



Library Advisory Board Meeting Wednesday, November 20, 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, October 16, 2024**
3. **Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)**
4. **Library Reports**
 - a. Staff Report- Bethany Lenda
 - b. Winter Reading Program, Alyssa Johnson
 - c. Branch Open Houses
 - d. Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski
 - e. Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper
 - f. Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper
 - g. 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**
 - a. Reading of Slate of Officers
7. **New Business**
8. **Adjournment**
9. **Appendix**
 - a. Announcements
 - b. News Articles

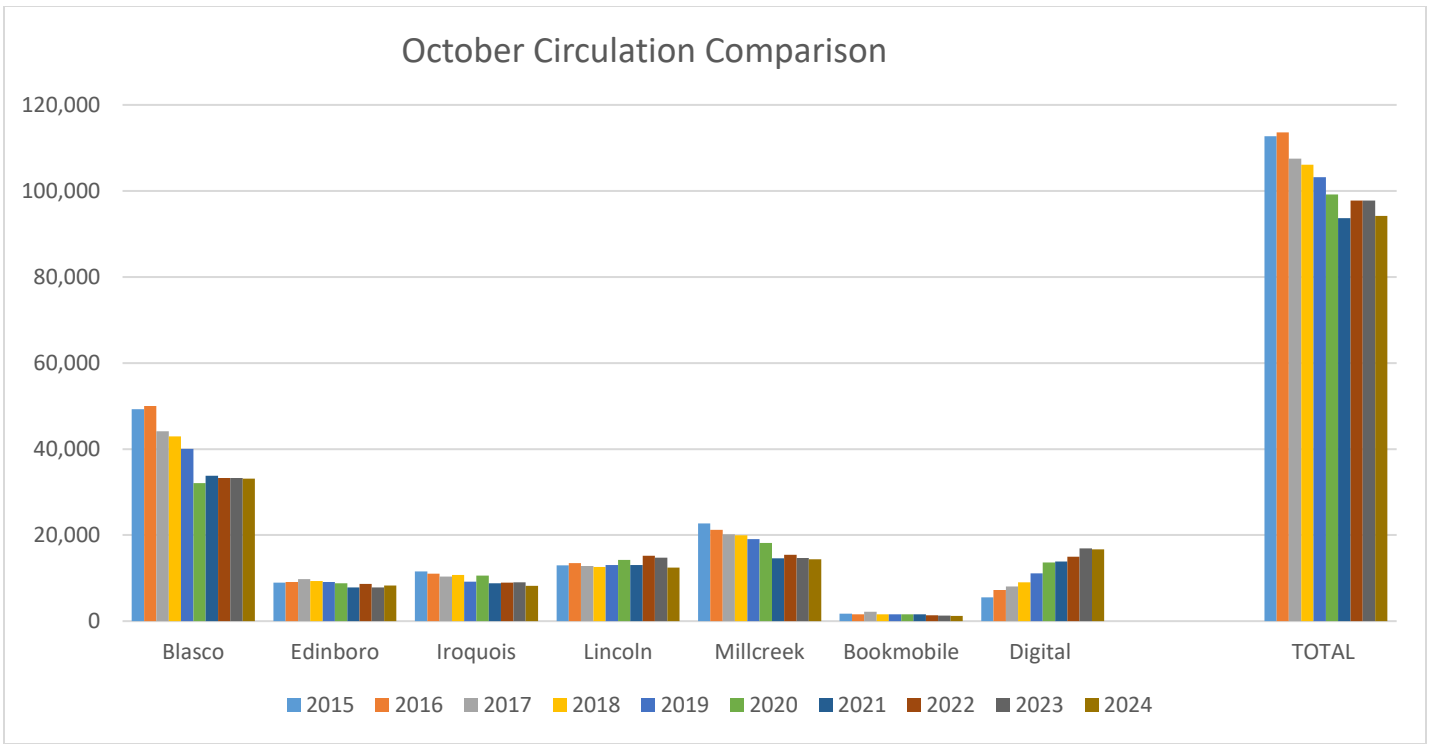
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 - d. Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski
 - Update on the Children’s Library Renovation Grant
 - DCED Local Share Account Statewide Grant Application
 - Library Reorganization Update
 - o Remaining openings
 - o Staff transitions/promotions
 - e. Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper
Report attached
 - f. Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper

October 2024 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- **428 new cards issued, including 53 e-cards**
- **3682 WiFi logins, 3507 public PC logins across locations**
- **35,828 patron visits. ↑ 269 visits from September 2023**

October Circulation Comparison



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Blasco	49,256	50,009	44,126	42,922	40,075	32,059	33,829	33,289	33,239	33,094.00
Edinboro	8,986	9,108	9,783	9,300	9,133	8,821	7,848	8,622	7,833	8,252.00
Iroquois	11,529	11,032	10,397	10,707	9,142	10,611	8,829	8,922	9,039	8,184.00
Lincoln	12,961	13,474	12,802	12,624	13,025	14,243	13,074	15,199	14,730	12,409.00
Millcreek	22,719	21,193	20,189	19,949	19,063	18,187	14,622	15,427	14,700	14,401.00
Bookmobile	1,740	1,568	2,152	1,578	1,616	1,591	1,591	1,330	1,271	1,204.00
Digital	5,539	7,259	8,024	9,016	11,112	13,643	13,866	14,994	16,926	16,654.00
TOTAL	112,730	113,643	107,473	106,096	103,166	99,155	93,659	97,783	97,738	94,198.00

g. Report of District Consultant-Jessica Church

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

District Advisory Council Meeting & 5-Year Plan Discussion

The District Advisory Council met at the end of October. This group consists of the library director and one trustee from each of the 16 member libraries in the Northwest District. The group met for a brief Council meeting, then went into a work session to discuss the development of the District’s July 2025-June 2030 5-Year Plan. Prior to the work session, members had an opportunity to share their thoughts via survey on the overarching priorities of District Services. While good conversation was had about the needs of the libraries in our District, there is concern about the sustainability of libraries in our area and the increasing demand on nonprofit organizations to meet the bare minimum for operations. The group will continue the conversation with the goal to have a new 5-Year Plan before going into the annual District Negotiated Agreements in the spring.

Interlibrary Loan Delivery Updates

While the primary driver in the district is out on medical leave, the District is working on onboarding and training new drivers. We ask for continued patience as we may work on modified schedules some days. Libraries will be notified as soon as possible if they will not receive delivery on their scheduled day. Otherwise, they should anticipate delivery, it just may be at a different time of day.

District Member Spotlight: Albion Area Public Library

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

Website: <http://albionarealibrary.org/>

Housed in the historic former rest house of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad, the Albion Area Public Library offers a variety of services to patrons of all ages. In recent years, their team has been working hard to update the library’s collections and provide unique programming to area residents either at the library or in partnership with other organizations like the Northwestern School District and the Albion Fair. With an aging building like the Bessemer, the Albion Library Board of Trustees and the Albion Borough Council have been working hand-in-hand to repair and improve the library building with functionality and accessibility at the top of the needs. For these construction projects, the library has received grants from the Erie Community Foundation, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, PA’s Keystone grants for libraries, the Department of Community and Economic Development, and the American Library Association. They are making many of these updates in the last quarter of 2024, and we’re excited to see how it all turns out.

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

- a. Reading of Slate of Officers

7. New Business

- a. Vote to elect Executive Officers- tabled to December 18 meeting
- b. Calendar of 2025 Board meetings

2025 Anticipated Board Meeting Dates

Board currently meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00am

January 15, 2025 via zoom

February 19, 2025 via zoom

March 19, 2025 via zoom

April 16, 2025 via zoom

May 21, 2025 in person

June 18, 2025 via zoom

July 16, 2025 via zoom

August 20, 2025 via zoom

September 17, 2025 in person

October 15, 2025 via zoom

November 19, 2025 via zoom

December 17, 2025 via zoom

8. Adjournment

9. Appendix

a. Announcements

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, December 18 at 9:00am via zoom

b. News Articles

Erie County receives nearly \$1 million state grant for children's library at Blasco

October 17, 2024 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

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

388 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1430, grade level(s): >12

[Read News Document](#)

Erie County's main public **library** will soon have a renovated children's area.

On Wednesday, Erie County leaders announced the arrival of \$943,817 in state grant funding to enhance the children's **library** inside the Blasco Memorial **Library**, at 160 E. Front St.

The grant, which comes from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, will expand educational offerings and health literacy efforts for children and families, said Erie County Public **Library** Director Jessica Spitulski.

Planned renovations include making the area more accessible for children to navigate as independently as possible; adding spaces for children and families to have access to necessary health information; and adding a study room so that tutors and therapists can work with children.

Spitulski said, if funds allow, she would also like an outdoor deck at the back of the children's **library** to enable more opportunities for STEM-related topics like meteorology and environmental education.

"As a person who spent a lot of my childhood in a branch of the Erie County Public **Library** learning about the world and (as) a parent of a child that got to do the same, I feel incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of a project like this that will breathe new life into this space, so that children across the Erie region will be able to come to the **library**, learn about the world, exercise their imagination and prepare for successful futures, hopefully here in the Erie region," Spitulski said at a news conference Wednesday at Blasco **Library**.

How did this grant happen?

Spitulski said the grant was the result of a grant application that she and Patrick Miller, formerly the director of development at the Erie Regional **Library** Foundation, put together in February.

Spitulski said more than 600 grant applications were submitted and only around 30-40 projects were selected.

She said the funds need to be expended by the end of 2026.

"We are basically being shot out of a cannon at this moment so we're really going to get started on this pretty much right away," she said.

Spitulski was joined Wednesday by Erie County Executive Brenton Davis, who described the grant as an "historic investment," and Erie Regional **Library** Foundation President Jim Dible.

"I look forward to witnessing the amazing outcome that this grant will bring to our children's **library**," Dible said.

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