



Harborcreek Historical Society
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 www.harborcreekhistory.org

**Winter Hours (thru March 31, 2020):
 Wednesday & Saturday 10 am - 2 pm**



THE HARBOR VIEW



Harborcreek Historical Society celebrates 25 years in 2019!

Congratulations Roger Pierce! 2019 Volunteer of the Year

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At the Harborcreek Historical Society's annual membership meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2020, a certificate was presented to Roger Pierce in recognition for his volunteer contributions to the organization. He is always looking for ways to help out at Gifford-Blanchfield House. For example, he contributed to the ethnic-themed displays by donating items, especially those reflecting his Scottish heritage of which he is very proud. Because of the houses and feeders he built and installed, we now have resident bluebirds, humming birds, and woodpeckers on the Society's grounds, and who knows what new species will make their home this spring.

We thank Roger for his generosity, enthusiasm for helping out, and willingness to take on a new task when something needs attention.

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.

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



Roger is a history enthusiast and occasionally shows up dressed in clothing depicting the French and Indian War period – or sometimes a kilt. We never know which or when, but we know he will come bearing treats for all to enjoy as we sit around the table and have good conversations.



From left to right: Lori Sheridan, John Skuce, and Roger Pierce.

Gifts to the Society

John & Brenda Weaver

For support of Society archives

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.

SPECIAL NOTE: The General Electric Company matching funds will no longer be available after April 15, 2020. If you are considering a donation, please do so before this date. Register your GE Matching Gift with your SSO# at 800-305-0669 or on your GE Benefits website (Additional Benefits tab). Thank YOU.

Society's Annual Meeting Held January 25th By Cam Stadtmueller

Members and guests gathered on Saturday, January 25th at the Township Building for the Harborcreek Historical Society Annual Meeting. The featured speaker was Charles Johnson, educator at the Erie Maritime Museum. His theme, "Man the Guns," detailed the tactical and technological evolution of the U.S. Navy following the World War I Battle of the Jutland off the coast of Denmark and the Naval Treaty of 1922. Propulsion systems were updated; 16-inch guns with revolving turrets became standard, as did the use of radar. The U.S. Navy began to train pilots and designed aircraft carriers. Before Pearl Harbor, the Navy had a fleet of 790 ships. Thousands of vessels were built during World War II to expand the capacity of the Navy, and Johnson concluded his presentation with the role of Erie's Perry Shipbuilding in World War II; local craftsmen built seven mine laying ships.

President Lori Sheridan conducted the business meeting, which followed Mr. Johnson's talk. Three directors renewed their terms: Louise Smerick, Nancy Brown, and Melinda Meyer. Presently, the Society has 147 individual members and 17 business members, or sponsors. Treasurer John Skuce presented the financial report for fiscal year 2019 and helped present the Volunteer of the Year Award to Roger Pierce. Ms. Sheridan spoke about the development of two new interpretive markers in 2020 which will be funded in part by a grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. The meeting adjourned with an announcement of another big project - the design and construction of a pavilion on the grounds of the Gifford-Blanchfield House to take place over the next two years.

Special Guests Attend Holiday Open House By Cam Stadtmueller



At the Holiday Open House on December 7, 2019, visitors enjoyed talking about our township, its history, and elementary schools. Two of the guests to stop by the open house have strong connections to the naming of Harborcreek Elementary schools. Standing is Patricia Stelle Cochran. She is the granddaughter of Edith King Klein and daughter of Winona Klein Stelle. When Klein School opened on February 17th, 1955, Edith was recognized for her 34 years of teaching in the district and for being a member of the Class of 1907, Harbor Creek High School's first graduating class.

Sherman Clark is the son of Mildred and Fred S. Clark, former teacher and superintendent of Harbor Creek School District. During his years of leadership, Fred oversaw the building of the 1941 high school as well as Klein, Rolling Ridge, and his namesake, Clark School. Sherman talks of his father's ability to motivate community members to volunteer their labor for school grounds improvements. Clark Elementary opened in 1961, ten years before Superintendent Clark's retirement.

Fiscal Year 2019 Financials Prepared by John Skuce

INCOME	
Donations (Erie Gives, Memorials, GE Employee Matching Gifts, etc.)	\$4,895.00
Membership	\$970.00
Gift Shop Sales	\$341.00
Interest	\$337.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,544.00
EXPENSES	
Insurance	\$632.00
Newsletter (Printing and Mailing)	\$312.00
Office (Copy Machine, Telephone, Wi-Fi, PO Box, etc.)	\$3,506.00
Utilities (Electric, Sewer and Water)	\$1,673.00
Miscellaneous	\$595.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,719.00
NET CASH FLOW	(\$175.00)

Four-Year Cash Flow History

	2016	2017	2018	2019
INCOME	\$7,995.00	\$10,514.00	\$6,977.00	\$6,544.00
EXPENSES	\$5,986.00	\$9,930.00	\$6,670.00	\$6,719.00
NET CASH FLOW	\$2,009.00	\$584.00	\$307.00	(\$175.00)

A Second Blanchfield Restoration By John Proctor

As announced at the Harborcreek Historical Society's Gifford-Blanchfield House dedication ceremony in July 2017, one of Rick Blanchfield's most treasured vintage automobiles, a 1970 Plymouth Road Runner Superbird, was undergoing a complete nut-and-bolt rotisserie restoration, with the goal of having the car included in the 50th Anniversary Aero Warriors Reunion celebration at the Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama in October 2019.

Before embarking on the 840-mile first leg of the reunion celebration, held at the Atlanta Motor Speedway, the car was brought by the house for another reunion of sorts. Despite being unroadworthy since it was purchased by Rick in late 1976, the car was painstakingly restored to its factory-new condition, primarily by fellow Harborcreek native, Mopar enthusiast, and long-time Blanchfield family acquaintance, John Bretz.

(Continued on Page 4)

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

Steve Miller
 Lawrence Park, PA

Telephone: 814.899.4447 • Email: harborcreekhistory@gmail.com • Website: www.harborcreekhistory.org

A Second Blanchfield Restoration *(Continued from Page 3)*



“Rick would be very, very pleased with it”, voiced family members Vicki, Bette, and Julie Blanchfield. In attendance at another main venue of the Reunion, the Wellborn Muscle Car Museum in Alexander City, Alabama, the car was one of over 230 Plymouth Superbirds, Dodge Charger 500’s and Dodge Charger Daytonas, along with Ford Talladega Torinos and Mercury Cyclone Spoilers that made up the “Aero Warriors;” special factory-manufactured aerodynamically-bodied cars built in 1969 and 1970, specifically for use in NASCAR racing. Event co-organizer, Tim Wellborn, said, “This is most likely the largest gathering of winged cars since they left the factory in 1969, and that you will probably ever see again!”

Rick’s winged Superbird is currently owned by long-time friend and Harborcreek High School classmate, John Proctor, and his wife Sharon of North East.

“I am very pleased in behalf of Rick’s family to be the caretaker of this very special car, and to see it fully restored now and back on the road for the first time in over 42 years. These cars are a real special piece of automotive history, one we’ll never see again,” he commented.

Your Help is Needed for the New Pavilion Project

The Society recently announced plans to design and construct a pavilion on the grounds of the Gifford-Blanchfield House within the next two years. The pavilion will be used as an event space for the Society, and it will also be a reservable space so that the community may use it for family picnics and special functions. The Society is seeking additional help with the project. For those who are interested in joining this committee, please join us for the next planning meeting on Saturday, March 11, 2020 at 11:00 am at the Gifford-Blanchfield House.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

6 MILE CELLARS / Bart Towell and Patrick Walsh	580-8375	5727 FIRMAN ROAD
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 TH STREET
GINDY’S MOBILE HOME PARK / Robert Gindlesperger		4004 BUFFALO ROAD
HEISE REBUILDING / Joe and Lois Heise	899-8186	1291 WALBRIDGE ROAD
JOHN D. FOX PHOTOGRAPHY	434-3445	176 CAMBRIDGE ROAD, ERIE
JOHNSTON’S EVERGREEN NURSERY, INC.	739-2820	10000 WALES ROAD
MY DADDY’S BARBER SHOP*	899-6471	4013 MAIN STREET (LP)
RABBIT’S HAT ANTIQUES/ Katherine Carlson & Kristine Nelson	899-1414	
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 25th 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 fourth installment.

- 1910** Route 20 was widened and many homes were moved back from the two-lane road. In Moorheadville, the stately two-story brick home of Joseph Y. Moorhead was relocated 50 feet to the south using horse-drawn block and tackle. (Photograph published in *Images of America Erie County*, Page 78)
- 1912** Judge Benson signed a decree separating Wesleyville from Harborcreek Township.
- 1912** Kanty Prep opened. It was a private high school supervised by the Vincentian Priests and Brothers. With the laying of the cornerstone on May 30, 1911 a higher education Polish school was begun to provide college preparatory classes for children of immigrants. Located on East 38th Street near Shannon Road, it existed for 68 years and closed in 1980.
- 1916** The 85-acre Erie Exposition Grounds opened north of Iroquois Avenue and east of present day Walbridge Road. The huge buildings and multiple smaller ones featured displays in manufacturing achievements, industrial companies, and changes in livestock breeding along with arts, crafts and home made goods. An oval track with a grandstand allowed for horse racing, circus acts, aero-stunt planes, and other entertaining acts. It was abandoned before World War II.
- 1920** Russell Log Cabin Restaurant was established on Buffalo Road where the Harborcreek Township Municipal building is today. Gradually, the business enlarged to have a dance hall, fuel pumps, and rental log cabins for travelers. Visitors to the historical society have stated that they "honeymooned at Russell's."
- 1921** An underpass was constructed under the Nickel Plate and New York Central Railroad tracks in the Village. Route 20 travel was safer using the "Subway."

Now and Then By John Skuce and with photographs contributed by Lew Hoffman



These photographs provided by Lew Hoffman show the Gulf Service Station and house built by the Hoffman Family and later owned and operated by Johnny Bossolt. It is located on the north side of Buffalo Road, just west of Davison Road, and it is currently being repaired and remodeled.

Please help Harborcreek's Community Engagement Team stock the pantry with toilet paper, paper towels and multi-purpose cleaners.

Drop Sites:

Harborcreek Historical Society
Buffalo Road

Laskowski Insurance
Buffalo Road

HC Township
Buffalo Road

Grimm's Embroidery
Buffalo Road

South Harborcreek United Methodist
McGill Road

Our Lady of Mercy Church
Bartlett Road

Expression Salon and Spa
East Lake Road

YMCA
Nagle Road



Items will
be collected
through
April 3rd

Paper Products and Cleaners Needed!



To make monetary donations, please remit checks made payable to:

Ella Cochran Food Pantry
837 Bartlett Road | Harborcreek, PA 16421

The Ella Cochran Food Pantry was started in 1982 by Ella (Peaches) Cochran. An ecumenical board was created in 2014 to support the running of the food pantry. This board is a joint effort of four local churches; First Presbyterian, Faith Lutheran, South Harborcreek United Methodist and Our Lady of Mercy.

Mission: Through compassionate, supportive service The Ella Cochran Food Pantry provides food and other necessities to Harborcreek residents who are in need.



TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE CALL 814-480-9979