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**Hours:** Saturdays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm



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# THE HARBOR VIEW

*A quarterly publication of the Harborcreek Historical Society*



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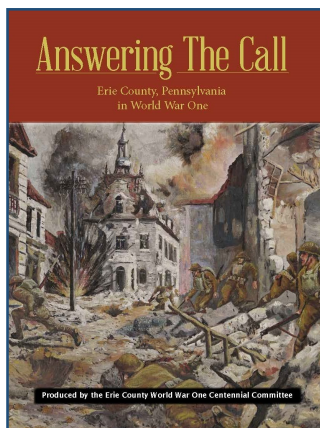
## Save the date for the 2021 Annual Meeting Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 12 pm At the Harborcreek Township Building

We're getting back to business. Due to the public health crisis, the Society was forced to cancel the 2020 annual meeting. Now that it is again safe for us to gather, the 2021 annual meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 12 pm at the Harborcreek Township Building (top level). The event will include a presentation from a guest speaker, as well as a review of the Society's accomplishments over the last two years (since we cancelled the 2020 annual meeting).

## Go green and request an e-newsletter!

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

Print copies of the newsletter are available in black and white only, while the digital version is in full color.



This year's guest speaker is a group of speakers. Several members of the Erie County, Pennsylvania, World War One Centennial Committee who recently authored the book *Answering the Call: Erie County, Pennsylvania in World War One* will be joining us to talk about the chapters they penned. The 175-page commemorative book includes biographies for the 201 men connected to Erie County who died in the war and chapters about the local infantry regiments of the 28th Division and the local machine gun regiment of the 80th Division.

Other parts of the book cover women's contributions to the war effort, the local chapter of the Red Cross, the 1918 flu pandemic, a visit by a German U-boat to Erie after the war, a list of over 2,300 men and women from Erie County who served in the military during the war, and more.

Additionally, the membership will be asked to vote to adopt revised bylaws for the Society during the August annual meeting. Changes to the by-laws were proposed last year, and copies of the draft document were distributed to members by mail and email in February/March 2020. A PDF copy of the proposed by-laws may be downloaded from the Society's website at <https://www.harborcreekhistory.org/news-and-events>, or members may request a PDF copy by emailing us at harborcreekhistory@gmail.com.

## Board of Directors

- Melinda Meyer, Vice President
- John Skuce, Treasurer
- Jane Ingold, Secretary
- Nancy Brown
- Bill Rodland
- Louise Smerick
- Brenda Weaver

# Gifts to the Society

Patricia Cochran      *In Memory of Nancy Howell*  
Nancy Gelsie         *In Memory of Mary Shafer*  
David R. Johns       *In Memory of Richard Guckes*  
Balkovic Family     *In Memory of Richard Guckes*

**The following people gave in general support of the Society:** *Erie Mill & Press Company, Chuck & Patti Myers, Wayne & Sue Heuvel, John Berry, Dave Hines, George Frank, Brenda Weaver, Stan's Garden Center, Smiley's Ice Cream, Forrest & Nancy Mindek, Ann Umbach, Joy Anderson, Judy Wieczorek, Carol Miller, Carol Wood, Linda Miklinski, Melinda & Jacques Meyer, Niel Evans, Barbara Chambers, Dolores Shiel, David Smith, and Jim Gelsie.*

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.

## Founding member helps support the pavilion project

By Cam Stadtmueller

Thanks to a recent donation of \$5,000 from founding member Judy Stoffa Wieczorek, the Harborcreek Historical Society has collected \$4,000 for the pavilion project\*. Half of Ms. Wieczorek's donation has been added to the pavilion fund, while the other half will be placed in the Society's general account, as its use has not yet been determined.

The Society owes its start to Ms. Wieczorek. In preparation for the 1995 Erie Bicentennial, Harborcreek Township Supervisors Mindek, Bossart, and Akerly tasked she and Beth Evans Simmons with creating an initiative that would be the Township's contribution to the commemoration. In 1994, the two women created the Harborcreek Historical Society, which began with just 22 members.



During Judy's presidency, which spanned 1994 to 1998, the Society took on restoration of the Gospel Hill Burial Ground as its "signature project." With the support of the township, local organizations, and members, over four years the Society created a list of all the legible gravestones, restored select monuments and stones, constructed a cairn from broken pieces of headstones (pictured), and installed a meditation garden and fence to enclose the burial ground. A final project was the installation of a sign with the name of the cemetery at the edge of the property on Station Road. Ms. Wieczorek and Don Robbins co-chaired the project until March 1999. Today, the Harborcreek Historical Society maintains Gospel Hill Burial Ground with the assistance of Penn State Behrend and Boy Scout Troop 151.

Under Judy's leadership, the Society also provided historic photographs for placement in the Buck Horn Restaurant inside the Travel Port at Depot Road and Interstate 90 and published eight folios, which were researched and written by members and highlighted the history of the township.

We are deeply appreciative of Ms. Wieczorek's contributions to Harborcreek history and thank her for her ongoing support of the Harborcreek Historical Society.

*\* While we had anticipated applying for grant funds this year and completing construction of the pavilion in 2021, the exorbitant cost of construction materials has caused us to rethink our timeline. We are now delaying the start of the project, as well as applying for grant funding, until the cost of lumber decreases and/or stabilizes. This may push construction to 2023, but we feel that this is the most fiscally responsible response. Donations will continue to be accepted for the project. If you have any questions about the project, please contact us.*



## Smiley's Ice Cream Truck returns this summer

By Louise Smerick

Smiley's Ice Cream Truck is again serving up smiles and tasty treats this summer from the parking lot of the Gifford-Blanchfield House. The truck, which serves ice cream made by the Penn State Berkey Creamery, will make appearances Wednesdays 4:30-7:00 pm June 23, July 14, and August 11. Be sure to stop in and satisfy your sweet tooth!

## Remember the Harborcreek Historical Society on Erie Gives Day August 10th



It's that time of year! Erie Gives is right around the corner and we are asking for your help. Please consider a donation to Harborcreek Historical Society during Erie Gives 2021.

Erie Gives began in 2011 in honor of The Erie Community Foundation's 75th Anniversary. It has been an incredible success and last year raised \$6,358,146 from 11,482 donors. You helped us be a part of that success as the Society was able to raise \$2,802 from 25 donors. You can help us continue that success this year!

Erie Gives 2021 will take place on Tuesday, August 10th between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. During the 12-hour period of online giving, The Erie Community Foundation and other generous donors will match a percentage of your donation. All you have to do is go online at [www.ErieGives.org](http://www.ErieGives.org) and select the Harborcreek Historical Society as your charity of choice that day.

The Erie Community Foundation has once again decided to accept check donations! Checks must be payable to The Erie Community Foundation, must be accompanied by a Erie Gives Check Contribution Form (these can be found online at [www.ErieGives.org](http://www.ErieGives.org) – if you need help locating one of these forms or if you'd like us to help you fill it out, we'd be more than happy to do so!), and must be turned in to The Erie Community Foundation at 459 West 6th St., Erie, PA 16507 by close of business Monday, August 9th.

Thank you in advance for considering a donation on this unique giving day to Harborcreek Historical Society.



## Call for volunteers to help with collections

By Nancy Brown

The Society's collections, which include journals, cemetery records, tax records, yearbooks, photographs, letters, documents, and an assortment of artifacts relating to Harborcreek Township, are maintained by a small team of volunteers. Additional volunteers are being sought to work with the existing team to help with cataloging, processing, and general organization. Training will be provided. Anyone interested in learning more about the work or expressing their interest in joining the collections team is encouraged to contact the Society.

### Office Hours

**Saturdays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

The office is also open by appointment. Please call or email to schedule an appointment with our volunteers. Research inquiries are accepted by mail or email.

### New Members

Vickie Gilchrist, Harborcreek, PA  
Carol Miller, Prescott Valley, AZ

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## The making of *Artery of a Community: Stories of Buffalo Road* short-run podcast

We recently spoke again with Steven Mooradian, a Harborcreek native who just finished his senior year as a public history major at Mercyhurst University and focused his senior project on the history of Buffalo Road. His final product is a four-episode podcast that highlights different aspects of the road, which serves as a main transportation artery for the community. Here's what he had to say about the project.

**Q: When we last caught up with you, you were just beginning work on your senior project. Can you remind our readers what you worked on and why?**

*A: I developed a short podcast series that highlighted what I believed to be important themes surrounding the history of Buffalo Road within the township. I settled on a podcast because the way that people are consuming history is becoming increasingly digital and as a public historian, keeping up with the changing ways of interacting with history is vital to the discipline and being an effective professional. Podcasts are as popular as ever and I felt that it would be a lighthearted, entertaining way to educate the community on our extensive history.*

**Q: Each episode of your podcast *Artery of a Community: Stories of Buffalo Road* focuses on a different topic. How did you choose these focus areas?**

*A: So, the episodes cover four themes that I believe Buffalo Road embodies. They are agriculture, business, tourism/recreation, and transportation. While there were many ways to go about this project, breaking the podcast up into these thematic areas allowed me to not have to be linear, nor comprehensive when covering the history of the road. It allowed me to pick stories that I felt were of value and incorporate them into the appropriate episode. During the planning for the project, I sat down and wrote out a number of themes that I could go forward with and settled on the four that were produced.*

**Q: How did you approach research for *Artery of a Community* and make use of the Harborcreek Historical Society's archives and library?**

*A: The Society has a great collection of resources that I utilized for the project. While the Gifford House was closed during the pandemic, board member (and interviewee for the project) Nancy Brown, was kind enough to let me in and hang out while I took several hours to browse the resources on a couple occasions. Being a native of Harborcreek, I was set up well in terms of knowing a reasonable amount of the information I wanted. However, I too, learned much about Buffalo Road's past and the community at large. Luckily for Harborcreek, the Historical Society receives a lot of energy, and the resources are both extensive and easy to find.*

*(Continued on Page 5)*

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

## The making of *Artery of a Community* (Continued from Page 4)

**Q: The podcast includes interviews with several different Harborcreek residents, past and present. How did you select your interviewees?**

*A: For the interviews, I had some ideas of who I wanted from the start. Supervisor Dean Pepicello is a family friend and a great addition to the transportation episode. As I said, I met Nancy Brown through the project, and with her connection to both Harborcreek and Buffalo Road, I made sure she was included. I found Bart Towell through a friend of mine and with his wine expertise he made an excellent anecdote to the agriculture episode. Finally, I was directed to Martha Smith Bunnell through the Society and her connection to the Russell's Log Cabins was ideal for the business episode. Another huge thank you to all four interviewees, I think they all added a needed element to the project and helped to make the "stories" part of "Stories of Buffalo Road" a reality.*

**Q: What was the most interesting discovery you made as you were creating these podcast recordings?**

*A: Well, there are several things I learned about the Township that were quite interesting, but I was shocked to learn that bi-planes used to land in the field where the Harbor Creek High School stadium is now and refuel on their way to other cities. Casual transportation by bi-plane is not a commonly discussed piece of history. But in the larger sense, I think the fact that Harborcreek lies in the path of the longest highway in the country at 3,365 miles, is pretty cool, and we as a community should continue to embrace that.*

**Q: Did you encounter any challenges as you worked on this project, and, if so, how did you address them?**

*A: Well, the pandemic was a challenge at first, but in all honesty, the project really went off without a hitch. I had a clear vision of what I wanted the project to look like and that is more or less what I got. I had worked on podcasts before, but not in any extensive way, so the only challenge I would say, personally, is getting used to recording large chunks of scripted materials and editing them to a satisfactory level. But in terms of research and the development of the project, I had few challenges.*

**Q: Now that you have completed your undergraduate studies at Mercyhurst University, what is next for you?**

*A: I graduated from Mercyhurst with a history degree and concentration in public history as well as a minor in archaeology. I have a fair amount of anthropology background before moving over to history. In the Fall, I will be moving to Northern Ireland to pursue my Master's in Public History at Queen's University Belfast. I am over-the-moon excited for the opportunity and look forward to continuing both my studies and professional life in the history field on an international level.*



**Q: Is there anything that we didn't ask about, but that you'd like to share?**

*A: No, just a huge thank you to all who made this project happen and I hope you enjoy! The podcast can be found at:*

*<https://anchor.fm/steven-mooradian>*

*<https://open.spotify.com/show/2LjKPellsUoUSucrkgQucl>*

*<https://www.harborcreekhistory.org/news-and-events>*

*or by scanning this QR code.*

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## Changes coming to Behrend's campus By Jane Ingold

Two of Penn State Behrend's historic buildings will see changes this year: Erie Hall and the Federal House.

When the first students arrived on the Penn State Behrend campus in September 1948, their classes were held in the buildings that had comprised the Glenhill estate, including the barn and dog kennel. Almost immediately, the Advisory Board decided that another building would be needed...a gymnasium that would serve as a multi-purpose building, not just for campus use, but for the use of the greater community. By December they were looking at blueprints for the proposed addition and they set out to raise the funds from the Erie community, hence the name Erie Hall. Mary Behrend herself donated the first \$1000.00. Ground was broken in March 1952 and the completed complex was dedicated in May 1952. From the beginning it was a bustling place, hosting sporting events (it boasted a bowling alley) and dances.

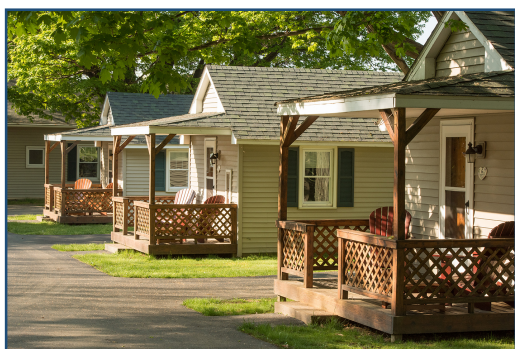
*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Lakeview on the Lake Motel By Carolyn Ruth and Tina King Dufour

*The Harborcreek Historical Society seeks guest writers for both The Harbor View quarterly newsletter and YourHarborcreek magazine on an ongoing basis. The following article was submitted to the Society in April 2021 by volunteer Carolyn Ruth and previous owner Tina King Dufour. The full article will appear in the summer issue of YourHarborcreek magazine, which will be available online at <http://www.harborcreek.org>.*

Lakeview on the Lake Motel, 8696 East Lake Road, is the Erie area's only lakefront motel. It has remained in continuous operation since Meredith Jones built the motel in the late 1940's. Located on the site of the former summer estate of Annie Wainwright Scott Strong (whose primary residence now serves as Gannon University's Old Main administrative building), the original motel property consisted of six motel rooms, six small cabins, an owner's residence, and a dirt driveway.

Eli and Marion May bought the motel in 1957. Marion and her friend Harborcreek resident Teresa Hertel used the wrap-around porch of the owner's residence for a restaurant, cooking dinner for motel guests. Eli and Marion put new roofs on the motel rooms and cabins, but otherwise, made no other changes. The property's water was provided by the Strong estate's original well.



Jim and Pat King got married in 1965 and purchased the motel from Eli and Marion who were Pat's parents. Eli and Marion continued to live on the eight-acre property in a mobile home, providing help with the business and babysitting services after Pat gave birth to daughter Tina. Jim and Pat King owned and operated the Motel continuously for the next 36 years (1965-2001).

The King's daughter Tina and her husband, Charlie Dufour, ran the Motel the last three years that Pat and Jim owned it. Then, in May 2001, after remaining in the hands of the family for three generations, the Kings sold Lakeview on the Lake to Kelly and Demaris Edwards.

The motel will soon be sold again, this time to the son and daughter-in-law of Kelly and Demaris, Brian and Jen Edwards. Lakeview on the Lake Motel has been family-owned for over 70 years and it looks like it will continue to be so.

Read the full article in the summer issue of the YourHarborcreek magazine, which will be available online at <http://www.harborcreek.org>.



### Changes coming to Behrend's campus *(Continued from Page 5)*

Erie Hall has been renovated and reconfigured over the decades but will soon be torn down to make way for a more modern building to fit the current needs of the campus.

One of the oldest buildings in Harborcreek also sits on campus and is now being renovated and an addition is being added. The Federal House on Station Road was built by Harborcreek founder Thomas Rees. He sold it to Thomas Bonnell in 1838. During that time it was believed to be a stop on the Underground Railroad. Local businessman purchased it from Bonnell family in 1894 and it changed owners a few more times before it became the Edward Mueller (Miller) farm in 1919. It remained in the family until 1967 when Floyd Smith bought it. He donated it to the college in 1988 and now another donor has made it possible to bring this building back to life.

A longer article outlining the history of both buildings will appear in the fall issue of YourHarborcreek magazine.

*(Top) Students play tennis in Erie Hall. (Bottom) The exterior of the Federal House as it was when donated to the college. (Photographs courtesy of Behrend Archives)*

