

Library News:

- September is Library Card Sign-Up Month! To celebrate, Columbia County Libraries are handing out puzzle pieces at each library for patrons. Put all the pieces together to complete the puzzle and turn it in at any library to win a prize!
- Patrons have until the end of September to complete their Carnegie Library Passport and turn it in to win a gift basket. In Columbus the basket includes a Hydroponic Garden set.
- With having less magazine subscriptions, we have added to our Library of Things. A few new things of note are a bird watching kit, a yarn winder and swift, a color analysis kit, and more. Be sure to stop by to see what you can check out at the Library!
- The Library will get new flooring in the Program Room, stairs, and entryway. The Library will remain open on Tuesday, September 22 for the Program Room floor replacement. On Friday, September 25 we will close for the new flooring on the stairs and in the entryway.

Community Partnerships:

- Helen attended the open house at Columbus Elementary School on August 26. The Friends of the Library provided color changing pencils to hand out to students. We also took some to Zion, St. Jerome's, and Fall River schools.

Youth Services:

- Youth programming took a small break at the end of summer, but is now back! There are weekly storytimes, with the first Wednesday of the month taking place at Home Again Assisted Living. Music & Motion returns for one week each month. There is also Art Studio, Stitching Stars, Chess and Lego Club, and Book Dragons creative writing.
- The Homeschool Group took a break for the summer but had a planning meeting on September 2 and will be back for another year, meeting every Monday afternoon. Amanda will be facilitating the first Monday of each month this year.
- To follow up our very popular 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, we will be launching a 500 Books Before Middle School program.

Adult Services:

- There was a fun trivia night on August 19 with 14 people attending.
- We have several craft opportunities at the Library and all of them are very popular! Twice a month we hold Craft-In where patrons can come and work on any craft project they like. Hooked on Books and Yarn led by Catherine meets one a month to crochet together. Craft Night led by Kristen, and Stay Crafty led by Amy have both had max capacity with guided craft projects.

Upcoming Events:

- Book Clubs
 - September 17- Third Thursday Book Club: Not Quite Dead Yet
 - September 21- Romantasy Book Club: Daughter of No Worlds
 - September 24- Books & Beer: Author Sara Dahmen
 - October 1- After Hours Book Club: Never Lie
- Programs and Author Talks
 - September 16- Author Talk: How to Give Your Child a Smart Start
 - September 18- David Rogers Classical Guitar
 - September 22- Author Talk: Thierno Diallo
 - September 23- Adult Craft Night: Mini Succulents
 - September 29- Pathway to Publication with Valerie Biel
 - October 9- Author Talk: Kate Bender, dealing with children's grief

Meetings and Professional Engagment:

- Amanda is gone to the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Montgomery, Alabama from September 15 through September 20.
- The Columbia County Library Board will meet on Friday, September 18.
- The Columbia County Libraries will present to the County Finance Committee on Friday, September 25.
- The SCLS Foundation Cornerstone will take place on Thursday, October 8 in Madison.
- Kristen will be attending the Back in Circulation Conference in Madison October 5 and 6.

Library Statistics		2026 Current Month	2026 YTD	2025 Previous Month	2025 Total	% Change from 2025 to 2026
	Visits	4,894	38,277	48,063	67,988	-20%
	Circulation	3,966	35,826	42,005	59,674	-15%
	Digital Items Borrowed	1,292	10,537	9,458	14,551	+11%
	Books sent by Mail	19	107	97	135	+10%
	Public Wi-Fi Use	6,470	46,740	39,324	39,324	+19%
	Public Computer Use	286	1,979	1,808	2,592	+9%
	Wireless Printing & Faxing	89	715	650	993	+10%
	Community Use of Rooms	81	881	775	1,135	+14%
	Patrons Added	*	*	237	346	*

Statistics Updates:

- The door count is down due to purchasing a door counter that is less sensitive than our old one. While the number is lower, it is more accurate than in the past.
- We still don't have all the missing reports for Patrons Added, but we do now have May and June, which shows 87 patrons added in Columbus over those two months.
- Circulation numbers are still not looking right. Amanda has reached out to SCLS to hopefully find out why there is such a change, and there isn't an answer right now. They did indicate that several libraries have reached out with the same question.

Program Statistics	Amount of Programs	Program Attendance	Self-Directed Activities
Future Readers	6	146	4
Children	3	21	0
Teen	2	18	0
Adult	12	140	1
General Interest	5	284	103