



Construction work around the library didn't keep people away this summer. Learn more on page 2.

LIBRARY TEAMS WITH WILDER RESEARCH TO PLAN FOR FUTURE

Three years after a proposal to expand Rochester Public Library's (RPL) downtown building did not advance, library board members are moving forward with plans to develop a new strategic plan and building program.

Board members voted in July to team up with Wilder Research for the project, which will include extensive community engagement work.

"The library's last strategic plan included strong community input which led to innovative programs and services that were recognized nationally," says Library Director Audrey Betcher, citing the National Medal for Library Service that was awarded to RPL in 2018.

Antinea Ascione, Committee Chair for the Library Board's Planning Committee, says the new process is meant to provide an even greater opportunity for community input. "Hearing directly from community

members who live and work in Rochester is critical to determining a strategic direction that responds to community needs," says Ascione, adding, "Wilder Research brings the expertise and experience needed to bring more voices to the table, which creates a more comprehensive strategic plan."

In addition to working on a new strategic plan, the board also approved updating the library's building program which focuses on future space planning. "The last building program document was finalized years ago and is now out of date," explains Betcher. "We know our current building does not adequately meet the needs of our community."

Library Board President Stephanie Saathoff says the timeline for both documents is short, especially since city officials are searching for creative ways to fund a variety of civic projects

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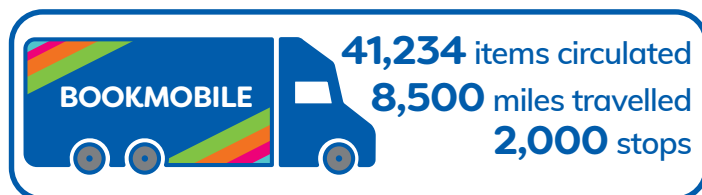
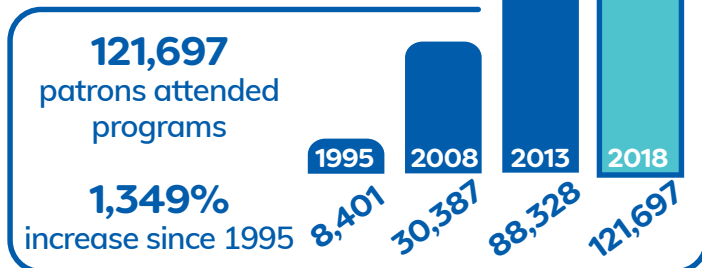


491,452
library visits

2018 LIBRARY STATISTICS



64,244 people have
a library card



41,234 items circulated
8,500 miles travelled
2,000 stops



48 new
Americans
sworn in at library's
1st Naturalization
Ceremony



1.82 million
items circulated

549,523
items in the
collection
(physical & electronic)



HIGHEST CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ATTENDANCE*



BUSIEST BOOKMOBILE IN MN BASED ON CIRCULATION*



BUSIEST LIBRARY OUTLET BASED ON CIRCULATION*

* Based on 2017
MN Public Library state report

"Library Teams with Wilder Research to Plan for Future" (continued from cover)

in Rochester. According to Saathoff, "The board is committed to working alongside the city council to find the best solution for the library's space needs."

The city's strategic priorities include addressing the library's space needs, and library board members continue to reiterate that "all options are on the table" when it comes to the future of the library.

"We have a lot of work to do before making any decisions on how to address space needs," says Saathoff. "Having a new strategic plan and building program are two important first steps in the decision-making process."

Work with Wilder Research will run through early 2020.



LIBRARY WELCOMES THOUSANDS, DESPITE ONGOING CONSTRUCTION

A busy construction season and closed parking ramp weren't enough to deter visits to Rochester Public Library this summer.

"We expected to see a downturn in visits to the downtown location and an uptick in visitors to the Bookmobile," says Kim Edson, Head of Readers Services.

Recent data shows otherwise: while Bookmobile visits did, in fact, increase, visits to the library remained relatively steady compared to last summer.

"The popular Summer Playlist program, the Seed Library, bike lending, and other well-used resources continued to draw in visitors," says Edson.



“INVITE-A-FRIEND” CONTEST

Rochester Public Library is inviting community members to share their RPL cardholder benefits with others as part of a contest this fall. Through October 31, 2019, anyone who uses a RPL card or registers for a new card is eligible to win a \$250 Visa gift card for themselves and one to share with a friend.

The contest coincides with National Library Card Signup Month (September) and the Back-to-School season.

RPL's Head of Marketing and Community Engagement, Karen Lemke, says the contest aims to capitalize on the power of word-of-mouth marketing in Rochester. “Community members are great at sharing their thoughts and suggestions about resources and activities available in Rochester. Our regular survey data consistently points to the power of referrals from friends and family when it comes to learning more about the library.”

For more information about the contest, visit rplmn.org/invite.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Have you finished reading a great book only to realize it's a series and our library doesn't own the next one? Or loved a particular recording artist but found little by that musician here? Interlibrary Loan (ILL) can help you out! We receive over 1,000 items every month for our library patrons. If we don't own it and it's not a newly published item, you may be able to get it through MNLINK, Minnesota's interlibrary loan system. We can request books, DVDs, CDs, photocopies, magazines, and more! (See rplmn.org/ill for specific restrictions.)

Interlibrary loan is a service RPL provides to patrons for free. You can place your own requests using MNLINK.org, or we can do it for you. There's a link on the RPL website, but it's a separate site available to everyone. Staff at the Fiction, Movies, and Music desk or the Reference desk are happy to show you how to use it. If you can't find the specific thing you want in MNLINK, ILL staff can look all over the United States using the OCLC system. Our library has access to resources nationwide!



Cecily (left) and Christine process hundreds of ILL items each week.



RPL FOUNDATION HAS AN ACTIVE FACEBOOK PAGE

If you enjoy Facebook, please like our page and select “see first” under the Follow tab, so you don’t miss our posts. Promise: We won’t post too often! You will see updates on our events and library information. Drop us a line to let us know what you would like to see!



MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RPL FOUNDATION, BRENDA KARDOCK

Q: Are you from the area?

A: I grew up on a farm in Lake City and graduated from Lincoln High. My dad worked here in Rochester at IBM. I escaped farm chores by reading books as much as I could, but learned to find time to do both, as there were consequences for not getting your work done!

Q: What kind of work did you do before you became Executive Director of the Library Foundation?

A: I’ve had a LOT of jobs! I started as a babysitter and a farm hand for my neighbors, before becoming a waitress at a little Italian place in Lake City, where we made our own salad dressing. Professionally, I worked at some of the major motion picture studios in Los Angeles. I started out as a page, giving tours and seating audiences for TV shows at Paramount Pictures in Hollywood, and worked my way up to an assistant for lot operations. I was a promo producer for the Christian TV Station in the Twin Cities, Jeopardy!, Game Show Network, the TV Station owned by the Los Angeles Unified School District, and ended up as a DVD editor for Warner

Bros. Home Video. Most recently, I worked as an Account Executive here in town at KTTC TV.

Q: What is your vision for the future of the Foundation?

A: The Library is doing amazing things: The 2018 National Medal speaks volumes to what has been accomplished! I see building the Foundation so that we can keep up with funding areas that have extraordinary waiting lists and Pilot Programs that are high priorities, but aren’t getting the budget. We want to help the Library keep the stellar reputation of providing excellent service, programs and resources so that we can improve service

to every quadrant of our community. My goal is not to blaze in and make changes, but rather to take stock of where we can help and improve, while being a model steward of the funds that are entrusted to us.

Q: Why did you want this job?

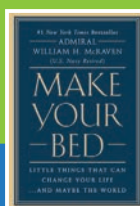
A: I have always loved libraries because truly, anything is possible at the library. You can educate yourself on any subject or get help finding information on any topic from one of the helpful librarians. You can experience another country or plan for real life travels simply by reading a book! You can connect with friends, colleagues or professors, across the nation or overseas, in

real time via computer video chats, or with locals by attending wonderful programs like PostSecret Live. You can convert slides or VHS movies to digital formats FOR FREE here at the library. You can even borrow a Hot Spot and Chrome Book to use in your own home. I am sincerely amazed at all you can do at and through our library, and I love that EVERYONE has access to EVERYTHING. I am so grateful to be able to do my part to ensure the future of these services for our community and those who visit Rochester.

WHAT OUR COMMUNITY IS READING



TOM OVERLIE
KTTC
"The Martian"
by Andy Weir



TONY BENSON
RPU
"Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life...And Maybe the World"
by Adml. William H. McRaven



DELIA CLARK
Gwaltney Group
of RE/MAX
Results
"The Hate You Give"
by Angie Thomas



RUDY NAUL
Country Financial
"Soup"
by Jon Gordon



MAYOR KIM NORTON
City of Rochester, Minnesota
"A Gentleman In Moscow"
by Amor Towles

GIVE TO THE MAX DAY 2019 IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Last year your Give to the Max donations provided \$1,925 for the library. We will send out a reminder email closer to the big day, along with a link so that it is easy for you to participate if you wish. Every year, Give MN has some great matching opportunities so we will let you know how you can maximize your gift!



THANK YOU!

We are so fortunate to have such wonderful donors at RPLF. Your support is greatly appreciated. Here's how your money was used over the past year:

- Provided new materials to add to the library's collection
- Supported marketing and advertising activities to promote the library's resources
- Funded the popular Hot Spot program, providing access to wifi hotspots
- Purchased equipment for the Convert-O-Lab, a dedicated space for converting prints, slides, films, and other memories into a digital format
- Provided a charging station for library customers to recharge devices



DONORS MAY 1 - AUGUST 15, 2019

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lyle & Zoe Abrahamson | Ms. Kathleen Eppard | Marie-France Letendre | Nicholas & Kate Remmes | Ms. Dy Sin Teng |
| George & Dorothy Allen | Dave & Carol Foley | Mr. & Mrs. M. William Lower | Ron & Louise Rossi | Dr. Del & Edith Thurber |
| John & Patty Atkinson | Charlie & Iris Fried | Mr. & Mrs. Peter Maercklein | Mr. Michael Russell | Fred & Ramona Trachsel |
| Audrey Betcher | Greg Gaspar | Alexander Marquis | Richard & Beverly Sanders | Bill & Kathy Tremaine |
| Madelyn Betcher | Ms. Kris Geerdes | David & Kathleen Meir | Andrea Schmidt | Jan Ulrich |
| Mary Jo Beyerle | John & Sonia Gisvold | Joe & Arleeta Messick | Connie & David Schuelka | Carolyn Wall |
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| Community Education | Ms. Cindy Johnson | William & Heidi Oehler | Marti & Denny Steffen | Diane Wroblewski |
| Marilyn Crawford | Curt & Carol Johnson | Ifte Rana | Dr. & Mrs. Harry Swedlund | |
| Ms. Chris Cross | David & Carole Joyce | | Joseph & Cecelia Szurszewski | |
| Susanne Todd Daood | Patrick & Lori Keane | | | |
| Justin & Emily Davis | Kimberly Keilholtz | | | |
| Elissa Elliott | Tomoko Kokmen | | | |
| | Doug & Dotty Leimer | | | |
| | Lemke Pest Control | | | |



National Medal for Museum and Library Service
 Only National Medal winner from Minnesota in 2018

\$208,990 donated by RPL Friends & Foundation to support library programs and services

\$119,326 in grants awarded to the library

DONORS MAY 1 - AUGUST 15, 2019 CONTINUED

IN MEMORY

Rosemary Bradshaw
In memory of Anne Schoonover

Ms. Marilyn Campbell
In memory of Joe McGlinch

Judith Funk
In memory of Dean Funk

Ms. Charlotte Heyn
In memory of Dale Heyn

Harriet Hodgson
In memory of Helen Hodgson Welby

Jim & Peggy McEvoy
In memory of Jim McEvoy

Ms. Elva L. McFarlin
In memory of Robert F. McFarlin

Neighborhood Book Club
In memory of the father of Nirmala Kotagal

Mrs. Marlys E. Peterson
In memory of John V. Peterson

Stephanie J. Podulke
In memory of Mike Podulke

Donna Shanahan
In memory of Dennis Gilgenbach

David Steinbauer
In memory of Marj Steinbauer

Steven & Susan Thalacker
In memory of Drew Hagquist

Sandy Tschida
In memory of Tony Tschida, Sr.

Dr. & Mrs. Worthington
In memory of JoAnn Bianco

IN HONOR

Sandra Atkinson
In honor of Joan Atkinson

Jane & Mary Campion
In honor of the library staff

Jagadish & Roswitha Desai
In honor of Asha & Michael

Nancy Haworth Dingel
In honor of S. Barkhardt

Alan & Judy Hoffman
In honor of Rabbi David Freedman

Nancy Larson
In honor of Mason Kennedy

IN CELEBRATION

Erin Frazee
In Celebration of Ms. Eloise Leung's first birthday

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020

6:30-10PM | Rochester Public Library

LAUGH, LEARN & SIP
 WHILE SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY



Rochester Public Library FOUNDATION

Early Bird Registration: \$85
 \$95 after January 15
rplmn.org/wit



ROCHESTERFEST BOOK SALE SETS RECORD

Even with closed streets, detours, and construction, the Friends' Rochesterfest Book Sale (June 24-27) once again broke records on profits made for the Rochester Public Library. This success is due to generous donors and diligent volunteers. Volunteers sort through our thousands of weekly donations, check prices online, determine if the item should go to the bookstore or the auditorium sale, pack up each genre for set-up on the day of the sale, prepare the auditorium for the sale, and display the items in the most appealing ways. Then we have four days of selling, which includes helping customers find particular books and moving books from under the tables to on the tables for easier browsing. It is always a fun and exhausting endeavor. This year's net profit was \$10,400. This money will go toward library programming and



purchases that could not be covered by the library's budget.

The Friends' Bookstore has recently become a more active partner with the Downtown Alliance. With 80 and 90 degree temperatures and high humidity, the Downtown Sidewalk Sale was held inside the Rochester Public Library (July 15-19). Patrons soon learned we don't just sell books at the Friends' Bookstore, but books on CDs, art prints, dolls, games, puzzles, office supplies and journals. Although the sidewalk sale had to close down a day early (due to a busy children's program), the Sidewalk Sale still brought in \$2,400 over four days.

AUTUMN BOOK SALE

Thursday, October 10
Friends' Preview Sale, 5-7PM. Preview sale is for members only. You may join at the door.

Friday & Saturday, October 11 & 12
Public Sale, 9:30AM-5PM

Sunday, October 13
Public Sale, 1:30-4PM



POSTSECRET

PostSecret founder Frank Warren made it to Rochester at the end of July, sharing his unique story of collecting secrets from all over the world. The anonymous secrets are shared on his blog, allowing people the freedom to share what he says are two types of secrets: "The ones we keep from others, and the ones we hide from ourselves."

At the end of Frank's presentation, audience members were invited to share their own secrets. Said one attendee, "The audience felt like family when I left."



Rochester Public Library

101 Second Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904
www.rplmn.org

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NERF NIGHTS DELIGHT ADULTS OF ALL AGES

A new activity offered at Rochester Public Library is welcoming adults of all ages: Nerf Nights.

The monthly event, open to anyone 18 and older, launched this summer. Librarian Allison Girres says she was inspired by other libraries across the nation, that offer similar activities. "In talking with other libraries, I found that events like these allow people a chance to come together at the library in a novel way: doing something fun, active, and new," explains Girres.

Participants attend the events after the library closes and play different games

using Nerf Blasters. "Most people bring their own, but we have a few to borrow and additional Nerf ammunition to use," says Girres.

Attendees range in age from what Girres calls "very new adults to adults with more experience."

Nerf Nights are held on the last Friday of the month (except November, which will be held a week earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday).

For more information about this event or other programs, visit our online calendar at rplmn.org.

LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

9:30AM - 9:00PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

9:30AM - 5:30PM

SUNDAY

1:30 - 5:30PM

507.328.2300 | www.rplmn.org

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FIND US ONLINE

