

Jan. 15 General Mtg., 1pm
at Muhlenberg Rec
Center.
Oldies Musical Bingo
Play bingo for prizes.
Sing along.
Consume snacks.



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

MERA

HOMETOWN NEWS

Items of interest to MERA Members
January 2024

A Note from MERA President

Well, here we are in 2024; we have a lot to look forward to this year! Great programs are scheduled and the trip schedule looks interesting! We also have a new board member, Donna Goughnour, joining us. I hope you had a joyous holiday season. Let's keep that holiday spirit all year!

Jim

MERA Member Bits & Pieces

One thing we know, MERA members are busy people. This column is all about keeping us connected by reporting quick snapshots of MERA member activities.

Before **Henry Robidoux** moved to Florida he entrusted a cherished lucky quarter to buddy **Larry Lenhart**...making it a virtual certainty that Larry will never have to buy breakfast for the monthly Leesport Diner breakfast gang. **Kathy Heffner** welcomed her third grandchild, a beautiful girl named Bria. **Kathy & Denis Dorward** are back from Disney. Congratulations to **Lori Lobb** who married Sue Perez in October. The couple is building a new house. **Bob & Debi Hartz** had a busy 2023: surgery, engagement, wedding and a new grandbaby! **Rob Kehr** is an FE contractor, in his retirement, teaching the next generation of linemen. He's ecstatic to be back in the air.

Got something for next month's column? Please send it to meraberks@gmail.com

MERA Bell Ringers Bring in the \$\$

MERA volunteers once again staffed the Salvation Army's Red Kettle, ringing the bell to raise funds to support their important mission. Volunteers **Kathy Seyler, Joyce Zeiber, Carol Lied, Tim Goughnour, Barbara Seidel, Ron Burkhart, Larry Lenhart, Russ Thomas and Cindy Doaty** raised \$279. The Salvation Army coordinator said, "Your cheerful bell-ringing and warm smiles undoubtedly played a significant role in inspiring generosity and spreading joy."

FirstEnergy offers Tips for Safer Walking and Driving this Winter

As the days become shorter and the weather turns colder, it's important to prepare yourself for common hazards that come with the season. Follow these tips to walk and drive safely this winter.

Safer walking

Wet leaves, ice and snow can quickly make walkways slick. You can be ready for slippery conditions around your home by doing the following:

- Shop for ice melting products now so you're ready to apply when weather conditions call for it.
- Check outdoor lighting and replace bulbs if necessary to keep walkways well-lit.
- Check your shoes and boots for wear, making sure there is plenty of tread for traction.
- When walking, keep your eyes on your path and take the safest route, keeping in mind it might not be the quickest.
- If you ever encounter a downed power line while out walking, always assume it is carrying electricity. Stay at least 30 feet away and immediately call 911. Tell others to stay away as well!

Safer driving

During colder months, driving conditions can change quickly. Rain can cause wet leaves on the ground to become slippery, and falling temperatures can turn precipitation into ice and snow. It's a good idea to:

- Check the tread depth on your tires and replace them if necessary.
- Make sure your wiper blades are in good condition and get new ones if they aren't.
- Slow down, allow extra time to get where you're going and maintain a safe distance when following other cars.
- In the morning, watch out for kids walking to and waiting at bus stops in the dark.
- If you come across a downed power line while driving, never drive over it. Always assume it is carrying electricity. Stay at least 30 feet away, keep others away and immediately call 911.
- If you are ever involved in a vehicle accident and a power line or electrical equipment comes in contact with your vehicle, stay in the vehicle and call 911. If you are in imminent danger due to fire or other hazards, know how to exit the vehicle safely. Watch the FE video for step-by-step instructions at <https://firstenergycorp.com/help/safety/safety-tips-videos.html>

2024 Membership Dues are Now Past Due! Don't let your connection to your MERA friends fade away.

MERA dues are still just \$5.00!

Follow these easy steps:

- Complete the renewal membership form. To find the form, copy and paste this address into your browser...

https://www.merasite.org/files/ugd/e7716b_bd5377e915a74fdbb692c12391e6d58c.pdf

- If you don't have a printer, simply write down the information requested on the form on a piece of paper.
- Make a check out to MERA for \$5.
- Send the form and the check by January 31, 2023 to
Karen Baxter, 2 Belgian Lane, Wernersville, PA 19565

The Sunshine Report

MERA's own Sunshine Chair, **Cindy Doaty**, sends cards and notes to members who are feeling under the weather or need a kind word. Recently, MERA sent sympathy cards to families of **Ron Frederick**, **Justina Campbell** and **Betty Harper**.

If you know of a MERA member who needs some sunshine, please let Karen Baxter know at kbaxter@ptd.net.

Welcome New Members!

A very warm MERA welcome to new members: **Kent Hatt** recruited by **Doug Myers** and **Carol Annaballi** recruited by **Stu Degler**. We hope to see you at a MERA event soon!

Remember, 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! **Cindy Thomas** won this year's \$25 Visa gift card!

January MERA Member Milestones Happy January Anniversary!

Martin & Sandra
Christman
Randy & Michelle Collins
Robert & Sandra Eidle
Michael & Suzanne Knarr

Gene & Christine Leshner
William & Suellen Maurer
Richard & Carol Morganti
Dennis & Nancy Nagle
Gary & Lisa Pleiss

Ronald & Linda Reddy
Bob & Judy Stump
Beth & Scott Wetzel-
Hozey

Happy January Milestone Birthday!

Norma Andrie
Karen Baxter
Paul Haring
Joel Hetrick
Helene Horn
Tina McDonough
Marion Reber
Doris Seiders
Sam Thomas
Faye Warmkessel
David White
Douglas White

Snowball
~ Shel Silverstein
I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.
I made it some pajamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first - it wet the bed!



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