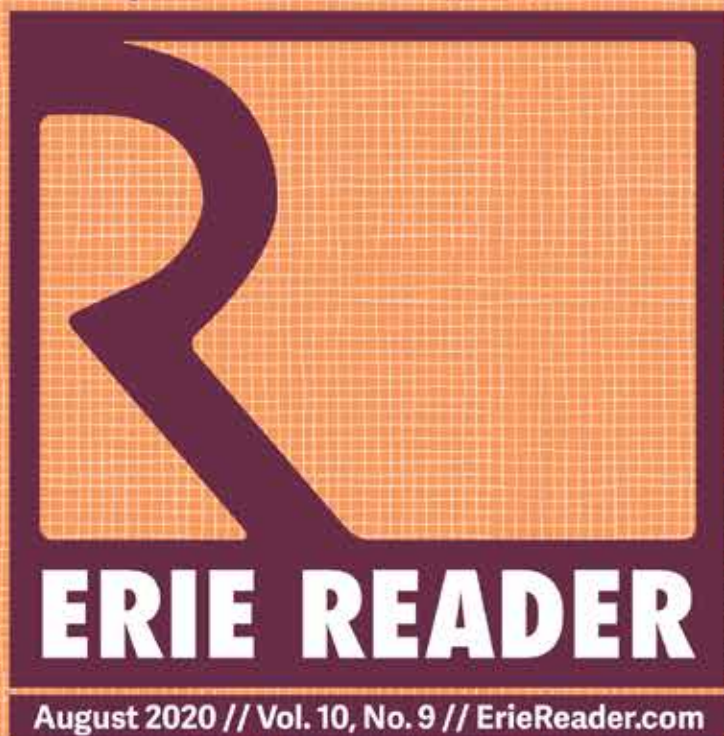


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When the Giving Gets Tough

Erie Gives Day & Beyond

Erie's Community College

Citizen Review Board



Plus: Erie's Cystic Fibrosis Society | Whitethorn Games
1918's Pandemic Snakeoil | A Bayfront Boulevard?

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This issue's latest stumper from David Levinson Wilk

From the Editors**Signaling for help**

It's no easy thing to ask for help. Yes, there is sometimes pride involved — think of all the dads out there aimlessly wandering the aisles of their local hardware stores right now, how many roundabout odysseys for cordless electric drill bits and toilet flusher handles might've ended if well-meaning store associates weren't prematurely shrugged off. Those dads should be grateful — after all, outside the retail world, how many of us *wouldn't* love to be immediately directed to *exactly* what we want or need?

Can I help you find anything today? Sure, show me the way to peace and quiet; to that funny thing I thought of the other day; to reconciliation with an estranged friend or family member; to redemption for a past wrong; to self-confidence and fulfillment. There are countless items that we as individuals and as a society seek, for which we can't simply scan a barcode or look up an SKU. Instead, we bargain and haggle, bartering time and energy for the mere *chance*.

Unfortunately, many pleas for help are neither seen nor heard, however visible or loud the distress signal. In fact, a good deal of them are ignored entirely. We're not talking about flares shot off by crash victims lost in endless expanses of wilderness or open sea; we're talking about problems in plain sight, voices within immediate earshot of our community. Some of their fires have been billowing smoke for *decades*, proving that as hard as it can be to *ask* for help, it can be even more difficult to *receive* it.

How long have we witnessed the ravages of racial inequality? The destruction and degradation of our environment and its continued detriment to our health and happiness? The underfunding of public education and the gulfs it's widened? The repercussions of selfish shortsightedness and negligence? These issues and many others are still out there. You don't need an eagle's vision to spot the flames or a bloodhound's nose to smell the fumes. You only need the conscience to care and the courage to act.

Erie Gives Day is never going to put out all of the fires — but each year, it offers anyone with an altruistic heart the coordinates to those signaling for help. Helmed by the Erie Community Foundation, the annual charity drive has raised over \$26 million for area non-profits since its inception, and has no plans of stopping anytime soon, coronavirus be damned. Log onto eriegives.org on Tuesday, Aug. 11, anytime from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Their nonprofit search *can* help you find any cause you might want to donate to (check out our staff picks for inspiration).

In a year that has taken so much from us, it might be harder to give. But it's never been more important.

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Safe and Satisfied -

Not only did I get a beautiful haircut, but any fears I might have had were eliminated by the sanitary procedures I observed being carefully practiced. Kudos to Panache (and Siobhan)!

★★★★★ Diana B.

Good to be back!

The service was professional and careful, with attention paid to current conditions and client/staff safety. Much preparation was invested and apparent. Staff is well-trained as always, and well-versed in the new protocols.

★★★★★ Judy K.

Thank you -

Thank you for creating a wonderful safe environment for all of us who were anxious to get back to a sense of normalcy. It was so great to experience Edna's expertise creativity!

★★★★★ Jane R.

Happy Hair!

Panache and its staff are always THE BEST - cleanliness, organization, quality, customer service...you name it! COVID-19 has made business difficult for hands-on professions - but they handle it with grace and professionalism. I can't wait for my next appointment!

★★★★★ Sarah H.

Hair appointment -

Had a wonderful experience once again at Panache. Leah did a great job as usual. I felt completely safe with the new formats executed to make sure all of the clients are safe. Great job and appreciate the extra time you take to ensure we have a safe and memorable experience.

★★★★★ Jackie H.

Always a 5★ Experience at Panache -

If you're looking for outstanding service, top drawer expertise and talent in Erie, Panache Salon and Spa is the place you want to go! As a long time client, with extremely difficult hair, I couldn't be happier with my color, cut (shout out to Leah Matters!) and experience each time I go! Kudos to Edna for maintaining the best salon and spa in the area, along with the best, most accommodating staff, as well!

★★★★★ Cindy R.

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AWESOME!!!!

First haircut since quarantine and Panache took every precaution to make me feel safe. Everything was sanitized and they gave me a disposable haircut cape to not spread germs! Allison, my stylist, always gives me the perfect cut! My new favorite salon!

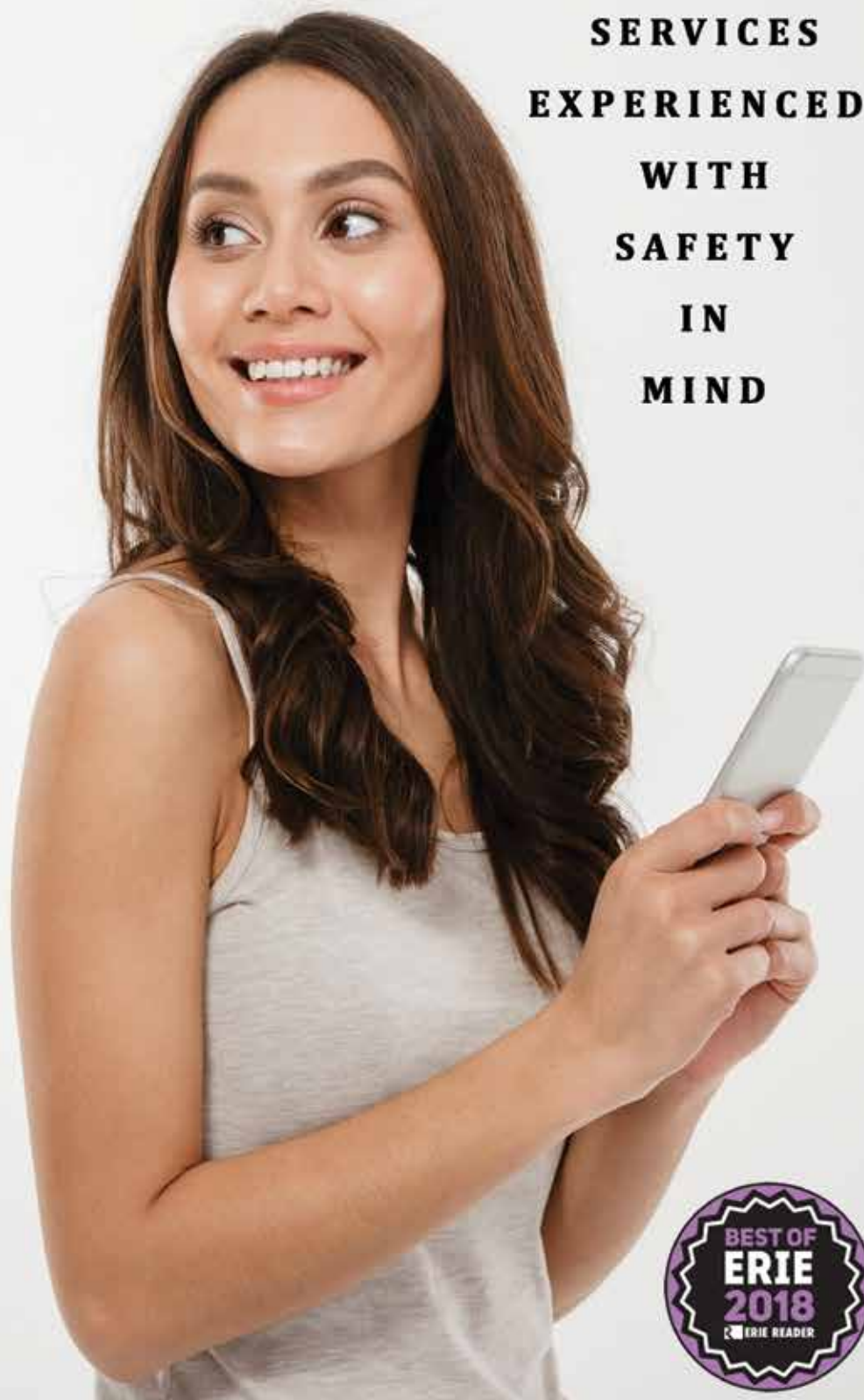
★★★★★ Mikalia E.

New To Erie -

I just moved to Erie and was nervous about picking a new salon but I chose Panache and my appointment was with Aldina. She was WONDERFUL. I told her what I was looking for and boy did she deliver! The salon was very clean and I just felt instantly comfortable there.

★★★★★ Amanda W.

**SERVICES
EXPERIENCED
WITH
SAFETY
IN
MIND**



The Case for a Citizen Review Board for Policing in Erie

How would it work to hold law enforcement accountable?



Crowd control officers lingered in Downtown Erie the morning of Sunday, May 31 — after a peaceful Saturday protest over the death of George Floyd unraveled into chaos. The rifle pictured falls into the category of a “riot gun,” a firearm designed to fire “non-lethal” or “less-lethal” ammunition, such as rubber impact rounds.

NICK WARREN

By: Dan Schank

I’ve never felt more like a witness to history than I have this summer.

The sustained anxieties of COVID-19 have added to this feeling, as have the chaotic cruelties of the Trump administration. But it’s the movement for Black Lives, and the degree to which it has reshaped public attitudes and political possibilities, that makes me feel like something genuinely life-altering is happening all around us.

As concerned citizens react to the murders of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Breonna Taylor in Louisville, and Ahmaud Arbery in southern Georgia, a sincere reckoning with institutional racism, police abuse, and constitutional rights finally feels possible. The Black Lives Matter protests that began in late May are still ongoing, both in Erie and across the globe. Monuments to the Confederate South are being dismantled as I write this. Authors like Ibram X. Kendi and Ta-Nehisi Coates are topping bestseller lists. And ideas that once seemed radical are attracting serious consideration in our political system.

One such idea with a long history in Erie is the demand for a citizen review board for policing. Frankly, I think we need to establish such a board in Erie.

And I’m not sure there’s ever been a more appropriate time to push for one.

A 17-year history

Demands for citizen review of our police have come and gone many times without execution. When looking back on these efforts, a parallel timeline of controversies surrounding police practices emerges.

Take 2003, for example. Mayor Rick Filippi was confronted with a federal civil rights lawsuit after a local man claimed that two police officers broke his nose and elbow during an unlawful arrest. The conflict also revealed complications within our city’s citizen complaint process. Filippi suggested civilian oversight as a potential solution, but found no majority on City Council.

Fast forward to 2009 and a less-ambiguous crisis led to Councilwoman Ruby Jenkins-Husband calling for a citizen review board. A secret recording of police officer James Cousins II emerged, in which he drunkenly mocked an African-American murder victim in a local bar. The video, which is still visible on YouTube at press time, drew national condemnation. For example, the president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) called for the officer’s arrest

and demanded a Department of Justice investigation into our police force. Jenkins-Husband was able to secure a majority on City Council to establish the board, but Mayor Joe Sinnott decided not to move forward with the effort.

In 2017, Council President Sonya Arrington renewed the call for a board in the wake of accusations of police brutality toward Montrice Bolden, whose violent arrest was caught on camera outside a bar on Erie’s east side. Bolden ultimately sued the six officers who arrested him, resulting in a \$125,000 settlement in early 2019. Arrington later withdrew her demand after receiving assurances from police chief Dan Spizarny that body cameras would soon be implemented for our officers, an effort that is still being finalized.

In 2020, there’s more momentum than ever. After the downtown protests on May 30 turned violent, a video quickly emerged of an officer kicking a peaceful, seated protester named Hannah Silbaugh in the head. The officer, who has still not been named, received three days of unpaid suspension. Then, in mid-June, Sgt. Jeff Annunziata, the city’s chief traffic investigator and a 34-year veteran of the police force, sent an extremely ill-advised email to Mayor Joe Schember and several local report-

ers. The letter purports to offer concern for a “peaceful resolution,” but instead indulges a number of racist and antisemitic stereotypes about black people who “cannot take care of their own” and a “deep state” controlled by George Soros. Annunziata was fired shortly after. Finally, on July 6, a video was made public following a court hearing of a violent confrontation behind a tavern on Erie’s west side, in which Patrolman Nicholas Strauch can be seen punching a suspect seven times in the head.

In the midst of all this turmoil, four of City Council’s seven members (Liz Allen, David Brennan, Michael Keys, and Kathy Schaaf) have voiced support for a review board and Mayor Schember has expressed willingness to discuss it.

The community weighs in

“I have voiced support for a citizen review board since it would provide an opportunity for open communication, transparency, and accountability,” says Councilman David Brennan. “The board would help to curb overt aggression and bad behavior, and in the end, build community trust.” Brennan also notes that “in the past few months, the city has launched three internal investigations to address behavior by Erie police officers which has heightened the need to move forward.”

Councilwoman Kathy Schaaf sees it as a way “to build a stronger sense of community relations,” while noting that the mayor and community liaison Michael Outlaw have been doing strong work to improve communication between the police and the community. “There are programs in place that are stepping stones in the right direction,” according to Schaaf, but she sees a citizen review board as an important way to maintain transparency.

Local activist groups have also signaled support. Elspeth Koehle, an organizer with the activist group Erie County United (ECU), claims that “the formation of a board to investigate



NICK WARREN

Officers in full riot gear stand in Perry Square the morning after the incidents of Saturday, May 30, in which several downtown businesses incurred significant damage.

wrongdoing, independent of police affiliation, is the most fair, objective, and equitable way to keep all members of the community safe and accountable.” Andrey Rosado, of the newly-formed protest group Erie Equal, agrees: “A lot of us don’t believe that the police are capable of policing themselves, just because there’s such a strong conflict of interest.” Rosado, who co-founded Erie Equal less than two months ago but has already seen his group’s membership exceed 3,000 people, is calling for immediate action: “We want to have a board established — not necessarily people in their seats, but a framework for it built — by the end of the fiscal year. And that’s something we’ve proposed to the mayor himself.”

Establishing the board

There are approximately 140 oversight boards in operation in the U.S., and there’s tremendous diversity regarding their duties, powers, funding, and effectiveness. Even the terminology is complex — a “citizen review board” can include current members of law enforcement or government, while a “civilian review board” typically does not. In some cases, boards are established through traditional ballot measures, but more often mayors, city council members, and police chiefs appoint the boards.

Brennan and Schaaf are quick to stress that City Council is still in the early stages of discussion, but both have ideas about how a board might be established. “Board members should be residents of the city and should reflect the cultural and racial diversity of our community,” according to Brennan. “In

reviewing other boards, typically the mayor, city council, and the police select the members.” Schaaf agrees with this selection process but also suggests including the mayor’s recently-established Strengthening Police and Community Partnership Council, since the group “could help in their alignment of priorities.”

ECU’s Koehle stresses a need for “civilians with diverse backgrounds, including law, social work, and other relevant professions, but also folks who would usually be overlooked; civilians who are often the target of police who lack accountability.” Erie Equal’s Rosado makes a similar point: “If you go exclusively based off of who’s qualified, it’s going to be based off of college degrees — which a lot of minorities and people who live in our community do not have.”

Making it work

Once a citizen review board is established, additional urgent questions emerge. How independent will it be? Will it be able to summon people to court? Will it have disciplinary power? How will its work differ from that of an internal affairs unit within the police force? What will its budget look like and where will the money come from?

To answer these questions, City Council and Mayor Sember have initiated a series of study sessions. The first, which is visible in full on the City of Erie’s Facebook page, includes a half-

hour discussion with Nicci Page, an attorney with the firm Melaragno, Placidi, and Parini. As a defense attorney in Erie, Page is familiar with cases alleging police abuse in our city. Perhaps more importantly, she also served as a senior prosecutor for New York City’s Civilian Complaint Review Board, where she successfully prosecuted officers facing misconduct charges.

In the video, Page explains the basic layout of New York’s review board. There are 13 members who serve three-year terms — five appointed by the mayor, five appointed by city council, and three appointed by the police. Most board members have expertise regarding the law, public health, or constitutional rights. The board has the power to conduct independent investigations, to demand police participation, and to prosecute officers in some circumstances. Surprisingly, Page claims that most of the cases she investigated were about misconduct and courtesy, rather than use of force.

The advice Page offers for setting up civilian oversight is quite clear. She stresses the need to ensure that data is compiled rigorously regarding police encounters — and shared openly with the review board. She recommends embedding the board into the city charter so that its work doesn’t end alongside a particular administration. She says it’s crucial that you have buy-in from the police department so that investigations can run smoothly. She cautions against models that don’t have any authority beyond submitting reports, and stresses that independence is the most important element a board can have.

Erie County United is championing a powers-auditor/monitor model for citizen review. Koehle explains the approach by stressing the need “to promote broad organizational change by conducting systematic reviews of police policies, practices or training, and to make recommendations for improvement. We need a board with subpoena power, authority to recommend discipline, the ability to hear testimony from all parties, and enforcement power. Community input and involvement is crucial.” Earlier this month, the local chapter of the NAACP made a similar call for an independent review board in a letter to the mayor outlining proposed changes to combat racism in our community.

The academic data I’ve read encourages me to take these recommendations seriously. For example, in a widely-cited

article for the *Seton Hall Law Review*, Udi Ofer (deputy national political director of the American Civil Liberties Union) offers eight key features for effective civilian review, which I’ve paraphrased below:

A board majority should be nominated by civic organizations with “an interest in the safety of the city and in the civil rights of community members.”

The board must be granted broad scope to review complaints.

Independent investigatory authority, including “the ability to subpoena witnesses and documents.”

Ensure that disciplinary measures stick by limiting a police commissioner’s ability to reject the board’s findings.

Auditing powers

The board’s budget “should be tied to a fixed percentage of the police department’s non-capital budget.”

Due process protections must be granted to police officers

Residents should be able to file complaints easily and public access should be as transparent as possible.

Ofer’s list is an admittedly tall order. It’s unlikely that a board that mirrors his model exactly will be up-and-running in Erie any time soon. And there are important conversations to be had to ensure that the board is more than just a costly, bureaucratic public-relations exercise without the power to bring about real change.

I wouldn’t say I’m optimistic about the odds of a strong review board emerging, but I’m certainly *less* pessimistic about the potential for social change than I’ve been in recent memory. Erie Equal has been leading near-daily, non-violent protests for well over a month, attracting a growing coalition of young people with the energy to bring about change. Governor Wolf has also begun executing criminal justice reforms, such as his recent executive order to create the Pennsylvania State Law Enforcement Citizen Advisory Commission, and his decision to create a mandatory, state-wide database of police misconduct. There’s a desire for change in Erie, as well as a growing coalition of highly motivated citizens ready to implement it.

It’s a unique and uncertain moment that we’re living in. Let’s hope we can capitalize on it to make our city more equitable.

Dan Schank can be reached at dschank@eriereader.com



meals on wheels erie



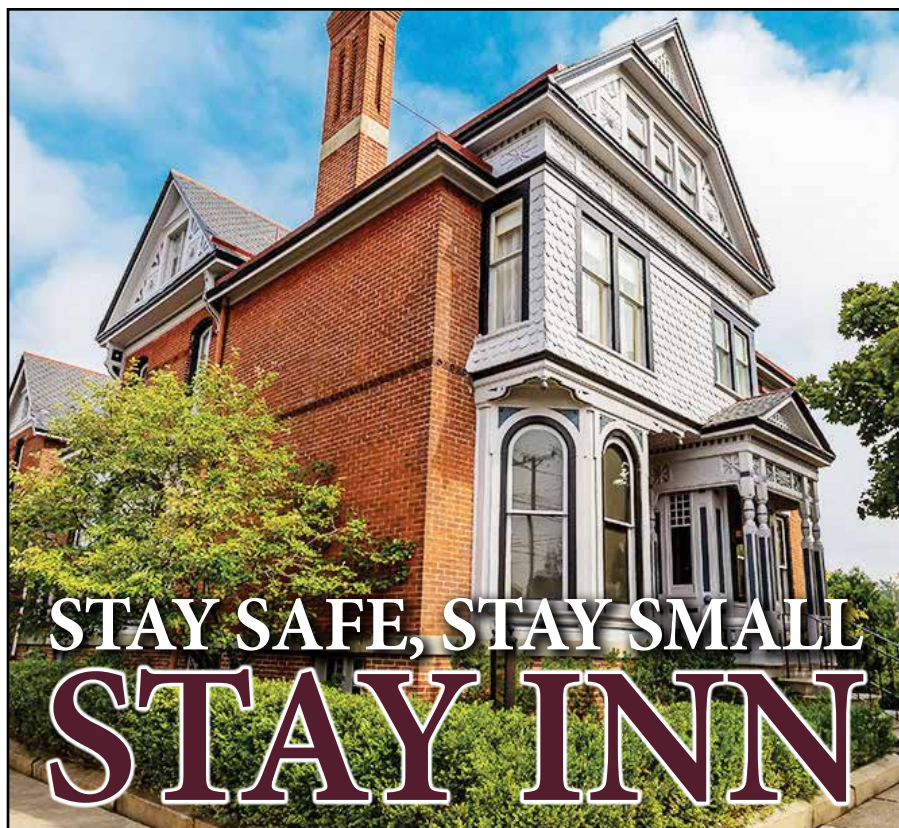
Each day Meals On Wheels Erie directly supports the health, vitality and independence of seniors and disabled adults through home delivery of nutritious meals. Our clients depend on our meals and grocery deliveries, especially as we face COVID-19. Our mission is to help them remain safe at home while getting the nutrition they need.

With your help this year we were able to deliver from center city to Harborcreek, Girard, Edinboro and all points in between. It is our hope to branch out further into the county in the coming year. Your continued support on Erie Gives Day will help!



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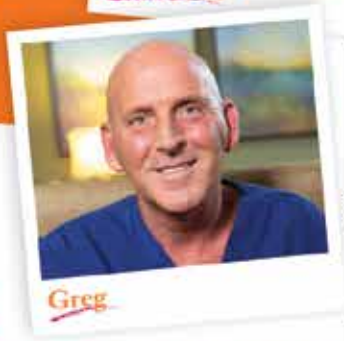
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MORE INFORMATION AT WQLN.ORG/MAEWEST

Chronicling Erie County's Community College Conversation

How did we get here?



ALPHASPIRIT

By: Ben Speggen

While uncertainty abounds when it comes to the future of education on the whole as the nation continues to grapple with the evolving and fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, we know this much is true: Erie County's bid for a public community college has been approved.

On Wednesday, July 8, the Pennsylvania Board of Education voted 10 to 5 in favor of the proposed plan. That vote followed a preliminary vote that fell 9 to 6 on June 11 after a two-day-long virtual hearing.

But why a community college? Why are we here — again — discussing the need, the merits, and potential, now?

"Not every city can have a research university," writes James Fallows in the 2018 bestselling *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey in the Heart of America*, which he co-authored with his wife Deborah. "Any ambitious one can have a community college."

"And while research universities are the most important part of the U.S. educational system from a global perspective," he continues, "I've come to think that community colleges matter most domestically right now."

Noting the critical role of its public library system, the welcoming of New Americans, unique impact investing through casino revenue, locally provided high-speed Internet, its anchor Fortune 500 insurance company, and more, the Fallows collectively — long-time correspondents for *The Atlantic* — found plenty to report on Erie

during their time here in 2016 (a year I'd like to ask you to keep in mind).

But not a community college. Then, four years ago, the prospect of a community college was mostly just talk and most of the talk echoed from conversations past.

The answer to the question, *Why would towns and cities and regions need and/or want a community college?* isn't singular. Echoing Fallows' observation, not all places have a research university. And not all people have the means — or desire, or ability — to travel to and attend one for studies, whether that's full-time or part-time, as a traditional or non-traditional student.

Others might point to the role community colleges play in creating pathways from minimum-wage work to family-sustaining employment in, say, the high-tech sector or advanced manufacturing. One more would be services they provide when it comes to taking General Education Development tests or earning trade certificates.

The answer to the question *Why would Erie need/want a community college?*, likewise, isn't limited. For many of the reasons "Anywhere, USA" would want one or see the need, so does Erie. What's more, the northwestern region of Pennsylvania represents the largest geographical swath of the Keystone State unrepresented by a community college tied to the commonwealth's public system.

Another response would be: Erie

For many young adults, especially those from poor or underprivileged backgrounds, attaining a degree from a traditional research university can seem like an insurmountable challenge. A community college, such as the one recently approved in Erie after decades of back-and-forth, opens pathways to valuable career skills and family-sustaining wages that offer a more realistic possibility of breaking the cycle of poverty.

County residents have already been funding community colleges.

Each year, state dollars flow into and out of the general fund, by way of taxpayer dollars on their way in and financial support to the 14 existing community colleges on their way out. In October 2019, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf indicated to the Board of Education that the commonwealth could fund an additional community college, according to a statement by Elizabeth Bolden, president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges.

But how did we get here? And where exactly is here?

Let's go (as is often said) back to the beginning, or rather, a beginning — that of the Erie Reader and its community college coverage. That comes with the caveat that much will be left uncovered here — from Erie County's community college experiment long, long ago to some of the conversations spanning the years leading up to 2011. Those are stories for other days. And so, here, we begin as we began.

Less than four months into its existence, as the infant Erie Reader swaddled along, Cory Vaillancourt, self-described brilliant writer/complete hack (his words, not mine) was doing something he proclaimed he was sometimes known to do: Listening to the voices on the radio and doing what they told him to do.

Back in July 2011, it was the voice of Don Henley, who, in Vaillancourt's words, was "imploring me not to get caught up in the same old situation others before me have — this story was covered in detail when it was topical, and new ground was not to be broken here, not today, not by me."

Interesting literary analysis of "Hotel California" overlaid to a decades-long, ongoing story for Erie aside, Vaillancourt was there to in-

terview the late former County Executive Barry Grossman. We at the Reader had asked Vaillancourt to dig into the community college conversation, because even at our young age, we recognized the weight of that particular issue to the community we were working to serve. If perhaps one more outlet in Erie discussed the story, something new *might* be found, something *might* just change.

Vaillancourt was right: The story had been covered in detail. The news at the time of General Electric Transportation in Erie publicly endorsing a community college and pledging funding towards it, school board votes on that matter affirming, recanting, shelving, and halting progress on the matter, and more had grabbed more than their fair share of headlines. The ambition to construct a community college had been heralded before in community plans, like 2001's "Toward an Economic Development Strategy for Erie," often referred to in Erie by the last name of its chief author, the Bosworth Report. Similarly, it was assigned, drafted, read, considered, and shelved.

More than anything else in the interview (which is still available at ErieReader.com), Grossman's final remarks to Vaillancourt perhaps echoed our own befuddlement the best — even by the time we were in a rhyme of printing and had begun to gain trust with our readers, ongoing conversations had precipitated little action:

CV: I'm not much of a journalist. My editor keeps telling me I need a local hook, a twist at the end of my story, or some sort of personal anecdote. Can you help me out here?

BG: E.J. Dionne, Jr., who writes for the Washington Post, and is syndicated in the Erie Times, was here and spoke to the Jefferson Society, and a bunch of us hosted him for dinner, and I was sitting next to him. It was right after I was inaugurated. He looked at me during dinner, and said "Well, Grossman, what was the big issue in your campaign?" and I said, "The community college." And he said, "Really! What's wrong with your community college?" And I said, "We don't have one." I'll never forget this as long

as I live — he dropped his fork, some food dribbled out of his mouth, he stared at me incredulously and said, “What? You don’t have a community college? There’s three in the county I live in.” That’s the message we have to get across — that we are dinosaurs in this, and we are really paying the price for this.

Stuck in the Jurassic Age, Erie lumbered on, and in October of that year, Vaillancourt, this time with fellow former Reader contributor Mark Toriski, penned a feature on the impending future of GE. Briefly mentioning the community college issue, the two wrote: “Erie won’t even give GE the badly-needed community college they’ve been asking about,” a sober reminder of the tenuous, troubled relationship the community had then with its then-largest employer, who relocated its headquarters from Erie to Chicago, shed hundreds of jobs in just a few years, and sold out to Wabtec corporation.

Fast-forward a couple of years and the Reader brushed it off as “dead in the water.” A notable change had transpired within Erie’s political arena, as former Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper defeated the incumbent Grossman in 2013’s Democratic primaries. Riding out the remaining months of his first-and-only term as county executive, Grossman continued to be vocal about his support for a community college.

In advance of the 2013 general election, in which Dahlkemper would go on to defeat Republican challenger Don Tucci, Reader contributor Rebecca Styn asked Dahlkemper: “[Grossman] has publicly stated he may be willing to endorse a candidate if either steps forward favoring the establishment of a community college, and to retain some of his staff. Thoughts on this?”

Dahlkemper responded: “I have not ever publicly tried to receive endorsements from public officials — rather focusing on the everyday voter. I don’t believe those endorsements are vital. I would rather just hear the message of the constituents.”

Those would be the now-in-her-second-term County Executive’s first words to the Reader on the issue, before later going on to be one of the issues’ most ardent voices of support.

Following that 2012 election, the Reader issued an op-ed that addressed the community college head-

on and formally endorsed the idea.

“This election — if the political tea leaves tell us anything — revealed two key things that first began in May: Erie was ready for change, and Erie wants to continue embracing change,” we wrote, acknowledging Erie County voters’ decision to elect a new county executive and two new County Council members (Jay Breneman and Andre Horton, both of whom endorsed the idea of a community college at the time). And of the four elected City Council members, nary a one opposed the community college idea.

“Yes, Erie County plays home to four universities and a medical school — and we’re lucky to have those resources — but that’s no reason to say ‘no’ to a community college, an institution that would serve a different demographic with vastly limited options currently available to it,” we added, concluding with the call: “Now it’s time to keep that change that Erie voted for rolling. And that change starts with returning to the potential of a community college in Erie County.”

Skip ahead to April 2014, and just a few weeks later, then-City Councilman (who’s back on council now) Dave Brennan wrote a guest op-ed, proclaiming: “It’s time to develop, retain, and attract a talented workforce for Erie.” Under his “develop” bullet point, he listed the need for a low-cost educational alternative, “such as a community college.”

As months fell from the calendar and into the waste bin of history, conversations seemed quieter about a community college in Erie, but reminders along the way kept voices above a hushed silence. Like when I wrote in March 2016 about one way Detroit was rebuilding and rebounding that included free community college education for city residents — something that’s still scalable, I’d argue, in Erie.

Which has brought us back to 2016 — the year I asked you to keep in mind. And no, it wasn’t because of any particular elections that occurred that year.

—
Not long after the Fallows departed Erie in August that year, and shortly after they began writing their modern day *Travels with Charley: In Search of America and Democracy in*

America with Our Towns, local attorney Ron DiNicola and Erie County Councilman Andre Horton launched the nonprofit Empower Erie “to develop the complex and detailed application necessary for state approval, and to raise awareness about the need for a community college in Erie County,” as noted on Empower Erie’s website.

The following year, then Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott would be in the final year of his third four-year term and he would be ineligible for reelection due to term limits.

Faced with inevitable change, candidate after candidate began announcing their campaign bids to seek election to the office of mayor — nine in total, seven Democrats and two Republicans. We at the Reader asked “What history will Erie elect to make?” as we began exploring what many heralded as “the most important election in Erie’s history.”

Earlier in 2017, during the primary election, when nine became two, Joe Schember emerged from the crowded Democratic pack and in a battle of the Jo(h)ns, Persinger upended Whaley. Schember would go on to City Hall after November’s victory.

All along the way, two words became frequent mentions at campaign rallies, parties, debates: community college.

Those two words would continue to reverberate throughout the region over the next two years. In our “State of Erie Industry” feature in March 2019, Erie Reader Contributing Editor Jim Wertz reminded readers that “in every community having economic success, there is a common denominator: proximity to a community college. Erie is the largest metropolitan statistical area in the country without a brick-and-mortar community college and whether or not one is established in Erie County will be the difference between regional progress or the continued stagnation of the local economy — industrial, commercial, and personal.”

Just a few weeks later, County Executive Dahlkemper penned a guest op-ed for the Reader, explaining that Erie County would be negotiating a partnership with the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC), which would be “responsive to the needs of our employers and workers while also being responsible to our taxpayers. If this partnership comes to fruition, we will have affordable,

accessible education and top-of-the-line workforce training at no cost to county taxpayers.”

In short, NPRC, a quasi-community college serving a nine-county range, offers instruction emblematic of a public community college, with the distinctive feature of lacking a brick-and-mortar campus. By the commonwealth’s definition, NPRC is not a public community college, although it does receive some state funding.

Partnership talks weren’t new. They had been explored in 2017 when NPRC (founded in 2014 as the Rural Regional College) was just getting started and when the county had sought local sponsorship for a prospective public community college bid. While those at the table seemed to be seated too far apart then, they had scooted closer over time.

A month later, NPRC pulled out. After talks with an established Erie County Task Force, NPRC officials cited changes to the drafted partnership agreement were altered too drastically. They would return to their original plan, leaving the county alone at the table.

“But the game doesn’t have to be over if enough regular folks and business leaders can raise a ruckus about why Erie has been excluded from state funding ever since the Pennsylvania Community College Act was passed in 1963,” wrote Liz Allen, Erie Reader contributor and long-time public editor at the Erie Times-News, on Aug. 14, 2019. Allen highlighted the dearth of budget-conscious learning opportunities in Erie while reminding readers that funding was still behind Empower Erie thanks to the Erie Community Foundation. Allen also covered stories of those positively impacted by a community college education, wondering for many Reader readers what was being left on the table if Erie County continued to go unserved by a true public community college.

Nevertheless, they, those championing for Erie County to launch the 15th public community college in the commonwealth, persisted.

2019 gave way to 2020, with the county’s community college bid sitting in Harrisburg. Then came the announcement: A review would be scheduled for March 18.

But then came the bigger, global-implication-bearing news: COVID-19.

Slowly, March slipped away to April

NEWS & VIEWS

and April gave out to May and then to June — when finally the first Erie Community College hearings would be held virtually and over the course of two days.

And that brings us to here: First the 9-6 vote in June and the formal 10-5 vote in July.

Now, both Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and County Council members have put out requests for applications to serve on the college's board of trustees. Dahlkemper will appoint two applicants and each of the seven members of council will appoint one, bringing the total of trustees to nine, to be established 60 days from the July 8 vote.

Additionally, challenges to the board's decision may be filled within 30 days of the decision. But as reported by the Erie Times-News just two days after the "yea" vote, the representatives of the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College, which emerged as the most vocal opponent of the brick-and-mortar community college plan, signaled they would not file an appeal.

After trustees, there will be hires — an administration, a faculty, staff members. There will be land-scouting for the location of the campus. There will be mission statements, vision statements, curriculum drafting. There will be a call for enrollment. And then, there will be classes.

While much may change between now and then — from ongoing developments in the fight against COVID-19 to taking an approved plan and turning it into action — we know this much is true: Erie County's prospect of establishing a public community college, which it has cried out in favor of for decades, is the closest it's ever been to being actualized. Shifting the conversation from *When and how might we get a community college here?* to *How can we ensure we do this right?*, we see up ahead in the distance, a shimmering light. Our hope must be that long-fought battles are in Erie's past and that the future won't linger much longer off on the horizon, that this long-had conversation isn't some hotel out west, which we again check out of — but never leave.

Ben Speggen can be contacted at bSpeggen@ErieReader.com, and you can follow him on Twitter @BenSpeggen.



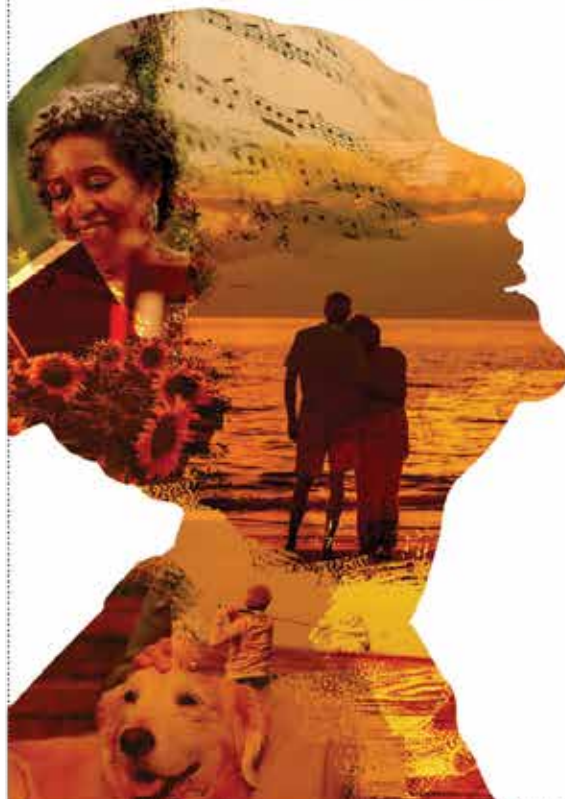
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Strength in Small Numbers

Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie volunteers continue to lean on one another



[left] Paul Sullivan (center, with bowtie) and his wife Lucille (beside him in white) sit in the very first organizational meeting of the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie County on May 3, 1965. **[right]** A family photo of the Sullivans from the 1960s shows their son Timothy, who passed away at the age of 10½ as a result of complications from cystic fibrosis, a rare genetic disease that clogs the lungs, blocks the pancreas, and damages other vital organs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

By: Liz Allen

This Erie Gives story is about a couple who gave back to Erie by helping families of children with cystic fibrosis.

A rare genetic disease, cystic fibrosis clogs the lungs, blocks the pancreas, and damages other vital organs. Treatments and therapies have evolved so that people with cystic fibrosis now live beyond childhood, but there is no cure yet.

The heartfelt work of the late Lucille and Paul Sullivan began in the 1960s, and their legacy endures at the all-volunteer Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie County, an agency that participates in Erie Gives.

When I feel beaten down by grim news about COVID-19, it helps me to remember that individuals and organizations don't have to be big and mighty to make a difference. Instead, sometimes it's our humble but deep-seated people connections, the kind we treasure in Erie, that make the world a better place. The good news is that those connections can be renewed even if we've been separated by time and distance.

I was a kid when I met the Sullivans. We lived on the same street, Lincoln Avenue.

But after graduating from high school and going away to college, I lost touch with their

daughter Elaine, my school friend.

When a dozen Villa alum and I joined Zoom to share updates on the latest COVID-19 news and bridge our social isolation, we decided to try to reconnect with Elaine, whose family had moved from Erie to the Albany, N.Y., area decades ago.

In early July, we put our heads together to find our lost friend. Scouring online resources, we quickly located Elaine's sister, Mary Rose Sullivan, in Sacramento, Calif., and found the obituary for their mom, Lucille Shea Sullivan, who had died in California on June 12. Mary Rose put us in touch with Elaine, who lives in Massachusetts with her family.

Reading the memorials, we learned that Lucille and her late husband Paul founded the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie County after losing their son Timmy, at age 10-and-a-half, in 1964. When Timmy was diagnosed at age 3, life expectancy for a child with cystic fibrosis was only age 5.

In a detailed, poignant memoir, Lucille Sullivan has written about how Timmy's death inspired her, her husband, and many friends to educate Erie residents, including pediatricians, nurses, civic organization and professors, about cystic fibrosis. They started

the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie County in their home with three other couples whose children were seriously ill with cystic fibrosis or had already passed away.

Their new association pledged to raise awareness about cystic fibrosis and to help families obtain scarce medical equipment, locate medical experts, and arrange physical therapy to help clear the lungs of the sick children.

"We wanted his life to have been meaningful; we wanted to use our acquired knowledge to give hope for a better outcome for other CF children," Lucille Sullivan wrote in her memoir, which her daughter Elaine is editing. "I felt that if other children might live because of what we had learned with him, then in some mystical way, it would be Timmy who was helping them and earning the significance he deserved," she wrote.

Lucille Sullivan documented the couple's dogged search for answers about the mysterious ailment that had caused Timmy, the third of their five children, to lose weight and get sick with bronchial infections at around 18 months. They consulted with doctors in Erie, at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, and at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. They drove to the

Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and to Boston's Children's Hospital. They had their other children tested for cystic fibrosis; none had it.

Lucille Sullivan's memoir provides background on the Erie parents who formed the association and recounts their efforts to get financial help from Pennsylvania for families who had to travel out of state for treatment because there were no cystic fibrosis specialists in Erie. The memoir also points out that not all of the volunteers had children with cystic fibrosis; many just wanted to be of service. These volunteers helped the organization grow to more than 200 members; membership was \$2 annually. Lucille Sullivan gives a special nod to her dear friend June Barbarula Smith, who edited the association's newsletter "faithfully and creatively" for years.

Much of this history might have remained with the family if not for the initiative of my friend Helena Power Foxe. After we found Elaine and read Lucille Sullivan's obituary, Helena, who lives in suburban New York City, emailed the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie County to tell the organization about Lucille Sullivan's death and to explain her leadership role in the fledgling association with her late husband, Paul.

Helena's email "filled in a lot of the blanks," said Carol Snyder, president of the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie County, who is as passionate today about advocating for cystic fibrosis patients as the Sullivans were in their time.

Until Helena's email arrived, Snyder said she didn't even know the name of Timmy Sullivan, the child whose death inspired the formation of the association. That wasn't intentional oversight. It's just that 55 years had elapsed since the association was organized on May 3, 1965, and original members were no longer around.

"There were times when there were only two people on the board," Snyder said, referring to Kathy and Evelyn Cage. Sisters who married brothers, both had children with cystic fibrosis. "They would hold their meetings and sit across the table and talk just to keep the organization running," Snyder said.

For Snyder, spreading news about the work of the association is personal. Her 13-year-old great niece, Hailey Bristol, has cystic fibrosis. Hailey was born in North Carolina, one of the states that did not test newborns for cystic fibrosis. "When they have cystic fibrosis, they have a hard time eating. They're too busy just trying to breathe. What food they do eat doesn't absorb properly," said Snyder. "(Hailey) was malnourished even though her mother was doing every-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

thing she could."

When her niece and great niece moved back to Crawford County, Snyder's own mother was determined to get answers about Hailey. "My mother said, 'Take her in and tell them you are not leaving until they figure it out,'" Snyder recalled. Doctors suspected cystic fibrosis; the diagnosis was confirmed a few days later in Pittsburgh.

When her niece and great niece relocated to Erie in 2013, Snyder, who works in Erie in federal law enforcement, suggested that they all check out the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie County. "I contacted them, went to a meeting and just fell in love with the group and what they are doing," Snyder said.

She joined the board and is working to "modernize" operations, she said, including updating its website, www.cfaerie.org, and expanding its service area to Crawford County.

When Snyder decided to update the association's history, she faced some obstacles. She had photos but they were undated. She had names, but women were listed only as "Mrs." without first names.

But in recent months, she's been able to update the association's history, thanks to a series of communications that she calls "blessings."

About six months ago, she said, she heard from Paula Massey, who had just moved to Erie. Massey is the step great

niece of Dr. Dorothy Hansine Andersen, M.D. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, in 1938 Dr. Andersen became the first to identify cystic fibrosis as a distinct disease. She also worked with researchers to create a diagnostic test for cystic fibrosis.

"I appreciate the chance to help increase other people's knowledge of this difficult disease that has no government support," Massey said in an email to me.

Two months after Massey contacted her, Snyder got a message from the son and daughter-in-law of Art and Dotty Krespan, who were among the association's founding families. Three of the Krespans' six children had cystic fibrosis.

"We called Cleveland in distress one Saturday to inquire whether there was another CF family in Erie from whom we might borrow some of the aerosol medication we were out of, as the only Erie pharmacy (Heyl's) that could provide it was closed on weekends and our only other alternative was to drive to Cleveland," Lucille Sullivan wrote. "Dr. (Leroy) Matthews gave us the Krespans' name, and Dotty and Art proved to be like the salt and gold of the earth. Although we saw little of them in those days, learning that they were nearby felt like being released from solitary confinement," she wrote.

From the Krespans' son, Sny-

der learned more about the association's early days.

"Then all of a sudden, Helena reaches out to us. It was kind of like putting the puzzle together," Snyder said.

Elaine Sullivan then contacted Snyder to fill in more information about how her parents and the other parents of children with cystic fibrosis had started the association.

"We pride ourselves on carrying on the legacy of the Sullivans and the other founders. We hope that they would be proud of us," Snyder said.

The Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie County has no office. The organization is run by an executive board of volunteer officers. It works with anywhere from 40 to 45 families at a time.

The association received close to \$3 million from Erie's anonymous \$100 million donor in 2009 and also relies on other donors for its budget. The association provides "direct dollar disbursements" to families to reimburse them for medical expenses, copays and other costs associated with visiting specialists in Cleveland and Pittsburgh. "It's a long day. Normally when they go, they're not just going for a checkup and then leaving. The doctors are doing lung functions, a lot of different bloodwork," Snyder said. "And when a patient goes to the hospital, we will pay for a hotel stay, up to 14 days," she added.

The association has also es-

tablished a college scholarship program for cystic fibrosis patients — one more way to ease the stress of living with chronic, serious illness.

One of the nuggets I savored about the association's history is that the Sullivans enlisted teens from Villa Maria Academy to provide physical therapy for children with cystic fibrosis who lived at St. Joseph's Home, the Catholic orphanage.

"When (my mother) recruited high school student volunteers, she was warned that they would be unreliable," Elaine wrote on a memorial page for her mom. "She taught them the strenuous method of providing postural drainage and percussion — the physical therapy that helped CF children clear their lungs. She explained that the health of the CF children living at St. Joseph's orphanage depended on them, and on very regular treatments. She later said that not one of those volunteers ever missed an appointment."

That's a testament to the value of encouraging young people to give back to the community.

"I am struck, looking back and reading Mom's history, that my childhood was filled with people who volunteered to help others. Some names I'd assumed were friends from church or parents of CF kids, but her memoir shows me that they were people who stepped up to help — loving, lifetime friends for my parents," Elaine

[left and center] Photos captured from the CF Caregiver event on Sept. 7, 2019. Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie County President Carol Snyder calls these women "the faces of CF." [right] Ryan Cook and his daughter Charlie participate in the Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides Walk at Presque Isle State Park on May 19, 2019.

wrote in an email to me.

As Erie Gives Day approaches, it's good to know that Erie's commitment to step up to help others goes way back. I'm also proud that Villa, my alma mater, embraced community service, then and now.

That's probably why, during our weekly Zooms, the Villa friends and I discuss how to make the world a better place. When we get depressed about the pandemic and/or politics, one of us quotes Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

And if we get discouraged that we're getting too old to serve others or act as change agents, it's good to know that Lucille Shea Sullivan, former Erie resident, devoted mother, teacher, pianist, card player and cofounder of the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Erie County, finished her memoir a week before she died, at age 97.

Liz Allen has yet to realize her ambition to write a family history. You can reach her at lizallenerie@gmail.com.



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Skip the Highway; Build a Boulevard

Re-envisioning multi-million dollar Bayfront Parkway Project



This artist rendering by Maxwell J. Hentosh illustrates CIVITAS and Connect Urban Erie's vision of a Bayfront Boulevard "complete street" and Bluffside Park near the Holland intersection. This concept represents a pedestrian-friendly alternative to PennDOT's planned Bayfront Parkway project, which would reinforce the Bayfront's current use as a high-speed vehicular traffic corridor, severing the waterfront from downtown.

high bluff is an underutilized asset. A Bluffpark could connect the downtown to the waterfront with paths (and tiered seating) giving people a wonderful view of Presque Isle Bay. Paths would create new connection points throughout Erie's West and East Bayfront neighborhoods, spreading economic enrichment along the bluff, the city, and region.

Consider that 20 years ago, Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist's demolition of the Park East highway was controversial. Yet, this Great Lake city's subsequent Renaissance proved that connecting assets helped Milwaukee flourish. The Milwaukee Independent recently reported the \$25 million in federal funds used to tear down the highway and provide "tax-increment financing to cleanup ... and re-establish a street grid" created "a magnet for corporate headquarters" (including Erie's own Zurn Industries) resulting in "\$2 billion of economic impact."

In 2015, Norquist visited Erie as a guest of Preservation Erie. Learning of PennDOT's plans, Norquist commented "Erie will be all alone in building a waterfront highway." Norquist says PennDOT's plan "will reduce the attractiveness and value of Erie substantially and probably permanently."

When is Erie going to stop repeating the mistakes of the past?

Urban highways are history. Let's move the traffic cutting through the city to a streamlined 12th Street – and build a human-scaled Bayfront Boulevard serving all of Erie's residents.

You can help protect the Bayfront by calling for an Environmental Assessment. Learn more at ConnectUrbanErie.com

Lisa Austin and Adam Trott are members of CIVITAS and Connect Urban Erie.

By: Lisa Austin and Adam Trott

In 2018, preliminary engineering began for the Bayfront Parkway Project, with construction slated to begin in late 2021. PennDOT's plan, estimated to cost between \$70 and \$100 million, features an underpass at State Street, "highway-style exits," and multi-lane roundabouts in support of the 80 percent of Bayfront drivers currently bypassing the city and cutting off the downtown from the waterfront.

When spending this much taxpayer money, the review process must be completed to understand how the project will impact the community. Thus, the PennDOT project was scheduled for an Environmental Assessment (EA), the normal review to determine possible harm to residents and the environment. However, in March, PennDOT applied for a lesser review — a Categorical Exclusion (CE). CEs are normally granted for small projects like bridge repair or roadway repaving. PennDOT claimed that their massive project has no environmental impact or substantial controversy. Neither is true.

In response to concerns including a letter from the Erie Bayfront Coalition, City Council tabled a July 1 Resolution granting permission to begin PennDOT's project. Letters from PennFuture and Congress for the New Urbanism

urged both an EA and Environmental Impact Statement. On July 15, Council removed the resolution from the agenda and scheduled a study session.

A highway will diminish the existing downtown-to-waterfront connections (and complicate future ones.) PennDOT's plan ignores a key principle of the *Erie Refocused* and *Active Transportation* plans: prioritize the needs and preferences of people walking and biking.

If the highway is built, residents will face twice the traffic, and at least twice the roadway width at crossings. To attempt to remedy the harm they'll be exacerbating, PennDOT has proposed huge, enclosed pedestrian bridges. However, bridges are unlikely to be built without private funding – a solution that may restrict access.

Roundabouts are dangerous, especially for residents who are physically or visually impaired. In July, a distracted driver braked sharply to avoid hitting a Fairview pedestrian in the Millfair roundabout. Soon after, a second car ran into the back of the first. A roundabout at the bottom of Holland Street's steep hill will be dangerous.

In the highway-loop around Erie (from I-79 to the Bayfront, to the Rt.290/Connector to I-90), the 4.5-mile Bayfront is the only gap in PennDOT's high-speed, 4-lane route. If Bayfront

traffic doubles, PennDOT says the east side's Rt.290/Connector traffic will reach 24,000 a day. Today (post-Viaduct) the bike path along the busy, Rt.290/Connector arterial highway is the only route for many eastside residents, including schoolchildren.

As thriving cities around the world are transforming highways into boulevards or parks, why is Erie building a highway? Too many local leaders are still embracing a dated, automobile-centric belief that development requires Upper Peach Street style highway access and vast parking lots, where it is impossible to walk.

Erie Refocused lead author Charles Buki said "it is hard to imagine . . . a more squandered asset in America than the City of Erie's shoreline." Buki called for an "iconic connection" – not a highway severing downtown from the water. Former Destination Erie project manager Michael Fuhrman explained the Bayfront's problem is not traffic congestion, but how to get "the most out of our amazing waterfront." Fuhrman warned that PennDOT's plan "may give us traffic efficiency" but will stop people from moving "easily between the Bayfront and downtown." He believes PennDOT's plan will discourage new residents, the people "desperately needed for revitalization."

Currently an obstacle, Erie's 40-foot-

When the Giving Gets Tough

Erie Gives Day gets the giving going



[top left] The Erie Community Foundation, located at 459 W. Sixth St., has hosted Erie Gives Day since 2011. The annual event has raised over \$26 million for area nonprofits since its inception. [bottom right] While their ministries began in Erie's Little Italy neighborhood, the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network has grown to embrace much of central Erie, with community gardens and urban farms being just a sampling of their good works.

Who: Liz Allen, Contributor
Giving to: Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network

Who they are: The Sisters of St. Joseph founded the SSJNN 20 years ago in partnership with Saint Vincent Hospital to improve the immediate neighborhood close to the hospital. The sisters began their ministry by walking door-to-door to listen to the needs and the aspirations of the residents of Little Italy. The network concentrates on services that are not duplicated by other agencies and, with staff and volunteers, provides tutoring, community gardens, an urban farm, help for renters and new homeowners and emergency assistance, including food and personal care items. In 2014, the SSJNN opened a second office, east of Parade Street on East 26th Street. Today, the SSJNN serves Erie neighborhoods bounded by West 26th and East 26th streets, between Cranberry Street to East Avenue.

Why I'm giving: I credit the Sisters of St. Joseph for teaching me about community service from the time I attended St. Andrew Catholic Grade School through my education at Villa Maria Academy. I see the selfless ways that religious women, including the Benedictines and the Sisters of Mercy, con-

tribute to making Erie a better place for those who live on life's margins. I also admire the way the SSJNN honors the immigrants who settled Erie's central city neighborhoods and how they welcome newcomers, including Erie's New Americans, with open arms. Tireless helpers, they continue their good work well past normal retirement age.

Bonus: Start at either the westside location, 425 W. 18th St., or the eastside location, 436 E. 26th, and take a social distance walk. See what makes these neighborhoods special and learn how you can support the many small businesses that still thrive there.

Who: Jonathan Burdick, Contributor
Giving to: Burleigh Legacy Alliance

Who they are: The Burleigh Legacy Alliance is dedicated to reviving and expanding the legacy of Erie born-and-raised composer, arranger, and singer Harry T. Burleigh by establishing Erie as a nationally-known center for Burleigh scholarship and performance. In its first year of existence, the alliance worked with the City of Erie to proclaim Dec. 2 as Harry T. Burleigh Day and held a week of events including the unveiling of a new historical marker, daily performances, and lectures.

Why I'm giving: When Burleigh died in 1949, he did so in relative obscurity. Growing up, I only knew his name from its attachment to a local school, but the more I learned about Burleigh, his remarkable life, and his influence on American music, the more fascinated that I have become with his story. In recent years, many have worked tirelessly to bring to light Burleigh's contributions and this organization is dedicated to re-

By: Erie Reader Staff

The opening act of the 2020s has tested us in several ways, but most of all in our ability to hang on. Amid sociopolitical upheaval and a global pandemic, there are many who may find their grip slipping — maybe even feeling as if their fingers are being stepped on — due to difficult circumstances.

There are few of us who couldn't use a helping hand right now, someone or something to pull us up from that cliff's edge so that we can dust ourselves off and carry on. That's why this year's Erie Gives Day — the 10th overall — means more than any other. Since the Erie Community Foundation established the annual event in 2011, over \$26 million in donations have been made to hundreds of area nonprofits. Its impact is one of many reasons that ECF President Mike Batchelor was recently awarded The Nonprofit Partnership's Lifetime Achievement Award; he has served in the position for 30 years.

So from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11, you'll be able to donate to any one or more of nearly 400 local nonprofits by logging onto eriegives.org. If you'd prefer to write a check, you can do that too. Just submit it to the Erie Community Foundation, 459 W. Sixth St., Erie, PA 16507 by Monday, Aug. 10. Either way, your generosity will be greatly appreciated — and matched with a percentage of the total proceeds by the ECF and its

sponsors, which include Erie Insurance and Wabtec in the "Gold" tier and E.E. Austin & Son, ERIEBANK, and Knox Law in the "Bronze" tier.

The noble and important causes you might support range from community development to wildlife conservation, from aging and seniors to educating our youth. Last year, healthcare ranked highly among our philanthropic priorities, with the Hamot Health Foundation receiving donations from 680 individuals. As COVID-19 stubbornly wears on, that trend is expected to continue.

One pattern that may be more challenging to repeat in 2020 is the steady rise in both the number of total donors and the combined dollar amount of all contributions. In 2019, 391 nonprofits received \$5,569,161 from 8,958 unique donors — factoring in the prorated match from the ECF and sponsors. In 2018, those numbers were \$4,471,123 and 7,945; and in 2017, they added up to \$4,427,877 and 7,685. It's never been a question of whether Erie *wants* to give, but this year it may be a matter of *who can*?

The Erie Reader, like most of you, has not remained unscathed from the fallout of the novel coronavirus. Nonetheless, we will always strongly believe in using our platform to support others in whatever way can. Erie Gives Day is just one small way to give back. Without further ado, in what's become an annual tradition, Erie Reader staff and select contributors will now share who they are helping.





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August 11, 2020



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Olympics**

Erie

The mission of Special Olympics PA is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.



Your **Erie Gives Day** donation to EHCA Foundation on **August 11** will help to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

eriegives.org



Save the Date



Support Catholic Schools on **Tuesday, August 11, 2020** from 8am to 8pm. Your support helps us keep tuition affordable, allowing Erie Catholic to instill in our students a strong moral character, skills for academic success and a zeal for service to others.



20/20 WE ARE FOCUSED

The Sight Center has weathered many storms in its 81-year history *...but nothing like this!*

The pandemic presents unprecedented challenges for all of us, but especially for those who are blind. Despite the events of recent months, the Center remains focused on the needs of our low vision and blind clients by providing transportation, delivery of needed supplies and ongoing social support.

Please help us remain focused on our mission to prevent blindness and promote independence in those with vision loss or who are blind with **your donation through Erie Gives.**

DONATE AT ERIEGIVES.ORG
between 8 AM and 8 PM on Tues. August 11

SUPPORT LITERACY!



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Hooked on Books for Kids promotes literacy, life-long learning, and the love of reading by giving brand new books to Erie County's underprivileged kids. Almost 500,000 books given!



Please donate on **Erie Gives Day**
August 11.



Inter-Church Ministries of Erie County

- Promoting social justice with dignity for all God's people, with love.
- Advocating ecological justice for all God's creation, with love.
- Supporting compassionate, courageous, creative leadership and governance, with love.
- Embodying inclusivity and respect as we serve in Christ's name, with love.

We invite you to join us in building new avenues for change right here in Erie to make this community, county, and region a beacon of hope, of equality, of friendship, of joy, of peace, of love. Thank you for your support.

Now more than ever...

Your gift is critical in helping us support and empower women and families in Erie.

The Erie Women's Fund is designed for collective and purposeful giving. To date, Erie County nonprofits have received over \$600,000 from the power of the Erie Women's Fund!

Become a member or renew your membership on Erie Gives and be eligible for the prorated match.

Online donations:

On Tues., 8/11, 8am-8pm visit www.ErieGives.org to renew or become a member.

By check (preferred):

Mail to The Erie Community Foundation at 459 W 6th Street, Erie, PA 16507, by Mon., 8/11.



Erie Gives 2020
Tuesday, August 11th
www.ErieGives.org



NICK WARREN

viving and preserving his legacy both locally and nationally, just as he revived and preserved the spirituals he learned from his once-enslaved grandfather.

Bonus: If you know the songs “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” “Go Down, Moses (Let My People Go!),” “Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen,” and “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,” then you’re already familiar with some of the countless songs he arranged. Also, if you want a glimpse into Burleigh’s connection to Erie’s past, Jean E. Snyder published a must-read biography in 2016 titled *Harry T. Burleigh: From the Spiritual to the Harlem Renaissance*.

Who: Nick Warren, Managing Editor

Giving to: The Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

Who they are: The goal of the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) is to support the local LGBTQIA+ community. Also reaching out to straight allies, they’re one of the key players in increasing visibility, nurturing education, and amplifying the voice of one of Erie’s most important groups. GEAE provides specialized training to improve business competency, hosts group meetings of the Erie Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA), and puts on community events — which of course, saw a rapid drop after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why I’m giving: Right now is a crucial time to do your part. Make sure that those with marginalized sexual orientations and gender identities are heard. With rights that are continually under fire, increasing partisan polarization finds the LGBTQIA+ community in very real danger. Don’t let homophobia and transphobia overtake Pennsylvania, and don’t let us lose the progress that we’ve made.

Bonus: Organizations like the NWPAPride Alliance Inc, and the LGBT Community Endowment (made possible by the GEAE) are also a part of Erie Gives, and need your help now more than ever.

Who: Adam Welsh, Editor-in-Chief

Giving to: The Film Society of Northwest Pennsylvania

Who they are: The mission of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania is to elevate Erie’s film industry, empower regional filmmakers, and foster patronage for the art of film. They offer an active schedule of events for their members and the general public (like the popular downtown Film Grain Dinner and a Movie series), and are supported by donations, sponsorships, grants, and admissions to produce and present excellent year-round film programming to be enjoyed by the Erie community.

Why I’m giving: Along with concerts, bars, and sporting events, not being able to go to the movies is high on my personal list of things that depress me about 2020. This reality hits the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania and the programming they provide right at home, and they could use our help. But it’s not all doom and gloom, as executive director John C. Lyons’ long-awaited, locally shot eco-horror film *Unearth* will have its worldwide premiere as part of the Fantasia International Film Festival on August 20th. This is the largest genre film festival in North America, and *Unearth* is already receiving some high praise. Stay tuned as Erie’s film scene takes center stage this summer!



NICK WARREN

[top left] The Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, located at 301 W. 10th St., is driven to support the local LGBTQIA+ community with cooperation from its straight allies.

[bottom right] Meals on Wheels has been especially valuable to Erie’s limited-mobility population during the COVID-19 pandemic, delivering wholesome meals to their homes and limiting their exposure to the virus.

Who: Brian Graham, Editor-in-Chief

Giving to: Meals on Wheels

Who they are: Meals on Wheels has been active in the Erie area since 1971, and is staffed by over 70 volunteer delivery drivers with meals prepared by LECOM Senior Living Center.

Why I’m giving: In the time of COVID-19, simply leaving the house can be a daunting and dangerous task. Meals on Wheels helps by delivering wholesome meals or groceries to the poor, disabled, and elderly — the very segments of the population most vulnerable to the pandemic.

Bonus: In addition to providing life-sustaining meals, the volunteers also provide companionship, and are often the only regular visitors their clients have all day. Sometimes a friendly face is the most valuable gift you can give.

Who: Matt Swanseger, Copy Editor

Giving to: Erie Together

Who they are: Erie Together is a cross-sectional movement involving over 100 local individuals, businesses, and organizations “working together to make the Erie region a community of opportunity where everyone can learn, work, and thrive.”

By pooling the efforts and resources of local businesses, government, educational institutions, healthcare and social service providers, workforce development initiatives, and faith-based organizations, Erie Together has impacted the lives of over 10,000 Erie County residents since its formation a decade ago. Its three task forces help children become more successful adults

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L'ARCHE ERIE

DURING ERIE GIVES DAY

L'ARCHE ERIE - A COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE WITH AND WITHOUT INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES SHARE THEIR ADVENTURES IN LIFE, FAITH, AND CELEBRATION!

AUGUST 11TH 8 A.M.-8 P.M.

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NICK WARREN

WQLN Public Media, located at 8425 Peach St., provides the Erie area with high-quality PBS and NPR programming. It has also hosted Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper's regular COVID-19 press briefings.

has been a beacon of hope, fighting for individuals affected by mental illness. Established in 1984, NAMI of Erie County addresses the increasing need for families and individuals to have stronger voices in the mental health system. The mental health toll of the coronavirus pandemic is now becoming clear. The psychological effects of coronavirus will long outlast the pandemic itself. Nearly a third of Americans are feeling anxiety, according to Census Bureau data, and nearly a quarter show signs of depression. In addition to the pandemic, the continuing anguish of racial injustice, have many of us struggling with our mental health. Texts to emergency crisis lines increased to almost 1,000 percent in April. The need for services like NAMI are crucial for our nation's recovery. It's extremely important to combat the stigma surrounding mental health and connect with others sharing similar experiences.

Bonus: NAMI of Erie County is offering a free online support group every weekday at noon. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental illness please join NAMI at NAMIErie.org.

Who: Rebecca Styn, Contributor

Giving to: Erie Women's Fund

Who they are: The Erie Women's Fund (EWF) is a philanthropic group that raises funds for organizations and activities that empower women and families. Since 2007, the EWF has provided over \$600,000 to 30 charitable organizations; hosted several elevating educational forums and have worked to engage members and prospective members through informational meetings and social gatherings. Last year the organization provided its largest single-year grant to date, awarding \$100,000 to Erie Center for Arts & Technology (ECAT). The funding provided a foundation for ECAT's adult job-training programs for medical assistants and phlebotomists. ECAT provides programs to participants at no cost.

This year alone, the EWF has donated \$20,000 to the COVID Rapid Response Fund to help women and families in Erie during the pandemic; \$12,000 to the

(Learn), individuals secure and maintain employment (Work), and families attain self-sufficiency (Thrive).

Why I'm giving: Because an Erie that is together is stronger than an Erie that is fragmented. Also, I'm indecisive. Given the unprecedented challenges this year has brought for everyone, it made sense to give to a nonprofit with such an inclusive and multifaceted approach to elevating this place and its people.

Who: Jessica Hunter, Publishing and New Media Coordinator

Giving to: NAMI of Erie County

Who they are: NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Erie County. NAMI is focused on fostering personal growth and family stability by supporting and educating family members and individuals facing the challenges of mental illness in Erie County. NAMI envisions a world where all people affected by mental illness live healthy, fulfilling lives supported by a community that cares while providing advocacy, education, support, and public awareness.

Why I'm giving: For many years NAMI

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YMCA of Greater Erie for their Meals for Kids Program; and \$2,500 to United Way of Erie County to support meal kits for Erie students — and the year is only halfway over.

Why I'm giving: As a volunteer member of the EWF Steering Committee, I have had the opportunity to better understand the systemic and challenging issues affecting women and families. Although there are many worthy organizations to support, the grants that the EWF provides are made solely from members' contributions. This is a fund created by and made up of women from around the community — but serves a broader audience.

Notable writer and filmmaker Nora Ephron once noted: "Whatever you choose, however many roads you travel, I hope that you choose not to be a lady. I hope you will find some way to break the rules and make a little trouble out there. And I also hope that you will choose to make some of that trouble on behalf of women."

Strong women uplift, encourage and empower other women. And we need more of this.

Bonus: If you are looking to join the organization or renew your membership, Erie Gives is the perfect time to renew your EWF membership, as each renewal would be eligible for a portion of the prorated match.

Who: Erin Phillips, Contributor

Giving to: Our West Bayfront

Who they are: Our West Bayfront was established in 2014 as a neighborhood revitalization program for the area of the city west of Sassafras Street, south to 12th Street, and bordered to the north and west by the Bayfront Parkway. The mission of Our West Bayfront is to enhance the quality of life in West Bayfront neighborhoods by promoting civic involvement, thoughtful development, historical preservation, and neighborhood pride. Their programs include neighborhood clean-ups, community events, park creation and maintenance, grant programs for home improvements, Awesome Foundation grants, and just generally helping make life more beautiful, safe, and fun for the residents of the West Bayfront.

Why I'm giving: My husband and I moved into the West Bayfront neighborhood 11 years ago. The history, friendliness, and diversity of the neighborhood captured our hearts and we were excited to start our family here. Since that time, it has only gotten bet-

ter. Our family has experienced the influence of Our West Bayfront through Earth Day clean up projects in Gridley Park, fun family events at the beautifully improved Bayview Park, historic walking tours, community gardens, public art, and Little Free Libraries. Our West Bayfront has helped me achieve a major parenting goal, which is to instill a sense of community in my children: your neighbors are like your family and helping them helps everyone have a better quality of life.

Bonus: There are a number of neighborhood groups around the city making similar efforts, perhaps consider donating to the one that is closest to your home and heart like SSJ Neighborhood Network or Bayfront East Side Task Force.

Who: Ben Speggen, Contributing Editor

Giving to: WQLN Public Media

Who they are: In Erie, we get our NPR and PBS fix thanks to WQLN Public Media, which features both public radio and TV throughout the NPR and PBS family of programming, as well as local shows, covering a range of topics, from current events to classical music and jazz.

This all happens thanks to the support of members. But of course, you could listen and watch for free without shelling out a dime. But why would you want to do that and run the risk of losing that trusted, quality programming? I know I don't, which is why I make monthly contributions.

Why I'm giving: Odds are, you've been in a circle of friends, family, or even foes and once heard someone say "I heard on NPR..." Or, its counterpart: "I saw it on PBS." You may have even said it yourself.

It's because both are trusted sources of news. Need proof? Look to The Media Bias Chart from Ad Fontes Media. When it comes to sources that are most reliable, mostly neutral, and likely to feature original facts in their reporting, few top NPR, and PBS isn't far behind.

Bonus: In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, WQLN opened its studio to Erie County so that our County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and Erie County Health Department officials could host routine briefings to keep the media informed and thereby keep the public informed. Now is your chance to return the favor and help support those who help us, by bringing us the news, the facts, and so much more with your support of WQLN Public Media.



PANDEMIC. A single word that has changed the way we work, play and interact with each other.

But one thing that remains unchanged is that animals continue to be hungry and abandoned. They continue to be injured and ill. They continue to be neglected and abused. And they continue to need your help.

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Despite the pandemic, and despite the cancelation of fundraisers, Because You Care has persevered to rescue these animals. This year your donation is especially important.



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Leadership, Lockdowns, and Snake Oil

How aloof administrations, science denial, and contested business closures affected Erie ... in 1918



[top left] San Franciscans wait in line for flu masks during the Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918. Then, like now, Americans resisted universal masking policies, doubtlessly elevating the flu's casualty numbers. [bottom right] Popular or unpopular, young or old, the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic took its toll on Erie residents, including the "well-known" Burdett L. Hostetter.

HAMILTON HENRY DOBBIN

By: Jonathan Burdick

If you ever wonder how we ended up here with a pandemic increasingly politicized — split down partisan lines concerning the severity, the news coverage, and even the science — one only has to look at the influenza pandemic of 1918 to gain some perspective.

There have been a lot of comparisons between the two pandemics, but there are many unexplored parallels from which we can still learn. As I wrote back in March, history doesn't repeat, but it does echo.

While many today are enraged over the dismissive response to the coronavirus pandemic by the federal government, the Trump administration is not the first to fail the public during such times — nor is it the first time that the public has been divided over measures to stop the spread of a deadly virus.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson had one fixation. It wasn't public health. His focus was the war and how he could maintain public support until its end. In fact, he never once publicly addressed the influenza pandemic — even after he contracted it himself. As 675,000 people died across the United States from the deadly flu strain, he and many public officials remained silent.

As historian John M. Barry, who wrote *The Great Influenza: The Story*

of the *Deadliest Pandemic in History*, described, "To maintain morale during the pandemic, national public health officials — people who knew the truth — said, 'This is ordinary influenza by another name,' and 'You have nothing to fear if proper precautions are taken.' ... Local public health officials all over the country echoed that line."

The Erie Daily Times, like many newspapers across the country, didn't run coverage of the pandemic on its front pages, even as the flu ravaged the city. This lack of proper coverage almost certainly encouraged a false sense of security among the public. Still, Erie's coverage was better than some cities. The daily updates, however buried, *did* provide valuable and increasingly startling information.

The virus arrived in Erie in September, at the onset of its second wave. By early October, the paper reported that Hamot and St. Vincent hospitals were almost at capacity. Both hospitals stopped accepting patients who were only exhibiting mild symptoms. Dr. John W. Wright, Erie's director of public health, organized the creation of an emergency hospital accommodating 300 patients at the government barracks on Fourth and Cascade streets. Dr. Morris H. Harrison, former superintendent of Hamot hospital, oversaw its operations. All surgeries in the city, except those "absolutely necessary to save human life" were forbidden. Hos-

pital space was to be conserved for the increasing wave of influenza patients.

Dr. Wright's initial actions were swift and authoritative. The city and the county collaborated on a plan and the county appropriated additional funds as needed. The fire department began washing down State Street every night as a "health precaution in the hope of washing germ breeding refuse into the sewers before the germs are blown all over the city." Schools were shut down. Churches were closed and received notice that "any violation of this order will result in such building be placarded and the pastor or other person in charge prosecuted." Many



saloons and entertainment venues remained open with strict guidelines, but they were soon shut down. All "street loafers and loiterers" were to be arrested.

Caution was growing, especially as news trickled in about the outbreak in Philadelphia, but so were other ideas, ones which weren't based on the science of the time.

A homeopathic doctor in Pittsburgh made national news when he proclaimed that he had discovered "a cure and preventive" for influenza: a precise mixture of iodine and creosote. It didn't work.

Where there is one snake oil salesman though, there are hundreds. Local newspapers were filled with advertisements for bogus and unproven remedies.

"Why take a chance when you know Spanish Influenza ... [is] waiting for you or yours?" an advertisement for Welsh's Drug Store on Peach Street questioned. "Hudson's Preventative will absolutely prevent disease."

Horlick's Malted Milk claimed it was "endorsed by physicians everywhere" to help with the flu. Tonsiline

ERIE DAILY TIMES

noted that gargling would "sterilize the throat, which these deadly germs must use as a gateway and breeding ground in entering the body." Hill's Cascara Quinine Bromide was said to outright prevent Spanish influenza if taken at "the first sign of a shiver or sneeze." A cream called Forkola claimed "conclusive proof" of preventing or decreasing the length of sickness if "applied to sensitive membranes of the nose and throat."

"Nothing you can do will so effectually protect you against the influenza ... epidemic as keeping your organs of digestion and elimination active," one laxative advertisement maintained.

Even dentists were buying advertisements, contending that a healthy mouth could prevent the flu. "Laugh at Spanish Influenza," one State Street dentist advertised. "Get acquainted with Dr. McKelvey and let him keep your teeth and mouth in healthy condition. That is the best prevention."

Eventually, some cities (although not Erie) passed ordinances making it illegal to sell unverified cures, even threatening prosecution.

The flu spread quickly throughout

Erie: 177 new cases were reported in a single two-hour period one mid-October morning, larger than any single entire day before it. Multiple deaths were being reported daily. The health department blamed the spread on the mild weather which was "causing people to be careless in the matter of looking after their health."

A second emergency hospital soon opened at the Elk's Club on Eighth and Peach streets. Those who recovered were urged to stay quarantined for an additional two to seven days after their fever broke.

By Oct. 26 though, Dr. Wright seemed optimistic. He reported "no material change in the influenza situation in Erie" and that "the disease is not on the increase." He stressed still that people remain vigilant and avoid congregating.

"Many questions are being asked as to when the closing rule will be abrogated," Dr. Wright said. "It is impossible for us to answer this question at the present time." He applauded churches, schools, and businesses who were cooperating and warned those who were violating the lockdown orders.

"[T]hose guilty of such offences can rest assured that punishment will follow their unloyal and illegal actions," he said.

On Nov. 8 (one month after Erie's first Spanish influenza-related death was reported), he announced the reopening of some churches and schools, but maintained that saloons and places of amusement would remain closed. Flu cases had decreased over the previous day, but only slightly to 97 new cases and five deaths.

"Go to church tomorrow," a church advertisement read the next day. "It will help you during the week."

Meanwhile, the war's end was imminent. Erie Chief of Police William Detzel informed residents that they would "be notified of the news [of armistice] by the ringing of fire bells and the blowing of shop whistles, which will give them an opportunity to get to the main streets and Perry Square in ample time to join in the celebration and take part in the informal parade."

Mayor Miles B. Kitts did not mention influenza or safety measures, only stating, "While we expect the greatest enthusiasm, let it be understood that

FLU

A man will wheeze; a man will sneeze.
It is not nice and may not please.
But when you spray through all the day,
Old influenza has its way
Just smile; be sweet; and be discreet;
Don't shout your woes about the street.
But just conclude, that you'll be shrewd;
And go to bed in cheerful mood.
Then take your pills, through all your ills,
If you'd recover from the chills.
So 'when the germ begins to squirm,
Just find yourself and brace up, firm.
Don't stop to sigh; and don't ask why?
But 'doctor up' and live; don't die.
—FRANK WALLACE KERN,
Erie, Pa.

This poem by 25-year-old freight car inspector Frank Wallace Kern was published in the Oct. 12, 1918 edition of the Erie Daily Times.

law and order must at all times during this celebration be maintained as usual."

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OTIS HISTORICAL ARCHIVES, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE

With local hospitals overwhelmed by Spanish flu cases, emergency care centers popped up all over the country to accommodate the sick. Among those in Erie were the government barracks at Fourth and Cascade and the Elk's Club at Eighth and Peach.

nity," Dr. Wright determined. Despite another ten deaths, the board decided against shutting down the city again.

That weekend, even with seven more deaths, new cases inexplicably decreased to 25. It seemed possible that the worst had now passed, that the 250 total deaths so far in the city might be the end of it.

The numbers skyrocketed to 379 new cases on Nov. 19. The newspaper reported on the serious conditions once again within the hospitals.

"The serious lack of nurses has become one of the greatest problems confronting the city and some way of relieving this must be found in the next twenty-four hours," the paper stated. Some were sick. All were overworked.

Even though the health department had decided not to reinstate the lockdown, they did not take any responsi-

bility for the surge, saying it was "directly chargeable to carelessness on the part of the people of the city."

Dr. B.F. Royer, Pennsylvania's state health commissioner, threatened to shut the city back down. Dr. Wright asked for 48 hours. Royer agreed.

"So it is up to the people of Erie," the Daily Times read. "Either they must take care not to aid in the spread of the disease or else the ban will go on."

Every place in the city would close if

When the armistice was announced on Nov. 11, there was laughing, crying, and singing as "thousands thronged the streets" of downtown Erie.


Soon after, the emergency hospitals were closed. Perhaps, many thought, the worst of the pandemic was behind Erie.

Then on Nov. 13, the paper reported an increase of 108 new cases and twelve deaths. The following day, it spiked to 200 new cases. The board of health met on Nov. 15 to discuss the surge.

"This shows conclusively that the flu still has a good hold in this commu-

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ERIE DAILY TIMES

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COUNTRY FAIR

the state ordered it, Dr. Wright warned. If city residents wouldn't comply and stop the spread, then the "strictest ban that this city has ever seen" would be enforced.

On Nov. 21, there were 230 more cases and the paper reported "there was nothing encouraging in the flu situation locally." The state's lockdown was expected. The spread was worse than it had ever been in Erie. Hamot was "threatening to refuse all charity patients" unless they received funds requested from City Council, while St. Vincent affirmed they would continue to accept all patients regardless of finances but they were "packed to capacity."

Dr. Wright announced two days later that his board wouldn't shut down the city, but he passed more restrictions on congregating and again urged citizens to act responsibly. He had wanted at least a "partial ban," but the health board instead reasoned that "if ordinary common sense is used by the people of the city, they will avoid the flu."

On Nov. 26, with nine more daily deaths, Dr. Royer again sent a letter imploring the board to shut the city down. One health board member called it "nonsensical." Locking down the city after the ban was lifted three weeks earlier would be met "with considerable opposition."

The Daily Times reiterated that the flu could be prevented with "common, ordinary sense" and if people "do not stay away from crowds it is their own fault if they are taken ill."

The state ordered Erie closed that evening. The mayor released a statement affirming he would comply with the state, but added that this would be an extreme hardship on Erie businesses.

"Let it be understood that in my official capacity I desire to do everything possible to prevent sickness of this kind and to save the lives of our people," Mayor Kitts wrote. "I take the stand that had the homes in which this epidemic occurred been originally quarantined this epidemic would have been stamped out in a few days."

Many city business leaders were enraged by the order. Richard P. Dailey, a saloonkeeper at Fourth and State streets, immediately filed an injunction against the state and local health departments in defiance of the order. Prominent local attorney Charles H. English advised all businesses in the

city to disobey the order outright.

Statements at the injunction contended that Dr. Wright had "double-crossed" the city, that Dr. Royer had "gone far beyond his legally constituted authority," and that the advice of "reputable physicians familiar with the situation" was being ignored. Then, without evidence or further explanation, they made an ominous, conspiratorial accusation that there were "sinister influences working in the dark and at secret meetings and entirely for selfish designs."

The meaning of that final statement is open to interpretation, but the injunction was granted, paving the way for businesses to remain open. Dr. Royer decided against further action. It would be up to local authorities to deal with it.

"Business men of the city were elated," the paper reported. Most businesses remained open, although a handful of churches spoke out against the injunction, believing it threatened public health and that "business and money should [not] be weighed against health and human life."

As Valerie Myers quoted in her comprehensive 2018 story for Erie Times News, one minister proclaimed during a sermon, "This is a contest between dollars and human lives. We are making laws a farce for the benefit of the saloons and the Christmas sales."

Local authorities devised new tactics to combat the virus, forcibly quarantining the infected and placarding posters outside of their homes until cleared by a physician.

Saloons were meanwhile emboldened. Many illegally stayed open past their agreed upon closing time of 11 p.m., which was revealed to police after a midnight fight between two women inside a State Street establishment.

By the end of November, daily new cases were still in the triple digits and daily deaths were still accumulating. When new reported cases inexplicably began to decrease in early December, the director of public safety investigated. Many doctors, it appeared, were not reporting their flu cases, protecting their patients from having their homes placarded.

After a warning, more accurate reporting came in the very next day with a stunning 139 new cases reported just on the morning of Dec. 5. Another nine grisly days would pass before new daily cases fell below 100.

Pamphlets were printed and dis-

tributed throughout the city in multiple languages: "Keep away from the cougher, sneezer and spitter who does not use a handkerchief. Keep out of crowds whenever possible. ... Walk instead of using the street car ... Be temperate in eating and drinking, and always wash your hands and face immediately upon reaching your home, and before eating food of any kind."

Over the following weeks, the virus ran its course. By the end of the year, 504 Erie residents were dead.

Of course, science has come a long way since 1918. Within weeks of our current pandemic, China sequenced the full genome of the novel virus and made it available to the world. Treatments for respiratory diseases no longer include whisky, enemas, or bloodletting. We now have antibiotics. Hospitals are far more sophisticated and sterile, while also having medical specialists that didn't exist a century ago.

Despite the medical and scientific advances though, nearly 150,000 people have died in the United States due to the coronavirus since late February. As history demonstrates, leadership matters during crises like these. The day-to-day decision-making needed during a crisis is important. Whatever mistakes Dr. Wright may have made in Erie during the 1918 pandemic, the answers were never crystal clear, especially with people's lives and livelihoods at stake depending on his course of action. Above all though, he *tried*, and one can imagine an even more grim outcome had he not.

Wilson's administration ignored the problem, passing the responsibility on to states and local health boards. Today, the current administration is utilizing a similar strategy: providing minimal and sometimes conflicting guidance to states while also publicly downplaying the severity of the pandemic and undermining the advice of, and even publicly discrediting, its own health experts.

"Clearly we are not in control right now," Dr. Anthony Fauci recently testified.

As SARS-CoV-2 continues its silent spread and the public continues to be divided over even the most basic science, it remains to be seen how long before we regain control again.

Jonathan Burdick runs the historical blog *Rust & Dirt*. He can be reached at jburdick@eriereader.com.

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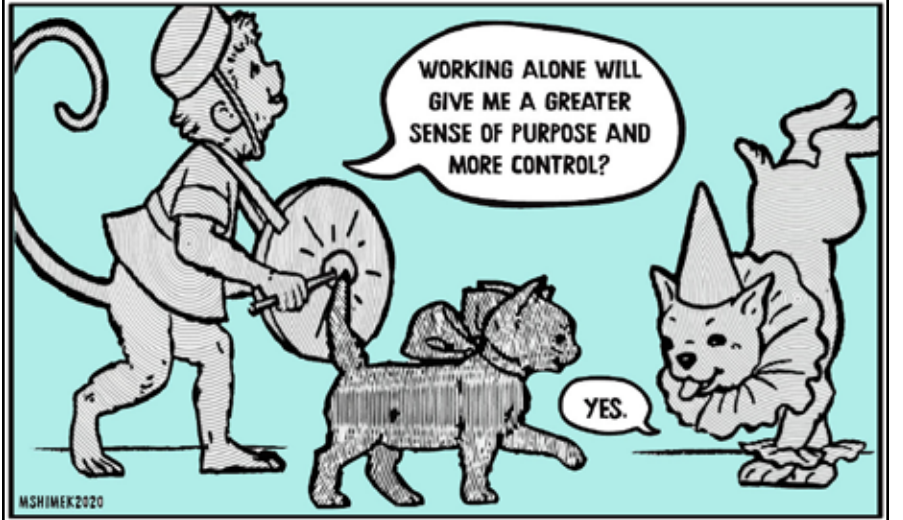
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What's in Your Head?: *Zombi Child* is a Fascinating Spin on a Familiar Movie Monster`

★★★★★

In a recent review, I mentioned that zombies have been used as metaphors for just about everything under the sun. However, there was one aspect about them that I missed: their importance in Haitian folklore and their connection to the religion of Haiti. Bertrand Bonello's (*Nocturama*) new film *Zombi Child* seeks to understand the connection between the historic zombie of Haiti and the movie monster that the white world has turned it into. The result is an uneven, but ultimately rewarding message about cultural appropriation.



AD VITAM

The film is two stories told simultaneously. Beginning in Haiti in 1962, a man is brought back from the dead to work in the sugarcane fields, but his memories of his old life compel him to escape and reconnect with his lost love. Meanwhile, in modern-day France, his granddaughter Melissa (Wislanda Louimat) has befriended a group of girls who are initially intrigued by her tales of zombies and Haitian voodoo practices. But one girl (Louise Labeque) thinks that voodoo can cure her recent relationship problems.

The film contains multiple references to classic horror from *Carrie* to *The Exorcist* but especially the 1943 Jacques Tourneur/Val Lewton masterpiece *I Walked with a Zombie*. However, it expands that film's themes by having voodoo be just another part of the main character's culture and admonishing her white friends' cluelessness and condescending fascination. Sadly, this gets negated slightly when Bonello takes things into a surrealist, horror-inspired finale of his own. *Zombi Child* has a lot to say and it doesn't all get communicated properly, but that ambition is admirable on its own. *Zombi Child* is currently available for free on Criterion Channel and to rent on Vudu. — Forest Taylor

Written and directed by: Bertrand Bonello // Starring: Wislanda Louimat, Louise Labeque, Katiana Milfort, Mackenson Bijou, Adile David, Ninon Francois, Mathilde Riu, Ginite Popote, and Nehemy Pierre-Dahomey // 103 minutes // Unrated (R equivalent)

Blood is Thicker Than Water: *Da 5 Bloods* is Ambitious, Engrossing, and Overwhelming

★★★★★

In his new film *Da 5 Bloods*, Spike Lee makes the brilliant decision to film the war flashback scenes using the older actors without any digital de-aging. Watching them interact with their much younger comrades makes a powerful statement that while some men got to grow old and look back on the war, others never had that chance. This is just one detail among the myriad of ideas presented in this film, which often seems to be firing in five directions at once. The result is sometimes sloppy, occasionally ham-fisted, but just as often emotionally stirring.

The plot follows four veterans who return to Vietnam to find the remains of their fallen friend as well as a buried chest of gold bars that got lost in the heat of battle. Things go bad for these old friends as other parties become aware of the treasure and internal tensions begin to tear the group apart.

The film is at its best when dealing with the characters' internal drama. Watching how these men have dealt with the scars of living through two wars that never really had satisfying ends (both Vietnam and Civil Rights) is powerful stuff and the performances are more than up to the task. However, when the film becomes more of an action movie in the second half it suffers. Big action set-pieces were never Lee's strong suit and the action doesn't mesh well with what has come before. Lee has a lot of big ideas with this film, a production that often wears its emotions on its sleeves. Some might find that melodramatic, but I'm happy when films are willing to be this ambitious and emotionally open, even if it doesn't work all the time. *Da 5 Bloods* is currently available on Netflix. — Forest Taylor



NETFLIX

Directed by: Spike Lee // Written by: Spike Lee, Danny Bilson, Paul De Meo, and Kevin Willmott // Starring: Delroy Lindo, Clarke Peters, Jonathan Majors, Norm Lewis, Isiah Whitlock Jr., Melanie Thierry, Paul Walter Hauser, Jasper Paakkonen, Johnny Tri Nguyen, Le Y Lan, Jean Reno, and Chadwick Boseman // 156 minutes // Rated R



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Netflix's Newest K-Drama Compels with Complex Characters

Surprisingly dark, *It's Okay to Not Be Okay* deviates from typical romance and opens dialogue about mental health



NETFLIX / STUDIO DRAGON

Although Netflix is no stranger to the world of Korean dramas and its newest original series, *It's Okay to Not Be Okay* is smashing stereotypes. Still full of dramatic car chases, the mysterious death of parents, serendipitous run-ins, and swoon-worthy scenes, *It's Okay to Not Be Okay* (literally translated as Psycho But It's Okay) takes every K-drama cliché on TV and reframes it in the context of a modern love story, tack-

ling the complexities of coping with mental health and past traumas while trying to build meaningful relationships.

In new episodes released each weekend, audiences follow caring psychiatric health worker Moon Gang-Tae (Kim Soo-Hyun) and his autistic artist of an older brother Moon Sang-Tae (Oh Jung-Se) as they run away from unknown demons. The brothers become tangled

up in the schemes of Ko Mun-yeong (Seo Ye-ji), a confident yet aloof children's book author with antisocial personality disorder as she shamelessly pursues Moon Gang-Tae.

Set in South Korea, locations such as the warmly lit OK psychiatric facility and spooky "haunted mansion" act as startling contrasts to one another, cleverly reflective of love interests Gang-Tae, whose priority is caring for his older brother, and Mun-yeong, who has never felt love.

However, the standout performance comes from actress Seo Ye-ji as Ko Mun-yeong. Seo Ye-ji could have easily played the leading lady as cold and overconfident, and while she is both things, Seo Ye-ji brings depth to a complicated character. The audience sees Ko Mun-yeong as vulnerable and lonely, haunted by her past and her inability to connect with others. Viewers can't help but root for Ko Mun-yeong as she attempts to heal old emotional wounds and push through her antisocial personality disorder.

Steeped in allusions to dark fairytales and haunting flashbacks to childhood, *It's Okay to Not Be Okay* twists romantic comedy and Tim Burton-like fantasy into a unique story of love, secrets, and identity. — Hannah Wyman

Season one currently streaming on Netflix // Developed by: Studio Dragon // Starring: Kim Soo-hyun, Seo Ye-ji, Oh Jung-se, Park Kyu-young // 16 episodes





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Crossing Swords is a Royal Raunchfest

Though pegged as crude, the new series at least tries to stay sharp



HULU

The Middle Ages, a time of kings, jousting, and 24-hour plague? Season One of the new stop-motion comedy *Crossing Swords* (from John Harvatine IV and Tom Root, producers of *Robot Chicken*), is now streaming on Hulu. The

series follows a peasant named Patrick, voiced by Nicholas Hoult, who wishes to be different from his siblings who pursued careers in piracy, roguish pillaging, and comedy. He gets a job as a squire, and soon finds out that making the king-

dom a better place is low on the list of priorities in the eyes of the royal court. A lusty queen with a special dungeon and a bloodlusting king with the attention span of an 11-year-old make for medieval mayhem.

Crossing Swords is not groundbreaking, but that doesn't make it bad. Some criticism could be a result of the popularity of animated shows that are marketed towards adults nowadays. *Rick and Morty* and *Bojack Horseman* both use crude humor, but woven into thought-provoking plots that explore complicated themes like nihilism and self-destruction. As a result, the bar is set pretty high, and animation for adults is expected to be deep and/or relatable. However, prior to these shows being released, there was no expectation. *Robot Chicken* took dolls and made them say and do unspeakable things; its tenth season just aired in June of 2020. *Crossing Swords* comes from the same

minds, and follows the pattern of relying on being crude and graphic for its humor (complete with full-frontal nudity, and gore that could appear in *Game of Thrones*). Though lacking depth, the show offers impressive stop-motion animation — such as a dragon breathing colorful cotton fire — especially considering the self-imposed limitations of utilizing armless wooden peg dolls for its cast. It is also fun to watch modern things get a medieval spin, like when the princess attends a music festival called “Beast Feast,” that feels like a Renaissance Faire mixed with a rave. So even though it doesn't offer anything new, *Crossing Swords* still makes for an enjoyable watch. — Claudia Rose

Currently streaming on Hulu // Created by: John Harvatine IV, Tom Root // Starring: Nicholas Hoult, Luke Evans, Alanna Ubach, Adam Pally, Tara Strong, Tony Hale, Adam Ray, Seth Green, Breckin Meyer, and Wendi McLendon-Covey // 10 episodes

Cursed Finds Charming Fantasy Filler

A reworking of the Arthurian legend, the popular saga finds a home with young adult audiences



NETFLIX

Though viewers who see Frank Miller's name attached to this project will no doubt feel somewhat shortchanged, there's a lot of good to be had from *Cursed*. The new Netflix series feels like a far cry from medium-defining comics like *The Dark Knight Returns*, *Sin City*, and (to a lesser extent) *300*. Though, tracking those works, you might find a unifying thread. This

series is not a hard-boiled and brooding fantasy epic; *The Witcher* took care of that well enough. It's not light-hearted and fluffy, either. In October of last year, Miller illustrated Tom Wheeler's novel, *Cursed*. Wheeler's credits of *The Cape*, *Empire*, and *Puss In Boots* shines a much more telling light on what ended up on your streaming queue.

In short, the story is a revisioning of the legend of King Arthur, as told from the viewpoint of the Lady of the Lake. How did Arthur come to get the sword Excalibur? This tale explains it ... kind of. Centering around Nimue, the source material serves more as a springboard than a retelling. Katherine Langford (*13 Reasons Why*, *Knives Out*) plays Nimue, the show's fae (fairy) protagonist, serving as an empowering heroine instead of a strange woman “lying in ponds distributing swords.” She's backed up by Arthur, a mercenary with bard-like vocal abilities, played by Devon Terrell (who played a young Obama in 2016's *Barry*), and Pym, a fellow fae played by Lily Newmark (*Solo*, *Pin Cushion*). Then there's Wheeler's take on the wizard Merlin, played with drunken bravado by Gustaf Skarsgård (*Vikings*, *Westworld*), in a role and wardrobe that would put him at home at only the most debauched of music festivals.

Though running rampant with dark veins like the most twisting of tree roots, the show is bright and colorful. The gorgeous opening credits happily serve as animated transitions from one scene to another, filling the screen with beleaguering beauty. It also suffers from bad make-up, as showcased by Rugen the Leper King (Ólafur Darri Ólafsson) and Father Snake (Yan Shi) traveling with Nimue. This combination serves to give off much more of a *Dr. Who* vibe than a *Game of Thrones* one, and maybe that's the trick. At its heart, this is a young adult series, and while it capitalizes on the current fantasy trend, it just may find itself worthy of holding an audience, albeit a specific one. — Nick Warren

Season One currently streaming on Netflix // Created by: Frank Miller, Tom Wheeler // Starring: Katherine Langford, Devon Terrell, Gustaf Skarsgård, Daniel Sharman, Sebastian Armesto, Lily Newmark // 10 episodes

*In our next issue, we
have some friends
we'd like you to meet*



*Stay tuned for our 8th
annual class of honorees*

When we first launched Erie's 40 Under 40 in 2013, we found that featuring 40 individuals under the age of 40 serves as a great way to highlight the accomplishments of Erie's young residents, and affirms that Erie is a place where young people have a tremendous impact. To date, our 40 Under 40 issues have been our most popular and widely read each year, and this year is certainly no exception.

To quote James and Deborah Fallows from their book *Our Towns*, "[The Erie Reader's] long-form reporting and opinions have made it a must-read among the progressive-minded population in Erie. The annual '40 Under 40' is an index of young business, cultural, and civic figures who have chosen to make something happen here. It is a competitive field, and the number of candidates for this recognition continues to grow."

We couldn't have said it better ourselves.

VIDEO GAMES

We Should Talk Finds the Right Words

Whitethorn Digital's latest game all hinges on your next response



WHITEHORN DIGITAL

Admiringly lit bar, drinks with strangers, and endless possibilities. Though most of that is off the table these days, *We Should Talk* lets you live the nightlife from the safety of your computer or favorite console, and was released on July 12, 2020. At its heart, it's a short-form narrative game that operates like a choose-your-own-adventure book and a dating simulation.

Created by Carol Mertz, a St. Louis-based developer, the game garnered awards and distinctions from IndieMEGABOOTH GDC 2020, WordPlay 2019, NYU Game Center Incubator, Independent Games Festival 2019, Different Games 2018, and Babycastles "IGF x NYC" exhibition. The game was then picked up by the Erie-based publisher Whitethorn Digital.

Like many of Whitethorn's games, it's cozy, quick, and accessible. The gameplay relies on an extremely simple concept. You select your responses to the people you talk to in bite-size interchangeable chunks. Each response has two or three sections where you have three choices to pick from. Each permutation you pick determines how other characters will react to you. You can do things like flirt, be aloof, or apologize, and get a dialogue going as such.

Hunkered down at the Getaway, a pink and purple color scheme sets the mood [potential spoiler alerts ahead]. You interact with four main characters, the bartender Steph, Dante (your ex-boyfriend), Jimmy (a stranger), and Samantha (your girlfriend). The lion's share of interactions take place on your phone, to the mostly-unseen Samantha.

The first time I played through, I found myself instinctively trying to console her

***We Should Talk*, the latest release by Erie-based video game publisher Whitethorn Digital, plays like a cross between a choose-your-own-adventure book and dating simulation.**

and ease any tensions that might arise, explaining why I'm out by myself at a bar and chatting with my ex. Like many shorter games, it was over before I knew it. Finding myself relegated to couples counseling with Sam, I was viewing the game's credits in about 20 minutes. I set out to go against my instincts. Easily taking to my character's pansexuality (or at least bisexuality), I flirted with everyone I could. Despite becoming friends with Jimmy (aka DaddyBaeCare), I couldn't seal the deal. Over a few sittings, I navigated some different scenarios. The point of this game is not to beat it, but to play it through differently multiple times.

The selection of words gives you enough variety, without the more obvious demarcations that these sort of games sometimes have. There's subtlety in what you say, even when you're being over-the-top. That being said, the game is far from oversexualized or even terribly romantic. *We Should Talk* deals with realistic emotions with consequences and repercussions of how you say things; it literally helps you choose your words carefully. Understanding the importance of tone and the particulars of language will help you immensely every step of the way. You'll no doubt feel tinges of reality and lived experiences shine through deeply. — Nick Warren

We Should Talk is available for download on Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, and the Microsoft Windows, Linux, macOS, and Macintosh operating systems for \$6.99. Rated M for audiences 17 and older.

VIDEO GAMES

Evan's Remains an Island Getaway Game

Ancient ruins prove a good time



Evan's Remains, a mystery-thriller puzzle platformer developed by Argentinian Matias Schmied and published by Erie's Whitethorn Digital, features some seriously pretty retro-style visuals.

WHITETHORN DIGITAL

Recent college grad desperate for cash auditions for the role of ... detective? Summer jobs rarely deliver such high stakes (and platforms) as they do in *Evan's Remains*, a mystery-thriller puzzle adventure game developed by Matias Schmied and published by Erie's Whitethorn Digital. Players take control of sun-hatted twenty-something Dysis as she explores a remote tropical island in search of her employer's missing golden child, the titular Evan. Shortly after her arrival, she happens upon a series of cryptic monoliths, each a word spelling out the location of an ancient artifact. What do they mean, who planted them, and where are those people/aliens/supernatural beings now? Given their love of building (literally) lofty language, did they collectively die of heatstroke in the midst of a civilization-wide spelling bee?

That's up to you to find out as you traverse the forsaken paradise's breathtaking landscapes, each stage uniquely rendered in gorgeous pixel art — if you're familiar with other indie adventures such as *Fez* and *Hyper Light Drifter*, you'll have a good idea of what to expect. Unlike those games, however, *Evan's Remains* is as much (if not more) about plot as it is gameplay. In fact, it might be better described as a playable graphic novella than a game — regardless, it's successful as an overall experience. Each area is visually memorable and interesting, and

you're given extra time to appreciate it as the dialogue unfolds. (Note: If you're seeking bombastic, continuous action with no n00bs allowed, *Evan's Remains* may not be your cup of Mountain Dew.)

The music, which combines classic chiptune tones with live instrumentation, is entrancing and beautiful. It certainly soothed me through any frustrations I might have had with the game's platforming puzzles — although such moments were few and far between. Each monolith involves arranging a series of disappearing, teleporting, and/or transforming ledges in such a way that Dysis can leap over a tall column and continue sleuthing. With only two controls — walking and jumping — the learning curve is minimal. The monoliths have an internal logic to them, but you can also solve them through pure trial and error. Or skip them altogether — this game is clearly not intended to stress you out.

If you have a few hours to spare and either a computer or any one or more of the current generation of video game consoles, *Evan's Remains* is a pleasant distraction with heart. This is one summer job that is not a drag. — Matt Swanseger

Evan's Remains is available for download on Steam, Xbox One, Playstation 4, and Nintendo Switch for \$6.99 // ESRB rating E 13+ for serious themes and mild language.

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ALBUM REVIEWS

Phoebe Bridgers

Punisher
Dead Oceans



Phoebe Bridgers is a gift. Her watershed 2017 debut album, *Stranger in the Alps*, topped our list of best albums of the 2010s. Arriving seemingly fully-formed, Bridgers personified a generation of emotionally-charged female singer-songwriters. With a soft and streamlined sound, she's able to articulate her feelings perfectly and with grace. Her team-up with Conor Oberst for 2019's *Better Oblivion Community Center* ratified her credibility, with her highly-anticipated sophomore album *Punisher* cementing her deserved place in the canon of new voices. Beginning with the overture-like instrumental track "DVD Menu," Bridgers selects the scenes she wants us to hear. The results are both subtle and profound. One of the greatest strengths of *Punisher* is how strongly it bookends itself. The soft, floral tones of "Garden Song" paired with the feel-good orchestration of "Kyoto" delivers a one-two punch of some of the record's most indelible moments. Though the breezy charm of the third track inevitably stands alone, the final two tracks of "Graceland Too" and especially "I Know The End" leave the listener shaken and affected.

— Nick Warren



Hum

Inlet
Earth Analog Records



It's been 22 years since Hum, the Champaign, Illinois-based space-rock band released their last (and possibly best) album, *Downward is Heavenward*. That feels crazy to write considering just how perfect of a comeback *Inlet* is, but the fact is, Matt Talbott (who has gone on to produce records for Cloakroom, among others) and company weren't ready to reappear under any circumstances. In the midst of a global pandemic, the band's return to the spotlight feels like a gift to alt-rock fans everywhere, regardless of their current relevancy. One of the most interesting aspects of *Inlet* is just how much it differs from the band's '90s catalog. Despite undoubtedly being a Hum record, it has almost as much in common with doom and stoner acts like Sleep and Baroness as it does space-rock peers Failure. Unbelievable riffs mark nine-minute tracks like "Desert Rambler," ultimately held together by Talbott's commanding monotone. But the real highlights come later, when the band finally gives way to some of their all-time prettiest moments on compelling closers "Folding" and "Shapeshifter."

— Aaron Mook



Oliver Tree

Ugly is Beautiful
Atlantic Records



Who does Oliver Tree make music for? This question feels significant considering his label essentially held the viral star's debut album hostage for over three months, with Tree supposedly not being allowed to release details on the project until he reached a certain number of Instagram followers. *Ugly is Beautiful* runs just 37 minutes long over the span of 14 songs, a fact that is ultimately highlighted by just how undercooked the project feels as a whole. Unfortunately, these cracks seemed predictable as Tree continued to release album singles over two years prior to the project's release. *Ugly is Beautiful* features 14 producers, which is surprising considering just how similar these tracks sound to each other. Start with a nu-Blink-style pop-punk chorus, add one part Marshmello-esque production, and repeat ad nauseum. Ultimately, even the best songs here — "Miracle Man," for example — are bogged down by just how similar "Hurt," or "Cash Machine," or any given track here seems to be. Tree is undoubtedly talented, and his big-budget videos are a pleasure to watch, but unfortunately, *Ugly is Beautiful* feels cold at best and joyless at worst.

— Aaron Mook



Nadine Shah

Kitchen Sink
Infectious Music

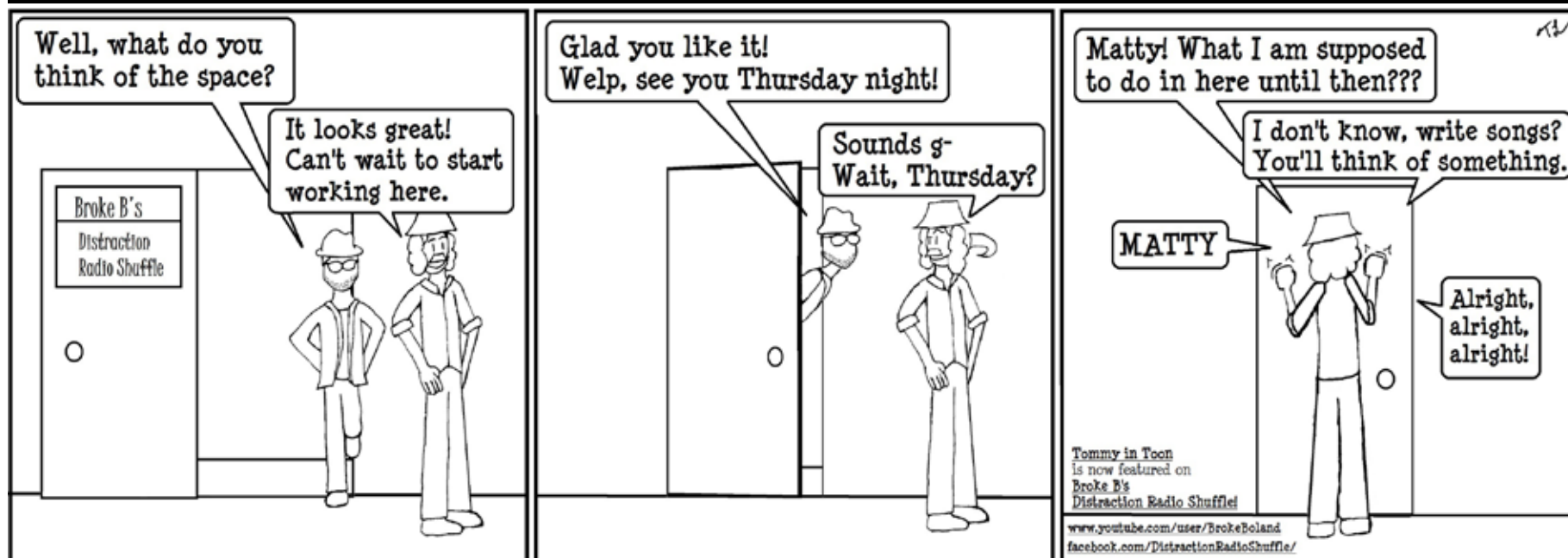


At times bombastic and brimming with an almost kitschy flair for the dramatic, Nadine Shah's *Kitchen Sink* is thoroughly entrancing. The follow-up to the English songwriter's 2017 album *Holiday Destination* (and fourth overall) hits powerfully, thanks in no small part to her longtime producing partner Ben Hillier. Having spent years working with acts like Natalie Imbruglia and Depeche Mode, Hillier also provides much of the album's rhythmic energy via drums, production, and guitar. The complex beat patterns in *Kitchen Sink* are often hypnotic, and when paired with Shah's floating alto vocals, the resulting combination is something between Fiona Apple, a James Bond soundtrack, and a Broadway revue. While the 34-year-old Shah grapples topics like mental health and modern aging, there's fun being had right from the opening track "Club Cougar." As soon as the horn section hits, it demands attention. Cuts like the titular track and "Walk" and "Dillydally" abound with fervent buoyancy and magnetic charm. The sultry cabaret sounds of "Ukrainian Wine" and "Wasps Nest" balance out the record for a smooth, repeatable, and dense listening experience.

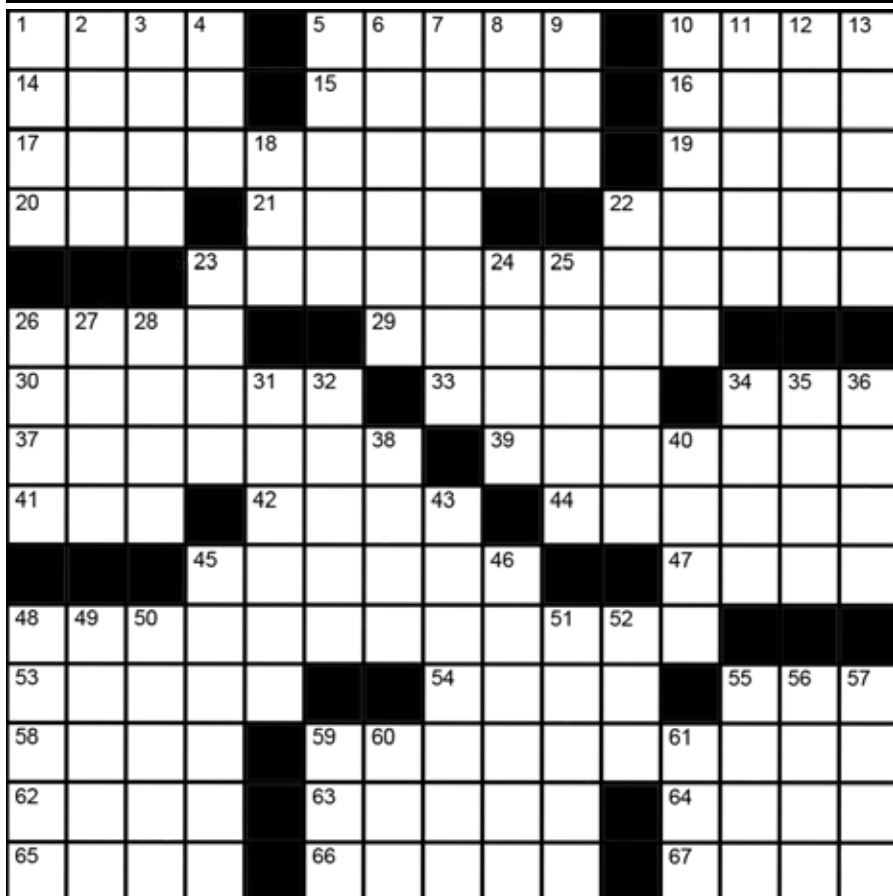
— Nick Warren



TOMMY IN TOON — BY TOMMY LINK



CROSSWORD



Across

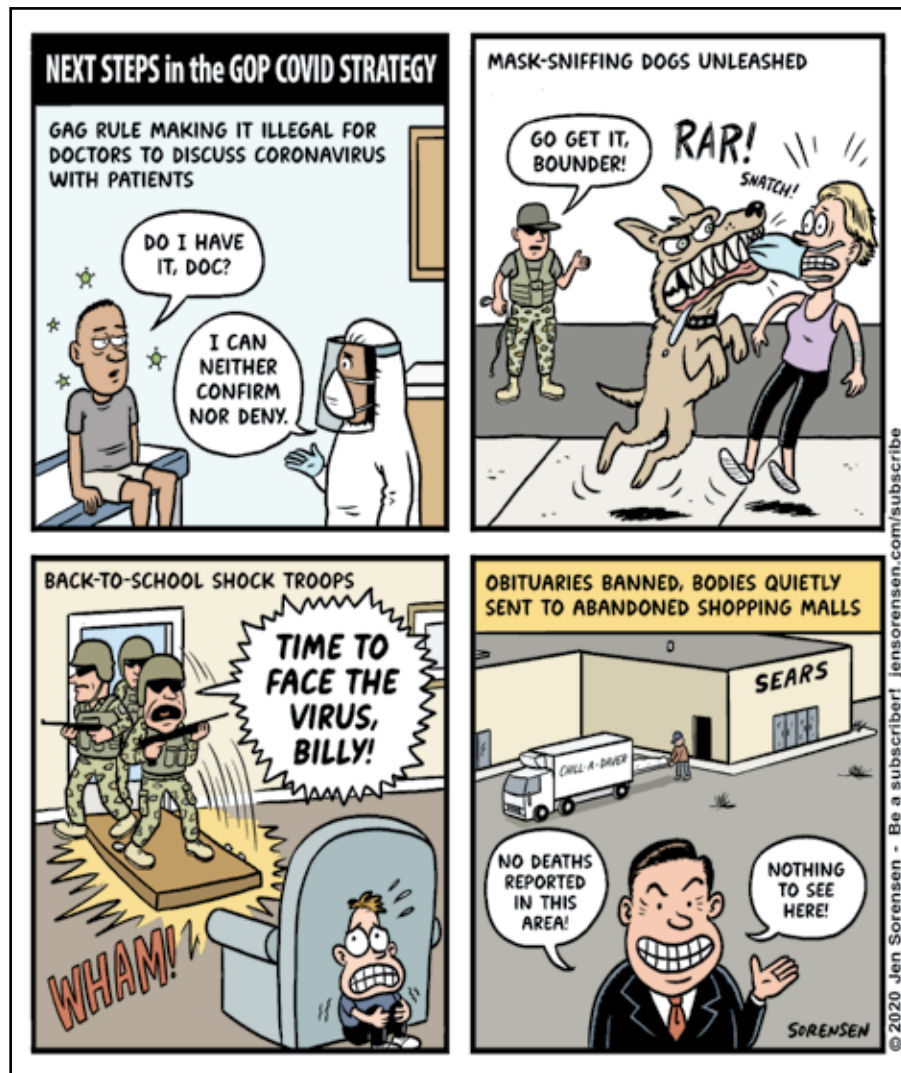
1. Physician with a daily talk show
5. Itinerant sort
10. Nada for Nadal
14. Prefix with nautical
15. Bakery fixtures
16. Environmentalist's subj.
17. *Unspeakable situation?
19. Dock figure
20. Blue expanse
21. Third-northernmost national capital
22. Reduce by 50%
23. *Magazine that put Linda Evangelista on its cover holding a Cohiba panatella
26. Final Four org.
29. It's unlikely
30. *2013 disaster film that spawned many sequels
33. Rabbit relative
34. POTUS when Sputnik was launched
37. "All will be well"
39. Wharton, e.g., informally
41. Oz. and kg.
42. "Modern Family" actor Stonestreet
44. *1885 operetta set in Japan
45. Words before "the blues" or "the Mondays"
47. Charged particles
48. *Setting for "Mork & Mindy"

53. Actresses Kendrick and Paquin
54. Coat of frost
55. Fly catcher
58. California's ___ Valley
59. What each of the starred clues are "without"
62. Fake IRS call, e.g.
63. Blue eyes or hairy legs, e.g.
64. Where approximately 60% of people live
65. Urges
66. Tooth: Prefix
67. Fly catcher

Down

1. Stand taken by a speaker?
2. Philosopher Descartes
3. "Free Willy" creature
4. Workplace for some veterinarians
5. Declaration on a Chinese menu
6. Egglike
7. It's lit eight nights in a row
8. Singer DiFranco
9. Mil. decoration since 1918
10. Enduring aspect of a person's life
11. Orbicularis ___ (eyelid-closing muscle)
12. Swedish automaker
13. Titular host of NBC's "Game of Games"
18. Miss Piggy's coy question

22. Containing state-of-the-art gadgetry
23. Caleb who wrote "The Alienist"
24. Many a Meccan
25. "To begin with ..."
26. [Avoid watching this in front of the boss]
27. Jazzman Baker
28. Some batteries
31. Works, as dough
32. Language from which "reindeer" comes
34. "___ arigato, Mr. Roboto"
35. "Whatcha ___?"
36. Fraternal order with an animal emblem
38. Level
40. One who's succeeding
43. Johnnie who said "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit"
45. Alleges
46. Go by walking
48. Deep, musically
49. Waiting in the wings
50. Emasculate
51. "Chicago Hope" Emmy-winner Christine
52. Underground find
55. "Now, where ___?"
56. Polish for publication
57. Dinghy or dory
59. 1-800-Flowers competitor
60. Suffix with script or text
61. Zodiac animal



Answers to last puzzle





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