



# Library Advisory Board Meeting Wednesday, February 19, 9:00am Via zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85948600690?pwd=1326mAtyXfrLnHjBtxLZLrU1aWLITc.1>

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

## AGENDA

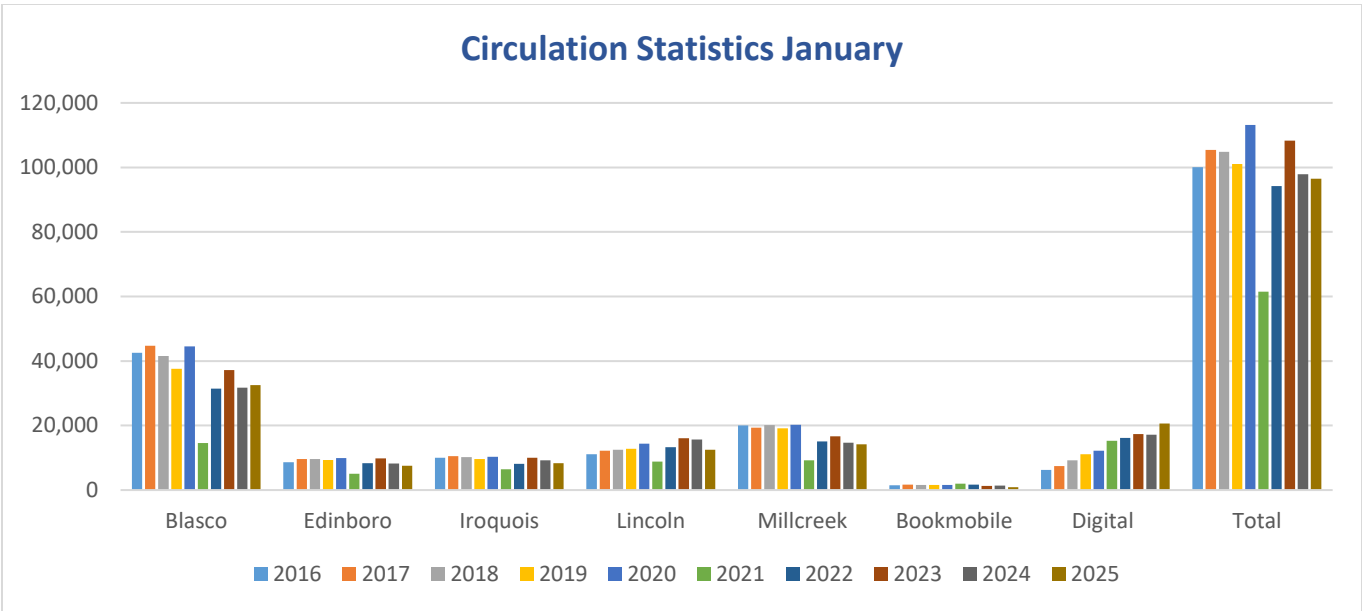
1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2024**
3. **Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)**
4. **Library Reports**
  - a. Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski
  - b. Staff Reports- none
  - c. Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper
  - d. Statistical and Other Reports- Deana 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**
  - a. None
7. **New Business**
  - a. Bylaw Update
8. **Adjournment**
9. **Appendix**
  - a. Announcements
  - b. News Articles

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2024
3. Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)
4. Library Reports
  - a. Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski
    - Collection and Resource moves at Blasco
    - Staffing update
    - Summer Library Program
    - HistErie
    - Construction Update
  - b. Staff Reports- none
  - c. Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper
    - No report to share. Compiling 2024 financials for annual report
  - d. Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper

### **January 2025 Statistics**

#### **Numbers Snapshot**

- **541 new cards issued, including 71 e-cards**
- **3071 WiFi logins, 2928 public PC logins across locations**
- **139 programs, 1882 attendees**
- **Desk questions - 1070 Directional, 1563 Collection, 646 electronic, 475 program, 444 research questions totaling 4198 patron questions for January.**



January Circulation Statistics										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Blasco</b>	42,512	44,687	41,536	37,585	44,550	14,593	31,483	37,162	31,690	32,535
<b>Edinboro</b>	8,661	9,593	9,600	9,311	9,905	5,030	8,364	9,863	8,185	7,524
<b>Iroquois</b>	10,025	10,492	10,208	9,597	10,340	6,445	8,083	9,979	9,205	8,296
<b>Lincoln</b>	11,151	12,164	12,525	12,766	14,411	8,865	13,261	16,047	15,621	12,474
<b>Millcreek</b>	19,999	19,345	20,130	19,132	20,200	9,179	15,106	16,613	14,675	14,131
<b>Bookmobile</b>	1,445	1,683	1,627	1,595	1,571	2,017	1,716	1,321	1,358	932
<b>Digital</b>	6,278	7,482	9,209	11,113	12,207	15,312	16,179	17,366	17,153	20,645
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,071</b>	<b>105,446</b>	<b>104,835</b>	<b>101,099</b>	<b>113,184</b>	<b>61,441</b>	<b>94,192</b>	<b>108,351</b>	<b>97,887</b>	<b>96,537</b>

**Record high circulation for Overdrive since we started service- January 21, 2025 689 checkouts**

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

**Northwest Library District Services Report as of February 13, 2025  
 Updates for ECPL LAB Report  
 Submitted by Jessica Church, District Consultant**

**Federal & State Level Updates**

At the federal level, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) typically releases Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding to states for which state library agencies use for operations as well as grants to libraries. In light of the changes taking place at the federal level regarding funding streams and executive orders, Sue Banks—Deputy of Secretary of Education, Commissioner for Libraries, and State Librarian—released a brief statement aligning with PA Department of Education’s Interim Acting Secretary of Education, Angela Fitterer, stating that OCL will continue to watch events closely and respond to “concrete and credible threats.” Overall, they will continue to focus on continuing their work to serve libraries and Pennsylvania.

State aid distributions to libraries only includes funds from the Commonwealth's budget lines, so State aid is not affected based on what happens at the federal level. Earlier this month, Governor Shapiro gave the annual budget address to begin the 2025-2026 budget process. While his initial budget proposed a slight increase for the State library, it did not propose an increase (nor decrease) to the Public Library Subsidy line (State aid) or the other two lines supporting library services. House and Senate Appropriations Committees meet with the Department of Education later this month for questions as the two chambers prepare their responses to the Governor's proposed budget.

At <https://snoelibraries.org/2025-legislative-session/>, the district consultants in the SNOE Region are watching legislation, actions, and resources at both the state and federal levels, tracking them on this page (as fast as we can keep up).

### **District Updates**

The Northwest Library District will be holding its annual District Negotiated Agreement meeting on March 4th with the District Advisory Council. The 2025-2026 District Negotiated Agreement outlines a general plan for District Services as well as the roles and responsibilities for member libraries and the District Library Center. The District Advisory Council, which includes the library director and one trustee from each of the 16 member libraries in Erie and Crawford Counties, is the unit that sets the agreement and overall budget. District funds are designated for resources and services that benefit the District as a whole.

#### **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. [None](#)

#### **7. New Business**

- a. [Bylaw Update](#)

#### **8. Adjournment**

#### **9. Appendix**

- a. [Announcements](#)

**The next board meeting will be Monday, March 17, 2025 at 12:30p via zoom**

- b. [News Articles](#)

## **Book Lovers Score Some New Reads**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4p4oUfIk0>

## **Annual Great American Book Sale to take place in June - Until then, check out these local book sales**

January 18, 2025 | Erie Times-News (PA)

Author/Byline: Erie Times-News | Page: A1 | Section: News

231 Words | Readability: Lexile: 970, grade level(s): 6 7

[Read News Document](#)

For a certain segment of Erie County residents, the countdown is already on to June.

That's when the Friends of the Erie County Library will again put on the annual Great American Book Sale.

The Friends use revenue from book sales and other fundraising sources to support library programs, special events, outreach and library staff development. More than \$75,000 was budgeted for such expenses in 2024.

The No. 1 source of revenue is the Great American Book Sale. In 2024, books were priced \$2 for hardcover and large paperbacks, \$1 for regular paperbacks and children's books, and 50 cents for paperbacks.

However, it's not the only sale on the calendar. Two other events will take place before crowds descend on the Flo Fabrizio Ice Center in June, and another is scheduled just before Halloween.

Here's when and where to find the Friends' low-cost book sales in 2025:

### **Book Lovers Sale**

When: Feb. 13, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Feb. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Feb. 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Admiral Room, Blasco Library

### **Swing Into Spring Sale**

When: May 15, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; May 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and May 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Admiral Room, Blasco Library

### **Great American Book Sale**

When: June 15-19, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and June 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Flo Fabrizio Ice Center, 527 W. 38th St.

### **S-Book-Tacular Sale**

When: Oct. 16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Oct. 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Admiral Room, Blasco Library

## **Calling all booklovers: Try USA TODAY's Winter Book Challenge**

February 2, 2025 | Erie Times-News (PA)

Author/Byline: Clare Mulroy | Page: D6 | Section: Features

402 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1130, grade level(s): 9 10 11-12

## [Read News Document](#)

Now that the year's resolutions have been set and the first month is over, are you ready to up the ante on your 2025 reading goals? As a booklover, this time of year always stirs up a certain ambition in me – with the whole year ahead, the reading possibilities are endless. Will I beat last year's tally of 50 titles? (Signs point to yes, given my new title as USA TODAY's Books reporter.) Will I finally get to some of the books collecting dust on my bookshelf? Can I better utilize my local library? I'm hoping you feel the same and want to join me on our new book challenge, a shareable bingo card filled with categories to stretch your reading goals. The best part? You could win a \$100 gift card to Bookshop.org if you enter by March 21.

Don't worry if you don't make bingo this time around – USA TODAY is planning a Spring Book Challenge from March 22 to June 20.

### How to participate in USA TODAY's Winter Book Challenge

Our Winter Book Challenge runs from Jan. 22 to March 21, and anyone who participates and submits their bingo card will be entered into a giveaway to win a gift card. Winners will be notified via email within five business days of the drawing. Check out the full contest rules at [books.usatoday.com](https://books.usatoday.com). You must be 18 or over to enter.

The challenge includes bingo spaces like "read a book set in a country you've never visited" and "read a book with a color in the title." It also has more general categories, like "romantasy," "classic" or a "book you already own." It's intentionally varied so readers of all genres can participate.

To submit your bingo card, you'll need to fill out an entry form found at [books.usatoday.com](https://books.usatoday.com). Let us know your contact information and what books you've read to complete the challenge. For example, you could read five books and mark the entire top row, or take advantage of the free space in the middle and check off four other boxes. Just know that each box needs to correspond to a different title – no counting one book in multiple boxes!

We'd love it if you tagged us on social media (@usatodaylife) with your filled-out bingo card, but remember, you still have to fill out the entry form for a chance at the giveaway.

Download your bingo card at [books.usatoday.com](https://books.usatoday.com)

## **Gannon's aquatic center at Blasco Library moves forward amid protests — and a lawsuit**

February 7, 2025 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

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

783 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1450, grade level(s): >12

### [Read News Document](#)

Construction of a new aquatic research and education center is poised to kick off at Erie County's main public library, even as protesters, with a lawsuit in tow, demand the center be kicked out.

Patrons entering Blasco Memorial Library will notice temporary construction walls in the eastern wing of the building, shielding an area where Gannon University expects to open its Center for Lake Erie Education and Research in August.

The 3,280-square-foot center — a part of Gannon's \$24 million water quality initiative called Project NePTWNE — will comprise of an interactive exhibit space, a NOAA Science on a Sphere and a research and wet lab, much of which will be free and open to the public, according to the Gannon website.

Gannon Chief of Staff Doug Oathout said the university is in the process of choosing a contractor to build the center. The project already has an architect — Pittsburgh-based Indovina Associates Architects — and a general contractor, Building Systems, Inc.

Oathout said construction should begin this month.

Citizens have filed lawsuit — but no injunction

Gannon has touted the center as a future home to educational and research opportunities, supporting educators, scientists and students in their efforts to study and protect Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes.

However, its place in a public library has not been entirely welcomed.

A citizen group called Keep Our Library Public has argued that Gannon, a private, religiously affiliated university, is taking away space from a vital public asset.

The group has denounced Gannon's lease agreement with the county, a deal negotiated by Erie County Executive Brenton Davis and approved by Erie County Council in October 2023.

Among its terms, the lease allows Gannon to occupy the library space for an initial 25 years — at \$7 per square foot per year — with four possible five-year extensions.

In June, the group filed a lawsuit against Davis — and later added the County Council and Gannon — in Erie Common Pleas Court. The group alleges that the lease violates the intended purpose of the library property, which was donated for public use. They also claim that the lease terms are not favorable to Erie County taxpayers and that Davis mishandled the negotiation process.

The group has not filed for an injunction to stop construction, indicating in a statement that they would need to pay for a bond that would cost thousands of dollars.

"Our case is strong, so we don't want to waste money on an injunction," the statement read. "We choose to channel our money into funding our lawsuit as it works its way through the justice system. If Gannon chooses to waste its money on construction that will have to be undone, that is their choice."

Gannon, protesters disagree over center's effect on library

Anna McCartney, one of the leaders of Keep Our Library Public, whose members are expected to gather in Blasco's lobby weekly, said the center has already inconvenienced the public.

"Our stuff is being moved to the second floor when Gannon gets a prime spot on the first floor for \$7 a square foot," she said, pointing to the library's computer lab, its two Collaboratories and magazine section, all of which have been relocated upstairs.

The library recently announced that it will return the computer lab to the first floor in keeping with its masterplan. The Collaboratories will take the spot of two study rooms on the second floor.

The county told the Erie Times-News that the decision to move the magazines was not related to the Gannon project.

"The magazines are being moved upstairs so that the current issues are organized in the same area as past

issues," said Delilah Kuhn, executive assistant to the county executive, in an email. "It also offers a quieter space for patrons to enjoy them, as most do not check magazines out."

This notwithstanding, McCartney said the center, by largely catering to Gannon students, researchers and tourists, undercuts one of the central goals of any public library: To build community with its local patrons.

Accomplishing that, she said, requires the library to constantly bring new and dynamic programming to the public, not settle on a "static" center.

"Things are always changing in libraries with new programming — that's what we've been robbed of," she said. "There are so many partnerships we could do with the community where they're not taking up permanent space."

Gannon officials have said their goal is not to "take over" the library but rather to create a collaborative environment that benefits library patrons and the community.

But for McCartney and the rest in Keep Our Library Public, Gannon can accomplish that goal on their own properties, not in a public library.

"We're still fighting. We're not dropping our lawsuit," she said.

A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gannett.com](mailto:arao@gannett.com). Follow him on X @ETNRao.