

# erieIMPACT



A publication of the Erie County Department of Planning

2016 / SUMMER EDITION



## Erie County Farmland Preservation Program 2016 Application Period Open

The County of Erie is a proud participant in Pennsylvania's nationally recognized farmland preservation program.

With the support of interested landowners, the program helps to permanently preserve farms for agricultural production. It helps to guarantee a future food supply and contributes to a healthier economy. It also assures that a way of life cherished by many Erie County residents will continue for generations to come.

This program is voluntary. In order to apply for the agricultural land conservation easement program, a landowner must complete

and submit an application. Through the program, permanent easements are purchased.

Landowners remain in possession of the land, but the easement limits subdivision, non agricultural development and other uses inconsistent with commercial agriculture.

The Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Board will be accepting applications from **June 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016**. Applications may be obtained from the Erie County Department of Planning, or from the department's website, [www.eriecountypa.org](http://www.eriecountypa.org).

Completed applications should be submitted to:  
The Erie County Department of Planning  
150 E. Front Street, Suite 300  
Erie, PA 16507

*Want to know more? Contact John McGranor at (814) 451 7329 or [jmcgranor@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:jmcgranor@eriecountypa.gov)*

**Erie County  
Department of Planning**

[www.eriecountypa.gov](http://www.eriecountypa.gov)

**814-451-6336**



Pennsylvania's Municipal Signal Partnership Program, (Green Light-Go Program), provides state funds for the operation and maintenance of traffic signals along critical and designated corridors on state highways. Act 89 of 2013 created Title 75, Section 9511(e.1) [Allocation to Municipalities for Traffic Signals] which is a new funding program for designated corridors. This year Erie County had four projects funded:

- **Albion Borough** – \$223,056 to upgrade the traffic signal at the intersection of Route 6 (State Street) and Route 18 (Main Street).
- **City of Erie** - \$67,361 to retime six traffic signals, install three new controllers, and install GPS time units to maintain updated timings and network coordination along Route 4016 (East 38th Street).
- **McKean Borough** – \$14,000 to improve a flashing red light at the intersection of Route 99 and West Road.
- **Wesleyville Borough** – \$27,708 to install GPS time units, repair existing detection and the systematic retiming at the intersections of U.S. 20 (Buffalo Road) and Bird Drive, U.S. 20 (Buffalo Road) and Eastern Avenue, U.S. 20 (Buffalo Road) and Station Road, U.S. 20 (Buffalo Road) and Water Street and Fremont Street and Station Road.



Additional opportunities for funding in your community will be available later this year. For more information on the Green Light Go Program funding please contact Christopher Friday at 451-7325 or cfriday@eriecountypa.gov

### Thomas C. Hoffman: Chair Emeritus

Mr Hoffman was named Chair Emeritus in recognition of his 35 years as Chair of the Erie County MPO and his tireless dedication to our region. If you never had the pleasure to meet Tom, chances are you have benefited from his work.



Tom was an esteemed player in the Erie Community since 1953 holding high ranking positions with the Home Builders Association of NW PA, the first Executive Director of the Erie Redevelopment Authority, the first Executive Director of the Erie Conference on Community Development (ECCD), and most recently the Chairman of the Erie Metropolitan Planning Organization. We have all benefited from his efforts and by him playing a key role in collaborating with private enterprise and governmental entities we have projects such as the Bayfront Connector and the Erie Water Authority.

Tom's talent for bringing together people was evident when he received commendation from Mayor Sinnott, County Executive Dahlkemper, Governor Wolfe, State DOT's as well as U.S. Senators such as Bob Casey. With his many years of service and long list of contributions the Erie MPO appointed him with Chairman Emeritus status on upon his retirement by unanimous vote. We were fortunate to be able to bestow this honor on Tom before his untimely passing on July 3rd, 2016. The Erie County MPO will forever miss his leadership and most importantly his friendship.

Ryan joins us for the summer to assist in many ongoing projects and departmental responsibilities. It is important for younger generations to develop an interest and become engaged in their communities, and expanding our presence on social media is one way Ryan will help create this connection. His work researching the impacts of the Greenways Grant Program and Farmland Preservation Program will help us understand their effect on tourism, agriculture, and our communities.



**Ryan Anderson**

Summer Planning Intern

Ryan Anderson, a Harborcreek Township native, will soon have a Bachelor's degree in Regional Planning from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, which hosts one of the few accredited undergraduate Planning programs in the nation. He was attracted to this field by the interconnectedness of spatial thinking, communities, history, the environment, and economics. In academia he has researched urban biodiversity and green infrastructure, protected bike lanes, and has worked on various community engagement projects in Indiana County, PA.

Of the many things you can do outside, Ryan particularly enjoys photography, rock-climbing, boating, and running, but occasionally wanders indoors to play musical instruments.



## 2016 Project Wrap Up

The Coastal Resources Management Program offers grant funding for projects that directly affect the Lake Erie Coastal Zone, including the Lake Erie Watershed. Program Focus areas include: coastal hazard areas, wetlands protection, enhancement, and creation, public access for recreation, intergovernmental coordination, ocean resources/biodiversity, public involvement in coastal issues, port activities and infrastructure, fisheries management, historic sites and structures, energy facilities and placement, and dredging and spoil disposal. Project types include: Construction, Plans and Studies, Outreach, Environmental Education, Research, and Land Acquisition/Easements.

The following projects were funded in part through the Coastal Resources Management Program, and have recently completed their project work:

### City of Erie:

#### Comprehensive Plan Initiative - Phase II

The City of Erie completed a Comprehensive Plan, an effort that has not been done at a comparable scale since the 1960's. This plan addresses strategies for the City of Erie by strengthening the "core" which includes: Downtown, East and West Bayfront neighborhoods, the Bayfront, and the 12th Street Corridor; and stabilizing and strengthening other neighborhoods throughout the City.

### Regional Science Consortium:

#### Contribution to PA Marine Spatial Planning - Archeological Survey and Inventory

The Regional Science Consortium facilitated the development of the Pennsylvania Archeological Shipwreck Survey Team, a group of stakeholders including an archeologist, SCUBA divers, marine educators, researchers, and historians. This group combined skillsets to provide education and outreach related to the shipwrecks in Pennsylvania Lake Erie waters. Team members also worked to develop a NAUI certification course, collected and inventoried historical documentation related to shipwrecks, and surveyed and inventoried shipwrecks and marine artifacts.



### Harborcreek Township:

#### Shorewood Master Site Plan

Harborcreek Township recently completed a Master Site Plan for Shorewood Park, located on the Shores of Lake Erie adjacent to Twelve-Mile Creek. The plan includes amenities such as picnic shelters, benches, a fire pit, a fishing pier, trails, and a pedestrian bridge.

### Erie-Times News in Education:

#### Restoring, Conserving, and Protecting Limited Coastal Resources

Erie Times-News in Education, in partnership with PA Sea Grant and other agencies publishes regular pages related to the conservation of Lake Erie coastal resources and citizen stewardship activities, especially those involving K-12 students. This project educates and involves thousands of citizens, elected officials, professionals and 6,000 K-12 students in protecting the PA Lake Erie Coastal Zone and the entire Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed. These pages address topics such as marine debris, harmful algal blooms, invasive species, and problems that can only be solved when citizens of all ages get involved. This project has been referenced by the National Sea Grant office as a best practice for informing and involving citizens.

Thank you to all of the grantees for your efforts in bringing these projects to life. Your hard work and dedication to the Coastal Resources Management Program is unparalleled, and we are honored to work with such enthusiastic and committed stewards of our precious natural resources within the Lake Erie Coastal Zone.



# Property Conveyance Requires Deed

Officials are reminded not to forget about the conveyance deed when boundary changes are proposed between adjacent property owners. These minor subdivisions are commonly referred to as “replots”.

A recorded subdivision is only the first step in the replot process as it identifies the legal boundaries of the parcel to be conveyed. The second step is filing a conveyance deed by the property owner. This two-step procedure legally conveys the property and assures tax assessment accountability.

Failure to record a conveyance deed could result in a parcel created from the acreage meant to be conveyed; not a good situation if it does not meet your municipal zoning requirements—OUCH!

Some municipalities have a requirement in their SALDO for a “draft” conveyance deed to be submitted with a proposed replot. This by no means guarantees a deed will be filed, but at the very least, this action gives the municipality the opportunity to reinforce the necessity of a conveyance deed between owners. Does your municipality have this covered?

If you have any questions, please contact Pete Link at [plink@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:plink@eriecountypa.gov) or at 814-451-7324.



KEEP  
ERIE COUNTY  
*Beautiful*

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

Erie County is working to form Keep Erie County Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful (KAB). Our application has been accepted and there are three (3) teams needed to complete several required tasks before our affiliation is official.

Those teams are working on:

- 1) Conducting a Community Appearance Index/Litter Monitoring survey, which is a visual inspection of county concerning litter and illegal dumping in residential, commercial and rural areas
- 2) Determining an Organizational Structure and creating governance documents and a board to oversee the affiliate
- 3) Identifying necessary resources, practices, policies, grants programs and contact information for local organizations that would be impacted by or participate with the affiliate



Our next meeting will be on June 23rd to review the process and ask for additional volunteers to help with each team. The teams will complete their tasks between now and October 16, with the plan to submit our final report to KAB by November 16, 2016.

Through the formation of Keep Erie County Beautiful, we are eligible for exclusive funding through both KAB, as well as our state affiliate, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. We will also have access to their extensive resources and expertise.

If you are interested in participating, email Brittany Prischak at [bprischak@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:bprischak@eriecountypa.gov).