

Director's Report – Clarence Public Library
October 27, 2025

Financial

The monthly financial statements are included in the board packets. There has not been payroll report generated yet this month.

On October 15, all library staff received an email from Emily Patronik, the Chief Financial Officer for the Library System to let everyone know that County Executive mark Poloncarz released his 2026 proposed budget. Some key highlights for the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System-wide Budget include:

- System Total 2026 Operating Budget is \$36,080,059
- System Total 2026 Grants Budget is \$639,881
- As a System, we received a 3.0% increase in the Library Real Property Tax Levy.

Emily reminded us that this is just the proposed budget and things can change by December when the Legislature votes to adopt the final budget.

Account Balances (as of 10/22/2025):

County Checking:	\$8,863.01
Trustees Checking:	\$28,572.36
Savings:	\$52,801.98

Claims Audit:

Please see claims audit abstracts.

Donations:

\$180.94	Donation Box
\$33.32	National Fuel via Blackbaud (monthly recurring)
\$5.00	Monthly recurring

Monthly Statistics (September):

September 2025 Monthly Report Summary

Circulation

- September 2025 Circulation: 19,089
- September 2024 Circulation: 23,345

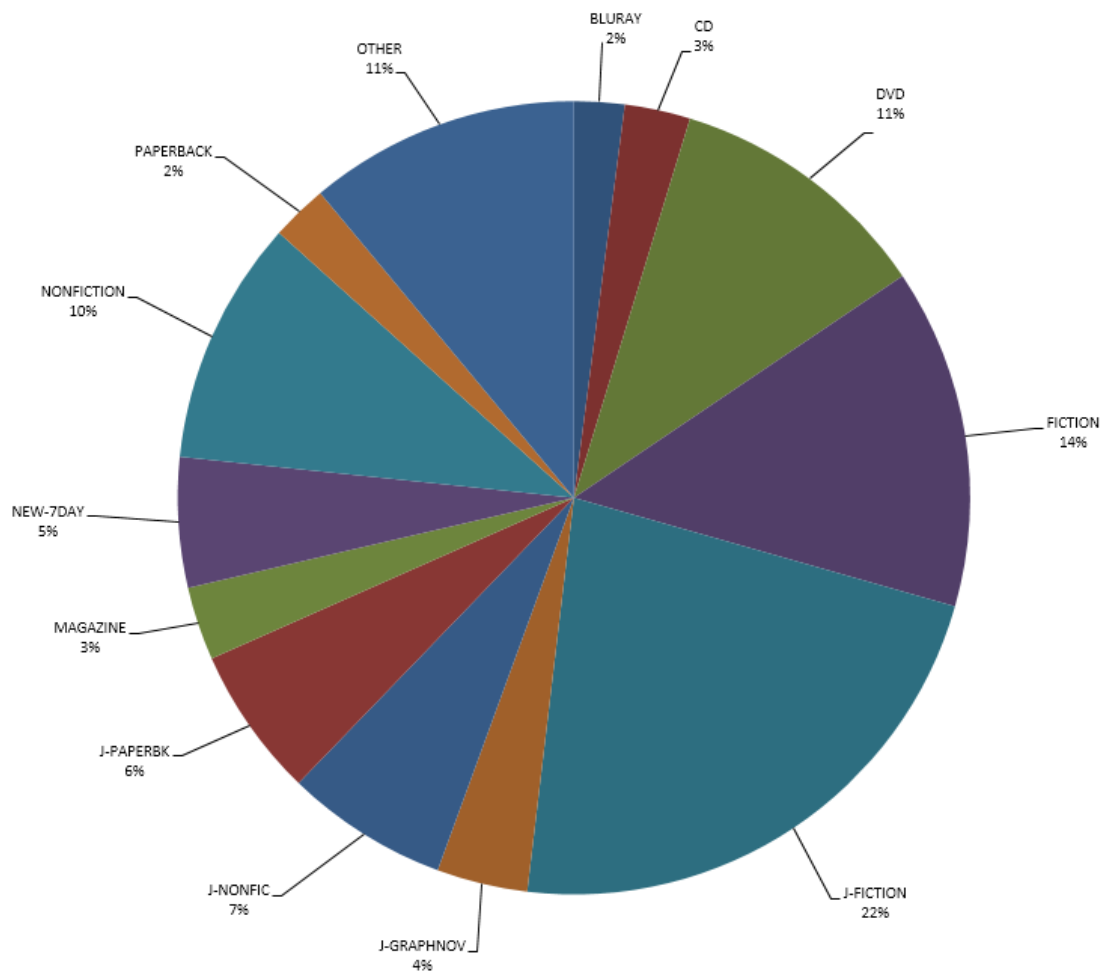
Change: -18.2%

- January – September 2025 Circulation: 174,081

- January – September 2024 Circulation: 202,990

Change:-14.2% (year to date)

- Maximum circulation in September 2025: 1,162 on September 2, 2025.
- Maximum circulation in 2025 was 1,410 on April 17th.
- Maximum circulation in 2024: 1,776 on July 3.
- Average circulation per day in September 2025 was 705.
- Clarence ranked 9th in circulation for September 2025.
- Clarence ranked 7th in circulation for September 2024



Library Visits

- September 2025 Visitor Count: 6,266
- September 2024 Visitor Count: 5,714

Change: 9.7%

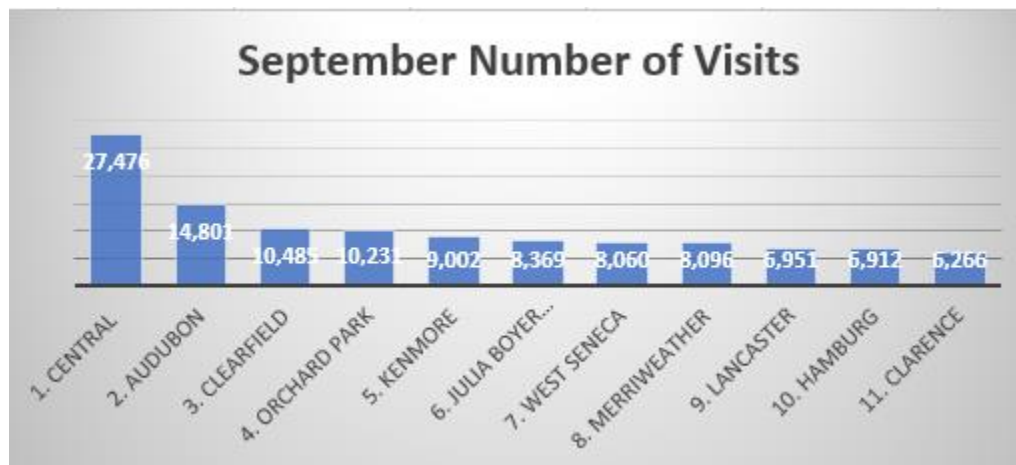
- January - September 2025 Visits counted: 60,264
- January - September 2024 Visits counted: 63,408

Change:-5.0% (year to date)

- Maximum Visitor Count in September 2025 was 343 on September 23, 2025.
- The average number of visits per day in September 2025 was 253.

Rankings:

- Clarence ranked 11th in library visits for September 2025.
- Clarence ranked 10th in library visits for September 2024.



Public Access Computer Sessions

- September 2025: 395 sessions
- September 2024: 403 sessions

Change: -2.0%

Wi-Fi Usage

- September 2025: 1,687 connections

- September 2024: 1,409 connections

Change: 19.7%

Programming Summary

Clarence Public Library Programming

September 2025

In Library programs: Programs Attendance

For children 5 & under	4	73
For children 6-12	3	67
For teens		
Intergenerational	4	87
For Adults	10	243

In Library One-on-One Programs: Programs Attendance

For children 5 & under	3	3
For children 6-12	9	9
For teens	6	6
Intergenerational	91	91
For Adults	6	6

Meeting Room Use: 18

Seed Library: 41

(Intergenerational = 91 for craft table)

For adults – Bob Poczik’s September 29th program on Florence had an attendance of 98!)

September 2024

Clarence Public Library Programming

September 2024

In Library programs: Programs Attendance

For children 5 & under	4	61
For children 6-12	3	22
For teens		
Intergenerational	1	10

For Adults	5	42
In Library One-on-One Programs:		
	Programs	Attendance
For children 5 & under		
For children 6-12	6	6
For teens	8	8
Intergenerational		
For Adults		

Meeting Room Use: 21

Seed Library: 15

Notes on Statistics:

September's circulation and patron count statistics are baffling to me since we had a substantial decrease in circulation over last year but yet we also had a significant increase in patron count for the month. The reason? We are not sure; however, if you note the increase in programming numbers for September 2025 over September 2024, this could be a contributing factor to the increase in visits. We also had three class visits in September, including two homeschool visits and one visit from Ledgeview. (The other Ledgeview visit took place in early October). The decrease in circulation is more difficult to pinpoint, but may be partially a reflection of increased use of e-books, which do not get counted with our regular circulation numbers.

Items of Note:

As mentioned above we had several class visits, including a two planned visits by a large homeschool group for their library skills requirement. The students were taught how to use the library catalog to find materials and were also given opportunity test their skills by going out into the library to find specific materials. The students also learned the basics of compiling a bibliography for a research paper and how to determine whether a source, either in print or online is credible or not.

We welcomed four third grade classes from Ledgeview Elementary. Two classes visited us on September 26 and two classes visited on October 2. These students were taught the basics of searching for materials in the library and many of the students received their first library card! All students were given an opportunity to select and check out books. From the feedback we received from the teachers (and from some of the students), everyone enjoyed their trip to the Clarence Public Library.

Outreach Events:

October 18 – Halloween in the Park (Sarah and Ana)

October 21 – Story Time on the Farm at Greg's U-Pick (Sarah)

October 24 – Clarence High School WE Service Retreat at the Clarence Nature Center –Monica speaking to students about her personal literary journey with students from Mary Sorrels Advanced Placement English Literature Class at the Nature Center

October 25 – Family Support Center Headlamp Hike at the Clarence Nature Center (Sarah and Meredith)

Displays at the Library:

September –

Sherlock Holmes (Kevin Gallivan)

Copper Art (Dennis Scherer)

October –

Sherlock Holmes (Kevin Gallivan)

Buffalo Weavers' Guild (Kathy McGreevy)

Halloween Lego Display (Ian Nowicki)

Clarence Center Cub Scout Pack #27 Bat House (In-library)

Library-Sponsored Programs in September

Gentle Chair Yoga – 4 sessions – 33 total attendance

Study in Sherlock – 12 total attendance

Meditation – 10 total attendance

Bookmarks Book club – 12 total attendance

Makery – 16 total attendance

Hooked on Crochet – 7 total attendance

Talecraft – 3 sessions – 48 total attendance

Read & Play – 1 session – 25 total attendance

Tail Waggin Tutors – 18 total attendance

Homeschool Class Visit – 2 sessions – 54 total attendance

Ledgeview Class Visit – 1 session – 44 total attendance

Bob Poczik Glory of Florence – 98 total attendance

Groups/Organizations that used the Clarence Public Library meeting room in September:

Clarence Contemporary Club

Senior Center Card Players

AARP

Clarence Reunion Square

Clarence Concert Association

Happy Bookers Book Club

Spaulding Green HOA

WNY Armenian Community

Growing with Other Neurodivergent Teen Social Group

Reserve at Spaulding Green HOA

Clarence Ski Club

Amber Meadows HOA

JASNA (Jane Austen Society of North America)

Buffalo Music Hall of Fame

Shadow Woods HOA

Building and Grounds:

- Parks Department Head Jason Holden let me know that the Town is looking into refreshing/fixing up the public restrooms at the library in 2026 and asked me to come up with a list of possible updates.
- October 21 – Town was at the library to look at VAV #13, which is non-functional and has been turned off since last winter to prevent leaks. This unit was not repaired by D.V. Brown during the time we were closed in late August. Jason Holden is looking into this issue as to why it was not repaired at that time.

Construction Grant Update:

I checked with Andrew Wiede from Central on the status of the NYS Library Construction Aid Grant that we applied for last September for the boiler and AC compressor. As of now, there is no word on what libraries received funding.

Literacy Hub Update:

I sent a follow up email to Courtney Ball from Senator Gillibrand's office regarding the Literacy Hub and, as per her request, gave her more detailed information about the cost of the project.

Reorganizing Juvenile Fiction and Series Sections

We recently made a "Children's Classic/Classic Series" section and also weeded many of the series that were in poor condition or did not circulate. We are in the process of relabeling and relocating many of our juvenile series titles into juvenile fiction and put many of the long-running series (e.g. Magic Tree House) in their own sections.

Staff:

Ana Ruiz - Librarian I, part-time started September 22.

Donna Fairlie- Clerk-Typist, part-time started October 20

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Mooney
Director – Clarence Public Library