

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP

FIRST QUARTER 2022
814/868-9686

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 1
www.summittownship.com

FROM THE SUMMIT

News

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

As per the article in the 2022 Summit Township Recycling Calendar, recycling pickup has been changed back to bi-weekly effective January 1st. Raccoon Refuse will continue as our recycling hauler and your pickup day will not change and is clearly marked on the calendar for you. **Please have your recyclables at the curbside the night before**, as we cannot guarantee a pick-up time – only the day. Also, please make sure your recyclables are in clearly marked recycling bins or in **CLEAR** bags only. Thank you!

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

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

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



REMINDER: Time to renew DOG LICENSES for 2022

Licenses must be renewed starting in January for the current calendar year.

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

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

To apply for a dog license online please visit www.eriecountypa.gov.

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

TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED:

February 21st – President's Day
April 15th – Good Friday

MEET THE STAFF

TOWNSHIP: 868-9686

Jack Lee, Jr. -

Supervisor/Treasurer/
Dir. Land Development

Mark A. Welka -

Supervisor/Chairman/Roadmaster

Tony Davis -

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

Lisa Vallimont -

Municipal Secretary

Michelle Nesselhauf -

HR Director/Recycling Coordinator/
Newsletter Editor

Tamara Cass -

Zoning Administrator

Debra Jageman -

Zoning Administrative Assistant

Kip Hayford - Code Enforcement

Matthew Jonas -

Township Engineer

Joe Whitmer - GIS/MS-4 Technician

Gina Erbin - Receptionist

THE ROAD CREW:

Mike Hanas - Road Foreman

Darrell Sayers - Garage Foreman
Steve Skelly, Joe Passerotti,
Larry Hudacky, Jeff Matheis,
Andrew Fox & Joe Malinowski

WATER AUTHORITY: 864-2323

Brian Hiles - Manager

Sean Miller - Foreman

Gretchen Hayford -

Office Manager

Kathy Hiles - Administrative
Secretary

Brian Clark, Lisa Culbertson,
Adam Wilps, Lynn Rublee -
Systems Operators

SEWER AUTHORITY: 868-4495

William Steff, P.E. - Manager

Caitlyn Haener-Schwab -
Administrative Supervisor

Amy McCaslin -

Billing Clerk

Marty McAtee -

Operations Foreman

Chris Hodge -

GIS Specialist/Asst. Project Manager

Andrew Larson, Scott Snyder -
Maintenance Technicians

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Supervisors:

1st Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m.

3rd Monday of each month, 4:30 p.m.

Planning Commission:

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

Sewer Authority:

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

Water Authority:

1st Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m.

Recreation Board:

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

LeBoeuf Little League:

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

Zoning Hearing Board:

4th Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m.

As needed and advertised only

Summit Township Industrial and Economic Development Authority (STIEDA):

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

Debra Cameron, Summit Township Tax Collector

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

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 10AM-2PM | Monday evening 5-7PM
By appointment November 1 - March 1

Here We Grow Again

TARGET, located at 6700 Peach Street, recently completed interior renovations including reconfiguration of their existing office and storage to allow for their grocery pickup program.

ERIE LASER PROFESSIONALS, located at 8310 Peach Street, recently completed interior renovations. Erie Laser Professionals opened in March 2015 with one purpose in mind: to offer state-of-the-art laser tattoo removal treatments at extremely affordable prices to the greater Lake Erie community.

PLASTIKOS, located at 8165 Hawthorne Drive, recently completed interior renovations including converting an existing press room into an ISO-8 Certified cleanroom consisting of ceiling removal and replacement, creation of transition rooms, addition of wall panels, new lighting, and modifications to the mechanical system.

VERIZON, located at 7190 Peach Street, recently completed interior renovations to update their sales floor. Verizon Communications was formed on June 30, 2000, and is one of the world's leading providers of technology and communications services.

MOOSE HEAD POTTERY recently opened their new location at 8270 Peach Street, Suite 300. Moose Head Pottery specializes in unique, one-of-a-kind, custom stoneware beer growlers and pottery available for purchase online or in their studio.

IN THE WORKS:

RISE has started the process of adding a pickup window to their location at 1950 Rotunda Drive

THE STORMING CRAB restaurant has started the process of interior and exterior renovations to establish their new location in the former Steak & Shake building located at 7791 Peach Street

BOB'S DISCOUNT FURNITURE has started the process of renovations to establish their new location in the former Babies R Us building located at 6680 Peach Street

AUTO EXPRESS KIA has started the process of adding two vehicle charging stations at their 9090 Peach Street location

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next deadline for submission of newsletter articles is **April 8th!** Our next newsletter will be published in early to mid-May.



SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

Hello residents. We just witnessed a darn good snow event on January 17th, so I hope every one could get through it without too much grief. The local weather station said we received 19" with more accumulation in some areas.

This is January so we must tough it out. Most of us know many people who have been waiting to enjoy some of their winter sports, so for the ones who don't, spring is on its way.

Winter road maintenance can be annoying too because when we have deep snow and tall snowbanks, the plows load up with snow and will help fill in the ends of driveways as they pass by. All part of living in NW PA. Our crews do a fantastic job, and I will boast, maybe the best in Erie County.

We are still involved with this covid mess. Many people have been sick. I did get my vaccinations and my flu shot. I'm very fortunate to have had no side effects. Vaccinations are your personal choice, so in my opinion, do what ever you feel is right. As for me, I do believe in modern medical science.

The pandemic has been very hard on the world economy by creating product and material shortages and escalated inflation. It has also hurt the workforce. Employers are still offering a good wage and sign-on bonuses to try to attract employees. The pandemic started early in 2020 and I believe it will affect our economy for years to come. Just my opinion.

Hello Summit Township Residents,

Hopefully, everyone is doing well and making the best of our winter weather. Initially, I thought we were looking at a rather mild winter but as of late, it would appear more of an average winter. Nevertheless, we are halfway through, and spring is right around the corner.

Many ideas have been brought to the table regarding improvements to our parks this year. There seems to be an abundance of grant money available for parks and recreation, more so than in past years. Therefore, we are going to have an ambitious schedule of applying for grants and hopefully receiving some in order to accomplish these projects with a minimal out-of-pocket expense.

At Picnicana for example, we would like to replace the old picnic tables with newer more modern weather-resistant tables. The restroom at the park could certainly use a facelift,

Hopefully, we will be able to get past this thing soon and back to normal functions like the way we used to live.

I bring this up because as public servants, it can be very challenging. We must worry about everyone's safety, so we try to do the best we can to protect the public by following protocol, being safe, and making not-so-popular decisions at times; but we are still under the scrutiny of critics. I have no complaints there. All part of the job.

A couple of other public service items to mention are, if you make less than \$57,000 a year, you can get free tax filing service through United Way of Erie County. You can make an appointment by calling 1-888-829-5680.

Another service available as of February 1st is, PA Homeowners Assistance Fund for income-eligible Pennsylvania homeowners facing unforeseen financial hardships because of the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for assistance. You can learn about PAHAF and see a list of organizations that can assist you by visiting www.pahaf.org or by calling the PAHAF call center at 888-987-2423 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thank you for your time, take care,

Supervisor Jack Lee

which would include, new stalls and doors, sinks and fixtures, wall coverings, and some sort of floor upgrade. The basketball court needs resurfacing using today's advanced coatings which would bring many more years of life to it.

Community Park could stand to have another restroom located at the upper end of the park and the existing restroom could use new stalls and paint as well as floor refinishing

We will be working along with the Recreation Board in the next month or two to come up with some solid ideas and plans and hopefully accomplish at least a few of these tasks this year and finish them next year.

Until then, enjoy the rest of the winter weather, stay safe, and we will be seeing you soon.

Best regards,

Supervisor Tony Davis

Hello Summit Residents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

The road crew has been busy plowing and salting to keep our roads safe to travel. We have eight employees who pour their hearts and souls into their job. Four of the guys come in at 4:00 am and the other four come in at 7:00 am. We do our best to keep the roads cleared off for morning commutes and evening returns.

In the event of heavy snow, the crews are asked to run 12-hour shifts. During these extreme snow events visibility is often limited and treacherous. The trucks try to maintain a speed of around twenty miles per hour so that the snow will

leave the road surface. When the snow is wet and heavy it will often knock over mailboxes that are compromised or not built to township specifications and driveways and sidewalks get plowed in. As frustrating as this is, we all know it's part of living in this region and that it's been like this for many years. Please keep in mind that after a 12-hour shift we return home to also clean out and repair our properties.

There is light at the end of the tunnel with the days getting longer and spring right around the corner.

Take Care & Stay Healthy,

Supervisor Mark Welka

Summit Community Food Pantry

Happy New Year!

As the new year begins, we once again are committed to providing for individuals and families that are food insecure in a respectful and caring manner. Thanks to all the businesses, organizations, individuals, and volunteers who made our holiday season another great success especially FLB National Honor Society, FLB Junior NHS, and Summit Lion's Club. If you are new to Summit Township and are in need of assistance, please bring proof of residency to any of the distribution days listed below.

We continue to do curbside pickup. Distribution days remain on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 2-4 pm.

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



"No Surprises Act" and New Legislation

By State Rep. Bob Merski, D-Erie

All residents should be aware of a new federal law that protects patients from surprise medical bills. The "No Surprises Act" offers protection against unexpected medical bills a patient receives when they unknowingly or unintentionally obtain health care from a provider that is outside their plan's provider network.

Patients who receive a surprise bill for services provided on or after Jan. 1 of this year should submit a bill review request to the state Insurance Department at www.insurance.pa.gov. The department will verify the patient's form of coverage and reach out directly to the provider to ensure that the act's protections are being met. (Patients can also seek assistance from their health plan.)

When possible, patients should contact the department before paying a bill they believe may be a surprise bill or otherwise sent in error. In addition to the website, the department can be reached at 1-877-881-6388.



My bills to fight blight, boost businesses, help seniors

While new laws and programs are bringing new benefits, there is still much more we can do to improve life here in the district and throughout the commonwealth. Among other measures, I am introducing bills to:

- Help Erie and other cities fight blight, by establishing a grant program to fund code enforcement and making it easier to identify and contact property owners.
- Help start-up businesses hurt by the pandemic, which have been largely ineligible for assistance even though they have felt the economic impact just as keenly as more established businesses.
- Expand eligibility for the "retired status" vehicle registration discount. (The discount, currently available to retirees with income up to \$19,200, has not been updated in years and has not kept pace with inflation. My bill would expand the income limit to \$29,900 and allow for it to be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index.)
- Expand "micro-transit" programs – small-scale transit and rideshare programs with flexible routes and on-demand scheduling, which offer important access for residents who live far from bus stops or face other mobility issues.

As I work to be your voice in Harrisburg, please remember that I remain committed to working for you at the local level. Please don't hesitate to contact my office at (814) 455-6319 for help with any state-related question or problem!

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

Perry Hi-Way Hose Company

Emergency Responses for 2021

RECORD HIGH TOTAL of 2256 (808 assists outside Summit Twp.)

EMS - 1802

- ALS - 1025
- BLS - 721
- ALS / PARAMEDIC ASSIST 56

RESCUES - 148

- MVA 131 (8 PIN IN)
- MVA PEDESTRIAN 4
- LOCK-IN 5
- ELEVATOR 3
- SWIFT WATER 1

FIRE-RELATED - 71

- STRUCTURE FIRES 38
- VEHICLE FIRES 11
- RUBBISH / TRASH FIRE 7
- DUMPSTER FIRE 3
- GRASS / BRUSH FIRES 4
- CHIMNEY FIRE 1
- OTHER FIRE 5
- SMOKE INVESTIGATION 2

AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARMS - 138

HAZARDOUS CALLS - 37

- GASOLINE / FLAMMABLE LIQUID SPILL 5
- NATURAL GAS / PROPANE LEAK 9
- CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM 8
- POWER LINES DOWN 9
- TRANSFORMER / ELECTRICAL ARCHING 6
- POSSIBLE HAZ-MAT LEAK - NON-HAZ-MAT 2

SERVICE / MISC CALLS - 60

- LOCKOUT 5
- PERSON IN DISTRESS 9
- WATER LEAKING 2
- WATER PUMP OUT 1
- ANIMAL RESCUE 2
- FIRE POLICE 10
- DISPATCH AND CANCEL ENROUTE 23
- WRONG LOCATION (DIFFERENT TWP) 2
- FOG OR STEAM MISTAKEN FOR SMOKE 2
- GOOD INTENT OTHER 8

ELECTION DAY for PERRY HI-WAY HOSE COMPANY

Sunday, December 11, 2021, was Election Day for the officers and directors for Perry Hi-Way Hose Company. The results for 2022 Leadership are as follows:

- Fire Chief - Kip Hayford
- Fire Captain - Chris Pace
- Fire Lieutenant - Nate Serafin
- Fire Police Captain - Rob Trojanovich
- President - John Spaulding
- Vice President - Don Harvey
- Secretary - Patty Sample
- Treasurer - Gretchen Hayford

FF board members- Jason Goodwill, Steve Sample, Rob Trojanovich, Richard Smith, Nate Serafin

Business Board: Josh Lydic, Mark Sleppy, Jim Jageman, Gina Erbin, Jack Lee, Kip Hayford (chief)

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

PERRY HI-WAY HOSE COMPANY

2022 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Comedy Show Saturday, March 26

(Doors open 6:30 pm, show 8 pm)

Spring Craft Fair Sunday, March 27

(Vendor Load in 7 am – 9 am / open for sales 9 am – 4 pm)

Spring indoor Flea market Sunday, May 1

(Vendor Load in 7 am – 9 am / open for sales 9 am – 3 pm)

Fall Indoor Flea market Sunday, September 25

(Vendor Load in 7 am – 9 am / open for sales 9 am – 3 pm)

Purse BINGO Sunday, November 13

(Doors open 12 pm, Bingo at 2 pm)

Fall Craft Fair Sunday, December 4

(Vendor Load in 7 am – 9 am / open for sales 9 am – 4 pm)

A friendly reminder: Please keep hydrants in your area free of snow. Help US so we can help YOU!



Kindergarten Registration 2022

Kindergarten registration for all children living in the Fort LeBoeuf School District will be held at Waterford Elementary School located at 323 Cherry Street, Waterford, Pa. Kindergarten is a full-day program at Fort LeBoeuf, and children entering in the fall of 2022 must be five years of age before June 1, 2022.

Registration will be held during the following dates and times:

Tuesday, May 17, 2022, from 11:00 AM — 6:30 PM

Wednesday, May 18, 2022, from 11:00 AM — 6:30 PM

*Closer to the registration date, you will receive a link to schedule a time for your child's registration appointment.

Registration will not be complete until the office has a copy of the child's birth certificate and immunization record. Please be aware that students must have the state-mandated immunizations within the first 5 days of school or they will not be eligible to attend. Please bring a "baby book" with the required data or a doctor's written statement regarding immunization history. If your child's immunization record is not updated, please come to registration with the information you have and an updated immunization record may be given to the school before classes begin. Proof that you reside in the Fort LeBoeuf School District is required at time of registration. Please have two proofs of residency and one should be your driver's license. Due to our updated security policies, please be prepared to show your ID to the camera before entering the school building.

The registration packet needs to be filled out completely and accurately as these records follow the child through their school years. Please have all these forms completed and with you at the time of registration.

Your child must be with you so that vision and academic screenings can be carried out on the day you register. If your child wears glasses, please have her/him wear them on registration day.

Perhaps you would be willing to share this information with a friend or relative who has a kindergarten-age child. Please have them call any of our three elementary schools if they have not received this packet.

If you are planning to register your child in the Fort LeBoeuf School District and have registration questions, please call an elementary school office.

Mr. Jason Vaughn, Principal Mill Village Elementary

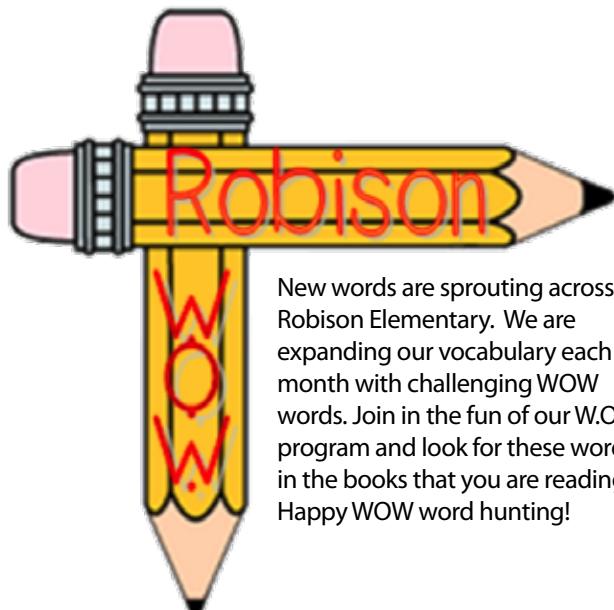
Mrs. Jenna Hopkins, Principal Robison Elementary

Mrs. Yvonne Best-Proctor, Principal Waterford Elementary



LeBoeuf Little League

Registration for the 2022 baseball/softball season is open at <http://www.flbl.com>. Please mark your calendars for our 3rd Annual Fair Food Fundraiser May 20 - 22. Board meetings are the 2nd Sunday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Waterford American Legion. Please reference the league's website and Facebook page for schedule changes.



New words are sprouting across Robison Elementary. We are expanding our vocabulary each month with challenging WOW words. Join in the fun of our W.O.W. program and look for these words in the books that you are reading. Happy WOW word hunting!

Our words are:

March
persevere
segue
mingle
elated

April
venture

May
magnitude

From the Water Authority....

2022 finds three of our employees moving on to new chapters in their lives. We would like to thank Bob Mitchell, Laura Taylor, and Zach Lewis for their combined 50 years of service to the Summit Township Water Authority. Their hard work and dedication have definitely helped the Authority grow into what it is today.

We would also like to welcome our newest employee, Lynn Rublee. Lynn has spent the past three years in the Public Works Department of Lake City Borough and brings with him a wealth of knowledge in the water industry. Lynn will be working to further advance our GIS mapping along with other duties to keep the water flowing. When not at work, Lynn and his son Gunner enjoy outdoor activities such as horseback riding and four-wheeling. Please join us in welcoming Lynn to our team.



Adopt-A-Hydrant Program returns with a twist!

With winter fully upon us, we are bringing back the Adopt-A-Hydrant program for the first quarter of 2022. 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 you, or someone you know, does an outstanding job of keeping the fire hydrants clear of snow, we'd like to recognize you for your efforts. Nominations can be submitted to our office via email to ghayford@stwa.us. Tell us the person's name, location of the fire hydrant and if possible, include a picture of them clearing the snow. (If you don't have an email, call us at 814-864-2323 and we'll give you another option to submit). Here's the twist, instead of giving away 1 prize like previous years, we're upping the ante! At the end of the quarter, we'll award 10 \$25 gas cards as our way of saying thanks!

Brian Hiles, Manager

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.





KEEP PENNSYLVANIA *Beautiful*

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

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

To maintain an adoption, the adopter must agree to:

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

Supplies of bags, gloves and vests are available by participating in our annual Pick-Up PA program that runs from March 1 through May 31 and September 1 through October 31 each year. Visit keppabeautiful.org/programs/adoptions for more information or contact Stephanie Larson at slarson@keppabeautiful.org or 877-772-3673 x 104.



SUMMIT TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY

OLIVER ROAD LIFT STATION, FORCE MAIN, AND GRAVITY UPSIZING PROJECT

Groundbreaking for the 3 contracts issued for the Oliver Road Lift Station, Force Main, and Gravity Upsizing Project is scheduled for spring 2022. All three contracts should be substantially complete by June 30, 2022.

Contract #1 - Terra Works Inc. has not yet submitted a schedule for the construction of the Oliver Road Gravity Sewer Replacement Project. The final schedule is contingent upon the availability of piping materials.

Contract #2 - Oliver Road Force Main Replacement Project awarded to Konzel Construction Inc. will begin mid-February with exploratory excavations and continue with directional drilling during the last 2 weeks of March. The balance of the work including tying into manholes, installation of air release manholes, and testing should be completed by the 2nd week of March.

Contract #3 - Oliver Road Pump Station Replacement Project awarded to Ray Showman Junior Excavating, Inc. involves the installation of a prefabricated, skid-mounted, weatherproof, wastewater lift station. The lift station is a walk-in design similar to the Meadows Lift Station completed in 2019. The new lift station is being provided by W.C. Weil Company of Allison Park, PA. The lift station will take 6 months to assemble in Illinois and is expected to arrive as late as June. However, Ray Showman Junior Excavating, Inc. will complete the installation in a matter of days.

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a federally funded program established in part under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 in response to the financial challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. LIHWAP enables the state to assist low-income households with avoiding termination or restoring services that have been or will be interrupted for non-payment. For instance, an eligible household may receive LIHWAP funds to pay the sewer bills. LIHWAP will provide households who meet the 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines with up to \$2,500 to reduce or eliminate past due utility balances.

The Summit Township Sewer authority signed an agreement in December with DHS that authorizes the STSA to participate in the program beginning in January 2022. Commercial accounts are not eligible. The agreement between the DHS and STSA will expire at the end of 2023.

How to apply?

- Apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.
- Follow the link from our website at: www.SummitTownship.com/department/sewer
- Request an application by calling the Statewide Customer Service Center at 877-395-8930 or call PA Relay at 711 for the hearing impaired.
- Also, applications are available at the Erie County Assistance Office.

CUSTOMERS USING ON-LINE BILL PAY, PSN

Payment Service Network, (PSN), the company that provides electronic payment and online bill viewing services to the STSA. PNS is increasing its transaction fees on February 1, 2022. The modest increase is required to keep pace with escalating security threats and evolving industry regulations. The new transaction fee rates for customers using electronic bill pay services will be as follows:

For payments made online:

- ACH/E-check: \$1.10
- Credit or debit card: 3.00%
- Amex: 3.00%

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

William C. Steff, P.E., Manager



EarnIt KeepIt \$aveIt

United Way Erie FREE Taxes

One very effective way that United Way of Erie County is helping to bolster family stability is through **Erie FREE Taxes**. Through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), Erie FREE Taxes provides free tax preparation service to Erie County tax filers and ensures that every eligible filer claims the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC, one of our county's most effective anti-poverty tools, lifts more than 8 million adults and children above the poverty line. It provides a cash credit that boosts incomes of low-to-moderate income workers, helping them meet their basic needs. For those who receive the credit, it may enable them to save for emergencies, pay down debt, or put a down payment on a home.

Since 2007, the Erie FREE Taxes Program has demonstrated strength as a family and community

economic development tool. 2019 was a milestone year for the program, having reached a program value of over **\$100 million**. In 2021, in spite of the ongoing pandemic, Erie FREE Taxes volunteer tax preparers were responsible for returning **\$8.9 million** in federal refunds back to the Erie community, while saving filers an estimated **\$13 million** in commercial tax preparation fees.

According to **Marybelle Martin**, Program Director of Erie FREE Taxes, the program is supported by not only United Way but also grants and local bank sponsorships, as well as in-kind donations of space and volunteer time. "It costs about **\$130,000** to implement Erie FREE Taxes across Erie County. The return on this small investment is remarkable when you consider that thousands of people are taking advantage of this free service. It can be life-changing for the families that we serve," Martin said. "And it really is a community effort. In addition to the agencies already mentioned, we are grateful to our host sites, the United Way Board of Directors, and most of all, to our volunteers, who repeatedly give their time and energy to building a stronger community."

By providing free tax preparation and access to tools such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, United Way Erie FREE Taxes has assisted thousands of Erie County residents to become more financially stable and to take steps toward self-sufficiency. The program is a key example of United Way of Erie County's commitment to its mission, to **CRUSH POVERTY**, and to help improve the standard of living for Erie County families and neighborhoods.



- Seventeen Erie FREE Tax sites are participating in the 2022 filing season throughout Erie County. A complete listing of site locations is available at ErieFreeTaxes.org.
- A free online tax filing tax filing option, MyFreeTaxes.com, is available to filers who wish to complete their own federal and state tax returns online. There is no income limit to utilize this free service.
- Retired individuals are notified if they do not have to file taxes. If you are retired and have questions about tax preparation, please visit unitedwayerie.org and click on the "Tax-Aide Site Link", or call the AARP for more information.



PENNDOT, SAFETY PARTNERS HIGHLIGHT WINTER DRIVING TIPS

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the American Automobile Association (AAA), and the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) are reminding motorists to always be prepared and exercise caution when traveling during inclement weather as part of Winter Driving Awareness Week.

Representatives from PennDOT, AAA, and PSP hosted a media event at PennDOT's Erie County maintenance office to detail the steps motorists can take to be prepared for wintry conditions.

"As the winter season continues, weather conditions can change with little to no warning," said PennDOT District 1 Executive Brian McNulty, P.E. "Drivers can help keep themselves safe by slowing down or avoiding unnecessary travel during severe weather and having their vehicle and tires properly maintained."

Before hitting the road, drivers are urged to have their vehicle inspected by a trained, trustworthy mechanic to check the cooling system, battery, hoses, drive belts, and tires to ensure they are in good condition and functioning properly. Tires can also be examined often for the correct level of air pressure and adequate tire-tread depth.

PSP Troop E Community Services Officer Trooper Cindy Schick said motorists should also be aware that all vehicles must be fully clear of ice and snow before winter travel. If snow or ice is dislodged or falls from a moving vehicle and strikes another vehicle or pedestrian causing death or serious bodily injury, the operator of that vehicle could receive a \$200 to \$1,000 fine.

Failing to clear the windshield alone is a \$25 fine, but would exceed \$100 with fees, Schick added.

To prepare for the risk of becoming stranded or encountering a crisis situation on the roadway, motorists are urged to carry an emergency kit in their vehicles. Supplies may include non-perishable food, water, first-aid supplies, warm clothes, a blanket, a cell phone charger, and a small snow shovel. Kits can be tailored to the specific needs of the individuals in the vehicle, with items such as baby supplies, extra medication, pet supplies, or even children's games.

"Preventative steps today can go a long way tomorrow," says Theresa Podguski, Director of Legislative Affairs, AAA East Central. "Weather conditions that lead to black ice, heavy snow, and other rough driving conditions are particularly dangerous this time of year and require motorists to be proactive."

PennDOT offers these additional safety tips for motorists who must travel during winter weather conditions:

- Slow down gradually and drive at a speed that suits the conditions.
- Turn on your headlights.
- Stay in your lane.
- Increase your following distance.
- Stay alert, keep looking as far ahead as possible, and be patient.
- Reduce in-car distractions since your full attention is required.
- Use defroster and wipers.
- During whiteouts, come to a complete stop only when you can safely get as far off the road as possible or when there is a safe area to do so.
- Do not stop in the flow of traffic since this could create a chain-reaction collision.
- Do not pass a vehicle moving slowly or speed up to get away from a vehicle that is following too closely.
- Give ample room for plow truck drivers to treat the roadways and never pass between two trucks operating in a plow line.
- Always buckle up and never drive impaired.

For more information on safe winter travel, an emergency kit checklist, and information on PennDOT's winter operations, visit www.PennDOT.gov/winter. Other highway safety information is available at www.PennDOT.gov/safety.

Motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles, including color-coded winter conditions on 2,900 miles, by visiting www.511PA.com. 511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information, and access to more than 1,000 traffic cameras.

511PA is also available through a free smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website.

Subscribe to PennDOT news and traffic alerts in Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties at www.PennDOT.gov/District1.

Follow local PennDOT news on Twitter
and like the department on Facebook.



BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM



FEMA

FEMA V-1014/June 2018

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

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



Greater risk



Can last a few hours or several days



Can knock out heat, power, and communication services

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

Stay off roads.



Use generators outside only.



Stay indoors and dress warmly.



Listen for emergency information and alerts.



Prepare for power outages.



Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.



Check on neighbors.

Source: Be prepared for a winter storm (ready.gov)

www.liro.com

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Phase 2 of the Hamot Road sidewalk project is on track to be completed this year. The purpose of this project is to fill the sidewalk gap from Laurie Drive to Dorn Road and possibly to Marlee Way. When this project is complete, it will provide pedestrian connectivity between the subdivisions in the Five Points area.

The Township is revising the Sidewalk Ordinance to bring it in line with the new Zoning Ordinance. During this process, we are looking at the areas of the Township that still have a need for pedestrian improvements for future projects. The Township's sidewalk projects historically have been to provide ADA access at intersections and to fill the gaps in sidewalk coverage in areas of need. Beyond this, any new sidewalk installation is developer-driven by using the Sidewalk Ordinance.

This year's major paving project will be Douglas Parkway. This will include some asphalt restoration, milling, and an overlay. The project will start at Peach Street and go to the beginning of the cul-de-sac near Old Navy.

Through the public comments the County received, the Township was able to get 14 projects included on the draft Erie County Long Range Transportation Plan. These include the highway projects like Hamot Road and Hershey Road intersection and pedestrian projects like a pedestrian bridge over Peach Street. This does not guarantee that these projects will be completed, but it is a necessary step on the way to getting the projects funded. The final plan is scheduled for adoption on March 9th. Below is the remaining public involvement.

- Public comment period **January 27th until February 25th**.
- Two public meetings
 - Virtual, **February 16th** from Noon-2:00pm.
 - In-person meeting at the Blasco Library on **February 17th** from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.

HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND OPENS FEB. 1



Beginning Feb. 1, income-eligible Pennsylvania homeowners facing unforeseen financial hardships because of the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for assistance.

The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund (PAHAF) will help Pennsylvania homeowners whose household income is at or below 150% of the area median to prevent or ease mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, displacement, and utility disconnection.

The General Assembly allocated \$350 million in federal funds for the program. The legislature also established a Construction Cost Relief Program to support the production of developments by addressing financial deficiencies directly attributed to the effects of the pandemic.

Homeowners can learn about PAHAF and see a list of organizations that can assist them by visiting www.pahaf.org or by calling the PAHAF call center at 888-987-2423 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Kiwanis® CLUB OF FORT LeBOEUF

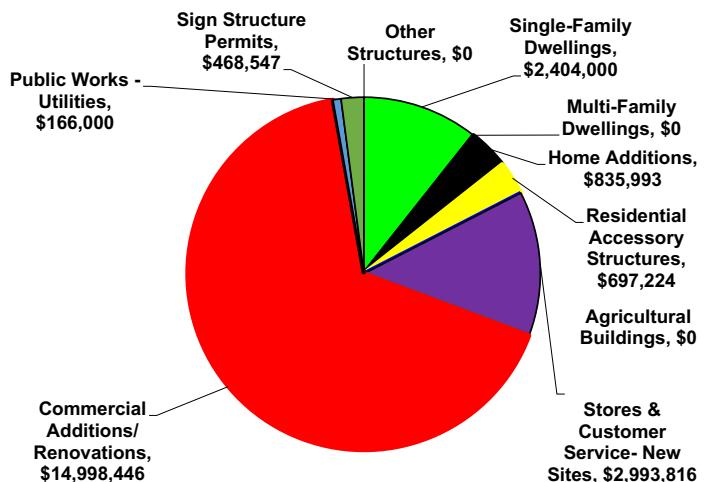
The Kiwanis Club of Fort LeBoeuf started the year with our new president, Yvonne Best-Proctor. Yvonne is the principal at Waterford Elementary and it is beneficial to have a school administrator at our meetings. The working relationship that we have with our school district helps us to provide meaningful programs and services for our children.

In the next few months, we are planning a Snowman Day for families and a Purse Bingo for adults. In March we will be gathering items for Foster Care Bags. These bags have items needed when a child is taken from their home and needs immediate placement with a family. Our other collection will be for Jared's Box. Jared's Box is a shoebox full of toys and activities for children in the hospital. The elementary K Kids will be putting these boxes together to deliver to local hospitals. To see more about what we are doing, follow us on Facebook "Kiwanis Club of Fort LeBoeuf, or our website.

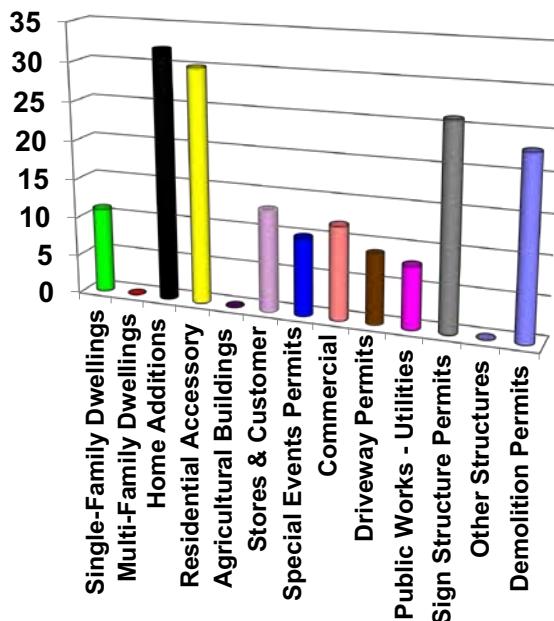
2021 ZONING, SIGN & DEMOLITION PERMIT RECAP

Type of Structure	No.	Value
Single Family Dwellings	11	\$2,404,000
of which 6 are Condominiums		
Home Additions	32	\$835,993
including Attached Garages, Decks, and Porches		
Residential Accessory Structures	30	\$697,224
Agricultural Buildings	0	\$0
Stores & Customer Service - New Sites	13	\$2,993,816
Storming Crab - Cajun Seafood Restaurant		\$170,000
Bob's Furniture - Interior Commercial Build Out		\$172,950
Copperleaf - Construction of a 14 Bay Garage		\$50,909
Kunco Landscaping Business, Inc.- Construction of a new 40' x 80' Commercial Building		\$250,000
A & J's Inc. - Construction of a 60'x 80'		
(4800sq. Ft) Office and Warehouse Commercial Building		\$190,000
New Motors -Construction of a 52' x 24' (1,283 sq. ft.)		
Commercial Building Addition which includes a Detail Wash Bay and Interior Renovation to the Existing Building		\$397,900
Pita Pit- Local Restaurant providing pitas, vegetarian choices to Mediterranean dishes, and bacon-filled wraps.		\$30,400
Jersey Mikes- Interior Commercial Build Out		\$225,000
Rutkowski Insurance- Specializes in Auto, Home, Business/Commercial and Life Insurance		\$25,000
Curaleaf- Medical Marijuana Dispensary		\$500,000
Erie Laser Professionals- Tattoo Removal		\$4,000
Moose Head Pottery- Interior Commercial Build Out		\$10,000
Summit Township Sewer Authority - Construction of a 253 sq. ft. Sanitary Sewer Pump Station		\$967,657
Offices, Banks, & Professional Services	0	\$0
Commercial Renovations/Additions	12	\$14,998,446
Plastikos Medical - Phase II Expansion		\$8,005,085
Plastikos- Interior Commercial Renovations		\$583,100
Target- Interior Commercial Renovations		\$75,000
Walmart - Interior Commercial Renovations		\$750,000
Big Woodies- Interior Commercial Renovations		\$1,200
Sephora - Interior Commercial Renovations		\$300,000
Church of Jesus Christ- Interior Commercial Renovations		\$83,977
Erie County Tech School - Interior Commercial Renovations		\$5,000,000
Kia- Two Charging Stations		\$17,084
Sheetz- Added Vehicle Charging Stations		\$120,000
Chik Fil A- Addition to existing storage		\$60,000
Steadfast Tattoo Parlor - Exterior Commercial Renovation		\$3,000
Industrial		
Public Works - Utilities	8	\$166,000
Crown Castle USA INC.- Upgrade Antennas on Existing Cell Tower - Curtis Road		\$15,000
Crown Castle- Co-Location of Antenna on Existing Cell Tower Edinboro Road		\$15,000
Crown Castle- Modification involving Collocation, Removal, or Replacement of Transmission Equipment - Edinboro Road		\$56,000
Crown Castle- Co-Location on Existing Cell Tower. Upgrade of Verizon Antennas and Ancillary Equipment- Curtis Road		\$5,000
Crown Castle- Modification involving Collocation, Removal, or Replacement of Transmission Equipment - Edinboro Road		\$5,000
Crown Castle- Modification involving Collocation, Removal, or Replacement of Transmission Equipment - Pennbriar Drive		\$15,000
Crown Castle - Installation of 3 Antennas - Edinboro Road		\$20,000
Dish Wireless - Installation of Panel Antennas and New Equipment Panel, etc.		\$35,000
Sign Structure Permits	26	\$468,547
including Pole Signs, High-Rise Signs, Monument Signs & Building Signs		
Other Structures		
Demolition Permits	23	\$0
23 Permits (including 3 Residential structures)		
	155	\$22,564,026

2021 CONSTRUCTION IN DOLLARS



2021 CONSTRUCTION COUNTS



Senior News

Due to circumstances surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, the Summit Senior Center will remain closed until further notice. If you really need to reach someone from the senior center, please contact the Township Building at 868-9686 and Gina will take your information and relay it to the correct party. In the meantime, wash your hands, practice social distancing and stay well.

President Sue Seyboldt

2022 STORMWATER RESOLUTIONS

New Year's resolutions offer the promise of a new start and setting positive intentions for the months to come! Managing stormwater is a year-round practice; there's a lot you can do to help make spring snow melt and summer rains easier on our local waterways:

- Do you have a private well? Have you had it tested? Make sure your drinking water is fit to drink!
 - If you do have a well, is it protected from contaminants? Be careful about pet waste and fertilizers within a 100-foot radius of your well.
- Consider installing a rain barrel to collect water from your roof, or permeable pavement, and/or a rain garden to alleviate wet spots in your yard. This could save you money on watering and prevent costs associated with flooding!
- Use fertilizers and other applied chemicals sparingly as these can have adverse effects on our creeks, streams, and Lake Erie.
- Scoop the poop! Dispose of pet waste appropriately, especially in winter. Pet waste can introduce excess nutrients and bacteria into our waterways.
 - The same goes for litter; just because the snow hides it does not mean it is not a problem!
- Assess your home for water-saving devices. Are there any improvements that could be made to leaky faucets this year? This could also save you money on your water bill!

For more information and resources on stormwater in all its forms, please visit the Erie County Stormwater Information webpage (<https://eriecountypa.gov/departments/planning-and-community-development/resources/stormwater-information/>) or the Erie County Planning Department's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ErieCountyPlanning/>). Credit to this list from Penn State Extension.

FROM YOUR SUMMIT TAX COLLECTOR:

Happy New Year to All!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and now we can wait for Spring!

Any tax bill issued and collectible in 2021 that was not paid, has been turned over to Erie County Tax Claim for collection. You may contact them at 814-451-6206 for the amount due and instructions on paying your delinquent taxes.

The next tax bill to come out will be the 2022 County/Township tax bill. This tax bill includes streetlights if applicable. They cover the calendar year from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Bills will be mailed end of February for delivery at the beginning of March. The color for this year's CT bill will be blue. Please note that bills will no longer have the Penalty waived. A penalty will be applied this year. If you have had a mailing address change, you must contact Erie County Assessment at 814-451-6225. The tax collector cannot change the tax role and the tax bills will be mailed to the last address you provided to Assessment. If you do not receive your tax bill by March 17th, please contact me at the office.

If you require a stamped receipt for your taxes paid in 2022 for purpose of the PA 1000 (Property Rent Rebate), you may email me at the below email address and I can attach the receipts to your email. If you do not have an email, please send your request via USPS with a return envelope for the receipts.

If you are new to Summit and have not already done so, the deadline to apply for the Homestead Exclusion is March 1st for the exclusion to apply on this year's School tax bill. You can download an application at eriecountypa.gov or contact Erie County Assessment at 814-451-6225.

Please note new office hours beginning this year. Office hours in May and September will be by appointment only. You can still reach me via phone, fax, drop-box to the right of the office door, and USPS. I will be available to assist you. Please continue to wear a mask regardless of your vaccinated status. Hopefully soon, we will no longer have to do this.

On a personal note, thank you for once again electing me as your Tax Collector. I appreciate the continued support and look forward to another four years as your Tax Collector! See you in March!

Debra Cameron, Summit Twp. Tax Collector

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

Email: summittwptaxcollector@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 10AM-2PM | Monday evening 5-7PM

By appointment November 1 - March 1

Summit Lions Club News



Have you ever collected items to send to someplace that people there have lost everything in a short moment in time?

That's what the Summit Lions and the other Lions in our District did with a collaboration of the Pennsylvania Lions on January 16th at Jamestown Community Center at Jamestown, PA.

The residents of Kentucky lost everything when a tornado went through their state. The Lions from all over District 14-F, which is counties of Erie, Warren, Bradford, Crawford, Forest, Mercer, and Venango Counties, donated money and items needed to help people get back on their feet. On January 23rd, a bus headed to Kentucky with Lion volunteers to help unload that semi and to help get their distribution warehouse organized, while others started helping with the cleanup. These volunteers slept in sleeping bags in remaining churches, fire departments, and schools with some of the displaced families. When each Lion gives a little it ends up being a lot. It makes us proud of what we do.

Our 25th golf tournament will soon be upon us on June 3rd at Venango Valley Golf Course in Venango, PA. Our players will enjoy a beautiful day playing golf. If you enjoy golfing, we welcome you to come join the event. Don't be discouraged from attending for everyone is a winner when you are supporting a good cause. The profits from this golf tournament support our annual causes within our neighborhood and beyond. We also welcome business owners to take out a sponsor hole sign, advertise in our program, or donate a door prize. So, if you are interested in supporting Summit Lions Club, please call Bob or Janet Mitchell at **814-864-9194**. 100% of the profits get used to help those in need. What a better way to help your community!



Recycling plastic bags continues. We just finished helping the Fort LeBoeuf Leo Club collect 500 plus pounds of plastic to go towards their second TREX bench for the FLB High School. The Summit Lions have one green bench that will be placed at Picnicana Park this coming summer and another slate gray bench ordered to be placed at the Summit Memorial in front of the Summit Township Municipal Building honoring those who served in the military. We have a collection box in the lobby of the Summit Township Municipal Building and another one at the Summit Senior Center. Thank you to those that have brought us their plastic bags. It takes 500 pounds of plastic to make one bench, so between the FLB Leos and the Summit Lions, we have kept over 2,000 pounds of plastic out of the landfill. **Please remember it's plastic film only such as plastic bags and shrink wrap.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Lion Bob and Lion Janet Mitchell

SNOWPLOW SURVIVAL: How To Keep Your Driveway Clear

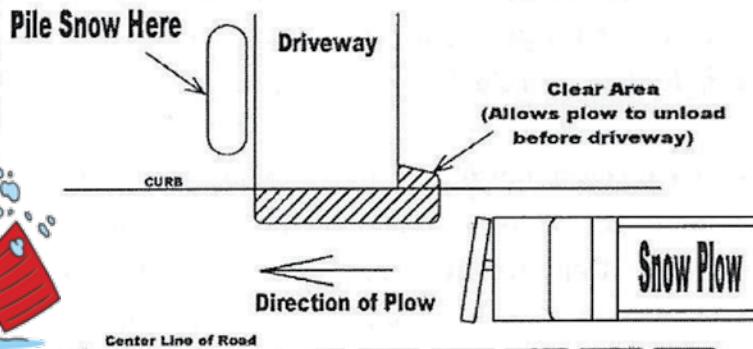
Have you ever felt like the snowplow driver is hiding around the corner just waiting for you to finish clearing that last bit of snow from your driveway? Try this simple method to prevent from having to shovel again and again.

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

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



Driveway Plowing Policies





1230 Townhall Road West
Erie, PA 16509

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

Supervisors:

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

Once Upon A Time...

This quarter we are featuring old photos of Summit school students.

Please loan or donate your group school photo so we can add it to our collection. We will scan your original photo and return it to you immediately. If you can identify those in the photo it would be wonderful. We do have some photos in the display cabinet without names, please stop in, perhaps you can fill in the blanks.

Do you have any copies of the Centralian to loan or donate to the History room?
Those would be appreciated also.

Volunteers are in the Summit History room on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
If anyone is interested in researching their family tree please stop in, we would like to help
you if possible. Other times and days are available by appointment.

Please contact the Summit Township office at 868-9686 and we will return your call.

