



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

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
FEBRUARY
2022**

Knight, Ericka

From: Sparber, James
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:26 PM
To: Knight, Ericka
Cc: Laska, Carolyn; Lander, Bridget
Subject: FW: Local Share Assessment Payment Notification - Erie County

Ladies, Please see below. Jim

From: RV, BFM Gaming <RA-BFM-Gaming@pa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:18 PM
To: Sparber, James <JSparber@eriecountypa.gov>
Subject: Local Share Assessment Payment Notification - Erie County

Dear Mr. Sparber:

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

An ACH for the 4th quarter of 2021 payment in the amount of ~~3,018,149.76~~ should be deposited in your bank account within 10 business days. This payment includes the interactive gaming local share assessment of \$36,893.92, the slots local share assessment of \$481,255.84 and the slot machine license operation fee of \$2,500,000.00. Any reductions to the Gross Interactive Gaming Revenue (GIGR) and Gross Terminal Revenue (GTR) for promotional items is the result of the Gaming Bulletin 2015-01 and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's April 28, 2014 decision in Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment Incorporated v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue (90 A.3d 699 (Pa. 2014)).

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

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

Our mission is to fairly, efficiently and accurately administer the tax laws and other revenue programs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

① ERIE County 067-02100-042100

$$3,018,144.76 \times .55 = 1,659,982.37$$

② ECGRA 067-021050-042100

$$3,018,144.76 \times .45 = 1,358,167.34$$

January 2022

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

IMPLEMENTED

7 Total January posts
6 Total graphics created

IN PROGRESS | 2022 Grant Releases and Graphics
Holiday Graphics

IN PLANNING

Parks Fields & Trails 2 year report
ECGRA Playbook
Roadshow Tours



University Advancement
Alumni House • 210 Meadville Street • Edinboro, PA 16444
phone: (814) 732-2992
fax: (814) 732-2996
advancement@edinboro.edu

December 31, 2021

Mr. Perry N. Wood III, Executive Director
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
5340 Fryling Rd Ste 201
Erie, PA 16510-4672

Dear Mr. Wood:

I write to send my most sincere appreciation for your gift. Please know your gift means more now than ever to our students. Together, we are moving mountains and forging pathways for the next generation of educators, lawyers, authors, historians, artists, medical professionals, social workers, journalists, accountants, geologists and more. Your gift reflects our steadfast commitment to student success and retention. Most importantly, it helps us change lives.

We are beyond grateful to have your loyalty and trust. We want you to know that our students, faculty and staff appreciate all you do to ensure the mission of Edinboro endures. Edinboro will continue to instill a love of learning in its students and empower them for a lifetime of leadership because of opportunities offered by you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Kindest Regards,

Amanda Brown Sissem
Associate Vice President for Advancement
and Alumni Engagement

P.S. The impact of your gift to Edinboro University may be doubled or possibly tripled! Please check with your HR Representative to see if your company sponsors a matching gift program.

~~~~~

**Gift Amount:** \$5,000.00  
**Gift Type:** Foundation  
**Designation:** ECGRA Grant Beehive Innovation Spaces

*Your contribution may be tax deductible as provided by law. Please retain this document for tax filing purposes. Unless otherwise indicated, no substantial donor benefits were associated with this gift.*

**"OWB has done so much amazing work in the past few years for our residents!"**

**- West Fifth Street Resident**

# Great things are happening in the West Bayfront neighborhoods

## Vacant Property Renovations

In 2020-21, Our West Bayfront renovated three vacant buildings, bringing the total number of occupied residential units owned by OWB to seven. OWB is grateful for its partnership with Housing and Neighborhood Development Service, or HANDS, which provides management services at these properties.

OWB acquired three vacant residential properties in 2021. These include two from the Erie Land Bank. OWB is currently working to secure financing to rehabilitate them into affordable, safe housing for OWB community members.



## Property Repairs

Our West Bayfront continued to assist OWB property owners with grants to help make home repairs and improvements with a particular focus on geographic areas identified in the OWB Community Plan. In 2020-21, OWB worked with property owners along West Eighth Street as part of the Re-Store West Eighth Street and Liberty Street initiative, which is supported in part by

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. During this time, OWB assisted a total of 10 property owners with repairs, distributing \$66,514 in grant funds that were matched by \$63,621 in owner contributions. Since 2017, OWB assisted 116 properties with more \$508,000 in grant funds.

## West Bayfront Events



The West Bayfront Events Committee brought free events and activities back to the community after the challenges of 2020. The committee hosted fun and engaging events including Eerie Fall Fest at Gridley Park, the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Gridley Park National Night Out, and West Bayfit at Bayview Park.

OWB is grateful for the participation of UPMC Hamot, which provided free COVID-19 vaccines at many of these events. We are also thankful for the several local businesses and organizations that provided financial support and for the hundreds of volunteers to make these events possible.

**"Thanks for the trash can on my corner, I pick up litter daily."**

**- West Seventh Street resident**

# CITY&REGION

## Davis seeks to re-budget ARP funds

Community college, diversity board targeted

A.J. Rao  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Erie County Community College, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission and the Blue Zones community health project could all see massive budget cuts this year should a proposal from Erie County Executive Bren-

ton Davis move forward.

Davis, a Republican who took office in January and who's staked his candidacy on a more aggressive, regional approach to economic growth, said the cuts are part of a larger strategy to reallocate funds to programs with real plans and objectives, and to set aside funds to leverage outside dollars.

### The proposal

The Davis administration on Thursday sought council support to re-budget

roughly \$26 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds that have already been slotted for specific programs and organizations in the 2022 budget.

The funds are expected to arrive in June.

The administration said the funds shouldn't have been budgeted by the previous council in December, considering three council members, along with former County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, were outgoing.

Since the funds don't have to be allocated until 2024, as per ARPA guidelines

, the administration said it should have the opportunity to negotiate a new budget plan to better reflect the wishes of the electorate.

"We didn't believe that it was appropriate to rush this money out the door," said county Director of Administration Doug Smith at a council finance meeting Thursday. "This administration and this council should have the opportunity to make all of these funding decisions for the \$26 million."

See FUNDS, Page 6B

## Funds

Continued from Page 1B

### The budget plan

Davis' proposal, which was included in an ordinance at Thursday's meeting, was joined by a tentative budget plan for the ARPA funds.

Notable changes included a decrease in funding for the Erie County Community College. The institution was budgeted to receive \$15 million in ARPA funds this year. Davis reduced the allotment to \$400,000.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission was budgeted to receive its second round of \$3.5 million. Under the new proposal, this is eliminated.

"There's nothing personal there," Smith said in an interview Friday with the Erie Times-News. "But by the same token, the DEI Commission already has \$3.5 million and they don't have any infrastructure built. I don't think it's unreasonable for the administration to look at that and say, 'Let's see what you can accomplish.'"

Gary Lee, chief administrative officer of the DEI Commission, said he appreciated and understood the administration's request.

"It is my understanding the recent proposal would require the DEI Commission along with other organizations seeking funding to apply or re-apply for consideration of ARPA funding," Lee told the Times-News.

As for the community college, Smith said the county executive is working with college President Christopher Gray to focus on potential "workforce development projects."

It is unclear whether the proposed reduction in ARPA funds would affect students.

Gray could not be reached for comment on Friday.

Other proposed changes included removing all leftover 2021 funds from the Blue Zones project — \$375,000 — and the county Vaccine Incentive Program — \$21,036 — and transferring them to a new Fusion Center, a networking center that would seek out grant funding opportunities.

The Fusion Center was formally referred to as the Community Futures Center during the 2021 budget process.

"It's our belief that the Blue Zones isn't a priority," Smith told the Times-News. "We know that was something Ms. Dahlkemper and her administration favored, but we don't feel that's much of a priority and gives us as much of a return as we like to see."

The plan also reduced urban renewal and community development funding, removing the \$500,000 county share for the Savocchio Park revamp in the city of Erie.

Councilman Terry Scutella of Erie said the administration was "blowing up" a plan that was exhaustively negotiated and approved by council last year.

"You want this (council), especially the ones who were on it the year before, to flip-flop on what they did," said Scutella to the administration.

Councilman Andre Horton of Erie agreed, insisting the proposal was like "pulling the rug from under" individuals who were expecting an allotment.

"People have already been notified that they were going to receive these buckets of money," he said.

In a letter to council members, Davis appealed to the council to act quickly to give entities expecting 2022 funds enough time to send a new request for funding consideration.

Councilman Samuel Bayle of Washington Township agreed that council has a responsibility to evaluate and re-evaluate how public money is used.

### An added incentive

Another feature in Davis' plan was to include a \$250,000 line item for each council district.

"We offer you the chance to fund projects in your district," Smith told council members.

The idea was met with resistance as council members like Scutella said the line items were an incentive to support the proposal.

"To me, I considered it a bribe," Scutella said.

"I think it's ethically wrong. I think it's insulting. It's like 'walking around money,'" said Councilwoman Mary Rennie of Erie.

"It doesn't seem right that each County Councilperson has that (money) in their back pocket and gives it to whomever they might think they want

to give it to without any sound reason," said Councilwoman Ellen Schauerman of Fairview Township.

Smith said the money would have to be spent in accordance with ARPA guidelines and go through a council vote to ensure checks and balances.

"It certainly wasn't intended as a bribe," he said to council. "We intended it as a way to bring you into the process."

Smith said the administration would be open to eliminating the line items and transferring the money back to the ARPA fund balance.

### What's next?

Council members declined to put the proposal on Tuesday's regular meeting agenda, insisting more information was needed.

Rennie said she was concerned with Davis' plans.

"It seems very much as though he doesn't understand the processes and doesn't care that he doesn't understand the processes," she said. "It's going to get the county into trouble and we stand to lose a whole lot of money if things are mishandled. We are ready to work with him but he needs to do this legally and appropriately with county government."

Smith insisted the proposal was a "first step," and welcomed the opportunity to discuss it more with council.

"This is not etched in stone," Smith said. "And it's something we expect to be talking about in the coming weeks, even months."



# Union City completes major projects in 2021

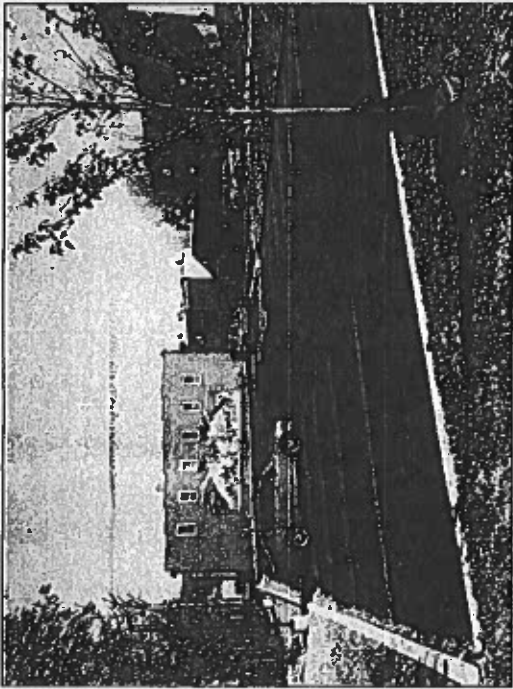
BY STEVE BISHOP  
Contributing writer

Wrapping up several high-visibility projects and initiating a host of new efforts highlighted Union City's progress in 2021.

"This has been a phenomenal year with all the projects the borough and Union City Pride were able to accomplish, especially during the pandemic," said then-Union City Borough Council President Dan Brumagin.

Several of the projects have been a few years in the making, as part of a \$258,000 "Shaping Tomorrow" grant awarded to nonprofit Union City Pride in late 2019 by the Erie Community Foundation. Additional funding came from a variety of sources, including the Union City Community Foundation and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA).

Among the year's accomplishments are the construction of a new public parking lot across South Main Street from the Union City Public



Contributed photo  
A new public parking lot on South Main Street across from Union City Public Library, overlooked by a new mural and bordered by trees, are three initiatives accomplished in Union City in 2021.

Library, a new mural overlooking the lot, the planting of downtown trees, the installation of historical markers and interpretive panels, the finalization of a

mentation of a matching fund to assist downtown building owners in upgrading their properties.

In addition, PennDOT concluded a \$1.2 million traffic signal upgrade throughout the downtown. Caffisch Park saw numerous handicapped-accessible improvements and new restrooms, the borough completed a new master plan for its four parks, as well as an "Active Transportation" plan aimed at improving the borough's walking and bicycling connectivity, and several residential properties were upgraded through ECGRA's Renaissance Block Program.

"It's important because it shows the amount of work, collaboration and like-minded goals required to move Union City forward in a positive direction," Brumagin said.

Borough Manager Cindy Wells said that, after the pandemic-induced restrictions of 2020 put many projects on hold, 2021 was a "very successful year."

See Projects, P.2

## Projects

(Continued from front page)

"We were able to finish up large projects and combine them together," she said, citing the improvements to Caffisch Park, the new parking lot, the mural, trees and more. "People driving through town are noticing the changes in Union City."

Like Brumagin, Wells pointed to collaboration as a key to recent successes.

"There have been changes in leadership within several organizations over the last few years and it has created an atmosphere of working together and the ability to get things done," she said. "It takes more than one group to reach the accomplishments we have seen."

Steve Jones, chairman of the Union City Community Foundation board of directors, noted several of the projects were initiated using an Erie Community Foundation "Shaping Tomorrow" grant of \$258,000 awarded to Union City Pride Inc. in late 2019. That grant attracted additional funding from the Union City Community Foundation and other sources.

"It's amazing what can be accomplished when we have leaders all working together in concert," he said. "When we can toss egos aside, sharing ideas and visions, we can accomplish so much more."

That, in turn, is encouraging private entrepreneurs to invest in the community, he said, with a restoration of the community beginning

to take hold.

While many initiatives were finalized in 2021, a number of new projects were started and will stretch into 2022. They include researching the feasibility of a bike-hike trail along French Creek through the borough, the feasibility of improvements to the Borough Building's upper floor to increase community use and access, and improvements to the Main Street-High Street downtown "gateway."

Other new initiatives targeted for 2022 implementation include additional residential rehabilitation under ECGRA's Renaissance Block program, and improvements to the borough's Southwest Park.

"It has been many years in the making, but I feel the current and future projects that local stakeholders are working on will continue to improve Union City's image," Brumagin said. "I feel our trajectory will only improve from here."

"Everything starts with an idea, small steps of progress are taken, and a community is beginning to grow and thrive again," Jones said. "All of this is exciting to witness, and we are just getting started."

A comprehensive "Project Update" list of current and past community initiatives since 2009, providing an overview of each project, their funding sources and current status, is available on Union City Borough's website at [unioncitypa.us](http://unioncitypa.us).



Journal file photo  
Steve Blahop, left, of the Union City Community Foundation, and Judy Norman, of the Union City Area Historical Society, unveil a historic panel during the borough's 150th anniversary celebration.



Journal file photo  
A mural designed and made by artists Tom Ferraro and Steve Mik of the Looking Glass Project greets visitors heading north on Main Street in Union City.