



SUMMIT
TOWNSHIP

News

FOURTH QUARTER 2025
814/868-9686

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 4
www.summittownship.com

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED:

NOVEMBER 27–28
FOR THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER 24–25
FOR CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 31–
JANUARY 1
FOR NEW YEAR'S



MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE MERRY AND
BRIGHT, AND YOUR NEW YEAR BE FILLED
WITH HOPE AND PROSPERITY.

Happy Holidays!

YOUR SUMMIT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS AND STAFF

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 all,

It has been a very productive summer for our road crew!

We were able to pave several roads this year, including Hamot Road from the roundabout to I-90. Trails at Five Points received an inch and a half of top asphalt. Downs Drive, both east and west of Peach Street, was contracted out and subsidized with a DCED grant, which also included adding additional green space in the boulevard area.

We have also been working on several small storm sewer projects to upsize infrastructure and improve the flow of storm runoff. There are still many corrugated metal pipes throughout the township that are failing. If you live on a township road and are having issues with your driveway pipe, please reach out to us.

Tree trimming will begin soon to open up sight visibility at intersections. School buses and plow trucks often have difficulty seeing cross traffic, so this trimming is done for everyone's safety. I will do my best to contact residents where trimming will take place.

We will also be in the Valley View subdivision, removing trees for residents who have requested them to be cut down. If you would like yours removed, please call the office. We'll also be doing general trimming throughout Valley View.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me.

Supervisor Mark Welka

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



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/summittownshiperiecountypa
or @summittownshiperiecountypa



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next deadline for submission of newsletter articles is JANUARY 23. Our next newsletter will be published in mid-February.



SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Hello all. We have had some beautiful late summer weather. Things in the township have been going well.

Very busy, but we are fortunate to have all the businesses we do who support the township. The residents are rewarded with no Summit homeowner tax because of the Homestead Act of 2009. The easy fact is that our township has nearly twice the employees who work here than residents who live here.

We have less miles of road to maintain than most of the popular townships in Erie County. Summit maintains and plows 51 miles of roads. We have 30 miles of State Roads that PennDOT maintains. We have plenty of equipment and staff to do the job. Just some facts to know.

We are very fortunate to have Perry Hi-Way Hose Company (PHHC), which has done an excellent job for us over the years. I will remind you that if our volunteer fire department fails, the municipality has to fill the void per the state. That would

be a huge undertaking. PHHC has helped many areas of Erie County, too, with mutual aid calls, because of the lack of volunteers in other departments of Erie County.

One more reminder is that we have winter coming soon, and we have seen some bad ones. Check your vehicle's tires for quality and air pressure, and your wipers, to be prepared for foul weather. Drive carefully, watch your speed on slippery roads, and leave home early to not rush on poor road conditions due to snow and ice.

Enjoy your family and friends during the holidays, and be patient with people. That is the best advice I can give. Sometimes it is easier to take a breath than bark out words you may regret.

Thank you and take care,

Supervisor Jack Lee

Hello Summit Residents,

Hopefully, this finds everyone in good spirits after a great summer and fall season. The parks are officially closed for the year, and plans are in the works for next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to make some points regarding the Fort LeBoeuf School District, specifically Robison Elementary.

The Fort Leboeuf School District is currently considering closing Robison Elementary School located here in the heart of Summit Township. The district is proposing a new school next to Carm Bonito Field in Waterford. The plan would be to combine all three elementary schools in the district. This plan has not yet been approved by the school board. There is time to get informed and get involved.

A little history of Robison Elementary. Minnie Robison was approached by Summit residents to donate her land for the purpose of a school. Residents believed that Summit Township needed a community school. The land where Robison Elementary is located was donated to the school district for that purpose.

Robison Elementary is the largest of the district's three elementary schools and is located in the most populous of the district's municipalities. One-half of the residents of the school district live in Summit Township. According to the most recent US census, Summit grew 11% over the previous one, and we continue to grow with new subdivisions currently in the planning phase.

The increased distance from Summit to the new school will make it harder for parents to attend conferences at the school and for our children to participate in all the extracurricular activities that currently exist at Robison. This will affect our children the most, especially with the longer bus rides.

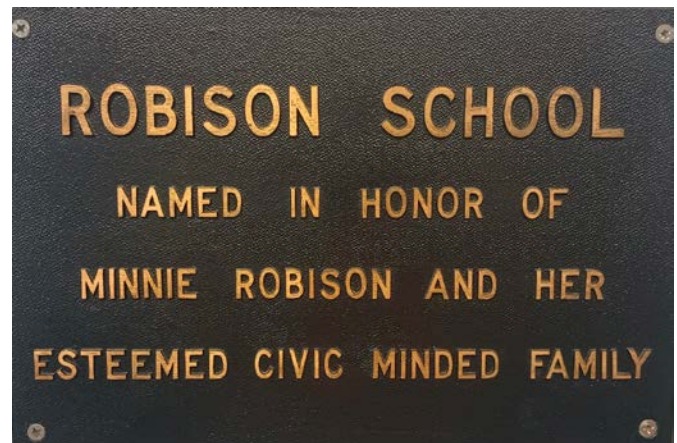
If the district closes Summit's community school, Summit will lose not only the school but also the gymnasium, two playgrounds, and two ball fields. These community assets will be relocated to the Borough of Waterford. Summit Township residents and businesses account for 72-75% of the real estate taxes the district collects. This plan will remove our community assets and move them to Waterford, using primarily our tax dollars.

There is extensive research indicating that this move will not save costs and that student achievement will decrease in a large elementary school. For this reason and the above, I am not in favor of the plan, as I believe it will be detrimental to Summit residents more than to any other municipality in the district.

These are just facts that I was able to find, and this is only my opinion. This does not necessarily reflect the thoughts of others within the township administration.

Best regards,

Supervisor Tony Davis



FROM YOUR SUMMIT TAX COLLECTOR:

Happy Fall Y'all!

Once again, it is the end of another year! Today as I am writing this, there is a beautiful blue sky, with plenty of sunshine and warmer than normal weather. Let's hope winter is kind to us.

All taxes issued in 2025 are now at 10% Penalty. If you have not paid your taxes by October 31, you should have received a "Final Notice" reminder in the mail, which included the insert below. We seem to be having a lot of issues with delivery by USPS. To ensure that your payments are received by me, I suggest using the lockbox to the right of the office door. If your check is not cashed in 7 days, please contact me!! Also, if you put your phone number on your check, I can contact you immediately if there is an issue with your payment. PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

YOUR TAXES ARE UNPAID. THEY WILL BECOME DELINQUENT IF NOT PAID BY 12/31/25

- 1) Payments after December 15 MUST be in certified funds—cash, cashier's check, or money order. Please put your phone number on checks and money orders. Non-certified payments will be returned.
- 2) Payments must be in my possession December 31, 2025. Postmark is not accepted.
- 3) The office is closed November 1 until March 1. This is stated on your tax bill.
- 4) If you are paying with cash, please contact the office for an appointment.

- 5) You may use the lockbox to the right of the office door at any time.

Delinquent taxes are turned over to Erie County Tax Claim on January 1, 2026. I have deadlines I must meet as required by law, so please follow these instructions. If you have any questions, please either email me or leave a message on the phone. Even though I do not have office hours for walk-ins, I am still working and will get back to you.

Happy Holidays to all and enjoy celebrating with family and friends. Remember to Be Kind. We are all on this planet together.

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



EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT HABITAT!

ERIE Insurance staff and community volunteers have completed buildings 79 and 80! On October 16, we dedicated the homes and broke ground on a build with Eriez Magnetics. We have new and exciting projects coming up, and we need you. Do you have 2, 4, or 8 hours to assist with the new builds? No prior experience needed! Visit habitaterie.org/volunteerhighlights to register.

Have a business or large group that wants to volunteer together?

Email admin@HabitatErie.org to schedule!

Summit Community Food Pantry

Welcome Autumn!!

It's time for pumpkin everything and the last newsletter of 2025. Where does the time go?

Please note the distribution times for November and December, which are different. Distribution will be the FIRST and THIRD weeks in November (Nov. 6 & 20) and December (Dec. 4 and 18) due to the holidays.

Starting in January 2026, we will continue curbside pickup, and the hours remain the same, 2:30 pm–4 pm on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. A not-so-gentle reminder again, to not line up until 2pm to ensure business can be conducted at the township building uninterrupted. There is plenty for all whether you are first in line or last in line. If business cannot be conducted, there could be consequences.

The board, staff, and volunteers wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends and many blessings for 2026.

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



Kiwanis®
CLUB OF FORT LeBOEUF

Our Kiwanis Club had a busy Fall, heading up or helping at various children's activities in our area. We held a very successful Fall Fest and Fire Safety Day in October and had children from Summit, Waterford, Mill Village, and Union City attend. We also invited those participating in our area Big Brothers/Big Sisters to attend so that they could have a fun, free day with their "Little".

You can't go through October without handing out candy, so we participated in Robison's Trunk or Treat event, as well as the High School's Haunted Halls and Zoo Boo.

All three FLB elementary schools have a K-Kids group that is a service organization under the Kiwanis umbrella. We are thrilled that Robison has 41 children signed up this year! We look forward to partnering with them in serving others.

Finally, we truly appreciate our local firefighters. Our club provided dinner for Perry Hi-Way in September. They were called out for an emergency during the dinner, but were able to access it from their fridge when they returned. We will also be serving dinner at Stancliff and Mill Village in the upcoming months.

Please follow us on Facebook at "Kiwanis Club of Fort LeBoeuf" to learn more about us. We would love to have you as our 59th member!



Kiwanis Club of FLB members posing before the Fall Fest and Fire Safety Day

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.



Accepted

- Food & Beverage
- Perfume & Cologne
- Canning & Candle (remove wax)

PLEASE

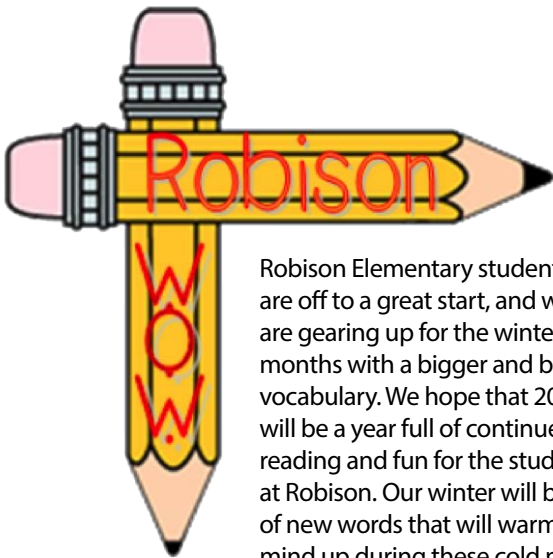
- Rinse out food and drink
- Remove caps and lids
- Labels can stay on

Not Accepted

- Ceramics, Porcelain, China
- Crystal glass & Stemware
- Mirrors & Flat glass
- Heat-resistant & laboratory glass
- Trophies & Ashtrays
- Light bulbs & Tubes

NO

Plastic Bags Plastic Bottles Garbage/Trash Aluminum Cans



Robison Elementary students are off to a great start, and we are gearing up for the winter months with a bigger and better vocabulary. We hope that 2026 will be a year full of continued reading and fun for the students at Robison. Our winter will be full of new words that will warm your mind up during these cold months. The words will be on our WOW television in the main hallway and used in our classrooms. As Robison students continue to grow their vocabulary, challenge yourself to use these words each day!

OUR WORDS ARE:

December	January	February
etiquette	esteem	fond
monumental	discombobulate	rigorous
	agile	emphatic

ATTENTION TOWNSHIP SNOWBIRDS



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

Here We Grow Again

PILOT TRAVEL CENTER at 8035 Perry Highway recently completed their 7,785 sq. ft. addition to their existing building. Pilot has over 900 locations that serve more than 1.5 million professional truck drivers every day. The Pilot location in Erie offers staple amenities—such as food, fuel, prime parking, and on-site showers—to the truck drivers who keep our shelves stocked and communities running.

COUNTRY FAIR at 7650 Old Perry Highway recently completed the process of adding a new diesel service canopy and adding additional parking. Country Fair opened their doors in 1965 with their original location on W. 8th St. The first store concept was selling milk at a store, rather than having to wait from the slow home delivery. The convenience concept took off, and they now consist of over 70 stores across Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio.

DUNKIN' at 7165 Peach Street recently completed renovations to their location. The New England staple has gone through not 1, but 2 major name changes over the years, and more recently added a 3rd name change to their portfolio. They originally opened as The Open Kettle in Quincy, Massachusetts in 1948. Then, just 2 years later, in 1950, they changed their name to the traditionally known, Dunkin' Donuts. In 2019 they dropped the 'Donuts' and are now simply known as Dunkin'.

IN THE WORKS

AUTO EXPRESS KIA has initiated the land development process for a 4,600 sq. ft. addition to their existing facility located at 9090 Peach St.

AUTO EXPRESS FIAT has initiated the land development process for a 3,500 sq. ft. addition to their existing facility located at 9030 Peach St.

ERIE SOUTHERN TIRE MART AT PILOT has started the process of establishing a new 12,828 sq. ft. truck tire maintenance building at a new location, located just south of the current Pilot location, 8055 Perry Highway.

Legislative wins, Community Resources, and Help with Benefits

By State Rep. Bob Merski, D-Erie

With the holidays approaching — and as we prepare to make lasting memories with family and friends — I'm pleased to share progress on several forward-thinking initiatives we've been carefully crafting, both here at home and in Harrisburg.

A recent crucial milestone was the passage of my bill, H.B. 1418, which has cleared the Pennsylvania House and modernizes our boating laws to address the rapid rise of electric-powered personal watercraft like e-foils and jetboards. This bipartisan measure clarifies which emerging motorized boards qualify as personal watercraft, aligns state rules with U.S. Coast Guard policy, and establishes commonsense requirements for registration, safety equipment, and operator education.

These provisions would require operators to carry vessel registration, wear Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices while operating, and ensure minimum onboard equipment, such as a fire extinguisher, a sound-producing device, and proper navigation lighting.

The bill also empowers the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to require boating safety education and requires manufacturers to meet engine cut-off switch standards or obtain Coast Guard exemptions. These measures protect public safety while preserving recreational access to our lakes and rivers. With the House's passage of H.B. 1418, Pennsylvania is catching up with new technology and making our waterways safer for everyone.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application deadline December 31

Remember that the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program offers financial relief to eligible homeowners and renters, with rebates ranging from \$380 to \$1,000, and supplemental rebates available for those most in need. To qualify, applicants must meet specific age, disability, or income criteria. Applications for 2024 rebates are due by Dec. 31, 2025. Residents can apply online via myPATH, by mail using the PA-1000 form, or in person at designated locations, with free assistance available to ensure applications are

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



completed accurately. For additional information, visit the Department of Revenue's website or contact my office.

Medicare Open Enrollment Period is underway — free counseling available

Medicare beneficiaries have until Sunday, December 7, to sign up for or change Medicare Prescription Drug coverage and Medicare Advantage plans; any new coverage or changes will take effect January 1, 2026. The Pennsylvania Department of Aging provides free, unbiased counseling through Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight. Local PA MEDI counselors at Area Agencies on Aging can compare plans, assist with enrollment or plan changes, and evaluate eligibility for Pennsylvania's Medicare cost savings programs. If you need help, my office can connect you with local PA MEDI resources and guide you through the process.

Our team is ready to guide you through the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application, Medicare plan questions, and other state-related services. If you need assistance, have questions, or want help with accessing resources, please call us at 814-455-6319. We're here to help. You're always welcome to stop by the district office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 3921 Buffalo Road in Erie, or our Summit office at the Summit Township Building between noon and 4 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant 2nd Legislative District. I am honored to serve as your state representative and look forward to achieving even more in the days ahead. Thank you for your trust and support. Let's keep moving forward — a brighter future is within our reach.

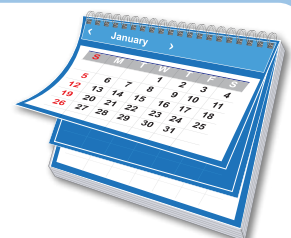


TRIVIA:

What year was the first Thanksgiving celebrated?

Trivia answer: 1621

The 2026 Summit Township Recycling Calendar will be mailed out to all residents by January 1.



Perry Hi-Way News

PERRY HI-WAY ADDING ADDITIONAL AMBULANCE

Perry Hi-Way has been able to follow the recommendation of the state EMS study from 2023 and add an additional ambulance to our fleet. This new ambulance will serve as a backup and allow us to have two ambulances available for emergencies when an ambulance is out of service for maintenance. In Late September this year, ambulance 427 hit a deer on Route 97 on the way to an emergency call on Donation Road. There was significant damage to the front of the ambulance such that it could not be used. By having a 3rd ambulance, we can maintain the service levels we have been providing. As luck would have it, the deer accident occurred 4 weeks before the new ambulance was ready to be put in service. Our Brothers at the Cranesville Fire Department were able to help us out and loan us their spare ambulance to fill in for ambulance 427 while it was being repaired. If some of you happened to see the Cranesville ambulance on emergency responses in the township, that would be why.



The skyrocketing cost of new emergency apparatus these last 3 years is just unbelievable. It is not with just one company but all the emergency

apparatus manufacturers. The past 3 years has seen the price for new trucks jump by 38% to 40%. A way to help combat this price increase on the ambulance side is to use older ambulance boxes in good condition and place them on a new chassis. This saves close to 1/2 the cost of a completely new ambulance. Perry Hi-Way was able to purchase a used ambulance with a good box that meets our needs for \$3000.00 and then have the box put on a new chassis. This was able to be done locally by Kolaja Fire Equipment in Union City, PA. The total cost for the project was \$204,000. That is a huge amount of money, but much less than the price of \$358,000 to \$413,000 for a completely new unit. We had four prices for a new ambulance. Prices were from four different ambulance manufacturers that build a quality truck that will stand up to the heavy use and winters we get here in Northwest PA.

The Board of Directors is always doing all we can here at Perry Hi-Way to ensure our residents and workers have the best emergency services we can provide. We have worked in partnership with the Township Supervisors to make sure we have personnel to respond to emergencies. The Township provides significant financial support that is used to fund the paid staffing members.

While we have a bare bones paid staff, we are always looking for more volunteers; members to respond to accidents, fires, automatic fire alarms, and other calls for service. Volunteers also assist the paid crews on ambulance calls when additional people are needed for lifting or when an ambulance driver is on a serious medical or trauma response. Stop into the station Monday nights from 6 pm to 9 pm if you're interested in becoming a volunteer.

On the Roads Again!

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

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

Roads are a public right-of-way. Township standards are to clear the road from edge to edge or curb to curb to provide safe travel conditions and provide storage space for subsequent snowfalls. To do this sometimes requires multiple passes. We move the snow from the centerline to the edge of the road. This means that, until the street is completely clear, the plow will come back again. The plows are not lifted at driveways because this would leave snow



UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

WINTER CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
December 6 & 7, 2025
9 am to 4 pm
In Social Hall @ 8281 Oliver Road
Free Admission with 40+ vendors at 52 tables
(Donations accepted at the door)

WINTERTIME REMINDERS FOR RESIDENTS

It is hard to believe, but old man winter is knocking on our door, and we may have even experienced a few snowflakes in the air before the arrival of this newsletter. We want to remind residents of a few things to help keep them safe this winter season.

1. Make sure you have working smoke detectors on each level of your home. The addition of a carbon monoxide detector also helps ensure there is no buildup of Carbon monoxide (CO). CO cannot be smelled, tasted, or detected by the human senses. Smoke detectors are available at the Township building and the Oliver Road fire station free of charge for Township Residents. We do not have CO monitors currently.
2. Have your chimney inspected and cleaned as needed for those burning wood or coal. A furnace cleaning and checkup is also a good idea for those without coal or wood heating.
3. After snow falls, make sure you take a few moments to brush off the house numbers and your mailbox numbers so we can find your address in the event of an emergency.

4. Remember, our trucks are wider and taller than most regular vehicles. When clearing your driveways, we need 10 ft wide spaces to drive and work in with our fire trucks. We also like to have 12 ft height clearance from tree branches, wires, or any other overhead obstructions.
5. Those who live near a fire hydrant, please take the time to clear a path to and around the fire hydrant after a snowfall. This will save us valuable time in getting water on the fire and hopefully lessen damage. We ask for a clear area around the fire hydrant to be 36".
6. Drivers, make sure you have an emergency kit in your car when you travel. Jumper cables, a blanket, a fold-up shovel, a tow strap, two bottles of water per person, a couple of non-perishable snacks, matches, a flashlight with fresh batteries, and even a bag of kitty litter or oil dry to help in a slippery situation. Other items to have in your vehicle are a winter hat, a warm pair of water-resistant gloves, and a spare set of warm clothes in case you get wet and need to change.

Perry Hi-Way Hose Company members wish a MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all!

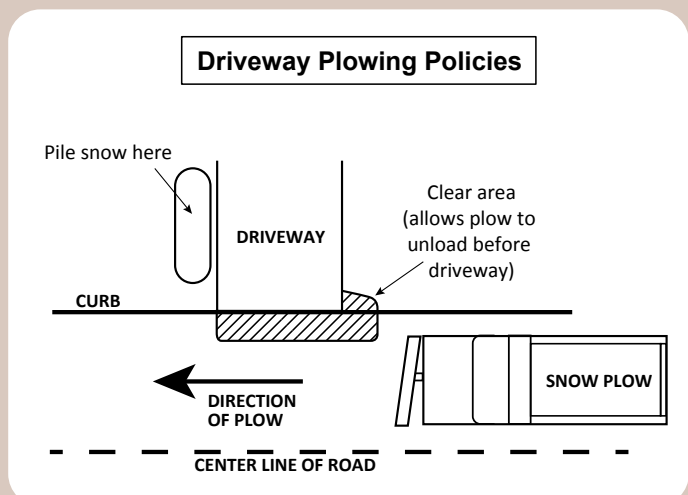
on the street; creating a hazard for drivers. Residents should be advised to wait as long as possible to shovel or clear at the end of their driveway. Also, **when removing your snow, deposit the snow to the right of your driveway as you face the street.** By doing this, when the plow returns, it will carry the snow you moved away from the driveway. Snow placed on the left side will probably end up back in your driveway the next time the plow makes a pass.

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

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

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

The Road Crew





Summit Lions Club News

Remember when the Lions would pick a day in the month of October to have a White Cane event, which was all the Lions would come out in their vests holding a hollow PCP pipe with a slit in the top, shaped in a candy cane design? This white cane represents the white cane a visionally impaired person might carry to walk safely around unattended. Caring individuals walking by the Lions would drop change and some dollars into the white canes and this money was used for Vision projects only. When first started, the money was used for school-age children who needed glasses whose parents could not afford them. This was back when insurance companies did not have vision care built into their plans. Those times have improved, but there is still eye care that is not covered by insurance companies that can be effective in the lives of individuals.

Age-Related Macular Degeneration, Diabetic Retinopathy, and other central vision loss conditions are eye conditions that make seeing difficult to manage everyday life. Imagine your central vision deteriorating, and your sight is like looking through out-of-focus binoculars all the time. You can manage some independence because you still have your peripheral vision, but your independence has greatly dropped. There are free apps that can go onto computers and phones that will look at a page and read it to these patients, but it is different from picking up a book and reading it. These computer and phone apps do not make watching TV any easier, so when the television is on, their enjoyment comes from listening to the story plot. Going out to a restaurant is difficult, and the recommendation for reading a menu is a magnifying glass.

Erie Retina Research Center on West 8th Street has a product available called Eyedaptic. To learn more about this product, visit www.eyedaptic.com. These smart glasses are a combination of augmented reality and artificial intelligence, set for ten diverse levels of eyesight to the point that some individuals will be able to have 20/20 vision again. These eye devices optimize the peripheral vision to help regain freedom and improve quality of life. No, these glasses can NOT be used for driving a car, as these patients are still legally blind.

We at Summit Lions would like to rebuild our White Cane Funds so that we can help individuals with this eye condition gain more independence. However, we will need your financial support. Each pair of Eyedaptics costs \$4,400 and is not covered by insurance. So please mail a donation to the Summit Lions Club at 1230 Townhall Road West, Erie, PA 16509. If you want your donation to be a tax write-off, make the check out to Lions of Pennsylvania Foundation. We ask that checks addressed this way be a minimum of \$100 to make it worth the Foundation's time to help support our cause. This will be added to the donations already received at the Night Out Event and the Senior picnic this past summer. Each small donation adds up to make a world of difference in someone's life.

Come join us on the second Wednesday of the month at the Summit Senior Center at 7 p.m. to have all your questions answered.

Lion Janet Mitchell

MitchellHRC@aol.com
814-864-9194



Senior News

WARM UP YOUR WELLNESS: CHAIR EXERCISE AT THE SENIOR CENTER

Shorter days and colder temperatures can make it harder to stay active — but movement matters most this time of year. Our Senior Center offers chair exercise classes that are safe, supportive, and suitable for all abilities. While designed with older adults in mind, these classes are open to everyone.

What to expect: gentle, guided movements performed seated or with the support of a chair. We'll work on flexibility, balance, and light strength, which can help reduce stiffness, support joint health, and lower the risk of falls. You'll also get your blood flowing — great for energy and focus — and enjoy the social boost that comes from exercising together.

Class format & comfort: we follow along with brief instructional videos, and participation is always at your comfort level — feel free to sit, skip, or modify any movement. Because this class serves our senior community, you're encouraged to do only what feels right for you.

Why now? Regular movement in fall and winter helps:

- ✓ Maintain mobility and independence
- ✓ Support heart health and circulation
- ✓ Lift mood and ease seasonal sluggishness
- ✓ Keep routines steady when outdoor options are limited

Class details

- 📅 Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:00 AM (except holidays)
- 🕒 Approximately 45 minutes
- 📍 1450 Townhall Road West, Erie, PA 16509
- 💰 Free for all

Please wear comfortable clothing and closed-toe shoes. Bring a water bottle; light equipment is provided. No registration is required. Have questions? Call Millie at (814) 450-9379.



Winter is coming, and we are ready to have some fun. Our Halloween party held a costume contest and fun with trick-or-treat bags. In November, we will celebrate Thanksgiving with a turkey lunch. We will celebrate Christmas with a brunch and, of course, lots of sweets!

Our lunch is held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 11:30 am. Chair exercise is every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am until 11 am. We also have Bingo, shelves of books, and puzzles that are waiting for someone to enjoy.

If you are passing by our center and see cars in the parking lot, feel free to stop by and ask for a monthly calendar of events.

President Jan Birkner



SUMMIT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY

FOURTH QUARTER PROJECT UPDATES

1. Oliver Road Gravity Sewer Lift Station and Force Main Project

Final design and permitting are complete for the re-routing of the sanitary sewer away from Peach Street. The project is moving toward the construction phase. The gravity portion north of I-90 is complete, and the sections south of I-90 are underway. There has been a delay in starting the bore beneath I-90 because the 6-inch bore guide tube did not arrive as expected on 10/6/25.

2. PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant Application – White Birch Lane Sanitary Sewer Extension

The grant application has been submitted and is pending review by the Commonwealth Financing Authority. If awarded, this project will extend sanitary sewer service to underserved properties along White Birch Lane.

3. PA Small Water and Sewer Program Grant Application – Gartner and Harf Pump Station Rehabilitation

The Authority has applied for funding to modernize and rehabilitate the Gartner and Harf Pump Station. This project would replace aging components to ensure continued reliability and regulatory compliance.

4. Valley View Generator Replacement Project

The existing standby generator at Valley View is nearing the end of its service life. A replacement generator has been specified, and the Authority is using Costar's procurement options to cut costs. When completed, the backup generator will provide reliable backup power for critical operations during power outages. The Authority expects this project to be completed this year.

5. Speed Check Proposed Development – Intersection of Route 99 and Hershey Road

Developers have proposed commercial development at the intersection, requiring coordination with the Authority regarding sewer capacity and service availability. Preliminary evaluations are underway to determine infrastructure needs and costs. The timeline for this project is sometime in 2026.

6. 3300 Flower Road – Proposed 3-EDU Subdivision (E.J. Chernicky)

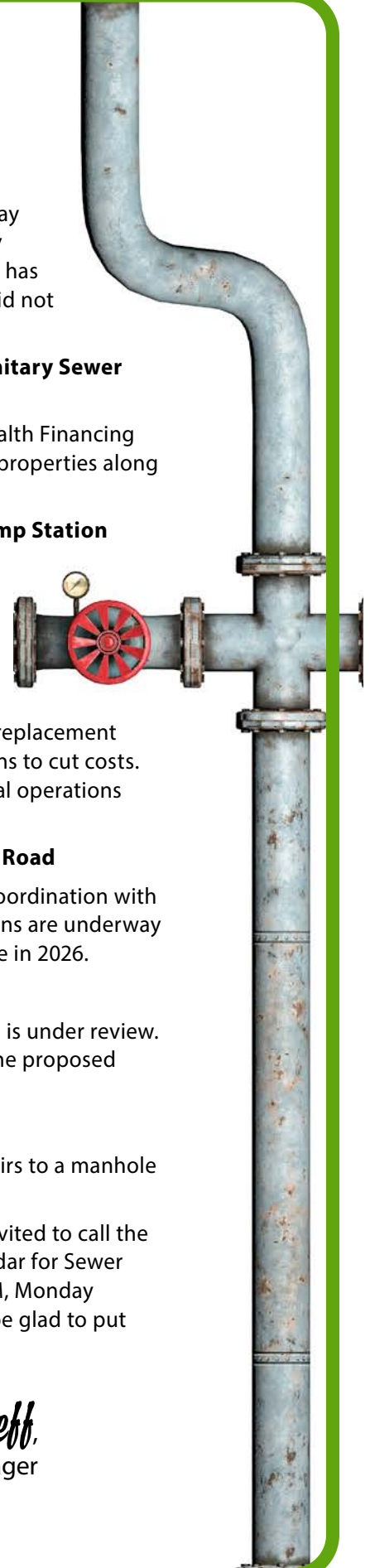
A subdivision plan for three additional new homes and possibly 6 sewer connections is under review. The Authority is assessing line capacity and service requirements to accommodate the proposed development.

7. Fairfield Avenue and Route 97

Infrastructure planning and evaluations are ongoing at this location to facilitate repairs to a manhole and piping that is for sanitary sewer backups. We anticipate bidding Spring of 2026.

Any 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





Hello from Robison Elementary School!

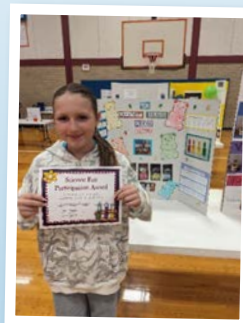
The new school year is off to a wonderful start at Robison Elementary! We kicked off the year with our Back-to-School Bash, where students met their new teachers, reconnected with friends, and started the year with excitement and smiles all around.

Our third graders continued a beloved Robison tradition by traveling to the Waterford Fair for their annual field trip. They had a fantastic time exploring, learning, and making memories together. Each year, after returning from the Waterford Fair, our third graders write an essay and create an illustration capturing their favorite part of the experience.

The essays are then judged by the Kiwanis Club of Fort LeBoeuf as part of this cherished community tradition.

We also held our annual Robison Science Fair, where students showcased their curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills through incredible projects and experiments. It was inspiring to see our young scientists showcase their individual projects. I am so proud of all my little bison that participated this school year.

It's been a busy and joyful start to the year, and we can't wait to see all the growth and achievements that the rest of the school year will bring!



Summit Township operates under a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit, part of a statewide program to protect our local waterways from harmful pollutants. All stormwater that runs along our streets, driveways, and yards enters our waterways, ultimately running to Lake Erie or the Mississippi River Basin, untreated. This means that any garbage, yard waste like grass clippings and leaves, fertilizer, oil, pet waste, and more can all enter our water resources.

It is vital that we as a community do what we can to prevent these pollutants from entering our waterways. Keeping grass clippings and leaves out of the street protects pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and our waterways and ecosystems. Using a minimal amount of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides and not applying them with rain in the forecast can vastly reduce the impact on our rivers and lakes. A good rule of thumb is if you wouldn't want to swim in it or drink it, keep it out of the storm sewers.

This time of year, the falling leaves pose a challenge for residents. It is a violation of Summit Township's Open Burning Ordinance 2025-01 to conduct any open burning of leaf waste. Alternatively, mulching leaves benefits your lawn by adding natural fertilizer, improving soil moisture and structure, and suppressing weeds. It saves time and money compared to raking and bagging, while also creating a healthier, more resilient turf that requires less fertilizer. For garden beds, leaf mulch provides insulation, reduces erosion, and shelters beneficial insects like earthworms and pollinators. Please refrain from depositing leaves in or near storm ditches or catch basins, as this can decrease the effectiveness of the storm sewers and lead to flooding. Additionally, yard waste like grass clippings and leaves releases excess nutrients into the water as they decompose. Extra nutrients in the water accelerate the growth of algae and can cause an algal bloom, often looking like a mucky, green layer covering a pond or stream. An algal bloom depletes oxygen, harming aquatic life and disturbing the ecological balance of the entire stream ecosystem. Summit Township also provides curbside leaf pickup; more information can be found on our website.

Protecting our waterways starts at the individual level, and every step, no matter the size, can help keep our community and environment clean. Summit Township thanks you for your participation.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Downs Drive Improvements Project was completed this past summer. Lindy Paving was the contractor for the project. The final cost for the project was \$321,631.02. Of that, \$250,000 was provided from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority, leaving the total cost to the Township at \$71,631.02.

As discussed previously, the Township received a \$400,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority, to install sidewalks along the Peach Street Corridor. This project is currently in preliminary design, and we will be working with EMTA and PennDOT as we proceed to the final design. This project is still on track for a possible 2026 start to construction.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in the "Pick a Playground" survey for the Picnicana Playground project. We have narrowed it down to the top two vendors and are currently making revisions based on the input we received. We plan to review the final proposals in November and purchase the equipment before the end of the year to avoid the inevitable price increases. The Township has received \$200,000 from the DCNR's Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund for this project; we also applied for \$100,000 from Erie County's Greenways Program. Anticipated construction for this project is late summer and fall of 2026.



From the Water Authority

PROTECT YOUR WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

Don't let winter weather catch you unprepared!

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

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

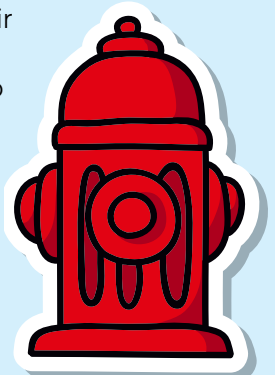
- Insulate around and apply heat tape to exposed water lines following the manufacturer's instructions. Make certain your heat tape is plugged in and working.
- Turn off water and disconnect hoses to all outside spigots.
- In vacant structures, maintain a minimum temperature of 55 degrees or completely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

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

ADOPT-A-HYDRANT PROGRAM

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

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



Summit Township Emergency Management

Leaf Raking & Yard Work Safety

- Lift properly: Bend at the knees, not the waist, to protect your back.
- Pace yourself: Take breaks and stay hydrated.
- Wear gloves and non-slip shoes to avoid blisters and falls.
- Follow Township leaf disposal guidelines—avoid burning leaves.
- Use ladders carefully when cleaning gutters—have a spotter present.

Turkey Frying Safety

- Always fry outdoors on a flat, stable surface.
- Thaw turkey completely and dry thoroughly before frying.
- Do not overfill with oil—check levels beforehand.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby; never use water on grease fires.
- Never leave the fryer unattended.

General Fall Home & Safety

- Have chimneys inspected and cleaned before use.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; replace batteries.
- Drive cautiously—wet leaves can be as slippery as ice.
- Check outdoor lighting for shorter days.
- Wear reflective clothing when walking or biking at dusk.

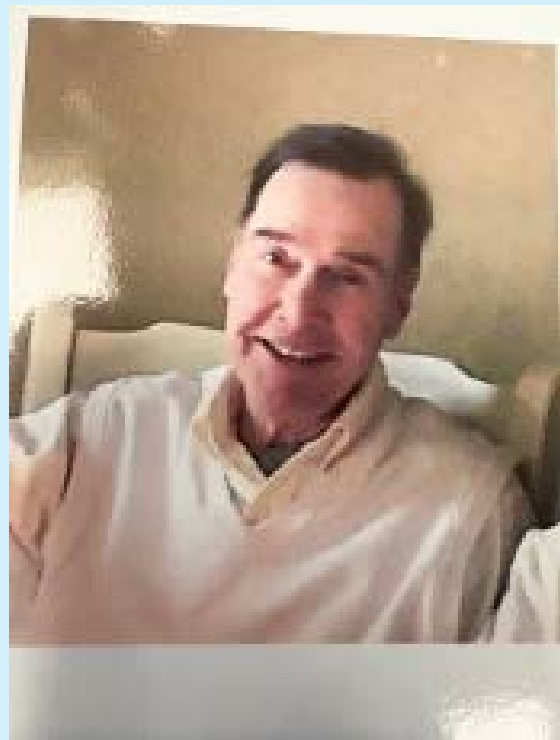
Seasonal & Outdoor Hazards

- Disconnect spark plugs before servicing lawn equipment.
- Be alert for deer, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Watch for slippery sidewalks from wet leaves or early frost.
- Keep bonfires small, contained, and supervised with water nearby.



INTRODUCING BOARD MEMBER JACK LACEY

John R. “Jack” Lacey joined the Summit Township Water Authority as a volunteer board member in 1999. Jack grew up in Erie, attending Erie schools, then went on to college in Pennsylvania and business school in New York. He and his wife Nancy have 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. He was in banking for 25 years, managing 8 branch banks, trained 150 personnel, was a regional manager, agricultural lender, and a member of the Agriculture Bankers Association, taking many courses in all phases of farm finance and financial planning. Upon retiring from banking, he received his securities and insurance licenses and became a financial and investment advisor, joining the firm Dean Witter, receiving the coveted National Sales Director’s Award after his first year in business. He then worked with 3 of the largest investment firms for 20 years before having his own. He always believed in community work and has been involved in several organizations. He is very proud of the management, staff, board members, and progress of the Summit Township Water Authority and is currently serving as its Vice Chairman.





1230 Townhall Road West
Erie, PA 16509

Supervisors:

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

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



****WARNING****

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

Once Upon A Time...

The current display is from the Summit Senior Center. Please stop in to see all the activities offered by the Senior Center.

Is your Summit group interested in using the display case? Is anyone interested in displaying their crafts? Smaller items and photos will fit in the cabinet.

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 develop a plan of action.

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.

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

