



**Harborcreek Historical Society**  
 5661 Buffalo Road, P.O. Box 121  
 Harborcreek, PA 16421  
 T: 814.899.4447  
 E: harborcreekhistory@gmail.com  
 www.harborcreekhistory.org

**Summer Hours: Tues., Wed., Sat. 10 am-2 pm, Thurs. 4-7 pm**  
**Winter Hours (Starting Dec. 1): Wed. & Sat. 10 am-2 pm**



Friday, December 13, 2019  
 6 pm – 8 pm  
 Harborcreek Municipal Building

# THE HARBOR VIEW



*Harborcreek Historical Society celebrates 25 years in 2019!*



## Holiday Open House

**At the Gifford-Blanchfield House, 5661 Buffalo Road**  
**Saturday, December 7, 2019 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

You are invited to join the board of directors and volunteers of the Harborcreek Historical Society in kicking off the season with our annual Holiday Open House Saturday, December 7th between 10 am and 2 pm. In addition to great conversation and camaraderie, hot cider and cookies will be provided.

Visitors will enjoy the new exhibit about one of Harborcreek's past businesses, Evelyn's Hallmark. The store was owned and operated by Evelyn Seyboldt for 35 years from the K-Mart Plaza. "Owning the store was more than a job, it was a calling, allowing her to help people celebrate milestones and make an impact on countless lives." (Obituary, *Erie Times News*, January 30, 2019)

The exhibit pays tribute to Ms. Seyboldt and the impact of her store in the community.

### 'tis the season...to buy local

Need one more gift idea? If so, consider stopping by the Society's gift shop during the Holiday Open House. Items available for purchase include:

- Landmarks of Harborcreek Throw (Blanket) - \$35
- Midnight Herring by Dr. David Frew - \$5
- Fortune and Fury by Frew and Skrypzak - \$8
- Harborcreek Township Driving Tour - \$2
- 1865 Harborcreek Township Map - \$5
- Maps and pen and ink prints are also available at various prices.

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### Board of Directors

**Lori Sheridan, President**  
**Melinda Meyer, Vice President**  
**John Skuce, Treasurer**  
**Jane Ingold, Secretary**  
**Nancy Brown**  
**Tracy Longnecker Moore**  
**Bill Rodland**  
**Louise Smerick**  
**Brenda Weaver**



### Go green and request an e-newsletter!

If you'd like to request to receive newsletters electronically, send a current email address to harborcreekhistory@gmail.com.

# Gifts to the Society

John Berry  
Wesleyville Seniors  
Sherri Towell  
Neil Evans

*In support of the Society  
In gratitude for narrated bus tour  
In memory of Shirley Saltsman Anderson  
In memory of Cass Family Members*

The Society began the Memorial Gifts program a decade ago, and many members have given to the organization in recognition of a loved one, a classmate or a family celebration. We invite you to consider making a donation "In Memory," "In Honor" or "On the Occasion" of a person or event that is important to you.



**Are you ready for the holidays?** Harborcreek Township invites you to get into the holiday spirit with their 2019 old-fashioned Christmas Light Up Night on Friday, December 13th at the Harborcreek Municipal Building.

The evening will start at 6pm with a pre-Santa show. Then, Santa will arrive via horse drawn trolley to light the thousands of lights on the township grounds and hear the wishes of all the good boys and girls of Harborcreek. Afterward, families can enjoy trolley rides, caroling, crafts, and hot chocolate and cookies at the warming stations.

During the evening, the township will be accepting non-perishable food items and gift cards for the Ella Cochran Harborcreek Food Pantry. Please consider helping the less fortunate in our community.

Harborcreek Historical Society is joining in on the festivities and welcoming visitors to the Gifford-Blanchfield House for tours and refreshments.

## Society's Annual Meeting Scheduled for Saturday, January 25th

Members, as well as the general public, are invited to attend the Harborcreek Historical Society's annual meeting at the Harborcreek Township Municipal Building on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. In addition to providing a recap of accomplishments and financial statistics for 2019, Society leadership will provide an overview of things to come in 2020 and propose revisions to the by-laws, which were written in 1994 when the organization was founded. The board of directors has been working with The Nonprofit Partnership to learn more about best practices and create a set of by-laws that is in compliance with today's standards for nonprofit governance. A portion of the annual meeting will be used to review the proposed changes to the by-laws and solicit feedback from the membership.

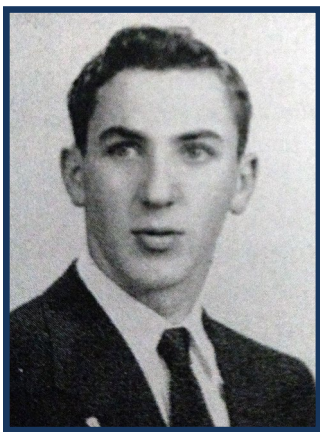


## Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Society's first pop-up event with Smiley's Ice Cream Truck. More than 100 people visited the parking lot of the Gifford-Blanchfield House on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> to enjoy ice cream from the Penn State Berkey Creamery. What a great way to wrap up the summer!

## Athletic Hall of Fame 2019 by Cam Stadtmueller

The 2019 induction ceremony for the Harbor Creek Athletic Hall of Fame began with the unveiling of plaques honoring recipients. This fifth class of inductees reflected a wide variety of high school athletes, including Douglas Moorhead (1952), William DeDionisio (1963), Sarah Klancer Dayak (1996), Justin Blose (2000), Taylor Hilinski (2006), and the 1980-1981 Varsity Boys Basketball Team.



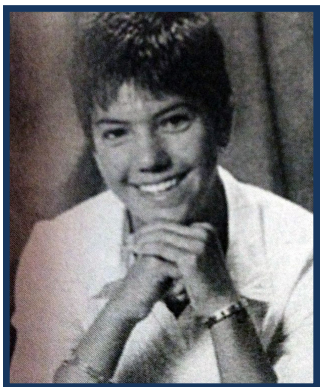
*Doug Moorhead, 1952*

Doug Moorhead was outstanding in football, basketball and baseball. He also ran track and field events not sponsored by the school district and went on to be a cross country and track star at Penn State University.

Bill DeDionisio was honored as a three-sport athlete who excelled in football, basketball, and track and field. During his years teaching at Harbor Creek, Bill coached and assisted with four different teams, spending 19 years with football, basketball, and track and field, and serving as the head boys golf coach for five years.

Bringing soccer into prominence as a premier Harbor Creek sport was Sarah Klancer Dayak. She led the girls soccer team to county league titles during her four seasons. In track and field, Sarah set school records that still remain for girls' 1,600 and 3,200-meter relays.

Football, wrestling, and track and field were the sports in which Justin Blose excelled. Justin modeled dedication and team spirit while serving as captain of the 1999 football team and as captain of the wrestling team for the 1998/99 and 1999/2000 seasons. Among the many honors Justin received while in school were medals in track and field and wrestling from the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). He went on to compete in pole vault at Edinboro University, and he has coached football and track and field for 12 years at Fort LeBoeuf High School.



*Taylor Hilinski, 2006*

After excelling in girls soccer during her high school years, Taylor Hilinski returned to Harbor Creek as a science teacher and has coached the girls soccer team for the past five years. Taylor earned single-season and career records for girls soccer while serving as team captain in her senior year, when the Huskies finished as District 10 runner-up. During high school, she competed in cross country and swimming, and was the 2006 team captain for track and field.

Well-known boys basketball coaches Lee Palloto, Joe Sholtis, and Paul Moneta inspired the talented 1980-1981 boys basketball team to win the first 27 games of the season. They secured Harbor Creek's first District 10 Championship Title. In the PIAA quarter finals, the 15-member team defeated Clairton High School after four overtime periods, but they lost to Carlynton in the PIAA Western Finals.

If you have questions about the nomination process, direct your inquiries to Athletic Hall of Fame Committee member Patrick Bruce at [pbruce@hcsd.iu5.org](mailto:pbruce@hcsd.iu5.org) or (814) 897-2100 ext. 1226.

### Office Hours

**Regular Hours: Tues., Wed., Sat. 10 am – 2 pm, Thurs. 4 – 7 pm**

**Winter Hours (Beginning Dec. 1): Wed. and Sat. 10 am – 2 pm**

Please call or email to schedule an appointment with our volunteers.

Research inquiries welcome.

### **New Members**

Scott McFadden  
Harborcreek, PA

William Dobson  
Erie, PA

Telephone: 814.899.4447 • Email: [harborcreekhistory@gmail.com](mailto:harborcreekhistory@gmail.com) • Website: [www.harborcreekhistory.org](http://www.harborcreekhistory.org)

# Harborcreek Native Crowned 2019 Pennsylvania Grape Queen

By Cam Stadtmueller

Madeline Curtis was crowned the 2019 Pennsylvania Grape Queen in North East on September 19<sup>th</sup> as part of the North East Community Fair. Madeline is the daughter of Kori Sul Curtis (Class of 1993) and the late Steven Curtis (Class of 1989). She is also the granddaughter of Harbor Creek graduates Shelia Waite Sul and Jim Sul.

Madeline will have a full schedule of events as the Grape Queen. She is currently a dual enrolled Senior, attending PSU Behrend in the morning and Harbor Creek High School in the afternoon. Madeline is a member of the National Honor Society and a four-year Scholar Athlete with High Honors. Her athletic accomplishments encompass the three varsity sports of cross country, track, and swimming. She has been a state qualifying athlete six times, and she hopes to increase that to eight by the end of May 2020. This November, Curtis ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the State Class 2A Girls Cross Country Race at Hershey Park.

Congratulations to an outstanding member of the Class of 2020, Madeline Curtis!



*Madeline Curtis being crowned the 2019 Pennsylvania Grape Queen at the North East Community Fair September 19, 2019.*

## Harborcreek Business Men's Association

In 1949, Harborcreek business owners, school personnel, farmers, and township residents came together to form an association. They chose the name Harborcreek Business Men's Association and filed Articles of Incorporation for the new entity on March 13, 1950 in the court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania. The goal of the organization was to improve the community through public service volunteerism.

In May of this year (2019), three historical society members - Sherman Clark, Nancy Brown, and Carol Laughlin - discussed the organization and recalled the following details.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

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BREVILLIER VILLAGE	899-8600	5416 EAST LAKE ROAD
CHARTERS BY AIR DENVER / Dave Kempa	(800) 333-4057	
DAVE'S APPLIANCE SERVICE	838-8213	1119 POWELL AVENUE
DUSCKAS-TAYLOR FUNERAL HOME	315-0911	5151 BUFFALO ROAD
EASTWAY LANES*	899-9855	4110 BUFFALO ROAD
ENGRAVED IMAGING	897-7807	4535 BUFFALO ROAD
ERIE MILL & PRESS / J.Nowakowski	454-1581	953 EAST 12 <sup>TH</sup> STREET
GINDY'S MOBILE HOME PARK / Robert Gindlesperger		4004 BUFFALO ROAD
HEISE REBUILDING / Joe and Lois Heise	899-8186	1291 WALBRIDGE ROAD
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JOHNSTON'S EVERGREEN NURSERY, INC.	739-2820	10000 WALES ROAD
MY DADDY'S BARBER SHOP*	899-6471	4013 MAIN STREET (LP)
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RE/MAX Real Estate Group / Linda Miklinski*	898-3558	4939 BUFFALO ROAD
RE/MAX Real Estate Group / Seth Tuttle	898-3558	4939 BUFFALO ROAD
STAN'S GARDEN CENTER*	899-5424	5001 BUFFALO ROAD

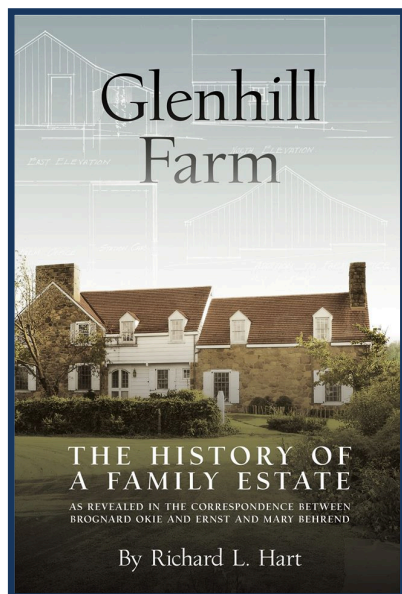
**Your business could be listed here as a sponsor. Please contact us to learn more.**

**\*Businesses which have been a Society sponsor for ten years or more.**

## Highlights of Harborcreek History by Cam Stadtmueller

During 2019, the Harborcreek Historical Society's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the newsletter team would like to share with you the history of the township through a series of 'articles' formatted as a timeline. The following article is the first of three.

- 1884** *History of Erie County, Pennsylvania* by Warner, Beers and Co. was published, and it described Harborcreek Township as one of the wealthiest and populace places in Erie County. The houses and barns were "neat and schools were unusually good."
- 1898-1944** Knoll's Hotel located between Route 20 and the New York Central Railroad tracks was popular with railroad passengers, travelers on Rte. 20, and local residents. Today, it is known as the Fiddle Inn restaurant.
- 1901** The first street car line connected Erie to Harborcreek (fare \$.10), and Erie to North East (fare \$.20). Street car service ended in January 1933.
- 1903** Central School located on Iroquois Avenue opened welcoming students in Grades 1 through 12. Its first graduating class was 1907.
- 1906** Harborcreek Township's Gospel Hill area was home to many African American families, such as the McConnell, Jackson, and Titus descendants.



### Penn State University Press Publishes History of Behrend's Glenhill Farm

Written by Richard L. Hart, Director Emeritus of the John M. Lilley Library at Penn State Behrend, *Glenhill Farm* details the story of the Behrend family estate as revealed in the correspondence between the architect, R. Brognard Okie and Ernst and Mary Behrend.

By 1930, having developed a highly successful business, the innovative paper manufacturer Ernst Behrend and his wife Mary purchased a number of existing houses and farms to give them sufficient acreage to create a large estate. In 1948 this property became a campus of Penn State University. Known as Penn State Behrend, to this day it retains the original buildings at the historic center of the campus.

Based on archival materials, including copious letters between the Behrends and their Philadelphia architect, R. Brognard Okie, this book recounts the planning and development of a unique residence.

Letters between the key figures give the reader a glimpse into their thoughts and concerns, including the selection of an architect, the choice of an architectural style, issues involved in planning the estate, and the features and design of the buildings that were constructed or modified. Vintage and modern photographs help convey the nature of the buildings that Okie designed as well as a sense of the Behrends' lifestyle in the 1930s.

An absorbing micro-history of what is now Behrend College, *Glenhill Farm* provides a window onto a period when new money from industry supported lavish lifestyles, and it reveals how this particular project, conceived and constructed during the Great Depression, was affected by its extraordinary economic circumstances.

The 148-page hardcover book is available for \$24.95 through <http://www.psupress.org>

## Harborcreek Business Men's Association *(Continued from Page 4)*

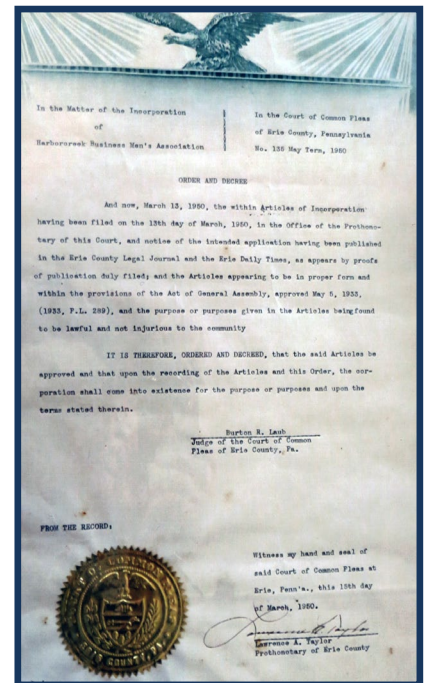
Meetings of the Business Men's Association were held at the Fiddle Inn, and its members helped with various projects around the township. One such project was the clearing of a wooded lot on Slade Road and preparing the grounds for a Little League baseball field.

We are reaching out to you, our readers, to ask if you recall any specific accomplishments of the group. Do you know of another member of the Business Men's Association who is not listed? We also have no definitive date for when they ceased to exist. It was theorized that this group became the Harborcreek Chamber of Commerce. Information can be emailed to harborcreekhistory@gmail.com, mailed to Harborcreek Historical Society, P.O. Box 121, Harborcreek, PA 16421, or dropped off during our open hours at the Gifford-Blanchfield House, 5661 Buffalo Road.

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### Membership List - March 13, 1950

Loyal Beckman, Farmer and Harborcreek Tax Collector  
Robert Black, Harbor Creek School District Teacher and Assistant Football Coach  
Bob Bonniger, Master Mechanic with Nonomaque Garage and Harborcreek Fire Chief  
John Bossolt, Gulf Station east of Harborcreek on Rt. 20  
George Bretz, Garage Owner and Harborcreek Township Supervisor  
Ellsworth Cass, Barber with shop at Depot and I-90  
John Catrabone, Service Manager for Times Square Motors of Erie  
Fred Clark, Harbor Creek School District Superintendent  
John Connors Sr., Farmer  
Fritz Dunn, Farmer and part owner Koehler Beer  
Tom (TP) Dunn, Solicitor for Harbor Creek School District and HC Business Men's Ass.  
Rusty Eades, Farmer and owner of Erie Warehouse and Trucking Co.  
Milton Elsworth, Local home builder  
John Fails, Harbor Creek School District teacher and football coach  
W.A. (Tip) Firman, Funeral director  
George Garfield, Farmer and Harbor Creek School Director  
John Hollis, Excavator and motel/restaurant owner at Davison Road and Rt. 20  
Curt Hoover, Excavator and owner of Hoover Sand and Gravel  
Virgil Hoover, Excavator and Construction  
George Jackson, Harborcreek Mailman  
Walter Labowski, Harborcreek Evergreen Farm  
Donald E. Lathrop, Businessman  
Doc Lohse, Veterinarian  
Dan Luce, Real Estate Broker/Owner  
Ed Maille Sr., Farmer  
Ed Marion, Farmer and fruit stand owner  
Doug Moorhead Sr., Farmer, executive at Welch's, and Harbor Creek School Director  
Bob Niemeyer, Farmer and WWII POW  
Charles Nier Sr., Businessman and pharmacy owner  
Clyde Nonomaque, Garage Owner and WWII veteran  
Ed Noonan, Engineer and Harbor Creek School Director  
Bob O'Brien, Railroad Station Master  
Fred Otto, Harborcreek Feed Mill owner  
George Pierce Sr., Head of School Maintenance and barber  
Floyd Richards, Grocery store owner  
Charles Richart, Harbor House  
Blaine Shunk, Engineer at General Electric  
Bob Stanley, Grocery store owner  
Bob Swift, Farmer, WWII veteran and POW, and Boy Scout Master  
Frank Szklenski, Farmer and Harborcreek Township Supervisor  
Sam Uber, Barber and Harborcreek Post Office  
Joe Varo, Garage owner  
Ross Wood, Engineer at General Electric or Hammermill; started Harborcreek Fire Department



*Information provided by Sherman Clark May 1, 2019.*