



Library Advisory Board Meeting Monday, May 20, 2024, 9:00am In Person, Admiral Room or Via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83819780963?pwd=OFkraXEyamdRL2tEbFNXcDJZOWswZz09>

District 1- Vacant	District 4- Howells	District 7- Aoh (President)
District 2- Rosenthal	District 5- Almorsy	At-Large- Murphy (Secretary)
District 3- Vacant	District 6- Vacant	At-Large- Groves (Vice-President)

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2024**
3. **Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)**
4. **Library Reports**
 - a. Staff Report- Youth Services Summer Reading
 - b. Report of the Interim-Director- Jessica Stefano
 - c. Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper
 - d. Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper
 - e. Report of District Consultant-Jessica Church
5. **Board and Committee Reports**
 - a. Report of County Council Liaison- Councilman Horton
 - b. Report of Friends of the Library- Kathleen Horan
 - c. Report of Erie Regional Library Foundation- Patrick Miller
6. **Unfinished Business-**
 - a. None
7. **New Business**
 - a. None
8. **Adjournment**
9. **Appendix**
 - a. Announcements
 - b. News Articles

1. Call to Order
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Connections-

Blasco Adult Programming-

Opioid Use Disorder Programming Begins

ECPL's grant funded speaker series on OUD topics kicked off on 4/26 at the Jefferson Educational Society with an event titled "Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Erie and Pennsylvania: Examining Local and State Level Responses." This panel event brought together partners from the Erie Health Department and PA Representative Jim Struzzi's office. The next few months will feature programs on safe prescription disposal, Good Samaritan laws, and effective Nalxone use.

HistERIE Canceled

Jenny Martin had partially completed organizing HistERIE's fourth year, and there was a plan in place for her to assist the new hire in executing this weeklong set of programs. Unfortunately, the hiring process will extend into June and we had to cancel the event. We reached out to our contact list of 106 individuals and organizations and made sure everyone was informed. Library staff are retaining two author events that week and a handful of our community partners are continuing their events on site at their locations.

Hagen History Center: Family History Fair Planning Session

The Erie Society for Genealogical Research is hosting their yearly genealogy fair on Sunday, June 9. Initially planned to be the culminating event of HistERIE, it is now a standalone event that ECPL is committed to supporting. A committee of 12 people (with one ECPL representative) met to ensure to plan the half-day event. ECPL staff will staff a booth with two people for the duration of the fair.

Eclipse Day: Movie Marathon

ECPL hosted five back-to-back space-themed films to give a place for people who may have had difficulty traveling during the influx of visitors to our region.

- 78 people enjoyed sci-fi classics before and after the eclipse.
- Other eclipse/space themed programming was offered the first week of April: themed circuit programming and a NASA speaker on the Moon.

Idea Lab Private Group Events

Lab staff gave organizational programs to the Barber Center and the Erie Regional Library Foundation this month. Private events allow organizations who serve specific audiences the chance to choose program times and topics that are the best fit for their group. The next two in May are the Erie VA Medical Center and Erie Insurance.

YS/AS Partnerships

Adult Services staff continue to collaborate with the Youth Services staff to offer blended programs. K-Pop at the library is a family friend program led by Jillian Rhen and Libby Martin, and caters to new and returning fans of Korean musical groups with fun snacks and interesting crafts. Rachel Stevenson and Libby Martin offered another round of Adult Story Time, which lets adults experience the fun of a story time and craft.

Monthly Statistic Recap-

Information Desk Questions 1819

Programming Highlights- 50 programs offered in April

404 program attendees. Participant to program ratio: 8:1

Tech Help Sessions: 8

Blasco Youth Services-

Kid Librarian - Youth Services Department at Blasco has successfully launched the “**Kid Librarian**” display program, which has been very well-received both internally and externally.

“**Nerd out at the Library**”- The department participated in the planning and the successful execution of “Nerd Out at the Library” week, which kicked off with an after-hours teen event coordinated by the Idea Lab’s Abby Fetzner and Teen Services Librarian Tammy Blount and ended with an all-day multi-generational event full of both passive and active programming. This week of programming and displays is a reimagining of the event formerly called “LibCon” and is inspired by pop culture fandom. The event was well planned and highly attended.

Teen Reading Lounge Recognition - Teen Services Librarian Tammy Blount was recently recognized by PA Humanities, the creators and funding source for the Teen Reading Lounge program, for her outstanding efforts in relation to the program and will be featured in an upcoming documentary celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the PA Humanities organization.

Summer Reading- (SLP) Plans for the 2024 Summer Library Program “Step Out And Read!” are underway. ECPL’s SLP will run from June 10th – August 17th and, thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Erie County Library, the Erie Insurance *Investing in The Future* grant, UPMC Health Plan, and many local partners, this year’s summer offerings will include educational programming and activities provided by the Erie Zoo, the ExpERIEnce Children’s museum, Asbury Woods, Tamarack Wildlife, The Carnegie Science Center of Pittsburgh, the Victorian Princess, and more.

There will also be reading challenges, programming challenges, and age-specific literacy challenges for all ages.

Youth Services Blasco Programming Statistics: 24 programs offered in April, 722 attendees

- 369 youth attendees, 3 teen attendees, 350 adult attendees

Edinboro Branch Programming-

Edinboro collaborated with the Idea Lab to offer an “Acrylic Pours” program, a special Eclipse related program run by a NASA scientist. This was the final class in the “Visual Journaling” series, a popular adult art program.

The upcoming program calendar includes a special “Cave Painting” program (youth art class), as well as “ASL for Children” and “Art 4 Wellness” (an adult art program taught by a licensed art therapist).

Edinboro Programming Statistics: 24 programs offered in April

- 13 Youth programs with 159 youth attendees, 278 adults

- 11 Adult programs with 71 attendees

Total program participation brought in **349 participants** for the month of April.

This is a significant increase compared to March 2024 (302 participants), and a nearly 42% increase compared to April 2023 (203 participants).

The reason for this difference appears to be a combination of robust Storytime attendance, book club/reading group attendance, and an increase in overall available programs.

Operations Review: EDB circulation numbers increased by almost 1,000 items from April 2023, and showed a marginal increase compared to March 2024. Current circulation numbers are still less than most pre-pandemic years (but exceeding 2015 circulation count). Branch visits are continuing their current trend upwards, with a strong increase of 37% from April 2023 (2,856 visits) to April 2024 (3,915).

Iroquois Branch Programming-

Teen Programs at Iroquois – In collaborating with NAMI, the library is able to offer something for teens to do afterschool on Wednesdays. On average, 25+ high school students enter the library at 2:40pm each day. It can seem overwhelming, as Iroquois Branch is a small space. With NAMI offering programs on Wednesdays and Youth Services offering a teen afterschool program once a month, this gives teens the opportunity to hang out in a larger space in lieu of the smaller teen section within the library. Teens are making connections with the NAMI staff and continue ask if they will be back each week.

NAMI will offer a teen program this summer on Monday evenings. It is our hope that NAMI will be able to offer their programs again in the fall during after school hours.

Fiber Arts Open House –On April 27, Iroquois hosted a fiber arts open house that allowed both patrons and businesses the opportunity to network and demonstrate either skills. Karen Smock started the day with a class on Yorkshire Button Making.

IRQ Programming Statistics: 33 programs offered in April.

- 11 Youth programs with 143 youth attendees, 106 adult attendees
- 15 Adult programs with 95 attendees
- 5 Teen programs with 16 teens attendees, 4 adults

Total program participation brought in **364 participants** for the month of April.

Lincoln Community Branch Programming-

The majority of the programs were offered by library staff however, Lincoln branch did partner with NASA, Alliance for Therapy Dogs, Penn State University Extension, Penn Writers and the Alzheimer Association. Lincoln continues to offer genealogy programs Mahjong classes.

Yoga at Lincoln – Lincoln offer yoga classes from Balancing Dragon Yoga every other Saturday.

Lincoln Programming Statistics: 26 programs offered in April

- 10 youth programs, 175 youth attendees, 128 adult attendees
- 7 adult programs with 41 attendees

- 7 all ages programs with 32 youth, 99 adults, 2 teens

Total program participation brought in **477 participants** for the month of April.

Millcreek Branch Programming-

MCK offered an eclipse program run by a NASA scientist, a special evening Storytime, as well as maintaining its strong reputation for all things green through the “Garden Club” (a popular, well-attended program run by two MCK clerical staff).

Upcoming Programs-

In May, MCK is conducting its popular “Plant Swap,” and collaborating with the ECPL Idea Lab to deliver a program on songwriting and recording, as well as opioid-education programming.

Millcreek Programming Statistics: 17 Programs offered in April

- **5 Youth programs, 77 youth attendees, 59 adults**
- **12 Adult programs, 73 attendees**

Operations Review: MCK’s circulation numbers decreased from March to April 2024 (15,365 items to 14,773 items), although April 2024 is roughly equivalent to April 2023 (14,773 items compared to 14,733 in 2023). Branch visits increased from 3,613 in April 2023 to 3,873 in April 2024.

Outreach Services-

Outreach Programming for April- Totally Solar Eclipse Party in cooperation with the Lincoln Branch, the release of the **Erie County Poetry Anthology**, and an **Earth Day Extravaganza**. Through preparations for the Earth Day event, Outreach secured many seed donations to support and grow a seed library at all locations.

Additionally, the library participated in a career fair with Erie Children’s Museum and presented to a School Librarians conference about designing School-Bookmobile partnerships to support summer reading.

Outreach and Bookmobile Statistics:

- 3 programs outlined above
- 78 questions answered
- 273 patrons utilized the bookmobile in April
- Distributed 67 passive programming kits

Collections-

Nothing new to report

Capacity-

Personnel Updates-

County Administration is in the process of reviewing candidates for the Executive Director of the Library.

c. Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper
Report attached

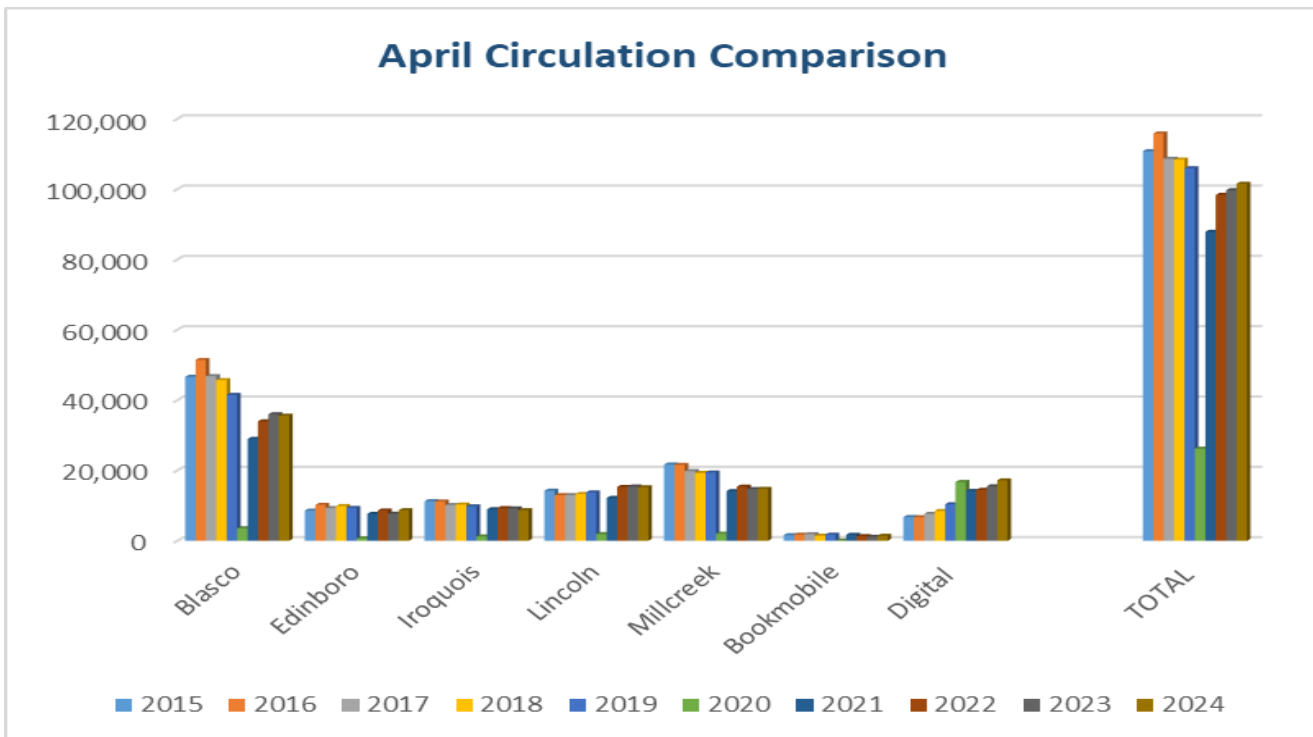
d. Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper

April 2024 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- 617 new cards issued, including 45 e-cards
- 3,663 WiFi logins, 3439 public PC logins across locations
- 39,425 patron visits, 23,359 at Blasco and 16,066 at branches and Bookmobile.

Circulation



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Blasco	46,639	51,440	46,815	45,707	41,479	3,576	28,988	33,980	35,995	35,574
Edinboro	8,587	10,196	9,300	9,885	9,364	680	7,666	8,611	7,712	8,685
Iroquois	11,246	11,164	10,164	10,302	9,812	1,237	8,962	9,276	9,209	8,722
Lincoln	14,239	12,982	12,994	13,298	13,738	1,919	12,197	15,316	15,422	15,221
Millcreek	21,704	21,590	19,805	19,296	19,427	2,023	14,130	15,386	14,733	14,773
Bookmobile	1,619	1,754	1,891	1,444	1,731	54	1,712	1,312	1,135	1,411
Digital	6,765	6,721	7,654	8,478	10,379	16,710	14,191	14,493	15,484	17,165
TOTAL	110,799	115,847	108,623	108,410	105,930	26,199	87,846	98,374	99,690	101,551

e. Report of District Consultant-Jessica Church

District Services Report as of May 16, 2024

Updates for ECPL LAB Report

Submitted by Jessica Church, District Consultant

District Negotiated Agreement

District member libraries met on April 24 to finalize the agreement for FY2024-2025. Highlights focus on the continued efforts to make delivery and interlibrary more efficient and cost effective as well as collection development for the rotating collections, institutional memberships for member libraries, and more shared resources for member libraries.

As the District Library Center, District Aid is the State aid received by Erie County Public Library to facilitate coordinated library service among all of the State aided public libraries in Erie & Crawford County.

County Coordination Aid

We are hoping to finalize bringing on a permanent, part-time driver to supplement interlibrary loan delivery within Erie & Crawford County. We've also submitted a bid for a new transit van (smaller than the box trucks currently utilized) to purchase a smaller, safer, more efficient vehicle which will be available to the public libraries in Erie County when not on route (i.e. parades, outreach events, etc.). While bringing on Crawford County, the delivery schedule has remained the same for the libraries in Erie County, so we hope the supplemental staff and vehicle will bring even more benefit to the local libraries.

County Coordination Aid is the State aid received by Erie County Public Library to facilitate coordinated library service among all of the public libraries in Erie County. As a county library and the district center, ECPL is the designated library to administer these efforts.

5. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Report of County Council Liaison- Councilman Horton
- b. Report of Friends of the Library- Kathleen Horan
- c. Report of Erie Regional Library Foundation- Patrick Miller

6. Unfinished Business-

- a. None

7. New Business

- a. None

8. Adjournment

9. Appendix

- a. Announcements

- Any Board Member is welcome to stay after meeting for a library tour.

-Next meeting is Monday, June 17, 2024 at noon via zoom

- b. News Articles

Research center at library expected to open next year

April 27, 2024 | Erie Times-News (PA)

Author/Byline: A.J. Rao; Erie Times-News | Page: A1 | Section: News

783 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1420, grade level(s): >12

[Read News Document](#)

Gannon University anticipates construction of a new water research and education center at Blasco Memorial Library to begin in late fall, with a projected opening in early 2025.

Gannon leaders joined Erie County Executive Brenton Davis at a news conference Wednesday to announce the dates and assure the community that they'll be able to provide feedback on the center's design.

"Our updated timeline will call for public presentations on a possible design to happen in late June and July," Sarah Ewing, provost and vice president for student experience at Gannon, told reporters at the Erie County Courthouse.

"The comments and feedback will be factored into the final plan," she added.

The 3,280-square-foot center — a part of Gannon's multi-phased \$24 million water quality initiative called Project NePTWNE — will be located on the eastern wing of the library's first floor and comprise of hands-on exhibits, a NOAA Science on a Sphere and a research lab, all of which will be accessible to the public at no cost, according to Ewing.

Ewing said the center will enhance the research done on Gannon's research vessel, the Environaut, and also "complement the educational programming and services offered by the library."

"We will bring programming to the library through the center, and we've already begun discussing possible partnerships with library staff," she said. "These ideas and discussions will continue in the weeks and months ahead."

Gannon, Davis 'moving forward' from controversy surrounding center

The center's proposed location inside the county's main public library has been the source of several protests and demonstrations since the center's lease was approved by Erie County Council in October.

Opponents have argued the lease is an affront to the library, contending it gives away space from a vital public asset to a private, religiously affiliated university that already has several dozen tax-exempt properties throughout the city.

They've also criticized the lease as a "sweetheart deal" brokered by the Davis administration and fast-tracked by council with no public engagement. The lease has Gannon paying a flat rent of \$7 a square foot for an initial 25-year period.

Speaking at Wednesday's news conference, Gannon President Walter Iwanenko sought to reassure the public of the center's value, both to the library and the community overall.

"We acknowledge there's been a lot said about this effort, both for it and against it," he said. "Our expectation is that, in time, this will not only be a destination for our community but also an attraction for visitors to come to our beautiful waterfront — this location remaining a vital resource for generations to come."

He added, "This will be a source of pride, enhancing a public asset. Our community will be a leader in research and education through these evolving public and private partnerships."

Wednesday's news conference comes just days after Erie County Council sought to override a Davis veto that blocked council's attempt to rescind the center's lease. The override failed in a 4-3 vote, falling short of a necessary five-vote supermajority.

Davis on Wednesday said it's been a "tumultuous road" but that the research laboratory in partnership with the county is "moving forward."

Ewing: Gannon "not looking to take over" library services

Among the concerns of community members has been the potential environmental impact of a research laboratory on a library — and the lack of a thorough impact study.

Ewing said there's been some "misunderstanding" around the scope of the center's research lab, which she said will have a very "straightforward design."

"It will be focused more on water quality," she said. "We have the labs we need to control chemicals and the large pieces of equipment on campus. This space is going to be controlled and more so for community engagement and the research process."

Ewing said the contractors hired to design and construct the center — Indovina Associates Architects of Pittsburgh and Building Systems Inc. — will work with library staff to limit disruptions to the library patrons.

She further dismissed concerns that Gannon might expand to other parts of the library.

"We have a very clear design in mind of what we want to achieve," she said. "We want to partner with the library. The library provides a lot of services to the community and we're not looking to take over any of that."

She added that the center aims to complement programs and services in the community, including those at the Regional Science Consortium, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and the Children's Museum.

The construction is being funded by \$1.5 million from the county's share of American Rescue Plan funds.

Erie County Public Library Interim Director John Euliano resigns

April 26, 2024 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

Author/Byline: A.J. Rao, Erie Times-News | Section: News

The interim director of the Erie County Public Library is leaving.

John Euliano, who's served as interim director of the Erie County Public Library since December, has notified the Erie County Executive Brenton Davis administration that he will resign.

Erie County Public Information Officer Chris Carroll did not give a reason for Euliano's departure, citing it as a personnel matter. Carroll also did not comment on when Euliano will exit and who will take his place.

Euliano's resignation comes just four months after former library director Karen Pierce resigned.

During his tenure, Euliano oversaw the adoption of a new library display policy that seeks to curate displays that represent a "wide array of people, cultures, ideas and experiences."

The policy was adopted nearly a year after the library, in a move that sparked public backlash, relocated a Pride Month display that featured LGBTQ+ children's books from the entrance of Blasco Library's children area.

Euliano, at a recent Library Advisory Board meeting, said the new policy will help to "prevent future controversies by clearly articulating the criteria that the library staff consider when developing and creating a display."

Euliano previously served as the Millcreek branch library manager.