

AURORA FREE LIBRARY AUGUST, SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS

- Kathy asked in early September if she could take Mondays off at this time. I have been working most of them with some help from Linda. Kathy can work Monday if really needed.
- As you know Lili MacCormick passed away recently. I had discussed with her the idea of coming up with an agreement for her puppets, but never got to it. In speaking with her family, they would like to donate them to the library. Should this be formalized?
- Our tax levy of \$92,500 was received this week from SCCS.
- Village sent a letter regarding putting up signs in the Village and Zoning Laws. I met with the Code Enforcement Officer, John Greer and we went over laws.
- REMINDER: 2 Hours of Trustee Training and Sexual Harrassment Training is due by end of year.

GRANT ACTIVITY NEWS

Rosen Grants for 2024-25:

Rosen Take it on the Road and Beyond 2024-25(expended) and 2025-26 and Outreach Mini-Grant:

- Enchanted Festival in Late August was a HUGE Success! Over 200 people attended from well beyond Aurora. Weather was perfect and everything went smoothly. Aurora Volunteer Fire Department participated with water spray and Lisa at Hazard Library manned the Pirate station on the corner of Lafayette and Rt. 90. There were two other stops. One at the library with fairies and a 'unicorn' and a Dragon spot at the Aurora Farmers' Market. We hope to do it again next year.
- Kathy is taking over the Graphic Novel Book Club that Bird had previously run. It will meet later in October. She is marketing that for ages 10-13 and is also starting up a book club for younger kids ages 6-9 called Dragon Explorers. It will meet later this month. The Dragon Explorers will meet during open hours on a Friday at 4 pm. We will have a volunteer on hand to check out books for patrons at this time.
- This month's Take and Make is a skeleton windchime, a scratch art mask and a sticker art Halloween picture.
- In November we are planning a Dinovember giveaway at both the King Ferry Food Pantry and at the library. Dinosaur activity books are being purchased and will be handed out at the Food Pantry. We will hand out activity books along with an activity or two as well in-house.
- In touch with Debbie at Food Pantry regarding giveaways in November and December (this will be with Outreach Mini-Grant funds). Part of Outreach Mini-Grant Funds were for a quarterly cooking magazine for the Food Pantry Clients. Unfortunately, the magazine called Chop Chop will no longer be published in print form and after speaking with Lisa at Hazard it was decided to redistribute already spent money on ABC cards that Chop Chop produces. These were handed out at the September Food Pantry by Lisa and me. We spoke with 58 vehicles serving 87 households about libraries that day and were able to give out Library Cards to several of the Food Pantry Clients that day.

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Rosen Grant Storytime Train 2025-26

- Gave out "The Doghouse" book by Jan Thomas, purchased with last year's funds to 2 UPK classrooms in September. Also sent a letter home to the UPK families explaining the gift book and promoting both Hazard and Aurora Libraries as well as telling the families that we will visit the UPK classrooms once a month.
- Storytime is also happening weekly.

Statewide Community Regrant from Auburn Public Theater 2025:

- The Rev Youth Theatre and Nate the Great visited over the summer with Nate actually throwing fire outside the library! Those completed the AFL programs written in the grant. I will wait for Ellen to have her funded Skaneateles String Quartet and will then file the final report.

PROGRAMMING/PR

- SUMMER READING STATS
 - We had 371 children (preschool-elementary) who registered for summer reading this summer (all Emily Howland and Peachtown students received logs and are in this number). Homeschool, other school and preschoolers who visited the library are too.
 - We recorded 1 preschool/UPK program, 19 programs for ages 6-11, 5 teen programs and 15 adult programs this summer. Attendance for Preschool programs was 34, Children 6-11 was 1477, Teen programs was 24 and Adult programs was 339.
 - We had 7 Teens and 20 Adults who participated in our weekly Reading Program recording their reading and entering weekly drawings for prizes.
 - We gave away 284 Take and Make activities/activity books.
 - Celebrated 77 student readers at Emily Howland who returned their logs and had an ice cream sundae party in September
- Summer reading continued from my last report in mid-July and included visits including the Rev Theatre putting on *Rumpelstiltskin Unspun*, Wildlife Rockstars, Graphic Novel Author/Artist Doogie Horner and Nate the Great at the Teddy Bears' Picnic.
- It was a busy summer with lots of performers and in-house activities and ending with the Enchanted Festival.
- We held an art workshop in August by Jo Gunderson May on Georgia O'Keeffe.
- Received ice cream coupons supplied by Jim Wilcox for readers and a weekly ice cream drawing at both libraries in kid, teen, and adult categories.
- Art Club created Fairy Houses in late July for our Enchanted Festival. They were wonderful and provided a nice addition for those who walked from the library to the Pirate spot at corner of Lafayette and Main Street all the way to Sherwood Road Firehouse and Farmers' Market. Send thank you.
- Participated again with Create Kindness and UMA on Scoops for a Cause which donates money to the Food Pantry. We provided the outdoor games.
- Attended Back-to-school Open House at Emily Howland in September with Hazard Library.
- Completed the FLLS Summer Reading Survey in September that they will use to send numbers to NY State.

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- We are trying something new this school year. Peachtown is coming during open hours on Wednesday at 2 pm. I have a volunteer covering the desk at that time. We are also allowing other homeschooled elementary students to join if they would like to.
- Aurora Preschool came for the first time this past week on 10/8/2025. There were 9 students plus three other families who came for storytime. They will come twice a month.
- Held a Pirate Lego Club Night in September for Talk Like a Pirate Day.
- Liz Snyder gave a Gardening Talk on Fall Planting for Winter Interest in late September.
- Teen D & D group has been meeting weekly now that school has begun.
- Donation of Gummy Worms by Grace Bates not used at Aurorafest Parade. We will be bagging them and handing them out for Halloween.
- Promoted BLB Author Sheila Myers' event (sheilamyers.com) who spoke during the BLB weekend. Had books on hand for people to read in advance.
- The library held a Zentangle Art Workshop on 10/9 with 10 attendees. Helming programming funds were used for that event. Some community members have asked for it to be held again since they could not make it that day.
- Have been in touch with Ellen Wikstrom about MOH programming for the rest of the year.
- Reviewed/ gathered info for August, September and October Hub Newsletter and September 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.
- Promoting BLB on FB, Instagram, emails and promoting BLB author as well.

ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

- Have begun training a few new volunteers to help with reshelving and check out. Carmen Boyce and Jennifer Connell helped out at the Enchanted Festival and have continued helping. A young mother. Taylor Lounsbury is helping during Peachtown storytime on Wednesday afternoons at 2 pm in case there are some patrons who come in when Kathy is providing storytime.
- Jennifer Connell asked if we would be interested in having a tree planted on our property as some villagers mentioned we used to have the tree used for Christmas Tree Lighting on the north Rt 90 side of the building. I discussed this with Dave and will report at the meeting.
- Attended September FLLS Directors' Meeting. FLLS will be working on a Plan of Service due in Oct. 2026. Will be looking for feedback.
- Attended August FALCONS meeting where budget was proposed and discussed. No increase in POLARIS fees. Will remain at \$5,900/year for our size library.
- Kathy oversaw a number of teen volunteers this summer.
- In August I reached out to the Inns of Aurora HR department regarding employees parking in first parking spaces on Cherry Avenue and was assured that the handbook states they are not to do that and would be reminded of that.
- Found a person in the building outside of open hours since the front door was inadvertently left open by someone (not staff).
- Great Give Back is happening for the month of October along with Hazard Library. We are collecting children's fruit cups.
- Reached out to Dennis regarding Long Range Plan and next steps. Discussed and shared with him past plans and how to get community and board feedback.

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- FLLS offered a Community Read of the book *The 12 Steps to a Community- Led Library* by Barbakoff and Lenstra. I attended a discussion of it and there will be a Trustee workshop soon. All libraries received a copy if you are interested in borrowing it for discussion. The author will be the speaker will be at the FLLS Annual Meeting.

FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING

- Assisted where I could with NYS Construction Grants and kept abreast of Dave's ask from Senator May for windows as well as final reporting for MOH AC Project and status of Front Façade Proposal.
- Wrote a Friends of TCPL Grant for a Cricut for library use and submitted photos and invoices from last years' purchases. Awaiting response.
- Continuing to have In-House Book 'Sale' by donation.
- Submitted FLLS Family Literacy Grant 2025 paperwork and report to get reimbursement for Author visit, books and sensory items.
- Local Library Service Aid final 10% was received.
- Received Insurance Renewal Packet and notified Dave and decided not to meet with insurance agent at this time since we did last year.
- One of main book distributors, Baker and Taylor has gone out of business and Amazon is offering discounted book prices to libraries. I attended a Zoom on Friday about specifics to their library program.

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

**** 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.**

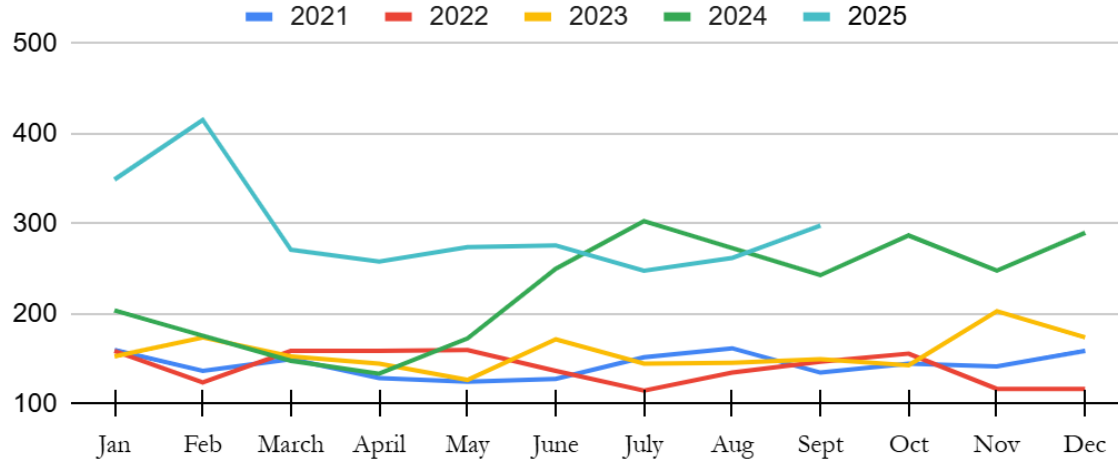
Month	2023	2024	2025
December	314* + 345 at Programs	368* + 395 at 23 Programs	
November	326* + 347 at Programs	334* + 376 at 21 Programs	
October	327* + 622 at Programs	448* + 937 at 28 Programs	
September	352* + 336 at Programs	352* + 500 at 18 Programs	* WILL HAVE NEXT MONTH
August	420* + 162 at Programs	622* + 170 at 11 Programs	493* + 455 at 11 Programs
July	428* + 634 at Programs	732* + 678 at 25 Programs	484* + 752 at 24 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

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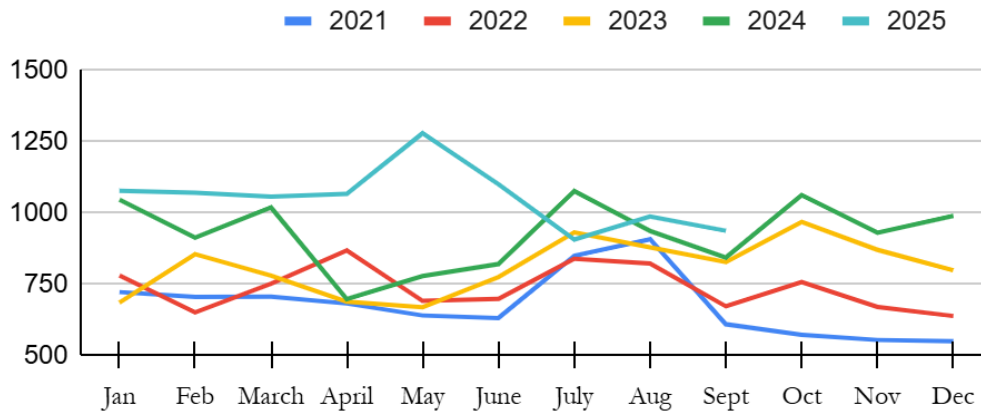
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CIRCULATION COMPARISON 2021-2025: * Charts below fix past charts which had FLLS error in reporting Overdrive stats for May.**

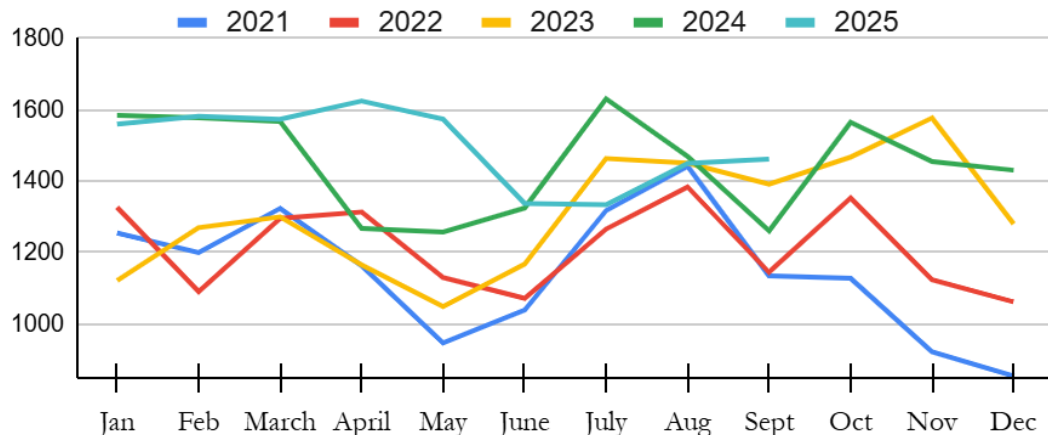
Total Circulation of Overdrive ematerials



Total Circulation of all Materials without renewals



Total Circulation of all Materials with renewals



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BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE

NEW ITEMS:

- Navien Boiler was replaced.
- Dennis sprayed wasps above back door and in ground behind the side bench. May need to call exterminator or wait to freeze.
- Dave Brong replaced 4 outdoor ground fixtures, put in higher wattage lightbulbs in the 'antique' outdoor building fixtures in front and back and also replaced a switch in the basement.

2024/25 Maintenance/Checks have occurred: **BOLD OCCURRED RECENTLY**

Stair Chair (8/27/2025), Fire Extinguisher Check (10/21/2024), **Service Alert (4/24/2025)** and **Fall Visit (10/7/2025)**, Furnaces/Navien Boiler maintenance Holbrook Heating came 1/29/2025, **Holbrook Heating AC maintenance (6/4/2025)**, Window Washing and Power washing **(7/19/2025)**.

- Need New Grate made in Front Room (metal has split and Dave made temporary wooden one). Inns use Reggio Registers. **LORI and DAVE**
- Follow-up on water line issue with Village (Mike White). **DAVE**
- Basement- contact SureTemp about visit to look at dehumidifier and jail heat. **DAVE**
- 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- Since did not receive DRI funding, resubmitted in NYS Construction Grant.**
- Stains on interior north wall MOH – **OPEN ISSUE**
- Consider extending concrete walkway from back steps to curb. Also consider a concrete handicapped parking space near back door?

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
Mondays	Teen D and D Group		5-6:45pm
Wednesdays	Storytime	Rosen	9:30 am
Wednesdays	Peachtown/Elementary		2 pm
10/17/2025	Lego Minifigure Halloween		3-7 pm
10/18/2025	MOH EVENT Dave Ruch Erie Canal		7:30pm
10/24/2025	Dragon Explorers Book Club	Rosen	4 pm
10/29/2025	Graphic Novel Book Club 10-13	Rosen	6 pm
10/31/2025	Halloween/Spooky Library		5-8 pm
11/5/2025	Southern Cayuga Book Club		7 pm (Opendore)
11/6/2025	Cathy Mullarney Art Event		6:30 pm

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12/2025	Gardening Workshop	Helming	TBD
12/6/2025	Christmas in Aurora		TBD

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Groth