

Erie revamps bayfront

by Kevin Otteni
staff writer

A bayfront library, a maritime museum, and possibly riverboat gambling on Lake Erie: these are all things that were suggested almost a decade ago and now are completed, almost finished, or still controversial. The original plan for a bayfront library was unfavorable to 88% of those Erie residents telephoned in a 1991 Times-News poll. Residents claimed it was too far from the center of the Erie County population, the bayfront property was too valuable, and it was too dangerous for the elderly and children to get to.

Seven years later, seven blocks north of the original main library on land donated by Penelec, the Raymond M. Blasco M.D. Memorial Library stands in the Bayview Commons, with four bus routes that make routine stops there throughout the day. This complex also houses a Friends Shop and Coffee Bar, the Auditorium, the Public Meeting Room, and Erie Maritime Museum. Such a change in a city's image is nothing new to the

tri-state area.

Cleveland did a great job with its downtown make over and Pittsburgh is laying out its plans to acquire the same look. Local Erie resident Nicole

"Erie is doing a good job with its downtown plans and the library is a prime example of how good the city will look."

Nicole Master
Erie resident

Master said "Erie is doing a good job with its downtown plans and the library is a prime example of how good the city will look."

With a host of volunteers, the library accommodates around 1700 people per day, double the visitors the old library had. The library is always looking for additional volunteer help in the Internet access area. There are 35 computers that residents can access the Internet with free of charge, although when it is busy, residents are

limited to one hour of usage. "Having a computer and Internet access at the library makes it easier to do more thorough research," says local resident and McDowell senior Megan Stiller. Erie county residents also have access to 250,000 books and 50,000 audiotapes and videotapes. The library houses around 300 seats (270 more than the old library) and provides library patrons with a beautiful view of Lake Erie and the U.S. Brig Niagara.

The centerpiece for the Erie Maritime Museum is scheduled to return from its voyage by May 21st, in time for the Memorial Day weekend grand opening of the museum.

A more controversial idea for additions to the bayfront is the idea of bringing gambling to the lake. This is more of a political issue and it seems that local residents can only sit and wait to see if the riverboat gambling plan will be completed like the bayfront makeover project has. However, the residents and tourists of Erie can enjoy the Maritime Museum and the Raymond M. Blasco, M.D. Memorial Library.

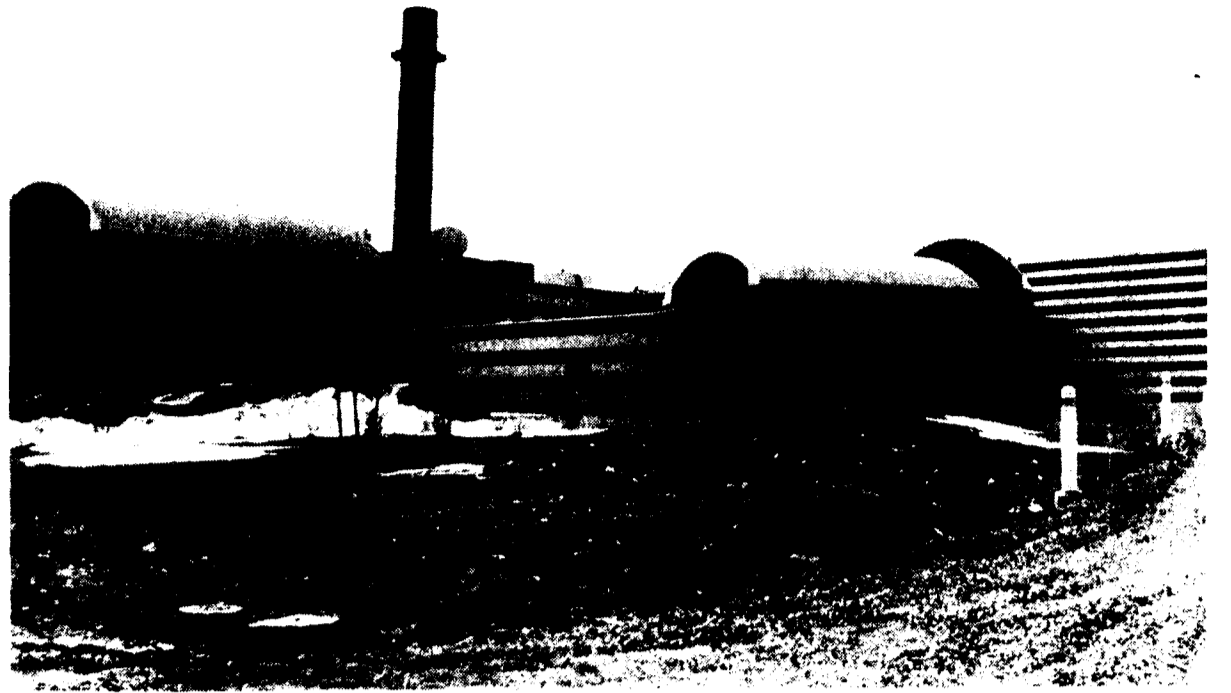


photo by Jason Blake

The back of the Raymond M. Blasco M.D. Memorial Library and Erie Maritime Museum located off the Bayfront Highway next to a piece of land soon to be developed.



photos by Jason Blake

Winter made its last appearance in Wintergreen Gorge last weekend. Spring has begun!





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- ACROSS**
- 1 Young boy
 - 4 Belgian diamond center
 - 11 Question
 - 14 Exist
 - 15 Small Spanish ship
 - 16 Caustic solution
 - 17 Affirmative vote
 - 18 Tidal wave
 - 19 "Sliver" author Levin
 - 20 Not lifted up
 - 22 Serviette
 - 24 Warhead of a missile
 - 25 Dramatic scene
 - 26 Plains antelope
 - 27 Virile
 - 28 Donates
 - 31 Picture border
 - 32 Schuss
 - 35 Smell
 - 36 Fathers
 - 37 Adolescent
 - 38 Outlaw
 - 39 Natural talent
 - 40 Practical joke
 - 41 Domesticated guanaco
 - 42 Forty Thieves' leader
 - 43 Italian dish
 - 46 Small carpet
 - 50 Combination punch
 - 51 Intensify
 - 52 Links org.
 - 53 Earhart and Bloomer
 - 55 Expected
 - 56 Building extension
 - 57 Pertinent
 - 58 Tax grp.
 - 59 Mayday!
 - 60 "Lou Grant" star
 - 61 Single
- DOWN**
- 1 One-handed basketball shot
 - 2 Type of stage
 - 3 Sweetie
 - 4 Exploits
 - 5 Long Island county
 - 6 Lined up
 - 7 Magic stick
 - 8 ___ Marie Saint
 - 9 Leftover pieces
 - 10 Easily shaped
 - 11 The same
 - 12 Assad's country
 - 13 Actor Reeves
 - 21 Infamous Hiss
 - 23 Double over
 - 25 Potato
 - 27 "West Side Story" song
 - 28 Goopy mass
 - 29 Cider-sweet woman
 - 30 Erich ___ Stroheim
 - 31 Florida city
 - 32 Salton ___
 - 33 Writer Kesey
 - 34 Squid's defense
 - 36 Skied a zigzag course
 - 37 Court action
 - 39 Floodgate volume
 - 40 Happiness bringer

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- 41 Illuminated
- 47 Wireless
- 42 Esoteric
- 48 Vehicular 180
- 43 Uses a lasso
- 49 V-formation flyers
- 44 ___-Saxon
- 51 "Desire Under the ___"
- 45 Calf meats
- 54 Historic period
- 46 Thai or Korean, e.g.