Director's Monthly Report

October 2026





A quick glance at our monthly statics confirms that October was busier than usual for this time of year, in part due to some special programs organized by Fran, including our 4th annual Repair Café, attended by about 100 people who brought in items from lamps to clothing to small appliances for repair, and our first-ever animal rescue and pet adoption event, which collected materials for local animal rescue organizations and offered a chance to adopt a new friend. We were pleased to learn than several furry friends did find new home as a result. We also held programs in partnership with area organizations, such as the CLC Conservation Speed Dating session and the Creating and Managing Sustainable Gardens and Farms program with the Ancram Resilient Gardens and Farms committee, which brought many people to the library. Smaller programs, such as the Stronger Bones Yoga series and our October film series added to our ongoing programs to make for a full calendar and lots of activity.

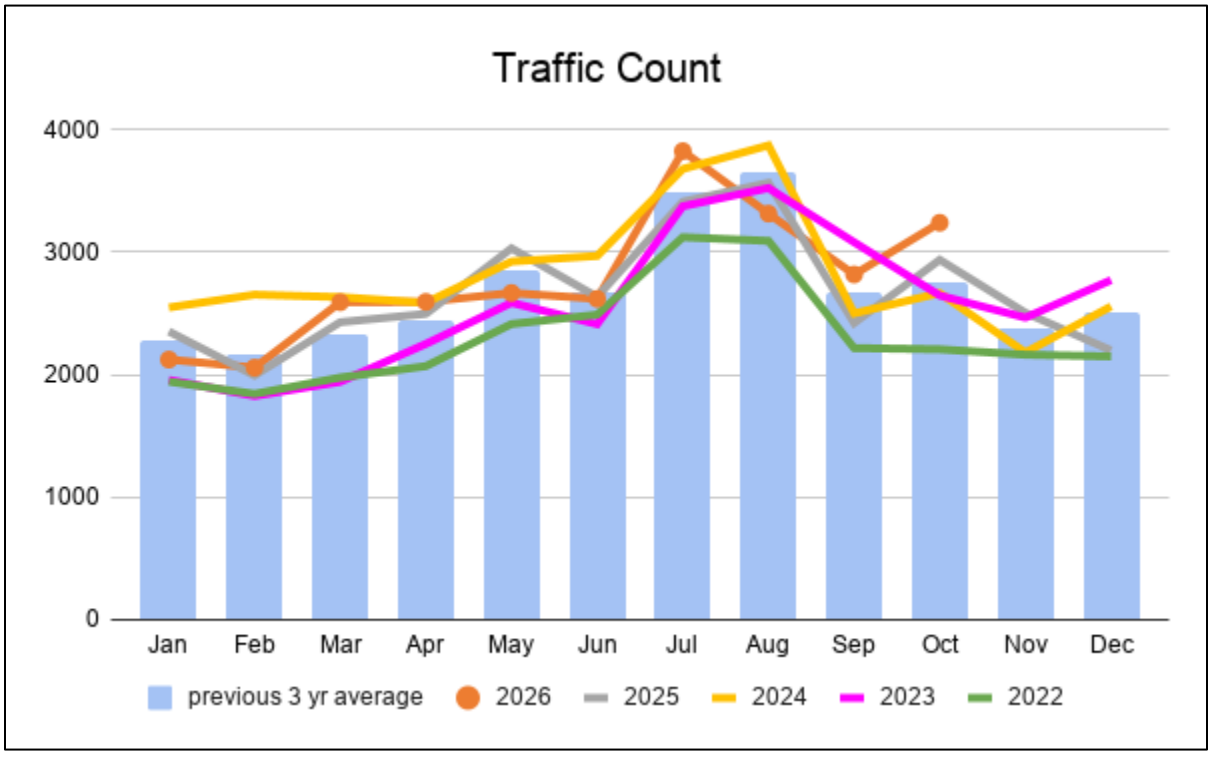
Programs:

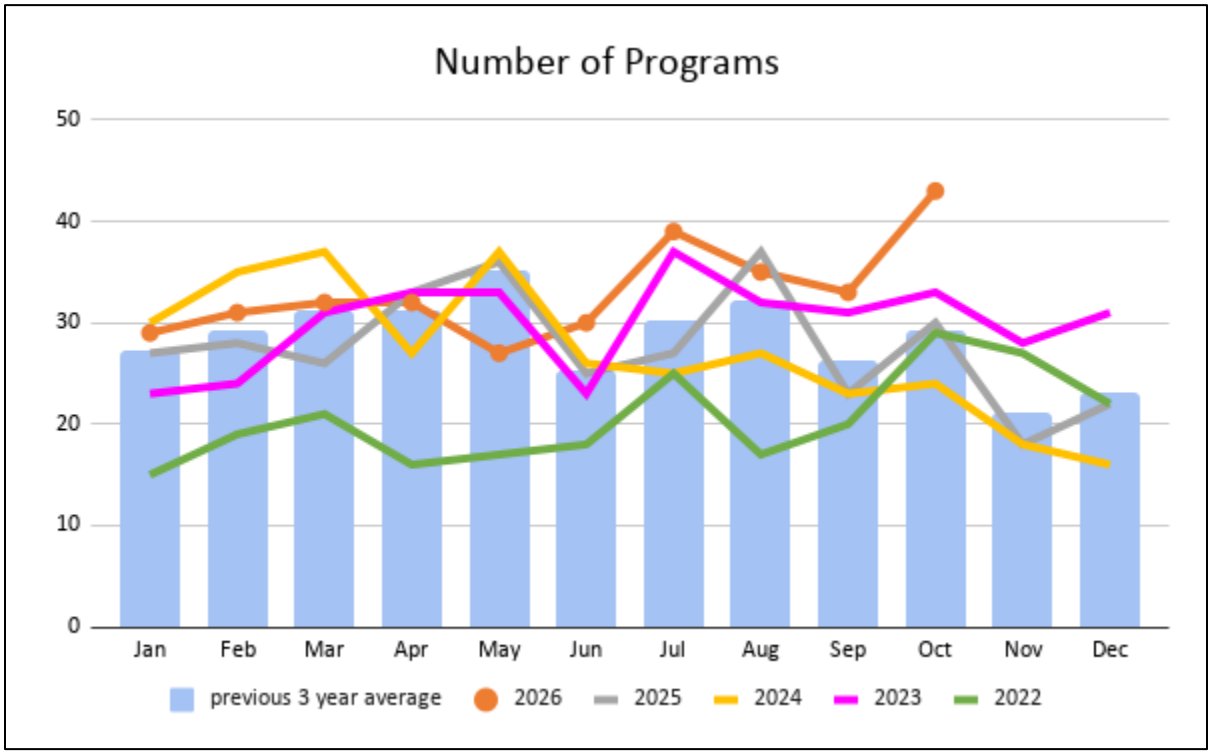
- Tai Chi—average 20 per class
- English Language Learning—average 3 per class
- Community Still Life—average 10 adults, 1 kid per session
- October 21—Literacy Voyage: Volcano Pumpkins—6 kids, 4 adults
- October 21—Adventure Wednesday: CLC and Overmountain Preserve—8 kids, 5 adults
- October 21—Read On Fiction Book Club—4 attended
- October 22—Tea Time at the Library—12 attended
- October 22—Stronger Bones Yoga—10 attended

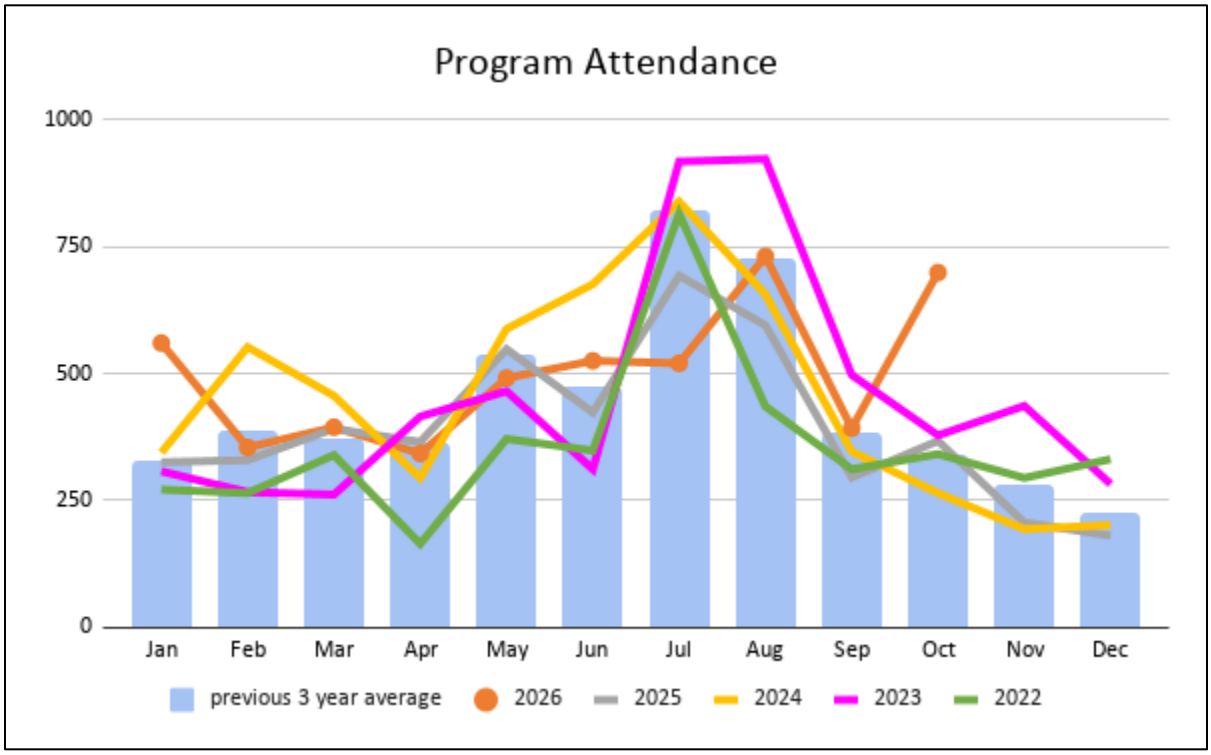
- October 23—CLC Conservation Speed Dating Workshop—29 attended
- October 24—Pumpkin Painting—13 kids, 12 adults
- October 25—Film Screening: Frankenweenie—5 kids, 3 adults
- October 29—Stronger Bones Yoga—6 attended
- October 31—Ancram Resilient Gardens & Farms: Creating and Managing Sustainable Gardens & Farms in the 21st Century—40 attended
- October 31—Trick or Treat at the Library—7 kids, 8 adults
- November 7—Writers on Writing Panel—30 attended
- November 14—Film Screening: The Extraordinary Caterpillar
- November 16—Webinar: FDR and Veterans' Day (will CCLA)

Upcoming Events:

- November 18—Literacy Voyage
- November 18—Adventure Wednesday at Taconic State Park
- November 18—Art Club
- November 18—Read On Fiction Book Club
- November 19—Book Marks! Nonfiction Book Club
- November 19—Chapter and Chatter Thriller Book Club
- December 3—Tea Time at the Library
- December 9—Art/Rat Club
- December 12—Author Talk: Laura Chester: *Shovels & Chandeliers*
- December 13—Concert: Wolcum A Cappella Holiday Concert
- December 14—Webinar: Christmas with the Roosevelts (with CCLA)




Number of Programs
50
40
30
20
10
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
previous 3 year average
2026
2025
2024
2023
2022


Program Attendance
1000
750
500
250
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
previous 3 year average
2026
2025
2024
2023
2022

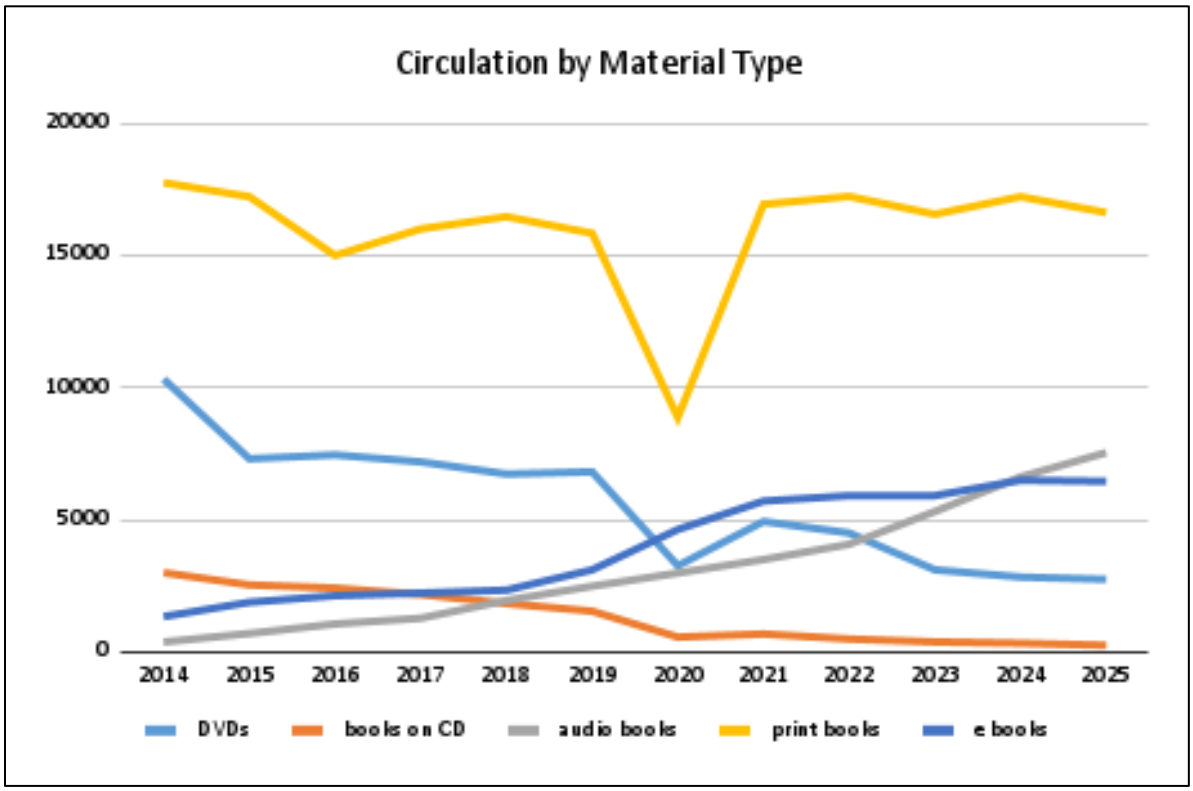
Library Usage:

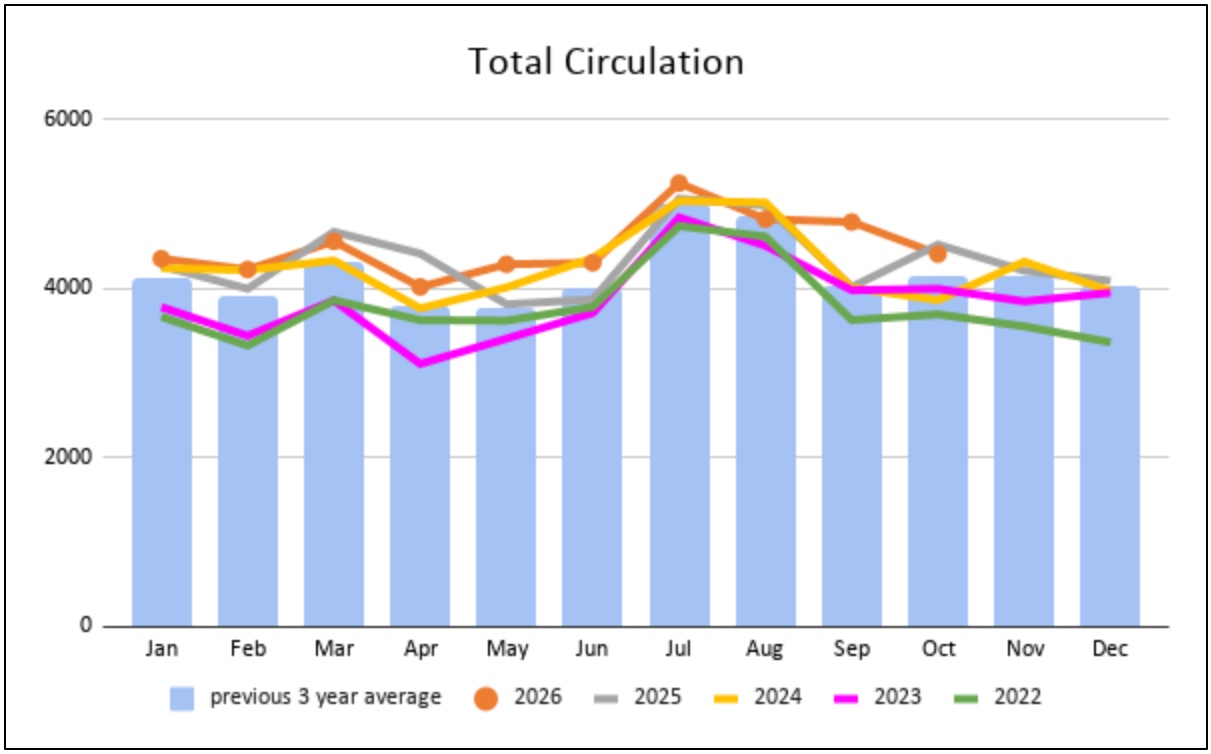
Our October traffic in the library was higher than in any recent previous year except largely because of the number of programs held this month—perhaps the highest number ever. On the other hand, circulation was down in October. While it was down more sharply than normal from September that may be more a refection of the unusually high September circulation than a real drop for October. Circulation was slightly lower than the same period in 2025 but higher than in other previous years. We are, however, seeing a steady drop in circulation of physical items. But digital circulation set an all time record.

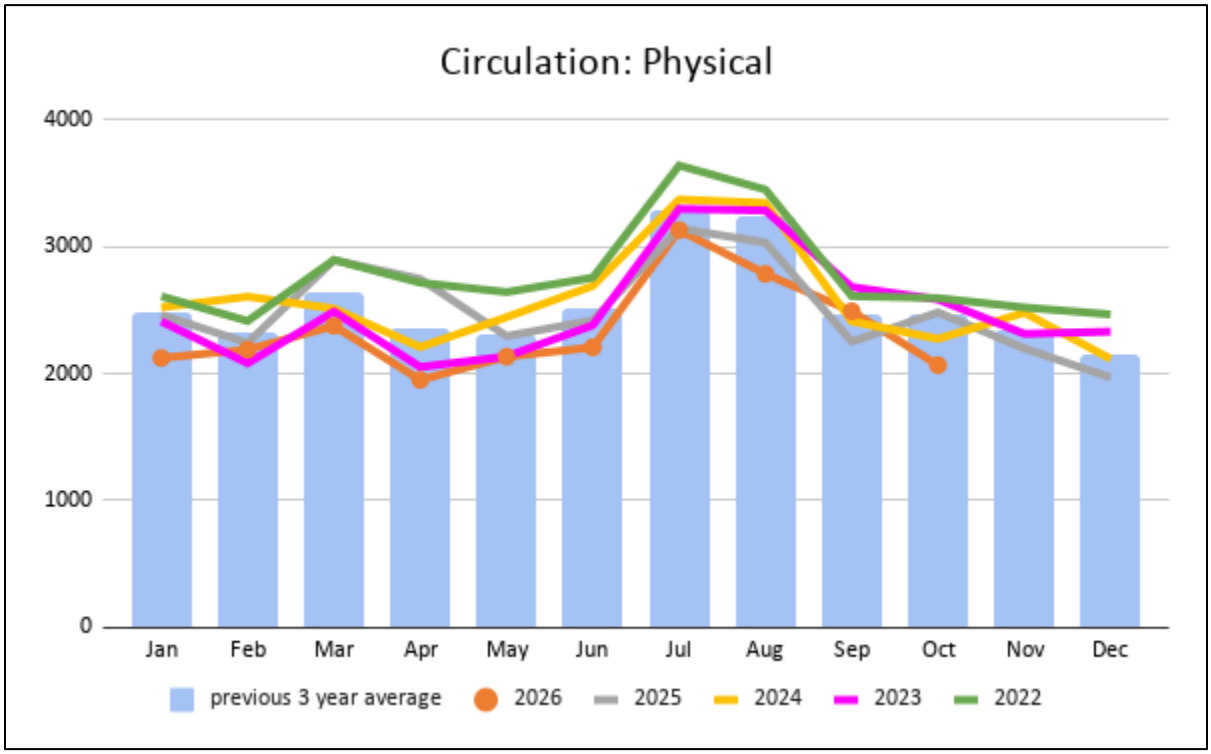
	Oct-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1654	1657	1592	1661	1637	1629	1670	1670	1674	1629	1704	ave. 1652	1544	107%
Patrons (unexpired)	2027	1967	1982	1998	2018	2033	2034	2042	2035	2049	2094	ave. 2025	1917	106%
New Patrons	16	18	20	23	23	28	26	35	41	35	25	274	244	112%
Traffic Count	2938	2122	2056	2591	2594	2667	2619	3827	3316	2818	3241	27,851	27,303	102%
Computer Use	53	62	92	71	55	55	61	78	58	98	68	698	725	96%
Circulation (physical)	2482	2122	2188	2376	1949	2132	2206	3131	2786	2491	2065	23,446	25,917	90%
Circulation (digital)	2039	2232	2038	2180	2071	2156	2100	2119	2037	2298	2344	21,575	15,806	136%
Museum Passes	37	8	10	6	7	23	25	57	60	32	33	261	437	60%
Wireless access	543	447	457	477	482	508	532	600	606	530		4,639		
Website sessions	2282	2618	1977	2109	2032	2031	2831	2424	2404	2157	2139	22,722	21,140	107%
Number of programs	30	29	31	32	32	27	30	40	36	33	44	334	294	114%
Program attendance	367	560	354	395	342	491	525	520	731	392	709	5,019	4696	107%
YouTube views	77	106	96	143	142	92	87	96	69	101	87	1,019	1364	75%
Notary	10	24	15	15	11	18	7	16	15	13	8	142	143	99%
Homebound delivery	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	9	44%
Digital Navigator appts	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	9	21	4	36	n/a	n/a
Meeting room reservations	n/a	6	11	27	19	17	20	29	27	23	25	204	n/a	n/a

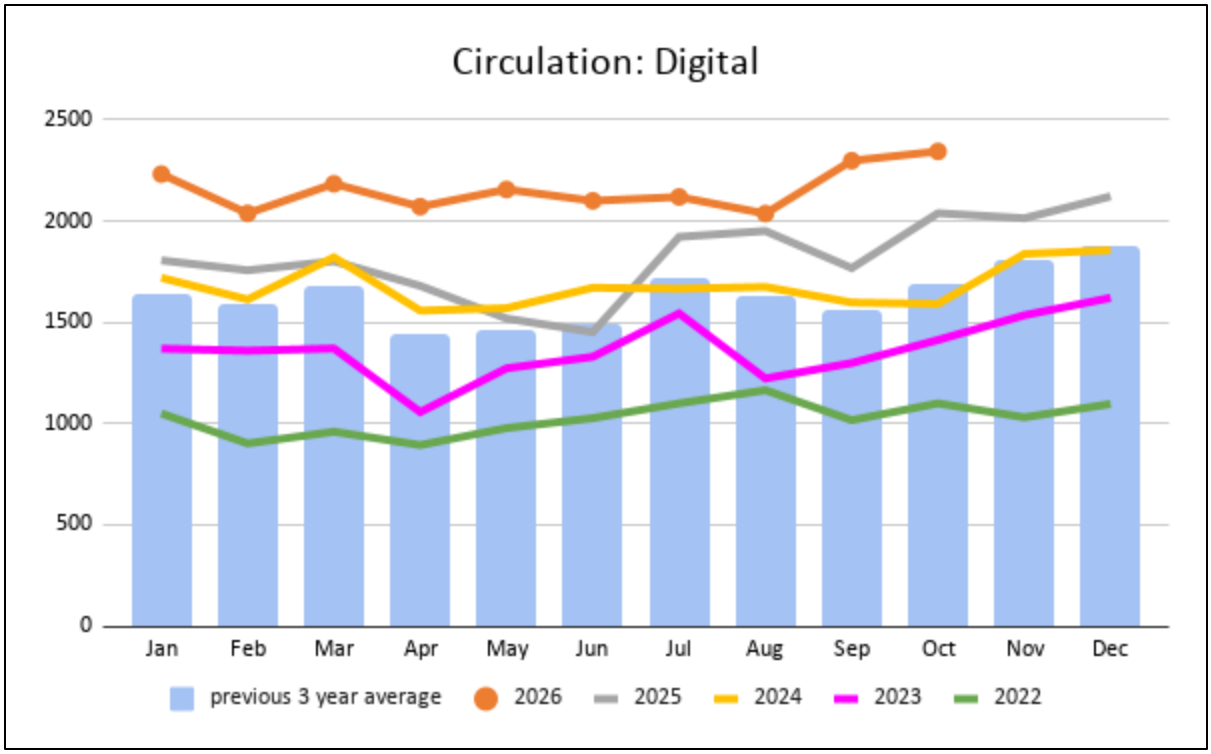
Circulation by Material Type

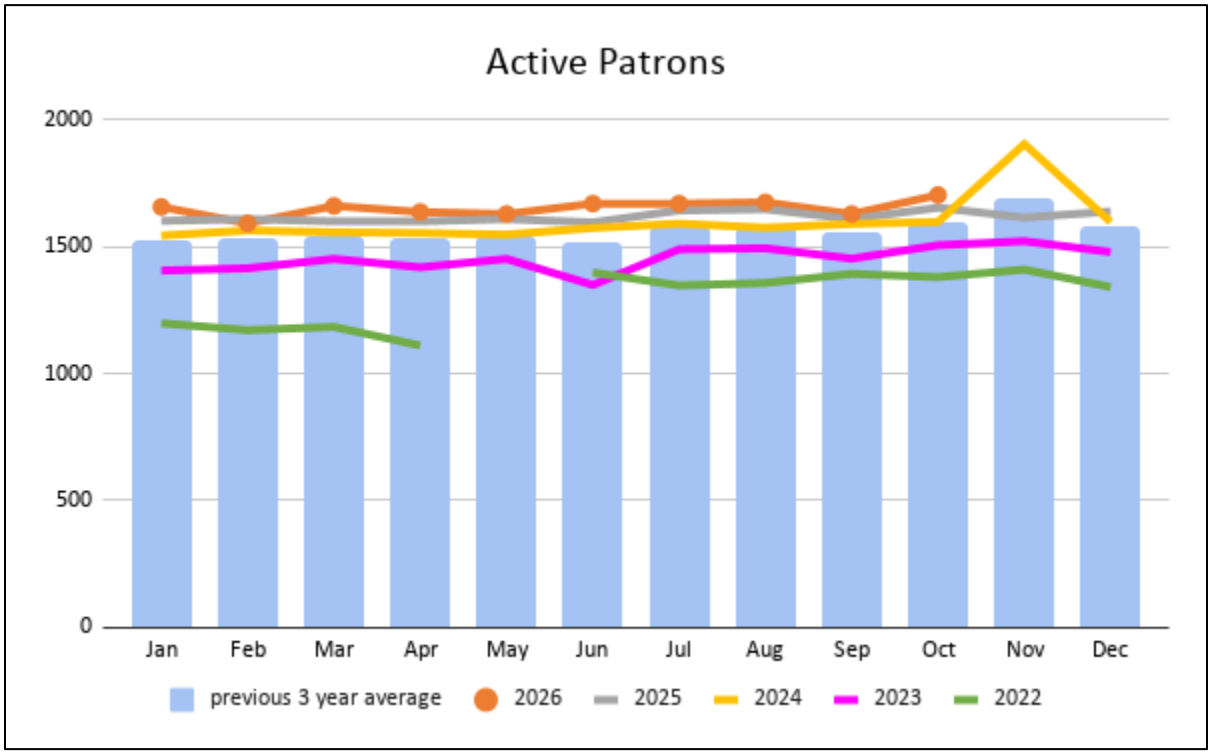
	Oct-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	231	240	209	215	170	227	151	167	190	229	148	1946	-385	-17%
videos	317	327	338	380	316	342	200	246	294	285	335	3063	533	21%
books on CD	31	31	14	19	26	27	25	28	32	24	12	238	12	5%
audiobooks	663	743	613	666	713	716	753	731	845	788	809	7377	1142	18%
print books	1328	1159	1206	1200	1027	1217	1314	2011	1723	1314	1270	13441	-964	-7%
e books	522	625	544	540	531	576	566	622	578	615	628	5825	492	9%
museum passes	37	8	10	6	7	23	25	57	60	32	33	261	-132	-34%
hotspots	6	1	1	6	6	9	6	7	5	6	7	54	-9	-14%
camping equipment	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	10	3	0	0	19	2	12%

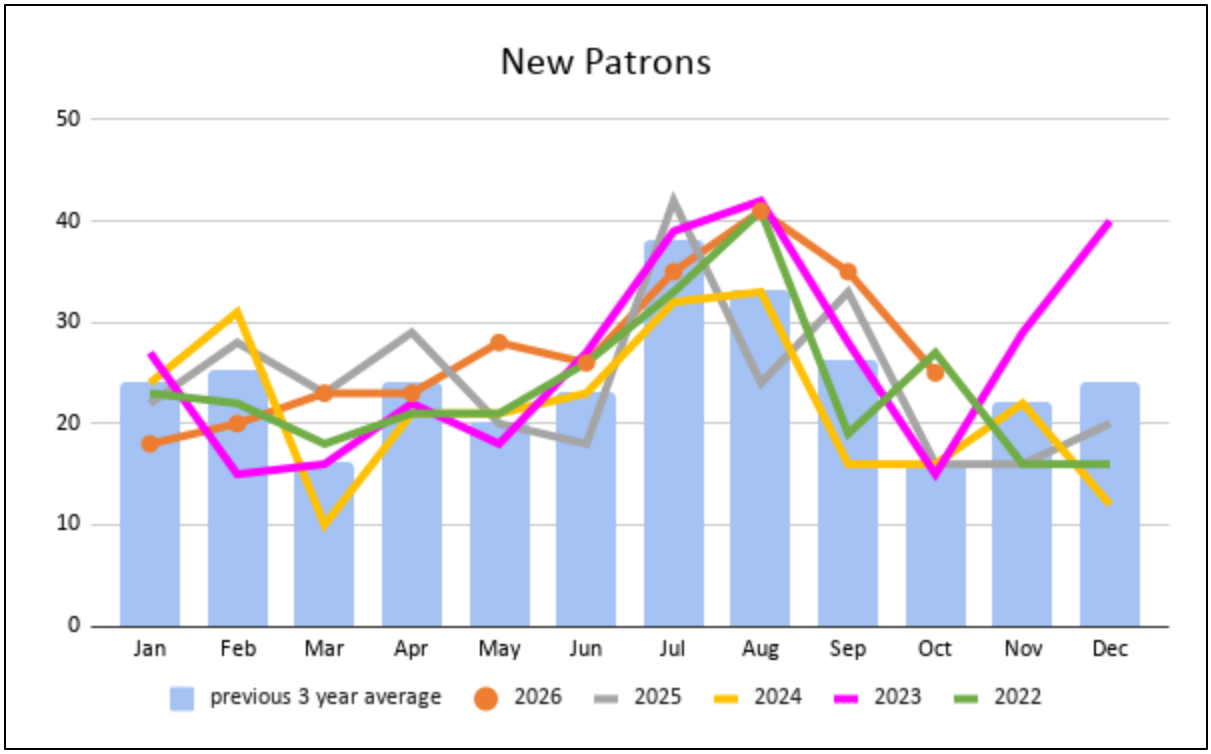



Total Circulation
6000
4000
2000
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
previous 3 year average
2026
2025
2024
2023
2022


Circulation: Physical
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
previous 3 year average
2026
2025
2024
2023
2022


Circulation: Digital
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
previous 3 year average
2026
2025
2024
2023
2022


Active Patrons
2000
1500
1000
500
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
previous 3 year average
2026
2025
2024
2023
2022



Staff and Professional Development:

- Jennifer Montalano began as our new bookkeeper. She will be working on Tuesdays. Leah can in for training for two weeks.
- We hired a new children's/youth services library associate—Sadie Burgher. Sadie will be working Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and one Sunday on month. She begins the week after Thanksgiving.
- Tammy attended MHLS annual meeting.

Grants and Fundraising

- Received $5000 from Herman Goldman Foundation for eresources
- Passed 414 in Ancram!
- Annual appeal letter ready to go.

Building and Grounds

- Fences installed around generator and fuel tank. Once we have bank statements the checks have cleared we can submit for the remaining CREST funds.
- One-way striping of the parking lot was completed
- Contract with US Metal Roofing to replace north-facing roof signed and deposit paid. Work to take place in January.
- More lights buzzing in the children's room and electrician scheduled to come bypass the batteries.

Columbia County Libraries Association

- CCLA reviewed draft budget for 2027.
- CCLA is proposing creation of countywide accounts for Overdrive and Kanopy to be funded with county funds. The Kanopy account would be for all county residents who live in unchartered areas, to remove them from our individual responsibility. The Overdrive account would be accessible to all county residents and will serve residents in unchartered areas and also relieve some of the burden on individual libraries both by removing those unchartered area patrons from their responsibility and also by helping fill holds for patrons in our own service areas. All this can only take place once our patron records are cleaned up and the unserved ptypes are in place.

MHLS

- MHLS is conducting a new salary and benefits survey