

Director's Monthly Report

May 2024



May was our busiest month yet this year, and busier than any May since 2019. And if felt like it! We held more programs than any previous May and also had more program attendance. As a result, traffic in the library also was up over all years since 2019. Highlights included our first concert of the season, an author/illustrator talk, programs with the Farmscape Ecology Program, a program on saving the night skies, and even a chance to make your own terrarium. May also busted with gala preparations and continued meetings and discussion on our proposed pavilion and other building and grounds projects. On Memorial Day weekend, Tia began attending the Farmers' Market for stories and crafts through the summer. Homeschool programs began a hiatus, but English language classes continue and are more popular than ever.

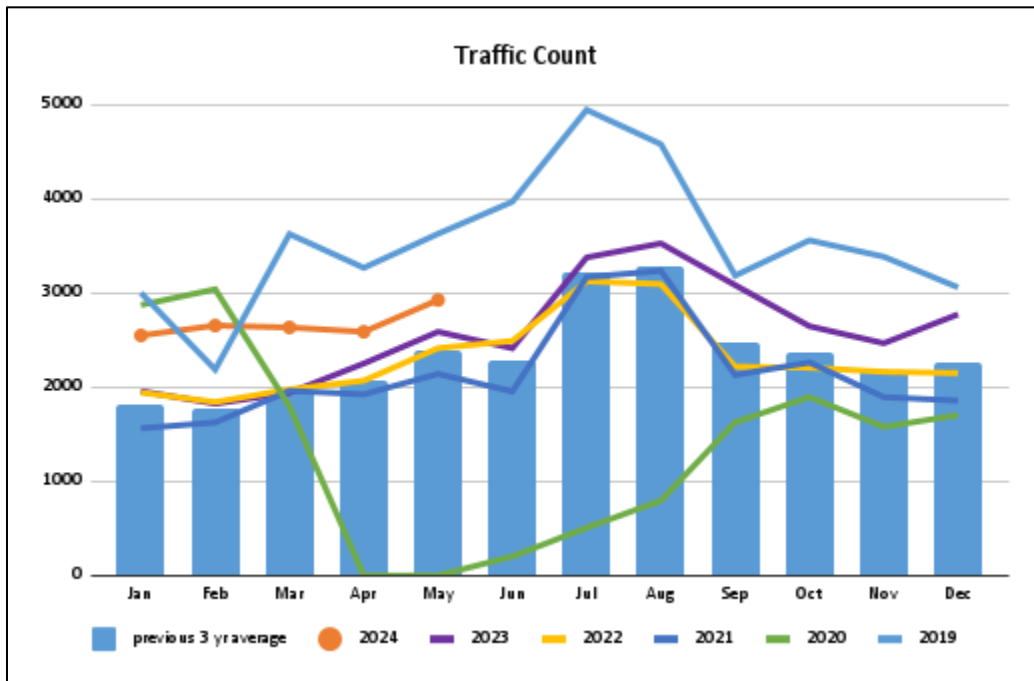
Programs:

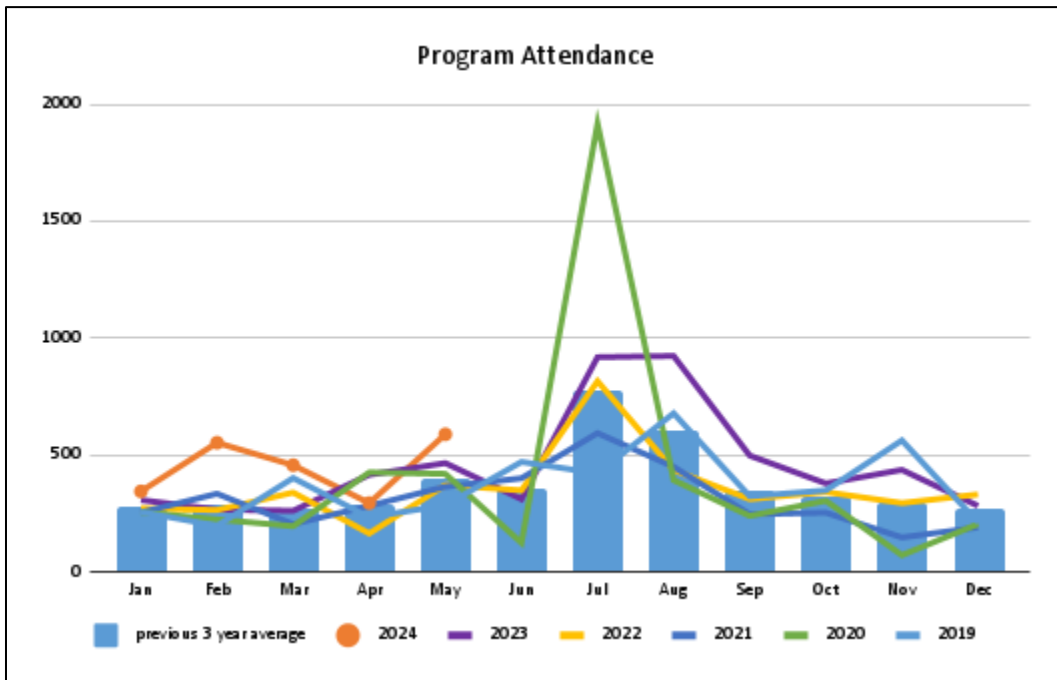
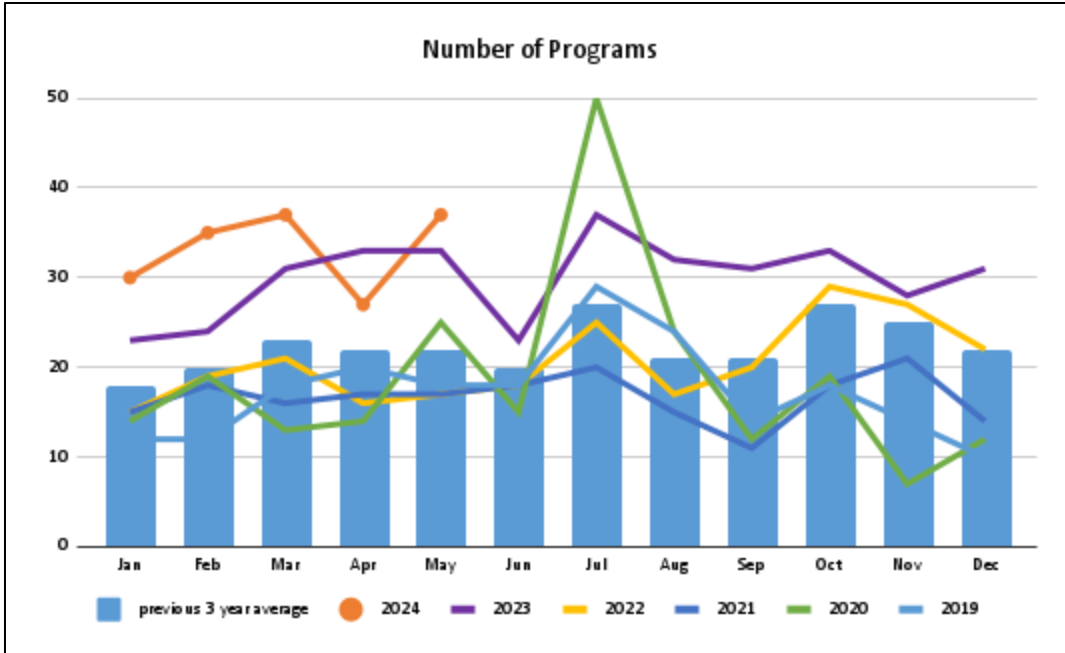
- Tai Chi—average 13 per class
- English Language Learning—average 14 per class, plus 1 one-on-one sessions
- Homeschool Wednesday—average 7 kids and 3 adults per session
- Wednesday Story Art—average 3 kids, plus 3 adults per session
- Saturday Story Time—average 5 kids, plus 4 adults per session
- May 21: Head Start Story Time—10 kids, 4 adults
- May 23: Tea Time at the Library—15 attended
- May 23: Book Talk: *From the Hudson to the Taconics—Looking at Our Landscape Through the Lens of Habitats in the Roe Jan Area*—24 attended
- May 25: Farm Market Kids—40 kids, 35 adults
- May 25: Habitat Exploration Walk—23 attended

- May 26: Concert: Piano and Cello—80 attended
- June 1: Children’s Author/Illustrator Aimée Sicuro—7 kids, 7 adults attended
- June 8: Party at the Mountain: Roe Jan Library's Fundraising Gala—about 260 attended
- June 13: Film Screening and Discussion: *Left Bank: The Women Who Rescued James Joyce's Ulysses*
- June 15: Cookbook Club
- June 16: Concert: Eagles Stage Band

Upcoming Events:

- June 20: Book Marks! Book Club
- June 20: Reading and Discussion Program: Land, Liberty, and Loss
- June 27: Tea Time at the Library
- June 27: Webinar: Impressions of the New World: Jacob Leisler, Nicasius de Sille, and the Promised Eden of 1660s New Amsterdam (with CCLA)
- July 11: Memoir Group
- July 11: Reading Willa Cather: American Voice
- July 14: Roe Jan Community Library Benefit Golf Tournament



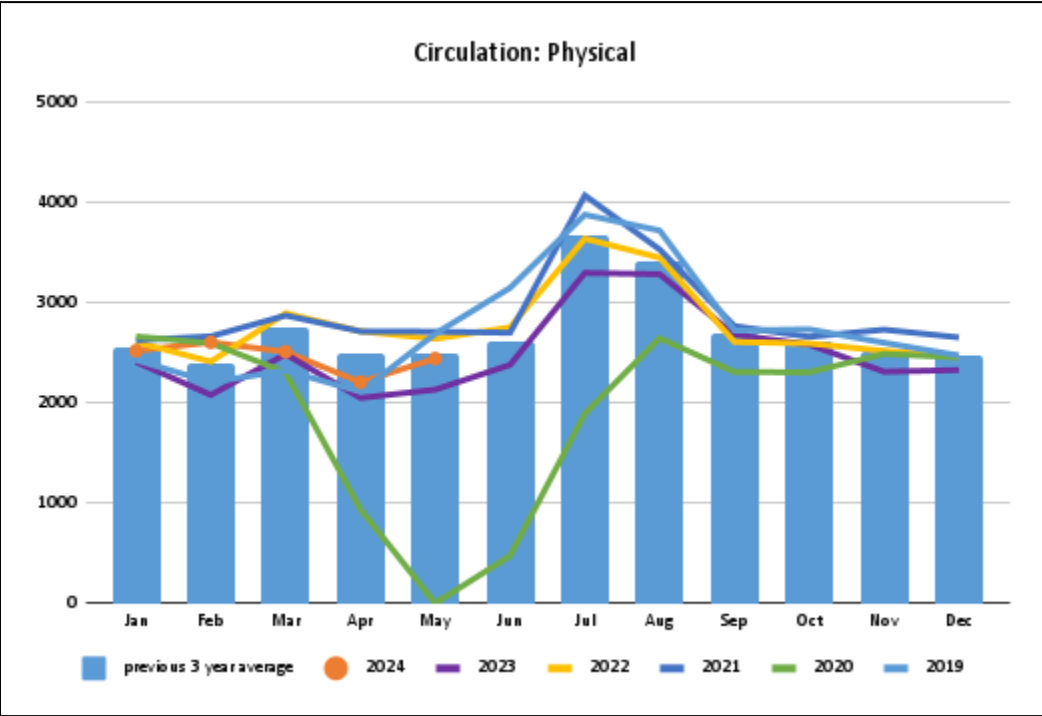
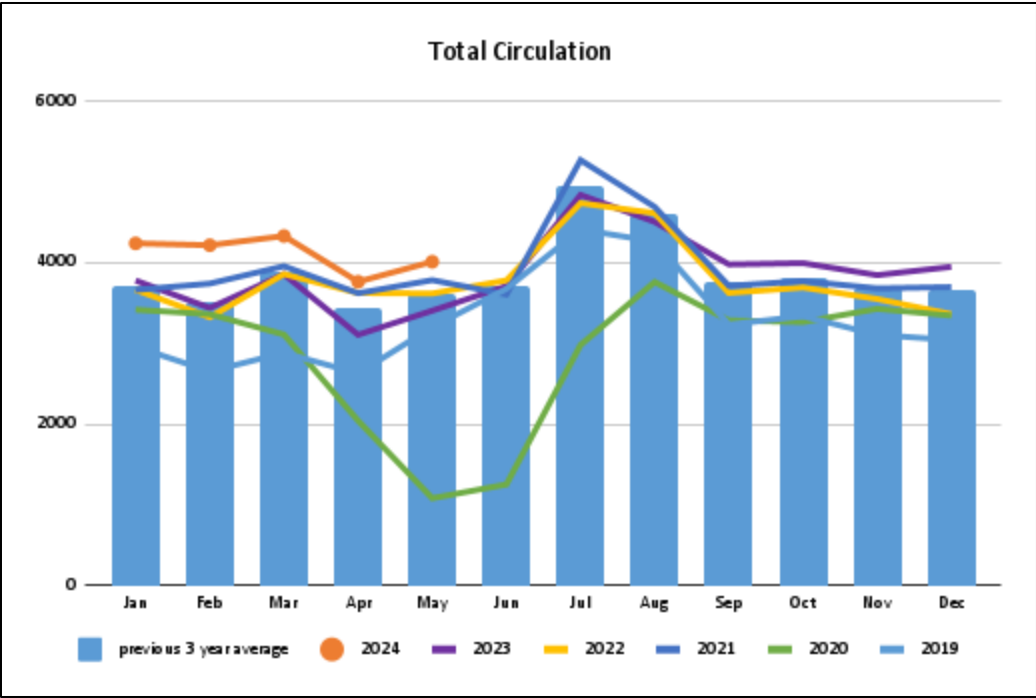


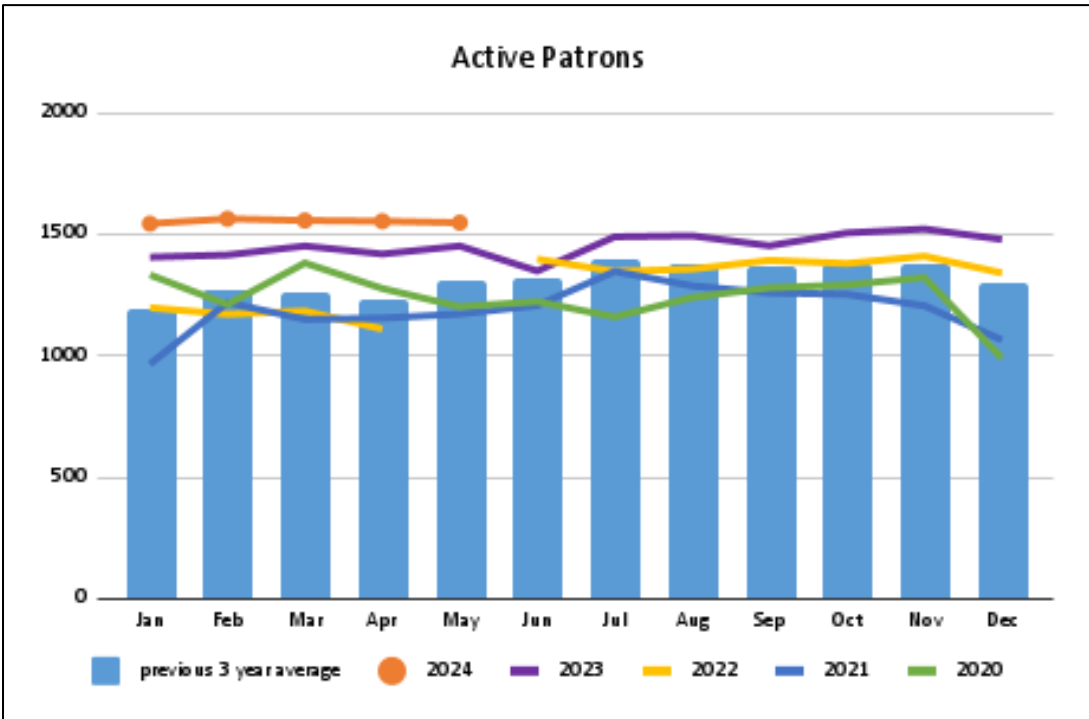
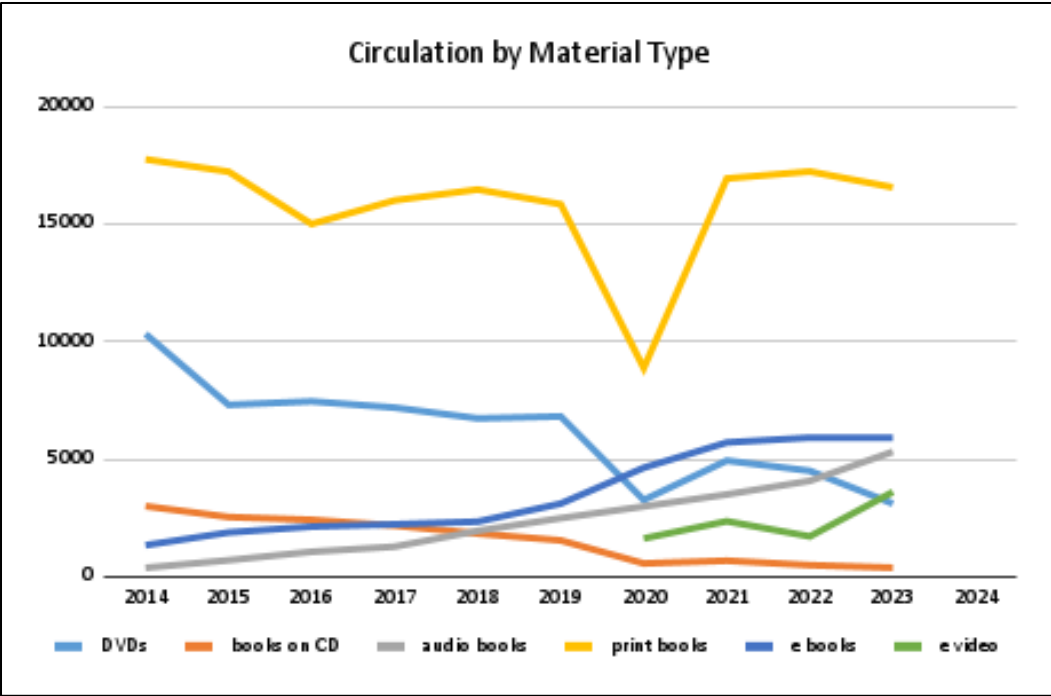
Library Usage:

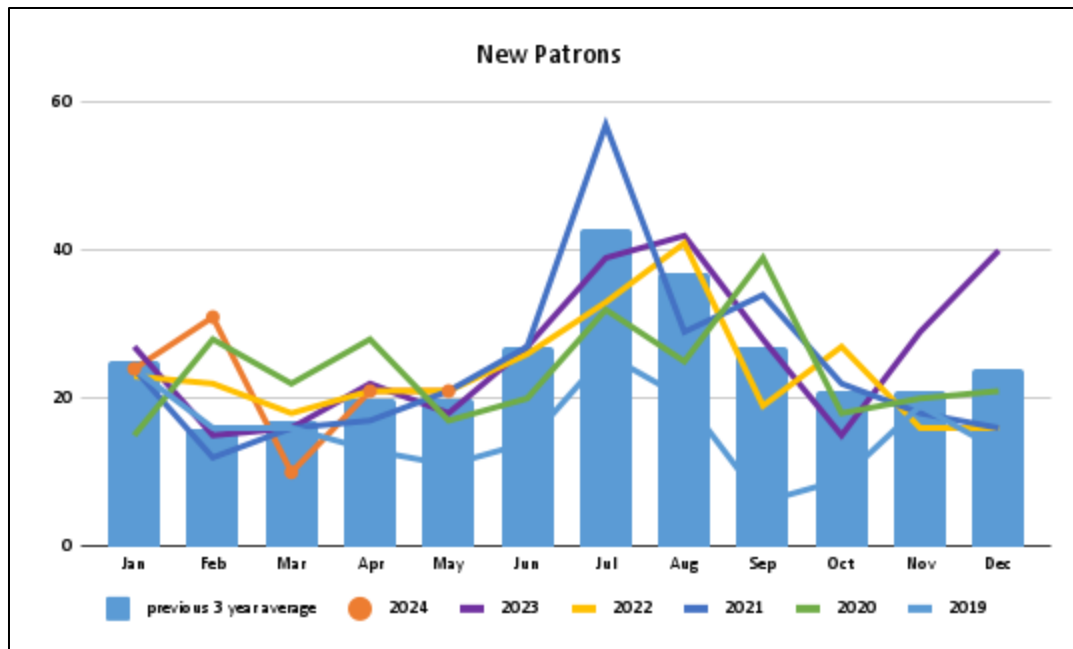
After the usual April dip in circulation (which I cannot explain), circulation of library materials picked up again in May. While digital checkouts were about the same as in April, print circulation was up, and digital remained much higher than in earlier years. Interestingly, print book circulation is up 11% over last year, while ebooks are up 8%. Audiobooks are the real leader, up 26% over last year—a very

expensive format for purchase. So far, according to the most recent MHLS Overdrive report, we are keeping pace with our spending and Overdrive, so that our share of spending equals our share of usage. But as usage increases so will our spending need to. We still are not meeting demand—there are many more holds on ebooks and audiobooks than on print books, DVDs, or books on CD, requiring the purchase of multiple licenses for the most popular titles.

	May-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24		YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1,452	1544	1564	1557	1554	1548		ave. 1555	1242	125%
Patrons (unexpired)	1,810	1906	1929	1934	1941	1952		ave. 1923	1751	110%
New Patrons	18	24	31	10	21	21		107	98	109%
Traffic Count	2,587	2548	2653	2633	2587	2924		13,345	10,004	133%
Computer Use	82	72	66	94	83	70		385	434	89%
Circulation (physical)	2,134	2522	2606	2512	2208	2444		12,292	12,680	97%
Circulation (digital)	1,273	1720	1613	1821	1558	1570		8,282	5465	152%
Museum Passes	18	22	11	9	17	23		82	60	137%
Database usage	102	334	67	416	327	214		1,358	1648	82%
Wireless access	612	480	492	453	509	448		2,382	2497	95%
Website sessions	2,156	2028	1880	2094	2224	2221		10,447	12160	86%
Number of programs	33	30	35	37	27	37		166	105	158%
Program attendance	465	344	552	456	294	588		2,234	1520	147%
YouTube views	82	131	251	165	85	78		710	459	155%
Notary	15	22	13	28	10	14		87	N/A	
Homebound delivery	1	1	0	0	0	0		1	N/A	







Staffing and Professional Development:

- Staff have been taking days off here and there, in some cases trying to use of 2023 vacation days carried over before losing them
- Kate completed Digital Navigator training

This Month Staff Also

- Installed “reading tree” for children’s room—thank you Jimmy Germain!
- Tammy had first “interview” for Robin Hood Radio new spot, “Between the Stacks”
- Kate did yeowoman’s work preparing gala communications
- Received tickets from Ancram Center for the Arts to “check out” to patrons
- Tia wrapped up homeschool programs for the year and prepared for summer reading programs at library, camps, and Farmers Market
- Robin cataloged new foreign-language children’s books and new local history DVDs (converted from VHS tape)
- Robin weeded biography collection and shifted non-fiction book collection
- Fran secured a hay wagon for the Copake parade and recruited volunteers to help at the library and Copake Falls Day (as well as other days when needed)
- Fran continued working on preparations for our new Repair Café
- Checked out all the interesting critters visiting our property with our Trail Cam

Building and Grounds

- Received proposals for pavilion. Committee met and discussed next steps. Following up with on bid for more information
- Linda Levitt worked with Mark Lee on gardens, which look MUCH better

- Sent our RFPs for roof project
- Tammy submitted paperwork to SHPO for approval to go forward with pavilion project—necessary for state construction grant
- Tammy discussed possible roof funding options with Sen. Hinchey’s staff

Grants/Fundraising:

- Sent requests to Didi Barrett and Michelle Hinchey for targeted aid to pay for digitizing historical newspaper microfilm and hard copy. Received notice from Hinchey’s office that they can only fund capital projects this year.
- Received notice from CREATE that we did not receive any funding for our concert series this year. Tammy met with grants manager to discuss reasons—new guidelines made it more difficult and we will need to be more creative next year.
- Received informal notice that we will receive \$20,000 from the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation
- Submitted LOI to Hover Foundation to fund newspaper digitization

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

- Have collected over 900 pounds of plastic for recycling—should have enough for our first bench this month. Working to find another non-profit interested in partnering to earn a bench of their own, perhaps the Farmers Market

Columbia County Libraries Association

- CCLA will nominate new MHLS board member to represent Columbia County this month
- Will participate in Columbia County Fair and the Climate Carnival. Volunteers to help appreciated, especially for the County Fair (our slot is Wednesday, August 28)
- Applied for funding to continue Museum Pass reservation system and submitted LOI to fund another year of Newsbank
- Welcomed new directors to Valatie and Philmont

MHLS

- DA meeting held June 11
- Much discussion on 2025 member assessment, which passed—20% total increase, though varies from library to library since assessment based on a formula that considers chartered population, circulation, holds, and more. Our assessment will increase 21% (\$1401) so we are about average. For the past several years, the CCLA has been picking up most of this—may not be able to absorb this entire increase if county doesn’t substantially increase its funding (which has been flat since 2019)
- In addition to the in-person training discussed earlier, MHLS will be offering two new online offerings of possible interest: Policies 101 on Sept. 23 (NYS has new required policies), and Financial Planning, Oct. 28 (multi-year planning)