

# OUR WEST BAYFRONT



November, December 2023  
Neighborhoods in action to build a better bayfront community.

## New Sign Celebrates and Honors Jerusalem Neighborhood History



A new historical marker at the corner of Sassafras and West 5th Street helps share the unique history of New Jerusalem and its impact on our region. This project was a partnership and collaboration between Preservation Erie, the Harry T. Burleigh Society, and Our West Bayfront. Supported by Gannon University and the City of Erie, this project was funded by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and Building Systems Inc.

The sign reads "Erie's first African American neighborhood, this nearly 30 block area located north of West 6th Street offered lots for early residents, welcomed

freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad, housed important small businesses, and provided a home field of the Pontiacs baseball team." To see a brief video about this history, visit [www.ourwestbayfront.org/jerusalem](http://www.ourwestbayfront.org/jerusalem)

## Street Tree Assessment Continues

AmeriCorps VISTA Eric Kassah is coordinating the first assessment of street trees in the West Bayfront, which will help us understand where there are opportunities to plant new trees and where to care for current trees.

Using an app that is available to all cell phones, volunteers are able to map the location and condition of street trees. No prior experience or knowledge is necessary to participate. Our West Bayfront is currently looking for additional volunteers to help complete this project! If you are interested, please contact Eric at [eric@ourwestbayfront.org](mailto:eric@ourwestbayfront.org) or by calling (814) 871-5514.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit [ourwestbayfront.org](http://ourwestbayfront.org) for more details

### Weatherization Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 4 10AM to 12PM  
930 Liberty Street

### Erie Handmade Fair

Saturday, Nov. 25 10AM to 5PM  
Erie Family Center

### Downtown d'Lights

Trolley Stop at Gridley Park  
Friday, Dec. 1

Sign up to volunteer at any  
OWB event:

[www.ourwestbayfront.org/volunteer/](http://www.ourwestbayfront.org/volunteer/)

## Volunteer Spotlight



This edition's spotlight is on Sylvia and Elliot Phillips! Sylvia and Elliot held not one, but two fundraisers for OWB this year! During the community yard sale and PorchFest, they sold their creations and baked goods and donated the sales to OWB. Their contributions will support future Gridley Park renovations. Sylvia and Elliot, thank you for all you do!



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## Fall Event Spotlight

There were lots of fun events to close out summer and kick off fall in the West Bayfront! West Bayfront PorchFest featured 21 local bands on various porches and mobilized four local businesses! GIVE Day had over 100 Gannon students partnering with West Bayfront residents to do litter cleanups, park refreshes, boulevard work, and more. Eerie Fall Fest had another successful year with lots of smiling faces and awesome costumes!



*PorchFest,  
September 20*



*Eerie Fall Fest,  
October 21*

Be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming events for the remainder of the year!

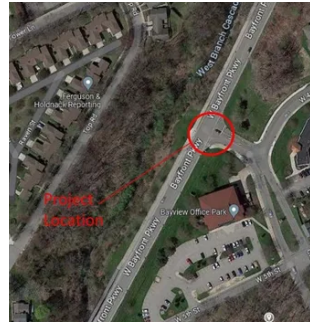
## Shop West Bayfront Businesses!

Small Business Saturday is right around the corner! Be sure to shop small businesses on Saturday, November 25 and every day to support local entrepreneurs. To see the full list of local businesses West Bayfront, visit [ourwestbayfront.org/companies](http://ourwestbayfront.org/companies).



If you represent a business that is located in the West Bayfront and would like to be included on the list, please contact Marissa Litzenberg at [marissa@ourwestbayfront.org](mailto:marissa@ourwestbayfront.org) or by calling (814) 871-7960.

## Cranberry Street Traffic Signal



PennDOT has announced their plans to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Cranberry Street and the Bayfront Parkway. In addition, PennDOT will replacement a portion of the sidewalk in the area, paving on Cranberry Street, and new pavement markings.

Improvements for pedestrians include lighting, piano-key crosswalks, and countdown signals for crossing. To read more about this project, please visit [www.penndot.pa.gov/RegionalOffices/district-1/ConstructionsProjectsAndRoadwork/ErieCountyProjects/Pages/Cranberry-Street-Improvement-Project](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/RegionalOffices/district-1/ConstructionsProjectsAndRoadwork/ErieCountyProjects/Pages/Cranberry-Street-Improvement-Project)

## Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative

The Erie County DAs office, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Attorney General, is adding the Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative to their efforts to combat illegal drug usage in PA.

This program empowers law enforcement, individuals, and families to get involved in breaking the cycle of addiction. By calling the Erie County Drug and Alcohol Committee and asking for the LETI intake, you or the person you are calling on behalf of will be connected to resources as well as promised no threat of arrest or prosecution for minor drug offences.

To learn more about this program, please visit [www.attorneygeneral.gov/leti/](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/leti/)



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