

AURORA FREE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2026

Submitted for 9/17/2026 Board of Trustees Meeting

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS

- Check out Trustee Lib Guide on FLLS site for lots of info : https://scrlc.libguides.com/flls_trustee_toolkit
- We had 2,145 Visitors to the library and programming this summer!! Check out our green jungle vine paper chain.
- The FLLS Annual Meeting is Friday, October 16 9:30 am-1:30 pm in Waverly. Speaker on *Crafting an AI Policy for Your Library*. Sign up by Oct. 2nd.
- South Central Regional Library Council is offering an Ask the Grant Advisor service: <https://scrlc.org/Services/Ask-the-Grant-Advisor>.
- Aurora Ledyard Historical Society has asked if we could be a place where items for a Time Capsule they are putting together can be dropped off.
- Free and Direct Access Plan from FLLS will be sent to our Board when ready. To be voted on in October.

GRANT ACTIVITY NEWS

Rosen Take it on the Road and Beyond 2026-27:

- Tween Graphic Novel Book Club will meet on October 14 and read *Misfit Mansion* by Kay Duvault. The author will Zoom in and speak to participants and lead them in an art activity. Books have been provided.
- This summer we held a Dino Explorers Book Club (Read *Secret Explorers* and *the Jurassic Rescue* book and created an I SPY bottle) and a Tween Graphic Novel Book Club of *The Secret Garden* and kids made terrariums. All participants received the book to read and keep.

Hazard Grant and other Grants for Summer 2026:

- We had new drop-in art activities out each week this summer. They included digging clay dinosaur eggs, making clay dinosaur eyes, dinosaur dish gardens, paint a dino racer, dino sand art and dinosaur button making to name a few. These were all well-received. Patrons could make pet rocks throughout the summer too.
- Programs included Super Mario Galaxy Movie Night (42 people), The Great and Powerful Dave the Magician (65 people), Dan the Snakeman (124 people-paid for by Wells College Golf Club), The Rev's *Jack and the Turnip Root* Play (43 people-Arts Grant), Dinosaurs Rock! (64 people-Cortland Rosen Grant), and the T-Rex Tea Party (67 people- our Rosen Grant) which replaced our popular Teddy Bears' Picnic this year. Sir James and his balloons were a hit at Tea Party (Love Your Library Grant).
- We offered two different Kids' Dungeons and Dragons Groups based on age this summer. Each met 4 times. Led by Primrose Kirk and paid for with our 2026/27 FLLS Outreach Mini-Grant. We will consider having more.
- Purchased foam dinosaur bone pieces from Imagination Playground with money from FLLS. Kids enjoyed building dinos with them.
- Purchased a Rock and Fossil Lab which went with our *Unearth a Story* theme. We left it out on a table for patrons to identify the contents this summer.

Storytime Train 2026-27 Grant:

- Reached out to UPK Classrooms. Still waiting to hear from 2 new teachers. Hope to visit monthly again.
- Weekly Storytime at the library will begin Wed. Sept. 23. Aurora Preschool will begin coming in October.

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

- Final Report submitted at end of June 2026.

Rosen Grant Storytime Train 2025-26:

- Final Report submitted at end of June 2026.

FLLS Outreach Mini-Grant 2025-26:

- Final Report submitted at end of June 2026. That grant provided funds for outreach at the King Ferry Food Pantry 7 times during the past year. The giveaways included Dinovember, December and April Holidays, a March Cookbook giveaway, a May giveaway and a Back to School and June Summer giveaway.

Auburn Public Theater Community Arts Regrant 2026:

- The Rev Summer Outreach Tour of *Jack and the Turnip Root* performed in July (co-sponsored by the Village of Aurora). Attendance was 20 Kids and 23 Adults.
- We are offering two two-session pottery workshops this fall. One is for Adults (limited to 12) and one is for Kids (limited to 10). Both are full. The Adult waitlist was so long that I asked the presenter, Jessanna Levitsky, if she could offer another 2 session Adult session and she agreed.
- The grant will also fund felting workshops in November – one for Adults and one for Teens. They will take place on Sat. November 7th.
- I am working to confirm Tri-Cities Opera's Hansel and Gretel performance on October 24th.

PROGRAMMING/PR

- Was very pleased with the dino décor SCCS Art Class created. Students made the skeletons, pteranodons and dinosaur back drop Sandy sent them.
- Clay dinosaurs created by community members using Take and Make Kits remained in the display case until September. We are now promoting the Book Lovers' Ball event in the display case.
- Outreach to SCCS in June with Hazard. Gave out books to all grades PreK-6th at lunch over two days.
- Outreach at King Ferry Food Pantry in June where gave out Take and Makes and summer reading promotion.
- Outreach at end of year PTO Event, promoting summer reading and libraries.
- Thank you Dave for putting together the Aurorafest Float! Thank you Jo for the truck and trailer and Thea and Lori for the kids! Thank you to Dave for two additional Dinosaur Costumes, used in Aurorafest Parade. Families enjoyed seeing the dinos and getting photos with them at events this summer.
- Intern Sarah Bullock offered Tech/Libby Sessions for patrons in July and August and on demand.
- Carol Hockett from the Johnson Museum of Art offered an Adult Slide Show Presentation on Landscape Photography from Ansel Adams to Andy Goldsworthy (19 Adults attended) on August 19th followed by a Collage Art Workshop for Adults.
- Offered two sessions (Kids and Adults) of Geology Rocks! with the Rock Doc who generously gave out rocks to the kids and cracked geodes for all to see. He did not charge us. Good attendance: 24 Kids and 21 Adults in morning and 11 at Adult talk.
- Kathy prepared 2 Scavenger Hunts (Prehistoric and Rocks) for the summer. Kids love them.
- Put up Storywalk *The Dinosaur in the Garden* book this summer on Cherry Avenue.
- Participated in Annual Ice Cream Social at UMA with Create Kindness, Peachtown and Cream at the Top who donated ice cream. About 80 in attendance in August. Fundraiser for Food Pantry. Raised \$872. We provided lawn games. Have participated for several years.
- Went to King Ferry Food Pantry the first weekend of September to promote *Library Card Sign Up Month* with Hazard. Gave out 9 new cards and talked to almost 100 people between Hazard and Aurora. Sarah attended the Food Pantry and asked if there would be any interest in learning English classes. Several clients at the Pantry said yes. She asked them to come on the Friday following, but no one came. We will try again to see if we can offer one again by promoting with a handout to Food Pantry clients. We also promoted our museum/park passes.

- We will celebrate Summer Reading Readers this Thursday at SCCS. All those who checked in at the library for reading and brought their logs to school will come to our Ice Cream Sundae Party.
- Will attend SCCS Emily Howland Open House on Sept. 23 with Hazard Library to promote library services.
- Meredith's Story and Soup Club will meet on Friday, September 25th to discuss *Hatchet*, eat and do an activity.
- Historical Society is renting the MOH on Fri. Oct 2 for an author talk and the Irish Dancers.
- There was little interest for Chess Club over the summer. We may bring it back this winter.
- The Southern Cayuga Book Club skipped its July meeting since members could not get enough copies of book *This Is Happiness* in time so met in August to discuss it. Met in September to discuss *The Black Wolf* and will meet to discuss *The Frozen River* in October.
- Reviewed/ gathered info for the July, August and September Hub Newsletter and submitted article and photos for September Tribune.
- Updated website with webmaster and posted to FB and Instagram. Used Mailchimp to alert patrons of latest events including BLB. Created PR for events and sent out press releases.

ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

- Had FLLS perform a Patron Purge of those patrons who have not used their library card in the past 3 years and do not owe money due to lost items. I looked over the list and kept some patrons who are still local.
- Attended July and September Director's Meetings - Sarah gave Federal and State updates, discussed policies and announced that FLLS Hired a new ILS Administrator -Nicholas Cisco. He will start on September 28.
- Attended August Quarterly FALCONS (Fingerlakes Automated Libraries CONSortium) Meeting. Reviewed Computer Network Services Budget. There will not be an increase for Polaris online circulation system in 2027. Polaris annual fee will stay at \$5900 in 2027, but will increase by approximately \$200 for 2028.
- Four County Library System has been added to Libby, so many of their ebooks are shared with FLLS patrons.
- I have completed the Annual Report Trifold for 2025.
- FLLS continues to work on Plan of Service (like Long Range Plan).
- Received Aunt Flow Grant materials from FLLS which will provide free period products to our patrons in our restroom. Read more about [Aunt Flow here](#).

FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING

- Worked with Natalie Kimbrough to update our Tote Bag Design. Purchased 100 AFL Book Bags to sell.
- Received the 2026-2027 Local Library Services Aid (LLSA) payment from New York State via FLLS.
- Attended Policy Palooza at FLLS to work on, network and learn more about the policies needed by 1/1/2027.
- In touch with Dave, Steve Moolin and FLLS Director Sarah G. about Construction Projects and other Preservation/Building Maintenance issues including windows projects and Zoned Heating for the basement.
- Promoting Book Lovers' Ball on social media, emails and website.

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)

May 2026 Door Count 516 people (plus 618 at 23 programs)

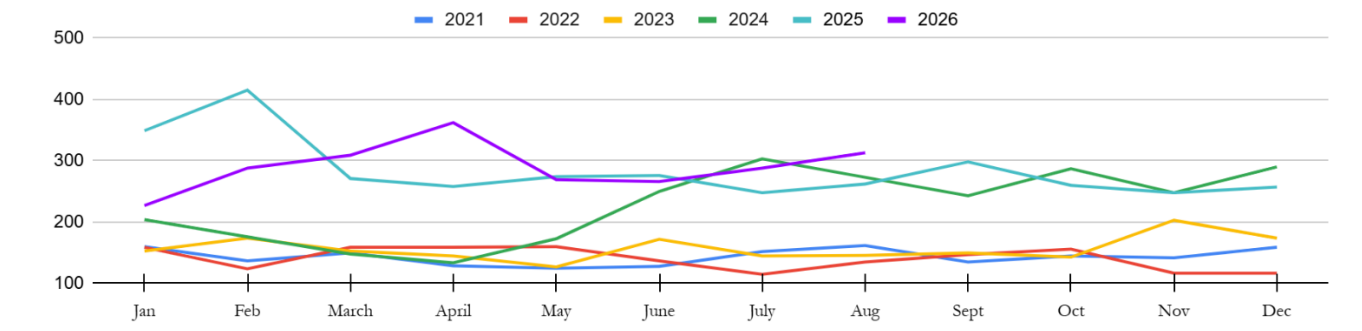
June 2026 Door Count 544 people (plus 956 at 19 programs)

July 2026 Door Count 573 people (plus 384 at 14 programs)

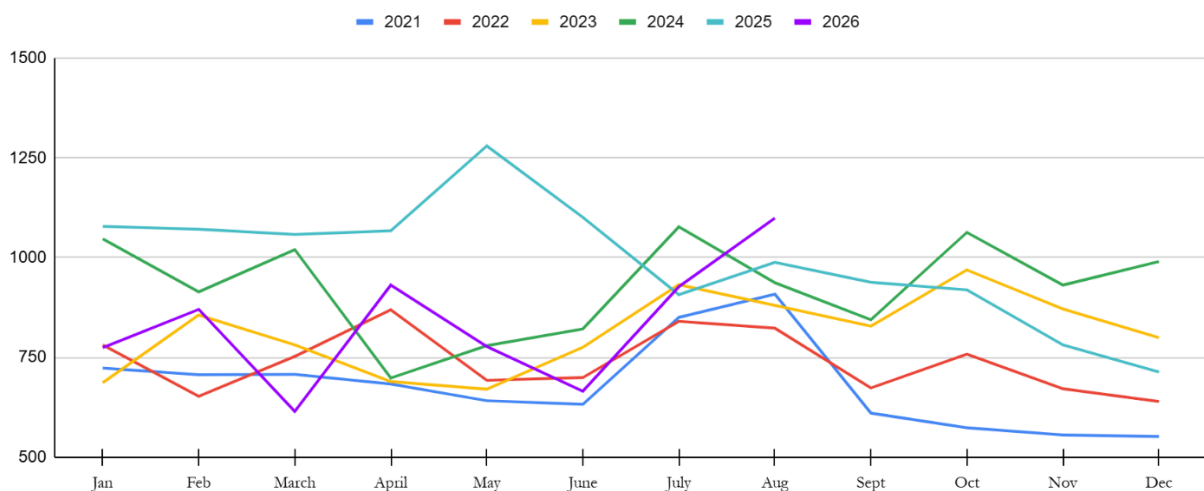
August 2026 Door Count 654 people (plus 365 at 21 programs)

CIRCULATION: Steady increase over the past 3 months.

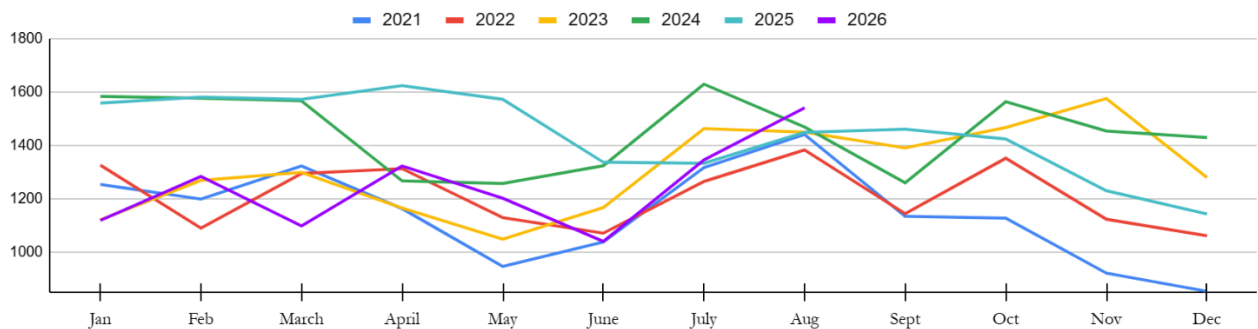
Total Circulation of Overdrive ematerials



Total Circulation of all Materials without renewals



Total Circulation of all Materials with renewals



BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE

- Frustrated with the cost to fix the Stair Chair. Chain of events: The chair was working fine and then Accessibility Solutions called to do our routine annual maintenance. After performing it, the workers left and I found that the chair did not work. I called and they returned that day to fix it (they had mistakenly left a lever down). A few

weeks later, although the chair was not used, when we went to use it, it would not move. We called for a service call and they came with two people and the cost was over \$800 to fix! Dave has been in touch to see about a reduction in cost.

- Ellen scheduled B&C to do annual maintenance on both AFL and MOH ACs and Furnaces. After the maintenance, one of the MOH AC units was not working well in early July, but was fixed.

2025/26 Maintenance/Checks

NEW in bold

Stair Chair (7/15/2026), Fire Extinguisher Check (12/2025), New alarm system Eastern Security Services company (7/15/2026) put in a cell phone to alert them of alarm. B & C Furnaces/AC Maintenance (6/29/2026), Window Washing and Power Washing (5/16/2026).

- ****Seal front doors to preserve.** OPEN ISSUE**
- 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. **DAVE**
- 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
Wednesdays	Storytime	Rosen	9:30 am begins Sept 23
9/23	Emily Howland Open House		5:30-7:30 pm
9/24 and 10/8	Adult Pottery Sessions	APT	6 pm
9/25	Meredith's Soup & Story Club "Hatchet"		4:30 pm
10/1 and 10/22	Children's Pottery Sessions	APT	4:30pm
10/7	Southern Cayuga Book Club		7 pm Opendore
10/11	Book Lovers' Ball		5-10 pm Aurora Inn
10/22 and 11/5	Second Adult Pottery Sessions	APT	6 pm
10/14	Tween Graphic Novel Book Club	Rosen	6 pm
11/7	Felting Workshop(s)	APT	TBD

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Groth