

Director's Report – Clarence Public Library
November 25, 2024

Financial

The monthly financial statements are included in the board packets. The latest payroll report (as of pp 20) shows a projected ending balance of \$14,544.95. (Please note this payroll report was a correction from the one we received last month that showed a projected ending balance of \$10.48.

Account Balances (as of 11/22/2024):

County Checking:	\$10,596.22
Trustees Checking:	\$13,362.76
Savings:	\$49,848.98
CD:	\$20,201.29

Donations:

October:	\$294.85
November:	\$460.00

Claims Audit

See claims audit abstracts

October 2024 Monthly Report Summary

Circulation

- **October 2024 Circulation:** 19,708
- **October 2023 Circulation:** 20,130
 - **Change:** -2.1%
- **January - October 2024 Circulation:** 222,698
- **January - October 2023 Circulation:** 210,274
 - **Change:** +5.9%

Notable Circulation Facts:

- Maximum circulation in October 2024: 1,005 on October 10.
- Maximum circulation in 2024: 1,776 on July 3.
- Maximum circulation in 2023: 1,723 on August 5.
- Average circulation per day in October 2024: 656.

Rankings:

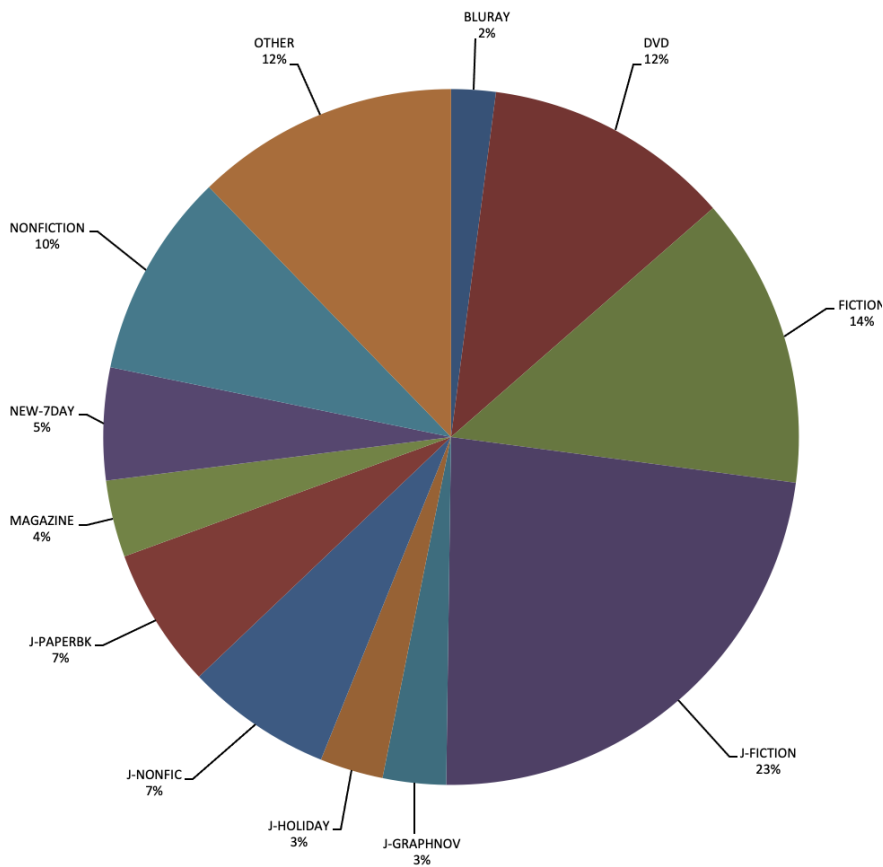
- Clarence ranked **9th** in circulation for October 2024.
- Clarence ranked **7th** in circulation for October 2023.

Top 9 Branches by Circulation in October 2024:

1. Audubon: 36,631
2. Clearfield: 27,848
3. Kenmore: 25,943
4. Central: 24,190
5. Orchard Park: 23,416
6. Julia Boyer Reinstein: 23,416
7. Lancaster: 21,215
8. West Seneca: 20,125
9. **Clarence: 19,708**

Circulation by Item Type

J-Fiction followed by Adult fiction were the top two items types circulated (see pie chart below):



Library Visits

- **October 2024 Visitor Count:** 6,911
- **October 2023 Visitor Count:** 7,334
 - **Change:** -5.8%
- **January - October 2024 Visits:** 70,319
- **January - October 2023 Visits:** 64,326
 - **Change:** +9.3%

Notable Visitor Facts:

- Maximum visitor count in October 2024: 473 on October 24.
- Maximum visitor count in 2024: 486 on June 27.
- Average number of visits per day in October 2024: 255.

Rankings:

- Clarence ranked **10th** for library visits in October 2024.
- Clarence ranked **9th** for library visits in October 2023.

Top 10 Branches by Library Visits in October 2024:

1. Central: 30,876
2. Audubon: 13,121
3. Orchard Park: 11,824
4. Clearfield: 10,527
5. Kenmore: 9,685
6. West Seneca: 9,245
7. Julia Boyer Reinstein: 8,974
8. Hamburg: 8,112
9. Merriweather: 7,871
10. **Clarence:** 6,911

Public Access Computer Sessions

- **October 2024:** 416 sessions
- **October 2023:** 432 sessions
 - **Change:** -3.2%

Wi-Fi Usage

- **October 2024:** 1,621 connections
- **October 2023:** 1,499 connections
 - **Change:** +8.1%

Percentage Change in October Programming from October 2023 to 2024:

For children 5 & under: -42.48%

For children 6-12: -26.02%

For Adults: 27.19%

Children's programming is notably down in the past two months. One possible reason is that more children are attending UPK and other formal preschool programs. As we see, the decrease in attendance at preschool programs has not affected our children's fiction circulation. As I mentioned last month, we are adding a third preschool program "Show & Tell" Storytime on Thursday mornings beginning in December. We are hoping that an additional day of programming will attract more families who are unable to attend the other days.

Groups/Organizations that used the meeting room in October:

- Erie County Department of Health (Narcan Training)
- Clarence Ski Club
- Senior Center Card Group
- Clarence Contemporary Club
- Clarence Concert Association
- Bookmarks Book Group
- Happy Bookers Book Group
- Essential Solutions (free Medicare workshop)
- United Health Care (free Medicare workshop)
- AARP
- Neurodivergent Adult Social Group
- Town of Clarence (Plumbing Exam)

Items of Note:

- The boiler installation by D.V. Brown was completed on November 8! For the most part, everything is working fine. The set-points for the system were adjusted by Start Technologies and have had to be adjusted a bit because certain area of the library were cooler than others.
- Ten staff from the Clarence Public Library participated in a hands-on CPR/AED training on November 8.

- On November 7, Monica met with Evan Vahratian, Mary Sorrels, Steve Diver, Brooke Murdoch and Cheryl Cantlon via Zoom. Superintendent Matt Frahm was also present at the meeting. The purpose of our meeting was to begin plans for an early literacy initiative involving the Family Support Center, the High School Community Service Club (coordinated by Brooke Murdoch), AP WeService (service learning/civic engagement for AP students coordinated by Mary Sorrels), the Clarence Nature Center and the Clarence Public Library. For World Literacy Day, our focus would be on K-2 and we are brainstorming ideas for engaging early literacy activities and, similar to Dia at the library last spring, we would offer multiple programs at the same time. This event would take place at the Clarence Clubhouse on Main Street. The AP/WE students and Clarence Community Service Club students would be involved in planning activities (e.g. read-alouds, arts/crafts, literacy games, creative writing, etc.). For the Transcendentalism on the Trails event, the target age group would be for children and young adults of all ages and would include activities such as poetry readings, mindful hikes, photography and reflective journaling activities, etc. We have tentatively set the dates of Saturday, April 5 for "World Literacy Day" and Saturday, May 17 for "Transcendentalism on the Trails" and both events would take place from 10am to 1pm. The World Literacy Day would take place at the Clarence Clubhouse on Main Street and the Transcendentalism on the Trails would be held at the Clarence Nature Center.
 - Monica reached out to the Clarence Community Foundation to see if they would support this initiative; Monica applied for a CCF grant of \$500 to purchase books to give to children attending the event.
- The Clarence Public Library will be applying for an "Equipment & Technology" grant through the B&ECPL. Grants funds would be used to purchase public-facing equipment and technology. Our idea at the Clarence Library is to create an adult makerspace (an IDEA LAB, if you will). Libraries are embracing the concept of becoming idea incubators (e.g. for small businesses) and offering and promoting services that assist all patrons as well as micro businesses, small businesses and entrepreneurs. We are following in the footsteps of many other libraries in the nation that have developed Idea Lab or makerspaces. Some of the equipment we are requesting for the grant include a Prusa MK4s 3D Printer, a Roland BN-20A Desktop 20" Eco-Solvent printer and cutter (great for T-shirts, graphics, Decals, etc., a Silhouette Cameo 5 (a versatile cutting machine popular in the crafting industry) and possibly an xToolp2 CO2 laser cutter). The grant has three tiers: \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$15,00 and the application is due January 7.
- We are looking into the purchase of materials to create "Citizen Science" kits and promote them at the Clarence Public Library. Citizen Science is ordinary people of any age gathering scientific information locally and sharing it with the global scientific community. Citizen Science is perfect for all ages (8 & up) and great for families as well. These kits will contain everything needed to complete specific projects that will help scientists answer questions they wouldn't be able to ordinarily answer without volunteers such as citizen scientists. I created a free account on SciStarter.org for the Clarence Public Library. This web site details step-by-step resources that we will need to build and promote kits at our library and I will be able to add our library to the Citizen Science Kit map. I also completed the first of several training modules – "Foundations of Citizen Science." Next up is "SciStarter Ambassador."

- On November 22, Sarah and Monica met with Beth Bevars (from Teach My Kid to Read.org) and Tarja Parssinen (WNY Education Alliance) to discuss the program Teach My Kid to Read “Road to Decode.” This endeavor recently started a new online community that would bring together the expertise of librarians and library staff to promote literacy solutions based in the “Science of Reading.” We are considering the purchase of Decodable Books for our collection based on the science of reading. Our collaboration with the Clarence Central School District in April and May of 2025 on literacy initiatives will utilize the principles of the Science of Reading.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Mooney