

**AURORA FREE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
MAY 2026**

Submitted for Board of Trustees Meeting

**HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS**

- **School Vote Library Proposition PASSES on May 19, 2026:** 412 Y, 166 N
- **We had over 40 people at the library for US Congressman John Mannion's** visit on Wed. May 6<sup>th</sup>. His staff said it was one of the best Coffee with Constituents that they had held and also noted the MOH as a possible space for future events!
- Received check for **FLLS Outreach Mini-Grant** for \$1,905 to fund 10 sessions of Children's D&D Program and for supplies for King Ferry Food Pantry Take and Makes 4 times a year for 65 families.
- Submitted **NY State 2025 Annual Report** to FLLS. Cleared FLLS, but State had asked for one small revision that Lori and Melissa worked on and then we resubmitted it.
- New **Chess Club** will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month from May-August from 5-7 pm.
- Attended **Cayuga County FLLS Focus Group** to give input on FLLS Plan of Service on Monday, May 11 in Weedsport.
- Front Side Walls of Steps were Reset and Rebuilt and then some repointing was done by Stock and Stone Masonry. Looks great! **THANK YOU DAVE!!**
- Worked with Dennis, Michele and Dave to complete the **Community Survey** for Long Range Plan. It is on our website and Dave has distributed Spanish surveys to some local locations. We have 37 responses so far. I have not seen any paper surveys yet. It is on our outdoor sign and posted online, emailed out and posted in the library.
- Ellen and I attended the **Auburn Public Theater Grant** reception on May 6<sup>th</sup> to receive our check for our Family Arts Series. The \$3,275 will be split- \$1,000 for MOH and \$2,275 for AFL for a variety of programs from an a capella group, to opera, to Rev Theatre to art workshops.
- Wrote and received a **Family Literacy Grant** through FLLS for \$490. "Unearth Stories on the Road" offers 4 annual passes to area museums for our young patrons and their families(for all patrons- but grant was for Birth-21). These include the Museum of the Earth, Museum of Science and Technology (MOST), Rochester Museum & Science Center and the Seward House Museum. This will add to our Library of Things and highlight another type of offering at the library as well as encourage literacy skills at four local museums. Many of the museums have exhibits related to dinosaurs and rocks and gems which will be highlighted in this summer's Unearth a Story summer reading program.
- United Way had a voting station for their Day of Caring T-Shirt Design at the library for a week at the beginning of May. We can ask for a team to help on a project for the library and need volunteers on The Day of Caring. We can sign up at [https://www.volunteercayuga.com/need/index?s=1&need\\_init\\_id=15576](https://www.volunteercayuga.com/need/index?s=1&need_init_id=15576)

**GRANT ACTIVITY NEWS**

**Rosen Take it on the Road and Storytime Train 2026-27 Grant Applications and Hazard Grant for Summer 2026:**

- Planning events and Take and Makes for Summer including Moreland the Magician.
- Storytime will resume in the fall.

**Rosen Take it on the Road and Beyond 2025-26 and FLLS Outreach Mini-Grant (for Food Pantry):**

- Volunteers assembled a bag with information and 2 clay kits, a spring activity book and a 4-way pen for the King Ferry Food Pantry families. Participants were encouraged to bring their Prehistoric Creature that they created to the library for our Tiny Clay Art Show.

- During the month of May all ages are invited to grab a clay kit to make a Prehistoric Creature for our Prehistoric Tiny Clay Art Show in June. This will help kick off our summer reading!
- Kathy held her last Tween Graphic Novel Book Club (age 10-13) with the book *Next Stop* and played mini-golf after the discussion. She promoted the summer Tween Book Club which will be a modern version of *The Secret Garden*. Several students signed up, but there are more spots. Books were purchased with this year's Rosen Grant funds.
- The last Dragon Explorers (for ages 6-9) meeting will be in early June. Kathy will promote the Secret Explorers Book Club for the summer where kids will read a dinosaur book that goes along with the summer theme.

**Statewide Community Regrant from Auburn Public Theater 2026:** See info in Highlights.

### **Rosen Grant Storytime Train 2025-26**

- Storytime continues weekly.
- Made monthly visit to UPK classrooms with Hazard Library on 4/28/2026.

### **PROGRAMMING/PR**

- The Linocut Workshop with Carol Hockett from the Johnson Museum was wonderful with 17 participants.
- We have been finalizing the Summer Reading Program events and other details. There will be several performers including Moreland the Magician, The Rev Theatre, Dinosaurs Rock!, Movie Night, and Dan the Snakeman and a Balloon Man at the T-Rex Tea Party (Teddy Bears' Picnic this year). We will have book buddies again for kids who sign up and will have weekly in-house activities and make your own pet rock throughout the summer. In August we will have the Rock Doc come and talk about rocks with kids and adults. He will offer a rock sale that will benefit the library.
- Helped to plan and execute the author visit at SCCS Emily Howland of husband and wife team Jacky Davis and David Soman. They did three grade level presentations(K-6) and Lisa Semenza and I took them out to lunch. This was with Rosen Library Funds that Hazard received. I also reached out to Peachtown and they attended one of the sessions.
- We reached out to FLLS about using their Super Space Tiles (large magnetic tiles) this summer and they said we could house them if we would like, so we currently have them for the summer programming and will see if other libraries want to use them or if we will have them for the summer.
- Melissa Hulme has been working on the wonderful décor for summer for the backroom and I have asked the art teacher at SCCS if he and his students could craft a large T-Rex skeleton and a few other items if time permits.
- Elizabeth Snyder came and dug out some black-eyed susans from the front garden for our Plant Sale. She will come back to plant the front garden, possibly with community members.
- The Great Gatsby Teens (Bard Society group) alerted us that they will not be performing this year.
- Cayuga County Homeschool Meet-Up took place 4/22/26. The organizers will get back to me if they need any further support. It seems like the main thing that homeschool families in the area are looking for is a way to get and share information about what is going on and available to homeschooling families. They were also interested in organizing some field trips.
- The Classic Movie Team showed *The Princess Bride* on May 2<sup>nd</sup> (rescheduled from February). It was a nice turnout.
- The Southern Cayuga Book Club's May meeting discussed *Violeta* and will discuss *Hamnet* in June.
- Peachtown has ended for the year and the Aurora Preschool only has a few more visits.
- The Teen D & D group is meeting again, but has had low numbers. With the Outreach Grant funding we have had some Kids' D & D meetings which have been well-attended and the kids want to meet more this summer.
- We have a new Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt up to promote Summer Reading.

- Reviewed/ gathered info for the 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 webinar on Minimum Standards For Libraries: Overview and New Additions. I look forward to attending future webinars on the new policies that are needed for libraries by the end of 2026.
- Kelly McGuire, School Library System Coordinator at BOCES reached out to me and came to visit the library. She will be putting together a pamphlet with library information and sharing it with BOCES families to encourage them to visit local libraries since BOCES does not have a library on its campus.
- I attended the Hazard Annual Meeting last week.

### FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING

- Sarah Glogowski sent out a Bullet Aid Template for requests to our State Senator and Assemblyperson. Dave will send in our request for the window restoration that we previously submitted to Senator May.
- Filled out FLLS Satisfaction Survey.
- Set up and attended a meeting of the Cayuga County Library Directors prior to the FLLS Focus Group on May 11. Five directors attended. Several issues were discussed and we hope to meet again soon.
- In touch with Dave about Construction Projects and other Preservation/Building Maintenance issues.
- Promoted May Plant Sale on May 9 at 8 am on website and posters from Robin.
- From FLLS: Web Accessibility Requirement Compliance Date Extended. On April 20, the U.S. Department of Justice published a ruling that extended the Title II web accessibility compliance deadlines. Most FLLS member libraries now have until April 2028 to meet the requirements. FLLS will continue to provide updates and guidance for libraries to ensure their web content and mobile apps meet accessibility regulations and provide a positive patron experience for everyone.

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

**January 2026** Door Count 245 people (plus 180 at 14 programs)

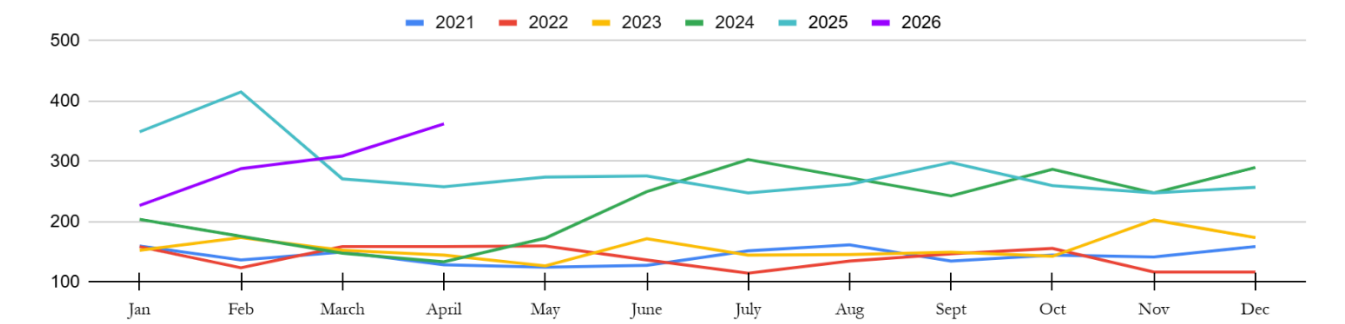
**February 2026** Door Count 326 people (plus 677 at 21 programs)

**March 2026** Door Count 446 people (plus 715 at 27 programs)

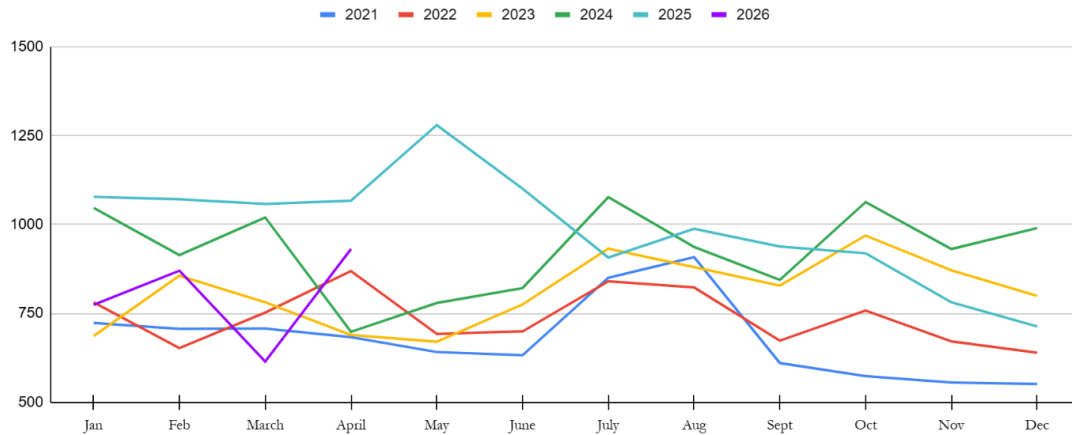
**April 2026** Door Count 339 people (plus 302 at 23 programs)

### CIRCULATION: Ematerial usage continues to climb and circulation is up from a dip in March.

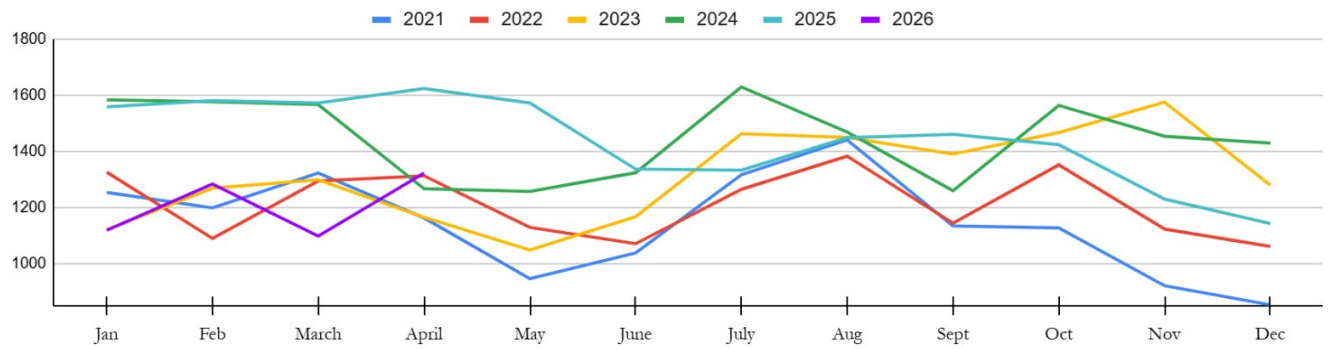
Total Circulation of Overdrive ematerials



Total Circulation of all Materials without renewals



Total Circulation of all Materials with renewals



## BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE

- Discussed with Dave a number of projects that he is working on for maintenance of our building.
- May 16, 2026- Stairs, walkways and windows were power washed.
- Received a maintenance contract from Holbrook Heating that I shared with MOH. MOH is currently looking at other options and we will wait to hear their findings before proceeding with deciding on ours.
- The outdoor sign door has been taken to be worked on. It was showing signs of wear due to the elements after less than a year, so Jeff is going to fix it. **THANK YOU DAVE!**

## 2025 Maintenance/Checks

Stair Chair (8/27/2025), Fire Extinguisher Check (12/2025), 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).

- Consider 'permanent' sign for Lili's puppets
- Consider options for lighting for step from platform in front of flowers to front walk way. **DAVE will look at electric light for those areas**
- 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 dehumidifier and jail heat. **DAVE**
- AFL/MOH Front sign near sidewalk will be refurbished by Yesteryears next year. **DAVE**

- **RESOLVED!!** 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-** DAVE met 3/14/2026
- 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 & D Group		5-6:45pm
Wednesdays	Storytime	Rosen	9:30 am
5/27/2026	Chess Club		5-7 pm
6/3/2026	Southern Cayuga Book Club		7 pm
6/5/2026	Dragon Explorers Club	Rosen	4:30 pm
6/11/2026	Peachtown Play		
6/7/2026	MOH Seward Talk		2 pm
6/24/2026	Chess Club		5-7 pm
7/8/2026	Tween Graphic Novel Club <i>The Secret Garden</i>	Rosen	6 pm
7/9/2026	Moreland the Magician	Rosen - Hazard	6:30 pm
7/15/2026	Dan the Snakeman	Golf Club	6 pm Wells Golf Club
7/18/2026	Movie Night- Hoppers?		7 pm
7/20/2026	The Rev Theatre	Arts Grant	6:30 pm
7/22/2026	Chess Club		5-7 pm
7/29/2026	Dinosaurs Rock!	Rosen Cortland	6:30pm
7/31/2026	Dino Explorer's Book Club	Rosen	4:30pm
8/8/2026	T-Rex Tea Party	Love Your Library	Noon
8/8/2026	No Promises -MOH	Arts Grant	TBD
8/15/2026	Rock Doc Geology Talks	FREE	TBD

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Groth