



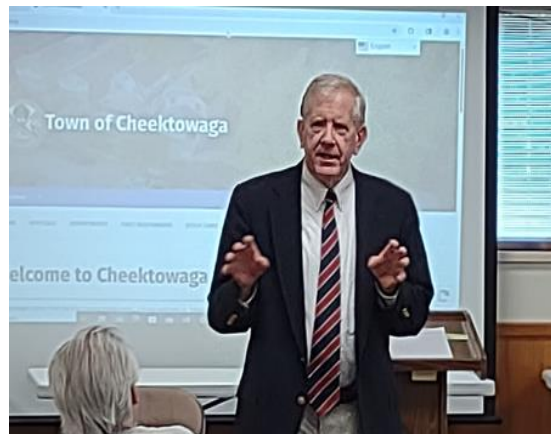
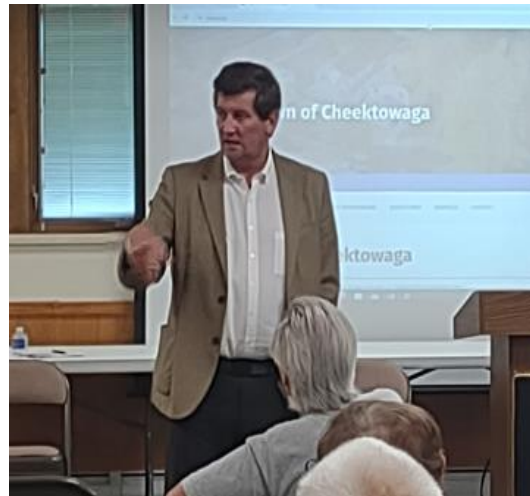
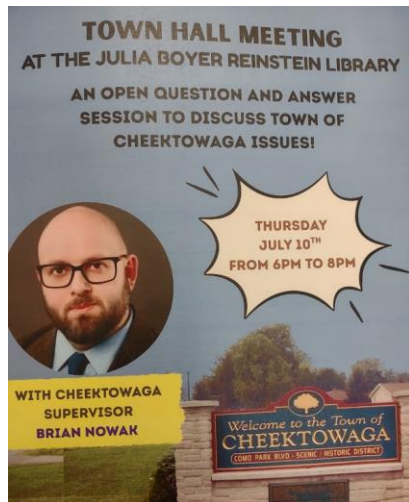
**Director's Report for the
Cheektowaga Public Libraries (CPL)
July & August 2025**

1. PUBLIC SERVICES

Programs, Learning Opportunities, Outreach and Events

Highlights:

- July 5 - The Julia Boyer Reinstein Library was host to a Town of Cheektowaga Town Hall Meeting with Town Supervisor Brian Nowak, Mark Poloncarz and County Comptroller Kevin Hardwick. County and Town administrators spoke about the state of the region and answered many questions posed by their attending constituents.



July 8 - Children at the Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library had the chance to learn about Non-Newtonian fluids. Attendees had the chance to make and experiment with their own Oobleck, a Non-Newtonian fluid that gets its name from the 1949 Dr. Seuss book *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*. Children were taught what Non-Newtonian fluids were and how they worked, and then they had a chance to perform experiments with toys to see how these new facts worked hands on.



The Science behind Oobleck

Oobleck is made up of molecules called **polymers**, which are arranged in long chains. The molecules can be stretched out or bundled up and stuck together like wet spaghetti.



A great example of a polymer is a rubber band



When you put **pressure** on the oobleck, the molecule chains bundle up and stick together, making the oobleck **act like a solid**.

When there is **no force** on the oobleck, the polymers stretch out, and the oobleck **acts like a liquid**.



Since oobleck can be a solid or a liquid depending on whether you apply force to it, it is called a **non-Newtonian fluid**.

Learn More: Physics

In a **solid**, the molecules are tightly packed and vibrate in place.

In a **liquid**, the molecules slip past each other, allowing liquids to flow.



Have you ever noticed some liquids flow faster than others? Think about water versus honey. What makes them **flow differently**?



Try rubbing your hands together quickly.
What do you feel?



- July 21 and August 29 - Librarian Laura Scott hosted the monthly Adult Craft Hour, where participants decorated clay pots and planted succulents (7/21) and made abstract floral-themed watercolor paintings by using yarn across their canvases (2/29).

- July 23 - The Julia Boyer Reinstein Library hosted “Llama Day”. Over 300 people came to pet, feed, take pictures with Jay the llama and make llama crafts. Many children made llama crowns and were given llama buttons. Seven volunteers from the Cheektowaga Lions Club help with crafts and llama games. Two textile experts, Sara Rosiek and Theresa Caufield were also on hand to demonstrate how llama fiber and wool can be spin into yarns for various uses. Attendees were thrilled with the touchable examples of fibers and the spinning demonstrations that turned raw wool to yarn.





- July 25 – Author and Soprano opera singer Danielle Di Stefano presented a virtual reading of her book “Kiki the Kitten and Tiny Squeak”. Intended for children 5-11, each attendee received a free copy of Ms. Di Stefano’s book and learned about music and how everyone is connected through this wonderful art. After the reading, Ms. Di Stefano led the children through a sing along with popular songs from Lilo and Stich, Moana and Frozen.



- On July 29th, Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library hosted a rock painting crafternoon program in-which attendees of all ages came to paint their very own garden stepping stone. Some made their stones look like popular summer foods like ice cream or blueberries. While others took the opportunity to practice their animal portrait skills and painted beloved pets. Everyone who came enjoyed the chance to paint both large flat rocks and smaller pebbles, and left with a few brand new cherished garden decorations.



- August 5 - Michael Harmon, of Harmon Homes Reality presented a workshop on mortgages and home buying for first time buyers. Thirty hopeful home owners attended the workshop learning the process of buying a home and what advantages there are for first time home buyer.
- August 11 - The Zoo mobile visited the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library, bringing hands on items and animals for everyone to enjoy. The children were able to meet and touch a tenrec (an animal that looked like a hedgehog), a tortoise, and a snake (a small boa named Fred) as well as admire a tree frog in his box. The children learned where the animals can be found and how they live in their particular environments. In addition to meeting the animals, craft stations allowed activities such as making a paper turtle, coloring an elephant bookmark, and making an eagle hand puppet. Over two hundred children and parents came in for this fun interactive event and special thanks was given to the Cheektowaga Lions Club who helped supervise the craft tables.





- August 16 – Director Caufield, working with SCORE Buffalo/Niagara (Service Core of Retired Executives), hosted a daylong workshop entitled “Essentials of Starting and Running a Business”. Over 30 aspiring entrepreneurs attended with guest lecturers speaking on creating a business plan, marketing, insurance, book keeping, corporate structure, tax obligations and many more topics one may overlook when thinking of starting a business. Caufield spoke for an hour on the free resources the library provides when creating a business plan and met with a few attendees to review the Libraries’ online resources. Caufield is working with SCORE for another workshop in December.
- July 8, 22 and 29 - “Color Your World” Summer Art programs - There were three summer art/craft programs for children ages 5-12 this summer offered at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. The first, on July 8, invited children to color and create a mosaic wall hanging. On July 22, the children made rainforest butterflies from construction paper, markers, and pipe cleaners. Lastly, on July 29, children gathered to use watercolors to paint a water scene. All of these events were well received and attended by families from our community.



- Throughout July and August the Cheektowaga Libraries continued their partnership with the Cheektowaga Y.E.S groups (Youth Engaged in Service) The Y.E.S. program provides volunteer opportunities for teens who want to take an active role in the community, make new friends and gain valuable experiences helping others. The teen volunteers from the Town’s Y.E.S groups coordinated multiple “Craft” and “Lego Night” programs throughout the summer for children 4 to 12 years of age. The events were well attended with the young attendees truly enjoying the activities and crafts.



- Throughout July and August - Both Cheektowaga Libraries continued their Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) programs. The Julia Boyer Reinstein Library hosted D&D sessions for teens 12-17 and the Anna M. Reinstein Library continue their adventures with adult players. These programs continue to draw a good crowd and volunteer "Dungeon Masters" have been come forward to help run multiple game groups for the teens allowing more attendees to participate and gather for fun with their peers. At the Anna M. Reinstein Library Librarian Jeff Matrachisia hosted an ongoing Dungeons & Dragons program for adults. Jeff used a combination of the official *Lost Mines of Phandelver* storylines and his own original material to appeal to the players who showed up and keep interest high.
- August 25 - Both Cheektowaga Libraries celebrated the hard work that all the children did reading this summer at both the libraries with a fun Bubble Party! Librarian Heidi Bofinger and Librarian Kathy Goodrich co-hosted the event with the help of two Lions Club volunteers at Anna M. Reinstein Memorial Library. Attendees loved bubbles that they could blow, pop and dance in to popular children's tunes and Disney music. The children also had the chance to make their very own bubble wand and to paint a picture with colored bubbles blown onto paper. Children left the event with their own bubble wand and solution, as well as the bubble wand they created themselves, and a colorful lei that they wore during the party.



Outreach:

- July 10 - Librarian Carol Vetch visited Maryvale Elementary School to help kick off their Summer Camp for kids. Two different groups of children were treated to stories and a craft related to the story. The younger group listened to *Rainbow Fish* and made a rainbow fish necklace. The older group listened to *Stellaluna* and made construction paper bats.
- August 14 - Collaborating with the Department of Labor, Director Caufield visited the Calspan building on Genesee Street participated in a workshop entitled "Creating Resumes to Get Noticed". Caufield spoke to attendees about the Library's online resources and how they provide resume and cover letter examples and guides to find positions regionally.
- August 28 - Director Caufield staffed a Library information table during the "Parent Teachers meet" at Maryvale Primary School. Over 200 children and their parents attended the event and Caufield was able to meet and introduce many to the Libraries' services/programs and allow families to sign up for Library cards. 28 new library card holders were signed up and many others stopped into the Library days after the event to say hello.

2025 Summer Reading.

- Throughout the summer, the Cheektowaga Libraries promoted reading through attractive displays, programming and reading competitions. The Libraries "Ticket to Read" contest incentivized reading making it a fun challenge bringing in readers of all ages. For Children 12 and under, reading logs were provided to track how many minutes had been read. For each log completed (which tracked every 15 min of reading through the week) children could claim a small prize from our summer reading prize cart and when the sheet was complete they would be entered into a raffle for a \$ 50 Target gift card. The Teens and Adults did not have to track their minutes read but provided individual tickets for each book completed. By submitting tickets of titles read, the teens were also entered into a drawing to win a \$50 Amazon gift card and the adults could win one of nine themed baskets created by the Library staff. The 2025 Summer Reading Campaign was a great success by helping children keep their reading skills sharp, generating interest in the library and books while encouraging reading to become a lifelong habit.

2025 Reading by the Numbers

	# of reader's	# of titles read	# of minutes
Children's reading logs			
JBR -	325	N/A	238,875
REI -	131	N/A	96,285
Totals -	<u>456 Readers Under 12</u>	<u>Minuets read 335,160</u>	

2025 Summer Reading by the Numbers (continued)

	# of reader's	# of titles read	# of minutes
Ticket to read Teens			
JBR -	41	263	N/A
REI -	15	147	N/A
Totals -	<u>35 Teen Readers</u>	<u>410 Books read</u>	
Ticket to Read Adults			
JBR -	302	2,346	N/A
REI -	231	465	
Totals -	<u>533 Adult Readers</u>	<u>2,811 Books read</u>	



2. Collections: Development and Use

Highlights:

- July 27 - Adult and Teen Horror/Thrillers Checklists completed.
- August 26 - All ages DVD and CD Check lists completed

Displays



3. OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

a. Facilities:

- Throughout July and August, Johnson Control HVAC worked at both libraries to maintain the air conditioning units with minor repairs needed. In late August, Cheektowaga Town contracts changed and Danforth HVAC will now be our provider for all HVAC repairs and updates. Further repairs are planned for the roof unit at the Anna M. Reinstein Library in the fall.
- The storage shed at the Julia Bower Reinstein Library was repainted.
- July and August - Vacuums were repaired from both Cheektowaga libraries.
- New parking lines were repainted in the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library parking lot. The repaint of the parking added two new accessibility spaces.



- New metal shelving was set in place at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library replacing a deteriorating wooden shelving unit that held DVDs. The shelving was free from the Kenmore Library. Special thanks to Mary Muscarella, Director of the Kenmore Library, and their Care Taker Adam, for offering the shelving and assisting in the take down and move between Libraries.



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

- Throughout Summer Director Caufield working with the Department of Labor planned the fall Job Fair for the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. The next Job Fair will be held Thursday September 25.
- Working with Cheektowaga schools, Carol Vetch will be visiting Cleveland Hill High School in September to speak to the seniors about getting library cards, using Hoopla/Libby, and demonstrating resources available online for College Prep and applications, SAT practice, and job hunting, writing a resume, and interview skills.
- Aug 27 - Director Caufield attended a Cheektowaga Community Collaborators (CCC) meeting at the Depew Community Center (570 Gould Ave. Depew). The Cheektowaga Community Collaborators group is composed of Town and County agencies/non-profits that meet and learn more about important resources offered to the public and network to see how we can work together and better inform the public on what they have available to help. Featured speaker Deborah LaBounty, President of the Greater Buffalo Regional Chapter of NYS Mental Health Councilors Association, talked about how community agencies and locations are used to combat loneliness and depression. This short lecture led into overviews from each agency and how they work with the public to create a sense of community. Caufield also networked among the other agencies and has volunteered CPL libraries as the January location for the Cheektowaga Community Collaborators (CCC) first 2026 meeting.

- A special thanks has been given to the Cheektowaga Gardening Club. Throughout July and August, the Cheektowaga Gardening Club weeded and planted more annuals and perennial flowers/plants at the Julia Boyer Reinstein Library. With their efforts there was color, beauty and a home for the many pollinators in the Libraries garden.



- Throughout July and August Director Caufield and the Youth Services Librarians at both Cheektowaga libraries worked closely with the Lions Club of Cheektowaga. Wanting to move in a new directions from just collecting glasses, hearing aids and cell phones, the members of the Lions Club wanted to offer more in-person service to the community. Many of the members of the Lions club joined CPL staff at our larger Summer Reading programs organizing and running craft tables for the children. So pleased with the chance to work directly with the public the Lions Club looks forward to continuing this partnership moving forward.

