



## A Look Inside the BookBox – 6 Months into the Pilot

Have you heard about our BookBox? If you've come to the library, visited our table at a community event, or opened our emails and newsletters, you've probably been reminded about our BookBox pilot over the past year. We've clearly been excited about this experiment in hopes of better serving the community and trying out something new.

After the official ribbon-cutting ceremony back in April, we worked out a plan to help spread the word about the BookBox and the value that it brings to the surrounding area. To help educate about the new technology, our amazing designer Nicole built a mini version of the BookBox that we were able to display at community events. It helped us showcase this new technology

and was always stuffed full of fun giveaways and stickers. The BookBox was also an official location to pick up the 2023 Summer Playlist this year, as we hoped this additional location would make it even easier for people to participate who lived further away from the downtown library location.

To help inform the non-library community about our Bookbox, the Library partnered with OrangeBoy (our current informational email provider) to develop a campaign focused on households in the neighborhoods around the BookBox. To do this, we sent out postcards to non-library users and emails to

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# New Community Corner, Seed Library, and More!

If you've been to the second floor of the library recently, you might have noticed some major changes! The temporary wall has come down on the west side of the building, a new community corner has been constructed to house all our local community materials, the Seed Library has moved, and we've upgraded our microfilm machines. There are even some empty table space set aside for a future project that you have all been asking to return – the Convert-O-Lab! Be sure to swing up to the second floor the next time you are in the library to check out these new spaces and enjoy our upgrades, as we continue to transform our second floor space! If you'd like to be added to the Convert-o-Lab email notification list when this service is re-launched, please send an email to [reference@rplmn.org](mailto:reference@rplmn.org)

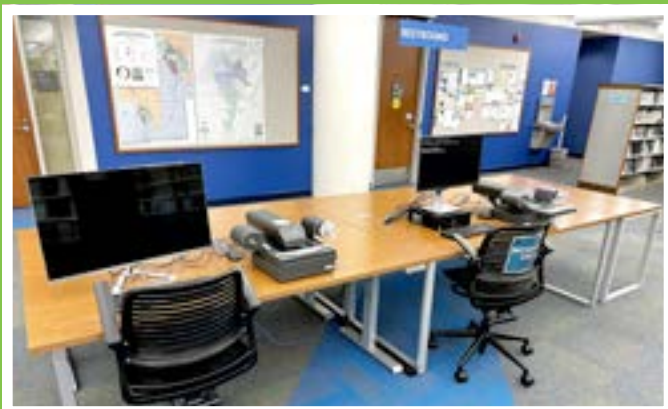


*"A Look Inside the Bookbox" continued from page 1.*

current library users, which included a survey looking for feedback on access to library materials.

This campaign, which ran from March through June, resulted in 202 BookBox users, 730 checkouts, 871 library card signups, and 95 survey responses. From the survey data we collected, we saw a +20% jump of respondents who answered, "strongly agree" to the question, "It is easy for me to check out books or DVDs from the Library" when asked after the launch of the BookBox. We also saw a 61.54% answer of "strongly agree" to the question, "I used the BookBox and/or plan on using the BookBox in the future."

Overall, the Library is excited to continue with the BookBox pilot, knowing that it has provided service to residents who might struggle to make it downtown to the library. So if you haven't visited the BookBox yet – make sure you stop by Fire Station #4 (1875 41st St NW) and check it out, 7 days a week from 8am-10pm. We've even put a special BookBox sticker inside for you to enjoy. For more information about the BookBox visit: [rplmn.org/bookbox](http://rplmn.org/bookbox)



## Seed Library Call For Seeds

Please help us keep the Seed Library a sustainable program by donating seeds from your garden this year. We are looking for open-pollinated vegetable, fruit, and herb seeds that have been cleaned, dried, and labeled to add to the Seed Library collection for 2024. Native flower seeds are welcome too! Donations can be dropped off at the 1st Floor Public Service Desk until November 15th. More information about how to save seeds and donate can be found at [rplmn.org/seed](http://rplmn.org/seed)



## Letter from the Director

Over fifty years ago, Rochester Public Library began offering bookmobile service in Olmsted County. The idea for offering this service began even earlier, with Library Director Lucille Gottrey setting a vision for a new way to

reach community members.

Over twenty-five years ago, the current location of the library opened, with a beautiful building intended to meet the needs of a growing community. The idea for that project also started years prior, with library and city leadership creating a new space to welcome community members.

In the early 2000s, the library began offering a new type of service: digital books. RPL was an early adopter of this technology, becoming the first in the state to offer OverDrive titles to the community. Library teammates understood the value of providing access in a new way.

All of these library milestones have similar stories: something new that can significantly change the way services are delivered to Rochester.

In the current City of Rochester budget, the RPL Board of Trustees is requesting funding for a comprehensive



study to determine the best way to keep delivering services to the community. For more than twenty years, the library has struggled with limited space for collections, gatherings, and other library uses. Large library events pack into an undersized auditorium space, students hoping for study space are often turned away, and the size of physical collections are limited due to a lack of adequate shelving space.

The study is meant to provide the Library Board, City Council, and the community with a road map for how library services should be delivered in the future.

Without the visionary planning and advocacy of prior community members and library leaders, Rochester would not have the state's busiest bookmobile, a thriving downtown library, or one of the best digital collections.

For more information about the library's ongoing space challenges, visit

[www.rplmn.org/about-us/about-rpl/history](http://www.rplmn.org/about-us/about-rpl/history)



## Summer Playlist Success

How did you relax, explore, find joy, create, and read this past summer? We want to thank the 1600 people who shared their answers by completing the 2023 Summer Playlist. We are currently turning the Summer Playlist logs into a printed book for all to see. Have you stopped by Youth Services to see the book from 2022? Be sure to check it out while we wait for the 2023 book to be completed!





ROCHESTER  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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## 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](http://www.rplmn.org/donate)



## Letter from the Foundation Director

"I love the library!", "I lived at the library during graduate school weeknights with my kids. We all did homework!", "I couldn't have successfully landed my job without the library!", "You all do such a great job!", "Thank you!"

These are some of the wonderful comments we receive when people make gifts or see us at events. It's amazing to be a part of a community that values and gives back, to ensure our library continues to serve our community, especially those who may be struggling... thank YOU from the Rochester Public Library Foundation!!

**Brenda Kardock**  
Rochester Public Library Foundation,  
Executive Director

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23-28**

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Nancy Brubaker	Barbara Westmoreland	Martha McClees	
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## In Memory

Paulette & Mike Zenner <i>in memory of Amanda S. Carlson</i>	Jade Morgan Jeong <i>in memory of Judith Anne Riley</i>
Pat & Dave Siljeborg <i>in memory of Clarice Agnes Erredge</i>	May's Book Club <i>in memory of May Jesseph</i>
Anonymous <i>in memory of Connie Kardock Kemp &amp; Joe Kardock</i>	Stephanie Podulke & Jim Frost <i>in memory of Mike Podulke</i>
Wanda Hagquist <i>in memory of Drew</i>	Barbara Henoch <i>in memory of Phil Henoch</i>
Pat & Dave Siljeborg <i>in memory of George &amp; Betty Beech</i>	Richard & Donna Brown <i>in memory of Raleigh Obenchain</i>
Curt & Jean Mortenson <i>in memory of Jerry Fakler</i>	Stephen & Marilyn Riederer <i>in memory of William L. Nichols, Jr.</i>
Doug Sween <i>in memory of Joan Sween</i>	

## In Honor


Gwen Riggan <i>in honor of Carole Kinion Copeland</i>	Lois Brekke <i>in honor of RPL volunteers</i>
Conrad Thiede <i>in honor of Craig Wruck</i>	Laura Helle & Matt Stobaugh <i>in honor of Walter Stobaugh</i>
Gwen Riggan <i>in honor of Denise Swinbank</i>	Steven & Susan Thalacker <i>in honor of Wanda Hagquist</i>

## Celebration

Jake Hagen-Erickson <i>in celebration of learning &amp; education</i>	Brenda Kardock <i>in celebration of Marie Maher's 80th Birthday</i>
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## Appreciation

Alan & Judy Hoffman *in appreciation of RPL!*



**GIVE TO THE MAX DAY 2023**  
Minnesota's day of giving celebrates 15 years this November. Please celebrate with a gift to your Rochester Public Library Foundation or reach out to find out how to set up a personal fundraising page. (If you've donated through GiveMN in the past, you've helped raise more than a quarter of a billion dollars for Minnesota nonprofits since 2009!!!)



Thank you to our Summer Sprouts sponsors for supporting summer literacy, programs, technology, and materials through the Foundation at the library.

SUMMER SPROUTS

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**FRIENDS OF THE  
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PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## Friends Bookstore 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](http://www.facebook.com/FriendRochPubLibrary)

## Our Library Needs a Friend Like You

The Friends of the Rochester Public Library organization raises funds through two main avenues - used book sales and membership contributions. Every September, we launch our annual membership drive to help set the budget for the upcoming year. Members' support is needed to bolster our mission of strengthening library resources, increasing use of library services, and building community support.

While monetary donations and Friends memberships are very similar avenues to help augment public funding for the library, a membership provides you with extra privileges. Your membership benefits through the end of 2024 include:

- 20% discount on purchases in the Friends Bookstore
- Early admission to most auditorium book sales (5-7PM Thursday night members-only preview sales)
- Mailed copies of the Library Connections newsletter
- Invitation to the fun and informative Annual Meeting

We would like you to be a Friend. Please join us in our mission with your tax-deductible membership contribution. It is easy to purchase or renew.

- Online at [rplmn.org/friends](http://rplmn.org/friends)
- In-person in the Friends Bookstore or at the upcoming Autumn Book Sale October 12-15

Love books and our library? Consider a donation at the Book Lover or Book Reader membership levels! We are grateful for your assistance to provide supplemental funding for various library programs and services, as well as to support literacy activities throughout the community. Our library appreciates a Friend like you!

Sincerely,

Val Kaliszewski  
President, Friends of the Rochester Public Library

## Friends Membership Levels

**Book Collector ..... \$100+**

**Book Lover ..... \$50+**

**Book Reader ..... \$25+**

**Bookworm ..... \$15+**  
*(Full-time Student or Senior age 65+)*

**Book Scholar ..... \$15+**  
*(Teachers)*

## Summer Friends Sales Results

The June Rochesterfest Book Sale was an outstanding success! The Friends of the Library made a net profit of \$7,200, which covered Friends' contributions to the Seed Library and Homebound Books, Group Bags, and Deposit Boxes programs.

The special, one-day-only Curiosity Emporium in the Library Auditorium in early August generated a net profit of \$3,900. This amount will cover Friends' contributions to the annual subscription fee for the Ancestry Library genealogy online resource.

Sign up to receive an email reminder of future sales at [bit.ly/friends-subscribe](http://bit.ly/friends-subscribe).



## We Want You To Join Our Board

Do you want to be involved in your local government? The Rochester City Council seeks volunteers to serve on various City advisory boards, commissions, and committees. This includes the Library Board of Trustees.

Applicants must have a desire to serve their community in a volunteer capacity, be willing to contribute the number of hours necessary for the group to which they are applying and may be required to meet specified residency requirements.

For more information, including current openings, please visit: [rochestermn.gov/government/boards-commissions/current-openings-how-to-apply](http://rochestermn.gov/government/boards-commissions/current-openings-how-to-apply)



## Bookmobile Fall Schedule

Did you know the Bookmobile is now on its Fall route, which includes some new stops? New stops are located at 4203 Mallard Place SE and 909 17 ½ St SE. The Fall stops will be serviced all the way through December 30, 2023. Be sure to visit the Bookmobile webpage to see the up-to-date schedule of the Bookmobile (including any delays/closures/location changes) and download the new Fall Bookmobile Schedule today at [rplmn.org/bookmobile](http://rplmn.org/bookmobile).

# AUTUMN BOOK SALE

## FRIENDS OF THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

### LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

**THURSDAY, October 12<sup>TH</sup> | 5-7PM** *(members only preview)*

*\*Memberships can be renewed or purchased at the door.*

**FRIDAY, October 13<sup>TH</sup> | 10AM-5:30PM**

**SATURDAY, October 14<sup>TH</sup> | 10AM-5:30PM**

**SUNDAY, October 15<sup>TH</sup> | 12-4PM**





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## Join Us for a Rochester Reading Champions Movie Night

The Rochester Reading Champions program is hosting its first event at the Library! According to The Nation's Report Card, in 2022, only 32% of 4th graders in Minnesota were reading at grade-level proficiency. Join us in the auditorium on Saturday, October 7th from 4-6PM, for a screening of The Right to Read film. The actions taken by an activist, a teacher, and two American families as they fight for equitable literacy instruction are highlighted in this film. Our goal is to come together as a community to address this concern for students in Rochester and beyond. For more information about Rochester Reading Champions, visit [rplmn.org/champions](http://rplmn.org/champions).



*"Right to Read Movie Night" funded by Rochester Public Library Foundation Patrons.*

## Library Hours

Monday - Thursday  
10AM-8PM

Friday - Sunday  
10AM-6PM

507-328-2300 | [www.rplmn.org](http://www.rplmn.org)

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## Find Us Online

@RochPubLibrary



**Saturday, January 27th**  
**Rochester Public Library**

Supporting our library with a  
night of Speakers, Spirits &  
Sophisticated Snacks

[rplmn.org/wit](http://rplmn.org/wit)

