

Director's Report – Clarence Public Library
April 27, 2026

Financial

The monthly financial statements are included in the board packets. Please note that we received a check for \$44,244 as first payment (90% of the total grant) for the NYS Construction Grant that we were awarded in 2025. This would be for the replacement of the boiler and AC compressor. These funds will be reimbursed to the Town of Clarence. We will receive a check for the last 10% of the grant after all closeout paperwork has been received and processed by the State. We will then reimburse the Town of Clarence for that 10%.

The latest payroll report was sent on 4/6 by Tracy Palicki from the Business Office and shows that we have a projected ending balance of \$10,439.47 (as of pay period 7) in our personnel budget for 2026. This is a snapshot in time and that figure will most likely decrease as we move forward through the year.

Account Balances (as of 4/24/26):

CD:	\$46,609.33
County Checking:	\$21,387.87
Trustees Checking:	\$29,424.60
Savings:	\$18,126.30

Claims Audit

Please see claims audit abstracts

March 2026 Monthly Report Summary

Circulation

- **March 2026 Circulation:** 18,236
- **March 2025 Circulation:** 19,590

Change: -6.9%

- **March – February 2026 Circulation:** 50,803
- **March – February 2025 Circulation:** 55,149

Change: -7.9 %

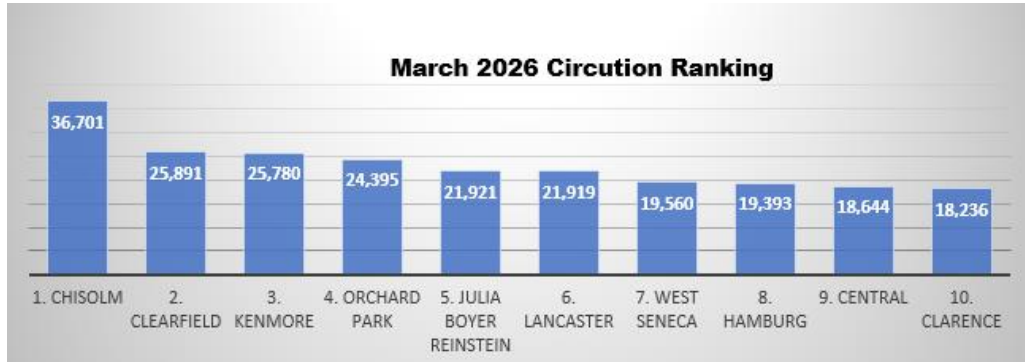
Notable Circulation Facts:

- Maximum circulation in March 2026: 918 on the 12.
- Maximum circulation in 2026: 918 on March 12.

- Maximum circulation in 2025 was 1,410 on April 17th
- Average circulation per day in March 2026 was 624.

Rankings:

- Clarence ranked 10th in circulation for March 2026.
- Clarence ranked 10th in circulation for March 2025.



March 2026 Circulation Pie Chart-not posted as of 4/22/2026

Library Visits

- **March 2026 Visitor Count:** 6,558
- **March 2025 Visitor Count:** 6,959

Change: -5.8%

- **January - March 2026 Visits:** 18,009
- **January - March 2025 Visits:** 18,547

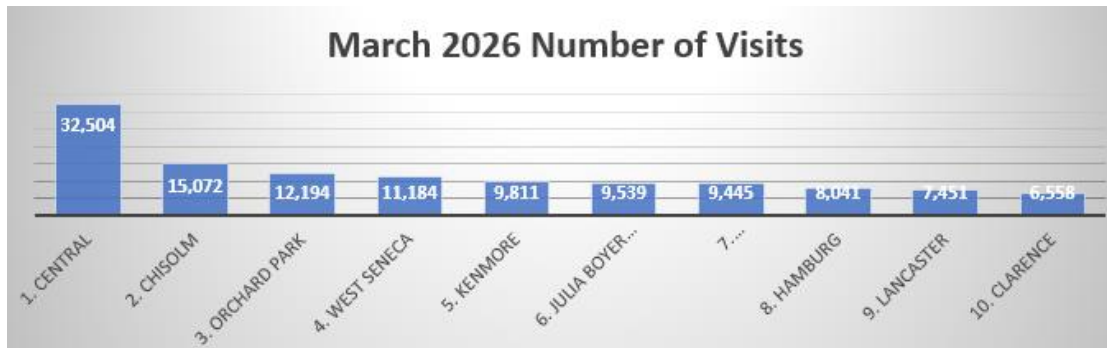
Change: -2.9%

Rankings:

- Clarence ranked 10th for library visits in March 2026.
- Clarence ranked 10th for library visits in March 2025.

Notable facts about Library Visits:

- Maximum Library Visits in March 2026: was 310 on the 26th.
- Maximum Library Visits in 2026: was 363 on February 17th.
- Average Library Visits in a day in March 2026 was 252.



Public Access Computer Sessions

- March 2026: 373 sessions
- March 2025: 517 sessions

Change: -27.9%

Wi-Fi Usage

- March 2026: 1,900
- March 2025: 1,793

Change: 6.0%

Clarence Public Library Programming

March 2026

In Library programs:

	Programs	Attendance
For children 5 & under	10	181
For children 6-12**	1	27
For teens	1	5
For Intergenerational	4	103
For Adults	20	174

In Library One-on-One Programs:

	Programs	Attendance
For children 5 & under		
For children 6-12	9	91
For teens	10	10

Intergenerational	21	21
For Adults		

Meeting Room Use: 68

Seed Library: 725

*** State instructions for what constitutes or qualifies as meeting room use changed in January 2026. We now record the number of times the public reserves meeting spaces instead of the number of times the meeting room is used. (So, if a group reserves the room but cancels, we still count it as a reservation).**

Limerick Hunt: 144

Outreach: 950 (International Day of Sharing and Spring Into Reading)

****In the numbers reported to Central this program was entered as Intergenerational. I included it here as a school-age program (6-11) because it appears as if we are not providing school-age programming, but in actuality it is because such a wide range of ages attend. The Egg Mystery was entered as Intergenerational because the ages registered varied from age 3 to 13. Parents were also involved. It could be moved as well. There were 50 attendees.**

Comments:

Circulation, patron visits and computer usage were down in March, a trend we have seen over the course of the past several months. WiFi usage continues to increase as more of our patrons are using laptops and cell phones in the library. We focused on Outreach during the month of March and attended both the International Day of Sharing on March 7 (sponsored by the Clarence Community Foundation) and Spring Into Reading on March 21 at the Clarence Clubhouse on Main St. (sponsored by the Clarence Family Support Center).

Literacy Night

Our Literacy Night on April 16th was a successful collaborative effort. We had 37 families (approximately 150 people) show up for the event that included structured literacy activities, games, prizes, a basket raffle, therapy dog (Oakley), read-alouds, a musical story time with Ms. Katie (Feelings Rock). The highlight of the evening was a visit from Buffalo Sabres Mascot Sabretooth. Kids were ecstatic to see Sabretooth and waited eagerly in line to have Sabretooth sign their jerseys or hats! It was a fun and educational event and we hope to do it again next year. Please check out our Facebook page for photos of this wonderful event! Monica will be presenting on this event as well as the CPL's Literacy Hub at the next Manager's meeting in May.

Groups/Organizations Using the Meeting Room in March:

- Garden Friends of Clarence
- Clarence Contemporary Club
- Growing with Others Neurodivergent Teen Social Group
- Clarence Concert Association
- Senior Center Card Players
- Ehlers-Danlos Support Group

- WNY Armenian Community
- Alzheimer's Association
- Happy Bookers Book Club
- Odyssey Wealth Management (free college tuition presentation)
- Erie Niagara Orleans Field Hockey Officials Association
- Homeschool Book Group
- Clarence Family Support Center
- Clarence Citizens for Veterans
- University Express Book Club
- American Red Cross

Programming

We hosted some great programs in March and April. Donna Fairlie's Chair Yoga and Mahjong classes continue to be popular. Sarah's Read & Play and Ana's Book Babies were well attended, with approximately 15-25 people at each program. The Ehlers-Danlos Support Group was appreciative of our efforts to accommodate their group and they will be meeting at the CPL every second Saturday of the month for the next several months. The Garden Friends finished up their seed preparation work for the seed library on March 30. We are thankful for their efforts at sorting and putting together thousands of seed packets over the course of three months. The seed library would not be as successful without their hard work and dedication. Besides Literacy Night, our most well-attended program in April was Bob Poczik's presentation, *Venice: City on the Water* which drew an audience of 96 people!

Building and Grounds

- April 8 - Parks was here to look at VAV 4 (Friends Place Bookstore) – it was determined that the motor cage for the fan needed replacement
- April 13 – Aaron noticed the roof leaking by the staff break room; Parks looked into it and determined it was leaking because the rain was coming sideways and got under the eaves of the roof. Since it usually does not rain sideways, except in rare cases, this should not be a continuous issue.
- April 17 – Aqua Systems was here to turn on our sprinkler system for the year. In Zone 2, the Children's Reading Garden, one of the birch tree roots had grown over one of the sprinkler heads. Because repairing the sprinkler head could cause irreparable damage to the tree, we decided to turn off the valve in that location and not repair it. There is another sprinkler head in that area that will compensate for the loss of the one sprinkler head. Aaron can also manually water the birch tree with the hose.
- April 20 – The Town brought the part for the motor cage for VAV 4 and made the repair.

Staff

- Librarian Sarah McLean-Plunkett attended the PLA Conference (Public Library Association) in Minneapolis from March 31-April 2 and attended several excellent programs during the conference including: Opening keynote speaker Bryan Stevenson; AI Book Clubs and Digital

Literacy for Older Adults; Rooted in Inclusion – An All Abilities STEAM Learning and Community Gardening; How to Create Engaging Book Displays to Create Community Engagement; Beyond Story Time: Community Building through Music, Play and Partnerships; Memory Cafes in Libraries; Sensory Adventures: Creating Inclusive Library Experiences. Sarah will be doing a presentation about her PLA experience at the June Manager’s Meeting.

- Director Monica Mooney is currently taking a 30 credit-hour course through NYSUT called *Science of Reading: A Practical Approach for Educators*. The course is virtual and is a combination of synchronous and asynchronous modules. So far, completed modules include Introduction to the Science of Reading; Oral Language Development, Phonological Awareness; and Phonics Instruction: Decoding & Encoding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Mooney
Director – Clarence Public Library