



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

June 15, 2026
Agenda Item No. 5

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FROM: Library Services Department
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PREPARED BY: Nadia Dallstream, Corona del Mar Branch Librarian

TITLE: Corona del Mar Branch Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff will present an overview of Corona del Mar Branch’s activities and resources.

DISCUSSION:

Overview

Corona del Mar Branch (CdM) is a welcoming neighborhood library. Many visitors walk to the Branch as part of their regular weekly or daily routine. The staff at CdM know patrons well and greet everyone who enters. Children and adults visit to pick up holds, get personalized book recommendations, and browse the shelves. Upon entering the children’s area, you will often find families and friends playing and reading together. CdM adult space has six desks, and another six soft seating chairs with three smaller tables. The children’s area has two large tables with seating for six at each. One table is toddler sized and the other can accommodate both kids and adults. The play area has three soft seating chairs available, and a colorful rug designates the play space which is surrounded by books and is next to our educational toys. Even though we are just a bit over a mile from the Central Library, CdM feels like another time and place—free from most digital distractions and fostering a sense of close community through in-person interactions and neighborly exchanges.

Location

The original CdM was established in 1947 and located on the corner of Goldenrod and Pacific Coast Highway. In 1952, the Branch was moved to a larger location in CdM, then over 65 years ago, in 1959, it was moved to its current location on Marigold. In 2018, the 2,000 square foot building on Marigold was completely reconstructed and reopened in September 2019. The facility is a building that is shared with Fire Station 5. The new building provides the community with a 3,801 square foot library that is energy efficient and maximizes space, providing ample parking, a popular collection of materials, technological amenities, comfortable seating, and a clean and bright design.

District

CdM primarily serves Council District 6 which includes the CdM Village, Harbor View, and West Newport Coast neighborhoods with a total population of 12,017 residents (source: American Community Survey 2020).

Services

Hours

CdM is open Monday through Saturday 9am – 6pm (closed Sundays) for a total of 54 hours per week.

Technology

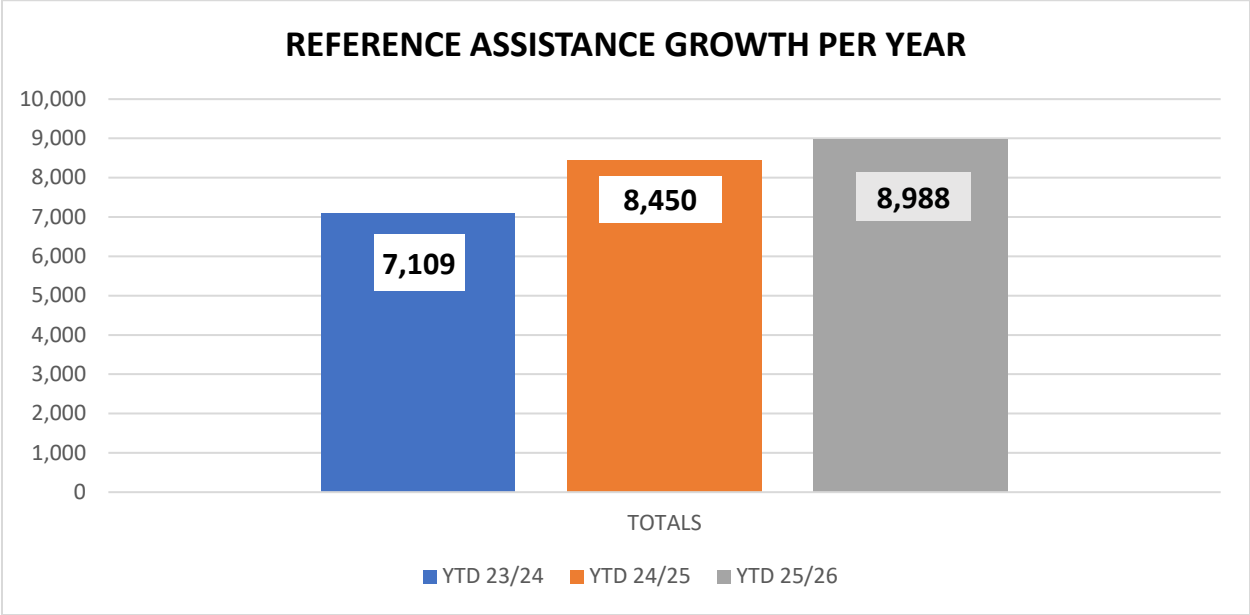
CdM has public laptops for in-library use. Printing, copying, scanning, and fax are also offered. Wi-Fi is available throughout the Branch, including on the Friends of the Library Reading Porch. The Branch has sufficient outlets available for the public including on the porch and on or by all tables and desks.

Test Proctoring

CdM offered test proctoring from July 2022 to August 2025. The service had been previously offered at Balboa Branch (Balboa) and was transferred in July 2022 to CdM. The demand for this service has more than doubled over the past four years. To accommodate more patrons, the service went to an online scheduling model and is now offered at Mariners Branch and no longer at CdM.

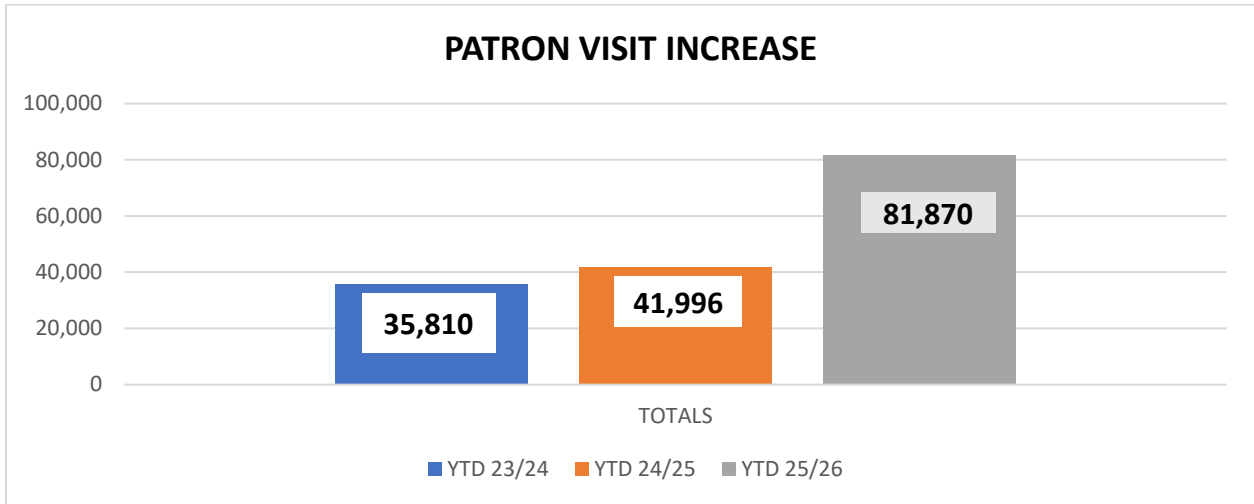
Reference Assistance

Between June 2025 and May 2026, CdM Staff answered 8,988 reference questions.



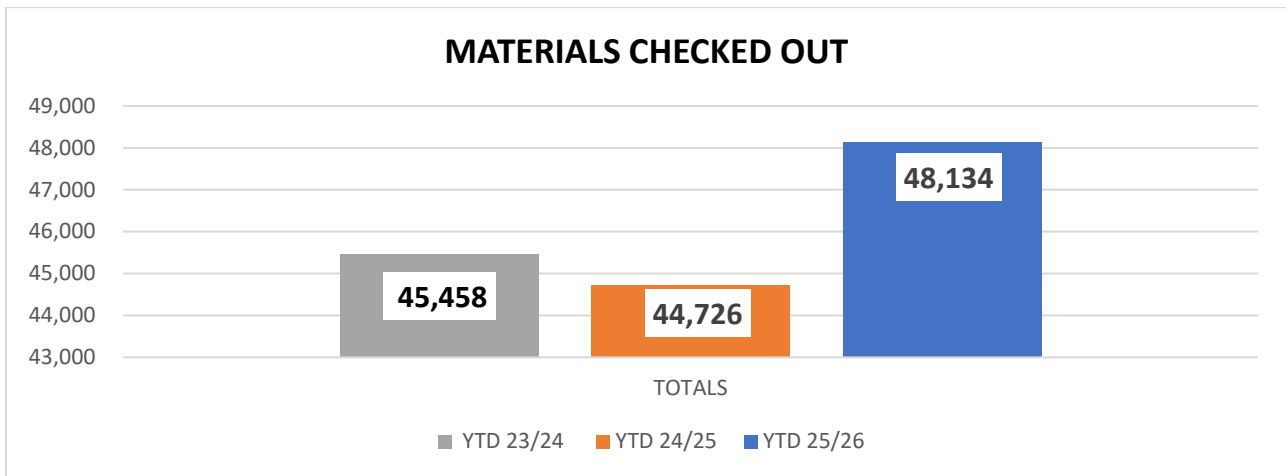
Patron Visits

CdM service area’s population is 12,017, but we have many patrons outside of the service area that visit the Branch regularly. The number of patrons who visited CdM from June 2025 to May 2026 is 81,870, which is up 128% from 2023/2024. With increased programming and more available study space in the adult area we have seen a steady increase in patron visits to CdM.



Circulation and Collections

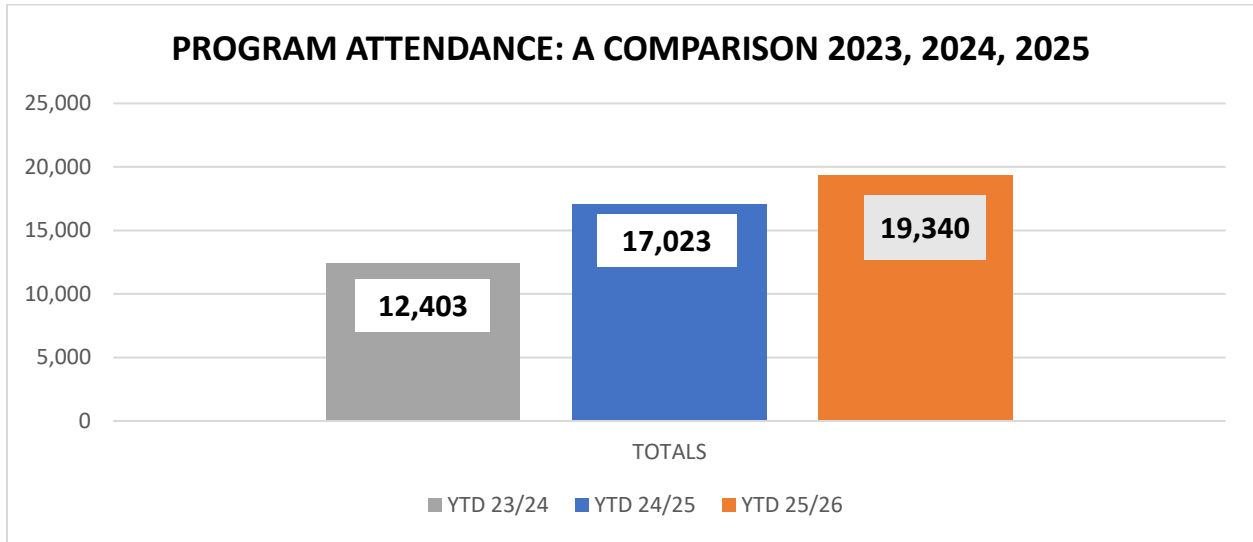
A total of 48,134 items were checked out from CdM from June 2025 through May 2026. Our print collection is checked out often, with an average turnover rate of 3.78. Many patrons enjoy supplementing their reading with the Library’s streaming services and downloadable eBooks and we continue to teach patrons how to access materials this way.



CdM offers classic titles and current books, magazines, newspapers, and digital media for adults, teens, and children. There are 11,717 items in the collection. From May 2025 to May 2026, the teen collection had 554 checkouts, the adult collection had 16,985 checkouts, and the children’s collection had over 28,840 checkouts. (source: Collection HQ). The report provided by Collection HQ was only available from May 2025 to May 2026. These numbers are representative of the population we serve. Items are added to our collection monthly, and new books and materials are well-reviewed and provide a range of popular topics for our patrons to explore. The Read-Along books for children have been a popular addition to the collection, and our Caregiver collection has been a helpful resource for parents. For adults, we offer a variety of Lucky Day Books which are a special collection of bestselling titles. Lucky Day Books are only available in person and first come, first served. They check out for one week, and we have many patrons who visit us each week to pick up a new one.

Programs

CdM held 212 programs from June 2025 through May 2026 with a total program attendance of 19,340. Program attendance has increased 55% over the past 3 years. Many of the programs are for children, but we offer a few programs for all ages including the CdM Holiday Open House, 3rd Thursdays, and the Summer Reading Program (SRP).



We offer a variety of children’s programs including weekly storytimes, monthly sensory play, daily drop-in crafts, and *Find Sisi the Snail* game. In August 2025, we added Toy Trains to our weekly offerings. This program had been very popular at Balboa, and we are happy to be able to offer it at CdM. The *Sensory Play Program* is a very special program that offers children new tactile experiences and provides a unique environment where adults and children are interacting with each other and their peers while developing their critical thinking, imagination, and language development skills. Beginning in January we added a monthly BARK program. Children and families have enjoyed reading to the dogs, and we have seen a steady increase in attendance to this program.

One of our goals is to make each visit to the Branch exciting for each child. We offer a *Drop-In Craft* program featuring a product-focused craft that kids can make while visiting the Branch. We also provide materials for children who prefer to create their own process art project. Sisi the Snail, a plushie puppet that lives at CdM, hides in different spots throughout the children’s area. Each visit children are invited to search for Sisi and when they find her, they get a sticker. Both the Drop-In Crafts and Find Sisi the Snail make each visit fun for families.

In addition, we offer many children’s programs throughout the year beginning with our SRP events last June and ending with the April *3rd Thursday*. Some highlights throughout the year include our Fire Station Storytime with guest reader Captain Cameron Hutzler, the Holiday Open House with guest performers from Newport-Mesa Unified School District’s performing arts groups including the CdM Madrigals and local elementary school choir groups, and our annual *Stuffed Animal Sleepover*. In April, we celebrated *National Library Week* and had several *special guest readers* including Councilmember Michelle Barto, Board of Library Trustees Secretary Dorothy Larson, Recreation and Senior Services Director Sean Levin, and Board of Library Trustees Vice Chair Antonella Castro and her daughter Palomma. We were also a part of the *CdM 3rd Thursdays Spring in Bloom* program where we had a petting zoo program in addition

to our spring themed crafts and games. CdM extended its hours to 8 p.m. and had 751 community visitors stop by during the program.

In March, we started our new book recommendation program, *Find Your Next Great Read*, by asking adult patrons if they could fill out a shelf talker tag to share their favorite books with others. So far, we have only had a few patrons participate, but we have found that the books that have been recommended have been checked out often since adding the shelf talkers.

Outreach

This past year, staff participated in three local events, which offered an opportunity to make new connections with residents and to say hello to library patrons. These events included the CdM Scenic 5K, the Corona del Mar Residents Association Annual Meeting, and the OASIS Senior Expo.

We also had two school field trip visits, and one Girl Scout group visit. Students were able to get library cards, check out books, tour the Branch, and learn about the importance of libraries.

Personnel

Nadia Dallstream is the CdM full-time Branch Librarian. Mikaela Malsy is CdM 's full-time Library Clerk and joined us in September 2025. Carly Quijano is the part-time Library Assistant who started with the Newport Beach Public Library at our branch in October 2025. Jensen Fahilga is our part-time Library Page and joined us in February 2025. In March, Mike Payne, Balboa's part-time Library Clerk, began working at CdM every other weekend.

Facility Maintenance

CdM follows routine maintenance schedules which includes regular cleaning, landscaping service, window cleaning, HVAC maintenance, and carpet cleaning. The building is nearing its seventh year. This year, the City's IT department replaced the public copier with a newer model and added a separate printer for the public printing station. This configuration matches what is offered at the other Library branches.

Summary Comments

CdM provides the community with a great collection of materials, an inviting space, a variety of services, and programming for all ages. Our staff knows our regular patrons by name, and we provide consistent service by making sure we all know how to assist them with anything from checking out materials, downloading digital content, printing from a device, or finding the latest bestseller. This coming year I look forward to continuing to develop our joint library programming with the CdM community through 3rd Thursdays and through encouraging patrons to participate in writing recommendations of their favorite books for *Find Your Next Great Read Shelf Talker* program.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Board of Library Trustees considers the item).