

Director's Monthly Report

April 2025



April is a strange month. While we generally are a bit busier in the winter as snow birds come back from the south and as the days get longer, it is still slow compared to the busy summer season. While traffic in the library and program attendance are pretty similar in March and April—and this year was not exception—circulation typically dips a bit, as it did again this year. I am not sure why. Perhaps it is the nicer days that encourage people to read less and get outside more. Highlights of this April included a couple of spring break programs (a books and dance program and a terrarium-making workshop for kids), a successful volunteer fair, a film screening of *The Librarians* for National Library Week, and our first music program of the year, a lecture, with music, by Jack Brown on Bach's St. Matthew Passion. For National Poetry Month we shared poetry prompts, held poetry writing workshops, and partnered with the Grange on a Poetry Open Mic.

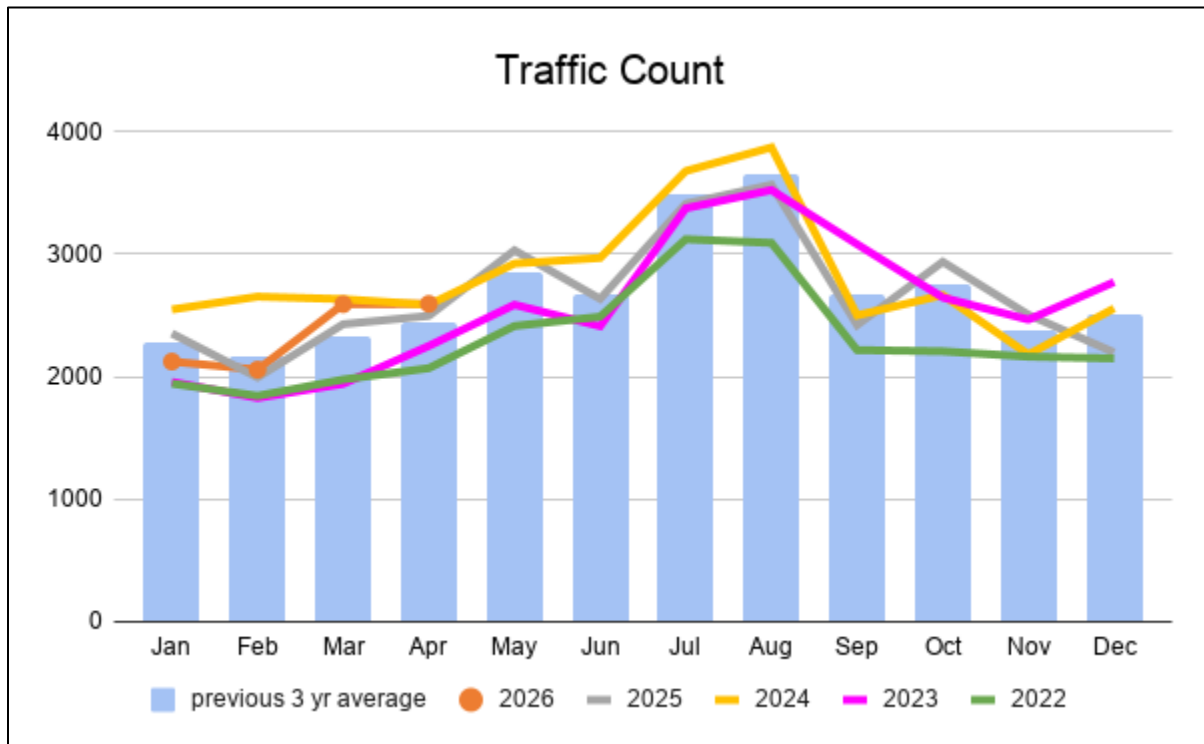
Programs:

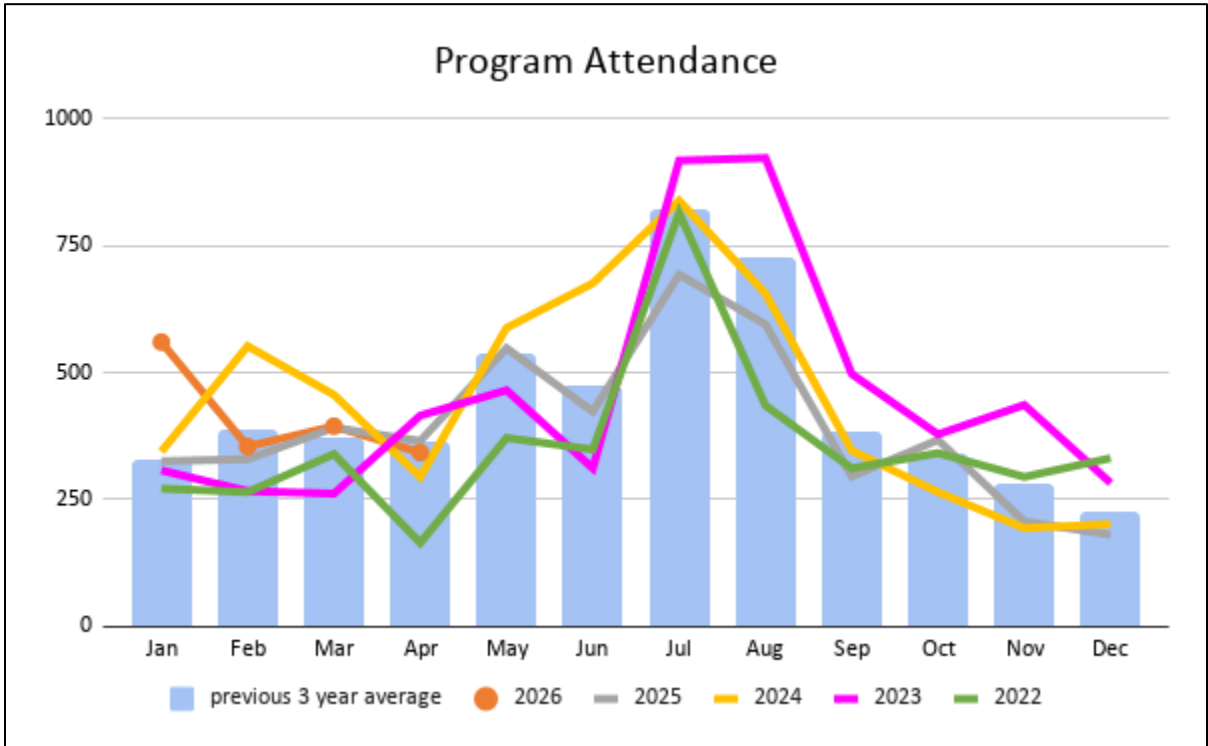
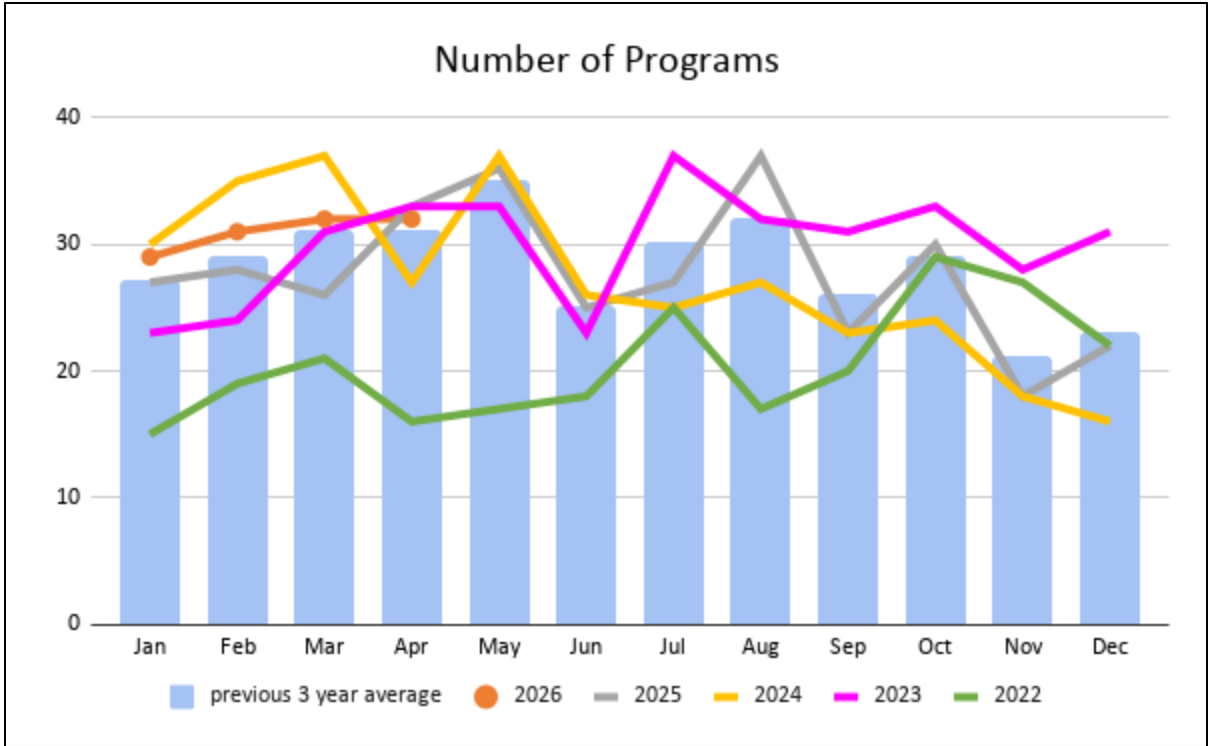
- Tai Chi—average 17 per class
- English Language Learning—average 3 per class
- Community Still Life—average 6 per session
- Drop-in Fly Tying—average 5 per session
- April 22—Poetry Writing Workshop (session 1)—4 attended
- April 22—Tea Time at the Library—5 attended
- April 23—Volunteer Fair—about 40 attended (including participants)
- April 26—Music Program: Jack Brown Discusses Bach's St. Matthew Passion—23 attended
- April 29—Adventure Wednesday at Equine Advocates—20 kids, 7 adults
- April 29—Poetry Writing Workshop (session 2)—3 attended
- May 1—Poetry Open Mic at the Copake Grange—30 attended
- May 2—Short Prose Open Mic—25 attended

- May 6—Poetry Reading: Phyllis Carito—16 attended (7 in person, 9 online)
- May 9—Pavilion Ribbon Cutting—about 50 attended
- May 13—Memoir Writing Workshop (session 1)—6 attended
- May 16—Nancy Rutter Art Opening

Upcoming Events:

- May 20—Free Breathing, Meditation, and Relaxation Class (weekly, beginning May 20)
- May 20—Read On Fiction Book Club
- May 21—Book Marks Nonfiction Book Club
- May 21—Cookbook Club
- May 24—Concert: Luke Franco Trio
- May 27—Memoir Writing Workshop (session 2)
- May 28—Sen. Michelle Hinchey Mobile Office Hours
- May 28—Tea Time at the Library
- June 3—Tech Lab: Library Apps (with CCLA)
- June 4—Webinar: Wartime Refugee Crisis in the Hudson Valley, 1754-1763 (with CCLA)
- June 9—Bridge (first of weekly Bridge players meetings)
- June 10—Adventure Wednesday at Blue Riders Farm





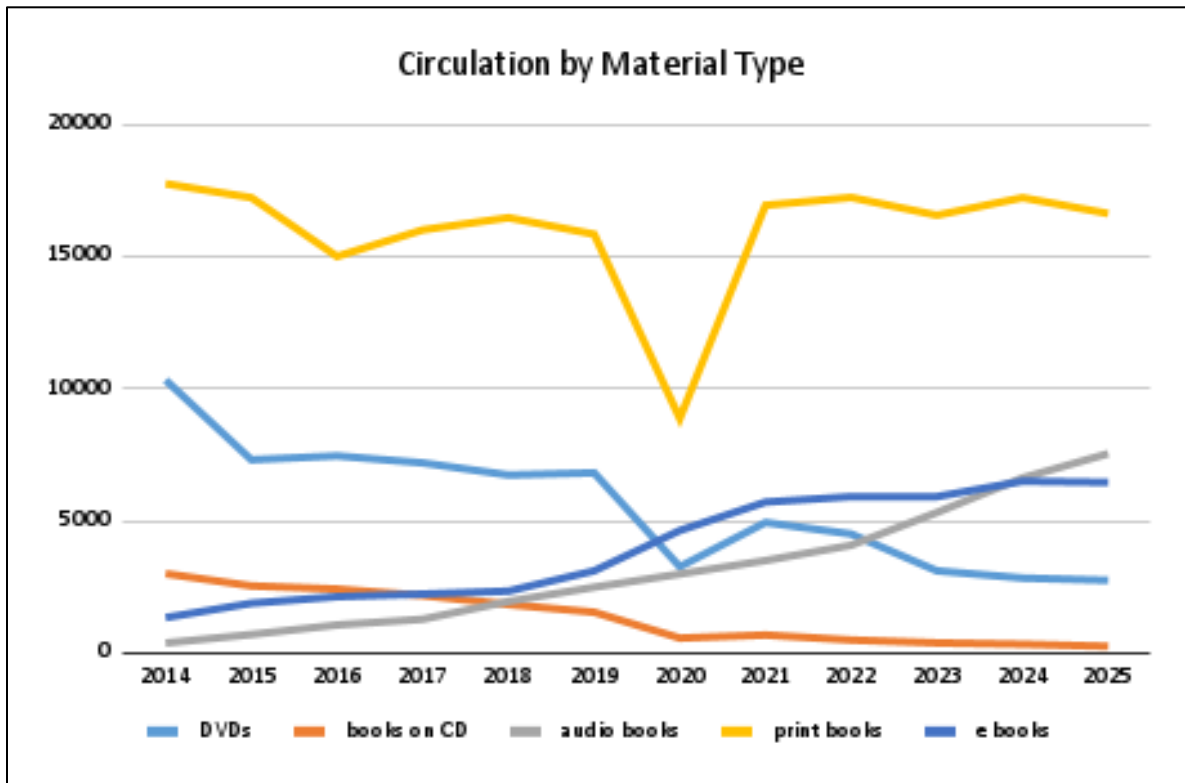
Library Usage:

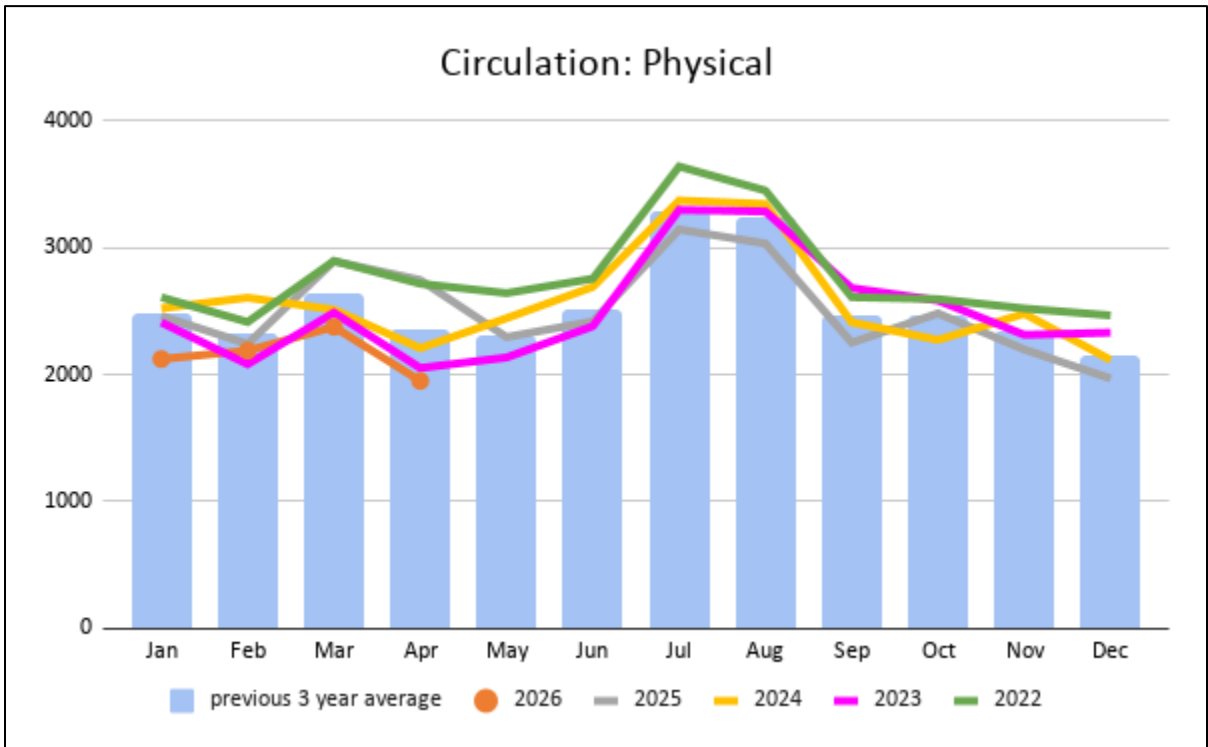
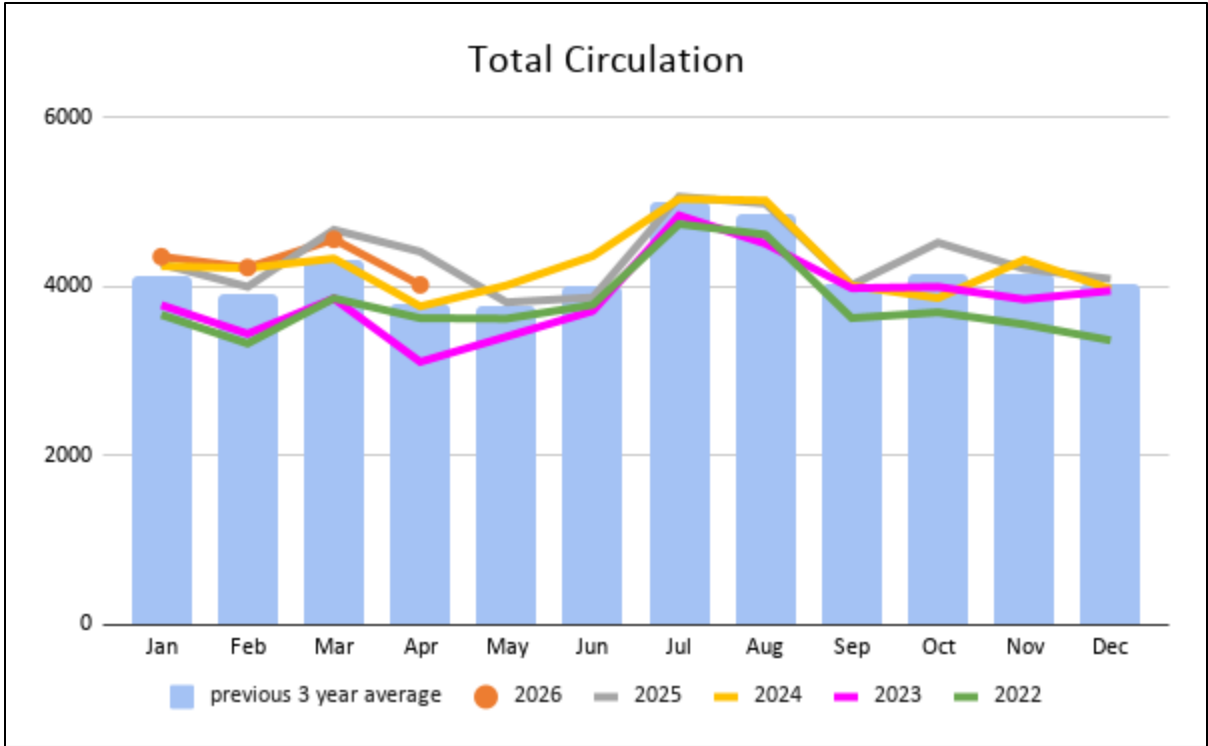
Library usage this April was similar to that of a year ago and similar to March of this year. Circulation of library materials is where we continue to see the greatest shifts. Circulation of digital materials was up 21% over April of last year (we saw the same percentage increase in March 2026 over March 2025), while circulation of traditional materials was down 22% (while in March the change was 18%). As in other years, April circulation was lower than that in March. And this year it was lower than last year, while during the winter it 2026 circulation was slightly higher than in 2025. 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. That was try last month and continued into April. Our meeting spaces and notary service have been much in demand. With Kate’s departure, Fran will have her hands full keeping up with notary requests.

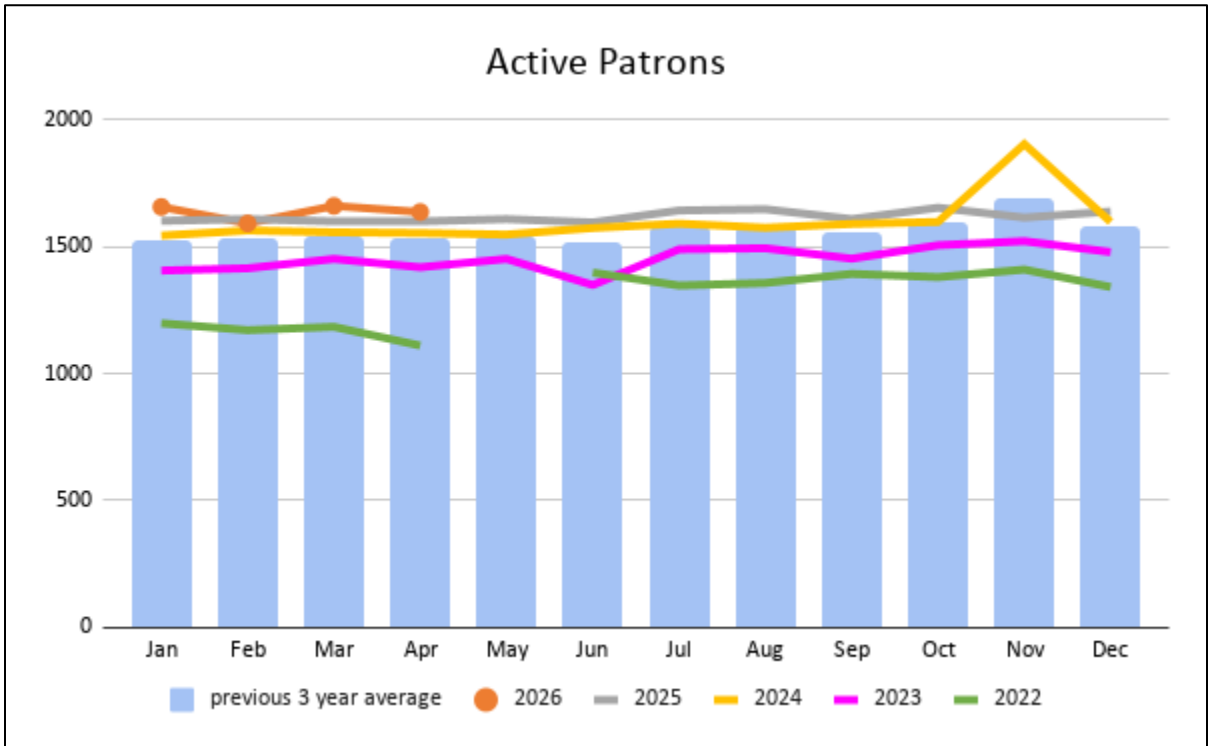
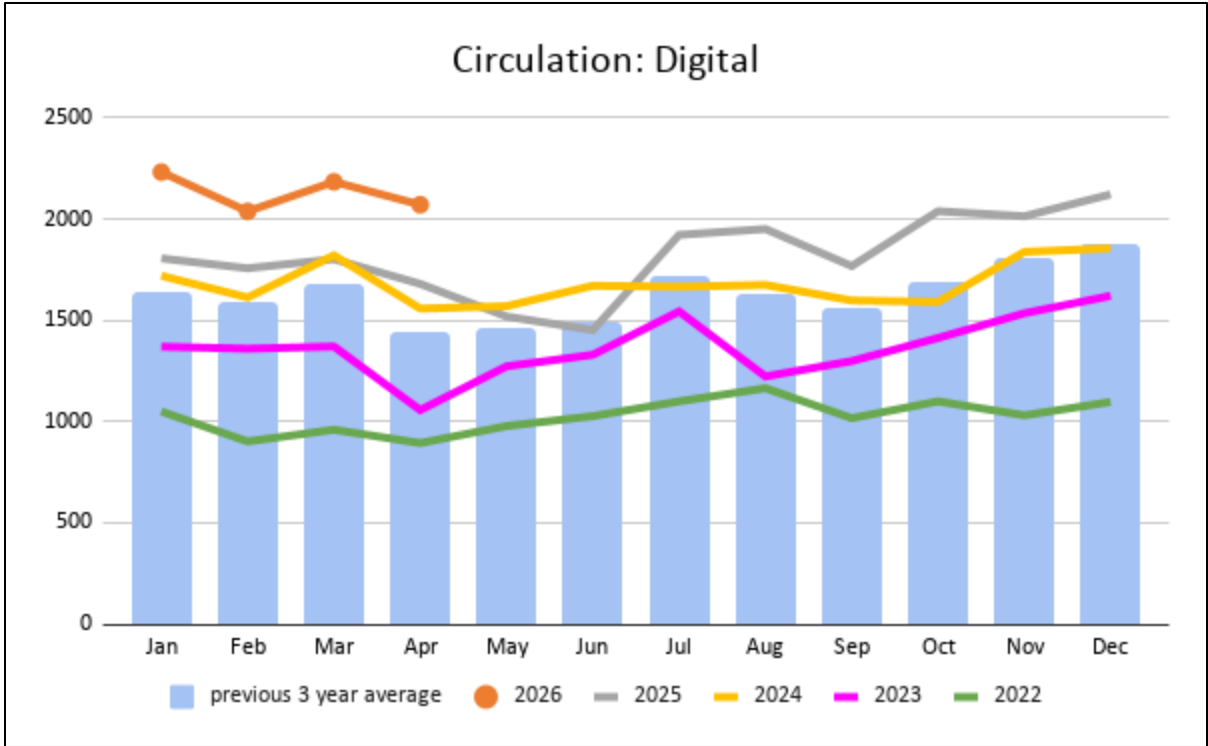
	Apr-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1600	1657	1592	1661	1637	ave. 1637	1527	107%
Patrons (unexpired)	1989	1967	1982	1998	2018	ave. 1991	1894	105%
New Patrons	29	18	20	23	23	84	89	94%
Traffic Count	2496	2122	2056	2591	2594	9,363	9,220	102%
Computer Use	73	62	92	71	55	280	291	96%
Circulation (physical)	2746	2122	2188	2376	1949	8,635	8,825	98%
Circulation (digital)	1680	2232	2038	2180	2071	8,521	6,305	135%
Museum Passes	31	8	10	6	7	31	60	52%
Wireless access	465	447	457	477	482	1,863	1866	100%
Website sessions	2259	2618	1977	2109	2032	8,736	8,090	108%
Number of programs	33	29	31	32	32	124	118	105%
Program attendance	365	560	354	395	342	1,651	1435	115%
YouTube views	134	106	96	143	142	487	596	82%
Notary	11	24	15	15	11	65	51	127%
Homebound delivery	1	1	0	2	0	3	3	100%
Digital Navigator appts	1	0	0	1	1	2	n/a	
Meeting room reservations	n/a	6	11	27	19	63	n/a	

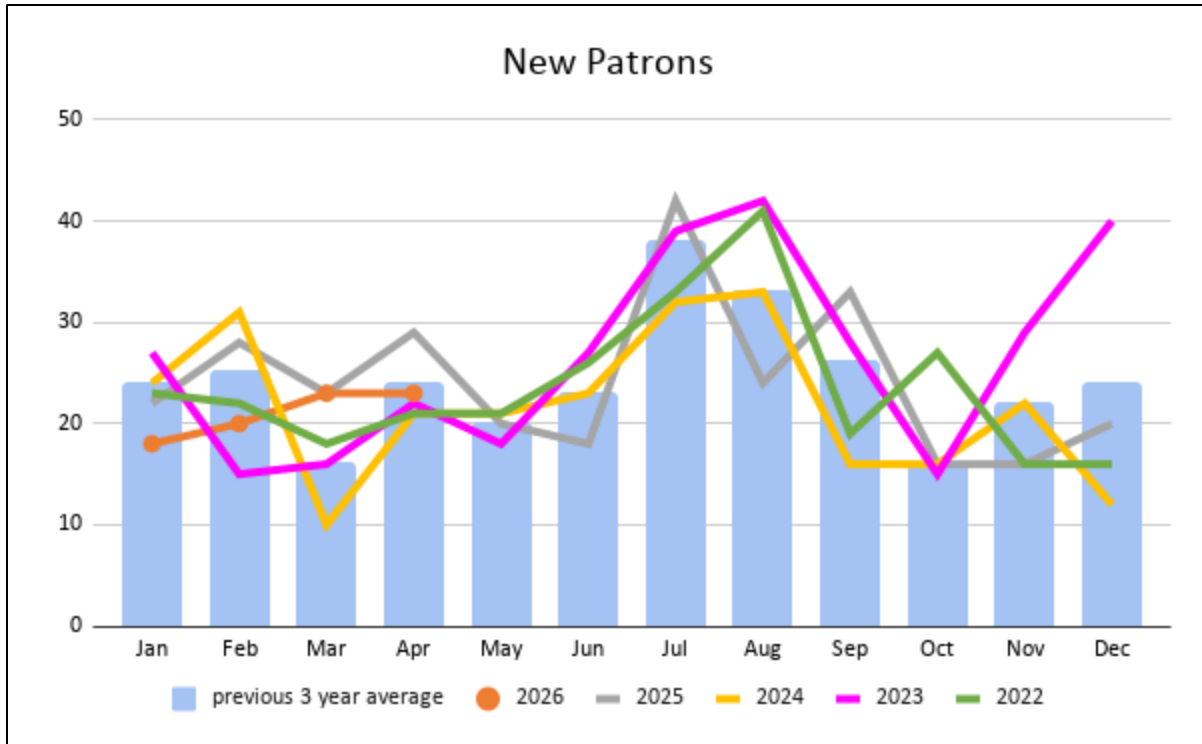
Circulation by Material Type

	Apr-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	304	240	209	215	170	834	-159	-16%
videos	152	327	338	380	316	1361	464	52%
books on CD	18	31	14	19	26	90	9	11%
audiobooks	599	743	613	666	713	2735	306	13%
print books	1406	1159	1206	1200	1027	4592	-993	-18%
e books	502	625	544	540	531	2240	93	4%
museum passes	31	8	10	6	7	31	-38	-55%
hotspots	6	1	1	6	6	14	-5	-26%
camping equipment	0	1	0	1	2	4	4	









Staffing and Professional Development:

- New children's/youth services associate Michael Nouri beginning with two Saturdays in May (May 23 and 30) and then regular hours beginning June 20.
- Kate has accepted a position as Assistant Director at the Hudson Area Library. Her last day will be May 30.
- Job posting for new Programming Manager posted and have 13 candidates to date, and 1 interview scheduled for June 20. More will be scheduled in early June.
- Tammy took a webinar Selection to Separation: Hiring and Parting Ways Respectfully
- Tammy will be on vacation from May 21 through June 1. Kate is in charge while Tammy is away.

Building and Grounds

- Jay has finished work on both the west end and on the skylights and dormers. We have had no leaks for a few storms.
- On the pavilion, outlets were installed and fixed, plastic was removed from roof, and lights in the shed were moved. Much remains to be done, including installing gutters (which requires moving of solar panel conduit by SunCommon), grading and seeding, sealing of the shed, realigning of one shed door, installing shades at the west end, some touch up painting, and perhaps adding blue stone around pillars and leveling the floor with epoxy. We are awaiting quotes on some of these items.
- All of the furniture has arrived and all has been assembled except for 4 Adirondack chairs. Jim Germaine will put them together.

- Alarm cleaning and repair has been completed.
- We received a quote for installing security cameras on the pavilion and front door.
- We have ordered new small blinds for the community room.

Other Activities

- Checking of Columbia Paper microfilm revealed blurred pages on many of the reels. Those reels are being refilmed (for some, papers were recycled, so we had to get PDFs from the Columbia Paper). We should receive the new reels by the first of June, which will then need to be checked before the final report can be submitted to the state to get the remaining grant funds. Deadline in June 30.
- Annual report to the community was completed.

Grants/Fundraising:

- Received \$7500 from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for general operating support
- Received notice from CREATE that we made it off the waiting list and will receive \$5000 for our music programs
- Kate applied to the Ackerman Foundation for funds to continue ESL program (\$5000)

Columbia County Libraries Association

- Tammy applied to the Ackerman Foundation for funds to continue our countywide subscription to ReciteMe (accessibility software)
- Tammy applied to Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation for funds to continue our countywide subscription to NewsBank (\$7500)
- CCLA attended the Hudson Children's Book Festival on Saturday, May 3.
- Joint programs include two final Tech Labs, a program in June on the refugee crisis in the Hudson Valley during the French and Indian War, a genealogy webinar on using early American, and especially Revolutionary War-era, documents, as well as another FDR series in the fall.

MHLS

- Continuing to revise the Free Direct Access Plan (Tammy is on the committee). Library boards will be asked to vote on it this summer.
- MHLS has run new reports of Overdrive spending and circulation and will be sharing them with individual libraries to help them keep on track with their spending on this shared collection. I have seen the report, and for the first time, we are falling behind a bit in our spending, despite increasing purchasing. Demand means we will need to purchase and spend even more.
- MHLS is still waiting for the state budget to be passed.
- MHLS will be scheduling in-person trustee training in each county. Date and topic TBD, though policies and open meeting law (and Robert's Rules) are possible topics.