance** by calling the Township Office at 814-868-9686, ext. 222.

Guidelines:

- All leaf waste **must be placed in clear/transparent bags**.
- Bags should be set out **at the curb during the scheduled collection week**.
- Clear bags can be purchased from any retailer.
- Bags **must be kept separate from regular trash and recycling**.
- **Do not include grass clippings** in leaf bags.

*As an eco-friendly alternative, consider **mulching your leaves** into your lawn rather than bagging them.*

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

Debra Jageman –

Purchasing/Media Coordinator

Tamara Cass –

Zoning Administrator

Sarah Kavinski –

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 & Garrett Coburn

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

Andrew Larsen, Scott Snyder –

Maintenance Technicians

Hello Summit residents!

Summit Township and Millcreek Township joined forces with PennDOT District 01 to modernize the Peach Street corridors. 360-degree cameras were installed along with new fiber optic lines and upgraded signal cabinets. A green-light-go grant was obtained to fund the project, the first AI technology in our district. Several other districts throughout our commonwealth have had great success with new technology. The camera system makes constant timing changes as the traffic builds. It is amazing how many vehicles travel this corridor.

Downs Drive is now paved and lines are painted. The west side of Downs Drive has been reconfigured, adding more greenspace and less blacktop. This was made possible with a state grant. Lindy Paving provided us with great service. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused travelers.

Have a great summer!

Supervisor Mark Welka

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

You can find us at
[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/summittownshiperiecountypa)
summittownshiperiecountypa
or [@summittownshiperiecountypa](https://www.facebook.com/summittownshiperiecountypa)



PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Supervisors:

1st Monday of each month, 6:00 pm

3rd Monday of each month, 4:30 pm

Planning Commission:

2nd Monday of each month, 6:30 pm

Sewer Authority:

Last Thursday of each month, 9:00 am

Water Authority:

1st Tuesday of each month, 9:00 am

LeBoeuf Little League:

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

Zoning Hearing Board:

4th Tuesday of each month, 6:00 pm

As needed and advertised only

Summit Township Industrial and Economic Development Authority (STIEDA):

4th 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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next deadline for submission of newsletter articles is October 17th. Our next newsletter will be published in mid-November.



SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Hello all, I hope everyone's been enjoying this summer. I do not mind the excess heat, especially after the long winter we had. I have been busy helping to solve problems and answer questions. Many meetings, too. Some days, you don't feel like you have accomplished too much physically, but it's part of the job. I spent one weekend helping Perry Hi-Way Hose replace one of the garage roofs. We had plenty of help from the Chief and other volunteers. All the help was appreciated. As I write this, we are less than one week away from National Night Out and Senior Picnic for all to enjoy.

I would like to bring up a couple of things. I've had complaints where many people simply do not understand. Summit Township is very fortunate to be so busy, and unfortunately, to deal with the traffic that goes with it. I try to avoid the retail areas at prime time if I can help it. That works out well for me. The updated traffic lights and timing on Peach Street have shown success. I have heard many good compliments.

Summit's financial good fortune helps our township to be as nice as it is. I still like to be frugal because there are no guarantees. If we ever lose any of our big businesses, budgets will have to be tightened up ASAP, and I would say especially for Erie County. They benefit too. In my lifetime, I have seen many government entities spend grants and gifted money as part of their annual budget. Gifts are a short-term income. If the money feeders leave, you have no more of that income, and your budget is now upside down. That's why it is good to have money in the bank, live on a budget, and not spend more than you need to, because you can. I have always lived within what I can afford.

Summit has the sixth-lowest tax millage (1.09) of 22 townships in Erie County. Also, residents who live in their own home pay no Summit Tax per the Homestead Act since 2009. That is possible because of all the business. We have 7,400

residents, with 14,000 employees working in Summit. That scenario makes a huge difference compared to rural areas and is almost unheard of. We all pay County and School taxes.

PennDOT and Summit Township have recently done tar and chip projects on some of our local roads. I have heard many complaints about tar and chips, but if it is applied correctly, it makes for very good roads. About 3 weeks after, you will have a good, hard surface. The biggest difference is that modern blacktops are not as good as they were years ago. Many of the new products are water-based, to eliminate oils, to be more environmentally friendly. Blacktop overlay costs 80% more than tar and chip, so that is the biggest factor. No one likes tax increases, so tar and chips are much cheaper. In Summit, we have 50 miles of Township roads and 30 miles of state roads.

Reminder, in 2021, with the help of a few road crew members, we built our Veterans Memorial in the courtyard of our Municipal Building. If you would like a personalized brick for yourself or family, we have forms at the office. The engraving cost is \$25 per brick. I install them in the brick walkway. At present, we have more than 150 engraved Veterans bricks. This is a wonderful tribute to past and present vets.

To close, politics and supervision can be difficult at times, because people are quick to criticize and do not respect others. That can be disappointing. A coach told me one time, "remember to stay in your lane, many of the biggest critics need to sweep their own doorstep". Please enjoy the rest of the Summer and be kind whenever you can. It makes life so much better.

Thank you,

Supervisor Jack Lee

Hello Summit Residents,

It certainly was a very nice summer, one of the warmest I can remember. As I write this newsletter, it is 88° and very humid. We have had a rather successful summer season with our parks and facilities. Many picnics and parties were booked at Picnicana this year. It filled up very quickly right from the start when reservations were first accepted around the middle of September 2024.

The baseball and soccer fields were also full this year, with FLB Little League and EYSA being our top two organizations that use Community Park. We also completed the renovation of the baseball field at Picnicana earlier this spring, and it saw some use from rentals and folks just looking for a place to play ball. Little League may incorporate this field into its schedule for next season, thus easing some of the congestion at Community.

There is a plan in place now to build two dugouts on field one this fall; this will facilitate greater use of the field,

bringing more games and even tournaments to the park. The field on the south side of the park, which was originally constructed for rugby, is now being used as a second large soccer field since the rugby team has moved to a new location. This extra field was certainly needed to give soccer teams the extra room they needed.

The Senior Picnic took place on August 7 this year. Once again, it was a wonderful turnout with weather that could not have been better. For the first time since I have been here at Summit Township, I was not able to attend due to unexpected knee issues. Nevertheless, everything went off without a hitch thanks to our dedicated employees putting 100% into making it a fantastic event. I plan to be there next year, especially since I am old enough to attend.

Until next time, enjoy the great weather while it lasts and take time for family and friends.

Best Regards,

Supervisor Tony Davis

FROM YOUR SUMMIT TAX COLLECTOR:

Hello Summer!

Hope everyone is enjoying summer now that it is finally here!

You should by now have received your 2025/2026 School tax bill. If you have not, please contact this office for a duplicate copy. If you are paying in three equal installments, the first installment is due August 31, the second, September 30th and the last, October 31. On your tax bill, the amount of each installment is listed right above the mills on the right hand side. You must pay this amount for EACH installment. Installments received past the listed dates, are penalized 10%. Installment payments are based on the Face amount, not Discount. You can receive a receipt after your last installment payment — please be sure to keep one copy for yourself for this purpose. This is very important as once an installment is posted, I cannot go back and create an original bill. The PA Dept of Revenue will not accept three equal receipts for the PA1000 (Property/Rent Rebate).

Checks should be made payable to "Summit Twp. Tax Collector" only. My name should not be on the payee line. Please remember to put your phone number on your check so if there is a problem, I can contact you in a timely manner. If there is a problem with your check and I cannot get in touch with you except through the USPS, you may have to pay at the next pay period. I will be accepting payments through the lockbox at the end of Discount which is August 31, 2025. This is checked daily and I do have a security camera recording drop-offs. If you are paying with cash, please call the office to set up an appointment time. The office is closed in September. This is also stated on your

tax bill. You can however, still contact me via email summittaxcollector@yahoo.com or leave a message on the phone. Again, you can use the lockbox for non cash payments.

A couple things that occur on a regular basis — tax bills are not being delivered due to the parcel owner not updating their mailing address information to Erie County Assessment. Assessment sends the tax bill to the last address provided by the parcel owner. If you have a different mailing address, you must contact them. You are responsible for your tax bill whether you receive it or not. Secondly, if your check is returned by the bank for NSF, incorrect account, closed account or any other issue, your parcel is considered unpaid and make good on that check must be received ASAP IN CERTIFIED FUNDS along with the \$25.00 returned check fee stated on your tax bill. If I have contact information for you, I can call you right away. If not, I will send you a letter stating the steps you must take to put your parcel back in good standing.

Debra Cameron
Summit Twp. Tax Collector
1754 Townhall Rd., West
Erie, PA 16509
(814) 866-2653
Email: summittaxcollector@yahoo.com

Office Hours:

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

Senior News

It has been hot and humid, but it's been cool at the Senior Center as we have enjoyed lunch, chair exercise, and bingo. We have enjoyed hamburgers fresh off the grill and a Hawaiian-themed lunch. The bocce and corn hole games are on in the backyard, if you like the heat! We are planning some more themed lunches and some fun for all. You are always welcome to join us.

President Jan Birkner



Summit Community Food Pantry

Fun in the sun!!

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer now that it is finally here! Soon the leaves will turn, the air will get crisp and kids go back to school. BUT, there's plenty of summer left. If you have a garden this year and have extra produce and/or fruit and would like to share, let one of the volunteers know ahead of time. Speaking of volunteers, please thank them for their time and efforts. Without them, pickup would not exist.

We continue curbside pickup and the hours remain the same, 2:30 pm–4 pm on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. A gentle reminder to not line up until 2 pm to ensure business can be conducted at the township building uninterrupted.

Summit Community Food Pantry (SCFP)

1230 Townhall Rd., West, Basement
Erie, PA 16509



Kiwanis®

CLUB OF FORT LeBOEUF

Guiding children as they seek opportunities to serve the community is one of the most important things that Kiwanis does. We are truly thankful that the FLB District has allowed us to sponsor and mentor a K-Kids group in each elementary school, and a Builders Club in the Middle School. Robison's K-Kids group is led by the faculty advisor Paige Hanas, along with Michael Kupniewski, Maria Mankowski and Kristin Sayers. The Middle School Builders Club is advised by Laura Friedman. We are looking forward to see what amazing projects the kids do this year!

Our club had a busy summer of service. We had over 50 children attend our Bike Rodeo and Safety Day. Free helmets and other safety equipment was given out, and 20 kids won a bike! Kiwanians thank all of you that supported us at our Pancake Breakfast during Heritage Days. Our parade float walkers had a blast handing out candy, along with our kids' service groups. We also did some beautifying work at the Waterford Fairgrounds in preparation for the fair. We will be accompanying all of the FLB 3rd grade classes on a field trip to learn about agriculture, during Labor Day week. The kids love this opportunity and even get to milk a live goat! Speaking of the fair, please stop in the Bingo Barn on Labor Day or Saturday afternoon, Sept. 6, to take a break from walking around and support us with our fundraising efforts.

To see more about what we are doing, follow us on Facebook "Kiwanis Club of Fort LeBoeuf". If you have any questions, contact us at kiwanisflb@gmail.com.

*Cruz Milano practices
his safe driving skills
at the Bike Rodeo.*

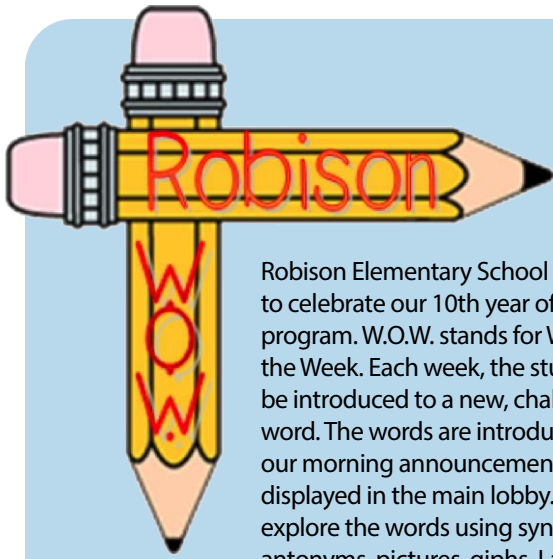


Exciting things are happening at Habitat! In July, the Curry family received the keys to their new home with the completion of house #78. And, through the sponsorship of ERIE Insurance, we are on track to complete builds #79 and 80 in the coming months. Thank you to our generous sponsors and volunteers!

As always, you are invited to join us on the build site—no prior experience needed! To better accommodate your busy schedule, volunteers can now choose between a traditional shift (4 or 8 hours), or register for a micro-shift, which is only 2 hours. Visit HabitatErie.org to register.

Have a business or large group that wants to volunteer together? Email Liz@HabitatErie.org to schedule!

Mark your calendar: On Thursday, September 11, from 5–8 pm, Erie Ale Works will donate a portion of your pint or to-go purchase to Habitat Erie. Come out to support a great cause!



Robison Elementary School is proud to celebrate our 10th year of the WOW program. W.O.W. stands for Word of the Week. Each week, the students will be introduced to a new, challenging word. The words are introduced on our morning announcements and are displayed in the main lobby. Students explore the words using synonyms, antonyms, pictures, giphs, Latin and Greek roots, and many more ways! Our hope is to have Robison Elementary students expand their vocabulary in their reading, writing, and class work. We are sharing the words with you so that you can join in the fun of our W.O.W. program!

OUR FIRST QUARTER WORDS ARE:

September

aficionado
curate
panache

October

connoisseur
tremendous
conundrum

November

crackerjack
penultimate

TRICK OR TREATING

Trick-or-treating will be on Halloween, Friday, October 31, 2025, from 6:00–8:00 pm. If you wish to pass out treats, please have your home's front lights on. Please drive slowly and use extra caution to ensure the safety of our children and their families.

Have a safe and fun Halloween!

Here We Grow Again

NOTHING BUNDT CAKES recently opened their new location at 1930 Douglas Parkway, Suite 200. Nothing Bundt Cakes is a unique, yet successful bakery franchise concept with over 500 bakeries across the U.S. and Canada. As the nation's largest specialty cake company, they Bring the Joy™ with an incomparable cake, which, when given or received, leaves a lasting impression both on presentation and taste. They compete by offering a delectable, luxury product at an affordable price.

L. L. BEAN recently opened their new location at 6718 Peach Street. In 1912, when Leon Leonwood Bean prototyped the first Maine Hunting Shoe, he didn't set out to build the company that L.L. Bean is today. He was an avid outdoorsman, focused on creating problem-solving gear and apparel for like-minded hunters and fishermen. The success to come was a result of good business sense, an unwavering commitment to customers, and a belief that out there — among the thick forest trees and rocky coastlines — is where we find our best selves. They strive to embody this belief everyday through their ongoing commitment to their employees, partners and social impact efforts.

IN THE WORKS:

DUNKIN DONUTS has started through the process of renovating their existing restaurant at 7165 Peach Street.

Summit Seniors Enjoy

A NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS



On August 7, we celebrated the 27th Annual Summit Senior Citizens Picnic—and what a day it was! Seniors enjoyed live music from Mike and Marie Miller, along with all the beloved traditions: a catered lunch, bingo, ice cream sundaes, and door prizes.

Serafin's catered a delicious buffet that earned rave reviews. Once again, Presque Isle Downs and Casino served as our primary business sponsor—thank you for your generosity and continued support.

We're also grateful to State Representative Bob Merski for donating gift card door prizes and sharing valuable information with attendees. The Summit Lions Club and AFLAC joined us as well, offering helpful resources for our seniors. Special thanks to Wasielewski Farms for donating fresh corn on the cob and to Joe Kuzma for cooking it to perfection in his kettles.

Perry Hi-Way Hose Company Fire Chief Kip Hayford and his team were also present—thank you for your service and for keeping everyone safe.

Above all, heartfelt thanks go to the Summit Township staff, whose hard work made this event such a success.



*Michelle
Nesselhauf,
Event Coordinator*



2025 RESIDENTIAL FUND DRIVE

Just a reminder, the 2025 residential fund drive is in progress. **To date, we have received contributions from just 23% of Summit households.**

For those who have given, we thank you. For those who have not yet sent in their donation, we ask you to send that donation today. We ask for just \$75 per home for an entire year of emergency service protection, or less than \$0.21 per day. For those who have a tighter budget, please send in what you can afford, and for those with a little more generous budget, we say THANK YOU!

Your donations are used to help meet our operational expenses, which total \$518,000 this year (not including paid staffing expenses). If you have not made your donation for 2025, PLEASE send your donation today. Checks can be made out to **Perry Hi-Way Hose Company** and sent to the **Oliver Road Fire Station at 8281 Oliver Road, Erie, PA 16509**. By working together, we can make emergency services in Summit Township the best they can be!

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS



PURSE BINGO

Sunday November 9
Doors open 12 noon
BINGO starts @ 2 pm

50-50 game for cash/early bird game for
Michel Kors purse

Chinese auction / 50-50 and last chance raffles
Loads of instant rip open tickets — some with
\$500 top prize

TICKETS TO GO ON SALE AUGUST 1

(Tickets will be on Facebook or in person
at the Oliver Road Station)

Watch for updates on our Facebook page
under Perry Hi-Way Hose Company.



WINTER CRAFT FAIR

Saturday & Sunday December 6 & 7
Doors open for sales 9 am – 4 pm both days
Chinese auction of various crafts

Kitchen will be open for burgers, dogs,
drinks and more

FREE ADMISSION

(We are taking donations at the entrance.)



NEW FACES at Perry Hi-Way

We have hired several new people to get the paid roster back up to a full compliment.

We welcome our new hires to the Summit Community and Perry Hi-Way Family/;

Steve Amrhein – FF/ EMT

Morgan McCormick – FF/EMT

Matthew Mears – FF/ EMT

Taylor Meehl – Paramedic

Ethan Morehead – FF/ EMT

Katie Otteni – Paramedic

Robert Proper – FF/EMT

James Vorse – FF/EMT

William Martin – Paramedic (Per Diem)

Terry Shaulis – FF/EMT (Per Diem)

The fire company is still looking for new volunteers. Members to respond on calls for fires, vehicle accidents, traffic control, and service calls such as carbon monoxide alarms and gas leaks. We can also use help at our fundraisers with the kitchen and selling tickets at the Purse BINGO in November. Stop into the Oliver Road Station on Monday between 5:30 pm and 9:00 pm if you want additional information.



ENJOY THE SUMMER
It took long enough to finally arrive!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out culminates annually on the first Tuesday in August and enhances the relationship between neighbors and first responders while bringing back a true sense of community. Summit Township participated for the first time, and we hope to make it an annual event.

Perry Hi-Way Hose Co. was there with most of their equipment and gave children the chance to operate a fire hose. In addition, there were bounce houses and hot dogs, popcorn, and snow cones.

Thanks to Target, Northwest Savings Bank, Family Farm & Home, L.L. Bean, the Summit Township Lions Club, and the Northwest PA K9 Search and Rescue for joining us.

Watch next year's 2nd quarter newsletter for more information, and plan to join us on AUGUST 4, 2026.



FREE TRAINING COURSE

Find out how to be better prepared for disasters and how you can help your family and community when disaster strikes by attending **FREE** Community Emergency Response Team training



Friday	September 19	6:30 pm to 9:30 pm:	Disaster Preparedness
Saturday	September 20	8:00 am to 4:00 pm:	CERT Organization & Disaster Psychology Disaster Medical Operations Fire Safety & Utility Control
Sunday	September 21	8:00 am to 4:00 pm:	Light Search & Rescue and Terrorism CERT Graduation Exercise

Course Location: Erie County Department of Public Safety (2880 Flower Rd. Erie, PA. 16509)

Course Registration: Please contact Jen Nicolia via e-mail at: jnicolia@eriecountypa.gov

Participants must be at least 18 years of age. Course is limited to 20 participants.

Celebrating a Memorable End to the School Year



As we wrapped up another incredible school year, our students and staff came together for our annual end-of-year assembly to celebrate the many accomplishments of our school community. The assembly highlighted student achievements in attendance, academic excellence, growth, character, creativity, and effort. It was inspiring to see so many students recognized for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Another end-of-the-year highlight was welcoming back the Senior Class of 2025 for a nostalgic and emotional "senior walk." Graduating seniors returned to their elementary school, walking the halls one last time as current students and teachers lined the halls to cheer them on. The walk concluded in the gymnasium, where everyone enjoyed a slideshow of photos from their elementary years. Seniors even had the chance to recreate a few special moments captured in photos from their early school days.

This event not only celebrated our seniors' milestone of graduation but also reminded all of us of the strong connections and lasting memories formed at Robison. It was a beautiful way to honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future.

We are so proud of all our students and staff for their accomplishments this year and wish our seniors the very best as they step into their next chapter!

Love,

Mrs. Hopkins



New Summit Township Employees

SUMMIT WELCOMES NEW ZONING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Summit Township is pleased to welcome Sarah Kavinski to our Zoning Department!

Sarah enjoys hot tea, music of just about any variety, and most things considered “nerdy.” While she doesn’t have one specific creative hobby, she loves making and creating things of any variety—whether it’s with string, fabric, or even popsicle sticks.

Although Sarah is not from Summit Township, she is enjoying getting to know the area and appreciates seeing the projects happening throughout the community.

Please join us in giving Sarah a warm welcome to our team!



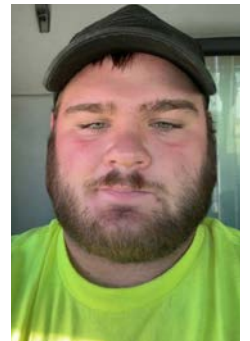
SUMMIT TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEW ROAD CREW MEMBER

Summit Township is pleased to welcome Garrett Coburn to our road crew staff.

Garrett is a 2019 graduate of Fort LeBoeuf High School and went on to attend the New Castle School of Trades. Since 2021, he has gained valuable experience working in construction and road construction.

Outside of work, Garrett enjoys riding side-by-sides, spending time with friends and family, and playing with his dog.

Please join us in giving Garrett a warm welcome to the Summit Township team!



SUMMIT TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY

Introducing John Zack, Water Authority Engineering Consultant.

In 2021, CT Consultants Inc, now known as Verdantas, was appointed as the Authority’s engineering firm. This began our relationship with John Zack.

John grew up in Erie, only leaving to attend college and work for Ernst & Young. John and his wife Beth have one daughter, Marissa and in the rare occasion that he has free time, he enjoys golfing and bocce.

Professionally, John joined CT Consultants in 2019. In October 2022, the firm acquired Henry T. Welka & Associates and in 2024, CT became part of Verdantas LLC.

John has been instrumental in helping the Authority progress and lay groundwork for the future through his business consulting services. Some would call him “the pusher”.



SUMMIT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY

PROACTIVE SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

With winter on the way homeowners may want to consider taking steps to prevent wintertime sewer backups. Winter weather presents unique challenges to sewer systems, increasing the risk of backups due to factors like freezing pipes, increased water usage during holiday periods, and the faster solidification of grease in cold temperatures.

Here are proactive steps to prevent these issues:

1. Pipe insulation and protection

- Insulate Exposed Pipes: Wrap exposed sewer pipes, especially those in unheated areas like attics, basements, crawl spaces, and exterior walls, with insulation sleeves, heat tape or heat cables.
- Seal Cracks and Openings: Inspect and seal any cracks or gaps around pipes and in your home's foundation or walls that could allow frigid air to enter.
- Protect Outdoor Fixtures: Shut off the supply to exterior faucets. Be sure to disconnect and drain garden hoses.

2. Maintaining proper flow and temperature

- Consistent Indoor Temperature: Maintain your home's thermostat at a consistent temperature, ideally above 55° F, even when you are away, to keep interior pipes warm.
- Open Cabinet Doors: Open cabinet doors in kitchens and bathrooms to allow warm air to circulate around pipes located along exterior walls if you are headed south for the winter.

3. Waste disposal and drainage management

- Always Avoid Pouring Grease Down Drains: Dispose of cooking grease, fats, and oils in the trash rather than pouring them down the drain, especially in the winter as they can solidify faster in colder temperatures and cause clogs.
- Be Mindful of What You Flush: Avoid flushing non-biodegradable items like sanitary napkins, wet wipes, paper towels, and other items that do not break down upon flushing.
- Clear Outdoor Drains and Gutters: Regularly clear leaves, snow, ice, and debris from outdoor drains, grates, gutters, and downspouts to prevent blockages that can lead to water pooling and potentially freezing in sewer lines.

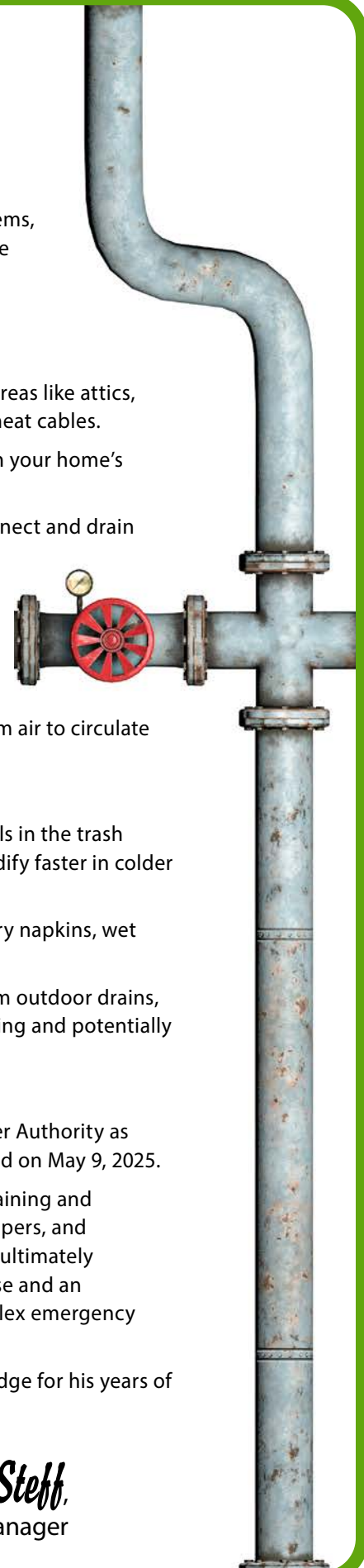
LONG TIME EMPLOYEE CHRIS HODGE RETIRES

After 29 years of service, **Christopher Hodge** retired from the Summit Township Sewer Authority as Operations Supervisor. His distinguished career with the Authority officially concluded on May 9, 2025.

Since joining STSA in 1996, Chris has been a steadfast presence—starting with maintaining and troubleshooting equipment, then working closely with plumbers, contractors, developers, and consultants, later implementing the Authority's Geographic Information System, and ultimately overseeing system operations. Throughout, he demonstrated deep technical expertise and an unwavering commitment to getting things done. From routine maintenance to complex emergency responses, Chris was instrumental in keeping our systems running smoothly.

The Summit Township Sewer Authority extends its deepest thanks to Christopher Hodge for his years of dedicated service and wishes him and his wife all the best in retirement.

William C. Steff
P.E., Manager



Fighting Fraud, Fueling Classrooms, and Shielding Our Heroes

By State Rep. Bob Merski, D-Erie

As we soak up the final days of summer's warmth and look ahead to the crisp beauty of fall across Erie County, I'm excited to share several initiatives that promise to strengthen our communities—from protecting you against sophisticated scams, to empowering our educators, to safeguarding the health of our first responders. These legislative successes, born of collaboration in Harrisburg, demonstrate our commitment to practical, commonsense solutions.

In early July, Gov. Josh Shapiro signed S.B. 649 into law, establishing digital forgery as a third-degree felony. This landmark legislation tackles the rise of AI-driven scams by criminalizing the creation or distribution of deepfakes designed to defraud, deceive or harm Pennsylvania residents. Whether it's cloned voices targeting older adults or doctored videos aimed at manipulating public opinion, bad actors will now face serious consequences. By equipping prosecutors with this powerful new tool, we're sending a clear message: technology should never be weaponized against our families or our democracy. I have been at the forefront of AI legislation and was proud to vote yes on this bill. I'm grateful to the Senate sponsors and to the governor for championing this critical update to our criminal code.

As our schools continue to grapple with a nationwide teacher shortage, I joined state Rep. Lisa Borowski in championing H.B. 1403, which unanimously passed the Pennsylvania House in late June. This bill would smooth the path for experienced educators returning to the classroom. Under this bipartisan measure, instructors who place their teaching certificates on voluntary inactive status can pause continuing education requirements without incurring fees. When they decide to come back, professional development credits can be earned through in-district in-service days rather than costly external workshops. By removing financial and bureaucratic barriers, H.B. 1403 would encourage veteran teachers—so vital to student success—to rejoin our schools with the mentorship and support they deserve.

We also passed H.B. 1261, a comprehensive response to the threat posed by PFAS, the so-called "forever chemicals" found in some firefighting foams and gear. This bill would set strict safety standards for protective equipment, allocate funding to help fire companies and EMS providers upgrade to PFAS-free alternatives, and hold negligent parties accountable for environmental contamination. By investing in modern, non-toxic gear, we aim to protect the brave men and women who rush into danger on our behalf—and the communities they serve. This proactive approach would

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



not only reduce health risks for firefighters but also shield our waterways and wildlife from long-term chemical pollution.

These achievements reflect our core belief that government must work smarter and faster to meet emerging challenges. Whether combating digital deception, bolstering our education pipeline, or defending our first responders' health, Harrisburg is delivering real results for everyone who calls Erie County home.

SAVE THE DATE FOR SEPTEMBER'S SENIOR FAIR

I am thrilled to invite you to our annual Senior Fair, a tradition that continues to grow and enrich our community. From 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Sept. 18, the Harborcreek Social Hall (7275 Buffalo Road, Harborcreek) will transform into a hub of activity and information tailored specifically for our seniors.

This year's fair promises to be exceptional. We've listened to your feedback and worked diligently to bring together a wide array of services and organizations that cater to the needs and interests of older Pennsylvanians. You'll find:

- Guidance on the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program and senior bus passes.
- Free health screenings
- A complimentary flu shot station—please remember to bring your insurance card.

Our office remains your resource for any state-related questions or concerns. You're always welcome to stop by the district office Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 3921 Buffalo Road in Erie or our Summit office at the Summit Township Building on Wednesdays between noon and 4 p.m.

You can also call us at (814) 455-6319 or explore resources and updates online at RepMerski.com. Our team can also help eligible individuals secure financial relief through the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which now has an extended application deadline of Dec. 31. Together, let's keep building a safer, stronger Pennsylvania as summer winds down and fall begins.



Summit Lions Club News

Wow! The Summit Lions have been busy in so many ways and there are only 13 of us doing the work, but each of us brings our own interest and personalities to the community and sometimes it just takes one person to ask questions to make things happen. The one person I am referring to is Supervisor Tony Davis. Tony was approached by the Casino about a fundraiser on behalf of the Summit Senior Center by Matt Ennis. Matt's dad, Carlyle, who was once a Summit Lion, pointed out how much work that the Summit Senior Center could use along with money for funding different programs, which they offer to seniors in our community and beyond such as chair exercising and the summer senior picnic. This funding is something that they could not accomplish on their own. Because the Summit Senior Center is not a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and for the Casino to take a tax deduction for their donation, the funds needed to be passed on to a non-profit organization that was classified as 501(c)(3).

Tony approached the Summit Lions to see if we were a 501(c)(3), which we are not. We are a 501(c)(4), which means we are a charity organization, but we don't have to pay sales tax on some of the activities we do. When we have a golf outing and our sponsors use their donations for a tax write off, it's because we are selling advertising to them. One hundred percent of our advertising sponsors' ad purchase goes to cover costs of our programs such as books and scholarships along with gifts to families that had a fire and medical needs. However, Summit Lions are part of the Lions of Pennsylvania Foundation, who are a 501(c)(3). So, the Casino filled out the forms to donate the money to Lions of PA Foundation in care of the Summit Lions on behalf of the Summit Senior Center. On doing this to help the Senior Center, Summit Lions are to use \$4,000 of the money for our four Scholarship winners from the 2025 graduating class. Since this has happened, Summit Lions would like to find an individual in the community to help us change to a 501(c)(3) foundation.

When Matt Ennis with Presque Isle Downs & Casino, and Tony Davis had their first conversation, I wonder if they had any idea how many people they would touch

with this one act of Kindness. Summit Lions would like to commend these individuals.

Summit Lions would also like to thank all this year's golf sponsors for their support and the golfers, who participated in this year's 28th Golf Tournament. We were blessed this year with individuals who donated back their 50-50 winnings and their skins winnings to go for more books for our Read Across America Program. Again, we would like to thank Tony Davis for coming out to the Venango Golf Course to watch the Hole in One, since we had several Lions not able to attend this year due to medical issues. We missed Mark Welka this year at our golf event. Unfortunately, another commitment kept him from golfing.

Summit Lions appreciate Jack Lee for encouraging our club to set up a table at the National Night Out on August 5th, which has now expanded to us having a table at the Senior Picnic. We will be having a new member campaign along with a white cane event, which is collecting money to be used for eye care. We will be selling Fire Blankets.

Do you know an individual who needs eye surgery or special eye care and doesn't have the funding to pay for it? Summit Lions have an assistance form through the Lions' Eye Surgery Trust Fund, and we may be able to sponsor you to receive your much needed care. After all, Helen Keller asked Lions to be "Knights of the Blind." Don't neglect your eyesight when there is help available. Living on a low income is hard and with the inflation rate going up, paying for expenses is getting harder.

It makes me sad when people don't consider becoming a Lion. They say they don't have the time, but we only need a couple hours of your time for different projects. You don't have to do everything. If your Lions club disappears, you lose immediate disaster funding from Lions International. Texas was awarded \$100,000 immediate funding to their Lions Clubs to cover water, food, shelter, clothing to the Texans affected by the flood. The Lions clubs can then apply for money to start rebuilding.

Your Friend in Service,

Lion Janet Mitchell

MitchellHRC@aol.com

PICNICANA PARK 2026 SEASON RESERVATIONS

Picnicana Park is open from May 1 to October 15, with fully equipped kitchens and pavilions available for rental. **Reservations for the 2026 Season will be taken beginning September 15 for Summit Township Residents and on October 1st for non-residents**, starting when the Municipal Building opens at 8:00 a.m. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a number system placed at the front doors. The Municipal Building will not be open prior to 8:00 a.m. These reservations are for Township resident picnics and do not include any company picnics or picnics being booked for non-resident relatives or friends. It should be noted that "walk-ins" at 8:00 a.m. are given priority over phone calls. There's a 50% discount on the rent for Summit Township Residents booking an event. Each Summit household is limited to one discounted reservation per season.

Note: The resident discount is offered to a Summit Township Resident hosting a personal function, i.e., Graduation party, family reunion, etc. That resident must be the contact, provide the deposit, and will receive any refunded deposit at their place of residence. A person who is both a Summit Resident and owner of a Summit Business may host a function for that Summit Business and is eligible for the discount.



SUMMIT TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITY

Contact: (814) 868-9686 or gerbin@summitpa.us

RATES - RULES & REGULATIONS - GENERAL INFORMATION

Note: Two Pavilions and Three Kitchens Rental Amount = \$1325.00 Rent with \$200.00 deposit

	WEEKDAY				WEEKEND				
	REGULAR KITCHEN		UPGRADED KITCHEN #3		REGULAR KITCHEN		UPGRADED KITCHEN #3		
	ONE Pavilion & Regular Kitchen	TWO Pavilions & Regular Kitchen	ONE Pavilion & Upgraded Kitchen #3	TWO Pavilions & Upgraded Kitchen #3	ONE Pavilion & ONE Regular Kitchen	TWO Pavilions & Regular Kitchen	ONE Pavilion & Upgraded Kitchen #3	TWO Pavilions & Upgraded Kitchen #3	TWO Pavilions & Kitchen #1 & Kitchen #3
Rental Rate	\$400.00	\$550.00	\$500.00	\$650.00	\$550.00	\$750.00	\$650.00	\$850.00	\$900.00
Security Deposit	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Total	\$550.00	\$700.00	\$650.00	\$800.00	\$700.00	\$900.00	\$800.00	\$1000.00	\$1050.00



1230 Townhall Road West
Erie, PA 16509

Supervisors:

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

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2025 Household Hazardous & Electronic Waste

**\$.50/LB FOR ALL
ELECTRONICS AND
CHEMICALS**

**\$5.00/LB FOR
PROPANE CYLINDERS**

COLLECTION DAY: **October 18 - Summit Township Municipal Garage**
Starting at 9:00am **(8900 Old French Road, Erie, PA 16509)**

REGISTER

 www.nobleenviro.com

 Call: 412-567-6566



ACCEPTED ITEMS **ACCEPTED CHEMICALS:** Paint/workshop products, Automotive products, Used oil, Antifreeze, Mercury containing products, Cleaning products, Lawn & garden products, Pesticides, Every type of battery, Every type of light bulb/tube, Flammables, Pool chemicals, Mostly any other chemical under your sink or in your garage; **UNACCEPTED ITEMS:** Ammunition, Explosives, Radioactive Material, Biological/Medical, Smoke Detectors, Tires; **ACCEPTED ELECTRONICS/FREON:** TV's, Computers & Laptops, Printers, Phones, Window AC Units, Dehumidifiers, Mini Fridges, Microwaves, Gaming Devices, Any device with a cord, screen or circuit board

Once Upon A Time...

The display is a courtesy of Dennis Mead and Al Notarione who have graciously loaned the Summit History Room these items to tell the story of the railroad in Summit and Erie County. The Sunbury and Erie Railroad started construction in 1859, the name was changed to the Philadelphia and Erie in 1861. The main line was completed to Erie in October 1864. Langdon Station, Sampson Station and Jackson Station were all stops in Summit.

Parents bring your children to see the display.

If anyone is interested in researching your ancestors or creating a family tree please stop in, we could help with your personal genealogy or by giving tips to help in developing a plan of action. We would like to help you if possible.

The Summit History room is open Thursdays, 9 am to 11 am. Other times and days are available by appointment. Information on various topics within the township have been donated.

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

