

January 2026 Newsletter



OLEAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

134 N. 2nd Street
Olean, NY 14760
(716) 372-0200
Oleanlibrary.org

Hours:
M-Th 9am-9pm
Fri 9am-6pm
Sat 10am-5pm

Curbside service available by appointment.



The Library will close at 6pm on December 31st and will be closed January 1st in observance of New Year's & January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Giving Thanks for Giving Tuesday The Friends raise \$5,380!

43 donors gave a total of \$4,880 during Cattaraugus Gives on December 2 to be used towards the local history room. With your help, we also earned the \$500 bonus from the John J. Irving, CFP challenge for most donors in our power hour of 6-7 pm. This helped us to exceed our \$5,000 goal and bring our combined total up to \$5,380! **We cannot thank you enough** for being a Friend of the Library and helping us to go above and beyond for our library and local community!

Don't forget, if you were one of those 43 donors, your donation counts towards membership with the Friends of the Library for 2026. If you missed the fun on December 2, it's not too late to give the gift of membership - nothing says Happy New Year, like a gift to the Library. And, save the date for FeBREWary which will be held on February 27!



Gallery: January 2026 Teen Art Display

To ring in 2026, teens who call the Olean Public Library home are sharing their art with us in the Gallery. Any 2D piece made by a teen is welcome to be displayed.



Interested in showcasing your art in our gallery? Contact the library by phone or by emailing programming@oleanlibrary.org to learn more. Please remember: artwork must be appropriate for a general library audience (i.e.: suitable if children see), and you must be able to fill the entire gallery with your pieces. Any 2D medium is welcome to submit!



★ Let the Library help with your New Years resolutions in the new year ★

Save Money—Use your library card to prioritize borrowing library materials rather than buying. The library has physical books, audio books, electronic books, DVDs, magazines, and video games available to patrons with active cards for borrowing.

Start a New Hobby—Olean Public Library has free resources through Libby like Craftsy & The Great Courses. For help with Libby and available resources call or stop in the Library.

Children/Family Programs

Story Times & Big Kid Programs run

Jan 20th—Feb 20th

Registration begins 1/5/2026 and can be completed online in addition to calling or stopping by.



Stories & More

R

Wednesdays at 10:00am

Story time captures the imagination and attention of young ones to inspire a lifelong love of books and reading. Our story times include songs, rhymes, flannel boards, and instruments. This program is specially designed for birth through preschool. We incorporate early literacy tips and practices to promote reading readiness.

Stories & Stretches

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Thursdays at 11:00am

Children ages 2 to 5. A fun, movement-oriented program with stories, songs, stretches, and movement.

Investigations Stations

R

Tuesdays at 6:30pm or
Wednesdays at 3:30pm

Kids ages 3 and up participate in directed group activities, including longer stories, music, and instruments, followed by exploration of creative art and STEM stations.

Reading Can Be Ruff Club

R

Wednesdays at 3:30pm

Practice reading with our favorite therapy dogs. These guys are great listeners and never judge! They make reading fun. Bring a book or choose one here. Explore the Investigation Stations and enjoy some “pupcorn” while you wait.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS WILL BE A 4 WEEK SESSION



St. Bonaventure Lanier Literacy

Thursday February 12th at 3:30pm



Student athletes from the St. Bonaventure Lanier Literacy Project will be here to read to kids, have fun and promote literacy! There will be crafts, snacks and giveaways!

After School Program (Ages 7-12) SPECIAL EVENT

Sewing Class with Martha Thorne

R

Monday January 12th from 4:00-5:00pm

Registration starts 1/2/2026 Although the after school program is still on break, register for this special sewing class with Martha Thorne. This class is for children ages 7 & up. A parent must remain present with the child during the class. Thank you for understanding.

Teen Programs

(Ages 13-18)

Olean Teen Advisory Board (OTAB) Meeting

Tuesday January 6th

3:30pm in the Conference Room

Teens ages 13-18 are welcome to attend and join OTAB. For January, we will decide on what projects we would like to do in Art Club in 2026, as well as review opportunities to volunteer in 2026.

Team A DnD, Interest Meeting

Wednesday January 7th

6:00pm in the Gallery

Are you a teen interested in playing DnD at the library? Join us to decide on what campaign we'll run for 2026, as well as roll up the characters we'll need to play in February. No experience is necessary to play!

Teen Gaming Club

Wednesday January 14

3:30-4:45 in the Gallery

We'll bring our Nintendo Switch and some games: you come prepared to play! We also have space ready and available to play board games or card games like Sushi Go. Any and all teens are welcome to join, and you can bring a game to play if you want.

Team B, Teen DnD

R

Wednesday January 21

6:00-8:30pm in the Conference Room

After a wild, eventual trip on the seas to Thunder Cliffs, our valiant heroes have found the entrance to the enemy's hidden base. It's just one short, row boat journey away, but manticores and other terrors are determined to keep them on the high seas. How will our adventurers fare? [Email programming@oleanlibrary.org](mailto:programming@oleanlibrary.org) or scan the QR code to join.



The teen room is open weekdays 3–6pm.

Adult Programs

Knit & Crochet Club

Saturday January 3rd

11:30am in the Gallery

Knitters, crocheters, and other fiber artists of all levels are welcome to attend. Bring your current craft (or one you need a bit of help with), and we'll provide the space and company of fellow crafters. Interested but don't have a project to start? We'll have some free patterns, yarn, and some basic crochet hooks and knitting needles available to take home.



Dungeons and Dragons

Tuesday January 13th

6:00-8:30pm in the Conference Room

Interested in playing Dungeons and Dragons with other adults? Come join Cherish, our library's resident game master, and try it out. Players of all experience levels are welcome. Bringing a snack to share, though not required, is appreciated. In 2026, we're starting a new campaign, so bring a level 1 character sheet if possible.



Cooking Club

Thursday January 15th

6:30pm in the Gallery

January's Cooking Club theme will be **New Year, New Recipe!** Bring a dish that you've never made before to share, and we'll try each other's dishes and discuss food and cooking. This is a great opportunity to try something new, and home cooks of all skill levels are welcome to join us. New members are always welcome!



If interested in virtually attending a program with a virtual option, email programming@oleanlibrary.org

A Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.



Presented by Race Unity Circle of Olean

Saturday January 17th

1:00-2:00pm in the Gallery

Open to all. Come together to listen to one of MLK Jr.'s lesser known speeches, discuss his impact on the Civil Rights Movement, and enjoy foods that were MLK Jr.'s favorites. Explore a different side to this iconic leader, remembering him as a family man that cherished time at home, a man who gained strength from eating with community, and a man who gathered people to discuss important topics over meals.



To register for programs, please call or visit during regular library hours. We cannot take programming registration by voicemail message or messages sent to our social media platforms. Thank you.

Craft Programs

DIY Snowman Candle Holders



Monday January 5th

6:00pm in the Gallery

Come make a super cute snowman candle holder out of a wine glass for this winter season. Wear crafting clothes.

Warning: Acrylic paint and hot glue will be used.

**Craft Level: Intermediate
Ages 16 & up.**

Pop-In Decorate a Duck

National Rubber Duck Day

Tuesday January 13th

National Rubber Duck Day is celebrated annually on January 13th,

based on the birthday of the Sesame Street character Rubber Duckie, as listed on a 1973 calendar. All day patrons can stop by the information desk to grab a duck to decorate. Feel free to bring items from home to help with decorating. Let the library take a picture of your completed duck for people to vote on their favorite duck. While you're there you can guess how many ducks are in the jar. The winner gets to keep the ducks. If more than one person guesses the correct amount there will be a drawing between the correct answers!



Crafting for a Cause

Monday January 26th

6:00pm in the Gallery



Join us to start 2026 off with creating something as a way to give back. We will have 5 craft stations:

- Knit and crochet
- Braided dog toys
- Hand sewn cat toys
- Knotted blankets
- Homemade cards

Each station will be crafting items to be donated to different charities. Make sure to select the station that matches your comfort level when registering.

Craft Level: Beginner—blankets, rope toys, & cards

Craft Level: Intermediate—hand sewn cat toys

**Must have knitting or crochet experience for the crochet table.
Ages 13 & up.**



LR = To allow access to as many interested patrons as possible for these programs, patrons may sign up for one and go on the wait list for others.



Registration Required



Limited Registration



Zoom Option Available



Registration Requested 3

This month's arts and crafts programs are made possible by the **Frances Bean O'Connell Arts Grant**.

If you are interested in donating to the Frances Bean O'Connell Art Program Fund, please contact Keely Doyle, Director of Philanthropic Services at the Erie Community Foundation at 814-454-0843, ext. 101, or by email at kdoyle@eriecommunityfoundation.org.

Book Clubs



Brown Bag Book Club

Monday January 26th
at 12:30pm in the Gallery



You bring your lunch, and we'll supply some treats and good company!

Join us as we discuss *Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall.



Multiple copies of the book are available physically and digitally throughout the library system.

Want to read ahead? In February, we will be discussing *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera.

The Race Unity Circle of Olean Book Club @ the library:

Wednesday January 21st
at 1:00pm in the Conference Room

Race Unity Circle Book Club is free and open to the public. Multiple copies are available via the library.



January Selection:
Kindred by Octavia Butler

Outreach



Parenting with Confidence: Free STEP Classes Starting Soon!

Starting January 13, 2026, EPIC's Family Opportunity Center will offer a 7-week Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (S.T.E.P.) class series every Tuesday from 6:00–7:00PM at the Olean Public Library. These free, evidence-based classes are designed to help parents and caregivers better understand their child's behavior, build stronger family communication, and apply positive, practical discipline strategies. To register-scan the QR code or call the library at 716-372-0200. To learn more, contact Ashlee Abrams, Program Coordinator, at 716-332-4192.



Canticle Farm Invites You to Participate in 2026

Canticle Farm in Allegany is a nonprofit community farm and a sponsored ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. What is a community farm? It's a farm whose primary purpose is to grow both food and community! Join the farm in 2026 as we dig into the creative, living, organic soil of

community-building. There are so many ways to participate:

- Organize a field trip or volunteer outing with us. We can create work projects for all ages and abilities.
- Become a member of the community garden by renting a garden bed; see our website for the registration form.
- Purchase a vegetable subscription (CSA share) for the 18-week 2026 season. Share sales go live in January.
- Bring your vegetable scraps to our community compost collection site at no charge.
- Attend our workshops, which empower our community members to become better gardeners and caretakers of nature.
- Donate funds to our Franciscan Food Pantry Program, which provides our fresh vegetables to soup kitchens and pantries.
- Shop at our Friday farm market, which features local farm products like cheeses, yogurt, meats, honey, & maple syrup.

Check out our display in the library's lobby this month to learn how Canticle Farm can become *your* community farm!



Photo caption: Olean High School students and their teachers haul buckets of compost and wood chips to the Canticle Farm Community Garden.

www.canticlefarm.org
office@canticlefarm.org

Canticle Farm North
Market,
CSA Share Distribution & Community Garden
3809 Old State Road
Allegany, NY 14706
716-307-5484

Canticle Farm South
Vegetable Fields,
Pick-Your-Own & Reflection Area
3835 S. Nine Mile Road
Allegany, NY 14706
716-307-5349

Library Programs - January 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Adult programs in black Teen programs in blue Children/family programs in red Community outreach programs in purple </div>			1 CLOSED 	2 	3 Knit & Crochet Club 11:30am
5 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm Snowman Candle Holders 6:00pm	6 OTAB Meeting 3:30pm	7 Team A DnD 6:00pm	8	9	10
12 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm Sewing Class with Martha Thorne 4:00pm	13 National Rubber Duck Day—Decorate a Duck All Day EPIC S.T.E.P Class 6:00pm DnD 6:00pm	14 Teen Gaming Club 3:30pm	15 SafePoint Lighthouse Services 9:00-11:30am Cooking Club 6:30pm	16	17 Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. 1:00pm
19 CLOSED 	20 LawNY Medicare, Healthcare Navigator, Elder Care Law 10:00am—1:00pm EPIC S.T.E.P Class 6:00pm Investigation Stations 6:30pm	21 Race Unity Book Club 1:00pm Stories & More 10:00am Investigation Stations & Reading Can Be Ruff 3:30pm Board Meeting 5:30pm Team B DnD 6:00pm	22 Stories & Stretches 11:00am	23	24
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