

Director's Monthly Report

August 2026



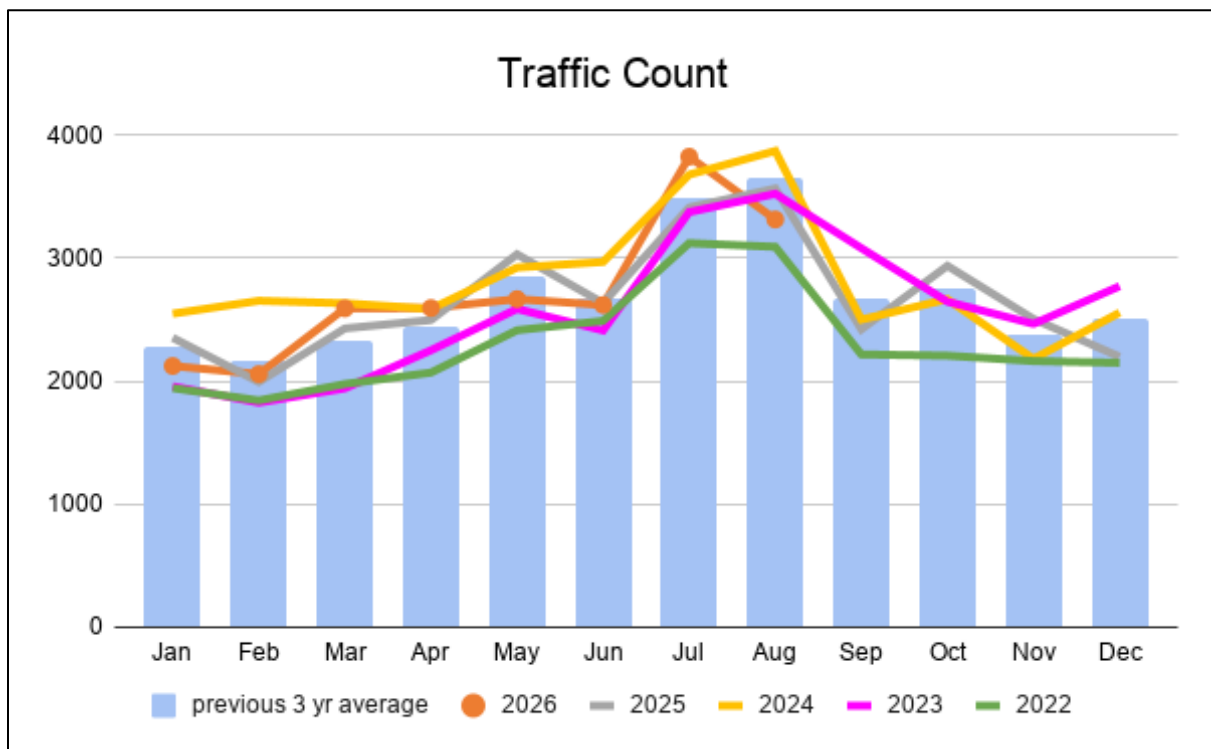
August began and ended with some great music. We started out the month with a piano concert by Kyle Walker, of the Harlem Chamber Players, and his concert “Bach to Black Notes” and ended with a special outdoor concert by the Juckets, “Pete Seeger: A Life in Song,” enjoyed by over 200 very appreciative attendees. In between we continued our regular weekly and monthly programs, provided kids of all ages a chance to make their own magnets, welcomed over 40 new patrons to the library, and wrapped up our summer reading challenges for kids and adults with our grand prize drawings for gift certificates to Books and Cake. Most staff also took a few days off to enjoy time with family or take care of life’s business.

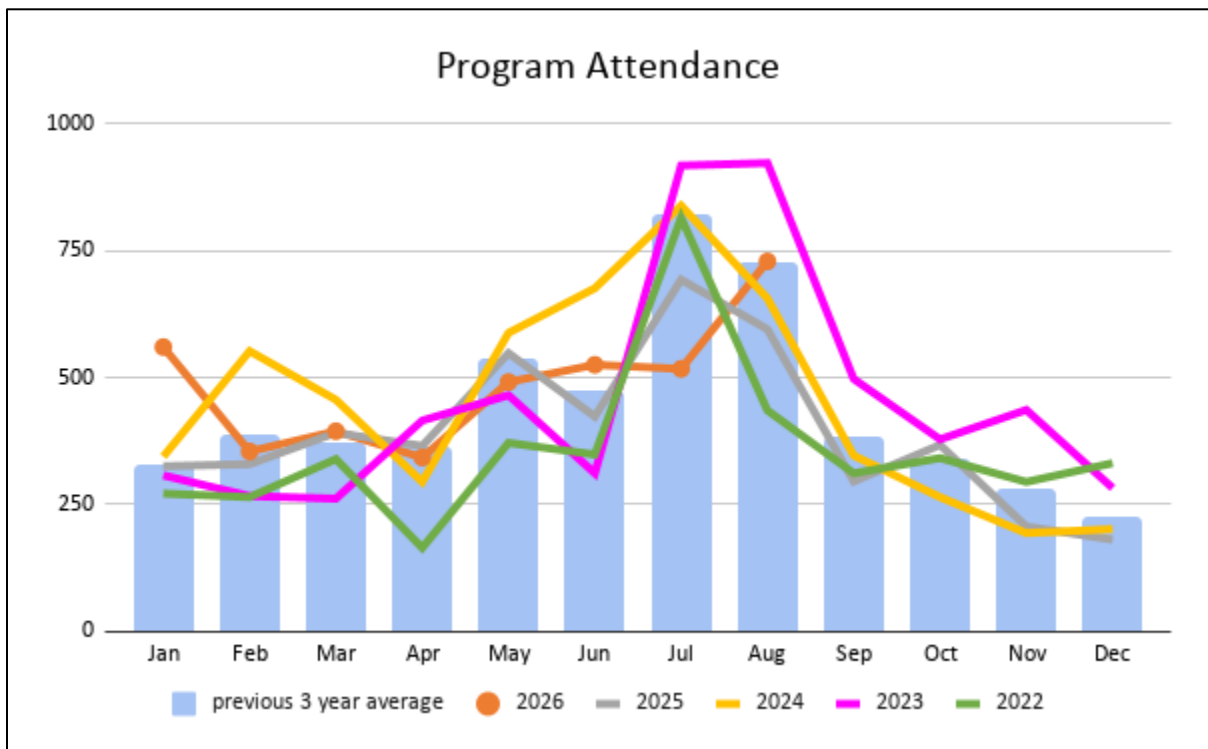
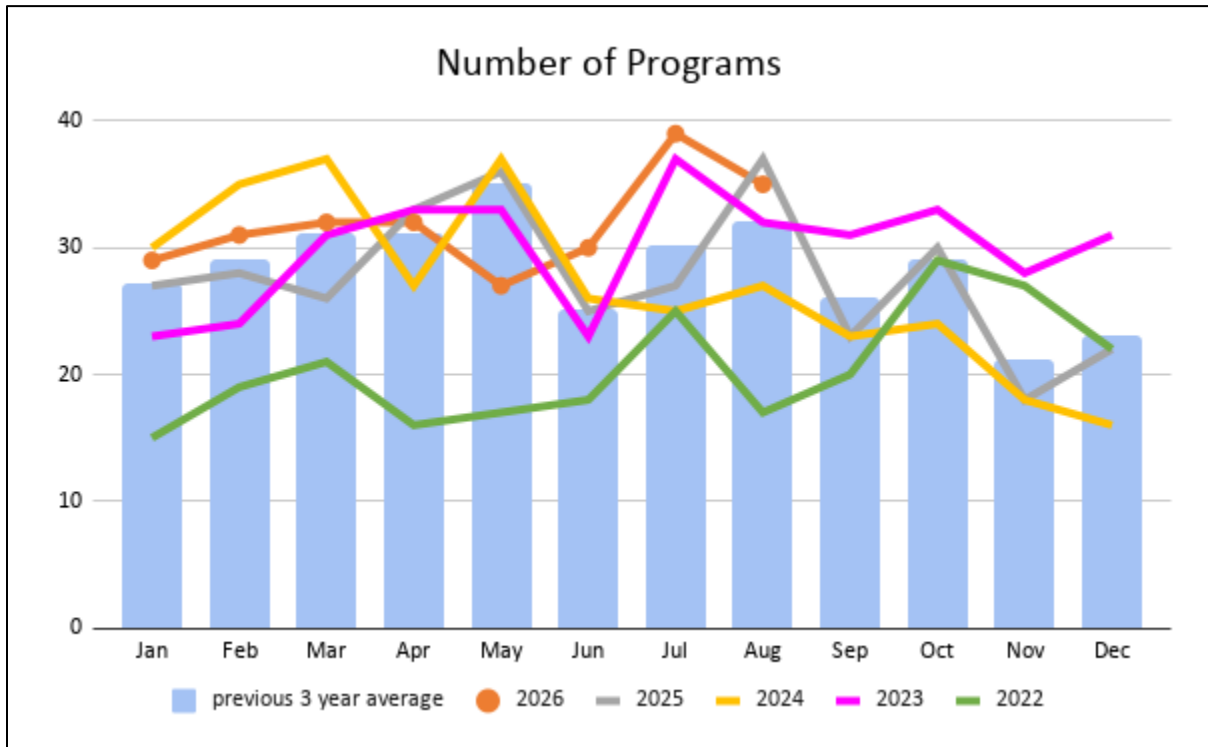
Programs:

- Farm Market Kids—average 15 adults, 2 teens, 26 kids a week
- Tai Chi—average 22 per class
- English Language Learning—average 3 per class
- Community Still Life—average 12 adults, 2 kids per session
- August 19—Drop-in Fly Tying—3 attended
- August 19—Paint Your Own Magnets—10 adults, 12 kids participated
- August 19—Read On Fiction Book Club—6 attended
- August 20—Book Marks! Non-fiction Book Club—20 attended
- August 27—Tea Time at the Library—15 adults and 2 kids attended
- August 30—Concert: Peter Seeger: A Life in Song, with the Juckets—over 200 attended
- September 5—Art Opening: Susan Arnholter—20 attended
- September 14—Webinar: The Constitution Speaks (with CCLA)
- September 15—Medicare 101

Upcoming Events:

- September 16—Adventure Wednesday: Rodgers Book Barn
- September 17—Book Marks! Nonfiction Book Club
- September 19—Houseplant Cutting Swap
- September 23—Art Club: Caterpillar pins out of buttons
- September 23—Read On Fiction Book Club
- September 24—Tea Time at the Library
- September 24—Chapters and Chatter Thriller Book Club
- September 25—Upstate Recycling: Reupholster a Dining Room Chair
- September 26—Braver Angels: Families and Politics
- September 27—Concert: Harmonia V Woodwind Quintet
- October 3—Repair Café
- October 4—October Film Series: *The Bride of Frankenstein*
- October 10—Film Screening and Firefighter Recruitment: *Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat*
- October 10—Tabling at Autumn in the Park, Taconic State Park
- October 11—October Film Series: *Young Frankenstein*
- October 13—Webinar: Eleanor Roosevelt: Becoming Who She Was (with CCLA)
- October 15—Book Marks! Nonfiction Book Club
- October 15—Chapters and Chatter Thriller Book Club
- October 16—Flu Shot Clinic
- October 17—Great Give Back: Animal Rabies Shot Clinic and Animal Rescue event
- October 18—Author Talk: Dan Haas, "The Deep History of the South Taconics"





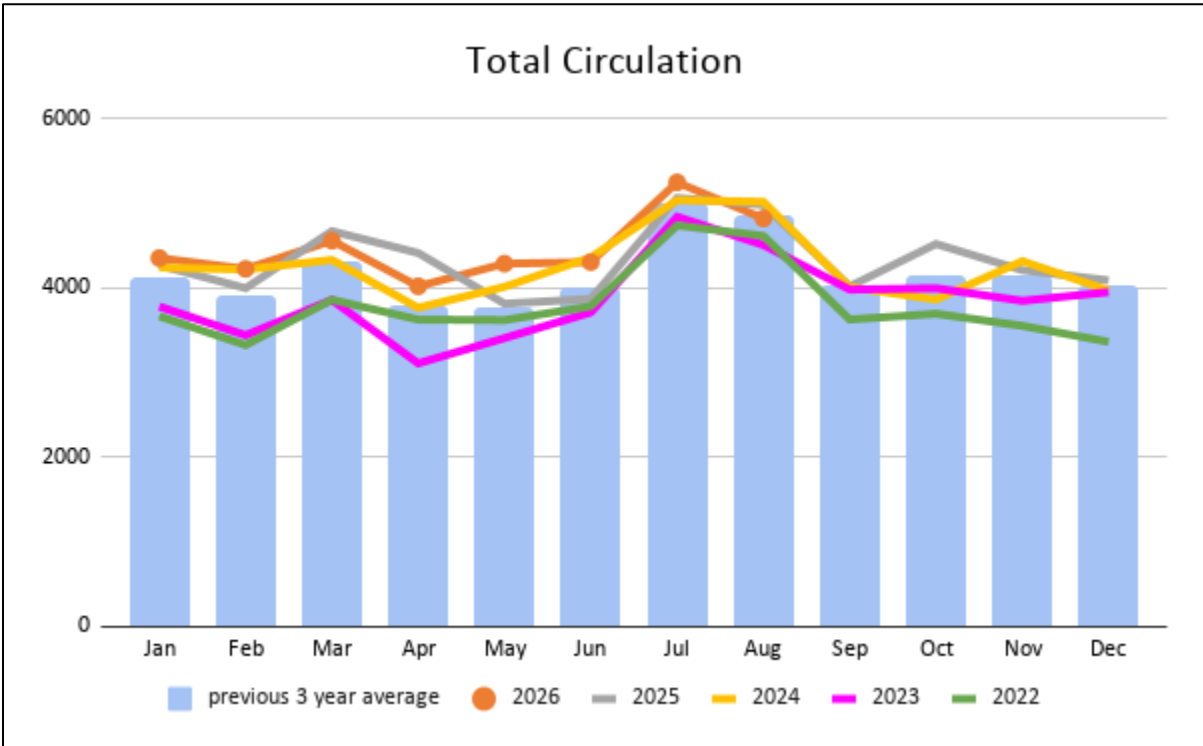
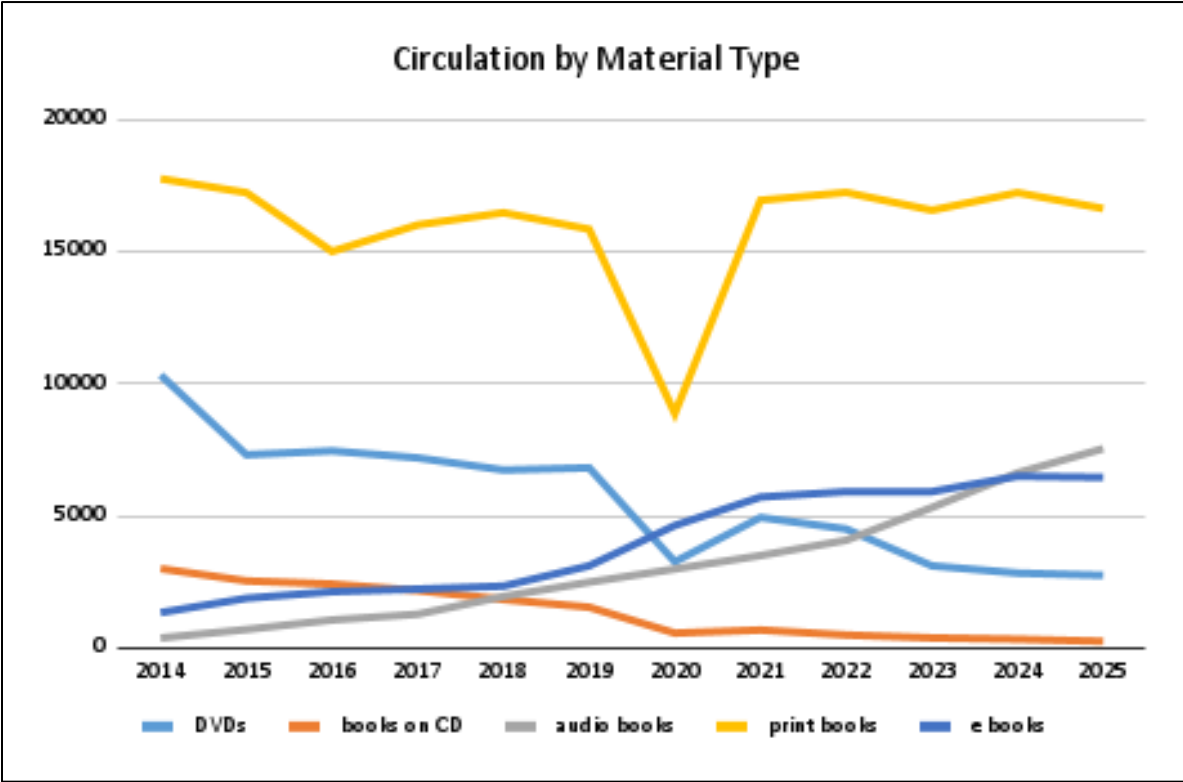
Library Usage:

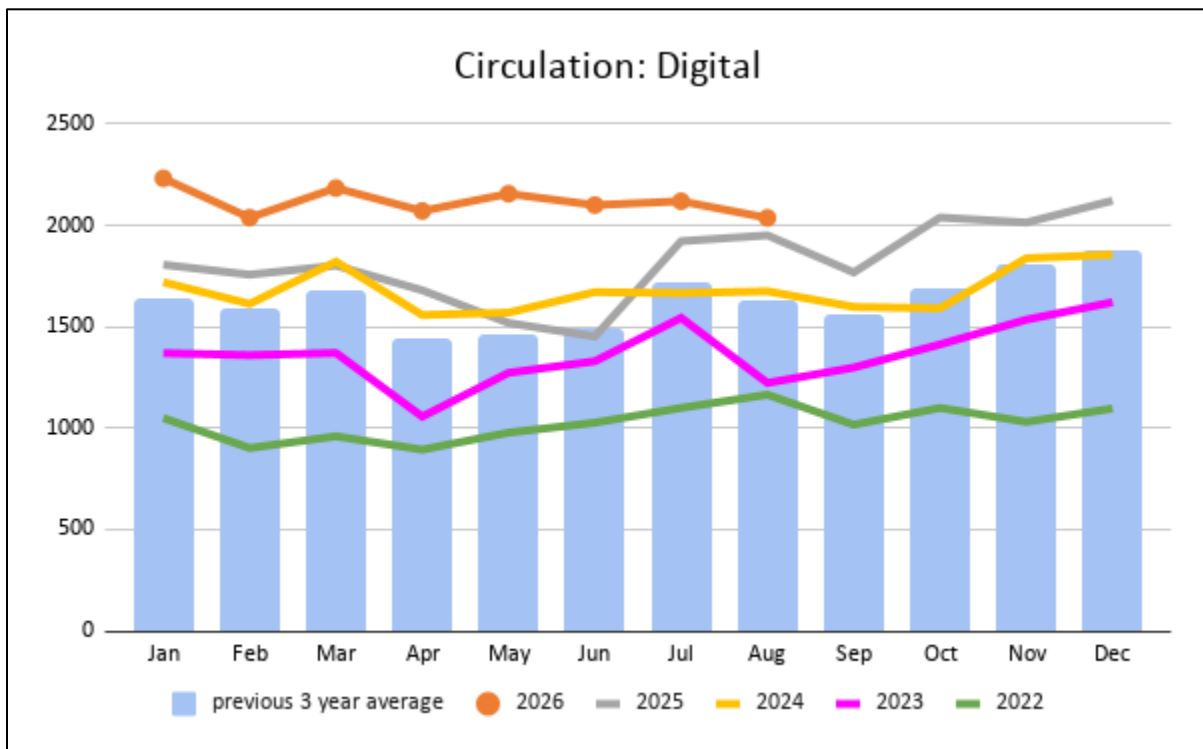
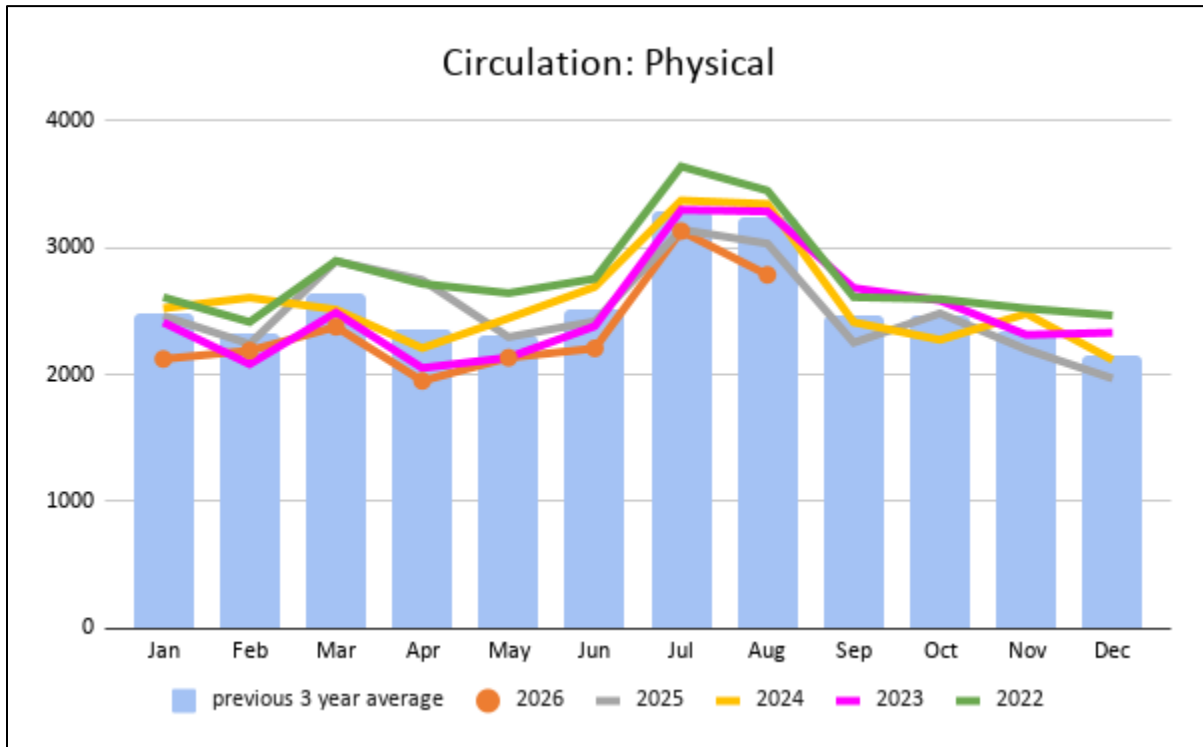
As usual, August was a bit slower than our busiest month of July, but busier every other month. While there were fewer programs than in July, our concerts drew in many, boosting our program attendance numbers. Smaller programs, including Celia's one-on-one Tech Support, were also well attended. Circulation of library materials was down from July, but like traffic in the library, higher than every other month. There was a bigger dip in checkouts of physical materials than of digital as people continue to shift to electronic materials. Checkouts of audiobooks set a new record—perhaps due to summer road trips. I will be interesting to see what happens in September.

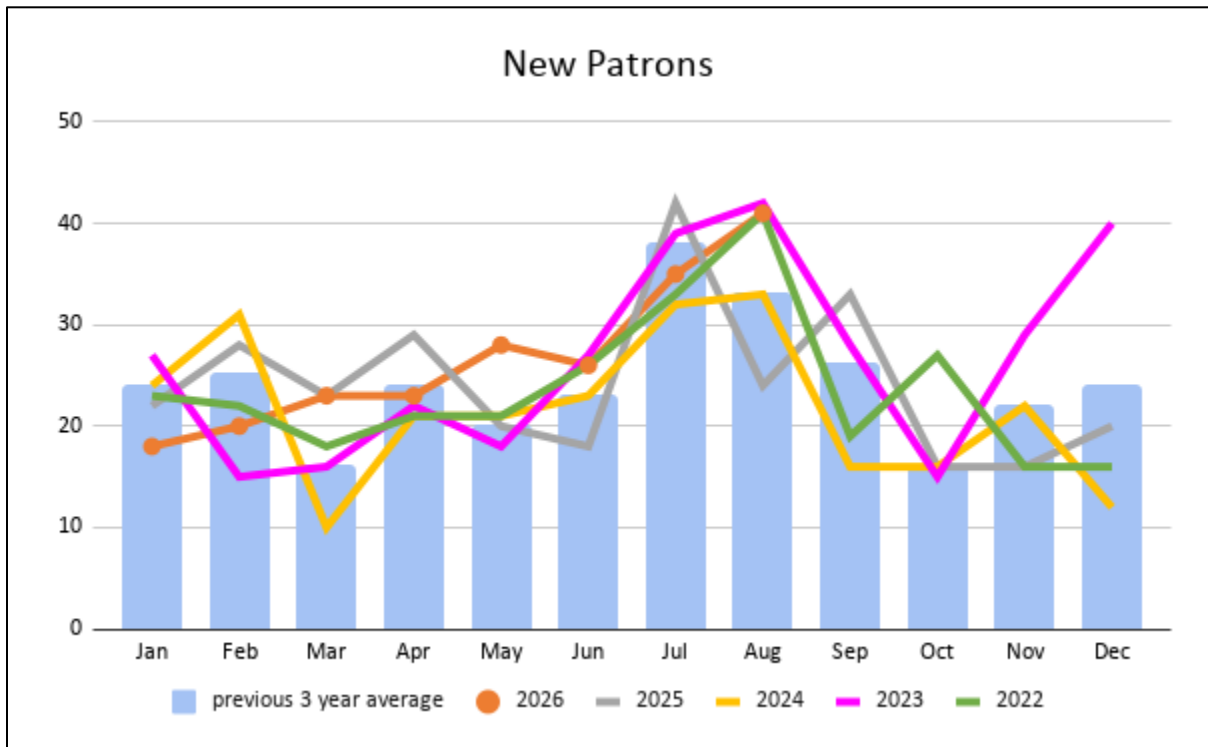
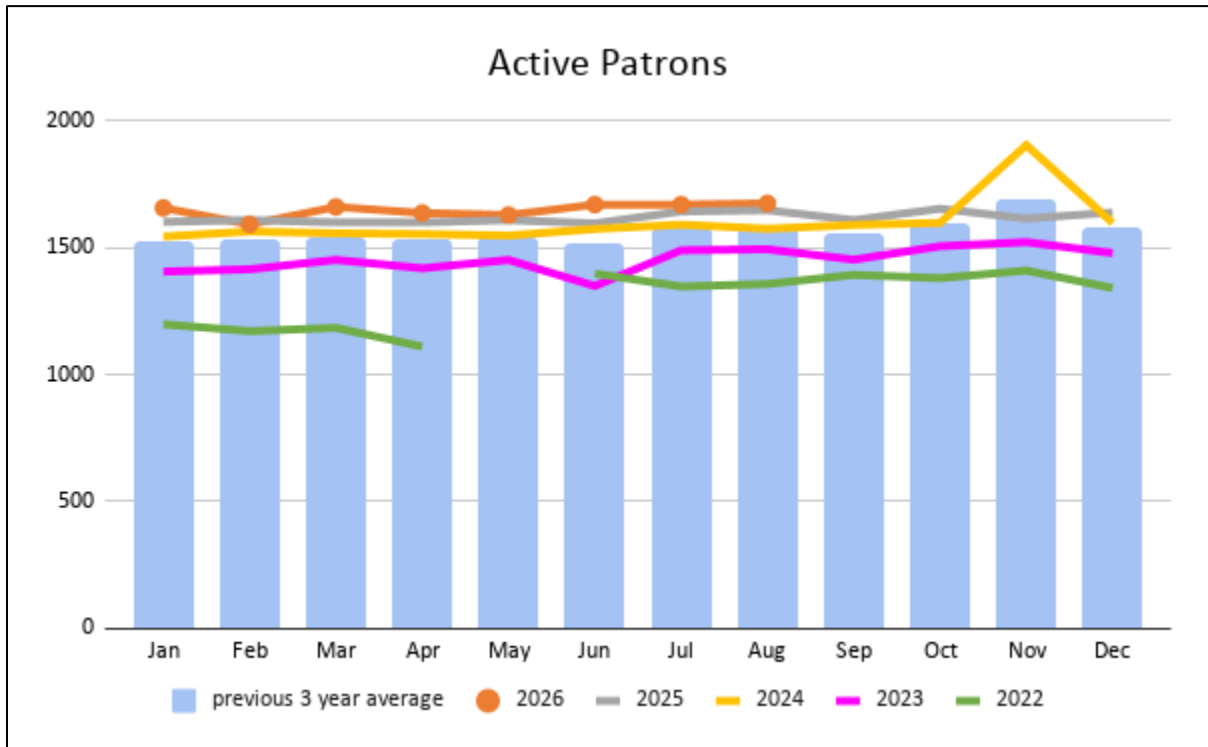
	Aug-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1648	1657	1592	1661	1637	1629	1670	1670	1674	ave. 1649	1537	107%
Patrons (unexpired)	2009	1967	1982	1998	2018	2033	2034	2042	2035	ave. 2014	1911	105%
New Patrons	24	18	20	23	23	28	26	35	41	214	202	106%
Traffic Count	3568	2122	2056	2591	2594	2667	2619	3827	3316	21,792	21,886	100%
Computer Use	81	62	92	71	55	55	61	78	58	532	600	89%
Circulation (physical)	3033	2122	2188	2376	1949	2132	2206	3131	2786	18,890	21,022	90%
Circulation (digital)	1951	2232	2038	2180	2071	2156	2100	2119	2037	16,933	12,570	135%
Museum Passes	116	8	10	6	7	23	25	57	60	196	335	59%
Wireless access	550	447	457	477	482	508	532	600	606	4,109	4261	96%
Website sessions	2320	2618	1977	2109	2032	2031	2831	2424	2404	18,426	17,121	108%
Number of programs	37	29	31	32	32	27	30	39	35	255	240	106%
Program attendance	595	560	354	395	342	491	525	517	729	3,913	3980	98%
YouTube views	92	106	96	143	142	92	87	96	69	831	1147	72%
Notary	14	24	15	15	11	18	7	16	15	121	117	103%
Homebound delivery	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	4	5	80%
Digital Navigator appts	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	9	11	n/a	n/a
Meeting room reservations	n/a	6	11	27	19	17	20	29	27	156	n/a	n/a

Circulation by Material Type

	Aug-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	206	240	209	215	170	227	151	167	190	1569	-370	-19%
videos	257	327	338	380	316	342	200	246	294	2443	-430	-21%
books on CD	25	31	14	19	26	27	25	28	32	202	28	16%
audiobooks	628	743	613	666	713	716	753	731	845	5780	861	18%
print books	1760	1159	1206	1200	1027	1217	1314	2011	1723	10857	-989	-8%
e books	579	625	544	540	531	576	566	622	578	4582	334	8%
museum passes	116	8	10	6	7	23	25	57	60	196	-118	-38%
hotspots	9	1	1	6	6	9	6	7	5	41	-10	-20%
camping equipment	9	1	0	1	2	1	1	10	3	19	11	138%







Staff and Professional Development:

- Master SIMPLE IRA account established and staff have been informed of the new benefit and will be setting up their own accounts in September
- Celia took a webinar on Patron Autonomy and AI and will be following up with another webinar on how to talk to patrons about AI
- Tammy attended a webinar on possible group health insurance options through MHLS (not promising)
- Michael has given notice that he will be leaving later this fall—at the end of October. We will post a job announcement soon.

Building and Grounds

- Roof committee is meeting with Jay on Sept. 16 about remaining work to be done
- Tammy completed registration of the solar panel project with the IRS to be able to receive a Direct Pay payment. The registration is “awaiting assignment.” One approved and we have a registration number, that will be needed for our 2026 990 filing to receive the funds (presumably about \$11,000) (<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/elective-pay-and-transferability>).

Other Activities

- Staff is busy preparing for a full fall program calendar
- Staff designed new book displays for the fall
- Wrapped up summer reading, and Michael submitted the annual summer reading report to MHLS
- Celia has been busy with her Wednesday Tech Help appointments, which have proved very popular

Columbia County Libraries Association

- Tammy, with Matt Pavoff and Thea Scheop, attended the August County governance committee meeting to make a case for increased funding in 2027
- CCLA is sponsoring a fall webinar series with the FDR Museum and Library

MHLS

- MHLS member meeting is October 23 in Hyde Park
- We received new wireless access points from MHLS—will be installed soon
- MHLS is moving to paperless billing
- 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>.