



Library Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2022
ZOOM: 983 3133 2641 | Passcode: 821018
12:00 pm

Allen
Rosenthal
Pearson

Murphy
Tempestini
Knuth

Boam-excused
Conway
Aoh

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2022**
3. **Library Reports**
 - a. Library Staff reports- Book challenges and reconsideration process- Sheryl Thomas
 - b. Report of Director- Sheryl Thomas
 - c. Review of Financial Report
 - d. Statistical and Other Reports
 - e. Report of District Consultant
4. **Board and Committee Reports**
 - a. Report of County Council Liaison
 - b. Report of Friends and ERLF
5. **Unfinished Business**
6. **New Business**
7. **Adjournment**
8. **Appendix**
 - a. Announcements
 - b. News Articles

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2022

3. Library Reports

- a. Library Staff reports- Book challenges and reconsideration process- Sheryl Thomas
- b. Report of Director- Sheryl Thomas
- c. Review of Financial Report

See attachment

- d. Statistical and Other Reports

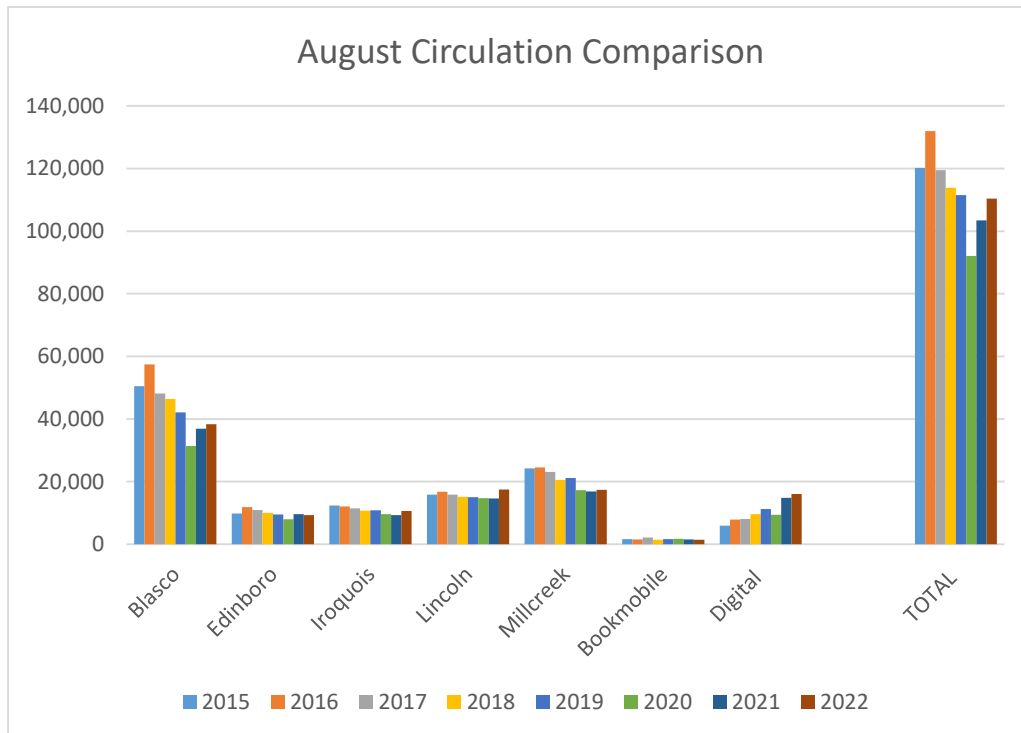


August 2022 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- **627** new cards issued, including **70** e-cards
- **17,455** checkouts at Lincoln, highest August circulation since at least 2015
- **37,415** patron visits, highest number since February 2020

Circulation



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Blasco	50,519	57,436	48,097	46,378	42,130	31,408	36,845	38,277
Edinboro	9,763	11,857	10,937	9,988	9,492	7,970	9,615	9,263
Iroquois	12,368	12,049	11,435	10,759	10,831	9,609	9,312	10,631
Lincoln	15,860	16,702	15,795	15,163	15,032	14,716	14,566	17,455
Millcreek	24,176	24,529	23,117	20,525	21,135	17,283	16,806	17,316
Bookmobile	1,606	1,538	2,099	1,452	1,664	1,681	1,481	1,448
Digital	5,896	7,831	8,038	9,574	11,265	9,408	14,829	15,992
TOTAL	120,188	131,942	119,518	113,839	111,549	92,075	103,454	110,382

e. Report of District Consultant

District Services Report as of September 12, 2022 Updates for ECPL LAB Report Submitted by Jessica Church, District Consultant

District Allocation: Increased Funds

At last week's District Advisory Council meetings, member libraries voted to use a majority of the increased funds towards member libraries' and getting outsourced-assistance on strategic plans or other plans (if the library has a recently developed, functioning strategic plan). Other funds may be used (Public Libraries of Erie County / Crawford County Federated Library System) to boost the results to help libraries gain useful deliverables. Due to the nature of this project, the District will work with purchasing to request RFPs to find a vendor willing to take on this project.

County Coordination Aid

Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) has opened applications for County Coordination Aid. The District Consultant will be working with ECPL and the other Public Libraries of Erie County (PLEC) libraries to build and submit the plan/budget to OCL by the mid-October deadline. This annual plan and budget reflect ways in which these libraries work together to collaborate efforts for stronger services for Erie County residents.

County Coordination Aid – Ordinances

A request has been submitted to add a few more budget lines so that County Coordination Aid can be spent more transparently and to the needs of PLEC libraries. These include office supplies, fees and services, and advertising.

SNOEball Advocacy

Checkout the latest advocacy highlights pulled together by the SNOE Region consultants (Seneca, New Castle, Oil Creek, and Erie/Crawford Districts) If you're interested in being on the email list to receive advocacy updates, feel free to email me with your email address.

[SNOEball: Advocacy Newsletter](#) (July 13, 2022)

[SNOEball: Advocacy Task Reminder](#) (July 27, 2022)

[SNOEball: Advocacy Newsletter](#) (August 11, 2022)

[SNOEball: Advocacy Task Reminder](#) (August 26, 2022)

[SNOEball: Advocacy Newsletter](#) (September 9, 2022)

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Report of County Council Liaison
- b. Report of Friends and ERLF

5. Unfinished Business

6. New Business

7. Adjournment

8. Appendix

- a. Announcements

Reminder: Board members invited to participate in Outreach Advisory Committee. Committee will meet at conclusion of regular board meeting.

- b. News Articles

Erie Times News, August 28, 2022

THE BUZZ

The Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network has a new member.

Allegheny College in Meadville has become the newest member of the beehive with the launch of the Allegheny Center for Sustainable Development, which will provide sustainability research and consulting services to regional businesses and organizations.

The beehive network is comprised of six grant- and donation-funded centers that work together to form the hive network, with each location operating in its own specialized area of expertise.

Member organizations, which employ students, provide services at no charge.

Member organizations, which include Allegheny College, Erie County Public [Library](#), Gannon University, Mercyhurst University, Penn State Behrend and Pennwest Edinboro, offer early-stage business advising, market research, branding and marketing, and educational opportunities, and product and app development.

"We are thrilled to join the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network and help to advance its impor-

tant role in strengthening the region's economic development and vitality," said Allegheny President Hilary L. Link.

"The Allegheny Center for Sustainable Development builds on the strength of our nationally recognized Environmental Science and Sustainability program, our leadership as one of the first 10 carbon-neutral campuses in the U.S., and our distinctive, interdisciplinary approach to preparing students to become creative problem-solvers."

Got an idea for The Buzz? Send an email to Jim Martin at jim.martin@timesnews.com.

Top shelf: Adding new titles and 'weeding' out the old at Erie County Public Library

September 13, 2022 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

Author/Byline: Valerie Myers, Erie Times-News | Section: News

519 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1160, grade level(s): 10 11-12

[Read News Document](#)Focus

How It Works is a recurring feature from the Erie Times-News that explains how government, organizations, processes, ordinances and more work. Email your questions to newsdesk@timesnews.com.

The Erie County Public Library system has more than a half-million books, audiobooks, CDs and other materials for loan, plus new items arriving almost daily.

So who decides what titles the library will buy and when, and which libraries get them?

New executive director: Karen Pierce leads Erie County Public Library

Thirteen librarians recommend new purchases, said Anitra Gates, the library's technical services manager, who oversees acquisitions.

"Each has a specialty area, one part of the collection that they focus on and really get to know. We have a librarian who specializes in the teen collection, another in picture books for children, another in adult fiction. I specialize in cookbooks, which I think is the best," Gates said. "We work as a team on what to buy."

Librarians peruse book reviews, professional journals, and other sources to keep up to date on new titles.

Erie County OCY: Keeping children safe

"If a magazine has an article about the top 10 books this summer, we look at those," Gates said. "We keep an eye on what's mentioned in the newspaper and in popular media. We also get a lot of suggestions from the public."

Readers can suggest new titles at the library or on its website.

Items are ordered weekly, sometimes daily. Buying is heaviest at certain times each year when more books are published. The library does not buy materials in December when the budget and paperwork are finished for the year.

"We make up for that in January, our busiest month for buying," Gates said.

Acquisitions generally are ordered from a library vendor. Books by local authors are purchased from local bookstores.

The library also borrows copies of bestselling titles.

"We can borrow maybe 20 copies of the newest John Grisham book from our vendor so we can get them out to people as soon as possible," Gates said.

Once demand wanes, borrowed copies are returned to the vendor.

New purchases for the library system are shipped to Blasco Memorial Library, where they're prepared for

circulation.

"Our technical services department adds labels, laminates covers, repackages DVDs in more durable cases, and adds tape to paperbacks," Gates said. "We try to make materials last as long as they can."

Rarely seen: We take a look inside Blasco Library's Heritage Room vault

Librarians decide which titles will remain at Blasco or go to a branch library. "Our librarians know what works or doesn't work for each location," Gates said.

County funding and donations pay for purchases.

In addition to buying materials, librarians regularly "weed" the collection, removing worn, obsolete and older-edition titles and those no longer used.

By the numbers: Erie County Public Library, 2021

* 5: Libraries — Blasco, Edinboro, Iroquois, Lincoln Community Center and Millcreek, plus 2 Erie Housing Authority youth libraries and the Bookmobile

* 38,352: Library users

* 1,040,436: Materials circulated

* 39,508: New items added

* \$363,246: Erie County funding for books

* \$130,052: Erie County funding for audio-visual materials

* \$24,000: Erie County funding for periodicals

Contact Valerie Myers at vmyers@timesnews.com. Follow her on Twitter @ETNmyers.

Tall Ships

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over at the Maritime Marketplace.”

For those looking to summon their inner pirate, consider 40 Whacks Axe Throwing, a mobile ax throwing venue, where you can try your luck with an ax and a bullseye.

Satisfy your sweet tooth

For more relaxing options, consider indulging in the hand-dipped chocolate-covered snacks at Julie’s Sweet Treats, of North East, or sample the flavors of KingView Mead, Wine & Hard Cider, of Washington, Pa.

Other vendors include Buona Cucina Olive Oils, of Erie; Chrome Premium Cigars, of Erie; Gina Foll Jewelry, of Erie; as well as art, nature and photography exhibits among others.

Catch live music from local artists

The festival will have a lineup of about 20 artists performing a variety of live music, from acoustic to pop, jazz to folk and classics to sea shanties. Sabatini said the festival sought out local artists.



A model of the U.S. Brig Niagara and a tall ships display outside of the Blasco Library’s Heritage Room on Thursday. A.J. RAO/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

- A sailboat-making craft station, where children can construct mini cork sailboats and try them out
- A bubble machine station
- A sailor tattoo station, where children can get washable paint tattoos of traditional sailor tattoos
- A fish printing activity, where children can create realistic fish illustrations using fish stamps

Don’t forget the library

Want a little more information on tall ships?

The Blasco Library, which is connected to the Erie Maritime Museum, has set up maritime-themed book displays in light of the festival, said Erie County Public Library Director Karen Pierce.

Visitors can also check out a large wooden model of the U.S. Brig Niagara outside the library’s Heritage Room, on the second floor. The model is accompanied by a display case with information and photos of the tall ships in the festival.

Pierce said there’s also a display case of novels by Patrick O’Brien, the English author best known for his seafaring novels.

A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @ETN-Rao.

9/11 memorial ceremony set for Sunday - Program to honor victims and those who helped

September 10, 2022 | Erie Times-News (PA)
 Author/Byline: Valerie Myers; Erie Times-News | Page: A1 | Section: News
 331 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1370, grade level(s): >12
 Read News DocumentFocus

Laura DiPasqua-Grappy of Girard will be the keynote speaker at Erie County's annual Sept. 11 memorial ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial at Blasco **Library** on Sunday.

In 2001, DiPasqua-Grappy was emergency services director for the Greater Erie County Chapter of the American Red Cross and led local responders at Ground Zero in lower Manhattan after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. DiPasqua-Grappy and her team were exposed to toxins in the gray dust, burned jet fuel, asbestos and other debris through 17 straight days of 16-hour shifts at the site.

Six years later, DiPasqua-Grappy was diagnosed with incurable cancer. She has battled the disease and battled for responders and attack survivors since.

"When I came home from New York City ... I never thought my life would be this,"

DiPasqua-Grappy told the Erie Times-News in 2016. "When we were down there, we all continuously worked and did whatever was asked of us without hesitation."

On Sept. 11, 2001, almost 3,000 people died in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon and in the crash of a fourth terrorist-hijacked jetliner in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Twenty-one years later, the death toll among attack survivors and responders continues to rise. As of June 30, 2022, 5,380 of those enrolled in the federally funded World Trade Center Health Program have died.

Sunday's 8:30 a.m. memorial ceremony will honor those who died and those who worked to help others.

The program will include the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the Erepa Grotto Pipes and Drums and a 21-gun salute by the American Legion Post 571 Honor Guard.

Erie County Council Chairman Brian Shank will serve as master of ceremonies.

Erie's 9/11 Memorial, in front of Blasco **Library** at 160 E. Front St., is an 18-foot section of steel beam from the World Trade Center.

Contact Valerie Myers at vmyers@timesnews.com. Follow her on Twitter @ETNmyers.

If you go

Erie County's 9/11 Memorial Service

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Blasco Memorial **Library**, 160 E. Front St.