

Erie County Public Library
Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, September 19th, 2019

Blasco Memorial Library – Admiral Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes –August 15, 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
 - a. Officer change—Felix Lohitai to assume office of President
 - b. Vice President Vacancy
 - c. Approve Library Calendar for 2020
 - d. Discuss: Review of By-Laws (President/ Vice-President/ Executive Director)
 - e. President to appoint nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers
16. Adjournment

3. Approval of Minutes—August 15, 2019

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

THURSDAY, August 15th 2019
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library

CALL TO ORDER:

Felix Lohitai called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Liz Allen, Heather Canfield, William Conway, Martha Knuth, Felix Lohitai, Mary Ann Tempestini

MEMBERS ABSENT: Julie Boam (excused), Devi Subedi, Trevor Pearson.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Blane Dessy (Executive Director), Sheryl Thomas (Assistant Director), Alyssa Johnson (Administrative Officer II), Deana Cooper (Business Office Manager), Marcus Yuille (Outreach Manager) Peg Shenefelt (President of the Friends).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 18, 2019

Mary Ann moved to approve, Felix seconded. Minutes approved.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

None

REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON:

None

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE (Peg Shenefelt):

- Peg relayed that Fall Book Drive dates are set: September 14, 2019 from 10am to 2pm. Emphasis was made on the Drive-Thru aspect.
- Donations can also be made any day at any of the branches.
- Erie Gives report: the amount donated has increased every year. 2019 results: \$9,413 donated plus the anticipated ECF match.
- Blane pointed out the ERFL's donation trend
- There were no questions from the board.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (Deana Cooper):

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

Board financials were sent in advance of the meeting for review.

Deana remarked that the first few pages of the report are out-of-sorts. There was a processing error that is being corrected with County Finance. Martha asked whether the budget operates based on calendar year or follows the state's budget year. Blane advised the county's calendar year method of operation and remarked that we will review the budget timeline under staff presentations.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Blane Dessy):

- Consulting the Bi-Weekly Report emailed 8/14
 - Preparing for 2020: Budgets are tight, but in good conscious we ask for resources
 - Submitted Records Improvement Fund Request to buy new security gates for branches and the heritage room. These areas are in need of new security measures for RFID protected materials. The expected cost is \$54,000; submitted on 8/14.
- Innovation Collaborative
 - Innovation Collaborative has asked the library to assume management of 3 programs (Co-Starters, Ice House, and Collegiate Showcase)
 - Library has agreed to take over the Co-Starters program. It was previously hosted in part by the library, now we will manage it entirely. The program ties in with the library in regards to our entrepreneurial eco system.
- Branch Study
 - Sheryl Completed the Bookmobile study, Blane has now tasked her with starting a Branch study
 - Study will look at the 4 branches and their future. It was strongly stated that there are no plans to close any branches. Administration gets requests from branches, but they can't all be funded. So, we'll study and make recommendations. Example: Millcreek is constantly suggested to get a permanent stand-alone building, but if we move its location does the branch lose its high usage? Questions like that will be considered.
- Heritage Room Digitization
 - Proceeding with digitization initiatives
 - Erie Times News was the original target, after meeting with County Council it was recommended that the library pursue digitization of all newspapers housed in the Heritage Room
 - This recommendation added \$100,000 to the projected cost, bringing the total to roughly \$950,000.
 - The library will be seeking Philanthropic Support for this initiative.
- Master Plan Updating: The Library team will meet with Bostwick on 8/21 along with Friends, the ERLF, and invited a board member from the Library Advisory Board. The meeting will; review Phases III and IV of the Blasco Master Plan with respect to making minor revisions and updating the budget. These phases will require upwards of \$2,000,000.
- Poet Laureate
 - Dr. Chuck Joy has been appointed to his second term as Erie County Poet Laureate
 - He asked the Library to be the host for his September and subsequent events.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION (will not be placed in public minutes)
 - Minerva is still in the vault. We received a total of 3 responses from conservators—2 quotes and one decline. Estimate between \$6,000-\$10,000 for minor conservation and cleaning plus pedestal.
- Iroquois Branch Security
 - With the start of the new school year, Iroquois Branch is adding a new security guard for the after-school hours to help mitigate disruptive behavior by adolescents.
 - We often receive incident reports from this branch noting disruptive and disrespectful behavior by teenaged patrons. We wish there was not a need for this step, but a guard may help.
 - Board discussed the location of the library, and its proximity to schools.

- Liz suggested reaching out to Iroquois SD to see if there is something ISD can provide, and asked how the community can help keep the kids occupied
 - Blane posed: How can we re-channel their energy to something constructive?
 - Liz remarked that (while she was working in the branch as a per-diem) the kids were well behaved and engaged during the *Read to a Therapy Dog* program.
 - Blane elaborated that the trouble is caused by several “usual suspects”—he met with the Iroquois SD Administration Team and found that those who misbehave at the library are the same students who misbehave in school.
 - Heather suggested creating a Teen Advisory Board specific to Iroquois. Blane remarked how all branches have expressed interest in housing their own Teen Space.
- Additional Discussion
 - Digitization
 - Liz looped back to the digitization initiative. She remarked that the ETN is owned by Gatehouse Media, who is in process of merging to G Net, which does have a foundation. She suggested that there may be an opportunity there.
 - Liz is also on the City Council’s Historic Preservation Task Force, perhaps the library can reach to them for additional insight, and offered her services if the library is forming a similar committee.
 - Liz and Blane discussed the matter of rights and ownership, remarking that it gets very complicated.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS (Sheryl Thomas):

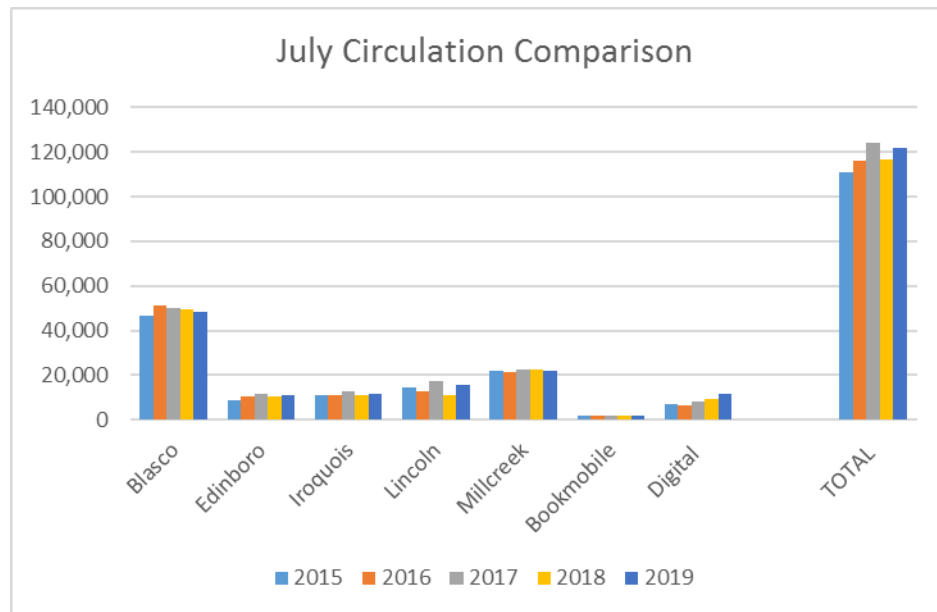
The statistic reports were sent in the advance agenda packet.

July 2019 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

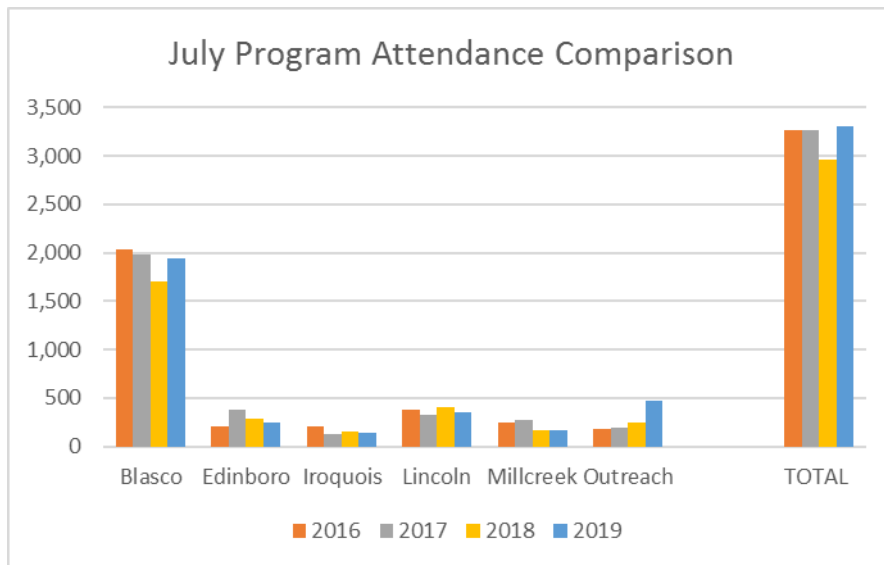
- **188** programs offered for all ages, up 8.7% from last year
- **55,392** visits, up 7% over last year and 11% over last month
- **121,736** total circulation, up 4.5% over last year and 22.7% over last month
- **754,594** total circulation YTD, up .25% from last year

Circulation

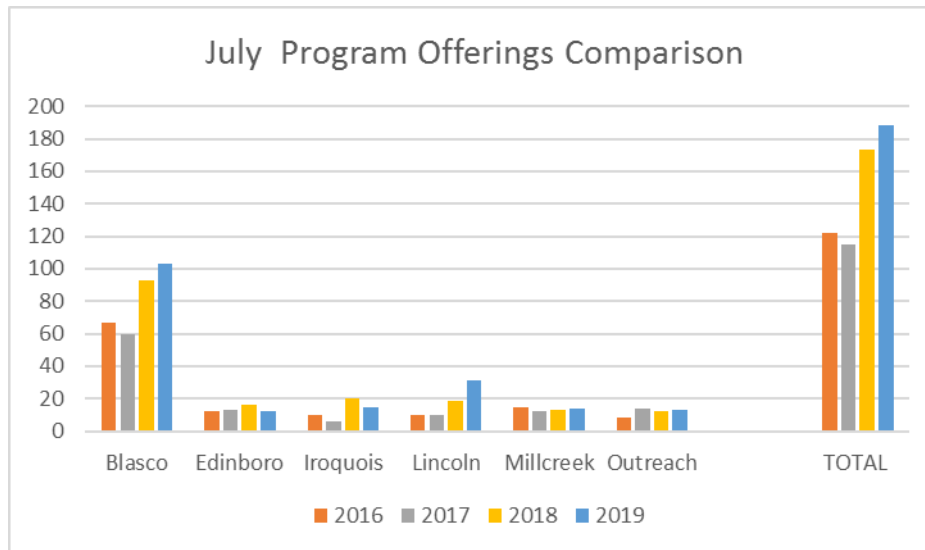


	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Blasco	46,639	51,440	50,219	49,660	48,218
Edinboro	8,587	10,196	11,690	10,442	10,981
Iroquois	11,246	11,164	12,530	11,216	11,659
Lincoln	14,239	12,982	17,268	11,327	15,887
Millcreek	21,704	21,590	22,475	22,268	21,797
Bookmobile	1,619	1,754	2,014	1,976	1,713
Digital	6,765	6,721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

Programs



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



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

- Sheryl remarked that many factors are up compared to previous month/ year and that July is all around a big month. The Library typically has a large number of Programs, and that our staff does a lot of booktalking and displays.
- No questions from the Board.

10. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CONSULTANT (Marcia Wilking):

Marcia on vacation, report provided in advance

- District Library Consultant
 - The annual district report is due to the state on August 26th
 - 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 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

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

None

STAFF PRESENTATIONS:

Blane Dessy prefaced the staff presentations by announcing that all 3 staff presentations today are important to “you” being representatives of a county council district. He asked that the board consider these matters as they will affect the board member’s district. He encouraged members to share thoughts on representation, and collect feedback from your district, answer the question “Are we being equitable?” in the county.

- Budget 2020—Blane Dessy and Deana Cooper
 - For the upcoming Budget we are asking for a 5% increase in the acquisitions budget, which equates to about \$40,000.
 - For a library of this size, given the cost of the materials and the increasing cost of database licensing, the standard budget does not leave much discretionary spending.
 - Anitra Gates (Tech Services Manager) did some data digging into our collection and revealed that we are too old in STEM materials for both adults and children. This is truly a disservice to users.
 - The library has not previously asked for increases in acquisitions budget. We truly want much more, but feel that a 5% increase is what the market will bear
 - Deana added that the increase will also cover rising database costs—the launch of the ecard has already increased spending and will require a larger budget. The biggest database expense is Hoopla, driving the costs. We currently have to limit patrons to 6 checkouts per month on this platform; library budget could not sustain an unlimited checkout policy.
 - Also requesting 1 new technical services staff member
 - Requesting budget increase to purchase additional wifi hotspots.
 - We currently have 26 units, and there is a 90 unit long waitlist. This is typical of the item, they are very popular and we are not able to meet demand. The budget asks for money to purchase 40 additional units.
 - Library has asked for an increase in funding to purchase new patron-used computers
 - We received 150 gently used, but better than our current, monitors donated through Erie Insurance. They were replacing their own equipment and offered the old monitors to us. It was remarked that they are a very good partner.
 - Staff computers are paid for by the county IT budget, but patron computers are paid by library budget.
 - Our staff computers are roughly 6 years old, most operating still on Windows 7.
 - We have worked with Library IT to institute a 4 year cycle, so that every year we will replace 25% of the public computers
 - The older computers, not being replaced this year will require new Windows 10 licenses at the start of the new year
 - Asking for Bookmobile replacement, will be a capital expenditure
 - Library will keep board posted on budget updates, Blane noted that library budget advocacy is never a bad idea.
- Bookmobile Study Recap—Sheryl Thomas
 - Bookmobile study attached as Appendix A

- Sheryl summarized the bookmobile study in the previous meeting, presenting updates
- The New York Public Library is adding bookmobiles to its service, for the 1st time in decades. This speaks to their usefulness. Sprinter Shuttles tend to be the most popular format.
- Library will ask for \$400,000 to finance new bookmobiles.
- The amount granted will inform our approach. Receiving the full amount will allow us to purchase 1 traditional bookmobile, and one smaller specialized bookmobile—used with more of a programming purpose. As found in the study, libraries with multiple bookmobiles tend to have vehicles with split purposes.
- Sheryl is working with Marcus assess the bookmobile routes and strategic use. We want to be efficient in the use of bookmobiles, and effective in matching the types of services needed at particular stops (delivery service vs. browsing ability vs. programming).
- There will need to be a degree of publicity regarding any route changes. We’ll need to strategize how we communicate with the communities.
- Blane suggested that each of the Board members collects thoughts on bookmobile service in their district, and reach out to Sheryl—we want feedback. There is a map of the stops in the attached study, assess it based on your district point of view. Sheryl will reach out if we don’t hear from the board first.
- Liz discussed the importance of collection formats, specifically audiobooks. She suggested having a county council tour on the bookmobile and at branches—invite them out on the road for a tour, to show where the money goes.
- Blane asked if any board members would like to view the bookmobile or schedule a ride-along
- Peg asked about the staff needed to operate the bookmobile. Sheryl replied there are 2 full time staff, and discussed potential future needs.
- Blane affirmed that the library is committed to this type of service.
- Marcus Yuille, Outreach Services
 - Blane introduced Marcus, noting that he replaced Chanel Cook and has been employed for almost 1 month. At hire, Blane challenged Marcus to completely rethink Outreach Services, make it structured, substantive, and strategic.
 - Marcus shared his vision and where we are to date, distributing the new outreach statement (attached as Appendix B). Marcus remarked that he sees the library as an outstretched hand. He is working to create a framework of partners to make an impact in the community. We are using the PA Forward as a framework.
 - Marcus reviewed his timeline. In month 1, he is working JFK Center to bridge the gap with “New Americans”, and to establish a “Beyond our Walls” initiative with the Erie County Prison.
 - Blane asked the board to send Marcus their district’s needs, we need to hear from each area
- Blane recapped the 3 budget initiatives and asked for the board’s feedback as it pertains to their respective districts on 1)Bookmobile and 2) Outreach.
- Liz asked for the status on literacy in Erie County, and recounted an encounter with an illiterate patron. Discussion on availability of basic literacy skills development for adults.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There are several news releases included.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The next Advisory Board meeting is September 19th.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:01 pm.

NEWS ARTICLES

Erie Reader, July 31st, “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

My 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.

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.



Find more events and add your own for free at 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.

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://paforwardstarlibraries.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 under the Getting Started tab.

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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



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**

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END OF AUGUST MINUTES

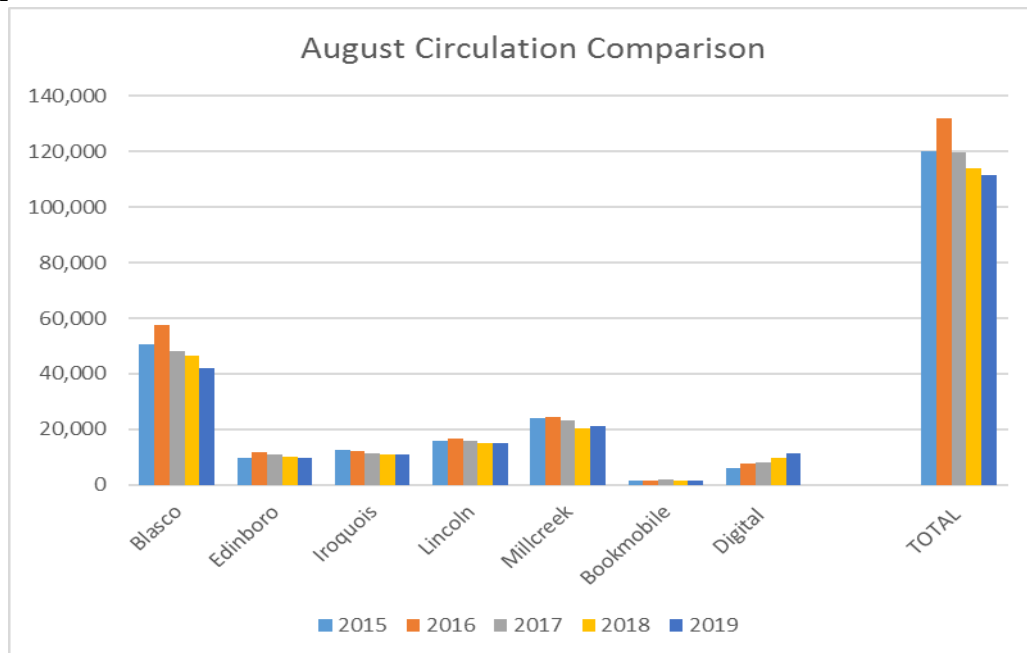
4. **Hearing of Citizens**
5. **Report of County Council Liaison**
6. **Friends of the Library Update**
7. **Review of Financial Report**
See attached
8. **Report of Executive Director**
9. **Statistical and Other Reports**
Appendix A—Summer Reading Summary
August 2019 Statistics



Numbers Snapshot

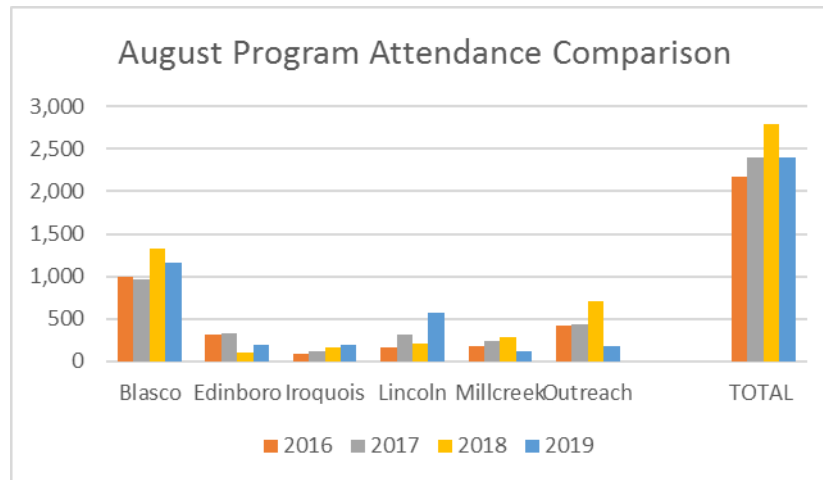
- **136** programs offered for all ages, up 30.7% from last year
- **2,232** program attendees, up 7% over last year
- **111,549** total circulation, down 2% over last year, up at BKM, digital, IRQ, MCK
- **3,605** ILL items loaned out, up 4.4% from last year
- **2,588** ILL items borrowed, up 2.5% from last year

Circulation

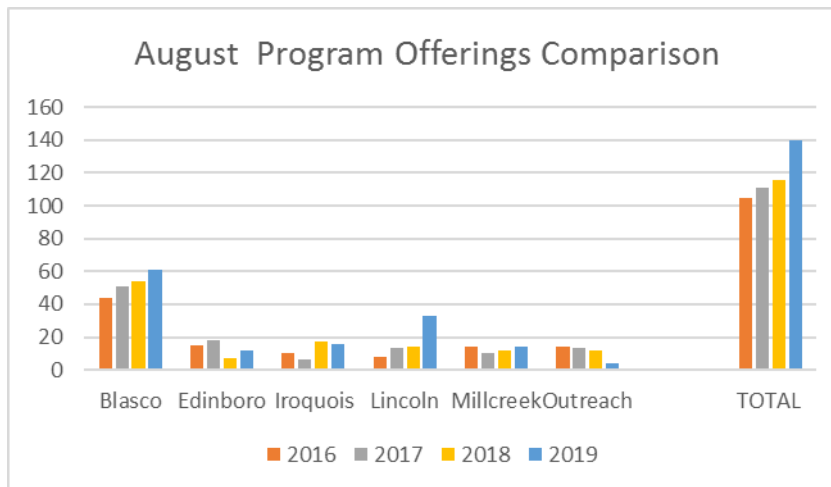


	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Blasco	50,519	57,436	48,097	46,378	42,130
Edinboro	9,763	11,857	10,937	9,988	9,492
Iroquois	12,368	12,049	11,435	10,759	10,831
Lincoln	15,860	16,702	15,795	15,163	15,032
Millcreek	24,176	24,529	23,117	20,525	21,135
Bookmobile	1,606	1,538	2,099	1,452	1,664
Digital	5,896	7,831	8,038	9,574	11,265
TOTAL	120,188	131,942	119,518	113,839	111,549

Programs



	2016	2017	2018	2019
Blasco	994	964	1,321	1,155
Edinboro	314	330	103	188
Iroquois	87	114	164	193
Lincoln	164	317	217	576
Millcreek	181	233	285	120
Outreach	426	437	706	175
TOTAL	2,166	2,395	2,796	2,407



	2016	2017	2018	2019
Blasco	44	51	54	61
Edinboro	15	18	7	12
Iroquois	10	6	17	16
Lincoln	8	13	14	33
Millcreek	14	10	12	14
Outreach	14	13	12	4
TOTAL	105	111	116	140

- 10. Report of District Consultant**
- 11. Report of Committees**
- 12. Board Committees**
- 13. Staff Presentations**
Shane Donaldson, Youth Service Manager
- 14. Petitions and Communications**
- 15. Board Development and Activities**
- 16. Unfinished Business**

17. New Business

- a. Officer Change—Felix Lohitai to assume office of President**
- b. Vice President Vacancy**
- c. Approve Library Calendar for 2020**

The majority of County employees will celebrate **HOLIDAYS** for the year **2020** on the following dates:

DESIGNATED COUNTY HOLIDAY

DATE CELEBRATED IN 2020

1. NEW YEAR’S DAY	Wednesday, January 1
2. MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	Monday, January 20
3. PRESIDENT’S DAY	Monday, February 17
4. GOOD FRIDAY	Friday, April 10
5. EASTER SUNDAY	Sunday, April 12
6. SPRING STAFF TRAINING DAY	Thursday, May 14
7. MEMORIAL DAY	Monday, May 25
8. FLAG DAY (Library is open)	Monday, June 15
9. INDEPENDENCE DAY	Friday, July 3
10. LABOR DAY	Monday, September 7
11. FALL STAFF TRAINING DAY	Monday, October 12
12. VETERAN’S DAY	Wednesday, November 11
13. THANKSGIVING EVE	Wednesday, November 25 close at 5pm
14. THANKSGIVING DAY	Thursday, November 26
15. DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING DAY	Friday, November 27
16. DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS/CHRISTMAS EVE	Thursday, December 24
17. CHRISTMAS DAY	Friday, December 25
18. NEW YEAR’S EVE	Tuesday, December 31 close at 5pm
19. EMPLOYEE’S BIRTHDAY	Floating holiday; must be used 14 days before or after birthday

***Exceptions:** Certain bargaining unit employees, or certain employees in 24-hour, 7-day-per-week-operations, may celebrate a holiday on a different date than indicated above based on applicable collective bargaining agreements.

NOTE: All permanent full-time and permanent part-time employees are entitled to holiday pay after completing 30 calendar days of service (provided they are in compensable status 1/2 day prior to the holiday and 1/2 day after the holiday). Per diem, on-call and temporary status employees are **not** entitled to holiday pay.

- d. Discuss: Review of By-Laws (President/ Vice-President/ Executive Director)**
- e. President to appoint nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers**

18. Adjournment

Bayfront smokestack is an eyesore, what can be done?

I would like to know when something is going to be done about that eyesore of a smokestack in front of our the beautiful Blasco **Library** and Erie Maritime Museum and the lovely new Scott Enterprises hotel.

I wonder if the hotel guests will like looking out the window at it. I think it's time someone did something about it. Maybe Nick Scott Sr. could pay someone to paint it. Just wondering.

— Carolyn Bard, Harborcreek

<https://pahumanities.org/conversations/2019/08/21/9-ways-to-build-an-active-engaging-humanities-based-youth-program>



IE JACOBSON
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#1 - LET THEM LEAD (NO, REALLY.)



Teens not only desire to be heard, they want to be empowered to do something personally meaningful.

Research is finding that youth-led programs encourage a sense of personal ownership while building leadership and planning skills.

“Let them lead, let them cocreate with you,” says Rosie Jacobson, youth facilitator at West Philadelphia High School.

“Make the youth feel cool and part of the process.”

“You need to make things **real world applicable** and involve community members,” advises Jamie Orth, youth worker at Laughlin Memorial Library, Ambridge.

Youth-led service projects are the perfect way to pass the reins and let young people make a difference and connect with their community. That's why we hardwired civic engagement into our Teen Reading Lounge program.

Some examples:

- At **Erie** County Public Library, a group of teens, inspired by their book discussions, created “blessing bags” in the winter to help those in the area **experiencing** homelessness.



In 2019, the Erie County Public Library debuted a new \$200,000 teen area at their Blasco branch. The space includes a laptop bar overlooking the bay, a performance stage, collaboration spaces, a teen book collection, and an Idea Lab Makerspace equipped with state of the art design hardware like 3D printers, sewing machines, and a vinyl cutter. The Teen Advisory Board was brought in as part of the design process, informing the adults about their needs.

It seems Chuck Joy might be as much a builder as a poet.

Recently approved to serve as Erie County's poet laureate for a second consecutive one-year term, the Erie-based child psychologist has developed an ambitious agenda that, as in his first term, is designed to create infrastructure to support Erie's active poetry scene for the long term.

During his first term, Joy organized a fundraising event to aid local poetry event productions, cultivated international contacts with Erie's sister cities and more. This time, much of Joy's focus is building a relationship with the **Erie County Public Library**, enhancing and highlighting the library's poetry collections and creating

a presence online for Erie County poets and poetry-related events.

Part of the relationship-building with the library involves hosting several events at Blasco Library on Erie's bayfront, with the first coming up in Hirt Auditorium Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. That evening, the public is invited to attend free readings by poets from across the county. During a break in the program, a group photo will be taken of all poets in attendance, and all self-identified Erie County poets are invited to participate.

Other events at the library, with the date and time to be determined, include:

- January: Staged readings from Edgar Lee Masters' classic "Spoon River Anthology." "Many people love this book," Joy said. In the spirit of bringing people together through projects, Joy anticipates recruiting a diverse selection of readers.

- April: A free, open-to-the-public poetry reading by Joy. Such an event is a requirement of each poet laureate.

- May: Workshop for health-care providers facilitated by John Fox of the Institute for Poetic Medicine. "He has written what I consider a textbook of poetry therapy," Joy said.

Joy also plans to work with the library to grow and highlight the library's poetry collection. Part of that effort might be aided by an Erie County poetry website he envisions. It would include resources such as a calendar of events, contacts, reviews, poems and more.

Joy has found an eager collaborator in **Erie County Public Library** director Blane Dessy. "I am very excited," Dessy was quoted as saying in the official announcement of Joy's second term. "I believe that it will be beneficial to both groups and that we will have a project that is dynamic and successful."

Joy anticipates the work will carry its own reward. "I had so much fun," he said of his first term as poet laureate. "And I learned so much from it."

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CITATION (MLA STYLE)

"HEARD AND SEEN." *Erie Times-News (PA)*, ETD ed., sec. PA News, 8 Sept. 2019, p. 1. *NewsBank: Access World News - Historical and Current*, infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/175D2DAF682D5EB0. Accessed 9 Sept. 2019.

