



Katrena Cohea, Director
518-548-4411 | kcohea@sals.edu

Monthly Director's Report August 2026

Patron & Circulation Updates

During the month of August:

- We had total of 1,308 patrons visit the library
 - 936 adult patrons
 - 260 children patrons
 - 49 teen patrons
 - 57 computers were used
- 1,169 items were checked out
 - Adult books were checked out 351 times
 - Adult video was checked out 78 times
 - Children's books were checked out 405 times
 - Econtent was checked out 116 times
 - Library of Things items were checked out 15 times
- We registered 23 new patrons
- 127 items were received to fill holds between MVLS & SALS
- 277 items were transferred to fill holds between MVLS & SALS
- 161 holds were placed
- 657 people used the wifi, for an average of 50 people per day

Collection Updates

The Collection Committee emailed to review purchases for the month. For August 2026, 33 items were ordered, and all items ordered have been received, and processed. The Collection Committee has received the collection list for September, and it will be approved via email.

After discussing the pros and cons of switching to Author's Note from Amazon, for purchasing, I followed up with owner Julie Berry; I included in this month's report paperwork an updated document that outlines current processing labor and costs. This should help us in making an informed decision on if we'd like to switch from Amazon to Author's Note.

When he visited for his program, Marty Podskoch donated 16 copies of his book, Adirondack CCC Camps. I gave the Historical Society 8 copies, so we have the remaining 8.

Friends of the Library Updates

I emailed Friends President Sandy LaVarnway in August to request \$1,000 for program costs and fees through the end of the year. I haven't yet heard back on the status of the request, but I did email Treasurer Nadine Schober, and gave her an update on what we've been awarded for our digital sign project, and what the library has set aside for this project (more information in the grants section of the report), as the Friends want to make sure they have some money set aside for us to contribute to the digital sign.



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Building Updates

Fire extinguisher maintenance was performed this month, and all are up to date.

Next year, we might consider asking Foley's to weed the flower box area in front of the library. It became very overgrown with weeds, among the flowers that had been planted.

The Town Building Committee has accepted the electrical bid from Mike Visscher for our automatic door project. I emailed the building committee on 8/25 to ask for an update on where things are with this project, but have not heard back.

Building projects that are ongoing include:

- Window washing - interior and exterior
- Research for continued memorial items for patrons (benches, rocks?)

I would like assistance cleaning, throwing out, and organizing the files in the attic.

Outreach Updates

Once we approve our outreach and homebound policy, I will reach out to Jessi Ostrander from the Wells Mealsite, and will be providing her with information and sign up forms for individuals to sign up for homebound delivery from the library. I have a meeting scheduled in August with the Senior Center in Speculator to tell them about this service, as well as our other senior focused services and programs.

The Summer Art Auction that Beth Knapp coordinates is still in the library. There have not been many submissions, so Beth wanted to keep the program running through September, in order to encourage people to participate.

When school is back in session, I will reach out to administration, and teachers, to invite them to bring classes to the library for tours, activities, and/or story times. Our weekly story time will begin on Sept 22 and continue through Dec 22. YA and Family Book Boxes will resume in October, once everyone has had some time to acclimate to their fall and back to school schedules.

The Historical Society has agreed to split the cost of the October 24 program (The Haudenosaunee During the Revolutionary War), as well as Marty Podskoch's August program with us. We will receive \$400 for their half of these programs.

Personnel Updates

Tanisha will have to be out for close to two weeks in September due to a scheduled procedure. Roxy will step in for Tanisha from at least Sept 2 - 9. If Tanisha needs additional time off, her doctor will provide a note, and Tanisha will give me as much notice as possible.

Most of our summer volunteers have now returned to their primary residences. Each volunteer was given a small thank you gift, as discussed at the July Board meeting.

Looking forward to 2027, Tanisha would like additional hours in order to meet new state requirements for individuals to receive Medicaid. I propose that in addition to her current hours, she works every other Saturday; splitting Saturdays with Roxy.



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Programming Updates

In August we hosted the following programs. Attendance is in ()

- Saturday, August 1, 2:00pm - Tasting Table: U.S. Presidents' Favorite Foods (4)
- Monday, August 3, 5:30 - Climbing to New Heights with local author, Terry Hynes (5)
- Tuesday, August 4, 10:30-11:00 - Story Time (0)
- Tuesday, August 4, 6:00pm - Women of Mystery (10)
- Wednesday, August 5, 6:00pm - Resume Refresh for Teens and Adults (0)
- Thursday, August 6, 10-10:45am - Tech Time (1)
- Thursday, August 6, 11:00am - Understanding Fraud & Scams (1)
- Friday, August 7, 2:00-5:00pm - Chalk Art Competition (14)
- Saturday, August 8, 11:00am - Utica Zoomobile at the Speculator Pavilion (75)
- Monday, August 10, 10:00am - Coffee and Conversation (1)
- Tuesday, August 11, 10:30-11:00 - Story Time (7)
- Wednesday, August 12, 6:00pm - Ladies' Self Defense (12)
- Thursday, August 13, 2:00-6:00pm - School Supply & Fashion Swap (5)
- Friday, August 14, 9:00am-3:00pm & Saturday, August 15, 9:00am-3:00pm - Friends of the Library Book Sale
- Saturday, August 15, 11:00am -Percy Jackson Birthday Bash (17)
- Monday, August 17, 4:00-6:00pm - Rubber Duckie Decorating Contest (14)
- Wednesday, August 19, 4:00-7:00pm: Quack-a-Palooza at the Speculator Pavilion
- Friday, August 21, 5:00pm - Celebrate America's 250th with Marty Podskoch (4)
- Tuesday, August 25, 2:00pm - Tea Rex Summer Sendoff Party! (22)
- Thursday, August 27, 10-10:45am - Tech Time (0)

The following (nonlibrary) meetings used the library space in July:

- DRAG
- HamCo Public Health
- Historical Society
- CCE

Summer Reading Programs

Our summer programs wrapped up on August 25, and we had a very successful season. A record number of kids ages 4-16 participated in our summer reading programs, which included in person activities at the library, an an option to track minutes spent reading at home, or use a bingo card.

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| • 35 kids ages 4-9 completed a bingo | • 9 kids ages 0-4 completed a reading tracker |
| • 12 teens ages 10-16 completed a bingo | • 42 kids ages 4-9 completed a reading tracker |
| • 7 adults ages 16+ completed a bingo | • 20 teens ages 10-16 completed a reading tracker |



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September is Library Card Sign Up Month. We have a few programs that will highlight this month long theme, and we plan on hosting the following programs:

- Thursday, September 3, 5:00p - Adirondack Author Talk with Roger Sheffer
- Thursday, September 10, 3-5p - Car Seat Checkup with Hamilton County Public Health
- Friday, September 11, 9a-3p - Friends of the Library Book Sale.
- Saturday, September 12, 9a-3p - Friends of the Library Book Sale
- Wednesday, September 16, 4:00p - Cr'After School
- Friday, September 18, 5-7:30p - Reflections Painting Workshop
- Tuesday, September 22, 11:30a-12:00p - Storytime
- Thursday, September 24, 10-10:45a - Tech Time
- Tuesday, September 22, 6pm - Victory Gardens Revisited: Growing Food in the Adks
- Thursday, September 24, 11a - Library Open House
- Friday, September 25, 5-7:30p - Reflections Painting Workshop.
- Saturday, September 26, 11a - Adirondack Author Talk with Curt Stager and Dave McFadden
- Tuesday, September 29, 11:30a-12:00p - Storytime

In October I would like to offer a program called Teach Your Talent. The idea behind these programs are for local individuals to teach a session on a hobby or skill that they have experience in. This encourages local participation, and may help us reach new community members.

Grant Updates

I submitted the required interim report for our ALA grant and the automatic doors project. All board members received a copy of the survey results that were captured as part of this report. The only requirements left for this grant is to spend the dispersed funds by April 30, 2027, and to submit a final report by June 20, 2027.

I received notification on August 20th that we were awarded \$3,000 from the Adirondack Community Foundation for our YA Book Boxes. All board members were emailed a copy of the grant award letter. This award will allow us to incorporate global snacks and materials into the book boxes, as well as cover expenses for in-person meetups for the group.

We have also been awarded \$5,000 from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for our digital sign project. I reached out to fellow SALS directors, and SALS themselves, to ask if they had any recommendations for sign companies in the area. I received a few suggestions, and reached out, but unfortunately, never heard back from any of them. The original bid we received (which needs to be updated) was for \$30,755. We will also need to request updated bids for electrical work, and any additional construction bids that are needed for this project. We currently have \$18,000 set aside in the budget for this project. All board members were emailed a copy of the grant award letter. This leaves (around) \$7,755. It is my hope that the Friends will be able to cover at least part of this.

I have not yet heard back about the ALCA grant, or the LTSA grant, but I am hopeful we'll have positive results from both, and to hear back in September.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lake Pleasant Public Library Board of Trustees

Donna Benkovich, Vice President | Siets29@aol.com
Nancy Seifts, Treasurer | nancyts@frontiernet.net
Toni Morrison, Secretary | tem397@hotmail.com
Caitlin Caswell, Trustee | caitlin.l.caswell@gmail.com
Susan Hartmann, Trustee | sehartmann@mac.com
Katie Mendez, Trustee | katiemariamendez@gmail.com
Kathy O'Connell, Trustee | kboconnell@yahoo.com
Pam Pooler, Trustee | pjpooler@yahoo.com