



Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Annual Report of the Director
2014-2015



2015 Facts and Figures

37 Libraries

304,000+ Library cardholders

3.17+ Million materials (books, magazines, DVDs, audio books etc.)

242,650 WiFi sessions in 2015

78,640 Adult Program attendees

98,427 Children's Program attendees

9.7 Million Library System website hits

16,500+ Social Media followers/fans

\$5.59 Return value in library services for every \$1 received in Erie County taxpayer funding.



Mary Jean Jakubowski

Message from Library Director

Dear Friend & Supporter of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System,

Community connections and partnerships are essential ingredients to the day-to-day workings of the 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries. Building strong community partnerships has been our focus over the course of 2014-2015. Each library has gathered community input from their own town/village/neighborhood in order to ensure we continually provide resources, connections and services needed within our diverse community. Our libraries continually strive to create a free, inspirational space that promotes discovery and strengthens community pride.

Libraries matter and they are more relevant than ever! American Library Association President Sari Feldman stated ***“Libraries are not just about what we have for people, but what we do for and with people.”*** I could not agree more! As we continue to strengthen our place in the community as vibrant institutions of lifelong learning and centers of literacy, no longer are we solely for borrowing books.

Libraries are the great equalizers – where all who enter are welcome and have free access to high speed internet, WiFi, public computers, current cutting edge technologies, along with hundreds of traditional and non-traditional resources. Our job fairs, resume writing training and computer classes promote economic development. Programs including English as a Second Language and naturalization classes are designed to help our community's newest neighbors. Common Core-based programming for school-

aged children focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in support of our local educators and students. Family nights, Storytimes, author visits, and much more provide enrichment, enlightenment and entertainment for our residents.

Today's libraries are not just physical buildings with specific hours of operation. Library services are accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year through our website, online resources and social media. We are where you are: Canalside, Larkin Square, in the schools, at the park, participating in Block Club meetings, and community events such as parades, festivals and seminars.

Erie County residents provide strong support for our libraries. We are profoundly grateful for the funding, encouragement and support we receive from Erie County's elected officials and New York State lawmakers, as well as the generous donations from the community, local businesses and foundations who contributed to our *Bucks for Books* and various other fundraising campaigns.

This Annual Report provides an overview of some of the highlights from the Library System.

I look forward to seeing you at the Library!

With warmest regards,

Mary Jean Jakubowski
Library Director

“Libraries are not just about what we have for people, but what we do for and with people.”

Libraries Make a Difference

Every day Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries provide services in new & creative ways. We draw our inspiration from the Erie County community which we are so honored to serve.

Highlights:

Created Job Fairs, Resume Writing Clinics.

Offered Health/Wellness Fairs/Holistic Health Programming.

Supported NYS Core Curriculum standards.

Offered programs and collections based on STEM, STEAM, STREAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Art & Religion).

Offered year-round Technology Classes.

Presented "Bullying Stops Here" Anti-Bullying Campaign.

Offered Book Clubs, Knitting Clubs, Cooking Clubs and Collection Clubs.

Presented regular Storytimes & Toddler Times.

Exhibited Rare Book and first edition Special Collection exhibits such as *"Milestones of Science: Books that Shook the World!"*, *"Mark Twain,"* *"The Wonderful Wizardry of Baum,"* and *"You are Here, Buffalo on the Map."*

Created the Launch Pad MakerSpace which offers hands-on learning, opportunities for innovation and creativity.

Partnerships, Collaborations, Community

More than 600 community partners work with Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries to keep you informed. Here is a sampling of our partners:

Afro-American Historical
Association of Niagara Frontier
Albright Knox Art Gallery
American Library Association
Arts Services Initiative of
Western New York
Aspire of WNY
Boys & Girls Clubs
Boy Scouts of America
Buffalo History Museum
Buffalo Museum of Science
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Buffalo Public Schools
Buffalo News
Catholic Charities
Catholic Health Systems
Canalside Buffalo, Erie Canal
Harbor Development Corp.
Center for the Study of Art,
Architecture, History and
Nature
Community Action Organization
Concerned Ecumenical Ministry

Consortium of Western New York
Colleges
Educational Opportunity Center
Entercom Radio
Erie I BOCES & Erie II BOCES
Erie County Departments/Offices
of Health, Social Services,
Environment & Planning,
Commission on the Status of
Women, Office for the
Disabled, Veterans Services
Explore & More
Gay & Lesbian Youth Services
Girl Scouts of WNY
Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY
William S. Hein & Co.
Holland Speedway
International Institute
Journey's End Refugee Services,
Inc.
Just Buffalo Literary Center
Literacy New York Buffalo Niagara
National Federation of Just
Communities

National Library of Medicine
Nickel City Opera
Preservation Buffalo Niagara
Project Flight
PRONE
Read to Succeed
Say Yes to Education/ Buffalo
SCORE Buffalo Niagara
Shea's Performing Arts Center
Western New York Genealogy
Society
University of Buffalo
Veterans One-Stop Center
Visit Buffalo Niagara
Western New York Library
Resources Council
Western New York STEM Hub
Western New York Peace Center
Women Elect
YMCA & YWCA
Young Audiences of Western
New York



Weekly "Imagine Buffalo" free lectures on subjects ranging from the arts and nature to science and literature were presented by Dennis Galucki, founder of the Center for the Study of Art, Architecture, History and Nature.



Building awareness of the significant social issue of all types of bullying, Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries annually promote the month of October as "Bullying Stops Here" Month. Multiple organizations collaborate on producing a calendar listing of anti-bullying programs and events taking place across Erie County. Schools and neighborhood groups pledge to stop bullying by signing library banners which state "Bullying Stops Here."

The Library's anti-bullying campaign initiative was recognized for its community leadership in the September 2014 issue of the national magazine American Libraries.

Youth Engagement

Highlights:

Introduced "READ ALOUD 15" an ongoing national movement designed to encourage 15 minutes of reading to every child, every day.

Collaborated with more than 40 local Read Aloud partners.

Presented annual "Battle of the Books" teen summer reading competition.

Presented Summer & Winter Reading programs.

Presented "Read Across America" annual Dr. Seuss birthday celebrations for young children.

Presented "Read for the Record," a global awareness literacy campaign targeting preschool age children.

Offered "Read Down Your Fines" program for children.

Presented Children's Reading Contests with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Trained Library staff in dialogic reading techniques - trained by Read to Succeed.

Collaborated with Project Flight to encourage book donations for disadvantaged children.

Participated in "Martin Luther King, Jr. Leaders are Readers" program donating thousands of books to Erie County schools.

Received "Reading is Grand" Storytelling grant from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

Hosted hundreds of children and their families at the annual WNY Invention Convention.

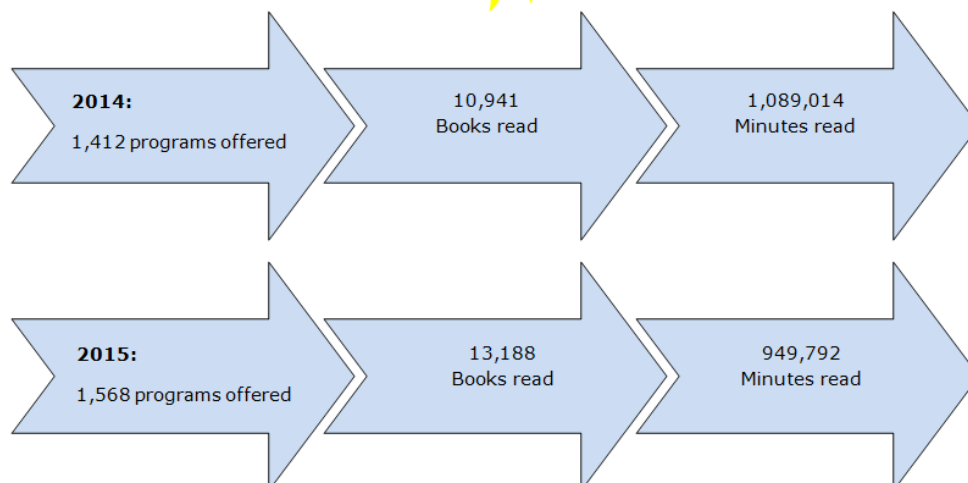
Hosted the Vex IQ Robotics Competition for kids.

Exhibited *Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic and Medicine*.

Presented "*Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*" programs underwritten from the National Endowment for the Humanities and American Library Association.

Conducted a "Love Your Library" poster contest. Williamsville East High School student Josie LoVallo was the winner and one of 130 entrants.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING



Diversity in Programming

Each of the 37 libraries provides year-round programming to meet the needs of their community.

During tax season, patrons can meet with certified tax agents who can assist with tax questions and filing in partnership with the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance.

The U.S. Immigration Services "Road to Citizenship" Resource Center is now located at the Central Library. The Center has information regarding becoming a U.S. Citizen.

Highlights:

Bullying Stops Here!

Poetry Jams

Chess Open Houses

Minecraft Technology for Kids

Author Visits

Maker Camp Mondays

Dia de los Ninos/Dia de los Libros (Children's Day/Book Day)

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

Black History Month

Hispanic Heritage Month

Disability Awareness Month

Community Heroes

FinnFest Buffalo Celebration

Battle of the Books

Lincoln 150 Anniversary Programs

Imagine Buffalo Weekly Lectures

Buffalo Mini Maker Faire

Good for the Neighborhood

Buffalo Comic-Con

"Lights on After School" National Initiative

Health Happens @ Your Library

Money Smart Week

Love Your Library, Library Awareness Month

Brown vs. Board of Education Symposium

Women's History Month

Kwanza Celebrations



Summer & Winter Reading programs expose children to a wealth of informational and recreational reading, and opportunities to gain knowledge about the world and build a strong academic vocabulary.

Visiting a Buffalo & Erie County Public Library means children have access to a great variety of reading materials, librarians and staff with the expertise to help them find materials to challenge, excite and interest them.



Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries . . .
Promoting early literacy, lifelong learning and
civic participation.

Digital Literacy & Technology

95% of Americans say they think it is important for public libraries to provide free access to computers and the internet to the community. (Pew Research 2014) Our libraries provide the tools needed to acquire information in the digital age including computers, WiFi access, "Book a Technology Trainer" sessions and a variety of training classes.

Highlights:

Buffalo Public Schools' Desktop on all Library System public computers.

Opened technology-focused MakerSpace: The Launch Pad at Central Library.

Updated the Assisted Technology Room at Central Library which provides services to individuals with accessibility challenges.

Developed "technology kits."

eLibraryCards are now offered for downloadable materials & public computers.

Offered "Technology Zoos," introductions to electronic devices (eReader Open Labs).

Completed installation of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology in all 37 libraries.

Installed new updated self-checkout stations in all Buffalo library branches. They are equipped with translations in both English and Spanish.

Digital Literacy Facts & Figures

In 2015

751,181	Public Computer sessions
242,650	WiFi sessions
391,441	eBooks downloaded
115,401	Audio books downloaded
95,980	Music downloaded
3,223	Technology Class attendees
455	Book A Librarian sessions
489	Book A Librarian attendees

RAISING FUNDS

Your donations to the Library System are always appreciated! Funds raised through grants, annual appeals and special events help support the Library's programs and initiatives.

In 2015, over \$396,000 was raised through the Library's fundraising efforts, surpassing donations raised in 2014 by 29%! The funds were used to purchase new materials – books, CDs, DVDs, etc. and to support children's, teen and adult programming system-wide, expand the STEM Education Center, mount the largest-ever Library exhibit *Milestones of Science: Books that Shook the World!*, support system-wide Summer Reading programs and the annual teen reading initiative Battle of the Books. Additionally, upgraded furniture, children's area rugs, technology-related equipment and software were purchased with donations.

Highlights:

Teamed with the enthusiastic volunteer - Nickel City Professionals to host the "Best Sellers" fundraiser at the Hotel @ The Lafayette. All 37 libraries received proceeds for children's programming and materials.

Received a storytelling grant from the Black American Association of Libraries.

Received Erie Canal Harbor Development funding for Summer Reading family programming at Canalside.

Participated in "Giving Tuesday," a 24 hour, online holiday giving campaign and the "Spring it On!" campaign, a single day online giving program through the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County.

Presented political satirist and Buffalo native Mark Russell in a sold-out fundraiser.

Presented the Judy Summer five performance Concert Series in memory of the former System Board member, funded through the generosity of Gordon and Gretchen Gross with support from the New York State Council on the Arts with support of the NYS Legislature administered by Arts Services Initiative of WNY and Buffalo Business First newspaper.

Opened a 24/7 Online Store offering reprints from the Library's Rare Collections.

Received \$15,000 from the East Hill Foundation for interior & exterior building enhancements at the Crane Branch Library.

Received \$5,000 for Dudley Branch Library signage from Buffalo Common Council Member Chris Scanlon.

Received over \$1.3 million in New York State Library Construction Grant funds in 2014 and 2015 combined. Grants were used for projects at Audubon & Eggertsville-Snyder (Amherst) Libraries, Elma Public Library, Hamburg & Lake Shore Public Libraries, Lancaster Public Library, City of Tonawanda Public Library, Kenilworth & Kenmore (Tonawanda) Libraries and West Seneca Public Library.

Provided regular updates to our elected officials and annually attended "Library Advocacy & Education Day" in Albany.



Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries . . .
Supporting creative expression, culture and the arts in
our community.



Milestones of Science: Books That Shook the World! is the largest-ever Rare Books exhibition mounted by the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Special thanks to the Library Foundation of Buffalo & Erie County for generously underwriting the exhibit. Milestones is a two-year, museum type exhibit that reveals an amazing selection of the 35 most significant rare, first edition, and unique books in the 197-volume Milestones collection. The exhibit is mounted at the Central Library in a newly renovated room called the Collections Gallery - now dedicated to long-term major exhibitions and related programming.

Alongside the magnificent books on display are attractive graphics and immersive information on the authors and the revolutionary ideas posed through their publications. Interactive activity stations, representative props and illustrative banners and wall panels further illuminate the presented themes. The Buffalo story of how the collection was assembled is also included. Also in the Gallery is an all-ages, interactive area called The STEM Education Center, where games, videos, and program stations amplify themes presented in the exhibition. Milestones is free and open to the public during all Library hours. Guided tours and self-guided QR code tours are available.

Rare Books & Special Collections

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is very fortunate to hold a remarkable collection of rare books, historic maps and letters, music, bibles and other treasures. To ensure these unique materials are shared with the public, the Library has embarked on a major public access exhibit plan through which museum-quality exhibitions will showcase and interpret these rare materials, as well as tell their unique stories. These exhibitions, at Central Library, blend artifacts with technology, interactive elements, enhanced related materials on the Library's website, and robust programming on exhibit themes. The Library is committed to showcasing its rare collections in first class exhibits and programs which bring these treasures out in the open and fully accessible to everyone. In 2014 and 2015 we:

Developed an ongoing book and rare materials conservation program.

Renovated and opened the 3,000 sq. ft. Collections Gallery at Central Library.

Added document scans of rare materials to the New York Heritage website.

Expanded the digitization program.

Continued Federal Depository program.

Public Art & Exhibits

The Library gladly works with partners from Albright-Knox Art Gallery, the Buffalo Public Schools, Young Audiences of Western New York, Penn Dixie, Donald H. Cloudsley Foundation, Amherst Central Schools and schools and organizations throughout Erie County to display a variety of professional, student and community artwork.

Exhibited "Buffalo Caverns" Tape Art – 1st Exhibit of Erie County's Public Art Initiative.

Provided working space to Kaarina Kaikkonen world renowned Finnish artist, for fabric public art installation at Buffalo Niagara International Airport.

Worked with internationally known artist Charles Clough for a community-assisted mural at Hamburg Public Library.

Established ReWilding New York-Seed program at Orchard Park Public Library.

Exhibited the Annual Buffalo Public Schools Student Art Show.

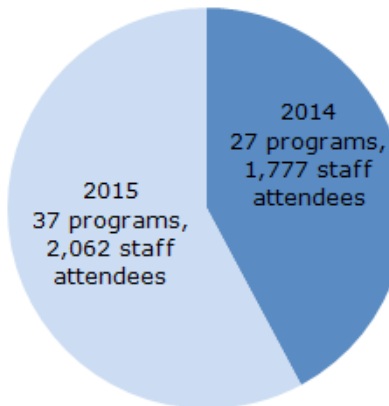
Staff Training

Library managers and directors were trained on a variety of cultural competencies to enhance library services including programs on serving people with developmental disabilities and those with mental illnesses.

Library staff were encouraged to participate in health and wellness related programs such as a Wellness Fair and National Walk at Lunch Day.

Nearly twenty library employees successfully completed the Public Library Administration Certificate Program (PLACP), a five-year, graduate-level library management training program designed to develop and enhance the skills and credentials of professional librarians working within the public library sector and to train the leaders of tomorrow.

Library Staff Training





Casimiro Rodriguez, President of the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY, kicks off the annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration which features dancers, exhibits, speakers, special programs and more.

BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Fiscal Years 2011 - 2015

<u>REVENUE</u>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Library Property Tax	\$18,171,833	\$19,872,457	\$22,172,457	\$22,588,324	\$23,013,857
Erie County Interfund Subsidy	0	2,000,000	0	58,689	\$4,000
Annual New York State Library Aid	1,861,292	1,903,221	1,996,576	2,017,824	2,135,116
Annual New York State Grants	571,139	584,761	630,805	619,973	659,283
Non-Recurring Grants and Member Aid	347,636	925,681	826,556	916,817	478,752
Municipal Support	146,468	205,879	149,766	189,454	143,011
Contributions/Fundraising	854,017	569,687	528,615	602,040	700,109
Library Charges - Fines	858,420	842,308	952,953	906,943	891,583
Other Revenues	1,968,090	1,920,337	1,631,374	1,277,034	1,319,163
	\$24,778,895	\$28,824,331	\$28,889,102	\$29,177,098	\$29,344,873
<u>EXPENSE</u>					
Salaries & Wages	\$12,881,347	\$12,805,006	\$13,065,634	\$13,644,792	\$14,016,199
Fringe Benefits	5,578,180	6,214,930	6,504,599	\$6,949,473	\$7,185,568
Library Materials	3,653,093	3,027,099	3,161,322	\$3,088,147	\$2,990,489
Utilities	1,142,830	1,012,488	1,106,955	\$1,200,152	\$907,385
Service/Maintenance Contracts	1,440,921	1,162,130	1,032,689	\$1,057,366	\$949,228
Use of Committed Funds for Construction					
Grant Match	0	0	663,609	\$755,407	\$0
Other Costs	3,014,771	3,192,446	3,088,561	\$2,781,847	\$3,185,119
	\$27,711,143	\$27,414,098	\$28,623,369	\$29,477,184	\$29,233,987
YEAR END SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - difference between Revenue and Expense	(\$2,932,249)	\$1,410,233	\$265,733	(\$300,086)	\$110,886

Notes: Includes operating and grant revenue & expense for entire Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System including all suburban contracting libraries.
Does not include revenue & expenses for Capital Construction projects.
Previously printed version of report was missing 2013 Debt Services revenue in Other Revenue.

BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2015

REVENUES

	TOTAL
Library Property Tax	\$23,013,857
Interfund Revenue	4,000
New York State Library Aid	2,135,116
Annual New York State Grants	659,283
Non-Recurring Grants and Member Aid	478,752
Municipal Support	143,011
Contributions/Fundraising	700,109
Library Charges - Fines	891,583
Other Revenues	1,319,163
	\$29,344,873

EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Wages	\$14,016,199
Fringe Benefits	7,185,568
Library Materials	2,990,489
Utilities	907,385
Service/Maintenance Contracts	949,228
Use of Committed Funds for Construction Grant Match	0
Other Costs	3,185,119
	\$29,233,987

YEAR END SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - difference between Revenues and Expenditures \$110,886

Notes: Includes operating and grant revenue & expense for entire Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System including all suburban contracting libraries.

Does not include revenue & expenses for Capital Construction projects.



People of all ages, from all walks of life, turn to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries for help in achieving their goals and dreams.

Thank You to Library Donors

Donations from January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015

\$10,000 +

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The Buffalo News
Buffalo Spree Publishing, Inc.
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Mr. Blake Walker

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report for gifts made to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2015. We sincerely apologize for any inaccuracies. Please contact the Development & Communications office at 716-858-7182 or testaj@buffalolib.org with questions or comments. Thank you.

Thank You to Library Donors

Donations from January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015

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The West brothers Jeremiah (age 8) & Joshua (age 6) of Rochester, New York founded "Champions of Change," an organization whose mission it is to empower youth to not only create their own income in the spirit of entrepreneurship, but to serve as "Change Agents." They have also written a book called *Champions of Change*. The boys and their family, including younger sister Jordan, look for opportunities to make an immediate and lasting impact within their communities. In December 2014 and 2015, they sought out and successfully received many food, clothing and monetary donations, which they used to host a free "Holiday Party for the Homeless" meal & celebration at the downtown Central Library. More than 100 attended each year. The West family has planned similar events for the homeless in Rochester and New York City.



Award winning author and Buffalo native Lauren Belfer (3rd from the left) presented a lecture on writing books at the City of Tonawanda Public Library.

Standing, Left to Right, Librarian Betsy Higgins, System Chief Operating Officer Carol A. Batt, Ms. Belfer and Library Director Glenn Luba.

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Cheektowaga Police Lieutenant Brian Coons participated in the Library System's Read Aloud program at the Alexander Community Center. Read Aloud encourages 15 minutes of reading, for every child, every day.




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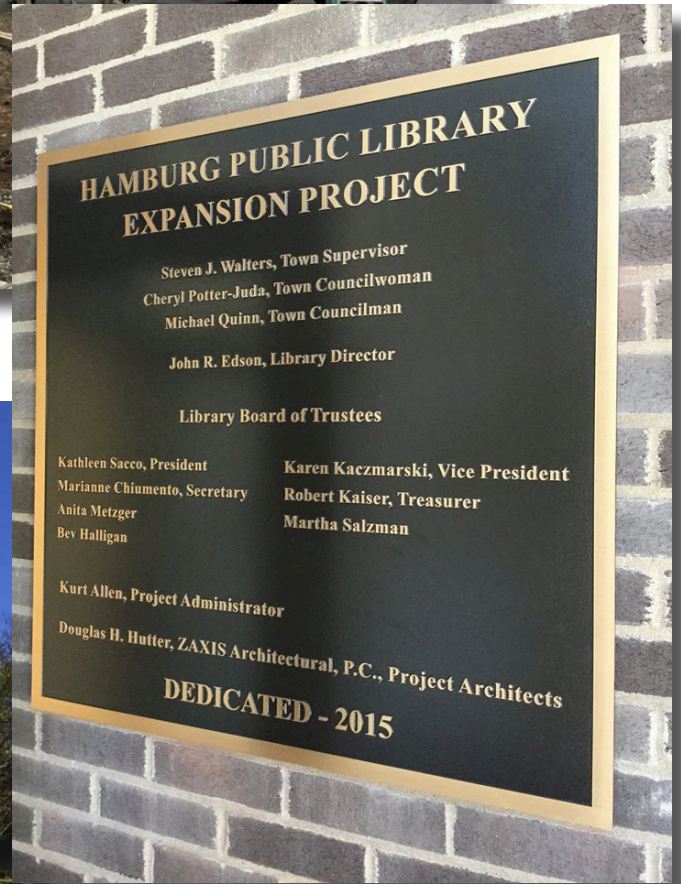
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Newstead Public Library	33 Main St, Akron	542-2327
North Collins Public Library	2095 School St, North Collins	337-3211
Orchard Park Public Library	S-4570 S Buffalo St, Orchard Park.	662-9851
City of Tonawanda Public Library	333 Main St, Tonawanda	693-5043
Town of Tonawanda Public Library		
Kenilworth Branch	318 Montrose Ave, Tn of Ton	834-7657
Kenmore Branch	160 Delaware Rd, Kenmore	873-2842
West Seneca Public Library	1300 Union Rd, West Seneca	674-2928