

Director's Monthly Report

March 2024



March is Women's History Month, and the Library marked the occasion with a number of events, including a film screening of the classic film *9 to 5* (testing out our new sound system), and two programs with the CCLA, one on women artists and abstract expressionism and another on First Ladies and their needlework. We also had a book display featuring women authors and an Art in the Evenings program that focused on artist Mirka Madeleine Mora. March is also the beginning of spring, and we began our spring Back to Nature series with a program on seed starting and hosted a seed swap. We also refreshed our seed library and are ready for the planting season. Tech Labs continued through March, with programs on language translation apps and on scams and being safe online, both shared with the CCLA. The building and grounds continued to present challenges, and opportunities. We now have an RFP for a new pavilion and are looking forward to that project and to being able to do more programming outside.

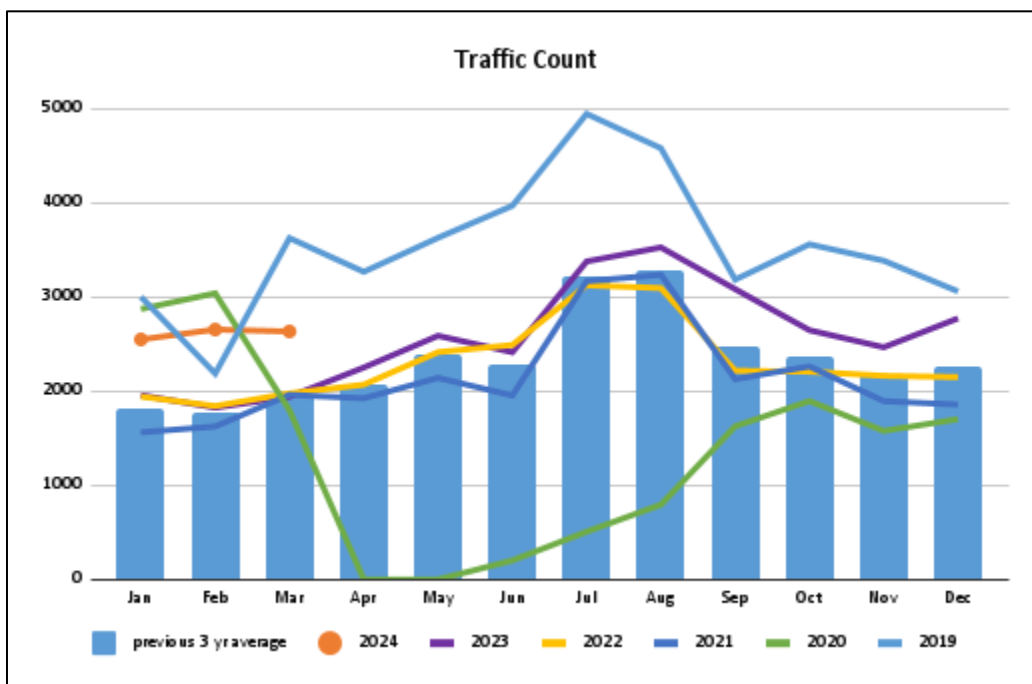
Programs:

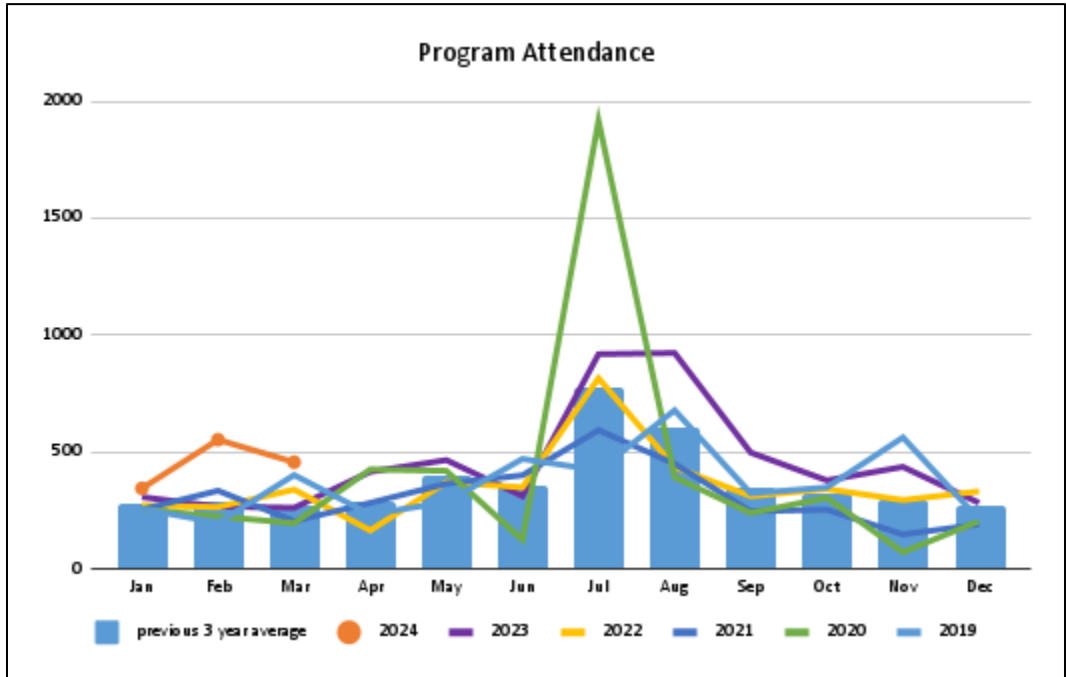
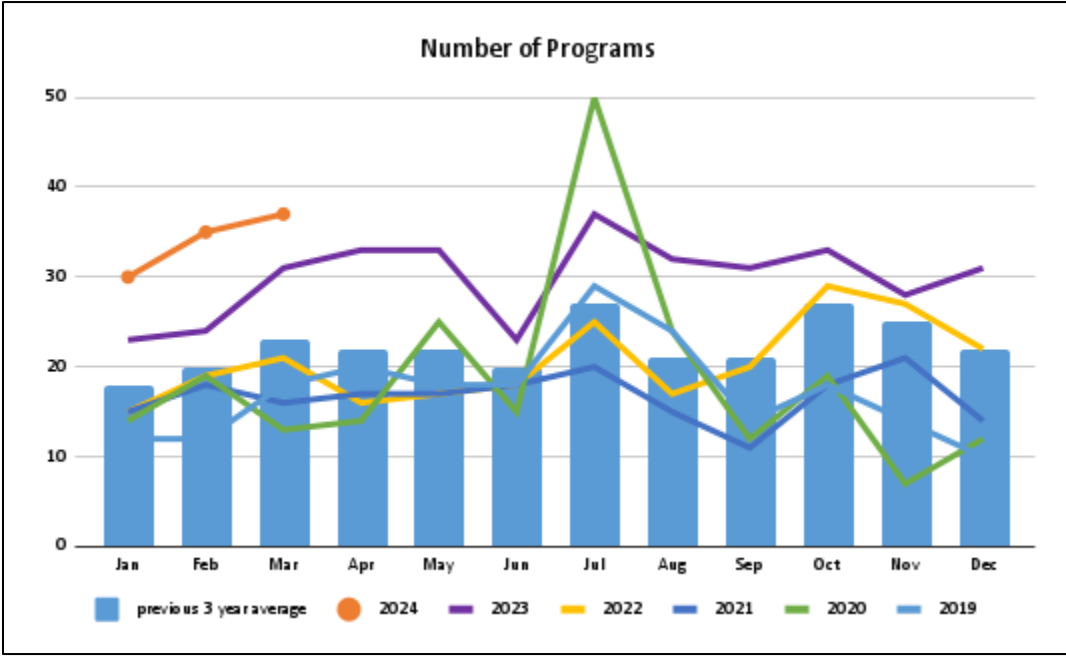
- Tai Chi—average 18 per class
- English Language Learning—average 6 per class, plus 4 one-on-one sessions
- Story Art with Tia—average 1 kid and 2 adults per session
- Homeschool Wednesday—average 13 kids and 5 adults per session
- Saturday Story Time—average 8 kids, plus 5 adults per session
- March 19: Art Pioneers: Women of Abstract Expressionism—64 attended
- March 21: Book Marks! Book Club—9 attended
- March 21: Reading and Discussion Program: Land, Liberty, & Loss—13 attended
- March 25: Webinar: Ladies First: Common Threads—15 attended
- March 27: Tech Lab: Computer Security and Scams—23 attended
- March 28: Tea Time at the Library—11 attended
- March 28: Art in the Evenings with Tia: Mirka Madeleine Mora—14 attended

- April 2: Spring Break: Paint a Gnome—16 kids and 7 adults attended
- April 5: Spring Break: Egg Carton Critters—5 kids, 2 adults attended (rescheduled due to power outage)
- April 6: Special Musical Story Time with John & Ann Marie Farrell—7 kids, 7 adults attended
- April 10: Tech Lab: AI (Artificial Intelligence) and ChatGPT—19 attended
- April 11: Can't Sleep? Let's Talk About It

Upcoming Events:

- April 17: Senator Michelle Hinchey mobile office hours
- April 18: Book Marks! Book Club
- April 18: Reading and Discussion Program: Land, Liberty, & Loss
- April 20: Cookbook Club
- April 20: Earth Day: Water Bottle Fireflies
- April 22: Earth Day film screening: *Plastic Earth*
- April 25: Tea Time at the Library
- April 25: Art in the Evenings: Katsushika Hokusai
- April 26: Poetry Month Poetry Open Mic Night at the Grange
- April 28: Back to Nature: Composting
- May 2: Saving the Night Sky: Dark Skies and Light Pollution (rescheduled from April 11)
- May 9: Poetry Reading: Irene Mitchell
- May 16: Book Marks! Book Club
- May 16: Reading and Discussion Program: Land, Liberty, & Loss
- May 18: Cookbook Club
- May 19: Back to Nature: Make Your Own Terrariums

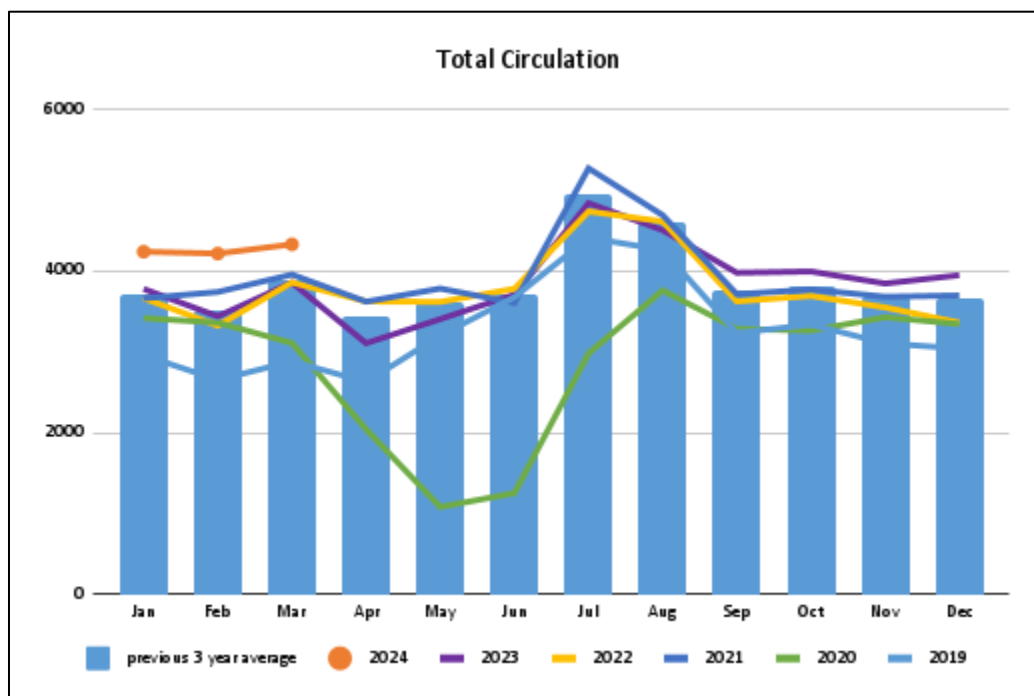


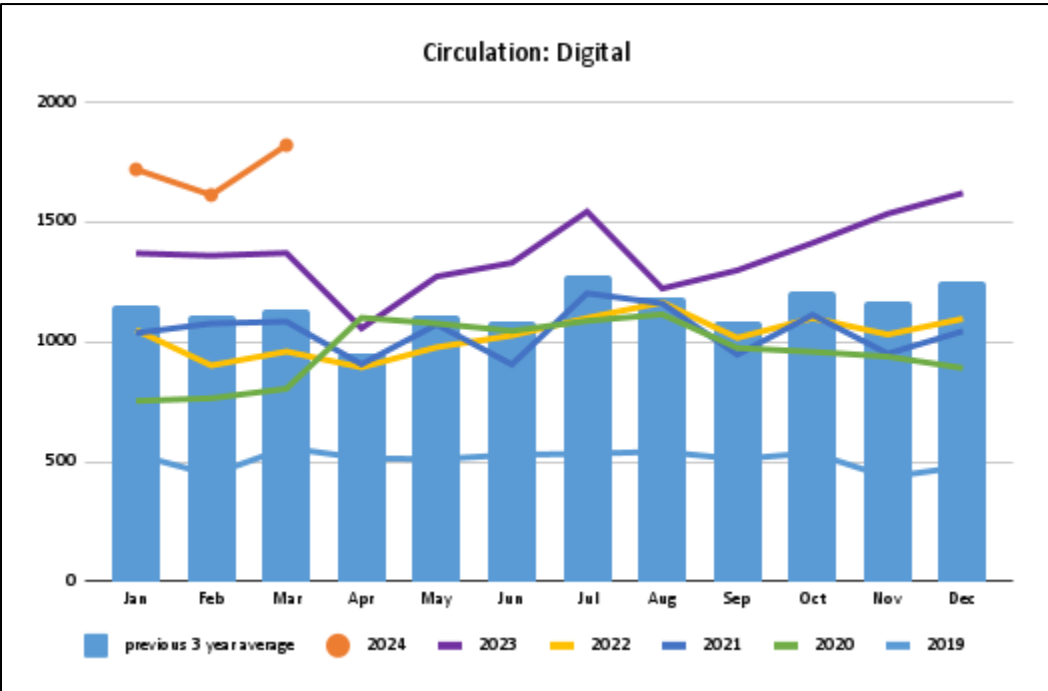
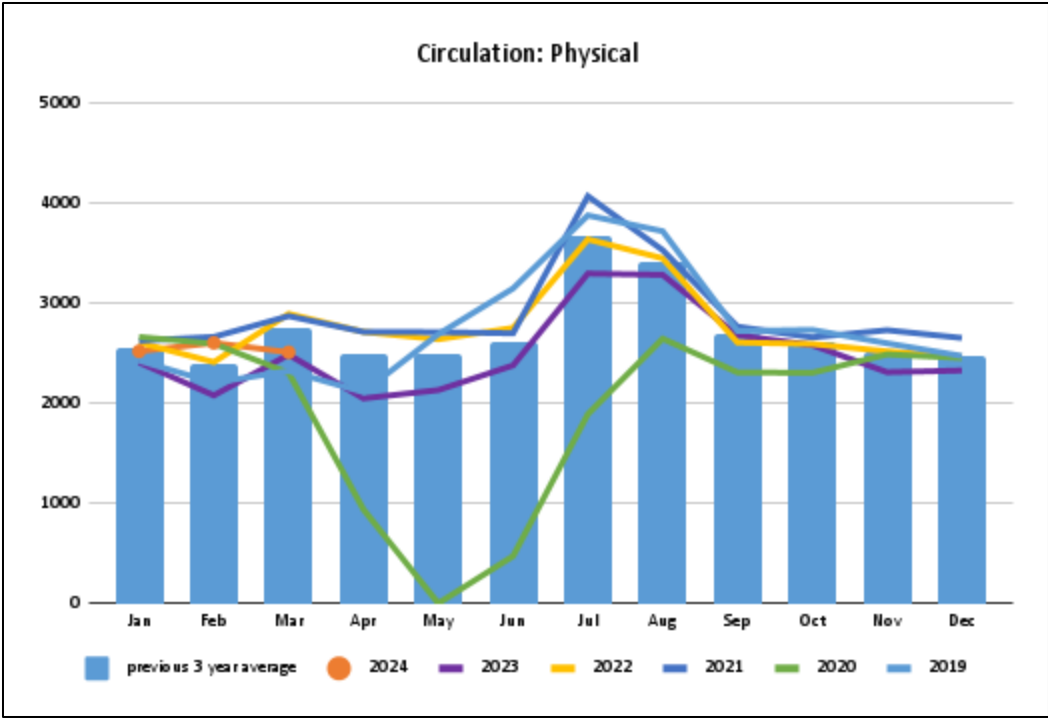


Library Usage:

2024 continues to surpass post-COVID years in the number of people visiting the Library, number of programs, attendance at programs, circulation of materials, and number of “active” patrons. All but traffic in the Library are also higher than in pre-COVID years. Circulation of digital materials was at an all-time high in March (and accounts, in part, for the lower traffic in the Library).

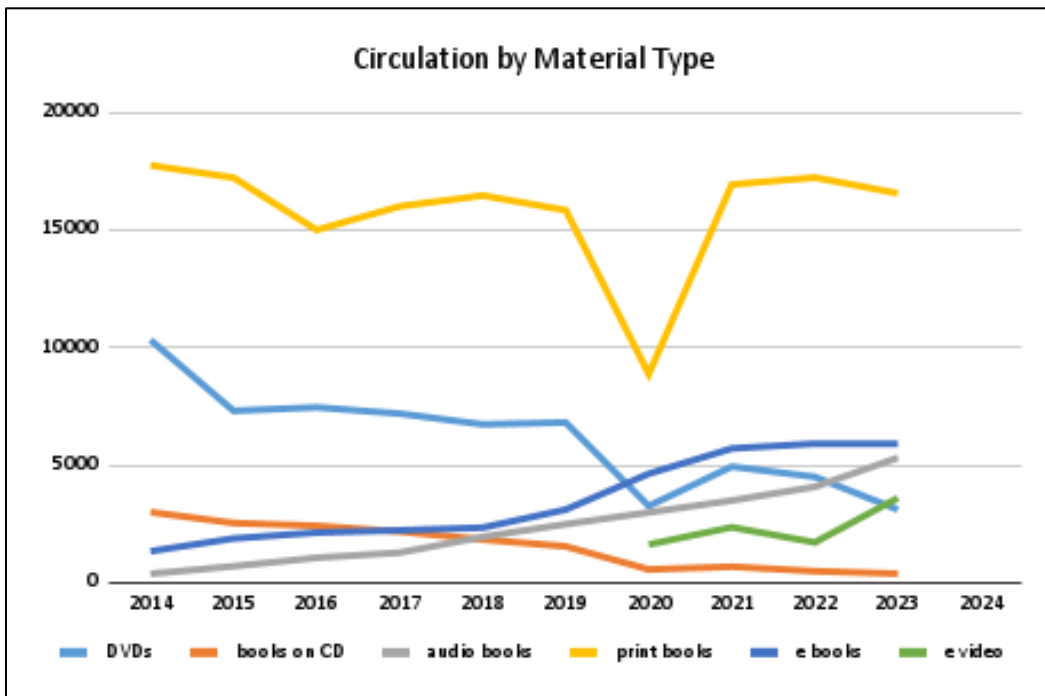
	Mar-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1,452	1544	1564	1557	ave. 1555	ave. 1240	126%
Patrons (unexpired)	1,756	1906	1929	1934	ave. 1923	ave. 1749	110%
New Patrons	16	24	31	10	65	58	112%
Traffic Count	1,940	2548	2653	2633	7,834	5544	141%
Computer Use	106	72	66	94	232	267	87%
Circulation (physical)	2,488	2522	2606	2512	7,640	7689	99%
Circulation (digital)	1,371	1720	1613	1821	5,154	3405	151%
Museum Passes	7	22	11	9	42	26	162%
Database usage	73	334	67	416	817	1155	71%
Wireless access	529	480	492	453	1,425	1414	101%
Website sessions	2,075	2028	1880	2094	6,002	7010	86%
Number of programs	31	30	35	37	102	61	167%
Program attendance	261	344	552	456	1,352	833	162%
YouTube views	127	131	251	165	547	317	173%
Notary	5	22	13	28	63	N/A	
Homebound delivery	1	1	0	0	1	N/A	

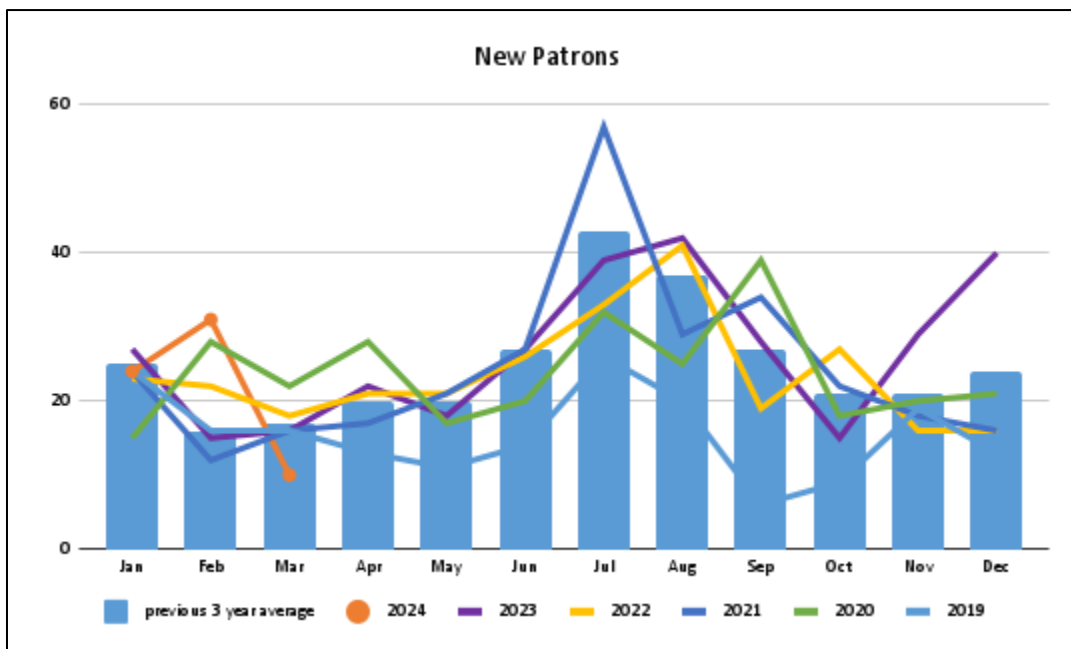
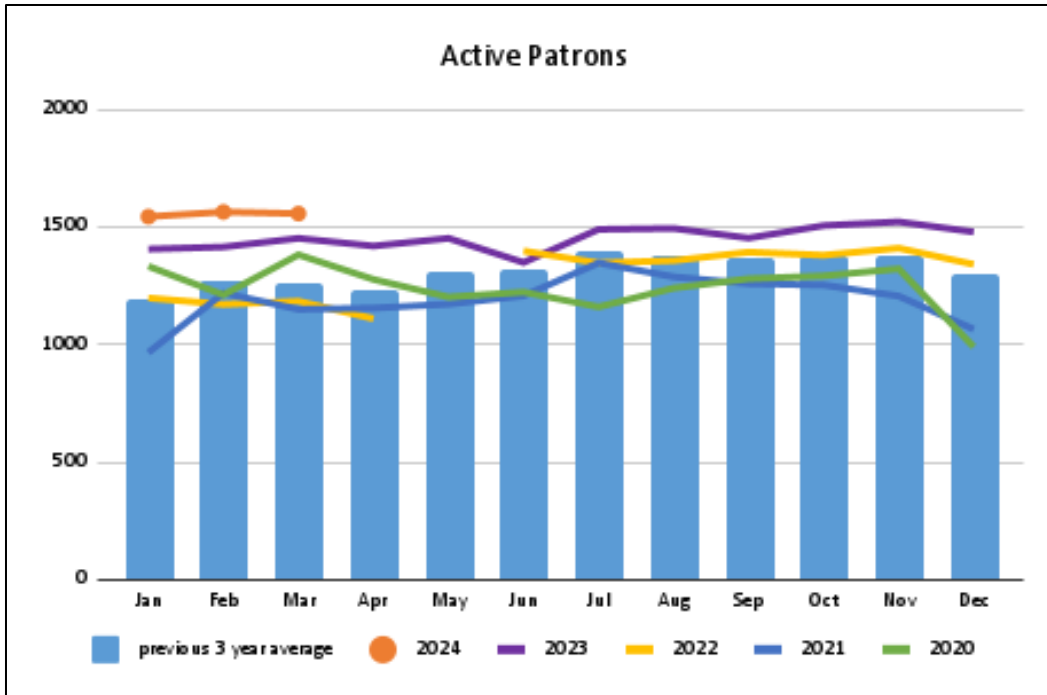




Circulation by Material Type

	23-Mar	24-Jan	24-Feb	24-Mar	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	278	295	232	268	795	-3	0%
videos	235	194	296	298	788	-144	-15%
books on CD	29	13	50	22	85	0	0%
audiobooks	464	594	543	566	1703	333	24%
print books	1336	1364	1476	1306	4146	400	11%
e books	591	570	449	575	1594	-17	1%
museum passes	7	22	11	9	42	6	17%
hotspots	13	12	11	7	30	3	9%
camping equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%





Staffing and Professional Development:

- Kate began training to become a Digital Navigator
- Robin took a week vacation
- Volunteer with community service hours helped out with preparing program materials and weeding/discarding low-circulating/outdated materials

This Month Staff Also

- Annual Report to the Community completed

Building and Grounds

- Fire alarm sensors in children's room malfunctioning—causing alarm to go off (fire department came one evening). Those sensors have been replaced and all but 4 of the highest, most difficult to reach sensors have been cleaned out.
- Leak in staff break area returned after heavy rain—roofer came to look at the issue and is supposed to get back to us with suggestion for repair.
- Windstorm took shingles off one of our sheds.
- Windstorm destroyed white sign used to promote events. Will be looking at an alternative to replace it.
- Clerestory windows had been disconnected at the switches because would open when power went out and then came back on. We were not able to get some to close again. However, after latest power outage, one window did open and we cannot close it. Electrician called to look at the issue.
- Power and internet outage all day April 4 forced library to close that day.

Grants/Fundraising:

- Received grant of \$600 from ADK for a dark skies explorer backpack
- Received grant of \$500 from the Sam Spiegel Foundation, for general support
- Received notice of award of Berkshire Taconic Foundation Fund for Columbia County Community Impact grant of \$2,850 for English language learning programs, with invitation to apply to renew in another year.
- Received notice of award from Bank of Greene County for \$500 for staff computers/new wifi router, and \$1000 for Business Partner program.
- Applied to Children's Foundation of Columbia County for \$875 for summer reading STEM programs.
- Applied to Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation for grant of \$20,000 for general program support.

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

- We have turned in about 300 pound of plastic so far.
- Dark Skies program moved to May 2; Dark Skies backpack purchased.
- Screening of *Plastic Earth* on Earth Day.
- Tia is planning a children's activity using recycled plastic bottles to make fireflies on April 20.

Columbia County Libraries Association

- Completed 990 filing for 2023
- New director hired at Valatie, Philmont director took new position at Tivoli and Philmont looking for new director
- CCLA will need to nominate new MHLS board member to represent Columbia County

MHLS

- Catalog has been updated so that our name now appear as Roeliff Jansen Community Library and also appears in the correct place alphabetically!
- DA business meeting and Library of Local meeting, Wednesday, April 17, in Poughkeepsie
- MHLS County Advocacy meeting scheduled for April 30
- Waiting on NYS budget to pass