



## Donor Corner

### Amazing Race 2007



A Fund Raiser for the  
Rochester Public Library Foundation  
[www.amazingrace.org](http://www.amazingrace.org)

The first summer fund raiser for the Rochester Public Library Foundation was a resounding success! Thirty-five teams participated in the Amazing Race that was held on Saturday, June 9.

This family oriented event, based on the CBS reality show *Amazing Race*, started at the library with registration and orientation. Teams of up to four raced around Olmsted County for a grand prize and numerous door prizes. Teams had to solve clues and figure out where and how to find their next clue; sometimes the teams performed tasks or worked collaboratively with other teams in order to receive their next clues.

The teams received their first clue in the library auditorium and were told to hold the envelope containing the clue up above their heads so that everyone could open their clues at the same time. Promptly at 8:30 a.m. the race began. Many teams - you know who you are - raced out of the auditorium, ready to race on to the next destination. After reading the clue, those teams ran back into the library because that first clue was actually a task that had to be completed within the library before getting their next clue.

The clues directed teams to destinations all around Rochester and had them completing tasks such as finding a vehicle in the Adamson Lincoln Mercury lot by the VIN number, catching fly balls while linking arms with another

team member, using a GPS to find a location in Quarry Hill Park, etc... There were fourteen legs in the race and the team that completed all of the legs first won the grand prize. The race ended at Essex Park where the teams were treated to a picnic and prizes.

Thanks to race participants, volunteers, and sponsors, the library's first summer fund raiser raised just over \$10,000 for the Rochester Public Library Foundation. The event went so well that the Foundation hopes to make this an annual summer event.

More pictures of the Amazing Race can be found online at: [www.amazingrace.org](http://www.amazingrace.org).

Sponsors of the 2007 Amazing Race were:

Event Sponsor: Adamson Motors

Picnic Sponsor: John Hardy's BarBQ

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**Audrey Betcher**

## ***From the Director's Desk...***

### **Automated Materials Handling**

The Rochester Public Library is one of the busiest library buildings in the state of Minnesota with annual check outs at over 1.7 million items. When items come back they need to be returned to the shelves as soon as possible, so more community members can borrow them. The current system is a very manual process. Each item must be scanned into the computer so its return can be accurately noted, then sorted onto carts, put in shelving order, and finally shelved.

We are in the planning stages for installing an Automated Materials Handling (AMH) system. An AMH system uses conveyors to move items, barcode scanners to check materials in as they are returned, and diverters to sort the materials into bins or carts based on type of material and shelving location. We anticipate that the AMH will improve the efficiencies of the system by eliminating two manual steps from the current process.

Our goal is to increase customer satisfaction without increasing staff. Patrons will be pleased to have their items checked in immediately upon return, and to be able to access recently returned items more quickly. The purchase of the AMH is funded by the City of Rochester Capital Improvements Budget (CIP), and we anticipate that it will be installed early next year.

## **In Memory of Jerry Balm**



Jerry Balm was a member of the Rochester Public Library Board of Directors, the Friends of the Rochester Public Library and a volunteer for many years. Sadly, Jerry passed away unexpectedly on May 29th in Fergus Falls, MN. Jerry served as President of the Library Board in 2006 during which time he led the library toward a greater focus on measuring the attainment of goals set forth in strategic planning. He was also a hard working dedicated volunteer who spent hours sorting donated books. Jerry was a civic minded leader involved in

many organizations, and he was always a champion of the library. His bright ideas, his dedication, and his kind & gentle spirit will be greatly missed.

## **Interlibrary Loans**

Although the Rochester Public Library has electronic access to thousands of on-line journal articles through the EBSCO databases, many research journals will only permit summaries of articles on the databases. Fortunately, the library is able to obtain copies of almost any journal article through the MINITEX interlibrary loan service. MINITEX, a statewide network of libraries, conveniently offers electronic delivery of many articles directly to a patron's email account. The MINITEX webmaster recently sent us an anonymous testimonial from a grateful patron.

“As an environmental consultant I am often called upon to evaluate properties for their potential contamination. This requires knowledge of emerging and sometimes oddball research in my field. Reading research articles is often the only way to get the information I need. However, our town, Rochester, MN, lacks a 4-year university, and the interlibrary loan service provided by our public library has proven invaluable to me. On more than one occasion I have gone looking for a specific technical article and the interlibrary loan service has found it for me. Articles on plant-induced cleanup of contamination (phytoremediation), historic chemical content of pre-1970's fire extinguishers, and the historic use of chemicals at railroad maintenance facilities, to name a few topics. This most recent request had a quite astonishing turn-around-time of one day - I thought I would have to wait weeks. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

## ***Did You Know...?***

- The first hour of parking in the City parking ramps downtown is free anytime! If you're visiting the library (or anywhere else in downtown Rochester) and leave the ramp before one hour has expired, there is no charge for parking. Also remember that you can park in the ramps or at the meters for free on weeknights after 5pm and all day on the weekends.
- All library materials (even music, videos and DVDs!) can be returned 24/7 at the drive-thru book drop located on the west side of the building. If you ever experience technical difficulties with the mechanical book drop slot, simply use the two manual slots located just to the right of the main book drop.
- Rochester Public Library currently circulates about 1.7 million items a year. When you average that out for the days and hours that the library is open, that's approximately 5,030 items/day or 527 items/hour!

## Libraries Change Lives

LeRoy-Ostrander second graders recently read the book *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown. Stanley is a boy who gets flattened by a bulletin board falling on him while he was sleeping. Since he now was only half an inch thick, his family sent him visiting friends and relatives by mail.

In the spirit of this book, the whole second grade class made their own paper "Flat Stanleys" and sent them to friends and relatives. Justin Erbe sent his Flat Stanley to his cousin, Lance Cpl. Zach Fay, a United States Marine who is currently stationed in Iraq. Stanley's trip took a long time, but when Stanley came back "armed" with a disposable camera and a letter from Zach, the wait was well worth it.

*Dear Justin and Class,*

*I was happy to take Flat Stanley in for a while. I'm in Haditha, Iraq right now. Flat Stanley and I hung out for a few days and he helped me do my job here. Flat Stanley went out on patrol with my squad and me a couple of times. He helped us keep the streets safe so the people here in Iraq could live in peace. We made sure that the kids were going to school and that the store owners are safe enough to open their shops.*

*I brought a camera along so Flat Stanley and I could take some pictures so you kids back home can see what he saw. I'm going to send Flat Stanley back today. Mail moves kind of slow here so hopefully he will get back home soon and safely. I had a good time showing Stanley around. My squad also had a good time hanging out with him. Take care of your sister and mother Justin. I'll see you in December.*

*Sincerely,*

*Zach*

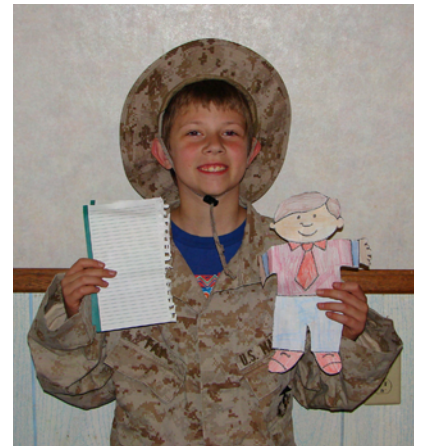
There were other Flat Stanleys in Justin's class that went to family members overseas. One other Flat Stanley went to Iraq and one went to Japan. The class enjoyed hearing about all the Flat Stanleys' adventures and the families and friends that were "visited."

This "Flat Stanley" project was a way to bring families and friends together by sharing the adventure of a literary character and sending letters and pictures back and forth. After this project, Justin and the rest of the children in the second grade class will probably always remember Flat Stanley and the adventures they shared. Now they will always have something in common with the people they sent their Stanleys to.

When people read the same book or see the same movie, it gives them something in common and in turn, something to talk about. Books can bring family, friends and even communities together. Many libraries take part in One Book - One Community events every year to encourage community interaction. Bringing communities together, one book at a time.



**Lance Corporal Zach Fay and Flat Stanley**



**Justin Erbe and Flat Stanley**



## Young Adult Logo Contest Winners

This year's Young Adult Summer Reading Program theme is "Let Your Imagination Fly." Young Adults aged 12 - 18 were asked to create a logo design to go with the theme. Thank you, to all the young talented artists who submitted a logo for the contest. The winning logo this year was created by Danielle Attinella. Her logo will be used on all the summer reading program promotion materials. Congratulations, Danielle! Pictured below are all the logo finalists. See all the finalist's logos online at: [www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/teens](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/teens).



From left to right: Kun Liu (runner-up), Cecilia Reyes (runner-up), Victoria Phillips (runner-up), Clara Nellans (2nd place), Danielle Attinella (1st place) & Hadley Murphy (runner-up).

## Sit - Stay - Read



Our Sit...Stay...Read Program is coming back this August! This program allows school-age children, grades 1-6, to read aloud to one of several

specialty-trained therapy dogs. These dogs provide a supportive audience for kids to practice their reading skills. This program is developed out of research that shows the benefits of the human-animal bond and offers a special chance to boost literacy. Advanced registration is required, so sign up now to reserve your chance to read to your favorite dog this August. Visit the Sit.. Stay...Read Program page for more details [www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/kids/sitstayread](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/kids/sitstayread).

Your child will be pawsitively thrilled!

## Library Staff Made Appearance in Rochesterfest Parade as Harry Potter Characters

For the 2007 Rochesterfest parade, library staff members dressed up as characters from the Harry Potter book series. Along with two Harrys, the other characters were: Hermione, Ron, the Pavarti twins, Mad-Eye Moody, Professor Snape, Professor Trelawny, Madam Hooch, Hagrid, Moaning Murtle (complete with toilet seat) Dobby, the house elf, and a golden snitch. In honor of the final Harry Potter novel by J.K. Rowling, the library had a Harry Potter Party on the release date of July 21. The movie *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* was shown and prizes, including copies of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, were given away at the party.



## Billboards Around Rochester

Have you seen one of these billboards around town and want to know what they are all about? Each billboard describes a different online resource available to library patrons from from the comfort of their own homes by using the Internet. The key to these resources is a Rochester Public Library card.

**Great Expectations:** Learn a Test by Learning Express offers real-time practice tests for college entrance exams like the SAT, ACT, GRE, LCAT, MCAT as well as study skills testing for the GED high school standards tests. Tests are included for many other areas also: Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), PRAXIS, Nursing Assistant, Law Enforcement, TOEFL, Citizenship. Study skills tests are available for math, writing, reading, spelling and MORE!

**Invisible Man:** Several genealogy databases such as HeritageQuest allow one to search for relatives in census records, county histories and a wide variety of additional lists.

**Rabbit Run:** Auto Repair Reference Center contains information on every major manufacturer of domestic and imported vehicles with repair manuals starting as far back as 1954.

**War & Peace:** Over 150 newspapers from around the world are available through Proquest.

There are many more resources available online by using the Rochester Public Library website as a gateway. Log in to [www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org) to find the wealth of information that is available at your fingertips.

The Rochester Public Library would like to thank Think and Magic Media for creating and sponsoring these billboards.

# Think



Do you have  
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Who is the  
**Invisible  
Man?**

Search  
25,000  
genealogy  
documents  
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**Rochester Public Library.org**

Want to make your  
**Rabbit  
Run?**

Research  
car repair  
manuals  
**online.**



**Rochester Public Library.org**

Who is at  
**War &**  
who is at  
**Peace?**

Read over  
150 daily  
newspapers  
**online.**



**Rochester Public Library.org**

## New - at the library: Download Station for audio-books

It is now easier than ever to download audio-books with the library's new Download Station! Take advantage of the library's free high-speed networks to download unabridged novels, foreign language learning titles, and self-help material inside the library. Bring a compatible MP3/WMA player to the library, go to the OverDrive Download Station near the Fiction, Movies & Music desk and download titles from the library's digital collection.



- The easy-to-use wizard guides you step-by-step through the download process
- Instantly tests for device compatibility
- Takes advantage of the library's bandwidth for faster downloads
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For more information please call Carrie Farrow at (507) 287-2626 or e-mail: cfarrow@rochester.lib.mn.us

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Name for bookplate: \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of/ in memory of (circle one)

Name for Acknowledgment (plaques and listings): \_\_\_ honoree's name    \_\_\_ my name

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Thank you for your tax-deductible support of the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

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## Computer Classes at the Library

All classes are free and open to the public. Registration is required. Please register at the Reference Desk on second floor of the library, call 285-8002 or go to [www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org). – Events & Classes. For descriptions of each class visit our online events calendar or call 285-8002 for more information.

### Internet

Thursday, Sept. 13 • 1 - 2:30 p.m.

### Online Catalog

Monday, Sept. 24 • 10 - 11 am

### Downloadable Audio Books

Wednesday, Oct. 17 • 7 - 8 pm

### Online Resources

Thursday, Oct. 18 • 3 - 4 pm

### Ancestry Plus & HeritageQuest Online

Wednesday, Oct. 24 • 2 - 3:30 pm

### Ebay

Wednesday, Oct. 24 • 7 - 8:30 pm

### Digital Media and Music

Thursday, Nov. 1 • 7 - 8:30 pm

### Auto Repair Reference Center

Monday, Nov. 5 • 7 - 8 pm

### What is an Adaptive Workstation?

Thursday, Nov. 15 • 2:30 - 3:30 pm

### Google & More: Searching the Internet

Monday, Dec. 3 • 3 - 4:30 pm

### Value Line & More

Wednesday, Dec. 5 • 2 - 3:30 pm

## Senior Techies Classes

The classes listed below are part of our Senior Techies program and are geared to people ages 50 and more. Participants must register for EACH class they wish to attend.

### Basic Computers

Wednesday, Sept. 19 • 10 – noon

Wednesday, Nov. 7 • 10 – noon

### Email

Wednesday, Sept. 26 • 10 – noon

Wednesday, Nov. 14 • noon – 2

### Digital Camera

Wednesday, Oct. 3 • 10– noon

### Email/Scan Photos

Wednesday, Oct. 10 • noon – 2