



**E.C.G.R.A.**  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
JANUARY  
2020**

## 2020 ECGRA Grant Program Schedule

				J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
				A	E	A	P	A	U	U	U	E	C	O	E
PROGRAM	OPEN	DUE	AWARD												
<b>Special Events Grant</b>															
	1/3/2020	2/28/2020	3/19/2020												
<b>Renaissance Block Program</b>															
	12/15/2019	3/31/2020	4/16/2020												
<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration Round #1</b>															
	1/3/2020	4/30/2020	5/21/2020												
<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration Round #2</b>															
	1/3/2020	9/30/2020	10/15/2020												
<b>Community Assets - Parks Field Trails</b>															
	2021														
<b>Community Assets - Arts Culture Heritage</b>															
	4/15/2020	8/31/2020	9/17/2020												
<b>Anchor Building</b>															
	2/1/2020	5/30/2020	6/18/2020												
<b>Community Assets - Community Centers</b>															
	2021														

### 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.



Funding Opportunities	Awards
Erie School District/Mercyhurst University – PASmart Award	\$ 500,000
Greater Erie Community Action Committee – pre-apprenticeship program	\$ 49,995
ARC Grant – Investing in Appalachia’s Future: ARC 5-year Strategic Plan	\$ 200,000
EDA – Regional Innovation Strategies Assistance to Coal Communities Program	\$ 1,000,000
Millcreek School District Foundation – tax credit	\$ 20,000
City of Erie/Erie Innovation District (ARC POWER grant)	\$ 500,000
Erie Innovation District (EDA grant)	\$ 2,000,000
TOTAL:	\$ 4,269,995



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Timothy S. Wachter  
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January 7, 2020

Mr. Perry Wood  
Erie 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.v1





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## **Public Officials Management & Employment Practices Liability**

**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

Terms	Limits	Retentions each claim including LAE	Premium
Public Officials Management	\$1,000,000	\$7,500	\$6,370.00
Employment Practices Liability	\$1,000,000	\$10,000	Included
Policy Aggregate	\$1,000,000		
Non-Monetary Coverage - Defense Only	\$50,000	\$7,500	Included
Non-Monetary Coverage - Defense Only Aggregate	\$100,000		
Crisis Management	\$25,000	\$5,000	Included
<b>Features/Enhancements</b>			
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
<b>Optional Increased Limits</b>			
	2,000,000 CSL		N/A
	3,000,000 CSL		N/A
	4,000,000 CSL		N/A
	5,000,000 CSL		N/A
<b>Premium, Fees and Taxes</b>			
	<b>Total Premium:</b>		\$6,370.00
<b>Comments:</b>			
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.			

## Public Officials Management & Employment Practices Liability

Proposed Insured: Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

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.

We will not cancel flat after inception date.

Engineering Fee is non-refundable.

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

PN PA 03 11 17	Notice to Policyholders - Pennsylvania "Insurance Consultation Services Exemption Act" Notice
PGU POL 2000 04 17	Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability Declarations
IL MP 9104 0314 GIC 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 05 09 14	Notice to Policyholders - U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC")



CONTACT: Kate Phillips  
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## **ECGRA Extends Impact of Gaming Funds through Long-Term Investment in Lead Assets**

*9<sup>th</sup> 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."

In 2011, ECGRA designated and made its first investment in the Erie County Lead Assets. These nine place-shaping culture-, heritage-, and entertainment-based nonprofits, essential to the continued vitality of the region, are: **Erie Art Museum, Erie Arts & Culture, Erie County Historical Society, Erie Philharmonic, Erie Playhouse, Erie Zoological Society, expERIENCE Children's Museum, Flagship Niagara League, and the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture.**

"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:**

<b>LEAD ASSET</b>	<b>AWARD</b>
Erie Art Museum	\$47,460.28
Erie Arts & Culture	\$36,860.82
Erie County Historical Society	\$31,559.17
Erie Philharmonic	\$55,082.97
Erie Playhouse	\$48,830.41
Erie Zoological Society	\$146,412.03
expERIEence Children's Museum	\$20,796.85
The Flagship Niagara League	\$53,318.47
Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture	\$28,573.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$468,895.00</b>

####

# BEEHIVE GETS STUDENTS, LOCAL BUSINESSES BUZZING TOGETHER

THE CENTER FOR BRANDING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION – KNOWN AS THE BEEHIVE – ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF BARON-FORNESS 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

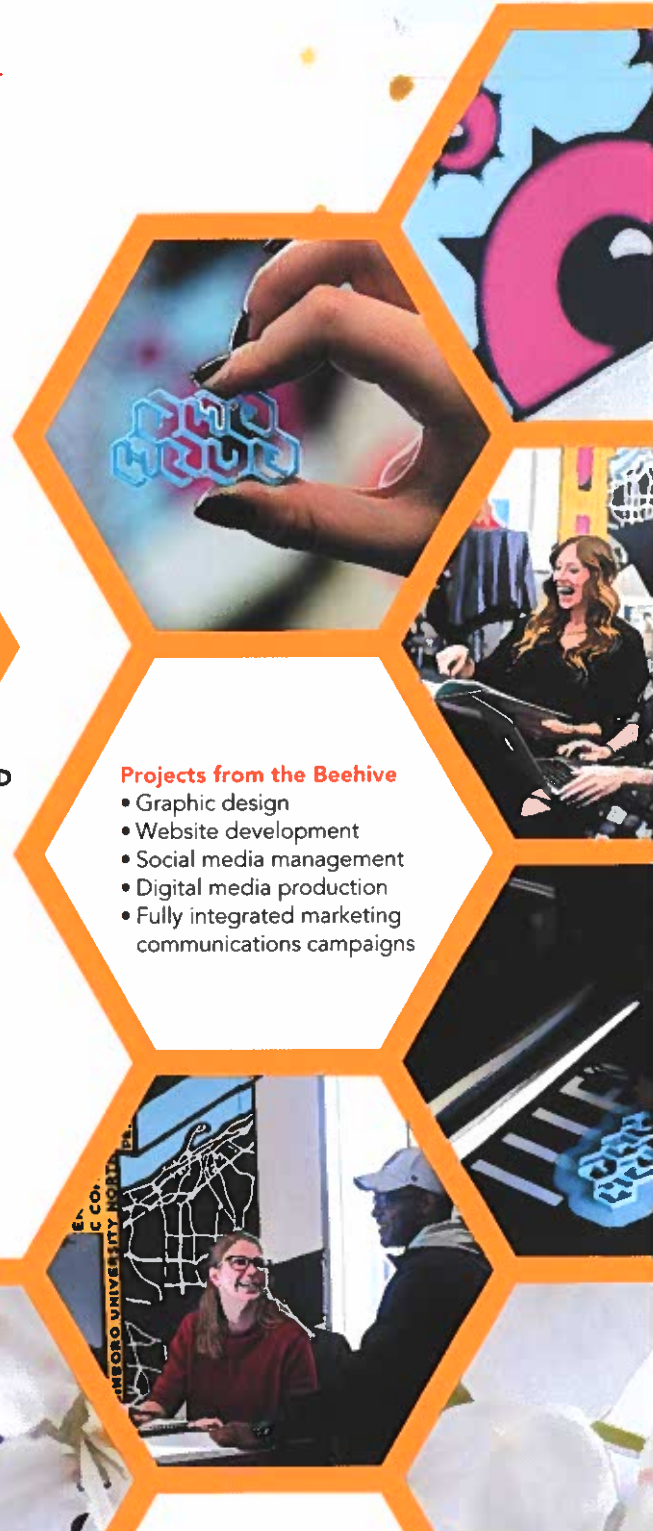
FACULTY MEMBERS  
INVOLVED

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 exterior 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 Heil and Dale Henderson.

◀ See Impact, P.3



Linda Brown



Rick Brown



Kenneth Smith



Leonard Baker



Nick Heil

## 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 Browns 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 to guide residents 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-

ten positive response from neighbors for participation in a program that will help pay for half of home improvements.

Baker has also started visiting neighbors and gathering interest. He has received positive responses.

"I wanted to get involved in the community to help better it," Baker said. "We have a good community but I want the community to grow and bring good people to Corry," Baker said.

Heil is starting on Bond Street and working his way out from there.

Heil said he looks at volunteering as a neighborhood captain as a chance to improve the city and feels that it corresponds with the work he does in his day job as the city of Corry business manager, even though the city is not involved with this program.

"I thought it made perfect sense for me to be as involved as I can with this project," Heil said.

After all applications are in to Gray, she will be able to narrow down which neighborhood is put on the ECGRA application based on things like the amount of interest.

More information can be found on the Our Town Corry Facebook page, or by calling 814-664-3884.



# VIEWPOINT

## OUR VIEW

### Innovation key to Erie's future

**The Issue:** Innovation District changing course  
**Our View:** Erie needs diverse economic base

It was never going to be easy — using a big check and a bold idea to conjure a new economic engine in Erie centered on innovation and technology.

The Erie Innovation District launched just three years ago under the leadership of Mercyhurst University and with the support of a \$4 million grant from the Erie Community Foundation, the Susan Hirt Hagen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. Following a model set by other former manufacturing hubs, it sought to pair local academic expertise with businesses to spark growth of tech-based companies.

However, theoretical its mandate, as reporter Jim Martin has detailed, the EID notched material advances. Under CEO Karl Sanchack's leadership, the Innovation District helped pair the city of Erie with Quantela 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 \$10 million venture capital fund focused on recruiting startups to Erie.

Tech-based companies from other cities have expanded into Erie, including ValueMomentum, MCPe and Federal Resources Corp.

Mercyhurst and Gannon University are both honing cyber security academic programming.

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

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

Sanchack 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."

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

Karen Kraus 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, Erie is fortunate to retain a healthy manufacturing base. But it has felt its past losses so keenly 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 when 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 JUKES  
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 Revenue Authority, which recently approved the purchase of tar and chip equipment instead.

A used 2009 Bearcat emulsion application truck, a used 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 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 Leofsky said.

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

"If we got 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," Leofsky 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."

◀ See Purchase, P.2

### 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 \$105,000. That leaves \$15,000 to use for purchasing spreaders.

The spreaders will come from a separate vendor, yet to be established. Leofsky 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, Leofsky 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," Leofsky said.



## Impact Corry takes every third Thursday to grow businesses in Corry

BY SARA JUKES  
sara@thecorryjournal.com

Retail and service businesses in Corry soon 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 opening every business door 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 with business owners the 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 entrepre-

neurship 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 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 to gather individual priorities of each business to see how many businesses have the same issues.

Survey 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 those 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."

◀ See Thursday, P.2



Sara Jukes/The Corry Journal

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.

### Thursday

(Continued from front page)

Whoever attends the first meeting will be helping to construct meeting content for the next 35 meetings that will take place over the next three years.

"Essentially, over the next three years, we want to listen to the issues that business owners are having and help them solve them. Anything from workforce development to signage," Gray said. "I don't care what it is, Impact Corry wants to hear from the community of business owners. Third Thursdays will be a tool for addressing those needs."

While Gray will be reaching out one on one to Corry area business owners, businesses from surrounding areas are welcome to attend.

"The more that we are an attractive region, the more we are an attractive destination," Gray said.

Gray said she finds that most business owners struggle with the same issues.

"Everyone who comes to the conversation adds something we don't know," Gray said. "Everything is better when there are more voices

involved."

Another topic Gray will discuss with Corry business owners is the development of a Corry brand logo, available for use by any business.

The logo was developed with students in Edinboro University's Center for Branding and Strategic Communication.

Impact Corry will be continuing to work with the Edinboro program during the next semester to develop a marketing campaign for the Corry area, including social media.

"If business owners are interested in that process, they can join in," Gray said.

Business owners will be introduced to a website that is being developed to represent all things Corry with promotions, events and even Google Earth.

"Our hope is that every business in Corry will be identified on that website," Gray said.



Contributed graphic

A brand logo has been developed for Corry, and will be available for use by all area 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 stores 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 col-

lect all the data before the website goes live.

Anyone with questions or inquiries can call 814-664-3884, ext 5.

"I want to get to know our business owners," Gray said. "Every day I'm out there seeing 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."

# The Corry Journal

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## Neighborhoods announced for Renaissance grant

BY REBEKAH WALLACE  
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Members 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 application meant for improving and beautifying eligible sections of the city.

Pending application, the grant money will be made available by the Renaissance Block Matching Grant Program, offered by Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. It allows for up to \$5,000 per home or multifamily housing structure to be used for various types of renovation projects. The program allows for up to \$150,000 to be awarded per application.

Together, the four eligible neighborhoods stretch as far 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. They were each given a name: School House Block, Park View, Bear Creek Trestle and Hiram's Haunt.

Park View was later changed to Park Place by its residents, Impact Corry Vice President Pat Goodsel said.

A color-coded map of these designated neighborhoods and the housing structures they encompass can be accessed on an Our Town Corry Facebook page.

School House Block was awarded a projected \$220,075. Renovations in



Erin Passinger, left, of the Corry Redevelopment Authority, and Pat Goodsel, vice president of Impact Corry, filter through Renaissance grant paperwork.



Resident Nick Hell, left, and Impact Corry Community Development Director Chuck Gray discuss plans for bettering Corry's neighborhoods at Tuesday evening's meeting.

this neighborhood, expected to take place during the upcoming 2020 summer building season, will be prioritized if and when funds are awarded in April, Goodsel said.

Park Place was awarded a total of \$65,875. Projects in this neighborhood will be next to receive available

funds.

Bear Creek Trestle was awarded \$50,525.

Hiram's Haunt was awarded \$19,900.

Besides indicating which neighborhoods and homes will be included in the upcoming grant application and a projected dollar amount for each neighbor-

hood, the results announced on Tuesday reveal a point system that rated them according to certain predetermined criteria.

This point system also helped to determine which neighborhood would be prioritized should grant funds become available.

◀ See Renaissance, P.2

## Impact Corry lays out criteria for grant money

BY SARA JUKES  
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In order to award a neighborhood as the first in Corry to participate in a Renaissance Block Matching Grant Program, each of four eligible neighborhoods was evaluated based on a point attribution system based on a list of grant criteria.

The grant program is offered by Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority as a dollar-for-dollar matching grant home beautification program.

Impact Corry Community Development Director Chuck Gray said there is a list of criteria ECGRA is looking for in applications, and in order to help Corry's neighborhoods be as eligible as possible, Impact Corry Vice President Pat Goodsel constructed a quantifiable scoring system.

The most that could have been awarded was 100 points, broken down into three categories.

The first category was contiguity — the number of adjacent properties.

◀ See Grant, P.2

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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 dis-

repair 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.

## Grant

(Continued from front page)

"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.