



Erie County *Connection*

LAKE ERIE QUADRANGLE: **UNCOVERED**

Lake Erie is home to more shipwrecks than the Bermuda Triangle, making the depths of our Great Lake quite the historic landmark. For the first time in 20 years, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is accepting applications for national marine sanctuary designations. One purpose of marine sanctuaries is to preserve historic underwater areas such as ours. However, a national marine sanctuary designation could mean exciting things for Erie County beyond the abundant underwater history.

Q: What is a marine sanctuary?

A: A marine sanctuary is an area of protected water that preserves the scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections or economic productivity. These can include rocky reefs, habitat or even underwater archeological sites – such as the shipwrecks found off the coast of Lake Erie – and provide safe habitat for species.

Q: Where does the Lake Erie Quadrangle get its name?

A: The name for the proposed marine sanctuary is actually a play on words. David Frew coined the name “Lake Erie Quadrangle” for a 2,500 square mile area of Lake Erie that houses 429 known shipwrecks. The Lake Erie Quadrangle term refers to another famous shipwreck cemetery: the Bermuda Triangle. The Bermuda Triangle is nearly five times larger than the Lake Erie Quadrangle yet contains only 112 known shipwrecks.

Q: Why should the Erie County community want to have a national marine sanctuary designation?

A: As mentioned above, our community has an amazingly rich maritime history – Lake Erie is

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

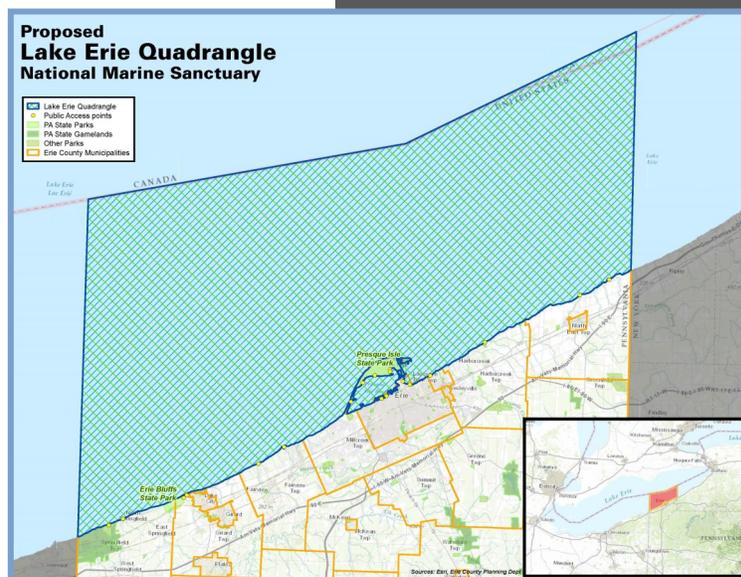
Lake Erie Quadrangle:
Uncovered 1

Going the Extra Mile for
Safety 2

Employee Spotlight 3

Ready , Set, Unite: Strong
Communities Raise Strong
Children 4

Same Frequency, Same Page:
Public Safety’s Next
Generation Radio System... 4



often regarded as the graveyard of the Great Lakes. Furthermore, Lake Erie's unique ecological make-up results in typically more fish and a greater diversity of aquatic life than any other of the Great Lakes. A marine sanctuary designation would aid in preserving our historical sites and aquatic habitats and allow for future research and possible discoveries. However, a national marine sanctuary designation will not be for just researchers and scientists – it will create educational and recreational opportunities for the citizens of Erie County.

Q: What are some of the potential benefits that the Lake Erie Quadrangle would bring to Erie County?

A: Aside from the environmental and historical benefits, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will provide a myriad of economic benefits. Take, for example, the only marine sanctuary of the Great Lakes: Thunder Bay, on Lake Huron, in Alpena Michigan. With more than 80,000 visitors a year, Thunder Bay has provided an economic boost for the region that has resulted in an expansion of the original area established in 2000.

Q: What would a marine sanctuary designation mean for recreational boating, fishing and other activities?

A: The marine sanctuary designation will not affect recreational activities. In fact, designations often attract recreational groups, such as marine divers. Rules and regulations established by the Commonwealth must continue to be obeyed.

Q: How can the Erie County community get involved?

A: Community involvement is one of the most essential aspects of making the marine sanctuary happen. Since Erie County Government is taking the lead role to inform the public of this opportunity, gauging the community's support to move forward with the proposal is imperative to the success of the Lake Erie Quadrangle. The County would like to have input from the public, businesses, municipalities, nonprofits, schools and universities. To get involved and learn more there is a [Facebook](#) and [web page](#) dedicated to the marine sanctuary proposal.

Looking Ahead: Monthly Observances

APRIL

- ◇ National Child Abuse Prevention Month
- ◇ National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
- ◇ April 11th: [Presque Isle's 59th Spring Clean-up](#)
- ◇ April 12-18: National Library Week
- ◇ April 22nd: Earth Day

MAY

- ◇ Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
- ◇ Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection Month
- ◇ National Bike Month
- ◇ National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

Going the Extra Mile for Safety

April 13, 2015 marks the 9th annual Teen Driving Competition, coordinated by Geof Crankshaw, Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Highway Safety Network Director and the Erie County Health Department. Each spring high school juniors and seniors from Erie County are encouraged to participate in the event. Three students from each high school may participate and compete for cash prizes; the students must meet certain criteria, such as no moving violations, no crashes and must have driving experience for the period of one year.



Millcreek Township Police Officer Tony Chamera helps with judging and keeping score

Competition events include a slow driving obstacle course, a written road knowledge test, a perception test and a vehicle pre-trip inspection test, supervised and scored by Erie County law enforcement officers and

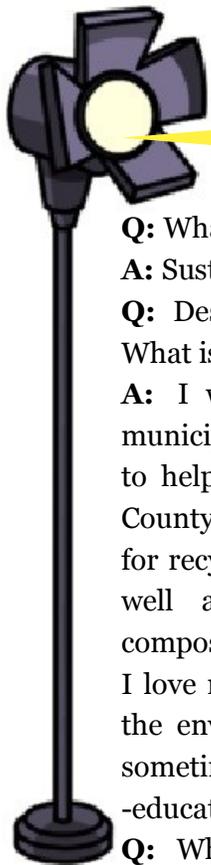
magisterial judges. Two cars are provided by Hallman Chevrolet for the event. While students wait for their turn to compete several educational presentations are offered, including an impaired driving/distracted driving simulator and a Share-the-Road/Blind-Zone demonstration with a large truck.

The purpose of the annual competition is to teach young drivers the importance of being good drivers and how it keeps them – and everyone else on the road – safe. Nearly 20 percent of traffic fatalities throughout the nation involve 16-20 year-olds, though the age bracket makes up only 6 percent of licensed drivers. Educating young drivers in Erie County through this program and others available through the Erie County Health Department helps in preventing such disparate statistics and engages members of the County, sending a positive message to our community.

For more information regarding the 2015 Teen Driving Competition contact Geoffrey Crankshaw, NW Regional Highway Safety at (814) 451-6717 ■



2014 Individual winners: Kevin Burkholder of Fairview, 1st place; Ashley Hope of Ft. Leboeuf, 2nd Place; Kevin Bogniak of Cathedral Prep, 3rd place.



Employee Spotlight

Q: What is your job title?

A: Sustainability Coordinator

Q: Describe a few highlights of your job and why you enjoy them. What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A: I work specifically on recycling efforts, liaising between the municipalities and the PA Department of Environmental Protection to help track recycling numbers throughout the county. The Erie County Recycling Program sponsors the County Convenience Center for recycling of household hazardous waste and electronic waste, as well as running education workshops including several on composting.

I love meeting people who are excited and passionate about saving the environment. People actually want to do the right thing, but sometimes don't know how, so I get to help educate, or sometimes re-educate them.

Q: What do you think is the most important quality needed for success?

A: It might sound cliché, but a good attitude is really important, especially when you work with the public. You need to be optimistic and stay positive, even if things aren't going well.

Passion is another quality you need; if you don't love what you do, then why do it?

Q: If your life story was pitched for a movie, who would you cast as your role?

A: Alex Kingston – it's the curly hair!



Meet Brittany Prischak!

Ready, Set, Unite: Strong Communities Raise Strong Children

Children are essential to the future success, prosperity and quality of life of Erie County and the world around us. In order to ensure the future well-being of the Erie community we must begin with the well-being of our children; all children deserve safe, stable and nurturing homes and communities to foster their health and happiness. Child abuse and neglect is a public responsibility affecting the current and future quality of life in our community.

As such, Erie County recognizes April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community. These organizations, agencies and communities are what make Erie County our home. We owe it to our children to increase participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening our community. Join us on Tuesday, April 7th at 7:45 PM outside on the steps of the Courthouse for a special ceremony dedicated to spreading awareness.

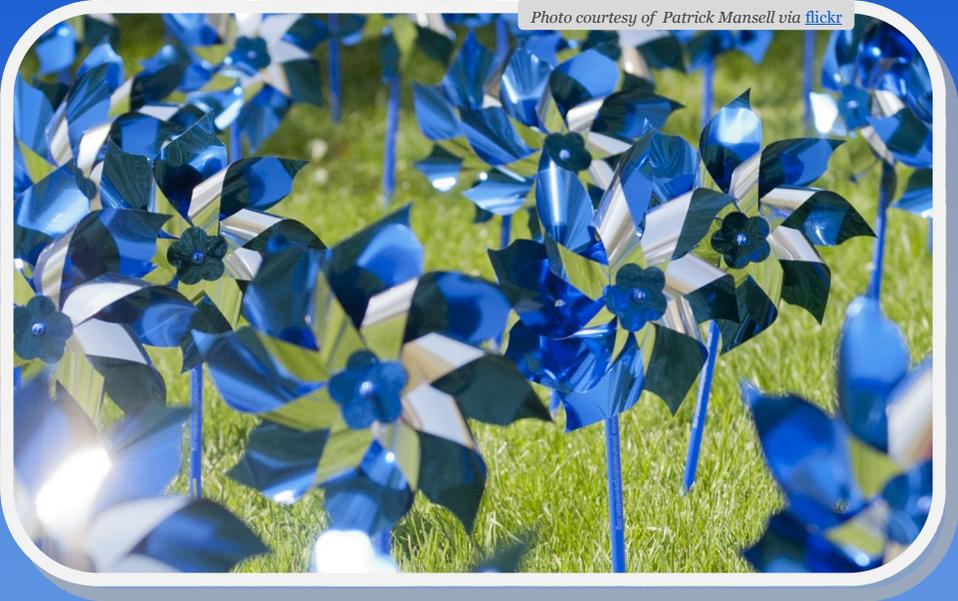


Photo courtesy of Patrick Mansell via flickr

Same Frequency, Same Page: Public Safety's Next Generation Radio System

In October 2013, Erie County Government contracted with MCM Consulting Group identifying the need for a capital investment in a new multi-million dollar radio system for the safety of our first responders and the Erie Community. The intent is to create an interoperable, single band radio solution serving all emergency first responders within Erie County. The County's public safety first responders are utilizing, in most instances, 1970 technology to communicate with one another. These disparate systems are unreliable and do not provide interoperable communications, jeopardizing their safety and citizens' safety.

This issue is seen present day, such as in the fire on Lighthouse Street in Erie in October of 2014. Lawrence Park Fire Department came to give mutual aid to the Erie Fire Department; however the two departments' radios do not operate on the same frequency. Simply not being able to communicate via radio made it difficult to control the fire efficiently. A first responder acted as a liaison between the fire departments, physically running back and forth to give orders. The New Generation Radio System ameliorates this issue by allowing all public safety first responders to communicate on the same frequency, allowing a more streamlined, effective approach to handling emergencies in Erie County.

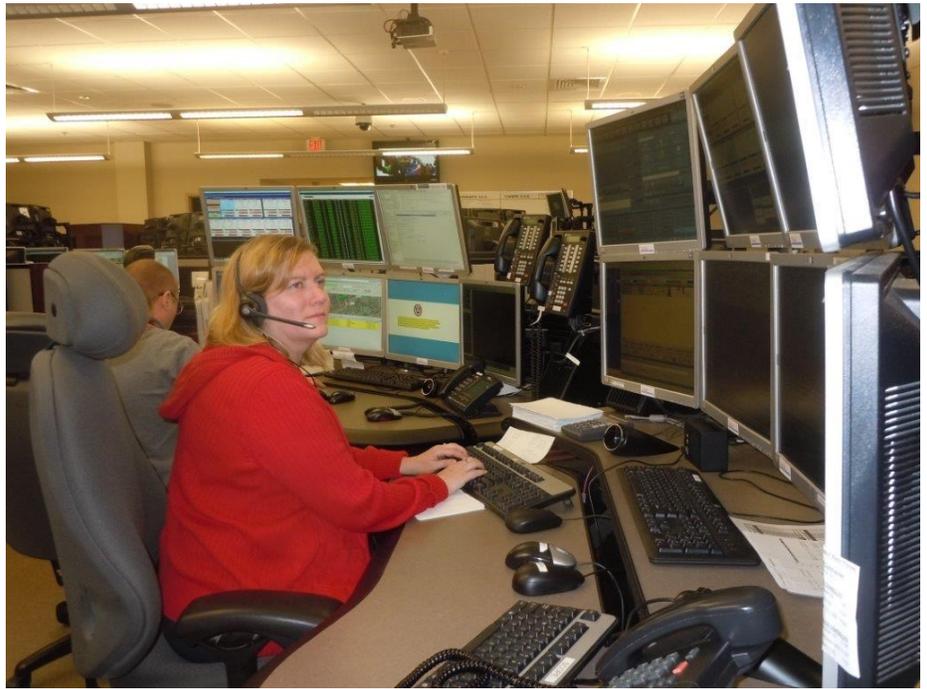
The system will have the capacity to support thirty-four fire departments, two city (Corry & Erie) police departments, nineteen other police departments (including university police), one Sheriff's department, Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management. In addition, the system would be configured as to permit "direct" interfacing to other non-county entities such as local municipal public works departments, State and Federal communications systems, schools, colleges, airport facilities and neighboring County communications systems.

The estimated budgetary cost of the system is approximately \$26.4 Million. Mr. Fiore Leone, Chairman of

Erie County Council, created a committee to study funding as per recommendation of the County Executive Administration. Furthermore, Erie County is exploring several grant opportunities for funding the mobiles, portables and pagers. All revenue received from the grants will offset the total capital cost incurred by the County.

On January 27, 2015, Erie County Council approved a professional services contract with MCM Consulting Group for project management. Phase 1 of this project began on February 6, 2015, and will last approximately 13 months. During this time, Erie County will obtain FCC licensing, tower site locations and develop request for proposals. Phase 2 will consist of the procurement, construction and installation. The project will be completed in 3-5 years.

The final report is available [here](#). Any questions or comments may be directed to the Department of Public Safety Office by calling (814) 451-7920.



DID YOU KNOW?

Erie County fun fact:

*Grandfather of
famous child star,
Shirley Temple, is from
Fairview!*



County Executive in the Community

County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper will be touring around the County; on Monday, April 13th she will visit Edinboro and on Monday, May 4th, she will visit North East. Keep a lookout for when County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper will be in your community!

Check out our Facebook page for more information about the scheduled "Meet and Greet" in each municipality.

The ***Erie County Connection*** is brought to you by The Office of the County Executive. For more information regarding our office and Erie County, visit the [County webpage](#) or like us on Facebook.



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