

# CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

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ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2023



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

2023 was a year of growth and connection at the Caldwell Public Library. Hours were expanded, books were added to our shelves, our calendar filled up with programs, and new services were introduced. After 15 months of not having a physical library as a result of the flooding from 2021, we were thrilled to be in our temporary location and have doors open once again to the Caldwell community. Every month since we opened, our numbers grew - more items checked out, more programs offered free to the community, more resources added, more people walking in our doors, and more people staying longer to work or play.

We've learned that Caldwell uses its library, is a town of readers, and wants a friendly community space that is free and accessible with resources to succeed. Our goal is to meet your demand and exceed your expectations. We are honored and proud to be part of what makes Caldwell special.

**ROBIN ROCKMAN**  
Director, Caldwell Public Library



## BY THE NUMBERS

Not to brag, but we had a really good year compared to 2022!

Visitors		Digital Circulation		Physical Circulation	
2022:	2023:	2022:	2023:	2022:	2023:
570	11,670	14,175	17,384	4,366	15,352

### Board of Trustees

- John Donovan - President
- Robyn Stevens - Vice President; Superintendent's Representative
- Ruth Jaffe - Secretary
- Ann Mastrangelo - Treasurer
- Susan Panzano
- Joy Scally
- Susan Gartland
- David Cowell
- Darren Daniolowicz - Mayor's Representative

### Library Staff

- Robin Rockman - Director
- Annette Sellars - Assistant Director
- Kristen Churchill - Youth Services Librarian
- Frances Larkey - Adult Services Coordinator
- Amy Dell - Senior Library Assistant
- Josie D'Alessandro - Youth Services Assistant
- Andrea Bustios - Library Assistant

### Staff Trips to Storage to Pull Books



2023:  
148 trips

# LEADERS IN LITERACY

Literacy is at the core of what we do. Literacy provides the communication tools that empower and liberate us. It allows us to communicate effectively and make sense of the world. With strong literacy skills, we can improve our lives and our community. It takes us from functioning to thriving.



The Library currently hosts **6 book clubs**:

- Read with Me: Kindergarten & 1st grades
- Reading Rabbits: 2nd & 3rd grades
- Graphic Novel Club: 4th - 6th grades
- Coffee & Crime: Adults
- Cookbook Club: Adults
- International Cookbook Club: Adults - New in 2024!



**+270**

New Cardholders

## 15 Storytimes per month (average)

Wee Time Wiggles

Toddler Time

Storytime Shimmy & Shake

Pre-K STEAM Ahead

PJ Storytime

Monday Afternoon Storytime

Inclusive/Sensory Storytime

Special Themed Storytime

Bilingual Storytime

Boogie with Books



### Dog Tails:

Children develop confidence and improve their reading skills when reading to a dog.

### Author Talks:

"So You think You Know the Jersey Shore" -

Maryann Christiano-Mistretta

"Orchid Blooming" - Carol Van Den Hende

"I am a Palestinian Jew" - Margalit Edelson



### Reading Buddies:

Teens are trained then paired with younger children to meet regularly and practice reading.

**35**

sessions / month



DID YOU KNOW?



NovelList is a digital resource that can help you find your next read.

Find it on our website: [caldwellpl.org](http://caldwellpl.org) > Resources -> Research and Lifelong Learning



### Summer Reading Program

In 2023, the Library participated in All Together Now, a program that encourages all ages to connect with the Library and continue reading. Reading over the summer is instrumental in students being better prepared for the new school year.

# LIFELONG LEARNING

The Caldwell Public Library is your resource for learning and growing. Whether you are a business owner, a resident, a student, or looking to expand your own knowledge and skills, the library is a place to get unbiased assistance. We have a wealth of digital and physical resources, including an excellent staff that are here to support you. Providing help and the information you need is what we do and we are happy to answer your questions.



## Public PC Use



# 404

Sessions

# 581

Library Programs



# 9806

Reference Questions  
Answered  
An increase in **53%**  
from the previous  
year



We provide free courtesy cards if you work in Caldwell or are a K-12 student living in West Caldwell. We believe that access to library services are essential for workers and students to succeed

## RESOURCES

The Library subscribes to the following:

Online:

- The New York Times
- The Star-Ledger
- News Bank: 3500 full text newspapers
- Over 20 news-based EBSCO databases through Jersey Clicks
- Over 5300 magazines online via Libby

Print:

- The Progress
- The New York Times
- The Star-Ledger
- 10 Popular magazines not available online

Some of our favorite resources:

- **Data Axle:** Data, analytics, and marketing services to help businesses grow
- **Consumer Reports** magazine: Unbiased ratings and reviews for over 9000+ products
- **Heritage Quest:** Genealogical database for researching family history
- **Peterson's Test Prep:** Search thousands of college and graduate schools, identify scholarships, take practice tests, create resumes, and explore careers
- **Pronunciator / Pro Citizen:** Language learning and US Citizenship test prep

Check out the full collection by visiting: <https://www.caldwellpl.org/research-lifelong-learning>

# THE LIBRARY IN THE COMMUNITY

The library is so much more than a building. Our staff can often be found out in the community at events such as the Memorial Day Parade, National Night Out, Kiwanis-Rotary Caldwell Street Fair, Trick or Treating on Bloomfield Avenue, and Halloween at Grover Cleveland Park.

We also bring programs to the residents of Marian Manor, Grover Cleveland Park, Caldwell-West Caldwell Schools, local businesses, and West Caldwell Swimming Pools. Our Outreach Team thrives on building creative partnerships and adding value that benefits all organizations.



## Caldwell is an Award Winning Library

- Caldwell Women's Community Impact Award
- NJLA Recognizing Excellence in Public Relations
- Caldwell Environmental Commission Sustainability Award



DID YOU KNOW?

The Library provides delivery of books to homebound residents.



Caldwell Environmental Commission, Women's Club of Caldwell, Rotary Club of the Caldells, Kiwanis Club of Caldwell-West Essex, Caldwell University, & more.

# MUCH MORE THAN BOOKS

## Essential Services & Technology:

- Computer/Internet access
- WiFi - in the library and Hot Spots free to borrow
- Professional Printer/Copy Machine with scanning & mobile printing
- Space to work, meet, study
- Notary services by appointment
- Pronunciator: Language learning
- ProCitizen: US Citizenship course
- Friendly staff to assist
- STEM Kits for Children
- Work and Volunteer Experience for Teens

**575**  
hours our  
volunteers  
contributed

## Museum Passes in 2023:

- Storm King Art Center
- Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum Complex
- Children's Museum of Manhattan (*discontinued 8/23*)
- Montclair Art Museum
- The Newark Museum of Art (*NEW as of 8/23*)
- Morris Museum
- Imagine That!!! Museum

## Health & Wellness:

- Chair Yoga
- Wellness Workshops
- #CPLMindfulMonday
- Puzzle Swap
- Mindful Crafts
- Combatting isolation & loneliness

Creative Writing group, Mah Jongg groups, Crochet & Craft groups, Online learning meet-ups, English language learners, gardening enthusiasts, and so much more!

## FIND YOUR PEOPLE

The Library is a hub for the community - a place where people can gather among shared interests and develop connections.



# WE ARE COST SAVINGS

The Caldwell Public Library is committed to eliminating barriers to resources and information that are essential for growth, education, learning, financial stability, and success. We add services and cultivate our circulating collection based on feedback from all portions of the community, using our knowledge of current needs and anticipated future needs that are specific to Caldwell residents, students, businesses, and other local organizations.

2023 was our first year as a fine free library, further delivering on our promise to reduce barriers. We strive to increase our offerings and services that continually allow you to save money and improve your quality of life



How much money are you saving by using your local library?  
Visit <https://ilovelibraries.org/what-libraries-do/calculator/>



# FOUNDATION

The Caldwell Public Library Foundation, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity, was created to support the Caldwell Public Library's programs and services. Municipal funding covers the library's operational costs and building maintenance. Donations to the Foundation allow the library to offer a greater range of services, including an array of educational and entertaining programs, museum passes, and certain capital items not afforded by the borough's budget, such as furniture and computers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[WWW.CALDWELLPL.ORG/FOUNDATION](http://WWW.CALDWELLPL.ORG/FOUNDATION)

