

HILLSDALE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT: FLEXIBLE SPACES



About the front cover –
With assistance from Lori Corless and Steve McKenna, the large computer island was removed from the main floor. Half of it was relocated to the former media alcove. The main floor is now a flexible space for programs and study.

This annual report is dedicated to the memory of Zachary Blair, a young man who worked at the library from June 2014 through July 2015. Zach was quickly promoted from page to a Junior Library Assistant while attending Pascack Valley High School. The fundamental mission of our library is to help people and Zach truly embodied that spirit of kind helpfulness we all should strive toward in public service.

The Friends and Family of Zachary Blair generously donated the fabulous globe lighting fixtures that now illuminate the main floor. A large sugar maple tree was also planted on the southern lawn where all the kids go sledding on a snowy day. I can see it from my office window.

Quoting from Zach's letter of application: "I am interested in having this job, not only for the money, but for the experience of a job and the positive vibe of the Hillsdale Library. My favorite thing about the Hillsdale Public Library is how personable the staff is, as well as all the services that it offers to the community. I like to think of myself as punctual and diligent and aspire to also be personable."

The collective efforts of the staff, the Board of Trustees, the Friends, and the Foundation are made to create a safe, warm, and multi-functional facility, where residents can learn, share, and feel part of a community. This report reflects those efforts.

David J. Franz
Library Director



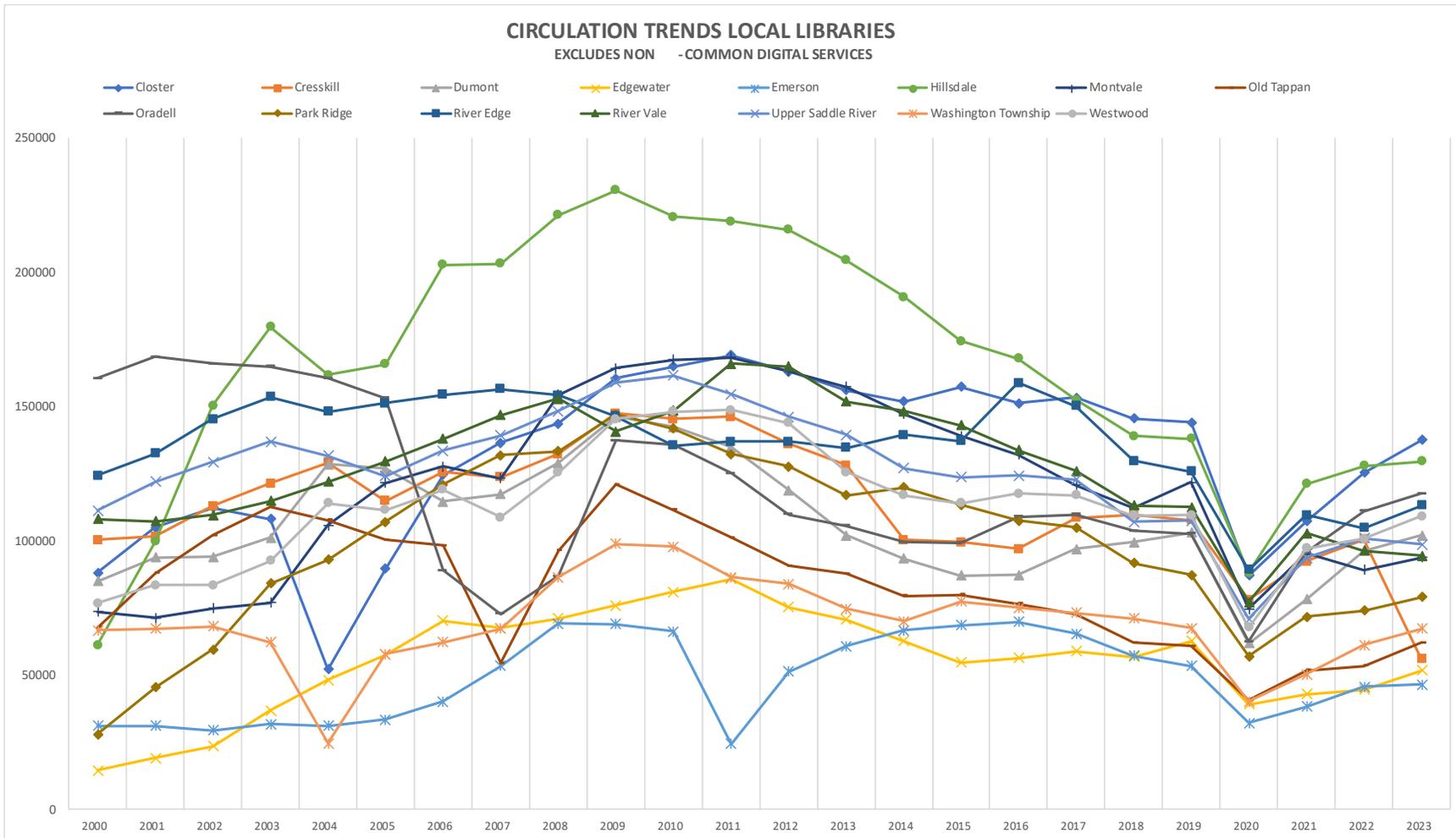


Fast Facts:

- **1,556 unique Hillsdale households used a library card at least one time during 2023. That represents 42% of the 3,679 residential delivery addresses for Hillsdale.**
- **449 new borrowers were registered in 2023. Up from 358 in 2022 and 236 in 2021. There are 5,586 registered Hillsdale Library cardholders. Of these, 2,600 used their card at least once during the year, an increase of 197 over 2022.**
- **12% of borrowers used downloadable ebooks/audiobooks exclusively.**
- **The library was open 2,712 hours and 299 days.**
- **Hillsdale Free Public Library remains a leader in circulation among area libraries.**
- **The two study rooms were reserved for 2,044 hours. Up from 1,409 hours in 2022 and 489 hours in 2021.**
- **The Children’s Room alone circulated more items (65,887) than 29 other entire libraries in the Bergen County Cooperative Library System.**
- **Approximately 62,000 people visited the library, a 19% increase from the 52,030 who visited in 2022.**
- **4,725 (+108%) people participated in 237 (+21%) library sponsored programs. 1,552 people attended 117 activities sponsored by clubs or community organizations.**
- **3,021 People used a library computer during the year. 15,030 unique Wi-Fi clients connected to the public network.**
- **3,798 books and 176 media items were added to the collection. 6,198 old or damaged items were withdrawn. There are 63,455 physical items in the total collection, excluding periodicals.**
- **Staff provided public notary service on 88 occasions during the year.**
- **Adults and youths volunteered 159 hours of service. An additional 9 adult literacy volunteers provided 275 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	2023 CIRCULATION	POPULATION	2023 CIRC/POP
1	Paramus	473,876	26,698	17.7
2	Millburn	350,668	21,710	16.2
3	Closter	137,585	8,594	16.0
4	Livingston	466,176	31,330	14.9
5	Oradell	117,609	8,244	14.3
6	Glen Ridge	110,995	7,802	14.2
7	Allendale	96,847	6,848	14.1
8	Glen Rock	166,776	12,133	13.7
9	Ridgewood	351,165	25,979	13.5
10	Wyckoff	219,701	16,585	13.2
11	Hillsdale	129,613	10,143	12.8
16	Upper Saddle River	98,736	8,353	11.8
19	Montvale	93,873	8,436	11.1
25	Westwood	109,309	11,282	9.7
27	River Vale	94,517	9,909	9.5
32	Park Ridge	79,115	8,883	8.9
39	Washington Twp	67,236	9,285	7.2

RANK	LIBRARY	2023 CIRCULATION	2023 1/3 MIL BUDGET	2023 MIL / CIRC
1	Midland Park	88,685	\$ 471,263	\$ 5.31
2	Hillsdale	129,613	\$ 702,140	\$ 5.42
3	Oradell	117,609	\$ 676,295	\$ 5.75
4	Glen Rock	166,776	\$ 969,933	\$ 5.82
5	Fair Lawn	341,802	\$ 2,057,755	\$ 6.02
6	River Edge	113,228	\$ 705,967	\$ 6.23
7	Closter	137,585	\$ 859,670	\$ 6.25
8	Bogota	53,591	\$ 335,574	\$ 6.26
9	Bergenfield	198,094	\$ 1,259,217	\$ 6.36
10	Teaneck	374,916	\$ 2,386,796	\$ 6.37
15	Westwood	109,309	\$ 757,856	\$ 6.93
24	River Vale	94,517	\$ 776,273	\$ 8.21
31	Park Ridge	79,115	\$ 706,093	\$ 8.92
33	Paramus	473,876	\$ 4,262,163	\$ 8.99
34	Montvale	93,873	\$ 844,859	\$ 9.00
41	Upper Saddle River	98,736	\$ 998,733	\$ 10.12
44	Washington Township	67,236	\$ 697,895	\$ 10.38

The total number of circulated items divided by the population of the Borough was 12.8 items. Hillsdale ranked 11th among the 78 libraries in the library system.

The minimum required municipal support divided by the total number of circulated items was \$5.42. Hillsdale ranked 2nd among the 78 libraries in the library system.

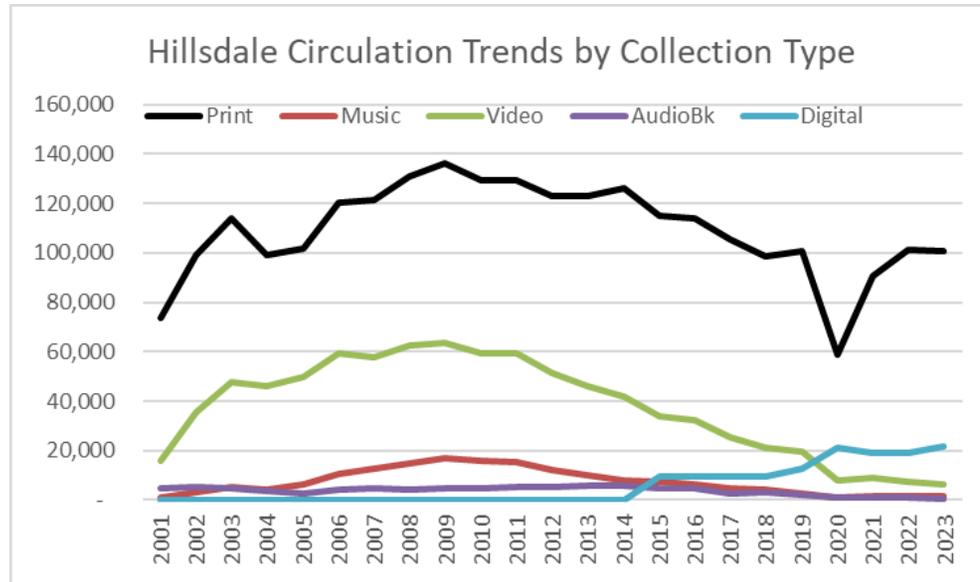
2023 Circulation per Full Time Equivalent Staff

The FTE data is from 2022, which is the most recent number available from State statistics. Hillsdale ranks 2nd among 78 libraries in the library system.



RANK	LIBRARY	2022 FTE STAFF	2023 CIRC/FTE
1	Closter	7.25	18,970
2	Hillsdale	6.96	18,633
3	Montclair	20.00	18,283
4	Midland Park	4.92	18,008
5	Oradell	6.71	17,516
6	Fair Lawn	20.50	16,675
7	Westwood	7.06	15,475
8	Wyckoff	14.39	15,270
10	Park Ridge	5.27	15,021
20	River Vale	7.71	12,254
31	Montvale	8.65	10,858
34	Paramus	44.63	10,618
37	Upper Saddle River	9.60	10,282
52	Washington Twp	8.29	8,115

Circulation Trends



The demand for printed books stabilized.

The use of digital content is trending upward.

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

4,725 People attended 237 library program opportunities in 2023, a 108% increase in attendance over 2022. These included chair yoga and meditation classes, grab-and-go crafts, art & craft classes, lectures, movies, music events and book clubs. 1,552 people attended 117 community organized events and meetings.

The Friends of the Library provided \$11,005 toward programs and equipment. The Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation provided \$23,226 toward programs, equipment, and The Foundation programs were made possible through the generous gift of Gayle and Paul Gross.

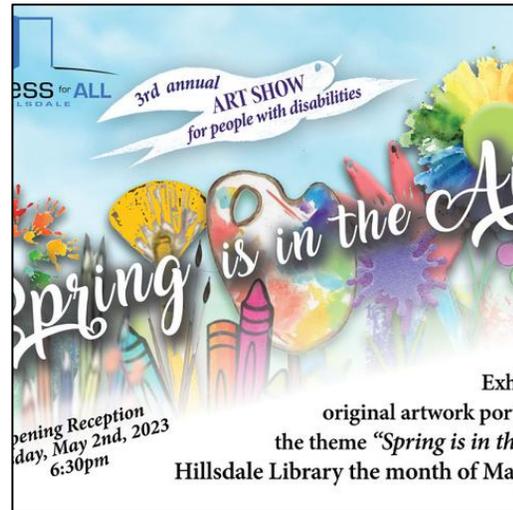
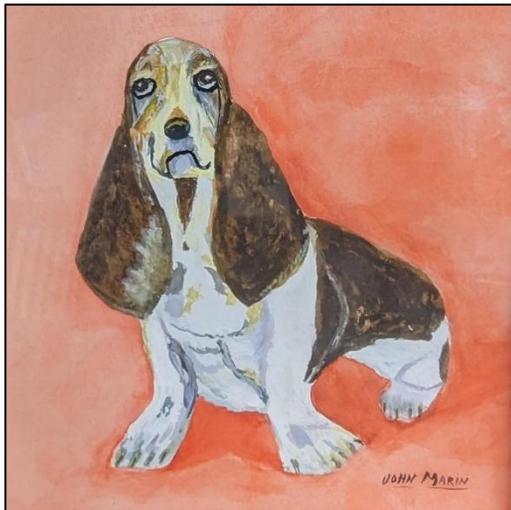
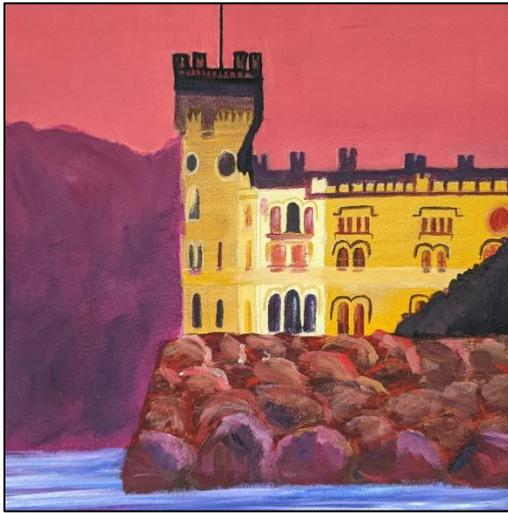


L-R: Julie Askins demonstrating chain maille jewelry at NJ Makers Day, The Florian Schantz Jazz Combo , A typical J Robinson art class, Brian Richards Magic Show, Eyes On The Wild animal program, Bill Ervolino, sand art, Carole King Tribute



Exhibits

The library welcomes the display of art and collections. Featured here L-R are: Ashley Lane, Janet Kroenke, Joan Koppel, Gail G. Slockett, John Marin, and entries to the 3rd Annual Access For All Art Show.



Small Bites and Beverages Social

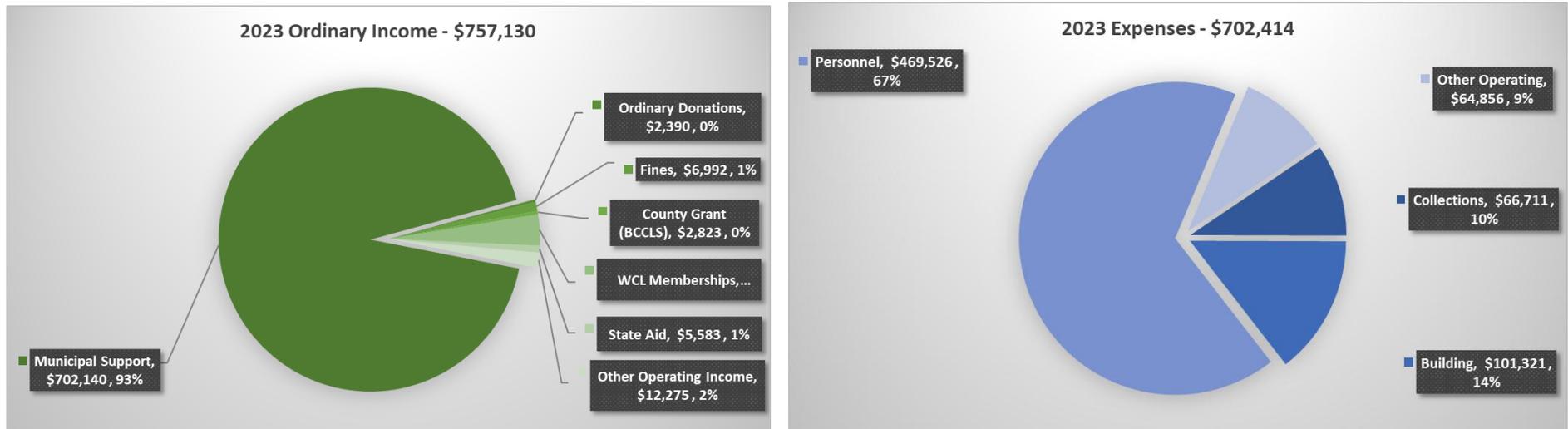
The Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation, with assistance from the Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Hillsdale Free Public Library, hosted a social event on Thursday, September 21. Tickets to the event were completely sold out. Attendees were treated to food samplings from local

vendors. The crowd was entertained throughout the evening with music performed by the Dave Kopec Trio, featuring Tim Santo on bass, Jerry Squillante on drums, and Dave Kopec on acoustic guitar.

Our thanks to: B&M Meats, Barista's Touch, Bourbon Street Beignet, Casa Del Sole, Crecco's Café, Fig & Tomato, Granita Grill, Kings, Koon Thai, Lepore's Market, Mike's Deli, Mindy's Munchies, Demarest Farms, Domani, Chicken Delight, Nino's Pizza, Osso Buco, Phoenician, Stew Leonard, Mezza Mediterranean, and Chick-fil-A.



Budget Snapshot



In addition to regular income and expenditures, the Friends of the Hillsdale Free Public Library provided \$11,005 toward programs and improvements.

The Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation provided \$23,226 toward programs and improvements.

The library also purchased books with \$608 from the American Legion.

\$28,250 was received in generous donations and bequests and is reserved for future use.

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Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation

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 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, Robert Ax & Michele Kilmurray, Friends and Family of Zachary Blair, Richard & Karen Breidenbach, Gail Butler, John & Mary Caffrey, Marilyn Clark, Virginia A. Cole, Harold Gainer, Carolyn Handloser, Annie Hsieh, Janet Jelenski, Raymond and Lois Kohan, Amanda Miller & Larry Freedberg, Ron Miller & Carol Schepker, Deborah & Steve Moy, Guy & Carol Mulé, Patricia and Ira Ornstein, Evelyn Pachner, James Scanlon, Judith & Christopher Trembath, Julian Truppi, Shahid Waheed

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