



HILLSDALE FREE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

2021 ANNUAL REPORT: ALMOST BACK



Pursue your passion | Hillsdale Free Public Library



The Library reopened to public visitation on August 17, 2020 after being closed to the public on March 14, 2020. 2020 was indeed a rough year for all. The Library started 2021 with reduced operating hours and services, yet it was hoped that by the end of 2021 we would be back in full swing. New part-time library assistants were recruited. Friday hours were restored in May. An Adult Program Coordinator was hired in May. Study rooms were made available in June. In-person programs resumed over the summer. Monday and evening hours were extended to 9:00pm in September. The new Omicron variant of Covid-19 dampened the momentum, but 2022 promises to be better.

This annual report offers a snapshot of 2021. We did have some good news along the way!

David J. Franz
Library Director

About the front cover –
Elena Maria Baez leads a chair yoga class on the patio.

Opposite –
The whimsical woodcraft artistry of Rick Wieser brightened the meeting room in September.

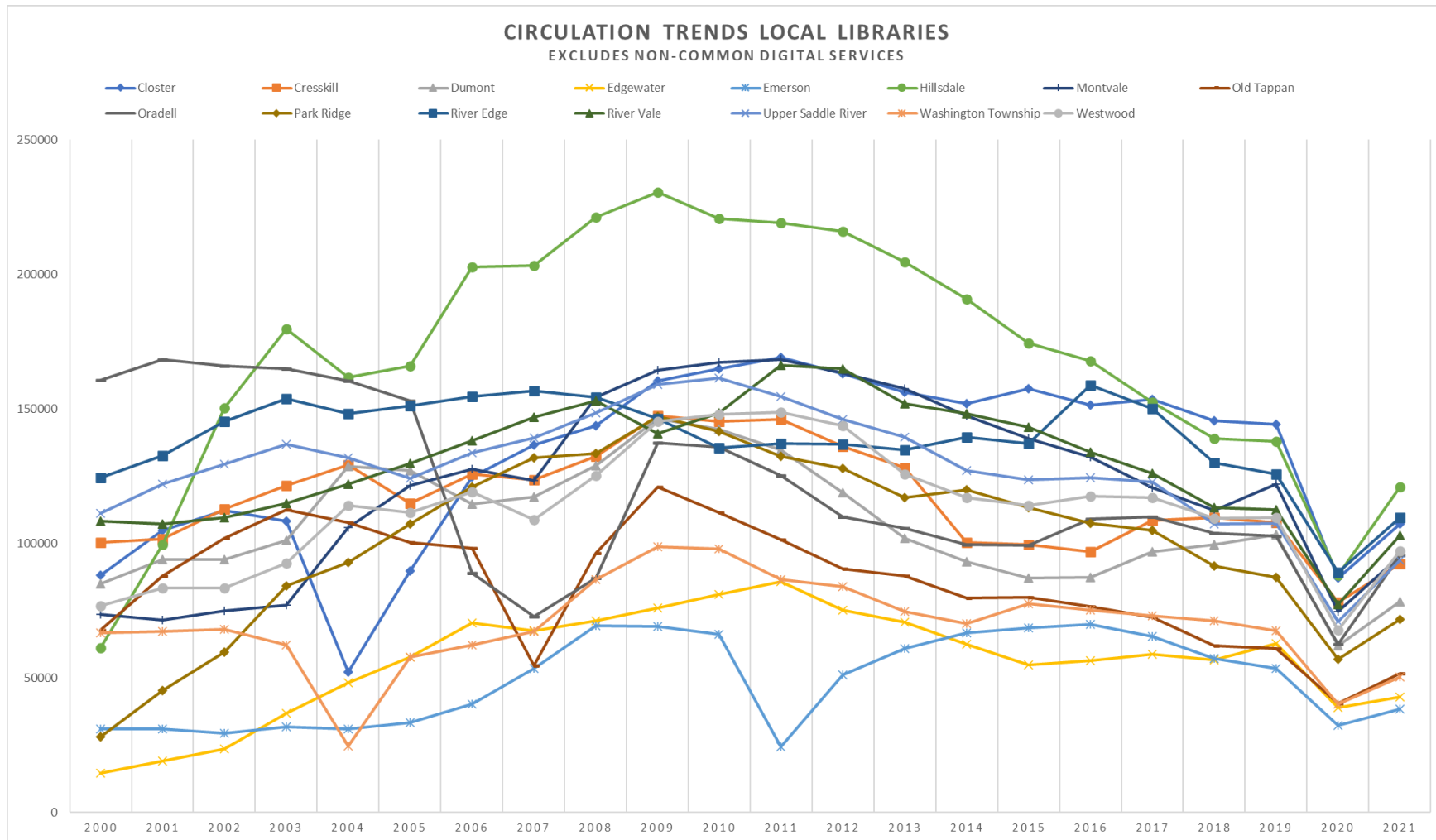


Fast Facts:

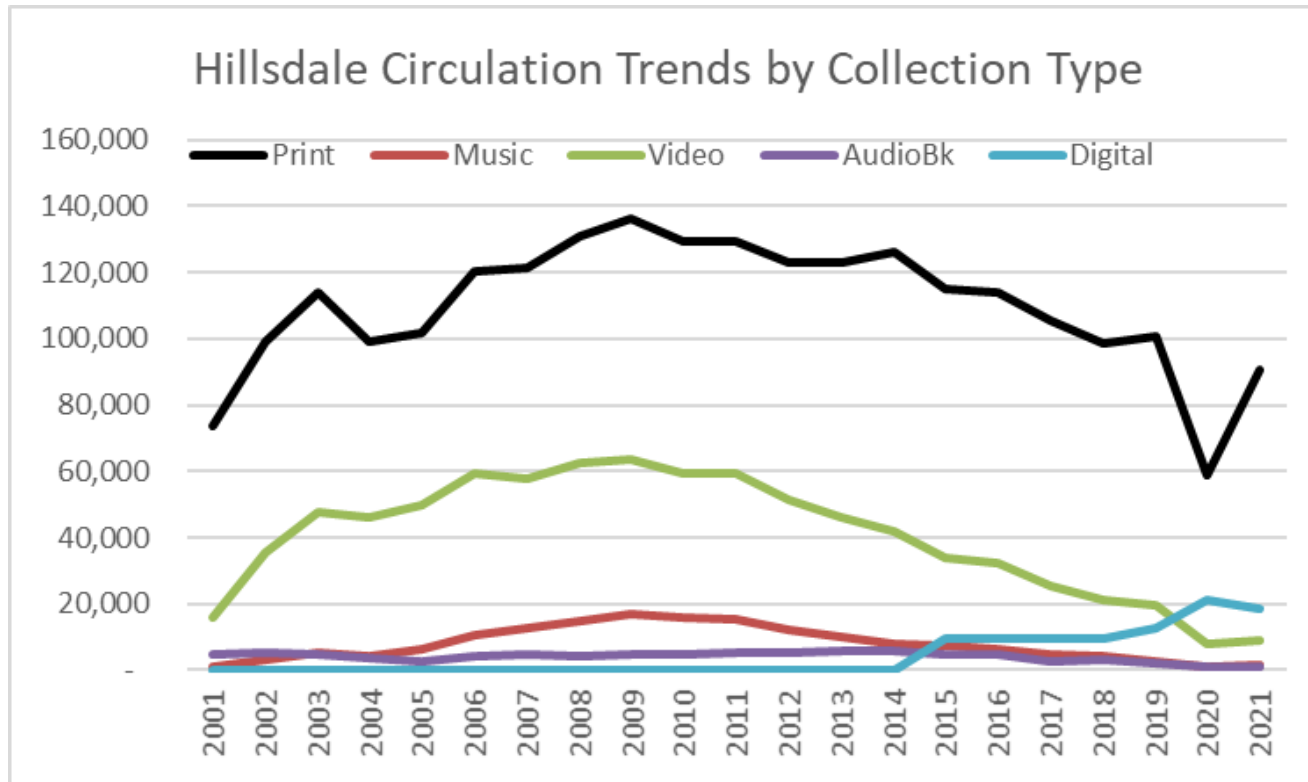
- 236 new borrowers were registered in 2021. There are 5,271 registered Hillsdale Library cardholders. Of these, 2,217 used their card at least once during the year.
- Of the 2,217 cardholders that used their card, 228 (10%) used the downloadable ebooks/audiobooks exclusively.
- The Library was open 2,188 hours and 279 days. 36 hours weekly January through April. 46 hours weekly May through August. 52 hours weekly September through December.
- Hillsdale Free Public Library remains a leader in circulation among area libraries.
- The two study rooms were reserved for 489 hours.
- The Children's Room alone circulated more items (61,479) than 29 other entire libraries in the Bergen County Cooperative Library System.
- Approximately 40,227 people visited the Library.
- 1,917 people participated in 130 library sponsored programs.
- 2,528 People used a library computer during the year. 4,509 unique devices connected to the public WI-FI.
- 3,862 books and 196 media items were added to the collection. 4,553 old or damaged items were withdrawn. There are 66,505 items in the total collection, excluding periodicals.
- Staff provided public notary service on 90 occasions during the year.
- Staff provided delivery service to 10 residents throughout the year.

Circulation Comparison

The Library remains a leader among area libraries in terms of total annual circulation. The chart does not include digital collections unique to each library. Data is taken from the annual circulation statistics of the Bergen County Cooperative Library System.



Circulation Trends

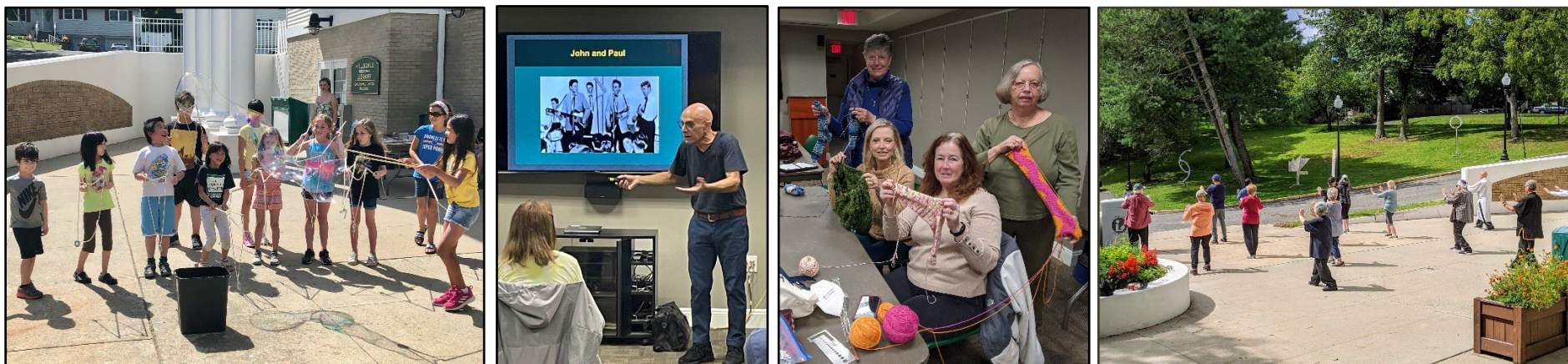


The demand for printed books rebounded strongly. Demand for ebooks and audiobooks increased during the pandemic but seems to have plateaued. The plateau might be attributed to limited availability of high demand digital content (digital materials are expensive).

Programs

Covid continued to impact visitation and in-person programming. However, 1,917 people attended 130 program opportunities in 2021. These included virtual chair yoga and meditation classes, knitting classes, grab-and-go crafts, in-person chair yoga, tai-chi, drawing classes, lectures, movies, and book clubs.

The Friends of the Library provided \$8,967 toward programs and equipment. The Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation provided \$20,241 toward programs, equipment, and the Kanopy streaming video service. The Foundation programs were made possible through the generous gift of Gayle and Paul Gross.



L-R: Make Your Own Bubble Wand, The Beatles: Liverpool to Abbey Road, Knitting with Ellen, Tai-Chi with Master Randy



Over 150 custom embroidered bags were distributed to Summer Reading Program participants! Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Improvements

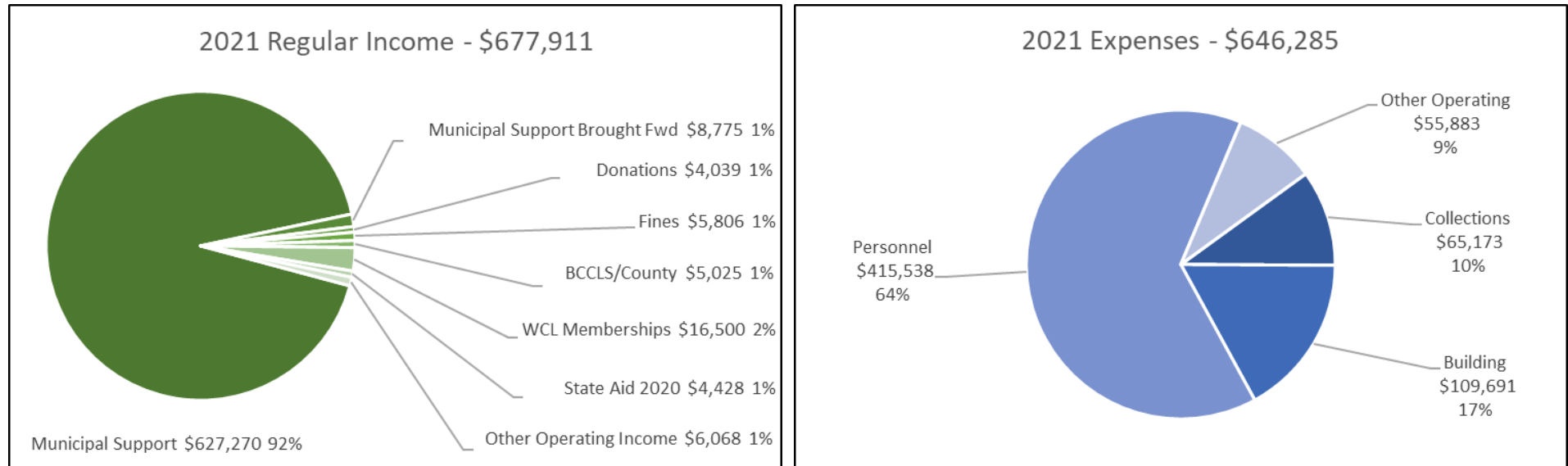
The Friends of the Library funded the purchase of a new water cooler with an touchless bottle filler. The Foundation approved funding for a large format poster printer and laser cutter/engraver. The Library completed an LED lighting and HVAC unit upgrade through the NJ Direct Install program. The parking lot was also resurfaced and striped. An additional wi-fi access point was located on the third floor.

Yana Mermel created etched candy jars as gifts for her teachers using the new laser cutter/engraver.



The Pascack Valley HS Theater Club made use the new poster printer.

Budget Snapshot



In addition to regular income and expenditures, the Friends of the Hillsdale Free Public Library provided \$8,967 in programs and improvements.

The Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation provided \$20,241 in programs and improvements.

The library also purchased \$313 in books with the remaining funds from a donation from the American Legion.

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Friends of the Hillsdale Free Public Library

Gary Weir, President
Pamela Hahn, Treasurer
Barbara Walcott, Secretary

The Library, The Friends, and The Foundation received very generous donations and bequests from:

The Gayle and Paul Gross Foundation, Carol Schepker and Ronald Miller, the Estate of Lyn Birenbaum, the Estate of Morris H. Gordon, Marilyn Clark, Judith Atchison, The Tipping Family, Shahid Waheed, Phil & Jill Cohn

Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation

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Allen Saslowsky – Trustee
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Al Metz – Designated Trustee for the Library Board
Carol Schepker – Designated Trustee for the Library Board
Dave Franz – Library Director, Ex-Officio non-voting member

OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS 2021

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