

AURORA FREE LIBRARY APRIL 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS

- NYS Construction Grant -MOH Cooling Project is Completed 4/15/2025!
- Received the grant from the Auburn Public Theater Regrants (Arts Funding). We received our full ask of **\$2,425** to support the MOH program of Skaneateles Quartet and AFL programming which will include Nate the Great for Teddy Bears' Picnic, Rev Youth Theatre (1/2 paid by Village), and Mr. Buffalo Drumming. I signed and submitted the 2025 contract and am completing the 2024 Budget Form as a Final Report for last year's grant.
- Attended a Village Hearing about the proposed upcoming Village Budget and found out that currently the Library and other Not-For-Profits usually in the Proposed Village Budget have been cut for the 2025-26 year. The hope is that it may be restored in the coming year(s). The Village is struggling due to the need to purchase and run the Village Water Plant. The water/sewer rates will rise 2-3 times current costs. We will receive our check from the Village of Aurora in May from the current year's budget.
- Submitted an FLLS Outreach Mini-Grant focusing on Food Pantry outreach for both libraries to fill the gap left from the loss from our Rosen Grant requests. My funding request asked for our Food Pantry Take and Make costs, Chop Chop magazines and also some funding for Hazard Food Pantry activities. The total request was \$3,000 and we received full funding.

GRANT ACTIVITY NEWS

Rosen Grants for 2024-25:

Rosen Storytime Train 2024-25:

- Aurora Preschool continues to visit regularly and a few other families attend weekly.
- Visited UPK classrooms at Emily Howland in March with Hazard Library and will visit again at end of April.

Rosen Take it on the Road and Beyond 2024-25:

- Our monthly Tween Graphic Novel Workshop met in April to discuss *Lo & Behold* by Wendy Mass and Kathy helped out with a Virtual Reality game. Kids had fun! The final book club of this school year will be *Invisible* by Gonzalez in May. Bird has needed to resign and we will welcome her back if she is able. For now, Kathy will lead the program and we are planning for next year given our loss of funds for the 2025-26 grant request. This has been a wonderful offering for the tweens and we plan to continue it, but may offer the number of meetings.
- Challenge Island offered a STEAM-carts event this past Monday.
- Art Club did a Glow in the Dark Art Painting in March and will do another with jellyfish theme this month. We hope to have their paintings on display in June and for summer reading.
- Unicorn Take and Make Kit is out for April.

Statewide Community Regrant from Auburn Public Theater 2024:

- This grant was completed with Bells and Motley Olden Music and Storytelling putting on a workshop and then a *Bawshou and the Dragon* Performance with Chinese Instruments. It was a full day of fun. Steve Zabriskie reached out after the performance for some information and

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photos for a Masonic Newsletter that he publishes since John Bromka from Bells and Motley is a Mason. I sent him information and he will share the article when it is published.

PROGRAMMING/PR

- Held Movie night last weekend featuring *Dog Man* movie and book related activities prior to the movie. Kathy used our button machine that we purchased with Friends of TCPL funding. The buttons were a hit!
- Some of the Fiber Arts Group members are making crocheted bookworms for summer reading pals this summer.
- Gave out Books at SCCS with Hazard in April at lunch before the school break and we will do so again at the end of the year. Funded by Hazard Rosen Grant.
- Helping to coordinate a visit from author Jeff Mack on May 16th at Emily Howland with Rosen Funding that Hazard received.
- D & D group of Teens continues to meet weekly and we continue to recruit for an Adult D & D group.
- Peachtown and Aurora Preschool continue to visit.
- Scavenger Hunts continue to be popular. The 50 states one was completed by 43 people. We now have a bird one up for visitors to enjoy.
- We are holding several programs over the April Break. They have included Dog Man previously mentioned, a STEAM-carts program by Challenge Island and a Repousee Metal Art Workshop presented by the Johnson Museum. We also have Make a Peep House as a drop-in activity.
- The Aurora Art Club is meeting Thursday at the library for a Paint and Sip.
- We hosted a Travel Talk by the Baliva Family on March 24, Lego Club March 28, and a well-attended Garden Talk on April 7th on *Tough Plants for Tricky Spots*(20 attended).
- SCCS students who are planning to put on Hamlet in the MOH in June continue to meet in the Jail to rehearse. It is wonderful to see the Jail Room in regular use. The Tyburn students also used it for their musical Oklahoma and all were so thankful to have the space and theatre for their production. It was amazing to see a theatre production of around 20 students on the stage!
- Kathy and I are attending FLLS *Color Our World* Summer Reading Program Workshop Thursday.
- We were invited to be one of 10 local libraries to receive a "Creek Exploration Kit for Kids!" from the Community Science Institute in Ithaca. These kits give families everything they need to visit a local creek and explore water quality by observing aquatic organisms.
- Reviewed/ gathered info for April Hub Newsletters.
- Updated website with webmaster and posted to FB and Instagram and used Mailchimp to alert patrons of latest events. Created PR for events and sent out press releases.

ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

- Attended April FLLS Directors' Meeting.
 - Susan Currie has agreed to be the interim director for TCPL for the next 6 months. Her background: TCPL director from 2009-2017 (oversaw creation of digital lab and teen space), interim again in 2021.
 - NY State Budget has not been passed as of right now, they aim for April 1 every year. Governor said she's not in a rush.

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- Due to executive order by the president and closure of Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), NYSL most likely losing \$8.1M.
- Filled out FLLS Physical Accessibility Survey for AFL. FLLS will develop a brochure on all FLLS libraries.
- Received word from FLLS for minor changes/comments needed on the NYS Annual Report 2024 and updated.
- In touch with Dave and Steve regarding NYS Construction Grants and Main St. Restoration current application. Kept abreast of MOH Cooling Project with workers and Dave.
- Aurorafest Committee has used the library for meetings (filled out meeting use form).
- Aurora Historical Society used library last week for meeting (filled out meeting use form).
- Attended Cayuga Connect Library Meeting 4/14/25.
- FLLS notified us of some updates needed on our website. I met with our webmaster to discuss possible changes and a rebuild. He has worked with FLLS on necessary updates. There are a few pages that he is still working to get back up (one is the past minutes).
- Sent FLLS our updated Trustee info for the FLLS Directory.
- Weeded some of the collection to make room for more items.
- In touch with Ellen/Ann about use of MOH by Peachtown, local teens, and Tyburn for plays.

FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING

- Promoting Fargo Fundraiser on Fri. April 25th with flyers at desk and online. In touch with Robin and promoting Plant Sale with flyer.
- Received Cayuga County Funding (\$3,500).
- Working on the 2024 Annual Report Trifold. Almost done.
- Shared with Dave a Bullet Aid Template from Sarah G. at FLLS. We discussed sending it to our assemblyman and senator to fund the front step repair. Send a written letter to local office and Albany office. Add to letter that you are sending both places. You can also send an email letting them know you are sending a letter.
- Worked with Dave and CLNB to get a new debit card.
- I have been in touch with Sarah at FLLS about our Long Range Planning process. Sarah is busy with TCPL situation and has suggested that we meet with Heidi at FLLS. Dave and I will set up a meeting at the end of April to discuss our process.

DOOR COUNT: *Daily door count (not including those who attended programs).

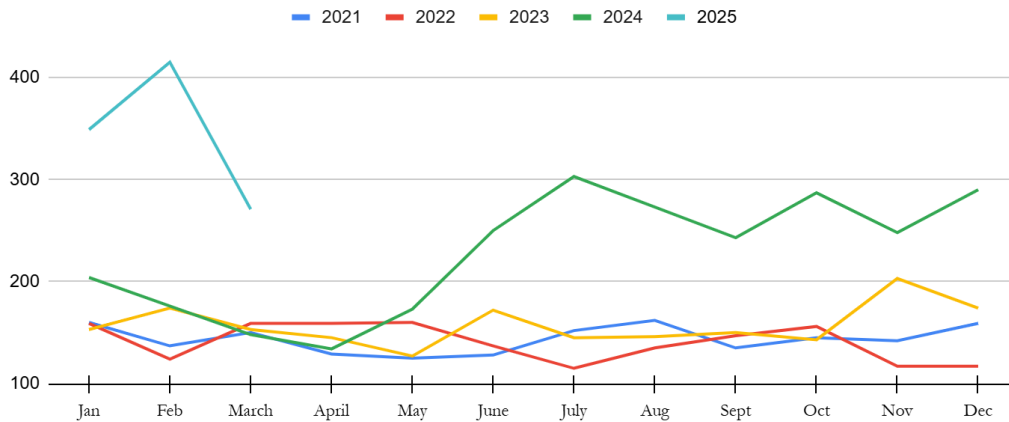
Month	2023	2024	2025
December	314* + 345 at Programs	368* + 395 at 23 Programs	
November	326* + 347 at Programs	334* + 376 at 21 Programs	
October	327* + 622 at Programs	448* + 937 at 28 Programs	
September	352* + 336 at Programs	352* + 500 at 18 Programs	
August	420* + 162 at Programs	622* + 170 at 11 Programs	
July	428* + 634 at Programs	732* + 678 at 25 Programs	
June	395* + 650 at Programs	433* + 700 at 16 Programs	
May	242* + 259 at Programs	389* + 213 at Programs	
April	219* + 305 at Programs	370* + 273 at Programs	
March	266* + 865 at Programs	376* + 781 at Programs	458* + 386 at 28 Programs
February	250* + 569 at Programs	376* + 674 at Programs	363* + 710 at 23 Programs
January	225* + 107 at Programs	399* + 100 at Programs	357* + 155 at 17 Programs

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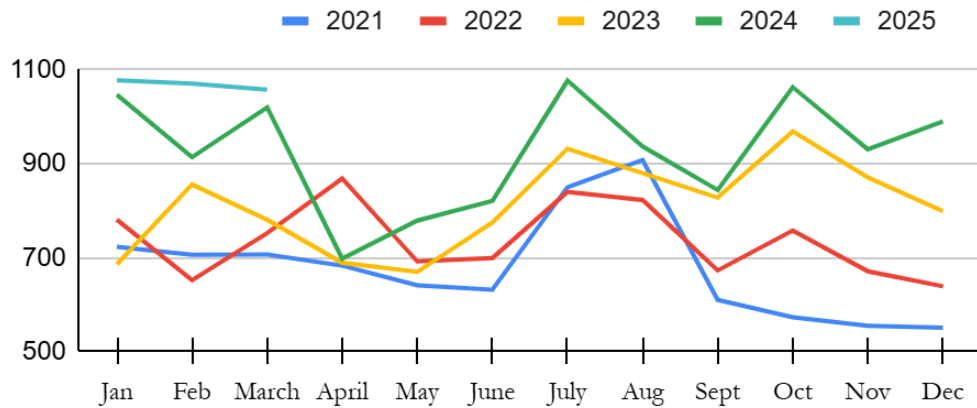
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CIRCULATION COMPARISON 2021-2025:

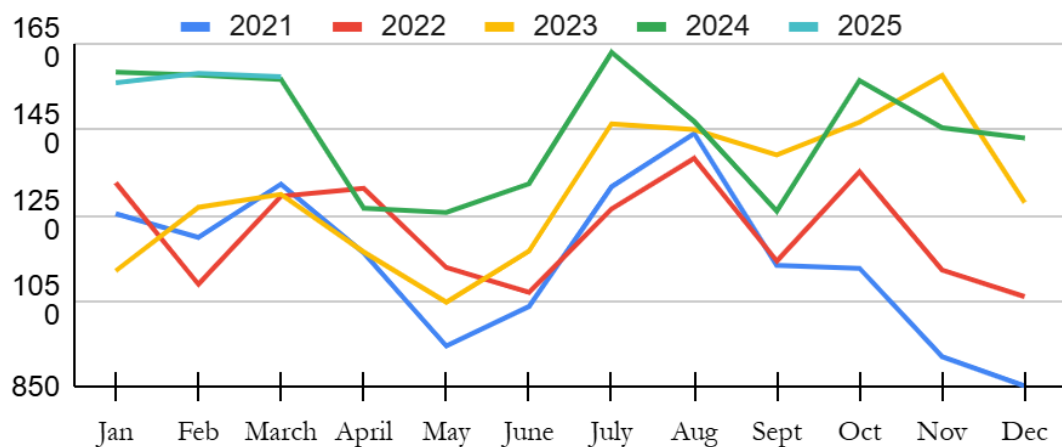
Total Circulation of Overdrive ematerials



Total Circulation of all Materials without renewals



Total Circulation of all Materials with renewals



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BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE

NEW ITEMS:

- ** Service Alert came last week (4/9/2025), but it was a day Storytime and the AC was being installed. They will return soon.
- **NEED NEW FLOOR GRATE in main room- DANGEROUS ISSUE- Spoke to Lori -will help.
- **Consider extending concrete walkway from back steps to curb. Also consider a concrete handicapped parking space near back door?
- **2023/24 Maintenance/Checks** have occurred: Stair Chair (8/14/2024), Fire Extinguisher Check (10/21/2024), Service Alert (4/16/2024) and Fall Visit (10/8/2024), Furnaces/Navien Boiler maintenance Holbrook Heating came 1/29/2025, Holbrook Heating AC maintenance (5/8/2024), Window Washing and Power washing (4/20/2024).
- Service Alert came 12/5/2024 and replaced four smoke detectors in the basement which were at the end of their lifespan.
- The groundlight in front damaged by Hale needs to be fixed. **Dave/Sandy met with Dave Brong.**
- AFL/MOH Front sign near sidewalk will be refurbished by Yesteryears next year. DAVE
- Main Street entry steps are spalling and gaps where mortar is on sides seems to have increased. Met with DAVE and mason 7/12/22 to solicit estimate. **PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**
- Need to install street number – **OPEN ISSUE**
- First floor weatherizing south windows- **OPEN ISSUE- Submitted with DRI Grant.**
- Stains on interior north wall MOH – **OPEN ISSUE**

UPCOMING EVENTS: PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK for more

DATE	EVENT	FUNDED BY	TIME & LOCATION (AFL unless noted)
Any time	Overdrive/Libby Eresources help		
Mondays	Fiber Arts Group		4 pm
Wednesdays	Storytime	Rosen	9:30 am
Mondays	Teen D & D		5:30 pm
April 23	Painted Paper Art Club	Rosen	6:30pm
May 7	Southern Cayuga Book Club		7 pm
May 10	Plant Sale		8 am
May 14	Tween Graphic Novel Book Club	Rosen	6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Groth