



## Rochester Public Library Kicks off Facilities and Operations Master Plan Study

The Rochester Public Library (RPL) has embarked on a comprehensive study aimed at enhancing its services and facilities based on a community co-designed process. As part of this initiative, the library is inviting the public to actively participate in shaping its future through a series of engagement activities over the next few months.

This study, which aims to identify the needs and preferences of library users and non-users, is in response to the evolving landscape of public library services and the diverse demographics of Rochester and Olmsted County.

“We recognize that the library is not just a building; it’s a community hub,” says RPL Director Karen Lemke. “Our goal is to ensure that our services reflect the needs of all Rochester and Olmsted residents. By engaging with the community, we hope to create a library that serves as a vital resource for everyone.”

The engagement process kicked off with a series of stops, where residents could share their thoughts on the community, on current library services, and suggest new ideas. Additionally, engagement boards were strategically showcased throughout the region on

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the bookmobile, which allowed residents to provide feedback based on their specific neighborhoods and interests. This localized approach ensured that the voices of community members had a chance to be heard.

"We want to hear from everyone, whether they visit the library frequently or haven't set foot inside in years," Lemke emphasizes. "Your input will help us understand what's working, what's not, and what our future priorities should be."

The study will cover a wide range of topics, including the library's physical spaces, digital services, program offerings, and community partnerships. By examining these areas, RPL aims to create a master plan that not only addresses current challenges but also anticipates future needs.

The comprehensive study comes at a crucial time as libraries across the country are adapting to changes in technology, community needs, and funding landscapes. "We are committed to staying relevant and responsive," Lemke says. "This study will guide us in making informed decisions that benefit the entire community."

Rochester and Olmsted County residents are encouraged to continue to participate in this initiative by visiting the library to provide feedback and to participate in a survey that will be released towards the end of the year.

For more information about the comprehensive study and upcoming engagement activities, visit [rplmn.org/future](http://rplmn.org/future)

**2024 FALL BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE**  
September 3 – January 4

**WEEK 1**

<b>TUESDAYS</b>	September 10, 24; October 8, 22; November 5, 19; December 3, 17 (Closed December 31)	9:30-11:30 1924 17 1/2 St. NW, Sunset Terrace School 12:30-1:30 6451 Fairway Dr. NW 2:00-3:15 2505 99th St. NW 3:45-5:30 1000 Essex Pkwy NW, Roy Watson Park
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	September 11, 25; October 9, 23; November 6, 20; December 4, 18 (Closed January 1)	9:30-12:00 5455 50th Ave. NW, Holy Spirit School 1:00-2:00 5337 Florence Dr. NW, Ridge View Manor 2:30-3:30 2281 Jasper Place NE, Stonehedge Park 4:00-5:30 2240 7th Ave. NE, Churchill School
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	The Bookmobile will not go to its scheduled stops during severe weather.	
<b>FRIDAYS</b>	September 13, 27; October 11, 25; November 8, 22; December 6, 20; January 3	9:30-11:30 1300 40th St. NW, Gage School 12:30-2:00 2800 Charles Ct. NW, Hylands 2:45-3:45 1935 1st St. SW (behind Thesis) 4:15-5:30 2435 20th St. SE, Longfellow School
<b>SATURDAYS</b>	September 14, 28; October 12, 26; November 9; December 7, 21; January 4	9:30-12:30 406 36th Ave. NW, Bishop School 2:00-2:45 Oronoco, 115 2nd St. NW, City Hall 3:00-4:00 Oronoco, 1445 Valley View Dr. SW 4:30-5:00 Oronoco, 3611 88th St. NW, Oak

**BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE**  
FALL 2024 | September 3 – January 4

**ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
101 Second Street SE, Rochester, MN 55904  
507-328-2302 | [rplmn.org](http://rplmn.org)

View the digital Bookmobile schedule [rplmn.org/bookmobile](http://rplmn.org/bookmobile)



## Leadership Promotions at the Library

Two longtime library employees have been selected to assume additional leadership duties ahead of the organization's Facilities and Operations Master Plan Study. Kim Edson was promoted to Deputy Director of Public Service and Purna Gurung was promoted to Deputy Director of Operations. With Karen Lemke as the Library Director, this new Library Direction team will work to keep initiatives moving forward and oversee the existing administration team. Following in the footsteps of other city departments, this change allows for a nimble leadership structure that can address organizational needs more quickly and efficiently, while also allowing growth opportunities and succession planning. Congratulations Kim and Purna!

## The Bookmobile Fall Schedule Is Out

Look at all the Fall colors! The Bookmobile schedule went through a full redesign and will now come to you in full color, matching our Youth and Adult program schedules. Fall stops will be serviced through January 4, 2025. 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)



Rochester Public Library Presents

# LIBRARY LAND

A NIGHT OF GAMES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>

5:00PM - 8:00PM

Join us for an extended evening of fun and games as you work your way around the library collecting stamps to fill out your game card and claim your special limited-edition prize. From 5–8pm on Friday, November 15, the library will be transformed into themes from all kinds of your favorite games. More details will come out soon and can be found on our library calendar. We hope to see you there!



## Letter from the Director

As customer patterns change with the seasons, so do library operations. Our ever-popular Summer Playlist program wound down at the end of August, capping off our busiest summer since 2019.

We've had to say goodbye to some of our shelving teammates as they head off to college or other adventures, and now we're saying hello to work-study shelvers from the University of Minnesota-Rochester.

And gardens blossoming with vegetables, flowers, and herbs from Seed Library seeds are being harvested.

This fall we're experiencing another change at Rochester Public Library: two long-time managers have been promoted to Deputy Director roles. The new organizational structure will allow our team to be better positioned to act on recommendations from the library's Facilities and Operations Master Plan. Our two impact teams, Operations and Public Service, provide equally vital work to serve the community. Over the next several months, Deputies Kim Edson and Purna Gurung will explore opportunities for improving processes and procedures, ensuring that our mission-critical services meet customer needs.

Three areas have been identified as top needs: the current Master Plan study, addressing key items from a recent Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Audit, and identifying ways to optimize our resources as demand for services and our collection increases.

As our organization moves through these changes, we held our second annual All-Staff Training Day. On Thursday, October 3, our library was closed for the day, which allowed us to focus on ways to support our community, customers, and colleagues.

We hope to see you this fall in the library, at the Bookmobile, or at one of our many community engagement events around town!



Karen Lemke  
Rochester Public Library,  
Director



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](http://www.rplmn.org/donate)



## Letter from the Foundation Director

Thank you so much for helping us to fund the safety & security pilot position at the library this year. We have been receiving anecdotal evidence that the the first four months have allowed library teammates to focus more on patron needs and less on disturbances

within the library. I hope to report more good news next year as data becomes available. You also allowed us to support Rochester Reading Champions as the literacy & tutoring program for low-income students celebrates its 10th year! Pupils continue to see marked improvements in their reading skills

and confidence levels with more than 10,500 lessons given! One mother exclaimed, "It came at a time when there was no other place to turn...Reading Champions is the reason my daughter has succeeded." As the library begins building a strategic plan to address space issues and future community needs, we are immensely grateful for your continued support!

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



**sample savory French cuisine**



**sip on wines, beers and sodas**



**enjoy sweet Bundtinis**



**+UPGRADE to French cooking demo with chef**

*An after hours soirée supporting your library  
magnifique speakers, cuisine and joie de vivre!*



Tickets/Info

**Saturday,  
January 25th, 2025**  
[rplmn.org/wit](http://rplmn.org/wit)



ROCHESTER  
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Aileen Williams  
Merl & Twila Winter  
Warren & Ginny Wong  
Mr. Brandon J. Wyman  
J. Herman & Marilyn Yates

## In Memory

Margaret Dalen <i>In memory of Anita Thomas</i>	Herb Erickson Family Bequest <i>In memory of Herb Erickson</i>	Doug Sween <i>In memory of Joan Sween</i>	Dr. Richard Weinshilboun <i>In memory of Lily Weinshilboun</i>	M. William & Julie Lower <i>In memory of Phoebe Lower</i>
Harriet Hodgson <i>In memory of C. John Hodgson, M.D.</i>	Kathleen Meyerle <i>In memory of James K. Marttila</i>	Barbara Parks <i>In memory of Joe Parks</i>	Brenda Ingalls Hanson <i>In memory of Matthew &amp; Rodney Hanson</i>	Sally Trippel <i>In memory of Robin G. Molella, MD.</i>
Marilyn Campbell & Gerald Haas <i>In memory of Dottie Hawthorne</i>	Patricia Talen <i>In memory of James Talen</i>	Nick & Heather Rhodes <i>In memory of Ken Arnold</i>	Teresa Waldof <i>In memory of Max &amp; Dale Wilhelm</i>	Luke & Courtney Meyer <i>In memory of Sarah Murray</i> Gwen Riggan <i>In memory of Teresa Walters</i>

## In Appreciation

Don & Stephanie Supalla <i>In appreciation of Audrey Betcher</i>	Phyllis & Sherwin Goldman <i>In appreciation of Library Staff</i>	Roger & Sarabeth Watson <i>In appreciation of Library Staff</i>
McKinsey Goodenberger <i>In appreciation of Audrey Betcher</i>	Ms. Terri Dugan <i>In appreciation of Library Staff</i>	Joan Chutka <i>In appreciation of volunteers</i>

## In Honor

Gwen Riggan <i>In honor of Dennis Ganz</i>	Katherine Baumgartner <i>In honor of Margaret Pederson</i>	Dick & Joanne Rosener <i>In honor of Ruby LaSure's 8th grade graduation</i>
Gwen Riggan <i>In honor of Erika Riggan</i>	Bob & Phyllis Beery <i>In honor of Marilyn Campbell</i>	
Barb Huus <i>In honor of JoAnne Judge-Dietz</i>		





**FRIENDS OF THE  
ROCHESTER  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## Join us in our mission as a Friends member!

Consider a tax-deductible contribution at the Book Lover (\$50+) or Book Reader (\$25+) membership levels! It is easy to purchase or renew: Online at [rplmn.org/friends](http://rplmn.org/friends) or in person at the Friends Bookstore.



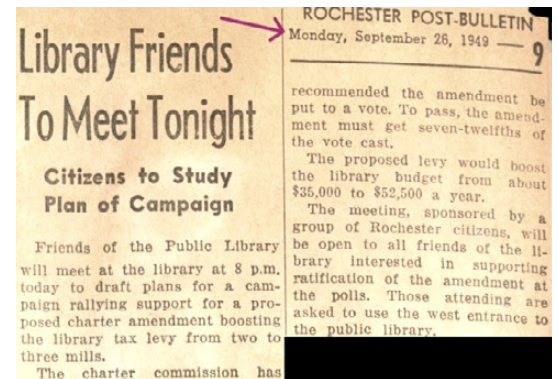
## 75 Years of Library Support

People typically associate Friends of the Library with the Friends Bookstore, but the organization does so much more than that! In addition to the store, they sell used books online and at large book sales. Friends volunteers also help librarians with a variety of tasks. This fall, our Friends group is reminiscing over 75 years of unwavering support for our beloved library.

The Friends of the Rochester Public Library was founded on September 26, 1949, to advocate for more library funding and for bookmobile service to reach those who were unable to get to the library.

They held their first book sale in 1971, raising \$765. Now, book sales bring in ten times that amount!

A few Friends volunteer roles in the 1970s and 1980s included the telephone switchboard and children's puppet programs. Book mending is a volunteer role that continues to this day.



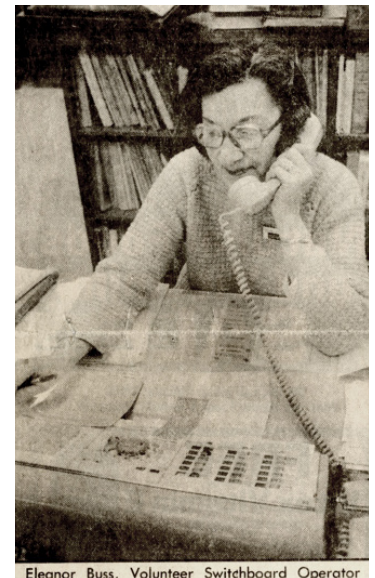
In 1989, Friends hosted a reception for Barbara Bush after she read her favorite book to forty preschoolers.

Opened in 1995, the Friends Bookstore was originally intended to replace the need for future large sales. Within two years, due to generous donations, large book sales were resurrected in the Bookmobile garage and later moved to the auditorium.

In the early 2000s, creative Friends members designed the "Threads of Our Community" quilt, hosted several Area Author functions, and celebrated events in costume.

Business has rebounded since COVID forced the shutdown of operations in 2020. The Friends currently have a yearly impact of over a half million dollars for the library, with funding and volunteer hours. They look forward to continuing their service for many more years!

Visit [rplmn.org/friends](http://rplmn.org/friends) for more interesting details of Friends history.



Eleanor Buss, Volunteer Switchboard Operator



# SEED LIBRARY



## The Seed Library Needs Your 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 2025. Native flower seeds are welcome too! Donations can be dropped off at the 1st Floor Public Service Desk until November 30. More information about how to save seeds and donate can be found at [rplmn.org/seed](http://rplmn.org/seed).



### Reasonable Accommodations Form

The City seeks to offer necessary aids and services for effective communication with community members who have hearing, sight, or speech disabilities for City events, programs, or services, unless doing so significantly changes City programs or operations or is too difficult or expensive to provide.

Each accommodation has a specific turnaround time, which you can view once you select it on the form. **Please make requests as early as possible before the scheduled event.**

We'll try our best to meet requests received without enough advance notice, but full accommodation may not be possible. We'll inform you as soon as we can.

Name \*

Address

Preferred Method of Contact \*

- Email  
 Phone

Accommodation Needed \*

## Do you need an accommodation?

Are you attending a library program and need a sign language interpreter? How about special seating or mobility access? The city now has a form for that! The City of Rochester offers necessary aids and services for effective communication with community members who have hearing, sight, or speech disabilities for City events, programs, or services (unless doing so significantly changes City programs or operations or is too difficult or expensive to provide). To request an accommodation, please visit the "Program Accommodations" link on our library calendar at [rplmn.org/calendar](http://rplmn.org/calendar).

## New Accessibility Options at RPL

As part of the library's initiative to provide accessible service, we recently purchased a new set of adjustable height registration tables which will allow customers to start their library card registration comfortably and privately. The library also added adjustable-height desks for searching the library's online catalog, with one area of desks located on the first floor and another located on the second floor. The library will continue to seek other accessibility recommendations from the library's Facilities and Operations Study, which officially kicked off on September 5 and will wrap sometime in April 2025.





# ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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www.rplmn.org

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## Library Hours

Monday - Thursday  
10AM-8PM

Friday - Sunday  
10AM-6PM


507-328-2300 | www.rplmn.org

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