



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
NOVEMBER
2025**



ECGRA Communications Services Report

OCTOBER 2025

Meeting with Executive Director

Ongoing Social Media Management

Ongoing Consulting

IMPLEMENTED

MEDIA

- Impact Corry x ENN – Walking tour of Corry w/ Lisa Adams regarding Renaissance Block Grant
- Anchor Building Press Conference @ Sarah Reed and Tour

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Sarah Reed Anchor Building
- Corry RB Program Walking Tour

GRAPHICS

- Community Center Opening
- Quote Graphic

RELEASE

- Renaissance Block Grant
- Community Centers Grant Opening
- Anchor Building Grant

IN PROGRESS

- [AWAITING APPROVAL TO MOVE] WEBSITE
 - CONTRACT
 - SCOPE
 - AUDIT
 - SURVEY
- Child Care Round 2 Grant Funding
- Kyocera Tour
- Competitive Manufacturing Investment Announcement





ECGRA Communications Services Report

- EMS Mini Report
 - COPY
 - DESIGN



Tammi Michali

From: RV, BFM Gaming <RA-BFM-Gaming@pa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 7:33 AM
To: plichtenwalter@eriecountypa.gov; Ryan, Patrick
Cc: Perry Wood; Tammi Michali
Subject: Local Share Assessment Payment Notification - Erie County

External Sender - From: ("RV, BFM Gaming" <RA-BFM-Gaming@pa.gov>)

[Learn More](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act 42 of 2017, the Department is required to distribute quarterly the Local Share Assessment collected for interactive gaming and slots to the municipalities in which a licensed gaming entity is located. This distribution is based on the interactive gaming and slots local share assessment amount collected plus the slot machine license operation fee amount collected over Summit Township's budget limitation.

An ACH for the **third quarter of 2025** payment in the amount of \$3,050,553.27 should be deposited in your bank account within 7 - 10 business days. This payment includes the slots local share assessment of \$454,675.22 and the slot machine license operation fee of \$2,500,000.00. and the interactive gaming portion of \$95,878.05. Any reductions to the Gross Interactive Gaming Revenue (GIGR) and Gross Terminal Revenue (GTR) for promotional items is the result of the Gaming Bulletin 2015-01 and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's April 28, 2014 decision in Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment Incorporated v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue (90 A.3d 699 (Pa. 2014)).

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

Jennifer Heckert | Division Chief
PA Department of Revenue
Bureau of Fiscal Management | Gaming Division
1147 Strawberry Square | Harrisburg PA 17128
Phone: 717.346.4004 | Fax: 717.787.6738
E-mail: jeheckert@pa.gov
www.revenue.pa.gov

Our mission is to fairly, efficiently and accurately administer Pennsylvania tax and Lottery programs.

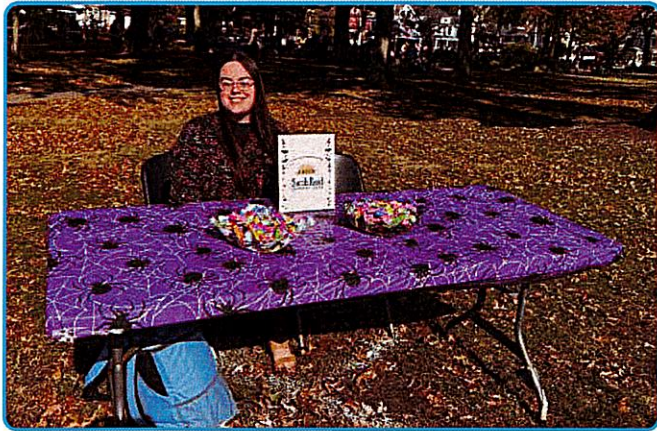
Pumpkins!

A huge thank you to **Jim Michael** who donated 13 large pumpkins to Herr Hall for painting this month. Thank you to **Amanda Kress**, member of the Sarah Reed Auxiliary for coordinating the donation.



Sarah Reed in the Community

Kali Burkhardt of the Care Access Team attended several community events this month including a trick-or-treat event hosted by the Our West Bayfront group, the Harborcreek School District Trail of Treats and the Safe Journeys Resource Fair in Union City. Thanks for representing the agency and helping Sarah Reed be a part of so many community events!



**LET'S
CELEBRATE!**

Are you or one of your coworkers celebrating a personal milestone or success and want to share with the agency? Email [Mandy Longstreth](mailto:Mandy.Longstreth@ecgra.org) to be included in that month's newsletter.

Thank You, ECGRA!

Submitted by Stephenie Bojc

We were thrilled to welcome the **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA)** to our St. Ann's Campus on October 1st for their press conference announcing \$570,000 in community investments through their *Anchor Building Grant Program*!

Sarah Reed is deeply grateful to receive \$55,000 of these grant funds to continue exterior masonry restoration on our historic campus during its special Centennial year. Thanks to incredible partners like ECGRA and our generous community of donors, we've now raised over 85% of our \$1.4 million goal to preserve and enhance this campus for our Erie students and families.

Thank you to ECGRA for investing in the future of our children and community! To learn more about our *St. Ann's Campus Enhancement* project, please visit [Preserving The Legacy](https://www.youerie.com/preserving-the-legacy).

Bonus: You can watch the news segment on YourErie.com [here](https://www.youerie.com) and spot several familiar faces!



Lights installed on refurbished tower in Presque Isle State Park's Waterworks area

Story by Dana Massing, Erie Times-News

 Erie Times-News

See the Waterworks Emergency Intake Gear Tower's new lights at Presque Isle State Park

A piece of Erie and [Presque Isle State Park](#) history now shines through the night.

The [Waterworks Emergency Intake Gear Tower](#) is the latest peninsula landmark to be illuminated each evening. It joins the Presque Isle Lighthouse, [North Pier Light](#) and Perry Monument that all have lights in the dark. The gear tower glows as part of a project that began in 2017 with the removal of the structure for refurbishing.

The lights were installed in mid-October to add even more to the tower, said Joe Kloecker, a member of the [Presque Isle Partnership](#). The organization and numerous others, including the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, have worked on the gear tower project in recent years.

"We just wanted to make it something people in the city and the park could enjoy," Kloecker said.

Matt Greene, Presque Isle State Park operations manager, said, "We are extremely pleased with this project."

What is the gear tower?

Built in 1906, the 33-foot-tall tower housed emergency water intake valve gear and was located in the water at the ferry dock near the park's Waterworks area. Kloecker said the emergency valve was part of the Erie Water Works system

supplying the city with water and when the valve was not needed the tower was no longer maintained. He said it is owned by DCNR.

The structure includes a 22-foot-tall steel tower topped by a cupola with glass windows and a weather vane. Although it had neither a navigation light nor a house, it was often mistakenly referred to as a lighthouse.

What has been done to it?



A Lake Shore Towing crew works in 2017 to remove the gear tower from a ferry slip near the Waterworks area at Presque Isle State Park. After refurbishment, the tower was returned to the peninsula in 2018 but placed on land. © ERIE TIMES-NEWS FILE

The tower was removed from the water in November 2017 and taken across Presque Isle Bay to Erie's Donjon Shipbuilding & Repair for renovation. More than half the \$80,000 cost was provided by the Dan and Sallie Shipley Charitable Fund. The Shipleys sparked the restoration plan after noticing the tower's rusted appearance.

The [refurbished tower was returned to Presque Isle](#) in September 2018 but was relocated from the water onto a new concrete pad near the Waterworks area. This year, lighting was installed that is powered by a solar array located about 120 feet east of the tower.

Kloecker said DCNR is designing an interpretative panel that will tell the story of the gear tower's history and restoration. He didn't know when the panel would be installed at the site.

Funding for the entire project has reached a little over \$100,000, Kloecker said. Money for the lighting phase came from the Presque Isle Partnership and a grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, he said.

"Taking a piece of the park's and city's history and turning it into a shining example of our history and sustainability is a win-win for everyone," Greene said. "This shows the power of working with our partners here at Presque Isle State Park and having a mechanism for direct public involvement and support. The Partnership is a conduit for that energy and enthusiasm that allows us to take things to the next level here on the peninsula."

3 local organizations join to form small business cooperative funded by ECGRA



From left are Melinda Meyer of Impact Corry, Matthew Platz of the Corry Higher Education Council and Cherie Dickey of the Corry Area Chamber of Commerce during a joint press conference held Monday morning in which the trio announced the Corry Comprehensive Small Business Cooperative (CCSBC), funded by a \$35,000 ECGRA grant.

BY REBEKAH WALLACE
rebekeh@thecorryjournal.com

The Higher Education Council, Corry Area Chamber of Commerce and Impact Corry announced on Monday the launching of,

a joint initiative called the Corry Comprehensive Small Business Cooperative (CCSBC).

The program represents a partnership between the three organizations, which has been awarded a

\$35,000 grant through the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's (ECGRA) "Building a Better Future" program. A recent statement issued by the Hi-Ed described it this way: "The CCSBC is a

Rebekah Wallace/The Corry Journal

marks at Monday's press conference was Hi-Ed Executive Director Matthew Platz.

"Today marks a significant step forward for our community," he said, noting efforts to build a "stronger, more resilient local economy."

He added that this partnership brings together "three organizations long committed to the region's growth."

Also present at the press conference was Melinda Meyer, director of programs for Impact Corry. She explained the CCSBC's two-phase approach to growth.

The first phase is focused on data collection through free access to Placer.ai, a location intelligence platform that provides market and customer insights to help guide business decisions. Meyer explained that this geo-spatial data can help document the local response to tourist events such as CorryFest or First Fridays as well as the flow in and out of the city as citizens come and go for work.

"The access to this data is really going to help inform decisions, so this is exciting," Meyer stated.

◀ See Business, P2

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

The Corry Journal • www.thecorryjournal.com

Business

(Continued from front page)

Phase two is centered around a SparkFund micro grant program where businesses not only in Corry but also Elgin, Union City and surrounding townships (Concord, Wayne, etc.) can apply for a maximum of \$2,500 for purchasing specialized equipment, increasing online presence or structural improvements to their buildings or storefronts.

Through these initiatives, CCSBC aims to provide local small businesses with access to cutting-edge data tools and award up to \$20,000 in micro grants to qualifying businesses in order to support their longterm growth and sustainability.

Information about the micro grant program can be found at www.impactcorry.org.

Cherie Dickey, manager of the Corry Area Chamber of Commerce, also spoke at the announcement event, stating that this partnership "reflects the best of who we are as a community."

"By bringing together the strengths of education, economic development and business leadership, this initiative creates a shared foundation where entrepreneurs and small business owners can learn, collaborate and access support in new and meaningful ways," Dickey said, calling it a "comprehensive approach that aligns local expertise, funding opportunities and training resources under one cooperative umbrella."

She ended her remarks with a call to action for local business owners and future entrepreneurs: "Take part in work-laborative effort," she said. "The strength of this cooperative depends on the active participation of those it serves."

More ECGRA money

Also receiving an ECGRA grant recently was the Corry Community Center, which was awarded \$15,000 for its SoundOut! project aimed at more thoroughly soundproofing certain areas of the facility, including the gymnasium. Some sound absorption baffles and new audio equipment has already been installed, said Keni Fink, the community center's operational manager.

Jennie Geisler

Erie Times-News USA TODAY NETWORK



Amanda Kubiak and her husband remodeled a store that once served as a recruitment office during the Civil War. The coffee shop offers plenty of merch, as well as great coffee options. PHOTOS BY JENNIE GEISLER/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

WATERFORD – The building where new Enlisted Coffee Co. now sits, at 207 High St., has seen more history than your average coffee shop. A place where prospective Union soldiers went to enlist to fight in the Civil War is now (presumably) a much more hospitable space.

An extensive coffee menu and a case full of fresh baked goods come with free smiles from co-owner Amanda Kubiak, 45, who, with her husband, Robert Kubiak, 47, have been fixing the place up since 2019. It opened Sept. 16.

“We just love Waterford,” Amanda Kubiak said. “We looked around and saw all these empty buildings, and we just wanted to do something to improve the town, and do something crazy for our family.

“It was exciting when we saw it was up for sale, and thought it would make a really cute coffee shop,” Amanda Kubiak said.

She said they bought the building in 2019, and put their hearts and souls into it, working as they could, when they had the money. Along the way, they received three grants from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority totalling \$25,000.

Enlisted Coffee Co. doesn’t just serve up coffee and scones. You can learn gobs about the history of Waterford and the building from artifacts and photos that decorate the small shop, which is often full of thirsty folks.



Enlisted Coffee Co. recently opened at 207 High St. in downtown Waterford in a building that was once a place for prospective soldiers to enlist to fight in the Civil War.

The 40-foot-by-18-foot space has a few tables, and often a line of people from the counter back to the front door.

The honor it deserved

"We bought it and really wanted to do the building justice, give it the honor that it deserved," Amanda Kubiak said. "For years, no one restored it. They used it, but never restored it," adding that it last served as the office for a trucking company.

Advertisement

"I think what's special about it is that people come in and tell me they remember coming here when it was a doctor office and dentist office," she said. "It's neat to hear stories when people walk in and tell us the childhood memories of that building."

The coffee comes from Black & Brass in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, and the baked goods come from commercial baker Renea's Candy Creations in Erie.

Hidden gems

If you need another push to check it out, go for the free side order of history.

"(Waterford) is embedded with hidden gems of historical information, with its ties to (Brig. Gen.) Strong Vincent and (Col.) John McLane," Amanda Kubiak said. "Both would have used this building to enlist soldiers who served under them. I think that's pretty special."

Amanda Kubiak was a stay-at-home mother of three before opening the shop, sometimes substituting for Spanish teachers in the region. Her husband works at Rabe Environmental Systems in Erie. The kids are now 17, 15 and 10.

She said she and her husband did much of the restoration work themselves, except for tasks that required professionals, such as wiring, windows and climate control.

"We tried to preserve as much as we could," Amanda Kubiak said. The shop features a window that allows guests to see the original plaster wall behind the new paneling. They also saved white pine siding that the previous doctor harvested from a Waterford lumberyard. It's featured in the counter and other places.

Advertisement

“We took a lot of time and care and thought into the final product,” she said.

When she’s not rushing around making coffee drinks, she herself might sit down with a vanilla latte and put a vinyl record on the antique 33 RPM player, but she won’t spend much time on the internet. The shop does not offer Wi-Fi, in the interest of encouraging people to converse and share their love for and memories of the town.

“I just love watching people meet each other and talk about the history of the place and anything else. We get young, old, all kinds of people in here,” Amanda Kubiak said. “I just love listening.”

Contact Jennie Geisler at jgeisler@timesnews.com. Find her weekly newsletter at <https://profile.goerie.com/newsletters/erielicious/>.

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