



Library Advisory Board Meeting Monday, June 17, 2024, 12:00pm Virtual Meeting 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 – May 20, 2024**
3. **Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)**
4. **Library Reports**
 - a. Staff Report- none
 - b. Report of the 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

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Connections-

Blasco Adult Programming-

Nerd Out- Idea Lab Staff were heavily involved in running the Nerd Out programs and the large Saturday event. There were 45 programs offered during the week, which reached 811 people. Over 375 take and make kits were handed out throughout the week. Idea Lab equipment was used to make all kinds of geek-related items that were used in both active and passive programming.

Staff Office Move- the Adult Services Librarian offices are officially relocated to the second floor. Some final furniture moves will occur for the housing of book club in a bag once the new cabinets arrive and placed (in conjunction with the circulation department).

New CareerLink Partner Program-a new hybrid online/in-person program is being offered on Mondays at Blasco: Applying for Government Jobs. This session helps jobseekers understand the different requirements of local, state, and federal employment, and gives tips on how to tailor resumes.

EDI Program / Collection Item: Mississippi Mondays- Debbi Lyon has created a series of programs that is highlighting and capturing the memories of Erie African Americans who trace their roots to Mississippi. Along with the events, two kits are available to help patrons learn about African Americans who were born in Mississippi and died in Erie. These kits contain a binder with the names of people who moved to Erie, PA during the Great Depression (1910-1970). These were compiled from obituaries and death certificates. Where available, the list includes the year of emigration to Erie County, PA, and the names of parents of the deceased. Kits have an item in them, which allow patrons to add their relatives and/or stories.

Blasco Youth Services-

The **Summer Library Program** has begun! “Step Out and Read kicked off on Monday June 10th. We’ve had a phenomenal response so far.

June 21st is Dana (Nahas) Dillaman’s last day with the library. She will stay on as a library per diem and will be assisting with a few summer reading programs while other librarians enjoy some time off this summer. The position left open by Dana has been posted and we are hopeful that it will be filled soon!

Teen Reading Lounge Workshop - Tammy Blount, Services Librarians recently attended a PA Humanities event in State College, which included training and planning sessions for staff and stakeholders from libraries across the state who facilitate Project Ready, Teen Reading Lounge, and youth-led humanities programming.

Edinboro Branch Programming-

Program Review: Edinboro Branch Library (EDB) 2024 programming participation increased in May. Total program participation brought in **366 participants** for the month of May. This is a modest increase compared to April 2024 (349 participants), and a modest increase compared to May 2023 (359 participants).

Cave Painting - A particularly well-attended program was the youth “Cave Painting” program. Children of all ages were taught the history of cave painting; the artistic techniques used, and learned how to make their own paintbrushes (see pictures below).



Upcoming Programs - The upcoming program calendar includes a public program for the “Opioid Education Series,” the continuing “Art 4 Wellness” series, as well as three different book clubs/reading groups offered at the EDB branch.

Edinboro Programming Statistics: 24 Programs offered in May / 366 Participants

Iroquois Branch Programming-

May Programs - Iroquois hosted several “Nerd Out” Idea Lab programs at the beginning of May. Iroquois continues to have a weekly *Wee Block Party* for young families. Each Month, Iroquois offers a *Homeschool Happy Hour*, *Read to a Therapy Dog*, *NAMI Let’s Talk About It*, *Storytime*, *Alzheimer’s Association Support Group for Caregivers* and *Stitching in the Stacks*.

New Staff Lead Programs - Zara Ostrander and Erica Kaiser have volunteered to lead several adult programs including *Confident Beginner Embroidery*, and Knitting classes. Zara is trying out a new program; *Tinker Thursdays* with the intent to serve adult patrons with disabilities although any adult can attend.

Iroquois has a significant amount of tween & teen foot traffic afterschool from 2:30 until about 4pm. We usually see about 25 students each day. We are working to line up activities and passive programs during that time.

NAMI - We continue to have NAMI on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30-3:30pm until the end of the school year. Cassie Ellsworth, NAMI employee who is head of this program, has agreed to offer a weekly Monday evening Teen program starting on June 28 through August 19. In order to keep this program running all summer, she needs a minimum of 5 teens. Advertising this program is a top priority as we hope to build this community of patrons.

Ms. Ellsworth has also agreed to offer the program again during the 2024-2025 school year right after school from 2:30-3:30pm. During the school year, the attendance is good. In May, the average was about 11 teens each Tuesday.

Lincoln Community Branch Programming-

May Programs- Lincoln hosted several “Nerd Out” Idea Lab programs at the beginning of May. Lincoln continues to have a weekly *Stay and Play* for young families. On average, there are 31 attendees each week. This is a good “feeder program” for story time as it is mostly the really young children. Lincoln story time is one of the consistent programs with large attendance with an average of 46 attendees. On May 30, there were 71 patrons in attendance for story time.

Reoccurring Monthly Programs- Lincoln offers *Read to a Therapy Dog, Alzheimer’s Association Support Group for Caregivers, Penn writers Group, Balancing Dragon Yoga for Adults, Master Builders Block Party, Tween & Teen Night, Homeschool Happy Hour, Learn to Play Mahjong, and a Monday Afternoon Book Club.*

Robot Rally-On May 4, Lincoln offered a special Robot Rally program as a part of a grant application for *Remake Learning Days*. Alyssa Johnson was awarded \$500 to be used toward STEM library programs. The grant money was used to purchase eight Spero Indi learning kits. These Indi bots make a great addition to our STEM materials and can be used at all ECPL locations.

Migration Display- Michelle Dichter created an interactive display to coincide with the Great Bird Migration. Patrons can complete a bird scavenger hunt inside the library, listen to birdcalls, check out items about birds and are encouraged to check out the Birding Backpack from our collection. This is an annual display and is appreciated by patrons.

Outreach at Asbury Elementary School – Lincoln Branch Manager, Colleen Donaldson and Outreach Services Manager, Alyssa Johnson participated in the Asbury Elementary Spring Extravaganza Evening. This was a good event to share upcoming Summer Library Programs schedule of events for all locations. Over 200 youth participated in the crafting activity provided.

Millcreek Branch Programming-

Program Review: Millcreek Branch Library (MCK) had an increase in program participation in May 2024. There were **243 participants** across 22 programs (compared to 209 participants across 17 programs in March 2024). The increase in participation is partially attributable to several successful partnerships with the Idea Lab, allowing several unique programs to be added to the May calendar. MCK offered a songwriting/recording program, multiple creative and artistic evening programs, and facilitated a highly successful plant swap. The “Plant Swap” resulted in over 180 plants being checked out, along with a robust 31 seed packets just from the swap alone (as separate from the Seed Library)

Millcreek Programming Statistics: 22 Programs offered in April / 243 Participants

Outreach Services-

Outreach End of School Events - Outreach services visited six schools at the end of May for various year-end celebrations. Locations include Harding Elementary, Pfeiffer Burleigh Elementary, Iroquois Elementary, Grover Cleveland Elementary, Edison Elementary, and Asbury Elementary. In addition, we attended a community event at Goodell Gardens. These four Bookmobile and three Tent visits shared information about

the library resources and gave community members the opportunity to register for a library card. Save-the-date info about the upcoming Summer Reading Challenge was shared and we offered an engaging activity supported by the Friends of the Erie County Library. These events in total reached 794 patrons. The Bookmobile served 336 patrons on its non-event route, and distributed 75 passive programs.

Collections-

Nothing new to report

Capacity-

Personnel Updates-The Library currently has five open positions posted externally on the County website. We are looking for two full time and one part time Library Clerk positions for the Lincoln and Iroquois branches, an Emerging Technologies Librarian for the Idea Lab and a Youth Services Librarian for Blasco.

We are in the process of reviewing the job description for the Youth Services Manager. When complete, that position will post.

Adult Services Manager, Andrew Miller has resigned from the County to pursue his career elsewhere. His last day was June 17, 2024.

c. [Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper](#)
Report attached

d. [Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper](#)

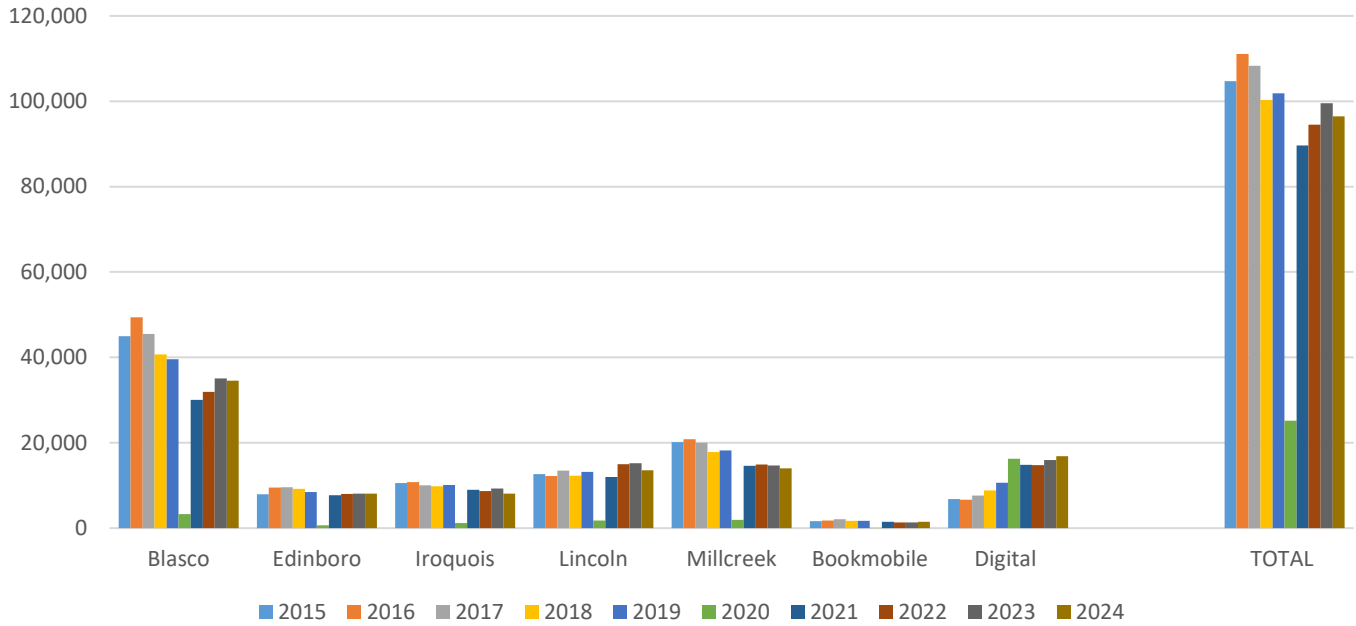
May 2024 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- **479 new cards issued, including 67 e-cards**
- **3,663 WiFi logins, 3289 public PC logins across locations**

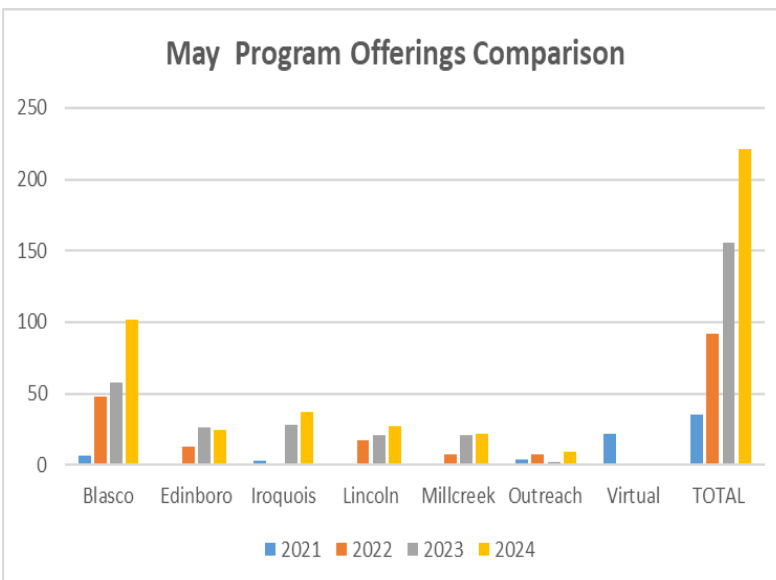
Circulation

May Circulation Comparison

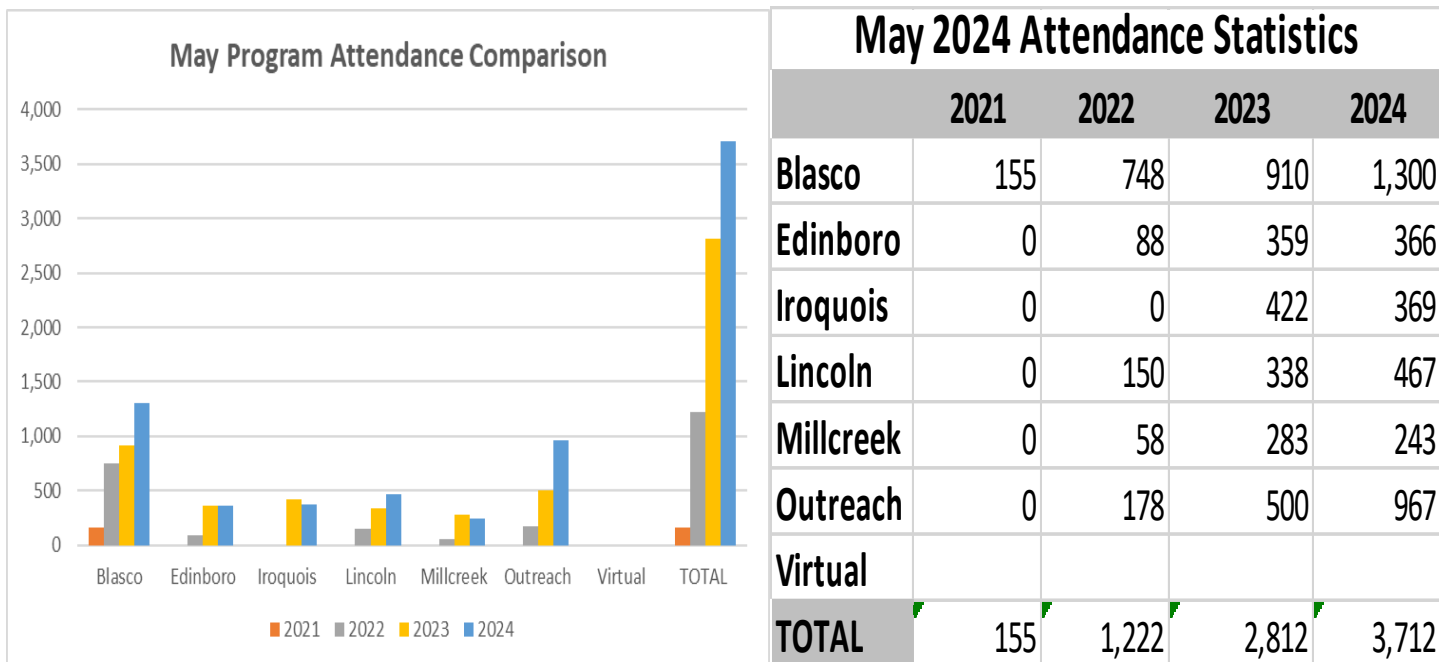


	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Blasco	44,946	49,354	45,476	40,664	39,594	3,292	30,045	31,951	35,106	34,513
Edinboro	7,910	9,516	9,588	9,197	8,456	649	7,711	7,976	8,101	8,090
Iroquois	10,591	10,749	10,052	9,779	10,130	1,159	9,003	8,705	9,271	8,058
Lincoln	12,663	12,225	13,448	12,280	13,154	1,813	11,979	14,964	15,174	13,534
Millcreek	20,176	20,812	20,031	17,840	18,169	1,962	14,604	14,868	14,656	14,018
Bookmobile	1,608	1,754	2,058	1,709	1,722	87	1,475	1,298	1,346	1,462
Digital	6,805	6,671	7,644	8,824	10,620	16,216	14,797	14,755	15,918	16,829
TOTAL	104,699	111,081	108,297	100,293	101,845	25,178	89,614	94,517	99,572	96,504

Programming Statistics:



	2021	2022	2023	2024
Blasco	6	48	58	102
Edinboro	0	13	26	24
Iroquois	3	0	28	37
Lincoln	0	17	21	27
Millcreek	0	7	21	22
Outreach	4	7	2	9
Virtual	22			
TOTAL	35	92	156	221



e. [Report of District Consultant-Jessica Church](#)

**District Services Report as of June 10, 2024
 Updates for ECPL LAB Report
 Submitted by Jessica Church, District Consultant**

Exposure Draft Regulations

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) released a draft of revised Regulations, which they will be submitting to the PA Department of Education and the Internal Regulatory Review Commission. This draft aims to clarify some discrepancies in language from when the library Statutes were updated and enacted. This process, should everything pass timely and with few obstacles, has another couple of years before we'd see any changes to standards associated with State aid distributions.

Regarding the current standards, Erie County Public Library has been maintaining or exceeding the expectations set by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. Any changes in interpretations, which OCL provides, are reviewed for relevance (as there are sections of the standards that do not apply to ECPL) and compliance.

District's Fiscal Year-End

The District is coming up on its year-end on June 30 as designated by the State. Final and encumbered purchases will zero out the District's portion of the State aid balance. State aid is to be spent in its entirety by the end of that aid pool's cycle unless the library submits a justification and receives special approval from the State librarian. This year, we do not anticipate such a request.

County Coordination Aid Updates (Public Libraries of Erie County)

We welcomed Doug Johnson to the permanent, part-time delivery driver positions. Doug had been filling in as a per diem driver while we tested and implemented the expansion of interlibrary loan delivery. On a related note, the bid closed for the transit van-style delivery vehicle (smaller than the box truck). That bid has been awarded, and we hope to see the vehicle with its safety add-ons this summer.

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

-Next meeting is Monday, July 15, 2024 at noon via zoom

- b. News Articles

Jessica Stefano appointed new director of Erie County Public Library.

May 22, 2024 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

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

290 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1390, grade level(s): >12

[Read News Document](#)

Jessica Stefano has been appointed the new director of the Erie County Public **Library**, according to a news release Wednesday from Erie County government.

Stefano, who's served as interim director since May after former interim director John Euliano resigned, will be the first permanent director of the Erie County Public **Library** since former Director Karen Pierce resigned in December.

"I am honored to take on this new role and excited to continue working with the dedicated

team at the Erie County Public **Library**," Stefano stated in the news release. "Our **library** is a vital resource for the community and I look forward to enhancing our services and programs to meet the evolving needs of our patrons."

Stefano began her career with the Erie County Public **Library** in 2022 as the Iroquois Branch manager. This past December, she transitioned to the role of Youth Services manager.

Her prior experience includes serving as the assistant director of education and a certified interpretive guide at Asbury Woods Partnership, according to the news release.

"Jessica's experience and dedication to our community make her an excellent choice for director of the Erie County Public **Library**," Erie County Executive Brenton Davis stated in the release. "Her vision and leadership will undoubtedly strengthen the **library**'s role as a cornerstone of education and enrichment in Erie County."

Stefano holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in English from Cedar Crest College in Allentown. She is also a 2024 graduate of the Master of Science in **Library** Science Program at Pennsylvania Western University.

Additionally, Stefano is a 2023 graduate of the Pennsylvania **Library** Association's Academy of Leadership Studies and serves as a member of the Pennsylvania **Library** Association's PA Forward Literacies Committee.

A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@gannett.com. Follow him on X @ETNRao.

Library will feature children's Pride Month book display

June 10, 2024 | Erie Times-News (PA)

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

In June 2023, the Erie County Public **Library** attempted to relocate a Pride Month book display to a less prominent location in the Blasco **Library** children's area.

The display, which featured LGBTQ+ children's books, was located just inside the entrance of the children's **library** and was the first thing patrons would see upon entering. Erie County Public Information Officer Chris Carroll said a decision was made to take down and relocate the display after a "significant number of people" in the community expressed disapproval.

The decision didn't sit well with others.

LGBTQ+ groups called it discriminatory. Local and state elected leaders viewed it as censorship. Three members of the Erie County **Library** Advisory Board resigned in protest.

Children's librarians also pushed back, removing every display in the children's **library** rather than single out and relocate the "Read with Pride" display in question.

A sign placed in the children's **library** at the time and attributed to the "Erie County Public **Library** Children's Librarians" read: "It is against our professional ethics to pick and choose who we celebrate and don't celebrate in our community."

The question a year later: What has changed as a new Pride Month begins?

Pride Month display to be located at center of children's **library**

At the start of this year, the children's **library** at Blasco began to use a centrally located display for books and materials celebrating cultural and diversity heritage months.

Pride Month won't be any different.

Erie County Public **Library** Director Jessica Stefano said Pride Month books will be featured on this display at the center of the children's **library**, along with materials recognizing other June observances, including Juneteenth.

Stefano, who spoke during the most recent **Library** Advisory Board meeting May 20, said having a dedicated display to celebrate cultural and diversity heritage months creates a standardized layout for librarians and patrons and ensures no celebration is given more credence than another.

"What you will see in June will be the same that you will see any other month," she said.

Stefano added that books celebrating heritage months will remain on the central display for the duration of the month and not be replaced mid-month.

As for the display near the entrance of the children's **library**, Stefano said this will be used as a designated Kid Librarian display, where children ages 7-12 will be selected to create a display featuring their favorite **library** books. The program is already underway.

New display policy stresses diversity, inclusion

The new display layout comes alongside the creation of a formal internal display policy.

The policy, which was developed by **library** officials and approved by the Erie County **Library** Advisory Board in February, states that **library** staff will strive to curate displays that represent a "wide array of people, cultures, ideas and experiences."

The policy codifies a pathway for people to challenge materials but stipulates that displays will not exclude "topics, books, media, or other resources solely on the basis that they may be considered controversial."

The policy also aligns with Erie County Council's resolution to prohibit the censorship of reading materials.

David Moore, president of the PA Equality Project, which, in June 2023 staged a read-in at Blasco following the decision to relocate the Pride Month display, said the **library**'s new approach was a "welcome relief."

"We see it as an encouraging sign that the **library** is willing to work with the LGBTQ+ community in Erie County to make the **library** as diversified and inclusive as possible," he said.

"It's vital that the resources that the **library** has are accessible and put on display just as any other display would be done at any other time of the year."

For more information on the Erie County Public **Library**, visit erielibrary.org.

A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@gannett.com. Follow him on X @ETNRao.

Blasco Library's Pride Month display created with new policy. What's different this year

June 5, 2024 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

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

610 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1370, grade level(s): >12

[Read News Document](#)

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A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@gannett.com. Follow him on X @ETNRao.

After record-breaking 2023, Erie's Great American Book Sale returns this month

June 10, 2024 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

Author/Byline: Nicholas Sorensen, Erie Times-News | Section: News

Coming back from record-setting sales in 2023, The Friends of the Erie County Library are looking to raise the bar once again at the Great American Book Sale.

The sale this year will again take place at the Flo Fabrizio Ice Center at 527 W. 38th St. from June 16-21. The sale will run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day except for June 21, when it will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Great American Book Sale in 2023 generated a record \$77,379, according to a report in the nonprofit board's membership newsletter. Smaller book sales in February, May and October raised a combined \$16,593, also a record, while additional revenue throughout the year added up to around \$70,000.

This year the sale will include over 75,000 gently used books, audiobooks on CD's, music CD's, DVD's and puzzles.

The books for sale will be priced at \$2 for hardcover and large sized paperbacks, \$1 for

regular paperbacks and children's books, and \$0.50 for paperbacks.

More: Erie's 2023 Great American Book Sale raised record revenue. When will it happen this year?

All funds raised from the sales go toward supporting the Erie County Public Library.

Can I still make a donation to the Great American Book Sale?

Although the next book drive date has yet to be announced for 2025, the Friends of the Erie County Library are always seeking donations. Contact them at erielibraryfriends.org to learn how and when to make donations.

The Friends of the Erie County Library accepts the following types of donations:

- * Gently used books.
- * Books on CDs.
- * Music on CDs.
- * DVDs.
- * Jigsaw puzzles.

These are among the items you will find at the specialty sales each year, including the Great American Book Sale.

Other book sales

Can't make it to the Great American Book Sale this year? Not a problem.

For the Friends of the Erie County Library, the remaining small sales for 2024 will be held at the Blasco Library at 160 E. Front St. on Oct. 17-19.

Times will be announced as the date gets closer. Find information at erielibraryfriends.org.

Contact Nicholas Sorensen at Nsorensen@gannett.com.

Community Workshop for Fixing a Flat Bike Tire- Erie News Now, aired May 21, 2024

https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/50814776/community-workshop-for-fixing-a-flat-bike-tire?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1gzqwZlgfwjhiKb-ImP_ZNp59kw9JeghnIQRPCpozblVAE7669FZ-fPeY_aem_ZmFrZWR1bW15MTZieXRlcw