



Library Advisory Board Meeting Wednesday, October 16, 9:00am Via zoom

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

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

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes – September 18, 2024**
3. **Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)**
4. **Library Reports**
 - a. Staff Report- none
 - b. Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski
 - 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
6. **Unfinished Business- None**
7. **New Business**
 - a. Committee for Slate of Officers
8. **Adjournment**
9. **Appendix**
 - a. Announcements
 - b. News Articles

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – September 18, 2024
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4. Library Reports
 - a. Staff Report- Library Collection
 - b. Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski

Connections-

DCED Grant -

Winter Reading Program-

Capacity-

Staff Development Day - Annual Staff Development day occurred Monday, October 14, 2024. All library locations were closed to hold an all-day training at Blasco. Staff received a variety of continuing education and on the job training. Areas of training included, CPR, AED and Narcan training, emergency procedure refreshers, “What Do I Do?” Q&A with Director and Assistant Director of Collections, new cash register tutorials, deposits, MFA DUO sign ups and HR Open Enrollment Q&A. Staff were treated with breakfast and lunch, curtesy of the Friends of the Library.

Personnel Updates-

New Branch Supervisors- The library has two new Branch Supervisors, Sarah Trohoske and Mary Beth Nawrocki. Both have been with the library for almost 20 years and come ready and willing to dive in. We are in the posting process to backfill Sarah’s branch clerk position.

The library recently promoted library clerk Lauren Azotea to Library Assistant. She will begin her new roles on Monday, October 28. Her bookmobile clerk position is in the process of being posted.

The library has two new part time floating clerks. Allison Weatherford and Lauren Jenkins started their new roles on October 8.

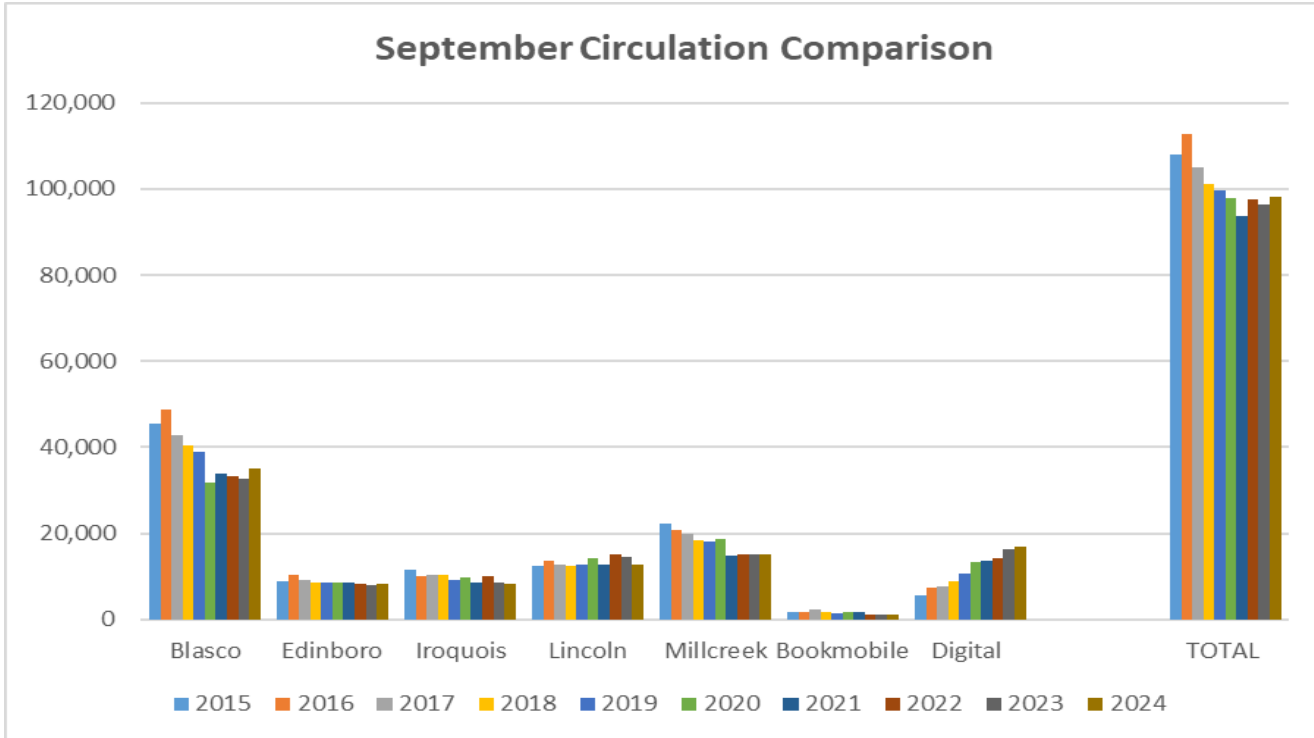
The Assistant Director of Literacy Services and the Collections Coordinator positions are posted. They will be on the County website until October 18.

- c. Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper
Report attached
- d. Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper

September 2024 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- 542 new cards issued, including 69 e-cards
- 3620 WiFi logins, 3289 public PC logins across locations
- 34,488 September patron visits. ↑ 958 visits from September 2023
- September Library Programming Totals- 122 Programs



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Blasco	45,456	48,739	42,775	40,287	38,850	31,714	33,734	33,270	32,650	34,940
Edinboro	8,874	10,481	9,248	8,684	8,527	8,574	8,508	8,291	8,051	8,399
Iroquois	11,493	10,187	10,359	10,450	9,040	9,625	8,716	10,113	8,530	8,375
Lincoln	12,535	13,500	12,876	12,537	12,805	14,242	12,596	15,125	14,649	12,811
Millcreek	22,215	20,900	19,864	18,498	18,247	18,621	14,802	15,169	15,039	15,189
Bookmobile	1,790	1,731	2,327	1,799	1,553	1,771	1,707	1,187	1,260	1,236
Digital	5,595	7,318	7,580	8,898	10,716	13,240	13,682	14,313	16,300	17,055
TOTAL	107,958	112,856	105,029	101,153	99,738	97,787	93,745	97,468	96,479	98,005

e. Report of District Consultant-Jessica Church

District Services Report as of October 11, 2024
Updates for ECPL LAB Report
Submitted by Jessica Church, District Consultant

Northwest Library District

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries approached library districts for reconsideration of name changes. When districts were named decades ago, many were named for the city of

the district library center. While the state recognized “Erie District,” they were aware that we called it Erie & Crawford District locally. The name “Erie District” was a bit detached for some Crawford libraries. For submitting reports to OCL, some libraries used Erie and others used Erie-Crawford, which made it harder to track materials.

Entities with similar names: Erie City (city and gov’t), Erie County (county and gov’t), Erie County Public Library (as a local library), Erie County Public Library (as the district library center), Public Libraries of Erie County, Erie (& Crawford) District. Crawford libraries have the Crawford County (gov’t) that allocates funding to their Crawford County Federated Library System.

One of the things I’ve heard and observed over my time here is the confusion of the library district with other “Erie” or “Crawford” entities. With the heavy amount of director and staff turnover at member libraries across the library district over the last few years, a recent survey shows there are some misconceptions between district services and their corresponding county’s library services. We hope the name change to Northwest Library District will help to clarify and unify the District’s role.

Please note: The name of the District is the only thing affected. No other changes are being made with the district library center, its structure, or its operations due to this.

District Member Spotlight: Linesville Community Public Library

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/linesvillelibrary>

Website: <https://linesville.ccfls.org/>

Linesville Community Public Library has been working to reinvigorate its programming and reach new audiences in its community. It is currently housed in a renovated church that, up until last year, had white siding and it was hard for some folks (residents and guests alike) to know that a library was there. At the recommendation of the ReThinking consultants that came through for advice for all of our member libraries, the Library used a recent Keystone grant opportunity to change the siding and improve building access. The director comments that these changes have increased awareness, visit, and usage of library services. Before/After Pictures:



If you live in the area or know people that do, send them on over to the Library. They’re frequently posting new and exciting things to do!

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

6. Unfinished Business- None

7. New Business

- a. Reading of Slate of Officers

8. Adjournment

9. Appendix

- a. Announcements

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, November 20 at 9:00am via zoom

- b. News Articles

Raising awareness - County promotes special needs list to help first responders

September 21, 2024 | Erie Times-News (PA)

Author/Byline: David Bruce; Erie Times-News | Page: A1 | Section: News
546 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1270, grade level(s): 11-12

Read News Document

If first responders are called for an emergency at Christina Lachica's house, they will know ahead of time that her 5-year-old son, Julian Mathis, has autism and does not speak.

Lachica has added her son's name to the Erie County 911 Special Needs Registry, a list of county residents who might need additional support during a police, fire or medical emergency.

"Julian has no concept of danger," Lachica said. "If there is an emergency at home, he would be curious to see what it's all about. He also might not respond to emergency crews in an appropriate way."

First responders would receive information about Julian from a dispatcher if they are called to his house for a fire or other emergency. They would know before entering the house that he has autism and doesn't speak.

The countywide registry was relaunched Tuesday after it was updated by the Erie County Department of Health with help from the Erie County Department of Public Safety.

"We had funding left in our maternal-child health budget that needed to be spent on children with special health needs," said Lauren Carlson, an Erie County Department of Health epidemiologist who helped relaunch the registry. "We saw other Pennsylvania counties were starting these registries and they looked like a good idea."

Erie County already had a registry but it wasn't user friendly

Carlson discovered, to her surprise, that the county already had a registry, but it was buried in the depths of the county's website. The registry wasn't well promoted and difficult to access.

Over the past few months, the health and public safety departments have been updating the registry and making it more user friendly. They also have been spreading the word to first responders and other members of the community.

"This registry's names are only available to first responders. The public can't view it," said John Durlin, Erie County's 911 coordinator. "Anyone who is eligible can sign up for it and it doesn't cost them anything."

A link on the county's home page connects people to the registry. Those with a condition or disability that might prevent them from leaving their home quickly during an emergency can add their name and address.

Registry form is available in five languages

Names remain on the registry for three years, at which time an email is sent to remind them to resubmit the information. Family members and other caregivers can submit the information for the person with special needs.

The registry is available in five different languages.

Families can also pick up window clings for their house and vehicles that indicate a child with special needs may be inside. They are available at Erie County Public Library locations, the county Health Department and Erie Bureau of Fire stations.

Blasco library's 'period parties:' Why they're offering two menstruation classes

September 23, 2024 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

Author/Byline: David Bruce, Erie Times-News | Section: News

443 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1230, grade level(s): 11-12

[Read News Document](#)

Erie County Public Library officials hope to make learning about menstrual cycles enjoyable for middle school-aged girls.

The library is working with the Erie County Department of Health to offer "period parties" at Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St., on Tuesday and Oct. 1 from 6-7:30 p.m. each day.

Each gathering will include a discussion about menstruation from Colleen Wallace, R.N., the county Health Department's director of community health services. It will also include red colored snacks and period-related games, such as "pin the pad on the panties."

"Like any of our library programs, we want to make learning fun," said Jessica Stefano, library director. "So we'll have a short program with Colleen and have a little fun as well."

The events are open to children ages 8 to 13. Their parents are also welcome to attend, though Stefano asked that they stay more in the background so children feel comfortable participating and asking questions.

One party is for cisgender girls, other is for trans and nonbinary children

Tuesday's event is for girls who are cisgender, meaning that they identify as the sex they were assigned at birth. The Oct. 1 event is for children who are trans or nonbinary, but expect to have periods.

"Whenever you're dealing with a sensitive topic like periods, you want to make every effort to create a safe and comfortable environment for these children," Stefano said.

Wallace said she will present the same basic information at both events, though she might tailor it differently for each group.

"For the cisgender girls, I might say that menstruation is a normal part of their lives," Wallace said. "For the second class, I might say that it's normal for the body to do this."

Period parties designed to improve health literacy

The library has hosted period parties in the past, though the last one was before the COVID-19 pandemic. It's part of the library's mission to promote health literacy among children and adults, Stefano said.

Other health-related events scheduled in September and October include yoga classes and healthy cooking lessons.

"Health literacy is a critical need and school funding is limited," Stefano said. "We recently worked with the Sight Center (of Northwest Pennsylvania) on a event about vision issues."

Stefano expects a full class for each period party. There is a waiting list for Tuesday's party and few openings remained for the Oct. 1 party.

To register or join the waiting list, call 814-451-6936 or visit events.erielibrary.org.

"We just want to let girls know that it's OK to talk about this, it's perfectly normal," Wallace said. "Hopefully girls will feel more comfortable talking about this with their parents, friends or someone like a school nurse."

Contact David Bruce at dbruce@timesnews.com. Follow him on X @ETNBruce.