



Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Via Zoom @ noon

Groves
Rosenthal
Pearson

Murphy
Tempestini
Knuth

Boam
Conway
Aoh

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2023**
3. **Library Reports**
 - a. Report of the Director
 - b. Review of Financial Report- Deana
 - c. Statistical and Other Reports- Sheryl
 - d. Report of District Consultant
4. **Board and Committee Reports**
 - a. Report of County Council Liaison
 - b. Report of Friends of the Library
 - c. Report of Erie Regional Library Foundation
5. **Unfinished Business-**
6. **New Business**
 - a. Staff Report- none
7. **Adjournment**
8. **Appendix**
 - a. Announcements-
 - b. News Articles

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2023
3. Library Reports
 - a. Report of the Director

Connections-

Career Online High School Update – Erie County Public Library Career Online high school is live. Community members can earn an accredited high school diploma online. The library is currently sponsoring three seats with the help from the Friends of the Library. We've had an overwhelming amount of Erie Community members apply for the scholarships. . The program runs eighteen months but can be reduced if the student has transfer credits from previous high schools/GED/HiSET. An additional benefit is the ability set individual career paths. We hope to add to the list of partners to help sponsor more scholarships.

Friends of the Library Book Sale – The Friends of the Library hosted “A Sweetheart of a Sale,” February 9 thru February 11 in the Blasco Admiral Room. The sale had an amazing turnout and was a great success. All proceeds benefit program funding for the Erie County Public Library.

New Bookmobile Stops–Outreach Services is transitioning certain bookmobile stops to reach school-aged students and families. This involves positioning the final stop of each route day near a school, aligned with their dismissal times. These new stops include McKean Country Fair (highly visible and centralized location on route 99), Grover Cleveland (new partnership with community school following the closure of their in-school library), and Wilson middle school/Mercyhurst child learning center (existing stop but visit times were changed to capture after school patrons).

Additionally, the Bookmobile now serves two Housing Authority of the City of Erie sites: John E. Horan Garden Apartments and Erie Heights. This partnership expands prior library services from solely focused on ages 6-12, to the entire community of HACE residents.

Collections-

Board Games – The library now offers patrons the opportunity to check out board games. A variety of board games were added to the library catalog. All board games are housed at Blasco in the Bookmobile office.

Capacity-

ECGRA Building a Better Future Transformational Grant Presentation – Karen Pierce and Andrew Miller attended the ECGRA ceremony to accept the awarded 54K matching Idea Lab Program and Services Support grant. The grant supports the programming and overall maintenance of the Idea Lab at Blasco.

Joint Operating Committee (JOC) Update – The JOC continues to meet bi-weekly to discuss action items and issue related to the joint space. The current action items revolve around security, HO Hirt Auditorium technical issues and equipment upgrade and parking.

- b. Review of Financial Report- Deana
See attached

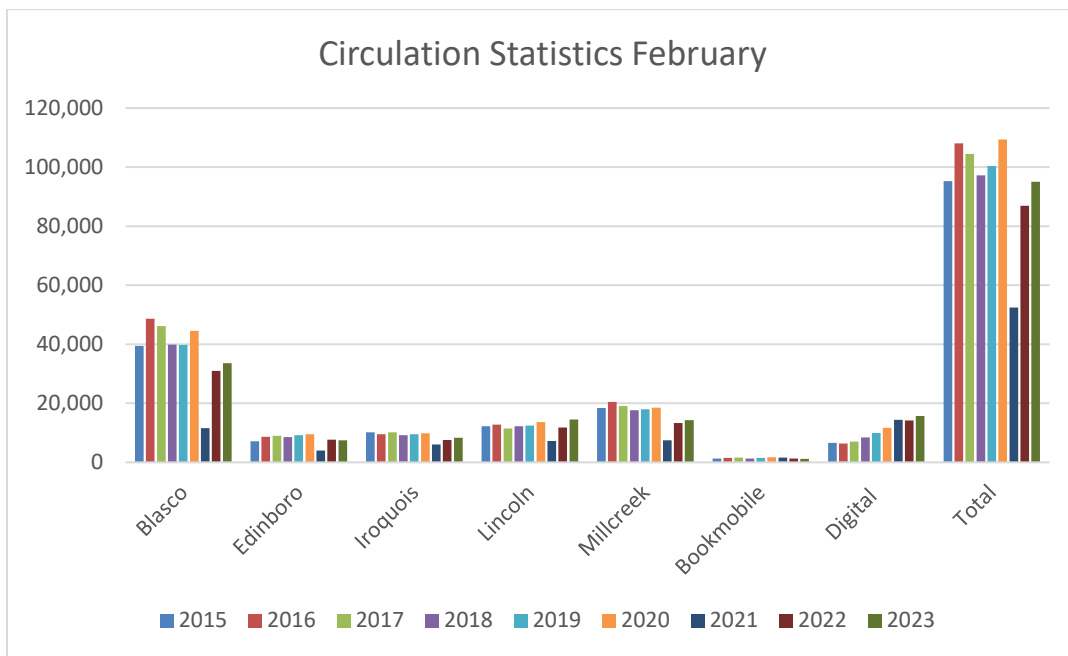


February 2023 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- **496** new cards issued, including **66** e-cards
- **3,540** WiFi logins, **2,829** public PC logins across locations
- **31,747** patron visits, **18,675** at Blasco and **13,072** at branches and Bookmobile

Circulation



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Blasco	39,475	48,636	46,156	39,854	39,802	44,493	11,618	31,006	33,588
Edinboro	7,094	8,662	8,997	8,543	9,165	9,494	4,008	7,663	7,455
Iroquois	10,157	9,566	10,206	9,191	9,486	9,809	6,064	7,583	8,383
Lincoln	12,233	12,794	11,472	12,205	12,417	13,642	7,277	11,816	14,499
Millcreek	18,386	20,483	19,043	17,619	18,003	18,534	7,504	13,315	14,302
Bookmobile	1,264	1,508	1,632	1,345	1,495	1,730	1,586	1,322	1,143
Digital	6,644	6,434	6,993	8,466	9,954	11,696	14,377	14,219	15,668
Total	95,253	108,083	104,499	97,223	100,322	109,398	52,434	86,924	95,038

d. Report of District Consultant

District Services Report as of March 15, 2023

Updates for ECPL LAB Report

Submitted by Jessica Church, District Consultant

Initial State Budget Proposal

Governor Shapiro proposed his initial budget this month. It included:

- Public Library Subsidy (State Aid)
\$70.47 million - no increase/decrease from last year
- Library Services for the Visually Impaired and Disabled (LAMP services through Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh)
\$2.567 million - no increase/decrease
- Library Access (AccessPA)
\$3.071 million - no increase/decrease
- State Library
\$2.466 million - a slight increase, which the impression is to help state library services and personnel move back into their permanent building after a lengthy renovation period
- Public Library Facilities Improvement (New Proposed Line)
\$4.228 million – a proposed line to the budget for helping small and rural libraries with funding support to for minor facilities improvements

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Report of County Council Liaison
- b. Report of Friends of the Library
- c. Report of Erie Regional Library Foundation

5. Unfinished Business-

6. New Business

- a. Staff Report- none

7. Adjournment

8. Appendix

- a. Announcements-
- b. News Articles

Earn an Accredited High School Diploma Free Through Your Library



careeronline™
HIGH SCHOOL

Earn your accredited high school diploma online, on your schedule. You'll get 1-on-1 support to help you succeed. Be ready for college or to advance your career.

- Graduate faster with transfer credits from previous high schools/GED/HiSET.
- Earn a career certificate with your diploma.
- Take courses 100% online.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN CAREER PATH:

- | | |
|---|---|
|  General Career Preparation |  Food and Hospitality (CPFM)* |
|  Office Management |  Commercial Driving (CDL)* |
|  Child Care and Education (CDA)* |  Hospitality and Leisure |
|  Home Care Professional |  Retail Customer Service |
|  Security Professional |  Introduction to Manufacturing |

*Prepares students to obtain the industry credential.



Interested? Ask library staff how to get started or visit library.careeronlinehs.org

Email: cohs@eriecountypa.gov

SWINGING DOOR

Mother, daughter duo expand cafe business, thank community for help



Jennie Geisler
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Thelma's Tasty Temptations

Located inside Blasco Library, this place is more than a cafe. It's history in the making.

"This is a Black-owned business," said Thelma Mae Blanks-Howard. "There aren't a lot of us around, Black women who have their own business."

In addition to healthy lunches in the cafe, Blanks-Howard bakes all the sweets sold there as well as the goodies at Cafe 7-10, a coffee and bake shop at 7 W. 10th St., operated by her daughter, Mabel Howard.

The library cafe has been open since this past summer and has established relationships with both the library and adjacent Maritime Museum, which welcomes hungry tourists by the busload.

"They call us and tell us to be ready," Blanks-Howard said. "We're grateful to have good neighbors."

She said she's been baking since she was 8 years old, showing off her peanut butter banana bread, chocolate butterscotch cake and her 7-Up Cake.

Cafe 7-10

She'll be showing off her brownies, too, as her daughter, Mabel Howard, is expanding her shop's choices to include a brownie bar that will feature several types of brownies, including a gluten-free variety. Howard is planning a special open house to thank the community for supporting her after a vandal threw a piece of concrete through her storefront window during one of her weekly poetry nights.

"I wanted to thank everyone who helped us get through a traumatic event in a sweet way," Mabel Howard said.

She said donations helped her make the repairs necessary in order to reopen.

"There will be an incredible amount of brownies," she said, including cheesecake, fudge, chocolate chunk, peanut butter, espresso and pistachio and strawberry, among others.

Right now the shop is open Thursdays through Saturdays from noon to 7:10 p.m., and Tuesdays, 4 to 6 p.m.



Thelma Mae Blanks-Howard slices her 7-Up Cake at her cafe, Thelma's Tasty Temptations, open in the Blasco Library's atrium from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Howard also bakes all the goodies available at Cafe 7-10, at 7 W. 10th St. JENNIE GEISLER/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

THE BUZZ

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority has awarded \$896,000 in grants to members of the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network, which helps entrepreneurs launch and build their businesses.

Grants of \$200,000 each were given to Penn West University, Gannon University, Mercyhurst University and Penn State Behrend. A grant of \$96,000 was given to the Erie County Public Library's Idea Lab.

"Working to spur business growth and job creation, small businesses make up the backbone of Erie County — and

their entrepreneurial spirit should be celebrated," said Perry Wood, the authority's executive director.

• • •

A call by the Federal Railroad Administration for faster and more frequent passenger train service between New York City and Niagara Falls has won the praise of All Aboard Erie.

The FRA's environmental impact study calls for the addition of four daily round trips between Albany and Niagara Falls, higher speeds, and 273 miles of new track between Buffalo and

Sponsored By: **ROMOLOS** Presented By: **Jazz Erie**

JAMES BRANDON LEWIS TRIO & THE MESSTHETICS

Tuesday, March 14, 7PM
TICKET PRICES:
Standard \$25 | JazzErie Members \$20



Students can obtain a **\$15 DISCOUNT** by emailing jazzerie814@gmail.com using their school email.

SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS



H O HIRT AUDITORIUM
BLASCO MEMORIAL LIBRARY
160 BLASCO ST., • ERIE PA 16507

Erie County Library Expands Bookmobile Service Stops

Friday, March 10th 2023, 2:11 PM EST



The Erie County Public Library is adding additional stops on its Bookmobile route.

Newly added stops include:

- Erie Heights, a housing complex operated by Housing Authority of the City of Erie, located at 4024 Garden Ave., Erie, Pa.
- John E. Horan Garden Apartments, a housing complex operated by Housing Authority of the City of Erie, located at 2110 E. 10 St., Erie, Pa.
- Country Fair, a convenience store centrally located along Route 99 at 9030 Main St., McKean, Pa.
- Grover Cleveland Elementary School, a United Way Community School within Erie's Public School District, located at 1540 W. 38 St., Erie, Pa.

The new stops will align with nearby school dismissal times. The goal is to connect students, and their families with library services.

Additionally, the Bookmobile will begin offering single site visits on select Thursday mornings beginning March 30th.

Interested organizations can find more information [here](#).

<https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/48529641/erie-county-library-expands-bookmobile-service-stops>

Erie Times-News Marh 12, 2023

THE BUZZ

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority has awarded \$896,000 in grants to members of the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network, which helps entrepreneurs launch and build their businesses.

Grants of \$200,000 each were given to Penn West University, Gannon University, Mercyhurst University and Penn State Behrend. A grant of \$96,000 was given to the Erie County Public Library's Idea Lab.

"Working to spur business growth and job creation, small businesses make up the backbone of Erie County — and their entrepreneurial spirit should be celebrated," said Perry Wood, the authority's executive director.