

WEST CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY  
AWARDED INFOLINK CONTRACT

The West Caldwell Public Library has been awarded a \$4000.00 contract from INFOLINK, the Eastern New Jersey Library Cooperative, to plan and implement a project entitled “**Welcoming Library Spaces for the Autism Community and Their Families.**” The library is partnering with the West Caldwell-Caldwell Recreation Department, Caldwell College and the Rotary Club of the Caldwell’s Interact Club.

The first component of the program is to create a welcoming environment in the library for the autism community and their families. **The Library Corner**, a series of 12 programs for children, ages 4-10, will be offered from January through June. These programs include a special appearance by Curious George, a Valentine’s Day celebration and animal puppet shows. **The Library Connection** is a series of six programs for the middle school audience which also begins in January.

Library staff will also participate in the Recreation Department’s Canteen Night by hosting several of these evening events at the library. These special programs, **Lively Library Nights**, include an ice cream social, a Beatles Night, and a Yo-Yo Night featuring an array of games.

The library will also offer a **Paws to Read** program using certified therapy dogs from Bright and Beautiful, Inc. Children in grades 1-3 will have the opportunity to read aloud to special dog friends. Geared towards young readers who need additional practice reading aloud, this program gives a child the experience of reading to a dog that is not critical or judgmental.

The Rotary Club of the Caldwell’s High School Interact Club has agreed to volunteer at these programs. Several members will be trained to perform puppet shows. Other volunteers are from the Friends of the West Caldwell Public Library.