Media Happenings

March - April

Facebook Highlights

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] March 7 at 11:09am

Ramsey County Library welcomes people of all races, ethnicities, faiths, ages, genders, citizenship status, sexual orientations, abilities and learning interests.

How can we do better?

Tell us: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AllAreWelcome

All Are Welcome Here: A Ramsey County Library Survey

Web survey powered by SurveyMonkey.com. Create your own online survey now with SurveyMonkey's expert certified FREE templates.

SURVEYMONKEY.COM

2,288 people reached — Boost Post

71 — 2 Comments 1 Share

Like Comment Share — Top Comments

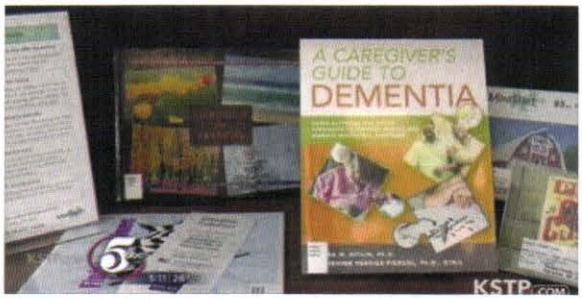
Write a comment

Lori Hughes Thanks for caring and for being interested in learning and improving.
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 7 at 5:39pm

Meijie Chen Goudy Thank you for always providing a wide selection of books
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 7 at 2:54pm

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] March 14 at 9:28am

Ramsey County Library is offering Memory Minders kits to help Alzheimer's and dementia patients and their caregivers.



Ramsey County Libraries Offer Way to Interact With Those Battling Memory Loss

Free kits called Memory Minders are now available at libraries in Roseville and Shoreview...

KSTP.COM

2,689 people reached — Boost Post

Ravit Shapir, Tasha McLachlan and 34 others — 1 Comment 18 Shares

Like Comment Share — Top Comments

Write a comment

Ann Wahlstrom Woo-hoo, Carol Jackson! What a great idea for the libraries to offer, I'm very impressed!
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 9:34am

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] March 10 at 12:04pm

What are the three books you cannot wait to read? Tell us!

757 people reached — Boost Post

Rao Konidena and L.A. Williams — 8 Comments

Like Comment Share — Top Comments

Write a comment

Raymond Steinke II The book in my hand, the one my favorite author is currently writing, and the one that catches my eye at the library/bookstore. Whatever it may be at the time.
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 10 at 10:29pm

Margaret Seibel The Girl who Drank the Moon, The War on Science, House of Many Ways
Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 10 at 12:56pm

Carol Frey Kwan's Rich People Problems, Shannon's Song Rising, & Tracy's Nothing Stays Buried...
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 10 at 3:15pm

Rao Konidena This is a tough one. I guess I can't wait to read latest Vince Flynn, Tom Clancy's and a religious book
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 6:36pm

Karen Duerringer Flynn Oathbringer (Stormlight Archives #3) by Brandon Sanderson, City of Miracles (Divine Cities #3) by Robert Jackson Bennett, and The Mirror and the Light (Thomas Cromwell #3) by Hilary Mantel.
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 10 at 4:09pm · Edited

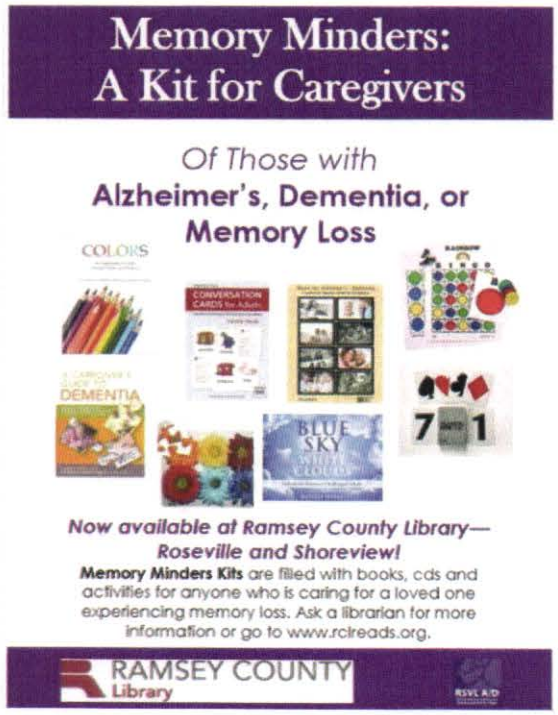
Shawn Rounds Gwendy's Button Box by Stephen King and Richard Chizmar!
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 10 at 12:49pm

Laura Fallas The Winds of Winter!!!
Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · March 10 at 1:18pm

Lucille DeCoux The Winds of Winter for me too.
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 11 at 3:02pm

Lori La Bey ▸ **Ramsey County Library**
March 7 at 9:15pm

I love the Memory Minders Kits at the Roseville & Shoreview Libraries which help those with dementia. What a great concept!!!
https://alzheimersspeaks.wordpress.com/.../libraries-offer-m.../



Ramsey County Library, Lori La Bey and Kay Wilson Hatlestad

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · March 9 at 3:50pm

Meet John Bergeron, Principal Circulation Supervisor

Who I am:
A people-person, which can sometimes be a problem because I tend to be overly sensitive. I am fortunate to have inherited my father's strong work ethic.

I am currently learning:
Guitar. It's my third attempt and I am confident that this time I will succeed.

My best memory:
My first marathon in Lacrosse, Wisconsin. I wanted to finish it within 3 hours and missed it by 25 seconds. Over the next 25 years of trying, I never got that close again.

1,872 people reached · Boost Post

Jennifer Dietrich, Margaret Meyer and 58 others · 3 Comments

Like · Comment · Share · Top Comments

Write a comment...

Casey McDermott I miss this guy. Best boss ever.
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 9 at 7:18pm

Rao Konidena It is nice that you do this.
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 14 at 6:37pm

Collette Balder Miller John is a wonderful human being.
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 9 at 9:05pm

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · March 23 at 2:49pm

Wow! We have reached the milestone of 3,000 likes. Thanks for supporting your local public library.

852 people reached · Boost Post

Marlene Moulton Janssen, Griffin Hughes and 11 others

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · March 16 at 9:16am

The Kiwanis Club of North Suburban St. Paul donated $35,000 to the Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries for the Shoreview Library Capital Campaign. This generous gift funds two large interactive installations created by the Minnesota Children's Museum plus $10,000 worth of new children's books for the lending collection.

1,558 people reached · Boost Post

Jennifer Dietrich, Heidi Holland and 31 others · 2 Comments · 2 Shares

Like · Comment · Share · Top Comments

Write a comment...

Angie Petrie Visited for the first time last week. Really impressed by the hexagon room divider, sensory sensitive kits and so many other parts. Many pictures were taken. Carol Jackson
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 16 at 10:55pm · Edited

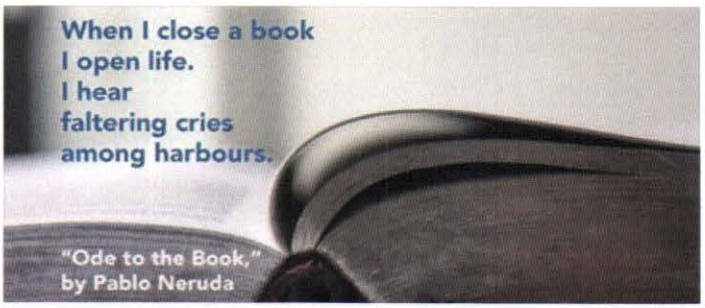
Carol Jackson So sorry to have missed you!
Like · Reply · Message · March 17 at 7:26am

Write a reply...

Beth Wagner Congrats. You are all over this.
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 17 at 5:00pm

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · March 21 at 9:46am

Happy #WorldPoetryDay! Share with us your favorite poem.



975 people reached · Boost Post

Bonnie Bassett and Kristen Sherman · 1 Comment

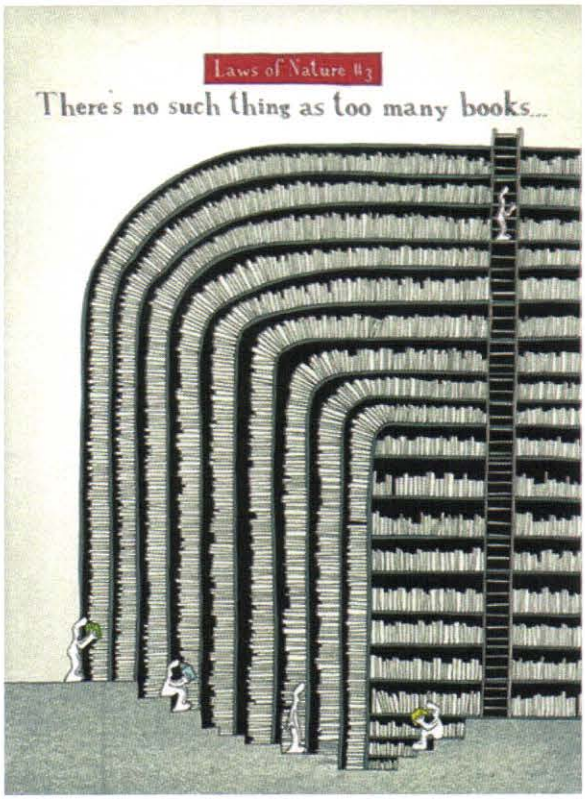
Like · Comment · Share · Top Comments

Write a comment...

Margaret Seibel There was a child went forth by Walt Whitman.
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 21 at 10:26am

Ramsey County Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · March 24 at 11:27am

Library humor. Image via http://lastlemon.com/harolds-planet/archive/page/17/



1,345 people reached · Boost Post

Howard Simms, Liz Fagerlund and 17 others · 1 Comment

Like · Comment · Share · Top Comments

Write a comment

Vickie Bartkus Agreed!
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · March 24 at 1:11pm

Check-in

Jimmie Davis checked in to Ramsey County Library
March 27 at 1:41pm · Roseville, MN

Home ♥

Ramsey County Library
Library · Roseville, MN
2,136 people checked in here

Like · Comment · Share

Ramsey County Library, Karen Pickering Cahow, Erik Sean Wills and 8 others

Alicia Davis Brother I'm off to and Wed would love to see you
Like · Reply · 1 · March 27 at 3:34pm

Jimmie Davis Sounds a plan sis !! Love you ♥
Like · Reply · March 27 at 3:34pm

Alicia Davis Love you too
Like · Reply · March 27 at 5:07pm

Check-in

Jim Lewis at Ramsey County Library
March 27 at 4:38pm · Roseville, MN

I ♥ the Ramsey County Library System!

Like · Comment · Share

Ramsey County Library, Sally Peters, Liz McLoone Dybvig and 32 others

1 share

Ramsey County Library added 10 new photos to the album Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them at Your Library
Published by Pa Na Lor [?] · March 22 at 4:08pm

Fellow magizoologists create their own magical creatures at the library in New Brighton.

1,108 people reached · Boost Post

Griffin Hughes, Meg Lloyd Robertson and 7 others

Mention

Ramsey County, Minnesota ✓ Liked as Your Page
March 27 at 8:13am

Saturday's Fix-It Clinic was a great success! Thank you to the volunteers and residents who participated in the event. Check out our next clinic on Saturday, April 29, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library - Roseville (2180 North Hamline Ave., Roseville, MN 55113). Don't trash it – #FixIt! #75PercentGoal

Sally Peters and Samantha Gruver

Mention

John Hakes
March 25 at 8:59am

Besides the invaluable Minnesota Reading Corps services that would go away were the Corporation for National and Community Service to be eliminated, the umbrella AmeriCorps program itself-- which places skilled volunteers in libraries, schools, and other organizations-- would be painful to lose.

For example- per Ramsey County Library Director Jill Boldenow- RCL hires (at low cost) three AmeriCorps Vista staff each year to teach digital literacy in labs and classes.

Please act to protect the systems of volunteer service that help keep the culture of Minnesota strong.

Congress should oppose Trump proposal to eliminate national service programs

Deep cuts in programs like AmeriCorps would be foolish and wasteful – costing far more than they would save.

MINNPOST.COM

John Hakes, Jeanne Kaczynski and 7 others 2 Comments

Like Comment Share

Pat Lickteig Senjem I served in the Minnesota Reading Corps...fantastic program serving education.
Like Reply 1 March 25 at 9:32am

Lana Ebeling conggress should do something pretty soon like 20 years ago
Like Reply March 25 at 3:32pm

Mention

White Bear Lake Area Historical Society ✓ Liked as Your Page
March 27 at 6:10pm

Nice crowd at the Ramsey County Library-White Bear Lake tonight! Thank you all for coming.

Ramsey County Library, Gloria Tesser, Sandra Lefilire and 3 others

Love Comment Share

Mention

Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries ✓ Liked as Your Page
Yesterday at 1:22pm

Have fun while helping to raise $30,000 for Ramsey County Library at Saturday's Friends Gala in City of Roseville, MN!

Bonnie Bassett 1 Comment

Twitter Highlights

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads · Mar 10
What are the three books you cannot wait to read? Tell us!

Sarah
@mnlibsarah
Following

@rclreads I'm always waiting for the next @authorbencoes, @BradThor, and @KyleMillsAuthor' Mitch Rapp.

Blake Huffman @BlakeCHuffman · Mar 14
Thanks @rclreads for hosting the @Rotary this morning. @RamseyCounty @cityofshoreview @ArdenHillsCity

1

Jamie Becker-Finn @jbeckerfinn · Mar 14
Kindergarten book & magician event at @rclreads for Emmet D Williams students @ISD_623

5

Lisa Laliberte @lisa4roseville · Mar 14
I'm so proud of @RosevilleMN 's role in providing support for dementia patients and caregivers. This is one example...

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads
Ramsey County Library is offering Memory Minders kits to help Alzheimer's & dementia patients and their caregivers. kstp.com/medical/ramsey...

2

ShouldaCoulda @shouldacoulda70 · Mar 14
I go to my public library @rclreads Do you go to yours @StephenAtHome ? #LSSC @colbertlateshow

89% Yes
0% No
11% Say what now?

9 votes • Final results

1 2

Amy Boese
@libraria
Following

Yay, Teen Tech Camp!!! #librarylife

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads
Teens create beats and video games during Teen Tech Camp at the library in Maplewood! m.facebook.com/story.php?stor...

LIKE
1

9:50 PM - 15 Mar 2017 from Falcon Heights, MN

1

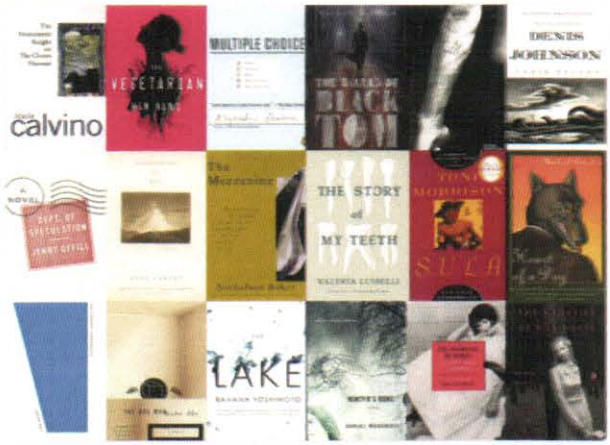
John Hakes
@johnhakes
Following

That Kiwanis Malt at the State Fair will taste extra good this year, considering how RCL-Shoreview benefited from its past sale. @rclreads

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads
The @Kiwanis Club of North Suburban St. Paul donated $35,000 to @RCLFriends for the Shoreview Library Capital Campaign.

12:30 PM - 16 Mar 2017

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads Mar 20
#mondaymotivation: 18 (More) Amazing Novels You Can Read in a Day
electricliterature.com/18-more-amazin...



1 14 25

Souleutions
@Souleutions
Follow

@rclreads, if there's ever a day where something with short films is involved, love to participate and bring a long some short films.

7:51 PM - 24 Mar 2017

1

Reply to @Souleutions

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads Mar 28
@Souleutions, thanks for letting us know! I will share this with the programming committee.

1 1

Souleutions @Souleutions Mar 28
@rclreads Thanks! It would be something cool and interesting to do. You rock!

Beau Waycott
@beauwaycott
Follow

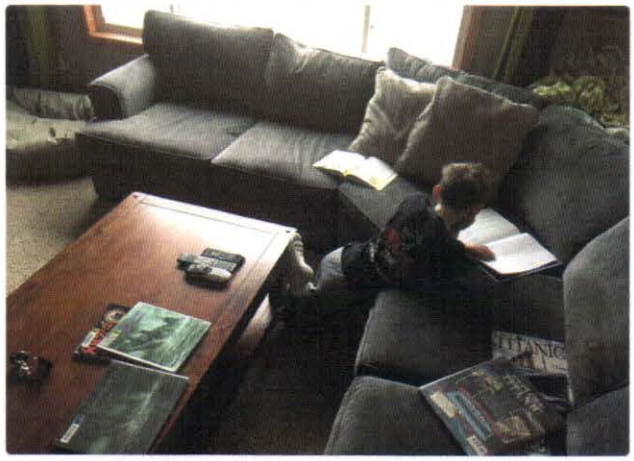
@rclreads @ElectricLit Italo Calvino, Han Kang, Toni Morrison- all so so fantastic! @PortobelloBooks @londonkoreanist

Véronique :) @vero_writer Mar 20
A trip to the bookstore is in my near future!

J.M. Floyd @janamfloyd Mar 20
Get your read on!

Diana Zapata @madamemina Mar 22
Y las comienza a leer todas, gracias a esa gente linda que comparte enlaces de descarga 😊

Joe Drennan @DrenFan Mar 25
A trip to @rclreads with Gus for Titanic books (8 of them) means he doesn't know which to read 1st, so reading all at once. #TheMoreYouKnow



1 3

Samien N
@Nukeswifey
Follow

There really is no such thing.

RamseyCountyLibrary @rclreads
#Libraryhumor. Image via lastlemon.com/haroldS-planet...

LIKE
1

11:30 AM - 24 Mar 2017

1

MPR News @MPRnews 53m
Cli-fi, or climate fiction, is a growing genre of speculative novels that imagine the consequences of climate change mprnews.org/story/2017/03/...

James
@lordhamlet73
Follow

@MPRnews Thank you! I just downloaded Kingsolver's from @rclreads! Other titles were still available, too...

LIKE
1

11:38 AM - 29 Mar 2017

1

Google/Yelp Reviews

Ramsey County Library - Shoreview

Write a review

4560 Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN

4.6 ★★★★½ 13 reviews

Sort by: Most recent

Nickname unavailable
2 weeks ago

★★★ I was initially excited about the new library, but have visited it and been unimpressed. The old library had a quieter and more inviting interior. I used to be able to read books in chairs that were tucked away from other people, overlooking beautiful old oaks and green grass, but now everything overlooks a busy road. Everything is more open now, which some may like, but feels like a lack of privacy to explore a stack of books. The are study rooms available, but they don't have exterior windows and those types of rooms have always seemed confining to me. It feels uninviting to me and like the interior will look dated in a few years. I don't see myself hanging out here - which to me, is important in a library.

Ramsey County Library - New Brighton

Write a review

400 10th St NW, New Brighton, MN

4.4 ★★★★½ 11 reviews

Sort by: Most recent

Courtney Engelstad
2 weeks ago

★★★★★ Frequent this place often with my 2 year old. Love that they have a dedicated room for children with books and toys. He loves it there!

Ramsey County Library - Mounds View

Write a review

2576 Moundsview Dr, Mounds View, MN

4.9 ★★★★★ 7 reviews

Sort by: Most recent

Sarah Schuler
3 weeks ago

★★★★★ This library just feels like home. I have been going here since I was a little kid and I always find a great read. The librarians are so sweet and helpful. I know there are a ton of activities offered here, but have never attended them.

Ramsey County Library - North St. Paul

Write a review

2300 N St Paul Dr, North St Paul, MN

4.3 ★★★★½ 7 reviews

Sort by: Most recent

Krista Ostendorf
a month ago

★★★ Small little Library but usually pretty quite.

Ramsey County Library in Roseville and Shoreview:

Save

Memory Minders: A Kit for Caregivers!

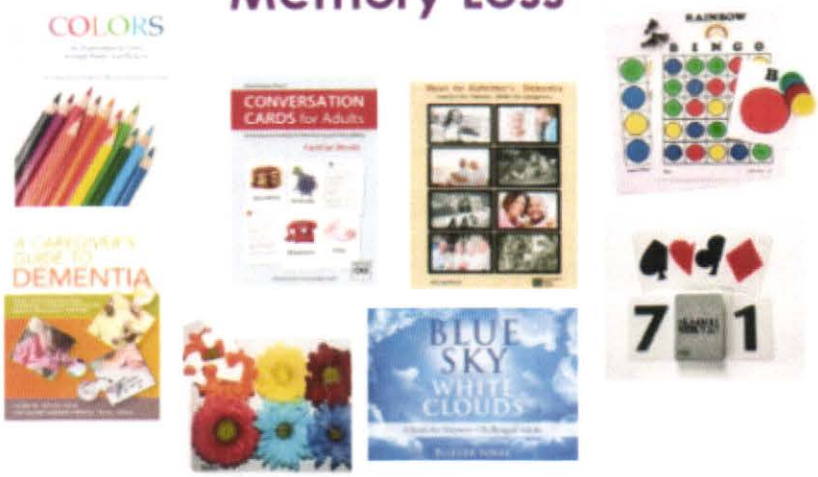
· Alzheimer's Speaks Blog

3/7/17

Memory Minders: A Kit for Caregivers

Of Those with

Alzheimer's, Dementia, or Memory Loss



Now available at Ramsey County Library—Roseville and Shoreview!

Memory Minders Kits are filled with books, cds and activities for anyone who is caring for a loved one experiencing memory loss. Ask a librarian for more information or go to www.rclreads.org.

RAMSEY COUNTY Library

RSVL A/D

(https://www.rclreads.org/)

Memory Minders are specially created forcaregivers

caring for people experiencing memory loss

What Is a Memory Minders Kit?

Memory Minders – A Kit for Caregivers are specially created for caregivers who are caring for people experiencing memory loss.

The materials in these Kits are specifically selected to **spark memories, create conversation and provide positive and engaging interactions** between people with Alzheimer's and Dementia and their care partners.

Each Kit is unique and features a variety of materials for care partners.

The **Memory Minders Kits** are available at:

Roseville Library
2180 Hamline Ave N.

Shoreview Library
4560 Victoria St. N.

www.rclreads.org

What Does the Memory Minders Kit Contain?

The **Memory Minders Kits** contain:

- An **interactive activity** for use with those with memory loss (such as a puzzle, bingo, games, or conversation cards)
- A **book** with colorful illustrations specifically created for individuals with memory loss

- A **cd** with music to soothe and spark memory
- **A Caregiver's Guide to Dementia** by Laura Gitlin, which provides activities and techniques to assist with the behavioral symptoms of dementia.
- Book lists and tip sheets for care partners.

Which Kit Should I Choose?

The **Memory Minders Kits** are divided into three Activity Levels*: High, Middle and Low.

High Activity Level (Early Stage Dementia):

- Dresses self with occasional errors; needs help with details
- Understands the goal of the task; uses what is seen as cues for what to do
- Needs periodic cueing

Middle Activity Level (Middle Stage Dementia):

- Dresses with help for the basic steps and details
- Doesn't understand the goal but has some awareness of task steps
- Needs step by step cuing

Low Activity Level (Late Stage Dementia):

- Needs physical help with all the steps
- Doesn't understand the purpose or task steps
- Caregiver physical assist; hand over hand

* Activity Level descriptions courtesy of **Mindstart**

MindStart
www.mindstart.com

(https://www.rclreads.org/)The materials in these kits are specifically selected to spark memories, create conversation and provide positive and engaging interactions between people with Alzheimer's and Dementia and their care partners. The kits are divided into high, middle and low activity levels.

Each Memory Minder kit is unique and features an interactive activity for use with those with memory loss (such as a puzzle, bingo, games or conversation cards), a book with colorful illustrations created for individuals with memory loss, a cd with music to soothe and spark memory, and *A Caregiver's Guide to Dementia* by Laura Gitlin, which explores the use of activities and other techniques to prevent, reduce and otherwise manage the behavioral symptoms of dementia.

(https://www.rclreads.org/)

The Memory Minder Kits are available at the Ramsey County Library in Roseville and Shoreview, and be checked out for three weeks. The kits are renewable and requestable via the library's catalog at **www.rclreads.org (http://www.rclreads.org)**.

These kits were created out of a unique partnership between:

Ramsey County Library, Roseville Alzheimer's & Demential Community Action Team, and sponsorships by Cherrywood Pointe, Lyngblomsten, Sunrise Senior Living, New Perspectives Senior Living, and the Friends of Ramsey County Library.

More Information about Memory Minders

Checking Out:
- Memory Minder Kits can be checked out for three weeks.
- Kits are renewable.

Checking In:
- Kits may be returned to the desk of any branch of Ramsey County Library.
- Please bring kits to the Circulation Desk for check in. (No bookdrop returns, please.)

Requests:
- Kits may be requested on our catalog.
- If you would like a particular Kit or activity, please ask a librarian for assistance.

Overdues:
- Overdue charges for Kits are $0.30 per day, up to a limit of $15.00.

Replacement Costs:
- Replacement cost for an entire Kit is $50.00.

Need More Info? Contact Carol Jackson, Shoreview Library Manager, at cjackson@rclreads.org or 651-724-6090.

Memory Minders Kit

LYNGBLOMSTEN
SUNRISE
New Perspective
RSVL A/D
FRIENDS

Memory Minders Kit Sponsors:

Cherrywood Pointe
cherrywoodpointe.com
Lyngblomsten
lyngblomsten.org
Sunrise Senior Living
sunriseseniorliving.com
New Perspectives Senior Living
npseniorliving.com
Friends of Ramsey County Libraries
rclfriends.org
Rsvl A/D
cityofroseville.com/dementiainfo

RAMSEY COUNTY Library

RCL - 2/17

Memory Minders: A Kit for Caregivers

Of Those with
Alzheimer's, Dementia, or Memory Loss

COLORS
CONVERSATION CARDS for Adults
DEMENTIA

(https://www.rclreads.org/)

Ramsey County Library – Shoreview

4560 Victoria St. N.

Shoreview, MN 55126

651-724-6006

Other

top right promo
- flex2

http://www.postbulletin.com/news/local/rochester-public-library-eyes-national-honor/article_7ad508b0-3b9e-5996-bfa3-48d6fc2d366f.html

Rochester Public Library eyes national honor

Randy Petersen, rpetersen@postbulletin.com Mar 21, 2017 Updated Mar 22, 2017

Elizabeth Nida Obert

Buy I

Dan Massaglia, of Rochester, finds a quiet space to read Monday at the Rochester Public Libra which is one of 30 libraries and museums up for ten National Medals.

The Rochester Public Library is in the running for a National Medal for Museum and Library Science.

Medals are awarded each year as the nation's highest honor for community service by museums and libraries, and the Rochester library is among 30 contenders for this year's honors. Ten medals will be

awarded.

"Knowing we are included within the top 30, out of thousands of institutions nationwide, is a great honor," Library Director Audrey Betcher said.

DRIVE NOW

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and approximately 35,000 museums.

Betcher said the honor stems from work started years ago.

"In 2012 representatives from throughout Rochester and Olmsted County participated in the library's strategic planning process which led to an increased focus on inclusivity, innovation and creativity," she said.

The effort led to a community-focused initiative aimed at creating a safe space with a dedication to access for all. It also helped spur a variety of innovative programs to address community literacy, such as the Book Bike and Reading Champions initiatives.

The plan also fueled a dramatic increase in program attendance. Participation in library programs, classes and events increased 304 percent as a result of strategic planning efforts.

"We listen to our community, and the increase in attendance speaks volumes," Betcher said.

Kathryn K. Matthew, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, noted the importance of community focus while announcing the finalists Monday.

"The 2017 National Medal finalists represent the leading museums and libraries that serve as catalysts for change in their communities," she said. "It is our honor to recognize 30 notable institutions for the work they do in reinforcing the importance of lifelong learning and in turn improving the lives of individuals, families and communities."

Out of the 30 finalists, 10 will receive National Medals at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. In the 23-year history of the National Medal, only two Minnesota libraries have received the honor: St. Paul Public Library in 2005 and Hill Museum & Manuscript Library in 2011.

This is the first year Rochester Public Library applied for the honor and it is joined by University of Minnesota Libraries as one of the 30 finalists.

The Rochester library will be highlighted April 18 as the Institute of Museum and Library Services puts a daily spotlight on each contender leading up to the announcement of the winners later this spring.

Representatives from winning institutions will travel to Washington, D.C., to be honored at the National Medal award ceremony.

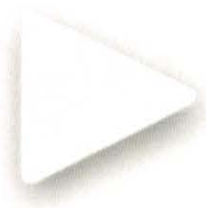
Until the awards are announced, the institute is encouraging community members who visited Rochester Public Library to share their stories on its Facebook page: www.facebook.com/USIMLS.

Randy Petersen

Randy is the Post Bulletin's local government reporter, covering the city of Rochester and Olmsted County, as well as Destination Medical Center efforts. He joined the Post Bulletin staff in 2014.

Ramsey County Libraries Offer Way to Interact With Those Battling Memory Loss

Ramsey County Libraries Offer Way to Interact With Those Battling Memory Loss



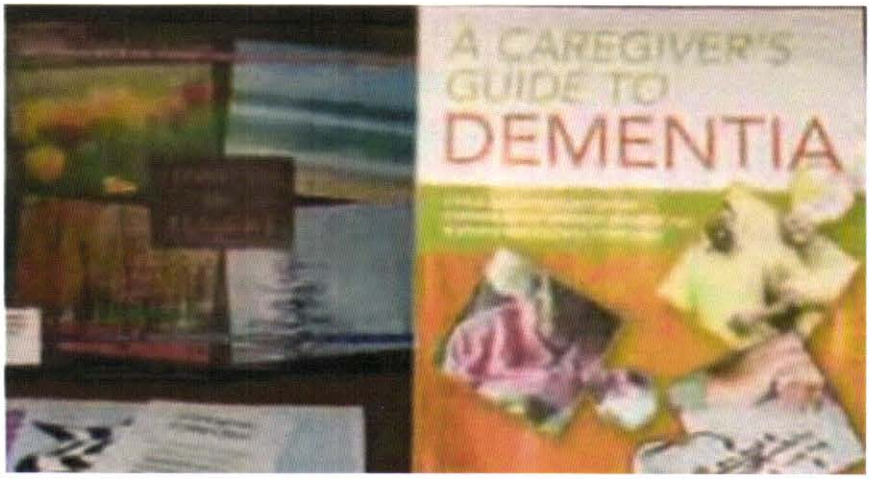
March 13, 2017 09:50 PM

The Ramsey County Libraries have found a way to help Alzheimer's and dementia patients and their caregivers.

The libraries are offering free kits called Memory Minders.

They include a book with colorful illustrations created for people with memory loss, a music CD to soothe and spark memory, a book called a 'Caregiver's Guide to Dementia' and interactive activities such as a puzzles, bingo, games or conversation cards for use with those with memory loss.

"You don't have the shared memories, you don't have traditional interactions," said Carol Jackson of the Shoreview Library.



KSTP

"This gives you a way to have that interaction with someone you love who has dementia."

The kits are currently available at the Ramsey County Libraries in Roseville and Shoreview. They were created in cooperation with the Roseville Alzheimer's & Dementia Community Action Team.

The Roseville Library also has an event monthly featuring a speaker who focuses on issues surrounding Alzheimer's and dementia.

KSTP

Updated: March 13, 2017 09:50 PM

Created: March 13, 2017 09:43 PM

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TOP STORIES > (/ARTICLE/127/)

MINNEAPOLIS

Full-time social worker at Hennepin Central Library connects the homeless

Full-time staffer at Minneapolis Central Library helps find tools, housing and resources.

By Haley Hansen (http://www.startribune.com/haley-hansen/411361475/) Star Tribune

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Kate Coleman worked with nearly 500 homeless people at Minneapolis Central Library last year. But whenever one homeless person asks if she's ever met another homeless person like him or her, her answer is always "no."

"Every single person that I encounter is different," she said.

Coleman works full time at the downtown library as part of a yearslong effort by the Hennepin County Library system to better help the homeless connect with tools and resources in the area.

Library staff often receive requests from patrons about homeless services that are beyond a librarian's knowledge, said Lois Langer Thompson, director of the library system.

"This is a place where people come looking for answers," Thompson said.

Coleman's position allows the library to be more than just a basic reference point for help. She said the full-time role fits in with the library's overall mission of connecting all parts of the community with help and information.

Libraries in Denver, San Francisco and Seattle offer similar services, she said.

Coleman works for St. Stephen's Human Services, a nonprofit whose mission is to end homelessness. Her position is funded by Hennepin County's human services and public health department and the Downtown Council. She began working as the full-time library outreach coordinator at the end of 2015.

For many, the library serves as a welcoming and comfortable place to begin looking for help, Coleman said.

"I think the library allows people to feel human and to just feel like they can comfortably be themselves when they're here," she said.

Coleman hosts weekly walk-in hours that are posted and announced throughout the library. The majority of the patrons she works with ask for help with housing and employment, Coleman said. Others need help getting access to mental health services.

"Those resources are always changing," she said. "So it's my job to always keep up with what's available and stay connected with those other community service providers."

Being at the library 40 hours a week gives her a better opportunity to follow up with the people she works with, she said.

Coleman asks them about income, disability diagnoses and the length of time they've been homeless to help connect them with the services that best fit their needs.

In 2015, there were more than 3,000 homeless people living in Hennepin County.

People in need often turn to libraries because they're staples in communities and can offer a sense of security and safety, said Ali Turner, system services division manager for the library system.

She said having Coleman present can also make homeless patrons more comfortable using other resources at the library.

"There isn't a stigma attached to visiting [the library]," she said.

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Kate Coleman, outreach coordinator at the Minneapolis Central Library, met with Byron Brooks about his housing issues.
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