



Summer Playlist: There Is No Such Thing as Lazy

Summer Playlist, Rochester Public Library's all-ages reading and adventure program, is back for the 7th year! This year's program encourages community members to take some time for themselves by relaxing and finding joy. Feeling a little tired? Take a nap! Uninspired? Take a curiosity walk! And, of course, participants can count reading, watching, and listening to library materials towards their Playlist goals too.

Since the program launched in 2017, over 19,000 participants have enjoyed reading or setting their own summertime goals for playing, learning, and connecting. Each year participants completing the program receive a bag. You've probably seen these bags all over town – at the Farmer's Market, in bicycle baskets, and out in the parks. This year's orange-handled bag is

the most vibrant yet, and long-time participants will want to add one to their collection.

For the second year a community art book will be created with completed Summer Playlist logs. The 2022 large-format, full-color book is on display in Youth Services. Visitors enjoy perusing it in search of their own entries as well as those of friends and neighbors.

If you are looking for permission to read more, lay in a hammock all day, explore library resources like Creativebug or Mango Languages, or leave the dishes to soak overnight, then start your Summer Playlist today! Logs are available in six languages at the Library or Bookmobile and can be downloaded online at rplmn.org/playlist.



In This Issue



Have you checked out the new BookBox yet?
Page 3



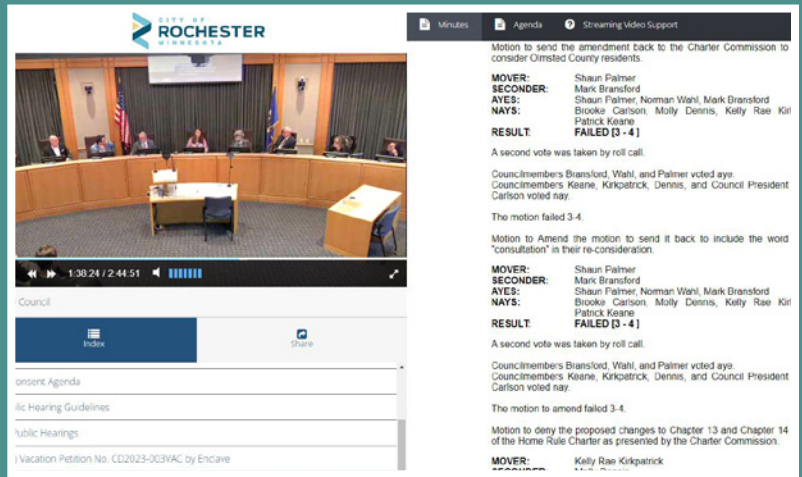
Friends Announce Scholarship Winner
Page 6



Library Board Passes Pride Month Resolution
Back Cover

Charter Commission Update

On May 1, 2023, City Council voted 5-2 to not move forward with a recommendation from the Charter Commission to change the reporting structure of the Library Director. To learn more about the process and decision, be sure to watch the City Council meeting from Monday, May 1st on the city website at rochestermn.gov/meetings/council-meetings.



The screenshot shows the 'Boards & Commissions' page on the City of Rochester website. The page includes contact information for the City of Rochester (201 4th Street SE, Room 281, City Hall, Rochester, MN 55904) and the Mayor, Kim Norton. It also features a 'Schedule, Agendas & Minutes' section with a table of upcoming meetings:

Committee	Date	Time
Planning & Zoning Commission	June 14, 2023	06:00 PM
Police Civil Service Commission	June 15, 2023	03:00 PM
Police Policy Oversight Commission	June 20, 2023	01:00 PM
Library Board	June 21, 2023	04:30 PM
Board of Appeals	June 21, 2023	05:00 PM

Looking for Library Board Meetings and Agendas?

As a part of a system upgrade making City Council and Board Meetings easier to watch and review, you can now find Library Board meetings, agendas, and minutes on the new centralized city web page.

Visit Boards & Commissions for all upcoming city board and commission meetings at rochestermn.gov/government/boards-commissions.

Also, be sure to sign up for Agenda Updates using the button at the top if you're interested in subscribing to email updates about meetings.



Letter from the Director

Our 2023 summer season is brimming with excitement and energy, as more and more customers are returning to the library. After ending 2022 with our highest collection use ever, we are seeing that trend continue for 2023 and are grateful for the help provided by our two supporting organizations.

In the first four months of 2023, Rochester Public Library saw a 16% jump in visitors over the same time last year. Youth visitors and their families are borrowing more physical books than they did pre-pandemic, with 13% more juvenile books borrowed this year compared to the same time period in 2019. And our digital users are increasing their usage of our popular OverDrive (Libby app) service, with significant increases in borrowing for youth and adults. OverDrive/Libby borrowing is up 89% for juvenile titles and 62% for adult titles the first four

months of the year, compared to the same time period in 2019.

All this activity and demand is creating longer wait times for our more popular titles on OverDrive/Libby. Each year, the Rochester Public Library Foundation provides funding to supplement our materials budget, which helps reduce wait times and increases access.

Our robust database collection is also getting more attention, with customer usage higher than in 2019. Overall, electronic retrievals from these digital resources are up 40% compared to usage in 2019. Popular databases include LinkedIn Learning, Creativebug, and Mango languages.

The Friends of the Rochester Public Library donate money to support our database collection, which allows us to have a more robust selection for library users.

As we head into the summer months, we say, "Thank you!" Friends and Foundation, for your support of the library!



Have you checked out the new BookBox yet?

After a successful RPL Foundation ribbon-cutting event, the BookBox is awaiting your arrival to check out its exclusive collection. You'll find a variety of DVDs, adult, and children's books. We hope you stop by Fire Station #4 (1875 41st St NW) to check out this new technology and give it a try. All BookBox materials should be returned to the BookBox, which means you'll find different materials available all the time – even some hard-to-find books that have waiting

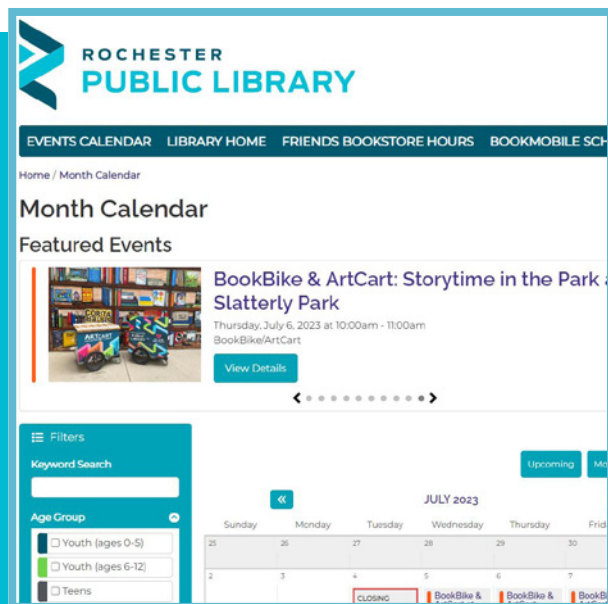


lists at the downtown library. So be sure to check out the BookBox today – you might even find special gifts like branded merchandise, special bookmarks, or even BookBox stickers for you to enjoy! For more information visit rplmn.org/bookbox.

How do I find out about Library Events? Check out our calendar!

Did you know that we currently have a listing of all the events going on at the library right at your fingertips? Our online calendar is the place to go to find out about our regular events (like book clubs and storytimes) and our fun programming opportunities like Raptors Live with U of M Raptor Center or Paint Like Alma Thomas. You can use the left-hand menu to filter out events and even use the print feature if you want to hang a reminder of events on your refrigerator. Just visit rplmn.org/calendar to see what is planned at the library today!

Pro tip: you can also click on an event and select the “remind me” button to get an email reminder 24 hours before the event.





ROCHESTER
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

Donate to the Library Foundation

YOUR dollars allow us to help develop the award-winning programs, technology, and services that our community has come to depend upon.

www.rplmn.org/donate



Letter from the Foundation Director

Your thoughtful donations have been arriving in our office, celebrating the people you care about! Commemorating the joyous milestones of your loved ones' lives is a special honor to our Foundation team. Whether it is an anniversary, birthday, memorial, or a tribute to someone dear to

your heart, each is handled with care.

We've also received touching notes and donations expressing appreciation for our exceptional library staff. It is their unwavering commitment to assisting others that fuels our mission every single day and I know it brings them joy to hear of your support.

Among our patrons, there is a special individual who has consistently sent gifts, celebrating the significant people in her life. It has been a privilege learning more about her book club, friends, and beloved family. Today, I was touched by a heartfelt gift made

in memory of a couple's parents. It reminded me of my own father, who instilled in me and my sister a shared love for books and reading. Inspired, and thinking of his upcoming birthday, I made a gift to honor my father's memory as well.

It warms my heart when I write to thank you for your kind and thoughtful acts. Your gestures hold immense meaning for those who receive a note informing them of a gift made in their name or in memory of someone they dearly miss. It is a testament to the love and thoughtfulness that exists within our community. Each contribution has a lasting impact, shaping a brighter future for our library and everyone it serves. I am profoundly grateful for your unwavering support and look forward to celebrating many more special occasions with you in the years to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Brenda Kardock

Rochester Public Library Foundation,
Executive Director

Donors February 1 to May 31, 2023

Alpha Delta Kappa

Susan Ahlquist

George & Dorothy Allen

Altra Federal Credit Union

Mary A. Amundsen

Lenora Anderson

Richard & Renee Anderson-Pavek

John & Patty Atkinson

Dolores Badger

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Robert & Sandra Lorenz

M. William & Julie Lower

Donna Lun

James & Kathleen McMullin

Joe & Arleeta Messick

Robert & Ruth Ann Miles

Donors February 1 to May 31, 2023 *continued...*

Jillanne Millard	Nick & Heather Rhodes	James & Judith Sloan		
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Kurt & Phyllis Pinnow		John & Patty Trnka		
William & Renee Putnam				
William M. Reilly				



In Memory

Gwen Riggin <i>in memory of Alexander C. Hall</i>	Nathan & Katherine Holtegaard <i>in memory of Anne Marian Judisch</i>	Roberta Otto <i>in memory of Donald Clemens</i>	Carol Smyrk <i>in memory of Marjorie Berryman</i>
Ms. Carolyn McDonald <i>in memory of Alvina Schmeling</i>	Don & Stephanie Supalla <i>in memory of Bob & Betty Supalla</i>	Glenn & Cynthia Heins <i>in memory of Doris Heins</i>	Brenda Kardock <i>in memory of My Dad, Joe, who inspired me to read!</i>
Margaret Dalen <i>in memory of Anita Thomas</i>	Harriet Hodgson <i>in memory of C. John Hodgson, MD, MPH</i>	Kathleen Dale <i>in memory of Jean Schaefer</i>	Irvin & Maureen Plitzuweit <i>in memory of Ron Meline</i>
		Doug Sween <i>in memory of Joan Sween</i>	Brenda Kardock <i>in memory of Sharon Kubitz</i>

In Honor

Gwen Riggin <i>in honor of Ann Hesley</i>	Wayne & Mary Alice Richardson <i>in honor of Margaret Carpenter</i>
Lois Brekke <i>in honor of Homebound volunteers</i>	Gwen Riggin <i>in honor of Margaret Petersen</i>
Beth Heim de Bera <i>in honor of Isaac & Vanessa Bera</i>	Phil & Sue Wheeler <i>in honor of Paula Horner & Pete Edl</i>
Dudley & Peg Parsons <i>in honor of Jeremiah Baumann</i>	Gerard & Carolyn Goulet <i>in honor of our Grandchildren, Austin and Leah Willis, whose love of reading is supported and continually enhanced by their weekly visits to experience the wonderful educational benefits the Rochester Public Library provides.</i>
Brad & Terry Narr <i>in honor of Jeremiah Baumann</i>	
David & Beverly Lewis <i>in honor of Jeremiah Baumann</i>	
Ken & Marylynn Aalderks <i>in honor of Jeremiah Baumann</i>	
Paul & Shelley Steger <i>in honor of Jeremiah Baumann</i>	

Susan Nissen <i>in memory of Malcolm McPhee, MD</i>
Gwen Riggin <i>in memory of Margaret Buswell Nelson on her 103rd birthday</i>

In Appreciation

Carolyn Wall <i>in appreciation of Bookmobile Staff</i>	Barbara Westmoreland <i>in appreciation of Library Staff</i>
Kimberly Edson & Angela Joyce <i>in appreciation of Brenda Kardock</i>	Philip & Joanne Swenson <i>in appreciation of our parents</i>
Ms. Lisa A Lundquist <i>in appreciation of Library Staff</i>	League of Women Voters <i>in appreciation of RPL staff who made candidate forums successful</i>

Celebration

Erin Frazee <i>in celebration of Dillon Landgraf's First Birthday</i>	Rhonda Miller <i>in celebration of Nick's 37th birthday</i>
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FRIENDS OF THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friends Book Store Hours

Monday - Thursday
11AM-6PM

Friday & Saturday
11AM-2PM

New inventory daily!

Watch our Facebook page for pop-up sales and other great deals!

www.facebook.com/FriendRochPubLibrary

Friends Announce Scholarship Winner

This year's recipient of the Friends of the Rochester Public Library scholarship for a library staff member is Jacob Finke. His essay highlighted his dedication to the library, his learning journey, and what he has taken away from working at the library. Jacob's first love is music, but he was not able to find a job in the field, even with an advanced degree.

He started at the library in November 2020 to help pay the bills, covering the early morning custodial shift. He was impressed by the staff's commitment to going above and beyond as well as their incredible kindness and friendliness, even to a "mere part-time custodian - probably the lowest man on the proverbial totem pole."

Through Jacob's work with the full-time maintenance staff at the library, he was encouraged to pursue a career in building maintenance at RCTC's Facilities and Service Technology (FAST) program, which is a top-ranked program in Minnesota. "It is because of the high quality of work I've witnessed at RPL that I am inspired to have a career that allows me to maintain a clean, organized, well-oiled (literally and figuratively) public building."



He pointed out that the work environment that he has experienced in the library will be an example to him on how to treat co-workers and how to serve the community with excellence and kindness. He acknowledged, "The scholarship will be a big help for my family and me. It is greatly appreciated."

Val Kaliszewski, President of the Friends Board, responded, "This scholarship program is a way to recognize an individual's contribution to ensuring the library continues to be the cherished institution that is celebrated by our community, as well as support their long-term career goals. We are proud to support Jacob's ongoing education!"

Successful Games and More Sale

This past April, the bookstore made almost a week's worth of sales in just one day at the incredibly successful Games & More Lobby Sale, earning a whopping \$1400! Thank you to the community for supporting our library through both donating and shopping. We take gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and video games, as well as jigsaw puzzles and board games in good condition with no missing pieces. See our website www.rplmn.org/friends for drop-off locations at the library.



Curiosity Emporium in the Auditorium

The main focus of Friends is to process donated books and a few other non-book items, but we have recently received quite a few unique and unusual collections and collectibles. These are very difficult to sell through our normal bookselling channels and we are running out of storage space. Mark your calendar to shop at the "Curiosity Emporium in the Auditorium" on Saturday, August 5, 10AM - 4:00PM. Inventory examples will be posted on Facebook as we get closer to this extraordinary event.

www.facebook.com/FriendRochPubLibrary

Open
WEEKENDS!
10AM to 6PM



FREE WEEKEND PARKING
for you and your car!



ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Enjoy the Bookmobile this Summer

Be sure to check out the new summer schedule for the Bookmobile. We've added new stops and you can also find us at all the ForWARD concert events put on by Civic Music.

Looking for something extra fun to do? We also have Summer Playlist activities planned at multiple stops all summer long, so be sure to check out our calendar for more information.

You can find the updated summer schedule at rplmn.org/bookmobile.





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Library Board Passes Pride Month Resolution

As the LGBTQIA+ community continues to face ongoing attacks on their basic human rights, the Rochester Public Library (RPL) Board of Trustees adopted a resolution on pride month and the library condemning censorship and book banning in all forms.

“The Board has an unwavering commitment to upholding the library’s values and supporting the mission in welcoming all members of the community,” says Library Board President Adam Meyers, adding, “It is important to support the library in having representation that reflects everyone in our community while protecting intellectual freedom for all.”

The resolution supports the library’s mission: welcoming all to connect and learn. With a rise in coordinated censorship tactics focused on LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questions, intersex, asexual/aromantic, plus) materials seen across the nation, the board confirmed that it condemns censorship and book banning in all forms and upholds the library’s values including the “respect for intellectual freedom” and “access for all.”

“We’re extremely proud to have a library board that is so committed to ensuring our community’s access to materials and establishing a welcoming environment for all,” says RPL Director Karen Lemke. “This resolution reinforces that commitment and demonstrates that the library continues to be a long-standing supporter of the LGBTQIA+ community.”

The Pride Month Resolution in full can be found at
rplmn.org/about-us/about-rpl/library-board

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday
10AM-8PM

Friday - Sunday
10AM-6PM

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