



# Library Advisory Board Meeting

## Thursday, May 20

ZOOM: 983 3133 2641 | Passcode: 821018

### 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, Bill Conway, Annie Rosenthal

Members Absent: Jim Dehaven (resigned)

Others Present: Jessica Church, Alyssa Johnson, Deana Cooper, Peg Shenefelt, Sheryl Thomas, Randalee Gross

##### 2. Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2021

Martha motioned to approve, second by Bill, all aye.

##### 3. Library Reports

###### a. Library Staff Report

none

###### b. Report of Acting Director

Sheryl Thomas, acting director, reported that on May 31 ECPL will move to 100% capacity in line with state orders. We are developing an ECCCPA account and making plans for student recruitment. Picnic tables will be added to all branches (except Millcreek as there is no outdoor space). The Director position is posted and the search will continue until a candidate is selected. Sheryl introduced Annie Rosenthal who was appointed to the board for the unexpired term previously held by Felix Lohitai. Annie will represent Council District 2.

###### c. Review of Financial Report

Deana reported on the previous month's finances indicating that there is nothing too concerning but that we are down on revenues (pandemic trend). We are hoping that revenue from room rentals will increase as occupancy limits are lifted. At this point in the year, we should be roughly 33% expended and we are just about there.

###### d. Statistical and Other Reports



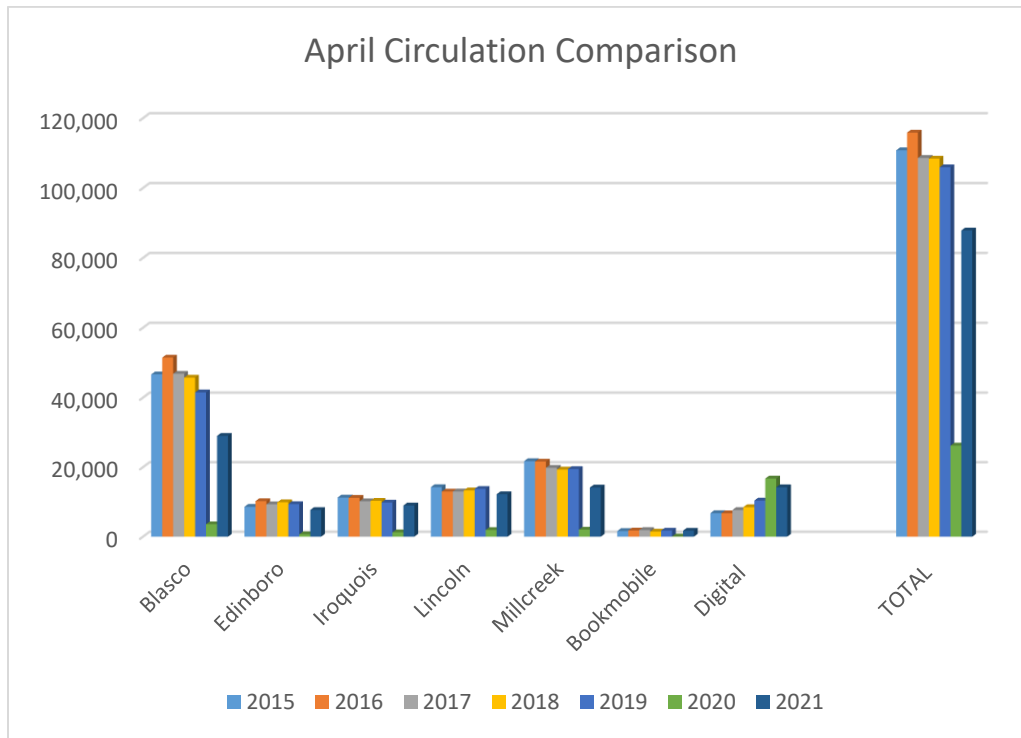
#### April 2021 Statistics

##### Numbers Snapshot

- **87,846** overall check outs, up **9%** over last month, up **235%** over last year
- **3,189** Wi-Fi sessions, up **7%** over last month

- **20,762** visits, up **8%** over last month
  - Visits are down **62%** from April 2019

**Circulation**



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Blasco</b>	46,639	51,440	46,815	45,707	41,479	3,576	28,988
<b>Edinboro</b>	8,587	10,196	9,300	9,885	9,364	680	7,666
<b>Iroquois</b>	11,246	11,164	10,164	10,302	9,812	1,237	8,962
<b>Lincoln</b>	14,239	12,982	12,994	13,298	13,738	1,919	12,197
<b>Millcreek</b>	21,704	21,590	19,805	19,296	19,427	2,023	14,130
<b>Bookmobile</b>	1,619	1,754	1,891	1,444	1,731	54	1,712
<b>Digital</b>	6,765	6,721	7,654	8,478	10,379	16,710	14,191
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110,799</b>	<b>115,847</b>	<b>108,623</b>	<b>108,410</b>	<b>105,930</b>	<b>26,199</b>	<b>87,846</b>

e. [Report of District Consultant](#)

**District Advisory Council**

On May 11, The District Advisory Council, comprised of library directors and trustee members from around the district, passed the district’s negotiated agreement and budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year that begins July 1. Discussed annually, the negotiated agreement allows for member libraries to discuss the needs of the district as well as their collective goals, and it acts as a guideline for the district consultant and district library center in implementing district activities.

In that meeting, discussion took place about the excess funds at the district level as the 2020-2021 fiscal year closes out June 30. Due to the temporary vacancy in the consultant position and the effects of COVID to various budget lines, it was decided to revise the excess fund contingency plan to not only add additional

funds to collection development (e-books, Playaways, e-resources) and district marketing, but to carry over funds into 2021-2022 to help with the purchase of a new interlibrary loan delivery van in Erie County. While this is not normally permissible, our advisor from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries is fairly certain that the state agency is working on a procedure to allow this action. At the local level, we wait to hear the finalized ruling and if it will align with our plan. If it does not, we'll revisit the plan to assess expending funds in an efficient and practical manner.

In 20-21 year there is a lot to spend and we are requesting a carryover into the new year.

### **Local Mitigation Comments from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL)**

On May 13, the CDC's guidelines for masking and social distancing were lifted for fully vaccinated individuals, but not unvaccinated individuals. This layer may add a bit of complexity for libraries that want to maintain mitigation efforts for everyone. While the new guidance states that fully vaccinated individuals do not have to wear a mask in many situations, **they are still expected to wear masks if a local business or workplace requires them.** OCL referenced a press release from the state's press office from 5/14/2021: [Department of Health: Businesses Continue To Maintain Option To Require Individuals To Wear Masks](#)

### **Advocacy & State Budget**

Please continue to reach out to state legislators to request support for an additional \$5 million to the Public Library Subsidy line, the line which provides state aid for member libraries.

### **Emergency Broadband Benefit**

Starting May 12, 2021, eligible households will be able to enroll in the program to receive a monthly discount off the cost of broadband service from an approved provider. Eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or by visiting [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](#).

The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible families and households who are struggling to stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Qualifying households on Tribal lands can receive a discount of up to \$75 per month for service. Eligible households can also receive a discount of up to \$100 for the purchase of a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. For more info, please visit: [fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](#).

## **4. Board and Committee Reports**

### **a. Report of County Council Liaison**

none

### **b. Report of Friends and ERLF**

Friends: Peg remarked on the Minerva Pedestal fundraiser saying that 19 of the 84 available plates have already been reserved. A miniature "great American book sale" is planned for July 15, 16, 17. Over \$3500 was raised at the May book sale and it went very well.

## **5. Unfinished Business**

none

## **6. New Business**

None

Julie commented on the closing COVID-19 oral history project.

## **7. Adjournment**

Julie motioned to adjourn at 12:34pm, Kara second. All aye.

## 8. Appendix

### a. News Articles

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

# Edinboro Branch Library promotes reading and outdoor recreation

EDINBORO — The Erie County Public Library launched its newest COVID-19-compliant program at the Edinboro Branch Library: the “Mini Mystery Walk.”

This program encourages patrons to read a short mystery while engaging in a walk along Edinboro Lake and use their best sleuthing skills to solve the case.

The short mystery by author Hy Conrad is broken up into 10 parts. Each part is printed on a yard sign and placed in order along Lakeside Drive. The story is presented in both English and Spanish. Sleuths will read the mystery as they walk — in one direction for English, the opposite for Spanish — and be prompted to solve the case through a survey accessed by QR code on the final sign. Correct solutions will be entered to win a

FitBit Inspire with the winner being drawn Aug. 31.

“The Edinboro Branch Library tries to focus on our community’s needs, and we made this activity to promote one of its best resources, Edinboro Lake,” says Randalee Gross, manager of Edinboro Branch Library — a location of the Erie County Public Library. “Our patrons are always looking for something that is engaging for the whole family, and this walk provides the added benefit of exploring our community. If it is successful, we hope to add additional seasonal walks that help our patrons explore the Edinboro community while promoting the library.

The mystery walk encourages community members to get outside and read in a fun, family-friendly activity that runs through May 25.

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On Wednesday the culmination of the **Erie County Public Library's** Minerva pedestal project was dedicated at Blasco Library.

The ceremony was attended by County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Friends of the Library members, library staff and several donors that made the project possible.

In 2019 the Minerva statue returned to Blasco Library and initiated a restoration and public art project. A local conservator, Russ Banks, was commissioned to perform restoration work including recreation of missing pieces and repair of the 100-plus-year-old plaster statue.

Restorations are still underway and are expected to conclude in the coming weeks.

The statue was housed intermittently in the Michele Ridge Galleria and historic items vault at the Blasco Library as fundraising efforts and a public art project ensued. The Friends of the Library solicited 98 names and many anonymous donors who collectively raised \$13,752.73 toward the completion of the pedestal and restoration of the statue.

The public art project included the design and construction of a large pedestal to display Minerva at her permanent location — as decided by the public via online surveys. A request for qualifications launched with the aid of Erie Arts & Culture to locate a suitable artist for the pedestal. A selection committee reviewed applicants and selected Adam Stempka of MetalHeads USA to complete the pedestal project.

The pedestal and statue are now available for public viewing in the center of Blasco Library near the staircase.

## Erie County Community College of Pennsylvania

# STUDENT SUCCESS LIBRARIAN

The founding Student Success Librarian will implement library programs, assist with the development of instructional materials, and provides students with reference assistance and instruction for the newest community college to be established in Pennsylvania, Erie County Community College of Pennsylvania (ECCCPA). The Student Success Librarian works in collaboration with the [Erie County Public Library](#) system and is responsible for developing and maintaining the College's collections.

This position reports to the Vice President of Academic and Student Services and is a member of the professional staff. The incumbent will be committed to maintaining and furthering the College's commitment to ethics, integrity, respect, and inclusion and to promoting student success. The Student Success Librarian will be required to work in multiple sites throughout the service area and be able to adapt to a constantly changing environment with multi-faceted duties, maintain professionalism, confidentiality and a student-centered focus and attitude while carrying out all job responsibilities.

- Advanced graduate degree required; MLS preferred.
- A minimum of two full years of professional library experience, experience in an academic library setting serving a diverse population is preferred.
- Experience operating a PC and related software.
- Demonstrable knowledge of Microsoft Office and Internet usage for research and communication.
- Possesses skill in the management of systems and technology in a library setting
- Experience working with highly diverse settings in both rural and urban communities.

**To apply, please email [search-HR@ecccpa.org](mailto:search-HR@ecccpa.org)**

An essential part of this process will be getting your ideas about what you picture a new library looking like.

Libraries matter. In order to support all Erie County residents, our libraries must be resourced appropriately. With that in mind, the Erie County Public Library has launched a project to plan for the future of its **Millcreek Branch Library** and will be inviting residents to help us determine what amenities and features will best serve our community.

The role of public libraries fills a vital part of every community. Libraries provide programs and literacy for young families, access to technology for job searches, and public spaces for tutors, book clubs and other programs. Libraries create an opportunity for people to learn and grow in a host of ways across generational lines. This project allows all of us to work together to plan a future facility that builds on our existing services and also expands what the library can offer to Erie County.

In the coming weeks and months, the Erie County Public Library will be collaborating with Bostwick Design Partnership on a needs assessment and facility feasibility study designed to set a course of action for an improved Millcreek Branch that will be enhanced in ways that better serve our users. Bostwick has successfully worked on the Blasco Library Master Plan and the Blasco Idea Lab and Teen Space, so they bring a great deal of familiarity with the library to this process.

An essential part of this process will be getting your ideas about what you picture a new library looking like. What services would you like offered? What building features appeal to you? In essence, we want you to tell us how a new Millcreek Branch could best serve you.

You will have several opportunities, including targeted focus groups, a public meeting and a community survey, to share ideas. Please help us shape the future of the library. We want this endeavor to result in a facility that best serves our community, and the best way to do that is to hear from you. In collaboration with Bostwick Design Partnership, the Erie County Public Library will conduct a series of focus group meetings so that we can listen and understand the attitudes, beliefs, concerns, behaviors and preferences of the community. These groups will include:

1. Preschool and elementary school parents.
2. Middle school students.
3. High school students.
4. Homeschool parents and children.
5. Mature adults age 55 and older.

## 6. Business and professional representatives.

In addition to these focus groups, there will also be a public meeting to describe the project and to solicit public feedback. This meeting will include an overview presentation followed by community dialogue. The focus groups and the public meeting are all scheduled to take place this spring, so please participate and keep an eye on the Erie County Public Library's webpage ([erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org)) and social media accounts for exact dates and times.

The Erie County Public Library will be inviting you to share what you like about the Millcreek Branch and also asking for your ideas about what would make it even better.

Think big — in addition to developing a larger, more user-friendly space for traditional library activities, we encourage you to think outside the box and share what sorts of innovative services you would like to see in a library/community center facility.

A makerspace with room for collaborative work using high-tech and low-tech tools and components to transform ideas into completed projects, enhanced technology, a coffee shop, performance and meeting space, a gallery for local art, a kitchen for cooking programs, a fitness center — all of these ideas and more are the type of input we need to receive from the community.

Let's work together to envision the **Millcreek Branch Library** of the future, based on a library and learning foundation but also well positioned to serve the needs that you help to identify.

John Euliano is the **Millcreek Branch Library** manager.

An essential part of this process will be getting your ideas about what you picture a new library looking like.

### CITATION (MLA STYLE)

Euliano, John. "How would you improve the Millcreek Branch Library?." *Erie Times-News (PA)*, ERI-TimesNews ed., sec. News, 2 May 2021, p. C11. *NewsBank: America's News*, [infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1823A1251DA2F9A0](http://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1823A1251DA2F9A0). Accessed 3 May 2021.

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\*Library Comic-Cons - talk to the library about this: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/erie-county-public-librarys-comic-con-goes-virtual-renamed-libcon-celebrates-comics-as-art-literature-culture/ar-BB1gpwUs?ocid=BingNewsSearch>

**Erie County Public Library Director Blane Dessy - Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA) - April 28, 2021**

April 28, 2021 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA) | Matthew Rink

Blane Dessy will step down May 14 as the executive director of the Erie County Library System, two years and one month after taking the job.

Dessy, 69, informed Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper Sunday evening that he planned to retire.

From the archives:New library director, inspired by Erie, comes out of retirement

"I'm leaving the role because I'm getting much older and in reviewing what I want to accomplish with my life, I just realized I had other goals I needed to address, I had other adventures to pursue," said Dessy, who succeeded former director Erin Wincek on April 15, 2019. "I thought about this long and hard, and I talked to Kathy Dahlkemper and (Director of Administration) Gary Lee about it and that's what I decided to do."

Dessy, who will be 70 in August, told the Erie Times-News Thursday that he had mixed emotions about the decision.

"I have really been honored to work at the library," said Dessy, who previously worked for seven years at the Library of Congress. "I've been in a lot of libraries over a long career and the Erie County has a very strong public library and that's largely due to the support of County Council. Many municipal governments would not support the library to the extent that this one has. And so, we need to give credit where credit's due.

"I have mixed emotions," he added. "I know that what I'm doing is the right thing to do. But at the same time, we've started some really exciting projects here at the library that I won't be here to see to fruition. And so that makes me a little bit sad."

Contact Matthew Rink at [mrink@timesnews.com](mailto:mrink@timesnews.com). Follow him on Twitter at @ETNrink.

LIBCON Erie was featured on the podcast, "Briefly with Brenda" from Classy 100. We were lucky enough to be her first guests. The link is attached if you are interested in learning more about this year's library comic con.

[Briefly...with Brenda on Apple Podcasts](#)

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper on Friday hosted a special memorial dedication in front of the Blasco Library on the anniversary of the first COVID-19 death in Erie County.

A temporary physical memorial, consisting of white doves representing each Erie County resident lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, is displayed on the windows at the Blasco Library. Nightly the doves will be illuminated by purple light.

The installation, along with a memorial banner, was a generous donation made by FAST SIGNS® of Erie.

"We dedicate this memorial to the Erie County lives lost," said Dahlkemper. "Let it be a physical reminder of the obligation to all, as members of our community, to do whatever it takes to protect, not only ourselves, but our fellow residents."

To commemorate all who have lost their lives, Erie County residents are invited to sign a leather-bound Book of Remembrance: Erie County COVID-19 Pandemic Memorial, which is located near the circulation desk at the Blasco Library.

The Book of Remembrance provides an opportunity for residents to express personal memories of one of those lost or about the many losses from the pandemic in general.

For those who want to sign the memorial book but cannot make it to the Blasco Library, a digital memorial book is available to sign at <https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/book-of-remembrance-erie-county-covid-19-pandemic-memorial>.

The ceremony began with a moment of silence while church bells rang throughout Erie County and featured an invocation by Pastor Lamont Higginbottom of Second Baptist Church, and remarks made by Erie Mayor Joe Schember; Charlotte Berringer, director of community health services at the Erie County Department of Health; Robert V. Smith, executive director of Pleasant Ridge Manor; Paul Markiewicz, director of Erie County Adult Probation/Parole; Colten Brown's family; and Blane Dessy, director of the **Erie County Public Library**.

The ceremony concluded with John Burton singing "Amazing Grace."

The fate of the **Millcreek Branch Library** may soon come into focus.

On Tuesday, Erie County Council held a first reading on two ordinances that would greenlight a \$50,000 feasibility study on the needs, services and location of a new **Millcreek Branch Library**.

The feasibility study — to be conducted by Bostwick Design Partnership — would gather public input, community studies and cost estimates to determine the best option for the library's new location, facility type and degree of services offered, according to the Erie County Public Library.

The study would also consider new construction versus acquisition or modification to existing properties.

Council does not vote after first readings but could vote as soon as the next council meeting on May 4.

Currently, the **Millcreek Branch Library** resides in leased space within the Millcreek Mall Pavilion and is the only leased facility of the Erie County Public Library's five locations.

Branches:Erie County library system to reopen for in-person service

The branch is also the second busiest library, trailing only the flagship Blasco Memorial Library on Erie's Bayfront.

According to Blane Dessy, director of the Erie County Public Library, the Millcreek Branch location is ideal for foot traffic, but is "quickly outgrowing our space."

"Through completion of this planning grant, the community can help inform their future public library: what location will serve the most residents, what types of services should be offered, and what facility will best meet their needs," Dessy said. "It's a very exciting opportunity and we're looking forward to undertaking this process with Bostwick."

Bostwick Design Partnership has performed consulting work for Erie County Public Library on past projects such as the Blasco Library's phased renovations.

Renovations:Blasco Library renovations to start in early 2017

Grant:Erie County Public Library's Millcreek branch receives \$25,000 grant

The feasibility study would be funded by \$25,000 from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund and a local match of \$25,000 from the county's General Fund.

The Erie County Public Library has not indicated how long the study would take to complete. Bostwick Design Partnership could not be reached Thursday for comment.

A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gannett.com](mailto:arao@gannett.com). Follow him on Twitter @ETNRao.