

erieIMPACT



A publication of the Erie County Department of Planning

2016 / SPRING EDITION



New Faces and New Places.....

If you have not visited the Erie County Department of Planning recently you may have a hard time recognizing us. We have seen a tremendous amount of change to our team and our surroundings over the past 6 months.

I was fortunate enough to become part of the Erie County Planning team in June of 2015 and soon thereafter we welcomed our new CZM Planning Program Administrator, Amy Murdock. A few months later we saw our Transportation Planner, John Morgan, leave to fulfill his new role as Township Supervisor for Millcreek Township. Our loss

will be Millcreek Township's gain. To fill the position we are welcoming Chris Friday to our group. Chris will begin his official duties on February 12th.

And if you have not heard, we have officially moved. Our new offices at **150 East Front Street, Suite 300**, will give us an opportunity to expand our ability for collaboration and creative thinking.

As part of our relocation, we welcomed the Erie Area Council of Governments and Emerge 2040 into our space to help strengthen all of our work.

We are excited about the challenges and new beginnings that all of these changes have offered to us and look forward to working with our existing and new partners in 2016!

Katherine S Wyrosdick, AICP
Director of Planning

“ Under the visionary leadership of Kathy Wyrosdick and with the energy of their new space, Erie County Department of Planning is poised to serve our region in ways that will ensure the long term viability of our community. ”

- Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper



Kathy Wyrosdick
Director of Planning

Kathy is the Erie County Director of Planning, charged with the oversight and management of programs administered through the Erie County Department of Planning. She strives to leverage the value and talent of the incredible staff within the Department with additional resources that will help municipalities meet their long term goals.

Kathy serves as the Erie County representative for the MPO and supports the Erie County Planning Commission. As Director, Kathy represents Erie County on a number of outside boards including Erie Area Council of Governments, the Northwest Commission, and the Lead Economic Development Team.

She is certified with the American Institute of Certified Planners, has a Masters of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan and over 20 years of experience in working on community planning initiatives. She has been with Erie County since June 2015.

Kathy can be reached at:
451-7338 or kwyrosdick@eriecountypa.gov



Joe Berdis
Community Development Block Grant Administrator

Joe is responsible for the administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program which provides the County and "entitled" municipalities with annual funding from the PADCED and HUD. Funded projects address housing and community development needs which "principally benefit low-to-moderate income families".

Joe also administers the County's Act 137 Affordable Housing Program which provides grant dollars to organizations and agencies to provide affordable housing opportunities to low income families.

Joe is a graduate of Gannon University earning a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree in Public Administration. He has been employed at the County for nearly twenty nine years. Joe and his wife Margie have been married for twenty five years and are the proud parents of two sons, Joe and Greg.

Joe can be reached at:
451-7330 or jberdis@eriecountypa.gov

Municipal Matters



CDBG

CZM/Greenways



Subdivisions

Farmland Preservation



Amy Murdock
Coastal Resources Management/Greenways Administrator

Amy administers the Coastal Zone Management and Erie County Greenways grant programs in Erie County. Eligible organizations for these grants include

municipalities, government agencies, non-profits, and educational institutions. The Erie County Greenways application period opened in February, and Amy looks forward to working with interested applicants.

Amy works closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Coastal Resources Management staff and other state and local agencies tasked with the stewardship of our region's coastal, natural, and recreational resources.

Amy enjoys spending time outdoors with her family, and strives to show her daughter, "Elliemonster," how these stewards have made an impact in our region.

Amy can be reached at:
451-7328 or amurdock@eriecountypa.gov

John has worked at the Erie County Department of Planning since 2007. As a Planning Program Administrator, he is responsible for the development, review, and/or administration of plans, and policies at the local, county or regional level.

John McGranor
Agricultural Land Preservation Program Administrator

John specializes in comprehensive planning and land use planning, and has been involved with numerous planning efforts, including Erie County's Housing Plan, Stormwater Management Plan, Greenways Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.



He currently administrates the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. John earned a B.A. in Accounting from Thiel College, where he also majored in Business Administration.

John can be reached at:
451-7329 or jmcgranor@eriecountypa.gov

Pete Link
Subdivision/Land Development Coordinator



Pete is responsible for subdivision and land development planning reviews in Erie County. In three years with the Planning Department he has reviewed and facilitated hundreds of subdivisions, replots and land development plans.

He is familiar with local subdivision and zoning ordinances and is here to help you get your project approved. Whether you are a property owner, municipal official, consultant or developer, his job is to help you understand the subdivision and land development process particular to your immediate needs.

Pete worked for nearly 20 years at the Erie County Health Department. His sewage planning experience there brings added background and continuity to better serve you.

Pete can be reached at:
451-7324 or plink@eriecountypa.gov

Although relatively new to Erie County, Brittany has five years of experience working in environmental sustainability teaching energy efficiency and conservation, recycling, beautification and environmental conservation.

She currently coordinates the Erie County Recycling Program, which tracks the annual recycling stats for Erie County, and works to ensure the availability of local opportunities for residents to recycle not only their traditional single stream items, but those hard to dispose of materials. Give Brittany a call for help with your recycling questions.

When not at work, Brittany spends most of her time outdoors with her three year old lab, Phoenix, hiking or birding in the many beautiful parks Erie County has to offer.

Brittany can be reached at:
451-7326 or bprischak@eriecountypa.gov



Brittany Prischak
Recycling Program/Sustainability Coordinator



Recycling

Transportation



Finance

Regional Planning



GIS

Mike has worked as Planning Program Support for the last eight years primarily as a GIS Analyst. He assists the municipalities of Erie County through the Municipal GIS Outreach program, which provides spatial data to volunteer municipalities.



Mike Baker
GIS/Planning Program Support

In addition to providing GIS support to other departments of Erie County, Mike is involved with various organizations such as the PA County GIS Professionals and Preservation Erie. Mike is also the Erie County Affiliate for the Pennsylvania State Data Center.

When not collecting maps and data, Mike spends time exploring the area geocaching and visiting other geographic oddities.

Mike can be reached at:
451-7327 or mbaker@eriecountypa.gov

Melissa has worked with the Dept. of Planning for the past 7 years. As their Accountant, Melissa is responsible for all accounting and financial reporting for the department's Program Administrators. She also works with the Director of Planning on many projects and participates in the preparation of the Department's Annual Budget.

Melissa Administers the Erie County Liquid Fuels Program, which funds a range of projects, such as construction, maintenance and repair of roads and bridges throughout the County's Thirty-Eight Municipalities.

Melissa is a Gannon University graduate earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. She is a lifelong resident of Erie.

Melissa can be reached at:
451-7322 or mplyler@eriecountypa.gov



Melissa Plyler
Accountant

2016 Erie County Greenways Grant Opportunity

The Erie County Department of Planning will be accepting grant applications for the 2016 Erie County Greenways Grant Program beginning February 1st through April 18th.

This grant program provides funding opportunities for municipalities and other agencies in our region to preserve and enhance our community's natural, scenic, and recreational resources. We look forward to continuing this work and assisting applicants as they develop project proposals for 2016.

Traditional grant proposals may request funding up to \$50,000. The County is also offering a mini-grant program for project proposals requesting funding up to \$2,000.

For more information regarding the ECGP grant round, you may visit the Planning Department website on www.eriecountypa.gov/planning or contact Amy Murdock at 814-451-7328 or amurdock@eriecountypa.gov



Erie County Greenways Application Workshop

The Department will be holding an application workshop on February 23rd at 9:30 am in the Blasco Memorial Library.

Organizations interested in applying to the grant round are encouraged to attend. Staff will be available to discuss the application process and program guidelines.

Eligible applicants include:

- local governments
- incorporated nonprofit organizations
- municipal or public authorities
- educational institutions
- conservation districts
- regional planning agencies



Annual Recycling Tonnage Reports Due

Don't forget, all municipalities must submit Annual Recycling Tonnage Reports to Erie County Recycling Program no later than April 1, 2016.

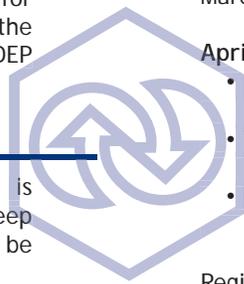
These recycling reports are necessary for tracking our recycling efforts throughout the county and must be submitted to the PA DEP every year.

Keep America Beautiful affiliation

The Erie County Recycling Program is exploring the formation of a local Keep America Beautiful affiliation which would be called Keep Erie County Beautiful.

Keep America Beautiful assists its affiliates with expertise and programs geared toward creating greater impact with local clean-ups, recycling and revitalization efforts.

Any organizations interested in learning more and being a part of the future Keep Erie County Beautiful, please contact the Erie County Recycling Program.



Composting Workshops

The Erie County Recycling Program in partnership with Environment Erie and Millcreek Township Recycling will be running composting workshops will start in April and run through June. Registration for these workshops opens in March. Don't miss the first workshops starting in April!

April Workshops:

- Wed, April 20th 5:30-8:30pm; Fairview Township building
- Thurs, April 21st 5:30-8:30pm; Lawrence Park Township building
- Sat, April 23rd 9-12pm; Summit Township building

Registration Fee: \$15 per household
 Registrations Opens for April workshops
 March 21st at 8am

Register at www.environmenterie.org

Additional information or questions, call 814-440-3953

