

Erie County Public Library  
Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, August 15, 2019 – 12:00pm

Blasco Memorial Library – Admiral Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes –July 18, 2019
4. Hearing of Citizens
5. Report of County Council Liaison
6. Friends of the Library Update
7. Review of Financial Report
8. Report of Executive Director
9. Statistical and Other Reports
10. Report of District Consultant
11. Report of Committees
  - a. Board Committees
  - b. Staff Presentations
12. Petitions and Communications
13. Board Development and Activities
14. Unfinished Business
15. New Business
16. Adjournment

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the  
ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

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**THURSDAY, July 18<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Felix Lohitai called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. NO QUORUM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

William Conway, Martha Knuth, Felix Lohitai, Mary Ann Tempestini

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Julie Boam (excused), Liz Allen (excused), Heather Canfield (excused), Devi Subedi, Trevor Pearson.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Sheryl Thomas (Assistant Director), Alyssa Johnson (Administrative Officer II), Marcia Wilking (District Services Consultant), Deana Cooper (Business Office Manager), Peg Shenefelt (President of the Friends).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 20, 2019**

NO QUORUM. Minutes will be approved via electronic vote.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS:** None

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON:** None

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Peg Shenefelt):**

- Peg introduced herself, took office of President of the Friends of the Erie County Public Library in July 2019.
- After receiving the final official totals, she reported that the Friends had earned a net proceeds of \$41, 085 from The Great American Book Sale—an amount down several thousand dollars from prior year. This past year, the group had over 100 volunteers that were extremely helpful including volunteers from Erie County Adult Probation, who helped provide physical assistance in moving books.
- Fall Book Drive dates have been announced: September 14, 2019 from 10am to 2pm. This annual collection allows patrons to donate books/ DVD/ Audiobooks/ Puzzles to the Friends for use during subsequent sales. Participants simply drive their vehicle through the garage area of Blasco Library, volunteers will unload their donations, and donors receive a receipt for tax purposes. There is a challenge to notify participants in advance of the process; many attempt to park and walk over donations.
- There were no questions from the board.

**REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Deana Cooper):**

Board financials were sent in advance of the meeting for review. Deana remarked that we are on target for this time of year. She provided an overview of the budget timeline and announced that her department has begun projections for the 2020 budget.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Blane Dessy, provided by Sheryl Thomas):**

Sheryl read the report provided by the Executive Director.

- Staffing Updates:
  - Onboarding our new Outreach Services Manager, Marcus Yuille, who is joining us from the JFK Center and District Attorney Office Internship.
  - Onboarding a new Library Clerk-Floater, Jillian Rhen.
  - Lori Metalonis retired on July 10<sup>th</sup> from her position in Youth Outreach. Her position will be posted once the job description has been updated.
- Construction: The door between the Community Classroom and the Idea Lab has been installed. This will provide convenient access for programming and was funded through the Beehive grant.
- Master Plan Updating: The Library team has met with Bostwick to review the cost estimates and scope of work from Phases III and IV of the Blasco Master Plan. As the plan was written in 2015, there is some need to requote figures and to add components originally omitted (such as the Heritage Room). As the plan is updated, we will solicit and welcome input from Board and Staff.
- Werkbot: Local consulting firm Werkbot Studios has been working with Sheryl and Alyssa to bolster our social media presence and make better use of the monthly Newsletter. Their strategies will help the library to better engage our patrons and community.
- E-Card: e-Card was launched at a press event on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Since the announcement, there have been lots of signups including 20 just this morning. The word is out, and much farther than we thought! 2 individuals from Florida requested to enroll; the e-card is for Erie County residents only. Marcia reported that the residency restriction is due to a limiting agreement with our ebook providers. Discussion followed regarding patron relocation and the expiration of the e-card.

## **STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Sheryl Thomas):**

The statistic reports were sent in the advance agenda packet.

- Sheryl called attention to the wifi login-ins being up 31% in the past month, noting that this is a trend. Circulation statistics are doing well, no marked changes. Program attendance statistics have no major changes, all library locations will be hosting Elephant & Piggie next week so there may be an uptick in next month's statistics.
- Additional report on Computer Technology Equipment Usage was included, recently created for assessing our tech needs in the upcoming budgets.
  - Laptop usage corresponds to how many laptops are checked out for use within each branch—they are checked out when the available desktop computers are full or when a patron elects to use an alternate work space within the library (laptops cannot be removed from library premises).
  - Wi-fi usage is definitely trending up across all branches
  - No questions from the board

## **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Marcia Wilking):**

### **10. District Consultant Report**

#### **Marcia Wilking**

- District Library Center
  - Began the new Fiscal Budget on 7/19. Huge thank you to everyone in the ECPL business office who helped get the 2018-2019 budget all that wrapped up.
  - Report on the previous fiscal year should be due soon.
- State
  - The proposed increase to library funding was passed. At this time, I do not yet have details on how the money will be allocated and dispersed to libraries.
- Advocacy
  - Please send a thank you letter your PA senator and Representative thanking them for the increase in funding. A template you can use or adapt is attached.
- District Library News
  - Conneaut Lake has hired a new director
  - Springboro has achieved their Gold Star in PA Forward
- Thank You Letters
  - Marcia has provided template letters to thank our local legislators for their role in securing increased library funding at the state level.
  - Patron Letter template included below
  - Board Thank You letter to representatives, to be signed at end of meeting
- District Consultant Summit
  - Marcia will be in State College, PA next week to attend the District Consultant Summit

Letter template to send Thank You (as individuals) for library funding

[Date]

[Name of Staffer, if applicable]

The Honorable [first name, last name]

Pennsylvania House of Representatives (or Pennsylvania Senate)

[Office number and Building ]

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Representative (or Senator) [last name]:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the 2019-2020 Pennsylvania budget's support of libraries.

[Briefly list why your library is important to you. This should 1-3 reasons. "My local library is important because..." or "I go to the library to..."]

[Your local library name] is a vital part of our community and this funding increase is important to ensuring its continued operation.

The legislature's continued financial investment in libraries is critical to this community and to our entire state.

Sincerely,

[your name and any credentials]

PA Representative	PA Senator
<a href="#">Brad Roae (R)</a>	<a href="#">Daniel Laughlin (R)</a>
<a href="#">Curtis G. Sonney (R)</a>	<a href="#">Michele Brooks (R)</a>
<a href="#">Parke Wentling (R)</a>	
<a href="#">Patrick J. Harkins (D)</a>	
<a href="#">Robert E. Merski (D)</a>	
<a href="#">Ryan A. Bizzarro (D)</a>	

**STAFF PRESENTATIONS: (Sheryl Thomas)**

Sheryl provided updates on the Bookmobile Study. This study will be used to inform budget requests as the ECPL looks to replace our existing bookmobile.

Findings:

- General library trend has moved from an oversized mobile book library to a smaller more diverse vehicle.
- Current bookmobiles are adding mobile wifi, technology, resume workshops, STEM/STEAM/STREAM materials & programming.
- Her recommendation will be to acquire 1 vehicle (or more) to house print materials *and* additional technology, plus programming. Having a smaller vehicle will lend a versatility, but we still want to keep the books in bookmobile.
- ECPL will seek to evaluate the current bookmobile routes to determine their effectiveness in serving our county population. The evaluation will also unveil which stops are used by patrons to browse & select new materials versus the stops that are used to mostly deliver library holds placed by patrons in advance.
- By decreasing the overall size of the vehicle, we hope to increase the number of willing staff drivers. This will help fill potential shift vacancies and increase the overall capacity.
- ECPL will be adding the bookmobile request to our 2020 budget.
- No questions or comments from the board.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES: none**

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

There are several news releases included.

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES: none**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

June meeting minutes will be emailed to board members and approved through electronic vote.

Branch Programming Space policy revision will be sent for electronic vote.

Reservations Policy revision will be sent for electronic vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Branch Programming Space Policy revision (Presented via electronic vote)**

**Reservation Policy, Room 219 (Presented via electronic vote)**

**The next Advisory Board meeting is August 15, 2019.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

## In the News

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 12, 2019

**CONTACT:**

Sheryl Thomas

sthomas@eriecountypa.gov

814-451-6900

# Erie County Public Library launches e-Card program

Erie, PA – The Erie County Public Library has launched an e-Card initiative, which allows county residents who do not have a library card to register for a library card online, giving them access to vast digital resources available free of charge.

County residents seeking to get a library card no longer have to go to an Erie County Public Library location to register. They can register online at <http://erielibrary.org/services/get-a-library-card>.

The e-Card will allow residents to use all digital resources provided by the Erie County Public Library, including e-books, audiobooks, streaming video and music, local and national newspapers, online courses, research databases and more.

“The e-card is a new step in bringing the library to your home or mobile device, particularly for those who cannot visit the public library,” said Blane Dessy, director of the Erie County Public Library. “If you’re too far from a library, don’t have transportation, or are unable to visit the library, this is the solution. We’re especially excited to work with local school districts, senior living centers and other community organizations to bring library access to those who may not otherwise have it.”

After a county resident registers online for an e-Card, a library card will be mailed to their residence within a week. They can then use the card to access digital resources available at [www.erielibrary.org](http://www.erielibrary.org). Cardholders may opt to convert their e-Card to a standard library card by visiting an Erie County Public Library location with proof of address.

Library patrons who currently have a library card do not have to register for an e-Card, as they already have access to the library’s digital services.

###

## **Erie County Libraries roll out new online program**

### **LOCAL NEWS**

**Posted: Jul 10, 2019 / 05:50 PM EDT / Updated: Jul 10, 2019 / 05:50 PM EDT**

Residents throughout Erie County are now able to access all of the County Library's resources online.

The library's new e-card service, where residents can access books, movies, and other materials online, launched today.

The Executive Director of the Library said she hopes to reach people in rural areas, children who are home schooled, and people with disabilities.

During an e-card informational session, community leaders spoke about the importance of all residents being able to access information.

"Now for example, if a person is interested in genealogy, they can use our genealogy databases for free simply by getting an e-card," said Blane Dessy, Executive Director, Erie County Library.

If you have a traditional library card, you do not need to get an e-card to access the library's online resources.

**News Segment aired WJET: July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

<https://www.yourerie.com/news/local-news/erie-county-libraries-roll-out-new-online-program/>

**Electronic Vote Results:**

Approve *June 2019 Meeting Minutes:*

Name	Yes	No
Allen	X	
Boam	X	
Canfield	ABSTAIN	
Conway	X	
Knuth	X	
Lohitai	X	
Pearson	X	
Subedi	ABSTAIN	
Tempestini	X	

Approve *Branch Programming Space Policy* revision

Name	Yes	No
Allen	X	
Boam	X	
Canfield	X	
Conway	X	
Knuth	X	
Lohitai	X	
Pearson	X	
Subedi	X	
Tempestini	X	

Approve *Reservations Policy, Room 219*

Name	Yes	No
Allen	X	
Boam	X	
Canfield	X	
Conway	X	
Knuth	X	
Lohitai	X	
Pearson	X	
Subedi	X	
Tempestini	X	

## **7. Review of Financial Report**

See attached Monthly Library Fund Report—August 8, 2019.

## 9. Statistical and Other Reports

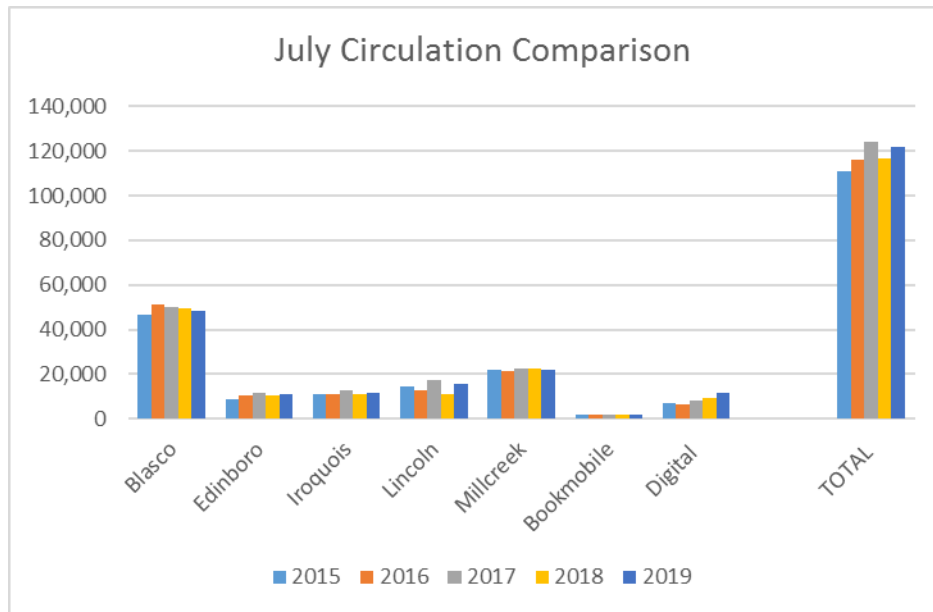


July 2019 Statistics

### Numbers Snapshot

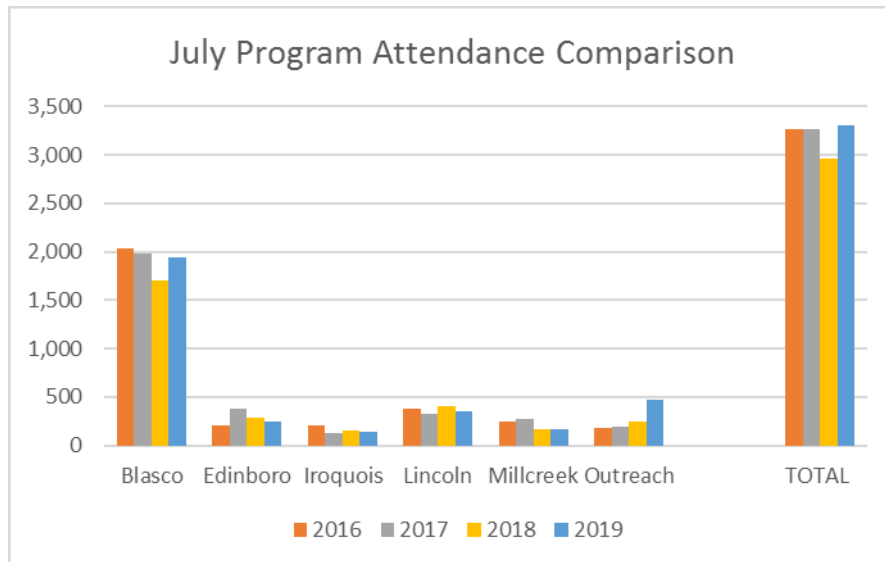
- **188** programs offered for all ages, up 8.7% from last year
- **55,392** visits, up 7% over last year and 11% over last month
- **121,736** total circulation, up 4.5% over last year and 22.7% over last month
- **754,594** total circulation YTD, up .25% from last year

### Circulation

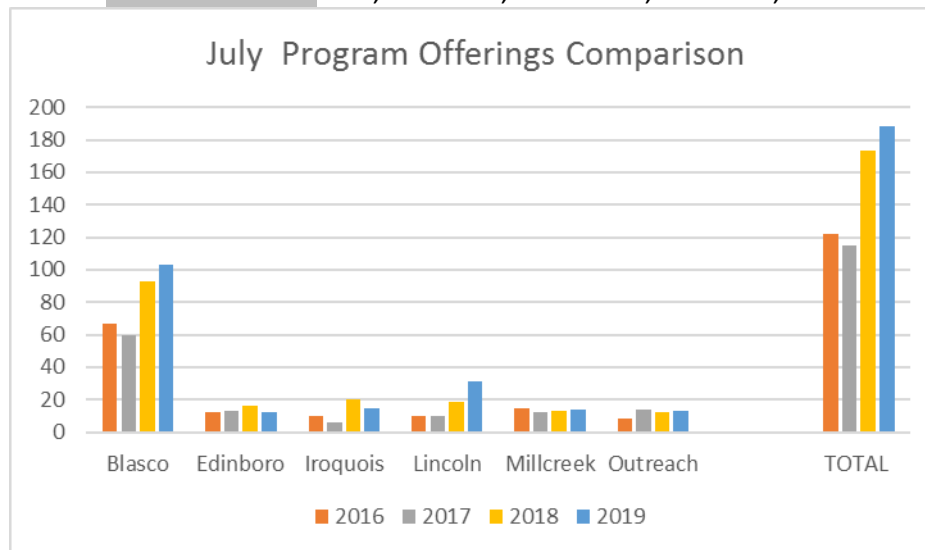


	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Blasco</b>	46,639	51,440	50,219	49,660	48,218
<b>Edinboro</b>	8,587	10,196	11,690	10,442	10,981
<b>Iroquois</b>	11,246	11,164	12,530	11,216	11,659
<b>Lincoln</b>	14,239	12,982	17,268	11,327	15,887
<b>Millcreek</b>	21,704	21,590	22,475	22,268	21,797
<b>Bookmobile</b>	1,619	1,754	2,014	1,976	1,713
<b>Digital</b>	6,765	6,721	8,010	9,562	11,481
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110,799</b>	<b>115,847</b>	<b>124,206</b>	<b>116,451</b>	<b>121,736</b>

## Programs



	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Blasco</b>	2,030	1,979	1,707	1,945
<b>Edinboro</b>	212	373	287	241
<b>Iroquois</b>	204	126	152	136
<b>Lincoln</b>	380	330	404	353
<b>Millcreek</b>	251	270	168	160
<b>Outreach</b>	182	190	245	465
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>3,268</b>	<b>2,963</b>	<b>3,300</b>



	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Blasco</b>	67	60	93	103
<b>Edinboro</b>	12	13	16	12
<b>Iroquois</b>	10	6	20	15
<b>Lincoln</b>	10	10	19	31
<b>Millcreek</b>	15	12	13	14
<b>Outreach</b>	8	14	12	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>188</b>

## 10. District Consultant Report

Marcia Wilking

### Marcia—out of town

- District Library Consultant
  - The annual district report is due to the state on August 26<sup>th</sup>
  - The district is also receiving a 9% increase in district aid – we will be meeting soon to determine how to spend these funds
- State
  - The increase in library funding will be given out at approximately 9% to all libraries. The formula that governs the total aid to each library is not being re-run this year. The increase is simply being added to the current amounts based off of when the last formula was run in 2003
  - Later this month a survey will be coming out from the state for library directors, staff and board members asking what types of training and topics would be most beneficial to you. If you have ideas and suggestions, please email Marcia at [mwilking@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:mwilking@eriecountypa.gov) the board president will also be receiving a copy of the survey.
- District Library News
  - Saegertown has a new director
  - The Titusville library director has been named the director of the Wellington Public Library in New Zealand, he will be leaving soon
  - Cochranon is celebrating 50 years

## 11. Report of Committees

a. Board Committees

b. Staff Presentations—Deana Cooper/ Blane Dessy: 2020 Budget

## **News Articles**

Erie Reader, July 31<sup>st</sup>, "Erie is Giving More"

<https://www.eriereader.com/article/erie-is-giving-more>

**Who:** Brian Graham, Editor-in-Chief

**Giving to:** [Friends of the Erie County Public Library](#).

**Who they are:** Friends of the [Erie County Public Library](#) is an organization dedicated to helping support the numerous activities and programs for adults and children offered by the Erie County Public Library.

**Why I am giving:** Since before she was even able to sit up on her own, my daughter has been a regular at the Blasco Library. She absolutely loves the staff in the Children's Library and is a regular at the Tuesday Toddler Time program. She's always eager to share the crafts she makes and new songs she learns from the instructor. And she usually leaves with a big bag of books to read at home. The Blasco Library is a community treasure and I'm happy to support it this Erie Gives Day.

**Bonus:** My daughter feels very comfortable in the Children's Library and will often go to the front of the class and stand next to the instructor like she's the assistant during story time and songs.

# STOP

*Times News 7-26-19*

## GOOD MORNING

# Rediscovering fishing at Presque Isle



**Dana Massing**

**M**y late father and maternal grandfather liked to fish and I occasionally tagged along when I was a kid.

We'd drive to Presque Isle State Park and go out on Presque Isle Bay in winter when it was frozen or head to the park's North Pier in summer.

I still remember, and feel guilty about, the "big one that got away."

We were on the pier and I was using one of my grandfather's new fishing poles. I set it down for a few seconds to get a pop out of the cooler and as I went to pick the pole back up, it went flying off the pier and into the water of the channel, pulled by the fish that had taken the bait and everything attached to it.

I'd like to take my 4-year-old daughter

fishing, but it's been a long time since I've put a worm on a hook or taken a fish off one. So I was excited to see that one of the activities at this weekend's Discover Presque Isle is Family Fishing.

The S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie will be at the Waterworks floating dock near the Rotary Pavilion on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. They'll provide equipment and, I'm sure, their expertise on how to use it.

Save Our Native Species of Lake Erie is a fishing club "dedicated to the improvement of fishing on Lake Erie and its Pennsylvania tributaries," according to its website. The S.O.N.S. have a hatchery and stock local waterways. They also offer numerous programs like Family Fishing.

While I'm pretty certain I can still get bait on a hook, I'm no longer as confident about my ability to remove a fish and would welcome help from the S.O.N.S.

In addition, according to the website for

the Presque Isle Partnership, which puts on Discover Presque Isle, "a fishing license is not required when participating" in the Saturday Family Fishing program. That's good news for DPI visitors who don't have a fishing license or can't afford one. A one-day license for a Pennsylvania resident age 16 and up is \$11.90, according to the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's website. An annual license for ages 16-64 is \$22.90.

So I plan to rediscover fishing this weekend at Presque Isle and introduce Rose to it. It's one of several activities we plan to experience over the three-day celebration of the state park that runs Friday through Sunday.

To see the full DPI schedule, visit [www.discoverpi.com](http://www.discoverpi.com).

*Erie Times-News staff writers share their views from behind the scenes, stories and bylines. Dana Massing can be reached at 870-1729. Send email to [dana.massing@timesnews.com](mailto:dana.massing@timesnews.com).*

## 3 THINGS TO DO TODAY

*Find more events and add your own for free at [www.GoErie.com/thingstodo](http://www.GoErie.com/thingstodo).*

**S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie Present:**

**Go Fish:** 10 a.m. to noon. Iroquois Avenue Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave. Presenters will provide a bucketful of information about fishing with activities for all ages. The group is passionate about responsible fishing and the public's right to access local waterways. Free. For more information, call 451-7082.

**Hazard Con 2019:** Noon to 5 p.m., Friday through Sunday. Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center, 7794 Peach St. Delve into manga, anime, gaming and Japanese pop culture. \$40 at the door, good for all three days. \$15 for Sunday only at the door. For more information, visit [www.hazardcon.org](http://www.hazardcon.org).

**Sounds Around Town:** 7 p.m. WQLN Public Media, 8425 Peach St. East Ave will play its unique Americana-style music. Free. Concessions include free food and beverage samples from Smith's Provisions, Erie Beer and Mill Creek Coffee. Bring a chair or blanket. For more information, call 864-3001.

# Libraries Blazing Star-Aligned Trails Throughout Pennsylvania

July 22, 2019 [Compendium News Staff](#) In [Academic Libraries](#), [Library News](#), [PA Forward](#), [Resources of Interest](#), [Rural and Small Libraries](#)

## ***Pennsylvania Library Association recognizes libraries for PA Forward™ Star achievements earned between April 1 and June 30, 2019***

**Mechanicsburg, PA (July 22, 2019)** – The Pennsylvania Library Association just announced the 2019 second quarter PA Forward™ Star Library awardees. More than 30 libraries from throughout the state earned their *star status* and are being recognized by the Association for their efforts to provide patrons with educational resources and opportunities. “The PA Forward Star Library program spotlights libraries’ efforts to continue making intentional investments in literacy-aligned programs,” said **Christi Buker**, Pennsylvania Library Association Executive Director. “Our libraries continue to be community pillars, meeting citizen needs, helping businesses, government organizations and others connect with local residents, sharing resources and information which have the potential to positively impact multiple lives.

“Yes, you can go to your local library and check out books, but these agile institutions demonstrate day in and day out they offer more than books,” Buker added. “Libraries offer the world to those who enter their doors. It is an honor to highlight those efforts with the PA Forward Star Library designation. Congratulations to all of our participating Star Libraries.”

PA Forward, which launched statewide in 2012, works through five key literacies – Basic, Information, Civic & Social, Health and Financial – to assist individuals in enhancing their overall quality of life. To continue helping libraries use PA Forward to demonstrate all their libraries offer, in January 2017, the Association kicked off the Star Library program statewide. The Star Library recognition offers support to libraries who participate and integrate PA Forward’s literacies in their programming activities. Program topics can include information such as retirement planning (financial literacy) to more physically active programs such as walking book club discussions (civic and social literacy and health literacy).

Libraries are recognized for meeting benchmarks within the bronze, silver and gold star levels of the program. While one star is awarded for both the bronze and gold levels, a total of five stars are awarded in the silver category – one silver star for each of the five literacies of PA Forward. For each silver star award, a number appears denoting the number of silver stars obtained to date.

Stars are awarded on a quarterly basis in the calendar year and the recognition is for the highest level attained in the program at the time of the award. The libraries noted below are those that earned a first-time star or a new star level **between April 1 and June 30, 2019**. For a full listing of PA Forward Star Libraries, visit <http://pafowardstarlibraries.org/star-status/>. The next round of awards will be announced after Sept. 30, 2019.

The list of awardees, by county, follows:

### ***Allegheny County***

Carnegie Free of Swissvale – Bronze  
Bronze

Community Library of Allegheny Valley –

Cooper-Siegel Community Library – Silver, 1

Wilksburg Public Library – Silver, 3

**Armstrong County**

Apollo Memorial Library – Gold

Ford City Public Library – Silver, 5

**Berks County**

Exeter Community Library – Silver, 5

Kutztown Community Library – Gold

Schuylkill Valley Community Library – Bronze

**Butler County**

Butler Area Public Library – Silver, 5

**Chester County**

Chester County Library – Gold

Honey Brook Community Library – Silver, 2

Paoli Library – Gold

Tredyffrin Public Library – Silver, 5

**Clarion County**

Knox Public Library – Gold

**Crawford County**

Springboro Library – Gold

**Cumberland County**

Bosler Memorial Library – Bronze

Shippensburg University Library – Gold

**Dauphin County**

Penn State Harrisburg Library – Gold

**Delaware County**

Haverford Township Free Library – Silver, 3

Marple Public Library – Gold

**Erie County**

Erie County Public Library – Silver, 4

**Lancaster County**

Ephrata High School Library – Bronze

Manheim Community Library – Silver, 1

**Luzerne County**

Wyoming Free Library – Bronze

**Montgomery County**

Ardmore Library – Gold

Horsham Township Library – Silver, 2

Indian Valley Public Library – Silver, 5

**Somerset County**

Somerset County Library – Silver, 2

**Warren County**

Warren Library Association – Silver, 5

**Washington County**

Chartiers-Houston Community Library, Silver 5

Citizens Library – Gold

**York County**

Collinsville Community Library – Gold  
Silver, 5

Red Land Community Library –

Beginning January 2020, once a library achieves the Gold level of the PA Forward Star Library program, libraries will be able to take steps to maintain their PA Forward Gold Star status. More information about that process, can be found at [www.paforwardstarlibraries.org](http://www.paforwardstarlibraries.org) under the Getting Started tab.

###

*This project is made possible, in part, by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, Governor.*

<https://compendium.ocl-pa.org/libraries-blazing-star-aligned-trails-throughout-pennsylvania/>

8/12/2019

Let's make old smokestack proud new symbol for Erie: Letters to the editor - Opinion - GoErie.com - Erie, PA



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Opinion

## Let's make old smokestack proud new symbol for Erie: Letters to the editor

Posted Aug 8, 2019 at 2:01 AM

I am writing to make a suggestion for the old Penelec smokestack that has been left along the east side of State Street. It would be a novel idea to convert it into a lighthouse, even though an actual lighthouse is not needed. It could pass as a lighthouse for aesthetic reasons and add to the nautical ambiance of our seaport. This transition would be better than having it remain as a reminder of Erie's lost industry while serving as a beacon for a new commercial era.

If this idea is not approved, we could propose the stack be turned into a windmill. This would be a symbol of how the once coal-burning plant is now replaced with a cleaner source of energy, plus that location would get a breeze off the waterfront, especially in the winter.

— **Tim Brennan, Brooklyn, New York**