

Director's Monthly Report

June 2026



In June we welcomed our two newest members of the team, Michael Nouri and Celia Contelmo. Beginning in mid-June, they both began work at the start of our busiest season—a bit of a trial by fire. They are busy getting to know our patrons, our policies, and our systems and are quickly becoming important members of the team. June was also marked by the end of our homeschool and Head Start programs and the beginning of our summer reading program, which launched with a children's concert in the pavilion and distribution of reading challenge bingo cards. Adults have also been picking up their own bingo cards. With each row completed, kids and adults earn prizes and a chance to enter our grand prize drawing for gift certificates to Books and Cake. Other highlights of the month included our first concert for adults in the pavilion, with the Eagles Stage Band, attended by about 60 community members.

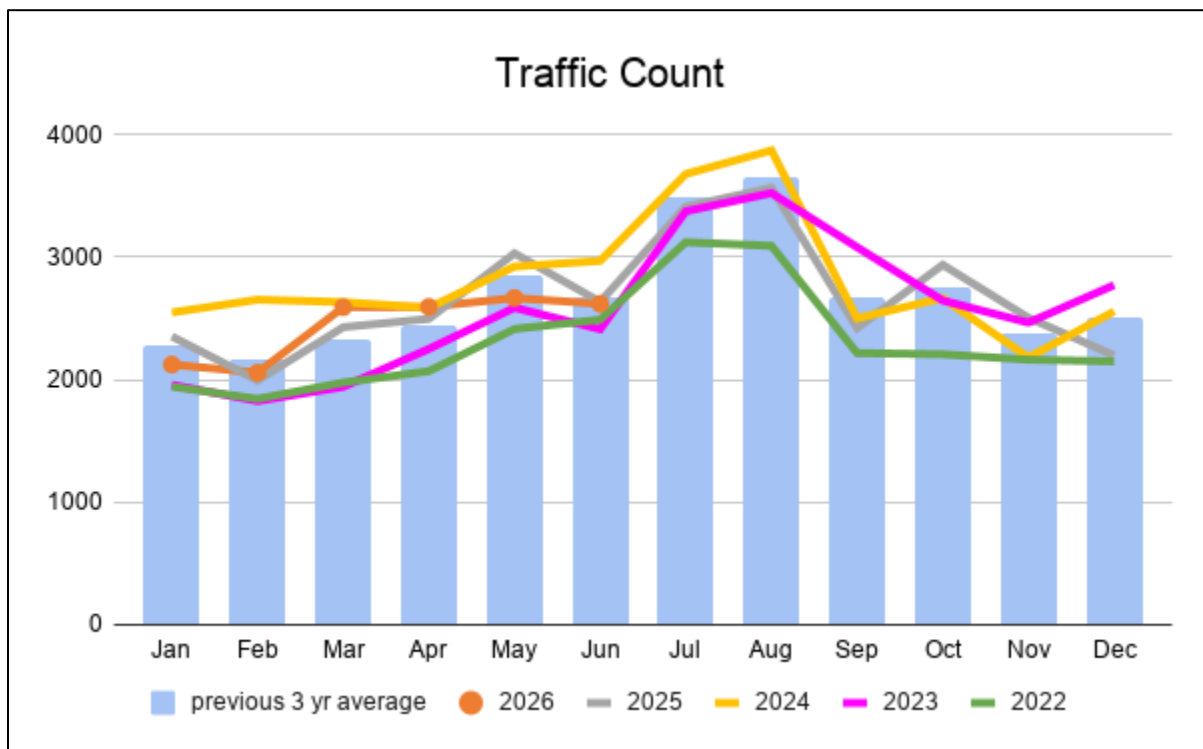
Programs:

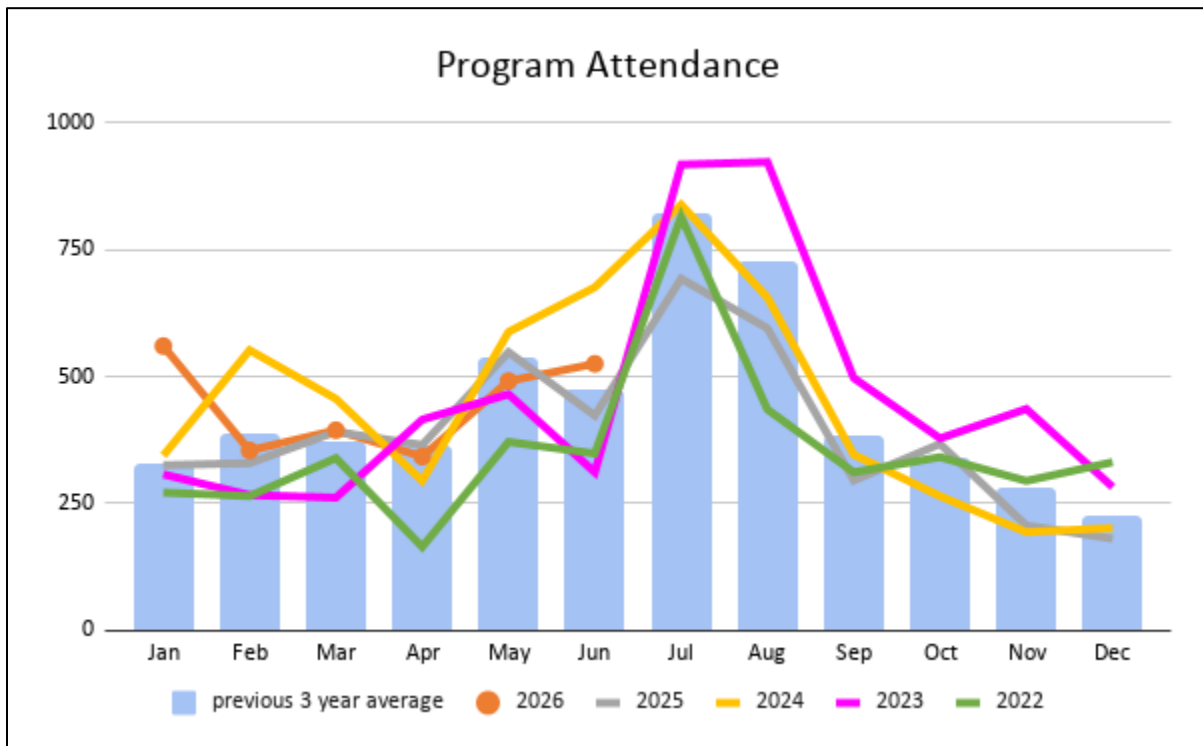
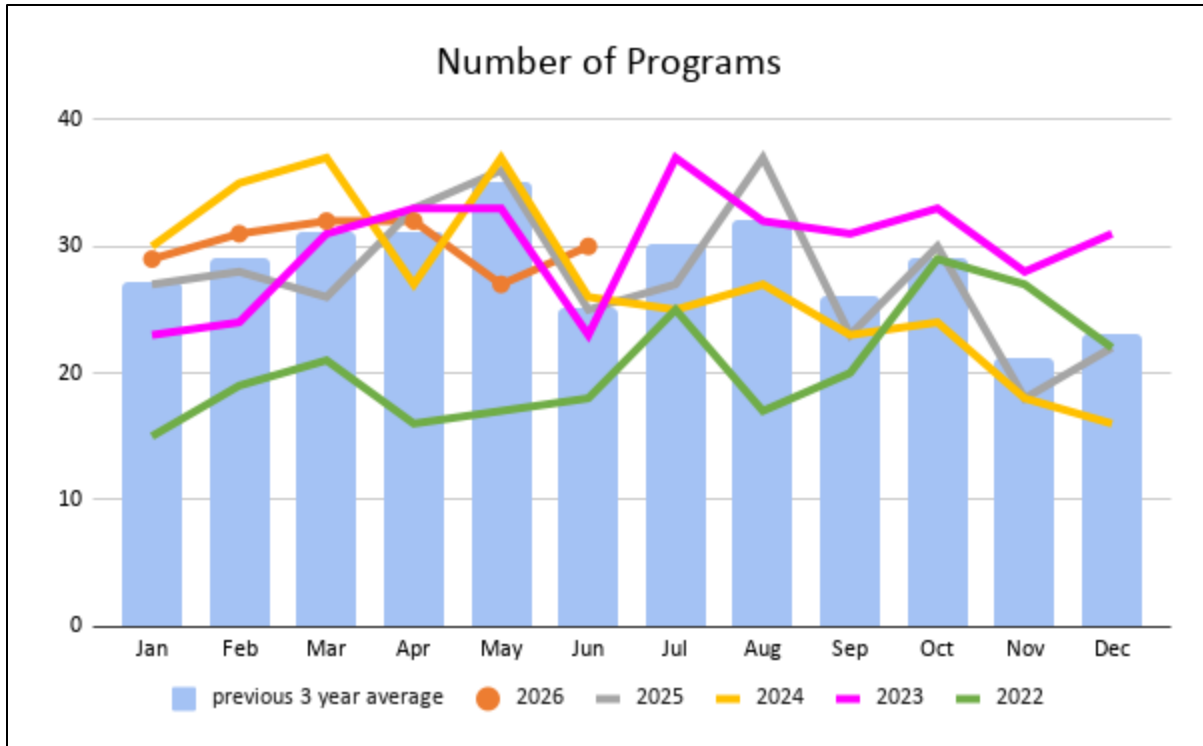
- Tai Chi—average 19 per class
- English Language Learning—average 4 per class
- Community Still Life—average 11 per session
- Bridge—average 3 per session
- Drop-in Fly Tying—average 4 per session
- June 17—Read On! Fiction Book Club—7 attended
- June 18—Book Marks Nonfiction Book Club—12 attended
- June 18—Page Turners YA Book Club—3 attended
- June 24—Tech Lab: Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence): What It Is and How to Use It—18 attended
- June 25—Tea Time at the Library—4 attended
- June 27—Summer Reading Kick-off with Tom Seiling—25 kids and 18 adults attended

- June 28—Concert in the Pavilion: Eagles Stage Band—60 attended
- 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 16—Chapters and Chatters Book Club (New thriller book club)

Upcoming Events:

- July 22—Experience Clean Heat presents: Paint & "Sip"
- July 27—Unearthing Early American Records (webinar with CCLA)
- July 28-31—Digging into Archaeology camp (weeklong 4-H program)
- July 29—Science on the Go: Dinosaurs!
- July 20—Farmers Market Coupon Distribution
- July 20—Tea Time at the Library (Baseball in the Hudson Valley)





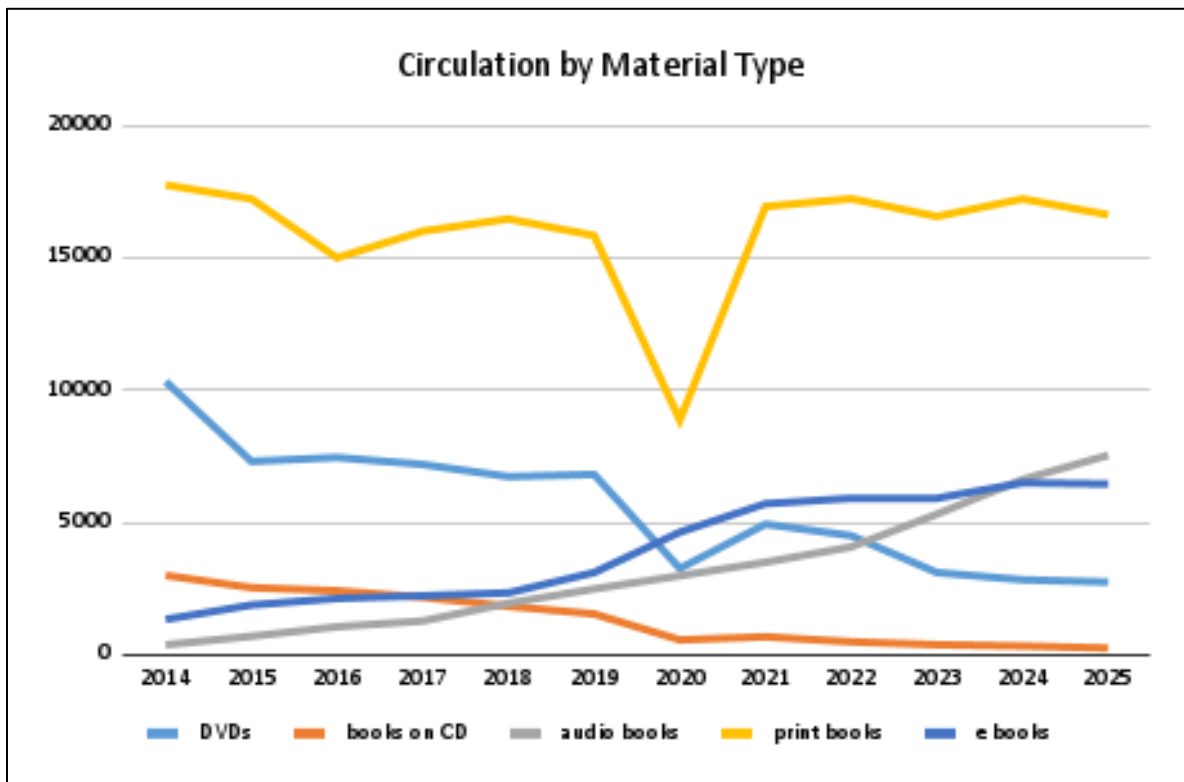
Library Usage:

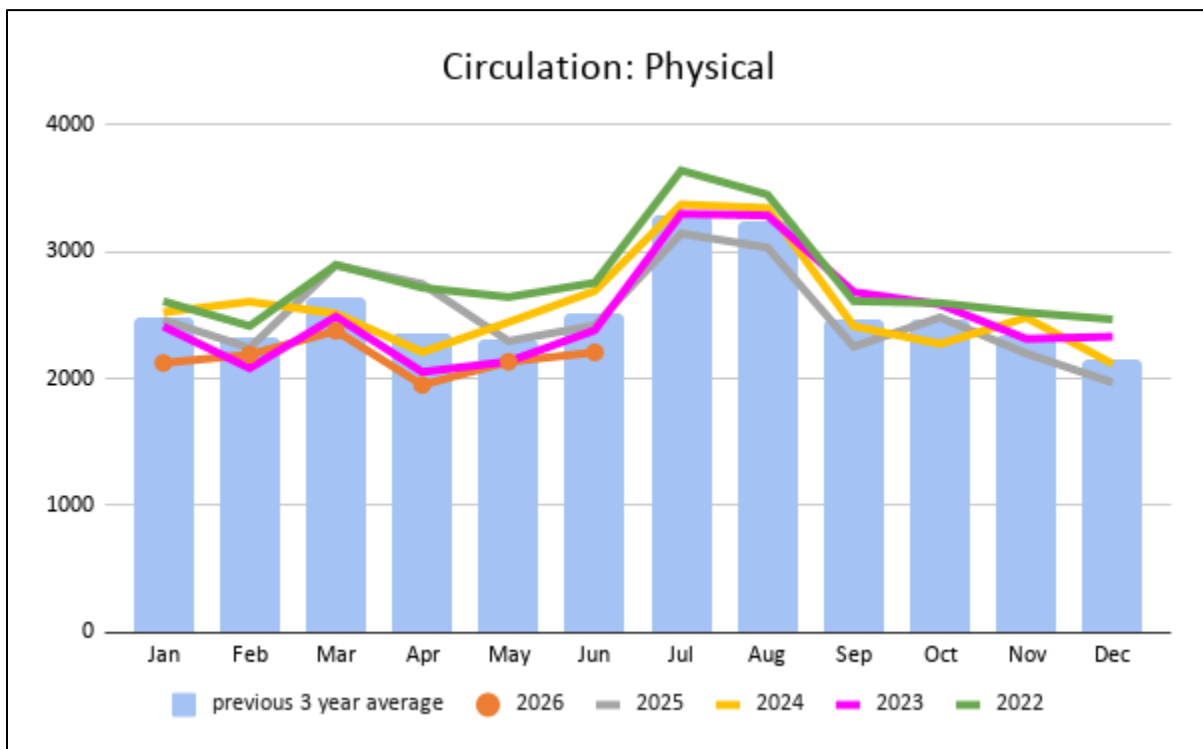
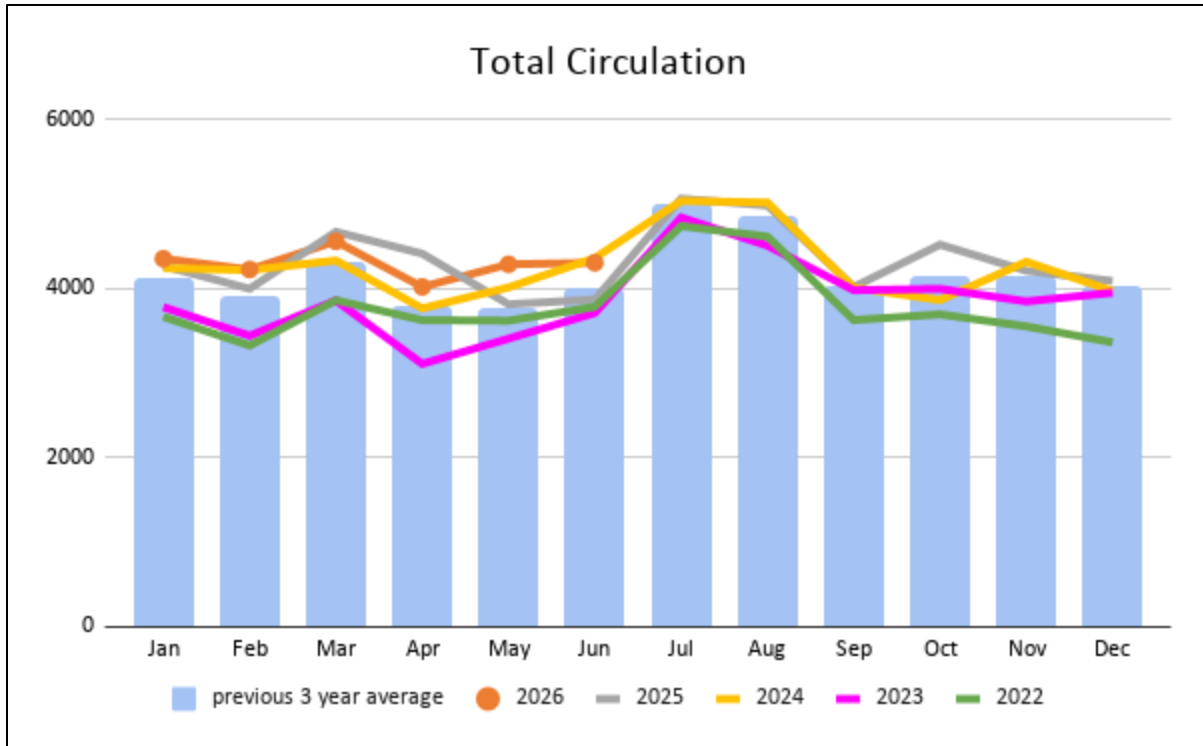
In June we generally see circulation increase, though the big spike comes in July and August. This year, June's numbers were up 11% from 2025, and about the same as in 2024, our busiest June in terms of circulation of library materials. As always, now, that jump is due to increasing demand for digital materials. While circulation of traditional media was down 9% from last year, digital downloads were up 45%. While in June 2025, digital checkouts accounted for 38% of our circulation, this year they made up nearly half, at 49%. Museum passes, for whatever reason, are proving to be less popular this year than in recent years, though June 2025 and 2026 had the same number of checkouts. In June patrons watched fewer DVDs and videos but read more books (physical and digital) and listened to more audiobooks than last year. We held a few more programs than a year ago, which mean there was greater attendance as well.

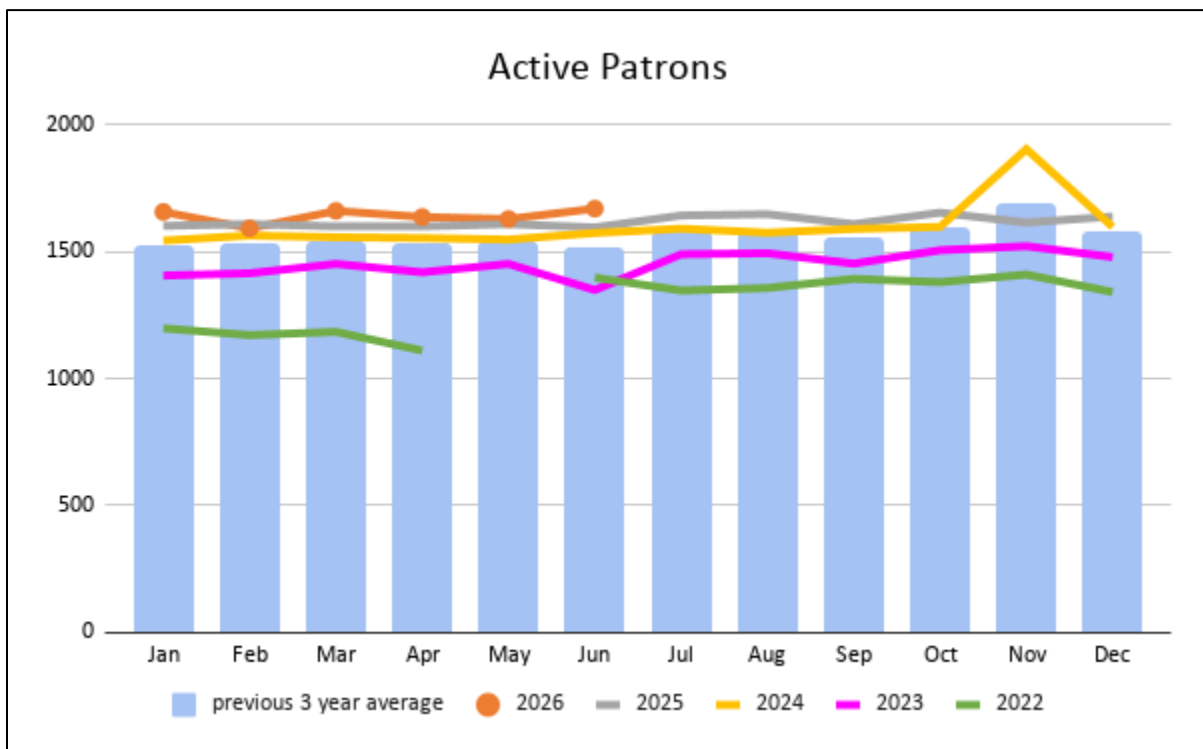
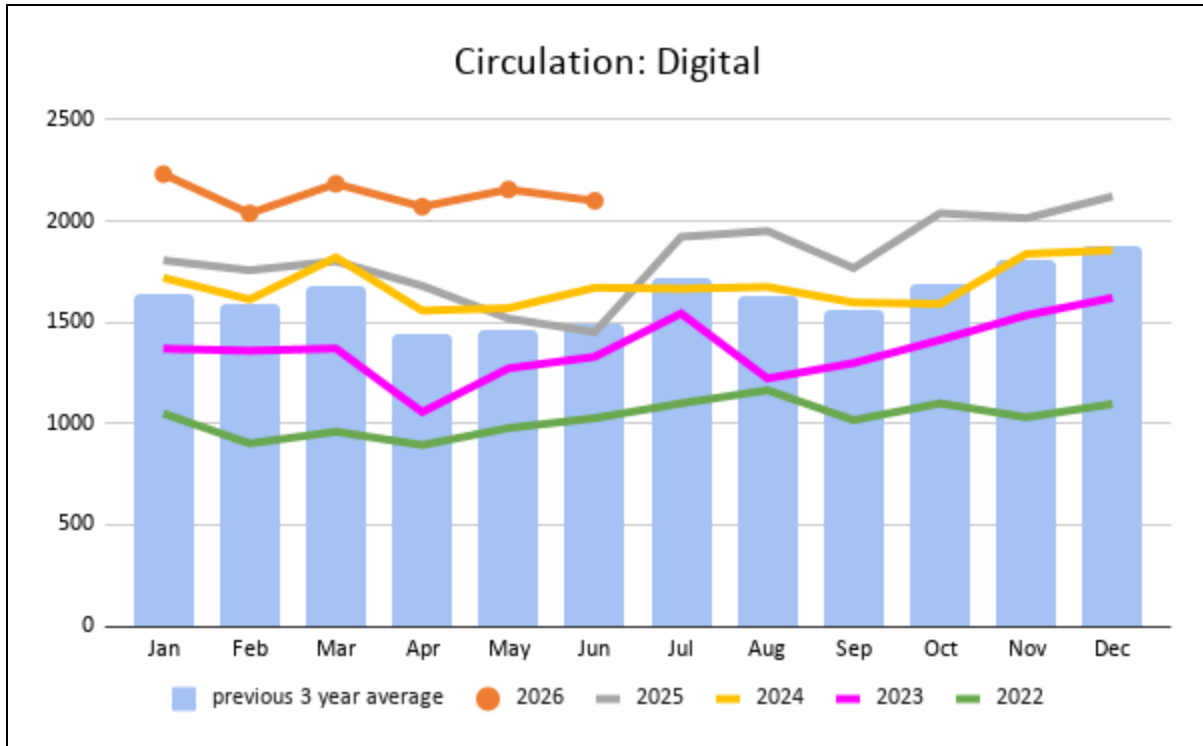
	Jun-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1596	1657	1592	1661	1637	1629	1670	ave. 1641	1525	108%
Patrons (unexpired)	2005	1967	1982	1998	2018	2033	2034	ave. 2005	1906	105%
New Patrons	18	18	20	23	23	28	26	138	132	105%
Traffic Count	2635	2122	2056	2591	2594	2667	2619	14,649	14,740	99%
Computer Use	78	62	92	71	55	55	61	396	440	90%
Circulation (physical)	2419	2122	2188	2376	1949	2132	2206	12,973	14,529	89%
Circulation (digital)	1452	2232	2038	2180	2071	2156	2100	12,777	9,243	138%
Museum Passes	25	8	10	6	7	23	25	79	118	67%
Wireless access	537	447	457	477	482	508	532	2,903	2956	98%
Website sessions	2059	2618	1977	2109	2032	2031	2831	13,598	12,515	109%
Number of programs	25	29	31	32	32	27	30	181	178	102%
Program attendance	423	560	354	395	342	491	525	2,667	2439	109%
YouTube views	97	106	96	143	142	92	87	666	923	72%
Notary	9	24	15	15	11	18	7	90	78	115%
Homebound delivery	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	4	3	133%
Digital Navigator appts	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	n/a	
Meeting room reservations	n/a	6	11	27	19	17	20	100	n/a	

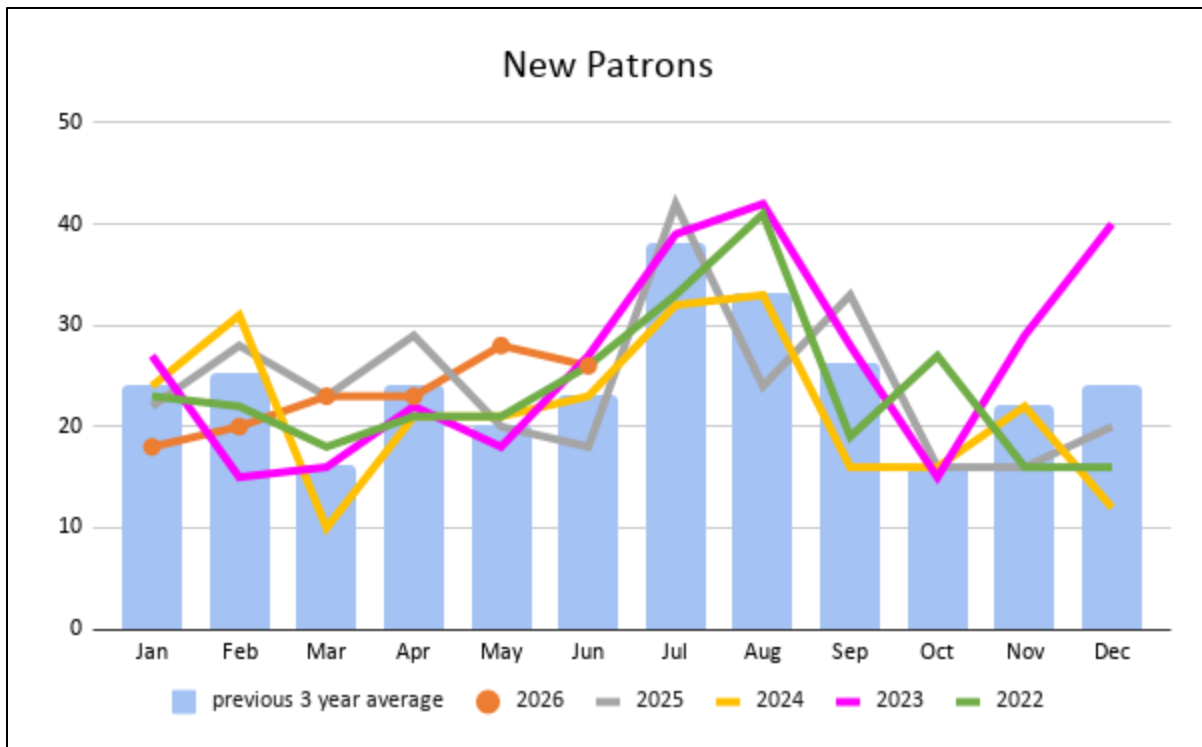
Circulation by Material Type

	Jun-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	248	240	209	215	170	227	151	1212	-255	-17%
videos	321	327	338	380	316	342	200	1903	455	31%
books on CD	29	31	14	19	26	27	25	142	20	16%
audiobooks	607	743	613	666	713	716	753	4204	534	15%
print books	1291	1159	1206	1200	1027	1217	1314	7123	-1045	-13%
e books	514	625	544	540	531	576	566	3382	248	8%
museum passes	25	8	10	6	7	23	25	79	-39	-33%
hotspots	4	1	1	6	6	9	6	29	-3	-10%
camping equipment	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	6	4	200%









Staffing and Professional Development:

- Michael Nouri, new children's/youth services associate, and Celia Contelmo, program librarian, both started in June and are settling in.

Building and Grounds

- We still have had no leaks in the roof, but have some concerns about water damage on wall near west entrance. Keeping an eye on it with each rain to determine if this is something new or an old issue.
- Pavilion work is not yet complete. We had an issue with one fan blade hitting the ceiling and that has been fixed. However, one shed door that does not latch properly has not yet been addressed. EJS has argued against our plan to deduct the cost of installing the gutters from the final bill and insists that we only deduct the credit he allowed of \$2100, the amount he said he budgeted for the work. Other work has been completed.
- NYSEDA inspected solar panels and they passed inspection. Our electric bills are already showing an improvement. 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 early August.
- Jim Germaine fixed and painted the wooden picnic table.
- New shades were installed in the pavilion and on upper windows in the Community Room.
- Had fence installed around generator and fuel tank and then removed as it was poorly constructed and unattractive. Beth is looking into other options.

- Septic tank was cleaned out on July 9.

Other Activities

- Completed our microfilming project and shipped master negatives to the NYS Library. Positive copies have been cataloged and are available for use.
- Robin planted our three sisters garden, which is thriving.

Grants/Fundraising:

- Received notice from the Ackerman Foundation that we have been awarded \$3000 to continue our English language program.
- Submit an LOI to the Hover Foundation requesting an invitation to submit a grant application to continue our Tai Chi program. We have been given the green light and an application is due by August 1.
- Submitted final grant report for the newspaper microfilming project to the state of NY. Hope to receive final 10% of grant funds soon.
- Received \$5000 for our concert series from CREATE.

Columbia County Libraries Association

- Next joint program will be a genealogy webinar on using early American, and especially Revolutionary War-era, documents, on Monday, July 27.
- Submit a letter of intent to apply for a grant to continue funding of Kanopy to the Hover Foundation, which was approved. Full grant application due August 1.
- CCLA will not be going to the Columbia County Fair this year.

MHLS

- Director's Association voted to increase the member assessment for 2027 by 9.5% on average. The amount each library pays is based on a formula that considers population, circulation, delivery, and more. Our assessment will increase by a somewhat smaller amount, by about 4.5%. MHLS needs more than this—a 15% increase. Difference will be made up by drawing from the Central Library fund.
- Director's Association approved a new MHLS plan of service, which will now go to the MHLS board for final approval and adoption.
- Director's Association approved a new Free Direct Access Plan. The Free Direct Access Plan allows MHLS to define the conditions under which "serious hardships and inequities" exist that would allow a library to request restrictions be put in place to limit usage of its library by another town's residents. A super majority of member library boards must approved this plan prior to its submission to the MHLS Board in time for the October 1 deadline to the state.
- MHLS 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>.