

LIBRARY CONNECTIONS



The 2024 Seed Library Celebrates With Open House

The RPL Seed Library and over 16,000 seed packets returned for a sixth season on March 1, 2024. In preparation for the launch, the Seed Library space was relocated to a more open and accessible space which included a full redesign themed around seed library resources.

"We're excited to assist people once again in learning to plant, grow healthy foods, and save seeds for the next growing season. Over 300 volunteer hours have already gone into making the sixth year of the Seed Library possible. New this season is a collaboration with the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center to identify and provide a variety of seeds for cancer-fighting foods," says RPL Head of Technical Services Keri Ostby.

In addition to the launch of the 2024 Seed Library season, the library held a Seed Library Open House on March 3 in the auditorium and across the library. Eleven organizations were represented and available to help guide community members with their gardening questions. There were over 230 people in attendance in the auditorium for the Open House during the day.

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"The Seed Library Open House offered the opportunity to connect, ask questions, and share the love of plants with these outstanding local organizations. We're so thankful for everyone's assistance and willingness to share their time and expertise with our community," mentions Ostby.

For more information about the Seed Library and educational resources be sure to stop by or visit rplmn.org/seed.



Letter from the Director

"Growth" is the theme of this season, and it's reflected in many of the initiatives and projects our library teammates are involved with this time of year.

This spring we celebrate six years of the Seed Library, which officially launched March 1. The project tends to not only bring out seasoned gardeners, but it also attracts families and new growers, bringing many of them back into the library for the first time in a while. Each year we notice a bump in overall library traffic during the Seed Library opening, sometimes allowing us the opportunity to welcome new faces into our space.

Our team is also celebrating a new "member": a revitalized automated materials handling (AMH) system. Our first system was installed in 2008 and millions of items passed through its machines. The new system is exciting for teammates, with faster processing time and a smaller footprint in our book return work area. A return of our library app (the RPLMN app) is also

a cause for celebration this spring, after months of being inoperable due to problems faced by our service provider. In early March, Sirsi Dynix announced a resolution to the issue, restoring the original version. The company is also in the final stages of completing a new version of the app, with enhanced features.

The most promising part of this year for library leadership is an upcoming comprehensive study about library services. Teammates from other City departments, the Library Board, and representatives from Olmsted County are all providing input on the project, which will eventually provide community members an opportunity to have direct input on library services, operations, and facilities.

As we move into the beauty of spring, our team looks forward to nurturing growth: through seeds, book borrowing, digital access, and in our library spaces.

"As we move into the beauty of spring, our team looks forward to nurturing growth..."

Karen Lemke

Karen Lemke
Rochester Public Library,
Director

Library Municipal ID Card: Now Available

The library officially launched the Library Municipal ID Card on Monday, February 26. This program provides a resident with an enhanced library card and a means to demonstrate residency within the city to access city programs, services, and activities while also providing an alternative identification card.

“Having an identification card is incredibly necessary for many everyday tasks,” says RPL Director Karen Lemke. “We’re proud to be part of this initiative to support community members who need an ID but might not be able to qualify for a driver’s license, for a variety of reasons.”

To get a Library Municipal ID Card, you must be a resident of the city of Rochester and provide a proof of identity and proof of residency

from the list of options listed on the website or in the ordinance. You will then need to fill out an application at the Library’s circulation desk and have your photo taken for your ID.

“The Library Municipal ID gives people a new way to feel connected to the community. We’re hoping businesses will let us know they’re accepting the ID in order to get citizens linked with resources available to them. An endeavor like this required a lot of work from multiple people. I want to specifically thank Mike Resman and Phil Wheeler for everything they did to get us to our launch today,” says RPL Head of Circulation Andy Stehr.

The Library continues to seek local businesses who would like to formally accept the ID. If you’d like to have your business showcased,



please fill out the following form: rplmn.org/LibraryID-join.

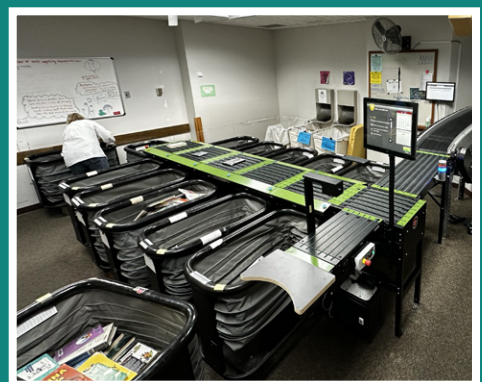
The Library Municipal ID Card is not a government ID and is not valid for driving, voting or purchase of alcohol, tobacco, or firearms. It also cannot be used for state or federally funded government benefits/programs.

More details about the Library Municipal ID can be found at rplmn.org/services/library-municipal-id-card.

Automatic Materials Handler Upgrade

The library’s Automated Materials Handling (AMH) system was originally installed in 2008. The AMH accepts thousands of library materials each week, pre-sorting them for library teammates to return items to the shelves and make them available for customers again. Sadly, it had reached its end of life where parts were no longer an option to make repairs. On May 17, 2023, the Library Board approved asking for the budget adjustment for the new system. Then on June 5, 2023, City Council approved the authorization of using funding from the Library Information Technology (IT) Revolving Fund for the purchase of the system. The total cost of replacement was \$206,000.

The replacement involved purchasing the new system, having it sent across the ocean via a cargo ship, and then transporting it to Rochester to be installed. Between February 8 and February 23, the library had both the internal AMH and the drive-up AMH devices fully replaced. The process went smoothly and was even completed ahead of schedule. We hope you have enjoyed these upgrades as much as we have and that this AMH will continue to run for many years to come.





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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

WIT After Hours at the Library was a great success, netting \$29K for future books, projects, and programs! Thank you to all of our amazing sponsors, volunteers, donors, and attendees!!! You make our library stronger, more responsive, and vibrant!

Ready, Set, Library!

National Library Week (NLW) is April 7-13. Your Library Foundation is building awareness and asking for gifts on Facebook during NLW to support library staff and strategic Foundation priorities. If you are on Facebook, consider making a gift and/or leaving a positive comment about your library experiences. Off Facebook, you can still participate by making a gift by adding NLW to the notes field of your check or online in the "note to foundation staff" space.

Also, you can give a gift in honor of an important person in your life at any time. They will receive a card letting them know of your thoughtfulness.

Thank you for all you do to support your library through the Foundation. We look forward to passing on your messages and keeping the library strong through your funding! Happy spring!



Brenda Kardock
Rochester Public Library Foundation,
Executive Director



Donors December 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024



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Donors December 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024 continued

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Eduardo & Rita Hernandez
In memory of Alex & Chuy

Mary Ann Boyne
In memory of Bill Boyne

Jeanne Stewart & Ian Bald
In memory of Bix & Harold Stewart

John Dockerty
In memory of Diane Dockerty

Gwen Riggan
In memory of Donald LaClair Riggan

Friends of RPL
In memory of Friends members we have lost this past year

Patricia Talen
In memory of James Talen

Doug Sween
In memory of Joan Sween

Bad Girls Book Club
In memory of Lori Rime

Shyamala Bhat & Yogish Kudva
In memory of Mr. C. G. Kudva

John & Kathleen Mazur
In memory of Patricia Wilson

Mary Aronin
In memory of Richard A. Bedard

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In honor of Linda & Bill Thompson

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In honor of Molly Reynolds

Cathe Devos
In honor of My Book Club

Elinore Noyes
In honor of my grandparents, Tjalda Nauta & Ann Jones

Moses & Emily Margritt Rodriguez
In honor of our grandchildren Soren, Henry, Nora, Leo, Liva & Leif

Tana Elias
In honor of Patricia Calvert

Ciara O'Sullivan
In honor of Rivaan Kapa

Alan & Nancy Johnsrud
In honor of Sarah Johnsrud

Gladys Binette
In honor of Technical Services Dept.

Gwen Riggan
In honor of Vera Atkinson

In Celebration

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wojcik
In celebration of the library

Leslie Crowley
In celebration of Thomas Crowley

In Appreciation

Alan & Judy Hoffman
In appreciation of Joyce Gibbs

Kara Short
In appreciation of my clients

Tina Liebling & Mark Liebow
In appreciation of our grandchildren

Merl & Twila Winter
In appreciation of RPL Staff

Samantha Herr
In appreciation of RPLF

The App Is Back!

Sirsi Dynix, the library's app service provider, has restored functionality of the classic RPLMN app after more than four months. They continue to work on the development of the 2.0 version of the app which should be released very soon. The new app will include upgraded features like storing your library card inside the digital wallet on your device. The classic app is available currently in both the Apple and Android app stores and will have automatically started working if you still have it installed on your device.





**FRIENDS OF THE
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Friends Bookstore Hours

Monday - Thursday
11AM-6PM

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11AM-2PM

New inventory daily!

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

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Annual Meeting Celebrates 75 Years

Lynn and Dennis Wong of Dunn Bros graciously donated the delicious luncheon and coffee for over 70 Friends members in attendance. We encourage you to return the favor by supporting Dunn Bros!



2023 Annual Report highlights:

- Over 200 volunteers logged almost 20,000 hours throughout the library!
- Almost 7,700 donated items were added to the library's collection saving \$133,400.
- Online and auditorium sales provided \$79,000 for programming, incentives & supplies, online database subscriptions, and other projects for the library. We have pledged \$80,000 for 2024.
- The Bookstore gave \$70,000 to fund additions to the library collection.



Library Director Karen Lemke shared the "2024 State of the Library."

Our guest speaker, John Hunziker, reminisced over our 75-year history. We recognized eight attending Friends Presidents dating back to 1971: Jean Burrington, Pat Stephenson, Joyce Wenz, Elaine Schmidt, Al Dollerschell, Elizabeth Ritman, John Hunziker and Val Kaliszewski. Their efforts helped build our strong business model of selling used books. We are very proud of the impact we have on the library, both financially and by the valuable time and talent contributed by so many volunteers.

Thank You, Shorewood!

The Wedum Foundation, owner of Shorewood Senior Living, has a long history of philanthropy. Shorewood channels that kindness to our community and recently generously granted \$7,625 to the Friends of the Library. They noted the Homebound Program and the Bookmobile as library services that not only benefit the community as a whole, but the senior population in particular. It is the Friends' mission to support these and other library programs and materials.



J.A. WEDUM
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Rochester Reading Champions Celebrate 10 Years

Rochester Reading Champions is celebrating 10 years of literacy support service to our community! This free, structured literacy program matches highly trained volunteers with youth and adults in our community who face financial challenges and struggle to read and write English.

We are currently training volunteers to work one-on-one with students. For more information, please contact Tammy Fritz, Literacy Services Coordinator at read@rplmn.org.

rplmn.org/services/more-services/rochester-reading-champions

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday
10AM-8PM

Friday - Sunday
10AM-6PM

507-328-2300 | www.rplmn.org

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Find Us Online
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FRIENDS OF THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Rochester Public Library Auditorium

ROCHESTERFEST BOOK SALE

- THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH | 5-7PM *(members only preview*)*
- FRIDAY, JUNE 21 | 10AM-5:30PM
- SATURDAY, JUNE 22 | 10AM-5:30PM
- SUNDAY, JUNE 23 | 12-4PM

**Friends' memberships can be renewed or purchased at the door.*

rplmn.org/friends