

LIBRARY Connections



Get S'more with New Library Cards

By Nicole Henry

Rochester Public Library (RPL) celebrated Library Card Signup Month by roasting marshmallows at a special kickoff event on August 31st. Over 350 people attended the event, and learned how to "Get S'more" with a library card.

"Libraries are more than just books today, and the Rochester Public Library embraces that philosophy," says Head of Marketing and Community Engagement at RPL, Karen Lemke. "In recent years, our patrons have said they are interested in experiences and connecting with others as part of how they learn and grow."

And now new library card holders have new cards to choose from. This month, two new card designs were launched, reflecting two art pieces at the library.

Peter Lex's artwork, located on the bookmobile garage door, and a stained glass mural done by Stephanie Podulke, were added to the library as part of Legacy Grant funding from SELCO (Southeast Libraries Cooperating).



New card designs featuring library artwork are available.

Library Board Continues to Explore Options

By Karen Lemke

The Rochester Public Library board is keeping their options open when it comes to future building needs.

On Wednesday, September 21, board members discussed a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Minnesota Rochester, the Minnesota Children's Museum of Rochester, and the Rochester YMCA. In the end, board members voted against signing the MOU, but directed staff to continue conversations with the MOU partners as part of a greater investigation into possible options.

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"A possible partnership with UMR is one of multiple options we could pursue," says Library Board President Lou Ohly.

The original design of the library called for three stories, but was cut back to two stories following a sales tax cut in the early 1990s. Now over twenty years old, the lack of programming space in the library hinders RPL staff when it comes to educational and cultural programming and exhibits.

The demand for library programming has risen dramatically since 2012, when the library's community-driven strategic plan was written to include more programming opportunities. "We listened to the community, and as a result our program

attendance skyrocketed," says Library Director Audrey Betcher. Earlier this year, the Rochester City Council supported a 2-story expansion of the library, but the project stalled while board members searched for additional funding for the project. The library board, under Rochester's Home Rule Charter, is responsible for making decisions about the library building and location.

At Wednesday's regular meeting, the board directed a planning subcommittee to map out how to move forward.

"We know we still have this problem of not enough space for the community," says Ohly, "so we need to keep researching our options."

Now Showing: DVD Checkout System Improves

By Karen Lemke

The library is gearing up for a blockbuster season of film checkouts, with changes in how movies are stored and checked out.

"It's going to be a much simpler process," says Circulation Services Manager Andy Stehr. "We've updated our system to allow for a better checkout experience."

For the last decade, RPL has used a system called Lock-A-Shelf (LAS) to house movies and television series. Having the LAS helped to prevent the loss of DVDs, but it also caused a few challenges. The system could be confusing, and the shelving units for LAS are larger than standard shelving for DVDs. With the DVD collection expanding over the last

decade, and the library without room to expand the LAS, many films had to be kept in a back area of the library.

"Patrons couldn't access hundreds of titles on their own," says Stehr, adding, "They had to track down a staff member if they wanted something 'from the back.'"

How does the new process work? The library is implementing radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags attached to items, including the 48,000 DVD titles. The DVD cases are locked, but patrons will be able to unlock them on their own after checking them out. Stehr says it's still a new process so there might be some challenges at first, but staff members and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and

help make the transition easier.

"The biggest change patrons will notice is the ability to access DVDs and check them out faster. In the past, locked cases could only be unlocked at the public service desk. This new system lets patrons do that on their own," says Stehr.

Each self-check station now has an unlocking device for patrons to use.



You may now unlock your own DVDs and CDs with new unlockers.



Hundreds of DVDs, shown here in the library's sorting area, will soon be more accessible to patrons.

What We're Reading

Looking for a great read?

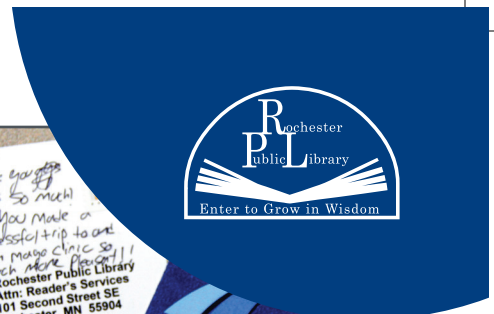
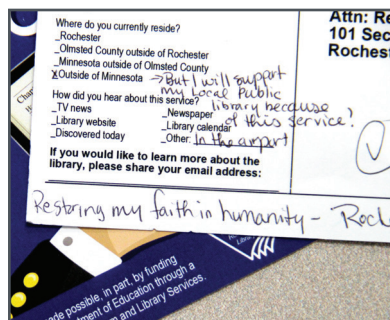
Try one of our staff picks available at the library!



Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
Adult fiction, suggested by Andy Stehr

"This book is a fast paced treasure hunt set in a dystopic future/virtual world. The book is steeped in 80s/90s pop culture references. I recommend this book to everyone but I especially recommend it to anyone who considers themselves a geek or a nerd!"

Rochester Public Library Books on the Fly!



Books on the Fly Lands Successfully

By Sam Edge

"Your adventure starts here..."

These words grace the door of the mini library installed at the Rochester International Airport.

When Rochester Public Library and Rochester International Airport staff, along with support from the Friends of the Rochester Public Library and the Minnesota Department of Education through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, launched the Books on the Fly pilot in March, they had no idea the adventure they would be embarking on as well!

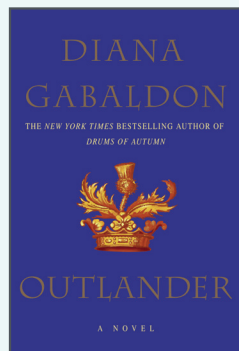
The Books on the Fly pilot consists of both a physical mini library and an electronic PowerTower kiosk that allows users to access Rochester Public Library's wealth of electronic resources at the Rochester International Airport in the main terminal. Library staff and community partners wanted to place these items at the airport in order to extend the reach of the library into the greater community and to help fill a

need for reading material at the Airport. RPL and RST staff have worked together closely since the launch of the pilot in March in order to ensure the mini library is well stocked and that the electronic kiosk functions without incident.

The Books on the Fly program has been a success, with usage of both the PowerTower kiosk and the mini library observed. Although library staff and partners initially predicted travelers might be more receptive to the electronic kiosk, they have instead found the mini library to be more popular. The mini library has already exceeded its goal of circulating 500 items by the end of August, with a current total of 616 items circulated. The library has received 111 paper survey responses from the mini library, many brimming with positive comments. "Every airport should have one!" and "What a great idea!" are two comments frequently seen on survey cards. Library staff have been

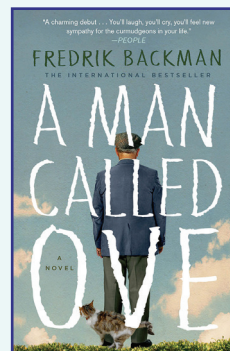


pleasantly surprised by the positive response to the Books on the Fly pilot, and have learned that travelers – just like everyone else – enjoy a good read. The success of the Books on the Fly pilot is just another example of how the Rochester Public Library continues to meet community needs through collaboration and innovation. It is a reminder that when you support RPL, you support your community as a whole.



Outlander by Diana Gabaldon
Adult fiction, suggested by Cecily Sample

"The first in a gripping (and occasionally humorous) saga of a couple in Jacobite Scotland, in which he's a political outlaw and she's a WWII nurse who went to some standing stones and was shifted into another time. She left her beloved husband back in the 1940s, and finds, to her horror, that the enemy in the 1700s is her husband's twisted doppelganger, a captain of the occupying English army."



A Man Called Ove
by Fredrik Backman
Adult fiction, suggested by Louise Moe

"Laugh out loud moments and also shows the humanity in curmudgeons."

Book-A-Year Endowment: Harold Christensen

Honoring a family member through our Book-A-Year Endowment is a special way to make a lasting gift. A \$500 donation will be used to purchase a book in perpetuity for someone you wish to honor. A bookplate with their name will be put in a book every year. The donor may designate the type of book they prefer. Here is the story of one family's recent gift.

"Harold Christensen, "Mr. C," was a longtime advocate of reading. Harold taught physical education for 44 years, 28 of which were in the Rochester Public Schools. He was both passionate about reading himself, as well as passing on the joy of reading to the many children's lives he touched. The Rochester Public Library was a very special place for Harold and continues to be for our family. When Harold died in December of 2015, as a family, we wanted to continue to show future readers in Rochester his love for reading by contributing to the Book-A-Year Endowment Fund. Harold was always looking for a new way to be encouraging and provide service to others. Through this financial contribution, he will continue to pass on his legacy of a strong faith, positivity, and a love of sports to future generations of readers." - The Family of Harold Christensen



*"This is a photo of my mom and dad with 7 of their 8 grandchildren. Harold loved bringing his grandkids to the Rochester Public Library."
-Paula Winter*



Letter from the Library Foundation Executive Director

As Fall turns the corner we see the changes a coming...kids are back in school, gardens need to be cleaned out, cabins need to be closed up, and shoes and socks replace sandals and

bare feet. One big change at the library is all the new scanning codes on all materials that can be checked out. This has been a huge project that the Library staff have worked on diligently, to make your library run more smoothly and efficiently. Summer was also a time for kids to stream into the library, people to visit the BookBike and bookmobile, and another cool addition was the "Books on The Fly" program. In March, the Rochester Public Library installed an ebook kiosk and mini library at the airport in a project called "Books on the Fly." The intent of Books on the Fly is to extend the library's service capacity by reaching visitors to the area and residents at the regional transportation hub. This program has exceeded all expectations, because that is what your library does.

The Rochester Public Library is one of the greatest resources in Rochester and the Foundation is thrilled to be part of the successes the library has. Your dollars given to the Foundation help ensure that we can offer a state of the art

facility in a great location that is free and accessible to all. Who else can say that? Not too many places! We are passionate about life-long learning and community engagement, and we stand behind our vision to be the greatest library in the heart of the downtown community.

Please join the Foundation on January 14, 2017 for our annual Wit, Wisdom & Wine celebration. This fundraiser incorporates ten fantastic speakers along with an array of good food, good wine, and opportunities to support the work we do. Registration will open in late October on our Foundation website. Give yourself a gift by attending this event or purchase tickets for a loved one to attend.

Changes are a coming...and we all know change is hard. But it also makes us be stronger, wiser humans. And isn't a day of changes better than a day of nothing special? Embrace the changes of fall, and remember that summer is only eight months away....

Vicki Allen

*Rochester Public Library Foundation, Executive Director
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Donors from March 16, 2016 - August 31, 2016

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Friends of the Rochester Public Library Raffle

The Friends of the Library will be hosting a raffle in which participants can win homemade quilts and crafts! Ticket sales start October 1st. Tickets can be purchased in the Friends' Bookstore. Winners will be announced the first week of November. Items will be on display in the Friends' glass case located in the library entrance. All proceeds go to the Friends, which supports the library.

\$3
per ticket



OUR HUGE

Friends' Autumn Book Sale will be on

Thursday, October 6 (Friends' Preview)

5PM - 7PM

Friday & Saturday, October 7 & 8

9:30AM - 5:30PM

Sunday, October 9

1:30PM - 4PM

Hardcovers: \$2.00 + tax

Trade size paperback: \$1.50 + tax

Mass paperbacks: \$1.00 + tax

Childrens and non-print: 50¢ + tax

Last Day: Fill up a grocery bag provided by Friends for \$7.00 (includes tax)

If you are not yet a Friends' member, you may join at the door, by asking at the Bookstore, filling out the online form found on the Friends' website, or by calling 507.328.2341.

Payment by cash, check, or credit card.

5TH ANNUAL

ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF ROCHESTER-AREA AUTHORS

Saturday, October 15th
Rochester Public Library

1:15PM, Author Panel Discussion

2-4PM, Author Meet and Greet

[Facebook.com/CelebrateRochesterAuthors](https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateRochesterAuthors)

Soul of a Crow
Abbie Williams

*A Pilgrimage of Hope:
A Story of Faith and Medicine*
Mary McCarthy

The Family Caregiver's Cookbook
Harriet Hodgson

Goodnight Loon
**Abe Sauer (Author) &
Nathaniel Davauer
(Illustrator)**

The Cactus Creek Challenge
Erica Vetsch

Best to Laugh
Lorna Landvik

A String of Pearls
**Poems by Richard
Arthur DeRemee**

Albert the Confused Manatee
Christopher Straub

How to Ditch Dead Guys
Ann M. Noser

A Necessary Act
Tony Wirt

Twisted Reveries
Meg Hafdahl

Good Night, Mr. Wodehouse
Faith Sullivan

Libraries Change Lives: Dan Rengstorf, “The Piano Man”

By Karen Lemke

“If you don’t have a library card, you’re doing yourself a disservice,” says Dan Rengstorf, a.k.a. “The Piano Man” in Rochester. “And if you have a library card, but don’t ILL, you’re doing yourself an even greater disservice.”

Rengstorf is a fan of ILL, aka interlibrary loan, which allows library patrons to borrow items from libraries throughout the state and even in the region.

“I’ve gotten books about music and different genres, but I especially enjoy books about musicians,” says Rengstorf, adding, “It’s handy to have anecdotes about the songs I am playing.”

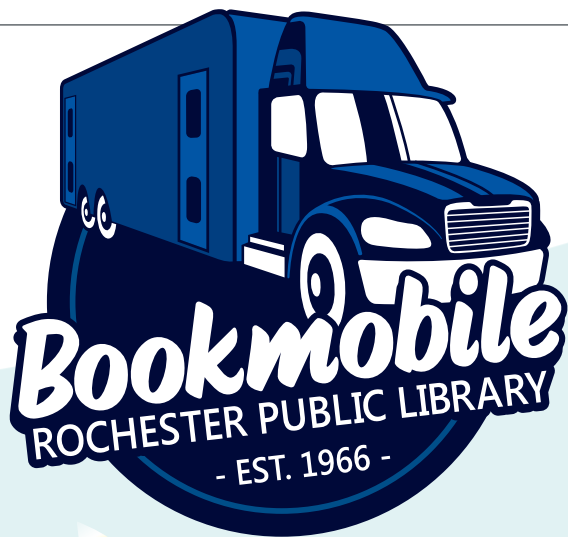
He’s been using the service for over 20 years, becoming a well-known patron at the Reference Desk. “The staff all know me by name,” he quips, “and they’re probably sick of me.”

For several decades now, Rengstorf has been playing solo piano at various Rochester locations. He even served as the house pianist at the Kahler Hotel in the 1980s and 1990s.

With a degree in music and years of experience, he says he enjoys researching his craft, and couldn’t do it without the Rochester Public Library.



Interlibrary loan (ILL) allows RPL to request materials from dozens of Minnesota libraries. While RPL has over 400,000 physical items (books, CDs, or DVDs), there are occasionally items that cannot be found locally. In addition to accessing titles from Minnesota libraries, RPL also participates in the Worldshare interlibrary loan network, allowing patrons to borrow materials from other states and Canada.



You are invited to a
50th BIRTHDAY PARTY

For the Rochester Public Library Bookmobile!

Monday, October 24

10-11AM in the Bookmobile Garage

Join us for cupcakes and Bookmobile tours!



Rochester Public Library
101 2nd Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Non-Profit
Organization
US POSTAGE
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Permit No. 62
Rochester, MN 55901

The Backstory: Friends of All Ages

Andy Ott, son of local radio personality Tracy McCray, visits the library bookstore regularly. He likes to use his Friends membership discount at the used bookstore. All Friends receive a 20% discount on materials purchased at the bookstore.



Friends' volunteer Kay Aune with Andy Ott.



give TO THE **MAX** 

NOV. 17, 2016

You Get S'more When You Give S'more!
Rochester Public Library Foundation is celebrating
Give to the Max Day on November 17.

Make the most of your gift by making a donation on November 17 on GiveMN.org. Search for **Rochester Public Library Foundation**, then make your donation! Or for more convenience, give anytime between November 1-17. Together, we hope to raise more than \$10,000 on Give to the Max Day, and you can help us reach our goal!

<https://givemn.org/organization/Rochester-Public-Library-Foundation>

Generous Donation Match
provided by:





16TH ANNUAL
WIT
Wisdom
& WINE

REGISTER NOW

Saturday
January 14, 2017

6:30-10PM
ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

ENTERTAINMENT & INFORMATIVE SPEAKERS
SILENT AUCTION, JEWELRY RAFFLE,
WINE AND HORS D'OEUVRES

Early Bird Registration: \$80 | \$90 After Jan. 1

For more information and registration, contact the Foundation Office at 507.328.2387
www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/wit



ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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