EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2020
### 2020 ECGRA Grant Program Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>OPEN</th>
<th>DUE</th>
<th>AWARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Events Grant</td>
<td>1/3/2020</td>
<td>2/28/2020</td>
<td>3/19/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renaissance Block Program</td>
<td>12/15/2019</td>
<td>3/31/2020</td>
<td>4/16/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Municipal Collaboration Round #1</td>
<td>1/3/2020</td>
<td>4/30/2020</td>
<td>5/21/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-Municipal Collaboration Round #2</td>
<td>1/3/2020</td>
<td>9/30/2020</td>
<td>10/15/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Assets - Parks Field Trails</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchor Building</td>
<td>2/1/2020</td>
<td>5/30/2020</td>
<td>6/18/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Assets - Community Centers</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Key
- **Grant application process open**
- **Due date**
- **Staff and Board review period**
- **Board meeting and grant award**
Ridge Policy Group Activity
ECGRA Dec 6 – Jan 15 Report

Relevant Activity

- On January 13, 2020, RPG had a planning call with Perry to discuss short and long-term priorities for 2020
  - As a follow-up, RPG sent grant information for grants targeted toward Opportunity Zones, neighborhood revitalization programs, STEM Apprenticeship program, and transportation initiatives (all described below)

- RPG has been working directly with the North East Borough to identify funding opportunities for their Sustain NE concept. This has included:
  - Confirming Feb 6th as a meeting date for a walking tour of North East with Sen Laughlin and Rep Sonney to review RACP project
  - Scheduling a call with PennDOT to have an initial discussion of gateway projects in North East borough
  - Having bi-weekly calls set up to help support their activities
  - Reviewing and sending information on funding available to support them (outlined in the grant opportunities below)

- Mark Campbell discussed Erie community college status with Perry and had a subsequent call with Greg Mahon of Sen. Scarnati’s office regarding the community college.

- Mark Campbell discussed possible sales tax increase with Sen. Laughlin to fund community and economic development projects in Erie County.

- We continue to monitor progress of RACP authorization legislation.

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity Zones

- Provided a document with all Opportunity Zone targeted federal funding (attached).

Choice Neighborhoods 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

**BUILD Grant**

**Overview:** BUILD Transportation program are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Funding provided under National Infrastructure Investments have supported capital projects which repair bridges or improve infrastructure to a state of good repair; projects that implement safety improvements to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, including improving grade crossings or providing shorter or more direct access to critical health services; projects that connect communities and people to jobs, services, and education; and, projects that anchor economic revitalization and job growth in communities.

**Deadline:** This year's deadline was July 15, 2019, and it is expected to be similar in 2020

**Eligible Entities:** Eligible Applicants for BUILD Transportation grants are State, local and tribal governments, including U.S. territories, transit agencies, port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and other political subdivisions of State or local governments.

Multiple States or jurisdictions may submit a joint application and must identify a lead applicant as the primary point of contact, and identify the primary recipient of the award. Each applicant in a joint application must be an Eligible Applicant. Joint applications must include a description of the roles and responsibilities of each applicant and must be signed by each applicant. A joint applicant refers to one or more Eligible Applicants, as described in the NOFO, who submit a single application. Multiple States or jurisdictions may submit a joint application and must identify a lead applicant as the primary point of contact. Joint applications must include a description of the roles and responsibilities of each applicant and must be signed by each applicant. Only an eligible entity may receive and administer BUILD funds upon award, and lead applicants who wish to administer
their grants through eligible co-applicants (such as State DOTs) should create those relationships (such as through MOUs) to the extent possible prior to award.

A project partner refers to one or more stakeholders or collaborators that support the project. Project support can include, but is not limited to, help with public engagement or outreach, monetary contributions, planning, or public alignment with project priorities. A project partner need not be an Eligible Applicant.

**Eligible Projects:** Eligible projects for BUILD Transportation Grants are capital projects that include, but are not limited to:

- road or bridge projects eligible under title 23, United States Code;
- public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code;
- passenger and freight rail transportation projects;
- port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry); and
- intermodal projects.

Please note that research, demonstration, or pilot projects are eligible only if they result in long-term, permanent surface transportation infrastructure that has independent utility as defined in Section C.3.iii of the NOFO. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications only for eligible award amounts.

**Cost Sharing:** The Department will not use Federal share as a selection criterion in awarding projects.

Per the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019, BUILD Transportation grants may be used for up to 80 percent of the costs of projects located in an urban area and up to 100 percent of the costs of a project located in a rural area. For a project located in an urban area, total Federal assistance for a project receiving a BUILD grant may not exceed 80 percent.

Non-Federal financial contributions can include State, local, and private sector funding; or other forms of cost share such right of way contributions or recycled revenue from the competitive sale or lease of publicly owned or operated assets. Unless otherwise authorized by statute, non-Federal cost-share may not be counted as the non-Federal share for both the BUILD Transportation grant and another Federal grant program.

**Award Size:** For projects located in urban areas, the minimum award is $5 million. Please note that the minimum total project cost for a project located in an urban area must be $6.25 million to meet match requirements. For projects located in rural areas, the minimum award is $1 million. The maximum award for all projects is $25 million. Not more than $90 million can be awarded to a single State.

**STEM Apprenticeship Program**
Congress recently allocated $2 million in funding for the development of a pilot STEM Apprenticeship Program. The details of that program are outlined below. The guidelines are currently being created, so any input at this stage is welcome.

SEC. 28. STEM APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

(a) In General.--The Secretary of Commerce may carry out a grant program to identify the need for skilled science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this section as "STEM") workers and to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.

(b) Eligible Recipient Defined.--In this section, the term "eligible recipient" means--

(1) a State;

(2) an Indian tribe;

(3) a city or other political subdivision of a State;

(4) an entity that--

   (A) is a nonprofit organization, an institution of higher education, a public-private partnership, a science or research park, a Federal laboratory, or an economic development organization or similar entity; and

   (B) has an application that is supported by a State, a political subdivision of a State, or a native organization; or

(5) a consortium of any of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

(c) Needs Assessment Grants.--The Secretary of Commerce may provide a grant to an eligible recipient to conduct a needs assessment to identify--

(1) the unmet need of a region's employer base for skilled STEM workers;

(2) the potential of STEM apprenticeships to address the unmet need described in paragraph (1); and

(3) any barriers to addressing the unmet need described in paragraph (1).

(d) Apprenticeship Expansion Grants.--The Secretary of Commerce may provide a grant to an eligible recipient that has conducted a needs assessment as described in subsection (c)(1) to develop infrastructure to expand STEM apprenticeship programs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Opportunities</th>
<th>Awards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erie School District/Mercyhurst University – PASmart Award</td>
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<td>Greater Erie Community Action Committee – pre-apprenticeship program</td>
<td>$ 49,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARC Grant – Investing in Appalachia’s Future: ARC 5-year Strategic Plan</td>
<td>$ 200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDA – Regional Innovation Strategies Assistance to Coal Communities Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millcreek School District Foundation – tax credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Erie/Erie Innovation District (ARC POWER grant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erie Innovation District (EDA grant)</td>
<td>$ 2,000,000</td>
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**TOTAL:** $ 4,269,995
January 7, 2020

Mr. Perry Wood
Eric County Gaming Revenue Authority
5370 Fryling Rd., Ste. 201
Erie, PA 16510

RE: 2020 Rates – General Solicitor

Dear Mr. Wood:

Please know that we value our relationship with you, and look forward to continuing to serve you throughout 2020. We at the Knox Firm appreciate the public service that you provide, and, as such, we have traditionally charged our public sector clients a deeply discounted rate for legal services. We are pleased to be able to continue to offer our deeply discounted rates in 2020, and, starting on January 1, 2020 our rate for legal services will be $185 per hour for attorneys and $100 an hour for paralegals. These rates reflect a small increase in our hourly fee, and nearly a significant discount from my standard private sector rates.

Thank you for allowing us to continue to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I remain,

Very truly yours,

KNOX McLAUGHLIN GORNALL & SENNETT, P.C.

By: ____________________________

Timothy S. Wachter

TSW/smt
# 2128754 vl
Proposed Insured: Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Application #: POL0952032-01-REN

Thank you very much for your submission. Based upon the information received and subject to the limitations outlined below, we are pleased to offer the following:

QUOTATION

Coverage: See coverage form PGU POL 2001 (04/2017) for terms, conditions and limitations

Form: Claims Made

Retro Date: None - Full Prior Acts

Insurer Information: Greenwich Insurance Company
A member of the AXA XL Group of Companies
Best Rating: A XV
Admitted Insurer

Filings / Taxes: Not Applicable

Quotation / Indication valid until: 2/1/2020

If we are offering coverage on a surplus lines basis, the agent is responsible for handling of filings unless we note otherwise on this quotation. If we have provided terms using bid specifications or an application other than ours, the quote is subject to change pending review of a completed and signed PGU application.
# Public Officials Management & Employment Practices Liability

**Proposed Insured:** Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terms</th>
<th>Limits</th>
<th>Retentions</th>
<th>Premium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Officials Management</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$6,370.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Aggregate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Monetary Coverage - Defense Only</td>
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<td>$7,500</td>
<td>Included</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Monetary Coverage - Defense Only Aggregate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis Management</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Included</td>
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</table>

**Features/Enhancements**

- Punitive Damages: See Retentions Above, Included
- Personal Injury: See Retentions Above, Included
- Third Party Wrongful Acts: See Retentions Above, Included
- Back Pay / Front Pay: See Retentions Above, Included
- Loss of Earnings: See Retentions Above, Included
- FLSA / Wage and Hour Coverage: (SubLimit) $50,000, $10,000, Included

**Optional Increased Limits**

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<th>Additional Premium</th>
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<td>3,000,000 CSL</td>
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<td>4,000,000 CSL</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000,000 CSL</td>
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</table>

**Premium, Fees and Taxes**

- **Total Premium:** $6,370.00

**Comments:**

By purchasing this coverage, you will have the opportunity to register for our EPL Risk Management Website where you will be able to access up-to-date articles and information, live online and on-demand seminars, as well as on-demand and live online training on topics every EPL Insured needs. You will also be provided with a toll-free EPL Loss Prevention Hotline to access our EPL Risk Management Specialists if you have questions on employment-related issues or believe you may have an issue that could potentially lead to a future claim. Insureds can access these services throughout the policy period at no additional cost.
Deadly Weapon Protection Insurance is available through Professional Governmental Underwriters, Inc. Please contact your underwriter if you are interested in additional information about this new product.

Reminders:
A written request is required to bind coverage. Backdating of coverage is not allowed.
See attached Coverage Features attachment for additional information.
Limits, retentions, terms and conditions quoted do not necessarily match those requested.
This proposal contains a brief outline of coverages to be included in any policy that may be issued in the future.
This is only a summary and the Terms and Conditions of any policy will take precedence over any proposal.

Applicable Forms: (Other forms may apply. Consult Underwriter for details.)

- PN PA 03 11 17  Notice to Policyholders - Pennsylvania "Insurance Consulting Services Exemption Act" Notice
- PGU POL 2000 04 17  Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability Declarations
- IL MP 9104 0314 GI/G 03 14  In Witness
- PGU 2002 04 17  Schedule of Policy Forms and Endorsements
- PGU POL 2001 04 17  Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability Insurance Policy
- PGU POL 1158 PA 04 17  Pennsylvania State Amendatory
- PGU 1103 04 16  FLSA / Wage and Hour Coverage
- PN CW 01 09 15  Notice to Policyholders - Fraud Notice
- PN CW 02 10 15  Notice to Policyholders - Privacy Policy
- PN CW 06 09 14  Notice to Policyholders - U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC")
ECGRA Extends Impact of Gaming Funds through Long-Term Investment in Lead Assets
9th Year Investing in Erie County’s Nine Lead Place-Making Organizations

ERIE, PA (December 19, 2019) Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) awarded $468,895 today to the nine Lead Asset organizations, extending the long-term impact of gaming revenue in Erie County. Since 2011, ECGRA has made nine major cash investments in each of the nine organizations totaling $5,582,008.60.

“When Erie County’s cultural assets thrive, Erie County thrives,” said Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA. “ECGRA is committed to the sustainability of these core organizations and the role each of them play in anchoring and elevating our quality of place.”


“The arts and culture sector creates jobs and produces tax revenue,” said Patrick Fisher, Executive Director, Erie Arts & Culture. “These lead assets are economic assets that stimulate business activity, attract tourism revenue, retain a high-quality workforce, and stabilize property values.
ECGRA’s investment in arts and culture is a successful and sustainable strategy for revitalizing rural areas, inner cities, and populations struggling with poverty."

In 2012, ECGRA committed to sustain Lead Assets in perpetuity and created the Erie County Lead Assets Endowment, now valued at $13.9 million, held in trust at The Erie Community Foundation.

**ECGRA invested the following in each of the nine organizations below:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEAD ASSET</th>
<th>AWARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erie Art Museum</td>
<td>$47,460.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erie Arts &amp; Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erie County Historical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erie Philharmonic</td>
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<td>Erie Playhouse</td>
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<td>Erie Zoological Society</td>
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<td>expERIence Children’s Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Flagship Niagara League</td>
<td>$53,318.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercyhurst Institute for Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>$28,573.99</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$468,895.00</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
BEEHIVE GETS STUDENTS, LOCAL BUSINESSES BUZZING TOGETHER

THE CENTER FOR BRANDING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION – KNOWN AS THE BEEHIVE – ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF BARON-FORNES LIBRARY HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY ABOUT $235,000 IN FUNDING FROM ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY SINCE IT OPENED IN JANUARY 2018.

The center pairs existing student coursework with clients, ranging from start-up businesses to nonprofits. One of several centers in a network connecting universities and entrepreneurs, this swarm of innovation is spurring economic development in northwestern Pennsylvania. What’s been buzzing in the Beehive? Here’s a look.

BY THE NUMBERS

39 EXTERNAL CLIENTS SERVED
13 CLASSES ENGAGED
10 FACULTY MEMBERS INVOLVED
131 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED

Projects from the Beehive
- Graphic design
- Website development
- Social media management
- Digital media production
- Fully integrated marketing communications campaigns
Impact Corry brings renaissance door to door

BY SARA JUKES
sara@thecorryjournal.com

Neighborhood captains for a program spearheaded by Impact Corry will offer a grant opportunity to residents, and captains are canvassing neighborhoods to speak to as many people as possible for inclusion in the home and street beautification program.

The Renaissance Block Matching Grant Program is being offered by Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority as a dollar-for-dollar match for homeowners, up to $5,000 per home, to complete or improvements.

There are four neighborhoods in Corry being considered for inclusion when the grant application is submitted.

There is a list of criteria ECGRA is looking for in applications including consecutive houses wanting to participate, neighborhood organization, effective communication between neighbors and community investment.

The application process to receive the ECGRA grant was supposed to open in November but did not.

Impact Corry Community Development Director Chuck Gray is expecting the grant to be opened in December and needs to have improvement commitments from neighborhoods by Dec. 20 at 5 p.m., in order to narrow down which neighborhoods will be included in the ECGRA application.

While borders could be altered at a later date for better inclusion, eligible homes are as south as West Washington Street, east to Wayne Street, north to Bond Street including the south side of East Irving Street between Wright Street and Wayne Street, and west to Mead Avenue.

A Facebook page called Our Town Corry has been created to provide the public with more information as it is released.

Neighborhood block captains chosen so far are Jeff and Tracy Sproveri, Holly Wood, Kenneth Smith, Linda and Rick Brown, Leonard Baker, Nick Hell and Dale Henderson.

See Impact, P3

Impact

(Continued from front page)

Each block captain is choosing his or her own strategy to reach out to neighbors, but each one will be explaining the program and will have applications for those who are interested.

"Interest and organization is what we are trying to gauge," Gray said.

The Brown plan to knock on doors as a team in the neighborhood of Wright and Wayne streets.

"Basically, we are going to tell them about the program, the possibility of grants and ask them what kind of improvements they might want to do in the next couple of years," Rick Brown said.

Every captain is familiar with the program and can answer questions of guidance students in finding a project that is eligible.

Smith has already started going door to door in his neighborhood, explaining the program and gathering interest.

"You can't complain about all the bad things in town if you're not willing to step up and do something yourself, so I felt I needed to be a part of it and try to make a difference," Smith said.

Smith said he lives in a "working neighborhood," referring to his neighbors as hard working residents and has got...

Linda Brown

Rick Brown

Kenneth Smith

Leonard Baker

Nick Hell

More information can be found on the Our Town Corry Facebook page, or by calling 814-664-3864.
VIEWPOINT

Our View

Innovation key to Erie’s future

The issue: Innovation District chartering course
Our view: Erie needs diverse economic base

It was never going to be easy — using a big check and a bold idea to jumpstart a new economic vitality centered on innovation and technology.

The Erie Innovation District launched just three years ago under the leadership of Penn State University and with the support of a $4 million grant from the Erie Community Foundation, the Susan Hirt Hagenhorn Fund, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Erie Community Foundation, and the Erie County Gaming Reinvestment Authority. Following a model set by other former manufacturing hubs, it sought to pair local academic expertise with businesses to spur growth of tech-based companies.

However, technology is not enough, as researcher Jim Martin has detailed, the EID needed marketable advances. Under CIO Keith Sandack’s leadership, the Innovation District helped pair the city of Erie with Quatestra Inc. to expand smart city technology that is vital to attracting investment.

Two summer accelerator programs that offered mentoring and $50,000 in seed money to startups resulted in a handful of those companies making Erie their base.

Following the Erie Homecoming event in August, Connecticut-based CapZone Impact Investments announced the creation of a $8 million venture capital fund focused on recruiting startups to Erie.

Tech-based companies from other cities have expanded into Erie, including ValueMomentum, MGP and Federal Resources Corp.; Merryhurst and Gannon University are both housing cyber security academic programming.

We welcomed as a sign of maturity in October that the Innovation District planned to establish itself as nonprofit independent of the initial grant funding and administrative support from Merryhurst.

Now, somewhat opaque, developments announced Monday, however, raise questions.

Sandack is stepping down and the new EID board says it wants to find what Jim Martin, EID board chairman and president of the Erie region for Northwest Bank, called a “more simplified approach to drive sustained economic growth.”

The insurance will continue funding the EID through 2020 and more accelerators are planned, he said.

Karen Krusk Phillips, a vice president and spokeswoman for Erie Insurance, noted the EID needs to be self-sustaining and work with the local innovation community and funding partners as it moves ahead.

“We are trying to determine where we fit and what we should do,” Martin said.

Even with decades of crushing job losses, the city is fortunate to maintain a healthy manufacturing base. But it has felt years of economic pain in part because of its reliance on the sector.

Better to cultivate a diverse economy by seizing relevant modern opportunities for innovation and growth. Data security, especially, where it comes to industries like health care or insurance, for example, seems laden with opportunities for synergy with Erie’s existing companies and academic institutions.

The EID’s self-examination we hope yields clearer vision and a confident path forward, not a retreat.

The Corry Journal, Friday, December 13, 2019

$120,000 tar and chip equipment purchase approved for spring

BY SARA JUNKER
sara@thecorryjournal.com

The hunt for a reasonably priced pugmill, a machine to process road millings into reusable material, ended in a change of direction for the city of Corry and Union City, the two recipients of a 2018 Multi-Municipal Collaborative grant from Erie County Gaming Reinvestment Authority, which recently approved the purchase of tar and chip equipment instead.

A used 2009 Barcat emulsion application truck, a 2010 rubber tire roller and two new hydraulic tailgate chip spreaders were approved for purchase at a recent Corry City Council meeting, with the total price not to exceed $120,000.

The ECGRA grant was matched by the Corry Redevelopment Authority totaling $70,000. The remaining $50,000 was donated by the LECOM Health.

As soon as the grant was received, officials in Corry and Union City started looking for a reasonably priced pugmill, but when faced with prices that were too high, both municipalities discussed how the grant could otherwise be utilized and agreed on tar and chip equipment, Corry Public Works Lead Operator Mark Leedsky said.

Ultimately the two municipalities decided the limited amount of use of the pug mill would not make the purchase worthwhile.

“If we get a pugmill, we chewed all our millings and then we didn’t get any for five to 10 years, that machine is just sitting there,” Leedsky said. “So we went back to the drawing board and thought, what could we utilize more. We came up with the tar and chip equipment.”

Purchase

(Continued from front page)

The truck and roller are being purchased from TC Paving Inc., of Waterford. The truck has 2,000 miles on it and the roller has 75 hours of use.

The equipment will be stored at TC Paving for the winter and the purchase will be completed in 2020.

Together, the application truck and roller cost $120,000. That leaves $15,000 to use for purchasing spreaders.

The spreaders will come from a separate vendor, yet to be established. Leedsky is still researching where to get the best deal.

While it is Council’s intention to do another 16 to 17 miles of tar and chipping, the job will still need to be bid out due to the size of the project and the lack of experience the streets employees have with tar and chip equipment.

However, Leedsky said TC Paving have offered to train the Corry streets department employees on the tar and chip equipment.

After 2020, training should allow streets employees to continue addressing any roads that have not been tar and chipped and to continue with road upkeep and repair.

Some roads done in 2019 will need another coat in two to three years. We’ll be able to do that internally,” Leedsky said.
Impact Corry takes every third Thursday to grow businesses in Corry

BY SARA JUERG 
sara@theccjournal.com

Retail and service businesses in Corry will be getting a personal visit from Impact Corry Community Development Director Chuck Gray for one-on-one discussions to inspire their participation in meetings she intends to have focused entirely on their success.

Starting Jan. 16, the first meeting of all Corry-area businesses will take place at 6 p.m. at a location to be announced. Impact Corry is calling the meetings Third Thursdays.

Gray said she will start by visiting businesses in downtown Corry, because of the nearing deadline of the façade program for downtown businesses, and will be working her way out through the Corry area using a map to check off every business in town.

A Façade Renovation Matching Grant Program was announced in November to help downtown businesses make exterior improvements more affordable for the owners of the buildings and businesses.

"People have already heard a bit about the façade renovation portion of the Mission Main Street program, however there is more to this program to help local businesses thrive," Gray said. "To get the word out and to start making even more personal relationships with business owners, beginning in January, I'll be offering every business owner I can find in Corry to meet the owners, find out their needs, learn what would help them grow and try to support that through the services we are offering in the grant."

Gray will first be reviewing business owners' downtown Corry (façade renovation) program to make sure every eligible person has heard about it, and can participate.

She will be sharing the start of a Small Business Jump Start program that will be offered by Corry Hi-Ed soon. This is an entrepreneur program to help small business owners with things like networking and growth opportunities. Gray said more details will be forthcoming.

Gray will also be discussing the start of a Third Thursdays, which will be open to all business owners. Third Thursdays will focus on the needs of business owners and what can be done to help every business grow.

The first meeting will focus on topics that affect businesses. Surveys will be handed out, each individual priorities of each business to see how many businesses have the same issues.

Surveys questions may include: What keeps you from doing the work you need to do? What will help your business grow? What would you like to learn and who would you like to hear from?

"We can take these questions and we can talk to people across the nation to find out what are the best solutions currently for each problem," Gray said.

After comparing the top options, Impact Corry can bring in and present the options that fit best to help companies with the same issues. The goal is to address the best solutions for each problem.

"What if someone says I don't have people interacting with my website," Gray said. "I will go to businesses that are succeeding — either local or regional or beyond — with their website and with people in communication because people drive sales, not buildings."

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Impact Corry Community Development Director Chuck Gray will be going to Corry businesses to connect with owners and inform them of every portion of a Mission Main Street Program grant from Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, to help local businesses thrive. This includes a Third Thursdays program, open to all business owners, and will focus on their needs.

Any business owner interested in participating with Impact Corry, may call 814-664-3906 ext. 5.

Corry PENNSYLVANIA

A brand logo has been developed for Corry, and will be available for use by all areas businesses.

Gray would like to have every business connected with its personal stories, business philosophy pictures and even videos.

"We want to connect people to Corry," Gray said. "People will connect to stories if they know the owner or know the purpose behind it. That’s what drives people’s dollars. So we want to tell those stories for each business in Corry."

Gray said she wants to collect all the data before the website goes live.

Anyone with questions or inquiries can call 814-664-3906, ext 5.

"I want to get to know our business owners," Gray said. "Every day I’m out there asking what’s available and talking to people with great ideas. The more I know about what our business owners think and want, the more good stuff I can bring into Corry."

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Neighborhoods announced for Renaissance grant

BY REBEKAH WALLACE
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Member of Impact Corry and a Renaissance Block Grant Committee met with leaders from four different Corry neighborhoods on Tuesday to discuss plans for moving forward with an available Renaissance grant. The application process is outlined for various types of renovation projects. The program allows for up to $50,000 per project. Together, the four eligible neighborhoods stretch as far south as West Washington Street, north to Bond Street (including the south end of East Irving Street between Wright Street and Wayne Street) and west to Mead Avenue.

Impact Corry Community Development Director Chuck Gray said the program is available to the community. The program is offered by the Erie County Gaming Reinvestment Authority (EGRA) in order to award a grant to participating neighborhoods. In order to award a grant, the program is designed to help Corry's neighborhoods become more attractive and invite more people. The program is offered by the EGRA in order to award a grant to participating neighborhoods. In order to award a grant, the program is designed to help Corry's neighborhoods become more attractive and invite more people.

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Because the renovations are already projected to exceed $150,000, Impact Corry Community Development Director Chuck Gray says that she is on the lookout for additional funding options.

"I am looking for more funding opportunities going forward," Gray said.

Those in attendance at the meeting discussed viable options for deciding which projects will get to go ahead if the funding is more limited than the awarded amounts project. One idea brought to the table was developing criteria for rating the necessity of each project. For instance, a leaking roof or windows in disrepair would be prioritized over something related to beautification of the property.

On the other hand, should the awarded grant money exceed what is needed for School House Block's projects, Gray said that those funds could become available to the second neighborhood, Park Place, right away. The neighborhood leaders, called captains, volunteered for the task of promoting and spearheading this project within their respective areas and met for the first time in early December, Goodsel said.

Neighborhood captains include: Jeff and Tracy Sproveri, Holly Wood for Bear Creek; Kenneth Smith and Tom VanTassel for Park Place; Linda and Rick Brown, Leonard Baker, Nick Heil and Dale Henderson for School House Block. Goodsel confirmed that there are currently no captains for Hiram's Haunt.

Block captains will continue to facilitate these tasks going forward.

Goodsel and Gray noted at Tuesday's meeting that the next steps are for School House Block participants to clarify and polish their applications and submit official project estimates by Jan. 31. Gray said she will use this information to compile the complete grant application by the end of February so that it is ready to submit by the due date in March.

Goodsel noted that there is a two-year window for using any awarded funds, and then the city can reapply during the next grant cycle.

Additionally, Gray said that DIY proposals will be accepted, so long as they are accompanied by itemized costs for different projects. For example, anticipated costs for redoing steps must be included, as well as a separate estimate for improvements to a roof.

Those interested in following this project can visit the Our Town Corry Facebook page for continued updates.

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"We have a map of the neighborhood and we've posted each of the homes that are in the application and then we count how many properties they're adjoining to," Goodsel said.

It is better to focus on properties that overlap to some degree and are continuously connected.

If we have a neighborhood of 10, for example, we might have a cluster of three and a cluster of four and then three individuals," Goodsel said. "The aim for the project is to address the clusters because the more you address in the same area, the better results you have and the more you are turning the neighborhood around."

The second category, worth 30 points was strategic, which is broken into three subcategories.

One was proximity to a community asset, such as a park or a school.

Another subcategory is whether improvements to a residence will also improve a gateway such as Main Street, Center Street or Smith Street.

The last subcategory of the strategic category is a street's marketability or power to reduce blight.

That subcategory has to do with visibility, such as on a high traffic street.

Each of those subcategories were worth 10 points.

The last scoring category, worth 40 points, is organization and collaboration.

This category is broken into five subcategories — quality of plan; communication for cohesiveness; demonstration of a neighborhood identity; past, present and future activities; and projected expenditures.

"All together it's worth 100 points," Goodsel said.

"We scored each of the four neighborhoods and then we used that to determine which is the first neighborhood we're going to move forward working with."

In trying to conform to ECGRA's expectations, Gray said she feels the point system gives Corry the best opportunity to obtain the grant money.