



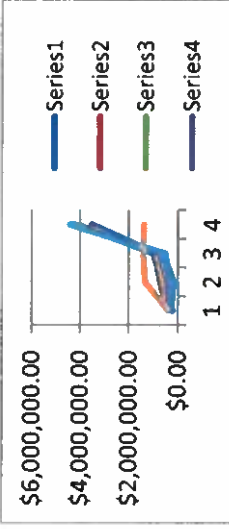
**E·C·G·R·A**  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
JUNE  
2021**

**Revenue Dashboard  
by Quarter  
2007 - 2020 YTD**



Year	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
2007	201,418.07	562,082.72	867,508.44	3,507,952.54	5,138,961.77
2008	366,211.37	672,936.98	941,125.00	4,063,561.53	6,043,834.88
2009	407,507.87	701,525.21	898,525.69	4,060,932.24	6,068,491.01
2010	385,476.85	665,559.96	962,909.94	4,073,449.24	6,087,395.99
2011	393,440.61	636,302.96	903,421.25	4,166,222.13	6,099,386.95
2012	356,241.99	554,752.50	794,443.73	4,114,583.35	5,820,021.57
2013	318,869.71	374,557.04	701,478.54	4,261,932.00	5,656,837.29
2014	281,934.65	315,628.24	584,126.03	4,350,692.65	5,532,381.57
2015	264,934.67	308,566.19	541,749.43	4,390,710.21	5,505,960.50
2016	271,003.84	300,719.61	507,757.83	4,332,642.04	5,412,123.32
2017	254,570.93	172,041.71	578,894.78	4,412,495.64	5,418,003.06
2018	375,769.51	1,317,928.22	1,394,780.33	1,362,089.40	4,450,567.46
2019	373,319.64	1,314,153.08	1,391,141.81	1,360,202.23	4,438,816.76
2020	345,218.83	1,033,868.60	1,319,908.61	1,247,584.00	3,946,580.04
2021	332,414.20				
<b>4,928,332.74</b>	<b>8,930,623.02</b>	<b>12,387,771.41</b>	<b>49,705,049.20</b>	<b>75,951,776.37</b>	



PP

**April 2021**

**Meeting with Executive Director**

**Ongoing Social Media Management**

**Ongoing Consulting**

**April Comms**

**IMPLEMENTED**

Sixteen April posts  
Special Events Grants – 22 Graphics Made – 13 Posted in April  
Meeting with Bridgeway Capital

**IN PROGRESS**

Holiday Graphics  
Bridgeway Capital Report

**IN PROGRESS | 2021 Grant Releases and Graphics**

Multi-Municipal Collaboration Round 1 grant  
Community Assets - Parks Field Trails grant  
Anchor Building Grant  
Multi-Municipal Collaboration Round 2 grant  
Community Assets - Arts Culture Heritage  
Community Assets - Community Centers

**2021 Multi-Municipal Collaboration (MMC) Grant Program**

**Round #1 Proposal Summaries**

**(A second round of proposals will be due 9/30/2021)**

**Four Applications Received**

**Total Requested Amount: \$147,000**

**1. Project Name:** West County Recycling Group Recycling Day

**Project Sponsor:** Girard Township

**Collaborating Entities:** Girard, Elk Creek, Franklin, Springfield, and Conneaut Townships, and Albion and Cranesville Boroughs

**Amount of Request:** \$17,000

**Match:** \$17,000 – mostly from a PA DEP recycling grant.

**Project Total:** \$34,000

**Previous MMC Grants for this project:** \$73,500

- \$ 7,500 Girard Township – 2016
- \$16,350 Girard Township – 2017
- \$16,600 Girard Township – 2018
- \$17,000 Girard Township – 2019
- \$17,000 Girard Township – 2020

### **Project Summary**

Seven communities in western Erie County conduct a joint recycling day to collect items that are not able to be recycled at other events or are not normally accepted by trash haulers or the municipalities themselves. These items include electronics, freon containing appliances, tires, motor oil, and other large items. The joint effort is an annual event that reduces operational costs for the municipal officials and staff and reduces illegal dumping that occurs in rural areas.

This would be the 21<sup>st</sup>-year the event will be held.

**Recommendation:** Support the project as requested. The event continues to have a stable number of participants and the number of items responsibly recycled. There are few options for e-waste or tire collection in Erie County.

**2. Project Name:** Corry-Lawrence Airport Strategic Planning

**Project Sponsor:** Impact Corry

**Collaborating Entities:** City of Corry, Concord Township, Corry RDA, Impact Corry

**Grant Request:** \$25,000

**Match Status:** Matching funds have been requested from the Commonwealth and are not in hand. The city of Corry will provide the cash match if necessary.

**Project Total:** \$50,000

**Previous Grants:** \$523,707 (Impact Corry)

**Project Summary:**

The Corry-Lawrence Airport is located directly south of Corry approximately 25 miles southeast of Erie. The airport is accessible via U.S. Route 6. Corry-Lawrence Airport is classified as a Basic airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. There is one runway, which is 4,100 feet long by 75 feet wide. Corry-Lawrence Airport provides basic general aviation needs for the local community.

With the loss of a major airport tenant (LifeStar), the City of Corry, Concord Township, Impact Corry, and the Corry Redevelopment Authority have formed a working group to formulate a 10-year business plan to leverage the airport asset once more for the benefit of southeastern Erie County. The project would center on a strategic planning process that would identify the new management structure, potential new users and uses. Federal, state, and local elected officials have requested a plan as a pre-requisite for future funding considerations.

**Recommendation:**

The importance of using this airport resource for economic benefit is significant as it continues to require maintenance, insurance, and utilities. Additionally, there are a number of entities working together towards that goal. Fully fund the project upon receipt of a signed Memorandum of Understanding and a commitment of a cash match.

**3. Project Name:** Jefferson Civic Alliance for Community Progress

**Project Sponsor:** Jefferson Educational Society

**Collaborating Entities:** Millcreek Township, Harborcreek Township, City of Corry

**Grant Request:** \$100,000

**Match Status:** The match for actual expenses totals \$129,300 and will be provided by the applicant. There is additional in-kind support provided for the program.

**Project Total:** \$229,300

**Previous Grants:** \$808,981

**Project Summary:** The Jefferson Educational Society will provide four main programs:

1. Three Jefferson Dinners will be held to discuss local government issues along with a prominent speaker. All elected officials in Erie County are invited and encouraged to attend.
2. Two to three Jefferson Essays will be published on relevant topics in Erie County and distributed to all elected officials.
3. The Raimy Fellowship will support emerging leaders and leadership theory.
4. The 6th annual Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy prepares 25-30 young professionals for meaningful community engagement through a year-long program.

The following is a detailed update from the Jefferson Society's Angela Beaumont about the deliverables from the 2020 project from the Jefferson Educational Society. It is being included since the closeout report for the 2020 project is not yet due.

The 2020 Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy Cohort ("Cohort") was tasked with examining the topic of "Leadership in a Time of Crisis: Proposing a Preparedness Model for Erie County." The Cohort explored this topic during the COVID-19 global pandemic that began in December 2019. After researching the early effects of the pandemic, conferring with business assistance organizations, and interviewing local businesses and nonprofits, the Cohort confirmed that the mandated shutdown severely impacted many businesses within Erie County. Even after businesses were permitted to reopen, limits on capacity and other health and safety requirements necessary to protect the public continued to have impacts on businesses.

As a result of this research, the Cohort decided the best way to address the topic of "Leadership in the Time of Crisis" was by sharing business resiliency tactics and information through a free and easily accessible business speaker series delivered via live-streaming on Facebook and available

on the Jefferson's website <https://www.jeserie.org/jcla-business-speaker-series>. In detail these discussions focused on the following topics:

1. January 12: How to Help Your Business Survive the COVID Pandemic: Financial Resources Available for Erie Businesses
2. January 19: Making the Pivot to New Models of Service
3. January 26: Strategies for De-escalation and Improving Mental Health
4. February 2: Small Business Resilience Toolkit: Preparedness Plans and Human Resources

In order to create an effective speaker series, the Cohort performed research including conducting interviews, reviewing academic material and news articles, and listening to expert speakers on relevant topics. This paper describes those efforts and addresses the following:

- the background of the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- its impacts on Pennsylvania and the Erie region;
- Erie County responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- creation of speaker series, marketing, and surveys;
- overview of the JCLA Business Speaker Series: Resources for Building Resiliency during Uncertain Times;
- a reflection on the project and potential future opportunities.

The full report is accessible for free download on the Jefferson's webpage <https://www.jeserie.org/civic-leadership-academy-projects>

JACP cohort to date, Jefferson dinners, and the topics of the essays:

To date, more than 145 participants have graduated from the Civic Leadership Academy. **The Class of 2020 graduated 19 participants** representing a wide range of non-profit organizations, universities, Erie County offices, social services, and the private sector (banks, funeral home, IT, insurance, car dealers). Participant's residency went from more urban to include county residency, representing an equal number of female and male participants and had a 35% minority representation.

While 2020 posed many challenges due to the impact of Covid-19 in every aspect of life, we are particularly pleased about the engagement, leadership, and perseverance that the 2020 cohort demonstrated during the program. Graduation and completion rate is 90% and the class attended all digital sessions and project working groups with great diligence. The deliverable (speaker series and report) was professionally done and of great use to the Erie community which was/is still recovering from the economic and personal impact of the pandemic.

The Jefferson has seen an increased interest in civic engagement and economic development among alumni materializing in running for public offices, being nominated to boards, becoming engaged in grassroots initiatives, and opening a business or accepting leadership roles in businesses. This development can be attributed to the skills and knowledge gained in the Leadership Academy where conversations with community leaders, elected officials, and experts as well as the interaction in the cohort nourish such interest and hone leadership skills.



The Jefferson held one Jefferson Dinner in January 2020 with Kristen Zeiber of the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative to present the findings of the “Charrette”, an assessment of Erie’s Bayfront development and creative place making opportunities performed in the fall of 2019. Due to the pandemic and ensuing gathering restrictions no further Jefferson Dinners were held in 2020.

Thanks to dedicated regional and national authors and writers, **Jefferson Essays and Reports continued to be published throughout 2020**. The following topics were chosen because of an acute need for information and research-based assessments of situations and issues that were prevalent in 2020, in particularly Covid-19 and health, economic impact of the pandemic, environment, racism and the Black Live Matters movement:

1. **Faith, Fears, and Facts: African Americans, Vaccinations, and the Fierce Urgency of Now for BIPOC Communities**, by Dr. Parris J. Baker, with Rev. Charles Mock, Pat Cuneo, Gary Horton, James Sherrod, and Ben Speggen
2. **A Pain-filled, Polarized America: Reflections, Recommendations on Racism in U.S., Erie**, by Dr. Parris Baker
3. **Erie & Crisis: Region Faces Unique Opportunity to Reimagine Itself**, by Dr. Judith Lynch
4. **Why Erie’s Downtown is a Proxy for the Nation: The Future of Main Street Businesses amidst the Covid-19 Crisis**, co-authored by Bruce Katz, the Founding Director of the Nowak Metro Finance Lab at Drexel University and a Partner with Accelerator for America, and Ben Speggen, Jefferson Educational Society Vice President
5. **Down in the Dumps: An inclusive look at glass recycling in Erie County**, by Seth M. Trott
6. **Report: Charrette Follow-up: Reconnecting Erie’s Bayfront**, by Kristen Zeiber

All Jefferson and Essays are available to the public and free for download on the Jefferson webpages <https://www.jescric.org/essays> and <https://www.jescric.org/reports>.

Angela Beaumont, JES, May 7

**Recommendation:** Continue to support the activities of the Center for Community Progress as detailed above in the amount requested.

**4. Project Name:** West Erie County EMA Technology Upgrades (Computers)

**Project Sponsor:** West Erie County Emergency Management Agency

**Collaborating Entities:** Conneaut, Elk Creek, Franklin, Girard, McKean, Washington, and Springfield Townships, and Albion, Edinboro, Girard, McKean, Platea, and Cranesville Boroughs

**Grant Request:** \$5,000

**Match:** \$5,000 which has been budgeted by the agency.

**Project Total:** \$10,000

**Previous Grants:** \$51,665

- MMC West Erie County Emergency Management Agency 2013 - \$15,400
- MMC West Erie County Emergency Management Agency 2016 - \$21,100
- MMC West Erie County Emergency Management Agency 2018 - \$8,500
- MMC West Erie County Emergency Management Agency 2018 - \$6,655

**Project Summary:** The 13 communities in the West Erie County Emergency Management Agency would like to upgrade its computer capabilities to enable remote work to operate its emergency operations center. The proposed tablets will be able to be used in the field using a mobile hotspot to be purchased with the grant.

**Recommendation:** Fully fund the modest request.



Dr. Gertrude A. Barber  
Foundation

*Making dreams come true.*

June 10, 2021

Mr. Perry Wood  
ECGRA  
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Perry,

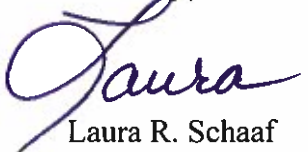
Thank you for your support of the *Barber National Institute's 2021 Events*. We greatly appreciate the very special gift of \$18,820.00 from the ECGRA's Special Events fund, which was processed on June 4, 2021.

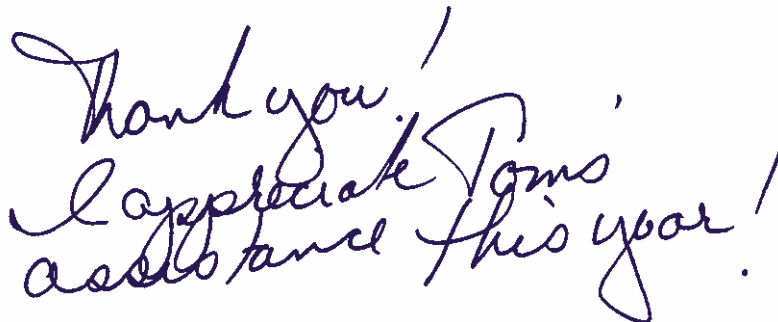
This donation will help make our 2021 Art Show, Beast on the Block, Beast on the Bay, Christmas Ball and Home for the Holidays events a continued success.

The Barber National Institute helps over 6,200 individuals with special needs in Erie, Girard, Corry, Warren, Pittsburgh, Bedford, Somerset, and Philadelphia. Your commitment to our organization and support of our *2021 Events* helps us continue the special work that we do, whether it's helping a child with autism learn to communicate, finding a rewarding career in the community for an adult with intellectual challenges, or providing assistance to a family through our vast array of support services. So many individuals and their families rely on the Barber National Institute every day for the programs and services they need to reach their fullest potential, and we are grateful for your commitment to helping us to fulfill our mission of *Making Dreams Come True*.

Thank you again for your support of the *Barber National Institute*. I wish you the very best!

Sincerely,

  
Laura R. Schaaf  
Director of Giving  
LRS/slj



# Erie County's World War I history explored in new book

A.J. Rao  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Erie County World War One Centennial Committee for the past three years has set out to honor residents whose service and sacrifice a century ago helped win the Great War.

While a memorial placed in Erie County Veterans Memorial Park in 2019 was arguably the group's crowning achievement, a new book, which pools research on Erie County's role in the



The cover of "Answering the Call: Erie County, Pennsylvania in World War One." CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

war, is perhaps their most significant work.

"Answering the Call: Erie County, Pennsylvania in World War One," is built on the committee's research of the roughly 200 men — each with connections to Erie County — who died in the

war, as well as the various contributions made by Erie County residents.

The committee will launch the 176-page book Tuesday at the Erie County Historical Society, at the Watson Curtze Mansion, 356 W. 6th St., from 5-7 p.m. The public is invited. Face masks are required.

The book includes biographies, a list of more than 2,300 Erie County men and women who served during the war, as well as chapters on the local infantry units of the 28th Division and the local machine gun battalion of the 80th Divi-

sion.

Other parts cover Erie's Gold Star mothers, the local Red Cross chapter and the time a German U-boat visited Erie after the war.

Mary Jane Koenig, chairperson of the Centennial Committee and one of the editors and writers of the book, said researching material evolved from "academic endeavor to an emotional quest."

"When we first started, we didn't even imagine that we were going to

See BOOK, Page 2B

## Book

Continued from Page 1B

write a book," she said. "But we ended up with so much wonderful research that it was just a natural path."

Koenig called the book a "work of love and devotion."

"We know Erie County really values its veterans and this was just another way of supporting that, bringing back the memory of World War I and honoring those of that era," she said.

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority awarded the committee a grant for \$15,000 to publish the book.

Eighteen authors and four editors contributed to the book, which was printed at Printing Concepts, Inc. of Erie.

A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gannett.com](mailto:arao@gannett.com). Follow him on Twitter @ETNRao.

### Where to buy 'Answering the Call'

- Little Annie's, at 37 North Center St., in Corry.
- Hagen History Center, 356 W. 6th St., starting in July.
- \$22 per softbound copy, with all proceeds going toward the maintenance and upkeep of the World War I memorial at Erie County Veterans Memorial Park.
- For information on the book, or to request a copy, email [eriecountyww1@gmail.com](mailto:eriecountyww1@gmail.com) or call 814-868-2225.

## Still ringing out



From left, contractors Dave Lesonik Jr., David Jullante and Gabe Colon clean up on Friday after attaching a new cover for the bell at the Little Church on the Hill in Elk Creek Township. GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

### Elk Creek's historic 'Little Church on the Hill,' a landmark since 1855, gets new bell tower thanks to local grant money and community donations

**A.J. Rao**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

For years, the bell atop the historic Little Church on the Hill in Elk Creek Township was enclosed in an aging — and slowly deteriorating — bell tower.

The wooden shutters, or louvers, were wearing out. The roof was leaking. And years of quick fix repairs had put the overall life of the structure into

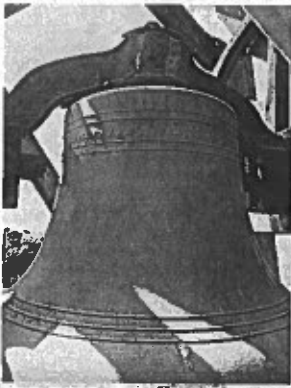
question.

But not anymore. Thanks to local grant money and community donations, the Elk Creek Historical Society was able to replace the bell tower Friday. The new structure, built and installed by Edinboro-based Mammoth Restoration, was designed to fit the aesthetic of the 19th-century church, while also extending the bell tower's lifespan for years to come.

"We essentially did a duplication based on a sketch from 1902," said Rob Shearer of Mammoth Restoration. "We wanted to restore it to its original intent because there had been numerous repairs over the years — and some outright replacement of components — and it was lackluster at best when we saw the thing."

Shearer said the project wasn't ex-

See BELL, Page 2A



The bell at the Little Church on the Hill is shown just prior to being covered with a new tower in Elk Creek Township. An inscription on the top of the bell reads "Meneelys, West Troy, N.Y. 1869." PROVIDED IMAGE

## Bell

Continued from Page 1A

actly a total replacement. Indeed, both the bell and the timber frame supporting it were kept in place. What was changed was the "exoskeleton," which, according to Shearer, was built off-site and then placed on top of the existing frame with a crane.

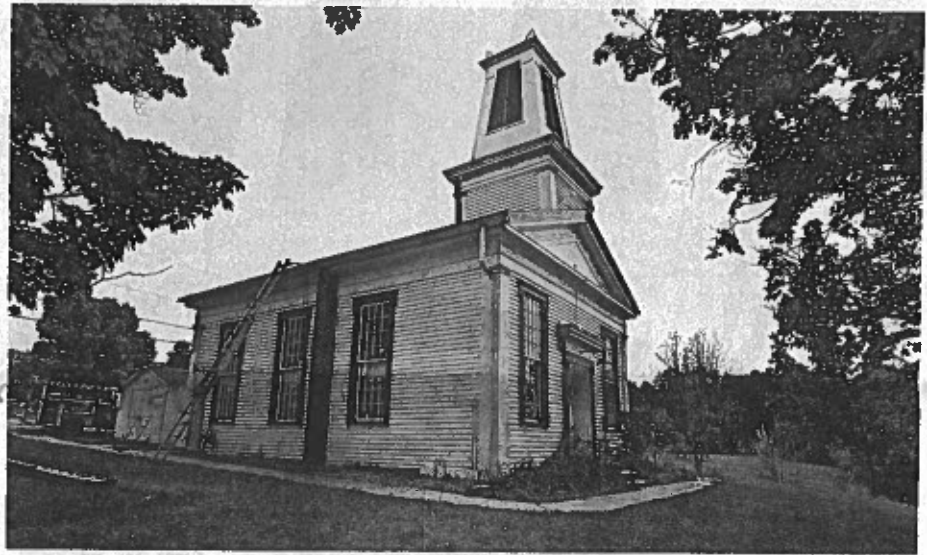
"You can equate it to a siding and roofing replacement," he said.

The shutters were handmade by Moses Yoder, a Springs, Somerset County, resident who makes custom polywood furniture, according to the Elk Creek Historical Society. All measurements were the same as the original.

Shearer added that his company used composite materials in making the bell tower to ensure the structure lasts longer than its previous incarnation.

Laura Rosecky, president of the Elk Creek Historical Society, said the restoration was a long time coming and a welcome project for the beloved church, which is now used as a community center.

"The bell itself is a cornerstone of Christmas Eve in this area," she said.



Contractors clean up on Friday after a new bell tower, top, was installed at the Little Church on the Hill in Elk Creek Township. GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

"The bell is rung during our December Coffee House — often with the help of a child from the community — during our Christmas Eve Service, as well as at the end of weddings and on historical or special days."

Rosecky said while the Elk Creek Township Historical Society doesn't use the building as a regular church, it does allow it to be used for church services, memorial services, weddings and other events for a small donation.

"We rely on donations from the community to help pay the bills and pay for restoration projects such as this," she said.

The bell tower project was made possible by support from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and Erie Yesterday.

Rosecky said the Elk Creek Historical Society is working with a local woodworker to explore options to turn the wood from the bell tower into keepsakes for the community, in exchange for a small donation.

"We are looking into more fundrais-



Contractor Dave Lesonik Jr. attaches four 20-foot bolts to the new bell covering inside the Little Church on the Hill. GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

ing activities for the summer, but we do not want to be a burden on those who have supported us all of these years.

The Little Church on the Hill was completed in 1855. The bell is from the late 1860s, so it was added to the church at a later date.

For more information on the project or the Little Church on the Hill, email the Elk Creek Historical Society at [echistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:echistoricalociety@gmail.com).

A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gannett.com](mailto:arao@gannett.com). Follow him on Twitter @ETNRao.

# Summer JAM program deadline extended

BY REBEKAH WALLACE  
rebekah@thecorryjournal.com

School is letting out, and Corry-area youth have the opportunity this summer to get a feel for the workforce.

Applications are being accepted until June 10 for Erie County's Summer JAM (Jobs And More) program, sponsored by the Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC). This deadline has been extended from an original cut-off date of June 4.

The program allows young people between the ages of 16 and 21 to partner with local businesses, work for the summer and receive on-the-job training and experience.

Desiree Higley, program manager, noted she believes Summer JAM provides networking opportunities and other positive experiences for participants.

"Summer JAM is a wonderful program that provides youth ages 16 to 21 an opportunity to gain job readiness training, career exploration and employment opportunities in Erie County," Higley said.

According to a recent press release from Erie County, 52 employers are participating in the program this year. Of those, 16 are located in the Corry and Union City area:

- Alternative Heat Source, 1322 Sample Flats Road, Corry
- Buzz of Union City Cafe, 64 N. Main St.
- Corry Cambridge Senior Living, 771 E. Columbus Ave.
- Corry Area School District
- Corry Jamestown Credit Union, 637 N. Center St.
- Corry Lumber True Value Hardware, 630 E. Columbus Ave.
- Dynasty Construction, 821 W. Washington St., Corry
- Erie County Housing Authority
- Evergreen Cemetery, Concord St., Union City
- Harecreek Campground, 375 Sciota St., Corry
- KC's Ice Cream, 13283 Route 6, Corry
- Maker Enterprises Lawn & Care Service, 12142 Turnpike Road, Corry
- Corry Redevelopment Authority

◀ See JAM, P.2

## JAM

(Continued from front page)

- Towne & Country Automotive, 633 E. Smith St., Corry
- Vintage Garden Floral Design & Gifts, 58 N. Main St., Union City
- YMCA of Corry, 906 N. Center St.

Participants will be matched with an employer and work an average of 22.5 hours a week from June 21 to Aug. 3, the press release said. Geographic proximity and transportation availability are just two factors that will be considered when pairing businesses with participating youth.

Additional partners in the Summer JAM program

include the Erie Community Foundation, Erie County Gaming and Revenue Authority and the Erie County government.

Application packets can be found online at <https://www.gecac.org/work/employment-and-income/summer-jam>, Higley said. Interested parties may also email [summerjam@gecac.org](mailto:summerjam@gecac.org) or call Karen Rayes, peer counselor, at 814-969-5381.

Higley can also field questions and is available at 814-897-6571.

Orientation for Corry and Union City participants will take place via Zoom on June 16.

# Applications still accepted for UC home upgrades grant

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Union City Borough was recently notified that its application for an additional \$100,000 has been approved by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) for the residential Renaissance Grant Program.

This is a two-year program, and the borough will receive \$50,000 in 2021 and an additional \$50,000 in 2022.

During Union City Borough Council's May 25 meeting, Borough Manager Cindy Wells informed Council of the grant being awarded.

The purpose of the Renaissance Grant Program is to remove housing blight and reverse deterioration, incentivize and spur private investment, make neighborhoods and communities more attractive, increase market value of homes and improve the municipal tax base.

In 2018, the borough received \$50,000 that was utilized in 2018-19 and provided for more than \$107,000 in residential improvements. In 2020, an additional \$60,000 was received and provided for more than \$140,000 in residential improvements.

Wells said this grant round of funding expands the area to include residential properties on North Main Street, South Main Street, Waterford Street and Perry Street and still includes East High Street, West High Street, South Street, and First Avenue through Sixth Avenue.

◀ See Grants, P.2

## Grants

(Continued from front page)

There are not any income requirements. The deadline to apply is July 8. The grant is made on a 1:1 matching basis, and the maximum grant award is \$5,000.

The following are the types of improvements permitted: doors and windows visible from the street; roofs, soffits, gutters and downspouts; exterior lighting; porches, stairs, steps; painting, siding, shutters; and chimney and masonry repairs.

Grants will be awarded based upon the level of improvements and the vitality and significant impact the project will make to a neighborhood.

The initial grant application deadline is June 19, 2020. This will allow proper-

ty owners to possibly have their projects completed in 2020. If there is additional funding available, another round of applications will be received. The guidelines and applications are available online at [UnionCityPA.us](http://UnionCityPA.us). For more information, call the Union City Borough Office at 814-438-2331.