



MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The Erie Community Foundation; 459 West Sixth Street; Erie, PA 16507
October 12, 2016

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 2016
5. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. PRESENTATIONS
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. Regional Assets Committee
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Update from County Council
 - e. Update from County Executive's Office
9. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS
 - Resolution No. 20, 2016 – Resolution to enter into a funding partnership with the Erie Community Foundation to fund four nonprofit projects that were vetted through the Shaping Tomorrow process
13. ADJOURNMENT
14. COMMUNITY ASSETS GRANTS RECEPTION

Next Regularly Scheduled Board & Finance Meetings of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2016
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510





Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

September 8, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on September 8, 2016 at Urban Erie Community Development Corporation; 2046 East 19th Street; Erie, PA. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Bagnoni, Mr. Barney, Mr. Paris, Mr. Sample, Mr. Yapple, Mr. Breneman, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Wachter are also present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Barney makes a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 2016

Mr. Paris makes a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Yapple seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

We're glad to be here. This is another momentous event for ECGRA. Unfortunately, our Executive Director is under the weather, but we shall persevere.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

PRESENTATIONS

No presentations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report – Mr. Yaple makes a motion to table the report to the next board meeting. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.
- b. Regional Assets Committee – No report.
- c. Strategic Planning Committee – No report.
- d. Update from County Council – No update.
- e. Update from County Executive's Office – No update.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Watcher: You will see Resolution 19 reads on the agenda as, "Resolution to authorize the executive director and solicitor to enter into negotiations and execute on an agreement with Ridge Policy Group." I contacted them yesterday and they provided me with their standard contract. I reviewed it and have no concerns. It has a 30-day out-clause so that you can get out. It is not a strict 12-month agreement. It is at the rate of \$5,000 per month. So we submitted a substitute resolution late last night that resolves to approve an agreement for governmental relations services, and the form is attached hereto, subject to minor modifications by the executive director and solicitor if we catch anything at the last minute – although I don't think we will – and in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per month. So that resolution has been amended to effectuate the adoption of that particular agreement. And that agreement is uploaded on the SharePoint site. If you have any questions, please do let me know.

Paris: And just for those who weren't there when we interviewed two candidates, they were both very qualified. Afterwards we sat down and talked about it and we recommended hiring Ridge Policy Group.

Yaple: We scored them and talked it over. Both were very qualified – one more so in one area, which was evident in the scoring.

Wachter: It's my understanding that the scoring was a sliding five-point scale.

Paris: Correct.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution No. 18, 2016 – Resolution to enter into agreements with twenty-one (21) Erie County Community Assets. Mr. Wachter reads the resolution. Mr. Yaple makes a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Bagnoni seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.
- b. Resolution No. 19, 2016 – Resolution to approve an agreement with Ridge Policy Group. Mr. Sample reads the resolution. Wachter: I will note that one of those changes that is on here is that the agreement does say \$7,000 a month. That is not accurate. It is a \$5,000-a-month agreement. Mr. Paris makes a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Yaple seconds the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paris moves to adjourn.

10-11-12



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Profit & Loss
September 2016

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2016-17 Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
44800 · Gaming Revenue		571,723.46		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	3,222.88	22,011.42		
46420 · Interest Income - EDF #1		7,572.00		
46421 · Interest Income - EDF #2		12,115.20		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC	7,666.67	21,916.67		
46429 · Endowment Income - Lead Assets		367,669.00		
Total Income	<u>10,889.55</u>	<u>1,003,007.75</u>		
Expense				
62100 · Contracted Services	3,822.50	30,551.25	43,550.00	87,100.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,419.87	9,443.89	16,200.00	32,400.00
65000 · Office Administration	2,667.19	18,884.62	21,400.00	42,800.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	4,291.79	104,785.98	132,000.00	264,000.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	14,550.60	100,932.19	105,000.00	210,000.00
Total Expense	<u>26,751.95</u>	<u>264,597.93</u>	<u>318,150.00</u>	<u>636,300.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	(15,862.40)	738,409.82		
Other Income/Expense				
70000 · Grants / Settlements				
70020 · Lead Assets Endowment		1,000,000.00		
70030 · Community Assets	151,640.00	151,640.00		
70040 · Lead Assets		646,812.00		
70050 · Municipal Settlements		142,930.89		
70060 · Human Services		73,937.00		
70070 · Special Events		167,108.00		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration		166,100.00		
70120 · Summer Jobs Program		150,000.00		
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow		37,500.00		
70160 · The Challenge	17,933.00	28,893.00		
Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements	<u>169,573.00</u>	<u>2,564,920.89</u>		
Net Other Income	(169,573.00)	(2,564,920.89)		
Net Income	<u>(185,435.40)</u>	<u>(1,826,511.07)</u>		



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2016

	September
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	26,026.64
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10100 · Uncommitted Funds	5,885,332.28
10101 · Committed Funds	3,898,060.00
10102 · Restricted Funds	428,792.58
Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings	10,212,184.86
Total Checking/Savings	10,238,211.50
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12001 · Note Receivable - EDF #1	500,000.00
12002 · Note Receivable - EDF #2	800,000.00
12003 · Note Receivable - CIBA	50,000.00
12004 · Note Receivable - BWC	1,000,000.00
12005 · Note Receivable - Progress	1,000,000.00
Total 12000 · Notes Receivable	3,350,000.00
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	3,160.00
Total Other Current Assets	3,353,160.00
Total Current Assets	13,591,371.50
TOTAL ASSETS	13,591,371.50
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	15,418,672.57
Net Income	(1,827,301.07)
Total Equity	13,591,371.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	13,591,371.50



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Statement of Cash Flows
September 2016

	<u>September</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Income	(185,435.40)
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to net cash provided by operations:	
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	790.00
 Net cash provided by Operating Activities	 <u>(184,645.40)</u>
 Net cash increase for period	 (184,645.40)
Cash at beginning of period	10,422,856.90
 Cash at end of period	 <u><u>10,238,211.50</u></u>



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Budget vs. Actual
September 2016

Expense	September	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
62100 · Contracted Services					
62110 · Accounting Fees	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	(6,000.00)	0.00%
62130 · Professional Services	2,332.80	18,030.60	45,000.00	(26,969.40)	40.07%
62140 · Legal Services	1,409.80	10,079.00	30,000.00	(19,921.00)	33.60%
62145 · Website Design	0.00	1,920.00	5,000.00	(3,080.00)	38.40%
62150 · Payroll Services	79.90	521.65	1,100.00	(578.35)	47.42%
Total 62100 · Contracted Services	3,822.50	30,551.25	87,100.00	(56,548.75)	35.08%
62800 · Facilities & Equipment					
62840 · Office Equipment & Furniture	32.98	302.45	10,000.00	(9,697.55)	3.02%
62850 · Janitorial Services	0.00	820.10	2,400.00	(1,579.90)	34.17%
62880 · CAM	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00%
62890 · Rent	1,386.89	8,321.34	18,000.00	(9,678.66)	46.23%
Total 62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,419.87	9,443.89	32,400.00	(22,956.11)	29.15%
65000 · Office Administration					
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	218.67	3,208.90	7,000.00	(3,791.10)	45.84%
65020 · Postage	15.99	345.94	500.00	(154.06)	69.19%
65030 · Printing	0.00	109.72	2,500.00	(2,390.28)	4.39%
65040 · Office Supplies	864.39	2,822.42	3,500.00	(677.58)	80.64%
65050 · Cell Phone	117.22	1,043.90	2,200.00	(1,156.10)	47.45%
65060 · Copier Lease	182.00	1,092.00	2,300.00	(1,208.00)	47.48%
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	383.26	1,517.95	3,000.00	(1,482.05)	50.60%
65080 · Bank Fees	0.00	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	0.00%
65085 · Training & Education	0.00	5,442.00	16,000.00	(10,558.00)	34.01%
65090 · Meeting Expenses	885.66	3,219.64	5,500.00	(2,280.36)	58.54%
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	82.15	250.00	(167.85)	32.86%
Total 65000 · Office Administration	2,667.19	18,884.62	42,800.00	(23,915.38)	44.12%
65100 · Other Types of Expenses					
65105 · Communications	815.95	14,844.46	15,000.00	(155.54)	98.96%
65110 · Advertising	1,094.95	1,398.85	15,000.00	(13,601.15)	9.33%
65115 · Data Processing	1,155.75	8,460.60	17,000.00	(8,539.40)	49.77%
65120 · Insurance	790.00	3,950.00	10,000.00	(6,050.00)	39.50%
65150 · Travel	435.14	1,982.07	7,000.00	(5,017.93)	28.32%
65160 · Special Projects	0.00	74,150.00	200,000.00	(125,850.00)	37.08%
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	4,291.79	104,785.98	264,000.00	(159,214.02)	39.69%
66000 · Payroll Expenses					
66005 · Salaries & Wages	13,168.56	91,452.41	188,100.00	(96,647.59)	48.62%
66010 · FITW Tax	1,007.40	6,996.14	14,500.00	(7,503.86)	48.25%
66015 · FUTA Tax	0.00	0.00	200.00	(200.00)	0.00%
66020 · PASUI Tax	0.00	55.12	2,200.00	(2,144.88)	2.51%
66500 · Retirement	374.64	2,428.52	5,000.00	(2,571.48)	48.57%
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	14,550.60	100,932.19	210,000.00	(109,067.81)	48.06%
Total Expense	26,751.95	264,597.93	636,300.00	(371,702.07)	41.58%



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
As of September 30, 2016

	September	YTD	Totals/Subtotals
Uncommitted Funds	5,885,332.28		
Committed Funds	3,898,060.00		
2016 Restricted Funds:			
First Quarter Gaming Revenue (less 25%)		203,252.87	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue (less 25%)		225,539.71	
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue		0.00	
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue		0.00	428,792.58
Disbursements:			
First Quarter Disbursements		2,096,730.98	
Second Quarter Disbursements	169,573.00	468,189.91	
Third Quarter Disbursements		0.00	
Fourth Quarter Disbursements		0.00	2,564,920.89

Disbursements Detail

Quality of Place

Community Assets

Albion Area Fair	8,160.00	8,160.00	
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.	8,352.00	8,352.00	
Common Ground Youth Center, Inc.	9,120.00	9,120.00	
Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival	8,736.00	8,736.00	
Edinboro Highland Games	8,928.00	8,928.00	
Erie PAL	9,173.00	9,173.00	
Gannon University	8,352.00	8,352.00	
Humane Society of NWPA	2,432.00	2,432.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.	8,640.00	8,640.00	
Lawrence Park Historical Society	7,280.00	7,280.00	
LeBoeuf Little League	8,928.00	8,928.00	
Living in Fulfilled Excellence	5,248.00	5,248.00	
McDowell Band Aides	4,560.00	4,560.00	
McLane Little League	3,511.00	3,511.00	
North East Little League	5,100.00	5,100.00	
Presque Isle Partnership	8,448.00	8,448.00	
Robbins Blass Neighborhood Network	3,160.00	3,160.00	
Urban Erie Community Development Corporation	8,648.00	8,648.00	
Veterans Miracle Center Erie	8,448.00	8,448.00	
Waterford Community Fair Association	8,352.00	8,352.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	8,064.00	8,064.00	151,640.00

Human Services

Bethany Outreach Center		14,000.00	
Children's Miracle Network		10,937.00	
Emma's Footprints		5,000.00	
Erie School District		15,000.00	
Gaudenzia Erie, Inc.		19,000.00	

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
As of September 30, 2016
(continued)

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine		10,000.00	73,937.00
Lead Assets			
Erie Art Museum		86,672.00	
Erie Arts & Culture		63,677.00	
Erie Philharmonic		80,855.00	
Erie Playhouse		81,664.00	
Erie Zoological Society		184,930.00	
expERIEnce Children's Museum		28,075.00	
Flagship Niagara League		33,533.00	
The Historical Society of Erie County		37,341.00	
Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture		50,065.00	646,812.00
Lead Assets Endowment		1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
Special Events			
Albion Area Fair, Inc.		13,500.00	
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.		2,340.00	
Borough of Wesleyville		448.00	
CAFE		15,750.00	
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation		12,137.00	
Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival		1,845.00	
Edinboro Highland Games		2,520.00	
Edinboro University Foundation		2,250.00	
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre		5,153.00	
Erie Downtown Partnership		1,647.00	
Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc		1,800.00	
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.		2,475.00	
Erie-Western PA Port Authority		4,443.00	
Gaudenzia Erie		2,802.00	
Goodell Gardens & Homestead		524.00	
Harborcreek Township		1,828.00	
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church		5,760.00	
Impact Corry		1,249.00	
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie		13,844.00	
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier		1,644.00	
Lake Erie Ballet		5,549.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.		4,073.00	
Lawrence Park Township		675.00	
McKean Community Development Group		450.00	
Mercy Center for Women		2,345.00	
The Nonprofit Partnership		2,557.00	
Presque Isle Partnership		5,069.00	
Roar on the Shore		20,467.00	
SafeNet		5,400.00	
Saint Patrick's Church		3,672.00	
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network		2,520.00	
Waterford Community Fair Association		4,675.00	

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
As of September 30, 2016
(continued)

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		13,881.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		1,816.00	167,108.00
<u>Municipalities</u>			
Multi-Municipal Collaboration			
Erie Area Council of Governments		37,500.00	
Girard Township		7,500.00	
Jefferson Educational Society		100,000.00	
West Erie County Emergency Management Agency		21,100.00	166,100.00
Municipal Settlements			
Erie County		15,722.40	
Greene Township		15,722.40	
McKean Township		15,722.40	
Millcreek Township		15,722.40	
Summit Township		64,318.89	
Waterford Township		15,722.40	142,930.89
<u>Neighborhoods & Communities</u>			
Impact Corry			
Mission Main Street			
<u>Small Business - Ignite Erie</u>			
Industry+University			
Inner-city Small Business			
<u>Youth & Education</u>			
The Challenge			
Millcreek Education Foundation	17,933.00	17,933.00	
General McLane Foundation		10,960.00	
Shaping Tomorrow			
All About Character, Inc.		37,500.00	
Summer Jobs			
GECAC		150,000.00	216,393.00
Total Funds Disbursements	169,573.00	2,564,920.89	2,564,920.89
<u>Committed Funds:</u>			
Ben Franklin Technology Partners Inc.		500,000.00	
The Challenge	(17,933.00)	102,227.00	
Enterprise Development Fund		500,000.00	
Shaping Tomorrow			
All About Character, Inc.		0.00	
Erie's Public Schools - Tech After Hours		133,333.00	
Gannon University - Go College		62,500.00	
Primary Health Network		100,000.00	
Penn State, The Behrend College		500,000.00	
PennVenture Partners		2,000,000.00	
The Progress Fund		0.00	
Total Committed Funds	(17,933.00)	3,898,060.00	



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Check Detail Report
September 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
09/06/2016	1903	Amanda Burlingham	August 2016 Billing	-2,332.8
09/06/2016	1904	Times Publishing Company	Legal Notice	-102.4
09/06/2016	1905	Velocity Network, Inc.	October Internet/IT/September Phone/August Copy Coverage	-1,048.8
09/06/2016	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	8/20/16-9/2/16 Payroll	-6,540.7
09/08/2016	EFT	Fidelity Investments	8/20/16-9/2/16 Payroll Retirement	-408.4
09/14/2016	1906	Albion Area Fair, Inc.	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,160.0
09/14/2016	1907	Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,352.0
09/14/2016	1908	Common Ground Youth Center, Inc.	2016 Community Assets Grant	-9,120.0
09/14/2016	1909	Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,736.0
09/14/2016	1910	Edinboro Highland Games	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,928.0
09/14/2016	1911	Gannon University	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,352.0
09/14/2016	1912	Greater Erie Community Action Committee	Annual Dinner	-500.0
09/14/2016	1913	Humane Society of NWPA	2016 Community Assets Grant	-2,432.0
09/14/2016	1914	Lawrence Park Historical Society	2016 Community Assets Grant	-7,280.0
09/14/2016	1915	LeBoeuf Little League	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,928.0
09/14/2016	1916	Living in Fulfilled Excellence	2016 Community Assets Grant	-5,248.0
09/14/2016	1917	McDowell Band Aides	2016 Community Assets Grant	-4,560.0
09/14/2016	1918	McLane Little League Association	VOID: 2016 Community Assets Grant	0.0
09/14/2016	1919	Robbins Blass Neighborhood Watch	2016 Community Assets Grant	-3,160.0
09/14/2016	1920	Urban Erie Community Development Corp	VOID: Catering - 2016 Community Assets	0.0
09/14/2016	1921	Veterans Miracle Center Erie	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,448.0
09/14/2016	1922	Waterford Community Fair Association	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,352.0
09/14/2016	1923	Young Artists Debut Orchestra	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,064.0
09/14/2016	1924	Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Program Sponsorship	-500.0
09/14/2016	1925	Erie PAL	2016 Community Assets Grant	-9,173.0
09/14/2016	1929	Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,640.0
09/14/2016	1928	Liz Allen	9/14/16 Statement	-390.0
09/14/2016	1927	North East Little League	2016 Community Assets Grant	-5,100.0
09/14/2016	1926	Presque Isle Partnership	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,448.0
09/14/2016	1930	Urban Erie Community Development Corp	2016 Community Assets Grant	-8,648.0
09/14/2016	1931	McLane Little League Association	2016 Community Assets Grant	-3,511.0
09/22/2016	EFT	Fidelity Investments	9/3/16-9/16/16 Payroll Retirement	-408.4
09/23/2016	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	9/3/16-9/16/16 Payroll	-7,272.7
09/28/2016	EFT	VISA	9/4/16 Statement - Diane	-3,407.4
09/28/2016	EFT	VISA	9/4/16 Statement - Perry	-143.6
09/30/2016	1932	Dale Barney	July-Sept 2016 Travel Reimbursement	-33.9
09/30/2016	1933	Dave Sample	July-Sept 2016 Travel Reimbursement	-207.5
09/30/2016	1934	David Bagnoni	July-Sept 2016 Travel Reimbursement	-84.5
09/30/2016	1935	Diane Kuvshnikov	September Cell Phone & Travel Reimbursements	-77.3
09/30/2016	1936	GreatAmerica Financial Services	October Copier Costs	-332.0
09/30/2016	1937	Mike Paris	July-Sept 2016 Travel Reimbursement	-71.3
09/30/2016	1938	Millcreek Education Foundation	The Challenge	-17,933.0
09/30/2016	1939	Penn State University	October Rent	-1,386.8
09/30/2016	1940	Perry Wood	September Reimbursements	-90.5
09/30/2016	1941	Presque Isle Designs, LLC	Web sliders & Metro 100 Invitations	-602.5
09/30/2016	1942	The Atlantic	Renewal	-19.9
		TOTAL		-195,534.9



RESOLUTION NUMBER 20, 2016

Resolution to enter into a funding partnership with the Erie Community Foundation and Hagen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy to fund four nonprofit projects that were vetted through the Shaping Tomorrow process

Whereas, ECGRA was formed to oversee and administer the investment and distribution of gaming funds in Erie County, Pennsylvania;

Whereas, ECGRA's mission of economic and community development recognizes the importance of local government, civic, and philanthropic entities working together in a public-private partnership to address economic and community development challenges;

Whereas, the Economic Development Financing Law states that economic insecurity due to unemployment is at any time a serious menace to the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, especially in areas that have remained unimproved and where the residents of core areas of cities of this Commonwealth and in particular minority groups are denied the benefits of a balanced industrial, commercial and residential environment and a balance of employment, cultural and business opportunity;

Whereas, ECGRA's Strategic Plan recognizes that basic services like education and training, innovation, and blight mitigation improve neighborhoods by investing in people and place through nonprofits that create economic opportunity;

Whereas, the Erie Community Foundation (ECF) administered a process for making funds available to the nonprofit community to address community challenges in which a committee of the ECGRA Board of Directors participated;

Whereas, the process known as Shaping Tomorrow 2016 requested proposals from the nonprofit community in Erie County, worked with applicants to refine those concepts, then selected the best proposals to present jointly to the ECF and ECGRA boards of directors as well as representatives from the Hagen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy;

Whereas, after careful consideration, the boards of each organization agree to jointly recommend funding the top four proposals in the following amounts: Empower Erie: Community College \$4,000,000; Mercyhurst University: Downtown Erie Innovation District \$4,000,000; Erie City School District: Community Schools \$1,500,000; and Gannon University: East-West Bayfront Plan \$500,000;

Whereas, it is recommended that ECGRA's portion of funding will be 10% of the total recommended award of \$10,000,000, which is \$1,000,000, and is to be matched with 10% by the ECF and 80% by the Hagen Fund in addition to the sustainability match provided by each applicant;

Whereas, the ECF has and will continue to make available to ECGRA all information collected and analyzed in the administration of each grant listed to include, but not limited to financial documentation and outcomes reporting;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, and for the reasons identified above, shall fund the following organizations in the amounts listed below pursuant to the proposals submitted as part of the Shaping Tomorrow grant-making process:

1.	Empower Erie: Community College	\$400,000
2.	Mercyhurst University: Downtown Erie Innovation District	\$400,000
3.	Erie City School District: Community Schools	\$150,000
4.	Gannon University: East-West Bayfront Plan	\$50,000

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on the 12th day of October, 2016 by a vote of _____ - _____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
October 12, 2016

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

FOR

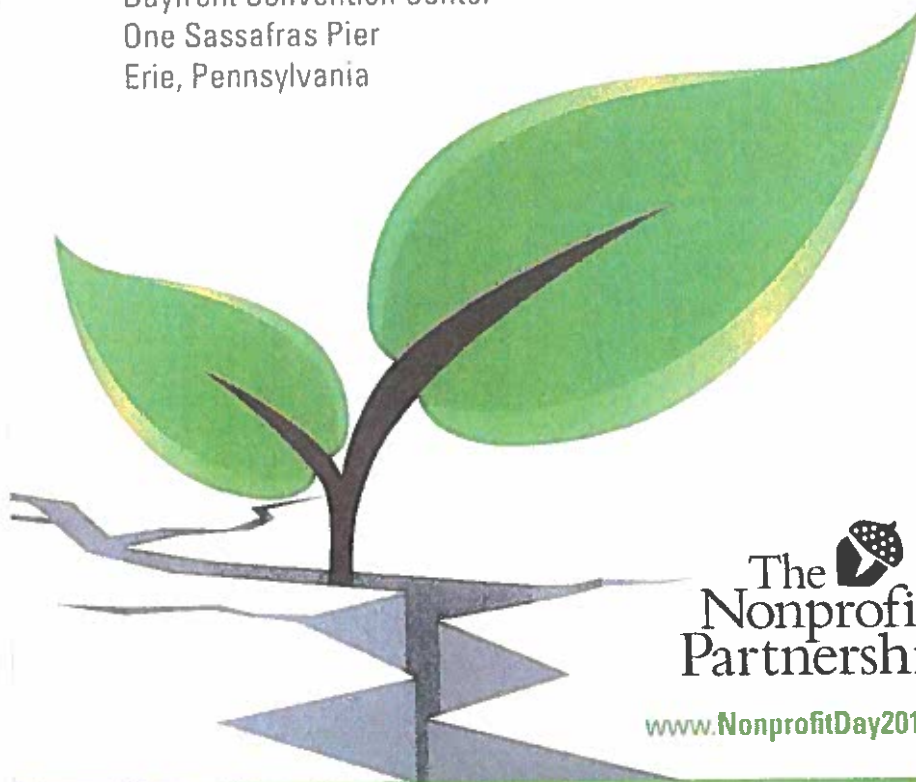
OCTOBER, 2016

Celebrating RESILIENCE

16TH ANNUAL NONPROFIT DAY

Oct. 25, 2016

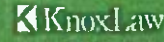
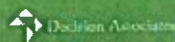
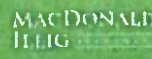
Bayfront Convention Center
One Sassafras Pier
Erie, Pennsylvania



The 
Nonprofit
Partnership

www.NonprofitDay2016.org

The Nonprofit Partnership gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of:





EMERGE2040

A Focused Partnership For The **Erie Region's Future**

SEPTEMBER 2016



Communities come together to revitalize downtowns

Last week, municipal leaders and community representatives from around Erie County came together for the first session of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center's Community Revitalization Academy (CRA).

Over the course of the next eight months, participants will learn the tools and strategies to strengthen Erie County communities, improve their economic vitality and market local assets.

In the first session, participants representing several Erie County communities, including Corry, Greene

Township, Albion, Girard Borough, North East and the City of Erie, joined a lively discussion about organizational development for community revitalization. Future topics include Design, Marketing, Economic Vitality, and Safe, Clean & Green.

The Erie Downtown Partnership, a Main Street America Accredited Program, organized these sessions with the generous support provided by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

For more information, contact Emily Fetcko, of the Erie Downtown Partnership, at 814-455-3743 or visit the EDP.



Erie Area Trail Network project gets funding boost

The Erie Area Council of Governments is spearheading a new initiative, the Erie Area Trail Network, to connect Erie County's many community trails both visually and virtually.

Approximately 25 existing Erie County walking and hiking trails will be jointly marketed through a website and a navigation app and interconnected through a series of branded directional signs.

On July 20, at beautiful Six Mile Creek Park in Harborcreek Township, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority announced that the initiative will receive a \$37,500 ECGRA Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant. It will

be matched by funds from the EACOG and participating parks.

The EACOG, in conjunction with Emerge 2040, VisitErie, and the Erie County Department of Planning, hosted a trail summit in March to identify parks and recreational trails throughout Erie County and brainstorm possible connections and collaborative opportunities.

The EACOG is also working with the Let's Move Outside coalition, the Erie County Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Municipalities and organizations interested in learning more about the Erie Area Trail Network can contact EACOG Executive Director Jessica Horan-Kunco at jhkunco@erieareacog.org.

McDowell Marching Band

3320 Caughey Road
Erie, PA 16506



We would like to thank the Erie Gaming and Revenue Authority for their donation and support of the McDowell Marching Band. The money will be used towards our 42nd Annual Marching Band Invitational.

The McDowell Marching Band Invitational is one of the season's first competitions and is our biggest fundraiser. In this competition, the McDowell Band Aides host many local bands at Gus Anderson Field. This competition is an opportunity for our students to share their personal and collective gifts and be recognized for their musical abilities in a competitive environment. It takes quite a bit of talent, motivation, discipline, hard work and capital to make a successful band program.

Many of us have seen a musical interest grow in our children substantially, while practicing and performing during high school band competitions. The students gain discipline, motivation and self-esteem. They support each other and even the bands they compete against like General McLane, Fairview, etc. These are memories that will last throughout their lives. Without programs like the marching band, many of these students would allow their talents to fade.

We thank you for your donation and support of the McDowell Marching Band.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Anderson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mr. Jerry Anderson,
McDowell Marching Band Director



Dear Sponsor,

Please allow me to extend my personal gratitude for your support of CelebrateErie. An event of this magnitude would not be possible without your sponsorship. Your contributions to the event paired with the work of my staff and many volunteers, allows the City of Erie to bring a family friendly event to the streets of downtown Erie for all to enjoy.

In recognizing your efforts, I have enclosed passes for seating on the Erie Art Museum stairs in order to enjoy the musical acts performing on the Highmark, Saint Vincent, Giant Eagle and Sunflower Club Main Stage. Refreshments will be provided for your enjoyment. Seating is limited; therefore, we cannot accommodate additional guests.

You can access the Museum steps from the back entrance (off of Fourth Street) beginning at 5:30PM on Friday, Saturday & Sunday to enjoy the Main Stage Concerts. *VIP access will not be available Thursday night.* You must present your pass in order to gain access to this area. Again, thank you for your support of CelebrateErie and enjoy the show!

CelebrateErie!

Mayor Joe Sinnott



September 29, 2016

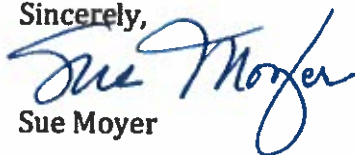
Perry Wood
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Road
Suite 201
Erie PA 16510

Dear Perry,

We appreciate the opportunity to speak with you and the Erie Community Foundation's Board of Trustees about our Shaping Tomorrow Grant application. Regardless of the final decision, we are thankful that you and the Foundation Trustees felt our project was significant enough to take a closer look at it.

The entire process was a great learning experience and through our project development we discovered new strategies we can use to improve our neighborhoods and our city. It is my hope that we can find a way to implement them one way or another.

Sincerely,



Sue Moyer



Council of Fellows
The Pennsylvania State University
Glenhill Farmhouse
4701 College Drive
Erie, PA 16563-0101

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

September 16, 2016

Mr. Perry Wood
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5240 Knowledge Parkway
Suite A
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Perry,

As you well know, growing innovation and entrepreneurship is critical to the future of our region, as it is to our state and the country. Penn State Behrend, under the leadership of Chancellor Ralph Ford, is at the forefront of efforts to attract and support new technology-driven ventures here at home.

We invite you to hear more about these efforts—as well as the successful strategies of other regions and potential roadmaps for our future—at an upcoming lecture at the Jefferson Educational Society. If you share my interest in the growth and vitality of our region, I encourage you to join me for:

Building an Innovation Ecosystem in Northwestern Pennsylvania

Presented by Penn State Behrend Chancellor Ralph Ford, Ph.D.

7:00-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 27

Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State Street, Erie

RSVP to www.jeserie.org (click on the Events tab) or 459-8000

If you are not aware, the work Ralph and his colleagues at Penn State Behrend are doing is not only having an impact on our region, but is being recognized locally, nationally, and internationally. The college's Open Lab strategy to connect academia and industry is drawing high-tech companies to Knowledge Park, generating the interest of technology leaders, and attracting the attention of economic development experts and writers with *The Atlantic* and, just this past week, the *Brookings Institution*.

The opening of the new Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Center in Knowledge Park is the realization of a facility that *Fast Company* envisioned as "transforming higher education" and "powering the future of learning." And the college, along with Mercyhurst University, is leading the Ignite Erie initiative, which is now supporting tangible new-product startups like Lace 'N' Lock, a student-designed, patent-pending shoelace tightening device for those with disabilities.

I hope that you can join us for Ralph's presentation to hear more about these initiatives and explore the possibilities for success in innovation and entrepreneurship in our region.

Sincerely,

Scott McCain
Chairman, Penn State Behrend Council of Fellows



PennState
Behrend

Black School of Business
The Pennsylvania State University
5101 Jordan Road
Erie, PA 16563-1400

Tel: 814-898-6107
Fax: 814-898-6223
behrend.psu.edu

September 9, 2016

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
ATTN: Mr. Perry Woods
5340 Fryling Road Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Perry,

Please accept this note as a personal thank you for your gift to The Black School of Business, specifically the ERIE Institute. Gifts like yours make a transformational impact on students. In the success stories of students and alumni you will read for many years, you should know that your gift made a difference, a big difference.

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the Penn State Behrend students who will benefit from your generosity.

Sincerely,

Greg Filbeck, Interim Director
Black School of Business

*Perry, you
Thank you
So much for your
gift to The ERIE
Institute!
Greg*



PennState
Behrend

Black School of Business
The Pennsylvania State University
5101 Jordan Road
Erie, PA 16563-1400

Tel: 814-898-6107
Fax: 814-898-6223
behrend.psu.edu



ERIE is a research center of the
Black School of Business at Penn State Behrend

August 18, 2016

Mr. Perry Wood
Executive Director
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Perry,

This is to acknowledge the check we received recently in the amount of \$750.00. I want to thank you for this generous contribution from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority in support of our work at the Economic Research Institute of Erie.

This support enables us to fulfill our mission to compile useful data and information on the local economy and to provide timely and objective analyses of important economic trends in our community. We hope that this, in turn, will help guide local business and government leaders towards more informed and fact-based decision-making that will improve the quality of life for everyone in our community.

Best wishes and thanks again for your generous support!

Kenneth Louie, Ph.D.
Director
Economic Research Institute of Erie

2016

September 10th



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
\$800 SPONSOR

Thank you for your generous sponsorship of the
2016 VICTORY RIDE
And your support of the people we serve!



ECGRA

(Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority)

IN RECOGNITION OF

RENEE NEWBERRY, VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR





August 8, 2016

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

Hi Perry,

On behalf of the Roar on the Shore Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for your support of the Roar on the Shore® 10th Anniversary Motorcycle Rally.

This year, proceeds will benefit the St. Martin Center's New Playground Project, a state-of-the-art playground at its new facility on 18th and State Streets.

Our 2016 rally was a roaring success! With it being our 10th anniversary with an American pride theme and five days of beautiful weather, Roar on the Shore® continues to exceed expectations.

It certainly would not have been possible without your support! We are so thankful for your sponsorship this year. We won't have final numbers until all of the bills are paid and the auditors have reviewed – but you will certainly be one of the first to know what we will be presenting to this year's charity.

Next year is the 11th annual Roar on the Shore®, July 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16! We hope to have the opportunity to work with you again in 2017!

Sincerely,

Ellie Cullen
Sponsorship Coordinator
Roar on the Shore®
Phone: 814/833-3200
Email: sponsorships@roarontheshore.com
Website: www.roarontheshore.com

Soaring start

Eagle's nest program looking to grow

By Jim Martin
jim.martin@timesnews.com

It was nearly 4:30 p.m. Thursday and Bishop Dwane Brock was growing impatient as he stood outside the new headquarters of the Eagles Nest Corp. at 1140 Pennsylvania Ave.

A busload of students coming from Strong Vincent High School was running late for a new after-school program designed to teach them the basics of saving, borrowing and smart spending.

It was a minor scheduling mix up that made students a few minutes late for their first class, led by Joe Schember, an Eagle's Nest board



Bishop Dwane Brock is the CEO of Eagles Nest Leadership Corp. in Erie. The organization has programs to help young people become more employable and learn about finances.

Online:
To see more photos of Eagles Nest Leadership Corp: GoErie.com/photos

member and a senior vice president at PNC Bank. If Brock seems impatient,

especially as he waited for that bus, it's rooted in a clear belief: For Erie's young people, there is simply no time to waste.

"I have buried too many young people in this

See SOARING, A5

SOARING

Continued from A1

community," said Brock, 58, who oversees more than 100 churches across the country, including the Victory Christian Center in Erie.

In a community plagued by poverty, what's missing for many young people is a job or any hope of finding one.

"Nothing stops a bullet like a job," Brock likes to say.

That mantra was the inspiration for the Eagle's Nest employment initiative that began in 2015 as a partnership between UPMC Hamot and Brock's church. Young people, ages 18 to 25, spend a month learning job and interview skills along with a long list of other skills needed to be successful in the world of work.

"Young people must be trained and trained properly to go to work on time, to respect authority and put in a good day's work," Brock said. "It's not a political solution. It's an issue of the soul. You have to show a (young person) the possible, the possible of winning."

Hamot signed on as the initial partner for the employment initiative, agreeing to take on graduates of the program initially as paid interns and eventually in

full-time jobs, working within a range of positions within the hospital.

Asia Burns, 22, is a testament to the success of that program.

There's nothing to suggest the Erie woman was headed for trouble before joining the program. But Burns, who had taken a semester off from studying forensic chemistry, didn't seem to be headed anywhere, either.

Later this week she will mark her anniversary of working as a phlebotomist at Hamot, where she draws blood from patients.

"I couldn't find a job that would pay me enough to go back to school," said Burns, who learned of the Eagle's Nest program through a church connection.

The program and the job have changed everything, she said.

"Working in a hospital, who wouldn't want to do that? And the pay is amazing," she said.

Burns, who expects to work a couple more years before returning to school, said the lessons about finances were especially valuable. Burns said that by living with her mother she has been able to save about half of her income, and is rapidly building a fund to finish college.

Burns is far from the only success story.

A year after the

program began, four classes of 20 to 25 students each have been trained in the employment program, said Jim Donnelly, chief nursing officer and vice president for patient care services at Hamot.

A year later there are 60-plus people who are full-time employees, with full health benefits," he said, recipients of a wage and benefits package worth more than \$30,000 per person. "When you start adding it up, it starts having an impact."

Donnelly said the program helps Hamot achieve its objectives of reflecting and working with the community.

In many cases, however, that wouldn't be possible without the preparation provided by the Eagle's Nest.

"It (the program) changes what your opportunity is going to be," Donnelly said. "By demonstrating a commitment to this process by being attentive and reliable through Bishop's program, it helps us to vet these young people and be able to offer them internships."

Brock is pleased, but not surprised this experiment is working. But he is impatient to see the program expand. For that to happen, he will need more employers like Hamot, companies that are willing to take on graduates of the job

readiness program.

"As we speak I have over 107 applications of young people on my desk," Brock said. "That is why we are moving with deliberate speed. It has to go beyond Hamot. We are talking with other institutions to open up their doors."

Brock said he's had good conversations with leaders from LECOM Health as well as a number of local banks about the possibility of partnering to train and place more young people in jobs.

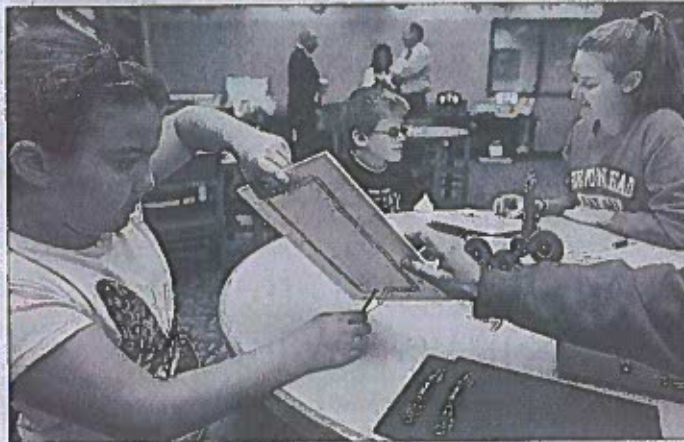
Whether its teaching a young person how to fill out an application or helping them understand that finding a job often hinges on being drug free, "Our responsibility is to eliminate all excuses," Brock said. "We try to bridge the gap with these young people to teach them how to become an asset to the community."

Asia Burns said the Eagle's Nest program has enabled her to do just that.

"I feel like I have made a major impact, drawing people's blood so they can be tested and cured. I am part of that," she said. "I take pride in it."

Jim Martin can be reached at 870-1668 or by email. Send email to jim.martin@timesnews.com. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/ETNMartin.

Getting hands on



Hassan Nichols, at left, builds a circuit board with paper clips, brass fasteners and an AA battery Wednesday in a S.T.E.M. lab set up at Fairview Middle School in Fairview Township. Using a \$40,000 grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, Nichols, 9, and about 135 other fourth graders at nearby Fairview Elementary School have access to hands-on education materials that focus on S.T.E.M. principles of science, technology, engineering and math. In the background, fourth grader Cole Hillen, 9, at left, works with Fairview High School senior Heather Lewis, 17, on another circuit board. PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

Program generates enthusiasm for science

By Valerie Myers
valerie.myers@timesnews.com

FAIRVIEW — Fourth graders at Fairview Elementary School are making their own fiber-optic constellations and electromagnetic circuits.

The hands-on learning is part of a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math initiative financed in part by gambling revenues. The StemWorks program, launched in 2015 with help from the Fairview School Foundation, earned a \$39,100 Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority grant for 2016-17.

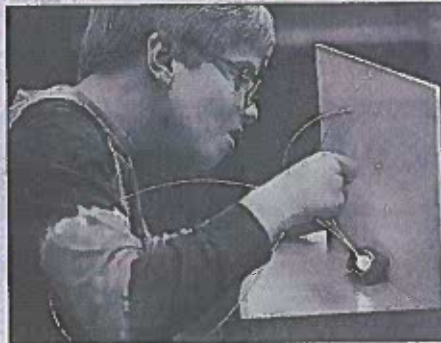
"It's fun," said Annika Biggs, 9, as she colored a representation of her constellation. She designed the constellation after writing about herself and making parts for its fiber optics on a 3-D printer.

"I want to be a doctor," Annika said. "When you get a checkup you get a light in your ears and nose to see if you're healthy. If I know what the lights are made of, I'd know more about it."

StemWorks helps students learn concepts they once only read about in textbooks, teacher Claudia Filippi said.

"We're very lucky in that we always had a very solid science curriculum. But what we were lacking was a hands-on approach that helps kids get excited about science," Filippi said. "This does that."

During a StemWorks demonstration Wednesday, other members of Filippi's fourth-grade class used paper clips and brads to complete electromagnetic circuits in a new "Make It" center in the Fairview Middle School library.



Connor Cronin, 10, builds an art project that features fiber optic lighting Wednesday in a S.T.E.M. lab set up at Fairview Middle School in Fairview Township.



Students build a simple circuit with paper clips, brass fasteners and an AA battery.

"You hear them say things like, 'If you don't get that metal to metal, it's not going to work,'" Filippi said.

Ryan Bookhamer teaches engineering at Fairview High School and works with other teachers at all grade levels to incorporate S.T.E.M. learning. Students use iPads, 3-D software and 3-D printers to analyze and solve problems

in a variety of subjects.

"Our big goal this year is to bring every core subject into our program," Bookhamer said. "You can learn concepts reading from a textbook, but building your own circuit brings it alive."

Connor Cronin, 10, also plans to be a medical doctor.

"I like science and stuff," Connor said, finishing his constellation.

ECGRA officials envision Fairview's StemWorks program being replicated in other school districts with funding from gambling grants.

"It's something that we'd like to see expand to other districts," ECGRA spokeswoman Amarida Burlingham said. "This is a pilot program for us."

Valerie Myers can be reached at 878-1913 or by email. Follow her on Twitter at twitter.com/ETNmyers.

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SAMPLE NEWS GROUP

September 16, 2016

WEST COUNTY Always-Down News-Journal

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Volume 14 Number 16 Your hometown paper for Girard, Lake City, Fairview and Albion

Recycling

Continued from Page 1

unwanted items.
Lindy Platz, secretary of the West County Recycling Group, which oversees the project, said residents look forward to the event every year.

"It's a way for them to dispose of unwanted items in their homes and yards for minimal cost," Platz said. "We hope the residents of the new municipalities will take advantage of it as well."

Residents will pay a disposal fee of \$1 per tire, \$2 per electronic item and \$10 for any item that contains Freon.

Only tires 17-inches or smaller and semi tires will be accepted, not agriculture equipment or tractor tires.

Hazardous materials, household garbage and construction materials will not be accepted.

Several items are accepted at no charge, includ-

ing furniture, steel, cardboard, magazines, Freon-free appliances, plastics, empty paint cans with lids removed and cans smashed, aluminum, glass, wood, used motor oil and No. 1 and No. 2 plastics.

Supervisors and council members from the participating municipalities volunteer to work at the event to register residents and unload items.

Residents are mailed a flier explaining the event. If they bring the flier with them, with their name, address and phone number filled in, they will be included in a prize drawing.

The grand prize is free refuse disposal for a year from Waste Management.

Other prizes, which are donated, include gas-line cards, gift certificates, tickets to various events and other items.

As a service to their residents, the cost of the

event is divided among the participating municipalities. Also, a \$7,500 grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority helps offset the costs to the participating municipalities.

Cash donations are accepted at the event, and donations will benefit the Albion, Edinboro and Girard food banks.

In addition to Platz, of Girard Township, officers of the West County Recycling Group are President Bill Taylor of Elk Creek Township and Vice President Meredith Borstorf of Springfield Township.

Other municipal representatives are Theresa Pogson of Craneyville Borough, Ramona Jenkins of Franklin Township and Jan Dennis of McKean Township.

All six representatives are voting members.

Recycling Day set for Sept. 24

By *Maryann Mook*
Editor

It's time to clean up your property and get rid of those unwanted recyclable items.

The annual West County Recycling/Cleanup Day will be held Saturday, Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for residents of six participating municipalities.

The participating municipalities are Craneyville Borough, Elk Creek Township, Franklin Township, Girard Township, McKean Township and Springfield Township.

The one-day event is held annually in September at the former SKAT service station on Route 18, just south of Interstate 90 in Plazes Borough.

Participating municipalities host the event to give their residents a day to clean up their properties and recycle

See Recycling, P. 7

Corry Area Historical Society receives over \$3,000 in grants

BY KIM LUX
kim@thecorryjournal.com

The Corry Area Historical Society was recently awarded \$1,284 through the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's Community Assets grants.

Loretta Beckerink, secretary of the Corry Area Historical Society, said she's very thankful to both ECGRA and Erie Yesterday for their support in securing the grant.

"It is an ECGRA Grant, but we were part of a collaborative application with Erie Yesterday," Beckerink said.

"This is a matching grant, so we will be matching the \$1,284."

Other participants in the collaborative application include the Edinboro Area Historical Society, in the amount of \$1,284; the Elk Creek Township Historical Society, in the amount of \$2,140; the Hornby School Museum, for \$2,568; the Harborcreek Historical Society, for \$858; and Erie Yesterday, in the amount of \$2,568.

Beckerink said the money will fund much-needed updates to the Corry Area Historical Society Museum,

945 Mead Ave., Corry.

"The money went toward lighting for the outside of the museum," Beckerink said. "The museum is very dark and putting up new security lights has really helped."

She also said that the awarded money came just in time, because the museum was very much in need.

"We needed this money so bad," Beckerink explained. "Some of the doors in the museum didn't even have security bars on them. There was a lot that needed to be done."

In addition to the ECGRA community asset grant, the

historical society also received a \$2,000 grant from Northwest Savings Bank's Northwest Bancorp Inc. Charitable Foundation.

The money from Northwest will go toward updating the lighting inside the museum.

"We are very thankful for all of the money we have received through these grants," Beckerink said. "The museum is entirely run off of volunteers. It depends solely on donations and grants."

Beckerink said the historical society plans on looking into more grants for the upcoming year.

"Right now we have no definitive plans in the works, but we are planning on applying for more grants," Beckerink said. "We are looking heavily into the United Way of Erie County and Erie Gives. We need to start taking advantage of some of the bigger grants in the area."

She is hoping members of the community will check out all that is updated at the museum during the historical society's annual Night at the Museum event on Saturday, Oct. 8.

"This year's theme is Prohibition and it should be a lot of fun," Beckerink said.

Friday, September 9, 2016

Downtown panels highlight Corry's history

BY KIM LUX
kim@thecorryjournal.com

There is more to see in downtown Corry now that the majority of Impact Corry's interpretive panels have been installed along Center Street.

"The first panel was installed in July, and now there are three installed," said Steve Bishop, president of Impact Corry.

The panels are part of a "Mission Main Street" grant Impact Corry received from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority in 2014.

Bishop stated that the plan is to have five panels installed.

The first three panels are located on Center Street. The first is next to The Nail Nook, 44 N. Center St.; there is one in front of the Classy Thrifter, 51 N. Center St.; and one is adjacent to Little Annie's, 37 N. Center St.

"The fourth panel will be installed soon on the southeast corner of Center Street and Main Street, near Sam's Restaurant," Bishop explained. "The fifth and final panel is being held for a future location."

The panels feature aspects of Corry's history. They range from the Climax Engine, renowned individuals from Corry, the Downer Oil Company and Corry's historic origins.

Bishop said he very much enjoyed working on the project and working alongside Loretta Beckerink, secretary of the Corry Area Historical Society, to showcase Corry's history.

"I am a Corry history buff, so it was very fun for me to get to research Corry's rich, deep history and get it out there for everyone to enjoy," Bishop said. "Corry has a broad his-

tory that spans outside this area. It is much more significant than people think."

He also said it is relieving to finally be at the end of the project.

"I am excited to get to the end of this, we've been working on it for over a year," Bishop said.

Bishop mentioned that Terry Williams, Department of Public Works superintendent, and the rest of the Public Works Department were instrumental in the process.

"I would like to thank them for all of their cooperation and support throughout this," Bishop said.

The Public Works Department will be taking the panels down in the fall and re-installing them in the spring, so they will not be a hindrance during the snow removal process.

"I am assuming it will be



Kim Lux/The Corry Journal
Loretta Beckerink, secretary of the Corry Area Historical Society, and Steve Bishop, president of Impact Corry stand behind an interpretive panel installed downtown. The panel features multiple people from Corry who became renowned in their fields.

later in the fall," Bishop said about when the panels will be removed. "When Public Works removes the trash containers, benches and such, they will remove the panels, too, and store them for the winter."

Helping the Erie community thrive

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority awards \$151,000 in grants

By Gerry Weiss
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The money will help fund a new livestock wash rack, bleachers by the pulling track and sound system at the Albion Area Fair, replace fencing and bases for the McLane Little League and update equipment and programs at

the Common Ground Youth Center in North East.

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority on Thursday distributed \$151,640 in grants to 21 area nonprofit groups and other organizations. The community assets grants awarded money to arts, culture, entertainment and recreation organizations that increase tourism, develop culture, and enhance local neighborhoods.

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"We are getting money out, we are serving the youth, and we are helping all of Erie County,"

David Sample, chairman of ECGRA's board of directors

GAMING

Continued from B1

The money — part of more than \$38 million ECGRA has invested in Erie County since 2008 — was awarded during a reception at the Urban Erie Community Development Corp., 2046 E. 19th St. Around half of the 21 groups to receive grants Thursday serve local children and youth, officials said.

"We are getting money out, we are serving the youth, and we are helping all of Erie County," David Sample, chairman of ECGRA's board of directors, told a crowd of about 60 people Thursday.

The largest grant awarded went to the Erie Police Athletic League, which received \$9,173 to fund an after-school mentoring program at Pfeiffer Burleigh School.

The Police Athletic League has been absent from Erie for nearly 40 years, said Don Dacus, acting chief for the Erie Bureau of Police. Dacus and Erie County Sheriff John Loomis spoke at Thursday's reception.

"ECGRA's commitment to improving

the quality of place in Erie is in line with the Police Athletic League's long-standing theory that when a community invests in its young people through relationship-building and mentoring, communities thrive," Loomis said.

Other local groups that received money Thursday included Gannon University, the Robbins Blass Neighborhood Watch, the Veterans Miracle Center of Erie, and the UECDC, host of the reception, which received \$8,648.

"I could not provide the programs we do here that invest in youth without ECGRA money," said UECDC Chief Executive Gary Horton. "Programs that encourage kids to stand up and take a leadership role."

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