

OUR WEST BAYFRONT

Summer 2022 News



Neighborhoods in action to build a better bayfront community.

Time for a Gridley Park Refresh!



It's time for a fresh look at Gridley Park! This summer, OWB will launch a community conversation about the park in the heart of the West Bayfront. With support from Erie Episcopal, OWB will be working with Dahlkemper Landscape Architects and the City of Erie to develop a concept plan for a park that will be the guide for future improvements.

Visit ourwestbayfront.org/communityinitiatives for updates, including details coming soon about a survey to be launched on July 28th!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit ourwestbayfront.org for more details

West BayFit at Bayview Park
Wednesdays, June through July 6-8PM

MLK Center Summer Festival
Saturday, July 23rd at 12PM

Erie Philharmonic at Gridley Park
Saturday, July 23rd 7 PM

National Night Out at Gridley Park
Tuesday, August 2nd 5-8PM

Erie Gives Day
Tuesday, August 9th 8AM-8PM

Gem City Bands at Bayview Park
Sunday, August 21st from 5-8PM

Gem City Bands at Gridley Park
Sunday, August 28th from 5-8PM

Sign up to volunteer at any OWB event and get a FREE T-Shirt
www.surveymonkey.com/r/OWBEvents2022

New Public Art in Our West Bayfront

Have you spotted any of the exciting new works of public art that have recently been installed in the West Bayfront?

On June 30th, "**Sights and Sounds**," a new mural by artist Tom Ferraro was installed across from Cascade Park at West 3rd and Cascade Street on the home of Mrs. Esther Tregler. The mural was developed with input from the community and students at Mother Theresa Academy, and many residents helped to paint it earlier this summer. This project was possible thanks to Gannon University and a grant from KeyBank.



From June 26th to July 12th, Miami-based artist Nicole Salgar will be working with locally hired assistants to create a mural at W. 11th and Weschler streets on the PSB Industries building. This is one mural of many to be created through Erie Arts and Culture's *Purposeful Placemaking* initiative, a project in collaboration with United Way of Erie County.



Also, Gridley Park will be home to a new sculpture by artists Shasti O'Leary Soudant and Esther Ortiz, coordinated by Erie Arts and Culture!

Give Where You Live on Erie Gives Day!

On **Erie Gives Day, Tuesday, August 9th**, every community member can support our West Bayfront neighborhoods with a \$25+ donation to Our West Bayfront! All funds contributed to OWB on Erie Gives Day directly support projects and initiatives in the West Bayfront neighborhoods such as improving parks and creating affordable homeownership opportunities.

To make an impact in our neighborhood, **donate online at www.ErieGives.org on Tuesday, August 9th between 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM!**



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Vacant Property Renovations

Residents gathered at 702 Raspberry at a pop-up event June 5th over cookies and coffee to share ideas with OWB staff about what to do with the property, formerly the home of the Magic Cookie Shop, which OWB acquired from the Erie Land Bank in 2021.



Our West Bayfront is also working on two other vacant property renovations, one on Walnut St. and one on West 3rd. These projects are both already underway and will be developing in the coming months.

Erie Insurance Hagen Fellows Present Research to the Community

A group of talented Erie Insurance employees have completed a months-long project on behalf of OWB as part of the Thomas B. Hagen Fellows program, engaging on two high-priority projects that will benefit the West Bayfront community. One group developed a set of recommendations to support homeownership while a second group developed a small business support strategy for OWB. They presented their findings at the Erie MLK Center on June 21st to the OWB community. **Check out their final report at ourwestbayfront.org/hagenfellows**

We are thankful for the opportunity to work with Erie Insurance and their staff to work on their projects these past few months!



Help keep the West Bayfront safe!

Here are two easy things you can do to help keep the West Bayfront safe!

- Email OWB at info@ourwestbayfront.org or call 814 871-7960 if you would like a free Safe Communities sign (see right) for your yard or business.
- Register your security camera with the Erie County District Attorney's office. More info and the link to register can be found online at erie.crimewatchpa.com/da/179411/webforms/camera-registry.



Out and about in the OWB this spring!

There was so much happening in the West Bayfront this spring thanks to great participants, partnerships and volunteers!

Nearly 50 OWB residents participated as part of Team OWB in **Erie Walks**, a county-wide program to encourage physical activity organized by the Erie County Department of Health. Members of Team OWB, which was supported by UPMC HealthPlan, together help contribute towards 25,812 "days" of exercise over the 8 week program.

Several OWB residents led tours in the West Bayfront as part of HistERIE Week, organized by the Erie County Public Library, a week of events highlighting the rich history of our region. The Boulevard Park Walking Tour led neighbors and guests on a walk through the history of the area. The Home Again in Our West Bayfront bike tour with Erin Phillips and Preservation Erie was a 3 mile bike ride that highlighted the unique architecture of the OWB neighborhoods. And Johnny Johnson led a tour of African American History, with stops throughout the New Jerusalem neighborhood.



In partnership with the Erie County Department of Health and Strong Vincent Middle School, OWB coordinated two **garden workshops** where community members of all ages received a free garden kit and tomato plant and instructions on how to make their gardens thrive.

Don't miss out on upcoming events like these! Sign up for our newsletter online at ourwestbayfront.org/newsletter

Thank you to our major partners!



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