AURORA FREE LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT
NOVEMBER 2026
Submitted for 11/19/2026 Board of Trustees Meeting

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS

- FLLS Annual Meeting 2026 slides are available here: https://www.flls.org/2026-flls-annual-meeting-summary/
- Halloween events kept us busy between the Spooky Library with 445 people and the Emily Howland PTO Trunk OR Treat where we guesstimated over 400 people (kids and adults) in attendance. The Candy Chute was a favorite again on Halloween and we are so thankful for everyone who helped decorate and make it a success!
- We are planning Christmas in Aurora activities. We will host Drop-In Holiday Crafts for all ages from 10 am – 2 pm and will have items for sale including books and book bags. I have also asked Jessanna to see if she might be able to make some more Aurora Library clay ornaments.
- We partnered with Hazard Library in the annual Great Give Back collecting donations of tuna or chicken pouches or salad kits, jello or pudding cups, or non-refrigerated pouch yogurts for the King Ferry Food Pantry's Backpack Program. Between the two libraries we collected 200 items!
- FLLS hopes to have their Plan of Service (like Long Range Plan) done for a December vote on its Free and Direct Access Plan at FLLS libraries. I alerted them that we do not have a Board meeting scheduled. That was true for several other libraries as well.
- Check out Trustee Lib Guide on FLLS site for training and other information about libraries and trustee responsibilities : https://scrlc.libguides.com/flls_trustee_toolkit

GRANT ACTIVITY NEWS

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

- Tween Graphic Novel Book Club met in October with author of *Misfit Mansion,* Kay Duvault by Zoom.
- Put together Rubber Duck Take and Make and completing Dinovember Take and Makes. Almost half of the 60 ducks given out were returned for the decorating contest.
- Gave out Dinosaur Activity Books earlier this month and am currently assembling Dinovember Take and Makes with posters, dino-cars, scratch and sticker art and more.
- Planning a December Take and Make with ornaments.

Outreach Mini-Grant 2026-27

- Purchased and assembled Take and Makes for Dinovember for Food Pantry which included a variety of dinosaur-related coloring activities, a dig a dinosaur egg and a Dinosaur Activity Book.
- Beginning to plan for a December Take and Make with a variety of Holiday ornament activities.

Storytime Train 2026-27 Grant:

- Visited SCCS UPK Classrooms with Hazard Library in October and November and have set a schedule for the rest of the year.
- Weekly Storytime continues with Aurora Preschool visiting twice a month and other young kids coming weekly.

Auburn Public Theater Community Arts Regrant 2026:

- The second two-session Adult Pottery workshop is complete and the boxes will be 'revealed' this Friday at Sloane Bailey's home. She has offered to host both adult groups with food and drink so everyone can see others' final products. The Kids' Pottery Class also is complete. They came out great as well. I hope to include Jessanna in a future grant.

- A felting workshop took place on Sat. November 7th and was well-received. Everyone was able to make whatever design they wanted to. THANK YOU LORI FOR ATTENDING!
- Tri-Cities Opera performed Hansel and Gretel on October 24th . We had 61 in attendance.
- All programs are complete. I will put together the final report for this grant along with Ellen.

PROGRAMMING/PR

- Everyone enjoyed Ducktober with the Duck Scavenger Hunt and the Duck Decorating Contest. We may do it again next year!
- We are now in the midst of Dinovember. We have had a Scavenger Hunt with dinosaur figurines to find and have given out Dinosaur Activity Books. We will give out other Dinosaur Books as well as Take and Makes in the next few weeks.
- This month's move coincides with Dinovember. We will be showing *Jurassic Park* this weekend.
- Thank You notes were sent to Jim Wilcox at CATT for ice cream donations and Mary Lou Chappell for the cute dino crocheted buddies made for summer reading.
- Peachtown contacted us and brought their older kids (grades 3 -8) to the library on Wed. Nov. 18. Students selected books, did the scavenger hunt, and were able to pick out a dinosaur book to keep if they wanted.
- Liz Snyder had to cancel her Leaf Talk and Card Making event in October and cannot do her December Centerpiece one either.
- We had a wonderful turn out at the *9 To 5* Movie with 33 adults in attendance.
- Meredith's Story and Soup Club will meet this Friday to discuss The Bridget to Terabithia.
- Aurora Art Club met in October to make windcatchers with beach glass and driftwood.
- We had very few at the October Chess Club, but had quite a few last Friday. A person who has a Chess group in Auburn attended and said he may bring his group to a future gathering.
- The Southern Cayuga Book Club discussed *Frank* this month about Frances Cleveland and will plan their books for 2027 next month.
- Hazard Library and Aurora Library gave out candy and treats at SCCS for a Trunk or Treat Event on October 30th. We estimated having 403 people with parents and students.
- Reviewed/ gathered info for the November Hub Newsletter.
- Updated website with webmaster and posted to FB and Instagram. Used Mailchimp to alert patrons of latest events. Created PR for events and sent out press releases.

ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

- Eric Franks and Nick Cisco (he was newly hired) from FLLS Technical and Computer Services visited on Monday, November 16 to take a look at the building and to meet me.
- Intern Sarah Bullock has finished her internship hours at the library. I will be writing up her final mentor evaluation paperwork soon. We discussed her being a substitute on the desk if it works out.
- Kathy Thompson continues to volunteer several times a week. She is helping with the storytime while Linda K. is out and various other tasks including assembling Take and Makes, reshelving etc. Linda came in to volunteer for a brief time this week.
- In touch with Dave regarding building needs and Construction Projects and grant opportunities.
- Attended November FLLS Directors' Meeting. One interesting note was that the Board of Regents let the State Library know that they are expecting a record number of school consolidations in 2027 and 2028.
- Attended the FLLS Annual Meeting on 10/16/2026. **THANK YOU JO AND DAVE FOR ATTENDING!**

FINANCE/LEGAL COMPLIANCE/FUNDRAISING

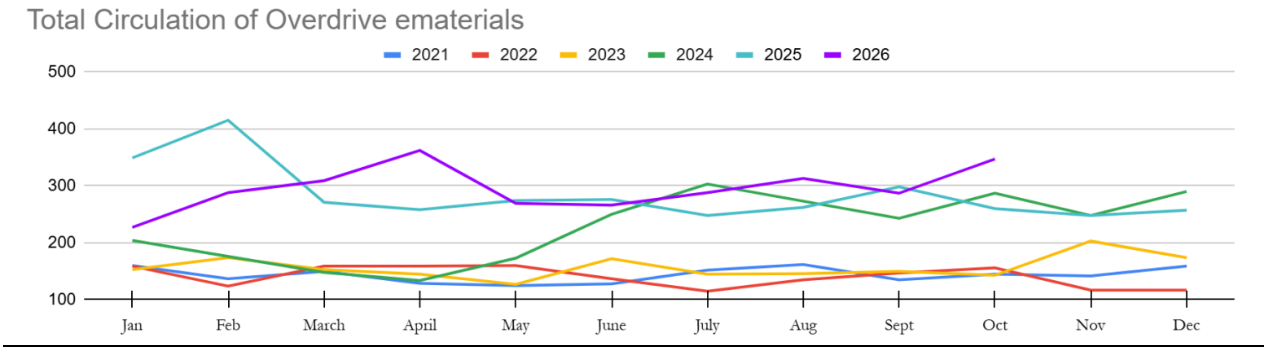
- Discussed Annual Appeal letter with Dave.

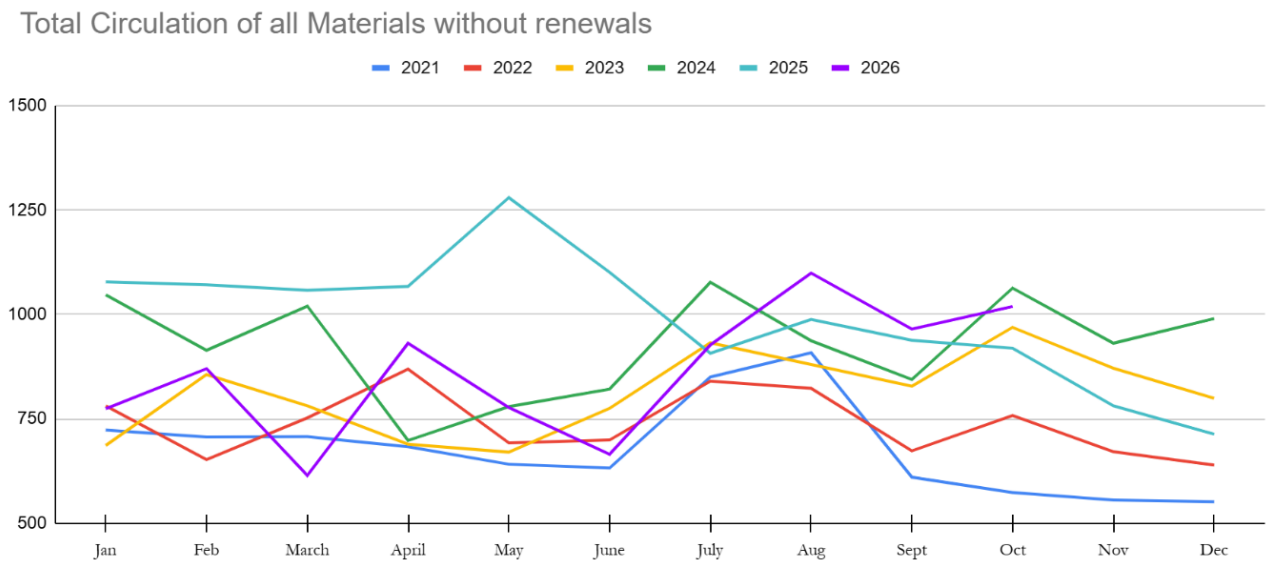
- Met with Dave, Lori and Thea to draft 2027 Budget.
- Worked with Dave and Dennis and Katie Fong on final Long Range Plan documents. Discussed meeting with Katie separately to strategize on grants and also to look at easy ways to create social media posts and ideas for a new website.
- Reviewed and revised several past policies for Board approval.
- Finalized Financial Policies with Thea and Lori which will go to Board for approval.
- Sarah told us that FLLS is once again giving libraries Collection Development Grants for up to $2000. I have asked for that amount. It will be received in 2026, but will be spent in 2027.

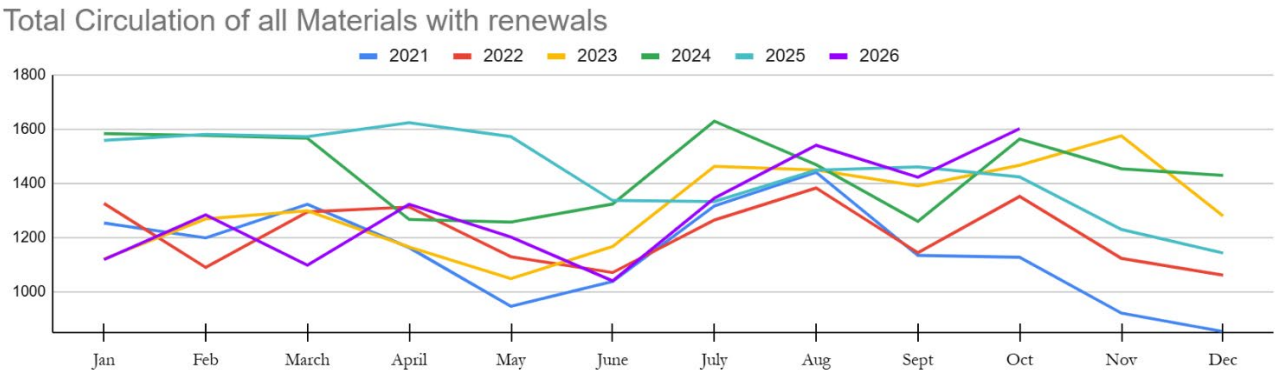
DOOR COUNT: *Daily door people (not including those who attended programs). Large number October due to Halloween and Outreach at Trunk or Treat.

2026	Door People	Program People	# Programs	Total People Served
January	245	180	14	425
February	326	677	21	1003
March	446	715	27	1161
April	339	302	23	641
May	516	618	23	1134
June	544	956	19	1500
July	573	384	14	957
August	654	365	21	1019
September	457	446	16	903
October	563	1276	25	1839
November	0	0	0	
December	0	0	0	
Total	**4663**	**5919**	**203**	**10,582**

CIRCULATION: Up from September.







BUILDING USE AND MAINTENANCE

2025/26 Maintenance/Checks

- 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).

TO DO

- **Seal front doors to preserve.** OPEN ISSUE
- Side Door Gutters -Dave in touch with someone to clean
- 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 Submitted Construction Grant**
- 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	Peachtown		1 pm
Wednesdays	Storytime	Rosen	9:30 am
11/20/2026	Meredith's Soup and Story Club		4:30 pm
11/21/2026	Jurassic Park		7 pm
12/2/2026	Southern Cayuga Book Club		7 pm Opendore
12/5/2026	Christmas in Aurora		10 am – 2 pm

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Groth