

Rochester Public Library News and Events

101 2nd ST, SE, Rochester, MN 55905 • 507-328-2300
www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org

Vol. 23 Number 9

Rochester, Minnesota

September 2008

Libraries Change Lives

Meeting that Special Someone

Beth Befort, Technical Services & Readers Services



As we all know, libraries change lives, but in my case being in a library changed my life drastically.

I had started working at RPL full time in 1990. I mainly worked in Technical Services but I also worked about 10 hours a week at the Circulation Desk. Well, one day in September of

1991 a young man came to the desk and asked me how long the PBS Civil War VHS series was. I answered him and he went on his merry way. What I didn't know was that he went from my desk to the reference desk. His reference question was "Does that girl with the red hair working at the circulation desk have a boyfriend?" It probably was a question the librarian wasn't expecting but she answered his question anyway and told him no, not that she knew of. At the next morning's staff meeting a different librarian told me what had happened so I had a heads up as to what happened the day before. He came in again a week or so later and introduced himself and we discovered we had a lot in common. His name was Ben and he grew up on a farm north of Rochester and attended a small school. I grew up on a farm south of Rochester and also attended a small school. We both attended Winona State University and actually were there for one year at the same time but never met. Of course, we both loved reading, going to libraries and bookstores, watching the Minnesota Vikings and arguing about politics. We ended up dating for a couple years and were married in September 1993. We now have two kids, Joshua 10, and Grace 7 who are the light of our lives. Archie, a blind cat, joined the bunch a year ago to complete the family. We will be celebrating our 15th wedding anniversary in September. So, in our case I'd have to say that the library changed all of our lives in a big way. 📖

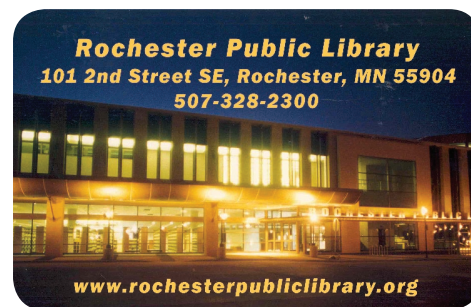
New Library Cards

John Hunziker, Communications Manager

I spent some time with Vern Johnson recently. Vern is 90 years old and lives on the 18th floor of Fontaine Towers. He has awesome views of downtown.

I've known and talked with Vern off and on since the early 1990's. Vern, in his retirement, enjoyed taking pictures. He decided that he would take pictures day by day of the building of the new Joint Government Center, the Mayo Civic Center additions and the building of the new Rochester Public Library. A number of years later he also did the building of Riverside Central Elementary School.

How I ended up talking with Vern is somewhat convoluted and due to a number of phone calls and e-mails. The library is in the process of ordering new library cards. We currently use about 12,000 a year, on average. This year, due to an educational program that we will be rolling out in conjunction with the schools in Olmsted County, we are making a concerted effort to make sure that every student in grades 4 through pre-college has a library card. That's a lot of library cards!



A new card was designed using a night shot of the library all lit up from the inside with our new phone number and website address. As we

were putting together the specifications for the card to get bids for up to 50,000 new library cards, the question came up, "Do we have the rights to use that picture?"

The back of the picture was dated 1997 and was found in a scrap book. No one was sure where it came from, it had always been here. Leonard

--continued on back page

September Events @ Rochester Public Library

All library events are free and open to the public

101 2nd Street SE

www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org

507-328-2300

Saturday, September 6 10:30 am
Family Film Program: *Miss Nelson is Missing* and *Miss Nelson is Back*
Auditorium

Good-natured Miss Nelson teaches the worst behaved class in the entire school! The rowdy students take advantage of her kindness until one day Miss Nelson disappears and Miss Viola Swamp takes her place.

Tuesday, September 9 6:30 pm
Writing Group
Meeting Room A

Stuck on your first draft? Not sure about your plot? Let's get together and help each other out.

Wednesday, September 10 6:00 pm
iFilms: International and Independent Films
Auditorium

The Grocer's Son Drama | France | English Subtitles: It is summer, and thirty-year-old Antoine is forced to leave the city to return to his family in Provence. His father is sick, so he must assume the lifestyle he thought he had shed—driving the family grocery cart from hamlet to hamlet, delivering supplies to the few remaining inhabitants. Accompanied by Claire, a friend from Paris whom he has a secret crush on, Antoine gradually warms up to his experience in the country and his encounters with the villagers, who initially seem stubborn and gruff, but ultimately prove to be funny and endearing. Ultimately, this surprise French box-office hit is about the coming-of-age of a man re-discovering life and love in the countryside. The iFilm series is intended for mature adults. Please provide guidance to your children.

Saturday, September 13 10:30 am
Family Film: *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*
Auditorium

In this animated musical adaptation of the classic children's book, Mike Mulligan and his loyal steam shovel attempt to dig a cellar for the new Town Hall in just one day.

Monday, September 15 4:00 pm
GOAT Meeting - Group Of Advising Teens
Meeting Room A

Join other Rochester Area youth (ages 12-18) and take a leadership role to discuss ideas and make plans for youth library programs, teen web page, and other ideas. Any questions, contact Lynette @ 285-8008.

Saturday, September 20 10:30 am
Family Film Program: *Click, Clack, Moo: Cow That Type*
Auditorium

Our fall film program features three hilarious farmyard tales written by favorite picture book author Doreen Cronin: *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type*, *Duck for President*, and *Dooby, Dooby, Moo*.

Wednesday, September 24 2:00 pm
Ancestry and Heritagequest Online Databases
Auditorium

An exploration of the genealogical value of two databases offered at the Rochester Public Library. Dig through census records, read family histories, or find immigration records online using these popular tools. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 328-2309.

Friday, September 26 9:30 am
Senior Techies - Computer Practice
Meeting Room B

Need a quick refresher on any of our Senior Techies classes? Want some practice using your new e-mail address? Do you need access to a computer, a scanner, a digital camera or the Internet? Join us in Meeting Room B to practice your computer skills as you've always been meaning to do! Computers are provided and a librarian will be there to answer basic computer questions. No registration is necessary, just "drop in." Recommended for patrons 55+.

Saturday, September 27 10:30 am
Special Program: Folk Music for Families with Sparky and Rhonda
Auditorium

Join recording artists Sparky and Rhonda Rucker for a family concert of toe-tapping musical fun!

Sunday, September 28 2:30 pm
Yaggy Colby History Lecture
Auditorium

Presented by Olmsted County Historical Society in cooperation with Rochester Public Library. Costs underwritten by Yaggy Colby Associates.

Monday, September 29 11:30 am
Internet
Meeting Room B

Geared to the beginner, a reference librarian will cover the basics: Internet addresses, navigation and terminology. Practice time is included. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 328-2309.

Audiobooks Now Compatible With iPod®

We Listened! The Rochester Public Library now offers Overdrive MP3 Audiobooks and the new digital format is compatible with the iPod®

OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks, along with OverDrive WMA Audiobooks, eBooks, music, and video, are available from the digital collection anytime, anywhere. With a valid library card, patrons can check out and download an array of best-selling and classic titles by visiting <http://digital.rochesterpubliclibrary.org>.

To download titles, simply install the free OverDrive Media Console. Once the software is installed, patrons can download titles to a Windows PC. Coming soon, a version of OverDrive Media Console for the MAC will also be available for OverDrive MP3 Audiobooks. Titles can be transferred to hundreds of supported portable devices, and many can be burned to CD. After the 14-day lending period, digital titles will expire and be returned to the library's collection. Automatic check-in guarantees no late fees, lost, or damaged items.

Director Audrey Betcher says that she is pleased to be among the first group of libraries to offer the MP3 format to patrons. "We have heard how much our citizens enjoy being able to download audio, video, and music any time day or night. But we also heard how much they wanted to be able to download to their iPods. Overdrive worked very hard to overcome licensing issues, and we are thrilled to be able to meet a strong customer need."

The new OverDrive MP3 Audiobook collection features popular and classic fiction and non-fiction, including William Kent Krueger's Minnesota Book Award winning Cork O'Connor Mystery series.

Don't forget that Overdrive also offers videos, music, audio dramas and ebooks!

To check out an OverDrive Audiobook today, visit <http://digital.rochesterpubliclibrary.org>. 



Boundary Waters
Cork O'Connor Series Book #2
by William Kent Krueger


When a popular female Country-Western singer disappears in the Quetico-Superior Wilderness, Ex-Sheriff Cork O'Connor is called upon to find her. With the aid of an ex-con, 2 FBI agents, and a 10...

OverDrive Audio Book Plays on: PC Mac Burn to CD WMA iPod MP3 eReserve It

OverDrive MP3 Audiobook Plays on: PC Mac Burn to CD WMA iPod MP3 eReserve It


This is an example of what the Overdrive search page looks like. The different icons next to each particular selection show what formats it's available in. This one is in PC format and is available in WMA, iPod and MP3 versions, and it is also available to burn on CD. This particular selection is not available on Mac Computers at this time, but there are plenty of other selections that are.

Did you know...?

You can search for newspaper & magazine articles, books in the library's catalog, and over a dozen other online resources in a single search by using the Mega Search box on the library's homepage. The box is located in the lower left column of this page (under the "My Library Account" box). You can search by keyword, author, title, subject, or abstract (article summary). If you have a more complex search, click on the "Advanced Mega Search" link and you can refine your search even further. If you have any questions or comments about the Mega Search box, please call the reference desk at 507-328-2309. 

Book groups @ the library

The library has a variety of book discussion groups that you can join and meetings are held every month all year around. **Armchair Travelers** (books that take you to a different time or place, held on the first Tuesday), **Literature Into Film** (books made into movies, held on the last Tuesday), **Night Owl Book Group** (books you just can't put down, held on the third Tuesday), and **Plain Readers** (books set in the Midwest or by Midwestern authors, also held on the third Tuesday). Sign up at the Fiction, Movies and Music Desk at the Library, or call 328-2305 for details.

The **Mystery Readers** book discussion group will start back up again in September and will be held on the fourth Monday of each month until May 2009. 

Parker Associates Architects, Inc. was the firm that designed the library, so it was thought that it may have been a photo they had taken. Finding an old copy of the design book in the files gave us a phone number. The phone number connected to a company called Durrant Group and was answered by a young woman in Honolulu, Hawaii. It turns out that Parker had been sold/merged with Durrant and all of the paperwork was in Madison, Wisconsin. After e-mailing the picture, the people in Madison checked their photo archives against the photo we sent them and found no match.

The next effort was the History Center of Olmsted County. Vern had given the History Center copies of all of his photos and they had what looked like an exact match and said it had been taken by Vern Johnson. A couple of phone calls later and I was in Vern's apartment. He has walls of great photos including

night shot of the library skyway I had never seen before. We verified that the photo had been taken by him and he gave us permission along with a signed photo use release form.

In talking with Vern it turns out he is an avid reader of mysteries and had spent quite a bit of time in the older libraries in town reading books on photography to learn more about his hobby. He also mentioned that he came to town as a four year old from Marshall, Minnesota. He actually had been in and used all of the Rochester Public Libraries over the years. He met his wife Phyllis at the old Valencia Ballroom; it was a hopping place in its time. He said that he had been in Rochester all his life except for the war years 1942-1946.

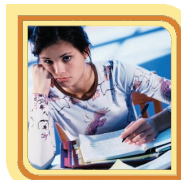
He is very pleased that the photo he took will be featured on the new library card. He can look out his window and see the library. 📖

YOU'VE GOT HOMEWORK WE'VE GOT HELP TIENES TENEMOS TAREAS AYUDA

FREE online help from real tutors!
Ayuda en linea GRATIS de tutores reales!

www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/tutor

Available every day from
4:00 - 10:00 p.m.



Science
Social Studies
Mathematics
English



Ciencia
Estudios sociales
Matemáticas
Inglés

More Homework Help @ the library

In addition to the on-line tutors at www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/tutor, the Rochester Public Library also offers a homework assistance study table.

Meeting Room B on Second Floor from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year. 📖

Game Night @ the Library



Last July, the library hosted two game nights for area youth. Guitar Heros, Wii athletes, and Dance, Dance Revolutionaries came to dance and play the evening away and enjoy munchies galore.



If you missed these fun-filled evenings, don't despair, there are more game nights brewing for the future. Keep checking the online events calendar (www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/events) or watch for posters for future dates. 📖



Library News Bulletin

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