

Erie County Public Library
Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, June 20, 2019 – 12:00 Noon

Blasco Memorial Library – Admiral Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes –May 23, 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
 - a. ICE HOUSE project—Social Workers in the Library
9. Statistical and Other Reports
10. Report of District Consultant
11. Report of Committees
 - a. Board Committees
 - b. Staff Presentations
 - i. Jude Shingle—Idea Lab; Beehive Network
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**

THURSDAY, May 23, 2019
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library

CALL TO ORDER:

Julie Boam called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Liz Allen, Julie Theiss-Boam, Heather Canfield, William Conway, Martha Knuth, Trevor Pearson, Mary Ann Tempestini,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Felix Lohitai, Devi Subedi

OTHERS PRESENT:

Blane Dessy (Library Director), Sheryl Thomas (Assistant Director), Deana Cooper (Business Office Manager); Carol Gettinger, President of the Friends, Shane Donaldson (ECPL Youth Services Manager), Andrew Miller (ECPL Adult Services Manager)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 18, 2019

A correction was made by Carol on the Friends report. Bill Conway made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 18, 2019. Trevor Pearson seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

HEARING OF CITIZENS: None

REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON: None

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Carol Gettinger):

The Friends made a total of \$2,000 from their spring book sale. The Great American Book Sale will be held from June 9th-June 14th at McDowell Intermediate School. Last year they made \$43K. On April 29th the board elected new members and officers. Peg Shenefelt is the new President. Carol Gettinger is the Vice President, Marcy Bencivenga will remain as Treasurer and Sara Sheehan is the new Secretary. A new member of the board works for Werkbot and is working on a new URL for the organization, erielibraryfriends.org.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Sheryl Thomas):

Deana reviewed the Financial Report ending April 30, 2019. She highlighted that we are under budget for our wages and fringes but that is due to retirements and job vacancies. We are in the process of filling the remaining open positions which will help to reduce the deficiency.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Blane Dessy):

Blane had several areas he wanted to highlight this month:

- New Metric Implementing- We are working to update the libraries metrics. These metrics are what we use to track our success and compare this year to previous years. The new metrics will focus on how we are measuring up in relation to the ECPL strategic plan initiatives.(Connections, Collections and Capacity)
- Bookmobile Study: In order to better serve the community in respect to the bookmobile, Sheryl will be heading up a bookmobile study to re-examine and re-think the current service we supply and compare it against other library bookmobiles in the country. The bookmobile is aging and in

need of great repair. Safety is our main concern. With this study we hope to define what type of bookmobile is actually needed. The study will conclude by the end of July to give us time to analyze the data before submission of the 2020 County Department Budget.

- Branch Library Study- In addition to the bookmobile, Sheryl will be conducting a branch study as well. This study will help identify branch needs in regards to expansion and/or building of a Millcreek Branch along with other needs. This study will help devise a plan for the years to come. With a plan in place, how to finance the plan will follow.
- Blasco Master Plan- Blane met with Boswick about updating the Blasco Master Plan, originally from 2016. This update would include revised costs from inflation, adding the Heritage Room and modifying the plan to reflect the current needs. We hope to work with Bostwick to have this completed by later summer/early fall.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Sheryl Thomas):

Though overall checkouts decreased 4.3% from April 2018, patron visits to Blasco are up by 28% and digital checkouts continue to rise. Digital checkouts are up 22% from last year. See attached Statistics in packet for more breakdowns. **Please note under the circulation statistics chart the total for digital checkouts is incorrect. The correct total is 10,379.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Marcia Wilking):

- **DLC**
 - In the process of renewing Abby. The District Educational Programmer's, contract for another year
 - We've been accepted to present at PALA conference in October (here in Erie) on the District Educational Programmer Program*
 - [the acceptance window hasn't closed, but at least 5 members of ECPL staff are presenting at conference]
- **Training Opportunities**
 - Library Island – June 4* Matt Finch will be hosting a training in Grove City. This will be scenarios and strategic planning. Matt Finch will lead this training and is open to District library employees, the board and is now open to County libraries.
- **District Library News**
 - Saegertown Area Library is held its annual Love Your Library 5K Race and Walkathon on May 11th
 - Springboro Public Library will hold their annual community dinner on Memorial Day
 - McCord Memorial Library has been helping their patrons with their Borough recycling changes.
 - Benson Memorial Library has begun their LOL: Lunch on the Lawn program. Local musicians. Fridays in May at noon rain or shine.

Cochran Area Public Library will be hosting Simple Gifts Classes, Workshop, and Concert again this year, June 18th and 19th

STAFF PRESENTATIONS: (Shane Donaldson, Andrew Miller)

As part of the new initiative for board engagement, Shane and Andrew presented to the board concerning 2 large initiatives currently taking place in the library.

- **Summer Reading Challenge**-Shane, the Youth Service Manager, presented on the 2019 Summer Reading Challenge, "A Universe of Stories." He explained how the challenge program worked, that it was open for all ages and each age group had their own prize category. He also showed examples of the new registration forms and how branches will have their own specific registration for tracking reasons. Adult participants will have a different sheet as well. Ideas were recommended on how to reach a larger audience by way of additional advertising avenues.

Ideas included, the mayor's press conference, county magazines and getting schools to distribute flyers. If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by. Shane also presented the new addition of the new STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Arts and Math) Mead secondary activity room.

- **Heritage Room Digitizing-** Andrew, the Adult Service Manager has a department that falls into 3 categories: Idea Lab, Adult Reference and the Heritage Room. The Heritage room is a unique area that currently houses 18,000 items in its collection and over 1700 rolls of microfilm. These items are in-house only due to being rare, fragile and valuable. Currently there are a lot of small collections that are underutilized. Historically, the only way to research older newspapers is through the use of microfilm without an index. We have begun the transition of moving the newspapers to a digitized copy that is accessible and searchable on our website. With a grant received by the Friends and ECGRA we were able to have 20 years from the 1880s digitized. Andrew would ideally like to make sure that each of the districts are covered in the Heritage Room collections. How can the ECPL be a gateway for you district? Andrew requested that all Committee members reach out to him if they learn that older records in their district are going to be thrown out.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES: none

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There are multiple newspaper clippings and articles included in the board packet. A highlighted item is the press release for the viewing of High School 911 scheduled on Saturday, June 1st in the HIRT Auditorium.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:

The idea of having the board attend a portion of the PALA convention coming to Erie in October is still in the works. Marcia was looking into rates for both the ECPL staff and the board. More to come...

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Sheryl

E-Card Policy- Attached in the back of the packet is a proposed E Card policy. This would enable patrons to sign up online for a digital library card. This card would enable patrons to checkout digital material and use all online resources without physically going to the library to get a card. This card would be for digital items only. Patrons could come into the library and update their card to check out physical items if they wanted. This e card would remove the barrier of having to physically get to the library since that is not possible for everyone.

Trevor motioned to approve the E Card policy. Liz Allen second. Vote was unanimous for approval. Policy passed.

The next Advisory Board meeting is June 20, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:04p.m.

7. Review of Financial Report—see attached budget sheets

SOCIAL SERVICES FOR LIBRARY PATRONS



Library Patrons need access to Social Workers

PROBLEM

Library staff is not equipped to appropriately interact with, or assist patrons requiring social services. Our current treatment is to provide handouts/ telephone numbers/ ban patrons. Librarians are not licensed social workers.

Place trained professionals in the Library

SOLUTION

Use permanently placed *Certified Peer Specialists* and supervised, internship-placed social work undergraduates to provide services to patrons in need.

Certified Peer Specialists: individual who has lived through mental health/ disorder/experiences and received training to assist those now experiencing same social issues. Desired Schedule: 1 male, 1 female to work 5 days a week, 4-5 hour shifts.

Social Work Undergraduates: Degree seeking students enrolled in the Social Work programs of Edinboro University and Gannon University. Desired Schedule: 2 days/ week per intern, subject to limitations of university-designated social work supervisor



Current Partners

Edinboro University:

Montero, Natalie NMONTERO@edinboro.edu
Clem, Monica MCLEM@edinboro.edu
Jessica Hippely jhippely@edinboro.edu

Gannon University:

Lichtenwalter, Sara A lichtenw002@gannon.edu

Mental Health Department:

Wendy Jacobs WJacobs@eriecountypa.gov
Patricia Stucke pstucke@mhanp.org



Timeline

Discussions in place with Universities
June 12th contract discussion with Mental Health Department



Looking Ahead

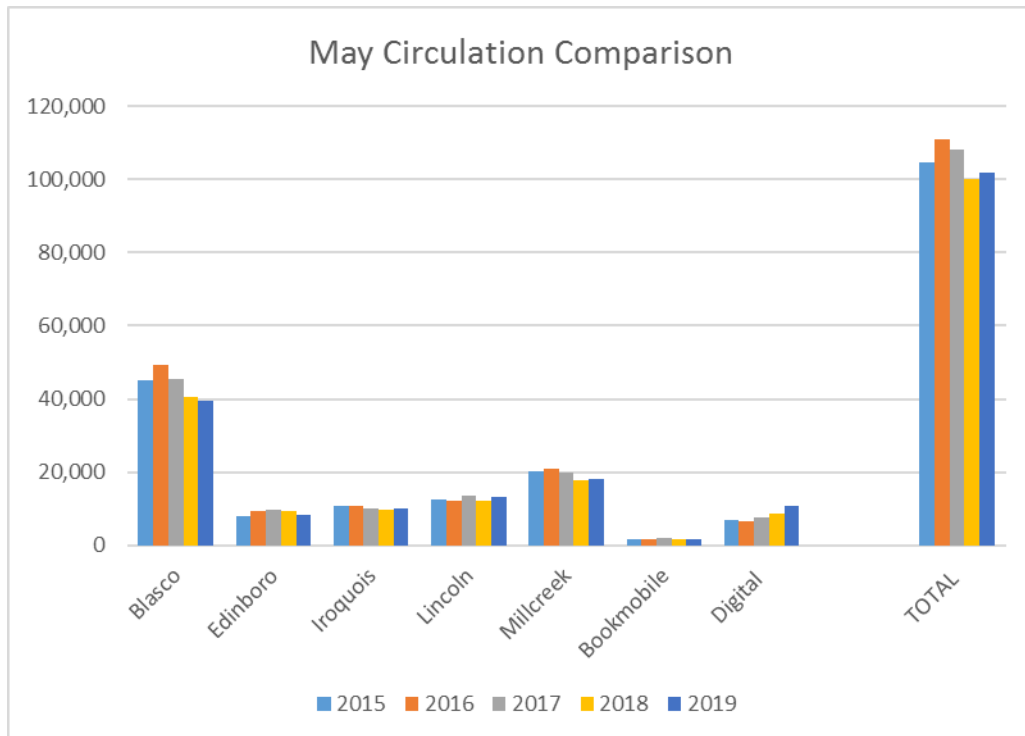
Exploring options to collaborate with social work driven community organizations, county funded departments, and interested library staff to expand services beyond in-house placed social workers.

May 2019 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

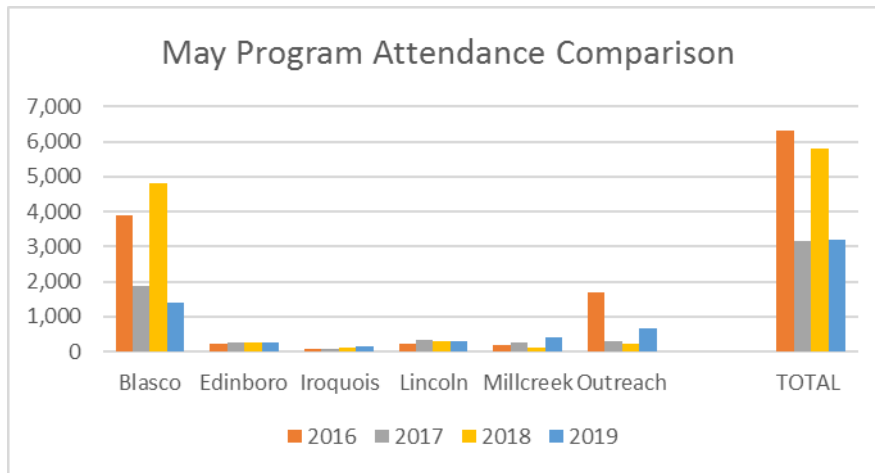
- **397** new cards issued, decrease of 7% from May 2018
- **17,665** Wifi logins, up 35%
- **48,658** visits to all locations, up at all branches and the Bookmobile
- **10,620** digital checkouts, up 20%

Circulation

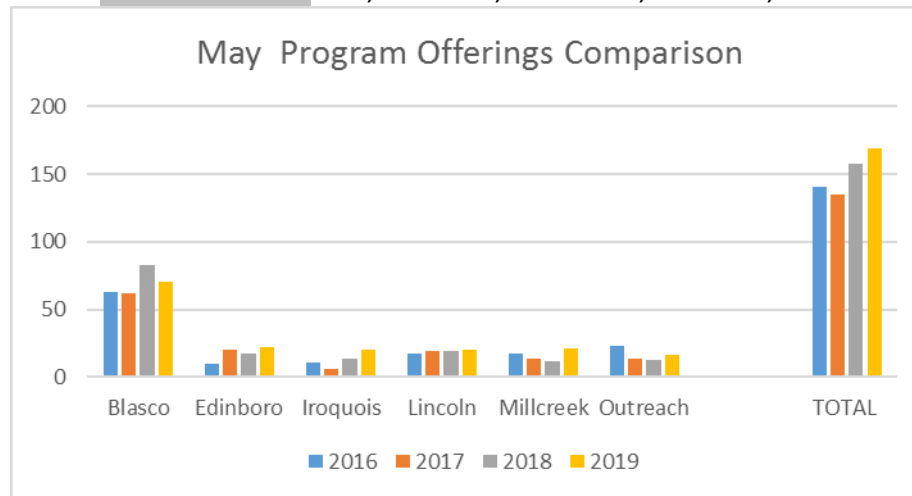


	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Blasco	44,946	49,354	45,476	40,664	39,594
Edinboro	7,910	9,516	9,588	9,197	8,456
Iroquois	10,591	10,749	10,052	9,779	10,130
Lincoln	12,663	12,225	13,448	12,280	13,154
Millcreek	20,176	20,812	20,031	17,840	18,169
Bookmobile	1,608	1,754	2,058	1,709	1,722
Digital	6,805	6,671	7,644	8,824	10,620
TOTAL	104,699	111,081	108,297	100,293	101,845

Programs



	2016	2017	2018	2019
Blasco	3,883	1,892	4,801	1,391
Edinboro	210	261	261	277
Iroquois	93	90	104	159
Lincoln	230	324	297	298
Millcreek	171	275	124	411
Outreach	1,708	298	209	658
TOTAL	6,295	3,140	5,796	3,194



	2016	2017	2018	2019
Blasco	63	62	83	70
Edinboro	10	20	17	22
Iroquois	11	6	14	20
Lincoln	17	19	19	20
Millcreek	17	14	12	21
Outreach	23	14	13	16
TOTAL	141	135	158	169

*Please note Comic Con took place in May in 2018

District Consultant Report

Marcia Wilking

- District Library Center (DLC)
 - Abby, the District Educational Programmer's contract has been renewed for another year: July 2019-June 2020. The new contract includes time for collaboration with ECPL library staff to help leverage talents and programs that are being developed by ECPL staff and by Abby.
 - Five directors in the district are working on their retirement succession planning for the next 1-6 months.
- State
 - The signature page for the 2018 annual report filed in April need to be re-filed. Thank you Julie and Felix for getting that signed so we could re-submit it. (Only the signature page needed updates)
 - An update to the 2019 annual Library report has been announced: website visits. ECPL is ready for this, and we're working on getting everyone ready for this question.
- SNOE (Seneca, New Castle, Oil Creek, Erie Districts)
 - The formalization of the existing framework of our cooperation with the three adjacent districts has been finalized. We're planning a press release in the fall and some state-wide recognition. More updates to come.
- Advocacy
 - Increase for library funding likely to pass the house however the support in the senate is very unsure. Please contact your PA Senator asking them to support library funding.
 - The next Legislative Breakfast will be held in the spring of 2020.
- District Libraries News
 - Shontz Library in Conneaut Lake is still looking for a replacement director after Diane passed away unexpectedly in April.
 - Corry Public Library has hired a new director.

Idea Lab Phases

1. Basic Level of Service

- a. Patrons can expect to walk into Idea Lab and have a staff member:
 - i. Explain what services and resources are in the space
 - ii. Assist in setting up the equipment safely and in working order
 - iii. Identify resources to assist with their ‘design level’ projects

2. Curated Maker Projects

- a. Idea Lab offers a consistent schedule of programs. Each of these programs:
 - i. Guides a patron through the steps of making a project
 - ii. Provides a clear “next step” in the form of resource recommendations, community resources and/or additional classes
 - iii. Success metrics: attendance, creative confidence, self-efficacy

3. Fabrication and Innovation Literacy

- a. Idea Lab creates and curates a playlist of resources designed to increase literacy in a specific topic area (i.e. Level Up). A playlist provides:
 - i. A clear path of progression from beginner to advanced
 - ii. Connects the literacy to community initiatives (for example entrepreneurship or civic engagement)
 - iii. Projects that when completed can be added to a portfolio
 - iv. A badge of completion
 - v. Success metrics: application of learned literacy to solving community problems, creative confidence, self-efficacy, completion percentage playlist.

Basic Level Service

Every hour open needs staff member who can perform all basic equipment and service desk skills.
Currently 51 hours/week.

Equipment Certification Classes: 2.5 hours/week

Maintenance: 6 hours/week

Staff training: 2 hours/week

Idea Lab Management: 20 hours/week

Database, supplies, staff training, room maintenance, equipment management

Curated Maker Projects

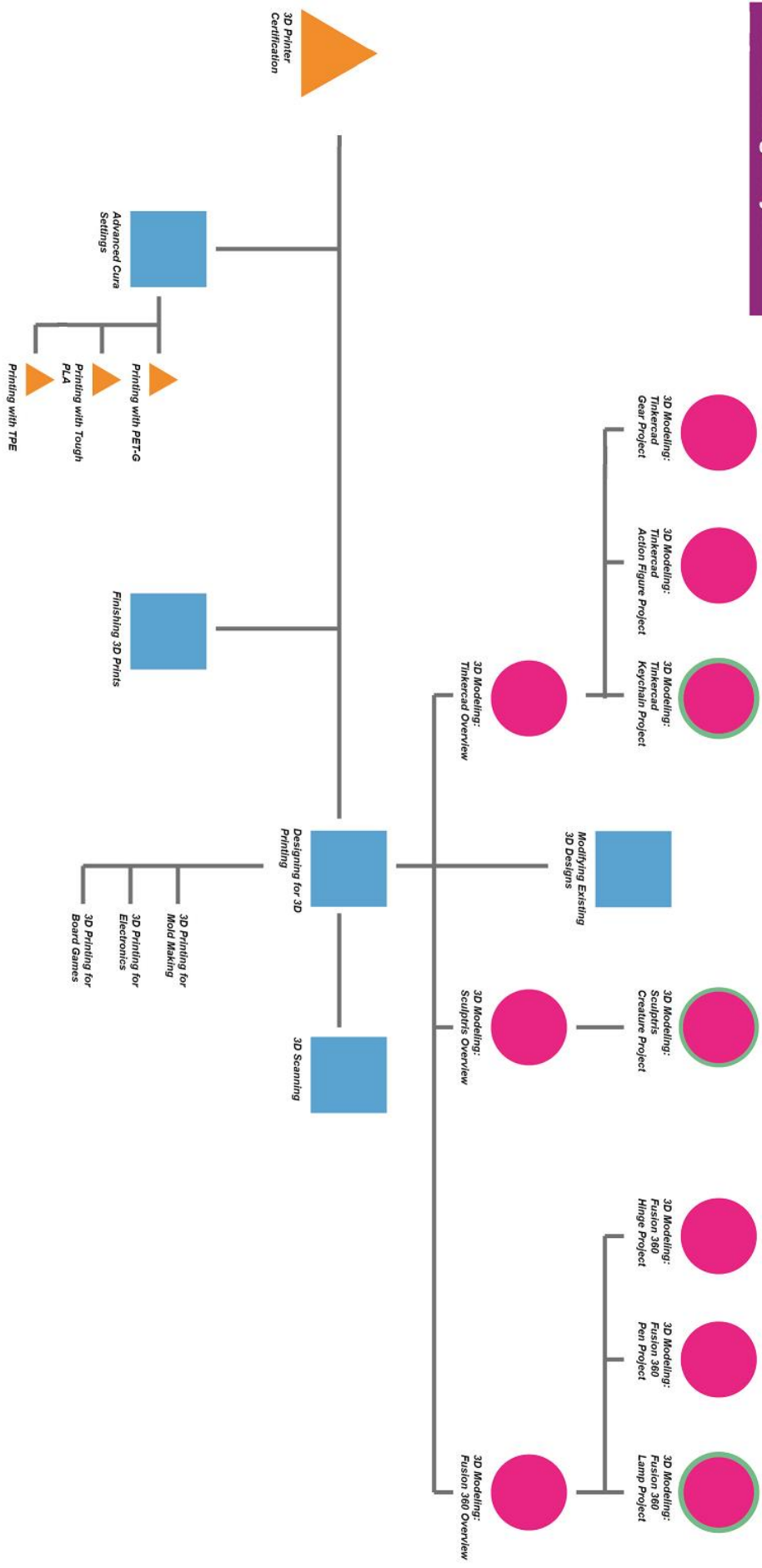
Program	Cost to run program per week	Cost of prep/management time per program
Maker Mondays	2 hours	2 hours
Community Partner Classes	\$50	2 hours
Library Led Program	20-25 hours create 2 hours to run	2 hours

Fabrication and Innovation Literacy

Playlist/Innovation Coordinator (i.e. How we answer the question, “Why do we have an Idea Lab?”):
20-30 hours/week

- Playlist management
- Program development
- Teach classes
- Outreach
- Events

3D Printing Playlist





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Mercyhurst University

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Penn State Behrend

INNOVATION COMMONS

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Blasco Library

THE IDEA LAB

Promoting the exploration of ideas with high-tech equipment, community experts and hands-on, collaborative experiences

Summer Library Challenge aims to ‘maintain’ - Erie Times-News (PA) June 10, 2019 - page 1

June 10, 2019 | Erie Times-News (PA) | matthew.rink@timesnews.com | Page 1

Shane Donaldson, the youth services manager at the Erie County Public Library, says that the Summer Library Challenge that starts Monday encourages kids and adults alike to not only read but also explore the community at-large.

The program, which runs through Aug. 10, is built on the “idea of maintaining curiosity” during the summer months, Donaldson said.

Library cardholders can register for the program Monday at Blasco Library, the Bookmobile, and the Edinboro, Iroquois, Lincoln and Millcreek library branches. Children up to age 18 are asked to read (or be read to) five hours and attend four events in Erie County. For every five hours they read and for every four events they attend they’ll receive an entry into a drawing for a grand prize that will be awarded at the end of the summer. They’ll also receive a prize after completing their first entry form. Those incentives are sponsored by Claytopia, Donatos, McDonald’s, Nick’s Place and Chipotle.

Adults are asked to read at least five books.

“We’ve been trying to change it up a bit,” Donaldson said. “We call it the Summer Library Challenge instead of the Summer Reading Challenge. We’re not de-emphasizing reading, but we’re trying to add event components. That can be library events, but it also could be anything like a music event, activities in the park, hiking Asbury Woods. The sky’s the limit.”

The goal, he said, is to get families more engaged with the community and to prevent what educators refer to as the “summer slide,” which is the decline in reading ability and other academic skills between the end of one school year and the start of the next.

“There’s plenty of statistics out there that point to that recession of learning that can happen to kids in the summer when they are completely compressed from school and then they try to rev up that engine after three months of inactivity,” he said. “That can be difficult for an adult let alone a child.”

Donaldson said roughly 1,000 people are expected to take part in the Summer Library Challenge. The theme, “A Universe of Stories,” was designed by the Collaborative Summer Library Program, a consortium of states, including Pennsylvania, that are “working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials for children, teens, and adults at the lowest cost possible for their public libraries.”

Some of the grand prizes will be backpacks stuffed with space-themed books, materials and goodies, including astronaut ice cream, Donaldson said.

Matthew Rink can be reached at 870-1884 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/ETNrink.

matthew.rink@timesnews.com. "Summer Library Challenge aims to ‘maintain curiosity’ in children By Matthew Rink." Erie Times-News (PA), ETD ed., sec. PA News, 10 June 2019, p. 1. NewsBank, infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/173F819B09094B20. Accessed 19 June 2019.

Puzzles a welcome addition at book sale - Erie Times-News (PA) - June 12, 2019

June 12, 2019 | Erie Times-News (PA)

WEB STORY

I've never been a big puzzle person.

My husband Ben, on the other hand, loves a good 1,000-piece jigsaw. It's not an activity I understand or enjoy, but every once in a while I'm willing to help him find the edge pieces. Begrudgingly.

My feelings about puzzles did not improve after Ben dumped a 2,000-piece puzzle of Neuschwanstein, a 19th-century German castle, on the floor of my apartment soon after I moved in. No, he did not use a table or the floor in the spare bedroom. He set up right in the middle of a pretty key doorway. Don't ask me why.

The castle part of the puzzle went pretty quickly. The sky and forest surrounding the castle, however, proved tricky, and I spent several weeks tiptoeing around puzzle pieces anytime I left my living room. Ben would like me to mention that he did eventually finish the puzzle.

The experience left me with even less interest in puzzles than before. I got a little payback at Christmas when I bought Ben a super challenging jigsaw that is just a picture of sand. It remains unopened.

Despite our disagreement, I know how much Ben loves puzzles and I was happy to hear they would be sold at the Great American Book Sale this year for the first time ever.

So was the rest of Erie, apparently. By the time Ben and I went to the book sale at about 5 p.m. on Sunday, the opening day, there were all of five puzzles left. Two of them featured large images of babies, which I found a little too creepy to put up with.

We left with many books but no puzzles. I'm not too broken up about it.

In the future, we'll check at the Bayfront Bookshelf Gift Shop, where the Friends of the Erie County Public Library sell gently-used books and other goodies — including donated puzzles — in the lobby of the Blasco Library.

The best part is that the proceeds go toward library programs. And there's still time to check out the Great American Book Sale, which also benefits the public library system, if you haven't already.

The sale runs Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the McDowell Intermediate High School Commons. On Friday, you can pick up a bag of books for \$1 or a box of books for \$2.

Erie Times-News staff writers share their views from behind the scenes, stories and bylines.

Madeleine O'Neill can be reached at 870-1728. Send email to madeleine.oneill@timesnews.com.

"Puzzles a welcome addition at book sale." Erie Times-News (PA), PAERIE-O, PA_Er_E ed., sec. PA Opinion, 12 June 2019. NewsBank, infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/1740533FE1BA75E0. Accessed 13 June 2019.

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