



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
JUNE
2024**



Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 2024
11:00am – 1:00pm
5240 Knowledge Parkway
Erie, PA 16510

AGENDA

1. Erie Center for Arts & Technology (eCAT) Apprenticeship Concept
 - Daria Devlin

2. Community Assets – Arts, Culture, Heritage
 - 29 Applications

3. Good of the Order

- Total number of loans applications received, in underwriting with proposed closing dates and rejected.

c. Bi-Annual Performance Reports

(i) Bi-annual reports shall, at a minimum, indicate the following information pertaining to loans made pursuant to this Agreement:

- job creation/retention attributed to loans made pursuant to this Agreement;
- list of loan recipients by organization's name & contact person, or, if loan recipients object to public disclosure of their financial relationship with Bridgeway Capital, an anonymous but unique identifier and a non-identifying description of the recipient;

(ii) Performance reports shall be provided to ECGRA until such time that Bridgeway Capital has loaned all of the funding provided by ECGRA pursuant to this Agreement, the Credit Agreement and the CDFI Note, and, until such point, shall be due on or before February 1st, and August 1st of each year.

d. Final performance report. Within 60 days of the Agreement Term or Termination (whichever is earliest), a final report shall be submitted containing all information included in the bi-annual report along with a summary of the final portfolio balance indicating how Bridgeway Capital met program objectives. The final performance report shall, at the request of the Executive Director, be accompanied by a presentation to the ECGRA Board.

6. ECGRA Grant in Event of Default by Bridgeway Capital Debtor. In the event a third party defaults (the "Third Party in Default") on a loan made by Bridgeway Capital pursuant to the terms of this Agreement (the "Sub-Note"), and after Bridgeway Capital undertakes commercially reasonable efforts to collect such outstanding debt from the Third Party in Default, the outstanding principal balance of the Sub-Note related to such debt in default and owed by the Third Party in Default, and reasonable costs of collection incurred by Bridgeway Capital, shall be forgiven by ECGRA to Bridgeway Capital (the "Forgiven Debt"). The Forgiven Debt shall be determined to have been a grant from ECGRA to Bridgeway Capital. The amount of principal of the unpaid Forgiven Debt shall be credited towards the total principal amount then outstanding under the terms of the Note between ECGRA and Bridgeway Capital. To initiate the transformation of the loan from ECGRA to Bridgeway Capital to a grant, Bridgeway Capital shall certify to ECGRA, in writing, the efforts made to collect on the debt and that the debt has been determined to be uncollectable. After such certification, if Bridgeway Capital collects on the debt in default, Bridgeway Capital shall remit total principal amount collected to ECGRA within sixty (60) days of such collection. For purposes of this Agreement, "commercially reasonable efforts to collect" shall take into account the financial condition of the borrower and the cost of collection, and shall not require legal action by Bridgeway Capital if Bridgeway Capital

concludes in its reasonable discretion that the debt is not collectable or that collection efforts would conflict with Bridgeway Capital's mission.

7. **Drawdown.** Bridgeway Capital shall submit to ECGRA a drawdown request on a weekly basis for the total value of each loan to be closed in the next week. The drawdown request shall be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m. on Thursday of each week (the "Advance Request"). ECGRA shall review each Advance Request, and once approved, electronically transfer the funds to Bridgeway Capital no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday of each week.
8. **Federal or State Relief.** In the event that the federal or state government approves and issues a stimulus or other relief package in response to the COVID-19 national emergency, and such funds are distributed to Bridgeway Capital for the purpose of deployment to businesses and/or nonprofits, including those within Erie County, and the intent of those funds is to provide funding in a manner and for a purpose substantially similar to the funding provided by this Agreement, the CDFI Note and the Credit Agreement, ECGRA reserves the right to provide Bridgeway Capital with a ten (10) day written notice of cancellation of further distributions pursuant to this Agreement, the CDFI Note and the Credit Agreement. Any drawdown requests made by Bridgeway Capital prior to the issuance of the above referenced notice shall be processed by ECGRA.
9. **Default.** Failure to meet any provision of this Agreement shall constitute a Default by Bridgeway Capital. In the event of Default, ECGRA will shall utilize the Default procedures contained within the Credit Agreement and CDFI Note.
10. **Suspension and Termination.** If Bridgeway Capital fails to correct substandard performance and thus cure the Default within the period of time stated by ECGRA, the Agreement may be Suspended or Terminated at ECGRA's sole discretion pursuant to the terms and conditions of the CDFI Note and Credit Agreement.
11. **Cooperation.** Bridgeway Capital shall cooperate in every reasonable way with ECGRA to facilitate the purposes and intent of this Agreement. ECGRA shall cooperate in every reasonable way to facilitate the purposes and intent of this Agreement.
12. **Indemnification.** Bridgeway Capital hereby agrees to release, indemnify and hold ECGRA harmless from any claims, damages, losses, law suits, causes of action or demands arising out of the good faith provision of services by ECGRA hereunder, except to the extent that such claims, losses, lawsuits, causes of action or demands are based on the negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct of ECGRA and/or its agents, employees, and/or personnel.
13. **Right-to-Know Law.** The Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law, 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 - 67.3104, applies to this Agreement. (the "RTKL"). Upon notification to Bridgeway Capital that ECGRA has received a request for records under the RTKL, Bridgeway Capital shall fully assist ECGRA in responding to the request. Such assistance shall include, at a minimum, providing ECGRA, within three (3) days, access to, and copies

Transaction Register

Net Loan Losses

Eff Date	Loan Number	Loan Group	Transaction Code	Transaction Description	Transaction Amount
02/22/2023	BC1-2020.097	ECGRA \$1.6mm PRI ENT	440	Write Off Principal	3,843.29
08/31/2023	BC1-2020.032	ECGRA \$1.6mm PRI ENT	440	Write Off Principal	14,784.98
09/01/2023	BC1-2020.032	ECGRA \$1.6mm PRI ENT	644	Loan Loss Recovery	-461.08
10/01/2023	BC1-2020.032	ECGRA \$1.6mm PRI ENT	644	Loan Loss Recovery	-461.08
11/01/2023	BC1-2020.032	ECGRA \$1.6mm PRI ENT	644	Loan Loss Recovery	-461.08
12/01/2023	BC1-2020.032	ECGRA \$1.6mm PRI ENT	644	Loan Loss Recovery	-461.08
01/19/2024	BC1-2020.091	ECGRA \$1.6mm PRI ENT	440	Write Off Principal	16,009.66
02/29/2024	BC1-2020.042	ECGRA \$1.6mm PRI ENT	440	Write Off Principal	4,284.12
					37,077.73



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mary Wassell
wassell@parkerphilips.com
814.528.4930 | mobile

NEWS*NEWS***NEWS***NEWS***NEWS***NEWS***NEWS**

ECGRA Grants Enrich, Boost Erie County Quality of Place

2024 Special Events and Arts, Culture, & Heritage Grants total \$400,000

Erie, PA (June 5, 2024) – The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) awarded \$200,337.88 in 2024 Special Events and \$235,383.93 in Community Assets – Arts, Culture, & Heritage Grant Programs today, totaling \$435,721.81. The funds will be distributed to 70 nonprofits and municipalities across Erie County.

“ECGRA works by investing in the organizations that preserve and enhance Erie County’s incredibly unique culture,” said Perry Wood, Executive Director of ECGRA. “These local organizations keep Erie communities and visitors coming together, while fostering a sense of pride and place. These investments simultaneously boost our economic and community energy – keeping Erie the best place we know to live, work, and play.”

The Special Events Grant Program, which funds up to 5% of events that take place within Erie County, promote the region economically and culturally. These grants are driving tourism, attracting talent to the region, and helping sustain Erie traditions that make Erie County a special place to visit and call home.

Asbury Woods, the host of the event, was a recipient of this round of special event grants.

“ECGRA’s support of Asbury Woods events and trail improvement projects over the years have been instrumental to our mission to connect people to the natural world – Special event grants have helped us keep several community events free or very low cost to attend,”

said Jennifer Farrar, Executive Director of Asbury Woods. “Grants towards trails and parks projects have improved a trailhead south of our main entrance, and we are currently working on an ECGRA-funded project to digitize our trail map that will provide real-time location data as you walk the trails and dynamic interpretive information to enhance your visitor experience to Asbury Woods.

“We are grateful for the support to Asbury Woods and the hundreds of organizations and projects ECGRA has supported.”

The Community Assets – Arts, Culture, and Heritage Grant Program is an investment that encourages entrepreneurship and innovation, enables communities to engage in creative placemaking, plays an integral role in attracting new residents and businesses by elevating the quality of life, and protects what is unique to Erie County.

WQLN Public Media, which runs *The Chronicles*, the immersive documentary series that takes a deep dive into what makes the Lake Erie region remarkable, both past and present, was a recipient of this round of arts, culture, & heritage grants.

“A multi-faceted show like WQLN’s *Chronicles* would not be possible without the support of organizations like ECGRA,” said Michael Berlin, WQLN Executive Producer of the *Chronicles*. “Thanks to ECGRA’s contributions, WQLN is able to extend its marketing to various platforms so that we can reach a greater audience and make them aware of the show, while also helping the show’s producing team to contract various local talent, so that the show can feature other creatives to help tell the stories and preserve Erie’s history.

“Thanks to ECGRA’s generosity, *Chronicles* is capable of paying it forward and provide Erie’s artists a space to do what they love while helping to educate about the region we call home.”

An impact investing organization, ECGRA's mission is to empower the nonprofit sector, municipal governments, and economic development agencies to revitalize Erie County. ECGRA is endowed with local share gaming revenue from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania via the Horse Race Gaming Act. Local share gaming revenue is an assessment of the licensed gambling industry in Pennsylvania. ECGRA administers Local Share Gaming Revenue Authority on behalf of Erie County government.

Below is a breakdown of the 2024 Special Events Grants and Community Assets – Arts, Culture, & Heritage Grants that were awarded:

2024 SPECIAL EVENTS		
Organization Name	Event	Amount Awarded

Albion Area Fair	Albion Area Fair	\$13,700.25
Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System	PA Business Week in Erie County	\$2,700.00
AmeriMasala	AmeriMasala	\$1,683.00
Asbury Woods Partnership	2024 Series of Events	\$3,363.73
Borough of Edinboro	Boro with the Works	\$1,507.50
Borough of Girard	Dan Rice Days	\$572.93
Borough of Union City	UCPD National Night Out 2024	\$207.00
Borough of Wesleyville	Wesleyville Community Days	\$869.40
CAFE	Celebrate Erie/Lights over Lake Erie	\$15,000.00
Crime Victim Center of Erie County	2024 Events	\$3,313.85
Downtown North East	Winefest 2024	\$3,044.70
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundations	Barber National Institute Events 2024	\$12,516.08
Edinboro Arts & Music Fest	Downtown Edinboro Arts & Music Fest	\$3,420.00
Edinboro University Foundation	202 Highland Games & Scottish Festival	\$2,553.75
Erie Arts & Music Festival	2024 Erie's Blues & Jazz Festival	\$5,130.00
Erie County Bar Association	2024 ECBA Law Day	\$2,250.00
Erie Homes for Children & Adults	Golden Gatsby Gala/Partners in Dance/Unspoken Symphony	\$3,288.60
Erie Latino Leadership Association	Fiesta on the Square	\$1,391.18
Erie Lions Club Save An Eye Fund	86th Annual Save An Eye All-Star Football Game	\$1,125.00
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership	2024 Erie Homecoming	\$4,500.00
Erie Roller Derby	Bayside Bruisefest	\$364.14
Erie United Methodist Alliance	Ride for the Refuge, EUMA Golf Tournament, Ruck the Bay	\$3,150.00
Erie-Western PA Port Authority	8 Great Tuesdays	\$5,652.90
Film Society of NWPA	Eerie Horror Fest	\$5,458.50
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	2024 Series of Events	\$2,947.50
Harborcreek Community Engagement Team	2024 Community Events	\$936.00
Harborcreek Township	Concert in the Park, Light Up Night	\$1,350.00
Holy Trinity RC Church	31st Annual Zabawa Polish Festival	\$7,065.00
Humane Society of NWPA	The Mutt Gala, Rock & Rescue, Trails & Tails 5K, Paws for Patriots Golf Outing	\$7,074.00
Impact Corry	CorryFest Chainsaw Carving Festival	\$3,472.79
Jefferson Educational Society	JES Programming/Global Summit	\$15,000.00

Lake Erie Fanfare	28th Annual German Heritage Festival	\$2,245.50
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	Panegyri	\$7,375.50
Mercy Center for Women	2024 Events Lineup	\$4,059.00
Nonprofit Partnership, The	23rd Annual Keystone Nonprofit Conference	\$3,947.18
Orthodox Church of the Nativity	Troika Festival 2024	\$2,700.00
Presque Isle Light Station	2024 Season of Events	\$1,011.15
Presque Isle Partnership	2024 Events	\$4,990.50
Saint Patrick's Church	Erie Irish Festival	\$7,389.66
SSJ Neighborhood Network	St. Paul's Italian Festival	\$5,031.16
Union City Action	French Creek Festival 2024	\$946.13
Waterford Community Fair Association	2024 Waterford Community Fair	\$8,685.00
Wattsburg Agricultural Society. Inc.	Erie County Fair at Wattsburg	\$12,651.75
YMCA of Greater Erie	Senior Fun Day 2024	\$330.75
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	2024 Series of Events	\$4,366.80
TOTAL		\$200,337.88

2024 ARTS, CULTURE, & HERITAGE		
Organization	Project	Amount Awarded
Albion Area Fair	Vegetable Building Renovation	\$7,000.00
AmeriMasala	The AmeriMasala	\$10,000.00
Community Resources for Independence	Inclusive Beautification Project	\$3,138.93
Dafmark Dance Theatre	Creative Arts Center at Horan Garden Apartments	\$10,000.00
Downtown North East	2024 Enjoy North East Events	\$12,000.00
Edinboro Arts & Music Festival	Edinboro Arts & Music Fest	\$13,000.00
Edinboro University Foundation	Highland Games and Scottish Festival	\$5,500.00
Erie Art Company	Washington Irving Literary Festival	\$5,000.00
Erie Arts & Music Festival	2024 Erie Blues & Jazz Festival	\$12,000.00
Erie Yesterday	Collaboration of Eight Historical Organizations	\$14,000.00
Erie's Black Wall Street	Juneteenth Weekend Celebration	\$12,000.00
Film Society of NWPA	Eerie Horror Fest	\$10,000.00

Heberle's Heartstrings	Jason Heberle's Memorial Open Mic Competitions	\$1,500.00
Hornby School Restoration Society	Museum Structure, Window, and Outdoor Classroom Improvements	\$6,300.00
Impact Corry	Creatively Making Places in Corry	\$11,000.00
Lake Erie Fanfare	41st Season of Drum Corps Activities	\$12,000.00
Messiah Lutheran Church	Wesleyville Community Garden	\$5,000.00
Springfiled Township	Racoon Park Fundraiser	\$1,445.00
Triangle Chapter DAR	North East Revolutionary War Soldier's Memorial	\$10,000.00
Veterans Miracle Center	VMCE Good360 Community Redistribution Partner Program	\$15,000.00
Waterford Community Fair Association	Grandstand and Building Renovations	\$13,500.00
Wattsburg Agricultural Society	South End Restrooms (Home Show Building)	\$11,000.00
WQLN Public Media	Chronicles Docuseries: Season 3	\$13,000.00
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	20th Anniversary Season	\$15,000.00
YMCA of Corry	CorryFest Chainsaw Carving Festival	\$7,000.00
TOTAL		\$235,383.93

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

EGRA
Tom Maggio, Grants Manager
5340 Fryling Rd., Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Tom and the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority,

On behalf of the entire team at the YMCA of Corry, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your recent approval of the Arts, Culture, & Heritage Grant request, and contribution to our Corry Fest Chainsaw Carving Festival. Your generosity has made a significant impact on our organization and the community we serve.

Your support plays a crucial role in enabling us to continue our mission of our mission in promoting health and wellness through recreational activities at the YMCA /celebrating local artistry and fostering community spirit through the Chainsaw Carving Festival. It is because of partners like you that we are able to provide youth development programs to those in need.

Your donation to our Chainsaw Carving Festival demonstrates your commitment to supporting local artisans and our community events. We are truly honored to have your support and partnership in our endeavors.

Furthermore, your contribution has not only made a difference in our organization but has also touched the lives of countless individuals within our community. Your investment in our cause will have a lasting impact, empowering us to continue making positive changes and fostering a brighter future for all.

Once again, we extend our sincerest appreciation for your generosity and belief in our mission. We are profoundly grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with you and look forward to the possibility of future partnerships.

With warm regards,

Michele A. Brady
CEO
mbrady@ymcaofcorry.org



Asbury Woods
The woods are calling.

ANDREW J. CONNER
NATURE CENTER
BROWN'S FARM
GREENWAY TRAIL

4105 Asbury Road • Erie, Pennsylvania 16506 • 814.835.5356 • asburywoods.org

May 7, 2024

Mr. Perry Wood
ECGRA
5340 Fryling Road Suite 201
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Perry,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you, and everyone involved at ECGRA for sponsoring our 2024 programs and events listed below:

- Luminaria
- Maple Festival
- Arbor Day
- Monday Music in the Woods
- Tour de West County
- Wine and Dine in the Woods
- Fish Field Day
- Winnie the Pooh Event
- Scary Creature Feature
- Winter Wonderland

We are incredibly grateful to you and all our donors who so generously support Asbury Woods. Your gift is critical to our ability to protect the land, maintain the trails, offer educational programs for all ages, and provide natural recreational opportunities.

Again, thank you. I hope to see you in the woods, on the trails, or at one of our events soon!

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Farrar, CFRE
Executive Director

*Many thanks!
Hope to see you soon.*

Asbury Woods Partnership is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization which received your contribution of **\$3,363.73 on 04/16/2024**. No goods or services were given for your donation; therefore, the full amount of your donation is deductible for federal tax purposes. **Please retain this letter for your tax records.**

Perry Wood

From: Shawn Luikart <shawnluikart@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 4:56 PM
To: Perry Wood
Subject: Appreciation for Support from Beehive (PennWest)

External Sender - From: (Shawn Luikart <shawnluikart@yahoo.com>)

[Learn More](#)

This message came from outside your organization.

Dear Perry Wood and ECGR Staff,

I hope this email finds you all in good spirits. I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for the support we've received through the Beehive organization (PennWest).

Working with the talented college students from PennWest has been an absolute delight. Their dedication, creativity, and expertise have far surpassed our expectations. From crafting our logo to developing our website, they have been instrumental in helping us establish a strong foundation for our startup business.

As a startup with limited resources and technology know-how, the assistance provided by the Beehive organization and students has been invaluable. Their passion for our project and commitment to delivering exceptional results have made our journey as a startup entrepreneur much smoother and more fulfilling.

We are immensely grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Beehive (PennWest) and for the support they have provided us along the way. Their project not only benefits us but also highlights the importance of community support in nurturing the talents and aspirations of young students. Thank you for your dedication to the growth and vitality of our community.

Warm regards,
Shawn Luikart
Jennifer Luikart
Owners
814-679-4059



EMMCO West, Inc.

Northwestern PA EMS Council

May 13, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Wood,

On behalf of the entire team at EMMCO West, I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your generous support and sponsorship of the 2024 EMS Symposiums on the Streets held over the past four months. Your contribution played a pivotal role in making the event a resounding success and ensuring that our Pennsylvania EMTs and paramedics received valuable education and training.

The EMS Symposiums on the Streets served as a vital platform for professionals in our field to come together, exchange knowledge, and enhance their skills to better serve our communities. Your commitment to supporting educational initiatives within the EMS community demonstrates your dedication to the advancement of prehospital care and safety.

Thanks to your support, attendees had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of informative workshops, hands-on training sessions, and engaging lectures led by esteemed industry experts. The knowledge gained from these sessions will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the quality of care provided by our EMS personnel across the state.

We are truly grateful for your partnership and the meaningful difference it has made in the lives of Pennsylvania EMTs and paramedics. Your ongoing support is invaluable as we continue to strive for excellence in prehospital emergency medical services.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering dedication to our EMS community. We look forward to the possibility of working together again in the future to further our shared mission of saving lives and improving patient outcomes.

Warm regards,

William D. McClincy, Executive Director
EMMCO West, Inc.

SUMMER UPDATE

WARM WEATHER MEANS LOTS OF WORK IN THE EAST BAYFRONT

\$5,000 HOME IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Your property is eligible.

- Funding available through the Bayfront East Side Taskforce.
- Must be a residential property located between Front St. to 6th and Holland to Parade.
- For exterior improvements only (windows, roofing, doors, facade, siding, etc.)
- Can be combined with other grants.
- 1:1 matching grant.



RENAISSANCE BLOCK EXTERIOR REPAIRS GRANTS

- As a recipient of ECGRA's Renaissance Block Grant, B.E.S.T. oversees the distribution of grant funds to eligible property owners to assist with external improvements to their homes.
- In addition to nearly 40 inquiries and applications, B.E.S.T. has been able to assist several homeowners in applying for the Redevelopment Authority's Healthy Homes Grants so that they will be able to remain safely in their homes.
- Qualifying residents are still encouraged to apply! Please contact B.E.S.T. for more information.

THANK YOU ERIE INSURANCE!

- On May 10, 2024, more than fifty volunteers from Erie Insurance spent the day in the Historic East Bayfront assisting with a variety of projects, largely benefitting senior residents.
- From landscaping to painting, installing fence caps, placing paver stones, and weeding, the E.I. volunteers were tremendously productive and accomplished a lot that will benefit the neighborhood.



UPMC Health Plan and the City of Erie will be sponsoring the 814 Concert Series, again, this year! Join us at Nate Levy Park on July 28!

COMING SOON: LIGHTS ON!

- As part of our Safe Routes to Parks Action Plan, B.E.S.T. will be starting a Lights On! initiative to improve neighborhood safety by encouraging residents to leave their porch lights on at night.
- And, if they would like, we'll provide and install a light-sensor LED bulb for their exterior lights.
- We'll also provide info on who to call if a street light is out.
- More info to come!



B.E.S.T. MAKES ERIE BETTER!

Interested in volunteering for a neighborhood cleanup or to help with home improvement projects? Contact us at volunteer@besterie.org Make sure you include your name and contact information in your message.

LOCAL

Erie's summer youth jobs program starting 2024 season. How teens can apply

**A.J. Rao**

Erie Times-News

Published 5:35 a.m. ET May 16, 2024 | Updated 12:21 p.m. ET May 17, 2024

Connecting young people to local businesses and industries can play a critical role in building careers – and, in turn, boosting the local economy.

That's the philosophy behind the Erie County Earn and Learn program, a collaborative effort between county government, the **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority** and the Greater Erie Community Action Committee.

The program, a retooled version of the Summer Jobs and More (JAM) program, provides job readiness training, career exploration and employment opportunities for Erie County youth throughout the year.

Erie County Executive Brenton Davis and GECAC Executive Director Danny Jones kicked off another season of the program Tuesday, informing the public that applications are now being accepted.

“This program is designed to tackle the shortage of workers for local employers while providing on-the-job opportunities for different youth and career pathways,” Davis told reporters at the Erie County Courthouse.

“We believe in the importance of investing – one, in our youth, and (also) investing in developing our local industrial clusters and investing in opportunities right here in Erie County.”

Who's eligible?

Participants must be Erie County residents, ages 14-21, whose family income is within 250% of federal poverty guidelines, according to GECAC, which administers the program.

What do participants do?

The program hosts 150 participants.

Tier 1 includes youth, ages 14-17, who have no work experience. This group will focus on job readiness training and soft skills like time management and teamwork.

Tier 2 includes youth, ages 18-21, with previous job experience or who are career oriented. This group will focus on existing career opportunities in Erie County.

Tier 1 participants will earn \$8.25 an hour. Tier 2 participants will earn \$10 an hour. In both cases, a successful evaluation could mean a pay raise.

“In previous years, many students have used these funds towards helping their families or helping themselves for school or school supplies,” Earn and Learn Director Jamilia Gates said.

Youth are matched with employers based on employer specifications, geographic proximity and availability of reliable transportation for youth, according to GECAC.

Gates said jobs encompass a variety of sectors to include childcare, food service, community centers, receptionist work and helping small businesses.

Opportunities have also been available at Erie Insurance, Gannon University, the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, the Martin Luther King Center and the Booker T. Washington Center, Gates said.

Since GECAC will now cover all wages, payroll taxes and worker's compensation for Tier 1 participants, more job opportunities might be available, Gates added.

How to apply?

Applications are available on the GECAC website at gecac.org.

The youth application deadline is May 31.

At the end of the application, applicants will have the ability to schedule an appointment with the Earn and Learn staff to complete the rest of their application.

For more information, contact Gates at 814-459-4581 ext. 407 or email earnlearn@gecac.org.

Summer JAM becomes Earn and Learn: Youth Summer JAM becomes 'Earn and Learn' workforce development program

A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@gannett.com. Follow him on X @ETNRao.

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

The Corry Journal • www.thecorryjournal.com

UC OKs 8 Renaissance Grants; application process reopened

BY MARYANN MOOK
Correspondent

Eight more residences in Union City Borough will get some sprucing up thanks to a Renaissance Grant provided by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA).

Borough Council, during its May 14 meeting, approved eight applications for Renaissance Grant funds.

All applications were approved based on the fact that improvements to the properties made with the funds will help in the borough's fight against blight.

The total amount of the applications was \$25,260.58. The money is from Round Two of a \$100,000 grant for the 2023-24 cycle.

"We have more than

enough money to cover this project," Wells said. "Approving these applications leaves about \$18,400."

The purpose of the Renaissance Grant Program is to remove housing blight, reverse deterioration, incentivize and spur private investment, make neighborhoods and communities more attractive, increase the market value of homes and improve the municipal tax base.

Because there is money left in the funds, applications will again be accepted.

"There are some funds remaining for the Renaissance Grant, so the application process has been reopened," Wells said.

Applications will be accepted for residential properties on West High Street,

South Street, the Avenues, North Main Street, South Main Street, East High Street and Route 97 within the borough limits.

There are not any income requirements, but those requesting a grant must fill out an application. The application process is open and runs through June 21. The grant is made on a 1:1 matching basis, and the maximum grant award is \$5,000.

The following types of improvements are permitted: doors and windows visible from the street; roofs, soffits, gutters and downspouts; exterior lighting; porches, stairs and steps; painting, siding and shutters; and chimney and masonry repairs.

◀ See Grants, P.3

Grants

(Continued from front page)

Grants will be awarded based upon the level of improvements and the vitality and significant impact the project would make to a neighborhood.

All grant applications must

be approved by Union City Borough Council.

The guidelines and applications are available online at unioncitypa.us or at the Union City Borough Office, 13 S. Main St., during normal business hours.

For more information, call the borough office at 814-438-2331.

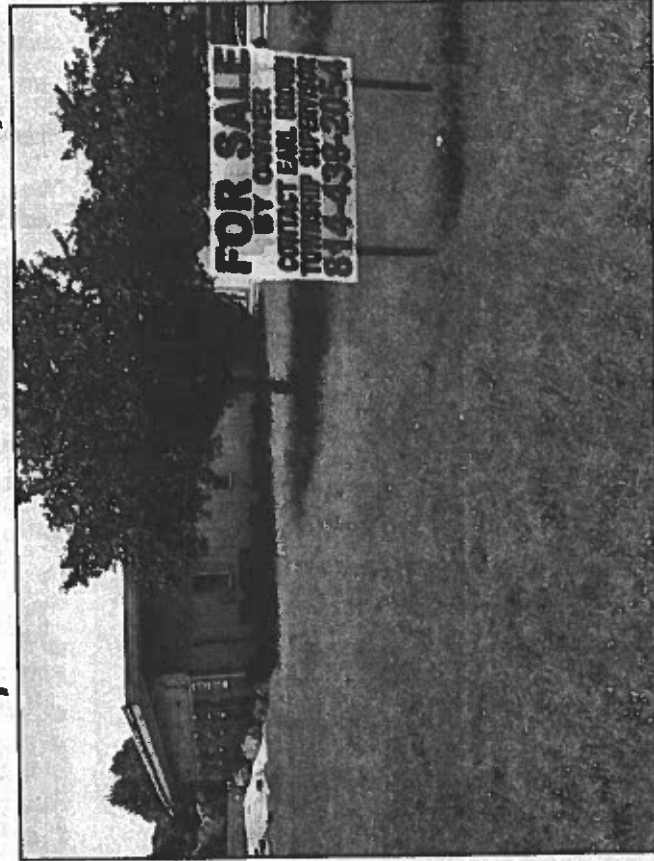
Union Township "on the move" with purchase of new building

BY STEVE BISHOP
Contributing writer

After spending the better part of 70 years operating out of their current municipal building on Route 8 just south of the Union City Borough line, the Union Township Supervisors have the township literally on the move.

The township late last year culminated nearly two years of negotiations with Texas-based Tetra Technologies by purchasing two buildings sitting on approximately 6.2 acres the oil-and-gas services firm had previously operated out of, but that had sat vacant in recent years. The property is only a few hundred yards south of the current township building, across Route 8 from Union City Elementary School.

The \$200,000 purchase was finalized in November by the late Dennis Triscuit, a longtime township supervisor who recently passed away, and who referred to the newly acquired property as being "for the township's future."



Contributed photo

The Union Township Supervisors are accepting sealed bids for this 2,400-square-foot building, sitting on eight-tenths of an acre just south of Union City Borough on Route 8.

ever home." The township Authority finalized the purchase with a 1 percent loan through the Erie County Redevelopment

administration and highway maintenance operation. The township recently put up for sale, contains 2,400 square feet on eight-tenths of an acre. Proceeds from the sale of the smaller building will be used to begin renovating the larger building, to allow for the township operation's eventual relocation.

The smaller building has housed various enterprises over the years, and was last used as office space by Tetra Technologies. The larger building, which will house the township's operations, was originally constructed by the state in the 1990s for use as a vehicle emissions inspection station, but was never used for that purpose.

When renovations to the larger building reach the point where the township can relocate from its current building, the supervisors will also put the existing township building on the market, and use the proceeds from that sale to complete any additional reno-

ventions required at the new building. The township already has a leg up on the funding it needs to begin renovating its new building, thanks to a \$50,000 "Community Facilities" grant recently awarded to the township by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA). ECGRA administers a variety of grant programs using funds generated at Presque Isle Downs & Casino in Summit Township. While Union City Borough has been the recipient of several ECGRA grants in recent years, this is the first the township has applied for, and the first it's been awarded.

The township was required to "match" the ECGRA grant with \$16,500 in local funds, and successfully applied recently to the Union City Community Foundation for half the match, or \$8,250. As a result, Union Township only has to provide the remaining \$8,250 to bring the initial pool of available renovation funds to \$66,500.

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Buildings

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The township is already putting an initial slate of renovations together for the new building using those funds, and will expand the work scope when it sells the smaller adjacent building. That initial scope of work is expected to include plumbing, electrical, heating, drywall, paint and ceilings in what will be the new building's public space.

Renovations will also ultimately include expanding the size of the building's vehicle openings, including new garage doors, to accommodate the township's trucks, plows and other vehicles and equipment. While the new building's square footage is only slightly larger than the township's existing building, the configuration of that space makes it more easily usable.

The township supervisors will accept sealed proposals for the smaller building until its next meeting on Tuesday, June 11, at 7 p.m. The property's appraised value is \$103,000, and the supervisors at their recent May meeting rejected a purchase proposal of approximately \$65,000.

Township Supervisor Earl "E.J." Brown is making himself available to show the property to interested parties, and said the supervisors are hopeful for a quick sale that would fund sufficient renovations to the new building allowing the township to relocate before next winter.

"If we can get things shifted and get that additional funding (from selling the adjacent property), yes," he said of the goal to move in by winter. Brown can be reached at 438-2054.

Supervisors say relocation from the current township building will solve a number of longstanding issues, including that in order for the township's trucks and other

heavy equipment to access the rear garage doors, those vehicles must swing over adjacent private property.

The township does not have sufficient space in its garage for all of its vehicles and equipment, meaning the township has had to lease off-site space. Not having all of its vehicles and equipment at one location reduces the township's operational efficiency.

The township also does not have sufficient space for all of its highway maintenance materials in one location, further reducing its efficiency. The current township building sits on approximately 1.5 acres, compared to the 5.4 acres connected to the new building. In addition, the township's current location is not secured by a fence, which has resulted in some past thefts of materials, while the new property is fenced.

Finally, the township's current office and meeting space is limited, and doesn't have restrooms compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The new facility will provide for more suitable accommodations for election voting, provide potential meeting space for community groups, give the township the capability of providing an emergency shelter, and provide a more suitable space for an incident command center for emergency service providers when the need arises. It is those purposes for which the township received the ECGRA grant.

Brown said the township supervisors, which include Supervisor Chairman Brian Gregor and the recently appointed Chip Webster, are grateful for the support of ECGRA and the Union City Community Foundation.

"The community is very supportive," he said of the Union City area. "We are very, very fortunate to have these opportunities."