



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
OCTOBER
2021**

September 2021

Meeting with Executive Director
Ongoing Social Media Management
Ongoing Consulting
September Comms

IMPLEMENTED

33 Total September posts
22 Total graphics created
Press Release | Second round of Special Events and anchor building grant

IN PROGRESS

Erie County COVID Report
Holiday Graphics
Parks Fields & Trails 2 Year Report
ECGRA Playbook
ECGRA Playbook Event
Roadshow Tours with ECAT, PACA, and Train Station Corry

IN PROGRESS | 2021 Grant Releases and Graphics

Community Assets - Arts Culture Heritage
Community Assets - Community Centers

September 24, 2021



Perry Wood
ECGRA
5340 Fryling Rd Ste 201
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Perry,

The inaugural Pedal for Mercy was a day full of sunshine, good food, and friendship. We are grateful to the 110 cyclists who "pedaled forward" for a great mission. The smell of the vineyards and scenic routes added to the fun-filled day. September weather is perfect to enjoy the beginning of fall foliage and end of summer weather.

The event welcomed sponsors, food vendors, volunteers, musical entertainment, and delicious stops along the way. The local wineries were exceptional in embracing all cyclists and opened their doors to



the event. The 50-mile riders had a glorious stop at Findley Lake with food to enjoy. Our mission was to make sure the ride was safe, pleasurable, and picturesque.

We are grateful and thankful to everyone who donated. Thanks to your sponsorship of **\$1,192.98**, we raised over \$20,000.00! We couldn't have done this without any of you! A big THANK YOU to Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards for allowing us to host this event at their beautiful venue. Dave and Ruth Dennis mapped out the entire ride- this is never an easy task.

We always appreciate hearing from you. Please, let me know any recommendations you have for next year by emailing me at jhagerty@mcwerie.org. Yes, we will be riding again, and the date will be announced soon!

Our clients' journeys take courage to battle and share with others. We are grateful to each of you for your wonderful support to the women and children at the Mercy Center for Women- you are the light at the end of the ride to restore faith and passion for the future.

Stay Safe and Well,

Jennie Hagerty
Executive Director, MCW

Dear Perry,
Pedal for Mercy was a wonderful event. We are grateful to ECGRA for their generosity and support of the women and children. We appreciate you!

In accordance with section 170(f)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code, I certify that Mercy Center for Women is a 501(c)3 charitable organization to which contributions are tax deductible. Since no goods or services were given in exchange for your gift, the entire amount is tax deductible. This letter serves as documentation of your gift and is necessary for your income tax records.



HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2220 Reed Street • Erie, PA 16503-2196 • (814) 456-0671

September 30, 2021

Dear Friends,

Thank you!

Let me start with a sincere **THANK YOU** for your generous contribution to this summer's 28th Annual Zabawa Program! We were very happy to have received such great corporate support from so many businesses and advertisers. **On behalf of the entire Zabawa committee, I am enclosing a copy of your ad in the program book and we hope you are pleased with it.**

Over the three days of Zabawa, we were blessed with great weather. Ever so many people flocked to our church campus to reunite with their friends, their heritage AND great food and drink! By our estimates, near 40,000 people attended over the 3 day period and your support was a key factor in their enjoyment and our success!

We hope you are pleased with our program and as always, if there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to call us! Again we value your support and we hope you plan on staying with us as we move into next year and our **29th Annual Festival!**

Sincerely,

Julie + Edie

Julie Slomski & Edie Luniewski, Sponsorship Chairs



909 East 35th Street · Erie, PA 16504 · 814.456-5300 / 814-456-9599
lefanfare@verizon.net or ErieOma@verizon.net

September 30, 2021

Dear Friends,

First let me start with a sincere **THANK YOU** for your generous contribution to our 2021 25th Anniversary German Heritage Festival! We were very happy to have received such great corporate support from so many businesses and advertisers.

In this day when many companies are dropping aid for such programs as ours, it is indeed gratifying to know that **YOU** value what we do and have continued to support us! **On behalf of the entire committee, we are enclosing a copy of your ad and we hope you are pleased with it.**

This year's Festival was held on the Labor Day weekend and with pleasant weather, it drew very nice crowds. We know in all that 4,000 or so attendees really enjoyed the great family fun in the old world German tradition that our Fest has become noted for.

We hope you are pleased with our progress and as always, if there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to call us! Again we value your support and we hope you plan on staying with us as we move into next year and our 26th Annual German Heritage Festival!

Sincerely,

The German Heritage Festival Committee



COMPASSION IN ACTION



This certificate is given to

ECGRA

for Victory Ride 2021 sponsorship and for continued support of EHCA's mission to assist individuals with disabilities to live a life full of hope, promise, and care.

Thank you for caring!

CHUCK WALCZAK

CEO

JONATHAN BILLING

VP Marketing, Advancement & Communications

PACA building joins register of nation's historic places

Downtown Erie property was constructed in 1899

Dana Massing
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Built by a Civil War veteran and once home to a typhoid ward, the Performing Artists Collective Alliance building in downtown Erie has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

"I was ecstatic," PACA Executive Director Mark Tanenbaum said about learning of the honor.

The National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation, according to information on the NPS website. The register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect America's historic and archeological resources, the website states.

PACA's building, known as the Mayer Building, 1501-1509 State St., was among 17 properties listed on the register between Sept. 3 and 10, according to an email from the NPS that PACA received. Only one other site — in Philadelphia — was from Pennsylvania.

The Mayer Building was constructed in 1899 by Henry Mayer, who was wounded while serving as a Civil War drummer in Pennsylvania's 91st Regiment, Tanenbaum said. Mayer, who started a construction business and

built several other buildings in downtown Erie, had an office in his five-story namesake structure that also included a food market and a paper company, Tanenbaum said.

He said the building's age and architecture were among the features landing it on the Register. The grand staircase is made of Pennsylvania black slate. There's a birdcage elevator that was installed in 1913. An I-beam that

See HISTORIC, Page 2A



The Mayer Building, 1501-1509 State St., shown here on Jan. 17, 2020, was built in 1899. It is owned by the Performing Artists Collective Alliance and is now home to a theater, art galleries and studios, and more. The building is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

Historic

Continued from Page 1A

sticks out the back was bent in the Mill Creek flood of 1915.

Significant things that happened in the 70,000-square-foot building also were considered.

"It was used as a typhoid ward during the typhoid pandemic of 1913," Tanenbaum said.

He has a photograph of a nurse beside a row of beds on the fourth floor and said there's still a sink that was installed for the nurses to use to wash their hands.

PACA, which has owned the building for several years after renting space there, has put on a new roof and sign and put in a new fire suppression system and windows. Tanenbaum said the windows were done with the historic architecture in mind.

He said PACA hired a professional from Pittsburgh two years ago to apply for the Register of Historic Places because it's a complicated process.

But the nonprofit, which features a progressive theater and community performance space, pursued the designation as part of a mission that included restoring a historically significant property in Erie, he said.

Tanenbaum said being on the list also can help stimulate the local economy by bringing in outside money to be used for work and programs at the building.



Performing Artists Collective Alliance Executive Director Mark Tanenbaum is shown March 11 near the PACA building in the 1500 block of State Street in Erie. Known as the Mayer Building, the site was added on Friday to the National Register of Historic Places. GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

"It does open us up for (state and federal) grants," he said.

PACA's theater is set to open a new drama, "Alabaster," on Sept. 24 and the nonprofit also hosts music events in the building. The new City Gallery opened there Friday with three arts shows. Tanenbaum said the building has 34 arts and entrepreneur tenants and five more studios are in the works on the fifth floor.

Contact Dana Massing at dmassing@timesnews.com. Follow her on Twitter @ETNmassing.

ECGRA awards more than \$150,000 to Corry

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority recently awarded more than \$150,000 in grant funds to the city of Corry and Impact Corry.

Throughout Erie County, \$462,110 was awarded to communities via the Renaissance Block Program, the Multi-Municipal

Collaboration Grant and the 2021 Parks, Fields, and Trails Grant.

Impact Corry was awarded \$25,000 to collaborate with the city, Concord Township, Corry Redevelopment Authority and Strategic Solutions Inc. for Corry-Lawrence Airport

◀ See ECGRA, P.2

ECGRA

(Continued from front page)

The Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grant was created in 2012 to spur cooperation among the county's 38 municipalities in support of economic growth and to bring back vibrancy to communities.

"Corry is very grateful to ECGRA and the leadership of Dr. Perry Wood," said Corry Mayor Dave Mitchell in a press release. "With these funds we will really be able to keep the community progressing at a very high speed. Corry would to thank ECGRA for supporting this grant and our endeavors as we move forward."

Impact Corry was also awarded \$90,000 for its next round of Renaissance Block funds.

The Renaissance Block Program is based on neigh-

borhood cooperation to fight blight within a community. The strategy is that where neighbors are organized and willing, aging and neglected areas of town can be improved, block by block.

Renaissance Block Grant funding has already targeted Corry streets and more than 20 homes have been renovated over the last several years, with more neighborhoods and residents willing and able to work on improvements to their properties.

Under the Parks, Fields, and Trails Grant, Corry was awarded \$12,500 for improvements at North Hills Municipal Golf Course, and \$25,000 was given to Impact Corry for its work to fill an Erie to Pittsburgh trail gap in town.

Salt Church benefits from MMS grant

BY CAROL FIELDING
carol@thecorryjournal.com

The former National Guard Armory on East Washington Street has been the home of the Salt Church for the last 10 years, and thanks to a Mission Main Street grant from Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA), the building has received a much-needed exterior makeover.

Built in 1906 as an armory, the structure is a T-shaped brick building in the Romanesque style. In its original usage, the three-story building housed administration offices and a drill hall, which now houses the sanctuary of the church.

A decade ago, congregants put in approximately \$50,000 and hundreds of volunteer

hours to get the sanctuary remodeled with carpeting and pews, as well as renovations to restrooms and offices and the installation of an elevator," said Al Gernovich, pastor of the church.

But the exterior was low on the list of priorities. However, thanks to the MMS grant, the church was able to focus on restoration of the outside of the historic building over the summer.

"We were able to add a portico to the street-level entrance and wrap all of the building's 105 window frames with aluminum," Gernovich explained. "You can't tell now, but they were in really bad shape. The wood around the windows was rotting."

See Church, P.3



Carol Fielding/The Corry Journal
Al Gernovich (front, right) stands on the steps of Salt Church with some of the volunteers who helped renovate the church exterior with the assistance of Mission Main Street grant funds.

Church

(Continued from front page)

The church also put a new roof over part of the building this year, but that project was not part of the grant.

"Thanks to the money saved during the grant project work, the church was able to pay for a new roof this year," Gernovich said.

Gernovich estimates that 25% of the work was done by volunteers and the rest was done with hired help.

"Most of the people we hired attend the church and provided extremely good rates," Gernovich said.

He also expressed that the

Salt Church is grateful for the MMS grant which helped save the historic building, and they hope to apply for future grants with the assistance of Charles Gray, executive director of Impact Corry, and administrator of the MMS grants.

"When we got the grant, Chuck came and said, 'Wow, you guys did so much with the amount of money that you had! We gave you this much but what you got out of it was way more.'" Gernovich said. "And that's thanks to the volunteers."

The church has long-term future projects planned, including repaving the parking lot, repointing the front steps, putting up a new sign and possibly building another portico over the front steps that lead to the second floor.