Executive Director’s Report for May 2019
April 25, 2019

James Sparber  
Finance Director  
Erie County Courthouse  
140 W 6th Street, Room 111  
Erie, PA  16501-1011

Dear Mr. Sparber:

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act 42 of 2017, the Department is required to distribute quarterly the Local Share Assessment collected for slots to the municipalities in which a licensed gaming entity is located. This distribution is based on the local share assessment amount collected plus the slot machine license operation fee amount collected over Summit Township’s budget limitation.

Erie County: $829,599.19  
Land Bank Jurisdiction: $829,599.19

An ACH for the first quarter of 2019 payment in the amount of $1,659,198.38 should be deposited in your bank account within 3 – 5 business days. This payment includes the slots local share assessment of $535,574.38 and the slot machine license operation fee of $1,123,624.00. Any reductions to the Gross Terminal Revenue (GTR) for promotional items is the result of the Gaming Bulletin 2015-01 and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s April 28, 2014 decision in Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment Incorporated v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue (90 A.3d 699 (Pa. 2014)).

If you have any questions, please contact me at 717-346-4004.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Heckert  
Gaming Division Chief  
Bureau of Fiscal Management
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Total: 67,607,285.01
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<td>Erie School District/Mercyhurst University – PASmart Award</td>
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<td>Greater Erie Community Action Committee – pre-apprenticeship program</td>
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<td>ARC Grant – Investing in Appalachia’s Future: ARC 5-year Strategic Plan</td>
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<td>EDA – Regional Innovation Strategies Assistance to Coal Communities Program</td>
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Ridge Policy Group Activity
ECGRA April 5 – May 15 Report

RPG Relevant Meetings and Calls

- April 18 – RPG call with Sheila Silman on GECAC reentry funding opportunities (third in series of calls to help with their activities)
- May 7 – Meeting between Perry and Mark Holman to discuss ongoing activities
- May 7 – Mark Holman visited with Mercyhurst University Executives
- May 8 – Update call with Karl Sanchak, Erie Innovation District

RPG Relevant Activity

- Helped secure letter of support for GECAC's DOL Grant from state officials
- Provided background research to support GECAC’s DOL Grant
- April 22 – Provided information on Second Chance Act Comprehensive Community-based Adult Reentry Program and Second Chance Pell Grant program to GECAC
- May 10 – Provided information to Perry on neighborhood rehabilitation and housing grants

Funding Opportunities Presented

Federal Opportunities:

Choice Neighborhood Grants

- **Planning Grant**: Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants support the development of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans which focus on directing resources to address three core goals: Housing, People and Neighborhood. To achieve these core goals, communities must develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan. The Transformation Plan will become the guiding document for the revitalization of the public and/or assisted housing units while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and positive outcomes for families. Current funding is available up to $5 million for Planning Grant awards.

  **Eligible Applicants**: Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), local governments, tribal entities, nonprofits

  **Grant Occurrence**: Yearly

- **Implementation Grant**: Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants support those communities that have undergone a comprehensive local planning process and are ready to implement their plan to redevelop the distressed public and/or assisted housing and neighborhood.

  **Eligible Applicants**: Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), local governments, tribal entities, nonprofits
Grant Occurrence: Yearly

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

This program funding can be used to do the following:
- Establish financing mechanisms for purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed homes and residential properties;
- Purchase and rehabilitate homes and residential properties abandoned or foreclosed;
- Establish land banks for foreclosed homes;
- Demolish blighted structures;
- Redevelop demolished or vacant properties

Eligible Applicants: State and Local Governments, so long as all activities funded by NSP must benefit low- and moderate-income persons whose income does not exceed 120 percent of the area median income (AMI)

Application Dates/Occurrence: This has not been funded since 2015, but we will continue to monitor funding opportunities.

Continuum Of Care Program

The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit organizations, States, local governments, and instrumentalities of State and local governments, and public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, without limitation or exclusion. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or to be subrecipients of grant funds. Individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorship organizations are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards made under this announcement.

Occurrence: Yearly

Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP)

The Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) awards grant funds to eligible national and regional non-profit organizations and consortia to purchase home sites and develop or improve the infrastructure needed to set the stage for sweat equity and volunteer-based homeownership programs for low-income persons and families. SHOP funds must be used for eligible expenses to develop decent, safe and sanitary non-luxury housing for low-income persons and families who otherwise would not be able to afford to become homeowners. SHOP units must be decent, safe, and sanitary non-luxury dwellings that comply with state and local codes, ordinances, and zoning requirements, and with all other SHOP requirements.

Only national and regional non-profit organizations and consortia with experience facilitating innovative homeownership opportunities through the provision of self-help homeownership housing programs are eligible to apply. Applicants must propose to use a significant amount of SHOP grant funds in at least two states. Individuals are not eligible applicants for SHOP grant funds. Applications received from individuals will not be reviewed by HUD.
Land acquisition, infrastructure improvements, and reasonable and necessary planning and administration costs (not to exceed 20 percent) are the only eligible uses for SHOP grant funds. The average SHOP expenditure for the combined costs of land acquisition and infrastructure improvements cannot exceed $15,000 per SHOP unit. Successful applicants must leverage other public and private funds to pay for the construction or rehabilitation costs of each SHOP unit.

The SHOP units must be sold to homebuyers at prices below the prevailing market price. Homebuyers must be low-income and must contribute a significant amount of sweat equity towards the development of the SHOP units. Reasonable accommodations must be permitted for individuals with disabilities in order for such individuals to meet hourly requirements. A homebuyer’s sweat equity contribution cannot be mortgaged or otherwise restricted upon future sale of the SHOP unit. Volunteer labor is also required.

SHOP Grantees may award SHOP grant funds to local non-profit affiliate organizations to carry out the Grantee’s SHOP program. These affiliate organizations must be located within the Grantee’s service area.

**Eligible Applicants:** Certain national and regional non-profit organizations and consortia

**Occurrence:** Yearly

**HUD Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)**

The goal of the YHDP is to support up to 25 communities, at least 8 of which will be rural, in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness and sharing that experience with and mobilizing communities around the country toward the same end.

**Eligible Applicants:** Nonprofit organizations, States, local governments, and instrumentalities of State and local governments. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or to be subrecipients of grant funds.

**Occurrence:** Yearly

**Second Chance Act**

We confirmed that the Second Chance Act Comprehensive Community-based Adult Reentry Program is seeking applications to implement or expand on reentry programs that demonstrate strong partnerships with corrections, parole, probation, law enforcement, and other reentry service providers. Based on this, we believe that this funding opportunity could be used to expand on your programs, not just for new efforts. More information is here.

**Second Chance Pell Grant**

We also found some additional information on the Second Chance Pell Grant program. The program does allow Pell grant funding to go directly to students in prison. It’s geared toward prisoners likely to be released within the next five years. The program is in 24 states, including students through Bloomsburg University, Lehigh Carbon Community College, IUP, and Villanova in PA. Congress is currently considering expanding this program for more broad usage of the program. For now, it seems the best way to take advantage of the program is to partner with the universities currently eligible to give the grants.

**State Opportunities:**

**Community Development Block Grant**

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable
living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

**Eligible Applicants:** Cities, counties, and states

**Application Dates:** Generally, applications are submitted around September of each year by the county with DCED making the final determinations for funding by the end of the calendar year

**Grant Occurrence:** Yearly

- **Section 108, Department of Housing and Urban Development**
  If an entity receives a CDBG, they may be eligible to use a portion of the CDBG to receive a federally guaranteed loan under the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108) large enough to pursue physical and economic revitalization projects capable of revitalizing entire neighborhoods. This program provides communities with a source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and other physical development projects. Loans typically range from $500,000 to $140 million, depending on the scale of the project or program. Under Section 108, project costs can be spread over time with flexible repayment terms, and borrowers can take advantage of lower interest rates than could be obtained from private financing sources.

**Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program**

The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside) provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, environmental mitigation, recreational trail program projects, and safe routes to school projects.

**Eligible Applicants:** Local Transportation Safety Authorities and nonprofit organizations that oversee the administration of local transportation safety programs

**Application Dates:** They anticipate opening the next funding round in 2019

**Grant Occurrence:** Normally yearly

**ARC Area Development Grant**

Each year in Pennsylvania, ARC provides funding for numerous projects in the Appalachian Region in a wide range of program areas. The projects funded in the program areas create thousands of new jobs, improve local water and sewer systems, increase school readiness, expand access to health care, assist local communities with strategic planning and provide technical and managerial assistance to emerging businesses.

**Eligible Applications:** Local governments, community organizations, and nonprofits, including educational institutions

**Application Dates:** May/June to the Northwest Commission so that they can score them before sending them over in order of priority to DCED for DCED's review. DCED reviews over the summer and then invites all of the LDDs in September/October to do a more thorough review before DCED invites applications, which is done in December/January

**Grant Occurrence:** Yearly
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 1, 2019
11:30am – 12:30pm
5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510

AGENDA

1. Pilot Project Review
   a. Corry Blue Zones

2. Multi-Municipal Collaboration
   a. Erie Area Council of Governments
   b. Jefferson Educational Society

3. Mission Main Street – Round 2 Review
   a. Our West Bayfront
   b. Preservation Erie
   c. Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network
$250,000 Investment to Reinvigorate Clinton Street Business District “Original Main Street”, North East

Investment in will reconnect Main Street businesses, community to Clinton Street District

**CONTACT**: Kate Philips
pahilips@parkerphilips.com
215.850.4647 | mobile

**ERIE, PA (March 21, 2019)** – Atop the back of a locomotive built in Erie in 1945 and permanently stationed at the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society and Museum in North East, Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and ECGRA Officials announced an investment of $250,000 in the Borough of North East to help reinvigorate and reconnect the Clinton Business District to downtown North East. ECGRA has set aside $2.5 million in grants over the next three years for Main Street revitalization.

“At the heart of every community across Erie County is a main street - a place to shop, meet, eat, relax, and connect,” Dahlkemper said. “As our main streets grow, so do our neighborhoods and our local economies. North East Borough and North East Township have proven that a good plan, collaboration, and smart investments can help to breathe new life back into these once-bustling corridors.”

Today's announcement marks the beginning of the sixth round of Mission Main Street Grants. Mission Main Street grantees are required to match ECGRA’s $1.2 million of local share gaming revenue investments, extending the reach of these valuable economic development dollars to $2.4 million revitalizing main streets across Erie County in the past six years.
“Reconnecting North East’s charming Main Street to the ‘Original Main Street’ is a wise economic development strategy,” said Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA. “As the Main Street experience expands, North East will be able to continue redevelopment efforts in partnership with local businesses, and capitalize on available economic development dollars.”

Using national best practices as models for grant making and impact investing since 2008, ECGRA has made and reported on 1,050 grants, and loans to 247 nonprofits and municipalities totaling over $57 million of investments of local share gaming revenue.

“You can almost feel the energy building today as we envision a future with our reconnected downtown attracting visitors and people who want a vibrant community to call home,” said Pat Gerhlein, North East Borough Manager. “We are excited to put this funding to use, and continue to implement our strategic plan that includes collaboration, economic and community development.”

The Mission Main Street Grant announced today will provide direct assistance to the business community through façade improvements, energy and safety improvements, access to web-based business solutions, streetscape amenities, traffic calming techniques, pedestrian travelways, Route 89 Gateway enhancements, and revised resident/customer parking strategies.

ABOUT MISSION MAIN STREET
ECGRA’s Mission Main Street Grants is one of three IMPACT: Neighborhoods & Communities initiatives invested in and measured by the ECGRA board of directors with the purpose of reinvigorating neighborhoods and main corridors, boosting buy-local efforts, and combating blight.

Mission Main Street Grants were established in 2013 by the ECGRA board of directors to buttress any area recognized as a “main street” — a distinct geographic area host to small businesses, special events, historic structures, green spaces, and parks.

Mission Main Street grant guidelines, available at www.ECGRA.org, were originally written in collaboration with a volunteer committee made up of 19 municipal, nonprofit, and business leaders from across the county.

Applicants can apply for up to $250,000 over three years for an implementation project, and up to $10,000 for a one-year planning project. All projects require a 1:1 cash match.
We invest in inclusive economic opportunities that create a vibrant region where all can thrive.

For the past 7 years, Bridgeway has provided patient, flexible capital and business education to ignite small business growth and develop communities in Erie. As a lender, we know what success looks like in the Erie market. We understand the passion that drives you and the challenges you face. We believe that businesses and real estate development projects can be positive forces for good. We seek entrepreneurs who use the power of business to make a difference in their communities.
When it comes to navigating entrepreneurship, we understand the passion that drives you and the challenges you face. We can help you turn obstacles into opportunities for business growth.

The Erie Minority-owned Business Accelerator provides guidance and tools to help minority entrepreneurs build and scale their companies. The program brings the latest solutions to the table and builds your network to accelerate business growth.

If you’re an entrepreneur – whether that means you have just developed a business plan or have a long track record of success – and are looking to take your business to the next level, this program is designed for you. We are seeking to work with driven and focused business-owners that are ready to set a vision for business growth and plot the actions to achieve it.

**PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE:**

**JUNE - FEBRUARY**

- 9 months meeting as a cohort for workshops & networking events.
- You’ll develop a business growth plan with a trusted group of advisers.

**MARCH - DECEMBER**

- For the next 9 months you’ll take the lead on your business growth plans with access to advisers and GrowthWheel tools.

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**360° BUSINESS ASSESSMENT**

Get a 360° view of your business & identify key focus areas to move your business forward.

**4 WORKSHOPS**

On the four business cornerstones of concept, customer relations, organization & operations.

**NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES**

To build your network & make it work for you.

**BUSINESS GROWTH PLAN**

Coaching sessions & a tailored business growth plan will help you navigate challenges & opportunities.

**WORK WITH EXPERTS**

Access a “brain trust” of trusted experts & advisers invested in your success.

**A COHORT OF ENTREPRENEURS**

Connect with a cohort of entrepreneurs & navigate entrepreneurship together.
Companies have shared challenges when growing, whatever the industry, life stage, or company size.

The Accelerator uses GrowthWheel, a cloud-based platform designed to help entrepreneurs and growing companies make decisions and take actions.

GrowthWheel breaks down 4 business cornerstones into 20 focus areas to move your business forward.

The platform allows you to work through your decisions and actions both online and using printable worksheets. This allows you to make decisions quickly and track your progress in real time. We know business moves quickly, we trust GrowthWheel to help you work more efficiently and stay focused on your business goals.

GROWTHWHEEL’S FOUR BUSINESS CORNERSTONES:

**BUSINESS CONCEPT**

**Meeting or creating demand.**

Getting the right business idea and designing the right product portfolio. Selling it to the right customer segments using the right revenue model and doing so while maintaining a strong market position.

**CUSTOMER RELATIONS**

**Finding and keeping clients.**

Networking to meet the right people. Choosing the right way to do marketing and organizing an effective sales process. Getting in the media and on the customers’ agenda through communication and PR.

**ORGANIZATION**

**Building teams and partnerships.**

Finding the right ownership and board structure, recruit and develop the right employees. Outsourcing tasks through partnerships with suppliers and contractors and mapping core business processes. Having the legal framework in place for working together.

**OPERATIONS**

**Being productive. Making money.**

Making sure the right financial practices are in place and ensuring that there is enough funding for profitable investments to be made. Setting up the right production and delivery system to secure profitability, IT-systems to make operations profitable and facilities that make the operations effective.
CHARTING A COURSE FOR SUCCESS.

Grow your businesses through an action-focused process.

Over the course of 9 months, the cohort will participate in workshops, events, networking opportunities, and one-on-one meetings with business coaches. Then for the next 9 months you will put your plan into action.

**360° BUSINESS ASSESSMENT**

Get a 360° view on your business.

We'll start with a visual checklist that gives you a complete 360° view of your business to identify key focus areas to move your business forward. Then, working with a team of trusted business advisers, you will develop a business growth plan to set actionable goals and measure your progress.

**WORKSHOPS**

Navigate entrepreneurship.

Take part in 4 facilitated workshops with your cohort of entrepreneurs. The workshops will focus on GrowthWheel's four business cornerstones. As a group you will explore business challenges and navigate entrepreneurship together. These sessions will be roughly 3 hours each and will occur every other month over the 9 month Accelerator.

**NETWORKING**

Grow your network and make it work for you.

Networking events will be scheduled over the course of the nine months and may include round table sessions, panel discussions, social networking engagements, and coffee meetings in small groups.

**COACHING**

Structured conversations about your business.

Your coach will help you build a custom toolbox using GrowthWheel and provide decision worksheets to help you take action. They will help hold you accountable and keep you on track.

**WORK WITH EXPERTS**

Access expertise to close gaps.

We'll help you identify the strengths and gaps you'll encounter as you execute your business growth plan. Then we'll help you build a "brain trust" of trusted experts and advisers invested in your success to help you close gaps.

**BUSINESS GROWTH PLAN**

The proving grounds.

After 9 months, you'll take the lead and test your new skills and network. The business growth plan you create will guide you. Our business coaches and your brain trust will be available during this period. You'll take the lead, but we'll stand with you to achieve your goals.
HOW TO APPLY.

We seek entrepreneurs who use the power of business to make a difference in their community.

To apply please fill out the application by May 15th and scan and email or mail to:

Blair Schoenborn
Associate Director of Strategy
bschoenborn@bridgewaycapital.org
#12.201.2450 x134

TIMELINE:

- May 15th: Applications Due
- June: 360° Business Assessment
- July: Workshop 1
- August: Networking Event
- September: Workshop 2
- October: Networking Event
- November: Workshop 3
- December: Networking Event
- January: Workshop 4
- February: Networking Event | Graduation from Cohort
- February - December: You take the lead and test you new skills and network. Your business growth plan will guide you with access to advisers and GrowthWheel.

For information on Bridgeway's flexible financing for entrepreneurs please contact:

Jimmy Jackson
Erie Office Director
jjackson@bridgewaycapital.org
814.451.1150
April 17, 2019

ECGRA
Perry Wood
5340 Fryling Rd Ste 201
Erie PA 16510-4672

Dear Perry,

On behalf of the women, children and staff of the Mercy Center for Women, we thank you for your special events grant of $1,629.00 to support our 25th Anniversary Gala in October. As we experience Holy Week and celebrate the sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord, let me share a few stories of how your generosity has impacted our women and children.

‘Sarah’ and her two beautiful little girls moved into an apartment in a safe neighborhood and will celebrate Easter in their very own home. DayNisha and her children, recently featured in a Times News article, are excited to finally have a house to call their own. Nikki was thrilled to find an apartment and comes back to Mercy Center often to volunteer. Two new clients have moved into Mercy Center in the past week, both seeking a safe haven from domestic abuse. It is because of your support that Mercy Center is able to provide the essential programs, mentorship and job readiness skills our women need to be successful.

As we celebrate 25 years of changing lives with a touch of Mercy, thank you for being a part of the life-changing services we offer to women and their children in need.

May God richly bless you, and may you have a wonderful, happy Easter.

Blessings,

Jennie Hagerty
Executive Director

Dear Perry,

We cannot thank you enough for your generous support to the Mercy Center. ECGRA has been committed to our mission in serving women and children.

In accordance with section 170(f)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code, I certify that Mercy Center for Women is a 501(c)3 charitable organization to which contributions are tax deductible. Since no goods or services were given in exchange for your gift, the entire amount is tax deductible. This letter serves as documentation of your gift and is necessary for your income tax records.
April 22, 2019

Mr. Perry Wood
ECGRA
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Perry,

Thank you for your continued support of the Barber National Institute! Your very special gift of $9,626.09 was processed on April 18, 2019 and will help make our 7th Annual Barber Beast on the Bay, the 2019 Christmas Ball, and the 2020 Art Show & Sale a continued success. We appreciate your friendship and the difference you are making in the lives of the children and adults with disabilities we serve.

The Barber National Institute helps over 6,200 individuals with special needs in Erie, Girard, Corry, Warren, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Your commitment to our organization helps us continue the special work that we do, whether it’s helping a child with autism learn to communicate, finding a rewarding career in the community for an adult with intellectual challenges, or providing assistance to a family through our vast array of support services. So many individuals and their families rely on the Barber National Institute every day for the programs and services they need to reach their fullest potential, and we are grateful for your commitment to helping us to fulfill our mission of Making Dreams Come True.

Perry, thank you and everyone at ECGRA that helped make this generous gift possible in support of the children and adults with disabilities and mental health challenges in Erie, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia regions. I wish you all the very best!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Laura R. Schaaf
Director of Giving

LRS/cmh

100 Barber Place • Erie, PA 16507-1863 • (814) 874-5802 • fax (814) 455-1132 • www.BarberInstitute.org
April 24, 2019

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
ATTN Perry Wood
5340 Fryling Road
Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Mr. Wood,

Thank you for your generosity in remembering SafeNet with your donation of a grant in the amount of $1,620.00 dated 4/10/2019. Your support of our mission is very much appreciated.

One of the hardest things to do is to identify that you are in an abusive relationship. And it's even harder to then remove yourself from that situation – especially when there are children involved. SafeNet empowers individuals by providing the tools – support, counseling, legal assistance and secure shelter – to help the abused take the difficult first step in stopping the cycle of physical violence or emotional abuse.

This year SafeNet will celebrate 45 years of serving the needs of the Erie Community. We could not do it without the support of friends like you.

Warmest regards,

Linda Lyons King
Executive Director

Please save this document for your tax records. It is your acknowledgment as required by IRS regulations. No goods or services have been provided in exchange for all or part of the above cash gift.

The official registration and financial information for SafeNet may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations by calling 1-800-732-0999. SafeNet, Domestic Violence Safety Network is registered as charitable organization No. 181 under the Solicitation of funds for Charitable Purposes Act, 10 P.S. Section 162.1 et seq., and is authorized to solicit charitable contributions under the conditions and limitations set forth under the Act.
April 23, 2019

Mr. Perry N. Wood III, Executive Director  
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
5340 Fryling Rd Ste 201  
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Mr. Wood:

You did something really special - you gave the gift of education. While an education touches lives in critical ways, so too does philanthropy. We are fortunate to have your loyalty and trust and are honored that you have chosen Edinboro University and its students as the recipient of your philanthropic spirit.

Every student’s story is different, but each one has been impacted because of donors like you. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to make the university a place of opportunity and excellence for our students.

On behalf of the Edinboro University and our Foundation, thank you for your generous gift. You are a great example of the significant impact donors can have on students’ lives – and through them -- on our world.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Chacona
Director of Development

P.S. The impact of your gift to Edinboro University may be doubled or possibly tripled! Please check with your IIR Representative to see if your company sponsors a matching gift program.

Gift Amount: $7,668.00
Gift Type: Business Check 2661 dated 4/10/2019
Designation: Art 100

Your contribution may be tax deductible as provided by law. Please retain this document for tax filing purposes. Unless otherwise indicated, no substantial donor benefits were associated with this gift.
April 23, 2019

Mr. Perry N. Wood III, Executive Director
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Rd Ste 201
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Mr. Wood:

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Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Goellner, ’01 ’17, CFRE
Vice President

P.S. The impact of your gift to Edinboro University may be doubled or possibly tripled! Please check with your HR Representative to see if your company sponsors a matching gift program.

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Your contribution may be tax deductible as provided by law. Please retain this document for tax filing purposes. Unless otherwise indicated, no substantial donor benefits were associated with this gift.
April 23, 2019

Perry Wood
Erie County Gaming Revenue Auth
5340 Fryling Rd, Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for your continued support of EHCA (Erie Homes for Children and Adults) with $1,000.00 by sponsoring the Spring Speakeasy gala. Proceeds from this year’s event will benefit the entire agency, as they will be directed toward the EHCA Endowment. We hope you plan to join us on Friday, May 3rd at the Concourse of Union Station as we open a speakeasy for one night only!

We are looking forward to trying heavy hors d’oeuvres from a menu created specifically for this event, enjoying a cocktail or three from the open bar, and dancing to some great music by DJ Shawn Steele. Your sponsorship allows six individuals to attend the gala (valued at $600.00). Have your guests call to pre-register to use our fast lane at check-in. Also included with your sponsorship is an advertisement displayed on event night. Just remember to speak easy, and no snitches allowed!

Your generosity helps provide quality services to over 400 people every day in three Pennsylvania counties. Please feel free to contact Karyn Langdon at 814-315-1803 or via email at karyn.langdon@ehca.org for more information.

Sincerely,

Charles Walczak
Chief Executive Officer

Jonathan Rilling
VP of Marketing, Advancement & Communications

extraordinary people. extraordinary programs

Your Bequest Will Leave a Legacy for the Children and Adults We Serve
April 23, 2019

Perry Wood  
Erie County Gaming Revenue Auth  
5340 Fryling Rd, Suite 201  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you so very much for your sponsorship for the annual Victory Ride of EHCA (Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc.). The support of our community for this event has truly been overwhelming. Cash, in-kind donations, registrations for the ride and guests at the party continue to grow, thanks to generous people like you!

More than 40 EHCA residents and program participants - as well as a friend of the agency that had previously never been able to ride - were able to experience the wind in their faces last year thanks to some very dedicated sidecar owners, members of the Christian Motorcyclists Association that added their trikes to the Resident Ride, and the Chrome Angels that led and followed our riders to help ensure their safety, as did members of Leader of Men. The Enforcers and Chrome Angels also helped plan the ride and event, which only shows the amount of support that the motorcycle community and community at large have shown for the Victory Ride!

Hundreds of riders came out for the Destination Ride and after-party, and a great group of volunteers kept everything running smoothly. Your contribution will make Victory Ride 2019 an even bigger success, helping us in our mission to assist people with disabilities to live rich and fulfilling lives. We think that Shades Beach Park is the perfect venue for Victory Ride 2019, scheduled on Saturday, August 24. With plenty of space for music, raffles, games, and awesome event merchandise, you will definitely want to be there - even if you don't ride! Our clients and everyone who cares about them are extremely grateful for your generosity. You can learn more about EHCA and the Victory Ride at ehca.org/upcoming-events, or by contacting Karyn Langdon at 814-454-1534 or karyn.langdon@ehca.org. I look forward to seeing you on August 24!

My sincerest thanks,

Jonathan Rilling  
VP of Marketing, Advancement and Communication

The Enforcers and Doc from the Christian Motorcyclists Association are great friends after riding together for several years.

EHCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit human service organization and all gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed under IRS regulations. No goods or services were provided as a result of this donation.
April 25, 2019

Mr. Perry Wood, Executive Director
ECGRA
5340 Fryling Road Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Mr. Wood,

Thank you! Your recent sponsorship grant to Asbury Woods is much appreciated. As discussed, this sponsorship will be recognized at Maple Festival, Scary Creature Feature and Winter Wonderland. Your gift helps us positively impact the lives of more than 70,000 people who experience Asbury Woods each year. From summer campers to long-time volunteers, from school children to avid trail users, we strive to provide a place where everyone can enjoy nature.

I’m very grateful to you and all our donors who support Asbury Woods and make moments in the Woods possible. Donations are critical to our ability to protect the land, maintain the trails, offer educational programs for all ages, and provide natural recreational opportunities.

Thank you once again and hope to see you in the Woods and on the trails very soon.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Farrar, CFRE
Executive Director
814-836-6189

Asbury Woods Partnership is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization which received your contribution of $876.60 on 4/15/19. No goods or services were given for your donation, therefore the full amount of your donation is deductible for federal tax purposes. Please retain this letter for your tax records.

Many thanks for supporting our community events!
New Mead Park bathrooms to be completed by September

BY SARA JUKES
sara@thecorryjournal.com

New bathrooms are in the future for Mead Park, one across the road from a Perry Springs pavilion and another at a main playground close to Nicholas Lodge.

The project is part of a Mead Park Phase I Restrooms Project and will include constructing new restroom facilities as well as adding a level of safety and security to the park.

Mead Park Association and Mead Park steering committee will be doing this project in conjunction with the city, City Manager Jason Blondi said at Thursday’s Corry City Council planning session.

Phase 1 is a part of a Master Site Plan that is made possible through donations and grants received from Erie County Planning office greenways, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA), Corry Community Foundation, the Arlene H. Smith Charitable Foundation, and the Mead Park Board has put several thousand dollars in to the project as well.

The master site plan is a 10- to 15-year plan, which will also eventually include additional and more visibly outlined parking, building renovations, a new maintenance building, upgrades to the amphitheater and seating, more defined trails with the addition of markers and new playground equipment.

See Bathrooms, P2

During Phase 1, pavilions and picnic tables will be reviewed and replaced for safety purposes, Johnson said.

"We're increasing and updating security in the park," Johnson said.

Phase 1 was scheduled to start in spring 2019, but was pushed back due to unforeseen delays, according to Maddie Johnson, treasurer of Mead Park Association board of directors and chairwoman of the Mead Park steering committee.

"I thought we were going to start building last year, at this time but because of the delays, timelines, work schedules and so on, it's gotten pushed into this year," Johnson said. "We're not pleased, but we are pleased that it's moving forward, it's just slower than anticipated."

The Perry Springs restroom project was sent to DCNR last week and the restrooms near Nicholas Lodge should be sent to DCNR in the next week.

"DCNR has three to four weeks to review those plans and recommend... any changes," Johnson said. "Hopefully there won't be any."

Perry Springs is the first picnic area on the right when using the baseball field entrance, located at the south end of the park.

To build the bathroom across from the Perry Springs pavilion, the Mead Park Association's engineer, Joshua Chestney from Stifler McGraw of Hollidaysburg, PA submitted a general permit registration to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

A notice of the permit registration was received and filed at Monday's Corry City Council meeting.

The permit registration states the new lines will mean disturbing existing wetlands and a stream.

The letter says a water and sewer service will be extended from Mead Avenue. It also states this project gives the opportunity to extend the water line to three additional pavilions and there is an existing sanitary sewer line in the west part of the park for the restroom near Perry Springs to tie into.

Those restrooms will have basic facilities for men and women but the restrooms to be built near Nicholas Lodge will have heat, electricity and facilities for men, women and a family option with a diaper changing table, all handicap accessible, Johnson said.

"It'll be able to be open basically year-round," Johnson said. "Which is exciting that we have never had at the park."

The primary consideration of all existing plans for upgrades and new buildings is to maintain the historical integrity of the park, relating to all the stonework and the look and feel of the existing structures, Johnson said.

"That was one of the key points in all of our grant applications and funding requests," Johnson said.

After DCNR is done reviewing plans, a bid package can be put together for companies to bid on by the end of May, Johnson said. She is hoping contracts can be awarded for the restrooms project in July and to have the restrooms completed in September.

Bathrooms
(Continued from front page)
Minority entrepreneurs getting boost

The Issue: More minority-owned businesses
Our view: Accelerator offers promise

It was fitting that the launch of the Erie Minority-Owned Business Accelerator on Wednesday evening took place at Learning Ladder Early Childhood Education in the 2500 block of Peach Street, which had been leasing for their day care center.

The Pittsburgh-based Bridgeway Capital, which has had an Erie office since 2012, is now a nonprofit that focuses on providing affordable business loans and other services to minority-owned small businesses that might not be eligible for traditional bank financing.

To that end, Bridgeway and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority on Wednesday announced the launch of a $5 million investment pool to encourage minority entrepreneurship in the region. Bridgeway will match dollars for dollars, with a commitment to invest at least 10% of the money in minority-owned businesses over three years.

The Minority-Owned Business Accelerator, launched Wednesday, aims to help budding entrepreneurs in the minority community on their road to success and growth. It is being funded with a $500,000 grant from EGCLA.

Both the fund and the accelerator are aimed at addressing a dearth of minority-owned businesses in the region. EGCLA Executive Director Perry Wood said in December that minorities make up 42% of Erie County's workforce at less than half the national rate.

About 25 prospects for the accelerator attended Bridgeway's information sessions, and were invited to apply to be part of it. Six businesses or potential start-ups will be chosen to participate in the first accelerator cohort.

The owners of the six businesses will receive extensive mentoring and support from June to February through workshops and networking events as they develop plans to build and scale their companies. The owners will then be asked to take the next steps in executing their plans, with further guidance along the way.

Businesses not chosen for the first accelerator cohort — the focus will be on finding people “with the drive and focus to get it done,” Bridgeway's Matt Schoenroth told the group — will receive mentoring and feedback.

The Minority-Owned Business Accelerator and the Erie Inclusive Fund are pursuing efforts to ensure all Erie residents benefit from future economic opportunities. EGCLA and Bridgeway deserve kudos for having the vision to pursue them.

Summer jobs program gives youth leg up

The Issue: Summer Jobs and More program landed in recent days with a stir. Through the program, more than 750 disadvantaged young people have been employed by businesses, nonprofits and other agencies since 2014.

It has become a fixture in a slowly growing slate of options that help young people master soft skills, enter the workforce and open their imaginations to possibilities that might not be readily visible from their home neighborhoods. Erie County government, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the Erie Community Foundation make up the Summer JAM program possible.

Its challenging origins should not be forgotten amid its success. It was just six years ago that Brock, of Victory Christian Center, Erie County Councilman Andre Horton, Gary Horton of the Urban Erie Community Development Corp., the Erie chapter of the NAACP and others marched to the Erie Community Foundation and lobbied others, exhorting them to act in the face of escalating gun violence that telegraphed nihilism and hopelessness and claimed young lives.

Erie County government, the Community Foundations and EGCLA acted on their concerns and established a fund to create the program that has steadily grown. Then-Mayor Joe Sinnott, meanwhile, pushed for it. He said the city's limited resources were focused on policing violence and that the city offered youth summer jobs in parks operations and elsewhere.

It is welcome that Mayor Joe Schember, making good on a campaign promise, has budgeted $20,000 to lend city support to the program this summer. The mayor has become a leading voice in an overdue movement to confront the community's racial and economic divides with intention.

While consensus is growing about the need to pursue inclusion, not all agree on how to achieve it. Some, for example, advocate community benefit agreements — contracts that mandate that multimillion-dollar economic development projects benefit affected communities. Others embrace a more individualistic approach.

The success of the summer jobs program, which emerged from an urgent, difficult conversation, witnesses to the value of speaking up, listening and acting. Those eligible for Summer JAM include people ages 16 to 21 from low- to moderate-income households, who do not overlap this resource. The first orientation meeting is Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Booker T. Washington Center, 1720 Holland St., with seven more scheduled at locations throughout the county. The schedule can be found at www.gec.org/summer-jam.
Edinboro Beehive conjures park nostalgia

Students, faculty lend hands to Conneaut Lake Park marketing, signs, operations

By Jim Martin
jam.martin@erietimesnews.com

EDINBORO — Jim Becker, executive director of the Economic Progress Alliance of Crawford County that operates Conneaut Lake Park, said the 127-year-old park needs to trade on its strengths.

"We are not Waldameer," he said. "We are not Six Flags. We are a vintage amusement park.

To communicate that message, Conneaut Lake Park management turned to a team of students and faculty at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

That team, part of the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network, a grant-funded collaboration between Edinboro University, Gannon University, Mercyhurst University, Penn State Behrend and the Erie County Public Library, worked on some of the project's work in partnership with the Erie County Public Library.

"While some of the Beehive collaborations involve more than one school, Edinboro University's Center for Branding and Communication and Strategic Communication worked with other universities and the Erie County Public Library that provides free assistance to regional entrepreneurs and organizations in areas such as public relations, advertising, graphic design and web design; business development and analysis; engineering and product design, and business and intelligence services.

What's a beehive?

A grant-funded collaboration between Edinboro University, Gannon University, Mercyhurst University, Penn State Behrend and the Erie County Public Library that provides free assistance to regional entrepreneurs and organizations in areas such as public relations, advertising, graphic design and web design; business development and analysis; engineering and product design, and business and intelligence services.

PARK

From Page A1

1903: The final poster shows off Splash City, built in 1906.

Edinboro students also have conducted an analysis of park operations, developed a public service announcement for radio and taken control of its social media accounts for the publicly owned amusement park.

Cassandra Reese, an instructor of interactive and graphic design at Edinboro, said she was proud of the work produced by student artists.

"I think the team really communicated the feeling of the amusement park, the vintage theme, that Conneaut Lake Park represents," she said.

The artwork didn't end with the posters.

"Since last August, we have had teams working on poster design, signage within the park, park maps and illustrations of mascots," she said.

Inspired by those drawings and the park's historic mascot, mothballed years ago, Connie Otter — as in Conneaut — was introduced to the public in full costume Tuesday morning.

Becker said the image of Connie Otter will be seen on signs throughout the park this coming summer, including the signs that set height requirements for each ride.

Becker, who explained the park recently rebuilt the third hill of the Blue Streak, said the promotional efforts come at a time when Conneaut Lake is starting to make progress, retiring more of its debt, increasing its paid attendance and unveiling a new Ferris wheel this year.

"We are starting to see the day that at the end of the tunnel," he said.

The amusement park isn't the only one that stands to benefit.

Scott Glaed, art director for the Beehive Network, said students were able to work in a professional, agency-like setting and learned to respond to the needs of a client.

"They leave the school knowing how to speak to clients and knowing how to work on projects in a timeframe that is a real-world time frame," he said.

Abigail Dewey, a senior from Eldred, in McKean County, who served as design leader said she's proud to have helped breathe new life into an old park.

She was in a group that worked on the mascot design and still has work to do on a park map.

"Conneaut Lake Park is a community treasure," she said. "It was close to my heart.

Tony Pyroncel, executive director of the Edinboro Beehive, said the university's students and faculty have already worked with more than 50 clients, many of them startups.

This project was special, he said.

"I have been here for 27 years now," he said. "I have never been linked to a project this significant and this much fun.

Jim Martin can be reached at 870-1988 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ETNFarin.
Presque Isle Lighthouse projects underway

When the mortar work is complete, crews will give the brick and stone another power-washing to remove dust and debris. Additional repointing to address leaking issues is scheduled for the lighthouse tower. The masonry improvements will cost $60,000.

Another project involves the installation of a handicap-accessible ramp on the west side of the lighthouse. A $15,000 grant awarded in 2018 by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is earmarked for construction of the ADA-compliant ramp.

That ramp will connect to a new outdoor porch, built of composite materials and measuring 6 feet wide and 22 feet long. Cost is $5,000. The lake room, an addition built onto the north side of the living quarters in the 1970s, has been torn down and the porch will be rebuilt in its place.

Crews also will complete construction on sidewalk areas around the perimeter ($5,200) and construction and renovation of cabinetry in the operations center's gift shop ($10,000).

The season's final major renovation project is targeted for mid-September, when crews will install a new thatched roof on the living quarters, new copper gutters and new copper flashing.

That project carries a $45,000 price tag.

The improvements are funded through 2018 and 2019 operating capital from ticket and gift shop sales, Sullivan said.

Restoration of the interior — a project estimated at several hundred thousand dollars — is tentatively scheduled to begin next winter at the earliest, Sullivan said.

For the third straight year, the lighthouse will be open seven days a week from late May through Labor Day. A $300,000 operations center, including a gift shop, opened in 2018, which helped boost attendance by about 15 percent from 2017.

From May 24 through Labor Day in 2018, an estimated 45,000 visitors either toured the grounds for free, paid $3 to tour the house living quarters or paid $6 to climb the 78 stairs to the deck of the 68-foot tower.

Visitors from every state and 43 countries toured the grounds in 2018, Sullivan said. The latest batch of improvements should only enhance visitors' light-house experience this spring and summer.

Erie Times-News staff writers share their views from behind the scenes, stories and bylines. Ron Leonard can be reached at 870-1680, send email to ron.leonardi@timesnews.com.
North East gets $250,000 grant

Main Street grant awards. ECRA has set aside $2.5 million in grants over the coming three years for Main Street revitalisation.

"Reconnecting North East's charming Main Street to the 'Original Main Street' is a wise economic development strategy," said Perry Wood, ECRA executive director. "As the Main Street experience expands, North East will be able to continue redevelopment efforts in partnership with local businesses, and capitalise on available economic development dollars."

The grant will provide direct assistance to the business community through facade improvements, energy and safety improvements, access to web-based business solutions, streetscape enhancements, traffic-calming techniques, pedestrian travelways, Route 66 gateway enhancements and revised resident/customer parking strategies, according to ECRA.

"You can almost feel the energy building today as we envision a future where our reconnected downtown attracting visitors and people who want a vibrant community to call home," said Pat Gerbode, North East borough manager. "We are excited to put this funding to use, and continue to implement our strategic plan that includes collaboration, economic and community development."

Mission Main Street grant guidelines are available at www.ecra.org. Applicants can apply for as much as $250,000 over three years for an implementation project and up to $10,000 for a one-year planning project. All projects require a 1:1 cash match.

By Times-News staff

NORTH EAST — North East Borough will use a $250,000 investment to assist in reconnecting its Clinton business district to downtown.

The borough received the grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority in the launch of the sixth round of Mission Main Street grant awards. ECRA has set aside $2.5 million in grants over the coming three years for Main Street revitalisation.

"Reconnecting North East's charming Main Street to the 'Original Main Street' is a wise economic development strategy," said Perry Wood, ECRA executive director. "As the Main Street experience expands, North East will be able to continue redevelopment efforts in partnership with local businesses, and capitalise on available economic development dollars."

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