



# Library Advisory Board Meeting

## Monday, April 21, 2025 12:30 pm

### 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- Kubiak	District 6- Grove	At-Large- Groves (President)

#### AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2025**
3. **Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)**
4. **Library Reports**
  - a. Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski
  - b. Staff Reports- Alyssa Johnson (Summer Reading)
  - 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- Karen Miller
  - c. Report of Erie Regional Library Foundation- Mark Inscho
6. **Unfinished Business- None**
  - a. Program Policy- vote
7. **New Business**
8. **Adjournment**
9. **Appendix**
  - a. Announcements
  - b. News Articles

## 1. Call to Order

## 2. Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2025

## 3. Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)

## 4. Library Reports

### a. Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski

- Staffing update – Amberlee Glazier accepted the position of Librarian I for the Collections department. Her vacant Librarian I Literacy Services position is posted on the County website. The Teen Librarian post is extended to align with same closing date of the Librarian I position.
- Summer Library Sponsorship – UPMC
- SNOE Region Update – changes and impact
- Library card registration refresh – draft for review
- National Library Week: April 6-12, 2025
- Children’s Renovation Project
- Additional Library closures – Safety training and National Night Out

### b. Staff Reports- Alyssa Johnson (Summer programming)

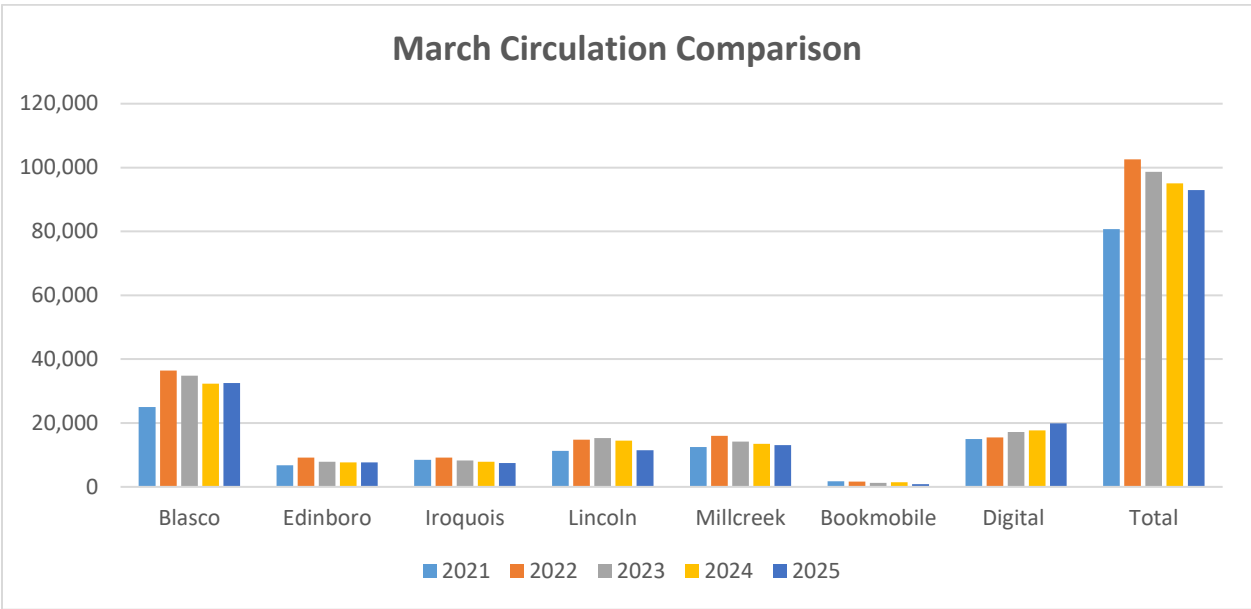
### c. Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper Financials Attached

### d. Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper

## March 2025 Statistics

### Numbers Snapshot

- **499 new cards issued, including 86 e-cards**
- **8491 WiFi logins, 3360 public PC logins across locations**
- **Patron visits- 32,627 March visits.**
- **150 programs, 2369 attendees**
- **Desk questions - 1425 Directional, 1649 Collection, 722 electronic, 649 program, 506 research questions totaling 4951 patron questions for March.**



### March Circulation Statistics

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Blasco</b>	24,972	36,412	34,792	32,283	32,550
<b>Edinboro</b>	6,749	9,123	7,830	7,705	7,629
<b>Iroquois</b>	8,503	9,139	8,272	7,861	7,501
<b>Lincoln</b>	11,276	14,754	15,291	14,524	11,465
<b>Millcreek</b>	12,461	15,985	14,163	13,462	13,066
<b>Bookmobile</b>	1,739	1,677	1,212	1,497	897
<b>Digital</b>	14,995	15,478	17,135	17,683	19,887
<b>Total</b>	80,695	102,568	98,695	95,015	92,995

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

Jessica is out on maternity leave. She will return mid-July. All correspondence is currently being handled by Library Director, Jessica Spitulski who is then delegating tasks to those assigned internally and throughout the District and Northwest Region.

## 5. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Report of County Council Liaison- Councilman Horton
- b. Report of Friends of the Library- Karen Miller
- c. Report of Erie Regional Library Foundation- Mark Inscho

## 6. Unfinished Business- None

- a. Program Policy- vote

## 7. New Business

## 8. Adjournment

## 9. Appendix

- a. Announcements

**The next board meeting will be in person at Blasco in the Admiral Room on Monday, May 19 at 12:30p**

- b. News Articles

<https://www.goerie.com/story/news/local/2025/04/09/erie-county-public-library-offers-more-than-books/82975141007/>

# There's more to do than check out books at the Erie County Public Library

April 9, 2025 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

Author/Byline: Dana Massing, Erie Times-News | Section: News

891 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1080, grade level(s): 8 9

[Read News Document](#)

Sure, you can read a book at a library. But did you know that's not all you can do?

At the Erie County Public Library, you can search for your great-grandparents' wedding date or sew a pillow or practice yoga. You can check out a kit with a hammer, screwdrivers, pliers and more basic tools or borrow a microscope or sign out a ukulele with a guide for beginners.

The Erie County Public Library has five permanent sites: Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St.; Edinboro Branch Library, 413 W. Plum St., Edinboro; Iroquois Avenue Branch Library, 4212 Iroquois Ave., Lawrence Park Township; Lincoln Community Center, 1255 Manchester Road, Fairview Township; and Millcreek Branch Library, 2088 Interchange Road, Millcreek Township. There's also a bookmobile.

Here are just some of the many things in store for you at an Erie County Public Library, according to its website:

Ongoing

**Book Club in a Bag:** Pick up a kit that contains 10 copies of a title, a list of discussion questions, a biographical sketch of the author and a book sign-up sheet to help the leader stay organized. Kits can be picked up at any Erie County library and are loaned out for 60 days.

**Search for your ancestors:** The Heritage Room at Blasco Memorial Library has historical materials including Erie newspapers and Erie County censuses on microfilm, high school yearbooks, maps and more as well as equipment such as scanners to help people search for and preserve their family history.

**Use a public computer:** All Erie County library sites have computers with internet and other features available to use for free.

**Access the internet:** All five library sites offer free Wi-Fi.

**Make and print copies:** This service is available for a fee at all sites.

**Send faxes:** This service is available at all sites with the fee and payment options varying by site.

**Rent a room for educational, civic and cultural meetings and events:** Blasco Library has options including the Admiral Room and Hirt Auditorium while the branches have community rooms.

**Idea Lab:** This adult maker space at Blasco Library offers free access to equipment and classes. Some equipment requires class completion before use and there are fees for some materials. Among the things you can do are use a sewing machine, laser cutter and engraver, 3D printer, Cricut Maker, soldering station, laminator and book binder.

**Maker kits:** Check out a themed kit with related learning resources and project guides. Some of the kits include: basic tools, cosplay, microscope and ukulele.

**Get seeds for your garden:** The Blasco, Edinboro, Iroquois and Millcreek sites all have seed libraries where you can get packets of fruit and vegetable seeds to grow at home. Although it's not required, after your harvest you can donate seeds back to the library.

**More to do around Erie:** Spring into entertainment with these art, music, more shows in April, May and June

**Go fish:** You can't actually go fishing inside Blasco Memorial Library but you can borrow a rod and reel and use it in nearby Presque Isle Bay. The Corry Public Library and Union City Public Library have similar equipment also donated by the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie.

**Hear a story:** Free interactive family story times feature books, music, movement, puppetry, art and more on various days at the different locations.

**Build with blocks:** Whether you like Lego, Duplo, wooden or other blocks, the Blasco, Iroquois and Lincoln sites have regular opportunities for children and families to build.

**Coloring for Grown-Ups:** Saturday adults-only sessions are offered for free at the Millcreek Branch. Coloring sheets and colored pencils are provided.

**Practice yoga:** The Lincoln Branch offers a series of Balancing Dragon Yoga for adults that is free.

**Read to a therapy dog:** Readers of all skill levels have numerous opportunities to practice with therapy dogs at

the libraries.

Watch a movie: Blasco's Hirt Auditorium periodically hosts a free Family Movie Night. The April 29 feature is "Dog Man."

### Special events

The main library and branches hold special events throughout each year. Up next is the Earth Day Extravaganza, April 21-27, with activities at each site. They include story times, workshops, free plants and more.

### Center for Lake Erie Education and Research

Formerly referred to as the Great Lakes Education and Research Center, the Center for Lake Erie Education and Research or CLEER is a part of Gannon University's Project NePTWNE and is expected to open this year within Blasco Memorial Library.

The 3,280-square-foot aquatic center will have interactive exhibits accessible to the public during library business hours, according to Gannon's website.

From February: Gannon's aquatic center at Blasco Library moves forward amid protests — and a lawsuit

There will also be NOAA Science On a Sphere, a room-sized, global display system that projects visualizations onto a 6-foot-diameter sphere to help illustrate Earth system science; an education and research lab; and a wet lab that will provide authorized personnel with a specialized facility for conducting aquatic research and hands-on experiments.

### More libraries

April 6-12 is National Library Week, a good time to visit your library, get a library card or explore what your local library has to offer.

The Erie County Public Library isn't the only one in the Erie area. If you don't find something to try at Blasco or one of the branches, here are some other libraries located around Erie County:

- \* Albion Area Public Library
- \* Corry Public Library
- \* McCord Memorial Library
- \* Rice Avenue Community Public Library
- \* Union City Public Library
- \* Waterford Public Library

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## **Bring It on Down to Earth**

**<https://www.eriereader.com/article/bring-it-on-down-to-earth>**

The Erie County Public Library hosts an array of activities celebrating Earth and Arbor days  
by **Gretchen Gallagher Durney** April 14, 2025 at 8:00 AM



Contributed

The Erie County Public Library is hosting a celebration of the planet with their upcoming Earth Day Extravaganza, hosting events, workshops, classes, and children's activities along with a native tree giveaway from ReLEAF.

### **BEGINNING MONDAY, APR. 21**

Mother Nature will be in the limelight this month with the Erie County Public Library (ECPL) hosting a week-long celebration to include workshops, presentations, themed storytimes, seed libraries, seed starting, poetry readings, live plant giveaways, and more.

"This is our second annual event and a great way to connect some of our library resources with our environmental partners," Alyssa Johnson, outreach coordinator of the ECPL said. The landing page gives the full details on the events happening at all branches, "but the main event on April 26 is happening at the Blasco location," Johnson added.

One partner for the Earth Day Extravaganza is the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (LEAF). Along with the City of Erie Urban Forest Committee, "we'll have a variety of native species available on a first-come, first-served basis for homeowners to plant," said Erin Green, LEAF executive director.

An astounding 55 years since its inception, Earth Day continues to serve as a catalyst for action. Check out one of these many offerings and see what it might spark in you.

*Events happening the week of April 21 through 27 // Various times // Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St. and branch locations // Free // For more info visit: [erielibrary.org](http://erielibrary.org) or call 814-451-6900*

**<https://www.erienewsnow.com/events#!/details/exploring-the-role-of-public-libraries-in-addressing-the-loneliness-crisis/15560246/2025-06-19T19>**

# EAST ERIE SATELLITE: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN ADDRESSING THE LONELINESS CRISIS

JUNE 19TH, 2025 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

PROFESSOR/INSTRUCTOR/SPEAKER: SARAH MCCALL, MLIS, JES RAIMY FELLOW

Loneliness, driven by social isolation and the erosion of community spaces in American culture, has become a pressing mental health issue affecting individuals across all demographics—regardless of age, race, or socioeconomic status. JES Raimy Fellow Sarah McCall explores the root causes of loneliness and its far-reaching implications for public health. She highlights the unique role of public libraries as one of the few remaining "third spaces" capable of addressing this crisis. Drawing from the successes of the Erie County Public Library, McCall showcases effective strategies already in place and outlines a forward-thinking approach to expanding the library's impact in fostering social connection and community resilience, including her recommendation to create "The Human Library," where community volunteers share their personal stories and life experiences with library patrons.

**Location:** ECAT: Erie Center for Arts and Technology – 650 East Ave., Ada Lawrence Community Room, Erie, PA 16503

**Date/Time:** Thursday, June 19, 7-8:30PM

**Admission:** FREE

*\*If you do NOT receive a letter from [gerlock@jeserie.org](mailto:gerlock@jeserie.org) within 24-48 hours regarding your registration, please check your spam or junk folder. Thank you!*

[REGISTER](#)

## Erie County Public Library, Beehive announce Small Business Symposium

[https://www.thecorryjournal.com/news/article\\_ddaad673-31d6-4002-a30b-2baf22dc389a.html](https://www.thecorryjournal.com/news/article_ddaad673-31d6-4002-a30b-2baf22dc389a.html)



The Erie County Public Library and NWPB Innovative Beehive Network announce the third annual Small Business Symposium on Saturday, March 22, from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Blasco Memorial Library, 160 E. Front St., Erie.

This free program offers eight valuable sessions with information for both unrealized and established entrepreneurs, delivered from Erie entrepreneurs that have created successful businesses.

Participants will build their own schedule from the available programs, touching on such subjects as financing, small business leadership, marketing, business development, intellectual property and legal issues. An optional NWPB Innovation Beehive Network overview, Idea Lab demonstration or Blasco Memorial Library tour is available at the symposium's conclusion.

The full symposium schedule and program descriptions are available on the library event calendar at <https://events.eri.library.org/event/14127849>.

Interested participants may register in person at the Blasco Library reference desk or call 814-451-6927. Food options are included with lunch courtesy of the Erie Technology Incubator and light refreshments courtesy of the Friends of Erie County Library.

The Symposium is limited to 60 people. Participants must indicate their preferred workshop schedule when registering.

For more information, contact the library or call 814-451-6900. The coordinator, Rachel Stevenson, can also be reached at 814-451-6918 or [rstevenson@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:rstevenson@eriecountypa.gov).