



HILLSDALE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT: COMMUNITY



The library is truly a “third place” that provides a welcoming environment for the community to gather. The meeting room is utilized by Scouts, the Sundial Garden Club, various book clubs, and other community groups.

Local balloon artist, Maria Arias, selected the library to share one of her creations.



Prospective Eagle Scout, Tyler Minneker selected the library to conduct his Eagle project.

Auto enthusiast, Burton Hall, brought his team of collectible car owners to provide a show for kids and teens.

The Scrabble and Mah Jongg groups play regularly at the library

The library is a fun place to be.

David J. Franz
Library Director

About the front cover (clockwise) –

Literacy Volunteers of Pascack Valley enjoying a social gathering on the patio. The program is coordinated by Heidi Sandiford. Ally Bierman organized an enormously successful kids clothing swap with lines out the door. Burton Hall and his historic vehicle enthusiasts conducted a Collectible Car Fair for Kids and Teens. 30 cars were on display. Teen volunteers took turns in the Piggy costume at the Hillsdale Fall Festival at Beechwood Park.



A monthly Kid's Garden Club was started with assistance from volunteers Elizabeth Scholl and Kathy Abney. The Community Seed Library was launched in the spring. New carpet tiles were installed on the main and upper floors. A laminating machine is now available to the public. The Friends of the Library funded a sublimation printer and heat presses. Tyler Minneker, now Eagle Scout, led others to make new planters for our patio.



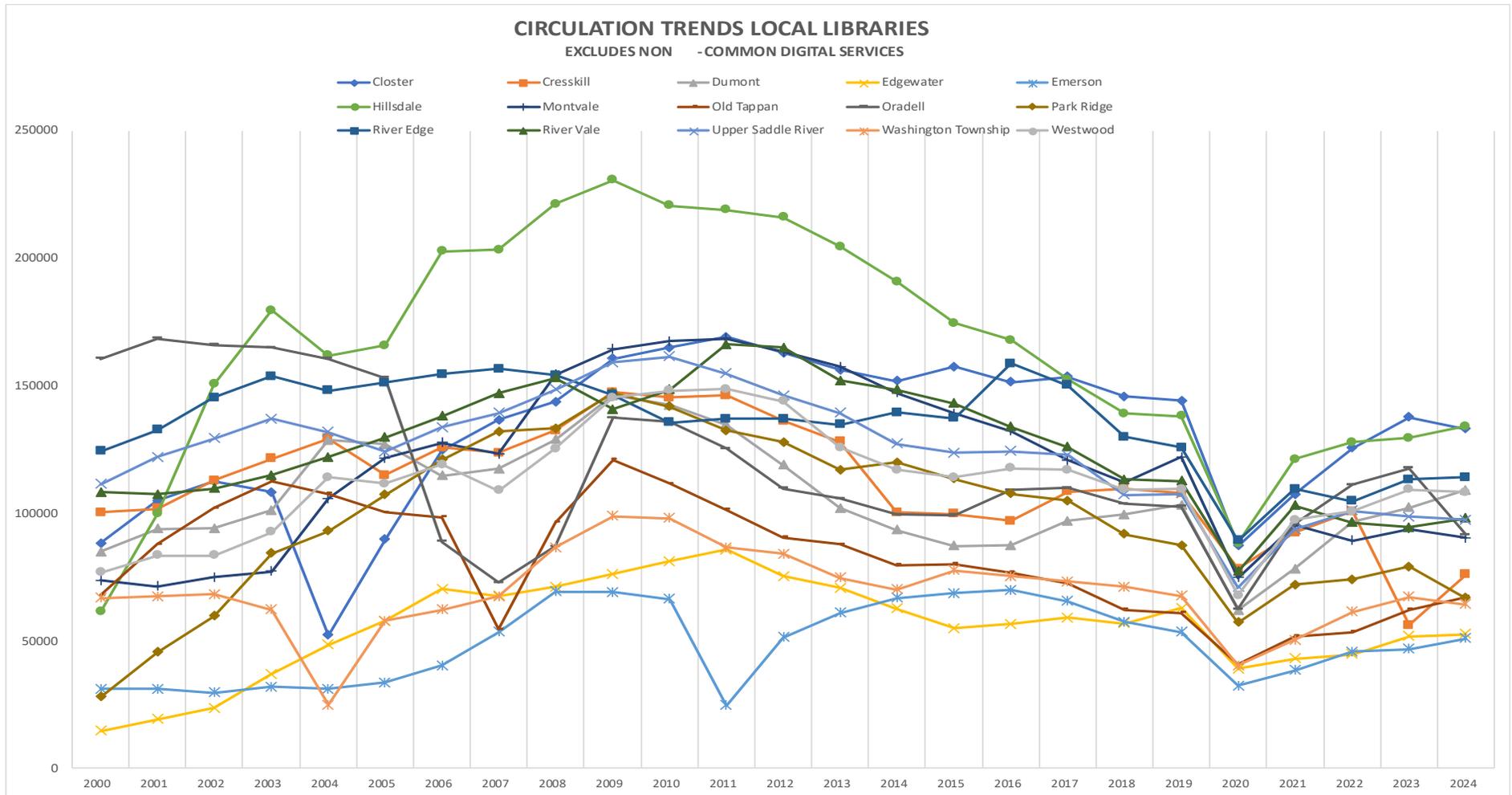
Fast Facts:

- 1,604 unique Hillsdale households used a library card at least once during 2024. That represents 44% of the 3,684 residential delivery addresses for Hillsdale. This measure of use is also higher than the 42% reported for 2023.
- 362 new borrowers were registered in 2024. There are 5,221 registered Hillsdale Library cardholders. Of these, 2,694 used their card at least once during the year.
- 14% of borrowers used downloadable ebooks/audiobooks exclusively.
- The library was open 2,734 hours and 300 days.
- Hillsdale Free Public Library remains a leader in circulation among area libraries.
- The two study rooms were reserved for 2,144 hours.
- The Children's Room alone circulated more items (68,655) than 29 other entire libraries in the Bergen County Cooperative Library System.
- Approximately 70,800 people visited the library, a 14% increase from the 62,000 who visited in 2023. 52,030 visited in 2022.
- 5,517 people (+16%) participated in 301 library organized programs. 1872 people attended 65 activities sponsored by clubs or community organizations.
- 4,237 People used a library computer during the year. 7,847 unique clients connected to the public wi-fi network.
- 4,184 books were added to the collection. 6,570 old or damaged items were withdrawn. There are 61,142 physical items in the total collection, excluding periodicals.



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

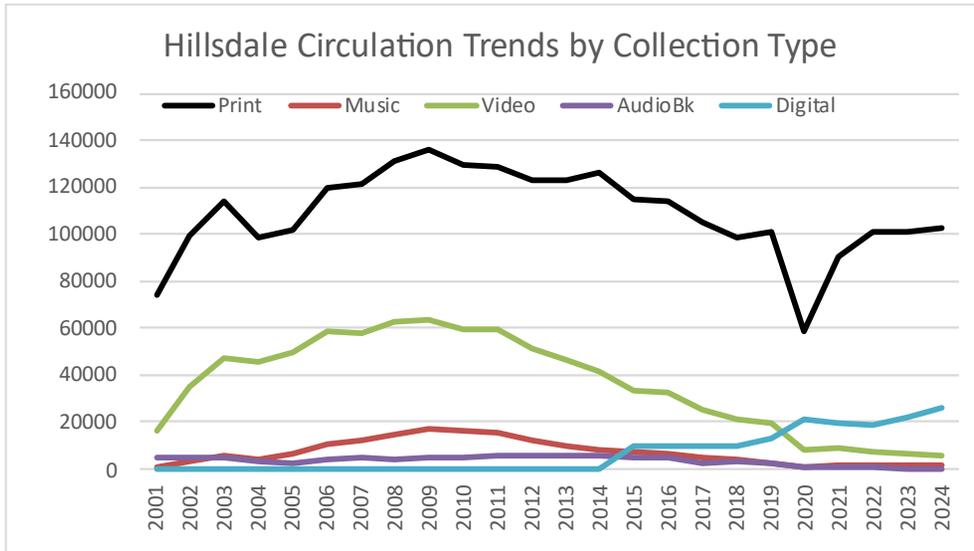
RANK	LIBRARY	2024 CIRCULATION	POPULATION	2024 CIRC/CAPITA
1	Paramus	499,748	26,698	18.7
2	Millburn	358,439	21,710	16.5
3	Closter	133,097	8,594	15.5
4	Glen Ridge	113,090	7,802	14.5
5	Glen Rock	171,690	12,133	14.2
6	Haworth	47,039	3,343	14.1
7	Wyckoff	230,518	16,585	13.9
8	Livingston	432,280	31,330	13.8
9	Ridgewood	347,304	25,979	13.4
10	Allendale	90,526	6,848	13.2
11	Hillsdale	134,036	10,143	13.2
15	Upper Saddle River	97,368	8,353	11.7
16	Old Tappan	67,246	5,888	11.4
22	Montvale	90,411	8,436	10.7
25	River Vale	98,112	9,909	9.9
27	Westwood	108,209	11,282	9.6
40	Park Ridge	66,665	8,883	7.5
45	Washington Township	64,148	9,285	6.9

RANK	LIBRARY	2024 1/3 MIL	2024 CIRCULATION	2024 MIL/CIRC
1	Bogota	\$ 360,045	68,104	\$ 5.29
2	Hillsdale	\$ 750,235	134,036	\$ 5.60
3	Midland Park	\$ 507,816	89,562	\$ 5.67
4	Glen Rock	\$ 1,051,885	171,690	\$ 6.13
5	Fair Lawn	\$ 2,261,926	352,483	\$ 6.42
6	Bergenfield	\$ 1,363,565	211,332	\$ 6.45
7	River Edge	\$ 770,651	114,004	\$ 6.76
8	Waldwick	\$ 700,328	100,792	\$ 6.95
9	Glen Ridge	\$ 818,411	113,090	\$ 7.24
10	Closter	\$ 963,294	133,097	\$ 7.24
11	Westwood	\$ 796,980	108,209	\$ 7.37
18	Oradell	\$ 721,707	91,504	\$ 7.89
23	Allendale	\$ 736,932	90,526	\$ 8.14
26	Paramus	\$ 4,217,388	499,748	\$ 8.44
28	River Vale	\$ 835,513	98,112	\$ 8.52
37	Montvale	\$ 914,823	90,411	\$ 10.12
45	Park Ridge	\$ 745,577	66,665	\$ 11.18
48	Upper Saddle River	\$ 1,110,549	97,368	\$ 11.41
49	Washington Township	\$ 742,585	64,148	\$ 11.58

The total number of circulated items divided by the population of the Borough was 13.2 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 \$5.60. Hillsdale ranked 2nd among the 78 libraries in the library system.

Collection Circulation Trends



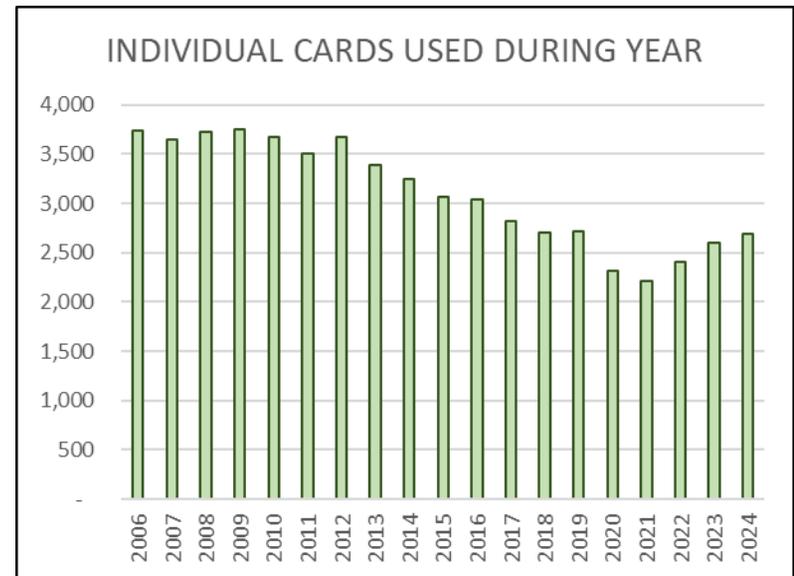
The circulation of physical books remains stable from year to year. Physical books represent 75% of all circulation.

The use of digital content continues to trend higher, increasing 19% from 2023. Digital content represent 19% of all circulation.

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.

Card Use

2,694 individual cards were used during 2024. The trend is rebounding from a low of 2,217 in 2021.



Programs and Activities

5,517 People attended 301 library program opportunities in 2024. These included chair yoga and meditation classes, grab-and-go crafts, art & craft classes, lectures, movies, music events and book clubs. 1,872 people attended 65 community organized events and meetings.

The Friends of the Library provided \$10,002 toward programs and equipment. The Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation provided \$23,244 toward programs. The majority of Foundation programs were made possible through the generous gift of Gayle and Paul Gross.



L-R: “Down to the Crossroads: the Music of Eric Clapton” Dave Kopec’s Electric Band, Fitness Fun with Lois Class, painting class with J. Robinson, Brian Richard’s Magic Show, Open Mic Night, Tinkering Tuesdays, NJ Makers Day Award Winners, Pearl Observatory

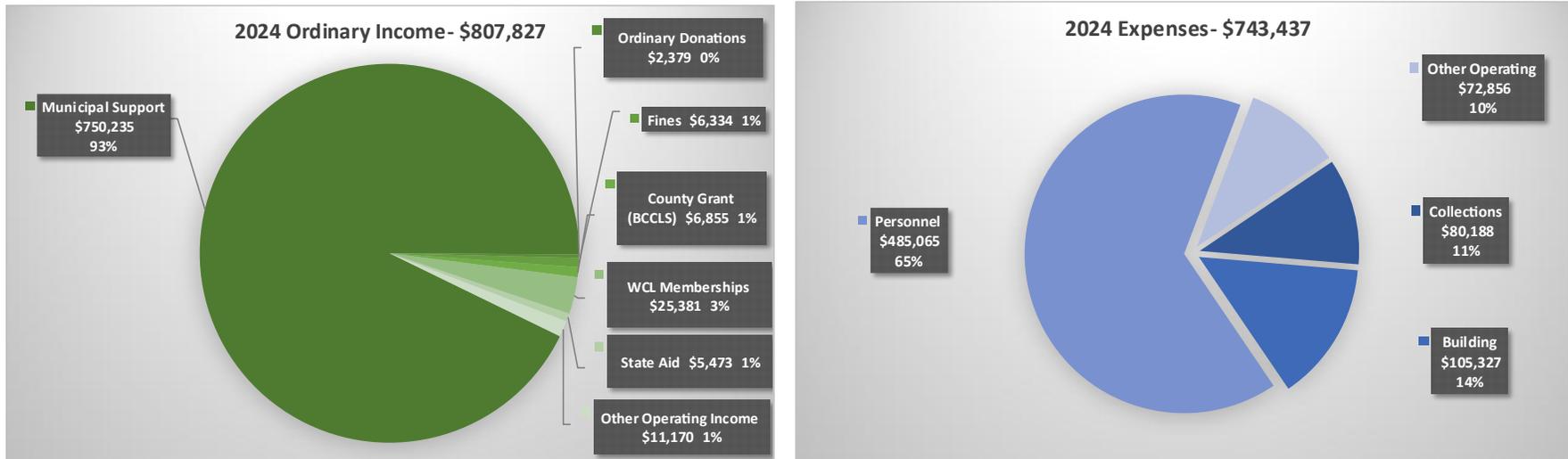


Exhibits

The library welcomes the display of art, photography and collections. Featured L-R: Maureen Lostumbo, Lois Rusch-Fronde, 4th Annual Access For All Art Show, artists of Dream Makers Studio, Naho Kambayashi, Burton Hall, Baring Our Soles, Lianna Samoyedny, Lynne Massey, Rick Wieser.



Budget Snapshot



In addition to regular income and expenditures, the Friends of the Hillsdale Free Public Library provided \$10,002 toward programs and improvements.

The Hillsdale Free Public Library Foundation provided \$23,244 toward programs and improvements.

The library also purchased books with a gift from the American Legion.

\$24,450 was received in generous donations and bequests and is reserved for future use.

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

The Gayle and Paul Gross Foundation, The Alexander M. Lillian T. Anthony A. Santulli Charitable Foundation, Aeon Fitness & Gymnastics, Judith Atchison, Geraldine Beatty & Rick Savino, Richard & Karen Breidenbach, The Friends and Family of Ann Burns, Karen & Marc Bushell, Edward Butler, Ernie Choi, James Clark, Marilyn Clark, Jill & Phil Cohn, Katherine Festa, Douglas Frank, Stephanie Ganon, Melanie Harada, Ellen Jean, Joyce and Kevin Lantry, The Friends and Family of Jean McGoldrick, Amanda Miller & Larry Freedberg, Ron Miller & Carol Schepker, David & Maureen Moser, Deborah & Steve Moy, Evelyn Pachner, Peter Philip, Lou Ross, Eileen Reda, James Scanlon, Harold B. Shill, Judith & Christopher Trembath, Julian Truppi, Sharon Valario, Shahid Waheed

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