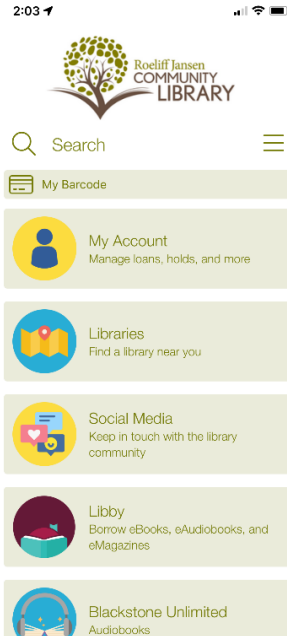


Director's Monthly Report

April 2025



For a reason I have yet to uncover, April is always a slower month than March when it comes to circulation, yet we have slightly more people visiting the library. This year we had more programs in April than usual, in large part due to the addition of community read programs. But program attendance at many programs was disappointing—despite strong interest in our community read book selection, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. (All copies of the adult edition have been claimed.) There were exceptions. We had a successful first concert of the season, featuring the songs of Joni Mitchell. And Robin's non-fiction book club had its greatest attendance ever. Xondra's spring break programs were popular, but attendance at Saturday story time is down. Rainy weather many have had something to do with attendance. It certainly impacted the roof, which continued to leak with every rain storm (but is not leaking now). On a happier note, progress has been made on planning for the pavilion. We hope to have bids in hand by the end of May.

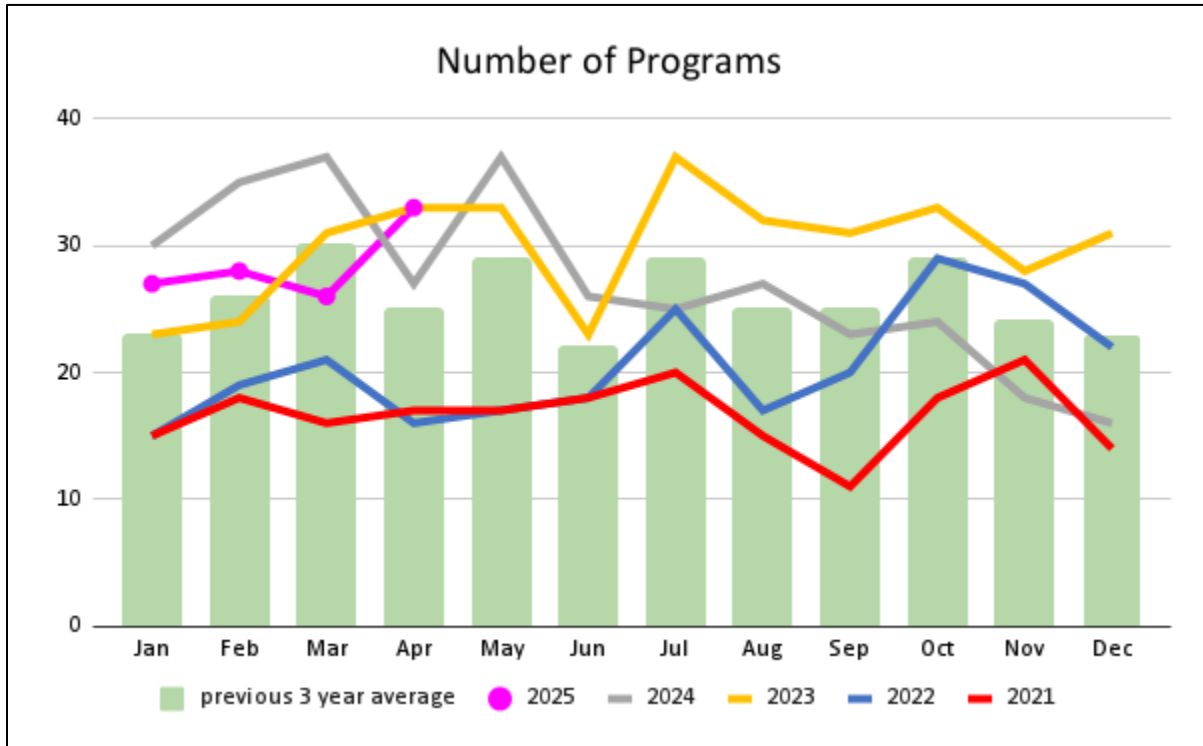
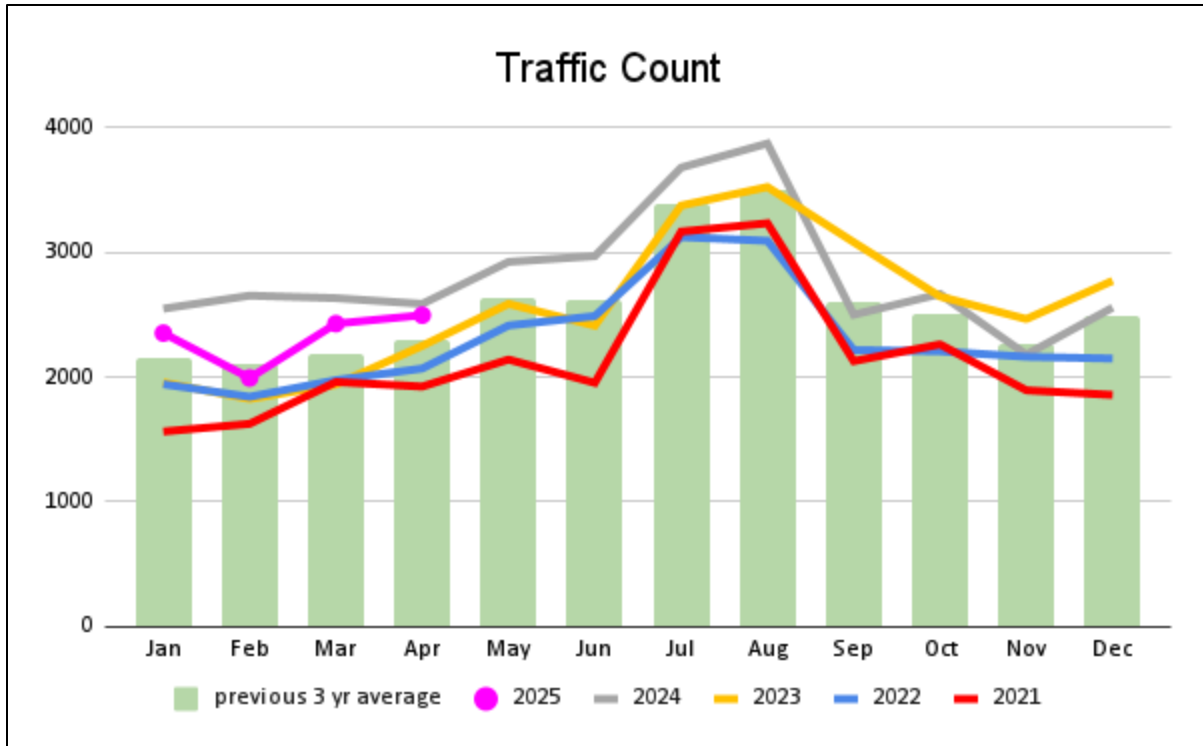
Programs:

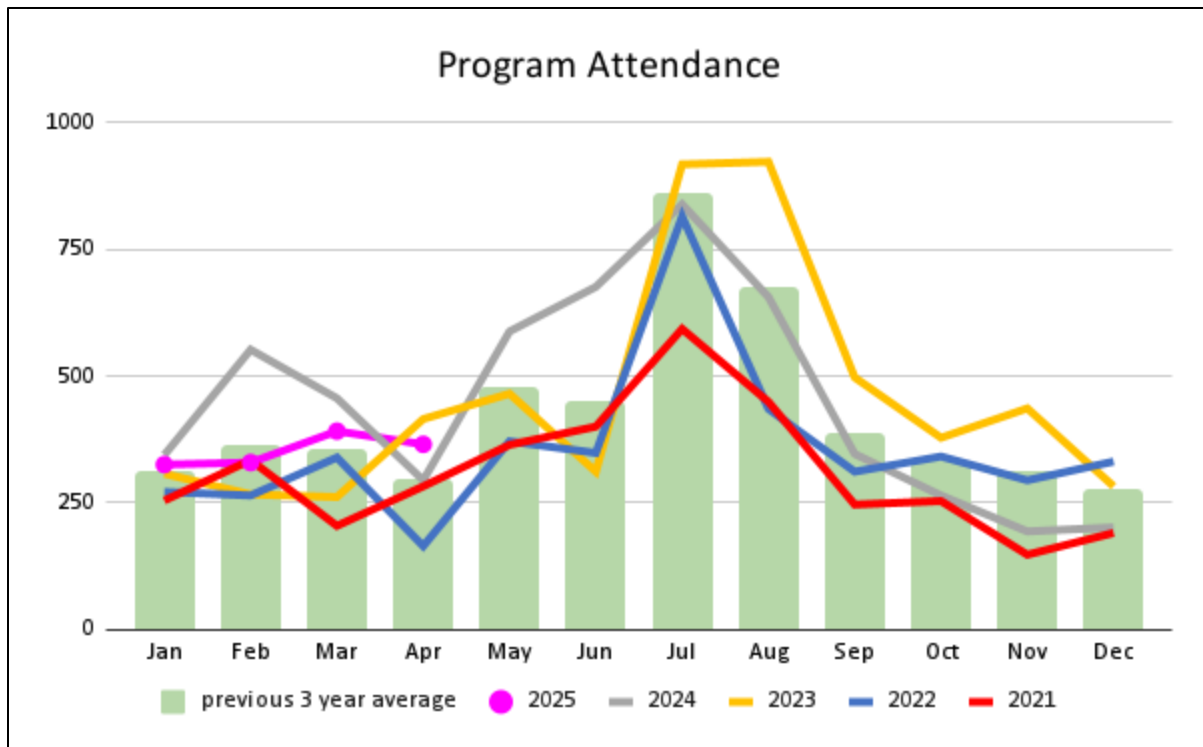
- Tai Chi—average 14 per class
- English Language Learning—average 6 per class
- Saturday Story Time—average 2 kids and 3 adults
- April 16—Adventure Wednesday with the Greenagers—8 kids, 5 adults
- April 16—Read On Fiction Book Club—5 attended
- April 17—Book Marks! Non-Fiction Book Club—16 attended
- April 17—Children's Program: Make Your Own Terrarium—9 kids, 10 adults

- April 18—Literacy Voyage: Garden Explorers—7 kids, 7 adults
- April 19—Cookbook Club—12 attended
- April 22—Community Read: Virtual Author Talk w/ Monique Gray Smith (with CCLA)—12 attended
- April 23—Adventure Wednesday: Art Omi—7 kids, 3 adults
- April 23—Reading and Discussion Program: Sustainability—6 attended
- April 24—Tea Time at the Library—6 attended
- April 26—Community Read: Storytelling Workshop with the Ancram Opera House—5 attended
- April 27—Community Read: Braiding Sweetgrass Book Chat—2 attended
- April 27—Concert: Christine and Elliot Spero--A Tribute to Joni Mitchell, "Both Sides Now"—48 attended
- April 30—Headstart—13 kids, 3 adults
- May 2—Poetry Open Mic Night at the Grange—20 attended
- May 3—Community Read: Volunteer Fair—76 participated
- May 4—Community Read: Reducing Our Consumption—5 attended
- May 5—Franklin D. Roosevelt: Hyde Park Hobbyist (with CCLA)—12 attended
- May 7—Author Talk: Nancy Kricorian, *The Burning Heart of the World*—18 attended
- May 8—Art workshop: Pictures of America (1st of 3)—6 attended
- May 14—Cook Book Club—14 attended
- May 15—Book Marks! Non-Fiction Book Club
- May 15—Art workshop: Pictures of America (2nd of 3)
- May 16—Literacy Voyage: Exploring the Ocean
- May 16—Tour of the Forge Project (Community Read)
- May 17—Prose Open Mic
- May 18—Community Read: Understory Walk with Taconic State Park
- May 20—Michelle Hinchey Mobile Office Hours

Upcoming Events:

- May 21—Read On Fiction Book Club
- May 22—Tea Time at the Library
- May 22—Art workshop: Pictures of America (3rd of 3)
- May 24—Community Read: Planting a Three Sisters Garden
- May 25—Concert: David Shenton & Erin Shields
- May 28—Reading and Discussion Program: Sustainability
- May 31—Art Opening: Celia Kahn
- June 1—Tech Lab: AI and ChatGPT
- June 7—Gala
- June 11—Author Talk: Kirsten Wood: *Accommodating the Republic Taverns in the Early United States*
- June 14—Film Screening: *Food and Country*, with Ruth Reichl





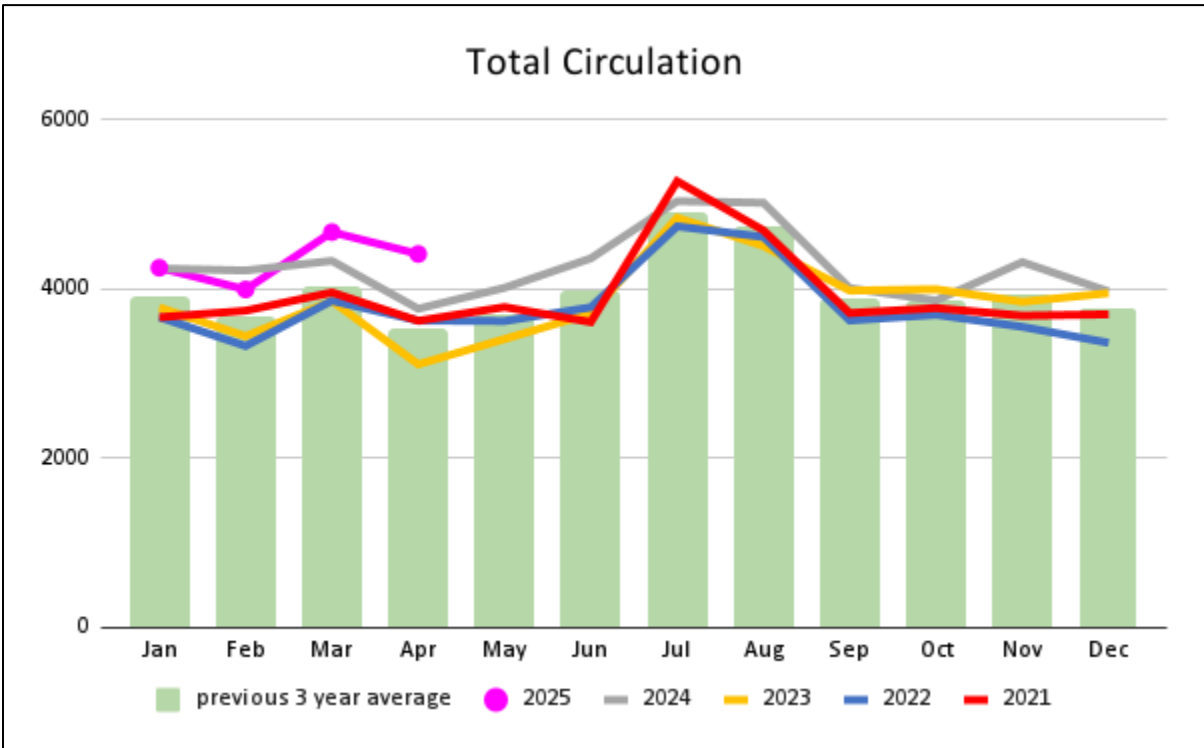
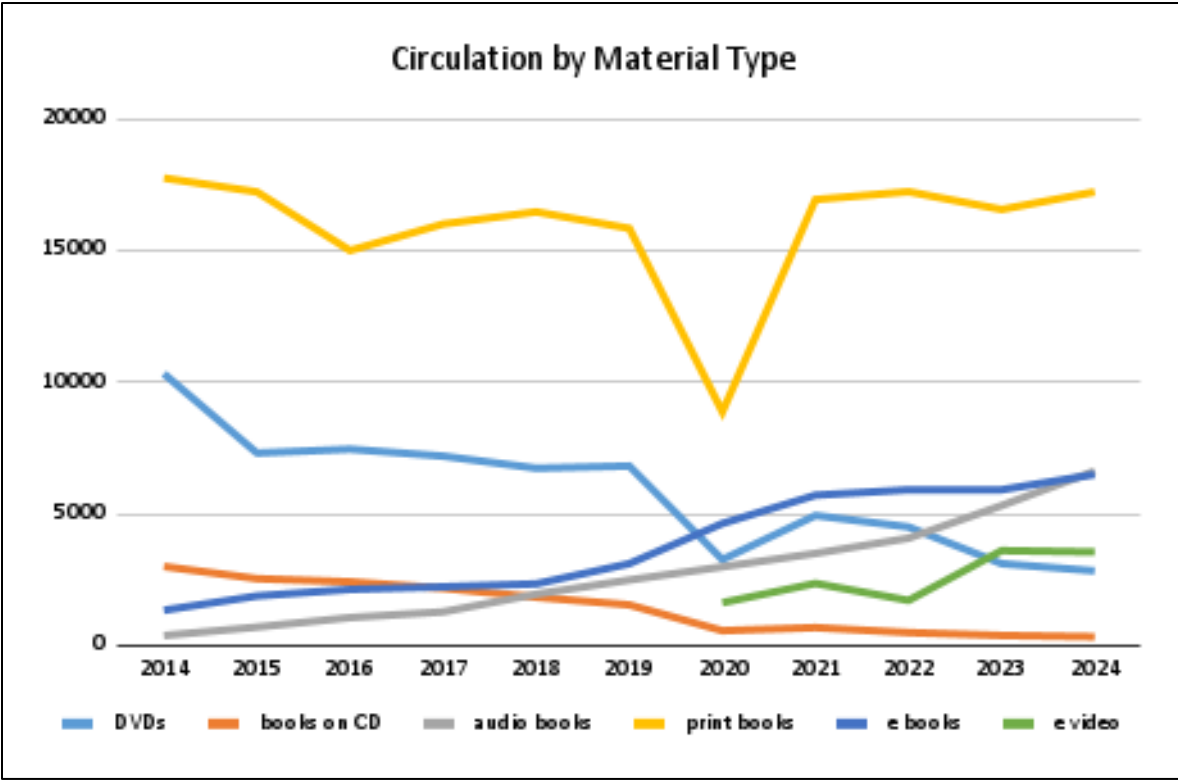
Library Usage:

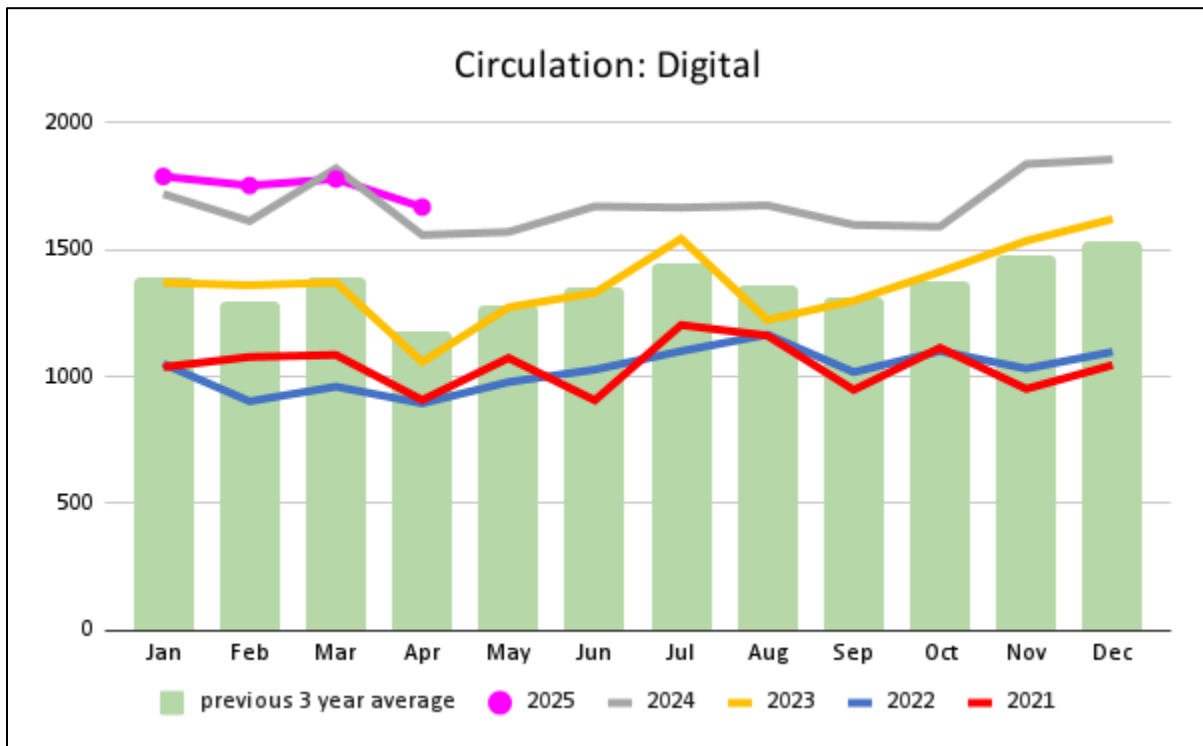
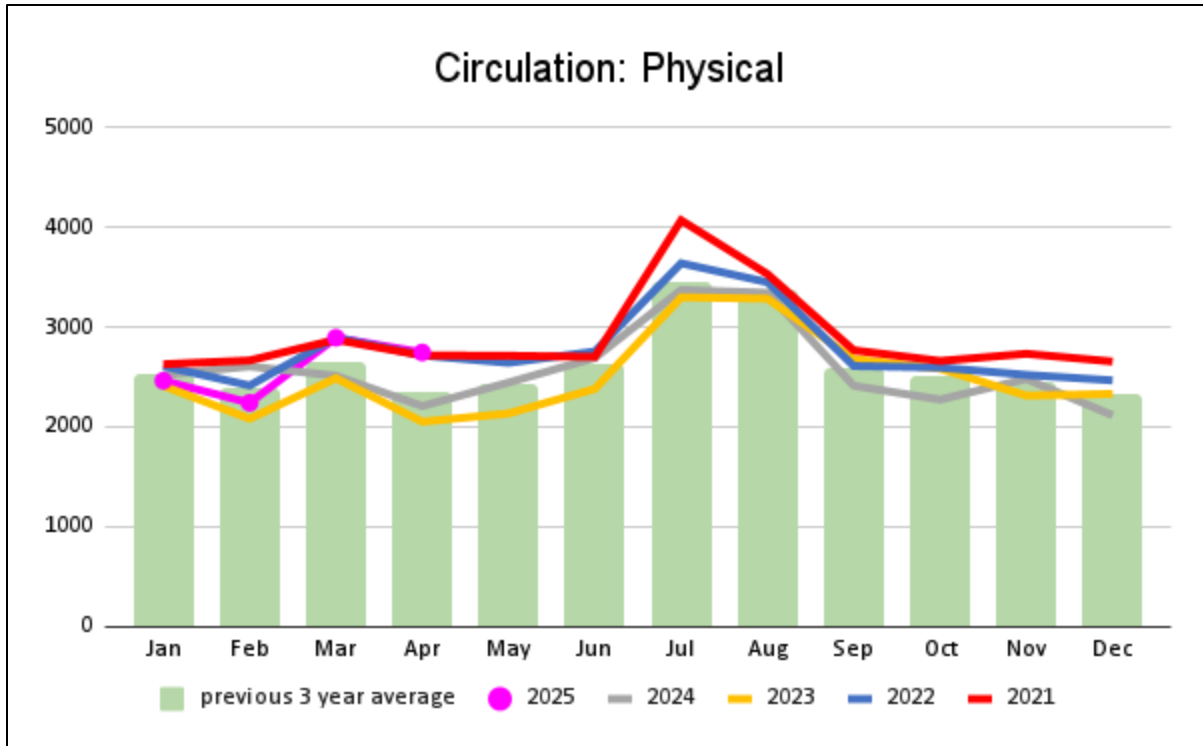
After a jump in overall circulation in March, circulation of library materials dipped somewhat in April, which is the historical pattern. That dip likely is more a reflection of the unusual jump in circulation of physical materials in March than any decline in interest in April. A number of people enjoyed our museum passes in April, with use up 17% in 2025 over last year, mostly due to use this April. Interest in DVD and online streaming videos continue to be a bit less than in recent years. DVDs are not surprising. Online streaming declines could reflect the fact that more people have internet (see also drop in use of hotspots) and subscribe to streaming services, or to the fact that people aren't finding titles of interest in our streaming services. Or people are just watching TV less. We will continue to watch the trend. Print books, on the other hand, continue to be very popular, as do audiobooks, both of which are circulating at higher numbers than last year. Audiobook figures reported are lower than actual usage since we still do not have statistics from Blackstone Unlimited.

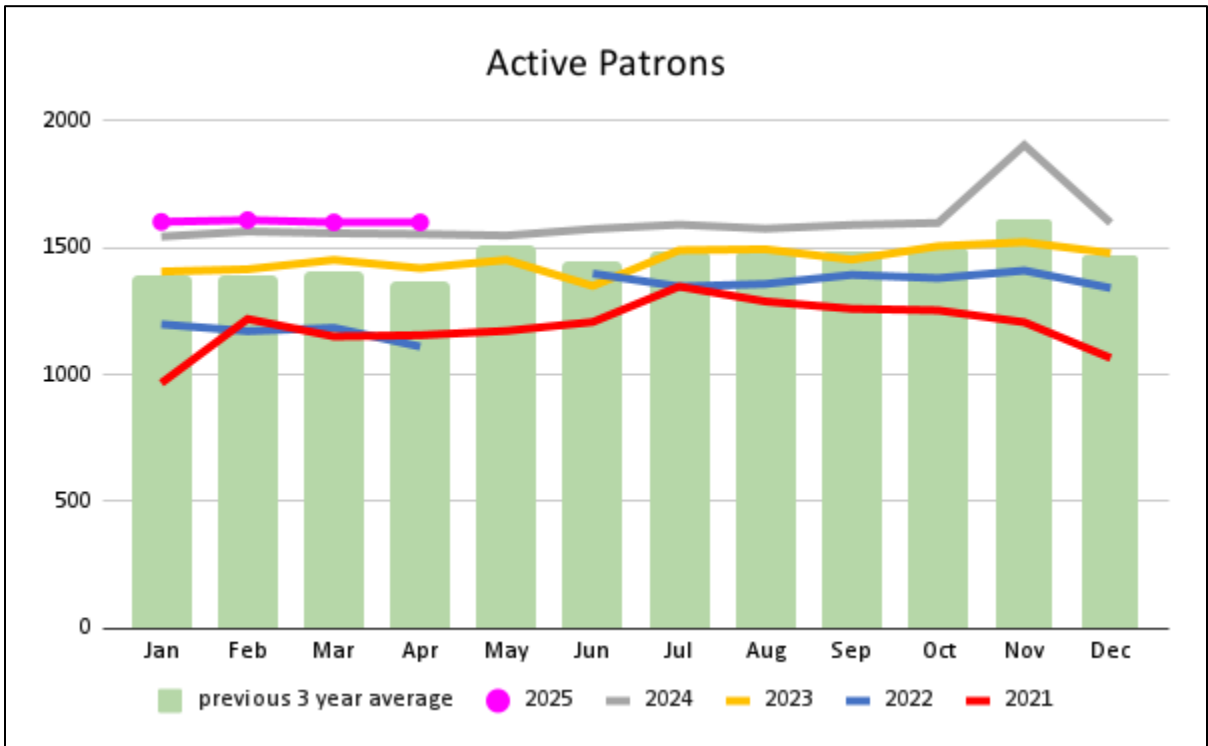
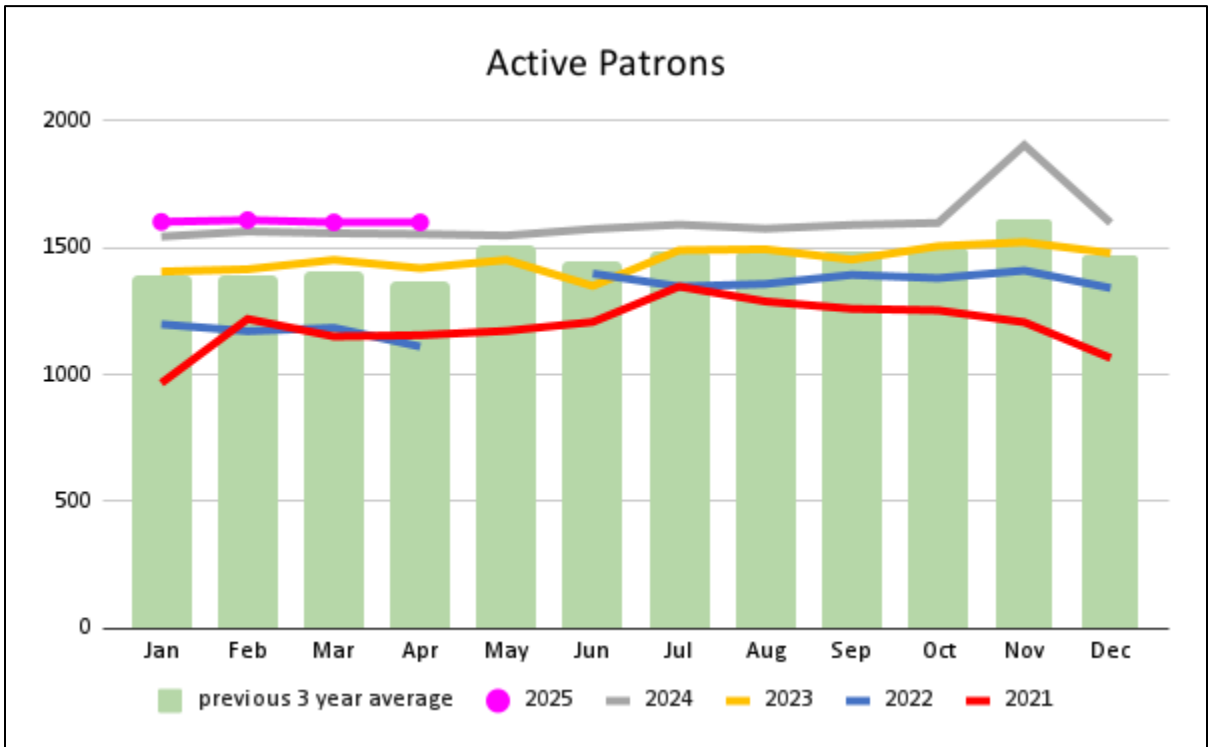
	Apr-25	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1554	1602	1609	1600	1600	ave. 1603	ave. 1381	116%
Patrons (unexpired)	1941	1967	1980	1985	1989	ave. 1980	ave. 1801	110%
New Patrons	21	22	28	23	29	102	83	123%
Traffic Count	2587	2352	1992	2428	2496	9,268	8,739	106%
Computer Use	83	42	44	71	73	230	349	66%
Circulation (physical)	2208	2462	2241	2894	2746	10,343	9,838	105%
Circulation (digital)	1558	1789	1753	1779	1668	6,989	5,225	134%
Museum Passes	17	9	19	8	31	67	53	127%
Wireless access	327	399	369	418	465	1,651	1928	86%
Website sessions	509	2138	1756	2045	2259	8,198	8,187	100%
Number of programs	2224	27	28	26	33	114	104	110%
Program attendance	27	325	329	391	365	1,410	1311	108%
YouTube views	294	269	152	140	134	695	482	144%
Notary	85	15	9	12	11	47	47	100%
Homebound delivery	10	2	0	0	1	3	3	100%
Digital Navigator appts	0	1	0	3	1	5	N/A	

Circulation by Material Type

	Apr-25	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	215	208	206	275	304	993	-17	-2%
videos	222	227	229	239	152	847	-163	-2%
books on CD	27	21	19	23	18	81	-31	-28%
audiobooks	539	634	542	610	587	2373	131	6%
print books	1144	1422	1265	1492	1406	5585	295	6%
e books	566	562	561	522	502	2147	-13	-1%
museum passes	17	11	19	8	31	69	10	17%
hotspots	10	2	5	6	6	19	-21	-53%
camping equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%







Staffing and Professional Development:

- Tammy attended MHLS training, Finance for Directors
- Tammy attended training sponsored by MHLS and others on Understanding the Orders, Agenda, Projects, and Platforms Impacting Libraries

Building and Grounds

- Larkin says will install our event sign on May 22. Have called 811 to have utility lines checked beforehand.
- Leaks have stopped—roof hopefully close to being done.
- Have permit for the generator work and library will close on June 18 to allow for installation of the switch. NYSEG will be shutting off power for the entire day. BCI will also give us a date for trenching work and installation of pad soon. Plan to install generator in July. All paperwork for CREST grant completed and we are waiting for further word on next steps.
- RFQs sent to a number of contractors for the pavilion. One has visited to see electrical and another has requested pictures, which have been sent.
- Still waiting on completion of assembly of storage shed for trash cans—we have someone who will try to do it in the coming weeks.

Grants/Fundraising:

- Received \$500 from Bank of Greene County (plus \$1000 business partner donation) for arts programs.

Staff Also

- Xonda hosted several children's programs during spring break week—egg painting, terrarium building, program on wool and felting with the Greenagers.
- Began composting! Composting bin installed near the sheds. For staff use only.
- Kate has been busy with all things Gala and customizing Roe Jan Library mobile app.
- Robin has begun shifting books to free up space—after discarding many of our books on CD, which no longer circulate much.
- Fran finished plans for successful Volunteer Fair.
- Robin set up our Seed Library.

Columbia County Libraries Association

- Attended Hudson Children's Book Festival—Xondra attended
- Applied to Rheinstrom Hill Family Foundation for funding for NewsBank
- Open seat on the MHLS for a Columbia County representative—nominations should be sent to Tammy by the beginning of June
- Completed a history webinar series with the FDR Presidential Museum and Library

MHLS

- New mobile app launched, customizable by library

- Mid-Hudson Library System road trip to launch June 6, and tied to the app. This initiative encourages community members to visit the 70 library buildings of the member libraries during the program timeframe, from June 6 through October 18, 2025. Each library will have a stamp for the passport, as well as souvenirs and maps.