

DECEMBER 2022

Eric's Black

VOLUME 1

WALL STREET



RENAISSANCE NEWS



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS



We dedicate our first newsletter to DaVona Pacley, Co-Founder of EBWS. Since EBWS' inception, DaVona envisioned a newsletter that would keep the community not only informed but involved in EBWS.

Community is at the root of all we do!

[A Year of Impact](#)

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[Meet the EBWS Staff](#)

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A YEAR OF IMPACT

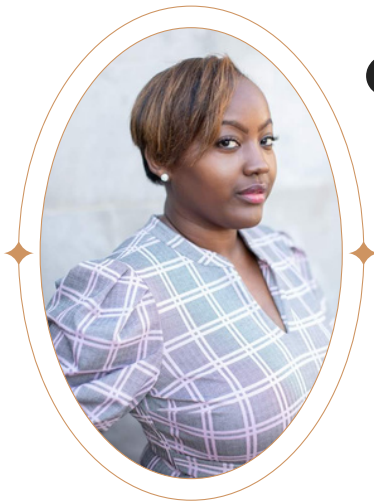
BUDGETING BASICS

Thank you, Tashana Pulliam of Hopeful Reality, for teaching us that good personal finance is obtainable even if we are living on a fixed income. From her personal finance workbook to ways to save money for a rainy-day, Tashana breaks money down for all to easily understand,



CREDIT & THE SECRETS OF LENDING

Thank you, Latrice Phoenix of Thrive Consulting Group, for educating us on the history of credit in Black America, the secrets of lending, and helping to repair the credit of EBWS community members.



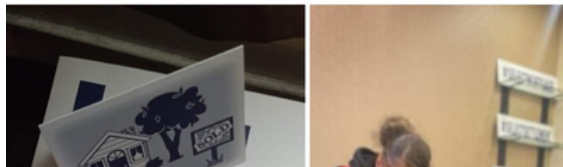
PATHWAY TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

With the help of industry experts: Rod See, Sonja Thompson, Latrice Phoenix, Tashana Pulliam, and Northwest Bank we were able to educate 58 people on the homebuying process. We also provided \$5000 towards the purchase of a home for first time homebuyers. See their testimonials below!



Alisha Gunn
Just now · 🌐

Thank You Erie's Black Wall Street for helping me become an home owner!!! Without yall I would still be at square 1...



MissToya Anntoinette
1d · 🌐

Where do I begin?

Words cannot express how thankful I am for Erie's Black Wall Street. From credit building to closing on my first home, I couldn't have done any of that without you. Along the way, I've learned so much that I can pass down to my family. Thank you and I'll be forever grateful...

Collaboration over Competition



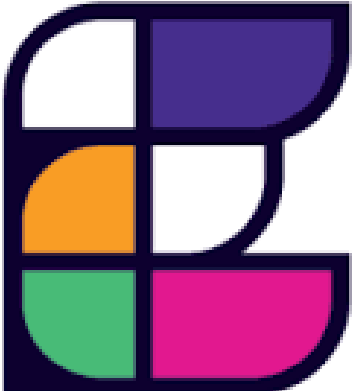
“COLLABORATION IS THE TRUE JUGGERNAUT OF ALL THINGS. WHEN COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS COME TOGETHER, MOVING MOUNTAINS TAKES ONLY MINIMAL FORCE” -BRANDON WILEY, FOUNDER & CEO, OPENEDEYES

We were excited to have OpenedEyes join us to celebrate Juneteenth by hosting a Mix & Mingle Event at Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro. The goal of this mix & mingle was to connect Black business owners to local resources that could increase their business or business knowledge. The event was a great success & packed to capacity!

A JUNETEENTH TO REMEMBER

Erie's Juneteenth Celebration sought out EBWS to join in their annual celebration to help make a wonderful weekend of celebration.

To learn more about Erie's Juneteenth Celebration, visit them at eriejuneteenth.com



HOME SWEET HOME

We are proud to announce that we call Erie Center for Arts and Technology home. Our offices are located in Suite 113 on the Ground Floor.



"BLACK EXCELLENCE IS THE ABILITY TO IMAGINE US FREE."

-DR. RHONDA MATTHEWS

Director of Grants & Development

We are thankful for everyone who made it to our Cinema, Cocktails, and Conversation: Private screening of Black Panther: Wakanda Forever!

We shared our rollercoaster of emotions we experienced from watching the film in a discussion led by Dr. Rhonda Matthews.

A video recap of the event can be found on our YouTube channel.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A SUDDEN TO A SUCCESSFUL CEO

Michelle Taylor, President & CEO of BETAH Associates ordered our steps through taking a business from conception to inception. Michelle taught us that in business our mistakes don't diminish our magic and that "Cash may be king. But the queen should always know what's happening to her coins.

To learn more about Michelle and BETAH Associates, please go to BETAH.com.



DID YOU KNOW EBWS HAS AN APP?

Download Now!

- Black-owned Business Directory
- Upcoming Events
- In-App Networking
- Blog
- Merchandise
- and more...



WE WANT TO SHARE ALL THE THINGS HAPPENING WITHIN OUR BLACK COMMUNITY!

EBWS' CALENDER

scan to add

ADD YOUR EVENT

Celebrate Black Business

ERIE'S BLACK WALL STREET



Vote for Your Favorite Black-owned Business

Erie's Black Wall Street believes in the principle Ujima: collective work and responsibility. It is our commitment to uplift and support Black-owned businesses in Erie County so that we may all experience a culture of Black Excellence. Visit our website to vote for your favorite Black-owned Business in Erie County, PA from November 19th through December 31st.

Black Business Owners We Value You!

To all the Black business owners, we would like to thank you for being a huge part of the Erie's Black Wall Street community. During the listening session, we were able to hear directly from Black-business owners on how Covid-19 impacted their businesses, how they've had to think outside the box, their needs & successes. A special thank you to RoMo Pics for capturing such beautiful photos of the event. To see all of the photos, please click the photo above.

If you are a Black Business Owner and were not able to attend the listening session, please email us at info@eriesblackwallstreet.org to get access to the survey.



FINANCIAL POSITION

EBWS received \$55,000 to ensure programming was a success!



PUTTING "COMMUNITY" IN THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Erie Community Foundation has been the biggest supporter of EBWS since its inception. To date, EBWS has been awarded Helping Today Grants of \$20,000 for the 2020/21 and \$35,000 for 21/22. We thank The Erie Community Foundation for believing in uplifting and investing in Erie's Black community.

To learn more about the Erie Community Foundation, please go to www.eriecommunityfoundation.org.

NEWS WORTHY NEWS!

EBWS AWARDED \$200,000 IN ARP GRANT!

EBWS LISTED IN PLAYBOOK



EBWS received \$23,686 in donations! Thank you to all that donated!

Bruce Katz and New Localism believed that in order for Erie to grow and maximize federal dollars, Erie must prioritize support for Black- and Brown-owned small businesses, first-time and minority homeowners, and local suppliers. EBWS is one of the organizations listed in their playbook, that should be invested in.

EBWS received a \$200,000 Technical Assistance ARP Grant from the City of Erie to expand EBWS programming and support of the Black Community.

Growth is never by mere chance; It is the result of forces working together.- James Penny

Kyra



Executive Director

Shalea



Director of Finance

Dr. Rhonda



Director of Grants & Development

**MEET
THE STAFF**

EBWS' TEAM MEMBERS

Jamilia



Administrative Assistant

Nat



Social Media Manager

2023 AT A GLANCE



PATHWAY TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

JANUARY 7, 14, 21, 28



ERIE OTTERS X EBWS

JANUARY 16



GREENLIGHT BUSINESS AWARDS GALA

February 25



BLACK ICE NIGHT

FEBRUARY 28



BLACK WOMEN L.E.A.D BRUNCH

MARCH 18



GROW YOUR IG FOLLOWERS

APRIL 13



JUNETEENTH JUKE JOINT

JUNE 16

TO SEE MORE OR REGISTER FOR EVENTS FOLLOW US ON ERIESBLACKWALLSTREET.ORG



A NEW PARTNERSHIP ON THE HORIZON

READY TO START OR GROW YOUR DREAM BUSINESS?



PARAMOUNT
PURSUITS



In collaboration, Erie's Black Wall Street (EBWS) and Paramount Pursuits are launching a 12-month incubator program designed to break barriers to Entrepreneurship and facilitate the growth of your business. Whether you are embarking on the journey to start a new business, or looking for ways to increase revenue for your existing business - our Program will provide all of the tools you need to succeed. We provide assistance with building a strong foundation for your business, creating a business and marketing plan, understanding your financials, identifying and obtaining funding, creating processes to ensure your business is operating effectively and efficiently, networking to build strategic partnerships and more.

Entrepreneurship is tough! Join our Program today to make your journey easier.

Ready to Get Started? Apply here:

<https://bit.ly/ebwsthiveinerie>

Have Questions? Contact us: 814.679.3100 or
connect@paramountpursuits.com

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE INCUBATOR PROGRAM?

MENTORING:

One-on-One Mentoring Sessions to provide resources, accountability and support.

SEMINARS:

Monthly Educational Seminars to help you learn more about business topics such as Accounting, Social Media, Marketing, Sales, Legal Concerns, and Strategic Planning.

NETWORKING:

Quarterly Networking Events will help you make new connections to grow your business.

AWARD

WINNING

HER P.O.W.E.R IMPACT

We would like to thank HER P.O.W.E.R INC. for awarding Erie's Black Wall Street for our contribution and impact in the lives of women through marketing, financial support, and education!

We are honored and are motivated to continue and expand our impact!



COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

We thank the Mu Nu Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for selecting EBWS to win the Community Spirit Award. Service to community is at the root of everything that EBWS stands for and to be recognized for it is such a true honor.



"The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more."

-Jonas Salk

DAD JOKES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Share some laughs with us as we see who's the best at dad jokes! Self-proclaimed Dad Jokes Masters Kait Dolak and Troy Morrison will be bringing their best dad jokes to take the win of this virtual Dad Joke Competition.

To purchase your access, please visit our Facebook page.

*All proceeds will go to benefit the homeless served by Community Shelter Services

DAD JOKE
COMPETITION:
Holiday Edition
TROY VS. KAIT

12/22
7pm

\$5 donation will go to
Community Shelter Services

PROMOTING NETWORKING
CELEBRATING THE CULTURE
EBWS
ERIE'S BLACK WALL STREET
EST. 2018
CULTIVATING



PROJECT RENAISSANCE

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

To date, EBWS has designed, planned, and implemented several successful programmatic efforts to fill in crucial gaps in knowledge to support our fellow Black community members.

FINANCIAL LITERACY



Our Financial Literacy Series* is aimed at the entire family and addresses the importance of financial planning, the history of credit, how to repair and maintain good credit, and the cultural importance of financial knowledge for Black people. *Select participants receive free financial consulting services.

RESOURCE CENTER



Our Facebook group members and mailing list receive frequent information on local and national resources including loans, grants, and other opportunities.

PATHWAY TO HOMEOWNERSHIP



The Pathway to Home Ownership Series consists of four educational workshops that address the basics of the home purchasing process and provides selected participants with money towards the down payment or closing costs of their first home within the county of Erie.

ENTREPRENUERIAL SUPPORT



The Entrepreneurial Support Series consists of educational sessions about how to start, maintain, and market a business as well as networking opportunities and business listening sessions.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS



EBWS also offers events for community members to gather in social settings to increase networking opportunities among one another. The intention is to assist our members in gaining knowledge, camaraderie and decrease the sense of isolation that many community members may feel as they navigate life.

GET INVOLVED

COMMUNITY IS THE ROOT OF ALL WE DO! WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE STAY CONNECTED TO YOU.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar, located in our smartphone app and website, is a one stop shop for finding out what is happening in the Black community. Anyone hosting an event can place their event in the Community Calendar.



EBWS APP

The EBWS Smartphone App gives community members access to our Black-owned business directory and other resources in the palm of their hand. It also provides for in-app networking. Available in Android and iOS formats.



Scan the QR code

EBWS WEBSITE

The Erie's Black Wall Street website provides information about **Project Renaissance** programming and services, community calendar, virtual store, community resources, hosts the business directory of over 100 Black-owned businesses, and more. Visit

www.eriesblackwallstreet.org



EBWS VIRTUAL STORE

Shop the EBWS looks at our Virtual Store! Proceeds support the Project Renaissance programming.

THE HOLIDAYS AND MENTAL HEALTH

By Angelica Spraggins, MA, LPC

As we head into the upcoming winter months in the city of Erie, we all know some of the things to expect, Frigid temps, gray sky's and snowy days seem to be a yearly staple. Another familiar experience of winter is seasonal depression, also known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Some of the symptoms to look out for this winter include:

- Feeling tired/sleeping excessively
- A lack of motivation
- Thinking poorly of yourself
- Difficulty concentrating
- Craving carbs and sweets, experiencing weight gain

Seasonal depression is linked to lack of sunlight (vitamin D). During this time of year it is easy to over sleep, over eat, and fall into a funk. These habits are especially prevalent with those that have little access to reliable transportation and limited financial means. As a Licensed Professional Counselor, there are a few things I try to keep in mind during this time for myself and my clients. 1. Maintain a healthy diet and drink plenty of water. Keeping the appropriate nutrients in our bodies can help to balance some of the missing vitamins that the sun normally provides. Plus if you eat good you feel good (this is good for all year round). 2. Try to find an exercise routine that you can implement daily (get that body moving!). 3. Get together with friends, have a cup of coffee, dinner or a drink after work. Socializing can give us the human contact we need to keep those winter blues at bay. 4. Maintain a schedule. The weather makes it easy to lay down and stay down. Build a routine to get your body going. 5. Implement healthy boundaries with those around us. This includes putting yourself first during this winter season.

During this season of celebration, food, presents, family and friends please remember to take care of yourself. The holidays are a great time to share with others, but also an excellent time to step into our self care and practice boundary setting. This time of year the world slows a bit and the spending speeds up. Just a small suggestion from myself to our readers, choose your speed aka choose yourself these next few months, because the holidays are about love and care. Take some time to love and care for yourself first and it will make it easier to do so for those you around you. From the EBWS team we wish you a safe and happy winter season!!

A Message from the Executive Director

Life is full of twists and turns. We often end up taking on roles that we never intended to. In January 2018, my friends DaVona Pacley, Angelica Spraggins, and I started a small Facebook group (EBWS), just to connect with Erie's Black community.

Today, EBWS has not only grown exponentially but it has morphed into a staple of the Black community. We listened to concerns, voiced directly, from the Black Community and acted upon them. We promise to never take our responsibility to the Black community lightly.



Erie's Black Wall Street is empowered
by



The Erie
Community
Foundation