

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

WALLINGTON'S JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL LIBRARY



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WALLINGTON, NJ 07057
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WALLINGTONPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG
WALLCIRC@BCCLS.ORG

OUR LIBRARY

OUR MISSION

...is to provide resources, technology, and programming that cultivate personal and intellectual growth while informing and embracing the proud traditions of our Wallington Community.

OUR VISION

...is to bring people together by inspiring and supporting lifelong learning, literacy, creativity, and cultural expression to find, share, and create knowledge.



2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Janet Centanni, President
James Albro, Vice President
Janet Mizdol, Treasurer
Joan DiBernardo, Secretary
Melissa Dabal, Mayor
Susanne Preinfalk, Council Liason
Trina Jensen-Bucaro
Aeri Lee
Magda Thompson

OUR STAFF

Kathryn Ennist, Director
Susan Kowalski, Supervising Library Assistant
Tonette Benz, Library Assistant
Susanna Beck, Library Assistant
Melissa Calabria, Library Assistant
Joy Lasoi, Page



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

While this is my first Annual Report, it is by no means the Library's first Annual Report. That first report, written by Library Director Marie E. Plucinsky was for 1964, the first year that the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library existed. It consists of one sheet of paper folded in half and provides a sparse set of facts about Wallington's new public library, which was dedicated on February 29, 1964.

Since 1964 some things have changed about the Library. After all, we are now open more than nine hours a week and house about ten times as many items as when the Library first opened. Some things, however, have remained the same. Our dedication and our gratitude to the Wallington Community is as strong now as it was fifty-seven years ago.

That dedication and gratitude has helped us through the ongoing situation we have faced since the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Being open nine hours a week seems like a lot when you aren't able to be open at all. Still in 2020 we found ways to serve our patrons when our doors were closed through doorside and curbside pick up, digital collections, virtual programming, and calls and letters to patrons. When libraries were finally allowed to reopen their doors, we were first in line to welcome people back into our building.

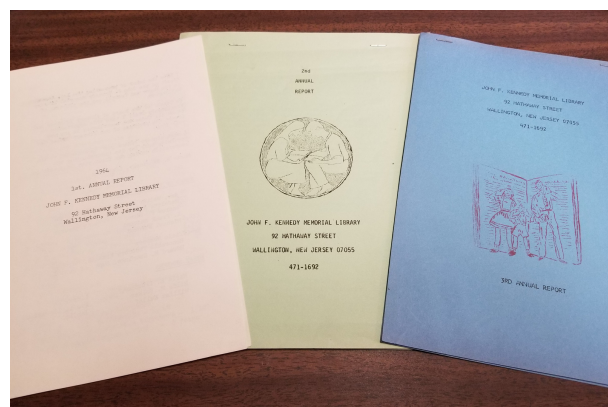
We worked continuously in 2021 to reopen and return our services back to the levels that they were at pre-pandemic; increasing occupancy capacities, eliminating computer and browsing time limits, and allowing in-house studying and reading as soon as we were able. We have also worked to add new services and features for our community to make its Library experience the best that it can be during a time when other experiences might be less than ideal.

In 2021 we added a self-serve checkout kiosk, a new photocopier, new laptops, and new databases. We offered a Summer Reading Program for both Children and (for the first time ever) Adults. We added new video game and manga sections to our collection and reorganized our DVD and children's collections for easier browsing. We transitioned back from virtual to in-person programming. We also reported on this and so much more via our updated website, social media accounts, and brand new newsletter.

I may not have the honor of presenting the first annual report to the citizens of Wallington, but I do have the honor of presenting a report that shows the Library's dedication to living up to our newly established Mission: To provide resources, technology, and programming that cultivate personal and intellectual growth while informing and embracing the proud traditions of our Wallington Community. We look forward to continuing on this mission and growing our ability to do all this and more now and in years to come.

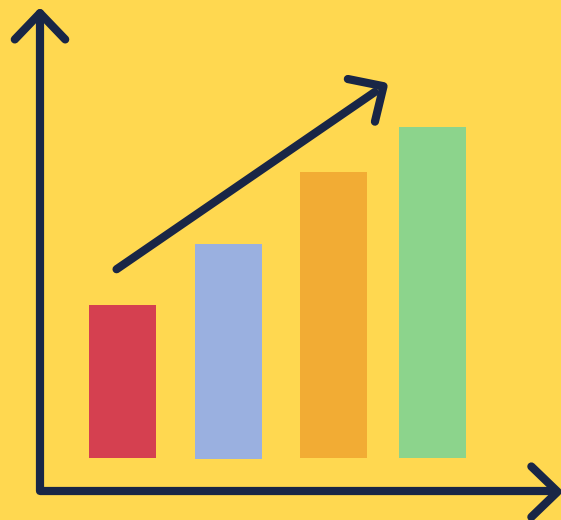
Kathryn Ennist

Kathryn Ennist
Library Director



**1st, 2nd, & 3rd Annual Reports written
for the Library by Library Director Marie E. Plucinsky**

LIBRARY FACTS AT A GLANCE: VISITING THE LIBRARY



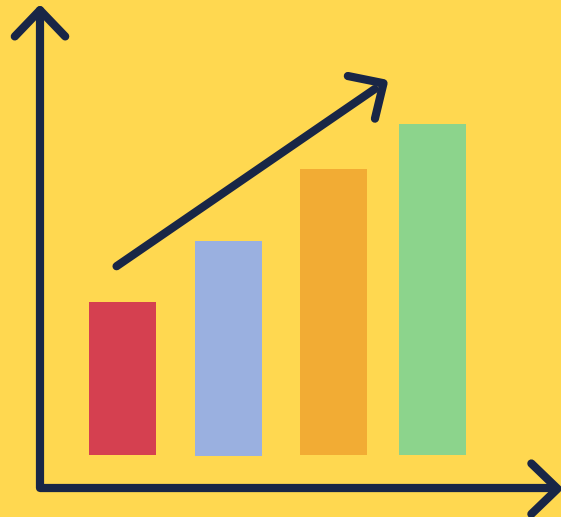
**The Library was opened
2,288 hours in 2021; an
average of 44 hours a week**

**The Library had more than
6,800 visitors during the year**



**Library Staff answered
more than 600 questions**

LIBRARY FACTS AT A GLANCE: COMPUTERS & INTERNET



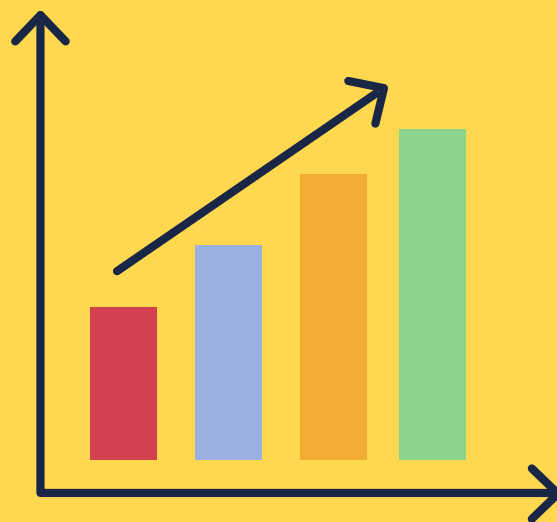
**The Library's free Wifi was
accessed over 1,425 times**

**The Library's computers
were used 1,450 times**



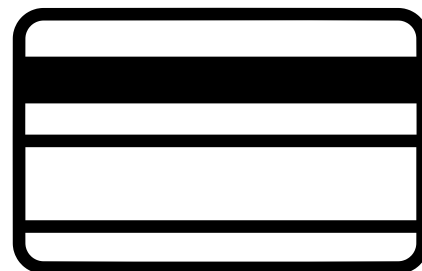
**There were over 6,350 visitors
to the Library's website**

LIBRARY FACTS AT A GLANCE: COLLECTIONS & CIRCULATION



The Library has over 21,000 physical items in its collection with 1,062 items added in 2021

There are 2755 Wallington Library Card holders with 145 new card holders in 2021



The Library circulated a total of 23,097 physical & digital items in 2021

LIBRARY FACTS AT A GLANCE: VALUE TO OUR COMMUNITY



Items or Services	Total	Average Price	Cost to Patrons	Value Provided
Computer Sessions	1450	\$25.00	FREE	\$36,250.00
Wifi Sessions	1430	\$10.50	FREE	\$15,015.00
Reference Questions Answered	624	\$15.00	FREE	\$9,360.00
Program Participants	753	\$15.00	FREE	\$11,295.00
Interlibrary Loans Obtained	4589	\$25.00	FREE	\$114,725.00
Adult Books Circulated	7266	\$25.00	FREE	\$181,650.00
Young Adult Books Circulated	788	\$25.00	FREE	\$19,700.00
Juvenile Books Circulated	9098	\$17.00	FREE	\$154,666.00
DVDs/Blu-Rays Circulated	3075	\$20.00	FREE	\$61,500.00
Video Games Circulated	108	\$50.00	FREE	\$5,400.00
Music Circulated	155	\$15.00	FREE	\$2,325.00
Hotspots Circulated	20	\$30.00	FREE	\$600.00
Magazines & Digital Magazines Circulated	70	\$5.00	FREE	\$350.00
eBooks & eAudiobooks Circulated	2549	\$10.00	FREE	\$25,490.00
Digital Movies & Music Circulated	192	\$5.00	FREE	\$960.00

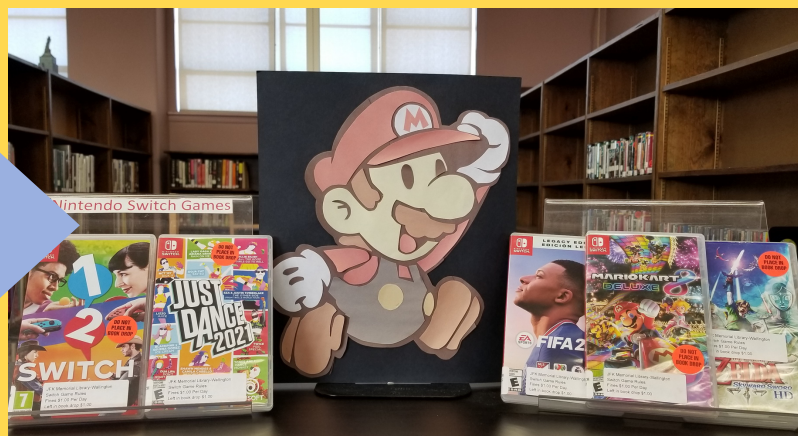
Total Value to Wallingtonians: \$639,286.00

2021 HIGHLIGHTS: COLLECTIONS



The Library started a new manga collection which already includes over 100 volumes & continues to grow each month

The Library now offers video games! Currently there are Switch games available, with plans to offer games for additional consoles in 2022



The Library's Adult & Children's DVD collections underwent a major reorganization. DVDs are now shelved alphabetically to make browsing and searching for movies easier for everyone

2021 HIGHLIGHTS: PROGRAMMING



Rosie the Therapy Dog began visiting the Library in June of 2021. Since then children ages 3 & up have read, played, & hung out with Roise each month

The Library implemented bimonthly take home craft kits. 174 kits were picked up from the Library in 2021



In 2021 children weren't the only ones to have summer reading fun! Adults were able to read for chances to win exciting prizes

A Library favorite returned in 2021. In person Monday Book Club resumed in June & participants couldn't have been happier



2021 HIGHLIGHTS: ARPA GRANT

Library awarded **\$24,525.25** through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Grant for New Jersey Libraries

The Library applied for and received a grant through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 Grants for New Jersey Libraries. We received communication on August 30, 2021 from State Librarian, Jennifer Nelson, that the Library had been awarded \$24,525.25 for our program: "JFK Memorial Library Expanding Digital Inclusion & Institutional Capacity". As per the award letter "...the reviewers found that [the] proposed project supports the role of libraries in responding to the coronavirus pandemic by helping the community respond directly and immediately to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as address related economic and community needs through equitable approaches."

The grant award allowed the Library to invest in four database subscriptions: Learning Express Library Complete, Mango, America's News, and Heritage Hub. It also allowed the Library to replace our outdated laptop computers with six brand new laptops. Wallington residents simply need a valid library card to access these resources and anyone can stop in at the Library to take advantage of our new laptops.



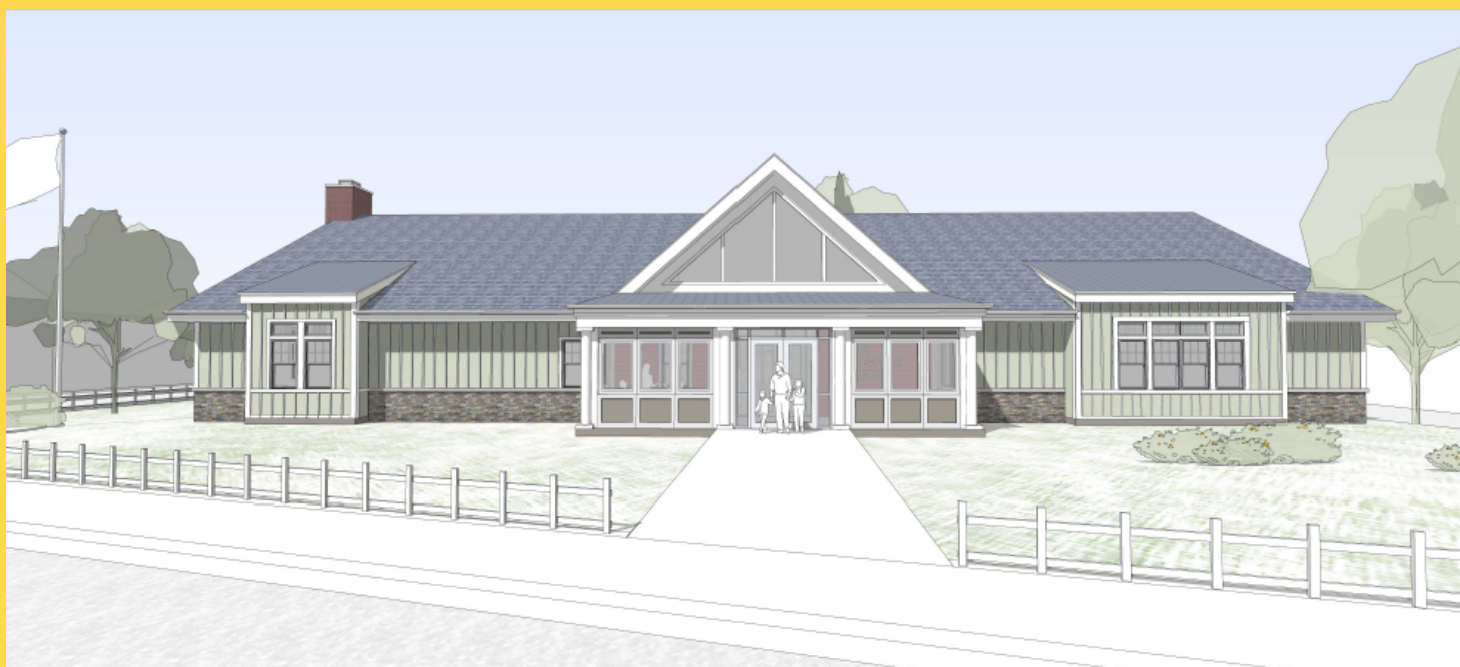
THESE RESOURCES ARE SUPPORTED IN FULL OR IN PART WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES, ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY, AWARD NUMBER LS-250226-OLS-21.



LOOKING AHEAD: WALLINGTON VETERANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The John F. Kennedy Memorial Library has served the Wallington Community for decades in its “temporary location” above the Department of Public Works. Soon, however, the Library will undergo a massive set of changes, all of which will greatly benefit the residents of Wallington and the surrounding area!

To start the Library will be changing locations. The Wallington Veterans graciously provided their VFW Post 2640 property to the Borough so that the Library could be moved to a new location. The Library will finally leave its “temporary location” and move to 125 Main Ave and into a brand new library building!



ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING OF THE FRONT EXTERIOR OF THE NEW LIBRARY BUILDING

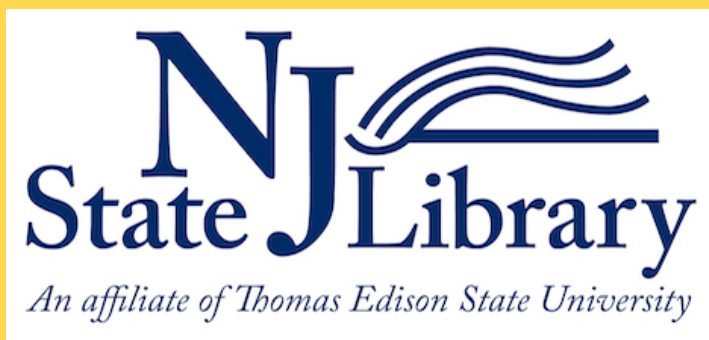
LOOKING AHEAD: WALLINGTON VETERANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

A lot of work went into putting funding together in order to build a new library. Throughout the years the Library Board of Trustees set capital funds aside expressly for a new library building. Long-time and much loved library patron, Joan Madey, left the Library \$500,000.00 to be used for the building of a new library. The Mayor and Council supported and pushed for a new library, enabling the Borough to apply for a grant through the Library Construction Bond Act.

The Library Construction Bond Act (LCBA) was approved by New Jersey voters in November of 2017. The Act authorized \$125 million in state bonds to fund critical improvements to New Jersey Public Libraries. Those wishing to be awarded a grant through the LCBA needed to identify a 50% match to fund their proposed project. Due to the tireless work of the Library Board of Trustees and the generosity of the Wallington Veterans and Joan Madey, the Borough was able to apply on behalf of the Library during the first round of funding through the Act, which took place in 2020.

On November 20, 2020 Governor Murphy signed legislation which awarded 38 separate libraries across 16 counties grants through the LCBA. The John F Kennedy Library was one of the 38 and was awarded \$1,525,475.00. The grant program was highly competitive. More than 129 applications underwent a rigorous review that ranked the applicants' projects and decided on the 38 libraries who would receive grants during this first round of funding. The hard work of the Library Board of Trustees, the Mayor and Council, the Borough's grant writers, and all who had a hand in the application process allowed the Library to achieve the funding necessary to build a new library and finally leave its "temporary location" after almost 60 years.

THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY FUNDS FROM THE NEW JERSEY LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION BOND ACT, ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY



LOOKING AHEAD: WALLINGTON VETERANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The new library building, which will be built at 125 Main Ave, will do away with the limitations of the Library's current location. The new building will have a designated children's area, expanded space for studying and reading (including a reading area around a cozy fireplace - an homage to the fireplace in VFW Post 2640), a community room for programming, and in general more space for everything including the Library's collections and computers. There will be both a front and back porch, green space, benches, and extended WiFi all so visitors can enjoy the outdoors while reading, working, or relaxing. The new location will also offer a parking lot with ample space for anyone stopping in at the Library.

The footprint of the building is set and the final touches have been placed on the exterior design. A site plan is finalized and a Groundbreaking Ceremony took place on Thursday, November 11, 2021 to mark the beginning of the demolition of the existing structures on the 125 Main Ave property. Once demolition is completed, construction on the new building will take place. Look for a lot of activity at 125 Main Ave in 2022!

One last change that will happen once the new library building is completed is that Wallington's Public Library will be given a new name. The John F. Kennedy Memorial Library will become the Wallington Veterans Memorial Library as a tribute to the Veterans who made the dream of a new library building a reality by providing the property and thus the jumping off point for the fruition of a dream long held by many in Wallington.

Photos from the 11/11/21 Groundbreaking Ceremony.



Construction equipment and plans for the new Wallington Veterans Memorial Library's exterior



From left to right: Library Board Trustees Magda Thompson & Janet Mizdol, Council Liaison Susanne Preinfalk, Mayor Melissa Dabal, Library Board Trustee Joan DiBernardo, Supervising Library Assistant Susan Kowalski, Library Board President Janet Centanni, Library Director Kathryn Ennist, & Library Assistant Tonette Benz



From left to right: Councilmen Khaldoun Androwis & Tomasz Sadecki, Mayor Melissa Dabal, Council Liaison Susanne Preinfalk, Library Board President Janet Centanni, Former Mayors Mark Tomko & Walter Slomienski, & Veterans Chuck O'Connell & Alan Flezjo