

Director's Monthly Report

May 2025



May is a transition month, between spring and summer, and that was reflected in our programs. The month started out with a couple of open mic nights and the last of our FDR webinars for the season and ended with our first concert with the Luke Franco Trio, and the beginning of our Farm Market Kids summer programs. In between we had a well-attended art opening for Nancy Rutter's exhibit, a ribbon cutting for our new pavilion, as well as our usual monthly and weekly programs. While we held fewer overall programs than in April (or in a typical May), program attendance was up, largely due to the very successful concert and art opening. The month was also dominated by building and grounds issues, from completion—nearly—of the pavilion to landscaping. For staff, it also was a month of thinking about our future staffing. And it was our last month with Kate, who completed her time here at the end of May.

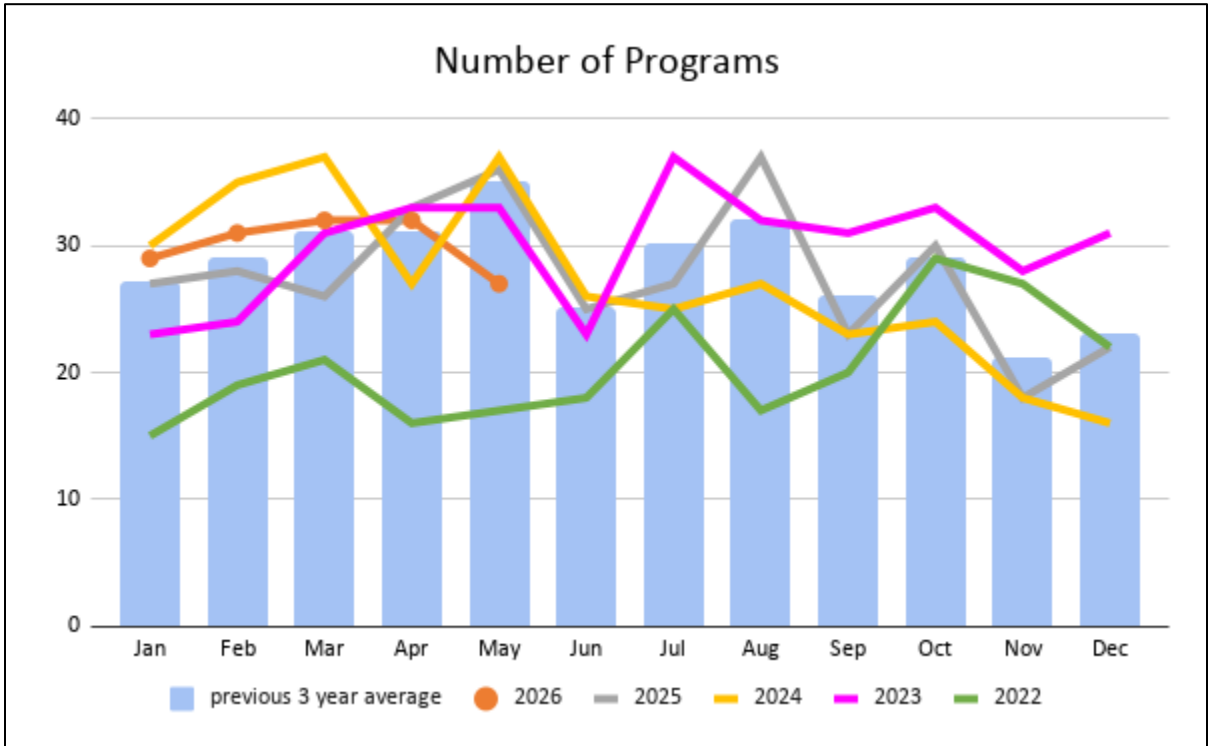
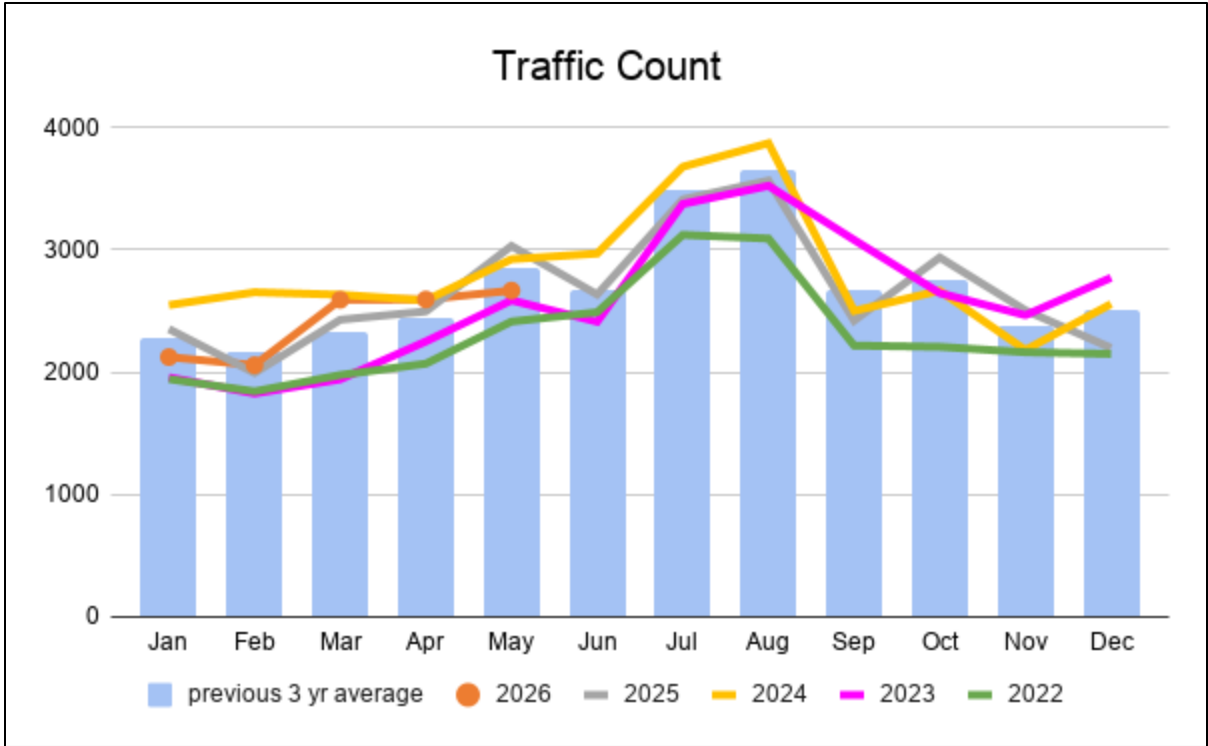
Programs:

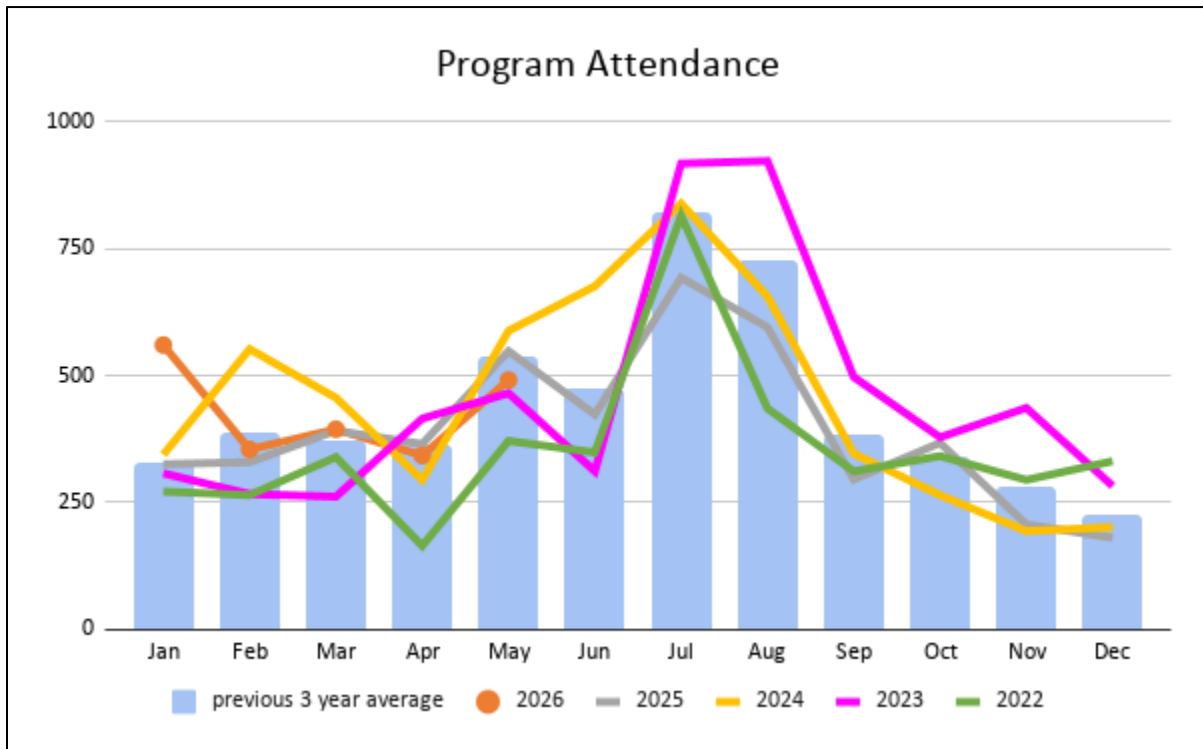
- Tai Chi—average 20 per class
- English Language Learning—average 5 per class
- Community Still Life—average 8 per session
- Drop-in Fly Tying—average 4 per session

- May 20—Free Breathing, Meditation, and Relaxation Class (weekly, beginning May 20)
- May 20—Read On Fiction Book Club—6 attended
- May 21—Book Marks Nonfiction Book Club—12 attended
- May 24—Concert: Luke Franco Trio—95 attended
- May 27—Memoir Writing Workshop (session 2)—8 attended
- May 28—Sen. Michelle Hinchey Mobile Office Hours
- May 28—Tea Time at the Library—6 attended
- June 3—Tech Lab: Library Apps (with CCLA)—15 attended
- June 4—Webinar: Wartime Refugee Crisis in the Hudson Valley, 1754-1763 (with CCLA)—45 attended
- June 10—Adventure Wednesday at Blue Riders Farm

Upcoming Events:

- June 17—Read On! Fiction Book Club
- June 18—Book Marks Nonfiction Book Club
- June 18—Page Turners YA Book Club
- June 19—CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH
- June 24—Tech Lab: Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence): What It Is and How to Use It
- June 25—Tea Time at the Library
- June 27—Summer Reading Kick-off with Tom Sieling
- June 28—Concert in the Pavilion: Eagles Stage Band
- July 4—CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY
- July 11—Party at the Pavilion
- July 12—Author Talk: Deborah K. Shepherd, *An Old Man's Darling*
- July 15—Read On! Fiction Book Club
- July 16—Birds of Prey Camp Program
- July 16—Book Marks Nonfiction Book Club
- July 17—Page Turners YA Book Club





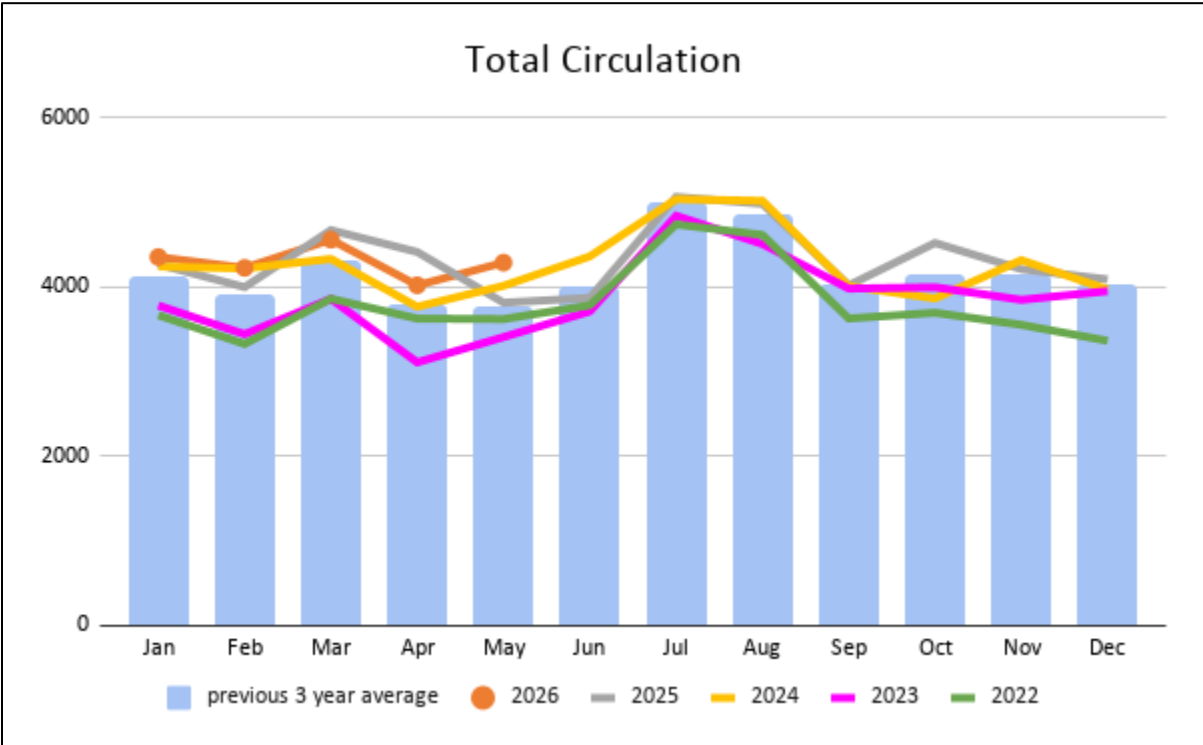
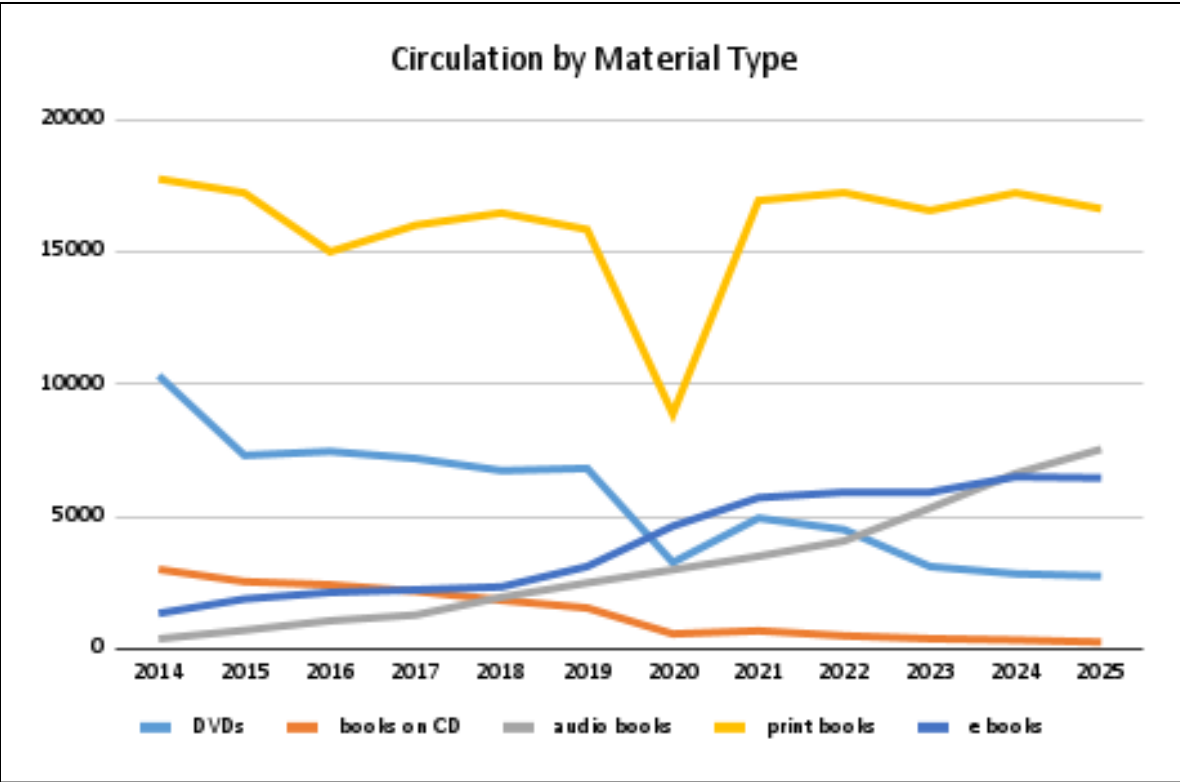
Library Usage:

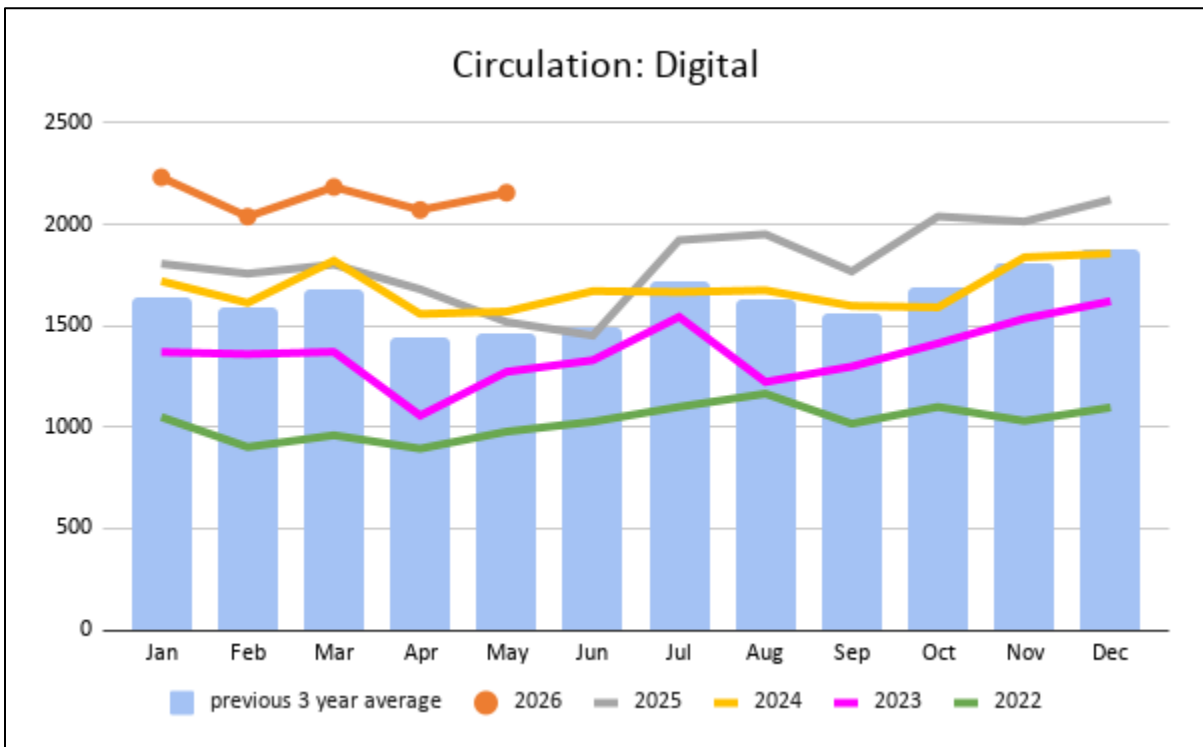
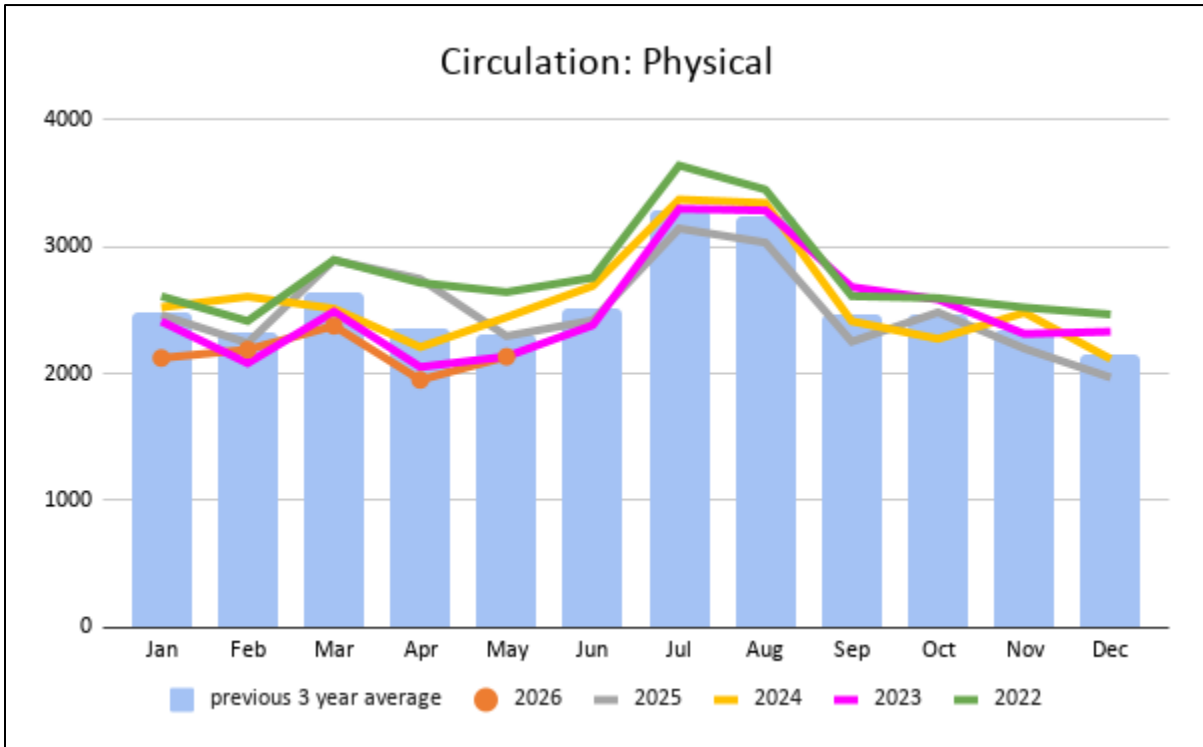
The increased usage of digital materials continues to drive circulation. This May, our total circulation was higher than in any recent previous May, perhaps than any previous May, and that is entirely due to digital checkouts. In comparing May 2025 to 2026, our digital circulation was up 42%. Year to date, it is up 25%. Interesting, while last year audiobooks seemed to be the hot new thing that really saw usage explode, this year streaming video is leading the growth. Comparing May 2025 to May 2026, streaming video checkouts were up 49%, ebooks downloads up 22%, and audiobook downloads up 13%. Year to date, video usage is up 51% over 2025, ebooks 7%, and audiobooks 13%. Staff spend increasing amounts of time helping patrons learn how to use the various e-resources apps. As more people come to rely on e-resources, there is less need to visit the library, and we see that in our traffic count. Still, people do enjoy coming to the library for programs, including those that allow people to form bonds with those of similar interests, such as our community still life programs, book clubs, and tai chi classes.

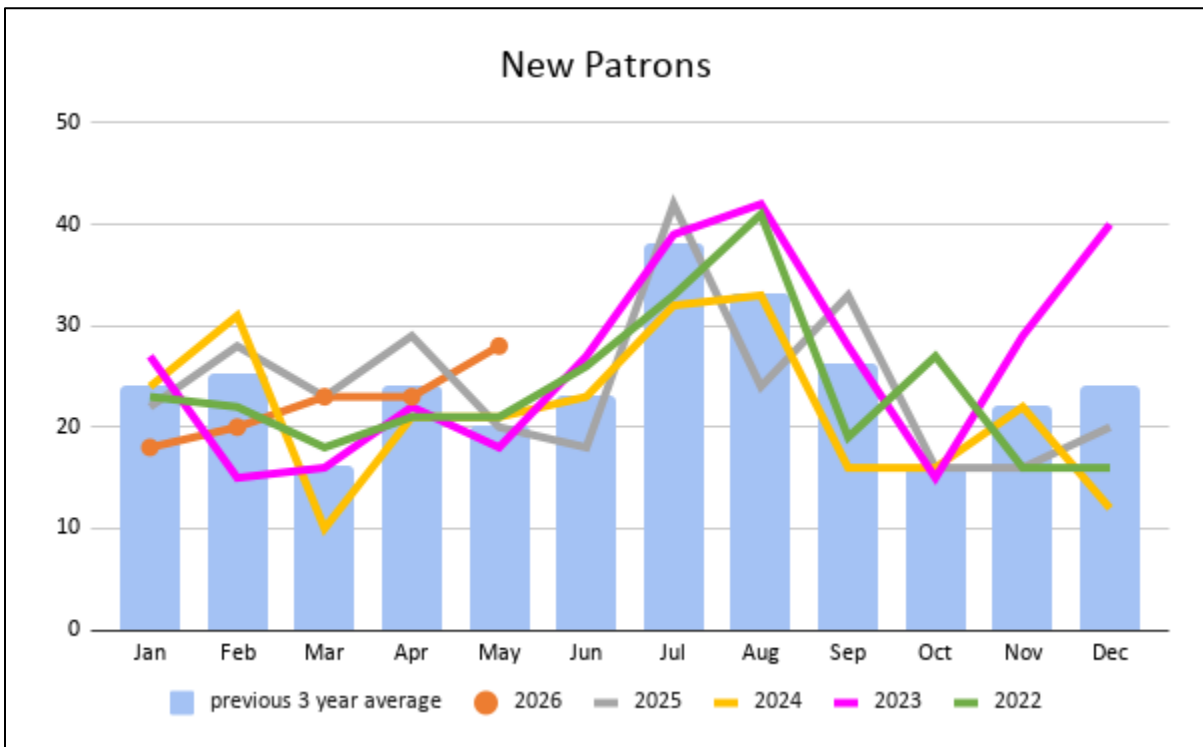
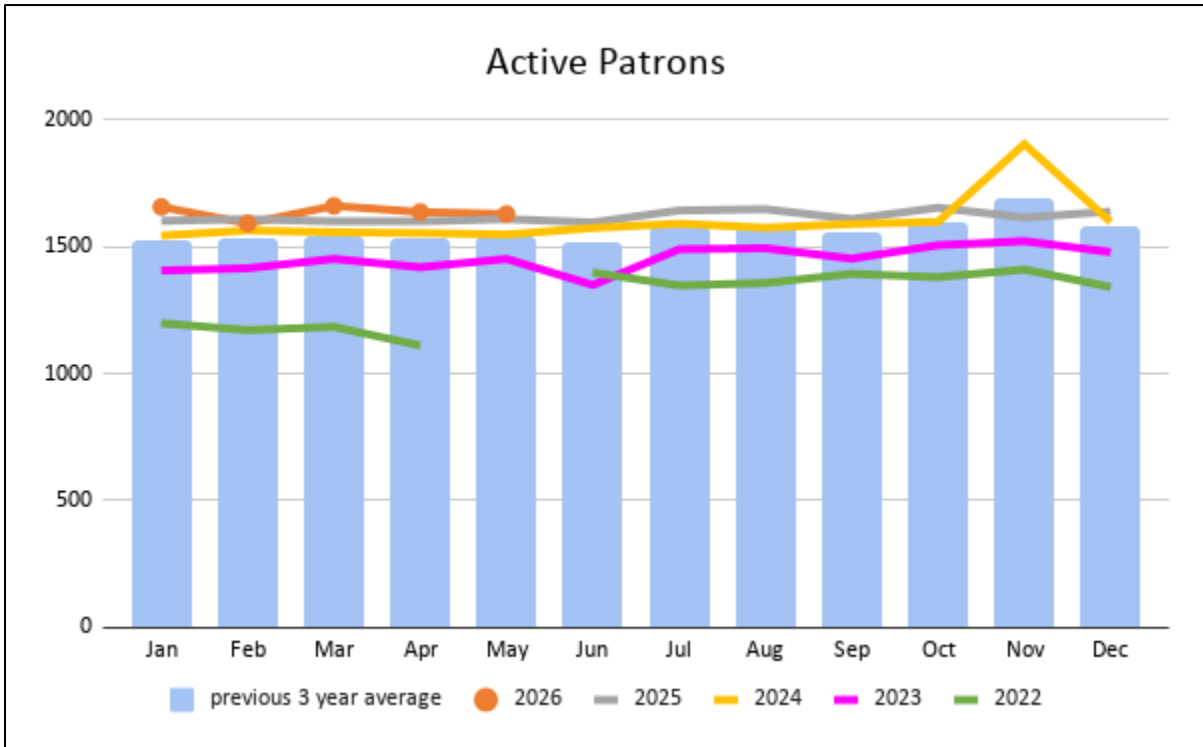
	May-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1609	1657	1592	1661	1637	1629	ave. 1635	1529	107%
Patrons (unexpired)	2004	1967	1982	1998	2018	2033	ave. 2000	1899	105%
New Patrons	20	18	20	23	23	28	112	109	103%
Traffic Count	3032	2122	2056	2591	2594	2667	12,030	12,067	100%
Computer Use	80	62	92	71	55	55	335	368	91%
Circulation (physical)	2295	2122	2188	2376	1949	2132	10,767	12,244	87%
Circulation (digital)	1519	2232	2038	2180	2071	2156	10,677	7,759	138%
Museum Passes	24	8	10	6	7	23	54	82	66%
Wireless access	529	447	457	477	482	508	2,371	2395	99%
Website sessions	2334	2618	1977	2109	2032	2031	10,767	10,327	104%
Number of programs	36	29	31	32	32	27	151	153	99%
Program attendance	548	560	354	395	342	491	2,142	1969	109%
YouTube views	102	106	96	143	142	92	579	683	85%
Notary	11	24	15	15	11	18	83	64	130%
Homebound delivery	0	1	0	2	0	1	4	4	100%
Digital Navigator appts	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	n/a	
Meeting room reservations	n/a	6	11	27	19	17	80	n/a	

Circulation by Material Type

	May-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Dec-26	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	226	240	209	215	170	227		1061	-158	-13%
videos	230	327	338	380	316	342		1703	576	51%
books on CD	17	31	14	19	26	27		117	19	19%
audiobooks	634	743	613	666	713	716		3451	388	13%
print books	1292	1159	1206	1200	1027	1217		5809	-1068	-16%
e books	473	625	544	540	531	576		2816	196	7%
museum passes	24	8	10	6	7	23		54	-39	-42%
hotspots	9	1	1	6	6	9		23	-5	-18%
camping equipment	1	1	0	1	2	1		5	4	400%







Staffing and Professional Development:

- Michael Nouri, new children's/youth services associate, begins regular hours June 20. Will be working Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Worked two Saturdays in May with Tia, and by all accounts is off to a good start.
- Had 30 applicants for Program Manager position; Tammy, Fran, and Tia interviewed 3 candidates and made an offer to Celia Contelmo, who has accepted and will begin full time on June 23.
- A BIG thank you to Fran, Robin, and Tia for being flexible with their schedules and working extra hours in May and June while we have been short staffed and Tammy was on vacation.

Building and Grounds

- We still have had no leaks in the roof!
- Work on pavilion remains incomplete. Remaining works includes touch up painting, fixing one door that is hard to latch, and replacing sidewalk stones that are already cracked. Final invoice from EJS was submitted but will not be paid until all work is completed and the board signs off on that work.
- Solar panels should be working and NYSERDA will be coming to inspect everything on July 7. We still need to complete the paperwork for federal Direct Pay funds (<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/elective-pay-and-transferability>). I have set up account with IRS but have not taken the additional steps yet, but hope to do so in July.
- Gutters were installed and grading and seeding done, with buried drainage to the west.
- All furniture has arrived and been assembled by Jim Germaine. Jim also removed the raised bed that was falling apart and will fix and paint the wooden picnic tables.
- New security cameras installed in pavilion and at library front entrance. Front door also fixed so that hitting the accessible entrance button when the door is locked will no longer set off the alarm.
- We have ordered shades for the west end of the pavilion from Budget Blinds.
- Beth has received a quote from North Breeze Fencing in Ancram to surround the generator and the fuel tank.
- Tammy is working with Ron Bixby and Nico Hernandez to get the stage from the Hilltop Barn to the library pavilion on June 25.

Other Activities

- Received refilmed microfilm reels of Columbia Paper (still waiting on 4) and are nearly finished checking them. Must complete this project by the end of June and submit final report by mid-July to receive final funding.

Grants/Fundraising:

- Received \$25,000 from the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation for program support.
- Received \$11,000 from the Hudson River Bank and Trust Fund for general support
- Will submit an LOI to the Hover Foundation by July 1

Columbia County Libraries Association

- Received Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation grant to pay for NewsBank for another year
- Next joint program will be a genealogy webinar on using early American, and especially Revolutionary War-era, documents, on Monday, July 27.
- Will submit a letter of intent to apply for a grant to continue funding of Kanopy to the Hover Foundation, due July 1.

MHLS

- Next Director's Association meeting is Wednesday, June 17. At that meeting, members will
 - vote on the member assessment for 2027. This likely will be between a 9.5% or 15% increase to get MHLS more stable funding so that they can continue to provide the same level of services they have been providing.
 - Vote on a new MHLS plan of service
 - Vote on a new direct access plan
- Resource Sharing Committee is still considering whether or not to recommend further limiting the number of holds patrons can place in Libby in hopes of lowering wait times. They are also considering whether or not to block non-residents from accessing Libby.
- Central Library Committee is developing a user survey for Libby users.
- MHLS new member meeting is October 23 in Hyde Park
- MHLS is offering an in-person trustee training on Open Meeting Law and Roberts Rules of Order on October 1 at the Claverack Library. This 2-hour session will meet the annual training requirement. See <https://midhudson.libcal.com/event/16972090>.