

Director's Monthly Report

March 2025



Though the beginning of March was a continuation of our long winter, but late March activity in the library began to pick up. Indeed, we had quite a jump in visitation compared to February. This in part was driven by an increase in the number of programs—though our larger programs were online—and by an increase in circulation, including of traditional materials. Still, program attendance at in-person programs seemed low, compared to other years. With Xondra gone, we had fewer children's programs (no Saturday story times) than we normally would have. Staff have been flexible in shifting schedules to make sure the library is well staffed as we search for a new person to fill Xondra's shoes. Building issues continued to be a concern—with the rain and continued roof leaks, in particular.

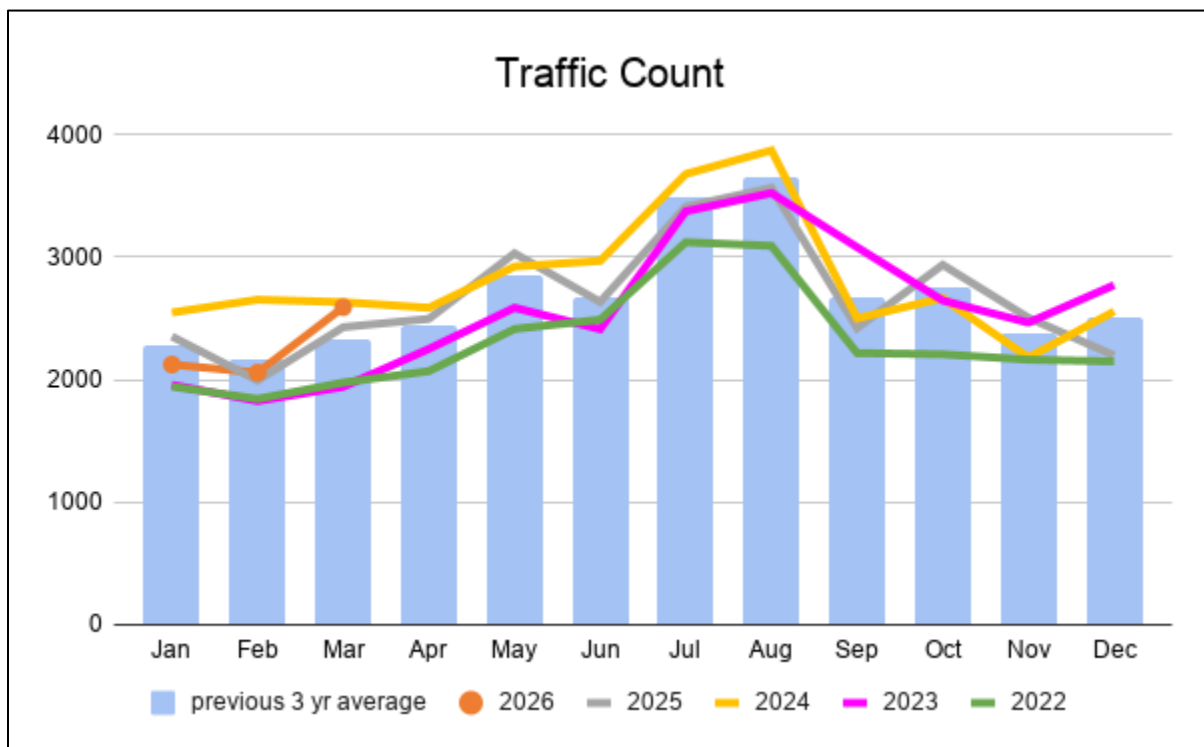
Programs:

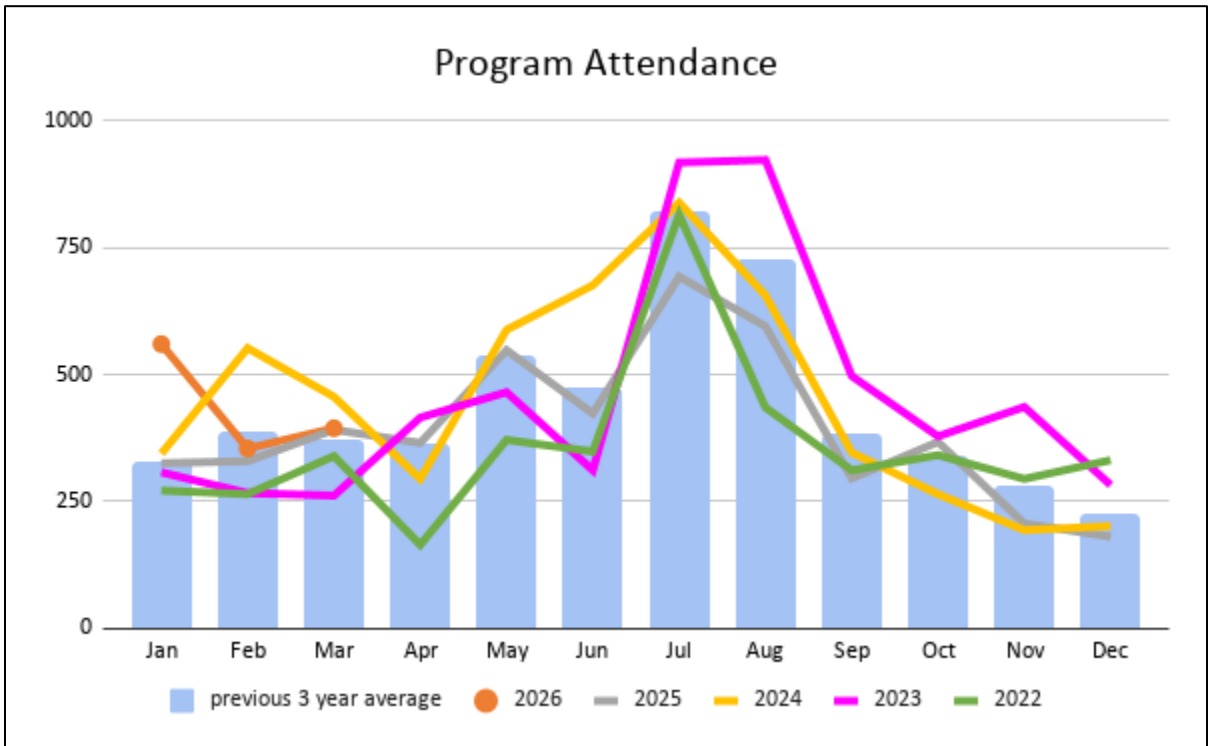
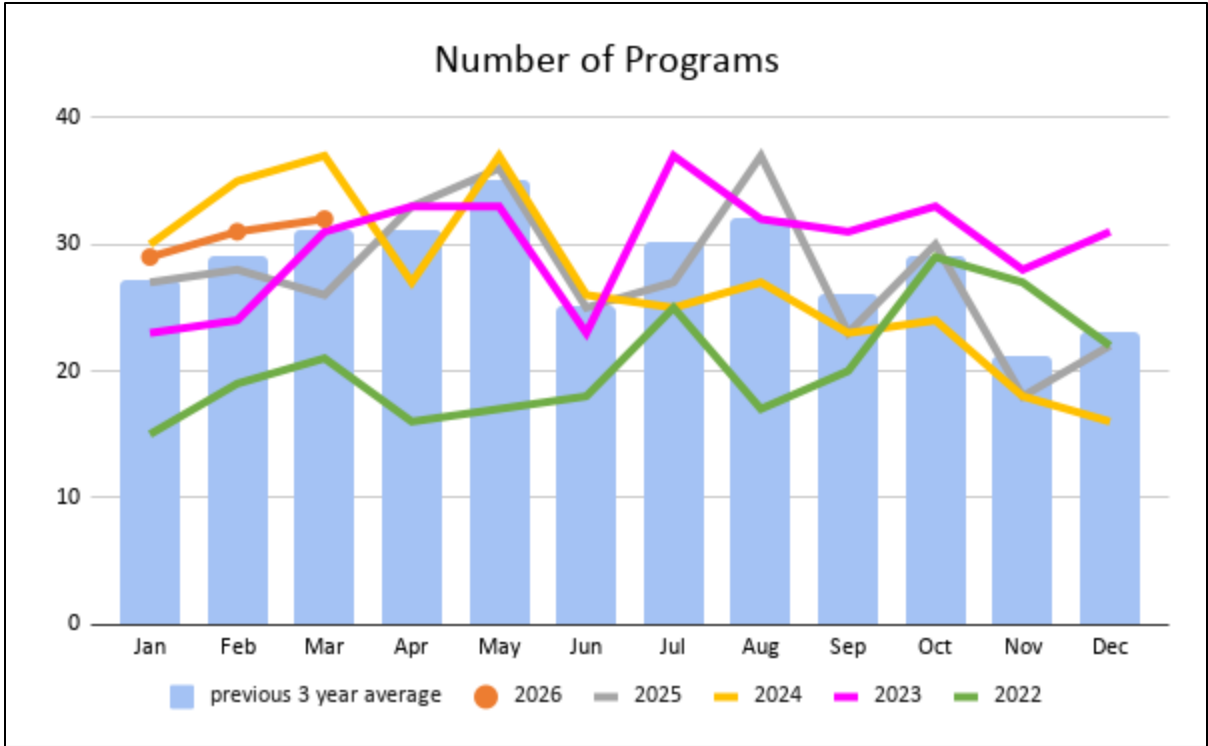
- Tai Chi—average 17 per class
- English Language Learning—average 4 per class
- Community Still Life—average 7 per session
- Drop-in Fly Tying—average 6 per session
- March 18—Read On Fiction Book Club—6 attended
- March 19—Book Marks! Nonfiction Book Club—12 attended
- March 19—Page Turners YA Book Club—4 attended
- March 21—Cookbook Club—2 attended
- March 21—History Webinar: Frances Perkins (with CCLA)—36 attended
- March 25—Adventure Wednesday (Full Circus Farm)—6 kids, 3 adults attended
- March 25—Tech Lab: Internet Security—15 attended
- March 26—Tea Time at the Library—10 attended
- March 30—Webinar: Don't Get Ticked, Columbia County (with CCLA)—21 attended

- April 8—Spring Break: Books and Dance with Beth Jacobs—7 kids, 7 adults
- April 11—Spring Break: Make Your Own Terrarium (for kids)—9 kids, 3 adults
- April 13—History Webinar: FDR and the Four Freedoms (with CCLA)—postponed
- April 15—Read On Fiction Book Club—4 attended
- April 15—Tech Lab: Google Search—12 attended
- April 16—Book Marks! Nonfiction Book Club
- April 16—Page Turners YA Book Club
- April 18—Cookbook Club
- April 19—NLW: Film Screening of *The Librarians*

Upcoming Events:

- April 22—Poetry Writing Workshop (session 1)
- April 22—Tea Time at the Library
- April 23—Volunteer Fair
- April 24—Music Program: Jack Brown Discusses Bach's St. Matthew Passion
- April 29—Adventure Wednesday at Equine Advocates
- April 29—Tech Lab: Library Apps
- April 29—Poetry Writing Workshop (session 2)
- May 1—Poetry Open Mic at the Copake Grange
- May 2—Short Prose Open Mic
- May 6—Poetry Reading: Phyllis Carito
- May 16—Cookbook Club





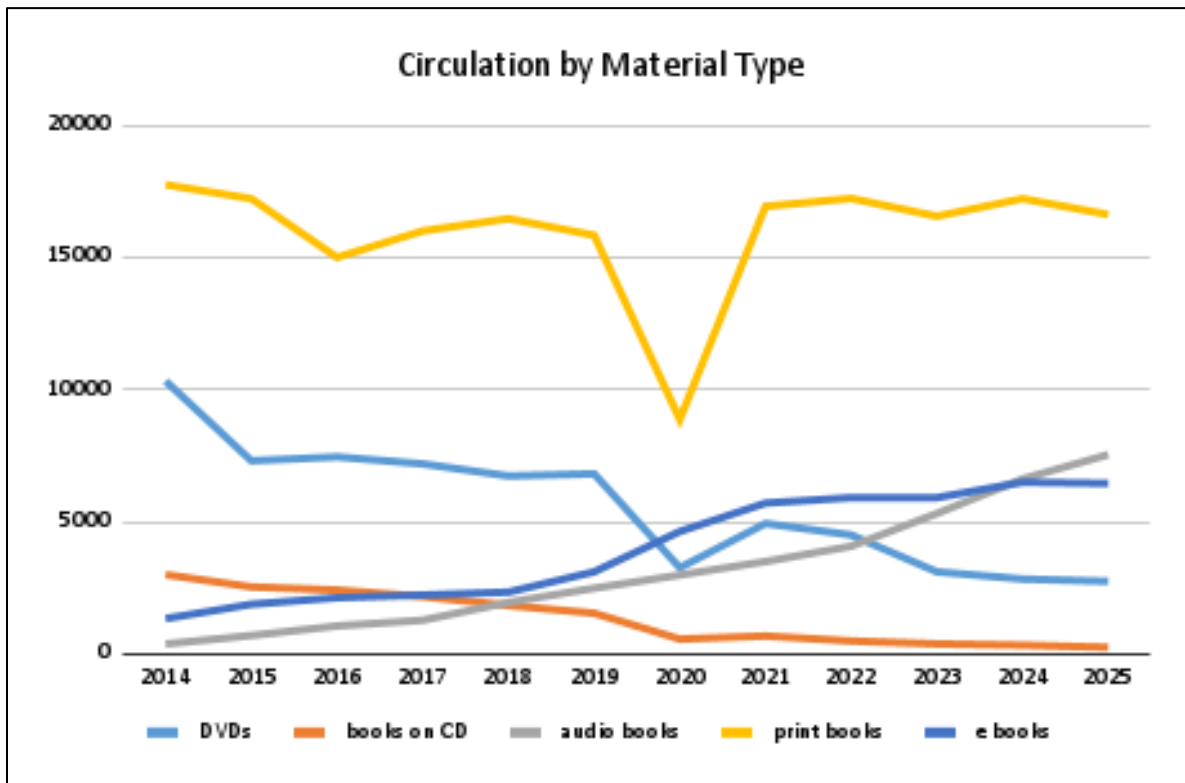
Library Usage:

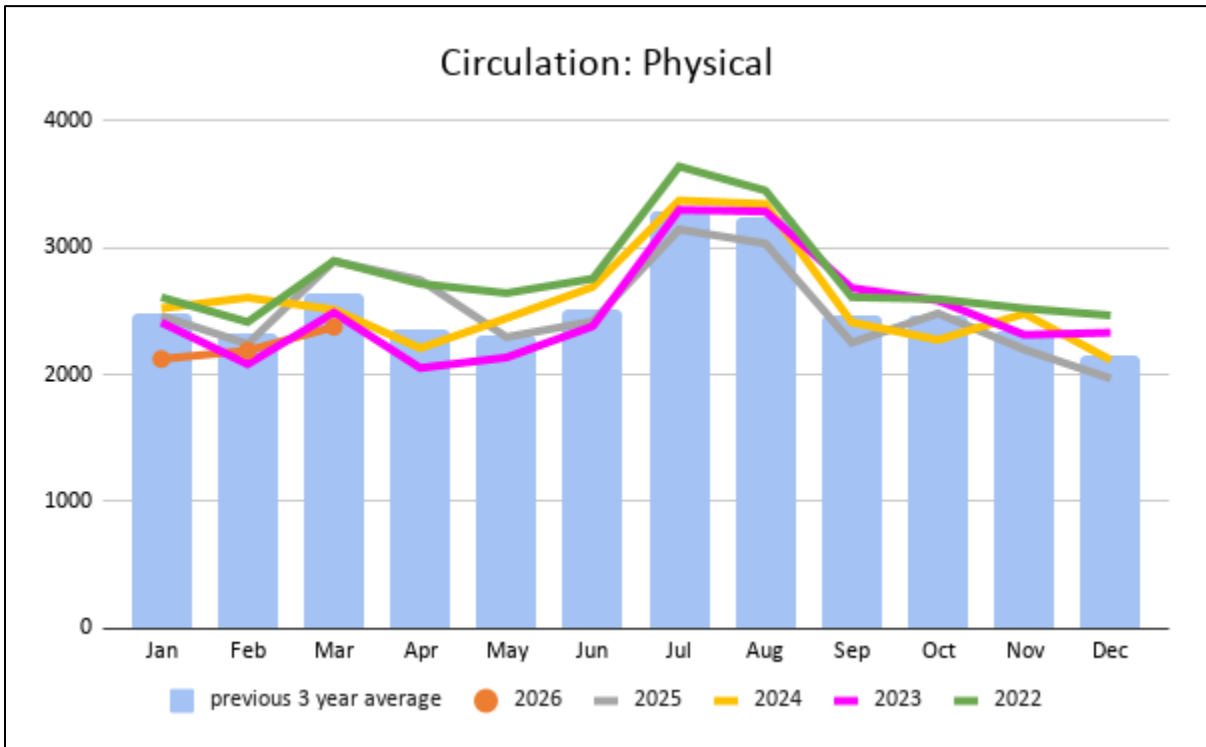
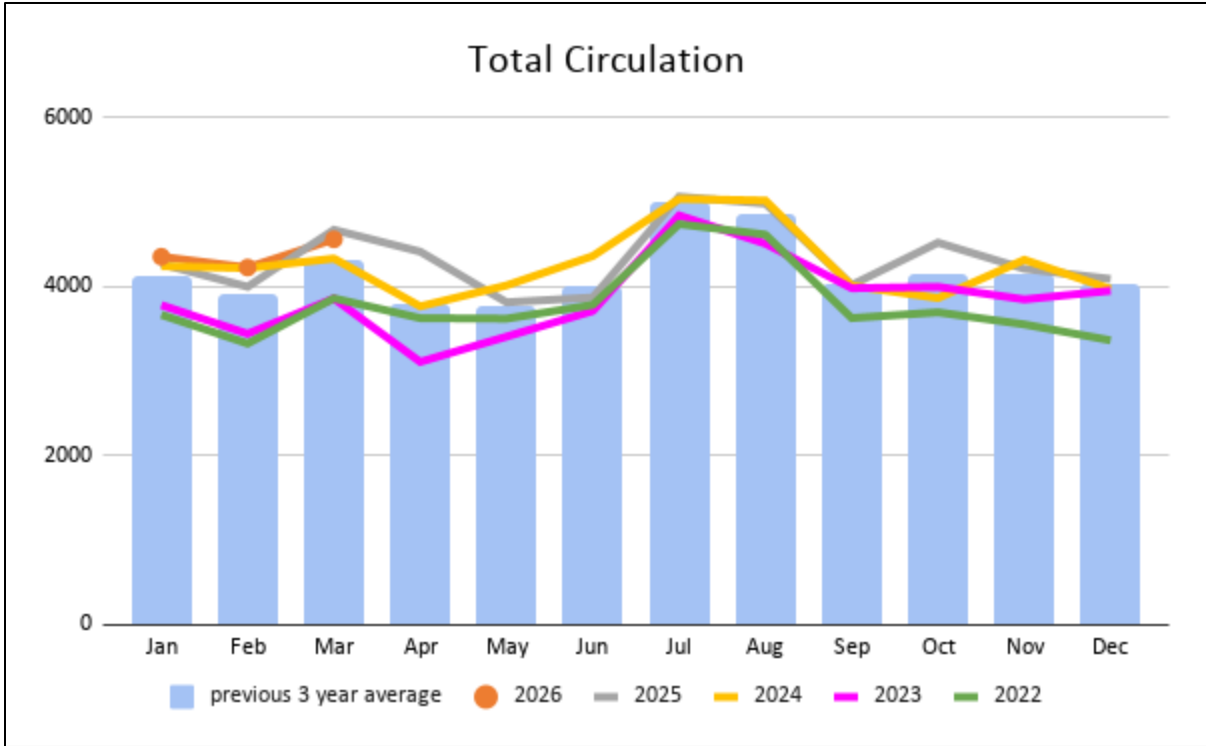
Library usage this March was similar to that of a year ago—similar number of active and new patrons, slightly more people visiting the library, similar numbers of programs and attendance. Circulation of library materials is where we continue to see the greatest shifts. Circulation of digital materials was up 21% over March of last year, while circulation of traditional materials was down 18%. While the surge in demand for e-resources has been led by the demand for audiobooks, more recently, we’re seeing an uptick in the downloading of videos—perhaps a winter/early spring activity. We will see if that holds as the weather improves. Our meeting spaces have been much in demand, and there are more frequent conflicts or inability to accommodate meeting room requests due to that demand.

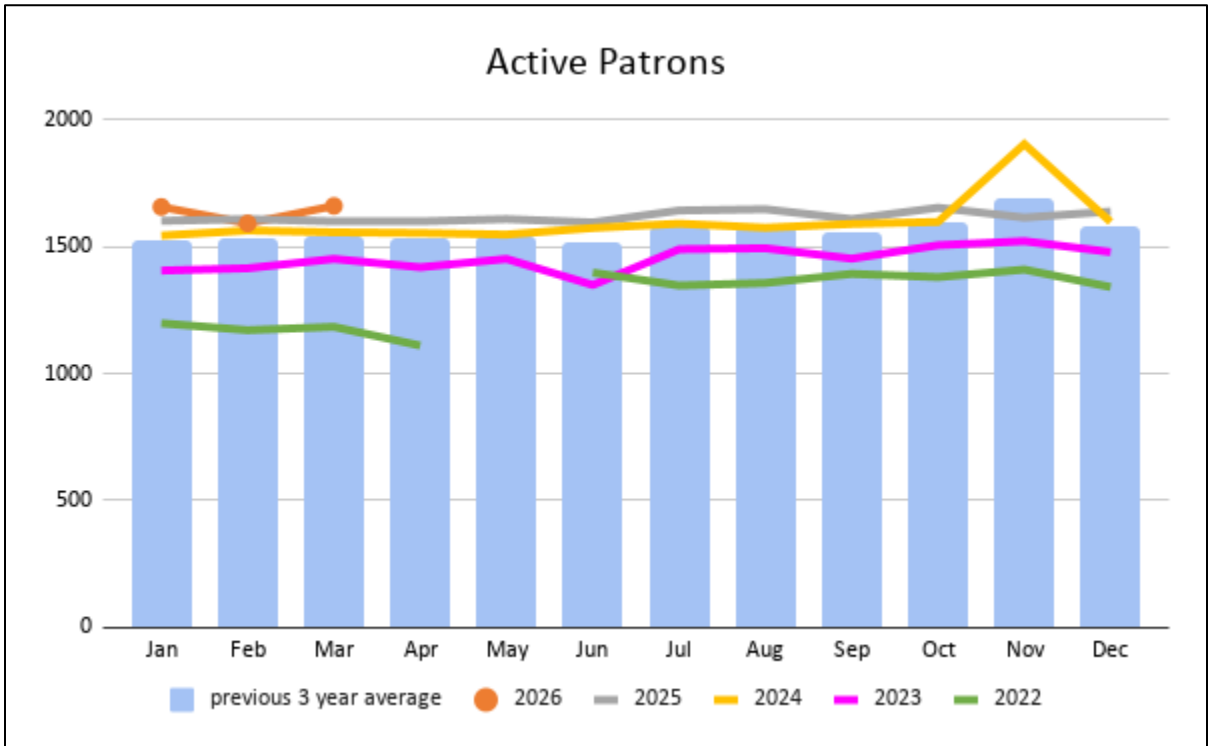
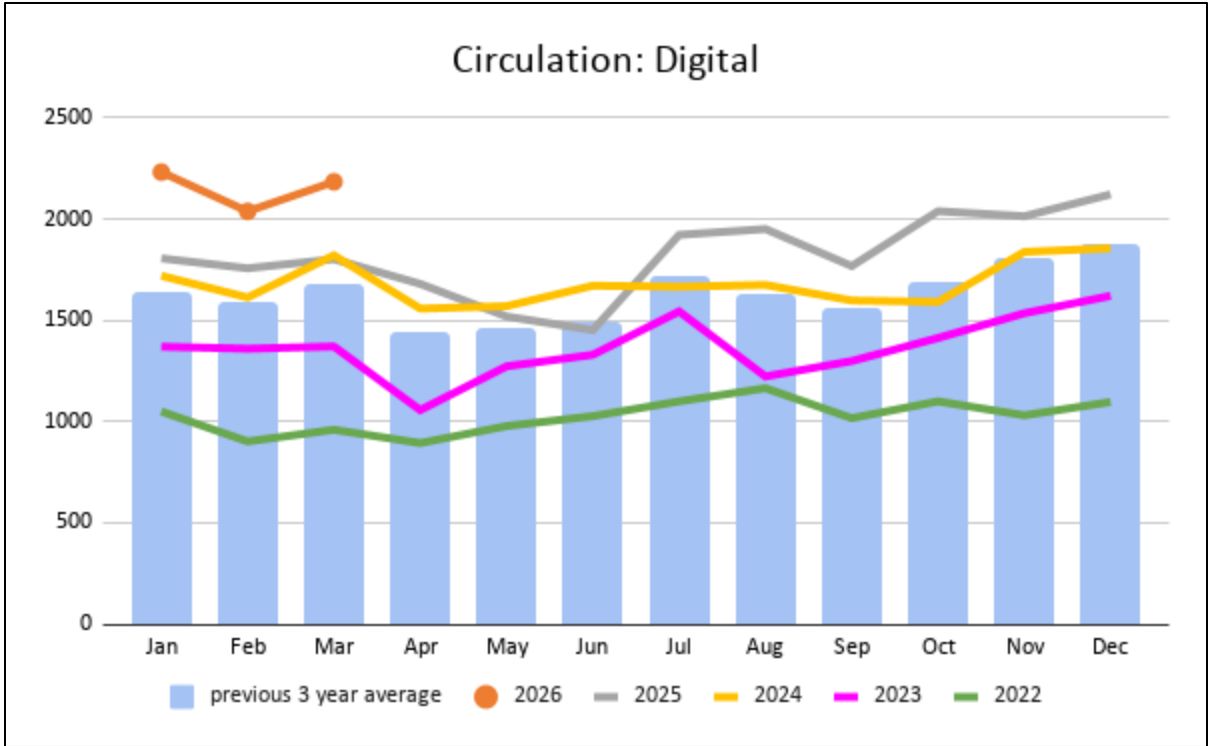
	Mar-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1600	1657	1592	1661	ave. 1637	ave. 1527	107%
Patrons (unexpired)	1985	1967	1982	1998	ave. 1982	ave. 1889	105%
New Patrons	23	18	20	23	61	65	94%
Traffic Count	2428	2122	2056	2591	6,769	6,775	100%
Computer Use	71	62	92	71	225	216	104%
Circulation (physical)	2894	2122	2188	2376	6,686	7,406	90%
Circulation (digital)	1802	2232	2038	2180	6,450	4,973	130%
Museum Passes	8	8	10	6	24	38	63%
Wireless access	418	447	457	477	1,381	1345	103%
Website sessions	2045	2618	1977	2109	6,704	5,924	113%
Number of programs	26	29	31	32	92	87	106%
Program attendance	391	560	354	395	1,309	1077	122%
YouTube views	140	106	96	143	345	501	69%
Notary	12	24	15	15	54	41	132%
Homebound delivery	0	1	0	2	3	2	150%
Digital Navigator appts	3	0	0	1	1	n/a	n/a
Meeting room reservations		6	11	27	44	n/a	n/a

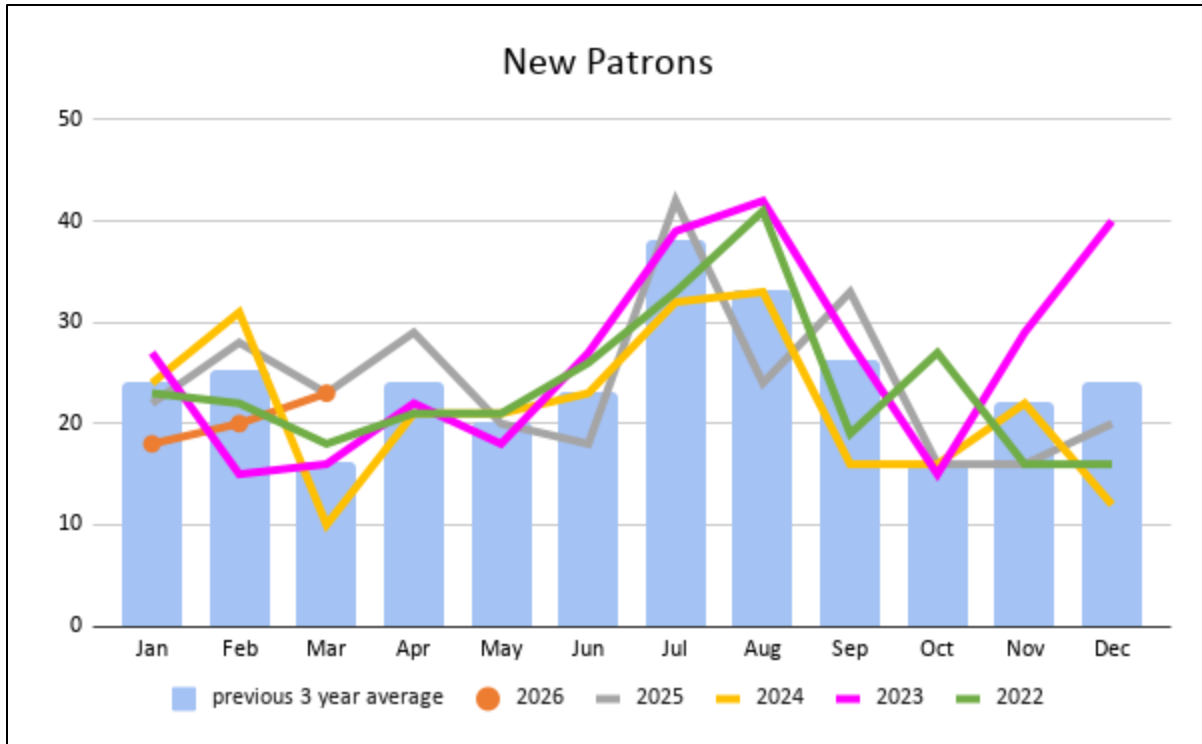
Circulation by Material Type

	Mar-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	275	240	209	215	664	-25	-4%
videos	239	327	338	380	1045	300	40%
books on CD	23	31	14	19	64	1	2%
audiobooks	633	743	613	666	2022	192	10%
print books	1492	1159	1206	1200	3565	-614	-15%
e books	522	625	544	540	1709	64	4%
museum passes	8	8	10	6	24	-14	-37%
hotspots	6	1	1	6	8	-5	-38%
camping equipment	0	1	0	1	2	-2	-100%









Staffing and Professional Development:

- New bookkeeper, Kelly Grimme, settling in.
- Staff has completed annual sexual harassment prevention training
- Tammy took a webinar on effective onboarding
- Kate, Tia, and Tammy interviewed two candidates for the children’s position. Not impressed with either enough to offer permanent position. Considering summer position for one and also exploring other options. Likely will repost.

Building and Grounds

- Jay has replaced the western flat roof and is working on the skylights and dormers to eliminate remaining leaks. Both areas were still leaking after storms in mid-April.
- Tufano began work on repairing the HVAC system, including replacing one heat pump
- Several items remain to be done on the pavilion—outlets installed and fixed, fans made to work, door to be better sealed and aligned, some touch up, plastic removed from roof, and shades installed on west end, and possibly more grading
- Furniture has all been ordered, and Jimmy Germaine volunteer to assemble all the picnic tables and chair and table carts. He also installed the sign honoring Charlotte and will return to assemble the Adirondack chairs once they arrive.
- SunCommon has nearly completed installation—one more step they tell me. I have set up a Clean Energy Account with the IRS so that we can apply for our Direct Pay reimbursement once the project is complete.

- Striping of parking lot has been ordered and should take place soon (if not done by the board meeting)
- Alarm system—replacement of faulty sensor—still needs to be completed
- Kate has begun a list of building maintenance and repair issues that need to be addressed

Other Activities

- Robin cataloged new microfilm of the Columbia Paper. Volunteers Nancy Rutter and Noel Fair have been checking the master films against the hard copy, as required by our state archives grant, before sending the masters to the state archives and submitting the final report to receive the final grant funds (10%)
- Tammy and Kate worked on long-delayed annual report to the state, which has been submitted
- Tammy worked on annual report to the community. Jeanine will design it this week.
- Tia created several new book displays and has been preparing materials for summer reading at the Farmers Market
- Fran is taking over much of our book cataloging
- Fran organized another volunteer fair, to be held April 25

Grants/Fundraising:

- Received notice of grant of \$7500 from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for general operating support
- Received notice of grant of \$1000 from Bank of Greene County for support for e-resources, and \$1000 business partnership
- Received notice from CREATE that we did not receive funding for writing workshops and are on the waiting list for funding for the music programs. We should receive a final decision this week.
- Applied to Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation for funding for programs and materials (\$25,000 ask)
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Columbia County Libraries Association

- CCLA did not receive funding from Berkshire Taconic Foundation and received notice that will get \$100 from the Bank of Greene County for the museum pass program
- CCLA distributed funds to libraries for general support (\$1200) and to support Overdrive spending (\$1354)
- CCLA will attend the Hudson Children's Book Festival on Saturday, May 3, 10-3, and we are looking for volunteers to help staff our table.

MHLS

- Revising Free Direct Access Plan (Tammy is on the committee). Main issue remaining is setting thresholds that can trigger action against municipalities or other areas not contributing to local libraries at a rate in keeping with usage.

- MHLS will be running new reports of Overdrive spending and circulation this month and sharing that information with individual libraries to help them keep on track with their spending on this shared collection.
- MHLS is beginning a “ptype” clean-up project both to allow libraries to restrict or open access to resources to areas outside their chartered service area (creating ptypes for the many unserved areas) and allowing for better data on usage by residents of different areas. This will be a big project for us, since we are boarded by a number of unserved areas.
- MHLS is still waiting for the state budget to be passed.