



Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, April 15

ZOOM: 983 3133 2641 | Passcode: 821018

12:00 pm

Allen
~~Lohitai~~
Pearson

Murphy
Tempestini
Knuth

Boam
Conway
DeHaven

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes – March 18, 2021**
3. **Library Reports**
 - a. Library Staff Report
 - b. Report of Director
 - c. Review of Financial Report
 - d. Statistical and Other Reports
 - e. Report of District Consultant
4. **Board and Committee Reports**
 - a. Report of County Council Liaison
 - b. Report of Friends and ERLF
5. **Unfinished Business**
6. **New Business**
7. **Adjournment**
8. **Appendix**
 - a. News Articles

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes – March 18, 2021

No quorum, electronic votes recorded for policy changes. Meeting recording available in ShareFile.

3. Library Reports

a. Library Staff Report

Youth Services Initiatives —Shane Donaldson (summer reading), Tammy Blount (LibCon)

b. Report of Director

The Community College

Library Café

Capital Projects:

Children’s Room

Millcreek Project

Edinboro Project

Minerva Project

c. Review of Financial Report

See attachment

d. Statistical and Other Reports

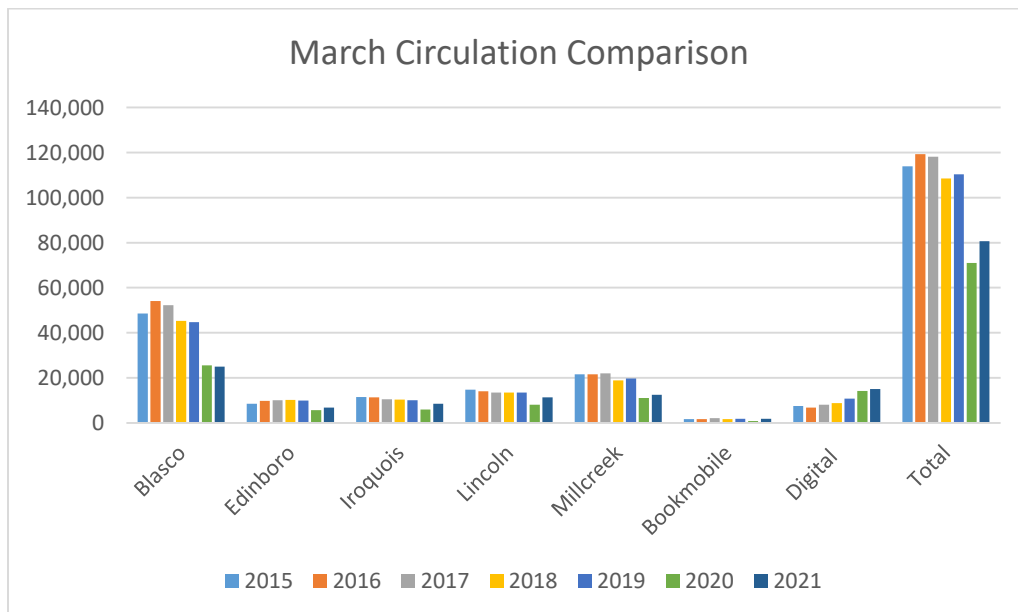


March 2021 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- **80,695** overall check outs, up **13.8%** over last year
- Circulation increase of **54%** over February 2021
- **2,979** Wi-Fi sessions, up **50%** over February 2021
- **1,674** PC logins, down **39%** from last year

Circulation



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Blasco	48,541	54,106	52,297	45,211	44,710	25,478	24,972
Edinboro	8,431	9,801	9,977	10,203	9,932	5,592	6,749
Iroquois	11,451	11,354	10,496	10,296	10,042	5,860	8,503
Lincoln	14,702	13,986	13,419	13,480	13,384	7,997	11,276
Millcreek	21,577	21,578	21,905	18,878	19,743	11,068	12,461
Bookmobile	1,688	1,673	2,083	1,638	1,782	799	1,739
Digital	7,452	6,763	8,001	8,817	10,744	14,138	14,995
Total	113,842	119,261	118,178	108,523	110,337	70,932	80,695

e. Report of District Consultant

District - Library Advisory Board Report
 Jessica Church, District Consultant
 As of 4/14/2021

OverDrive: Expanded Access to More Collections

New Castle, Oil Creek, Seneca Library Districts and Erie County Public Library/Crawford County Federated Library Systems have entered into an expanded Reciprocal Lending Agreement (RLA) through OverDrive. The RLA allows patrons to use all 5 OverDrive collections with just their home library card to access over 38,000 e-books and audiobooks.

The OverDrive resource provides free access to digital content such as e-books and audiobooks through a web browser or mobile app, and content is available to any public library card holder within the Northwest PA region.

The SNOE (Seneca, New Castle, Oil Creek, Erie/Crawford) region is excited to add another layer of cooperation between the districts and systems in the Northwest. There is a long history of cooperation between the four Districts, but this project is the most patron centric so far.

For more information, feel free to contact one of the consultants at snoe@oilcreek.org. To access OverDrive collections, visit one of the following sites:

- Seneca Library District: senecalibraries.overdrive.com
- New Castle Library District: lamb.overdrive.com
- Oil Creek Library District: oilcreek.overdrive.com
- Erie County Public Library: erielibrary.overdrive.com
- Crawford County Federated Library System: ccfls.overdrive.com

Legislative Advocacy Efforts

Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) is asking libraries and library supporters to reach out to their state legislators to ask for support for the request of an additional \$5 million for the Public Library Subsidy line in Pennsylvania's budget, which supports the state aid distributed to public libraries. Any contact in reaching out to representatives and senators to express the positive impact of libraries could greatly influence the collective efforts of this initiative. Please see the additional handout with more information.

Unrelated to Pennsylvania's Public Library Subsidy for state aid but related to library funding opportunities, American Library Association (ALA) has announced their advocacy efforts for the Build America's Libraries Act. This initiative focuses on federal funding to improve library facilities. They also have a one-page handout to talk about the proposed library funding bill at the federal level. More on this is also available on the advocacy handout.

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Report of County Council Liaison
- b. Report of Friends and ERLF

5. Unfinished Business

None

6. New Business

Approve change to Spring Staff Training Day date. Request move from May 13 to May 20 due to scheduling conflicts with Safety Presenter. Libraries will be closed a half day from 8:30am to 1pm.

7. Adjournment

8. Appendix

- a. News Articles

Find the library's latest media releases at: <https://eriecountypa.gov/about/county-news/news-releases/>

The **Erie County Public Library's** new bookmobile is now on the road.

The tech-friendly mobile library, which sits atop a 2021 Ford E450 vehicle frame, took its maiden voyage Monday from Blasco Library to five scheduled stops around the city of Erie, including St. Mary's Asbury and Parkside at Westminster.

"We're really excited to have it on the road now," said Sheryl Thomas, assistant director of the **Erie County Public Library**. "From home school families to seniors to everybody in between, there are people who really count on the bookmobile as their connection to the library."

While library officials announced the new bookmobile in early January and projected a rollout in a matter of weeks, a "paperwork delay" halted progress, according to Thomas.

"The vehicle was purchased in Ohio and there was some delay in the paperwork getting the title transferred to Pennsylvania and getting the plates," said Thomas.

Boasting laptops, printers and free Wi-Fi service, the bookmobile offers patrons a more versatile experience than its predecessor, which in late 2019 was deemed no longer roadworthy. The library had been using a van in the interim.

The cost of the new model was about \$200,000, according to library staff, with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding covering most of the cost.

The bookmobile has a collection of between 1,500 and 3,000 items divided between those that are on the vehicle and those in storage at the Blasco Library.

Patrons can request a particular item be added to the bookmobile by visiting the library website at www.erialibrary.org and selecting "Bookmobile" in the "Place Request" function. The item can then be picked up at the most convenient bookmobile stop.

Patrons can also do this by calling the **Erie County Public Library** at 814-451-6900.

A schedule of bookmobile stops through June is also available on the library website at www.erialibrary.org.

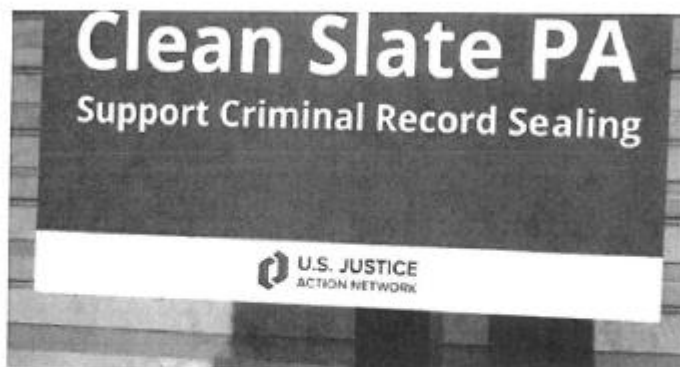
Contact A.J. Rao at arao@timesnews.com.

CITATION (MLA STYLE)

Rao, A.J.. "Bookmobile: Erie County Public Library hits road." *Erie Times-News (PA)*, ERI-TimesNews ed., sec. News, 6 Apr. 2021, p. A4. *NewsBank: America's News*, infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/181B0A440AE4DD38. Accessed 6 Apr. 2021.

Erie County Library to Host Program on Reentering Workforce from the Criminal Justice System

Monday, March 29th 2021, 4:21 PM EDT



The Erie County Public Library on Wednesday will host a job program for people looking to reenter the workforce from the criminal justice system, library officials announced Monday.

The virtual program, which will be hosted in conjunction with state Rep. Bob Merski and PA CareerLink, is set for Wednesday, March 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The event will feature guest speaker Brandon J. Flood, secretary of the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons.

Flood will offer his insight on Pennsylvania's Clean Slate Law, a first-in-the-nation law that went into effect in 2018. The law shields some arrest records and minor criminal histories from public view.

Participants will also hear from Rebecca Whitney from PA CareerLink on preparing a resume by somebody with a criminal record and the benefits for employers when hiring workers with a criminal record.

Registration is required for the event. Participants can register at events.erielibrary.org/event/7374604 (<https://events.erielibrary.org/event/7374604>).

If you are interested in the program, but do not have access to the internet, computers are available for use in the internet lab on the first floor or the Blasco Library and at library branch locations throughout the county.

Merski: Virtual event will help those with criminal records rejoin job market

Will feature remarks by Secretary of Board of Pardons Brandon Flood

Rep. Robert Merski March 29, 2021 / 3:12 PM

ERIE, March 29 – Residents with criminal records who are seeking to return to the job market will find helpful guidance at a virtual seminar hosted by the Erie County Public Library this week, state Rep. Bob Merski announced today.

Merski, D-Erie, said “Job Opportunities for Reentry from the Criminal Justice System” – from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31 – will feature remarks by Pennsylvania Secretary of the Board of Pardons Brandon Flood, who will provide an overview of the second chances available under Pennsylvania’s Clean Slate Law, and tips from a staff member of CareerLink – the state’s online job database – about handling the application process.

“For thousands of area residents with minor convictions or arrests without convictions, the Clean Slate Law is a chance to change the direction of their lives and show that past mistakes don’t determine future successes,” Merski said. “Wednesday’s virtual seminar will help these job seekers understand their rights under the law and offer guidance on how to maximize their opportunities.

“Participants will also have a chance to ask questions. I’m urging all area job seekers looking for a fresh start to sign up.”

Merski said the event will be hosted via Zoom, and people interested in participating must register for the call by visiting this link: <https://events.ericlibrary.org/event/7374604>.

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Home » Merski: Virtual event will help those with criminal records rejoin job market

MERSKI: VIRTUAL EVENT WILL HELP THOSE WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS REJOIN JOB MARKET

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NEWS

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