



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

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
MAY  
2023**

# INFINITE ERIE

## Meeting Agenda

### Broadband opportunities

4.24.23

1. Welcome: Kim Thomas
2. Update on feasibility study and consultant work: Michelle Jaggi
3. Update on Hagen Fellowship broadband cohort work: Ken Klinner
4. Other updates from the group
5. Funding & Technical Assistance
  - a. Just Transition Fund
    - i. Coal Communities Get Ready Challenge
    - ii. USDA Community Connect
  - b. USDA Broadband TA
    - i. Expansion into rural communities
  - c. Connect Humanity
    - i. The fund for digital equity
  - d. Capital Projects Fund (ARP)
    - i. Expand internet access for 44,000 PA homes and businesses
  - e. Workforce
    - i. PA (L&I) broadband expansion through registered apprenticeship programs
    - ii. DEI in Construction Trades
6. PA expected to receive at least a billion more in high-speed internet funding from infrastructure law in coming years
7. Next steps



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# INFINITE ERIE

## Meeting Agenda

### ERIE ACTION TEAM

Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

3:00pm – The Nonprofit Partnership

1. Welcome – Karen Bilowith/Kim Thomas
2. Impact Framework Update – Amy Murdock, Altair Consulting
3. Community & Economic Development Finance Tools
  - a. City Revitalization Improvement Zone (CRIZ) – Kim Thomas, Chris Marsh, Renee Lamis
  - b. Just Transition Fund – Capacity Building
4. Delivery Team Updates – Kim Thomas
  - a. Government Advisory Team
  - b. Buffalo Rd. Corridor Revitalization
  - c. Broadband
5. Communications
  - a. Analytics Review
  - b. Upcoming Partner Events
  - c. Project Partner Outreach
6. Other
  - a. Infinite Erie – 1-Year Summit
  - b. Next meeting



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**April 2023**

Meeting with Executive Director

Ongoing Social Media Management

Ongoing Consulting

April Comms

**IMPLEMENTED**

27 Total April posts

27 Total graphics created

Strategic Marketing Planning with Kate Philips and Executive Director

**IN PROGRESS | 2023 Grant Releases and Graphics**

Holiday Graphics

2022 Annual Report

**IN PLANNING**

Parks Fields & Trails 2 year report

ECGRA Playbook

Roadshow Tours



May 2, 2023

ECGRA  
Attn: Perry Wood  
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Perry,

The Erie Humane Society's second annual Mutt Gala was truly a magical evening! On behalf of myself, our planning committee, and our board of directors, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to our sponsors who helped make our vision for this event possible.

It was remarkable to be in a room filled with so much excitement for our mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome pets in need. If it was not for the kindness of the wonderful businesses who sponsored this event, we may not have achieved our goal to sustain our outpatient medical fund. Your belief in our work is tremendously appreciated and valued.

**Because of your generosity, our organization was able to raise over \$80,000 to ensure all pets have an opportunity to live a quality life they deserve.** We hope that you will save the date of April 27, 2024, and plan to join us again next year!

Appreciatively,

Nicole Leone  
Executive Director

Thank you for  
Supporting our  
Shelter Pets!

# Peyronel looks to bring business specialty to Corry, connect locals to resources

BY CHLOE FORBES  
[chloe@thecorryjournal.com](mailto:chloe@thecorryjournal.com)

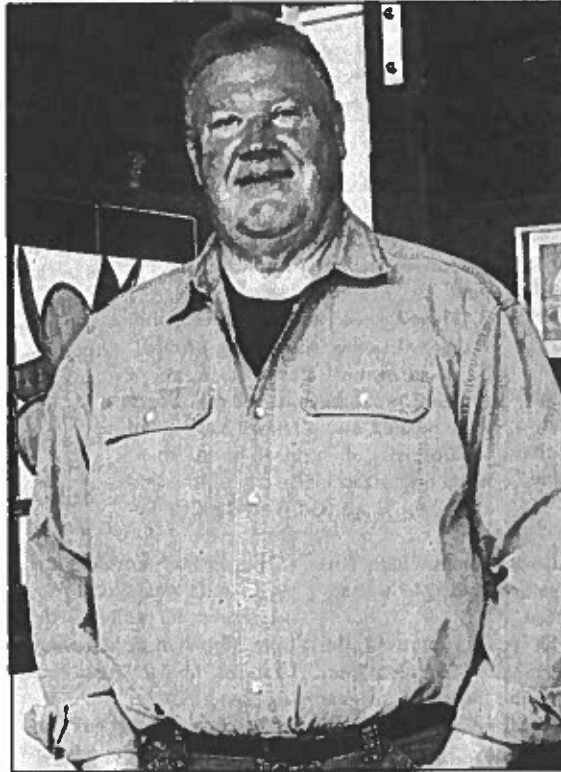
Tony Peyronel is considered an economic steward, meaning he looks after the best interest of those in the economic sector.

"It's kind of an academic term, but it's fitting because the main part of what I'm going to be doing is making sure small businesses in rural Erie County, starting with Corry, are aware of either free or low-cost resources that are available to them," Peyronel said.

He has his sights set on helping local businesses and building communities, with Corry being the keystone of the initiative.

Peyronel said he retired with a lowercase "r" from PennWest Edinboro last year, where he taught communications for 30 years. His background in journalism, public relations and strategic branding led him to have a hand in the NWPA Innovation Beehive Network.

The Beehive Network is a collection of six grant- and donation-funded centers that each specialize in a different area of business development, and provide those services to local startups free of cost. Most of the centers are part of area universities.



Chloe Forbes/The Corry Journal

**Tony Peyronel, a communications specialist, will be visiting Corry businesses beginning this week in an effort to connect locals with free or low-cost resources that aid in economic growth. He is working with Impact Corry.**

Peyronel was previously the director of the PennWest Edinboro node of the network.

There, he found he was impassioned about growing local businesses and com-

munities, which led him to Impact Corry.

Impact Corry is a client of the Beehive Network, which allowed Peyronel to learn about the efforts within the city, including the many

organizations working to grow Corry.

"I gauged that there's a lot of effort now to grow businesses and promote Corry as a unique travel destination," he said. "I think there are a lot of interesting things going on and a lot of potential."

He recalled his first time coming to Corry, as he was the adviser for Edinboro's campus newspaper, *The Spectator*, and visited *The Corry Journal*, where it was previously printed. From talks about Corry, he assumed he would blink and miss it, maybe a single stop light town just past Union City. He said it couldn't have been further from the truth.

He knew when he was in Corry because he said he was shocked how big it was and found the misconceptions about the city to be misleading, as he saw it as a destination.

The biggest challenge, he explained, is that there's a stigma surrounding low-cost or free resources as "too good to be true," so people are reluctant to use those outlets in case it's a type of business scheme. He learned this with the Beehive Network, which is largely powered by students and faculty that are gaining experience and learning about business through the initiative.

◀ See Business, P2

## Business

(Continued from front page)

His job is to reassure people of the benefits and explain to them that it is free, and introduce them to other resources as well. He said any help he can give, he's happy to — even if it's something as small as attending a meeting.

"For instance, if someone is reluctant to go to a meeting, I'm around to go with them, if that's something that would make them more comfortable," he said.

Now doing economic work with Impact Corry, Peyronel will begin meeting with local businesses beginning on Thursday of this week. In the past months, he has worked to continue collaborative efforts that Charles Gray, executive director of Impact Corry, began.

"There's a need and value in collaborating with other supporting groups," Peyronel said. "I think that's one of Impact Corry's keys to success. Corry isn't isolated and alone, it has earned credibility and support of all these other organizations."

He has networked with the Erie Re-

gional Chamber, Erie County RDA, Visit Erie and Infinite Erie on the county level.

In Corry, he met with a representative from the Corry Area Chamber of Commerce last week. He said the plan is to start in Corry, then branch out to Union City in a few years, then the rest of the municipalities.

He hopes to be a face that people in the community get to know and trust as a business advocate and ally. The idea is to bring all parts of an ecosystem to fruition in life in order to help it thrive as a whole.

2 - Friday, April 28, 2023

## Renovated Union City Museum to host open house May 6

BY MARYANN MOOK  
Staff writer

What's new is old again.  
Well ... sort of.

The Union City Museum has a new look. The museum has undergone some major changes in its inside appearance, and the public is invited to come and take a look.

The Union City Historical Society is hosting an open house at the museum, 11 S. Main St., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 6.

"In the past, we've always had an open house during Homecoming, but we've done a lot of renovating over the winter and decided to have an open house in the spring to, hopefully, entice people to come and visit us," said Linda Geer, president of the historical society.

It all started when the historical society hired Jeff Burrows of Burrows Con-



Maryann Mook/The Corry Journal

Linda Geer, president of the Union City Historical Society, sits in a "parlor" at the Union City Museum. On the back wall is a picture of the Caffisch family.

tracting Co. in Corry to replace most of the ceilings in the three-story building.

"We had to move items for the ceiling work, so we used the opportunity to, basical-

ly, redesign our displays," Geer said.

◀ See Museum, P.3