



Library Advisory Board Meeting Monday, May 19, 2025 12:30 pm Blasco Admiral Room

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 – April 21, 2025**
3. **Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)**
4. **Library Reports**
 - a. **Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski**
 - b. **Staff Reports- Alyssa Johnson**
 - c. **Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper**
 - d. **Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper**
 - e. **Report of District Consultant-Jessica Church**
 - f. **Report of County Council Liaison- Councilman Horton**
 - g. **Report of Friends of the Library- Karen Miller**
 - h. **Report of Erie Regional Library Foundation- Mark Inscho**
5. **Unfinished Business- None**
6. **New Business**
7. **Adjournment**
8. **Appendix**
 - a. **Announcements**
 - b. **News Articles**

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes – April 21, 2025

3. Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)

4. Library Reports

a. Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski

- Upcoming Library Closures
 - May 26th – Memorial Day
 - May 29th – Partial closure for Staff Emergency Response Training
 - July 4-6th – Independence Day Holiday
- Staffing Updates
- Construction Updates
 - Blasco stairs construction
 - CLEER Construction
 - PennDot Bayfront Construction
- Children’s Renovation Update

b. Staff Reports- Alyssa Johnson

- Summer Library Program- outreach

c. Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper

Financials Attached

d. Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper

Included

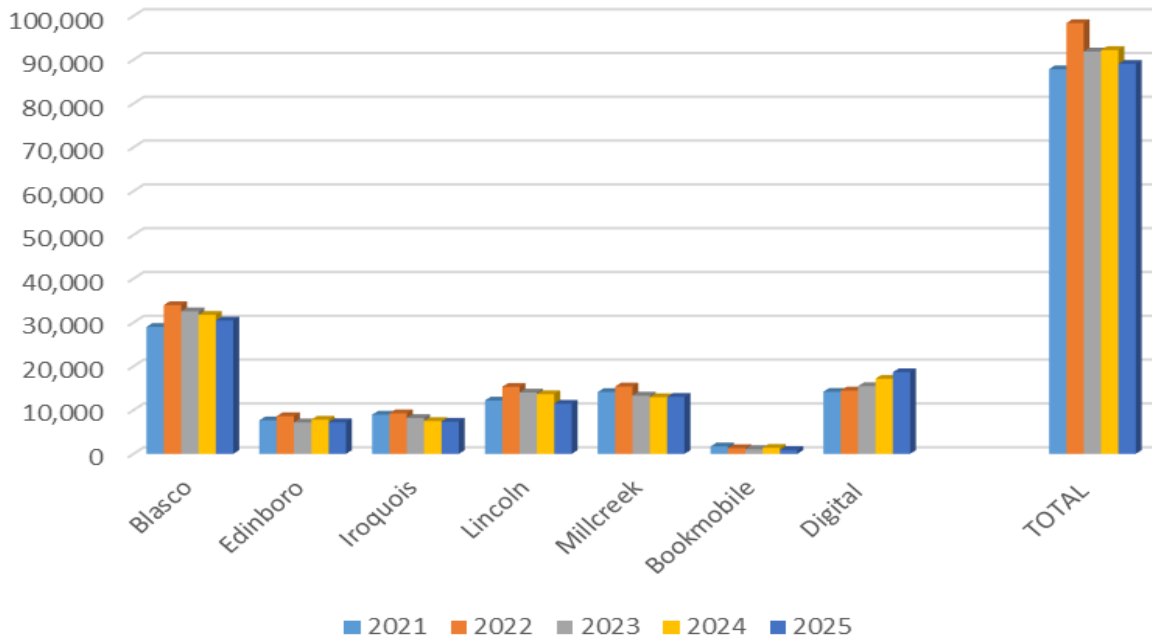
April 2025 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- 431 new cards issued, including 66 e-cards
- 8389 WiFi logins, 3324 public PC logins across locations
- Patron visits- 32,478 April visits. ↓ 13% from 2024
- 153 programs, 2703 attendees
- Desk questions –

Month	Type	Directions	Collection	Electronic	Program	Research	TOTAL
April	In person	1042	1345	624	446	243	3700
April	Online	11	20	3	0	2	36
April	phone	259	305	113	155	158	990
		5438	6946	2916	2439	1892	4726

April Circulation Comparison



April Circulation Statistics

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Blasco	28,988	33,980	32,556	31,746	30,445
Edinboro	7,666	8,611	7,213	7,820	7,223
Iroquois	8,962	9,276	8,188	7,524	7,357
Lincoln	12,197	15,316	14,031	13,642	11,462
Millcreek	14,130	15,386	13,312	12,949	13,017
Bookmobile	1,712	1,312	1,095	1,376	906
Digital	14,191	14,493	15,484	17,165	18,643
TOTAL	87,846	98,374	91,879	92,222	89,053

Blasco Room Usage- April

Rental Space	Events	Hours Used
Admiral Room	27	99
HIRT	15	90
Room 219	20	80
Total	62	269

- e. Report of District Consultant-Jessica Church

No report

- f. Report of County Council Liaison- Councilman Horton
- g. Report of Friends of the Library- Karen Miller
- h. Report of Erie Regional Library Foundation- Mark Inscho

5. Unfinished Business- None

6. New Business

- a. Revised library card policy

Registration Policy - draft

Summary of proposed changes:

- Consolidation of policies 711, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 724, 725
- Removed URLs
- Removed - children do not need to be present at time of registration
- Removed - restriction/limitation specifics for each card type
- Added - staff will assign the appropriate card type based on identification
- Added – businesses and nonprofits to organizational cards
- Added – adults under the care of a facility may apply for cards

Erie County Public Library Policy Manual

SECTION:	LIBRARY CARD REGISTRATION POLICY
NUMBER:	711
EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVISED May 19, 2025
PAGE:	1 of 2

All people who live within Erie County are eligible for a free library card. Each resident is limited to one personal library account that may be used throughout Erie County to access a variety of library services. Applicants who reside in areas served by the Public Libraries of Erie County (PLEC) are encouraged to obtain a library card from their home library.

Library card applicants can complete an application form in person at any outlet of the Erie County Public Library. Registration may also be initiated online but must be completed in person. Registration includes providing identification to verify name and current mailing address in accordance with the library's current list of acceptable identification, and signature accepting responsibility for borrowed materials. Library staff will assign the appropriate card type in accordance with the application and identification provided at the time of registration.

Applicants who seasonally or temporarily reside in Erie County, including college students, may apply for a card with proper identification. Homebound, hospitalized, or applicants otherwise unable to physically travel to a library location may submit a completed application and identification in care of a relative or caregiver.

A patron may have only one personal library card. Patrons are responsible for all activity on their account. Patrons are required to notify the library immediately of any change in address or residency, or if the library card is lost or stolen. There is no charge to replace a lost or damaged card. Possession of another person's library card or valid photo ID implies permission to use the card and to access account information.

Access PA cards: Pennsylvania residents outside of Erie County whose home library participates in the Access PA program can obtain a library card in person by showing their local library card, bearing the Access PA logo, in person at an ECPL location.

Non-resident cards: Out-of-state applicants and applicants from areas in Pennsylvania that do not participate in Access PA may apply for a non-resident card. There is a \$10.00 annual fee for non-resident cards. Non-resident patrons are ineligible for interlibrary loan services and remote database access.

Minors: Minors under 18 years of age may apply for a library card. Until a child has reached the age of 18 years, the parent or legal guardian is responsible for any charges, fees, and fines. When a parent's library card is blocked due to excessive charges, the Library reserves the right to restrict borrowing of materials by the delinquent parent on a minor's card.

If an applicant is under 15 years of age, then the signature of a parent or legal guardian is required.

If an applicant is 15, 16 or 17 years of age, then the minor may register for a library card without a parent's signature.

Teacher/Homeschool cards: Erie County residents employed by any early childhood, K-12 institution, or childcare provider, or who are homeschool educators, may apply for a Teacher or Homeschool card. To obtain a Teacher card, applicants must provide proof of current employment by a relevant educational or childcare facility. Homeschooling educators may apply for a Homeschool Card upon presentation of a Home Education Affidavit, as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and issued by the local school district, or by providing proof of being a current properly qualified private tutor.

Organizational cards: Social service agencies, companies, and nonprofits located in Erie County may register as institutional borrowers. Organizations may apply by using the standard ECPL application under the name of a designated contact person. A letter on agency letterhead must accompany the application stating the designated contact for all fines, fees, and replacement costs.

Adults under the care of a social service agency, group home, or assisted living facility may apply for a library card. If the organization or facility will accept financial responsibility for the account, a letter on agency letterhead stating the designated contact for fines and fees must accompany the application.

Temporary cards: Applicants who live at temporary residences may apply for a Temporary card. Applicants must present a signed letter, dated within a week, by an officer or agency operating the premises at which they reside indicating the applicant's status as a current resident. A recently dated rent receipt may also be accepted. Temporary cards are issued for a three-month period and may not use interlibrary loan services.

E-Cards: All people who live within Erie County are eligible for a free library e-card. E-cards may be used to access databases and to check out digital content provided by the library. E-cards cannot be used to check out physical materials. Individuals wishing to check out physical materials may convert to a standard library card by completing an application form in person at any outlet of the Erie County Public Library. Non-Erie County residents seeking online access to library resources for research purposes may be granted a temporary e-card with administration approval.

7. Adjournment

8. Appendix

a. Announcements

The next board meeting will be Monday, June 16 at 12:30pm via zoom

b. News Articles

You can donate your used books during Swing into Spring Book Sale at Blasco Library

May 14, 2025 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

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

355 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1250, grade level(s): 11-12

[Read News Document](#)

Whether you are eager to find a place to drop off donations from your spring cleaning or seeking resources to help with the next project, the Friends of the Erie County Library might have the opportunity for you.

The Swing into Spring Book Sale is hosted by the Friends of the Erie County Library and takes place from May 15-17 at the Admiral Room at the Blasco Library at 160 E. Front St.

The sale begins on May 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and then continues May 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. before wrapping up on May 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More book sales: Erie loves the Great American Book Sale. When to mark your calendar for the 2025 event.

What's at the Swing into Spring Book Sale?

At the spring sale, attendees will find gently used books of the following genres:

- * Gardening;
- * Cooking;
- * Fiction;
- * Non-fiction;
- * Children's;
- * Puzzles;
- * Other media items.

How to donate to the Swing into Spring Sale

You can drop off old books, movies, puzzles and more at the Swing into Spring Sale. They will accept the following items for donations:

- * Gently used books;
- * CDs;
- * DVDs;
- * Puzzles.

All donations must be in gently used condition or better and can be dropped off at the lobby of the

Blasco Library. More information on donations can be found at the library website.

Other Friends of the Erie County Library sales

If you can't make it to the Swing into Spring Sale, the Friends of the Erie County Library will be holding its annual Great American Book Sale next month at the Flo Fabrizio Ice Center at 527 W. 38th St.

This sale takes place on June 15-19 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and wraps up on June 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Friends of the Erie County Library will also host its S-Book-Tacular Sale at the Blasco Library from Oct. 16-17.

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

What do the book sales benefit?

Each of the annual book sales supports the Erie County Library and library programs across Erie County.

Contact Nicholas Sorensen at nsorensen@gannett.com.

Judge denies Gannon, county motion to quash parts of 'Keep Our Library Public' lawsuit

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

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

952 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1420, grade level(s): >12

[Read News Document](#)

(This story was updated to accurately reflect the most current information.)

Does Gannon University's new aquatic center, now being built inside Blasco Library, violate the intended purpose of the Blasco property?

Opponents to the center say it does, arguing that the Blasco property, located at 160 E. Front St., was donated and dedicated to the county solely to be a public library.

Attorneys for Gannon and Erie County, however, claim the center, officially the Center for Lake Erie Education and Research, will be a public, educational facility that won't overrun the library but rather complement it.

On May 5, a judge overseeing the matter denied a motion by Gannon and Erie County to seek partial summary judgment in a lawsuit filed by the center's opponents.

The case is now expected to head to trial.

Here's what to know.

Donation deed requires property to be library — but includes exceptions

Opponents of the center, who formed a group called Keep Our Library Public, have an ongoing lawsuit against Gannon and Erie County for negotiating the center's lease at the library.

Among their claims, the group argues the lease violates the Pennsylvania Dedicated or Donated Property Act because the county never sought court approval to alter the property from its dedicated and donated purpose.

The property was donated to the county in 1994 by the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority and Penelec. Language in both donating deeds calls for the property to be used as a public library.

Attorneys for Gannon and Erie County, however, have seized on language in the Penelec deed that states the property can also be used for "substantially similar nonprofit, public, cultural or educational uses."

They insist that the center, with its interactive exhibits, displays and labs, would function as a public, educational resource, consistent with the Penelec deed and therefore not require court approval.

Gannon attorney Jamie Schumacher has further defended the center as a reflection of modern-day libraries.

"I don't believe it's fair to call a library anymore just a repository for books," she said. "Our modern-day libraries are much more than that. (They're) a modern-day repository for information and communication and understanding for our community."

Property was dedicated as library, KOLP attorney says

Alan Shuckrow, attorney for Keep Our Library Public, said it's unclear whether the center would be a "substantially similar" educational use. Indeed, he said the deed's language can be "exploited" and lead to a "slippery slope."

"Next thing you know, another 'educational use' will be allowed to go in another part of the library until the entire library could be taken over by an alleged 'educational use,'" he said.

Shuckrow also said the Blasco property was dedicated in 1996 with the understanding that a public library and the adjacent historical museum were the only permitted uses consistent with the dedication.

The library was named after Dr. Raymond Blasco because of an endowment to the library through the Erie Community Foundation. Public donations exceeding \$2 million were also used for the library.

"You need to look at the overall circumstances surrounding this property and its dedication to the county and its acceptance by the public," Shuckrow said. "It was solely for use as a library and that's what it's been this entire time."

Judge denies motions for partial summary judgment, signals trial

On April 30, Schumacher and Erie County Solicitor Bill Speros argued in favor of a partial summary judgment to resolve the part of the lawsuit pertaining to the Dedicated or Donated Property Act.

On May 5, Senior Judge James Arner denied the motions, noting too many unanswered questions, including whether the center is "substantially similar" to a public library and whether research conducted by Gannon will be "substantially similar" to use as a public library?

Shuckrow said the judge's order means all the claims listed in the Keep Our Library Public lawsuit will be discussed in trial, which he anticipates in October.

The lawsuit also alleges that Erie County Executive Brenton Davis violated the Erie County Administrative Code by negotiating lease terms that were not favorable to county taxpayers. The lawsuit also alleges that Davis breached his fiduciary duty, that he "negligently or intentionally mishandled" donated property in negotiating

and executing the lease.

A little background

The 3,280-square-foot center is a part of Gannon's \$24 million water quality initiative called Project NePTWNE. The center is expected to 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.

The center is expected to open in October.

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.

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 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.

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."

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