

Library Access & Security

It's ironic that in our era of data overload so many of us crave the chance to read something of substance. Circulation of materials at the Rochester Public Library (RPL) has never been higher and the trend only continues upward. Libraries are a wonderful place to satisfy our craving for substance. And that will continue to be so, in spite of those occasional knuckleheads who lose their moral compass and choose to steal stuff from the library. I mean really, what motivates someone to steal something when they are openly encouraged to borrow it for free? I am equally appalled when I hear of people stealing the donation jars from the Friends Books Store!

Unfortunately the issue of dealing with thieving knuckleheads is not a new one. Nor is it something that can easily be remedied by purchasing a new security gizmo. As new and creative formats for delivering content emerge, so too, do new and novel ways to steal stuff. Just think back for a minute and consider what image would have come to your mind 30 years ago if someone had used the phrase "internet piracy". As a result of technological advances the creators and keepers of information, including our public libraries, find themselves dealing with increasingly complex security and information use issues. Just do a quick Google® search for "copyright infringement" or "data theft" and you'll see what I mean. Stealing a book is kids' play compared to some of the more complex issues being grappled with.

Recently the Post Bulletin published a couple of articles about the library's security system. It seems to me that focusing on any particular component of the RPL's security system misses this point. Gates and surveillance cameras are simply today's moats and drawbridges. Though modern electronics have brought advances, the effort to protect resources against theft requires a strategy that is both ongoing and multifaceted. Just as persistent knights in

clunky armor were able to breach the most impenetrable of castle strongholds, so too, will those with the will to swipe a book or DVD from the library. And the hardware is only part of the cost involved. Tags (magnetic strips) must be placed and remain in each item in the collection in order to achieve full system functionality- a fact not lost on many would be thieves. Each tag comes with a cost. Across the nation, public libraries are grappling with guarding collections while at the same time encouraging unfettered access. Rochester is not alone. Public libraries in Ohio, Indiana, Georgia, and across the nation are victimized by theft in their audio visual collections and the unfortunate reality is that magnetic tag systems alone aren't effective in securing these collections. Eventual migration to an RFID based system at RPL has been on the drawing board for some time now, but it will cost time, money, and effort to make the transition. RPL will continue to balance security concerns with the reality that dollars spent for security can't also be spent for improving the collection, programs or operation of the library.

The good news is that the management team and the library board are alert and responsive. As soon as a spike was noticed in DVD theft we responded immediately and openly to secure the collection, well before articles appeared in the PB. The bad news is that the DVD collection has now been locked away from public perusal. The plan is to restore access to the DVD browsing collection in early 2006 by utilizing a brand new library security invention: a vending machine which won't release the DVD without a library card. It is an ongoing challenge for libraries across the nation to find the balance between access and the ongoing need for security, and we at RPL are committed to be well-informed and conscientious as we make difficult choices.

Steven McMaster
President Rochester Public Library Board



From the Director

If you are an audio book fan and have a computer at home, I hope you check out the new downloadable audio books.



The library works hard to meet customer needs, and this need was identified. The library began Overdrive downloadable audio books on July 11th, 2005. We started with a collection of about 250 titles.

We've obviously found an audience. Through the end of September they've been checked out almost 1100 times. Downloadable audio books have been so popular that we are in the process of purchasing another 350 titles.

Not only can you listen to the audios on your computer, you can copy them to an mp3 player or burn them to CDs for listening as well.

Downloadable audio book collection titles can be browsed by going to <http://digital.rochesterpubliclibrary.org>. The titles are also listed in the library's on-line catalog and take full advantage of the catalog's powerful search capabilities.

You can check out 5 titles at a time, and a title checks out for two weeks at a time. At the end of the two weeks, the audio book is automatically checked in and unavailable on the computer to which it was downloaded. Another great feature is that you'll never get an overdue fee!!!

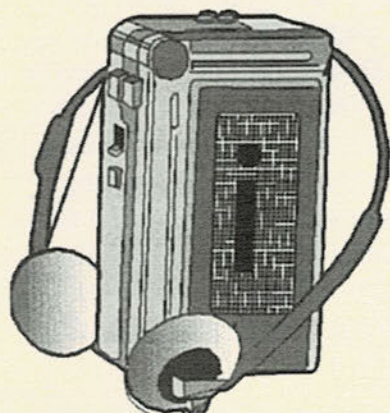
Titles include popular fiction, classic fiction, children's books and nonfiction titles.

I recently downloaded three books for a week long vacation. I copied them from my computer to my mp3 player, and I cut down the weight of my

luggage. The mp3 player fit in my purse better than the books that I usually try to shove in.

Check it out. You'll love the convenience!!!!

Audrey Betcher



Friends' Bookstore News

After several months of planning for our 10th birthday celebration, the bookstore committee's new focus will be to increase book sales, keep the bookshelves full with interesting used books and maintain reasonable prices.

During November and December we will try to have a good supply of holiday and gift books. We always have gift certificates for sale too. Also available are copies of the Music Guild's Cookbook, which make great gifts, on sale for \$10.00. The bookstore receives \$4.00 of this.

The library will be hosting visiting author Will Weaver on December 4th and the bookstore will have copies of his book "Striking Out" for sale. I hope you will come in to see our fall decorations and check out our supply of holiday books. Thank you for supporting the bookstore!

Bev Reid, Bookstore Co-Manager


"New" Building 10 Years Old!

It opened quietly on October 1st, 1995 followed by a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on November 5th, 1995. Until that time the library had been housed in a converted J.C.Penney building at the corner of Broadway and 1st St.

The Public is invited to read 10 books in 10 weeks between Sep 18th and Nov 27th. Forms are available at the FM&M Desk. A drawing will be held on November 27th.

Celebrity readers read to children during a special Story Time on Saturday, October 1st.



A celebration was held on Wednesday, October 5th and birthday cake was served! 



Bookstore Birthday

The 10th Birthday Celebration at the *Friends' Bookstore* began on October 2nd. The celebration was lit with a blast of colorful decorations, complete with a birthday cake. A colorful chart showed the store's growth, and a memory book amused customers and volunteers with colorful photos of the store, past and present. Children were delighted with free balloons, adults received refrigerator magnets, and everyone enjoyed candy treats.



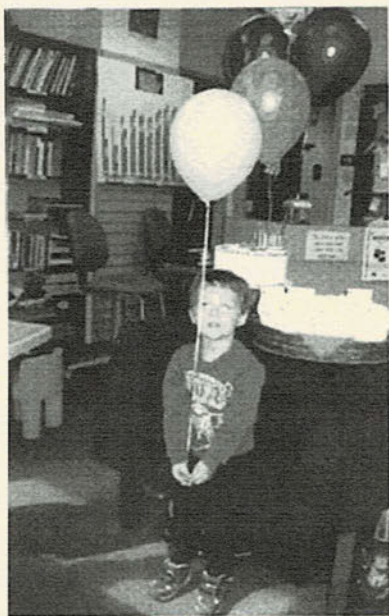
What fun to glance over the display of "What We Were Reading Then" books from the '90s! (You know time is flying when those titles seem shockingly new!) The "Friends Recommended Reading List" drew a lot of interest. Thanks to the library staff for providing bookmarks listing our recommended titles, and to all of you who took the time to share your favorites with us.

Prizes were also a part of the festivities. Our two lovely gift baskets were won by customers Stephanie Buchholz and Bonnie Haubenstrike. Don Wilson guessed the number of books in the bag to win his own canvas book bag. Don was the only one who guessed the exact number of books—38!

The *Friends* hosted a special coffee on October 6th to honor all of our wonderful volunteers. Everyone who visits knows what a gem the *Friends' Bookstore* is! You can count on friendly service, good advice, and real bargains. Is there anyplace else to shop where the prices haven't gone up in ten years?

Happy Birthday, *Friends' Bookstore*! Heartfelt thanks to those of you who helped plan and prepare the birthday celebration, and to all of you who have been a part of the *Bookstore's* success!


Sue McMillan



Classes at the Library

Classes are free. Class sizes are limited. Call 285-8002 for more information and/or to pre-register. Classes are one hour and held in Meeting Room B unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is required. You may register online (click on events & events calendar), at the Children's Desk or by phone at 285-8012

Wed Nov 30 Beginning Internet Class 9:30 am

Mon Dec 12 Online Catalog Class for Kids and Parents. 6:30 pm 

Volunteers Needed

Rochester Public Library is looking for volunteers to establish and maintain an evening book group for community members. RPL currently sponsors five book groups: Armchair Travelers, Classic Novels, Literature into Film, Mystery Readers, and Plain Readers. All but one of these groups meets during the day, and several patrons have expressed interested in participating in an evening book group. Library staff would be responsible for obtaining the books for the group and booking the meeting rooms; volunteers would be asked to select the titles (with input from other book group members) and lead the monthly group discussion.

Our book groups have proved very popular over the years. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Lynette Perry or Katherine Stecher at 507-285-8008 or Gail Harris at 507-287-2627.



News from Friends

Friends of The Rochester Public Library

101 Second Street S.E.

Rochester, MN 55904-3776

(507)287-2627

<http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/friends>

Newsletter Staff:

Editor Jenni Hulsizer
(507) 288-3475 hulsizer@charter.net
Typesetting & Graphic Design Jenni Hulsizer
Library Staff Liaison . . . Carrie Farrow
Friends President . . . Al Dollerschell
Circulation Manager . . . Francenia Wilson
Membership Chair Nan Frie
(507) 289-1863 edfrie@charter.net

This newsletter is published for members of the *Friends of the Rochester Public Library*. Your comments are appreciated.

Holiday Calendar – 2005

(all events will take place in the Library Auditorium unless otherwise noted)



Sat Nov 19 Spanglish Story Time: Glad To Be Me/Me Gusto Como Soy 10:30

Mon Nov 21 Youth Advisory Board Mtg. Contact Lynette at 285-8008 with questions 4 pm

Sat Nov 26 Family Funfest Film: Incredible Journey. 10:30 am

Sun Nov 27 Yaggy Colby History Lecture MN author Brian Horrigan on his book Christmas in Minnesota 2:30 pm

Mon Nov 28 Mystery Reader Bookgroup J D Robb - In Death series call 285-8006 for more info. Noon

Tue Nov 29 Literature into Film Bookgroup Good-bye, Mr. Chips by James Hilton. Call 285-8006 for more info. 1:30 pm

Thu Dec 1 World Aids Day State of Denial a video, part of the Human Rights Video Project. Discussion to follow. 6:30 pm

Sat Dec 3 Family Funfest: Hans Mayer's Holiday Concert for Kids 10:30 am

Sun Dec 4:

-Holiday Book Sale: Baked goods, coffee/cocoa, gift quality books, holiday books, gift baskets for sale. Live Holiday music. 1:30 - 5 pm

-Author Program - Will Weaver wrote five novels and many short stories about rural MN. 2 pm in Meeting Room B on the 2nd floor.

Tue Dec 6 Armchair Traveler Bookgroup. For more info, call 285-8006 11 am

Thu Dec 8 Classic Novel Bookgroup. For more info, call 285-8006. 7 pm

Sat Dec 10 Family Funfest Film: Small One 10:30 am

Wed Dec 14 iFilms International & Independent Films: Campfire (Drama/Israel) 6 pm

Sat Dec 17 Spanglish Story Time: Please Don't Sneeze/por Favor, No Estomude 10:30 am

Mon Dec 19:

→ Mystery Reader Bookgroup: Harry Kemelman - Rabbi series. For more info call 285-8006 noon

→ Youth Advisory Board Meeting 4 pm

Tue Dec 20 Plain Reader Bookgroup An Ocean in Iowa by Peter Hedges. For more info call 285-8006 noon

Tue Dec 27 - Sat Dec 31 : Children's Filmfest at 10:30 am: Seven Candles for Kwanzaa and Corduroy; Brave Irene, and Zlateh the Goat; the Snowman; Puff the Magic Dragon; Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel

Mon Jan 23 Articles for Winter Issue of the *Friends' Newsletter* due

Tue Jan 31 Winter Issue of the *Friends' Newsletter* in the mail



**Friends
of the
Rochester Public
Library**

101 Second Street Southeast
Rochester, Minnesota 55904-3776

Return Service Requested

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

Thank you for your support