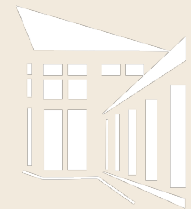




HILLSDALE FREE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

2022 ANNUAL REPORT: GROW THE FUTURE



Pursue your passion | Hillside Free Public Library



This year, 2022, finally felt like the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic had worn off after a winter resurgence of the Omicron variant. People began to return fully to in-person activity. After a two-year hiatus, NJ Makers Day was held in March. Additional part-time employees were hired and Thursday evening hours were restored in September. By November we hosted a fundraising event at which over 150 people gathered, enjoyed themselves, and raised over \$13,000 in support of the library.

This annual report offers a snapshot of 2022. All the statistics show improvement over 2021.

David J. Franz  
Library Director

About the front cover –  
Dylan Minneker constructed the new donor recognition wall as his Eagle Scout Service Project. See page 8

Opposite –  
The Foundation, Friends, and Library Board hosted a Fall Fundraiser on November 17. See page 9

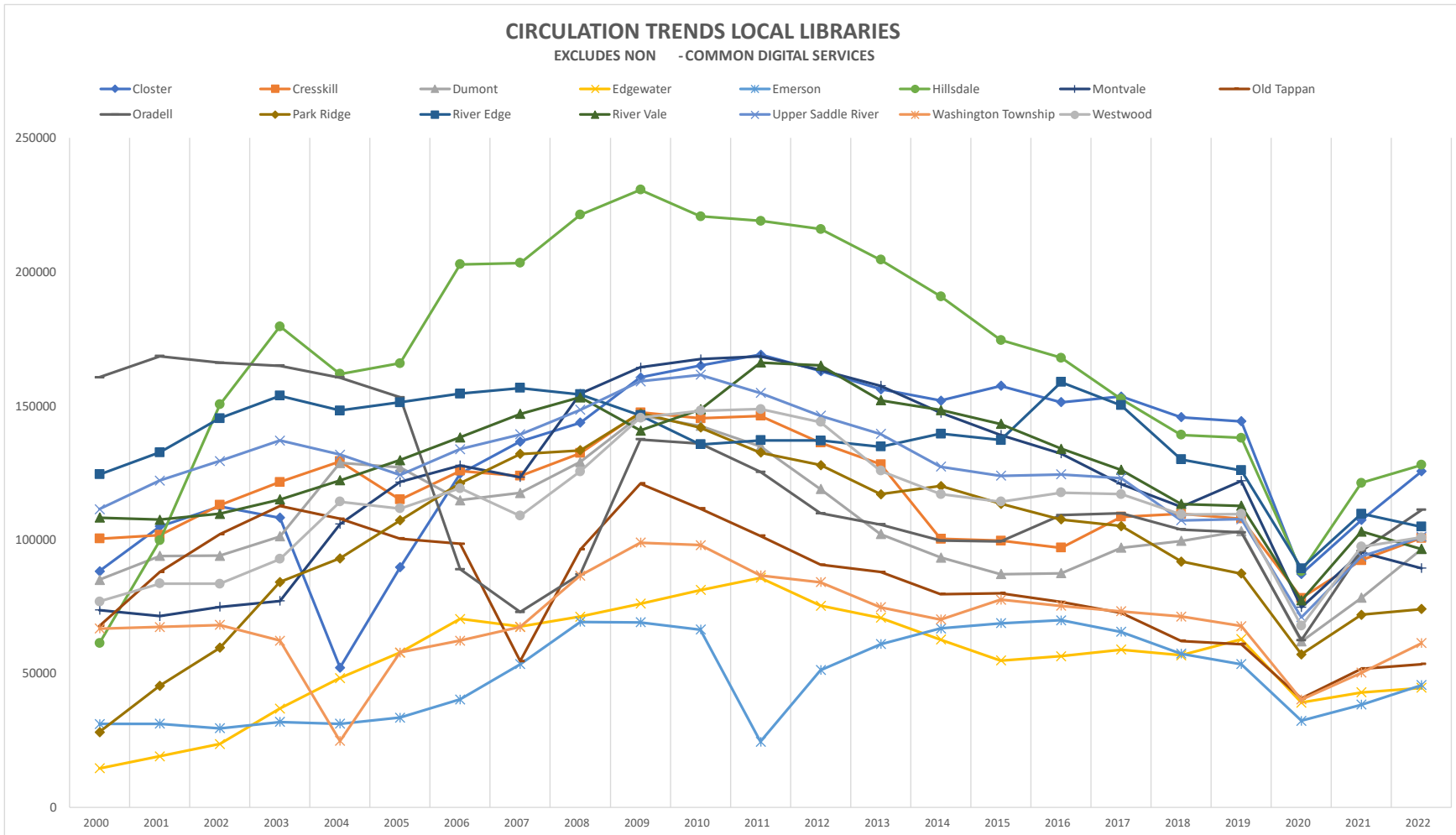


## Fast Facts:

- **358 new borrowers were registered in 2022 (Up from 236 in 2021). There are 5,186 registered Hillsdale Library cardholders. Of these, 2,403 used their card at least once during the year.**
- **Of the 2,403 cardholders that used their card, 261 (11%) used the downloadable ebooks/audiobooks exclusively.**
- **The library was open 2,673 hours and 310 days. That is up from 2,188 hours and 279 days in 2021. Thursday evenings resumed in September.**
- **Hillsdale Free Public Library remains a leader in circulation among area libraries.**
- **The two study rooms were reserved for 1,409 hours. That is up from 489 hours in 2021.**
- **The Children's Room alone circulated more items (67,423) than 29 other entire libraries in the Bergen County Cooperative Library System.**
- **Approximately 52,030 people visited the library. That is up from 40,227 in 2021.**
- **2,262 people participated in 196 library sponsored programs.**
- **3,382 People used a library computer during the year. 9,294 unique devices connected to the public WI-FI.**
- **4,014 books and 221 media items were added to the collection. 5,145 old or damaged items were withdrawn. There are 65,665 items in the total collection, excluding periodicals.**
- **Staff provided public notary service on 98 occasions during the year.**
- **Staff delivered 703 items to 9 home-bound residents throughout the year.**
- **Adults and youths volunteered 347 hours of service. An additional 10 adult literacy volunteers provided 263 hours teaching English as a Second Language through participation in the Literacy Volunteers of Pascack Valley.**

## 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. Hillsdale in green



## Circulation Per Capita and Budget Divided by Circulation

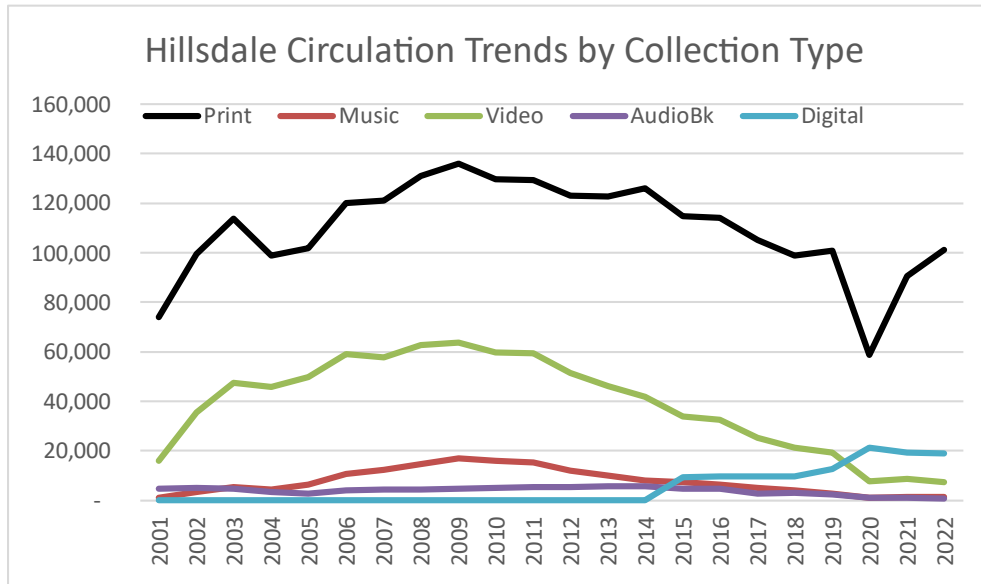
RANK	LIBRARY	2022 CIRCULATION	POPULATION	2022 CIRC/POP
1	Paramus	454,569	26,698	17.0
2	Closter	125,469	8,594	14.6
3	Allendale	98,851	6,848	14.4
4	Ridgewood	364,561	25,979	14.0
5	Glen Rock	169,468	12,133	14.0
6	Oradell	111,085	8,244	13.5
7	Livingston	416,271	31,330	13.3
8	Glen Ridge	103,301	7,802	13.2
<b>9</b>	<b>Hillsdale</b>	<b>127,898</b>	<b>10,143</b>	<b>12.6</b>
11	Upper Saddle Rive	101,005	8,353	12.1
19	Montvale	89,342	8,436	10.6
24	River Vale	96,446	9,909	9.7
30	Westwood	100,770	11,282	8.9
33	Park Ridge	74,065	8,883	8.3
41	Washington Twp	61,259	9,285	6.6

RANK	LIBRARY	2022 CIRCULATION	2022 1/3 MIL BUDGET	2022 MIL/CIRC
<b>1</b>	<b>Hillsdale</b>	<b>127,898</b>	<b>\$ 655,890</b>	<b>\$ 5.13</b>
4	Fair Lawn	337,095	\$ 1,875,101	\$ 5.56
6	Teaneck	371,604	\$ 2,163,151	\$ 5.82
7	Bergenfield	191,660	\$ 1,162,375	\$ 6.06
9	Ridgewood	364,561	\$ 2,300,148	\$ 6.31
10	Closter	125,469	\$ 791,727	\$ 6.31
15	Livingston	416,271	\$ 2,957,330	\$ 7.10
16	Rutherford	146,812	\$ 1,063,440	\$ 7.24
18	Westwood	100,770	\$ 743,844	\$ 7.38
22	River Vale	96,446	\$ 729,445	\$ 7.56
24	Paramus	454,569	\$ 3,616,194	\$ 7.96
32	Park Ridge	74,065	\$ 634,888	\$ 8.57
38	Upper Saddle River	101,005	\$ 924,595	\$ 9.15
39	Montvale	89,342	\$ 819,145	\$ 9.17
46	Washington Twp	61,259	\$ 655,564	\$ 10.70

The total number of circulated items divided by the population of the Borough was 12.6 items. Hillsdale ranked 9<sup>th</sup> among the 77 libraries in the library system.

The minimum required municipal support divided by the total number of circulated items was \$5.13. Hillsdale ranked 1<sup>st</sup> among the 77 libraries in the library system.

## Circulation Trends



The demand for printed books continues to rebound.

The use of our digital content has plateaued, possibly due to the limitation of the collection size and title availability.

Music, video and physical audiobooks are no longer in high demand due to the adoption of personal streaming services such as Spotify, Netflix, and the adoption of downloadable audiobooks.

## Programs and Activities

2,262 people attended 196 program opportunities in 2022. These included chair yoga and meditation classes, knitting classes, grab-and-go crafts, art classes, lectures, movies, and book clubs.

The Friends of the Library provided \$4,682 toward programs and equipment. The Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation provided \$20,000 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: Sadie Shynn presenting her sewn creations at NJ Makers Day, Annie Li volunteered to present a “Girls Go Coding” series for teens, Tom Jolly was the lucky winner of the PhotoWall 2022 project, Cindy Greenwald making waves for the summer reading program. Norrel Blundo volunteered to start a Scrabble Club which meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.



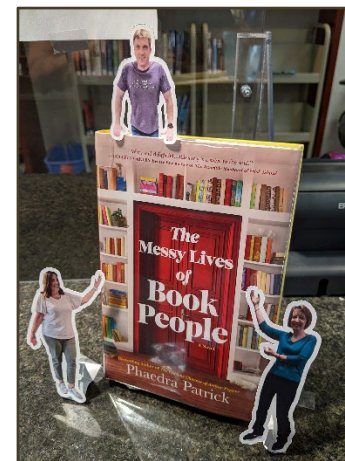
## Promotions

The Foundation sponsored a tote bag giveaway to take advantage of the state-wide ban on disposable plastic bags that went into effect on May 4. Over 700 bags were distributed at Kings Supermarket and Veteran’s Park. 250 bags were given to new card holders.

The Friends sponsored the purchase of new promotional pens. These were distributed to the taxpayers visiting at Borough Hall.

The Friends also sponsored the “Design Our Bookmark” project. Patrons submitted designs and were turned into promotional bookmarks.

Staff promoted their favorite books at the main service desk using little cardstock cutouts of themselves. The mini figures have been a hit with visitors.





## Exhibits

The library welcomes the display of art and collections. Featured here L-R are: The aluminum can star ornaments by Julie Askins, dragon sculptures by Stephen Sammarco, international doll collection of Barbara Walcott, oil paintings by Lynn Massey, paintings by Lori Weisbart-Polson, woodland creatures by Dave Franz, paintings by Ashley Lane. The 2d Annual Art Show for People with Disabilities was sponsored by the Access for All committee and hosted at the library in May.



## Donor Recognition Wall

Eagle Scout Dylan Minneker oversaw the creation and installation of the new donor wall. The design was created by Dave Franz. The tree leaves are modeled from those of the sugar maple that grows on the library property. Laminate wood flooring was installed on the wall in the lower lobby. All design elements were cut utilizing the library's laser cutter. The leaves are composed of maple, cherry, and mahogany veneers. The trunk and children are stained birch plywood.

Substantial donations received by either the Library, the Foundation, or the Friends will be recognized with an engraved leaf or other design element. The wall has a capacity to recognize over \$100,000 in future donations.

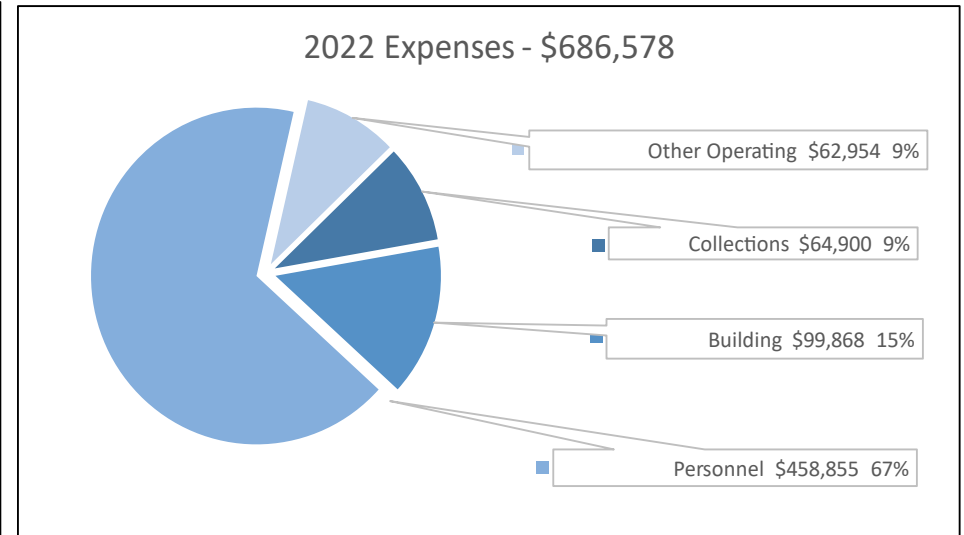
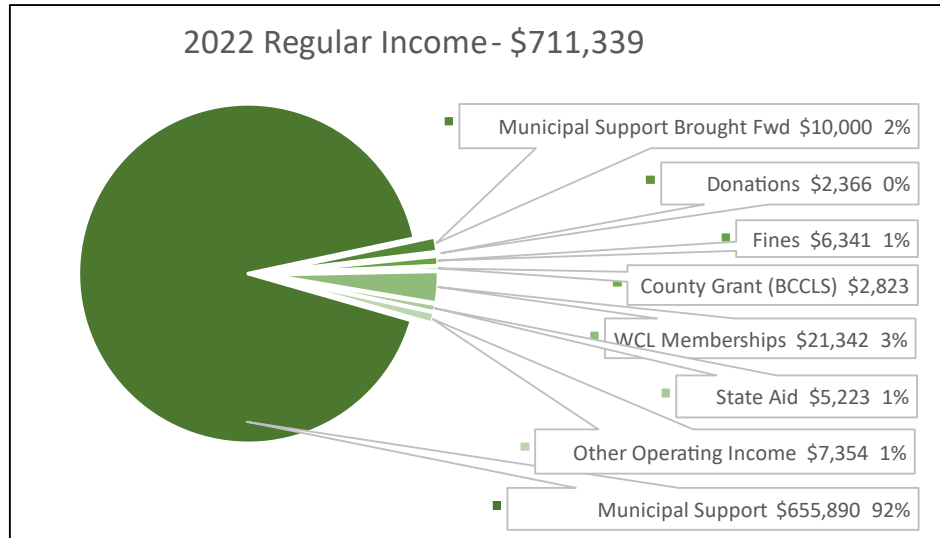


## Fall "Fun"raiser

The Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation, with assistance from the Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Hillsdale Free Public Library, hosted a Fall "Fun"Raiser on Thursday, November 17 in support of the mission of the library. Tickets to the event were completely sold out. Attendees were treated to a wine tasting by Gary's Wines and Marketplace (Closter), chocolates and caramels provided by Conrad's (Westwood), and chocolate covered strawberries from Edible Arrangements (Westwood). The Baxter Quartet kept the crowd entertained with jazz interpretations of favorite pop songs while bidders considered 135 lots offered in the silent auction. Over \$13,000 was raised by the event which will be applied toward the purchase of furniture and equipment.



## Budget Snapshot



In addition to regular income and expenditures, the Friends of the Hillsdale Free Public Library provided \$4,682 in programs and improvements.

The Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation provided \$19,832 in programs and improvements.

The library also purchased \$226 in books with funds from the American Legion.

## The Board of Trustees

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Al Metz, Vice President

Liz DiLorenzo, Secretary

Barbara Wertheim, Treasurer

Bill Berde, Trustee

Warren Harris, Trustee

Amanda Miller, Trustee

John Ruocco, Mayor

Judith Atchison, Mayor's Alternate

Robert V. Lombardy Jr., Ed.S., Superintendent of Schools

Mary DeChiara, Superintendent's Alternate

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[hfpl.org](http://hfpl.org)

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### Friends of the Hillsdale Free Public Library

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

### Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation

Guy Mulé, President  
 Melanie Harada, Vice President  
 Jeffery Steinfeld, Treasurer  
 Barbara Abolafia, Secretary  
 Nayda Rondon – Trustee  
 Allen Saslowsky – Trustee  
 Judith Atchison – Designated Trustee for the Friends  
 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

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

The Gayle and Paul Gross Foundation, Aeon Fitness & Gymnastics, Judith Atchison, Ed & Gail Butler, Harold Gainer, Lisa Gordon, Amanda Miller & Larry Freedberg, Deborah Moy, Guy & Carol Mulé, Dione Olson, Evelyn Pachner, Paskack Junior Woman’s Club, Kurt Resch, Alicia & Burt Simpson, The Tipping Family, Shaid Wahard, Gary & Kara Weir, Barbara & Dave Wertheim, Charlene Yih

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