

AURORA FREE LIBRARY JUNE and JULY 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS

- Summer reading programs have had good turnouts and community members have expressed their appreciation. Programs thus far have been our Create Kindness Kick-Off event, Jeff the Magic Man who handed out balloon animals too, weekly Sensory Art Adventures, and a very busy Aurorafest day with Mini-Golf and Lego sea creature building. There have also been weekly in-house art activities including painted butterflies, collaborative popsicle stick art and clay sea creatures as well as a sticker puzzle.
- A member of our Fiber Arts Group donated over 100 crocheted bookworms for our readers this summer. They have been well-received and given out at summer reading registration. We are also giving out a free book at our book sale coupons again this year to children who register.
- I asked Liz Snyder who has offered our Gardening workshops to purchase some plants for our front planters and they look magnificent and very colorful.
- Kathy is spearheading an event (some funding will come from Take it on the Road Rosen) which is titled Enchanted Festival by the Lake. It will have fairies, dragons, unicorns included in its theme. We are reaching out to a number of community organizations and it will be promoted by the Aurora Farmers' Market as well. It will take place on Sat. Aug. 23 from 10am-2pm and will be held at and between the library and the Aurora Farmers' Market. We are working with the Aurora Art Club who will create some of the fairy doors that will be displayed along Main Street between Cherry Avenue and Sherwood Road. More to come in August!
- In May, the AFL School Budget Tax Levy Resolution Passed 361 Yes and 168 No votes. The library will receive an additional \$7,500 this year.

GRANT ACTIVITY NEWS

Rosen Grants for 2024-25:

Rosen Storytime Train 2024-25:

- Aurora Preschool was given a gift book at end of the year.
- Visited UPK classrooms at Emily Howland in May with Hazard Library and alone in June. UPK classrooms were given a gift book in May that used an included stamp pad for fingerprints to make bugs.
- Wednesday Storytime ended June 11th for the school year and will commence in September.
- 2024-25 Rosen Storytime Train Grant is expended.

Rosen Take it on the Road and Beyond 2024-25 and 2025-26:

- Painted Paper Art Club painted large flowers in May and then held an Art Show in June in the back room showcasing their art this past year.
- A Fabric and Tapestry Workshop was held this week taught by Whitney Nichols.
- The June/July Take and Make Kit is for kids to paint on a Tiny Canvas and then return for a mini-art show in August. The kits were also handed out at the King Ferry Food Pantry by Sandy in June along with a promotion of summer reading with Hazard Library.

AURORA FREE LIBRARY JUNE and JULY 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

- Color-focused activity books to go with the “Color Our World” Summer Reading Program were also purchased with this grant to be handed out to children when they register for our summer reading program.
- 2024-25 Rosen Take it on the Road Grant is expended.

Rosen Hazard Summer Reading Grant 2025-26

- The Aurora Free Library was included once again in the 2025-26 Rosen Hazard Library Grant Request to be used for summer programming. We received \$1200 and have used it to fund performers this summer including Jeff the Magic Man, Wildlife Rockstars, and our Kick-Off with Create Kindness event.
- Gave away books that kids could choose what they wanted to read to kids in Pre-K – 6th grade at Emily Howland School with Hazard Library in early June. We also promoted and explained the summer reading program at that time.

Statewide Community Regrant from Auburn Public Theater 2025:

- Ellen and I attended the Awards reception on May 21st at Auburn Public Theater and received our \$2,425 grant check.
- So far, the one performer has been Mr. Buffalo who entertained with interactive music and magic this summer. The Rev Youth Theatre and Nate the Great will visit later this summer.

PROGRAMMING/PR

- It has been a busy few months finalizing the plans, decorating and promoting the summer reading program.
- Attended the Family PTO Event on June 14th with Hazard Library. Had a sticker puzzle and info on our summer reading program.
- Received ice cream coupons from 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 in kid, teen, and adult categories.
- We have a Teen and Adult Reading Program as well as we have done in the past with patrons putting in what they read weekly and weekly drawings for prizes.
- The Girl Scouts presented a well-attended Mermaid Program in June.
- We received a Spin Art Kit from a grant at the Sciencenter as well as a Stream Biomonitoring Kit from the Community Science Institute to use as we would like.
- Put together a float for the Aurorafest. BJ Mosher donated the trailer and Ed Staehr drove it. Melissa Hulme created most of the decorations and Dave recommended purchasing AFL banners for the float (Natalie helped with the design). We had 6 kids and 2 adults ride the float. Most of the kids rode last year. Thank you Thea for purchasing the 4 big bags of candy!
- We had a great turnout for the Mermaid Mini-Golf and Lego Sea Creatures program prior to Aurorafest. We also supported the Legend of Firefly Marsh Aurorafest Movie with a Zoom link for the author and our movie night gurus. I also put out our *Hattie & Hudson* Storywalk book since it had a lake sea creature theme.
- Sensory Art Adventures has had several families for the past two weeks. We have created sea creature art and did yarn painting activities.

AURORA FREE LIBRARY JUNE and JULY 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

- Peachtown and Hamlet players were in regularly practicing for their events throughout May and June. We recorded some of their numbers when we were open, but are sure there were more that could have been added to door count.
- We are lining up some art programs for adults for the next few months. The first one will be by Jo Gunderson May and will be a Georgia O'Keeffe inspired painting in August. Thank you Jo!
- Teen D & D group has been meeting weekly, but will stop for a few weeks this summer.
- We will again participate by providing games at the UMA Food Pantry Ice Cream Social on Aug. 19th.
- Sheila Myers will be the BLB Author (sheilamyers.com) and will speak during the BLB weekend.
- Reviewed/ gathered info for June and July Hub Newsletter and June Tribune.
- 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

- Purchased another Rosamond Gifford Zoo pass (we have 2) for the library and renewed our Sciencenter passes.
- Attended *Unlock the Power of Effective Feedback Strategies for Managers* by Catalyst Cayuga.
- Attended June and July FLLS Directors' Meetings.
- Met with Sarah and Jenny from FLLS and Dave at the end of June as they toured the MOH space to understand our clear glass window project for NYS Construction Grant request this year.
- Continued to keep abreast of the leaded glass window proposal that Dave and Steve created for Senator May.
- Keeping up to date with Steve and Dave on finishing the current NYS Construction Grant Project by adding replacing the Navien Boiler which has been leaking.
- Kathy has been working with our intern Elijah who has been helping everyday we are open for a few hours. He will be away for the next few weeks, but will return later in August for a few weeks. We have also had another teen named Muriel coming in weekly to assist with projects and programs and a few other volunteers to help at programs. Community member Stacy Groth has also been volunteering at several events.
- 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.
- Using Linda and Melissa as needed on the schedule as substitutes. Kathy has not cut back hours much, but has needed to work some overlapping days at Hazard.
- Webmaster has got the past minutes back up on our website.

FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING

- Supporting the AFL Book Sale with a poster, press release, sign up sheet for volunteers, and pricing sheet.
- Renewed the Bulk Mail Permit (split with MOH).
- Inquired about the DRI Small Project funding since we did not receive any money for our proposed windows project, but was told by Kari Terwilliger in Auburn that that fund was not part of the decided final outlay of money. I wrote to the state as well, but received no word.

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

AURORA FREE LIBRARY JUNE and JULY 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

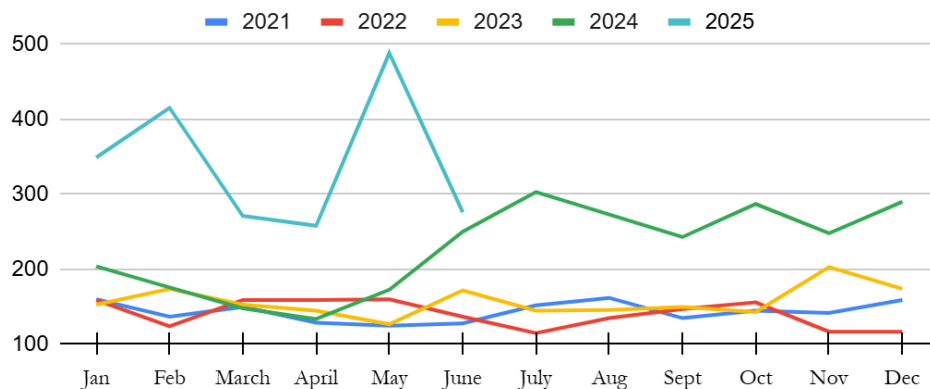
Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

**** Does not have Tyburn productions in April door count. Has some but not all of rehearsal door counts for Peachtown and Hamlet in May/June.**

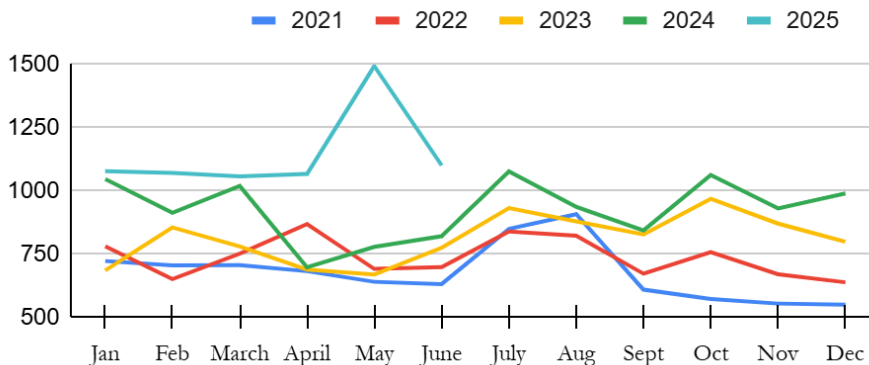
Month	2023	2024	2025
December	314* + 345 at Programs	368* + 395 at 23 Programs	
November	326* + 347 at Programs	334* + 376 at 21 Programs	
October	327* + 622 at Programs	448* + 937 at 28 Programs	
September	352* + 336 at Programs	352* + 500 at 18 Programs	
August	420* + 162 at Programs	622* + 170 at 11 Programs	
July	428* + 634 at Programs	732* + 678 at 25 Programs	
June	395* + 650 at Programs	433* + 700 at 16 Programs	645* + 764 at 22 Programs
May	242* + 259 at Programs	389* + 213 at Programs	638* + 668 at 22 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: There seems to have been a huge spike in Overdrive ematerials in May which has affected all of the counts when related to June numbers.

Total Circulation of Overdrive ematerials



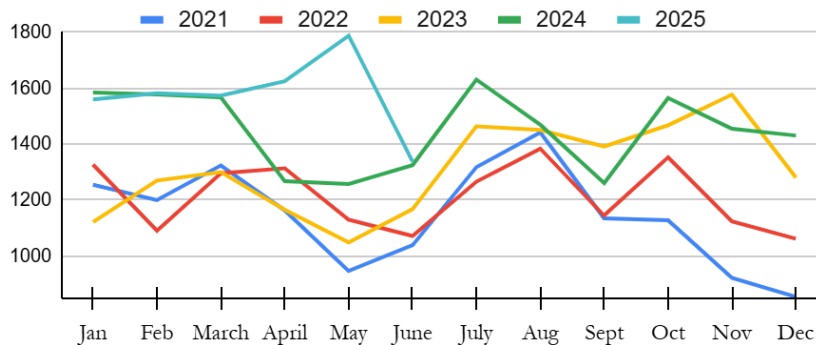
Total Circulation of all Materials without renewals



AURORA FREE LIBRARY JUNE and JULY 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

Total Circulation of all Materials with renewals



BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE

NEW ITEMS:

- Dave set up Outside Window Cleaning for Sat. July 19th.
- The stair chair needed service in early June and Ellen called them to fix the issue.
- **FLOOR GRATE in main room has several breaks. Sent Dave and Lori some info from Inns of Aurora who they have used (Reggio Registers). Dave made a wooden one that is currently sitting over the broken grate's opening.
- Sandy contacted electrician Dave Brong about replacing the groundlight in front damaged by Hale. Sandy and Dave E. and Dave B. have been in touch with Graybar and have ordered 4 ground light fixtures to replace those in the front.
- Yesteryears painted AC metal tubing that goes to MOH AC in back of building.

2024/25 Maintenance/Checks have occurred: Stair Chair (8/14/2024), Fire Extinguisher Check (10/21/2024), **Service Alert** (4/24/2025) and Fall Visit (10/8/2024), Furnaces/Navien Boiler maintenance Holbrook Heating came 1/29/2025, **Holbrook Heating AC maintenance (6/4/2025)**, 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.
- 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		

AURORA FREE LIBRARY JUNE and JULY 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

Mondays	Fiber Arts Group		4 pm
Wednesdays in July	Sensory Art Adventures		10 am
Sat. July 19	Game Time		11am-1pm
Wed. July 23	Rev Theatre Rumpelstiltskin	APT Regrant	6:30pm
Sat. July 26	Minecraft Movie Night		7:30 and 8 pm
July 25-27	Book Sale		Masonic Lodge – various times
Mon. July 28	Wildlife Rockstars Animals	Rosen	5:00 pm
Wed. July 30	Doogie Horner Graphic Novelist	Fam Literacy Grant	6:30pm
Wed. Aug 6	Southern Cayuga Book Club		7 pm Opendore
Sat. Aug 9	Teddy Bears' Picnic Nate the Great	APT Regrant	12:30pm
Th. Aug 14	Georgia O'Keeffe Painting		6:30pm
Sat. Aug 23	Enchanted Festival		10am-2pm
Oct 3	Book Lovers' Ball		6 pm Treleaven Winery

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Groth