

ECASB & Erie County

Collaborating For Stronger Public Schools in Erie County

April 2025



Lisa Chimera
 Deputy County Executive

After what has felt like a particularly long winter, spring is finally here! As temperatures rise, I remind parents, students and administrators to be aware that more students will be traveling to and from school on foot or bike. Please encourage safe behaviors like wearing a helmet and looking both ways before crossing the street. This year Earth Day is April 22. This is a great opportunity for schools to incorporate lessons and activities that show students we all have the ability to make positive changes for our environment and the planet we call home. I wish everyone a happy spring!

Resources:

Live Well Erie: <https://www.erie.gov/livewellerie>

Erie County Department of Social Services: <https://www.erie.gov/socialservices>

Erie County Department of Health: <https://www.erie.gov/health>

Erie County Office of Health Equity: <https://www.erie.gov/health-equity>

News from Erie County:

National Youth Sports Safety Month

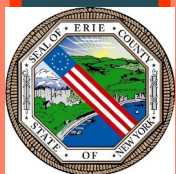
Participating in sports can be part of a healthy lifestyle for children. Unfortunately, each year about 1.24 million kids in the U.S. receive emergency room care for sports-related injuries, and 90-percent of student-athletes say they have been injured while playing a sport.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than half of the seven million sports and recreation-related injuries that occur each year are sustained by youth between ages five and 24. Many of those injuries can be quite serious, interfering not just with the child's ability to play sports, but also with their future development and well-being.

There are measures that parents and coaches can take to prevent injuries:

- Gear up – During both practices and games, athletes should be using appropriate, well-fitting





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protective gear that is in good condition. This can include helmets, wrist guards and knee and elbow pads in addition to any other sports gear appropriate to their activity or player position.

- Practice makes perfect – Athletes should learn proper techniques and practice skill sets relevant to their chosen activity. For example, appropriate tackling technique is important in preventing injuries in football. Teaching proper technique and movement can also help to prevent injuries during baseball, softball and other sports.
- Be well-conditioned – Be sure to safely and slowly increase activities to improve physical fitness; being in good condition can protect players from injury.
- Hydration and nutrition – Remind athletes to take care of their bodies by making sure they are properly hydrated and eating a well-balanced meal.

Measles Outbreaks

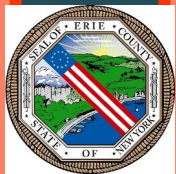
Measles outbreaks are happening in several U.S. states and the province of Ontario. Measles is more than just a little rash. This highly contagious viral infection can cause high fever, rash, pneumonia, brain swelling and death. Measles infection is especially dangerous for babies and young children, and people who are pregnant and who have not had the MMR vaccine. About one in five unvaccinated people in the U.S. who get measles is hospitalized; pneumonia is a common complication in children with measles infection.

The MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine is very safe and highly effective at preventing these diseases. Adults should get at least one MMR dose if they do not know their immunity status. People born before 1957 are presumed to have immunity. Children routinely get two doses of MMR as part of their recommended childhood vaccine series before school entry. The New York State Department of Health maintains a web site on measles updates: health.ny.gov/measles.

BECPL VIP Perks Pass

A BECPL Library Card provides access to books and technology, digital content, youth sports kits and even take-home CPR learning kits. It is also a ticket to discounts and specials at destinations across Erie County. Individuals and families can use their library card VIP (Very Important Perks Pass) to receive free general admission for up to four people at the Buffalo History Museum, or for two dollars off general admission at Explore & More Children's Museum. Other VIP partners include the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Penn Dixie Fossil Park & Nature Reserve plus many more!

Library cards are free for residents of New York State. Visit a branch to apply or go to www.buffalolib.org/library-cards. Happy reading!



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Erie County ECLIPSE Program

The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning recently announced a program to promote energy savings and renewable energy for our residents through Community Solar.

The Erie County Low Income Program for Sustainable Energy ("ECLIPSE") program allows income-qualified renters and homeowners to lower their monthly utility bills and access the benefits of renewable energy without the need for solar panel installation on their property and will provide participants with savings of approximately 10-percent on their electric bill.

ECLIPSE is available to Erie County renters and homeowners who are benefiting from federal or state aid programs including Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Empower+, Lifeline, and similar programs. Income-qualified households can learn more and enroll online at the ECLIPSE website at www.erie.gov/eclipse

Parks

There's no better way to spend a few hours than to visit one of Erie County's Parks or Forestry areas. With miles of trails for hiking and biking, tennis courts, and picnic areas, there is much to explore.

Park Rangers have been hard at work planning weekly events for the upcoming season. These free events offer the opportunity to observe and learn about the nature, wildlife and geology of Erie County parks while enjoying time outdoors.

Before heading out, take the time to review these safety tips:

- Dress for the weather: sunscreen, hats, loose/light-colored clothing
- Safety first: Bring plenty of water and know the physical limits for you and your group, especially in hot weather
- Watch for wildlife: reduce your risk of tick-borne illnesses like Lyme disease by checking for ticks on humans and pets after spending time outside; and leave wild animals alone and undisturbed, for your health and for theirs.
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When visiting any park, please be mindful to leave the area or shelter as you found it and to take everything with you. It is so important to keep these natural areas beautiful and litter-free! The plants and animals who call our parks home will thank you! On that note, we also if you are visiting the park with your dog, that you clean up after them and always keep them safely on a leash.

To view a list of activities and Ranger events, visit: www.erie.gov/parks.



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Important Dates

4/2 World Autism Awareness Day

4/4 National School Librarian Day

4/6-4/12 National Library Week

4/12 Erie County Paint-Only Collection Event (Larkinville, City of Buffalo). Registration is now open and can be completed online at www.erie.gov/recycling or by calling (716) 858-6800. Specific location will be provided upon registration.

4/22 Earth Day

4/22 School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

Resources:

Live Well Erie: www4.erie.gov/livewellerie

Erie County Department of Social Services: www.erie.gov/socialservices

Erie County Department of Health: www.erie.gov/health

Erie County Office of Health Equity: www.erie.gov/health-equity