



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
DECEMBER
2018**



**Community Asset Grant Award Ceremony
Arts, Culture & Heritage; Parks, Fields & Trails; and Community Centers**

AGENDA

Headwaters Park Nature Center and Conservancy Trail	Welcome and intro Sen. Laughlin
State Senator Dan Laughlin	Remarks and intro CE Dahlkemper
County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper	Remarks and intro Anderson
County Councilman Carl Anderson	Remarks and intro Sr. Annette Marshall
Sister Annette Marshall, Inner-City Neighborhood Art House	Remarks and intro Wood
Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA	Remarks and check presentation

\$805,835.98 check presentation to Erie County

Media Q & A

Individual Check Presentation Photos (List below)



ADVISORY*ADVISORY***ADVISORY***ADVISORY***ADVISORY**

ECGRA to Award Community Asset Grants Supporting Local Arts, Culture & Heritage; Parks, Fields & Trails; and Community Centers

CONTACT: Kate Philips
philips@parkerphilips.com
215.850.4647 | mobile

ERIE, PA (November 14, 2018) Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) will continue investment of local share gaming funds across Erie County with an event on Friday to award the latest round of Community Asset Grants.

ECGRA officials will be joined by State Senator Dan Laughlin, County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, and other local officials to award the Grants on **Friday, November 16 at 10:30 a.m. at the Headwaters Park located at 1927 Wager Rd., Erie.**

Headwaters Park Nature Center and Conservancy Trail will receive \$26,751.50, as part of this round of funding. The nearly one million dollar funding pool, continues to support the already successful Arts, Culture & Heritage project area, and now includes two new project areas: Parks, Fields & Trails and Community Centers. A full list of grant recipients is listed below.

WHAT:	Community Asset Grant Awards
WHEN:	Friday, November 16
TIME:	10:30 a.m.
WHERE:	1927 Wager Road Erie, PA

--more--

Organization	Project	Awarded
AmeriMasala	The AmeriMasala Movement	\$10,000.00
CAFÉ	Bandwagon Art	\$7,840.00
Community Access Television	CATV Video Editing Equipment	\$7,470.00
Edinboro Arts & Music Festival	Downtown Edinboro Arts & Music Fest	\$10,000.00
Edinboro Highland Games	Highland Games & Scottish Festival	\$10,000.00
Edinboro University Foundation	EU FM Transmitter Project	\$15,000.00
Erie Downtown Partnership	Downtown Art + Activation	\$15,000.00
Erie PAL	Unlocking the Power of the Cop + Kid Relationship	\$15,000.00
Erie Yesterday	A Collaboration of Eight Heritage Organizations	\$15,000.00
Friends of the Erie County Library	Digitization of the Library's Newspaper Microfilm - Phase 1	\$10,000.00
Harborcreek Township	Hilinski Barn Relocation	\$15,000.00
Lake Erie Fanfare	36th Season of Drum Corps Activities in Erie	\$10,000.00
PACA	PACA Theatre 2019 Theatrical Season	\$11,000.00
Presque Isle Light Station	Installation of Handicapped Access Ramp	\$15,000.00
Presque Isle Partnership	Waterworks Gear Tower Refurbishment	\$11,000.00
Stairways Behavioral Health	Art Hub Erie	\$9,000.00
The Goodell Project	Upgrading & refurbishing equipment	\$6,464.40
The Young Peoples Chorus	YPC Erie - Behind the Scenes	\$12,480.00
Veterans Miracle Center Erie	VMCE Good 360 Community Redistribution Partner Program	\$12,500.00
Waterford Community Fair Association	Educational & Safety Enhancements	\$14,000.00
WQLN Public Media	Our Town 2018-2019: Stories from UC & LP	\$15,000.00
YADO	YADO 14th Season	\$15,000.00

ARTS, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE TOTAL: \$261,754.40

Organization	Project	Amount Funded
Borough of Union City	Parks Master Plan & Beginning Implementation	\$50,000.00
City of Corry	North Hills Municipal Golf Course Irrigation System	\$21,404.89
City of Erie	Wayne Park Area Improvements - Safe Routes to School	\$50,000.00
Erie Maritime Foundation	The Schooner Porcupine	\$50,000.00
Girard Township	Lake Erie Community Park Playground Project	\$6,470.00

Greenfield Township	Greenfield Community Park - ADA access & parking improvements	\$18,284.75
Harborcreek Little League	Community Park Fencing Project	\$10,250.00
Headwaters Natural Resource Center Trust	Headwaters Nature Center & Trail Development	\$26,751.50
Mead Park Association	Mead Park Master Site Plan - Phase 1	\$49,188.00
Our West Bayfront	Bayview Park Enhancement Project	\$50,000.00
	PARKS, FIELDS, AND TRAILS TOTAL:	\$332,349.14

Organization	Project	Amount Funded
Booker T. Washington Center	The Center City-School Initiative	\$25,000.00
Boys & Girls Club of Erie	Triple Play	\$25,000.00
Eagle's Nest Leadership Corporation	Eagle's Nest Programming	\$25,000.00
Erie Center on Health & Aging	Creativity Matters: Improving Health & Wellness through Arts	\$20,000.00
Inner-City Neighborhood Art House	Community Awareness Campaign	\$25,000.00
Martin Luther King Center	Bayfront Mini Mall Parking Lot Renovation	\$25,000.00
Mental Health Association of NWPA	Warming Center	\$4,000.00
Mercy Center for Women	Chronically Homeless Women & Children Project	\$20,000.00
Sisters of Mercy/House of Mercy	Improving Computer Access to Low-Income Students & Adults	\$4,991.44
SSJNN	Community Revitalization and Development	\$20,000.00
St, Martin Center, Inc.	St. Martin Early Learning Center Van	\$17,741.00
	COMMUNITY CENTER TOTAL:	\$211,732.44
		\$805,835.98

ABOUT COMMUNITY ASSET GRANTS

The new **Parks, Fields & Trails Grants** will provide funding for capital projects to create, protect, or improve publicly accessible parks, athletic fields, and trails throughout Erie County. Funding can also be used to increase or improve access to recreational facilities.

The new **Community Center Grants** will support capital improvements, programming, and equipment for publicly accessible community centers. A community center is a neighborhood or community hub whose primary focus is social, educational, cultural, and/or recreational activities serving a particular segment of the community such as children or senior citizens.

Arts, Culture & Heritage Grants continue to provide capital and program funding for arts, culture, and heritage organizations. Programs and projects must serve the general public and be open and accessible to the public. Examples of past awards include grants to the Bayfront Maritime Center, Asbury Woods Partnership, Albion Fair, Corry Area Historical Society, Erie Chamber Orchestra, Erie County Fair at Wattsburg, Erie Dance Theater, and Lawrence Park Historical Society.

###



Bridgeway Capital Inclusive Erie Fund Launch

AGENDA

Perry Wood
State Senator Dan Laughlin
County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper
Mayor Joe Schember

Dwayne Rankin
Jimmy Jackson

Background/Emcee
Remarks on sm. business/econ. dev.
Remarks on
Remarks on investing in urban
neighborhoods
Remarks on Investment Program
Remarks on reaching the Erie
Entrepreneur Community

CHECK PRESENTATION:
Inclusive Erie Fund-\$5 million
MEMO: Bridgeway Capital

Media Q & A

Kenya Johnson will be available for media interviews following check presentation



ECGRA Expands Investment in Successful Erie Urban Entrepreneur Fund, Partners with Bridgeway Capital to Launch \$5 Million Erie Inclusive Fund

Pittsburgh-based Bridgeway continues investment in Erie County

ERIE, PA (December 3, 2018) Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) announced a ground-breaking investment in Erie County's minority communities today that will support an expansion of the successful Erie Urban Entrepreneur Program. State Senator Dan Laughlin and Erie Mayor Joe Schember joined officials from ECGRA and Bridgeway Capital today to announce the **Erie Inclusive Fund**, a \$5 million program to catalyze minority entrepreneurship in Erie County.

Financed by ECGRA and managed by Pittsburgh-based Bridgeway Capital, the **Erie Inclusive Fund**, will invest at least \$5 million in new loans in Erie County over the next three years, with a commitment to invest half, \$2.5 million, in minority-owned businesses.

As part of the ECGRA investment, Bridgeway Capital will launch an **Erie County Minority-owned Business Accelerator**, tailoring individual growth plans and support system to ensure success for burgeoning businesses, while continuing to provide growth capital.

"Investing in small business growth is a smart way to extend ECGRA economic development dollars into minority communities across Erie County," said **Pennsylvania State Senator Dan Laughlin**. "Coupling start-up capital with an accelerator program shows Bridgeway Capital long-term commitment to and vital role in our Erie County economic development ecosystem."

"When Erie County small businesses succeed, Erie County grows," said Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper. "This fund will create streamlined access to capital, and valuable business development resources through the new accelerator program, helping to launch new and existing business owners through the difficult start up period."

Since opening its Erie office in 2012, thanks in large part to ECGRA's initial \$100,000 investment, Bridgeway Capital has offered 69 loans totaling more than \$8.4 million in Erie County; thirteen of those loans (32%) were made through the Erie Urban Entrepreneur Program helping launch and grow minority owned businesses.

Since then Bridgeway has made investments that support low-income communities and the creation of living-wage jobs as a means to revitalize the regional economies it serves.

“Walking through the Independence Hill section of Erie it is hard to miss all of the reactivated storefronts, and fresh economic energy,” said **Erie Mayor Joe Schember**. “By focusing investing in neighborhoods ECGRA is helping create local jobs, and spurring community development. We know that Erie is ripe for investment and on the precipice of an economic explosion, and I salute Bridgeway Capital for recognizing a wise investment.”

“The Erie Inclusive Fund is a natural outgrowth of Bridgeway's Erie Urban Entrepreneur program—a flexible loan capitol program launched in 2015 that helps support community and economic development in Erie's urban core,” said **Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA**. “The Erie Inclusive Fund will make more capital available, and pair loans with intensive and individualized support to help businesses succeed and encourage urban communities across Erie County.”

The new program was launched at the [Learning Ladder Early Childhood Education Center](#), a high-quality child care facility owned by Sean and Kenya Johnson. The Johnson's became a part of Erie's burgeoning entrepreneur community when they launched a successful child care center in their home five years ago. When their dreams grew and they wanted to take their licensed in-home business and grow it into a full-fledged high-quality child care facility, their entrepreneurial spirit led them to Bridgeway Capital.

“The Inclusive Erie Fund builds upon Bridgeway's success of providing inclusive funding and hands-on assistance to small businesses and real estate developments,” said **Dwayne Rankin, Chief Lending Officer, Bridgeway Capital**. “Since opening our Erie office in 2012, Bridgeway has made \$8.4 million in loans to people and places in Erie that cannot access mainstream sources of finance. With ECGRA's support, Bridgeway is able to provide more funding to minority entrepreneurs to create economic opportunity through business ownership, job creation, and neighborhood revitalization.”

The Erie Urban Entrepreneur program, modeled after a pilot project launched by Bridgeway Capital in Pittsburgh, was conceptualized by ECGRA two years ago when its leadership saw a need for more programs to support African American entrepreneurs in Erie.

“Bridgeway understands the passion that drives entrepreneurs and the challenges they face,” said **Jim Jackson, Erie Office Director, Bridgeway Capital**. “The Inclusive Erie Fund will create a strong ecosystem for minority entrepreneurship in Erie by providing patient, flexible capital paired with business accelerator services to help navigate entrepreneurship. We seek minority entrepreneurs to participate in the accelerator who want to use the power of business to make a difference in their community.”

ECGRA views Erie County's inner city as a regional force in the economy and recognizes that there is an unrealized potential of inner-city markets and entrepreneurs. To learn more about Erie Inclusive Fund at Bridgeway Capital borrowers should call Jim Jackson at (814) 451-1172.

####



ECGRA: November 15 – December 15, 2018 Activity Report

Meetings, Phone Calls, Emails, and Other Work

11/15/2018	Phone call with Kathy Wyrosdick and Perry about potential infrastructure package
11/26/2018	Phone call with Dave Brennan and Mark Holman regarding revitalization of bridge in Erie
11/27/2018	Flagged infrastructure materials related to the importance of preparing for an infrastructure package and the state and local levels
11/28/2018	Flagged Environmental Small Grants Program for Melissa/ Perry
12/3/2018	Phone call with Melissa Lyon about EPA Environmental Fund Grant and Blue Zones
12/4/2018	Flagged STEM Initiative from the Administration for Perry
12/6/2018	Covered webinar for Melissa Lyon about EPA Environmental Grant

Potential Opportunities Discussed and Provided

EPA Environmental Small Grants Program

Grant Description: The U.S. Environmental Protection is now accepting applications for its Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. Nonprofit groups are eligible for grants to support community-driven projects designed to engage, educate, and empower communities to better understand local environmental and public health issues and develop strategies for addressing those issues, building consensus in the community, and setting community priorities. The EJSG program will award approximately \$1.5 million nationwide for this competitive opportunity. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 50 grants (5 per EPA region) of up to \$30,000 each. These grants are for one-year projects.

Deadline: The deadline for applications is February 15.

Pre-Application Assistance Calls: EPA has scheduled a series of pre-application assistance conference calls to answer questions about applying for these grants starting December 6. For all the details, visit EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program webpage here:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-program#tab-2>.

Trump Administration Plan

The Trump administration launched a five-year STEM initiative today to build strong literacy and help prepare workers and increase diversity in the subject area according to the White House technology advise. The initiative will partner with government agencies and education bodies. Private partnerships, which will also be announced today, will be part of the initiative's funding. Funding for the plan will also be discussed as part of next year's budget request, according to an administration official. We will continue to monitor this and consider how those in Erie might be able to take advantage of this funding.



COPY

COUNTY OF ERIE, PA

Erie County Council

Erie County Courthouse
140 West Sixth Street, Room 114
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501-1081

Carl Anderson, III
District 4

November 16, 2018

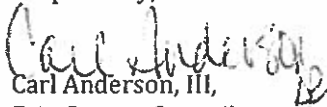
Mr. Ronald Cleaver
3919 Dexter Avenue
Erie, PA 16504

Dear Mr. Cleaver:

It is with great pleasure to inform you that your appointment to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was approved at the County Council Meeting held November 13, 2018. Your term will expire on December 31, 2022.

It is because of civic minded individuals like you that our community will continue to move forward in a positive direction. I congratulate you and extend my appreciation for the time and public service you have graciously offered to provide.

Respectfully,


Carl Anderson, III,
Erie County Council
District 4

cc: ✓ Perry Wood, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
File

November 16, 2018



Perry, Tom, and the ECGRA Board,

Thank you so much for your acceptance of our application. Your grant of \$50,000 plays a key role in BMC's success in the completion of the 1812 Schoolship Porcupine, furthering BMC's mission to implement hands-on maritime themed, educational, vocation and recreational activities for the community.

BMC's mission began in 1998 to design and implement engaging, hands-on, maritime-themed educational, vocational, and recreational opportunities for the community in a universally accessible waterfront facility. Since then we have provided over 20,000 community members from every socio-economic group, hands-on, year-round programming, building over 96 boats in the process.

Everyone at the Bayfront Maritime Center appreciates your support to finish this important asset to the Erie community. Please visit the BMC campus and see the Schooner Porcupine progress for yourself!

Thanks again!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rich Eisenberg'.

Richard Eisenberg
Executive Director.



40 Holland Street, Erie, PA 16507

814-456-4077

www.bayfrontcenter.org



PennState
Behrend

Ralph M. Ford, Chancellor
The Pennsylvania State University
Glenhill Farmhouse
4701 College Drive
Erie, PA 16563-0101

Tel: 814-898-6160
Fax: 814-898-6461
rmf7@psu.edu
behrend.psu.edu

November 16, 2018

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Friends:

The Community Assets Grant in the amount of \$12,480 for the Young People's Chorus of Erie is very much appreciated.

It is because of funding such as yours that no student is turned away for an inability to pay the tuition. I'm grateful for the significant part your financial backing makes in creating this opportunity for youth in the area that enjoy singing. Your support enables young people to act as ambassadors of the Erie region, sharing their talents both within and outside our community.

Thank you for your partnership and for choosing Penn State Behrend as one of your giving priorities.

Sincerely,

Ralph Ford, Ph.D.

RMF/klb



October 22, 2018

ECGRA
Perry Wood
5240 Knowledge Pkwy Ste A
Erie PA 16510-4658

Dear Perry,

On behalf of the women, children and staff of the Mercy Center for Women, we thank you for your gift of \$20,000 through the Community Assets Grant. After a beautiful hot summer, we are settling into a regular schedule of classes and activities for our women and their children. I am so excited to share with you some of the things your kindness has accomplished for our women and children.

Lisa is planning to move into her new home very soon and is grateful for the opportunities she was given to become self-sufficient. Brittany was honored as the Mercy Center Graduate of the Year 2018 and enjoys planning activities for program alumnae and current clients. After a successful picnic in the backyard at Mercy Center, she is now spearheading a fun Halloween party for next week. Another client is studying hard to become a veterinarian assistant. It is due to your generosity that we can continue to offer life-changing services to the many women and children who come through our doors.

There are exciting things happening on every front at Mercy Center for Women, and I am so glad that you have chosen to be a part of the life-changing undertakings. Your support allows us to provide the essential programs, mentorship and job readiness skills our women need to realize their potential and be successful.

May God richly bless you. Thank you for believing in our mission and being instrumental in the lives of all those we serve.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jennie'.

Jennie Hagerty
Executive Director

*Dear Perry,
Thank you for believing in our mission to serve women and children for 25 years. Your kindness and support of allowing our shelter to move forward is appreciated.
Kindly, Jennie*

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.

Groups share \$806,000 in gaming grants

Community Assets Grant program funds parks, arts and community centers

By Matthew Rink
matthew.rink@timesnews.com

The Erie County Conservation District will use its \$26,751 share of a Community Assets Grant to expand the trail system and improve ADA accessibility, safety and appearance of its facility at Headwaters Park, where it also will build a new nature center.

The Erie Inner-City Neighborhood Art House will improve the facade and paint a new mural at its building with the \$25,000 it is receiving from Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority grant program.

And the Erie County District Library will embark on a project to digitize a century's worth of local newspapers to make them easier to access and search for history buffs, genealogists and other library patrons.

ECGRA officials unveiled grants for those and 40 other recipients Friday at the Conservation District office at Headwaters Park. The Community Assets Grant Program has been in existence for eight years. However, this year ECGRA increased the program to \$1 million from \$150,000 and established three grant application categories: arts, culture and heritage; parks,

See GRANTS, B2

GRANTS

From Page B1

fields and trails; and community centers. The first round of funding under the revamped program totaled \$805,836.

"So many of the organizations that are being funded today support a lot of the work that county government does and work alongside us on common goals," Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper said. "Those goals are really building a better and more vibrant Erie County for our citizens."

Perry Wood, executive director of ECGRA, said "community assets make us better neighbors, better parents, better citizens. Community assets are driven by boards of directors and staff consisting of your neighbors, elected officials, business and civic leaders.

"They're groups that want to fix up parks down the street, ensure



Tom McClure speaks about Headwaters Park projects that will benefit from a \$26,000 grant that was announced Friday. McClure is the trustee of the Headwaters Natural Resource Center Trust. From left are State Sen. Dan Laughlin, of Millcreek, R-49th Dist; McClure; Perry Wood, executive director of ECGRA; Erie County Councilman Carl Anderson; Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper; and Mike Paris, board chairman of ECGRA. (CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE PHOTOS/ERIE TIMES-NEWS)

that you have safe recreational equipment and educational benefits in your parks," Wood continued. "They're historical romantics that look at a run-down historic building, take the time to learn the story of that structure and fundraise to preserve it for future generations. They're passionate volunteers that put mission first."

Some of the other



Perry Wood, executive director of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, announces more than \$800,000 in annual grants to 43 local nonprofits Friday at Headwaters Park, which is part of the Erie County Conservation District in Millcreek Township. From left are: State Sen. Dan Laughlin, of Millcreek, R-49th Dist; Wood; Erie County Councilman Carl Anderson; Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper; and Mike Paris, chairman of ECGRA.

recipients include the city of Erie, which was awarded \$50,000 to improve Wayne Park and the area around it; Union City, which will use its \$50,000 award to develop and begin implementation of a parks master plan; the Booker T. Washington Center, which received \$25,000 for its Center-City School initiative; and the Boys & Girls Club of Erie, which will

use \$25,000 for its Triple Play program.

ECGRA has placed caps on recipients and categories. Applicants for parks, fields and trails funding could receive no more than \$50,000 for a total of \$500,000. Applicants under the community centers category were capped at \$15,000 for a total of \$300,000; and applicants under the arts, culture and heritage category were capped at

\$15,000 per grant and \$200,000 overall.

The program requires the recipient to match the grant dollar for dollar.

Sister Annette Marshall, OSB, director of the Neighborhood Art House, said the funding enables the center to do things it otherwise wouldn't be able to do.

Founded in 1995, the Neighborhood Art House strives to

Online extra

See video from the ECC news conference: www.GoErie.com/Videos

"help inner-city children have the spark create a better life, & the inner strength say 'I'm worth it. I'm something to offer. I'm a good person and can move ahead and something,'" Marsh said.

Marshall said that because the grant requires a match, it helps organizations leverage donations. The Neighborhood Art House funded entirely by donations, she said.

In addition to facade improvements at its East 10th Street location, the Neighborhood Art House will use the funding to increase safety and security in and around the building.

Matthew Rink can be reached at 870-1884 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/ETNrink.

Gaming grants

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's Community Assets Grant Program

Total Awarded: \$805,836
Arts, Culture & Heritage Total: \$261,754

Recipient: AmeriMasala Project: The AmeriMasala Movement

Amount: \$10,000

Recipient: CAFÉ

Project: Bandwagon Art

Amount: \$7,840

Recipient: Community Access Television

Project: CATV Video Editing Equipment

Amount: \$7,470

Recipient: Edinboro Arts & Music Festival

Project: Downtown Edinboro Arts & Music Fest

Amount: \$10,000

Recipient: Edinboro Highland Games

Project: Highland Games & Scottish Festival

Amount: \$10,000

Recipient: Edinboro University Foundation

Project: FM Transmitter Project

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Erie Downtown Partnership

Project: Downtown Art + Activation

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Erie PAL

Project: Unlocking the Power of the Cop + Kid Relationship

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Erie Yesterday Project: A Collaboration of Eight Heritage Organizations

Amount: \$12,480

Recipient: Veterans Miracle Center Erie

Project: VMCE Good 360

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Friends of the Erie County Library

Project: Digitization of the Library's Newspaper Microfilm - Phase 1

Amount: \$10,000

Recipient: Harborcreek Township

Project: Hilinski Barn Relocation

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Lake Erie Fanfare

Project: 36th Season of Drum Corps Activities in Erie

Amount: \$10,000

Recipient: PACA Project: PACA Theatre 2019 Theatrical Season

Amount: \$11,000

Recipient: Presque Isle Light Station

Project: Installation of Handicapped Access Ramp

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Presque Isle Partnership

Project: Waterworks Gear Tower Refurbishment

Amount: \$11,000

Recipient: Stairways Behavioral Health

Project: Art Hub Erie

Amount: \$9,000

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Friends of the Erie County Library

Project: Digitization of the Library's Newspaper Microfilm - Phase 1

Amount: \$10,000

Recipient: Harborcreek Township

Project: Hilinski Barn Relocation

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Lake Erie Fanfare

Project: 36th Season of Drum Corps Activities in Erie

Amount: \$10,000

Recipient: PACA Project: PACA Theatre 2019 Theatrical Season

Amount: \$11,000

Recipient: Presque Isle Light Station

Project: Installation of Handicapped Access Ramp

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Presque Isle Partnership

Project: Waterworks Gear Tower Refurbishment

Amount: \$11,000

Recipient: Stairways Behavioral Health

Project: Art Hub Erie

Amount: \$9,000

Recipient: The Goodell Project

Project: Upgrading & refurbishing equipment

Amount: \$6,464

Recipient: The Young Peoples Chorus

Project: YPC Erie - Behind the Scenes

Amount: \$12,480

Recipient: Veterans Miracle Center Erie

Project: VMCE Good 360

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Friends of the Erie County Library

Project: Digitization of the Library's Newspaper Microfilm - Phase 1

Amount: \$10,000

Recipient: Harborcreek Township

Project: Hilinski Barn Relocation

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Lake Erie Fanfare

Project: 36th Season of Drum Corps Activities in Erie

Amount: \$10,000

Recipient: PACA Project: PACA Theatre 2019 Theatrical Season

Amount: \$11,000

Recipient: Presque Isle Light Station

Project: Installation of Handicapped Access Ramp

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: Presque Isle Partnership

Project: Waterworks Gear Tower Refurbishment

Amount: \$11,000

Recipient: Stairways Behavioral Health

Project: Art Hub Erie

Amount: \$9,000

Recipient: The Goodell Project

Project: Upgrading & refurbishing equipment

Amount: \$6,464

Recipient: The Young Peoples Chorus

Project: YPC Erie - Behind the Scenes

Amount: \$12,480

Recipient: Veterans Miracle Center Erie

Project: VMCE Good 360

Community Redistribution Partner Program

Amount: \$12,500

Recipient: Waterford Community Fair Association

Project: Educational & Safety Enhancements

Amount: \$14,000

Recipient: WQLN Public Media

Project: Our Town 2018-2019: Stories from Union City & Lawrence Park

Amount: \$15,000

Recipient: YADO Project: YADO 14th Season

Amount: \$15,000

Parks, Fields & Trails

Total: \$332,349

Recipient: Borough of Union City

Project: Parks Master Plan & Beginning Implementation

Amount: \$50,000

Recipient: City of Corry

Project: North Hills Municipal Golf Course Irrigation System

Amount: \$21,405

Recipient: City of Erie

Project: Wayne Park Area Improvements - Safe Routes to School

Amount: \$50,000

Recipient: Erie Maritime Foundation

Project: The Schooner Porcupine

Amount: \$50,000

Recipient: Girard Township

Project: Lake Erie Community Park Playground Project

Amount: \$6,470

Recipient: Greenfield Township

Project: Greenfield Community Park - ADA access & parking improvements

Amount: \$18,285

Recipient: Harborcreek Little League

Project: Community Park Fencing Project

Amount: \$10,250

Recipient: Headwaters Natural Resource Center

Project: Trust Headwaters Nature Center & Trail Development

Amount: \$26,751

Recipient: Mead Park Association

Project: Mead Park Master Site Plan - Phase 1

Amount: \$49,188

Recipient: Our West Bayfront

Project: Bayview Park Enhancement Project

Amount: \$50,000

Amount: \$20,000

Recipient: Inner-City Neighborhood Art House

Project: Community Awareness Campaign

Amount: \$25,000

Recipient: Martin Luther King Center

Project: Bayfront Mini Mall Parking Lot Renovation

Amount: \$25,000

Recipient: Mental Health Association of NWPA

Project: Warming Center

Amount: \$4,000

Recipient: Mercy Center for Women

Project: Chronically Homeless Women &

Amount: \$17,741

Children Project

Amount: \$20,000

Recipient: Sisters of Mercy/House of Mercy

Project: Improving Computer Access to Low Income Students & Adult

Amount: \$4,991

Recipient: Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network

Project: Community Revitalization and Development

Amount: \$20,000

Recipient: St. Martin Center, Inc.

Project: St. Martin Early Learning Center Van

Amount: \$17,741

Community Centers

Total: \$211,732

Recipient: Booker T. Washington Center

Project: The Center City-School Initiative

Amount: \$25,000

Recipient: Boys & Girls Club of Erie

Project: Triple Play

Amount: \$25,000

Recipient: Eagle's Nest Leadership Corporation

Project: Eagle's Nest programming

Amount: \$25,000

Recipient: Erie Center on Health & Aging

Project: Creativity Matters: Improving Health & Wellness through Arts

Amount: \$25,000

Recipient: Erie Center on Health & Aging

Project: Creativity Matters: Improving Health & Wellness through Arts

Amount: \$25,000

Recipient: Erie Center on Health & Aging

Project: Creativity Matters: Improving Health & Wellness through Arts

Amount: \$25,000

ECGRA

(Continued from front page)

The irrigation system reportedly old and outdated. Handling the grant applications for the city Councilwoman Tare Hamilton and Mitchell said that he was pleased with the work she did.

"She did a great job working with the people from the go course, our local foundation and ECGRA to secure the grant," Mitchell said. "I'm very pleased with the hard work that was done by everyone including Taree."

Corry receives ECGRA funds for irrigation system at golf course

BY WILLIAM STEVENS
williamstevens@thecorryjournal.com

The city of Corry has received just over \$20,000 as part of a Community Asset Grant to be used for improvements to an irrigation system at North Hills Municipal Golf Course.

The money comes from Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, which recently released \$135,593 to local municipalities to be used for programs, including improvements and maintenance of the municipal golf course.

Corry City Mayor Dave Mitchell confirmed that the funds were presented to Council last week and the \$21,405 would be used for maintenance and updates to the irrigation system at the municipal golf course.

"We had a problem with the sprinkler system at the golf course," Mitchell said. "We didn't have the money in the budget this year to address that issue, so we went for the ECGRA grant."

◀ See ECGRA, P.2

Mead Park Association receives nearly \$50,000 for park upgrades

BY WILLIAM STEVENS
williamstevens@thecorryjournal.com

The Mead Park Association wants Corry residents to know that the first phase of its master site plan at Mead Park is on track for completion next year.

Most recently, the association received \$49,188 from Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's Community Asset Grant Program in August. The funds will be used to begin security and infrastructure improvements at the city-owned park.

"We want to let people know that the project is still

happening, but when you're securing state and county funds, it usually takes longer than people think," said association Secretary Maddy Johnson.

Mead Park Association President John Raines said things are moving along with security being a top concern.

"What we can say for sure is that there's security in place now to catch the people who have been vandalizing the park and we have confidence in our security system moving forward," said Raines.

◀ See Mead Park, P.2

Mead Park

(Continued from front page)

The vandalism Raines referred to is focused on four main buildings: Nichols Lodge, the hobby shop, Mead Glenn and the bathrooms.

"We've had an immense problem with the bathrooms," Raines said. "That seems to be their target, and we're going to begin securing them in the evening after business hours."

"The presence of the law is always a plus and the investment through ECGRA is a huge help," he said.

Once the contract is awarded, work will begin on the security system, Raines said.

"We can start that right now, and as the park grows and moves through the phases, we can expand our security with minimal effort," Raines said. "We also won't have to constant-

ly dump money into the security system."

While specific details of the security updates could not be shared by Raines, the word was that the infrastructure would be one of the first things upgraded in the spring.

Johnson said the picnic tables at the park will take priority in spring 2019 to provide residents with a physical sign that work is being done to improve the park.

"The reason we're starting with the picnic tables is because people love the park and want to see a visible sign that we're working toward improving it," Johnson said. "We're pleased that we were able to get money from ECGRA, because it looks at the county as a whole and the people have been great to work with."

VIEWPOINT

OUR VIEW

Investments in Erie are adding up

The issue: Seeding Erie's economic future
Our view: Moves build on momentum

To get a feel for the sense of possibility in Erie these days, one need only look at the front page of Tuesday's Erie Times-News. All three of the stories on the page broke news of major investments to come.



Business reporter Jim Martin detailed an effort by a Philadelphia-area businessman to put together a venture capital fund with the sole focus

of investing in early-stage businesses in Erie. Robert Graham, who has experience in venture capital, said he plans to launch the Spirit of Erie Fund over the next few months and hopes to grow it to \$10 million to \$15 million.

In a joint announcement on Monday, meanwhile, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and Bridgeway Capital detailed the launch of the Erie Inclusive Fund. The \$5 million fund will focus on investing in minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs.

And reporter Madeleine O'Neill delivered news of Waldameer Park & Water World's plans, pending zoning approval from Millcreek Township, to invest \$2 million in replacing two of its oldest water slides with a six-lane Rally Racer water slide.

Those plans represent one more step in the park's 10-year plan for alternating improvements between the amusement park and the water park. Visitors next season can expect to find a relaxation pool with roughly triple the capacity of the current pool, along with Chaos, a new pendulum ride. Those investments build on many others that attest to the commitment and vision of park owner Paul Nelson and his team.

While Waldameer builds on its success story, the two venture capital funds aim to create new ones. They come amid a wave of investment in Erie and the opportunity for much more via Erie's aggressive embrace of the federal Opportunity Zones program.

Local economic development officials agree that Erie's entrepreneurial efforts have been held back by a shortage of investment capital for startup and early-stage businesses. And as ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood said Monday, minorities in Erie County own businesses at half the national rate.

The proposed Spirit of Erie Fund and the Erie Inclusive Fund are efforts to help close that gap. They are well-timed for the moment.

Graham plans to recruit private investors, including some based in Erie and elsewhere in Pennsylvania, for the Spirit of Erie Fund. ECGRA is contributing \$2.5 million for the Erie Inclusive Fund, which will be matched by Bridgeway, a not-for-profit investment firm.

Bridgeway plans to make 1 percent loans over the next three years in partnership with ECGRA, with half going to minority-owned businesses. Bridgeway Capital will also launch a mentoring and support program for minority businesspeople with \$300,000 provided by ECGRA.

These developments are further signs that Erie is open for business. Let's keep moving.

\$5 million fund boosts minority businesses

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Erie Times-News | GoErie.com

By Jim Martin
jmartin@timesnews.com

Perry Wood, executive director of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, sees a couple problems when he looks at a minority-owned business like Learning Ladder

Early Childhood Education, located in the 2,500 block of Peach Street.

The first problem is there aren't enough businesses like it. He said statistics show that minorities in Erie County own businesses at less than half the national rate.

Learn about borrowing

To learn more about the Erie Inclusive Fund, call Bridgeway Capital Erie office director Jim Jackson at 814-451-1172.

The other problem, he said, is that Learning Ladder's owners, like so many

other small businesses, face challenges finding money to finance their ventures.

In a joint announcement made Monday with Bridgeway Capital, ECGRA announced a plan to address both concerns by launching See FUND, A4

FUND

From Page A1

the Erie Inclusive Fund, a \$5 million fund to encourage minority entrepreneurship.

Wood said ECGRA is contributing \$2.5 million to establish the low-interest loan fund that will be matched dollar-for-dollar by Pittsburgh-based Bridgeway Capital, a not-for-profit lender that will make 1 percent loans. The loans will be made in Erie County over the next three years with a commitment to invest half in minority-owned businesses.

As part of the announcement, Wood said Bridgeway Capital will launch an accelerator program, providing one-on-one mentoring and support for minority business owners. ECGRA provided \$300,000 for the accelerator.

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie

Mayor Joe Schember and state Sen. Dan Laughlin, R-49th Dist., were among those at the announcement.

"This is a wonderful investment in this community," Laughlin said.

Wood said the program is an outgrowth of Bridgeway's Erie Urban Entrepreneur program, which was launched in 2015 that helps support community and economic development in Erie's urban core.

Sean and Kenya Johnson got help from Bridgeway Capital in 2016 when they wanted to buy what was then a leased building where they had moved the daycare center they had opened in the basement of their home in 2013.

A \$150,000 loan from Bridgeway allowed them to purchase the building they had been leasing, the former Forward Hall.

The investment by Bridgeway, which provides financing to businesses that

might not otherwise have access to commercial funding, has paid dividends.

"The business is solid," Sean Johnson said. "We are at 60, 65 children and 12 or 13 employees."

"I never expected it to be this big," Kenya Johnson said. "It was a blessing to us."

Dahlkemper, who spoke in a room filled with the voices of small children and decorated by their efforts, said she has visited dozens of businesses as she crisscrossed the county for her 50 businesses in 50 weeks initiative.

Despite her best efforts to highlight diversity, she said, it was notable just how few were owned by minorities.

Along with others in a crowded preschool on Monday, Dahlkemper said she hopes this program will change that equation.

Jim Martin can be reached at 870-1668 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ETNMartin.