

We are monitoring when the SNOW GEESE migrate through the Middle Creek Wildlife Preserve. Watch for an event in either late Feb or early March. For more info, contact bonniepaparella@yahoo.com.



MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

Items of interest to MERA Members
February 2023

Want to know more?
Check us out at
merasite.org

A Note from MERA President

Volunteer work can be so rewarding and it keeps us actively contributing to our community. Many MERA members donate their time to great causes including MERA itself! MERA has sponsored some activities too like the Salvation Army bell ringing and the bluebird boxes. Watch this space for more volunteer opportunities. Our good friends at Muhlenberg Township have some volunteer ideas for us to consider. More to come!

Jim



*Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
Retirement is Great
Especially with YOU!*

*Happy Valentine's Day
to all our
MERA Members!*

MERASITE.ORG Treasure Hunt Challenge

The MERA website is full of useful, inspiring and just plain fun information. If you haven't checked it out lately, you should! MERA webmaster **Nelson Moeller** works hard to keep the site fun and informative. He welcomes your feedback and submissions. There are pages for gardeners, hunters, humorists, cooks and more!

Take the MERASITE.ORG Treasure Hunt Challenge and see how many answers you can find!

- Who said, "Complaining about a problem without a solution is called whining."
- What is the one flowering bulb that squirrels won't eat?
- What trips will MERA be hosting in 2023?
- Where can I find a recipe for good old-fashioned pizza burgers?
- Which MERA member was profiled in the July 2022 Hometown News?
- When is the next MERA general meeting?
- How can I register for a MERA special event?
- Where can I get a membership renewal form?
- Is the Topsy Turvy Apple Pecan Pie a one-crust or two-crust pie?
- Where can I find resources for Senior Emergency Preparedness?
- Where can I see pictures from MERA events?
- Why can't Dalmatians hide?
- Do you have to live in Berks County to be a member of the Met-Ed Retirees Association?

MERA Member Profile

If you want to meet up with **Joe Ravert**, visit the Renninger's Market in Schuylkill Haven some weekend. He has a stand there where he buys and sells sports cards, mainly baseball and basketball. Over the past 30 years he has amassed a collection of over 600,000 cards (that is not a typo).

Maybe it is not a surprise that Joe would focus on a paper-based hobby, he worked in the printing industry for many years. He graduated from Reading High/Vo-Tech and went right to work in a print shop. He joined the Met-Ed/GPU print shop in 1995. "You know all that useless stuff in your electric bill? We printed 6 million of those a month." (Also not a typo.) When the print shop closed down, Joe became a meter reader for 8 years and then worked a forklift in the Bethel Warehouse. Joe retired in 2014.

Joe and Lynne have been married for 37 years. They met at Sunnyside Bingo in Reading where Joe was a caller. Joe has a daughter, Mary, and a son, Joseph. He also had a Senegal Parrot for 15 years named Bandit. Bandit was a great mimic. "The phone would ring but when you picked it up, no one was there. It was just Bandit making you

think the phone had rung!" Bandit had his own leash and he and Joe would often go for walks together.

If you are looking for good television, Joe recommends all the "Chicagos" – Chicago Med, Chicago Fire, and Chicago P.D. It's best when they expand the story line and all the different plots and characters are intertwined.

As for advice for fellow retirees, Joe chuckled. "Not sure if this is advice or not but my Dad always said, it's not the Golden Years, it's the Rusty Years."

Company \$\$\$ News

FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE) will release financial results for the fourth quarter and full year of 2022 after markets close on Monday, February 13. These results will be discussed by FirstEnergy management during a conference call with financial analysts at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 14. A question-and-answer session will follow.

Investors, customers and other interested parties are invited to listen to a live webcast of the call and view presentation slides via FirstEnergy's Investor Information website, www.firstenergycorp.com/ir. The webcast and presentation will be available for replay on the site for up to one year.

The company plans to post its fourth quarter presentation and supporting materials to the investor section of the website after markets close on February 13.

Welcome New Members!

We welcome **Ralli Melnyk** (referred by **Larry Lenhart**). Ralli is the first new member of 2023. We hope there will be many more! Anyone who brings a new member to MERA during the year will be eligible to win a gift card drawing held during the annual Christmas luncheon. Help us grow by bringing new members to the fold!

February MERA Member Milestones

Happy Anniversary!

Cindy & Daniel Bausher
Richard P. & Patrecia Christ
William & Dianna Day
George R. & Nancy Fies
Willard H. & Doris Flowers, Jr
Mark & MaryBeth Mancias
Timothy R. & Barbara Nuhfer

Kathy & Lin Seyler
William D. & Barbara Smith
Virginia J. & Warren Snyder
Jennifer & Michael Stewart
Ken & Pat Templin
James J. & Susan Thomas
John & Leslee Wlodyka, Jr

Happy Milestone Birthday!

Denise Annaballi
Eileen Bauer
Curtis Bonanni
Norma R. Breiner
Jeanette Burkert
Dianna Day
Dale Faust

Julia A. Frith
Janice Grill
David W. Henry
Cynthia Piergrossi
James A. Strock
Lucy Torres
Michelle Yerger

Do you have any comments or recommendations for MERA? A program? Newsletter article? Please email MERA at meraberks@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY, WITH ITS
SUPERFLUOUS "R,"
IS ONE OF THE MOST
MISPELLED WORDS IN THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

