



FRIENDS OF THE HILLSDALE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

509 HILLSDALE AVENUE, HILLSDALE, NJ 07642

Dear Hillsdale Neighbor:

2020 has been quite a year. We hope that this letter finds you and your family healthy and safe. When the pandemic first emerged earlier this year, the Friends made a conscious decision to suspend fundraising activities because with the library closed we thought your donation dollars might be better spent on causes close to the crisis. However, as fellow residents, we want to use our position to update you on the current status of the library.

First, the good news is that the library is now open for business five days per week with a reduced staff of three full-time workers including two librarians. In accordance with state guidelines, patrons taking appropriate healthcare precautions can visit the library and take out materials. The first hour of each day is reserved for patrons Aged 60 and older. Building capacity is limited to 25 visitors, of which only 6 are permitted in the Children’s Room at one time. Visits are limited to one hour due to capacity limitations.

Now for the not-so-good news. Understandably, the economic downturn has taken a toll on tax revenues. However, our town’s government has withheld the library’s funding by \$92,000 or 13% percent, one of the largest decreases of any of the libraries in the surrounding region. On this reduced budget, which is the minimum funding allowed by the state, the library is now operating at reduced hours with no evening hours, totally closed two days per week and working with an extremely reduced staff. As a cost-saving measure, one full-time librarian position was permanently eliminated midyear, in addition to the temporary furlough of part-time employees. Due to the reduced staffing, the library is not able to offer a bare minimum of programming, most of that being virtual.

So what we are asking of you is the following: please reach out to the Mayor and Council and let them know that while we understand the need for fiscal cutbacks in the short term, that you do not support the cuts to the library funding to be a long-term solution to the towns finances. The library is a center of many academic and cultural activities in Hillsdale and is a valuable asset in our community. As we hopefully emerge from this pandemic in the not-so-distant future and slowly return to normal activities, please ask your representatives to commit to restoring the library’s funding level so that we can restore the library to full operational capacity and provide you with the services you deserve.

In the meanwhile, if you would like to keep the Friends of the Hillsdale Library in your charitable giving plans, we appreciate your generosity and want to assure you that every dollar donated goes directly to the library to benefit you.

Thank you for supporting the Hillsdale Free Public Library.

Gary J. Weir
President, Friends of the Hillsdale Library

DONATION FORM

The Friends of the Hillsdale Free Public Library is an auxiliary 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that raises money and organizes events in support of the library. All donations made to the Friends are tax deductible and eligible for employer matching contributions. Documentation is available on the library website.

Please mail or return this form to the library. Checks should be made payable to The Friends of the Hillsdale Library or donate securely online via PayPal. Visit hfpl.org for more information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Please accept my donation in the amount of: _____