



Director's Report
Cheektowaga Public Libraries (CPL)
January 2026

1. PUBLIC SERVICES

Programs, Learning Opportunities, Outreach and Events

Highlights:

- Throughout January at both Cheektowaga Libraries children's story hours programs drew in many families for reading and crafts. Librarian Heidi Bofinger facilitated the Wednesday Night Owl and Thursday Early Bird Story Times at the Anna M. Reinstein Library while Librarian Kathy Goodrich led the Wednesday Preschool Story times at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. These story times are very popular and well received by children, parents and grandparents attending.



- January 9 & 17 & 24 – The Julia Boyer Reinstein hosted a series of Small Business Development workshops for aspiring entrepreneurs. Presented by SCORE (Service Core of Retired Executives) attendees received a thorough breakdown on starting and running a business in Erie County. Lawyers, accountants, loan officers from M&T Bank and insurance providers were featured speakers during these dates. Director Caufield also spoke on behalf of the public libraries and demonstrated how free marketing and industry information can be found through the Library's online resources. Many of the attendees have returned to meet with Director Caufield for Book a Librarian meetings in which they focus on finding their specific business data through the Libraries databases.

- January 10 & 17 - Both Reinstein Libraries hosted “Tune the Tale”, a story time emphasizing music and singing for children 4-6 years old. Tune-the-Tale is Erie Niagara Conservatory’s signature early childhood program that combines storytelling, movement, and music exploration in a joyful and developmentally rich format. Guided by experienced teaching artists, each class invites children into a new world – one where books come to life through rhythm, voice, instruments, and play. The conservatory had reached out to the Cheektowaga Libraries knowing we are the community’s center for learning and open early literacy programs. Tune-the Tale will continue into February with different stories and music featured.



- January 10 - The Anna Reinstein Library hosted a Movie Day featuring Bad Guys 2, animated fun for the whole family.



- January 8, 15-12 - The Cheektowaga YES group (Youth Engaged in Service) moderated the monthly LEGO Clubs and Craft Nights at both the Cheektowaga Libraries. This wonderful partnership between the Library and the Town of Cheektowaga's Youth & Recreational Services Department allows teens to volunteer and help provide activities for younger children.



- Saturday January 17 - Julia Boyer Reinstein Library began its 2026 winter session of a Teen D&D. Teens throughout our community stopped in for fun role-playing games, snacks and a chance to hang out with their friends. The D&D program has grown and continues to be a great draw for young teens looking for friendship and a fun afternoon.
- Both Libraries Knitting and Crocheting clubs offered a variety of dates and textile lessons throughout January.



Outreach:

NA

2. Collections: Development and Use

Highlights:

Staff are weeding in all collections and preparing for the 2026 materials orders opening in February.

Displays

Happy New Year, Snow and Polar Bears



3. OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

a. Facilities:

- The outside automatic door at the Anna M. Reinstein Library Green Leaf Lane entrance stopped working January 12. After finding three estimates, Director Caufield contracted A-24 Door Service to replace the 13-year-old mechanics and perform a service check on the other mechanical doors. Repairs were complete on January 26.

- Chessboards have been set out for public use at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library



4. Partnerships, Meetings / Future Planning / Special Projects.

- January 15 - Assemblyman Patrick Chludzinski, ranking Minority Member of the Assembly's Library and Education Technology Committee, secured \$60,000 in state funding to support Cheektowaga and Lancaster libraries! The Lancaster Public Library, the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library, and the Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library will each receive \$20,000 each that can be used at their discretion for books, equipment, and technology purchases, capital expenses, or staffing and personnel needs. Chludzinski stated, "Our libraries are vital institutions in our communities, and these funds will enable them to fulfill their mission more effectively as places of learning and civic engagement."



- January 14 - The Anna M. Reinstein Library hosted the first 2026 meeting of the - Cheektowaga Community Collaborative. The collaborative meets quarterly through the year allowing government agencies and non-profits from State, County, and Town levels an opportunity to discuss upcoming programming and create partnerships. As host, Director Caufield was given time to describe the Public Libraries in Cheektowaga and how they make the Cheektowaga community better. Many of the attendees did not realize the scope of the Libraries mission or its reach in the community. From this meeting many of the organizations have reached out to the library to advertise their events and have invited Library staff to attend their special community events in the spring and summer.