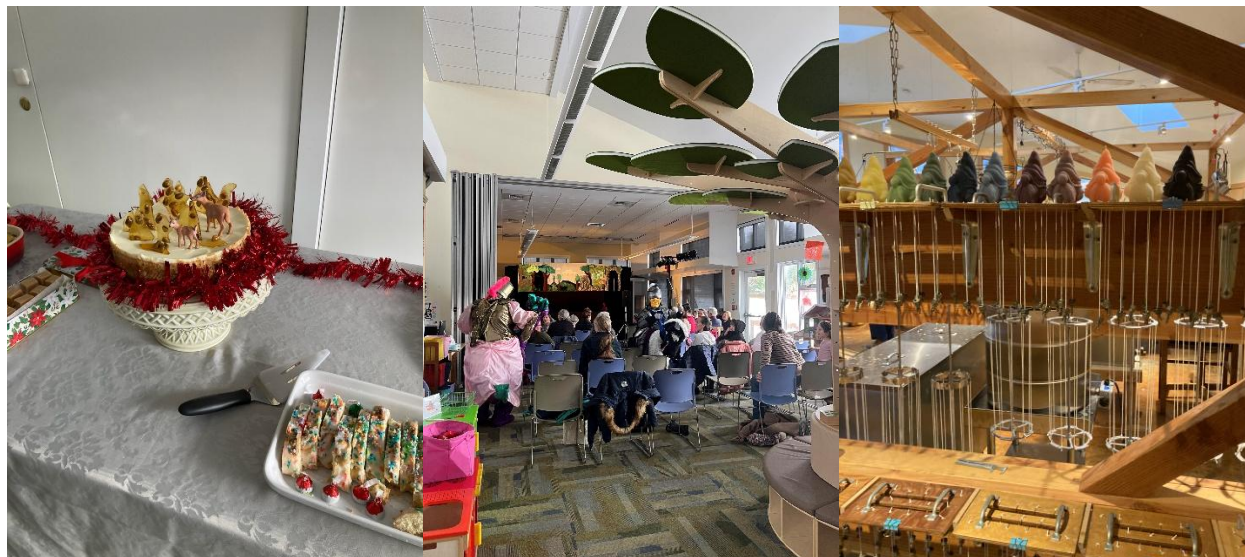


Director's Monthly Report

December 2024



December is generally one of our slower months, in part due to the holidays. Though the library was busier than November, and it felt even busier due staff vacancies and vacations. In early December, staff interviewed a number of candidates for the children's/youth services and programming associate position. We hired Xondra O'Connell, and everyone was most anxious to have her begin, which she did on January 2. Other highlights of the month included our now annual holiday puppet show, this time a performance of *The Last Dragon*, by the Puppet People. Other holiday events included a very popular holiday centerpiece arrangement workshop and a meeting of the Cook Book club, which shared holiday dishes (mostly desserts), as well as the Friends Bake Sale. Over winter break, we had a couple of movie screenings to provide entertainment for kids (and adults) of all ages while out of school.

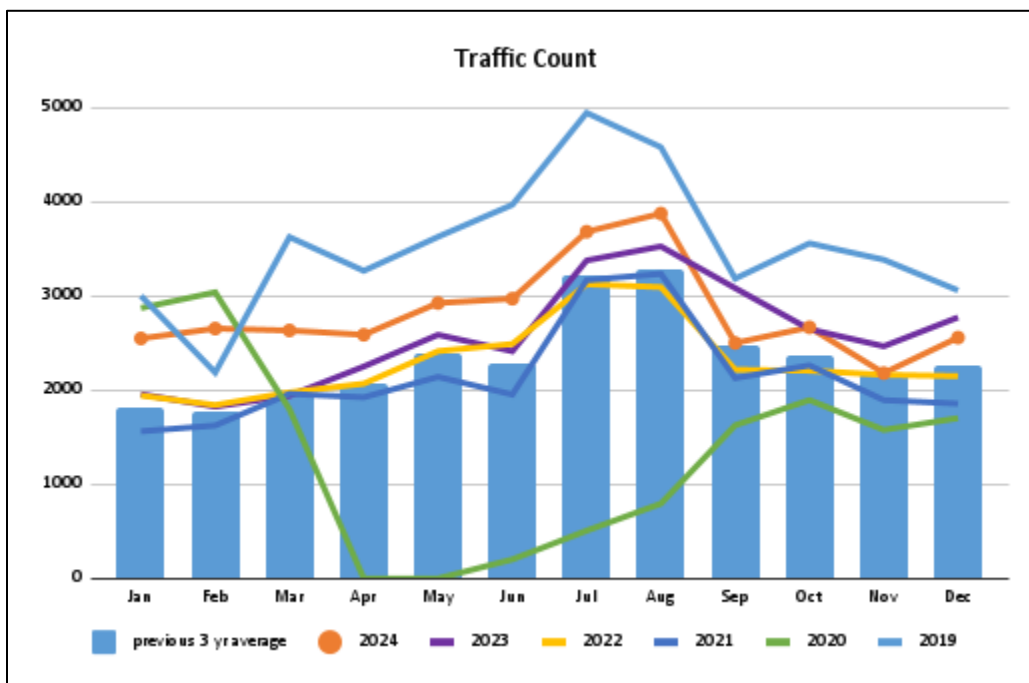
Programs:

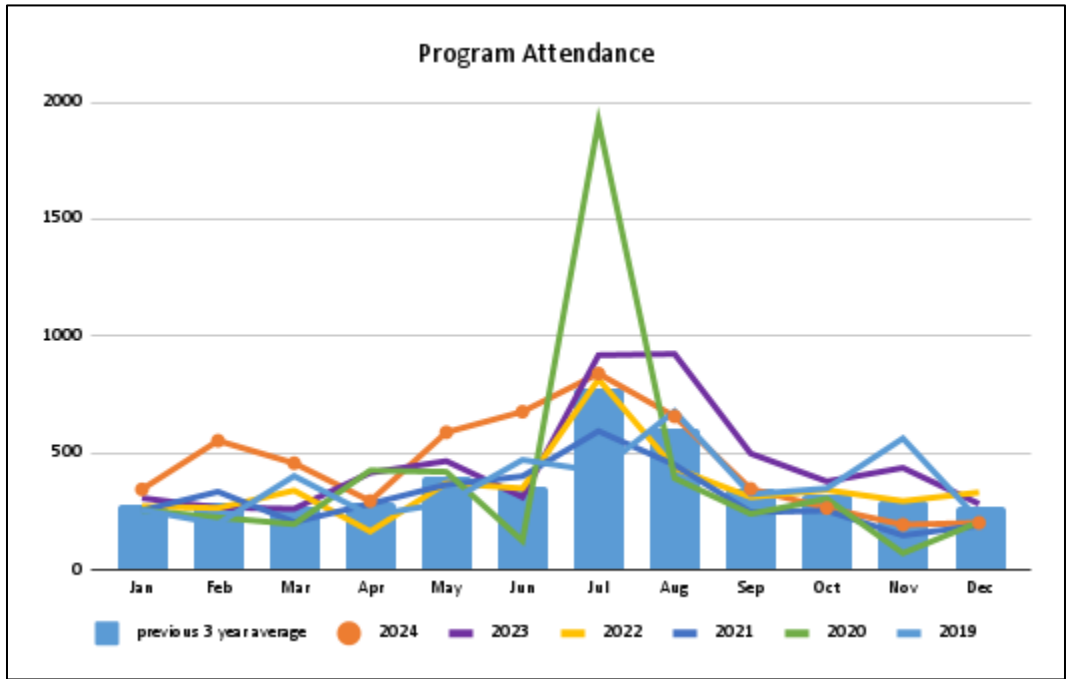
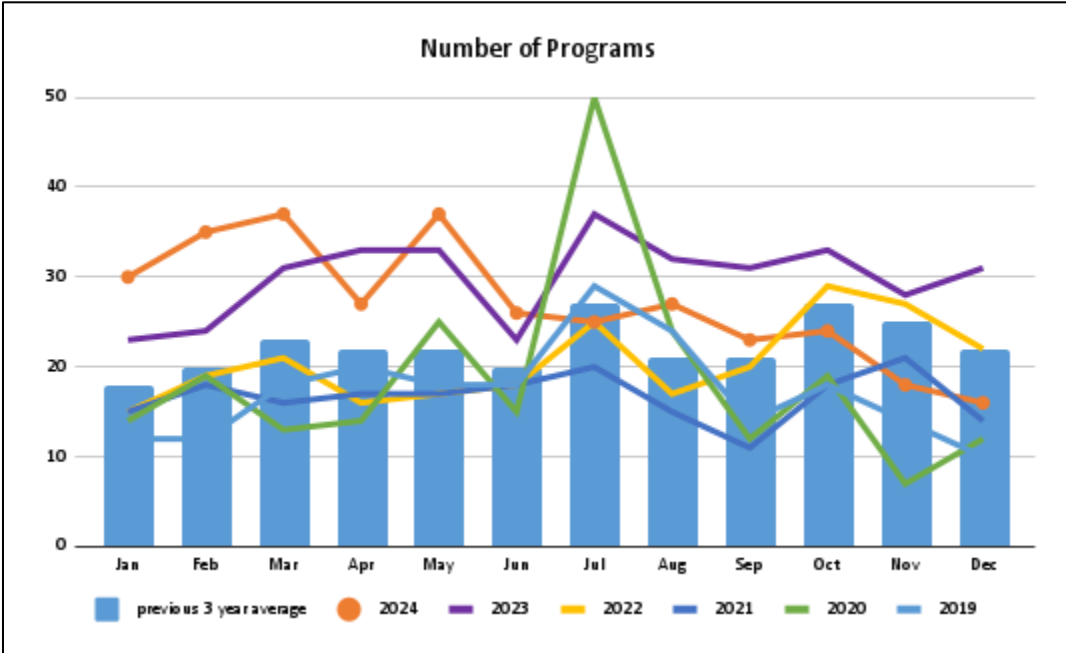
- Tai Chi—average 12 per class
- English Language Learning—average 6 per class
- December 21: Cook Book Club—12 attended
- December 23: Film Screening: *Frozen*—8 kids and 5 adults attended
- December 26: Tea Time at the Library—12 attended
- December 26: Film Screening: *Little Women*—4 attended
- January 6: Webinar: Keeping Columbia County History Alive (with CCLA)—72 attended
- January 12: Winter Puzzle Exchange—6 attended
- January 15: Fiction Book Club debut—10 attended
- January 16: Book Marks! Book Club—12 attended

- January 18: Cook Book Club
- January 18: Art Opening: Nancy and Lee Rogers

Upcoming Events:

- January 22: Adventure Wednesday: Citizen Science, Birds—with Taconic State Park
- January 22: Tech Labs: Library Apps (with CCLA)
- January 23: Tea Time at the Library
- January 27: Zoom Around the World Book Club (with CCLA)
- February 5: Tech Labs: Google Drive (with CCLA)
- February 9: Film screening: *American Fiction*
- February 10: History webinar: The Roosevelts, Race, and Civil Rights (with CCLA and FDR Museum)
- February 12: Author talk: Maria Socolof: *Healing from Chronic Pain*
- February 15: Cook Book Club

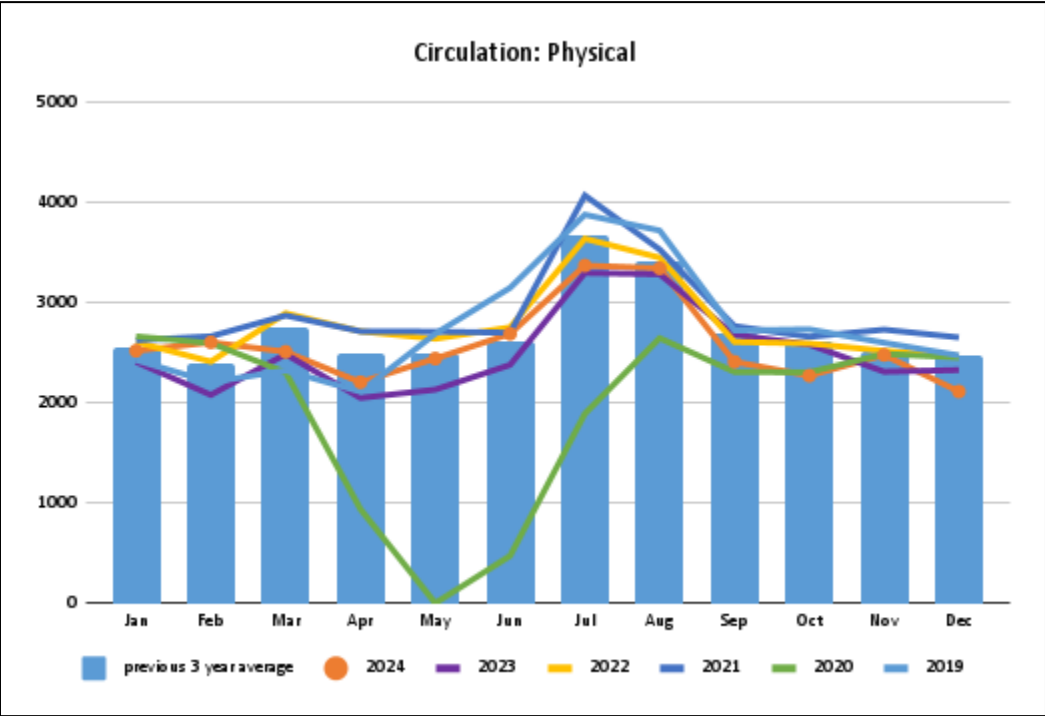
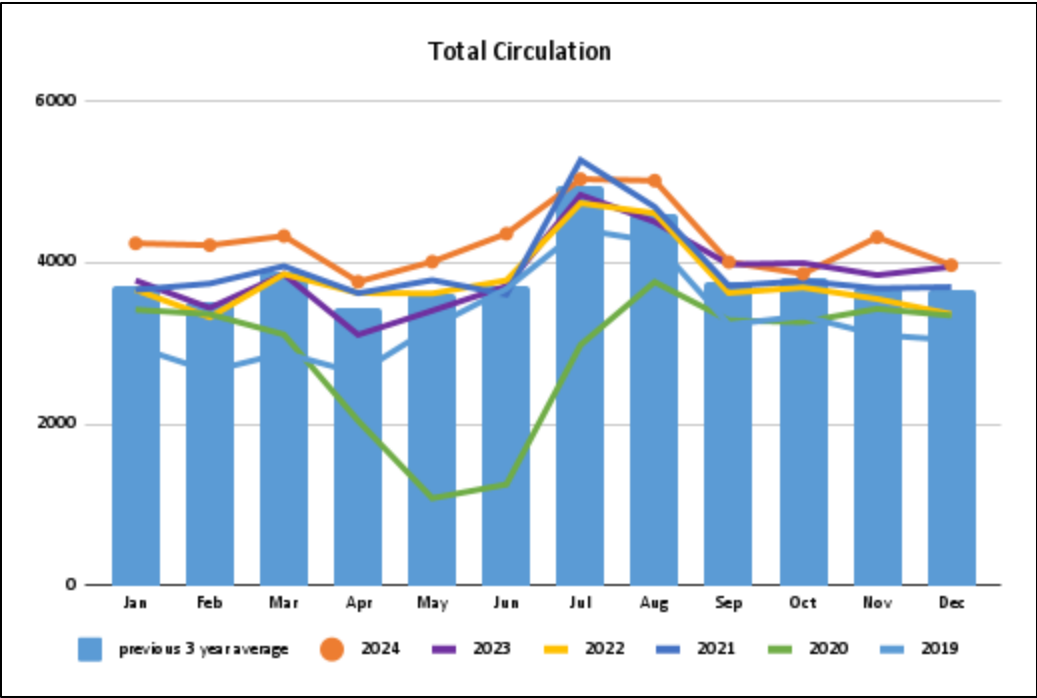


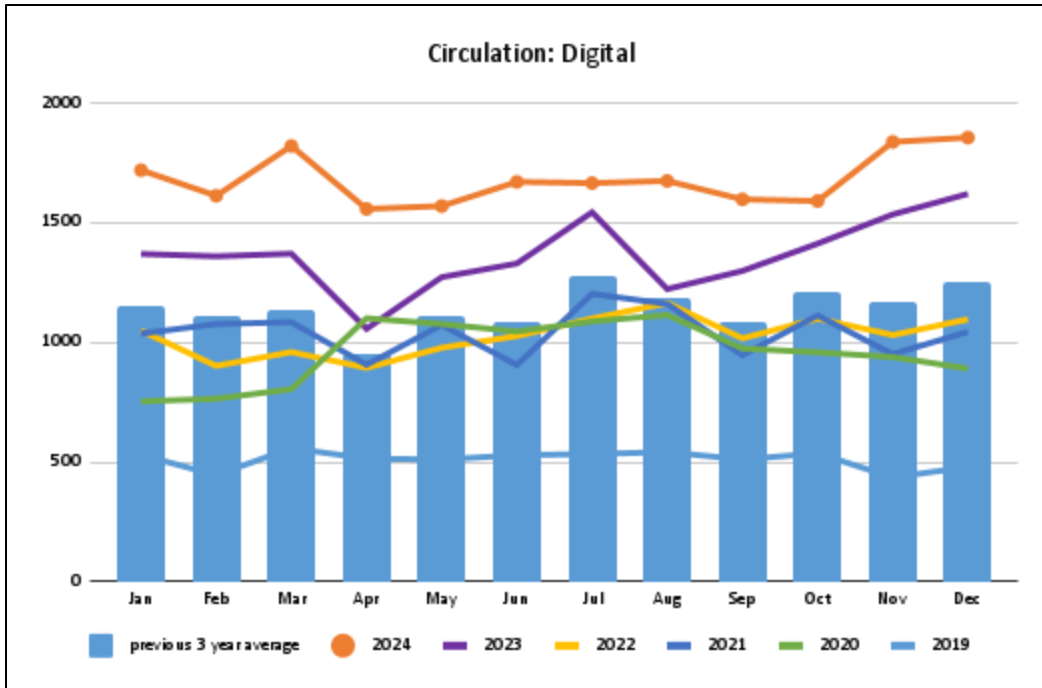


Library Usage:

The fall saw a drop in the number of programs offered, and program attendance, largely because we had few children’s programs, as a result of both Tia’s vacations and resignation and also the switch from weekly to monthly homeschool programs (which are also off site and don’t appear in our traffic count). We expect an uptick in the spring as we resume more children’s programs. Circulation of library materials, however, has remained high, especially for digital materials (which, again, likely does not show up in our traffic count). Increasingly, people are using the library in new ways that don’t necessarily involve visiting the library. Still, people come for all sorts of reasons—for copying and faxing and for notary service, to sit and read or work, to get help with technology issues, and just to get advice or suggestions from staff on any number of topics, as well as to pick up books and other materials. As the graphs show, digital materials continue to grow in popularity, especially audiobooks. We hope that our new service, Blackstone Unlimited, will help meet this demand. Audiobooks were slightly more popular than ebooks this year. Print books are still the highest circulating material type, and likely will be for some time, but digital circulation now is 45% of our total circulation, which has a major impact on our budget. We will continue to monitor usage to figure out how best to meet patron demand while also funding other priorities as well.

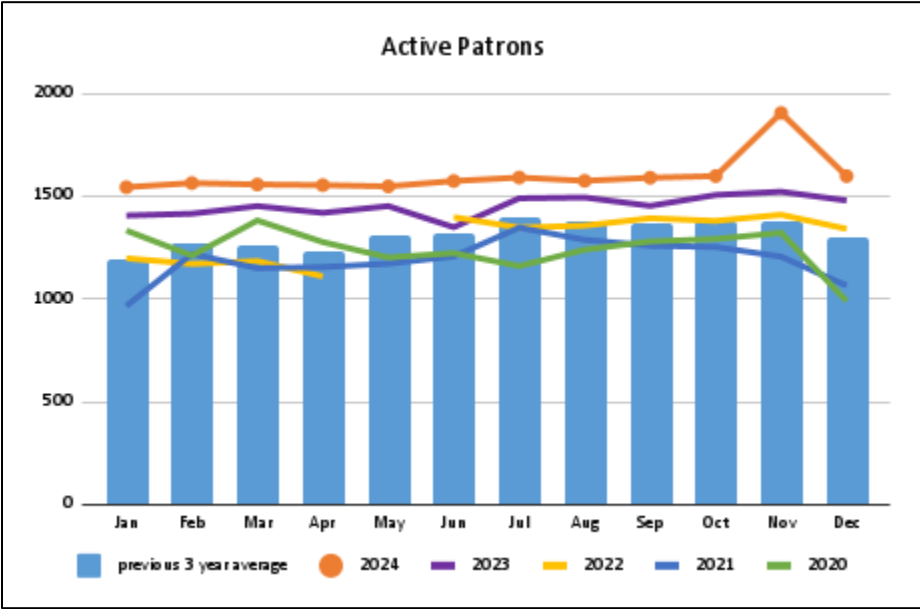
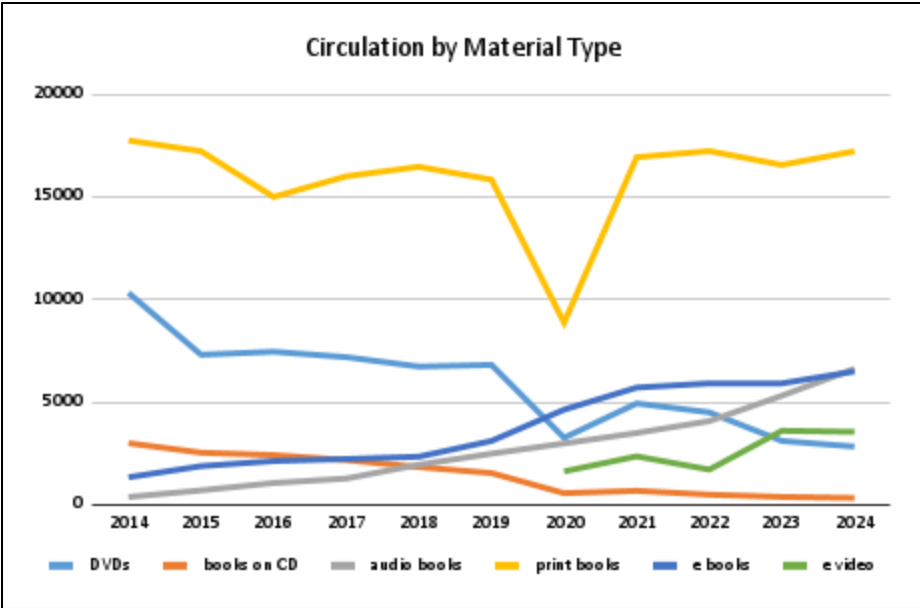
	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	YTD	Previous 3 yr avg	% of previous 3 yr avg
Active patrons (past yr)	1544	1564	1557	1554	1548	1574	1591	1575	1596	1598	1905	1598	ave. 1600	1314	122%
Patrons (unexpired)	1906	1929	1934	1941	1952	1953	1912	1936	1930	1955	1972	1969	ave. 1941	1790	108%
New Patrons	24	31	10	21	21	23	32	33	16	16	22	12	261	298	88%
Traffic Count	2548	2653	2633	2587	2924	2970	3681	3874	2500	2666	2180	2557	33,773	28,073	120%
Computer Use	72	66	94	83	70	61	72	83	50	65	49	58	823	1055	78%
Circulation (physical)	2522	2606	2512	2208	2444	2691	3373	3345	2412	2273	2480	2115	30,981	32,693	95%
Circulation (digital)	1720	1613	1821	1558	1570	1671	1666	1675	1598	1591	1838	1856	20,177	13741	147%
Museum Passes	22	11	9	17	23	33	122	120	46	57	23	28	511	405	126%
Database usage	334	67	416	327	214	668	303	233	278	160	20	180	3,200	4021	80%
Wireless access	480	492	453	509	448	528	673	566	421	437	286	354	5,647	6636	85%
Website sessions	2028	1880	2094	2224	2221	2397	2485	2367	1953	1804	1785	1848	25,086	27664	91%
Number of programs	30	35	37	27	37	26	25	27	23	24	18	16	325	269	121%
Program attendance	344	552	456	294	588	676	839	656	346	264	193	201	5,409	4491	120%
YouTube views	131	251	165	85	78	516	208	128	98	96	77	92	1,925	1162	166%
Notary	22	13	28	10	14	17	31	17	13	13	21	12	211	N/A	
Homebound delivery	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	1	1	0	11	N/A	

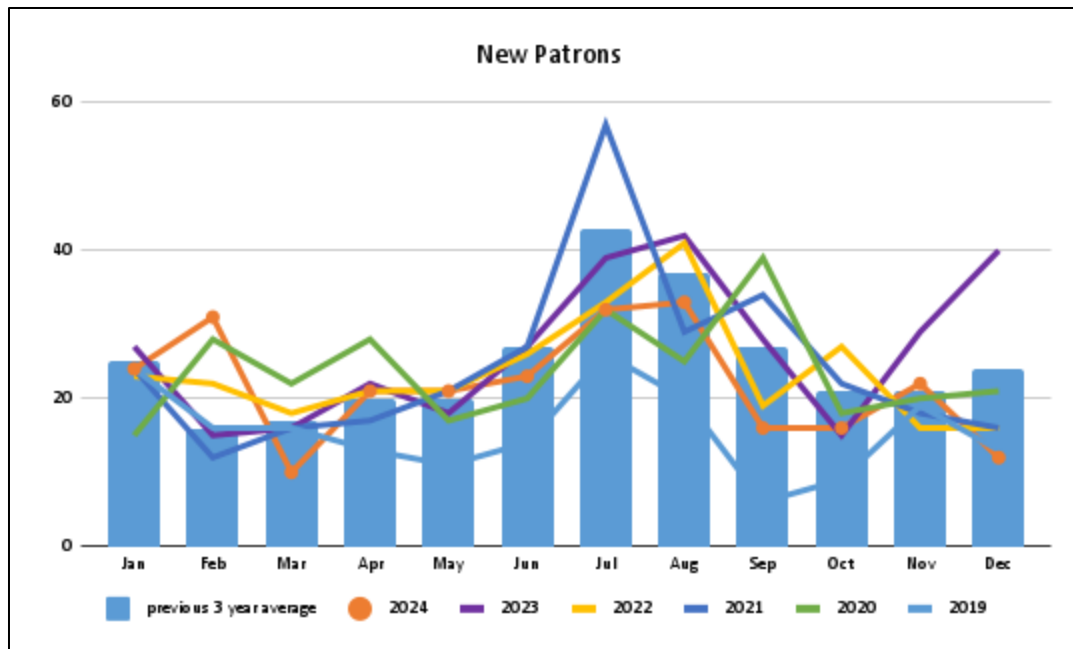




Circulation by Material Type

	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Total	change from previous year	% change
DVDs	295	232	268	215	277	196	267	297	189	163	226	205	2830	-274	-9%
videos	194	296	298	222	273	359	323	304	235	231	439	375	3549	-51	-1%
books on CD	13	50	22	27	23	29	21	36	32	31	22	21	327	-50	-13%
audiobooks	594	543	566	539	547	520	548	591	544	571	541	516	6620	1310	25%
print books	1364	1476	1306	1144	1313	1591	2032	1909	1356	1185	1415	1133	17224	775	5%
e books	570	449	575	566	562	545	539	529	523	503	536	596	6493	582	10%
museum passes	22	11	9	17	23	33	122	120	46	57	23	28	511	14	3%
hotspots	12	11	7	10	11	10	14	11	11	12	5	3	117	-26	-18%
camping equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	13	0	1	1	0	25	18	257%





Staffing and Professional Development:

- Robin and Fran took vacation time around the holidays.
- Xondra began work January 2.
- New hours began January 2.

Building and Grounds

- Still waiting on new event sign from Larkin—still building cover.
- Roof repairs ongoing. Leaks have continued, and Jay has been back several times to make additional repairs. We won't know status until next rain storm.
- We have received a couple of quotes for a generator and are expecting three more. We have been approved by Sen. Hinchey's office for state funding of \$98,000 for this project. It could take a year to finalize grant. We are waiting to get other quotes before submitting required paperwork since we may ask to revise the amount of funding.

Grants/Fundraising:

- Received final payment (10% of grant) of state construction grant to pay for folding partition.
- Received \$3000 from the Bordewick foundation for general operating funds.
- Notified that we have been granted \$1400 by Humanities NY for a spring/summer reading and discussion program on sustainability (March-August).
- Submitted two CREATE grants, one for \$2500 for music programs and one for \$1500 for three art and graphic workshop series.
- Submitted grant request to Bank of Greene County, asking them to be a business partner and also provide matching funds for CREATE art education grant.

Staff Also

- Worked out schedule for new 2025 hours
- Received and began cataloging new microfilm of Columbia Papers (Hover grant)

Columbia County Libraries Association

- Launched new museum pass reservation system. Will be deciding on 2025 passes at our February meeting.
- Launched Blackstone Unlimited Audiobooks, a database of about 7000 audiobooks. Applied to Hudson River Bank and Trust for funding.
- Planning programs for countywide community read of *Braiding Sweetgrass* is scheduled for March-May
- Holding countywide history webinar series with FDR museum, February-May
- Holding a series of five online Tech Labs, January-April

MHLS

- NYS Advocacy Day in Albany, February 5. More information and a link for registration at <https://midhudson.org/library-advocacy-day/>.
- State annual report is available (early) and due February 14.