



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

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
JANUARY  
2022**



# COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL

---

December 16, 2021

Dear Board or Commission Chairperson:

We write to express our strong disagreement with the request you recently received from Mr. Richards on behalf of County Executive-Elect Davis. His letter urged your agency to stop doing important aspects of your job, should the need arise, until after Mr. Davis takes office. Specifically, you were requested to refrain from any "extensions, cancellations or terminations of personnel or outside contracts."

You and your colleagues were chosen to serve the community because of your dedication to public service, good judgment, knowledge and experience, and character. The current County Executive and Council have confidence in those abilities. Equally important to us is respect for your independence and good faith as you discharge your responsibilities.


We believe that one of fundamental purposes for creating boards and commissions at the County level is to assure the public of the political independence of these important agencies. The role of the County Executive with respect to your agency is strictly limited to making appointments of qualified people to the Board or Commission. Once those appointments are confirmed by Council, the conduct of all aspects of agency business is left to you and your employees and contractors. We are concerned that the letter you received suggests otherwise.

You should continue to feel free to discharge your full responsibilities as you believe is in the best interests of our community.

Sincerely,

  
Kathy Dahlkemper  
County Executive

  
Andre Horton  
County Council, District 2

  
Mary Rennie  
County Council, District 4



**Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.**  
120 West Tenth Street | Erie, Pennsylvania 16501-1461  
814-459-2800 | 814-453-4530 fax | [www.kmgslaw.com](http://www.kmgslaw.com)

Timothy S. Wachter  
[twachter@kmgslaw.com](mailto:twachter@kmgslaw.com)

January 10, 2022

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

RE: 2022 Rates – General Solicitor

Dear Dr. Wood:

Please know that we value our relationship with you and look forward to continuing to serve you throughout 2022. 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 you deeply discounted rates in 2022, and, starting on January 1, 2022, our rate for solicitor services will increase \$5.00, which is a less than 3% increase, to \$195 per hour for attorneys and \$110 an hour for paralegals.

This reflects a small increase in our hourly fee, and represents a significant discount from our standard private sector rates. Thank you for allowing us to continue to serve you. Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I remain,

Very truly yours,

KNOX McLAUGHLIN GORNALL &  
SENNETT, P.C.

By:   
Timothy S. Wachter

# 2308472 v1

cc:

**December 2021**

**Meeting with Executive Director**  
**Ongoing Social Media Management**  
**Ongoing Consulting**  
**December Comms**

**IMPLEMENTED**

25 Total December posts  
24 Total graphics created  
Press Releases:  
    Community Assets  
    Community Centers  
    Lead Assets

**IN PROGRESS | 2022 Grant Releases and Graphics**

Holiday Graphics

**IN PLANNING**

Parks Fields & Trails 2 Year Report  
ECGRA Playbook  
Roadshow Tours with ECAT, PACA, and Train Station Corry

**Tammi Michali**

---

**From:** Kate Philips <philips@parkerphilips.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2021 10:03 AM  
**To:** Perry Wood  
**Subject:**

5



## ECGRA Community Asset Grants Strengthen Local Community Centers

*ECGRA Invests Over \$250,000 in Community Centers and Borough of North East*

**CONTACT:** Kate Philips  
[philips@parkerphilips.com](mailto:philips@parkerphilips.com)  
215.850.4647 | mobile

**ERIE, PA (December 17, 2021)** — Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has invested \$150,340.50 in the Community Assets Grant Program, which will be distributed to 13 community centers across Erie County, as well as invested \$100,000 for the second round of funding for the Multi-Municipal Collaboration grant to the Borough of North East.

The Community Assets – Community Centers grant program is an investment that provides funding for capital improvements, programming, and equipment for publicly accessible community centers. Community centers in Erie County have provided residents with basic health and well-being, job training, mentoring, education, nutrition, and other benefits to a large cross-section of the community.

“Community centers bring our Erie community together through social, educational, cultural, and recreational activities,” said Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA. “A vibrant community center is the strong link needed to build safe and inclusive neighborhoods, so by strategically investing we are ensuring these vital centers continue to make a positive impact.”

The Multicultural Community Resource Center (MCRC) was a recipient of this round of grants. MCRC provides educational, social, political, self-sufficiency and economic progress services to Erie’s refugee, Latino/Hispanic/Latinx and international community, and are also a “welcoming” organization for Erie County’s New American population.

“As part of our new strategic plan and vision, we have identified a need to beautify our campus – so we requested funds to improve and enhance the presence of the exterior of our facility to create a better image of MCRC in Erie,” said Katie

Kretz, Executive Director, Multicultural Community Resource Center. “The goal of this project is to improve the aesthetics of the property, to ensure the safety and comfort of the clients we serve while on our campus, and to be better stewards in our community with enhancing our organization’s presence with the addition of new signage. MCRC is grateful to ECGRA for the support and contribution to continuing our mission within the Erie community.”

The Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grants were launched in 2012 to catalyze functional cooperation among Erie County’s 38 municipalities and to support economic growth and vibrancy in the community. For the second round of this grant, the Borough of North East was awarded for their Imagining North East Community Parks and fire training facility.

Below is a breakdown of the Community Assets – Community Center Grants and Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant that were awarded:

Second Round of Multi Municipal Collaboration Grant			
Lead Organization	Collaborators	Project Description	Amount Awarded
Borough of North East	North East Township, Fuller Hose Company #1, Crescent Hose Company, Greenfield Township, Volunteer Fire Company Station #20	16428: Imagining North East Community Parks, Fire Training Facility	\$100,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$100,000.00</b>

Community Assets - Community Centers		
Organization	Project	Amount Awarded
Booker T. Washington Center	After School Program	\$15,000.00
Boro Women & Family Services	Confidential Community Resource Room & Mental Health Accessibility	\$3,362.50
Borough of Edinboro	Edinboro Borough Community Room Renovation	\$10,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Erie	Great Futures Start Here	\$15,000.00
Community Shelter Services	2021-22 Fire Alarm System Upgrade	\$8,499.00
Crime Victim Center of Erie County	Trauma Informed Healing Programs	\$12,000.00
Eagle's Nest Leadership Corporation	Kitchen Repairs/Renovation	\$12,000.00
John F. Kennedy Center	JFK Security Update	\$5,479.00
Martin Luther King Center	Family Matters - Workforce Development and Self-Sustainability	\$15,000.00
Mercy Center for Women	Community Vegetable and Meditation Garden	\$12,000.00
Multicultural Community Resource Center	Multicultural Community Resource Center Beautification	\$15,000.00
Northwestern Community Youth Center	Kitchen renovation/Heat and Insulation for Gym	\$15,000.00
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Connected in 5 Expansion Project	\$12,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$150,340.50</b>



**Asbury Woods**  
*The woods are calling.*

ANDREW J. CONNER  
NATURE CENTER  
BROWN'S FARM  
GREENWAY TRAIL

4105 Asbury Road • Erie, Pennsylvania 16506 • 814.835.5356 • asburywoods.org

December 6, 2021

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

Dear Perry,

Thank you for your donation this past year. Together, we've made a tremendous impact: educating over four thousand school-aged children (in-person and online); offering thousands of outdoor enthusiasts a nature's playground for hiking, dog walking, mountain biking, and more; and continuing to maintain and protect our property. I'm thrilled to share our annual report that showcases what we have accomplished thanks to your support.

Learn. Play. Protect. These three pillars hold up our mission of inspiring a greater connection to the natural world. It's through play that we'll introduce you to Nicole VanTassel and her children within the pages of the annual report. Nicole and her husband feel strongly that outdoor recreation and playtime helps to instill life-long conservation values in their children.

I'm grateful for the investments you have made in Asbury Woods. Your support has ensured that we are well-positioned to protect natural places so people like you, me, Nicole and her family can learn about our environment, enjoy recreating in natural places and pass on the importance of conservation.

I'm asking for your support once again as we strive to implement our strategic plan, mission and vision for Asbury Woods. Together we can help realize a future for Northwestern Pennsylvania where appreciation for and protection of natural places is a deeply held personal and community value.

Thank you for all you have done for Asbury Woods and your continued belief in the power of nature.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Farrar, CFRE  
Executive Director

00090521





December 16, 2021

ECGRA  
5340 Fryling Rd Ste 201  
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Perry,

Thank you for your generous gift of **\$12,000.00** to the Mercy Center for Women. As the last leaves fall from the trees and snow starts falling, we give thanks for people like you who believe in our mission. The women and children here at the Mercy Center made beautiful memories to last a lifetime. Families trick-or-treated at Zoo Boo, camped at Camp Fitch, and shared a delicious Thanksgiving meal together.

Clients and staff gave back to the Erie Community as they made Blessing Bags which were distributed to guests at our Thanksgiving Lunch held at the Erie City Mission on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone came together as a team to serve all who attended the lunch.



The project at the former Holy Rosary School is coming together beautifully- it's beginning to look like home! Recently, Mayor Joe Schember took a tour of the facility to see its progress. We are blessed to have many local dignitaries take interest in the housing crisis our community faces. Completion is scheduled for the end of December with the building opening in 2022.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas here at the Mercy Center! Decorations are appearing everywhere, and the children are writing letters to Santa. We look forward to celebrating the warmth of the season and thank you again for your kindness and generosity. You make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

*"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone." – Charles M. Schulz*

Smile, Pray, Be Kind,

*Jennie*

Jennie Hagerty  
Executive Director

*Dear Perry,  
We never take your kindness for granted. We look forward to the community gardens in Spring 2022 along the mercy anchor Community Center. To bring beauty to the neighborhood as a blessing. Christmas Blessings*

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.



## Tammi Michali

---

**From:** Halle Sullivan <hsullivan@wqln.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 9:29 AM  
**To:** Tom Maggio  
**Cc:** Tammi Michali  
**Subject:** RE: Grant Agreement Letter Successfully Submitted  
**Attachments:** RyanFeedback12.10.21.png

Good morning, Tom!

I'd like to share a bit more good news from our recent ECGRA-funded "Erie Eats" video series:

Ryan Atzert, owner of Federal Hill Smokehouse, reached out to let us know how far the Erie Eats video we made with them as reached. He says, "I just want to thank you for doing that segment on us this year. It's been out for months and we still get customers coming in every week mentioning it. I can't believe the reach it had."

The video is also the best organically performing Facebook video WQLN has ever had.

Success!! And thank you, again, for supporting Erie Eats 😊

Halle

**Halle K. Sullivan**  
Grant Writer  
Grants & Community Engagement Manager  
WQLN PBS NPR  
(814) 217-6020  
[www.WQLN.org](http://www.WQLN.org)

---

**From:** Halle Sullivan  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 8:49 AM  
**To:** tmaggio@ecgra.org  
**Cc:** tmichali@ecgra.org  
**Subject:** RE: Grant Agreement Letter Successfully Submitted

Good morning Tom,

I submitted our final report for the Erie Eats 'Arts, Culture & Heritage' grant last week but was only able to upload a single photo. (I think that is due to my lack of tech know-how, and not the online portal.) So I also want to share the attached photos with you: the exterior of Federal Hill Smokehouse that we filmed, and the (extremely tempting!) signature chicken & waffles dish at Chippers Seafood & Southern Fusion, which was the final video in the three-video series.

Happy Monday!

Halle

**Halle K. Sullivan**  
Grant Writer  
Grants & Community Engagement Manager

## Union City to accept applications for Renaissance Grant funds

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Union City Borough has announced there are still funds available from the residential Renaissance Grant Program for 2021-22. There is a remaining balance of about \$30,000.

The Renaissance Grant funds are from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA). The purpose of the Renaissance Grant Program is to remove housing blight and reverse deterioration, incentivize and spur private investment, make neighborhoods and communities more attractive, increase market value of homes and improve the municipal tax

base.

Union City Borough Manager Cindy Wells said this round of funding includes residential properties on North Main Street, South Main Street, Waterford Street and Perry Street and still includes East High Street, West High Street, South Street, and First Avenue through Sixth Avenue.

There are not any income requirements. The application process opens Jan. 10 and runs through March 4. The grant is made on a 1:1 matching basis, and the maximum grant award is \$5,000.

◀ See Funds, P.2

## Funds

*(Continued from front page)*

The following are the types of improvements permitted: doors and windows visible from the street; roofs, soffits, gutters and downspouts; exterior lighting; porches, stairs and steps; painting, siding and shutters; and chimney and masonry repairs.

Grants will be awarded based upon the level of improvements and the vitality and significant impact the project will make to a neighborhood.

In 2018, the borough received \$50,000 that was utilized in 2018-19 and provided for more than \$107,000 in residential improvements. In 2020, an additional \$60,000 was received and provided for more than \$140,000 in residential improvements. The borough received \$100,000 to be spent in 2021 and 2022.

All grant applications must be approved by Union City Borough Council. In 2020, there were 17 applications. Council had approved all 17 applications. This past July, Council approved 11 applications.

The guidelines and applications are available online at [unioncitypa.us](http://unioncitypa.us) or at the Union City Borough Office, 13 S. Main St., during normal business hours.

For more information, call the borough office at 814-438-2331.



- The Corry Journal, Tuesday, January 4, 2022

## Impact Corry awarded \$50K for Renaissance program

BY KATHLEEN SPINAZZOLA  
[kathleen@thecorryjournal.com](mailto:kathleen@thecorryjournal.com)

Impact Corry was recently awarded \$50,000 through the Keystone Communities Program that will continue to fund a Renaissance Block Grant Program in which homeowners in Corry can make improvements to their houses and see their money matched.

Gov. Tom Wolf made the announcement on Dec. 20 that 34 projects in 22 counties would receive the grant money. The Department of Community and Economic Development administers the program.

Separately, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority has invested \$190,000 to date toward the Renaissance Block grants, matched by homeowners' investments totaling over \$200,000.

ECGRA's investments into the Renaissance Block grants have served 43 families in Corry.

When the Renaissance Block Grant Program was opened to Corry residents in 2019, four neighborhoods were ultimately selected as eligible to apply for the funding. ECGRA matches dollar-for-dollar while each homeowner is eligible to receive up to \$5,000 for his or her home.

"It's a neighborhood building initiative that lets neighbors collaborate to save money and gives them a one-to-one match to improve their properties," Impact Corry Executive Director Charles Gray said in 2019.

With this most recent \$50,000 from the state, 10 to 13 families will be served, with up to \$5,000 per project in matching funds.

Gray said that funding contracts are being reviewed and those who've been on the waiting list for the program will be notified.