



Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, April 15
ZOOM
12:00 pm

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m.

Members Present: Trevor Pearson, Kara Murphy, Mary Ann Tempestini, Martha Knuth, Liz Allen, Julie Boam

Members Absent: Bill Conway, Jim Dehaven (Lohitai, resigned)

Others Present: Jessica Church, Blane Dessy, Alyssa Johnson, Deana Cooper, Shane Donaldson, Tammy Blount, Peg Shenefeld

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

Tammy Blount, Teen Services Librarian, provided an introduction to LIBCON Erie noting the rebranding and outlay of this year’s virtual format. Registration opens April 24 and the events commence on May 8.

Shane Donaldson, Youth Services Manager, provided information on the Summer Library Challenge. This year will use the Beanstack platform again. Team is starting to gather partners and sponsors, and seeking advertising opportunities. The reading obligation will become 12 hours versus 6 in the past to better challenge readers. The 2021 theme is “Tails & Tales” and will run at ECPL locations from June 15 to August 16. Shane expressed his thanks to the Friends of the Library who majority fund the SLC activities.

b. Report of Director

- Erie County Community College of PA—classes will be active in the fall at an unknown location. The ECCCPA will be hiring a “Student Success Librarian” to facilitate library services for students, will not be an ECPL employee.
- Capital Projects:
 - Children’s Space fundraising initiative will be led by the Erie Regional Library Foundation.
 - Millcreek Project is underway with the Keystone Planning grant awarded to Bostwick design partnership
 - Edinboro Project has been escalated by the Borough Manager, Kevin Oppel. He is interested in creating a community center downtown that is anchored on a library. A placemaking study was completed and plans will be publicly unveiled on May 26 at Goodell Gardens. Visit <https://edinboroplacemaking.com/> for more info.
 - County Capital Improvements have been submitted to Gary Lee, Director of Administration, and 7 of the 10 approved are for the library. Next step is County Council approval.

- Minerva Project continues with the Pedestal scheduled for delivery on April 30. Unveiling will take place May 12 @ 11am. The sculptor will be done by 4/30.
- Newsbank purchase is close to approval within County Council. The trial of full access has been very popular among patrons.
- COVID-19 Memorial will be dedicated by the County Executive at Blasco Library on April 23 at 1:30pm. The temporary memorial adds one dove to the front windows of Blasco library for each Erie County resident that lost their life to COVID-19. Library is sponsoring a Book of Remembrance that individuals can add their memories to.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau grant has been awarded to do financial literacy programming. We are 1 of 6 libraries in the state to host this.

c. Review of Financial Report

Financial Report dated 3/11/2021

The 2021 total Library budget is roughly 7.3 million. Not much to report in the first quarter, many periodic renewals occur in Q1. Received the final 2020 financials; library had 6.9 million in expenditures and we reduced by \$80,000.

d. Statistical and Other Reports

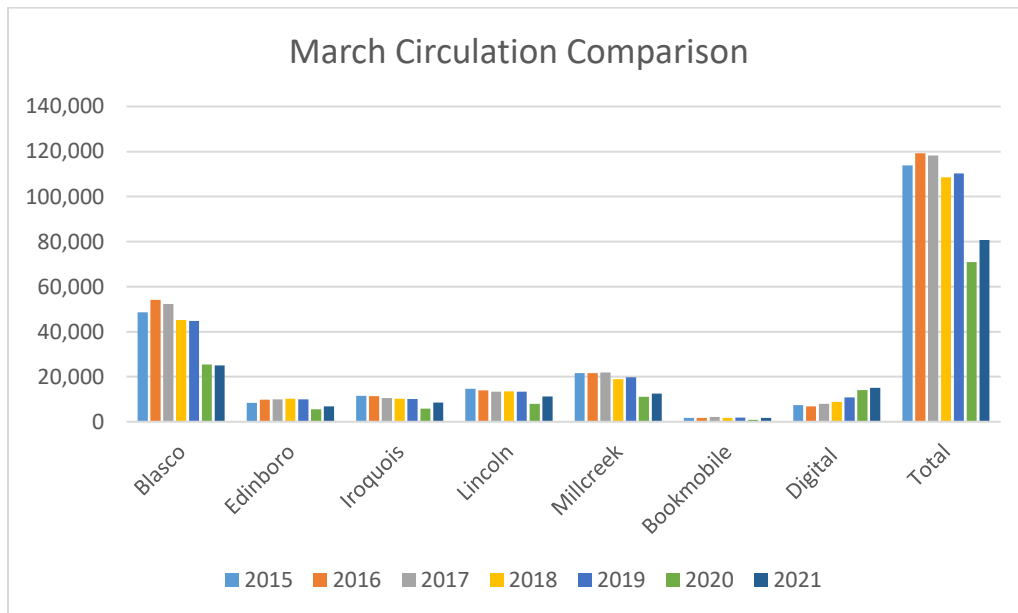


March 2021 Statistics

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
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Blasco	48,541	54,106	52,297	45,211	44710	25,478	24,972
Edinboro	8,431	9,801	9,977	10,203	9932	5,592	6,749
Iroquois	11,451	11,354	10,496	10,296	10042	5,860	8,503
Lincoln	14,702	13,986	13,419	13,480	13384	7,997	11,276
Millcreek	21,577	21,578	21,905	18,878	19743	11,068	12,461
Bookmobile	1,688	1,673	2,083	1,638	1782	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.

LAMP programming is underway with Carnegie Library, they are currently working with District Consultants to train on devices and procedures for accessibility.

4. Board and Committee Reports

a. Report of County Council Liaison

No report

b. Report of Friends and ERLF

- o No report from Foundation
- o Friends of the Erie County Public Library

5. Unfinished Business

None

6. New Business

(No quorum) 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.

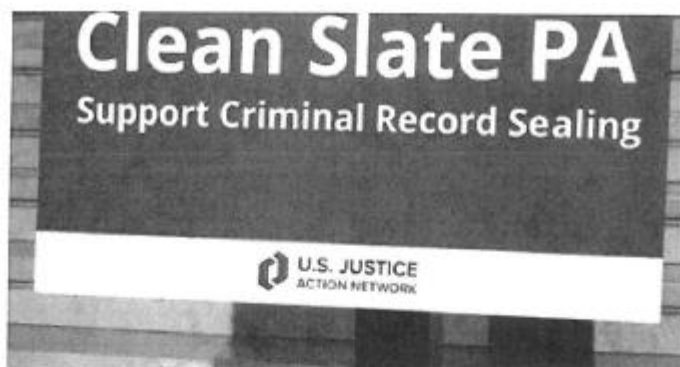
Contact A.J. Rao at arao@timesnews.com.

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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