AVON FREE LIBRARY
YOUR BRIDGE TO DISCOVERY

Community Impact Report

2025 in Review

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

Thank you so much for taking the time to look through our Community Impact Report. 2025 was a monumental year for the Avon Free Library and once again, I feel so fortunate to have experienced everything alongside the wonderful people who work for, support, and visit this library.

Perhaps the biggest triumph was the passage of our Budget Proposal in November. After months of grassroots efforts from every corner of the community, the successful vote has created a sustainable model through which the library is funded, strengthening library services for generations to come.

We also made it through the replacement of our nearly 100-year-old slate roof. In the midst of the project, the obliging construction workers let me climb up the scaffolding and stand on top of the library. From my perch, I found myself very moved to have been a part of the collective effort to preserve the Aaron Barber Memorial building and all of its stories.

From the books, programs, and resources we offer here in the building, to our partnerships and outreach efforts outside the doors, the year bustled with activity. Shout-outs to Carri's consistently popular Peaceful Painting Program, Kasey's incredible Early Literacy Story Times and outreach efforts, and Pamela's Wellness Classes and ever-creative adult programs! The Friends of the Avon Free Library did a great job organizing the annual book sale and several additional fundraisers and events throughout the year.

I also want to recognize all of the patrons and community members who support our library in all the various ways - from donating their gently used books to buying tickets for raffles and outside events to lending us a wheelbarrow on a Sunday afternoon. As you can see on the front page of this newsletter, the community let us know all their favorite things about our library during the 2025 Corn Festival, but the care and commitment runs even deeper.

Being a part of the community is hard work, fun, funny, sometimes uncomfortable, and always deeply worthwhile. We made some great memories in 2025, and hopefully helped a few neighbors along the way.

All my best,

Grace Frenzel
Director
Avon Free Library

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Slate Roof Replacement Completed

Our nearly 100-year-old slate roof was replaced in 2025. Funded primarily by NYS Construction Aid and a generous grant through the Rochester Area Community Foundation, the roof replacement preserves the historical nature of the building while protecting all of the assets within the library.

Budget Proposal Passes

In November, Avon residents voted to approve the library budget proposal. This proposal did not increase funding to the library, but rather shifted funding to one streamlined municipal source, creating greater transparency to tax payers and ensuring sustainable library funding from year to year.

Documentary Screening

The library partnered with the Avon Park Theater to screen “The Librarians,” a documentary that focuses on defending intellectual freedom and the impact of removing books that deal with race, gender identity, and sexual education from schools and public libraries. The sold-out screening was followed by an engaging Q&A from a panel of local experts.

OWWL Library Tour

Throughout 2025, library lovers throughout the region were invited to visit all 42 libraries in our system for a chance to win a gold library card! Thanks to the OWWL Library System, Avon had over 800 new visitors and 25 gold card winners (including five staff members)!

BY THE NUMBERS

Library Patrons saved
$1,295,444
by using the Avon Free Library in 2025

Savings are based on cost of physical and digital materials if purchased instead of borrowed.
It does not account for programs or other library offerings.

43,804
Physical Item Circulation
(Books, CD Audiobooks, DVDs, Wi-Fi Hotspots, Museum Passes, etc.)

16,654
E-Resource Circulation
(E-Books, Audiobooks, e-Magazines, Streaming videos)

1,578
Wi-Fi Sessions

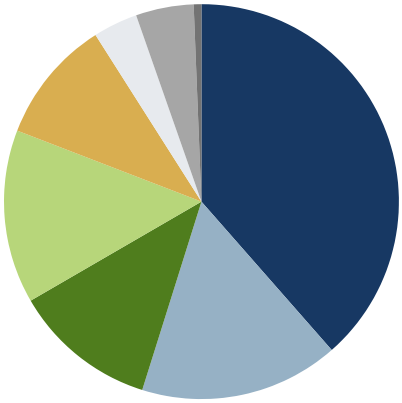
30,544 In-person Visits to the Library

268
Meetings

4,779
Program Attendees

345 Summer Reading Participants

FUNDING



Avon School District Taxes	$170,000
Town of Avon Support	$72,000
Village of Avon Support	$52,000
Donations, Gifts, & Endowments	$62,729
Federal Aid	$44,701
Grants	$16,098
Investment Income	$20,899
Other	$2,771
TOTAL	**$441,198**

Total Income $441,198
Total Operating Expense $329,709

Unused funds are put into reserve for capital projects including the backyard and parking lot renovation.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

$5,000 + Community Manor of Genesee Valley, Inc., Christine Ryan, Helen Zamboni
$1,000 + Avon Lions Club, Friends of the Avon Free Library
$500 + Bruce Amey, Steve Harrison, Hans Koomen, Christine Quinlan
$100 + Andrew & Michelle Kelley Giving Fund, Avon Rotary, Blooming Loons Farm & Garden, Ken Bernhardt, Mohammad Charlie, Joe Cope, Deborah Guida, Bob Harrison, Stephen Hayes, Cecelia Hencke, Patricia Hogenmiller, Matthew Maguire, Molly Collins Offner, Tom & Becky Stewart
$20 + Lawrence Hailey, Cecelia Hencke, Frances Knickmeyer

GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF:
Kathi & John Albertini, Dr. Richard & Mary Collins, Klaas deWaard, Barbara Parry Druschel, Bettina Johnson, Erin McKeown Schmerbeck, Peggy Tirrell, Kasey Rovito

Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library ($5,967)
McGowan Gin Rosica Family Foundation ($5,050)
OWWL Library System - System Cash Grant to Member Libraries ($1,973)
Alternative Delivery Grant ($1,000)
Livingston County Passthru Grant ($13,125)

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

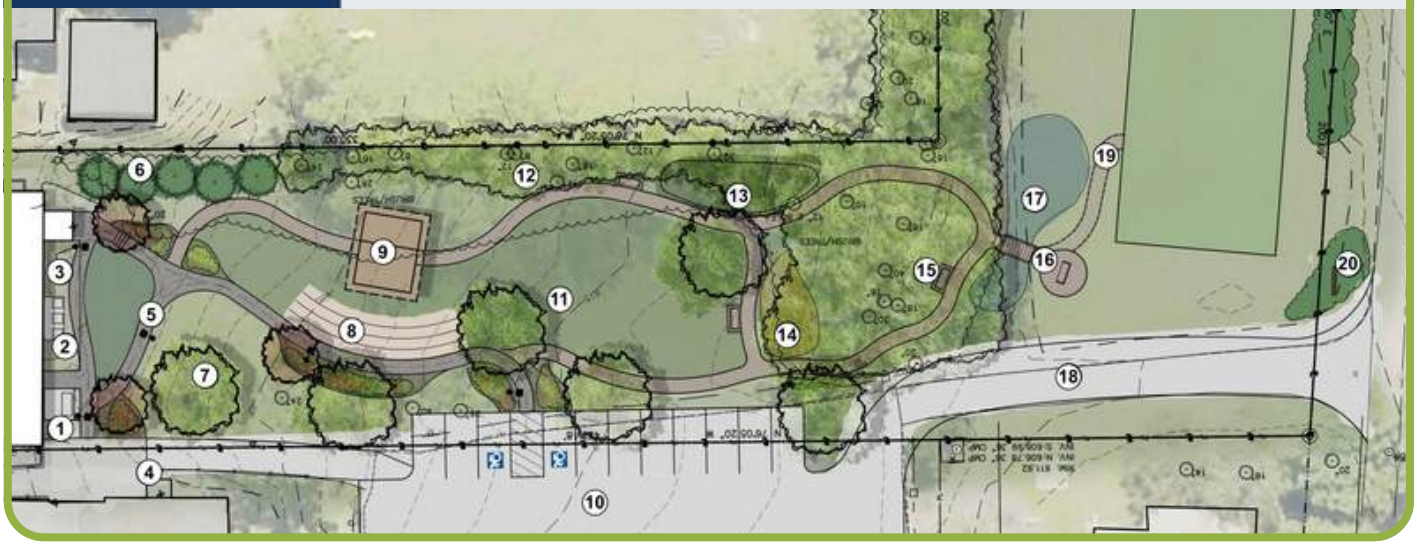
The library's backyard renovation will transform an underused outdoor area into a vibrant, multi-purpose community space designed to support learning, connection, and wellbeing. The redesigned area integrates accessible pathways, flexible gathering areas, and thoughtfully planned landscaping to create an inviting environment for visitors of all ages and abilities.

Key improvements such as the new amphitheater, upgraded paved parking area with ADA-accessible spaces, enhanced lighting, and improved circulation will all work together to increase safety, accessibility, and usability. These enhancements will expand the library's capacity to host outdoor programs, performances, and community events, strengthening its role as a welcoming space for education, culture, and shared experience.

The backyard renovation will commence in summer 2026 and be completed fall 2026. Funding for the project is provided primarily through New York State construction aid, along with support from library capital reserves, community grants, and local sponsorships.

BACKYARD CONCEPT MAP

1. BIKE RACKS
2. EXISTING GENERATOR AND LANDSCAPE
3. NEW LED LIGHTS
4. NEW SIDEWALK
5. 4' WIDE ACCESSIBLE PATH
6. LANDSCAPE SCREEN
7. NEW SHADE TREES
8. AMPHITHEATER SEATING
9. AMPHITHEATER SHELTER
10. NEW PAVED PARKING LOT
11. LAWN / OPEN SPACE
12. CLEARED UNDERBRUSH
13. BIRD & NATURE ID AREA
14. POLLINATOR GARDEN
15. BENCH (1 OF 4)
16. TIMBER BRIDGE
17. RAIN GARDEN / WETLAND LEARNING EXPERIENCE
18. NEW 16' WIDE PAVED DRIVEWAY
19. FUTURE WALKWAY TO FUTURE ACTIVITY AREA
20. NEW SIGN WITH LANDSCAPING



Amphitheater

The new amphitheater will create an inviting outdoor space for performances, readings, and community gatherings. Designed to support programs for all ages, it will expand the library's ability to host events that bring people together in a natural, accessible setting.

Educational Installations

Experiential learning opportunities are dispersed throughout the backyard, making it an exciting and enriching place to visit as well as an ideal field trip destination for schools, daycares, and senior centers.

Paved Parking Lot

The renovated paved parking lot will include ADA-accessible spaces, improved lighting for safety, and a widened drive to support smooth two-way traffic. Its level, accessible surface enhances usability and comfort for all visitors.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

Library Team

Grace Frenzel, *Director*
Pamela Bickford, *Senior Clerk*
Kasey Rovito, *Family Services Coordinator*
Carrianne, *Clerk*
Cathy, *Clerk*
Sam, *Clerk*
Lauren, Sub *Clerk*
Violet, Sub *Clerk*
Cass, Sub Clerk
Scooter, *Axolotl*

Board of Trustees

Helen Zamboni, *President*
Becky Stewart, *Vice President*
Josh Tonra, *Secretary*
Kevin Patrick, *Treasurer*
Janis Cole, *Trustee*
Jodi DeCarlo, *Trustee*
Saragrace Friday, *Trustee*
Catherine Loomis, *Trustee*
Cheryl MacPherson, *Trustee*
Ryan Spall, *Trustee*
Ann Younger, *Trustee*

Hours of Operation

Monday – 10am-8pm
Tuesday – 10am-6pm
Wednesday – 10am-6pm
Thursday – 10am-8pm
Friday – 10am-5pm
Saturday – 10-3pm
Sunday – Closed

AVON FREE LIBRARY
YOUR BRIDGE TO DISCOVERY

Avon Free Library
143 Genesee Street
Avon, NY 14414