



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
NOVEMBER
2020**

Attn: Tammi Micheli

Fugagli, Tracey

From: Robie, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2020 8:15 AM
To: Fugagli, Tracey; Ertl, Jennifer; Knight, Ericka; Lucas, Helen
Subject: FW: Payment Remittance: 159008 3Q20LSA159008 10/22/202

Lisa M. Robie
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Erie County 067-021010-042100
 $\$2,933,130.24 \times .55 = \$1,613,221.63$

ECGRA 067-021050-042100
 $\$2,933,130.24 \times .45 = \$1,319,908.61$

From: RA-OBE-REMITTANCE@pa.gov [mailto:RA-OBE-REMITTANCE@pa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 2:49 AM
To: RA-OBE-REMITTANCE@pa.gov; Ryan, Patrick <PRyan@eriecountypa.gov>; Robie, Lisa <LRobie@eriecountypa.gov>
Subject: Payment Remittance: 159008 3Q20LSA159008 10/22/202



Invoice 3Q20LSA159008 received on 10/22/2020 in the amount of \$2933130.24 is scheduled to be paid via ACH on 11/05/2020. Detailed remittance information is below.

Account	Invoice Description	Invoice Date	Invoice Amount	Invoice Total
Revenue	3Q20LSA159008	10/22/2020	1904872625	\$2933130.24

Please visit the Office of the Budget's Services for Vendors web site at <https://www.budget.pa.gov/SERVICES/FORVENDORS> for additional information.

- ❖ To change where remittance emails are sent, please complete the Payment Remittance Email Notification Sign up Form and submit using button located on the form:
<https://www.budget.pa.gov/Services/ForVendors/Documents/email-remittance-signup-form.pdf>
➤ To stop receiving these emails go to: ra-pscsrportal@pa.gov
- ❖ Online 24/7 access to payment information is also available via the Self-Service Payment Lookup tool at: <https://www.budget.pa.gov/Services/ForVendors/Pages/Self-Service-Payment-Lookup.aspx>



ECGRA Awards \$396,250 in 2020 Renaissance Block Grants

Program Invests in Neighborhoods in Partnership with Homeowners to Combat Blight

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ERIE, PA (October 28, 2020) Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) awarded nearly \$400,000 in the 2020 round of funding for the Erie County Renaissance Block Program, an anti-blight, neighborhood cooperation initiative designed to help improve Erie County neighborhoods through a block-by-block strategy that targets aging or neglected areas where neighbors are organized and willing to work together to combat blight.

“Once blight settles in, a neighborhood is at high risk of reduced property values, vacancies, and increased crime - in the City of Erie alone, there are 9,500 homes identified by Erie Refocused as moderately or severely distressed,” said ECGRA Executive Director, Perry Wood. “ECGRA’s Renaissance Block Program awards grants to help revitalize our neighborhoods.”

“The execution of a blight removal strategy to reestablish a neighborhood is the first step, and when families are ready to invest in their community, these grants help to carry out their goals. Impact Corry is just one of the inspiring success stories happening in Erie County.”

Impact Corry was awarded \$100,000 through the local Renaissance Block project specifically focused on the neighborhood of School House Block. Rick and Linda Brown are residents in the neighborhood that received a portion of the grant to help improve their home. The couple recently installed 21 energy-efficient windows that totaled \$16,000, but with the \$5,000 matching grant, they ended up spending \$11,000 out of pocket.

“This is a real thing,” said Linda Brown, School House Block homeowner. “I just hope anyone who wants to take advantage of these grants makes the decision to do so. I’d like to see as many people as possible benefit from this.”

The Brown’s home is one of 19 School House Block homes that are in the process of or have finished making their exterior improvements with the recently awarded funds. Projects range from replacing garage doors to upgrading front porches to roof replacement to painting to landscaping.

The grant, which can be used for exterior home improvements, is a one-to-one match up to \$5,000 of a participant’s project.

2020 Renaissance Block Grants were awarded to the following neighborhood groups:

Borough of Girard	\$51,250
Borough of North East	\$60,000
Borough of Union City	\$60,000
Impact Corry	\$100,000
Our West Bayfront	\$25,000
Sisters of Mercy/House of Mercy	\$50,000
YMCA of Greater Erie	\$50,000
Total	\$396,250

The Erie County Renaissance Block Program awards up to \$150,000 per application or up to \$5,000 awarded per property. It is a matching program that helps finance eligible exterior repairs, permanent improvements, and streetscapes. Funds can also be used to improve publicly owned property that is targeted to improve the block’s visual appearance.

####

September 2020

Meeting with Executive Director to Plan COVID-19 report

Ongoing Social Media Management

Ongoing Consulting

October/November Comms

IMPLEMENTED | ZOOM EVENT

- MANAGED participant engagement & quote approvals
- DRAFTED INVITE for TM distribution
- COORDINATED Zoom logistics
- DRAFTED & DISTRIBUTED Media Advisory
- IMPLEMENTED MEDIA Outreach
- DRAFTED & DISTRIBUTED Press Release
- 10 Social Media Graphics (top award recipients)

IN PROGRESS

2020 Renaissance Block Awards | PAPER RELEASE

- Case study for website of Corry success story
- Social Media Graphics

2019/20 Anchor Building | EVENT

- MANAGE on site event planning
- DRAFT & DISTRIBUTE Media Advisory
- MEDIA Outreach
- DRAFT & DISTRIBUTE Press Release
- LOCATION: Mercy Center for Women
- DATE: TBD
- PARTNER: Women's Club of Erie County (largest award to date)
- CONCEPTUALIZE & DESIGN Social Media Graphics

DRAFT OP-ED on the role of SPECIAL EVENTS in local economy and social fabric of Erie County

Erie County COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund Report Planning

Asking for Help

Walking into Melinda's apartment is so refreshing, it is immaculate, stylish, and so inviting. The eight-foot collage of mirrors, family pictures and words of inspiration on the wall just jumped out to you. The wall relates to her life, her hopes and her dreams. Melinda did not have it easy and she did not know how to ask for help. She is a mom with 3 very active and thriving teenagers who she calls her heros.

Nearly ten years ago they lost their home and their temporary housing was not ideal, but the priority was always that the four of them remain together and they have. She describes their journey as tough and exhausting but a learning process that has created an extremely close and loving family.

She came to Erie DAWN a year ago after she ran into an Erie DAWN Case Manager, Sheila Murray, who she knew many years ago at Kids Café. She shared

with Sheila how she was struggling financially but trying so hard and it is so hard to ask for help. Erie Dawn was able to help this working mom, through the rough spots with rent assistance, clothing, COVID Help Kit, school supplies and other household items. Melinda's advice to other struggling women is to "ASK FOR HELP" – IT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

Melinda is glad Fall is here, her favorite season, and looks forward to Thanksgiving most of all. Her hard work has allowed her family to celebrate with food, football, fun and playing games as she pauses to appreciate what she is most thankful for, her life with her children.



Melinda and Jaheim

We Are Grateful

During the unsettling time in the beginning of the community shutdown, everyone was overwhelmed as to what would happen next. Erie DAWN is so grateful to those who stepped up to help the women and children we serve. Without a second thought they helped by giving grant funds to help the women pay their rent, help with utilities, food, and other essential needs.



Thank You

Erie Community Foundation

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority • Auto Racers for Kids
Sisters of Mercy • Sisters of St Joseph of Northwestern PA

And to the many donors who gave extra
to help the women and children we serve.

I Give Catholic

Erie Dawn is excited to be participating in the #iGiveCatholic giving day again this year on #GivingTuesday, December 1, 2020! Your generous support makes a meaningful difference to our important work in the community. Please consider supporting us on the **December 1** giving day, or at any time during the Advanced Giving Period from **November 16 – November 30**. Gifts can be made **online** during this time by searching for Erie Dawn at <https://erie.igivecatholic.org/>, or you can send a **cash or check gift** directly to ErieDAWN at 2816 Elmwood Ave, Erie, PA 16508. With your help, we WILL reach our fundraising goal.

Thank you for 'Giving Catholic!'



#iGIVECATHOLIC

DECEMBER 1, 2020

The Corry *Journal*

Corry R.A.I.L.S. steams ahead with \$10,000 grant awarded from ECGRA

- By Sara Jukes sara@thecorryjournal.com

- Oct 1, 2019



The 1928 Climax locomotive manufactured in Corry is still the main attraction for museum visitors.
The Corry Journal/Stephen Sears

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority announced on Monday 15 organizations in Erie County that were awarded a combined \$149,000 through its 2019 Community Assets Grant Program, and Corry Rail and Industrial Legacy Society was the recipient of \$10,000.

Impact Corry Mission Main Street Feedback



“Mission Main Street is a great opportunity for local business owners to improve their properties and to help **increase retail traffic.**”

- Steven Nichols, General Manager, Cobblestones Inn & Suites

“This grant is going to be great for Corry’s downtown. The **process and application have been well thought out and streamlined** to make it easy for everyone to apply. All applicants having a **rendering done by local people** of the completed project long before anything is changed is just great. Everyone wonders ‘how is this going to look’ whenever they do a project and that will help them to answer that and make any adjustments before they get started. Then having the **potential to tie it all together with the historical designation makes it great for the business owners and the entire city.**”

- Josh Dyne, Dynasty Construction, Inc.

“Grant programs like this are very important to the City. As a City, we are always trying to think of ways to improve things and move the City forward. However, in small municipalities that is often times very hard to do on our tight budgets, decreasing tax bases, and shrinking populations. So grant programs such as Mission Main Street go a long ways towards fighting those odds. **Mission Main Street will have a direct impact on the value of our downtown, which will in turn improve the tax base, which will in turn help us continue to reinvest in the City and our infrastructure.** Like any investment, grant programs such as this have a **compounding effect** that is much greater than the initial project itself.”

- Nick Heil, Business Manager, City of Corry

“**The key to a vibrant downtown shopping area is to make it look like it is thriving.** This grant gives our merchants a chance to improve the look of their stores and - in effect - upgrade the sense of progress for all stores on the block. It is hard to run a small store and make a profit. This grant gives **owners an opportunity to enhance their store and attract more shoppers.**”

- Mayor Dave Mitchell, City of Corry

“The way that I perceive the downtown Main Street program is: it’s given a lot of local property owners a chance to put money into their buildings that they normally would not be able to do. Matchings funds enables us to take some of our money and take some of the grant money and do a much better job. It is a more productive way of doing things for our community. Additionally, for the community, it **gives the feeling and look of a nicer place to live. That’s a very important factor when people travel into our community and want to put down roots or want to bring business here.** It’s just something that is a **great win-win for every one of us.**”

- Buzz Hammond, Partner in Hammond Realty

“**Video is a critical tool for storytelling. Representing the historic and unique sides of Corry will bring many people who want to visit.** Corry has a unique story, a historic story, and a positive story that needs to be told. Short films can be that medium to deliver positive news about Corry to the world.”

- Donnie Rosie, Rosie Marketing





http://www.thecorryjournal.com/news/article_f497e18a-2e65-11ea-88cd-5be944fde409.html

FEATURED

Impact Corry takes every third Thursday to grow businesses

By Sara Jukes sara@thecorryjournal.com
Jan 4, 2020



Impact Corry Community Development Director Chuck Gray will be going to Corry businesses to connect with owners and inform them of every portion of a Mission Main Street Program grant, from Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, to help local businesses thrive. This includes a Third Thursday program, open to all business owners, and will focus on their needs.
Sara Jukes/The Corry Journal



A brand logo has been developed for Corry, and will be available for use by all area businesses.
Contributed graphic

**COMMITTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY.
COMMITTED TO YOU.**

Now located in Corry, Union City, and Spartansburg.



http://www.thecorryjournal.com/news/article_9275875a-eab8-11e9-afe1-e7f14ca9d9a0.html

FEATURED

Impact Corry awarded \$202,400 in Mission Main Street funds

By Erin Passinger erinpass@thecorryjournal.com

Oct 9, 2019



A grant to support revitalization projects was awarded to Impact Corry on Tuesday in the amount of \$202,400.

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) awarded a total of \$772,200 toward four projects throughout the county as part of its 2019 Mission Main Street Grant Program.

Former Summer JAM participant hired as city inspection mechanic



Sara Jukes/The Corry Journal

Dylan Vanderhoof, recently promoted to city of Corry inspection mechanic, stands with a large Snap-on toolbox, which he wanted because his grandfather, Dean Vanderhoof, who inspired his interest in fixing things, always had one.

BY SARA JUKES
sara@thecorryjournal.com

Dylan Vanderhoof, 20, of Corry, has recently been promoted to the position of city of Corry inspection mechanic.

What started as a summer participation in the Summer Jobs and More Program turned into a part-time position and career for the 2018 Corry Area High School graduate.

"I got in here just to make some money doing mechanics work when I was in the Summer JAM program and I ended up loving it," Vanderhoof said. "I liked the generalized work. It's a little bit of everything, not just brake jobs and suspension parts."

Vanderhoof's job offer was approved at a Sept. 21 Corry City Council meeting, with a starting wage of \$14.02 per

hour.

Vanderhoof's position brings the city garage back up to having two full-time mechanics for the first time since January 2018, when Nate Martin resigned, leaving the current city mechanic, Clayton Repasky, as its sole repairman.

His interest in fixing things started young, as he and his grandfather, Dean Vanderhoof, often tried to fix things that broke around their home when he was growing up.

"He was pretty much guessing as he went along," he said with a smile. "He had an understanding of stuff but we would end up way off track, and I wanted to learn how to do stuff the right way so it was a one-day project instead of a four-day project."

Those experiences led Vanderhoof to want to go through the auto program at

CAHS. He started in small engine repair in ninth grade and entered into the auto program for his 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade years.

He said he wanted to gain a general knowledge of how to fix things, but during high school he wasn't sure what he wanted to do as a career.

After graduating, Vanderhoof participated in the Summer JAM program in 2018. His high school experience in addition to those three months working at the city garage through the Summer JAM program led him to the University of Northwestern Ohio, where he earned a diploma in automotive technologies.

"I originally went for the my associates degree but I thought I was going to get hired here so I switched to just a regular diploma," he said.

◀ See Mechanic, P.2

Mechanic

(Continued from front page)

Now that his part-time mechanic position has turned full time, Vanderhoof feels he is embarking on a career that he truly enjoys.

"I just like seeing the way stuff works to be honest, tearing it apart," he said. "I seem to be decent at it so I thought I would just run with it."

A perk of the job he enjoys is his large Snap-on power tool toolbox, which he's always wanted.

"I've always wanted my own toolbox," Vanderhoof said. "My grandpa always had his own and when I started working here I was amazed by all the tools Clayton had and wanted to get some of my own."

He went on to say the city did not provide his tools, he has bought his own to house in the toolbox.

City Manager Jason Biondi said he views Vanderhoof as a valued employee.

"He has worked with us as

he's gone through college and has been a valued member of the team up to this point," Biondi said during the Sept. 21 Corry City Council meeting, when Vanderhoof's job offer was unanimously approved.

Corry Public Works Department Lead Operator Mark Leofsky reflected that

sentiment.

"I think it's pretty remarkable when you get a kid from the Summer JAM program and you hire him to a part-time role — and ultimately a full-time role — it's an accomplishment in itself," Leofsky said. "It says a lot of him and the city about dedication on both

sides."

Leofsky said he really wants to learn ar employ.



Grant, universities to fund Beehive expansion

By Times-News staff

The Appalachian Regional Commission has awarded \$1.5 million to the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network, which provides entrepreneurial support and business guidance at four local universities.

The network partners — Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Gannon University, Mercyhurst University and Penn State Behrend — will match that funding to expand services available through the network, which will soon offer app development, co-working spaces, mobile outreach and case management for entrepreneurs.

The three-year grant also will extend beyond the network's initial five-county reach, providing support to start-up companies and inventors in 17 counties, including portions of New York and Ohio.

"The Innovation Beehive sites have become a lifeline for businesses that encounter roadblocks as they develop new products and approaches," said Amy Bridger, the senior director of corporate strategy and external engagement at Penn State Behrend. "By coordinating our university resources, we can provide expertise at every stage of the product-development process, from prototyping to branding to business intelligence. That investment, we've found, also pays off for the tri-state region. Companies aren't



Penn State Behrend graduate assistant John Nowakowski, of Erie, operates a 3D scanner at Behrend's Innovations Commons Lab in January 2019. [JACK HANRAHAN FILE PHOTO/ERIE TIMES-NEWS]

likely to leave a community where they have built a network of support."

The Beehive Network was founded in 2014 with seed money from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, the Economic Development Administration and Invent Penn State. It built on the success of Penn State Behrend's Innovation Commons, part of the Invent Penn State network.

The Beehive Network links the Innovation Commons to specialized labs at Edinboro, Gannon and Mercyhurst universities and to an affiliate lab at Erie County's Blasco Library to provide comprehensive business support.

The network was designed for collaboration. To receive funding, projects must involve partners at more than one Beehive site.

Edinboro University's Center for Branding and Strategic Communication provides marketing services,

digital design and video production and will significantly expand its Student Start-Up Hub, which provides a co-working space for student entrepreneurs.

Gannon's Center for Business Ingenuity provides business consulting and is linked to the Small Business Development Center and the Erie Technology Incubator. It will offer crowdfunding consultation, pitch-deck generation and best practices for managing startup capital. Mercyhurst's Innovation Entente Lab provides market analysis and competitive business intelligence strategies and will launch a mobile unit to provide support on-location to companies across the expanded service area. The university will add a third team of students to its business intelligence service and will supplement Edinboro's graphic design services.

Behrend's Innovation Commons is an ideas and rapid prototyping space and will introduce services including data analytics, sensor management and virtual and augmented reality. The commons also will expand its support for app development.

The Innovation Beehive Network so far has advanced more than 400 entrepreneurial projects.

More than 100 students contribute to Beehive projects each year, and seven undergraduates have been named as inventors on patents that developed from their work at the Beehive sites.

Holiday lights will illuminate Presque Isle

By Ed Palattella
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The stars will get plenty of help lighting up Presque Isle State Park this holiday season.

LED lights are coming — 25,000 to 30,000 of them. Starting the weekend of Dec. 5-6, seasonal lights will be on display in about a dozen areas of the park, the nonprofit Presque Isle Partnership said at a news conference on Wednesday in announcing its inaugural Presque Isle Lights attraction.

Presque Isle Lights will allow visitors to take self-guided tours of the displays by driving the 13-mile loop of the park on weekends through Jan. 3, said Jon DeMarco, executive director of the Presque Isle Partnership, the attraction's organizer.

He said Presque Isle Lights will feature illuminated versions of deer, frogs, owls and other wildlife native to Presque Isle, though he said the entire 3,200-acre park will not be strung with lights.

Areas that will feature the lights and displays include the Stull Interpretive Center, the ranger station, Perry Monument and Presque Isle Lighthouse. Powering the displays and lights will be electrical utilities and, in remote areas, solar generators.

Penelec is helping the partnership set up the lights for Presque Isle Lights, which DeMarco said the partnership is funding with \$120,000 in donations from more than 20 businesses and nonprofits.

With this year's event, DeMarco said, the partnership hopes to create "an Erie tradition for years to come." He said about half of the \$120,000 will pay for the 25,000 to 30,000 energy-efficient LED bulbs. The rest of the money, he said, will pay for equipment and other items to make the park come alive with the displays and the lights in between the highlighted spots.

"Each area will have a different theme," DeMarco said. He said the partnership is also planning hot chocolate stations and the broadcasting of holiday music.

DeMarco and the others at the news conference said Presque Isle Lights is designed to give visitors a safe way to enjoy the holidays during the COVID-19 outbreak.

"We know what a tough year it has been," said Marybeth Smialek, Penelec's director of external affairs. A Penelec crew — the company calls them the "Tinsel Team" — will help hang the lights in the higher spots, Smialek said. The crew will use bucket trucks and ladders to install lights on Friday at the Rotary Pavilion, Stull Interpretive Center and park ranger station.

State Sen. Dan Laughlin said he will be glad to see the lights go up and the park lit up.

DeMarco said Laughlin, of Millcreek Township, R-49th Dist., helped "us get this snowball rolling." Laughlin said he got the idea for Presque Isle Lights while inspecting erosion at the park over the summer with Matt Greene, the park's operations

manager.

Laughlin said he and Greene discussed a holiday attraction similar to Winter Festival of Lights held in Oglebay Park, outside Wheeling, West Virginia. The Presque Isle Partnership, the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources worked with Laughlin, Penelec and others to develop Presque Isle Lights, DeMarco said.

Laughlin said the project advanced because of the commitment of the Presque Isle Partnership and the desire to create community activities for Erie during the time of social distancing.

"It was the perfect storm, if you will," Laughlin said. DeMarco said Presque Isle Lights will give park visitors a chance to see a different after-hours Presque Isle than the one that is usually dark, except for starlight and moonlight.

"Out here at night it is darker than you can even imagine," DeMarco said.

DeMarco and he hopes Presque Isle Lights boosts

the Presque Isle Partnership, which had to cancel its signature event, Discover Presque Isle, and other fundraisers due to the pandemic.

"It was tough year for the partnership," he said.

The businesses and non-profits that contributed to Presque Isle Lights include Highmark, Allegheny Health Network and Saint Vincent Hospital, for a total of \$25,000, and UPMC Health Plan and UPMC Hamot, for another total of \$25,000, DeMarco said. The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority contributed \$15,000.

Another major sponsor, at \$25,000, DeMarco said, is the Allegheny Beverage Co., a beer distributor whose parent company bought Glenwood Beer in Erie in 2018. Allegheny Beverage sees Presque Isle Lights as a way to spotlight not just Presque Isle State Park, said John Dimario, the company's president.

The event, he said, is also a way to "quite literally shed light on the Erie community."