

**Director’s Report – Clarence Public Library
September 22, 2025**

Financial

The monthly financial statements are included in the board packets. The most recent payroll report sent by Tracy Palicki from the Business Office shows a projected ending balance of \$10,779.17. This figure is expected to change as we get closer to the end of the year.

On Monday June 30, 2025, the Library System was notified by Erie County, Division of Budget & Management about submitting a “status quo” budget without discretionary spending.

With the uncertainty of Federal funding, and its potential effect on State and county funding, the Erie County Budget Director has asked all County departments and agencies to prepare a “What If” plan for a 10% reduction in County Funding.

Below is my “What If” scenario for the Clarence Public Library:

10% Reduction Narrative (prepared by Monica Mooney:

Library	Clarence Public Library
Population	32,950
NYS Minimum Hours	55
Number of Service Locations	1

2024 Statistics

Total Open Hours	2,722
Average Hours per Week	52
Library Visits	80,564
Circulation	257,713
Computer Sessions	5,205
Program Attendance	7,695

Briefly describe how a reduction in funding from the County of Erie would affect services provided by Clarence Public Library:

A 10% reduction in funding from Erie County would be detrimental to the Clarence Public Library, which is currently one of the busier suburban libraries in Erie County with a 2024 total circulation of 257,713 items, 80,564 patron visits, and program attendance of 7,695. These figures represents a 4%, 7% and 16% increase respectively over 2023.

A 10% reduction in funding would result in approximately \$52,000 cut from our personnel budget line and would subsequently result in a reduction of hours for our staff and potentially the elimination of multiple part-time positions. Fewer staff means less programs and services and would ultimately result in reduced hours. The Clarence Public Library is currently operating under the New York State Minimum Standard for open hours for a public library of its size (55 hours per week). With a reduction in open

hours, we would not be able to fulfill this minimum standard and would not be able to ensure access to morning, afternoon and evening hours.

A 10% reduction in funding would also affect our materials budget by almost \$16,000.00, hindering our ability to purchase adequate materials for our collection. This would, in turn, leave our patrons with fewer options, particularly for newly released and current materials, which are the most in demand.

Those impacted the most by the reductions in services and open hours would be our many patrons who rely on the Clarence Public Library for services such as access to current and up-to-date library materials, access to quality library programs such as preschool story hour, access to computers and the Internet and access to a safe community meeting space for the many groups and organizations that use this free space on an almost daily basis. Cuts to these services would impede the Clarence Public Library's mission to provide opportunities learning, recreation and personal growth to our community.

Account Balances (as of 9/19/2025):

County Checking:	\$9,185.19
Trustees Checking:	\$28,563.81
Savings:	\$52,684.12
CD:	\$20,804.01

Claims Audit:

Please see claims audit abstracts.

Donations:

June - \$38.32
July - \$538.32
August - -\$238.32
September - \$83.32

Note that we get two recurring donations (\$5.00 from a private individual and \$33.32 from National Fuel via Blackbaud)

We received a total of \$1,000.00 in donations (\$300, \$500 and \$200) that were used toward summer programming supplies. (Total \$304.63 used toward programming/craft supplies and \$591.92 used from Bologna Bullet Aid for decodables (Heggerty).

Monthly Statistics (June, July and August):

June 2025 Monthly Report Summary

Circulation

- June 2025 Circulation: 18,392

- June 2024 Circulation: 23,809

Change: -22.8%

- January – June 2025 Circulation: 111,118
- January – June 2024 Circulation: 121,963

Change: -8.9%

- Maximum circulation in June 2025: 999 on June 26th, 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 June 2025 was 658.



- Clarence ranked 7th in Circulation for June 2025.

Library Visits

- **June 2025 Visitor Count:** 6,653
- **June 2024 Visitor Count:** 6,609

Change: 0.7%

- **January - June 2025 Visits counted:** 38,780
- **January - June 2024 Visits counted:** 41,357

Change: -6.2%

- Maximum Visitor Count in June 2025 432 was on the 28th.
- The average number of visits per day in June 2025 was 279.

Rankings:

- Clarence ranked 10th in library visits for June 2025.
- Clarence ranked 4th in library visits for June 2024.

Public Access Computer Sessions

Change:-11.7%

- Maximum circulation in July 2025: 1,325 on July 3, 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 July 2025 was 816.



Library Visits

- July 2025 Visitor Count: 8,327
- July 2024 Visitor Count: 8,465

Change: -1.6%

- January - July 2025 Visits counted: 47,107
- January - July 2024 Visits counted: 49,822

Change: -5.4%

- Maximum Visitor Count in July 2025 was 484 on the 10th.
- The average number of visits per day in July 2025 was 320.

Rankings:

- Clarence ranked 7th in library visits for July 2025.
- Clarence ranked 8th in library visits for July 2024.



Public Access Computer Sessions

- July 2025: 451 sessions
- July 2024: 497 sessions

Change: -9.3 %

Wi-Fi Usage

- July 2025: 1,928 connections
- July 2024: 1,672 connections

Change: 15.3%

Programming Summary

Clarence Public Library Programming

July 2025

In Library programs:

Programs

Attendance

For children 5 & under	7	165
For children 6-12	5	92
For teens	6	48
Intergenerational	9	245
For Adults	2	39

In Library One-on-One Programs:

Programs

Attendance

For children 5 & under	12	12
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For children 6-12	51	51
For teens	16	16
Intergenerational	0	0
For Adults	0	0

Meeting Room Use: 16

Seed Library: 80

Outreach: 270

Note: Significant expansion of Teen Programming and Outreach.

August 2025 Monthly Report Summary

Circulation

- August 2025 Circulation: 20,926
- August 2024 Circulation: 27,879

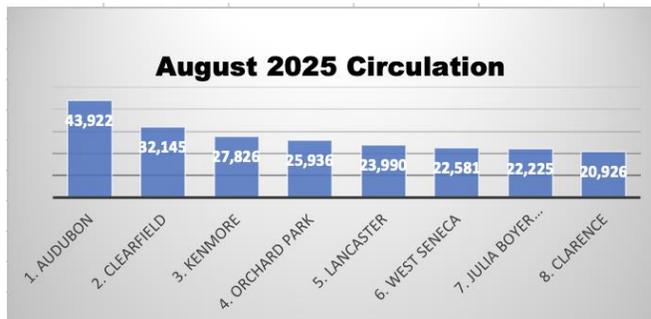
Change: -24.9%

- January – August 2025 Circulation: 154,992
- January – August 2024 Circulation: 179,645

Change:-13.7%

- Maximum circulation in August 2025: 1,274 on August 28, 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 August 2025 was 743.
- Clarence ranked 8th in circulation for August 2025.

Clarence ranked 5th in circulation for August 2024



Library Visits

- August 2025 Visitor Count: 6,891
- August 2024 Visitor Count: 7,872

Change: -12.5%

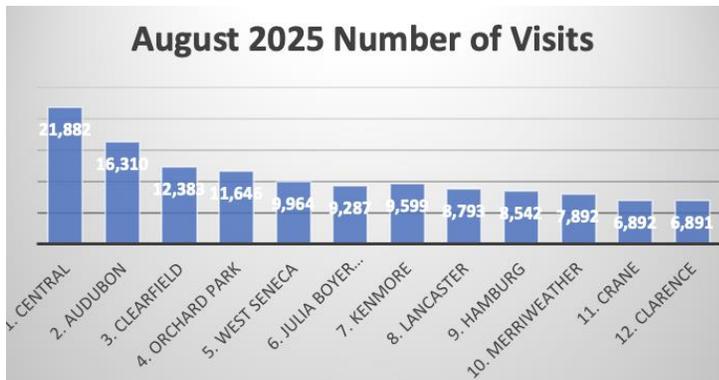
- January - August 2025 Visits counted: 53,998
- January - August 2024 Visits counted: 57,694

Change:-6.4 %

- Maximum Visitor Count in August 2025 was 449 on August 14, 2025.
- The average number of visits per day in August 2025 was 303.

Rankings:

- Clarence ranked 12th in library visits for August 2025.
- Clarence ranked 11th in library visits for August 2024.



Public Access Computer Sessions

- August 2025: 392 sessions
- August 2024: 523 sessions

Change: -25 %

Wi-Fi Usage

- August 2025: 1,563 connections
- August 2024: 1,627 connections

Change: -3.9%

Programming Summary

Clarence Public Library Programming

August 2025

In Library programs:

	Programs	Attendance
For children 5 & under	2	40
For children 6-12	4	50
For teens	0	0
Intergenerational	8	175
For Adults	3	38

In Library One-on-One Programs:

	Programs	Attendance
For children 5 & under	10	10
For children 6-12	32	32
For teens	19	19
Intergenerational	0	0
For Adults	6	6

Meeting Room Use: 13

Seed Library: 28

Summer Reading Report

Summer Reading registrations Children 5 and under: 39

Summer Reading registrations Children 6-11: 113

Summer Reading registration 12-17: 27

Badges earned: 600

Notes on Statistics and Summer Observations:

In compiling this report, I was surprised by the decrease in both circulation and patron count for the months of June, July and August, especially July. (In August we were closed for three days due to building maintenance.) We seemed so much busier this year than last. Why the decrease? For one, last year was an exceptionally good year for us in terms of circulation. People were taking out lots of materials. The bar was already set high for 2025 to be as successful as 2024 circulation was. Secondly, we focused our efforts this year on outreach. Since March, we have

participated in six outreach events in the community, including International Day of Sharing, Spring into Reading, Transcendentalism on the Trails, Little Red School House, Fireworks in the Park and Summer Fest. These efforts took much time and energy and were, in effect, successful. We gained valuable community partnerships and we let people know about the library and what we have to offer. For our summer outreach, we received funding from the Friends of the Clarence Public Library of \$1000 to purchase books for Fireworks in the Park. We purchased approximately 500 books from Scholastic and on the day of Fireworks in the Park, we gave out 260 books at that one event. Some of the remaining books were given away as prizes and incentives at the library and at Summer Fest and rest of the books will be used for future incentives.

In addition, this summer actually seemed busier because we also focused our efforts on the Summer Reading Program, which, this year, focused on earning badges for activities completed. These activities included not only reading, but also on summer fun activities such as going to the beach, going to a fair, making a craft, attending a library program (such as one of Miss Sarah's awesome Makery Craft programs!). This program was incredibly popular with kids, especially those in the 6-11 age range. Our Summer Reading program numbers for registration more than doubled from last year.

Here is a breakdown of the summer registration numbers:

Total children 0-5 registered for the 2025 summer reading program was 39. Last year it was 12.

Total children 6-11 registered for the 2025 summer reading program was 113. Last year it was 53.

Total teens registered for the 2025 summer reading program was 27. Last year it was 7.

And parents continually made positive comments about the program and how enthusiastic their children were to participate.

While the badges were not difficult to integrate into our program this year, the most difficult aspect was the bottlenecks created by our exhausted supplies. Based on this experience, we will begin assembling badges much earlier next year. And while the badges were certainly the most successful aspect of our Summer Reading Program, they were also the greatest challenge and while we were pleased to see the kids so excited about earning the badges, we are not certain if the program encouraged more reading.

We also offered some other wonderful programs this summer including Talecraft and Read & Play, Lego Club, Makery, KAY Yoga, Ominpresent Puppet Theater, Mike Seege Magic, Painting Class with Kim Strell, Hooked on Crochet, Happy Little Painters painting group, Bilingual Story Time, World Safari with the Buffalo Zoo, Local Author Amber Partisano, and Benjamin Berry's Circus for All.

Literacy Hub Update:

We had two visits from elected officials to show them our growing Literacy Hub. State Senator Patrick Gallivan visited on July 24 and Courtney Ball from Senator Gillibrand's office visited on September 16. The Literacy Hub initiative is serving the needs of our community by providing high-quality decodable books for emerging and struggling readers and resources for parents and educators. I have recently applied for a grant through the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo (Daniel C. and Beatrice M. Fisher Fund) to request \$3000 in funding to expand our Literacy Hub initiative to include additional decodable books, professionally-led workshops and inclusive structured literacy programming at our library.

Building/Maintenance:

- Town mulched on July 3.
- New automatic paper towel dispensers were installed by the Town in the public restrooms and staff restroom on July 29.
- D.V. Brown completed work on draining the pipes for the HVAC System in the ceiling and replacing worn fixture. This will help prevent future leaks in the winter. The Library was closed August 25th, 26th and 27th so this work could be completed.

Groups/Organizations that used the Clarence Public Library in June, July and August:

- Growing with Others Neurodivergent Teen Social Group
- Village Station Circle
- Field Hockey Association
- Clarence Reunion Square
- WNY Armenian Community
- Senior Center Card Players
- Laurel Park Condo Association
- Erie County Senior Services Book Club
- Happy Bookers Book Club (June and August)
- Clarence Lions Club
- Clarence Book Review Club Board
- Women of Waterford
- WNY Needlepoint Guild
- Alzheimer's Association of WNY
- American Red Cross
- Fairwood Management

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Mooney
Director – Clarence Public Library

