

An open book is a window to the world.

Ellwood City Public Library  
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September 2024

## *The Reader's Review-Special Edition*

### **We Say Good-Bye to Our Former Director**

It is with great sadness that we bring you the news that we have lost our former Director, Veronica Pacella.

Veronica was our Director for nearly 20 years and she will always be remembered for the love of reading that she inspired in a generation of young people.

She is the person most responsible for our beautiful facility having spearheaded the building project that resulted in a new building for the Library, a place of pride for our entire community.

Veronica, we say good-bye and thank you for all you did for all of us.

(Veronica's complete obituary is on the next page.)



Veronica Pacella, aged 67, passed away after a courageous six-year battle with cancer on August 31, 2024. A dedicated community leader, journalist, and library advocate, she leaves behind a legacy of service and commitment to her hometown of Ellwood City.

Born on May 12, 1957 to Arthur and Edith (Rocco) Pacella, she was a proud graduate of Lincoln High School, Class of 1975. Veronica furthered her education at Slippery Rock University, graduating in 1979. Her professional journey began at the Ellwood City Ledger, where she quickly made history as the youngest and first woman editor of the newspaper in 1981. A position she would have for almost 20 years.

After leaving the Ledger, she fulfilled a lifelong dream of opening "The Bookseller" book store in Zelienople, where she shared her love of literature with the community. After the bookstore closed, she spent a short time as a teller at ESB Bank in Zelienople.

In 2002, she became the director of the Ellwood City Area Public Library. Under her leadership, the library not only moved to its current location but also flourished as a hub of community engagement and education. The challenge of completing this project and doing so without the library having to incur the burden of a mortgage was among her proudest career achievements.

During her 20-year tenure as director, her efforts were recognized statewide. The Ellwood City Area Public Library has been the recipient of five Best Practices Awards from the Pennsylvania Library Association for early learning and early development programs, as well as a David J. Roberts EXCEL Library Service Award, and earning national recognition for its programs in 2023.

Love of the written word was a constant theme in her life. Her passion for books and reading drove her to inspire a whole new generation of readers through the programs she helped to create at the library.