



Library Advisory Board Meeting

Monday, September 15, 2025 9:00 am

In Person at Edinboro Branch Library

<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 – August 18, 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-
 - h. Report of Erie Regional Library Foundation-
5. **Unfinished Business-**
 - a. Officer Nominating committee
6. **New Business-**
 - a.
7. **Adjournment**
8. **Appendix**
 - a. Announcements
 - b. News Articles

Supporting a reading community, Lake Erie Literary Festival returns. How to attend

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2025

3. Public Comment- (limit to 15 minutes)

4. Library Reports

a. Report of the Director- Jessica Spitulski

- Upcoming Library Closures
 - October 13th – Staff Development Day
 - November 11th – Veteran’s Day
- Staffing Updates
 - 4 new clerks recently accepted positions. They start, 9/29
 - Interviews for Circulation Manager are in process
 - Fiscal Technician applicants are under review
- Construction Updates
 - Blasco Stairs – Vinyl for stairs has finally shipped. Installing will be scheduled once it arrives.
 - CLEER Construction – opening weekend
 - PennDot Bayfront Construction Impact
- Children’s Renovation Update
 - Public Input Survey Update
 - PDBA Pre-Construction Site Visit Scheduled
 - HIRT Grant Application – Potential decision delivered by end of September.
- PaLa Annual Conference in Erie, PA – October 19-22

b. Staff Reports- Alyssa Johnson

- Perry Elementary guest presentation – Scot Galloway
- Summer Reading update

c. Review of Financial Report- Deana Cooper

Financials attached

d. Statistical and Other Reports- Deana Cooper

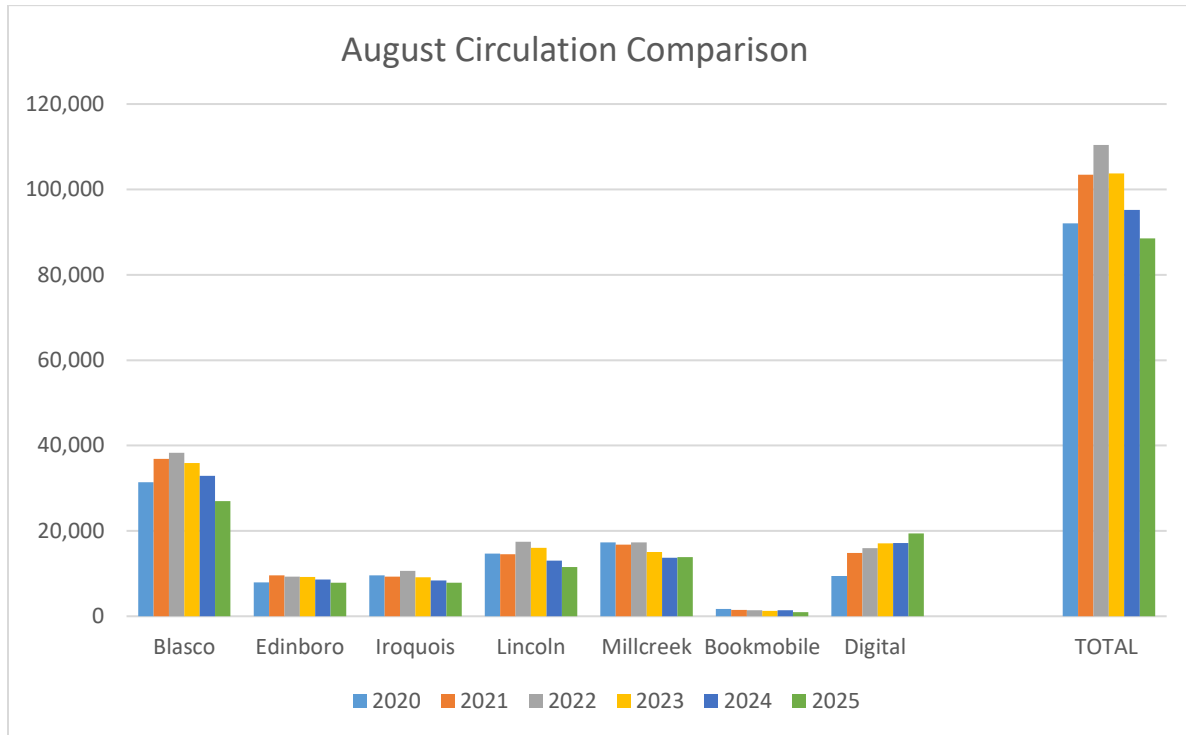
August 2025 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- 453 new cards issued, including 81 e-cards
- 3459 WiFi logins, 3167 public PC logins across locations ↓15% from 2024
- Patron visits – 32,522 August visits. Blasco foot traffic ↓28% from 2024
- **159 programs, 3173 attendees ↑10 programs and 412 attendees from 2024**

- Desk questions

Month	Type	Directions	Collection	Electronic	Program	Research	Total
Aug	In person	898	1415	622	486	402	3823
Aug	Online	10	10	1	0	0	21
Aug	phone	314	441	194	184	258	1391
		1222	1866	817	670	660	5235



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Blasco	31,408	36,845	38,277	35,920	32,886	26,985
Edinboro	7,970	9,615	9,263	9,202	8,584	7,851
Iroquois	9,609	9,312	10,631	9,124	8,413	7,865
Lincoln	14,716	14,566	17,455	16,032	13,009	11,566
Millcreek	17,283	16,806	17,316	15,093	13,704	13,865
Bookmobile	1,681	1,481	1,448	1,280	1,423	942
Digital	9,408	14,829	15,992	17,098	17,169	19,429
	92,075	103,454	110,382	103,749	95,188	88,503

*Paving and escalated road construction occurred throughout August in preparation for 9/2 Bayfront road closure. Impact- Blasco foot traffic ↓28% and circulation ↓18% from 2024.

e. Report of District Consultant-Jessica Church

Northwest Library District Services Report as of September 10, 2025
Updates for ECPL LAB Report
Submitted by Jessica Church, District Consultant

Library District Updates

Member libraries have submitted their applications for State aid. Applications reviewed the standards met in 2024 that were reported earlier this year. If a library was not in compliance with certain standards such as staffing or collection expenditures, the organization also applied for a waiver to express the economic hardship that prevented meeting the standard. Erie met standards and did not need to apply for a waiver.

The next step will be for libraries to submit their Plan for State aid, in which libraries express how they intend to use their State aid for personnel, collections, or other (limited) eligible expenditures.

The District Advisory Council (DAC) will meet on October 29 at Edinboro Branch. The DAC is made up of the library director and one trustee of each of the 16 member libraries.

State Updates

No updates at this time regarding a State budget.

- f. [Report of County Council Liaison- Councilman Horton](#)
- g. [Report of Friends of the Library-](#)
- h. [Report of Erie Regional Library Foundation-](#)

5. Unfinished Business-

- a. [Officer Nominating committee](#)

6. New Business-

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7. Adjournment

8. Appendix

- a. [Announcements](#)

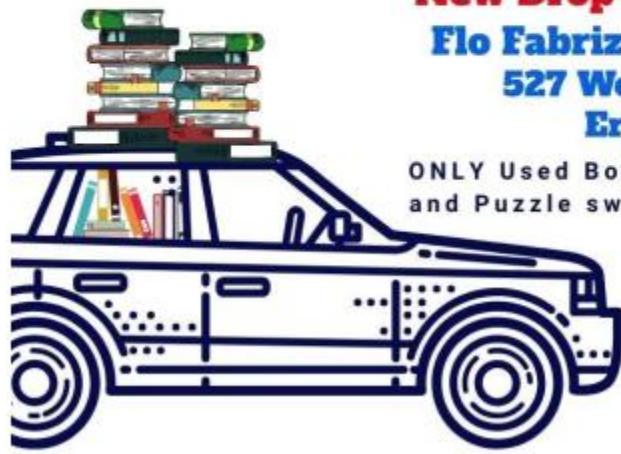
The next board meeting will be Monday, October 20, 2025 at 12:30pm via zoom.



Drive-Thru Book Drive

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
10AM TO 2PM


New Drop-off Location
Flo Fabrizio Ice Arena
527 West 38th Street
Erie, PA 16509



ONLY Used Books, CDs, DVDs
and Puzzle swill be accepted.

- Please NO:**
- Encyclopedias,
 - Readers' Digest
 - Condensed books
 - Textbooks,
 - Magazines
 - VHS or cassettes.

THE FRIENDS OF THE ERIE COUNTY LIBRARY PRESENT



**THE S-BOOK-TACULAR
BOOK SALE**

**IN THE ADMIRAL ROOM
OF THE BLASCO LIBRARY**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16	10 AM TO 6 PM
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17	10 AM TO 4 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18	9 AM TO 3 PM

Featuring newer Mystery and Fiction,
History, Art and Children's Books plus
Puzzles, CDs and DVDs.

b. News Articles

Supporting a reading community, Lake Erie Literary Festival returns. How to attend

August 26, 2025 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

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

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

[Read News Document](#)

A collective effort to support the Erie-area reading scene and advocate for literature around the region is the goal for the Lake Erie Literary Festival.

The annual festival returns to the upper section of Frontier Park on Sept. 13.

Organizer Kyle Churman, the owner of Werner Books, says the festival is a great opportunity to support literature and controversial topics when it comes to books in the Erie area.

"The goal of the festival is to promote local authors, provide a platform for local poetry and performance, but also advocate for things like the [library](#) and against book banning, which is a huge problem," Churman said.

Using Lake Erie Literary Festival for advocating

Organizers of the Lake Erie Literary Festival advocate for the Erie County Public [Library](#) and taking a stand against banning books.

Churman sells books that are banned at libraries and in schools, and he said he feels strongly that it is a controversial topic that could impact authors across the nation.

More: Ultimate guide to Erie, Pa. entertainment in August and September 2025

"Our fear down the road potentially is with the government getting more abrasive that they might start encouraging publishers not to print books or encourage private businesses not to carry these books," Churman said. "This festival is a way to get the word out about literacy and advocacy."

Churman continued, "As we look at what's happening both locally and nationally, the stronger the Erie community is together through all the different things from literacy to supporting local authors it brings Erie together," Churman said. "I think it's a great opportunity to get folks together to support literacy. A literate society is a strong society."

Regional authors on scene at Lake Erie Literary Festival

Several local and regional authors will be at the festival selling and signing their books for readers.

All authors in attendance will have their books available for purchase and to be signed. Books will range from children's books to mystery novels to poetry and more.

Some of those local authors include Aly Welch, K.D. Finnegan, Ashley Snyder, Heather Cash, Mae Wagner, Nathan Large and others.

Vendors on scene at Lake Erie Literary Festival

Vendors and organizations that support human creations and the literary arts will be on scene at Frontier Park during Lake Erie Literary Festival.

Some vendors include Chuck and Ginny's food truck, Charmaine's custom headbands and Werner Books and Coffee, which will sell coffee to guests.

Happening in Erie: Ultimate guide to Erie, Pa. entertainment in August and September 2025

If you go...

* Date: Sept. 13

* Time: Noon to 6 p.m.

* Location: Frontier Park, 1501 W. Sixth St.

* Information: Learn more at Erielitfest.com or on the festival's Facebook page.

Contact Nicholas Sorensen at Nsorensen@gannett.com.