



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
JANUARY
2019**



Erie Lead Asset Award

AGENDA

Perry Wood
Kim Thomas
Gary Lee
Mike Paris

Background/Emcee
DCED Northwest Regional Dir.
Erie County Executive's Office
ECGRA Board Chairman

CHECK PRESENTATION:
Individual Presentations (amounts attached)
MEMO: Lead Community Asset

Media Q & A



ECGRA Extends Impact of Gaming Funds through Long-Term Investment in Lead Assets

8th Year Investing in Erie County's Nine Lead Place-Making Organizations

ERIE, PA (December 11, 2018) Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) awarded \$454,833 today to the nine Lead Asset organizations, further extending the long-term impact of gaming revenue in Erie County. Since 2011, ECGRA has made eight major cash investments in each of the nine organizations totaling \$5,113,105.

“By design, our continued investment in Erie County’s Lead Assets is an investment in the future of our community and its attractiveness to young people, business owners, and visitors,” said **Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA**. “Erie’s vitality depends on the sustainability of these core organizations, each of them anchoring and elevating our quality of place. These Lead Assets help enhance economic development efforts, and they need to be sustained for our community to thrive.”

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.**

“ECGRA is making a lasting impact by investing in an endowment that will benefit our community in perpetuity,” said **The Erie Community Foundation President Mike Batchelor**. “Grants to anchor community institutions from this endowment fuel our economy and help strengthen the capacity of the fund, which will benefit Erie County for generations to come.”

In 2012, ECGRA committed to sustain Lead Assets in perpetuity and created the Erie County Lead Assets Endowment, now valued at \$13.2 million, held in trust at The Erie Community Foundation.

In grant and endowment funding, ECGRA has invested a total of \$16,313,896 in the Erie County Lead Assets representing more than 29% of the more than \$50 million ECGRA has distributed since 2009.

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

LEAD ASSET	AWARD
Erie Art Museum	\$47,037.54
Erie Arts & Culture	\$37,969.39
Erie County Historical Society	\$28,047.09
Erie Philharmonic	\$49,074.38
Erie Playhouse	\$48,163.51
Erie Zoological Society	\$141,600.97
expERIENCE Children's Museum	\$17,366.17
The Flagship Niagara League	\$52,519.43
Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture	\$33,054.53
TOTAL	\$454,833.00

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ECGRA Invests \$1 million in Northwest PA Beehives

Local Colleges, Universities and Entrepreneurs are Buzzing About Erie County Beehives

ERIE, PA (December 13, 2018) Local colleges and universities, and local entrepreneurs are buzzing about Erie's new Beehives. At the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership Business After Hours, hosted by Gannon University's Beehive on Thursday, the **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA)** announced its \$1 million investment in the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network.

The funding will support the Northwest PA Beehive Network, a new collaborative initiative between Edinboro University, Penn State Behrend College, Gannon University, Mercyhurst University, and the Idea Lab at Blasco Library to provide free assistance to regional entrepreneurs and organizations in areas such as public relations, advertising, graphic design, web design, market intelligence, business planning, prototyping, and social media management.

"If ever there was an optimal time to start a new business in Erie County, it is right now," said Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA. "These beehives are the most exciting community engagement initiative involving our colleges and universities, and Erie County entrepreneurs, ever. Fresh, inclusive, accessible, and the breadth and scope of the services that are going to be providing to help new and existing business in Erie County is something that everyone should be talking about."

Beehives are physical, innovation spaces on a university campus or publicly accessible facility. They provide equipment, talent, and opportunities for collaboration between institutions and entrepreneurs. The substance of a Beehive is the student-driven interactions that take place between the entrepreneur and university or other institution. Students must be properly matched with the entrepreneur to solve the problem at hand. Those problems include prototype and product development, branding and communications, business intelligence and modeling, market analysis, cybersecurity, engineering, and information technology.

ABOUT BEEHIVES

The Beehive concept grew out of the Ignite Erie Industry+University initiative, which provides a communications platform built, central to Beehive success. Beehives may exist at separate institutions, but they are required to communicate with the Ignite Erie collaborative. Civic-minded collaboration among institutions, on behalf of the entrepreneur, is central to the model developed by those participating stakeholders.

A distinguishing feature of the Beehive approach is the focus on an area of strength. Each institution has a niche strength that can be aggregated into one network in order to transform the region's economic development system. Beehives have the potential to do that, if they offer a product or service that the entrepreneur wants and needs.

PURPOSE OF FUNDING

ECGRA's strategic plan calls on investment in small business development as a key strategy in community revitalization. Beehive funding is designed to catalyze 501c3, nonprofit organizations such as universities to participate in the economic development system of Erie County. Beehive grants provide vital matching funds to encourage the development of entrepreneurial support services at local institutions that have this purpose in their mission. Beehives leverage their institutional size and scale to provide entrepreneurs with products and services that are needed to grow the Erie County economy.

BEEHIVE DESIGN

- **Accessibility.** The entrepreneur needs to feel welcome in accessing the space. This does not mean that the public should have unfettered access to a Beehive. Each institution will need to develop a process around access that ensures safety and security for both the entrepreneur and the institution as well as a matchmaking process to connect entrepreneurs with institutional resources that make sense. A description of that process should be publicly accessible. An example would be an intake form on a public facing website.
- **Student & community engagement.** Beehives should be considered labs for open innovation. Accessing student talent and community mentoring recognizes that entrepreneurs need resources, students need real world experience, and local mentors are available for guidance. The "open lab" concept recognizes that the research is user/entrepreneur-oriented, not driven by the university/institution. This requires institutions like universities to engage those that are interested in helping entrepreneurs solve problems. It also requires entrepreneurs capable of being assisted by institutional resources.
- **Mission-driven nonprofit.** The institution applying for the Beehive grant should be accessing these funds to help fulfill its mission of regional economic development. Beehives are not intended to compete with the services offered by the private sector. They are led by mission-driven nonprofits that have discovered a gap in the current system of offerings to entrepreneurs.

BEEHIVE GRANT GOALS

- Create and retain jobs by supporting local entrepreneurs/industry through innovation.
- Provide institutions like universities the seed funding to launch and/or expand the services, equipment, and talent necessary to establish a Beehive on their respective campus.

- Continue the industry-university engagement that was started by the Ignite Erie collaborative in 2015.
- Further engage the universities of Erie County and other institutions in providing services necessary to assist entrepreneurs/industry in starting new businesses and expanding existing businesses.

GRANT GUIDELINES

- A funding bucket of \$1,000,000 is available for the 2018 grant cycle
- A maximum of \$250,000 per application
- One application can be submitted per applicant
- Grant contracts will run three (3) years with the option to extend one (1) year

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ECGRA: December 15 – January 15, 2018 Activity Report

Meetings, Phone Calls, Emails, and Other Work

12/19/2018	Meeting with Craig Buerstatte, head of the Office of Innovation at the Economic Development Administration, about ensuring innovation investment in Erie
1/7/2019	Flagged ARC POWER Grant
1/10/2019	Phone call with Perry to discuss four main priority focus areas for ECGRA in 2019 and assign points of contact to those priorities
1/10/2019	Provided information on Healthy Partnerships for Children Program
1/10/2019	Followed-up on potential dates for meeting with Congressman Kelly and local leaders on infrastructure priorities
Throughout December and January	Continued to monitor opportunity zone regulations to ensure they promote innovation and entrepreneurship

Potential Opportunities Discussed and Provided

POWER 2019

The Request for Proposals for POWER 2019 is now available. ARC will begin accepting applications for funding on February 1, 2019, and are due April 10, 2019, 5:00pm (EDT). Approximately \$45 million will be awarded through a competitive granting process.

In Fiscal Year 2019, ARC's POWER Initiative will continue focusing on investments that are regional, strategic, transformational, and maximize economic revitalization in Appalachia's coal-impacted communities.

POWER investment priorities include:

- Building a competitive workforce;
- Enhancing access to and use of broadband services;
- Fostering entrepreneurial activities; and
- Developing industry clusters in communities; and
- Strengthening substance abuse response.

Eligible funding applicants include:

- Local development districts;
- Indian Tribes or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
- States, counties, cities, or other political subdivision of a state, including a special purpose unit of a state or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
- Institutions of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; and
- Public or private nonprofit organizations or associations.

Before submitting a funding proposal, potential applicants must contact the appropriate ARC state program manager for specific guidance pertaining to the eligible use of POWER funds in their state.



Deadline: April 10, 2019, 5:00pm (EDT).

More information: <https://www.arc.gov/funding/power.asp>

The Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program (HTPCP)

The purpose of this program is to support community-based services aimed at improving the health status of children, adolescents, and families in rural and other underserved communities by increasing their access to health services. This program supports the Health Resources and Services' (HRSA's) goals to improve access to quality health care and services, build healthy communities, and improve health equity. Community-based programs and evidence-based models of care that build on existing community resources will be implemented and evaluated to demonstrate program impact. This program supports collaboration between local pediatric providers and community leaders in an effort to provide quality health care and preventive health services to children, adolescents, and families in rural and other underserved communities. HTPCP funding supports projects that provide clinical or public health services, and does not support research projects. HTPCP applications **MUST** represent either a new initiative (i.e., project that was not previously in existence) within the community or an innovative new component that builds upon an existing community-based program or initiative.

MISSION MAIN STREET

2019 – 2021

PROJECT SUMMARIES

ROUND 1 OF 3

Project Sponsor: Borough of North East

Project Name: Clinton Street Business District – North East’s “Original” Main Street

Project Summary: The Borough of North East will address blight on the Clinton Street commercial district which is located between I-90 and downtown North East. The area had been the borough’s original commercial area serving railroad passengers and railroad commerce. The project is comprised of three major elements: 1.) façade and building improvements, 2.) streetscape improvements, and 3.) aesthetic improvements along Route 89 - specifically the two railroad underpasses.

Request: \$250,000 over three years

Match: \$839,500. (Required match: \$250,000)

Match Summary: Matching funds have not been secured. North East estimates that \$406,000 in private investment will match façade and energy efficiency improvement grants, and \$433,500 will come from PennDOT and/or DCED for gateway and streetscape improvements.

Need: Through public meetings, the borough has determined that there is interest in the program. There is also supporting information about the condition of the buildings and the underpass which demonstrates a need for improvements.

Comments: Prior to this application, the borough did not apply for Mission Main Street funding. Downtown North East had been the driver of efforts to initiate façade improvements, marketing, and promotions for the traditional downtown center and achieved success doing so.

The borough has already programmed all its initial Renaissance Block Program funds and the borough manager has displayed an ability to deliver a successful program. He has the support of the council, chamber of commerce, and Downtown North East for the current proposal.

The façade and energy efficiency improvements will be a centerpiece of the program lasting three years. Matching funds should not be a problem as property owners will contribute those.

Recommendation: Provide funding for the façade program and release additional funding as matching funds are received. \$140,000 for 2019, \$100,000 for 2020, and \$10,000 for 2021.

Project Sponsor: Borough of Union City

Project Name: Preservation Plan for the Borough of Union City

Project Summary: The Borough of Union City will undertake a preservation strategy to preserve the architectural heritage of its downtown historic district including architectural drawings and cost estimates for 19 storefront renovations which will serve as the basis for its next Mission Main Street façade program.

Request: \$10,000 for 2019

Match: \$40,000

Match Summary: \$25,000 in matching funds have been secured by a state grant from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) and the borough.

Need: Through public meetings, the borough has determined that there is interest in continuing the program. The Borough's demand for façade restorations exceeded available funding in the last round of Mission Main Street. The property owners needed assistance from design professionals before contracting renovation work. The project will provide that resource.

Comments: The project is ready to go, and Union City has the match in hand. Completion of the project will enable Union City property owners to take on storefront and other building restoration projects with confidence and some certainty about costs. Cindy Wells, the borough manager, has been able to bring the community together to complete numerous projects and has managed all ECGRA-funded projects in a timely manner.

Recommendation: Fully fund the project.

Project Sponsor: City of Erie

Project Name: Erie Downtown Streetscape Masterplan

Project Summary: The city of Erie will undertake a major investment in its State Street corridor between West 12th Street and West 3rd Street including streetlights, benches, sidewalk improvements, street trees, and functional improvements to the roadway.

Request: \$250,000 for 2019

Match: \$1,250,000

Match Summary: Matching funds have been secured through PennDOT (\$250,000) and the state's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) in the amount of \$1,000,000. Total project cost is \$1,500,000.

Need: There have been several vetted public plans that call for the investment of funds in streetscape projects along the city of Erie's State Street: Erie Refocused, the Erie Downtown Master Plan, and the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) recent analysis of the city. The city did perform a downtown streetscape masterplan in 2010 highlighting specific actions.

Comments: The streetscape project compliments the recent façade improvements made with Mission Main Street funds in downtown Erie over the past four years. Matching funds are in hand and the project is ready to begin in the summer of 2019. ECGRA staff did ask for a more detailed scope of work and cost estimates which the city is in the process of preparing.

Recommendation: Fund the project at the requested amount.

Project Sponsor: Erie Downtown Partnership (EDP)

Project Name: Designing a Better Downtown Experience through Placemaking and Elevation of Built Environment

Project Summary: Erie Downtown has proposed a multi-faceted, 3-year main street program designed to improve the downtown's streetscapes, storefronts, public spaces, and security. In addition, it will create design guidelines for downtown property owners, add security cameras, engage in promotions and placemaking, and install gateways between districts.

Request: \$250,000 for 2019-2020

Match: \$250,000

Match Summary: Matching funds have been secured through grants, tax credit funds, property owner contributions, and the organization's cash.

Need: The Downtown Partnership has participated in the Mission Main Street program for several years and has documented interest in continuing its storefront improvement projects. Working in conjunction with the new city of Erie administration, the Partnership will focus on State Street and support new development around Erie Insurance.

Comments: The proposed program address current needs and various public plans. The partnership was asked to alter its budget to have ECGRA fund more façade projects and have non-ECGRA funds be committed to gateway and art projects. EDP has successfully programmed and competed its previous Mission Main Street projects and has the staff capability to complete a larger project.

Recommendation: Fund fully in three one-year increments as described in applicant's budget: \$70,000 year 1, \$145,000 year 2, and \$35,000 year 3.



COUNTY OF ERIE, PA

**Fiore Leone, District 3
Erie County Council**

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

December 14, 2018


Mr. Dominick DiPaolo
1563 West 38th Street
Erie, PA 16508

Dear Dom:

I am pleased to inform you that your reappointment to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was approved on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, by unanimous vote. Your term will expire on December 31, 2023.

I would like to thank you for your continued willingness to serve on this Board. Your input and experience is extremely valuable to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Sincerely,


Fiore Leone,
Erie County Council, District 3

cc: ✓ Perry Wood, Executive Director
File



January 4, 2019

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Rd, Ste 201
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Friends:

Your donation to House of Mercy, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, is most graciously appreciated. Your gift of \$12,500.00, received 12/20/2018, ensures House of Mercy's presence to the people in a developing, ethnically and economically diverse neighborhood.

Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, left us with the following as noted in the Cork Manuscript:

Our charity is to be cordial. Now cordial signifies something that renews, invigorates and warms. Such should be the effect of our love for each other.

Should you have any questions, or would like our sisters to remember your special intentions, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Development, Linda Sroka. She may be reached at (716) 821-0838.

Again, thank you for your support! May God's blessings and peace be with you.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Nancy Hoff, RSM".

Sister Nancy Hoff, RSM
Coordinator
Sisters of Mercy – New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community

A handwritten note in blue ink that reads: "We so appreciate your support of this much needed ministry." The note is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the signature.

NH: wsh

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community certifies that you received no material goods or services from us in connection with your donation.

Your contribution should be fully tax deductible as allowed by law.

Please retain this letter as it serves as your receipt for tax purposes.

Please remember us in your Estate and Will planning.

ECGRA sweetens pot, adds \$1 million to beehives' budgets

By Matthew Rink
matt.rink@timesnews.com

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is adding a little more honey to the hives.

ECGRA officials on Thursday announced that they will infuse \$1 million into the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network, an initiative between Edinboro, Penn State Behrend, Gannon and Mercyhurst universities and the Erie County District Library to spur small business development and entrepreneurship.

The announcement comes a little more than a year after the universities unveiled the partnership in which the four schools and library specialize in a different aspect of business development at so-called "beehive" labs. Each of the five labs will receive \$200,000.

"It's been a busy year for the network," said Steven Mauro, vice president of academic administration for Gannon.

Over the last year, the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network has seen more than 100 clients; employed 50 students; helped with the formation of two businesses; developed 15 business plans, seven intelligence studies and 21 marketing concepts; and designed three prototypes, Mauro said. It has also leveraged more than \$4 million of financial support.

Ferry Wood, executive director of ECGRA, said the

universities have always been involved in economic development, but often those efforts have been undertaken in isolation. Not now.

"That began to change about three years ago," Wood said, "when they came together in this consortium called Ignite Erie. In 2015, the universities began to discuss how they could sustain an ongoing process to collaborate on behalf of business and industry in Erie County."

Wood said the initial results show that the concept is working and that it can be sustained long-term.

Each university plans to use the funding differently.

For example, Gannon will use its share to develop its beehive space at its Center for Business Ingenuity, 900 State St., where Thursday's announcement was made as part of an Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership "business after hours" event. It will also use the funding to align its curriculum with the beehive model.

Behrend will use the funding to build a "matchbox" space to complement its Innovation Commons, a site where ideas are transformed into rapid 3D-printed prototypes. The "matchbox" space will be a space where businesses can interact and even temporarily locate during beehive projects, said Amy Bridger, senior director of corporate strategy and external engagement at Behrend.

Mercyhurst President

Michael Victor said his school's \$200,000 will be used to develop aspects of its liberal arts curriculum around its risk management, cybersecurity and intelligence studies initiatives.

Each university has brought their own expertise and funding to the table. Last year, Behrend received a \$200,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission and another \$200,000 of matching funds provided by Ignite Erie Industry+University Business Acceleration Collaborative for the initiative.

Gannon received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

ECGRA's \$1 million is in addition to the \$750,000 it seeded for the beehive concept in 2015. That money was distributed over three years and led to the Ignite Erie Industry+University Business Acceleration Collaborative, a partnership of ECGRA, Behrend and Mercyhurst, Gannon and Edinboro were brought aboard later in an advisory capacity.

Those efforts resulted in the official formation of the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network last year.

"We're very excited about what's to come," Gannon President Keith Taylor said.

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

City budgets \$20,000 for summer jobs program

Program has never received city-provided funding

By Kevin Flowers
kevin.flowers@timesnews.com

The city of Erie for the first time could be poised to financially support a county jobs program for low- and middle-income young people.

Mayor Joe Schember's proposed \$81.9 million budget for 2019 earmarks \$20,000 for Erie County government's Summer Jobs and More program, which provides young people with critical workplace experience that includes hands-on training and soft-skills development.

Nearly 600 young people have participated in the program and worked for dozens of local employers since the program was launched in 2014.

Former Mayor Joe Sinnott's administration had declined to contribute financially to the program.

See PROGRAM, A3

PROGRAM

From Page A1

Sinnott told the Erie Times-News that the city's limited resources were focused on fighting crime, summer recreation programs and other priorities.

He also noted that the city provides summer jobs to young people independent of the county program, such as in its parks operations.

It's unclear whether Schember's proposal will remain in the city's budget.

Erie City Council, which is wrestling with an \$11 million deficit, has the power to change the budget proposal.

City Councilwoman Kathy Schaaf said that although \$20,000 is a small part of the budget, and she likes the county program, "I wish another organization would pick that up. We're really struggling right now."

Councilman Jim Winarski said he's neutral on the issue. Winarski said he expects council members to talk about the summer jobs program at a planned budget session Saturday morning at City Hall.

"It's not a lot of money, and it's a good program," Winarski said, "but it's something we need to talk about."

Councilman Mel

Witherspoon said he supports the allocation "only if it's not hurting some other area" of the budget.

"We haven't talked about it much," Witherspoon said. "If it's affecting something else, maybe we have to get rid of it and try to do it (in 2020)"

Schember said he hopes the \$20,000 contribution is the start of annual city support for the program, "and as our financial situation improves, I hope to see our contribution increase."

Schember also said he expects the city to serve as one of the program's 50-plus employers in 2019.

"I think it's a very good program that's helping our youth create better lives for themselves, particularly our low- and moderate-income youth," Schember said. "And a lot of the young adults helped in this program are city residents. It's appropriate."

Gary Lee, the county's director of administration, said he was thrilled by the city's decision. Lee said he met with Schember about the program earlier this year.

Lee said that "68 percent to 70 percent" of the job program's participants live in the city.

"Mayor Schember sees the value of the program," Lee said.

Summer JAM started as a

collaboration between Erie County government, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the Erie Community Foundation. The Greater Erie Community Action Committee administers the program.

In 2018, the county and Gaming Revenue Authority each invested \$150,000 into the program, and the Community Foundation provided \$60,000. Other financial contributors have included Erie Insurance, Gannon University, National Fuel and Highmark.

Lee said the program expects similar contributions from the county, gaming revenue authority and Erie Community Foundation in 2019.

The money pays for administrative costs, training and the wages of the employees, who receive \$7.25 per hour for up to 180 hours of work. There is no cost to participating businesses.

The program is open to county residents between the ages of 16 and 21 who come from families with income equal to or below 250 percent of the federal poverty line, which for a family of four is \$62,750.

Kevin Flowers can be reached at 870-1693 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/ETNflowers.

VIEWPOINT

OUR VIEW

Schools join to boost innovation

The Issue: 'Beehives' get \$1 million grant
Our view: Collaboration yielding results

If any one thing fuels Erie's burgeoning resurgence, it is this: Those with a stake in the region's survival have stepped out of their silos, identified common challenges and goals, and seized ownership of their respective pieces of the struggle to act with intention to reverse Erie's fortunes.

Given the competitive challenges facing institutions of higher learning in this era of declining enrollment, the region's schools could have retreated to respective bunkers to jealously guard turf. Instead, they were among the first to recognize what they could contribute to re-creating the region's economy by coordinating and applying their respective strengths collaboratively.

It began in 2015 with the Ignite Erie Industry + University Collaborative, initially involving Penn State Behrend and Mercyhurst University and funded by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, and gained added strength in 2017 with the creation of the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network, which added Gannon University, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and the Erie County Public Library to the effort.

Through the beehive network, each institution offers its expertise and assets to different facets of business development. It is a model, pairing entrepreneurs with local academic expertise, proven to succeed in other Rust Belt communities.

And now we know, as reporter Matthew Rink detailed, the collaboration is yielding results. In the year since the beehive partnership was announced, it has served more than 100 clients, drafted 15 businesses plans, seven intelligence studies and 21 marketing concepts. Three prototypes have been designed and two businesses formed. Perry Wood, ECGRA executive director, said the network has also leveraged \$4 million of financial support.

ECGRA seeded the effort with another \$1 million on Thursday to fund the development of labs and curriculum at the respective schools.

This work aligns with the Erie Innovation District's mission to create a community of companies focused on cybersecurity and smart city technology.

It gains added significance in light of the prospect of development of Erie's newly designated Opportunity Zones. Enabled by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed by President Donald Trump a year ago, the program offers lucrative capital gains tax breaks to those who invest in low-income census tracts that have been designated as Opportunity Zones. Gov. Tom Wolf approved eight in Erie at two industrial sites and key swaths of downtown. Observers say Erie is among the top contenders in the nation to attract investment because of the level of coordination and local investment taking place already.

The beehives are another resource to tout to those interested in investing in Erie startups.

For too long, Erie leaders and stakeholders failed to act in concert and speak with one voice. Early wins by the beehives are more evidence of how much that has changed.

The Corry Journal, Wednesday, December 26, 2018

City Manager expects 'complete picture' in 2019 for North Hills

BY WILLIAM STEVENS
williamstevens
@thecorryjournal.com

Now that Corry City Council has completed the budget for 2019, the financial picture for North Hills Municipal Golf Course has yet to be reconciled for this year.

The word from City Manager Jason Biondi is that the financial picture has not been completed and that Council will be ready to present total income and expenses for 2018 at its first meeting in January.

"Overall 2018 was a better year than 2017 financially for the golf course," Biondi said.

According to the 2019 appropriation ordinance, income is set at \$470,320 and expenditures are equal to that amount.

Income is expected to be used for golf operation and maintenance, payroll, benefit and insurance and capital and reserve.

This amounts to a \$40,000 increase in the

budget for the golf course. The 2018 appropriation ordinance set anticipated income for the course at \$431,700 and expenses were at the same amount.

The exact income and expenditures for 2018 will be presented at the first meeting in January and those numbers will be fully reconciled by February, Biondi said.

Back in July, Steve Bailey, the golf course superintendent, provided Council with a list of upgrades that he wanted to see at the golf course.

One of the items included on the list was a new irrigation system at the golf course. Corry City Council applied for a community asset grant in the amount of \$21,405 through Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority to cover the cost of the irrigation system.

However, the largest item on Bailey's list of upgrades was golf cart paths.

◀ See North Hills, P.2

North Hills

(Continued from front page)

In a previous article in The Corry Journal, Bailey spoke to the necessity of updating the cart path by highlighting that it would help North Hills remain competitive in the region.

The cost of a new golf cart path was not included in the 2019 budget.

"We still have to go through the financials, but we'll have a more complete picture in early January," Biondi said.