

## AURORA FREE LIBRARY MAY 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

### HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS

- Wrote and then received a FLLS Family Literacy Grant. The grant will fund a variety of sensory materials to use for storytime including kinetic sand, washable ink pads, squishy sensory beads, and other sensory materials. It will also provide a graphic novel author visit this summer by Doogie Horner and funding for 12 of his graphic novels for the tweens in Graphic Novel Book Club. The total request was \$750.
- Dave and I met with Heidi Eckerson from FLLS on Zoom to discuss steps to revising our Long Range Plan. She recommended a *Strategic Planning for Public Libraries* book that Dave and I are reviewing.
- The library will not receive funding in the 2025-26 Village of Aurora Budget (a loss of \$2,500) and the village is deciding how much they will need to raise the water bill rate due to taking over running the water plant. All nonprofits (including MOH) were taken out of the Village budget.

### 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 April with Hazard Library.

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

- Our monthly Tween Graphic Novel Book Club will meet this week to discuss *Invisible* by Gonzalez. Kathy will lead the discussion and craft.
- Painted Paper Art Club painted Glow in the Dark Jellyfish in April and will create large flowers in May. They will have an Art Show in June showcasing their art this past year.
- Purchased the book *The Hidden Rainbow* for a storywalk this summer.
- The April take and make had a unicorn theme and for May we have flower presses and rainforest seed bracelet take and make crafts.

#### Statewide Community Regrant from Auburn Public Theater 2024:

- Submitted the Final Report with MOH. We were asked to send some photos from performances.

#### Statewide Community Regrant from Auburn Public Theater 2025:

- Ellen and I will attend Awards reception on May 21<sup>st</sup> to receive this year's grant check.
- **PROGRAMMING/PR**  
Attended SCCS Literacy Meeting to discuss the author visit and summer reading program with SCCS. We also discussed a summer reading enrichment program that will take place with Hazard's Rosen funding at the school for those students reading below grade level (especially for those entering third grade).
- Continuing to plan summer reading program with Kathy.

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- Spoke to Jim Wilcox who will again support our summer program by offering free ice cream incentives for readers and a weekly ice cream drawing at both libraries.
- Assisting with Jeff Mack author visit this coming Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at Emily Howland.
- Successful Gardening Talk by Elizabeth Snyder of True Leaf Designs who spoke on Pruning, Hydrangeas, and Edible Gardening and answered questions for those in attendance.
- Made up a poster advertising performer and kick-off dates for Summer Reading.
- Discussing decorations for summer and also considering Aurorafest Float and possible other late summer event.
- Peachtown's last day was Monday, May 12 since they will begin working on their play soon. Kathy did a fun outdoor puffy chalk sidewalk painting project with them.
- D & D group of Teens continues to meet weekly.
- Reviewed/ gathered info for May Hub Newsletter.
- 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 May FLLS Directors' Meeting

#### TCPL UPDATE with Susan Currie

- Looking at reopening the circulation desk, as that is what the public wants.
- Librarians have been focusing on collection development to replenish collections.
- Librarians also went to book sale to grab items.
- Turnover on board, 7 new trustees being sworn in this month.
- Sarah will be attending staff meetings to help staff understand role of the central library.

State Budget- Budget was released during the meeting.

Library Operating Aid: \$106.325M( + \$1.725M from Executive, +\$2.473M from last year)

Public Library Construction Aid: \$44 M ( +10M from Executive = same as last year)

Library Social Worker Pilot Program: \$150,000- New this year

Love Your Library Fund: \$100,000 = amount proposed in Executive

Dolly Parton Imagination Library: \$1M (-\$6M from Executive,+\$500,000 from last year)

Construction Grant Timeline: Sarah visit by July 31<sup>st</sup> and submit by Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. Jenny helping this year.

- Attended Trustee Handbook Book Club. Topic was *Board Development, Recruitment, Orientation, Education and Evaluation*.

The recording for this event can be accessed via the [Trustee Handbook Book Club webpage](#).\* Resources for the event are listed below:

- Slide deck (attached)
- [Trustee Education Requirements](#)
- [Trustee Information & Application \(Patterson Library\)](#)
- [Orientation of New Trustees Chapter](#)
- [Board Self-Evaluation Questions](#) These questions and corresponding statements are provided in a survey & board members use a ranked scale to indicate their level of agreement with the statements.
- In touch with Dave and Steve regarding NYS Construction Grants and Main St. Restoration current application. In touch with Dave regarding the work and completion of MOH Cooling Project.
- Sarah G. in touch regarding various state and federal issues occurring including the budgets and IMLS funding and even the firing of the Librarian of Congress.

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- FLLS sent out the results of the Library Director Benefits Survey. I would be happy to share it if you are interested.
- Webmaster continues to work on a few more website pages including the missing minutes.
- In touch with Ellen about use of MOH by Peachtown, and local teens for plays as well as our use of the MOH for events.

### FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING

- Put together table tents for Fargo Fundraiser with Givebutter donation QR code that Lori set up and put together a donation jar for the event.
- All FLLS library 2024 Annual Reports are now on FLLS website.
- Finished the 2024 Annual Report Trifold for the Community and gave to Dave for the Triad thank you.
- Worked with Dave on getting a Bullet Aid letter out to both Senator May and Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan for the front step side heaving project. Dave recently received a follow-up email from Senator May.

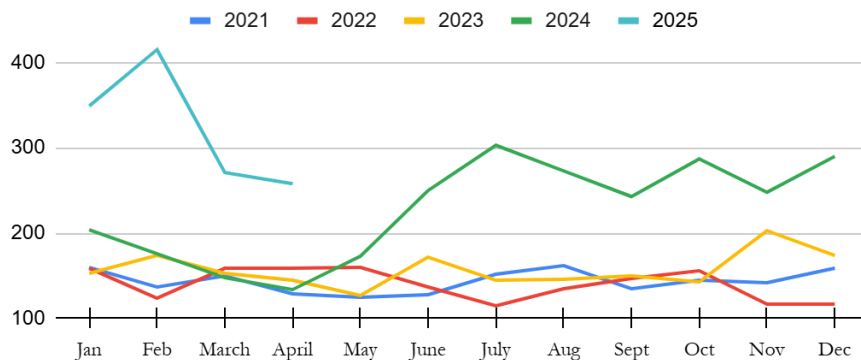
**DOOR COUNT: \*Daily door count (not including those who attended programs).**

**\*\* Does not have Tyburn productions in April door count.**

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	417* + 326 at 23 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

### CIRCULATION COMPARISON 2021-2025:

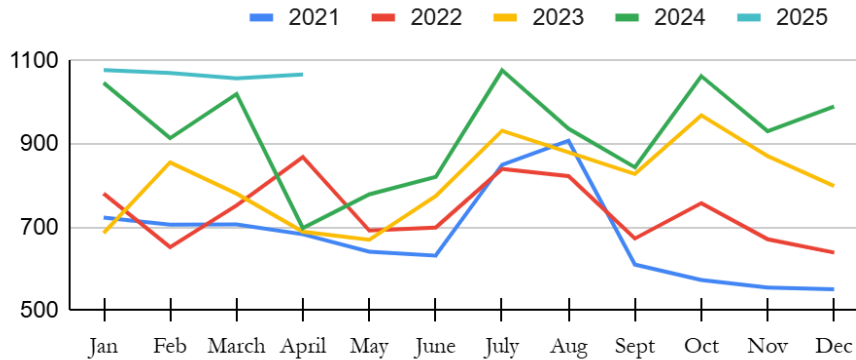
Total Circulation of Overdrive ematerials



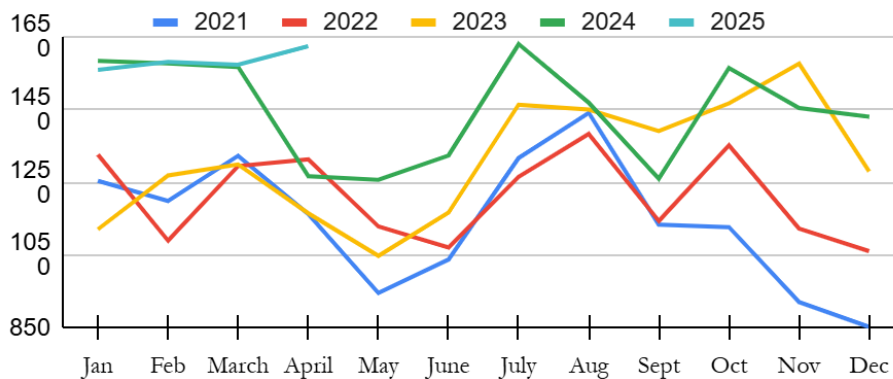
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### Total Circulation of all Materials without renewals



### Total Circulation of all Materials with renewals



## BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE

### NEW ITEMS:

- Service Alert came last month (4/24/2025) for regular maintenance of alarm system.
- \*\*FLOOR GRATE in main room has several breaks. Have sign and chair over it currently. Spoke to Lori, Ellen and Dave who will send grate and have a replacement made by Pacific Register who Ellen used previously for some in MOH.
- Sandy contacted electrician Dave Brong about replacing the groundlight in front damaged by Hale.
- Yesteryears will paint back AC metal tubing that goes to MOH. Dave overseeing.

2024/25 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.

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- Consider extending concrete walkway from back steps to curb. Also consider a concrete handicapped parking space near back door?
- 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
May 14	Tween Graphic Novel Book Club	Rosen	6:30 pm
May 28	Painted Paper Art Club	Rosen	6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Groth