



New Library Card Options Including the Library Municipal ID Card

As we get closer to 2024, the Library has been working on a very special surprise for the community. To kick off another year the right way, RPL will be releasing 4 new library card designs and launching the Library Municipal ID Card – something that has been in the works since August 2022.

As the demand for library cards continues to climb, we realized that we were running out of our latest designs. That gave us two options, order more of the previous designs or put together a new batch of fun designs inspired by small new elements that you may have already seen around the library. After brainstorming about designs we've showcased over the past year, it was an easy choice to bring some of those

designs into our cards. We can't wait to see which new card becomes the most popular (if you have a magenta "All Are Welcome" card, you've got the reigning champion).

Along with those four new cards, the Library is finally ready to launch the Community ID program in partnership with the city. These new Library Municipal ID Cards are not only your library card, but will also provide a means to demonstrate residency within the city in order to access city programs, services, and activities while also providing an alternative identification card.

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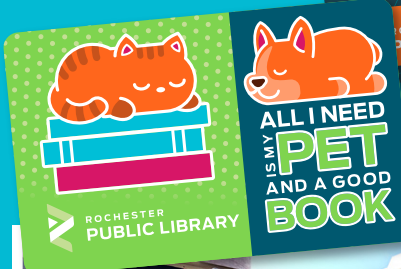
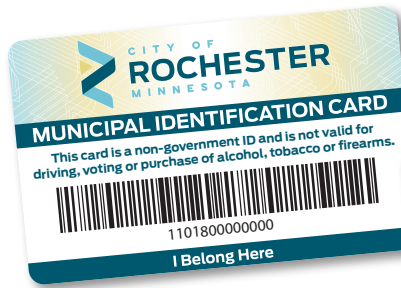
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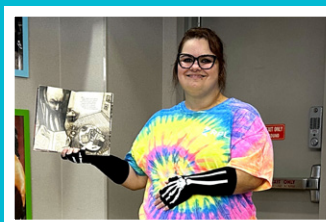
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continued from page 1.*

You won't be required to get a new card, as all old cards will continue to work, but if you do want one, you will also get a new library account number. More details will come out soon about the official launch of the Library Municipal ID Cards. Our four new designs will be available starting January 2, 2024, through our online library card application. rplmn.org/card



Got Your Sign? Library Open House 2023 Success

Thank you to everyone who came out on October 1, 2023, to enjoy the 2023 Open House. There were 1,163 people in the library that day with over 144 attending storytimes, 90 people building 3D stars, 136 playing board games, 168 making mini books, and 64 people stopping by the readers advisory booth. If you missed out on a RPL yard sign, just send an email to contact@rplmn.org to get yours today!





Letter from the Director

Moving from 2023 into 2024 brings a lot of excitement to Rochester Public Library, as we head into a planning project that could potentially reimagine library services in our community.

conducted on the current space uses and challenges. In December, City Council approved a proposal to share the costs of a comprehensive study with funding from library reserves. Beginning in the early part of 2024, staff will work with the Library Board to identify a consultant able to provide a thorough review of current library services and project what is needed for the library to keep up with growing demands for resources.

At the start of 2023, the Library Board hosted a City Council Study Session to learn more about the library's decades-long space challenges. Council members were able to see first-hand how library operations and services are impacted by a lack of space.

Throughout the presentation and tour, library staff shared how different tactics have been used to address challenges, but how they are not enough to solve the problem long-term.

Following the joint study session, the Library Board approved a proposal to submit a budget request to City Council for a long-range planning study. While the library has conducted narrow-scope studies in the past, there has not been a comprehensive exploration of how library services are delivered in Rochester, nor has there been a recent study

"Community members are steadily returning to the library building, with visits up more than 10% over last year, and collection use is on track to surpass 2022, which saw the library's highest collection use on record."

The timing of the study comes during a continued resurgence of library usage. Community members are steadily returning to the library building, with visits up more than 10% over last year, and collection use is on track to surpass 2022, which saw the library's highest collection use on record.

We anticipate growth will be on minds of many Rochester-area residents in 2024, and expect this study will provide multiple opportunities for community members to be part of RPL's next chapter. Stay tuned!

Karen Lemke
Rochester Public Library,
Director

Auditorium and Meeting Room Get an Upgrade

Thanks to a hybrid meeting management and broadcast capability upgrade resolution from City Council, the Library was able to upgrade broadcast technology in the first floor meeting room and auditorium this past year. Old analog equipment was replaced with new digital equipment to allow for easier access for hybrid meetings and live streaming. Once this new equipment is fully up and running, you'll be able to enjoy an updated experience for Library Board meetings and other presentations at the library. Be sure to subscribe to our YouTube Channel and keep an eye on our calendar of events for future notifications about



programming that will be recorded or streamed! RPL YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@RochPubLibrary>



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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



Letter from the Foundation Director

Thank you for helping us to fund a screening of “The Right to Read” documentary at your library this year. It was an eye-opening look at the literacy problems our country is facing. Too many young students locally still are not reading at grade level.

I’m proud of the important contributions we’ve made to face this crisis together here in Rochester. Funding for projects like the BookBox and Rochester Reading Champions really make a difference, and you make them happen!! Your Foundation is committed to continuing to meet community needs and high library priorities in 2024. We are grateful for your partnership. Wishing you all the best in the New Year!



Brenda Kardock
Rochester Public Library Foundation,
Executive Director



Donors September 1 to November 30, 2023

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Over the last six years you've helped us give more than half a million dollars to vital library resources!



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in appreciation of my book club

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in appreciation of the Bookmobile



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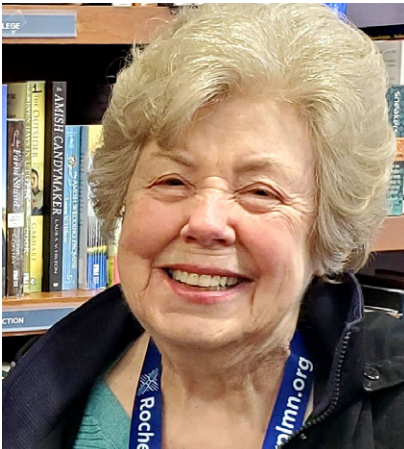
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11AM-6PM

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New inventory daily!

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

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Honoring Two True Friends

We wish to recognize outgoing Friends Board member Bessie Copple as she completes nine years of service, including serving on the Bookstore committee and management team. Bessie enjoys working with her fellow volunteers and visiting with customers in the store, where she will continue to volunteer.

Al Dollerschell was recently recognized as a "Standout Friend" at the state level by the Minnesota Association of Library Friends. He served on the Rochester Friends Board for nearly a decade in the early 2000s. Over the past nineteen years, he has single-handedly raised over \$110,000 by selling over 5,800 books through his online bookstore (resulting in over 5,500 trips to the Post Office)!

We are most fortunate to have both Bessie and Al as part of our Friends organization.

ROCHESTER COMMERCIAL BANKS

Supporting our community



Thank you, RCBA!

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the Rochester Commercial Banks Association for their continued, loyal support with another \$1,000 grant. For over 25 years, RCBA has contributed to the Friends to support children's and young adult programming throughout the year.

Autumn Book Sale Results

The book sale in October was an exceptional success generating a net profit of \$7,400! This covers our contributions to the annual subscription fees for several of the library's online database resources: Newsbank, Alldata Repair, and Morningstar Investment Center.

Sign up to receive an email reminder of future sales at bit.ly/friends-subscribe.

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**WINTERFEST
BOOK SALE**

Rochester Public Library Auditorium

Come shop for used books
at great prices!
Nonfiction and fiction for all ages.
Audiobooks, DVDs, music CDs
& vinyl records, too!

Thursday, Feb. 8th
5-7PM *(members only preview)*

Friday, Feb. 9th
10AM-5:30PM

Saturday, Feb. 10th
10AM-5:30PM

Sunday, Feb. 11th
12-4PM

Save the Date: Friends Annual Meeting

Monday, January 29, 2024
Library Auditorium
11:30AM-1:30PM

Our guest speaker will be John Hunziker to share "We've Come a Long Way, Friends!" as we celebrate our 75th anniversary. Invitations will be sent out in January to all Friends members. We hope to see you there!



Looking For Things To Do Inside This Winter? Visit The Library!

Looking for things to do and avoid those cold winter mornings? Why not stop by the library? We have a lot of great indoor events planned for you to help get through this cold winter including multiple storytimes, dance, and LEGO parties, book club meetings, and more. Be sure to check out the calendar at rplmn.org/calendar for a listing of all the fun things going on or just swing by for a nice warm place to get some work done or dive into a good book. We can't wait to see you in 2024!



Library Board Member Updates

We are excited to welcome Adam Nelson and Omnya Mohamed to the Library Board. The library would also like to celebrate those members who have been voted on as board officers: Nicholas Goetzfridt, Board President; Angela Ge, Board Vice President; and Steve Baule, Board Secretary. For more information about the Library Board, visit rplmn.org/about-us/about-rpl/library-board



Bookmobile Spring Schedule

The Bookmobile spring schedule kicks off January 2nd. Be sure to check out the updated listing of stop times and locations at rplmn.org/bookmobile or pick up a paper copy from the library or on the Bookmobile.

RPLMN App Outage

The library's mobile app service provider (SirsiDynix) is currently experiencing technical issues, making the RPLMN mobile app no longer functional. Library card barcodes are still usable, but all other information in the app is out-of-date. You may access your account and library catalog on your device by visiting rplmn.org/RPLmobile. SirsiDynix has promised us they are working as quickly as possible to bring back functionality and will push out an update when it becomes available sometime within the next couple months.

Here is a message from Bill Davison, CEO of SirsiDynix:

"We regret any inconvenience this has caused you. Please know that your library had absolutely no way of anticipating this situation, and we hope you'll be understanding as we work through this difficult, interim period."



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Karen Lemke, Library Director

Jeremiah Baumann, Editor
jbaumann@rplmn.org

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Saturday,
January 27th

Library Fundraiser



pasta from scratch chef demo



sip on wines, beers and sodas



savor chef-created desserts



+UPGRADE to Italian mixology VIP

Tickets/Info



rplmn.org/wit



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