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Dear Caldwell Community,

Andrew Carnegie believed that Libraries allowed for people to educate and lift themselves regardless of their wealth or social status. He felt so strongly about this that he donated \$40 million dollars for the construction of 1,679 libraries in the United States in the early 20th century. In exchange for building a library, each town would be responsible for maintaining and developing the library as a thriving institution in the community. We can thank Andrew Carnegie for the \$7,500 grant that allowed Caldwell to establish our library. We have served the community for over 100 years and look forward to continuing to do so.

As many of you have heard, our Caldwell Free Library will be incorporated into the new municipal building. We are excited to work with the talented architects Robert Cozzarelli, of Cozzarelli Cirminiello Architects and Eli Goldstein of The Goldstein Partnership. Both of these fine architects took the concerns and expertise of our library staff into account into the new design. We are excited that our new library will provide the desired space to meet the needs of our community. These new features will give us a more flexible space to better serve the community and to provide the resources and services needed to best serve our patrons. While it is heartbreaking to lose the physical Carnegie Library building that has served us for the last century, we are pleased with the Borough's commitment to provide a vibrant, safe and healthy environment to serve our community now and into the future.

For the Library Board, given the deterioration of the Bloomfield Avenue building and the existing issues with the culvert, the legacy of being a Carnegie Library is not the building; it is the community, resources and services that the library can provide to us all. We are excited by the opportunity to preserve the spirit of the original endowment by creating a library that will serve the needs of the Caldwell community in the 21st century. We want to find ways to preserve elements from the original building and to integrate them into our new space; we have reached out to the Caldwell Historic Preservation Commission to help us identify those elements.

We are in partnership with the Borough, its elected officials and administration, as the library's building is owned by the municipality; we feel strongly that the Mayor and

Council are committed to working with the library Board and staff to create a vibrant library for our town in a fiscally responsible way.

While we will be in transition for several years, housed in temporary trailers, our librarians and staff will continue to work tirelessly to provide services to our wonderful community and patrons. We all owe them a debt of gratitude. We appreciate everyone's support during this time of transition. The staff looks forward to welcoming everyone into our temporary space off of Smull Avenue. We anticipate opening this summer, and we look forward to celebrating together when our new library opens in several years. If you have questions, you can reach out to our wonderful staff at librarian@caldwellpl.org.

Respectfully submitted,
The Caldwell Library Board of Trustees