

Director's Monthly Report

September 2026



We always breathe a sigh of relief when September comes because things slow down quite a bit after Labor Day. However, somethings gear up. With kids back in school, our school-related programs Adventure Wednesday, Literacy Voyage, and Head Start story times resumed. This year we also added a monthly Art Club, which began in September. The month started with an art opening for Sue Arnholter and ended with our final concert of the season, with Harmonia V, a woodwind quintet. In between, we had the first of our upcycling workshops, this one on reupholstering dining room chairs; the CCLA began its fall webinar series with a program on the Constitution and how it has evolved; we hosted our first houseplant-cutting swap; and we held a program on Families and Politics and how to bridge those political divides. And the usual monthly and weekly programs—book clubs (3), Tea Time, Tai Chi, ESL—all continued—as did meetings of Mah Jong, Bridge, Fly Tying, Memoir, and Poetry groups. So while slower than July and August, the library was still humming with activity.

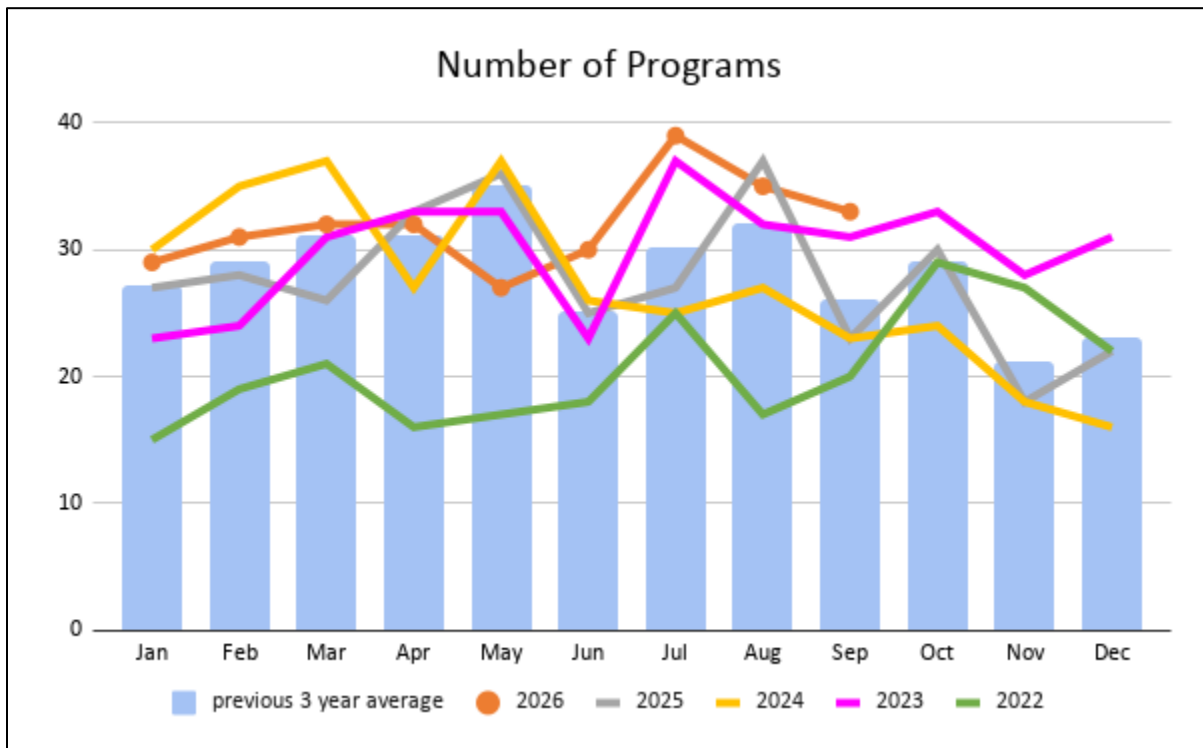
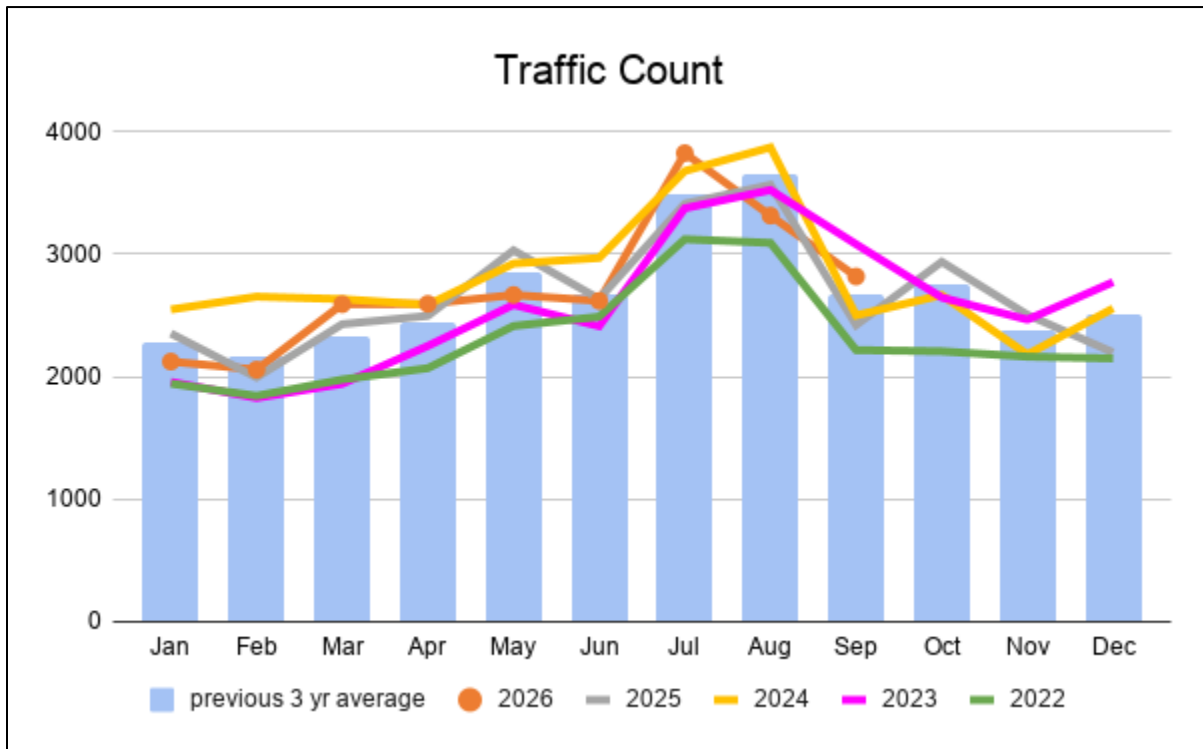
Programs:

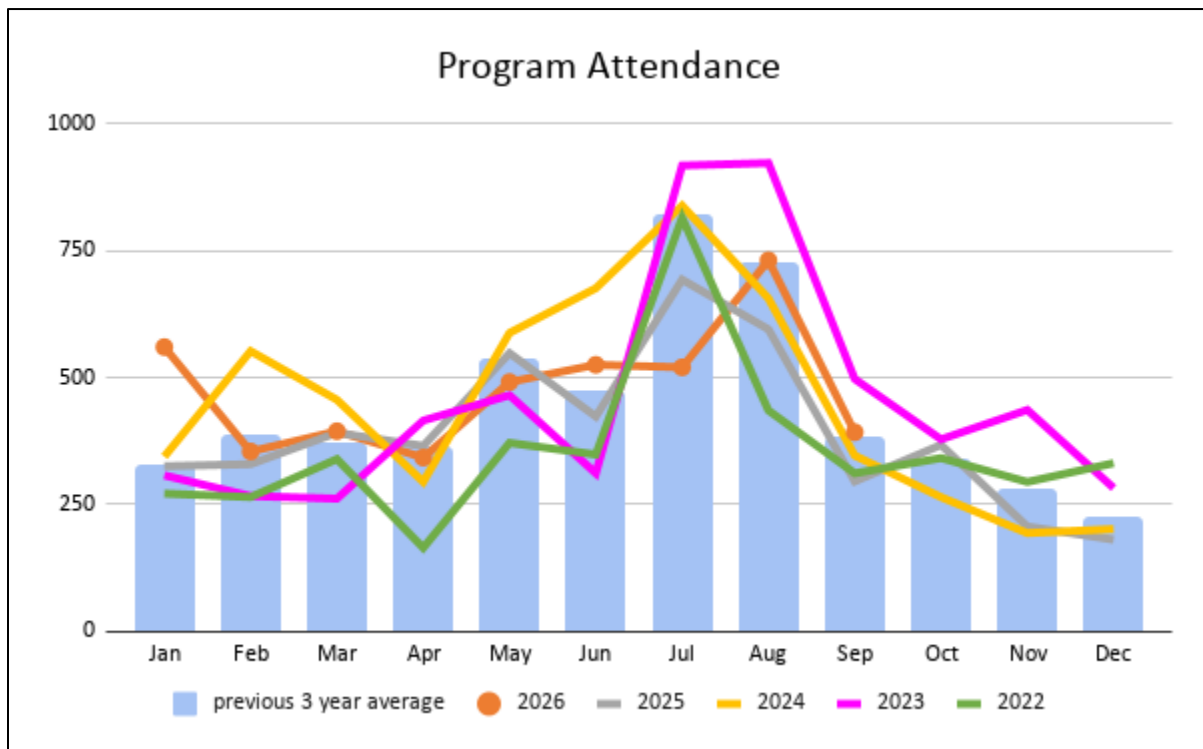
- Tai Chi—average 18 per class
- English Language Learning—average 4 per class
- Community Still Life—average 12 adults, 2 kids per session
- September 16—Adventure Wednesday: Rodgers Book Barn—9 kids, 5 adults
- September 17—Book Marks! Nonfiction Book Club—17 attended
- September 19—Houseplant Cutting Swap—30 adults, 7 kids
- September 23—Art Club: Caterpillar pins out of buttons—6 adults, 10 kids
- September 23—Read On Fiction Book Club—5 attended
- September 24—Tea Time at the Library—22 attended

- September 25—Upstate Recycling: Reupholster a Dining Room Chair—5 attended
- September 26—Storytime—2 kids, 2 adults
- September 26—Braver Angels: Families and Politics—4 attended
- September 27—Anna Winand Art Reception—10 attended
- September 27—Concert: Harmonia V Woodwind Quintet—40 attended
- September 30—Literacy Voyage—1 kid, 1 adult
- September 30—Chapters and Chatter Thriller Book Club—4 attended
- October 3—Peter Fritsch Art Reception—25 attended
- October 3—Books and Cakes Storytime—10 kids, 15 adults
- October 3—Repair Café—about 100 attended
- October 4—October Film Series: *The Bride of Frankenstein*—3 attended
- October 8—Stronger Bones Yoga—10 attended
- October 10—Film Screening and Firefighter Recruitment: *Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat*—5 attended
- October 10—Tabling at Autumn in the Park, Taconic State Park
- October 11—October Film Series: *Young Frankenstein*—0 attended
- October 13—Webinar: Eleanor Roosevelt: Becoming Who She Was (with CCLA)—21 attended
- October 14—Art Club: Spooky Lanterns—18 kids, 10 adults
- October 14—Chapters and Chatter Thriller Book Club
- October 15—Stronger Bones Yoga—9 attended
- October 15—Book Marks! Nonfiction Book Club—14 attended
- October 16—Flu Shot Clinic
- October 17—Great Give Back: Animal Rabies Shot Clinic and Pet Rescue Fair
- October 18—Author Talk: Dan Haas, "The Deep History of the South Taconics"

Upcoming Events:

- October 21—Literacy Voyage: Volcano Pumpkins
- October 21—Adventure Wednesday: CLC and Overmountain Preserve
- October 21—Read On Fiction Book Club
- October 22—Tea Time at the Library
- October 22—Stronger Bones Yoga
- October 23—CLC Conservation Speed Dating Workshop
- October 24—Pumpkin Painting
- October 25—Film Screening: Frankenweenie
- October 29—Stronger Bones Yoga
- October 31—Ancram Resilient Gardens & Farms: Creating and Managing Sustainable Gardens & Farms in the 21st Century
- October 31—Trick or Treat at the Library
- November 7—Writers on Writing Panel
- November 14—Film Screening: The Extraordinary Caterpillar
- November 16—Webinar: FDR and Veterans' Day (will CCLA)





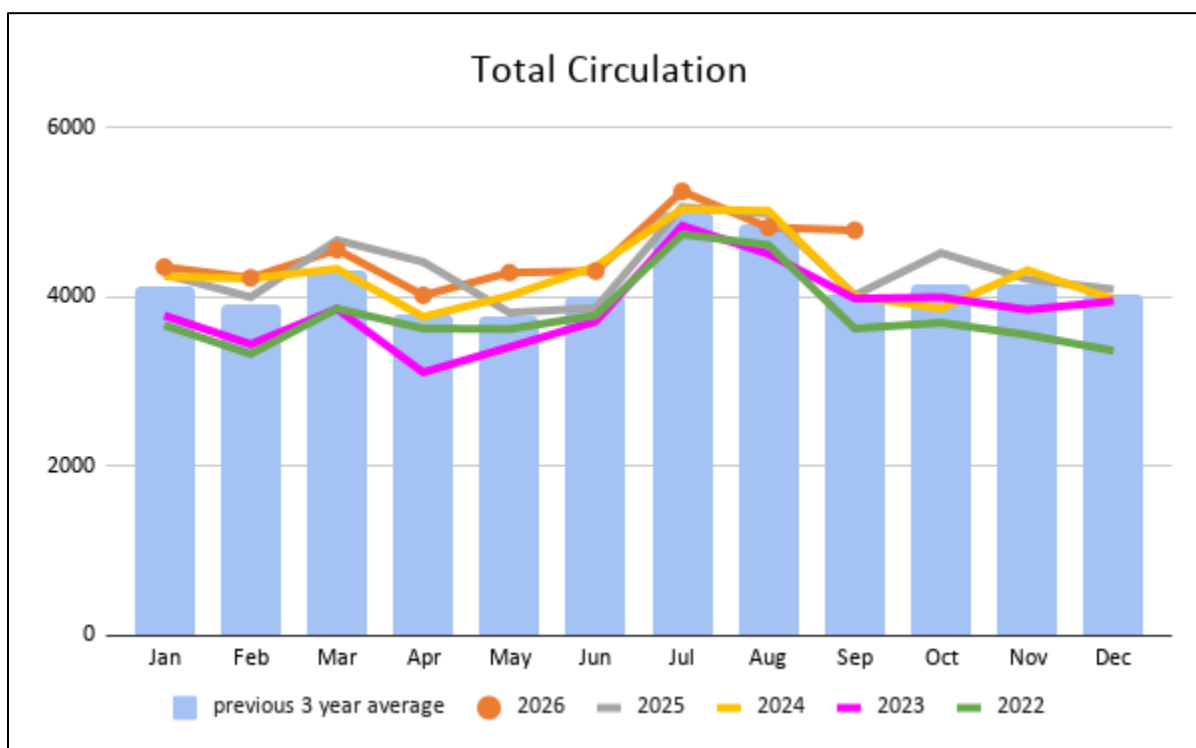
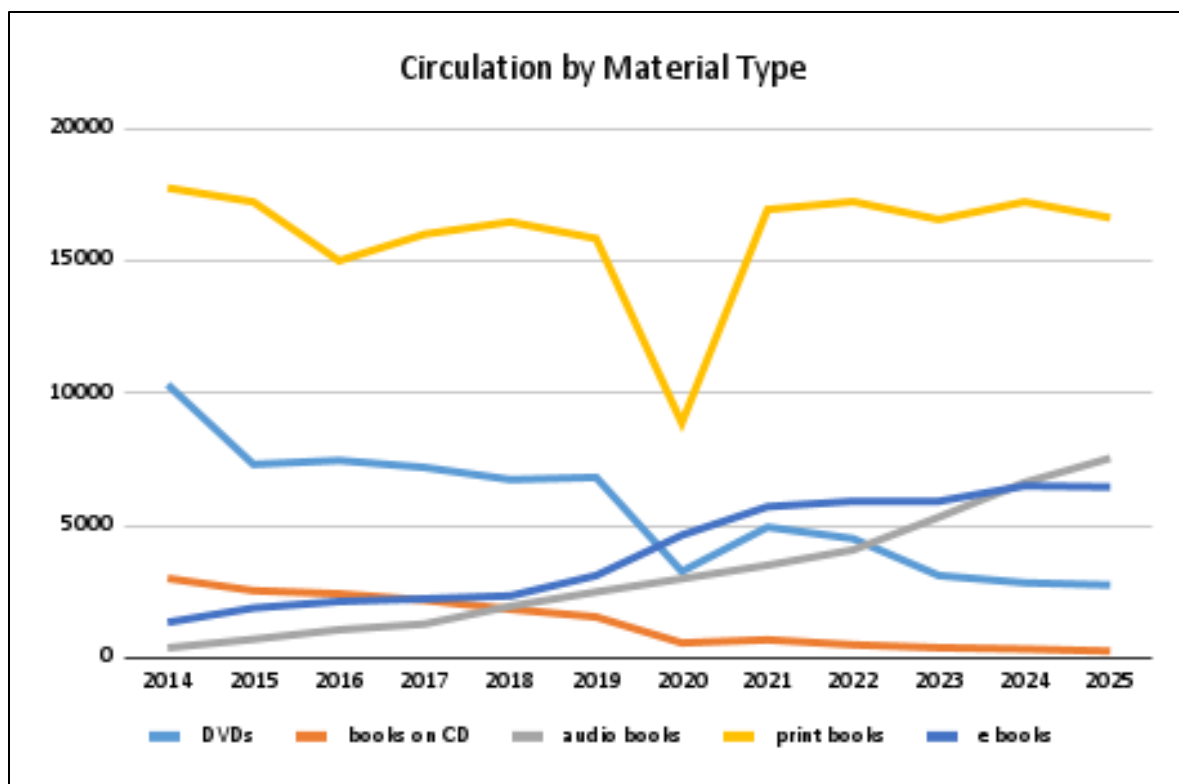
Library Usage:

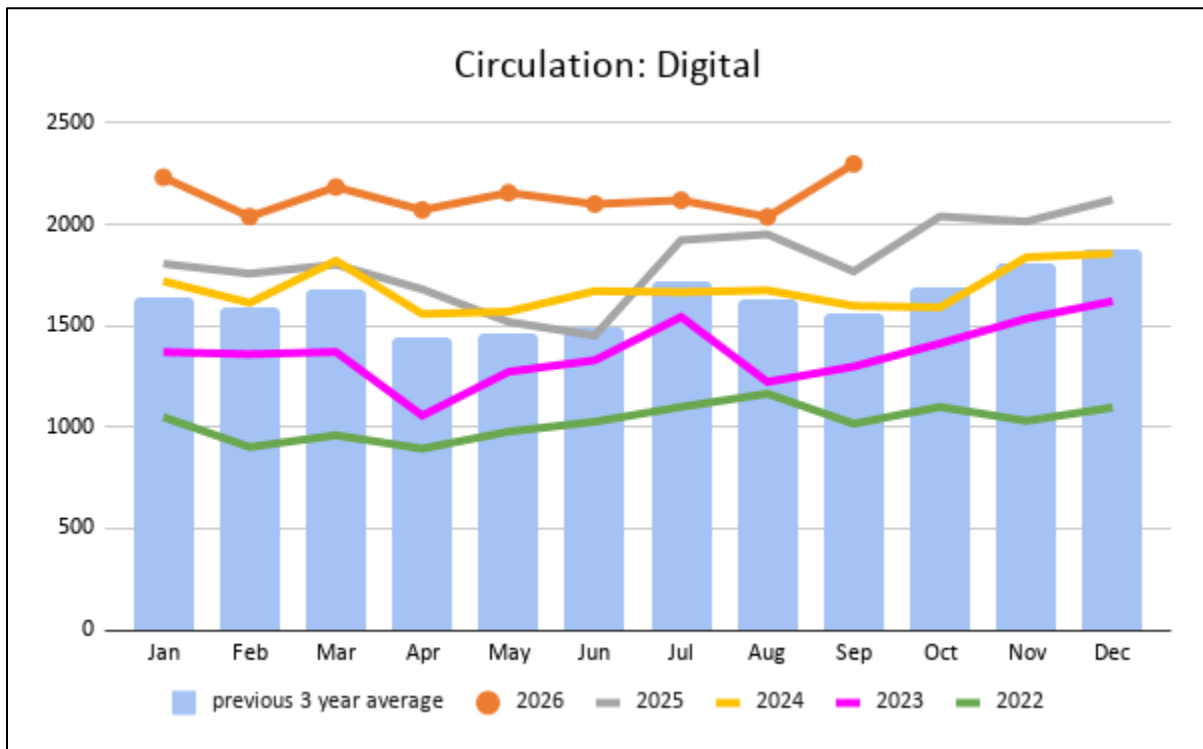
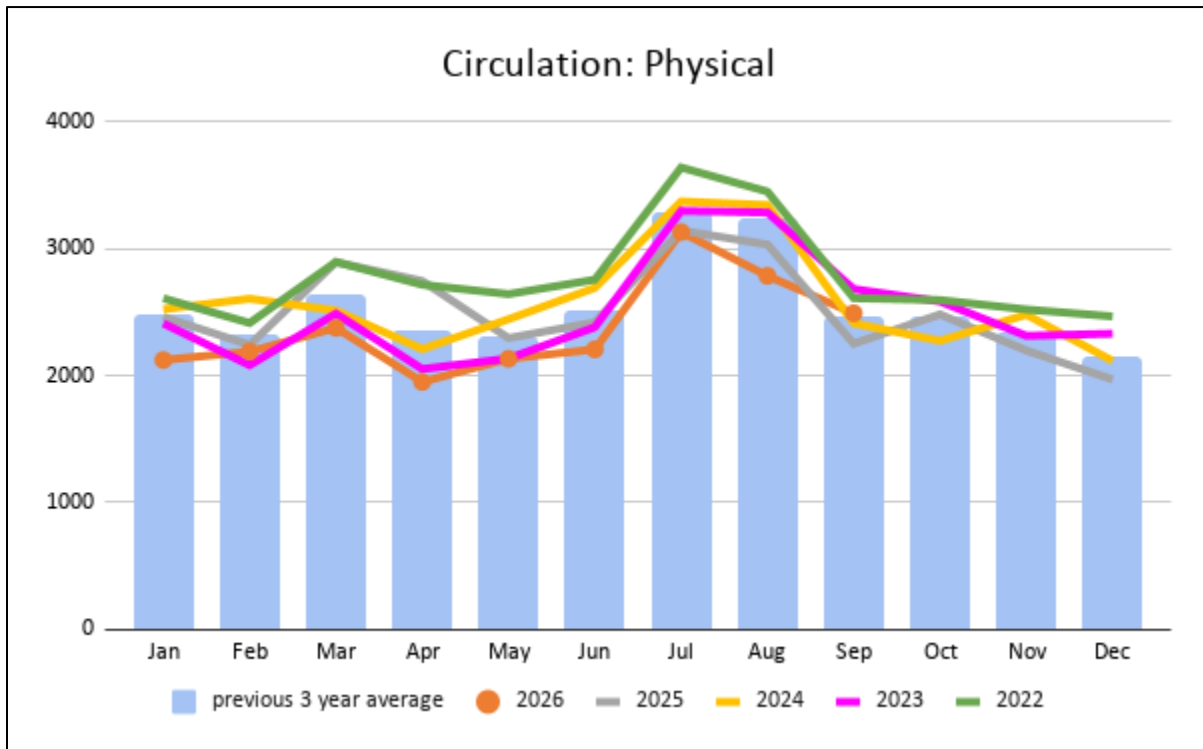
Our September traffic in the library was higher than in any recent previous year except for 2023, in part because of the number of programs held this month—perhaps the highest number ever. Some were small programs or not well attended, so the total attendance did not set a record, but it was still high for September. Our meeting room spaces were also in high demand in September. Celia was busier than ever with her one-on-one tech help sessions and Fran kept busy providing notary service. At the same time, circulation of library materials set a September record. Overall circulation did not drop as much as in a typical September, and digital circulation set an all-time record. E-book usage was up 9% over September 2025, audiobooks up 21%, videos up 43%, and even check outs of print books was up 6%.

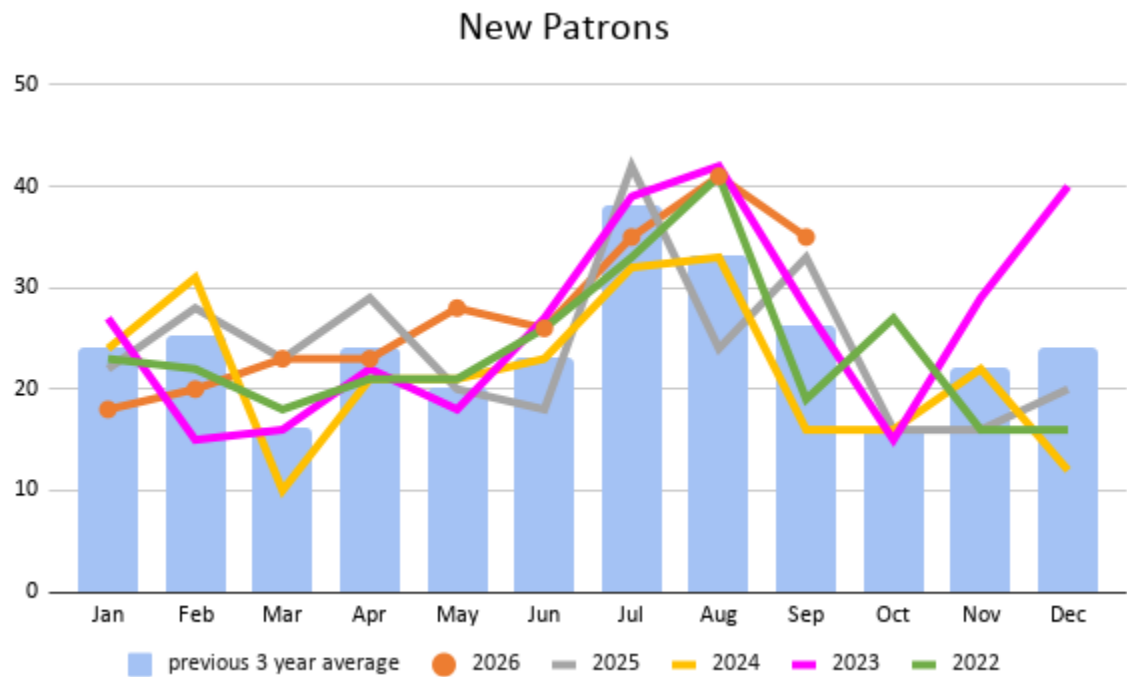
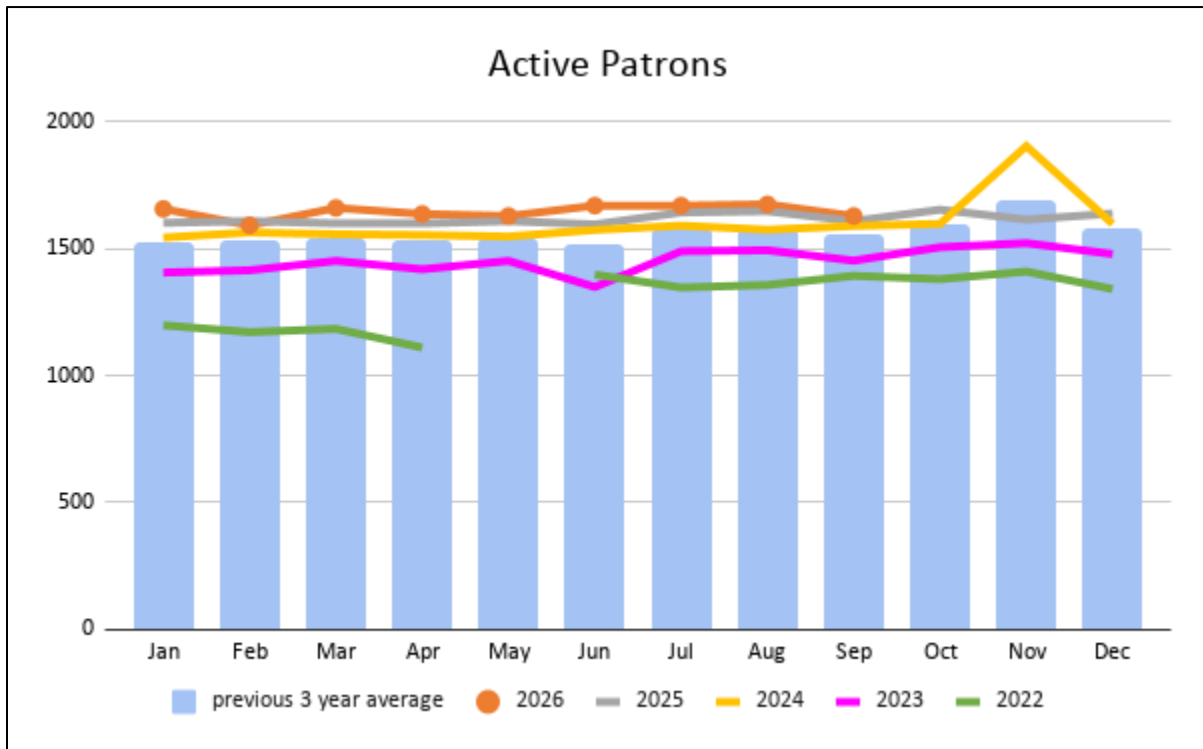
	Sep-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1609	1657	1592	1661	1637	1629	1670	1670	1674	1629	ave. 1649	1539	107%
Patrons (unexpired)	2022	1967	1982	1998	2018	2033	2034	2042	2035	2049	ave. 2014	1914	105%
New Patrons	33	18	20	23	23	28	26	35	41	35	249	228	109%
Traffic Count	2421	2122	2056	2591	2594	2667	2619	3827	3316	2818	24,610	24,553	100%
Computer Use	60	62	92	71	55	55	61	78	58	98	630	664	95%
Circulation (physical)	2251	2122	2188	2376	1949	2132	2206	3131	2786	2491	21,381	23,470	91%
Circulation (digital)	1768	2232	2038	2180	2071	2156	2100	2119	2037	2298	19,231	14,125	136%
Museum Passes	42	8	10	6	7	23	25	57	60	32	228	385	59%
Wireless access	481	447	457	477	482	508	532	600	606	530	4,639	4788	97%
Website sessions	2088	2618	1977	2109	2032	2031	2831	2424	2404	2157	20,583	19,153	107%
Number of programs	23	29	31	32	32	27	30	40	36	33	290	265	109%
Program attendance	295	560	354	395	342	491	525	520	731	392	4,310	4359	99%
YouTube views	102	106	96	143	142	92	87	96	69	101	932	1258	74%
Notary	23	24	15	15	11	18	7	16	15	13	134	131	102%
Homebound delivery	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	8	50%
Digital Navigator appts	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	9	21	32	n/a	n/a
Meeting room reservations	n/a	6	11	27	19	17	20	29	27	23	179	n/a	n/a

Circulation by Material Type

	Sep-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	161	240	209	215	170	227	151	167	190	229	1798	-302	-14%
videos	200	327	338	380	316	342	200	246	294	285	2728	515	23%
books on CD	21	31	14	19	26	27	25	28	32	24	226	31	16%
audiobooks	653	743	613	666	713	716	753	731	845	788	6568	996	18%
print books	1231	1159	1206	1200	1027	1217	1314	2011	1723	1314	12171	-906	-7%
e books	563	625	544	540	531	576	566	622	578	615	5197	386	8%
museum passes	42	8	10	6	7	23	25	57	60	32	228	-128	-36%
hotspots	6	1	1	6	6	9	6	7	5	6	47	-10	-18%
camping equipment	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	10	3	0	19	2	12%







Staff and Professional Development:

- Staff set up SIMPLE IRA accounts, first withholdings began with first October pay period.
- Celia took a follow-up webinar on talking with patrons about AI
- Kelly Grimme's last day was September 29.
- Posted for a new bookkeeper and children's librarian. Interviews for bookkeeper ongoing and will be inviting candidates for the children's librarian position for interviews soon (interview committee is Tammy, Tia, and Celia).
- Tammy and Michael both took vacations in September

Grants and Fundraising

- Received \$2000 from MHLS and Understory for purchase of response and recovery supplies for our own use and for our Library of Things for patrons to borrow
- Submitted grant request to the Herman Goldman Foundation
- Submitted grant request to the Evelyn Bordewick Charitable Foundation
- Celia put 414 FAQs up on the website
- Tammy submitted public notices for the 414 to the Columbia Paper and Register Star

Building and Grounds

- Beth obtained quotes for fencing around generator and fuel tank
- Jason from US Metal Roofing examined the roof and will be giving us a report and proposal
- Tufano came to switch us to heat and noted that there are a few parts that need replacing, in addition to the one faulty pump. They are giving up on waiting for whatever brand pump they were hoping to install and will be ordering a different one. No word on timeframe for receiving it or for any of this work.

Columbia County Libraries Association

- CCLA is sponsoring a fall webinar series with the FDR Museum and Library

MHLS

- MHLS member meeting is October 23 in Hyde Park
- MHLS has developed new "ptypes" for patron records so that we can better identify patrons in unserved areas and make decisions on what services will be available to them. The first step, to begin this fall, is to clean up all our patron records to make sure all fields are entered correctly and that the right ptypes are being used.
- MHLS is working with systems around the state on earlier advocacy efforts with the governor