

Director's Monthly Report

July 2026



July is generally our busiest month, and in many ways, it was this year as well. Traffic was higher than ever—though that number does reflect the fact that the Party at the Pavilion was held here in July. Still, the library was a busy place for much of July. Though we held more programs than usual, attendance was not strong, particularly for children's programs at the library. We are more successful reaching our summer kids by going to them, at the Farmers Market or at the camps. Weather did not help matters this year. Both smoke and heavy rains impacted some programs, causing cancellations and some lower attendance. Art programs proved particularly popular, with strong attendance at our weekly Community Still Life program and at a special Paint and Sip program organized by NYS's Experience Clean Heat program. The camp kids enjoyed Birds of Prey, as always, and the pavilion was the perfect venue. Program attendance was a bit low compared to other Julys, too, because we did not hold a concert in July. A Tea Time on the topic of Baseball in the Hudson Valley brought out some new faces, including a few teens. We learned, with the heavy rains, that our roof is still not water tight. On the bright side, all work on the pavilion is complete.

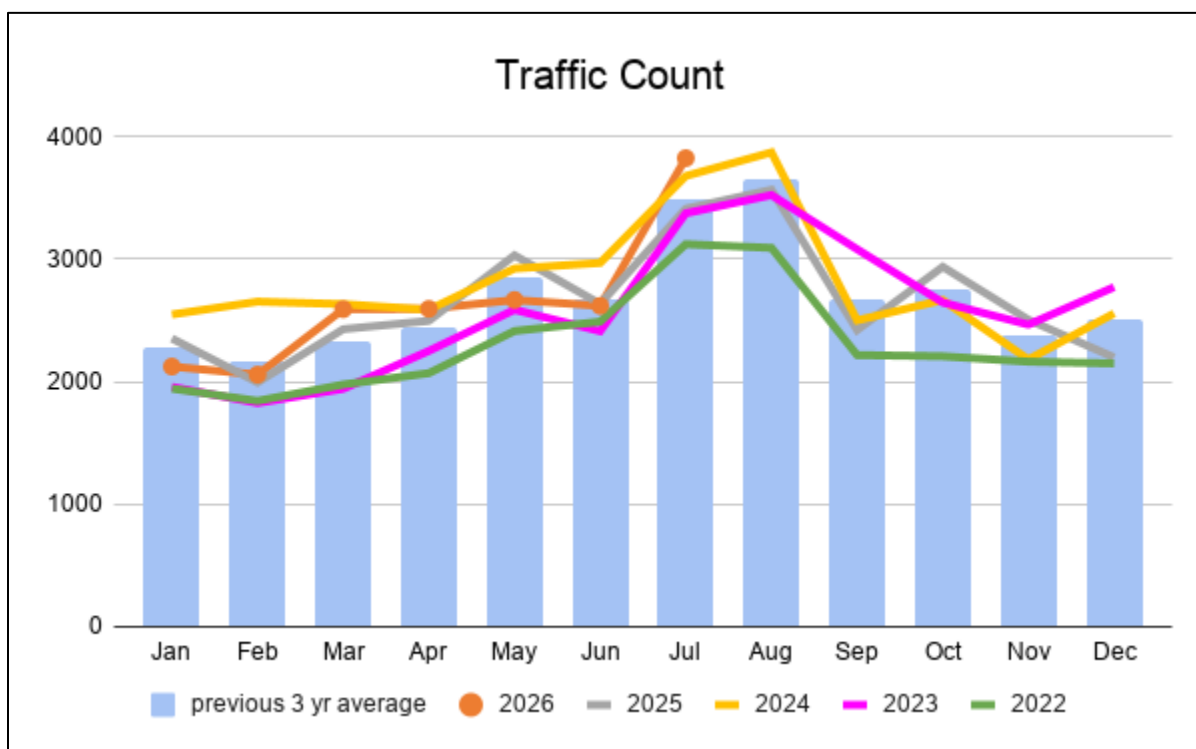
Programs:

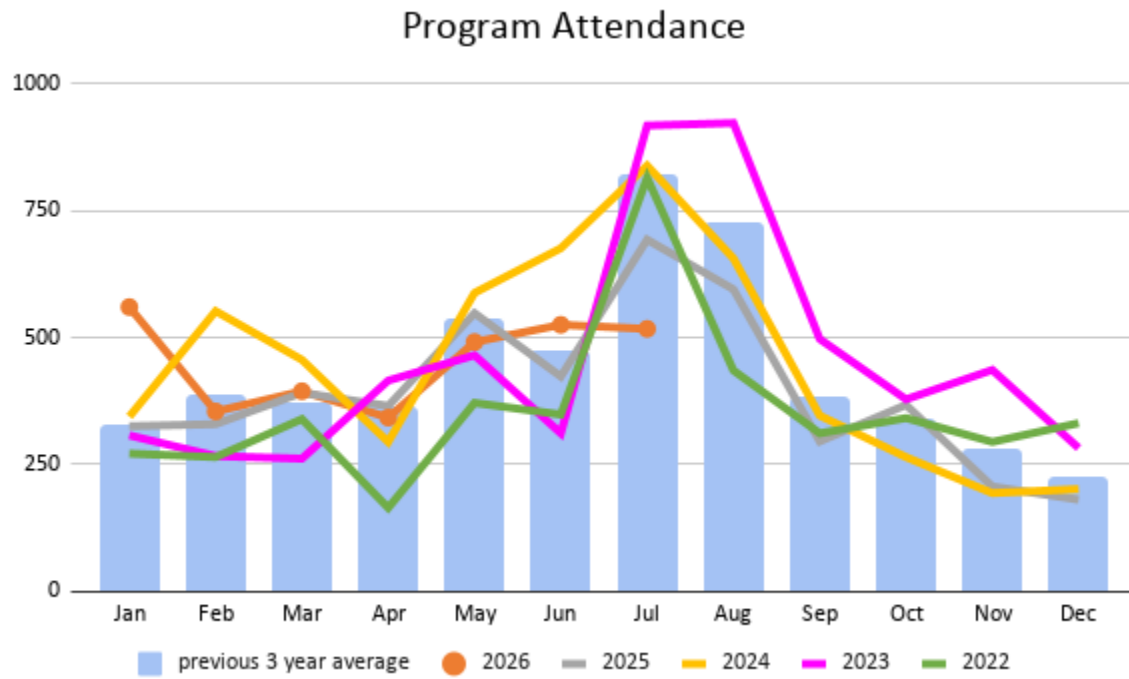
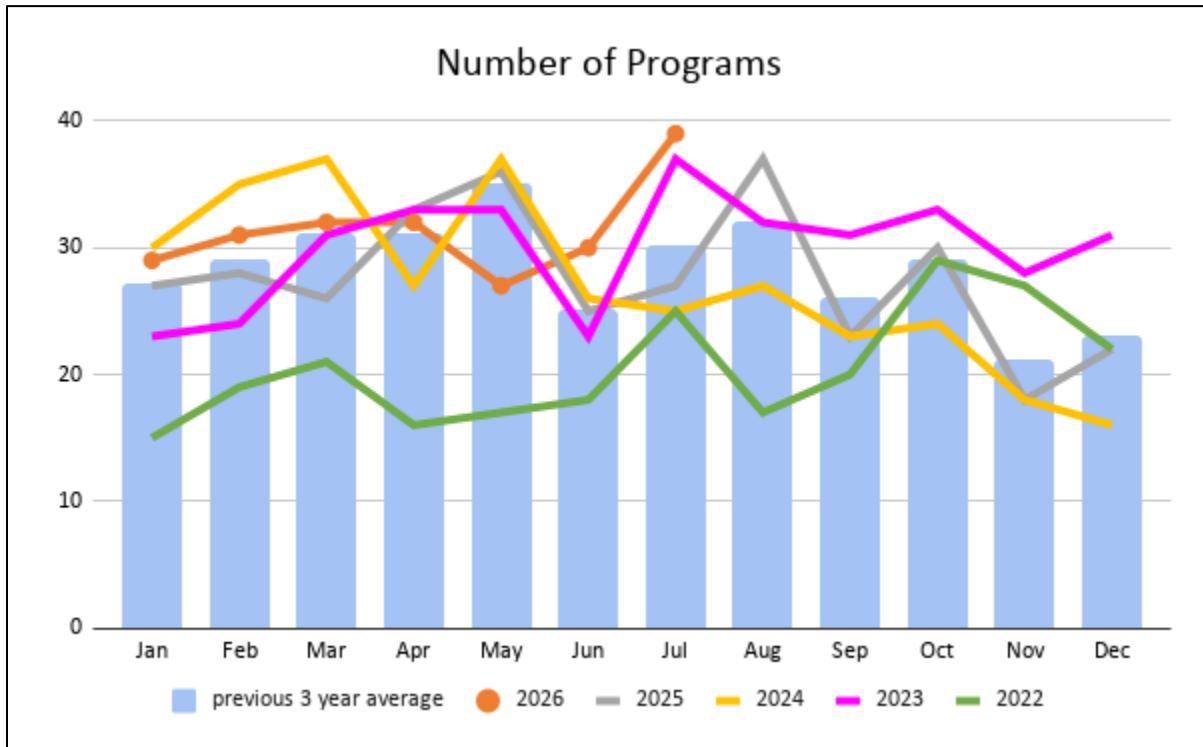
- Farm Market Kids—average 14 adults, 2 teens, 26 kids a week
- Tai Chi—average 18 per class
- English Language Learning—average 2 per class (several one-on-one sessions)
- Community Still Life—average 13 per session
- Drop-in Fly Tying—average 4 per session

- July 14—Ancram camp visit—11 kids, 3 teens and adults
- July 16—Birds of Prey camp program—66 kids, 15 adults and teens (Copake did not come due to the weather)
- July 22—Experience Clean Heat presents: Paint & "Sip"—13 adults and 1 child attended
- July 27—Unearthing Early American Records (webinar with CCLA)—7 attended
- July 28-31—Digging into Archaeology camp (weeklong 4-H program)—average 5 per session (1 session canceled due to weather)
- July 29—Science on the Go: Dinosaurs!—10 kids and 5 adults attended
- July 29—Copake camp visit—10 kids, 4 adults and teens
- July 30—Tea Time at the Library (Baseball in the Hudson Valley)—13 adults, 3 teens attended
- August 2—Concert: Pianist Kyle Walker—27 attended
- August 5—Paint Your Own Magnets—10 kids, 1 teen, 5 adults
- August 12—Paint Your Own Magnets—6 kids, 4 adults
- August 13—Chapters and Chatter Thriller Book Club—4 attended

Upcoming Events:

- August 19—Paint Your Own Magnets
- August 19—Read On Fiction Book Club
- August 20—Book Marks! Non-fiction Book Club
- August 27—Tea Time at the Library
- August 30—Concert: Peter Seeger: A Life in Song, with the Juckets
- September 14—Webinar: The Constitution Speaks (with CCLA)
- September 15—Medicare 101





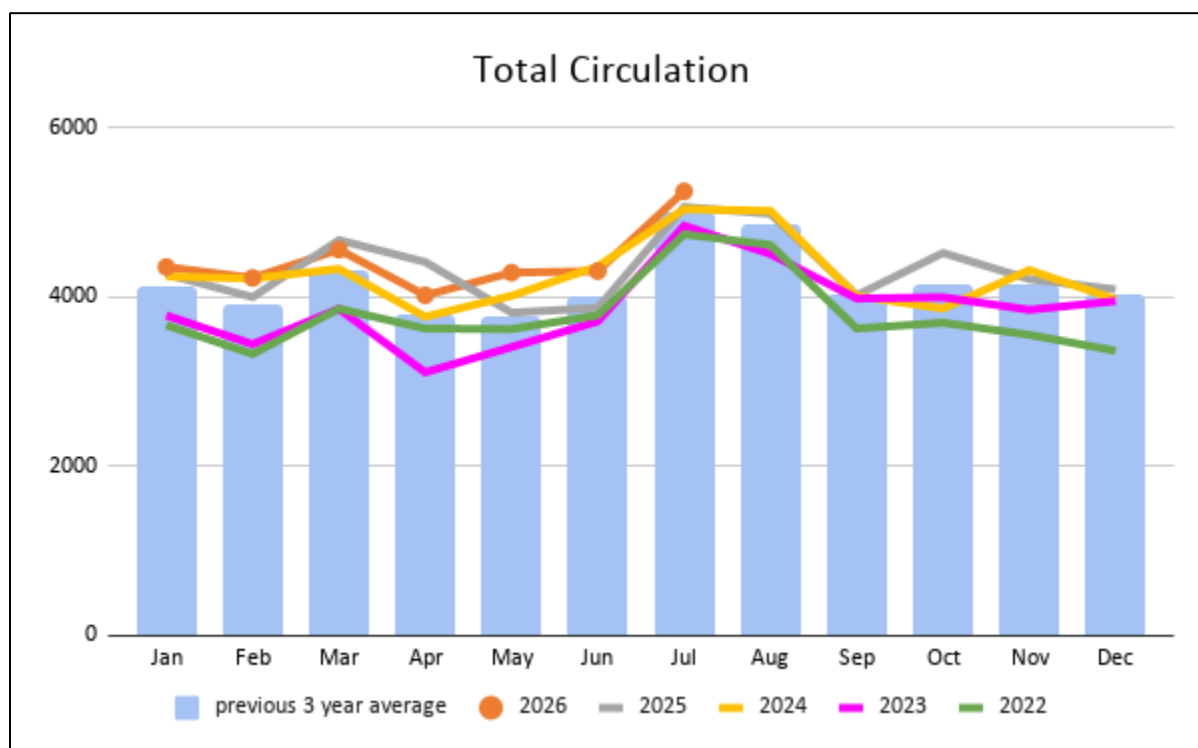
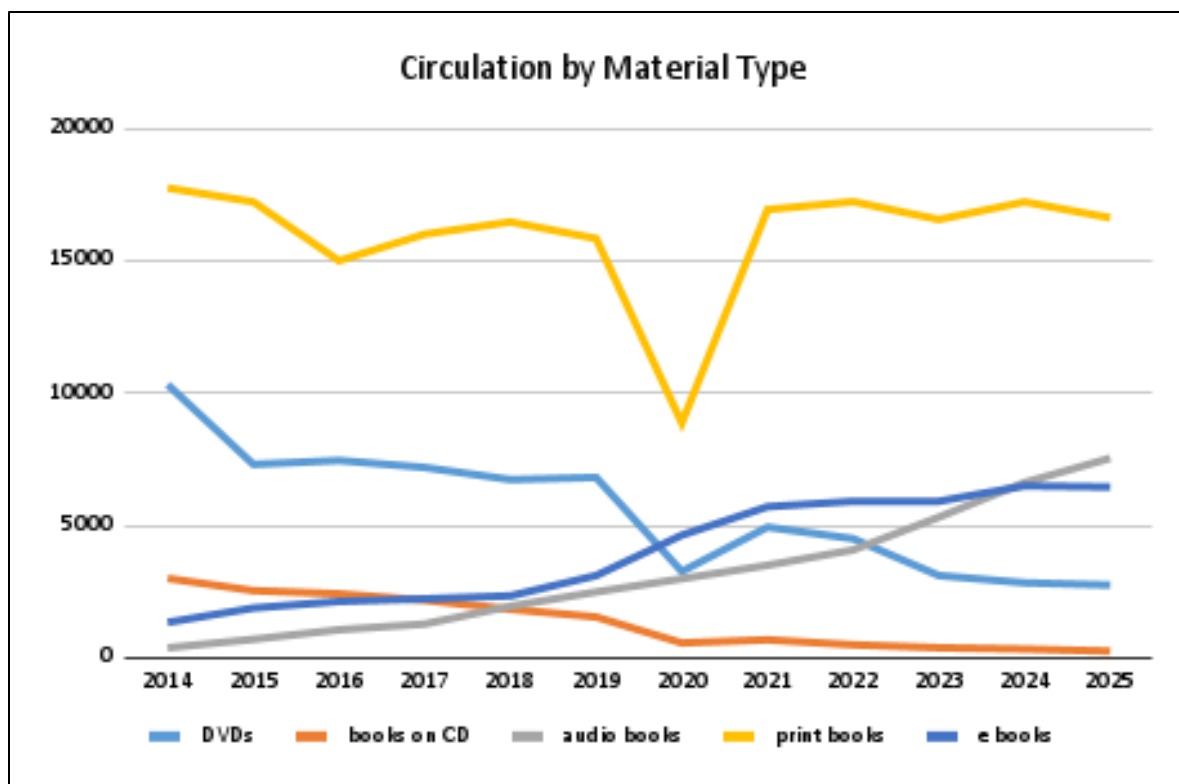
Library Usage:

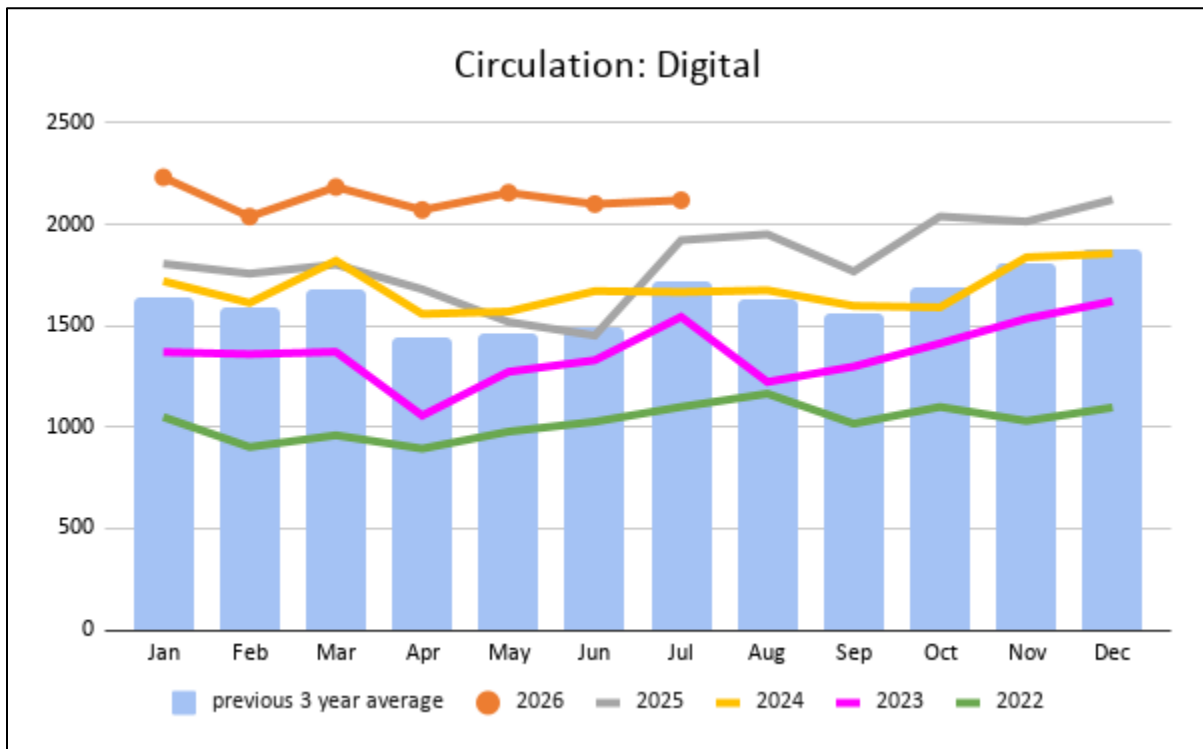
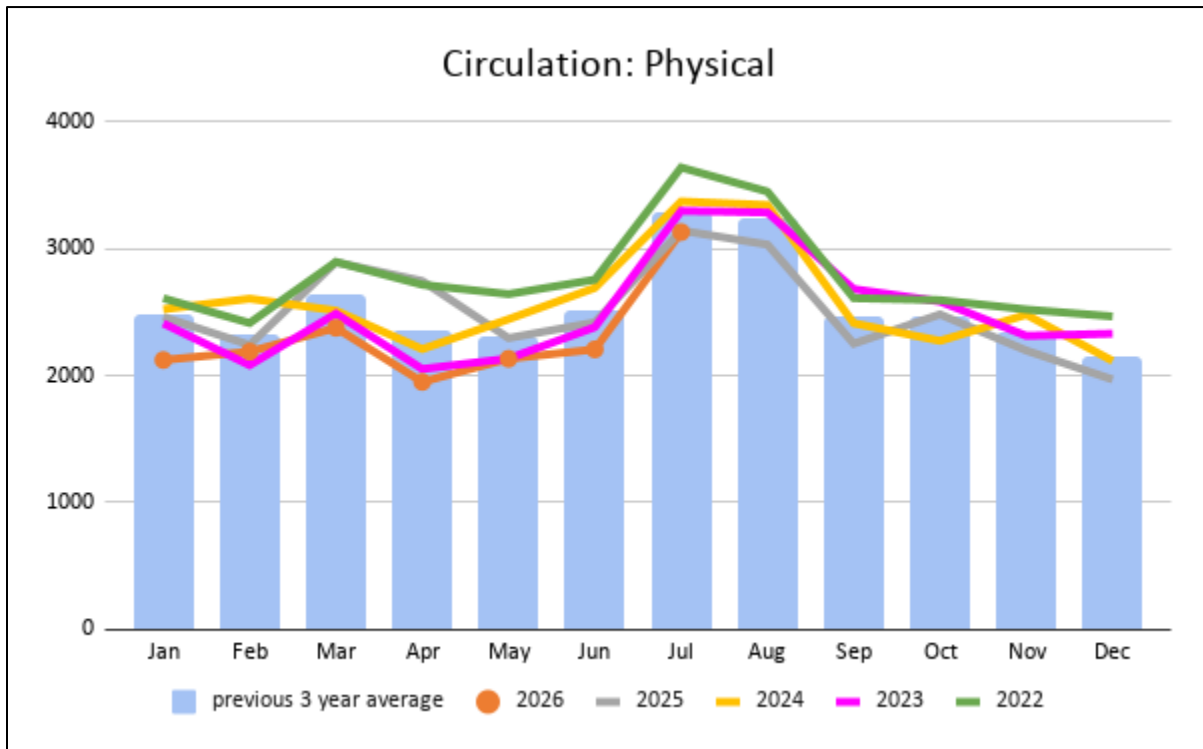
Circulation of library materials was up 4% over last July and the highest circulation ever except for July 2021, which was only slightly higher and for some reason saw an unusually high circulation of print materials. Now, however, it is digital that is driving the increase. July's print circulation was the lowest since July 2020, during Covid, while its digital circulation higher than any previous July. It continues to be a slow year for checkouts of museum passes for whatever reason, but camping equipment has been more popular this year than in previous years. Our meeting rooms have been in high demand, as has been notary service.

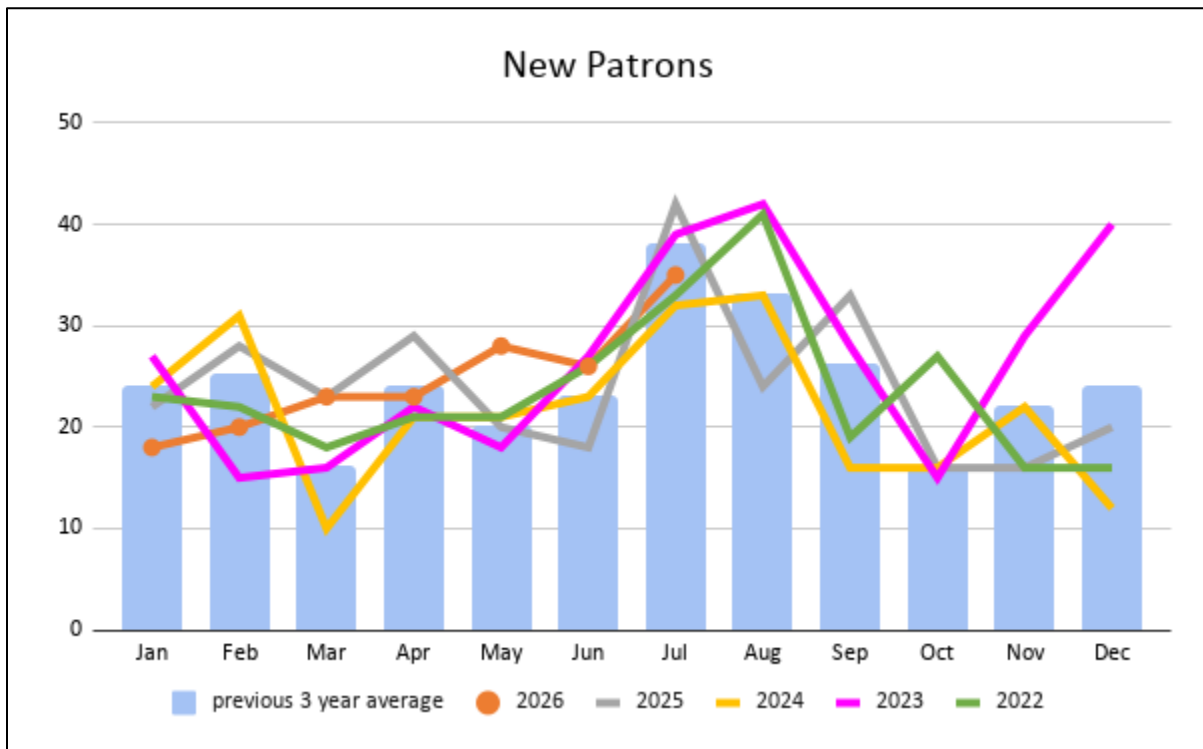
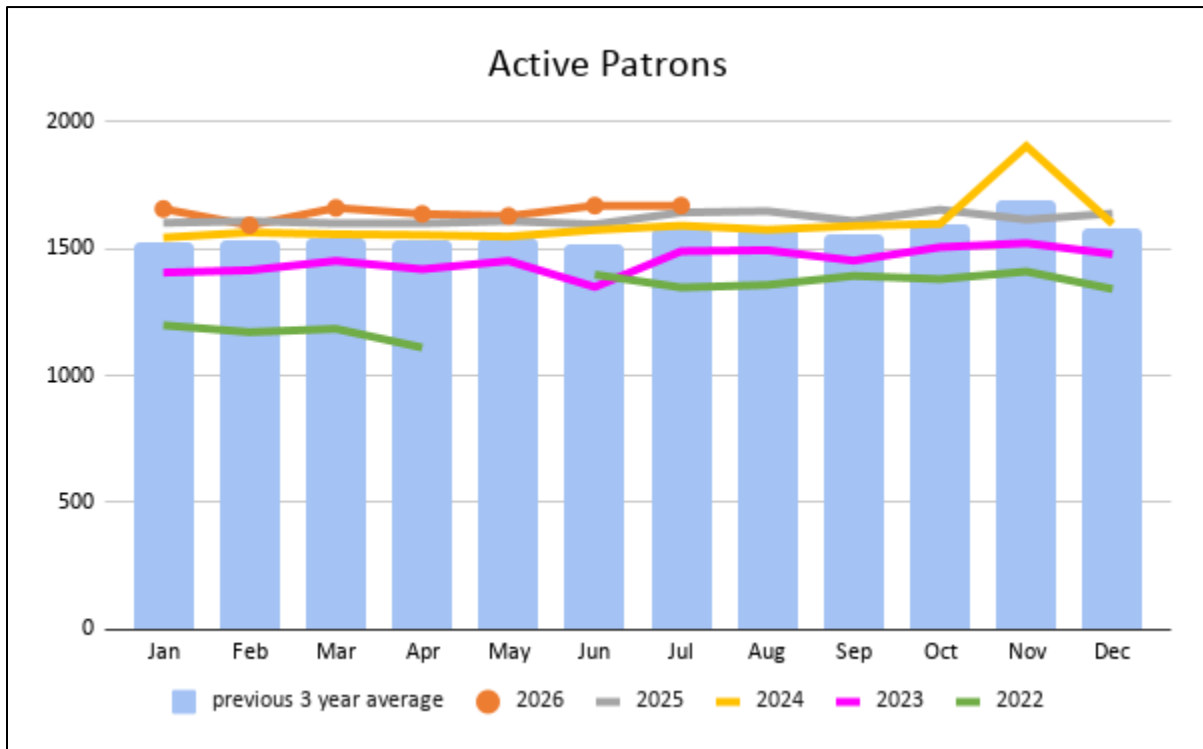
	Jul-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1643	1657	1592	1661	1637	1629	1670	1670	ave. 1641	1532	107%
Patrons (unexpired)	2006	1967	1982	1998	2018	2033	2034	2042	ave. 2005	1907	105%
New Patrons	42	18	20	23	23	28	26	35	173	169	102%
Traffic Count	3414	2122	2056	2591	2594	2667	2619	3827	18,476	18,230	101%
Computer Use	76	62	92	71	55	55	61	78	474	519	91%
Circulation (physical)	3144	2122	2188	2376	1949	2132	2206	3131	16,104	17,801	90%
Circulation (digital)	1922	2232	2038	2180	2071	2156	2100	2119	14,896	10,954	140%
Museum Passes	80	8	10	6	7	23	25	57	136	213	64%
Wireless access	611	447	457	477	482	508	532		2,903	3641	80%
Website sessions	2147	2618	1977	2109	2032	2031	2831	2424	16,022	14,811	108%
Number of programs	27	29	31	32	32	27	30	38	219	208	105%
Program attendance	693	560	354	395	342	491	525	510	3,177	3255	98%
YouTube views	98	106	96	143	142	92	87	96	762	1043	73%
Notary	24	24	15	15	11	18	7	16	106	102	104%
Homebound delivery	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	4	4	100%
Digital Navigator appts	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	n/a	n/a
Meeting room reservations	n/a	6	11	27	19	17	20	29	129	n/a	n/a

Circulation by Material Type

	Jul-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	266	240	209	215	170	227	151	167	1379	-354	-20%
videos	308	327	338	380	316	342	200	246	2149	393	22%
books on CD	22	31	14	19	26	27	25	28	170	21	14%
audiobooks	621	743	613	666	713	716	753	731	4935	644	15%
print books	1918	1159	1206	1200	1027	1217	1314	2011	9134	-951	-9%
e books	535	625	544	540	531	576	566	622	4004	335	9%
museum passes	80	8	10	6	7	23	25	57	136	-62	-31%
hotspots	10	1	1	6	6	9	6	7	36	-6	-14%
camping equipment	6	1	0	1	2	1	1	10	16	-8	50%







Staff and Professional Development:

- Tammy took some time off for a house closing and vacation
- Michael switched days beginning first of August to be Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. He will be working every Sunday, with Robin, with other staff filling in as needed.
- Tammy submitted required paperwork to Schwab to set up master Simple IRA account so that we can begin offering this retirement benefit to all staff.

Building and Grounds

- Heavy rains revealed that we still have some roof leaks, particularly in the network room and from the skylight near Fran's desk, but also a small leak in the lobby just to the left when you come in the front door. Jay has had a look and will be back in late August to address at least the one in the network and staff workroom, which he believes is coming from the dormer. He did not look at the lobby leak and, I believe, does not believe he has any responsibility for that one.
- Pavilion work was completed and final check, as approved by the board, adjusted for gutter installation, was sent to EJS.
- Storm water ruined the outdoor outlet that our air quality monitor is plugged into. Electrician replaced all 4 outdoor outlets, none of which were working. Reported that the original outlets were not for outdoor use, but for indoor use only. He also reported that the wood behind the outlets by the west door is rotted and could have let water penetrate the outlets.
- I still need to complete the paperwork for federal Direct Pay funds (<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/elective-pay-and-transferability>).

Other Activities

- Staff is busy planning fall programs
- Staff created a number of summer new book displays, including one on Dog Days of Summer—send Celia your dog pics to be included!
- Roe Jan patron Nancy Rutter (in Tammy's stead) and Claverack director Thea Schoep attended the Taghkanic town board meeting to make the case for increased funding for surrounding libraries.

Grants/Fundraising:

- Held our first Party at the Pavilion, in July, which was quite successful.
- Received \$3000 from the Ackerman Foundation to continue our English language program.
- Submit a grant application to the Hover Foundation requesting funds to continue our Tai Chi program.
- Received \$1000 from the Bank of Greene County to help pay for digital resources
- Received notice from MHLS that Didi Barrett will be granting us \$7000 to pay for the blinds in the community room. Funds will likely come in at the end of the year or early next year.

Columbia County Libraries Association

- Submitted a grant application to the Hover Foundation for funds to continue funding of Kanopy countywide.
- CCLA is nominating Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich for the new Columbia County Saint Francis of Assisi Award, established by the Parish of Our Lady of Hope in Copake Falls, to be given to a Columbia County resident whose work demonstrates a holistic vision of sustainability, integrating care for the environment, social justice, concern for vulnerable populations, and responsible stewardship of economic and natural resources.
- Great Give Back in October, our county theme will be supporting our firefighters. Various libraries (including ours) are planning to screen a documentary, "Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat," on volunteer firefighters. We are reaching out to local fire companies to facilitate recruitment events at the screenings.

MHLS

- MHLS has noted that we need to better connect with state legislators and the governor and library systems throughout the state are working on a new approach to advocacy, making sure the governor hears about libraries and their funding needs much earlier in the process. More information coming soon on regional representative to reach to.
- At the federal level, e-rate funding is under threat again. More soon on how to advocate to continue this important program.
- 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>.