

**Ramsey County Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
July 19, 2017  
2576 Mounds View Boulevard  
Mounds View, MN – 6:30 PM**

CONNECT community  
INSPIRE curiosity  
CULTIVATE learning

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Public Comment (6:30-6:35)**
- III. Consent Agenda (6:35-6:40)**
  - A. Approval of Agenda (1)
  - B. Approval of June 21, 2017 Minutes (2)
  - C. Director's Report (3)
  - D. Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries Report (4)
  - E. 2017 Second Quarter Reports
    - 1. Strategic Plan Update & Workplan Progress (5)
    - 2. Financial Report (6)
    - 3. Statistical Report (7)
    - 4. Incident Reports (8)
- IV. Action Items (6:40-7:00)**
  - A. Library Board Minutes Format (9)
  - B. Other
- V. Discussion Items (7:00-8:30)**
  - A. Write Off Uncollectible Debt (10)
  - B. Library Board Name Tags (11)
  - C. Library Director Performance Review Process (12)
  - D. Mounds View Branch Update/Tour (13)
  - E. Other
- VI. Adjournment (8:30)**
- VII. Next Meeting**
  - A. August 16, 2017 – **CANCEL?**
  - B. September 20, 2017, RCL – New Brighton, 400 10<sup>th</sup> St. N.W., 6:30 p.m.

**Scheduled Upcoming Meetings**

<b>August 16, 2017</b>	RCL – Roseville 2180 Hamline Avenue North	Friends of the Library Update Protested Materials Update Library Policy Updates
<b>September 20, 2017</b>	RCL – New Brighton 400 – 10 <sup>th</sup> Street N.W.	Communications/Programming Update Library Policy Updates Branch Update/Tour Library Director Annual Review
<b>October 18, 2017</b>	RCL – Maplewood 3025 Southlawn Drive	2017 Third Quarter Reports Benchmarking RCL to Comparable Libraries Holiday Calendar Library Policy Updates Branch Update/Tour

**Library Board**

Craig Klausing, Chair  
Janice Rapheal, Vice Chair  
John Hakes, Secretary  
Marisol Chiclana-Ayala  
Hector Garcia  
Paula Mielke  
Kim Vanderwall

**Library Director**

Jill Boldenow

**Administrative Office**  
4560 North Victoria St.  
Shoreview, MN 55126  
Phone: (651) 486-2200  
[www.rclreads.org](http://www.rclreads.org)

## Minutes of the Ramsey County Library Board June 21, 2017

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**LIBRARY BOARD PRESENT:**

Marisol Chiclana-Ayala (left at 8:15), Hector Garcia (left at 7:50), John Hakes, Craig Klausing, Paula Mielke, Janice Rapheal, Kim Vanderwall

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jill Boldenow, Library Director; Lynn Wyman, Deputy Director; Mary Larson, Library Board Coordinator; Jeff Eide, Policy & Planning Manager; Therese Sonnek, White Bear Lake Library Manager; Peter Hedberg, Maplewood Circulation Supervisor

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County Commissioner; Cyndi Cook, Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries Executive Director; Les Sipkema, Shoreview Resident, Bryan Olson, Falcon Heights Resident

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Klausing called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Program Room of the Ramsey County Library in White Bear Lake, 2150 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Bryan Olson, Falcon Heights resident, made a public data request regarding staff training attendance. Les Sipkema, Shoreview resident, followed up on his comments from May, when he discussed his research into flight crashes and investigations, and made suggestions regarding the Library Board minutes and the donor plaque for the Eilenne Boder room at the Ramsey County Library in Shoreview.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES:**

Vanderwall made a motion to approve the agenda for June 21, 2017, and the minutes of May 17, 2017, as presented. Chiclana-Ayala seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

**ART POLICY:**

In April 2017, the Library Board approved revisions to the Library Board Policies and Gift Policy, which raised the Library Director's threshold for making purchases and accepting gifts to \$25,000.

With the Art Committee selecting art for the new Ramsey County Library in Shoreview, and to be consistent the Library Board Policies and Gift Policy, staff is proposing that the Art Policy be amended to include the \$25,000 threshold for accepting donations of art and commissioning artworks.

Vanderwall made a motion to approve the recommended changes to the Art Policy. Chiclana-Ayala seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Important Dates:** All libraries are closed July 4. RCL migrates its ILS to SaaS June 27 & 28; some services will be limited. The County Board hearing of the Library's service team budget is August 15, 1:00-4:00.

**Summer Reading Program**—SRP kicked off with a bang at the June 10<sup>th</sup> *Make It Festival* for kids and teens. Kudos to the RCL Children's Team and Teen Services staff who have produced a bounty of opportunities all summer for kids and teens to read, explore, and create. Thanks to Pa Na Lor and Kristi Saksvig for designing the dynamic SRP catalog, reading records, and activity booklets. We look forward to seeing the libraries teeming with kids, teens, animals, performers, and more this summer!

**MN Writes, MN Reads**—With MELSA support, RCL and other metro libraries have launched MN Writes, MN Reads. This online platform fosters self-publishing and reading of e-books by Minnesota authors. It provides tools to design and publish e-books that are accessible locally and nationally.

**Meal Program at MP**—Maplewood Library is a site for the USDA Summer Food Service Program. Children 18 and under may have a cold lunch and/or an afternoon snack. Meals are provided through an agreement with Youthprise, a nonprofit organization working with youth in the Twin Cities.

**Shoreview Library**—The Art Committee has selected and installed new art for the library with funding from the Friends' capital campaign. Pieces include a landscape photograph near the entrance, by Jim Radford; pottery near the reference desk, by Paul Gaston; paintings in the children's area, by Emmy White; and a painting in the community program room, by Yudong Shen. There will be more art to come, as well as a final order of furnishings and supplies that will move this project closer to completion.

**Capital Planning**—Boldenow discussed with the County Manager the Library's intent to develop a 5-year capital plan. She will work with Property Management and Library staff to explore options for hiring a consultant to develop this plan. The Library will bring a proposal to fund a consultant's work to the Capital Improvement Program Citizen's Advisory Committee (CIPAC) and the County Board. A timeline, process, and team to guide this work will be proposed at a future library board meeting.

**IT Consolidation**—Ramsey County Human Resources is finalizing new job descriptions to present in the first week of July to Library staff who are currently responsible for IT functions.

#### **FRIENDS OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARIES REPORT:**

Summer Reading Program Kickoff Celebration: Friends volunteers Diane Hoon and John W. Harris and staff Caitlin Carroll and Cyndi Cook jumped in to support the Bookawocky Make-It Festival for Kids and Teens on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Roseville Library. They joined Ramsey County Commissioners Victoria Reinhardt and Mary Jo McGuire in greeting library patrons and directing them to a wide range of fun and educational events and activities and hosted the Scavenger Hunt Table, cheering on participants as they read through their clues and located different items in the Children's Garden area. The library was a hub of activity with families playing and learning together all day.

Shoreview Library Volunteer Appreciation: Friends staff participated in the Shoreview volunteer appreciation luncheon on June 7<sup>th</sup> to meet and greet the many volunteers who work diligently to keep the library humming. Kudos to the Shoreview library staff for hosting a lovely event with good food, fun games, and great company! The Friends are pleased to be able to provide funding support for the Ramsey County Library volunteer appreciation events each year.

Shoreview Library Capital Campaign: The garden benches lining Highway 96 have now been enhanced with brushed metal donor and memorial plaques. The Friends would like to thank the Shoreview Community Garden Club, the John W. Harris Family, Sandy Martin, Barbara Wegleitner and the family of Julie Krenn for their generous contributions. In addition, plaques have been installed next to the flagpole in the outdoor garden area and over the interior fireplace. The Friends extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Daughters of the American Revolution, Harriet G. Walker Chapter for donating the flagpole and to the North Oaks Community Foundation and the family of Adeline and Albert Kuske for donating the fireplace. The garden pavers have also arrived with installation scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Legacy of Literacy: The Friends shared an exhibition booth at the Minnesota CLE Probate and Trust Attorney's Conference June 12-13 to promote planned giving to benefit libraries, both in Ramsey County and throughout the state. They requested a booth next to the Animal Humane Society as the "canine ambassadors" at their

booth really helped to bring conference participants our way. The Friends had the opportunity to talk with dozens of attorneys about the different ways that their clients can help to ensure vibrant and sustainable library systems through legacy bequests.

#### Upcoming events

- Friends Board of Directors meeting July 24, 2017 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Roseville library.
- Book It! 5K Walk/Run at 9:00 am on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the Roseville Library.
- Friends Annual Luncheon on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the North Oaks Country Club.

#### **2018-2019 BUDGET UPDATE:**

On May 31, 2017, Ramsey County Manager Julie Kleinschmidt shared her proposed Ramsey County budget for 2018 and 2019 to County departments. She recommended that Ramsey County Library receive a 3.31% budget increase for 2018, and a 1.14% budget increase for 2019, for a two-year total levy increase of 4.49%. The proposed budget includes the following changes:

- Maintain current public service hours and FTE at all seven libraries;
- Include base funding for New Brighton hours (FTE added in 2016 budget);
- Increases in Administrative Overhead and Ramsey County IT costs;
- Increase collections budget by \$225,000 from use of fund balance (with plan to put in tax levy base in 2021);
- Establish a refurbishment budget of \$100,000 per year to be funded from contingency balances in the Shoreview Library Construction budget;
- Full funding of \$150,000 for substitute staff in 2018, reduced by \$60,000 in 2019;
- Additional hours at Mounds View not funded.

The County Manager will share her proposed budget with the County Board of Commissioners on August 8, 2017 in a Budget Workshop. The Library's budget hearing with the County Board will be held on August 15, 2017, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., as part of the Economic Growth & Community Investment Service Team hearing. The County Board will certify the levy for 2018 on September 19, 2017, and will vote on the final budget on December 12, 2017.

Mielke made a motion to authorize Library staff to submit the proposed budget documents to Ramsey County Finance on June 22, 2017 as directed. Chiclana-Ayala seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

#### **SKILLS FOR LIFE UPDATE – SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH ACCESS:**

Health Access has been a library partner for almost 5 years. Their staff provides MNsure navigation services to the library public free of charge. They help the uninsured and underinsured sign up for improved medical coverage. Pete Hedberg, Maplewood Library Circulation Supervisor, was asked to manage this program Watts about a year and a half ago. After the open enrollment period is over each year, Health Access remains at both Roseville and Maplewood but reduce their hours from full to part time to reflect the seasonal fluctuations in business. Even so, last year they remained quite busy during their post peak months. The uncertain status of impending state and federal legislation regarding health care has had very real effects on our Health Access partners.

During 2015, Health Access staffed 221 sessions between Maplewood and Roseville and had 888 attendees. During 2016, they hosted 180 sessions at the same two sites and worked with 936 visitors. In addition, through May 2017 they have served an additional 606 individuals.

The Community Resource Advocate program started in fall 2015 as a pilot project at Maplewood, linking an array of family services and community outreach resources to the public library setting. The start-up included working with the director of the Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative. Her networking and organizing skill led to a couple of well attended planning sessions in the area and a host of partners willing to help staff a program at Maplewood on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30-3:00. From its inception, 2-10 individuals attended the program every week and it has led to numerous instances of concrete and life changing assistance for folks in need of help. The answer to the question about how much unseen need there was in our midst is sobering in retrospect: there was - and there remains - plenty of need in the first ring suburban library setting. A partial list of the types of issues that advocates help visitors with ranges from homelessness, unemployment, and mental health, to childcare, transportation, food assistance, and more.

Partners in the program have included People Incorporated, Keystone Community Services, Salvation Army, Tubman Center, School District 622, Ramsey County Child and Teen Checkups, and Resource, Inc.

The success of the program resulted in expansion to Roseville on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00. The Roseville program has just reached its first anniversary. After a less consistent turnout in the beginning, the sessions have grown increasingly busy in recent months.

From January through May of 2017, Maplewood had 129 visitors to its weekly program. During the same time, Roseville had 68 visitors.

The Library Board discussed food shelf referrals, and other potential partner agencies.

#### **SKILLS FOR LIFE UPDATE – ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY:**

In January 2017, Life Skills programming was broken up into smaller pieces. Therese Sonnek assumed responsibility for programming related to environmental and sustainability issues, with the seed library at White Bear Lake seen as one program to fill those goals.

#### The Seed Library

The Seed Library provides vegetable, flower, and native plant seeds that are GMO-free. Patrons check out seed packets and return seeds at the end of the growing season. One full year is completed and the second year is underway. The Library had many donated seeds, and volunteers packed them into small packets.

Seed packets added in 2017 through May: 1,590

Seed packets borrowed in 2017 through May: 712

There is no longer a limit in the number of packets that one patron can check out.

Two seed-starting classes were taught by the founder of the Seed Library in May at White Bear Lake and Roseville and had good attendance. Two more classes are scheduled for September at White Bear Lake and Shoreview about collecting seeds from plants for next season.

The Library Board discussed the possibility of expanding the seed library to another location. Sonnek noted that a strong volunteer partner would be needed to package and organize the seeds each year.

#### Fix-it Clinics

Ramsey County Environmental Health organizes the events and brings in many talented volunteers who fix electronics, small appliances, clothing and other gadgets in order to make them usable again and keep them out of the landfills. Six events throughout 2017 are booked.

Three clinics held at White Bear Lake, Shoreview and Roseville in 2017 had:

Number of people helped: 159

Number of items fixed: 201

Number of pounds kept from landfills: 1,449

Local cable created a short video of the program: <https://youtu.be/8YYDsJRWtBc>

Feedback from surveys has been fantastic.

Coming in July and August: "SPOILER ALERT! Is that food safe to eat?" A new Food Safety and food stretching program taught by Dr. Joellen Feirtag, Food Safety Specialist, University of Minnesota. Attendees will learn about "Best by" dates and what they mean. Much food is thrown out that is perfectly fine to eat.

Future program ideas: Composting; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle ideas; Leave No Trace philosophy while outdoors.

#### **RACIAL EQUITY UPDATE:**

Ramsey County Library identifies the promotion of "economic prosperity and racial justice" as strategic priorities. This focus is aligned with the fundamental values of the American Library Association to uphold equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The Library also joins with Ramsey County colleagues in recognizing that county residents experience significant racial disparities in poverty rates, employment, and household income. These disparities highlight the need for access to the Library's resources supporting education, employment, and economic development.

In 2016, the Library's Racial Equity Leadership Team developed a "Racial Equity and Inclusion Statement" and a set of principles for implementing a racial equity vision in Library programs and initiatives.

Using that framework, the Library developed a 2017 racial equity plan that distributes responsibilities for implementation throughout the Library. The plan weaves racial equity within collection development, facilities and programming, policy development, partnerships, hiring and training, and communications.

The Library Board reviewed data on Ramsey County racial disparities; the Library's Racial Equity and Inclusion Statement; and an update on the Library's 2017 Racial Equity Work Plan.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE:**

Two years ago, Ramsey County Library was coming out of multi-year staffing cuts and was grappling with a lack of diversity in library staff, long tenure and low turnover, a large number of part-time staff and the challenge of staffing seven sites with evening and weekend hours.

The library has made progress on some of these issues. Public services staffing has increased through the added hours at New Brighton and Shoreview. The library has worked through the hiring and training associated with the retirements of several key staff.

Progress is being made in hiring staff who reflect the diversity of the community. According to annual Ramsey County Workforce Statistics Reports, as of January 1, 2014, 95% of permanent library staff were white; as of January 1, 2017, 88% of permanent library staff were white. The 2017 Ramsey County report mentions the library as a department with significant diversity in new hires. The library continues to use the Student Worker job classification to provide work opportunities for youth, particularly for youth of color.

Ramsey County Human Resources manages job postings, applications, and background checks for all County departments, including the library. The library interviews candidates from HR certified eligibility lists.

Most library staff are in union positions. Circulation staff is in the AFSCME Local 8 general unit. Librarians are in the AFSCME Local 8 professional unit. The library participates in bimonthly Labor Management Committee meetings with representatives from the Local 8 professional unit. The library also participates in Ramsey County's Interest-Based Bargaining process. Current Local 8 contracts will expire this year. A new bargaining process will begin later this summer.

**LIBRARY FUND AND CAPITAL FUND:**

Ramsey County uses a two-year (biennial) operating budget. Staff are currently in the process of developing the 2018-19 Library budget. This involves the Library and other County departments submitting operating budget documents to the Finance Department to inform the County Manager's proposed budget. The Library Board approves the operating budget that the Library Director submits to the County Manager. The County Manager and departments present to the County Board. The County Board certifies the maximum property tax levy and holds public hearings. The County Board adopts the biennial budget and the property tax levy. The library fund is supported by a suburban-only property tax levy, because our service area is suburban Ramsey County.

Minnesota Statutes establish how public library service is supported by a city or county library fund created by a property tax. Statute 134.07 describes the county board's role in levying the tax. Statute 134.11 describes the library board's role in having control of the expenditure of library fund money.

The library fund supports the operating budget. The County also invites departments, on a biennial basis, to propose projects requiring capital funds for facility, equipment, and infrastructure needs. The County uses a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to prioritize and budget capital funds for projects, and it is similar in many respects to the biennial operations budget process described above.

One significant difference is that the CIP asks departments to project their capital funding needs over the next six years. While the CIP keeps an eye on the County capital needs over a six-year span, the County only budgets funds for the first two years of the CIP plan.

A second distinction of the CIP process is that it involves a Capital Improvement Program Citizens' Advisory Committee (CIPAC) consisting of up to 14 citizens appointed by the County Board, along with County staff. The CIPAC reviews all CIP requests and makes recommendations to the County Board. The County Board determines what capital projects are approved and issues bonds to fund the plan. Any subsequent adjustments to the plan for using capital funds are brought to the CIPAC and the County Board.

Previously, the Library has received capital funds through the CIP process to support several Library construction projects. In 2017, the Library made a request for a new CIP allocation of \$100,000 to support furniture refurbishment needs at two libraries. The County recommends that the Library use Shoreview construction contingency funds rather than new CIP funding for this purpose. As part of the current biennial budget process, the County Board will be asked to approve allocating \$100,000 in contingency funds each year (for a total of \$200,000) to support furniture refurbishment needs throughout the Library system.

The Shoreview Library capital project is expected to come in under budget, and there are some construction contingency funds that were not used. The exact balance is not yet known. The Library may bring a proposal to CIPAC and the County Board to use these capital funds for developing and/or implementing a new capital plan.

**MINNESOTA OPEN MEETING LAW:**

As a public body, the Library Board follows the Open Meeting Law, which is detailed in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13D. To inform the Board about the law, the Board members viewed an information video by the Information Policy Analysis Division of the Minnesota Department of Administration. The video is found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jler3r-7ROs>.

**NORTH ST. PAUL BRANCH UPDATE:**

Boldenow reported that she is working with staff from the City of North St. Paul to address issues at the library in the former Community Center. She noted that the future of the Bauer-Emerson Prep Academy is uncertain. City staff have stated that the Library remains a priority.

**WHITE BEAR LAKE BRANCH UPDATE:**Trends in the Service Area:

- Rush Line BRT-Future Light Rail planning in public comment phase and final route selected – construction possible circa 2024 – St. Paul to White Bear Lake.
- Water level rising on White Bear Lake.
- Ramsey County Beach reopened after 9-year closure due to low-lake levels.
- New Commercial growth along Centerville Rd near I-35E and White Bear Ave near I-694.
- According to 2015 American Community Survey data, the Asian population in the city of White Bear Lake went down from 5.94% to 3.88% and the white population went up from 86.81% to 88.18% over the 2014 data (this is close to 2010 levels). Total population estimates rose slightly from 24,424 to 24,811. Other racial groups remained about the same.

Library Issues and Service Trends:

- Overall circulation is down slightly, less than 2% over 2014 and 2016 first quarters.
- Visits are up 3%.
- Children's use is strong – both with collections and programming.
- Staff continue to field patron complaints about noise as traditional views of a quiet place clash with programs to attract young families.

**NEXT MEETING: July 19, 2017, RCL-Mounds View, 2576 Mounds View Boulevard, 6:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Larson  
Library Board Coordinator

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**DIRECTOR'S REPORT****July 2017**

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**Staff Updates:** Hired: Pragya Karmacharya, summer student worker, Roseville  
Vithue Chumara, summer student worker, Maplewood  
Vivian Tran, summer student worker, Shoreview

**Important Dates:** August 15: County Board budget hearing with EGCI service team; Library tentatively scheduled from 3:00-3:15 p.m. The Book It! 5K Walk/Run is September 16, and the Friends Annual Luncheon is October 14.

**Naturalization Ceremony**

On July 6, the Library hosted a naturalization ceremony, which resulted in 28 people—from 18 countries—becoming U.S. citizens. Carol Jackson partnered with the City of Shoreview and the Shoreview Human Rights Commission to plan and host this event at Shoreview Library. Some of the countries represented during the ceremony included Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, France, India, Kenya, Laos, Moldova, Russia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam.

**Parks and Recreation Story Trails**

Monica Stratton has collaborated with Ramsey County Parks & Recreation to present three Story Trails this summer. She installed large display boards along park trails depicting double-page spreads of a book. After finishing each book, visitors find a related activity. Monica selects books with simple language that are accessible to English language learners. In June, Keller Lake Park hosted a Story Trail with the book, *My Five Senses*. Battle Creek Park hosted the title, *Flower Garden*. From August 5-13, Long Lake will feature the book, *In the Tall, Tall Grass*. Monica made all of the book displays. She describes this project as a “labor of love . . . It’s a fantastic way to reach underserved populations.”

**North Saint Paul Library**

The Library has been in discussions with the City of North Saint Paul regarding maintenance and room use at its facility. One of the building tenants, MN Revolution Academy, has been in charge of the Library’s custodial care. That tenant is leaving, and we are working with the City to determine the plan for cleaning moving forward. With the tenant transition, the City has agreed to give the Library ongoing use of an adjacent room that has had limited accessibility for us in the past. We will pursue an agreement to this as a permanent change, and if so, we will amend our contract. This room would provide valuable programming space for the Library, particularly to serve families at Storytime.

**New Brighton Community Center**

New Brighton City staff are recommending that the Ralph Reader Food Shelf move to New Brighton Community Center—in first floor spaces next to the New Brighton Library. The Library welcomes the food shelf; however, we are concerned about losing access to the rooms (Room 100 A/B/C/D, and

Room 122) that are currently used for Library storytimes, digital literacy programs, and a variety of summer reading program activities. Our contract outlines the Library's access to these rooms and others, though the contract also grants the landlord the right to substitute comparably sized rooms. Library staff have met with City and Community Center staff to discuss alternatives. We hope to access rooms across from the Library that are insulated from the louder sound levels near the Eagle's Nest. If facility room numbers and room use agreements change, this contract will likely need to be amended.

**Capital Planning**—I have met with Property Management and Library staff to discuss an RFP process and scope of work for a consultant. We aim to issue an RFP in the next few months to solicit a pre-design for Maplewood Library as well as a more general, system-wide capital plan with five-year priorities based on programmatic directions. Next steps include developing the RFP and obtaining funding approval (to hire a consultant) from the Capital Improvement Program Citizen's Advisory Committee (CIPAC) and the County Board.

**IT Consolidation**—We anticipate that IT consolidation will occur in late summer or early fall. Library administration has met with Library Automation Services staff to discuss post-consolidation job options in the Library. The County Information Services (IS) department has not yet presented the job options in IS. Before consolidation can take place, IS must obtain approval from the County Board to add FTEs. Library staff continue to work with County staff to transition network administration to the County.

**SaaS Migration**—Kudos to Library Automation Services and other Library staff who led the planning, testing, communication, and implementation for our Horizon SaaS migration. On June 27, the migration began early in the morning, and it was substantially completed in a few hours. This has been a remarkably smooth transition due to thorough planning, round-the-clock communications with vendors in several time zones, and great teamwork among Library staff.

## **Friends Director Update July 2017**

### Shoreview Library Capital Campaign and Special Events

- I had the pleasure of attending the Daughters of the American Revolution, Harriet G. Walker Chapter flagpole dedication ceremony on Sunday July 9, 2017 led by their Regent, Tricia Pepin. The Shoreview chapter of the DAR was formed five years ago and their Shoreview capital campaign contribution was their first major fundraising effort for the Shoreview community. We thank them for their support!
- We are hosting a donor/artist reception on July 14, 2017 at the Shoreview Library to honor and thank the local Chinese community families who raised over \$12,000 to support the reclaimed oak bench on the west wall of the library and to commission a large painting by artist Yudong Shen for the Community Room. Yudong Shen is well known in Asia and the United States and he has won numerous awards. He has had one-man shows in Chicago and Minneapolis and his work has been featured in exhibits in Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan. He also teaches painting and drawing at his MeiLin Studios in Shoreview and the St. Paul Midway area.
- We are trying a new “pop-up” style approach to hosting a book sale this year with a shortened timeline for book donations to address the storage issues. The next used book sale will be held at the Shoreview Library on October 26-28. We will be seeking book donations for the sale starting October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Book It 5K Walk/Run

The BookIt 5K planning committee is in high gear getting ready for the annual walk/run to support the RCL Summer Reading Program. Our fundraising goal this year is \$8,500 and we hope to reach the goal through both race registrations and event sponsorship. Major sponsor commitments to date include Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN (Gold Level), and Kate Bennett Agency, Maguire Agency, and John W. Harris (Bronze Level). Kowalski's and Cub are providing in kind donations for food, water, and other supplies.

- The Walk/Run begins at 9:00 am at the Ramsey County Library and winds around Roseville's scenic Central Park. All ages are welcome with prizes for top finishers in each age category. Registration forms are available in the seven Ramsey County libraries or participants may register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) by searching for keywords “Book It! 2017.”
- Racers can help even more by encouraging friends, family, and coworkers to sponsor their participation as a walker, runner, or stroller. Incentives are available for individual racer sponsorships based on the level of monies raised. Sign up for individual sponsorship at <https://fundraising.active.com/event/bookit2017>.
- Many volunteers of all ages are needed for this event. If you can help, please contact the Friends at 651-486-2213 or at [rclfriends@rclreads.org](mailto:rclfriends@rclreads.org).

### Friends Annual Luncheon: Memoirs, Music, Manuscripts & Mystery

We hope everyone will join us on October 14, 2017 to meet authors Erin Hart & Paddy O'Brien and learn about the true archeological discoveries and life experiences that have inspired their books *The Road from Castlebarnagh* and *The Book of Killowen*. Friends' members and their guests receive discounted registration fees. Registration forms can be found at any Ramsey County Library branch or register online at:

[www.rclfriends.org/events/luncheon2017](http://www.rclfriends.org/events/luncheon2017)

### New Theme for the 2018 Friends Gala

We are pleased to announce that the theme of our 2018 Friends Gala will be "*Whale of a Tale*." This fun event will be held on February 24, 2018 and will feature hors d'oeuvres, wine, a silent auction, a live auction, music, prizes, and much more. Proceeds will be used to add new items to the lending collection of the libraries located in Maplewood, Mounds View, New Brighton, North St. Paul, Roseville, Shoreview and White Bear Lake. If you have questions, or are interested in sponsoring or donating to the Gala, please contact Caitlin Carroll at 651-486-2263 or [caitlin.carroll@rclreads.org](mailto:caitlin.carroll@rclreads.org).

### Reading Friends Volunteer Opportunity

We are currently seeking volunteers to become *Reading Friends* in the New Brighton area during the 2017-2018 school year. *Reading Friends* visit our community partner sites to serve neighborhood children who often do not have frequent opportunities to visit the libraries. Volunteers typically read with K-5 children after school either one-on-one or in small groups. This wonderful program helps reinforce literacy skills, build self-esteem, and promote a love a reading in children. Training is provided and the level of commitment is flexible. For more information about the program, the volunteer schedule, and the volunteer application process, please contact Caitlin Carroll at 651-486-2263 or [caitlin.carroll@rclreads.org](mailto:caitlin.carroll@rclreads.org).

### Upcoming events:

- Friends Board of Directors meeting on July 24, 2017 at the Roseville library.
- Book It! 5K Walk/Run on September 16, 2017 at the Roseville Library.
- Friends Annual Author Luncheon on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the North Oaks Country Club.
- "Pop Up" Used Book Sale on October 26-28, 2017 at the Shoreview Library
- Friends Annual Gala: *Whale of a Tale!* on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at the Roseville Library.

7/13/2017

## 2017 Staff Work Plan: Quarter 2

### Accomplishment Highlights—Major Initiatives

1. *Open Shoreview and complete campaign and amenities.*
  - Increased SV visits by 8% and SV circulation by 9% in Quarter 2, 2017, over Quarter 2, 2016.
  - Saw a 352% increase in SV community room use by the public and significant increases in program attendance for all ages.
  - Installed new art and some donor signage and pavers; received new vinyl cutter and sewing machines for maker programs.
2. *Expand programming and collaborations that engage communities of color and highlight racial equity.*
  - Launched exhibit, *Green Card Voices*, which will travel to three libraries with related panel discussions.
  - Hosted programs for adults, parents, teens, kids, staff that were by or about people of color.
  - Collaborated on a County project on talent attraction, retention, and promotion. Recognized for diversity in new Library hires.
3. *Expand outreach and popup library activities.*
  - Designed and obtained Popup Library materials to achieve visibility in new venues and provide giveaways for new users.
  - Set up technology for mobile library card registration and computer use.
  - Launched Popup Library at two events and booked ten more. Reached hundreds of Hmong community members at Tuj Lub courts opening; served individuals at the Ramsey County residential re-entry center. Based on high demand and activity at the latter site, the Popup Library may return quarterly to continually serve new residents eager for library resources.
4. *Strengthen service to teens with expanded staff & programs.*
  - Increased participation in teen programs at SV. One example: girls' filmmaking camp in collaboration with CTV.
  - Expanded MP Library After Dark teen program to SV and RV.
  - Hired three summer student workers (at RV, MP, and SV), who between them speak seven languages. Provided summer jobs for another seven teens at RV, MP, SV and WB through RC Workforce Solutions' U LEAD program
  - Collaborated to coordinate Teen Lit Con with 1,100 teens at Sibley High School.
5. *Other:* Launched a free lunch and snacks program for children and youth, four days a week through summer, at Maplewood Library. Launched a dynamic summer reading program season with a June 10 festival attracting more than 1,200 participants.

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## 1. Strengthen Connections to Community Efforts and Partners.

<b>Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner on County's engagement initiative</li> <li>• Create popup library resources, to include offsite library card registration options</li> <li>• Focus popups/outreach on people of color including new immigrants; re-entry center</li> <li>• Host Marnita's Table or similar</li> <li>• Leverage new directors to engage partners (Jill, Friends Dir.)</li> <li>• Develop goals/ approach to senior engagement</li> </ul>	<b>Jeff Eide</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed Popup Library service plan</li> <li>• Compiled resource list for Popup Library</li> <li>• Brainstormed list of Popup Library venues</li> <li>• Began contacting venues about hosting</li> </ul> <b>Quarter 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtained Popup Library materials including tent, tablecloths, yard signs, a-frame sign, posters, retractable banners, sign templates, table signs, book lists, pencils, tattoos, bags, post-it note books</li> <li>• Worked with Automation Services to provide staff VPN and wireless hotspot to support library card registration and data access at remote locations</li> <li>• Delivered Popup Library service to two venues</li> <li>• Booked five more venues for ten additional Popup Library dates</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration Infrastructure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create guidelines for collaboration and use of library space and resources</li> <li>• Update procedures with solicitation policy</li> </ul>	<b>Jeff Eide</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Led conversation with Management Team about collaboration priorities</li> </ul> <b>Quarter 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redrafted Solicitation policy to allow branches greater latitude in making partnerships and offering programming</li> </ul>
<b>ConnectEd</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage RV and MV superintendents to develop ConnectEd projects</li> <li>• Invite WB to serve grades 1-5</li> <li>• Invite WB alternative schools (ML)</li> </ul>	<b>Jill Boldenow</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Began ConnectEd planning with Roseville and Mounds View school staff</li> <li>• Introduced ConnectEd to Maplewood/North St. Paul superintendent</li> <li>• Started plans to expand in WB to grades 1-5</li> </ul> <b>Quarter 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked with White Bear Lake Schools to update online application form for 2017-18 school year</li> <li>• Met with Karl Brown from Mounds View School District</li> </ul>

## 2. Foster Literacy and Student Achievement.

<b>Ready for Kindergarten (MS)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify at-risk preschoolers</li> <li>• Revise preschool Summer Reading Program</li> <li>• Pursue ELL storytime</li> </ul>	<b>Lynn Wyman</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided 380 children's programs with a total attendance of 15,837</li> <li>• Provided 110 family storytimes for 6,239 participants, 69 Baby and Me storytimes for 2,000</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish baseline data on storytime audience diversity</li> <li>• Pilot strategies to reach immigrants and families of color</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participants and 4 other storytimes for 132 participants</li> <li>• Offered storytimes featuring community guests, including the White Bear Lake mayor, a City of Roseville driver with snowplow, and the Minnesota DNR</li> <li>• Visited 6 preschool sites and provided programs to 221 children</li> <li>• Continued Sensory Friendly Mornings at RV, opening the children's area early on Fridays for children with special sensory needs</li> <li>• Provided a Comfort Room at SV with light-dimming, lap blankets, noise cancelling headphones, and Sensory Friendly Kits for children on the Autism spectrum</li> <li>• Sent children's librarians to the MLA Unconference which focused on Baby Storytime and birth-to-three brain development</li> </ul> <p><b>Quarter 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided 418 children's programs with a total attendance of 20,703</li> <li>• Provided 96 family storytimes for 5,945 participants, 65 Baby and Me storytimes for 1,916 participants and 4 other storytimes for 46 participants</li> <li>• Offered storytimes featuring community guests, including a singer from the Minnesota Opera, children's author Stephanie Watson and the Minnesota DNR</li> <li>• Implemented a new preschool summer reading initiative where families that read 100 books over the summer receive a free book</li> <li>• Continued to offer Sensory Friendly Mornings at RV, opening the children's area early on Fridays for children with special sensory needs, and started offering Sensory Saturdays at SV</li> <li>• Provided a Story Trail at Keller Lake Park in conjunction with the opening of the Tuj Lub courts</li> <li>• Reached 175 parents and children at Family Fun Night in White Bear Lake, part of the city's Bear Power initiative</li> <li>• Received and cataloged White Bear Lake Schools Chromebooks for checkout</li> </ul>
<p><b>Student Success (Youth Librarians)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand library partnerships with schools using tablets and library resources</li> <li>• Expand offsite card registration</li> <li>• Expand STEAM programming</li> <li>• Expand passive programming</li> <li>• Review Summer Reading Program goals</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lynn Wyman</b></p> <p><b>Quarter 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Kindergarten Library Card party featuring author/illustrator Grace Lin, with 1,147 attendees; processed 1,554 library card applications; distributed 329 cards</li> <li>• Provided 23 Paws to Read sessions for 74 young readers</li> <li>• Offered 35 elementary-age STEM/STEAM programs with 732 participants; activities included stop motion animation, 3D design with Tinkercad, and comic design with Scratch</li> <li>• Provided Chess instruction for mathematical skills development to 100 students at RV, SV, and WB</li> <li>• Engaged over 80 participants in "Brains at the Library," a program co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Neurology department</li> <li>• Offered special Harry Potter Book Days at SV and WB, with participation by 50 families</li> <li>• Provided Homework Help at RV for 75 students, using volunteer instructors from the education</li> </ul>

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	<p>field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided 32 passive programs with 2,434 participants; topics included “Libraries are for Everyone,” an exploration of cultures and languages and a Black History Month program that highlighted prominent African Americans in U.S. History</li> <li>• Hosted 38 visits and tours by school and youth groups with a total participation of 923</li> <li>• Visited 10 elementary schools and engaged with 575 students</li> <li>• Hosted an art show at RV featuring student artists from Roseville schools</li> <li>• Partnered with the U of MN’s Extension to bring Urban 4H STEAM classes to teens at MP and SV</li> <li>• Partnered with the MN History Center to host History Day Hullabaloo for 52 students at RV</li> <li>• Hosted teen and science fiction author Nnedi Okorafor at RV as part of the MELSA Club Book series</li> <li>• Provided 45 Makerspace labs for 469 students, featuring etching, sewing machines, Tinkercad 3D modeling, GIF-generation, edible science, and stop-motion animation</li> </ul> <p><b>Quarter 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided 29 Paws to Read sessions for 80 young readers</li> <li>• Offered 32 elementary-age STEM/STEAM programs with 704 participants</li> <li>• Hosted the Summer Reading Festival on June 10 where 1,200+ attendees participated in art-related activities; artwork is on display at RV through the end of July</li> <li>• Provided 32 passive programs with 3,446 participants</li> <li>• Hosted 39 visits and tours by school and youth groups with a total participation of 1,232</li> <li>• Visited 69 elementary schools to promote summer reading to 3,610 students</li> <li>• Hosted the Teen Summer Festival at RV for 150 teens</li> <li>• Hosted a Roseville school district art show at RV featuring the work of student artists</li> <li>• Brought Stella Binion, a national youth poetry winner, to Maplewood/N. St. Paul schools in partnership with the MN Dept. of Education and the Equity office of ISD 622</li> <li>• Partnered with U of M Extension’s Urban 4H to continue “Elements of Art,” an ongoing, STEAM focused series of drop-in classes at MP as well as a 4H STEAM-Club focusing on developing skills for STEAM-related careers at SV</li> <li>• Planned, facilitated and outfitted 46 Makerspace labs for 385 students, featuring etching, sewing machines, Tinkercad 3D modeling, GIF-generation, edible science, and stop-motion animation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Healthy Youth (ML)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement new SV teen program/space</li> <li>• Formalize teen services structure</li> <li>• Increase outreach to youth to reduce race-based disparities</li> <li>• Implement full-week camps at SV</li> <li>• Work with teen volunteers at SV</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lynn Wyman</b></p> <p><b>Quarter 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showcased SV’s new teen space at the Grand Opening; 5 local robotics teams provided demonstrations for over 200 visitors</li> <li>• Expanded the teen services work team with the addition of Paige Fuller as the SV teen librarian</li> <li>• Collaborated with the White Bear YMCA, Maplewood Community Center, RC Public Works, RC Parks and Recreation, and the Science Museum of Minnesota to offer a Teen Job Fair at MP</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand Library After Dark funding and program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-taught a Young Lenses spring break video camp with CTV-North Suburbs for 12 students at RV</li> <li>Facilitated two 3-day Teen Tech Camps at MP and SV, teaching 8 classes to 11-16 students per day</li> <li>Hosted MP's Library After Dark with youth advocate Timothy Turner</li> <li>Participated in a community panel on equity leadership in the N. St. Paul/Maplewood area</li> </ul> <p><b>Quarter 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnered with the MN Dept. of Education to provide free lunch and snacks for children and youth four days a week during the summer at MP</li> <li>Featured young adult and children's books at the diversity book showcase at MP for 13 patrons</li> <li>Collaborated with MELSA to coordinate Teen Lit Con at Sibley High School for over 1,100 teens</li> <li>Facilitated Teen Tech Camp at MP, teaching 14 classes to 20 students over 5 days</li> <li>Hosted Library After Dark, after-hours teen events, at MP, RV and SV to provide dancing, video games and pizza while discussing community issues and building cohesive</li> <li>Partnered with CTV to coordinate Young Lenses: Girls in Focus, a girls' filmmaking camp at SV</li> <li>Hired three summer student workers, one each for MP, RV, and SV, who between them speak seven languages</li> <li>Provided summer jobs for 7 teens at RV, MP, SV and WB through RC Workforce Solutions' U LEAD program</li> <li>Recruited teen volunteer help for Makerspace and gaming activities at SV</li> </ul>
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### 3. Create Vibrant Learning Spaces that Engage the Broad Diversity of Our Community.

<p><b>Shoreview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete construction (BM)</li> <li>Add new features as funded (CJ, Chuck)</li> <li>Convene art committee and select work</li> <li>Plan expanded programming (CJ)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lynn Wyman</b></p> <p><b>Quarter 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held the SV Grand Opening celebration on January 28, with approximately 4,100 visitors and 5,500 checkouts</li> <li>Increased SV visits by 46% in February (over February 2016) and by 32% in March (over March 2016)</li> <li>Saw a 190% increase in SV community room use by the public for the same two-month period</li> <li>Continued to add enhancements to the library, including decorative window film, a "honeycomb" wall by the teen area, and early literacy interactives</li> <li>Convened the Art Committee with Friends, community representatives and library staff; selected historic photos for small study rooms; purchased pottery pieces and a large photo for the entry area</li> <li>Received news coverage and significant public interest in the new Memory Minders kits, intended for caregivers to use with people experiencing memory loss</li> <li>Completed installation of updated and expanded public computing</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed installation of self-check</li> <li>• Completed installation of updated public services (staff) computing</li> <li>• Replaced Dell computers in TS and reference</li> <li>• Installed the sound masking control software</li> <li>• Installed infrastructure for HVAC controls</li> <li>• Final configuration of interior security cameras</li> <li>• Coordinated re-cabling of atrium and staff workroom space for improved layout</li> <li>• Setup 3D printing system</li> <li>• Provided staff training on AV systems</li> <li>• Installed updated printers for public services and public use</li> <li>• Configured TV and cabling for use in teen wall</li> <li>• Updated and configured digital signage</li> <li>• Installed/configured PA system tied to VoIP</li> <li>• Reconfigured phone and workstation layout in TS and reference</li> <li>• Coordinated installation and completed configuration of AMH</li> <li>• Coordinated staff training on AMH</li> <li>• Setup grand opening technology</li> <li>• Added access points for wireless reception</li> </ul> <p><b>Quarter 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased SV visits by 8% and SV circulation by 9% in Quarter 2, 2017 over Quarter 2, 2016</li> <li>• Saw a 352% increase in SV community room use by the public and significant increases in program attendance for all ages</li> <li>• Installed Capital Campaign donor pavers and some of the donor signage</li> <li>• Continued to add art to the library, including a grouping of four pieces in the children's area and a large painting by Yudong Shen in the Community Program Room</li> <li>• Offered Sensory Friendly Saturdays in partnership with the Autism Society of Minnesota; the first was in April, the second one in June</li> <li>• Hosted the Gallery 96 spring exhibition from April 28 to June 3</li> <li>• Received vinyl cutter and sewing machines</li> <li>• Updated checkout laptops to support makerspace tools</li> <li>• Installed 5 of 8 exterior cameras</li> <li>• Ordered missing building signage including 3 door signs, hours, address</li> </ul>
<p><b>User Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add hours SV (LW)</li> <li>• Revise conduct policy (LW)</li> <li>• Develop virtual services (Chuck) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Purchase discovery layer</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Lynn Wyman/Chuck Wettergren</b></p> <p><b>Quarter 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased SV hours to 63 per week with the addition of morning hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and evening hours on Thursdays</li> <li>• Added 1,188 ebook copies to the collection</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implement SAAS</li> <li>○ Improve website</li> <li>○ Staff move to County email</li> <li>• Improve physical services (Chuck) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Add charging stations as funded</li> <li>○ Update self-check software and hardware and chip/pin</li> <li>○ Review print management</li> <li>○ Expand MV computing and reconfigure</li> <li>○ Expand laptop checkout SV</li> <li>○ Expand video conferencing</li> <li>○ Develop intake process for branches requesting computers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve user access (Chuck) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promote usership and improve access, ease, options</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve collections (LW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Add e-content</li> <li>○ Diversify content</li> <li>○ Add youth content</li> <li>○ Implement new nonfiction plan</li> <li>○ Add Self-E</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve collections management (LW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Revise Collections Management Policy</li> <li>○ Implement new weeding and donations procedures</li> <li>○ Transition to Blue Cloud Analytics</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added 122 e-audio copies to the collection</li> <li>• Increased library materials by or about people of color from 20% of purchases in Quarter 1, 2016 to 21% in Quarter 1, 2017</li> <li>• Allocated \$50,000 of year-end reserves to collection enhancements</li> <li>• Implemented branch-level selection of adult nonfiction</li> <li>• Implemented the Friends' new weeding and donation procedures</li> <li>• Completed the SaaS contract</li> <li>• Updated self-check monitors, software and card swipes for Shoreview site/opening</li> <li>• Ordered replacement computers for MV</li> <li>• Ordered replacement printers for WB, NS, MV</li> <li>• Ordered thermal printers for TS</li> <li>• Configured laptop checkout lab at Shoreview</li> <li>• Replaced Maplewood public printers</li> <li>• Replaced Roseville public printers</li> <li>• Updated Web Reporter server</li> <li>• Installed new server for HVAC control</li> <li>• Updated server for CCURE access at SV</li> <li>• Completed 237 recorded work orders</li> <li>• Completed install of client security camera software on designated computers</li> <li>• Updated Library switch configurations to support County inter-connection and physically connected the County to the Library at RV</li> </ul> <p><b>Quarter 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received Library Board approval for a revised Conduct Policy, now a Library Use Policy</li> <li>• Added 1,473 ebook copies to the collection</li> <li>• Added 159 e-audio copies to the collection</li> <li>• Added library materials by or about people of color, totaling 16.5% of all purchases in Quarter 2</li> <li>• Completed migration to SaaS</li> <li>• Configured Roseville core switches to be monitored by County's Solar Winds</li> <li>• Updated self-check systems to support SaaS Citrix</li> <li>• Updated firewall to provide dedicated connection for SaaS backend</li> <li>• Updated PC Reliance software to work with SaaS</li> <li>• Updated Aquabrowser and EZ Proxy (user authentication) to support SaaS</li> <li>• Moved remote/direct database authentication to SaaS</li> <li>• Finalized encryption of Aquabrowser website and enriched content</li> <li>• Replaced MV public computers</li> <li>• Updated WebReporter to work within SaaS environment</li> <li>• Added public fax service at Roseville</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replaced public printers at NB, MV, WB and NS</li> <li>• Updated CybraryN servers and public computers to current version for security and improved print management</li> <li>• Swapped out staff monitors under 19” at most locations</li> <li>• Completed 238 recorded work orders</li> <li>• Updated website for summer reading data and event tracking (SRP database and Survey Monkey teen reviews)</li> </ul>
<b>Refurbish</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove gender from family bathrooms</li> <li>• Re-think security cameras (Chuck)</li> <li>• Upgrade chairs at RV and MP (LW)</li> <li>• Develop small repairs and assembly process (ML)</li> <li>• Redo MP and NB carpet</li> <li>• Replace NB roof</li> <li>• Repaint RV atrium</li> <li>• Repair RV concrete walks and curbs</li> <li>• Upgrade software to MV BAS</li> <li>• Upgrade computer and programming for RV BAS</li> <li>• Conduct MP facility design review (Jill)</li> <li>• Develop capital plan (Jill)</li> <li>• Improve NSP custodial practices (Jill)</li> </ul>	<b>Julie Neville</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocated \$50,000 of year-end reserves to fund furniture refurbishment</li> <li>• Met with NSP city staff to establish custodial needs</li> <li>• Continued to monitor and adjust equipment for the SV building</li> <li>• Replaced lighting in the staff area at MP with LED</li> <li>• Completed solicitation for chiller replacement at MV</li> </ul> <b>Quarter 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to move forward on commissioning and mechanical adjustments to equipment at SV</li> <li>• Toured Library facilities with new Property Management Director, Jean Krueger</li> <li>• Continue to monitor energy at all facilities to meet our 5% annual reduction</li> <li>• Attended multi-county Green Cleaning conference</li> <li>• Completed mechanical study for replacement of DX unit and restoration of air handler at MV</li> <li>• Swept parking lots</li> <li>• Vendor performed spring cleanup of library grounds</li> <li>• Completed 5 contracts for work with CERT vendors</li> <li>• Discussed capital plan concept with County Manager, Property Management, Finance</li> <li>• Discussed NSP custodial needs with City staff</li> </ul>
<b>Adult Programming</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop evaluation tools</li> <li>• Continue history programming</li> <li>• Strengthen Book Club alignment</li> <li>• Develop last-minute program process</li> <li>• Strengthen adult makerspace program (Jill)</li> </ul>	<b>Kristi Saksvig</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented 27 history programs attended by 2,268 people</li> <li>• Partnered with OLLI, White Bear Historical Society, History Theatre, Ramsey County Historical Society, Do Good Roseville</li> </ul> <b>Quarter 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented 30 history programs attended by 2,417 people</li> <li>• Partnered with OLLI, White Bear Historical Society, Ramsey County Historical Society, Hmong Museum, Shoreview Area Historical Society and New Brighton Area Historical Society</li> <li>• Formed staff MakerSpace Team, met monthly</li> </ul>

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#### 4. Promote Economic Prosperity and Racial Justice.

<p><b>Economic Prosperity Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand info literacy program (JL)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expand open labs</li> <li>○ Expand downloadable tables</li> <li>○ Train staff in labs (LW)</li> <li>○ Expand outreach</li> <li>○ Implement makerspace SV (CJ)</li> <li>○ Offer tech help appointments at RV</li> <li>○ Expand community computing</li> <li>○ Collaborate with RV ABE to produce bilingual computer class</li> <li>○ Strengthen corrections services</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop programs with County (open data, Workforce, other EGCI partners)</li> <li>• Continue life skills programming under new coordinators</li> <li>• Continue social services support (PH)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jill Boldenow</b></p> <p><b>Quarter 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled 13 librarians to staff tech labs</li> <li>• Provided 32 computer and tech classes to 238 students</li> <li>• Offered 2 new classes instructed by Twin Cities Media Alliance “Identity Theft” and “The (Free) Online Classroom”</li> <li>• Provided 82 open computer and tech labs to 401 students</li> <li>• Presented program to American Association of University Women (AAUW) on mobile devices and online safety</li> <li>• Presented program to 25 girl scouts and helped them earn a technology badge</li> <li>• Staffed tables promoting downloadable library resources at New Brighton and Shoreview with 65 interactions</li> <li>• Provided bimonthly digital literacy instruction at Volunteers of America ex-offender re-entry facility</li> <li>• Offered 107 Life Skills programs, attended by 504 people.</li> <li>• Partnered with Ramsey County Public Health to offer Fix-it Clinics at WB and SV</li> <li>• Partnered with AARP to offer tax help at MP</li> <li>• Continued to offer MNsure Navigator assistance at MP and RV</li> <li>• Continued offering weekly Conversation Circles for English Language Learners at RV</li> <li>• Continued Criminal Expungement Clinics and introduced an Identity Fraud Protection program</li> <li>• Offered weekly community resource advocate/social worker help at MP and RV</li> <li>• Offered two Financial Coaching &amp; Credit sessions; Investors’ Nights, and Shoestring Budgeting</li> <li>• Offered Housing 101 for tenants at RV and MP</li> <li>• Continued offering presentations in the <i>Dementia: Caring &amp; Coping Speaker Series</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Quarter 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled 10 librarians in the tech labs</li> <li>• Provided 39 computer and tech classes to 278 students</li> <li>• Provided 92 open computer and tech labs to 459 students</li> <li>• Offered 12 Adult/Family Makerspace sessions to 47 attendees</li> <li>• Strengthened relationship with Volunteers of America ex-offender re-entry facility by attending a community resource fair promoting library resources</li> <li>• Piloted “Tech Help with Hannah” offering tech help by appointment at Roseville Library</li> <li>• Promoted library online resources at Career Fair at Fairview Community Center</li> <li>• Offered 77 Life Skills programs, attended by 1,228 people.</li> <li>• Partnered with Ramsey County Public Health to offer Fix-it Clinics at RV</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnered with AARP to offer tax help at MP</li> <li>• Continued to offer MNsure Navigator assistance at MP and RV</li> <li>• Continued offering weekly Conversation Circles for English Language Learners at RV and SV</li> <li>• Continued Criminal Expungement Clinics and Identity Fraud Protection programs</li> <li>• Offered an introduction to the Seed Library</li> <li>• Offered weekly community resource advocate/social worker help at MP and RV</li> <li>• Offered financial digital literacy classes; Investors' Nights, and Shoestring Budgeting</li> <li>• Offered Housing 101 for tenants at RV and MP</li> <li>• Offered programs on dementia, caregiving, mental fitness, and end of life choices</li> </ul>
<b>Racial Equity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase hires and retention of racially diverse staff, volunteers and Board</li> <li>• Increase the cultural competency of the staff, volunteers and Library Board</li> <li>• Ensure the facilities, collections, policies, programs, communications and services reflect the community</li> <li>• Develop internal communications to inform staff of external RE forums</li> <li>• Maintain RE book club (CJ)</li> <li>• Expand racial equity programming</li> <li>• Apply for grant with St. Kate's for MLIS program for staff of color</li> <li>• Participate in County project to identify recruitment and retention barriers</li> <li>• Ease the process of internet access</li> <li>• Integrate RE plans into budget planning</li> </ul>	<b>Jill Boldenow</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted an extensive recruitment and interview process for board member positions</li> <li>• Produced and shared racial equity work plan</li> <li>• Updated racial equity training opportunities and guidelines to receive training credit</li> <li>• Planned spring RE book club</li> <li>• Expanded racial equity programming within RE committee: hosted 3-part film, <i>Race: The Power of an Illusion</i> with discussions</li> <li>• Integrated racially diverse speakers and themes in programs by adult, teen and children's teams</li> <li>• Used RE lens to review Library policies</li> <li>• Launched All are Welcome Here and other passive programs/displays that celebrate diverse races, cultures, languages</li> </ul> <b>Quarter 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hired seven youth of color for paid summer work at the Library through the ULEAD program</li> <li>• Launched <i>Green Card Voices</i> with related panel discussions</li> <li>• Hosted RE Book Club with staff discussion of <i>See No Color</i>, with author Shannon Gibney</li> <li>• Distributed ACLU information to branches: "Know your rights: Anti-Muslim Discrimination"; and "Know Your Rights: Stopped by Police, Immigration Agents, or FBI."</li> <li>• Launched Popup Library event at Keller Park Tuj Lub Courts opening, with Hmong staff</li> <li>• Partnered with the Hmong Museum on "Hmong Chronicles: Refugee Life" program</li> <li>• Hosted "Diverse Books Showcase" at MP</li> <li>• Screened <i>Pather Panchali</i> by Satyajit Ray at SV</li> <li>• Hosted "Promises Betrayed: African-American History from the Emancipation Proclamation to <i>The Birth of a Nation</i>."</li> <li>• Distributed County survey to staff on recruitment, retention, and promotion</li> <li>• Received recognition from the County as a department with significant diversity in new hires</li> </ul>

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## 5. Ensure Stewardship of Public Resources.

<b>Friends of the Library</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist to increase fundraising</li> <li>• Complete SV capital campaign</li> <li>• Promote Friends events</li> <li>• Expand grant writing and clarify process</li> </ul>	<b>Jill Boldenow</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gave SV pre-tours to campaign donors</li> <li>• Highlighted campaign in pre-opening interviews</li> <li>• Promoted Friends gala to staff and colleagues</li> </ul> <b>Quarter 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched monthly meetings with Friends and Library Director to track opportunities, events, donor recognition plans</li> <li>• Continue Library Director participation in Friends Board and Executive Committee meetings</li> </ul>
<b>Library Volunteers (HH)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct quarterly meetings for coordinators</li> <li>• Develop skilled volunteer job descriptions</li> <li>• Expand homebound services</li> <li>• Expand volunteer opportunities for handy-persons in libraries</li> <li>• Develop program with volunteers doing storytime for adults at PAI sites</li> </ul>	<b>Lynn Wyman</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted a survey of library volunteers and their experience at the library</li> <li>• Recruited a new Homebound volunteer</li> <li>• Participated in the Hands On Twin Cities Volunteer Expo at the Mall of American on February 18; spoke with 90 mall visitors about volunteer opportunities</li> <li>• Provided 3,764 hours of volunteer assistance</li> </ul> <b>Quarter 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded a certificate of recognition by the Ramsey County Board for the work of library volunteer coordinators</li> <li>• Recruited volunteers for the Summer Reading Festival</li> <li>• Held volunteer recognition luncheons at SV and RV</li> <li>• Recognized the work of all library volunteers with pots of spring annuals; the flowers were funded by the Friends and purchased through Ramsey County Corrections</li> <li>• Provided 3,540 hours of volunteer assistance through 144 volunteers</li> </ul>
<b>Staff Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve tech skills</li> <li>• Expand use of staff in tech labs</li> <li>• Require racial equity training</li> <li>• Expand training of sub pool</li> <li>• Provide training on emergency situations</li> <li>• Implement new employee training on IT/email/security standards (Chuck)</li> <li>• Provide new Assistive Technology training</li> </ul>	<b>Lynn Wyman</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established racial equity training requirements for 2017</li> <li>• Sent 3 staff to the American Library Association Midwinter Conference and 7 staff to the Library Technology Conference</li> <li>• Provided ADA and FMLA training to library managers and supervisors</li> <li>• Provided 486 hours of training for 73 staff at 69 workshops and other training activities</li> </ul> <b>Quarter 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held the spring In-Service Day for 109 staff with a focus on safety and emergency procedures</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sent 5 staff to the American Library Association Annual Conference in late June</li> <li>• Provided 754 hours of training for 111 staff at 48 workshops and other training activities</li> </ul>
<b>Analytics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Edge, Impact, and other survey data to guide planning, reporting</li> <li>• Use County community indicators data</li> <li>• Revise and implement new data collection on race of program attendees/presenters</li> <li>• Assess annual data on racial diversity of staff, volunteers, board (LW)</li> </ul>	<b>Jill Boldenow</b> <b>Quarter 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used survey data and County data sets to inform Popup Library concept and target locations</li> <li>• Used County community indicators data and additional datasets to inform 2018-19 budget request priorities (operating hours, locations)</li> </ul> <b>Quarter 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented data on staff diversity to the Library Board in June</li> <li>• Presented data on County community indicators to the Library Board in June</li> <li>• Shared with staff and discussed <i>All Are Welcome Here</i> survey results from patrons of color</li> </ul>

## Memorandum

**To:** Ramsey County Library Board

**From:** Mary Larson

**Date:** July 10, 2017

**Subject:** Second Quarter 2017 Financial Report

Attached is the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2017 financial report. Highlights include:

- ❖ Property tax revenues are collected in May and October each year, and are on track for the first half of 2017. County Program Aid, revenue that comes from the State of Minnesota, is typically received during the second half of each year.
- ❖ With the addition of credit card payments received during the second quarter, Library fine revenues are on track with projections for 2017. Modest declines in circulation statistics and growing usage of electronic materials, which do not generate fines, have resulted in reduced library fine revenues. Projections for library fine revenues in 2018 and 2019 were reduced accordingly.
- ❖ Expenditures for salaries and fringe benefits were well within projections. With the grand opening of the new library in Shoreview, additional staff were funded to expand the library to regional hours of 63 per week. The new hours were not fully staffed until the second quarter, resulting in lower than projected costs. Retirements and staff turnover since the salary projections were made also contributed to the savings.
- ❖ Operating expenditures were within budget overall. Spending in the supply and capital outlay accounts was slightly higher than usual as many items not covered under the construction budget were purchased during the first half of 2017. Surplus funds from salaries and benefits will be used to cover the overage.
- ❖ The Friends continue to provide generous support to the Library through their capital campaigns, annual donations, gala proceeds, and surplus grants. Staff have been reviewing balances from the capital campaigns and will work throughout the year to spend the donations as designated, along with other gifts received in 2017 and prior years.



## LIBRARY OPERATIONS

### CURRENT BUDGET YEAR WITH COMPARATIVE PRIOR YEAR YEAR TO DATE THRU JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

	2017					2016			
	Original Annual Budget	Adjusted Annual Budget	Year to Date Actual Cash Receipts/ Disbursements	Actual % of Budget Year to Date	Variance (Over)/Under Adjusted Budget YTD	Adjusted Annual Budget	Year to Date Actual Cash Receipts/ Disbursements	Actual % of Budget Year to Date	Variance (Over)/Under Adjusted Budget YTD
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>									
Taxes	10,635,148.00	10,716,142.00	5,225,685.03	49%	132,385.97	10,070,528.00	4,999,810.35	50%	35,453.65
County Program Aid	0.00	593,864.00	0.00	0%	296,932.00	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
Fines	550,000.00	550,000.00	267,979.65	49%	7,020.35	575,000.00	243,213.68	42%	44,286.32
MELSA	215,000.00	215,000.00	0.00	0%	107,500.00	215,000.00	0.00	0%	107,500.00
PERA Rate Increase Aid	21,652.00	21,652.00	10,826.00	50%	0.00	21,652.00	10,826.00	50%	0.00
Duplicating Copies/Sales	73,000.00	73,000.00	35,888.49	49%	611.51	73,000.00	35,181.83	48%	1,318.17
Interest on Investments	2,000.00	2,000.00	5,141.80	257%	(4,141.80)	2,000.00	1,633.68	82%	(633.68)
Building & Structures (Rent)	120,000.00	120,000.00	47,131.24	39%	12,868.76	120,000.00	48,645.14	41%	11,354.86
Recoveries	0.00	0.00	6,721.96	N/A	(6,721.96)	0.00	13,642.23	NA	(13,642.23)
Total Revenue	11,616,800.00	12,291,658.00	5,599,374.17	46%	546,454.83	11,077,180.00	5,352,952.91	48%	185,637.09
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>									
Salaries*	5,897,770.00	5,897,770.00	2,462,880.62	42%	486,004.38	5,635,581.00	2,451,914.66	44%	365,875.84
Fringe Benefits*	2,058,021.00	2,058,021.00	891,319.92	43%	137,690.58	1,977,897.00	933,455.28	47%	55,493.22
Other Services & Charges	2,623,009.00	2,623,009.00	1,083,811.03	41%	227,693.47	2,425,702.00	1,209,785.77	50%	3,065.23
Supplies	133,000.00	133,000.00	76,032.13	57%	(9,532.13)	133,000.00	66,917.75	50%	(417.75)
Capital Outlay	55,000.00	55,000.00	61,455.12	112%	(33,955.12)	55,000.00	4,360.49	8%	23,139.51
Books, Periodicals, Etc.	850,000.00	850,000.00	322,089.45	38%	102,910.55	850,000.00	396,065.28	47%	28,934.72
	11,616,800.00	11,616,800.00	4,897,588.27	42%	910,811.73	11,077,180.00	5,062,499.23	46%	476,090.77
Inc/(Dec) to Fund Balance			701,785.90				290,453.68		

\* 2017 Salary expenditures through payday 6/30/17.

\* 2016 Salary expenditures through payday 7/1/16.

**LIBRARY OPERATIONS  
CURRENT YEAR DISBURSEMENTS OUT OF RESERVES  
YEAR TO DATE THRU JUNE 30, 2017**

	2017			Actual as a
	Reserve	Year to Date	Balance	% of
	Amount	Actual Cash	Unexpended	Reserve
		Disbursements	06/30/17	Year to Date
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>				
2016 Operating Budget Reserves	389,587.00	212,286.48	177,300.52	54%
2015 Operating Budget Reserves	8,800.00	7,944.09	855.91	90%
2014 Operating Budget Reserves	8,500.00	8,500.00	-	100%

**LIBRARY GRANTS AND OTHER SPECIAL PROJECTS  
CURRENT YEAR DISBURSEMENTS  
YEAR TO DATE THRU JUNE 30, 2017**

	2017			
	Current Adjusted Budget Amount	Actual Cash Disbursements	Balance Unexpended 06/30/17	Actual as a % of Budget To Date
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>				
2016 MELSA Technology Grant	104,000.00	0.00	104,000.00	0%
2015 MELSA Technology Grant	100,000.00	99,747.00	253.00	100%
2014 MELSA Technology Grant	271,000.00	231,926.20	39,073.80	86%

**OTHER LIBRARY FUNDS  
YEAR TO DATE RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS  
THRU JUNE 30, 2017**

<u><b>Fund</b></u>	<b>2017</b>			
	<b>Cash Balance Beginning of Year</b>	<b>Cash Receipts Year to Date</b>	<b>Year to Date Actual Cash Disbursements</b>	<b>Cash Balance as of 06/30/17</b>
Rental Book Revenue	27,763.94	7,285.35	7,767.92	27,281.37
Rental DVD Revenue	34,032.78	32,480.95	29,184.44	37,329.29
Library Gift Fund	377,270.38	106,181.79	101,485.88	381,966.29
Roseville Library Capital Campaign Gift Fund	22,709.12	0.00	718.80	21,990.32

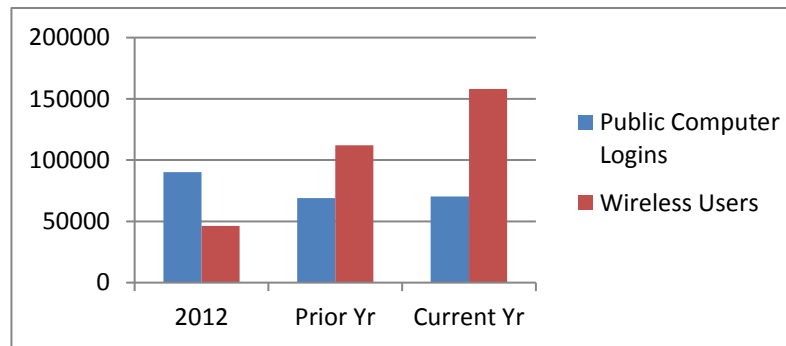
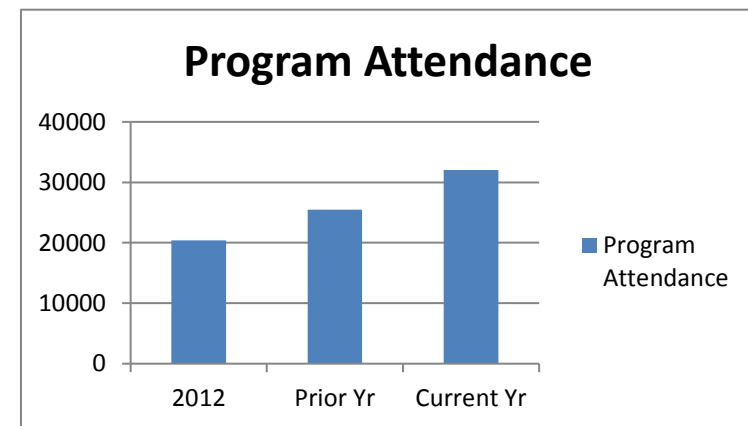
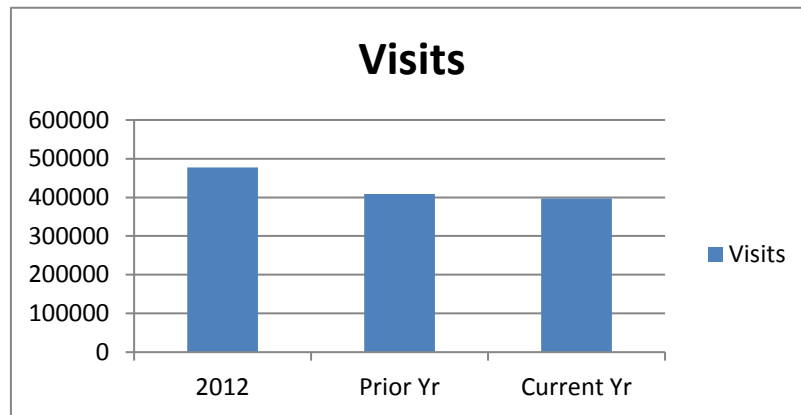
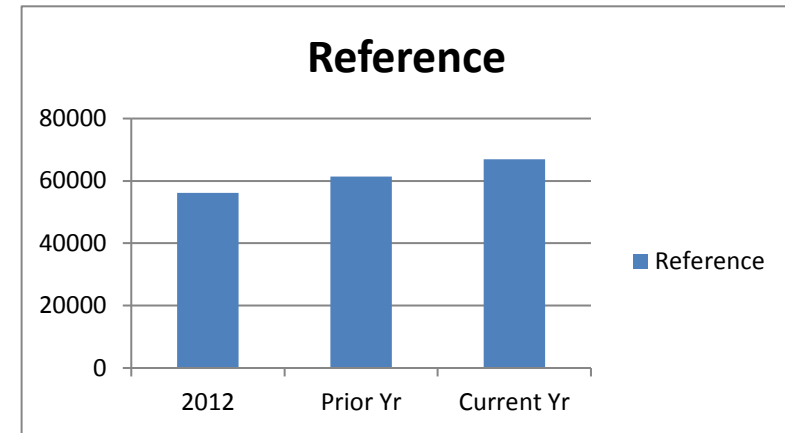
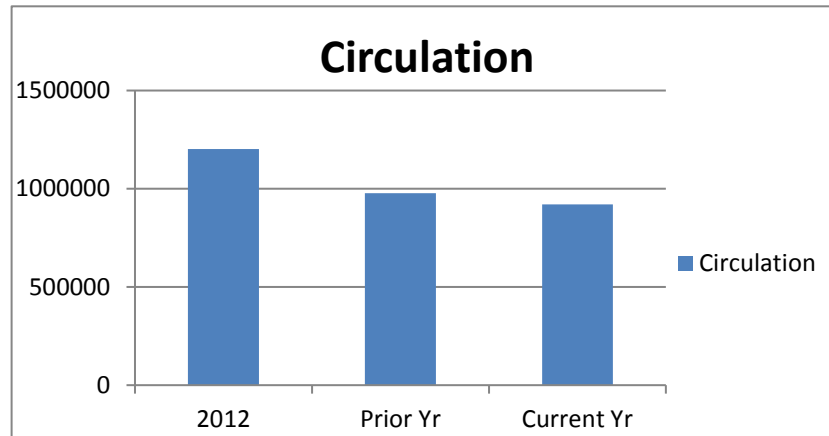
# SUMMARY OF GIFTS RECEIVED

APRIL - JUNE 2017

Donor	Purpose	Branch	Amount
Anonymous Donor	Undesignated	SV	\$80.00
MELSA	Legacy Reimbursement - Program	System	\$400.00
Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries	WIC Literacy Partnership	NB	\$5,000.00
Friends of the Ramsey County Libraries	Summer Reading Program	System	\$10,000.00
	Technology Literacy/Adult Life Skills	System	\$12,500.00
	Children's Programming	System	\$2,500.00
	Teen Programming	System	\$2,000.00
	Newsletter	System	\$3,000.00
	Volunteer Program	System	\$2,500.00
	Employee Development	System	\$2,500.00
	Gala Proceeds - Collection Development	System	\$30,000.00
	Surplus Grant - Popup Library/Ebooks/RacialEquity/Furniture	System	\$29,000.00
Anonymous Donor	Undesignated	NS	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$99,490.00</b>

## Statistical Trends 2017 Second Quarter Report

- System-wide circulation was down 10.5% overall for Q2, which continues a trend of erosion.
- Circulation of electronic materials was flat at -0.6%. However, the dropping from two e-book platforms to one may have limited growth. Additionally, as electronic materials are mostly checked out, it may be hard to achieve further growth in this area without additional funding for this collection. In Quarter 2 of 2017, electronic materials accounted for 9.6% of total circulation. The Library's collection now includes over 23,000 e-book copies and over 2,800 e-audiobooks. In the last year, the number of e-book copies owned has remained stable as new titles purchased have only offset losses of expiring content. Further access is provided, however, via seamless access to MELSA materials.
- Visits to the library were down 2.6% from second quarter of last year.
- Computer use continues to transition to from public computers to wireless connections. Use of the library's physical computers was down 5.8% for the quarter, while wireless usage increased by 51%.
- Demand for meeting room space by outside groups continues to expand and was up 47% in Q2. This represents 710 room bookings and does not include library programs & events or self-serve study room usage. Availability of new bookable rooms after construction projects at White Bear Lake and Shoreview has allowed this use to grow.
- The number of holds placed in Q2 was down 14% from the same quarter last year.
- Circulation in the new Shoreview library is up over 9% for the quarter compared to the same quarter at the prior location last year.

**Core Service Trends -- Quarter 2**

## Branches by Quarter 2017

### Total materials circulated

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	151,879	146,822			298,701
Mounds View	42,419	40,574			82,993
New Brighton	62,925	58,821			121,746
North St. Paul	28,689	27,718			56,407
Roseville	357,416	331,509			688,925
Shoreview	111,256	147,808			259,064
White Bear Lake	75,087	72,473			147,560
Tech Services	6,069	1,820			7,889
Other					
Virtual	90,397	88,570			178,967
<b>Total</b>	<b>926,137</b>	<b>916,115</b>			<b>1,842,252</b>

### Children's materials circulated

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	57,282	55,879			113,161
Mounds View	19,039	19,114			38,153
New Brighton	27,614	26,494			54,108
North St. Paul	9,637	9,119			18,756
Roseville	153,534	145,710			299,244
Shoreview	57,819	74,460			132,279
White Bear Lake	34,132	34,050			68,182
Tech Services	860	845			1,705
Other	3,082	3,246			6,328
Virtual					
<b>Total</b>	<b>362,999</b>	<b>368,917</b>			<b>731,916</b>

### Registrations

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	239	586			825
Mounds View	50	172			222
New Brighton	88	188			276
North St. Paul	39	93			132
Roseville	486	1,397			1,883
Shoreview	224	492			716
White Bear Lake	96	256			352
Tech Services	80	187			267
Other					
Virtual					
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>3,371</b>			<b>4,673</b>

### Total reference

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	13,156	11,765			24,921
Mounds View	4,095	3,510			7,605
New Brighton	5,057	4,823			9,880
North St. Paul	3,237	3,666			6,903
Roseville	29,640	29,757			59,397
Shoreview	13,078	9,477			22,555
White Bear Lake	4,017	3,952			7,969
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,280</b>	<b>66,950</b>			<b>139,230</b>

### Visits

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	74,922	80,131			155,053
Mounds View	16,314	16,648			32,962
New Brighton	28,309	25,910			54,219
North St. Paul	9,207	9,744			18,951
Roseville	156,681	160,610			317,291
Shoreview	51,002	65,425			116,427
White Bear Lake	37,228	23,495			60,723
<b>Total</b>	<b>373,663</b>	<b>381,963</b>			<b>755,626</b>

### Meeting room use by outside groups

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	139	136			275
Mounds View	21	22			43
New Brighton	0	0			0
North St. Paul	0	0			0
Roseville	244	245			489
Shoreview	84	190			274
White Bear Lake	40	39			79
<b>Total</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>632</b>			<b>1,160</b>

### Public computer logins

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	15,587	16,160			31,747
Mounds View	2,124	2,433			4,557
New Brighton	5,669	5,351			11,020
North St. Paul	1,874	1,854			3,728
Roseville	31,012	32,449			63,461
Shoreview	5,923	7,776			13,699
White Bear Lake	4,024	4,256			8,280
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,213</b>	<b>70,279</b>			<b>136,492</b>

### Hours of computer use

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	15,428	15,606			31,034
Mounds View	1,858	2,030			3,888
New Brighton	4,949	4,492			9,441
North St. Paul	1,567	1,457			3,024
Roseville	31,153	30,868			62,021
Shoreview	3,468	6,049			9,517
White Bear Lake	62,745	3,664			66,409
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,168</b>	<b>64,167</b>			<b>185,335</b>

### Wireless users

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	27,895	29,194			57,089
Mounds View	1,563	1,888			3,451
New Brighton	4,896	5,229			10,125
North St. Paul	1,643	1,043			2,686
Roseville	94,197	90,784			184,981
Shoreview	17,842	23,010			40,852
White Bear Lake	7,456	6,940			14,396
<b>Total</b>	<b>155,492</b>	<b>158,088</b>			<b>313,580</b>

### Volunteer hours

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	716.75	627.15			1,343.90
Mounds View	83.75	91.65			175.40
New Brighton	453.45	190.75			644.20
North St. Paul	22.00	16.50			38.50
Roseville	1,777.03	1,810.08			3,587.11
Shoreview	442.65	533.44			976.09
White Bear Lake	268.75	272.80			541.55
Administration	0.00	0.00			0.00
Technical Services	0.00	0.00			0.00
Other	0.00	0.00			0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,764.38</b>	<b>3,542.37</b>			<b>7,306.75</b>

**Children's programs****Children's program attendance**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	37	62			99	1,578	2,924			4,502
Mounds View	39	40			79	1,125	1,426			2,551
New Brighton	44	39			83	1,659	2,112			3,771
North St. Paul	46	39			85	1,292	1,347			2,639
Roseville	129	116			245	6,321	4,584			10,905
Shoreview	35	70			105	1,991	2,901			4,892
White Bear Lake	50	55			105	1,871	3,409			5,280
Admin	0				0	0	0			0
SRP					0					0
<b>Total</b>	380	421			801	11,975	18,703			30,678

**Teen programs****Teen program attendance**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	180	183			363	1,240	1,866			3,106
Mounds View	1	8			9	5	389			394
New Brighton	2	1			3	8	5			13
North St. Paul	42	45			87	205	63			268
Roseville	146	150			296	1,900	2,984			4,884
Shoreview	24	60			84	510	2,386			2,896
White Bear Lake	31	26			57	38	1,066			1,104
Admin	0	0			0	0				0
SRP					0					0
<b>Total</b>	426	473			899	3,906	8,759			12,665

**Adult programs****Adult program attendance**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD Total
Maplewood	99	70			169	504	396			900
Mounds View	11	1			12	91	23			114
New Brighton	5	6			11	104	96			200
North St. Paul	4	2			6	21	12			33
Roseville	19	133			152	3,308	3,051			6,359
Shoreview	36	52			88	409	480			889
White Bear Lake	32	33			65	364	517			881
Admin	0				0	0	0			0
Winter Reading					0					0
<b>Total</b>	206	297			503	4,801	4,575			9,376

## Branches by Year/System by Quarter

### Total circulation

### Children's circulation

### Volunteer hours

Location	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change
Maplewood	758,373	660,932			297,408	257,805			3,192	3,019		
Mounds View	197,189	182,935			97,857	89,330			429	307		
New Brighton	258,002	254,756			117,366	115,289			746	704		
North St Paul	123,346	114,144			43,263	39,504			115	107		
Roseville	1,548,530	1,460,075			669,320	644,003			8,413	8,278		
Shoreview	594,303	481,827			266,139	218,847			2,482	2,733		
White Bear Lake	246,439	309,665			112,261	143,919			881	999		
E-material	344,169	362,326										
Other					19,329	15,699						
Support Services	24,657	24,258			3,450	3,449						
System Quarter 1	1,004,193	986,142	926,137	-6.1%	382,023	401,213	362,999	-9.5%	3,787	3,844	3,764	-2.1%
System Quarter 2	1,027,357	977,715	919,921	-5.9%	415,800	393,008	368,917	-6.1%	4,383	4,182	3,542	-15.3%
System Quarter 3	1,015,085	1,016,753			456,736	420,592			4,223	3,980		
System Quarter 4	958,283	870,308			371,834	337,332			3,865	3,774		
Annual Total	4,095,008	3,850,918			1,626,393	1,527,845			16,258	15,780		

### Express checkout percentages

### Visits

### Meeting room use by outside groups

Location	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change
Maplewood	92.3%	91.6%			358,961	334,487			789	820		
Mounds View	86.0%	84.8%			79,214	74,873			64	92		
New Brighton	91.7%	91.4%			97,150	107,051			0	0		
North St Paul	67.3%	63.0%			49,112	38,944			0	0		
Roseville	88.9%	88.6%			657,180	673,549			849	944		
Shoreview	96.4%	85.1%			226,231	192,908			135	153		
White Bear Lake	87.8%	89.5%			120,677	152,843			87	149		
System Quarter 1	86.9%	85.1%	84.1%	-1.2%	371,647	381,307	373,663	-2.0%	474	541	528	-2.4%
System Quarter 2	86.2%	86.0%	85.4%	-0.8%	407,336	408,731	396,743	-2.9%	484	568	710	25.0%
System Quarter 3	88.5%	86.3%			439,168	431,913			458	550		
System Quarter 4	87.1%	81.9%			370,374	352,722			508	499		
Annual Average	87.2%	84.8%			1,588,525	1,574,673			1,924	2,158		

**Public computer logins****Hours of computer use****Wireless users**

Location	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change
Maplewood	71,827	65,797			72,870	64,553			90,738	99,324		
Mounds View	11,210	10,290			10,366	9,711			5,809	6,395		
New Brighton	21,334	21,857			17,528	18,286			10,085	14,742		
North St Paul	7,308	7,648			6,618	6,755			2,941	3,802		
Roseville	145,915	129,966			144,467	125,394			294,802	292,886		
Shoreview	25,267	19,504			20,692	15,414			22,515	27,444		
White Bear Lake	13,069	17,253			10,100	14,017			15,219	22,392		
System Quarter 1	71,286	69,027	66,213	-4.1%	71,922	65,193	62,745	-3.8%	94,685	100,016	155,492	55.5%
System Quarter 2	74,625	69,097	70,279	1.7%	70,353	64,316	64,167	-0.2%	104,702	112,208	158,088	40.9%
System Quarter 3	80,082	72,595			76,276	66,935			123,140	121,074		
System Quarter 4	69,937	61,596			64,091	57,686			119,582	133,687		
Annual Total	295,930	272,315			282,641	254,129			442,109	466,985		

**Reference****Registrations****Hours open**

Location	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change
Maplewood	52,845	50,349			2,796	2,864			3,166	3,177		
Mounds View	13,806	14,209			805	806			1,761	1,757		
New Brighton	16,796	19,409			860	1,006			1,884	2,168		
North St Paul	14,014	17,459			434	1,000			1,768	1,771		
Roseville	121,784	125,593			7,387	7,555			3,166	3,184		
Shoreview	32,578	29,991			1,369	1,503			2,740	2,249		
White Bear Lake	16,107	18,850			1,264	1,415			1,638	2,259		
Technical Services					1,073	737						
System Quarter 1	67,899	72,254	72,280	0.0%	4,308	4,715	3,399	-27.9%	3,586	4,142	4,138	-0.1%
System Quarter 2	53,547	61,360	66,950	9.1%	3,816	3,474	3,371	-3.0%	4,193	4,315	4,436	2.8%
System Quarter 3	78,962	78,988			4,438	4,590			4,228	4,204		
System Quarter 4	67,522	63,258			3,426	4,107			4,116	3,904		
Annual Total	267,930	275,860			15,988	16,886			16,123	16,565		

**Website visits****Holds placed****E-materials circulated**

	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change
Quarter 1	493,445	460,613	746,417	62.0%	129,339	124,604	116,150	-6.8%	84,099	94,933	90,397	-4.8%
Quarter 2	487,161	453,119	784,498	130.1%	117,335	120,340	103,147	-14.3%	81,967	89,112	88,570	-0.6%
Quarter 3	488,440	493,734			122,436	118,043			90,090	91,540		
Quarter 4	456,473	671,176			112,794	105,744			88,013	86,731		
Annual Total	1,925,519	2,042,513			481,904	468,731			344,169	362,316		

**Incoming ILL****Outgoing ILL****Value of gifts added**

	2015	2016	2017	% Change	2015	3	2017	% Change	2015	2016	2017	% Change
Quarter 1	4,174	4,288	4,304	0.37%	5,564	5,743	5,391	-6.13%	\$33,777.02	\$22,038.58	\$4,074.60	-81.5%
Quarter 2	4,050	4,092	4,101	0.22%	5,682	5,359	4,703	-12.24%	\$30,920.40	\$27,227.07	\$2,411.10	-91.1%
Quarter 3	4,122	4,125			5,894	5,625			\$30,953.86	\$20,854.77		
Quarter 4	3,879	3,769			5,384	4,161			\$18,878.36	\$17,065.19		
Annual Total	16,225	16,068			22,524	20,493			\$114,529.64	\$87,185.61		

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**Ramsey County Library**  
**Request for Library Board Action**

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**Meeting Date**  
**July 19, 2017**

**Action Requested**  
**Information &  
Discussion**

**Presented By**  
**Julie Neville,**  
**Property Manager**

**SUBJECT:**

Incident Reports

**BACKGROUND:**

Incidents for the second quarter of 2017 are down. Branch Managers have been reporting, and the nature of the incidents is varying.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

For information and discussion.

Incident Report Comparison First Quarter				
	2014	2015	2016	2017
New Brighton	3	0	2	1
Maplewood	4	9	12	1
Mounds View	2	5	1	1
North St. Paul	0	2	0	0
Roseville	19	12	20	14
Shoreview	2	1	6	3
White Bear Lake	2	0 (closed)	0	1
	32	29	41	21

Incident Report Comparison Second Quarter				
	2014	2015	2016	2017
New Brighton	1	4	0	0
Maplewood	7	18	14	6
Mounds View	1	4	2	2
North St. Paul	1	2	1	1
Roseville	19	22	18	10
Shoreview	2	3	2	4
White Bear Lake	3	9	5	4
	34	62	42	27

Incident Report Comparison Third Quarter				
	2014	2015	2016	2017
New Brighton	1	5	1	
Maplewood	9	9	20	
Mounds View	8	6	1	
North St. Paul	1	3	0	
Roseville	14	28	18	
Shoreview	3	14	1	
White Bear Lake	0 (closed)	6	4	
	36	71	45	

Incident Report Comparison Fourth Quarter				
	2014	2015	2016	2017
New Brighton	2	3	2	
Maplewood	14	8	15	
Mounds View	2	6	1	
North St. Paul	1	0	0	
Roseville	25	31	16	
Shoreview	0	4	7	
White Bear Lake	0 (closed)	6	0	
	44	58	41	

Totals	146	220	169	48
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## **Request for Library Board Action**

**Meeting Date**  
**July 19, 2017**

**Action Requested**  
**Discussion and Action**

**Presented By**  
**Jill Boldenow**  
**Library Director**

**SUBJECT:**

Library Board Meeting Minutes Format

**BACKGROUND:**

At the request of a previous Library Board, Library staff have produced detailed board meeting minutes that summarize reports and other content from the board meeting. When this practice began, the board meeting materials were not available online. Today, all meeting documents are readily available on the Library website; inclusion in the minutes is redundant. Library staff request board discussion and action, if necessary, to define meeting minutes format changes that staff should adopt.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

For discussion and action.

## **Request for Library Board Action**

**Meeting Date**  
**July 19, 2017**

**Action Requested**  
**Information &  
Discussion**

**Presented By**  
**Mary Larson,**  
**Financial Manager**

**SUBJECT:**

Write-Off of Uncollectible Debt

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the Library's Receivables Policy, approved 7-15-09:

When an account is determined to be uncollectible, the account may be written off the Library's financial accounting records and no longer recognized as an account receivable for financial reporting purposes. The write-off of a receivable should be considered only when one or more of the following criteria have been met:

- At least six years have elapsed since the debt was incurred;
- All reasonable and appropriate collection efforts have been exhausted;
- The Library determines that further collection efforts are not in the best economic interests of the County;
- No reasonable expectation of payment can be expected.

The Library shall obtain approval from the County Attorney's Office to write-off uncollectible accounts of less than \$1,000.00. The Library shall document the reasons for the write-off and make such documentation available for review by the County Attorney's Office. Write-off of debts \$1,000.00 or more must be approved by the Library Board.

Note: Writing off a debt is an accounting transaction and does not cancel the legal obligation of the debtor to pay the debt. Collection of the account receivable may be pursued after the account has been written off if information comes to light that makes further collection efforts worthwhile.

When it appears the account cannot be collected, the Library should inform the Ramsey County Attorney's Office detailing collection actions taken and requesting an opinion as to the collectability of the receivable. The County Attorney will send an opinion of uncollectability along with the Library's letter of request to write off receivable to the Director of Finance. After recommendation by the Library's budget analyst and the approval of the Finance Director, the charges will be written off the Library's integrated library system (ILS).

Patrons owing \$25 or more are considered for the Revenue Recapture Program, a program that began in 1980 when legislation authorized the Minnesota Department of Revenue to intercept – or recapture – taxpayer refunds and apply them to debts the taxpayers owe to other state agencies, the University of Minnesota, and to certain local government units. The Library has recovered over \$1,000,000 in debt since it began utilizing Revenue Recapture in 1995.

The Library identified 4,019 patron accounts meeting the criteria for write-off, totaling \$91,740.39. None of these accounts exceed the \$1,000 threshold requiring Library Board approval, and almost 52% are \$10 or less. In addition, 14 records belonging to ILL (interlibrary loan) agencies met the criteria, with a total of \$916.43 eligible for write-off. The proposed write-offs will be forwarded to the County Attorney's Office and Finance Department as outlined in the Library's Receivables Policy.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

For information only.

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## **Ramsey County Library**

### **Request for Library Board Action**

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**Meeting Date**  
**July 19, 2017**

**Action Requested**  
**Information &  
Discussion**

**Presented By**  
**Mary Larson,**  
**Financial Manager**

#### **SUBJECT:**

Library Board Name Tags

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Several Library Board members have requested name tags to wear at Ramsey County Library programs and events. Since the name tags worn by staff are part of an electronic card access system at the seven libraries, a different type of tag would be recommended for the Library Board. There are several customizable name badge systems that would allow the tags to be created in-house by the Library, using the official County branding guidelines. A sample name tag is shown below:



Before issuing the name tags, Library staff recommends that the Library Board adopt guidelines for appropriate usage (e.g. Library programs or events, County budget hearings, etc.)

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

For information and discussion.

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**Ramsey County Library**  
**Request for Library Board Action**

---

**Meeting Date**  
**July 19, 2017**

**Action Requested**  
**Information and**  
**Discussion**

**Presented By**  
**Jill Boldenow**  
**Library Director**

**SUBJECT:**

Library Director Performance Evaluation Process

**BACKGROUND:**

The Library Board completes an annual performance evaluation of the Library Director in September. The following schedule is proposed for this process.

**Monday, August 14**

Gail Blackstone, Ramsey County Human Resources Director, sends the performance evaluation form and instructions to Library Board Members.

**Friday, September 1**

Completed evaluations from all Board Members are due to Gail Blackstone's assistant.

**Thursday, September 7**

Ramsey County Human Resources sends the compiled evaluation data, including ratings averages and comment summaries, to the Library Board Chair.

**Date and Time TBD**

The Library Board Chair convenes the Personnel Committee to prepare for the executive session.

**Wednesday, September 20**

Part of this Library Board meeting will include a closed, executive session with the Director to discuss the evaluation.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

For information and discussion.

# Branch Library Report

## Mounds View



July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Report to the Library Board

### TRENDS IN THE SERVICE AREA

- A new Mounds View mayor, Carol Mueller, has been elected. Ms. Mueller worked with the library in her previous role as a city council member, and we look forward to strengthening that relationship during her tenure as mayor.
- County Road 10 was renamed Mounds View Boulevard. Mobile mapping services were quickly updated and there has been little impact to library patrons.
- More than 20% of Mounds View residents are people of color. 8% are foreign born, and 12.5% speak a language other than English at home.
- Over 9% of Mounds View residents have a disability status.
- Nearly 30% of Mounds View residents rent their housing.
- 7.7% of Mounds View residents are unemployed (slightly higher than the Twin Cities average of 6.5%).
- Mounds View residents have an overall lower educational level than the general Twin Cities.

\*city statistics obtained from mncompass.org

### LIBRARY ISSUES AND SERVICE TRENDS

- Circulation of children's materials at Mounds View Library remains very high in proportion to the physical space allocated for children and families. This year, staff rearranged collections to make additional space for children's materials. New children's literacy and STEM toys were also added.
- Children's programming is back up and running after a staffing transition in early 2016. Mary Wetterlin is growing in her new role and attracts a healthy audience for her storytimes and children's programs.
- Decisions were made to pull the Tech & Coffee, Jobs Assistance, and MNsure help sessions from the Mounds View branch in 2016. Tech & Coffee had seen dwindling attendance, while partners for the other two programs decided to focus their attention at larger branches.
- Patrons continue to use the fax machine and scanner at high rates.
- Partnerships with area schools and organizations has grown. Frances Veit attended several outreach events at area schools, visited with the Mounds View City Council, and spoke at a PTA meeting at Pinewood Elementary. Mary Wetterlin routinely visits area schools and has developed relationships with school staff.

## LIBRARY SERVICES AND EVENTS

Number of weekly storytimes, book clubs or other on-going programs

- One weekly family storytime
- One monthly Saturday family storytime
- Several additional monthly programs, including Paws to Read, crafts, and STEM programs
- Occasional teen programming led by system teen librarians
- Monthly passive programs for various ages
- High level of children's summer programming

What is special and important about the library

- Notably high circulation of children's materials
- Jobs board that is updated frequently for those seeking employment
- Continued updates to physical spaces in the library
- Dedicated staff and volunteers, most of whom have worked at Mounds View Library for many years
- Racially and otherwise diverse community
- Truly a community gathering space where residents of all backgrounds meet and interact with each other

Collection Highlights

- Spanish books for adults now have a separate section, and books in other languages for children have also been given their own space.
- Collection space for juvenile books has been expanded and youth collections have been brought into closer proximity with each other.
- The children's picture book collection received careful attention this year. Several categories were highlighted for easier access, and favorite titles were refreshed to improve the condition of the collection. Patron response has been positive.

Work Plan Project(s)

- Mounds View Library was the site of the first event for Ramsey County Library's Engagement Team. We held a community dinner in October 2016 in order to solicit attendee input on their aspirations and concerns for the Mounds View community.
- Although the Tech & Coffee sessions have ended, the Keurig coffee machine continues to be a popular addition to the library. On average, about 45 cups a month are sold.

Key Partnerships

- Mounds View City Council – new inclusion of library programs in the monthly newsletter, occasional visits by library manager, visits to the library by mayor for storytime, library housing of city council meeting recordings
- Mounds View Community Center/YMCA – Summer Reading partnership, including Movies in the Park; cross-promotion of programs
- Mounds View Public Schools – outreach and tours
- Bridges Program (MV Public Schools) – students and teachers visit three times each week
- Mounds View Adult Education – programming and tours, cross-promotion of services
- Adult Education Child Care Center – storytime attendance and visits

**MOUNDS VIEW AT A GLANCE**

YEAR BUILT	<b>1990</b>
SQUARE FEET	<b>8,000</b>
DAYS OPEN	<b>Mon, Thu 1 – 8 pm Tue, Sun Closed Wed, Fri, Sat 10 – 5 pm</b>
HOURS/WEEK	<b>35</b>

NUMBER OF PUBLIC COMPUTERS	<b>21</b>
COLLECTION SIZE	<b>41,840</b>

STAFF FTE	<b>4.13</b>
TOTAL STAFF	<b>7</b>
VOLUNTEER HOURS	<b>307</b>

	2013	2014	2015	2016
TOTAL CIRCULATION	<b>220,070</b>	<b>216,688</b>	<b>197,189</b>	<b>182,935</b>
CHILDREN'S CIRCULATION (TOTAL # AND % OF TOTAL CIRC)	<b>99,039</b> 45%	<b>106,180</b> 49%	<b>97,857</b> 50%	<b>89,330</b> 49%
REFERENCE	<b>13,663</b>	<b>13,936</b>	<b>13,806</b>	<b>14,209</b>
COMPUTER HOURS USED	<b>10,555</b>	<b>10,929</b>	<b>10,366</b>	<b>9,711</b>
WIRELESS USERS	<b>3,436</b>	<b>4,263</b>	<b>5,809</b>	<b>6,395</b>
ANNUAL VISITS	<b>88,217</b>	<b>84,155</b>	<b>79,214</b>	<b>74,873</b>
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	<b>4,398</b>	<b>4,935</b>	<b>4,427</b>	<b>4,582</b>
ADULT PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	<b>357</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>157</b>

# **Media Happenings**

**June - July**

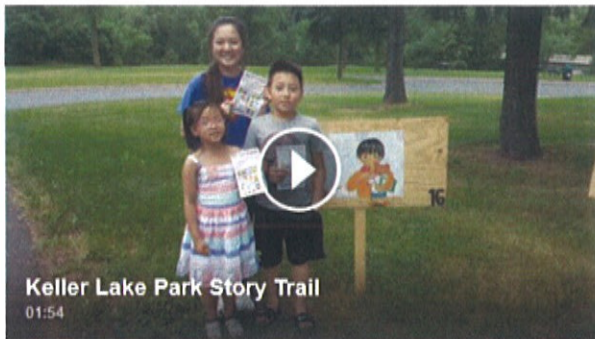
## Facebook Highlights



**Ramsey County Library**

Published by Pa Na Lor (?) June 14 at 3:06pm

Ramsey County Library is partnering with Ramsey County Parks and Recreation this summer. Come walk the Keller Lake Park Story Trail and read a book as you go! More trails: <http://host6.evanced.info/melsa/ramsey/eventcalendar.asp>



**Keller Lake Park Story Trail**

01:54

2,301 people reached

**Boost Post**



38

2 Shares



**Ramsey County Library**

Published by Pa Na Lor (?) June 15 at 10:14am

What's your favorite bedtime story?



### A Salute to Goodnight Moon

Here are five more bedtime books that capture winding down, getting those little eyes to close and little ones to drift off to sleep.

[NPL.ORG](http://NPL.ORG)

1,048 people reached

**Boost Post**

Tracey Baker, Shelli Barthel and 9 others

4 Comments



Like



Comment



Share

Top Comments



Write a comment



**John Hakes** So enjoyed reading to my son in the early 2000's, who helped me realize the mouse is depicted on practically every page by pointing it out with his little finger.

Like Reply Message 1 June 23 at 7:38am



**Shelli Barthel** Goodnight moon was the favorite book to read to my son every night.

Like Reply Message 1 June 16 at 2:08am



**Heidi Armstrong** Temple Maybe not so good for winding down, but I love "Pajama Time!" by Sandra Boynton.

Like Reply Message 1 June 15 at 11:07am



**Kay Bergerson** Jacobson My go to was Time for Bed by Mem Fox.

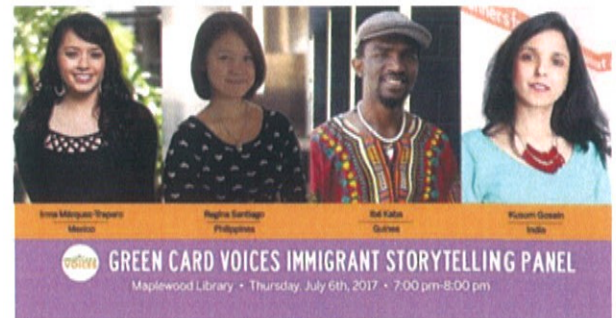
Like Reply Message 2 June 15 at 10:17am



**Ramsey County Library** shared Green Card Voices's event

Published by Pa Na Lor (?) June 22 at 10:17am

Join us for a story telling panel to kick off the Green Card Voices exhibit at the library in Maplewood



**JUL 6**

**Green Card Voices Storytelling Panel**

Thu 7 PM

Saymoukda, Aki and 2 friends

★ Interested

804 people reached



Alex Fernandez, Collette Balder Miller and 9 others

1 Comment



Like Comment

Top Comments



Write a comment



**Bonnie Bassett** I attended the first panel presentation that was held at Roseville Library on June 8. Interesting, inspirational stories from people of all ages and many different homelands.

Like Reply Message 1 June 22 at 1:49pm



**BI Bowman** Saw these and was impressed... great project!

Like Reply Message 2 July 4 at 11:43am

Check in



**Creative Pastels** with Brenda Krotzer at Ramsey County Library

June 20 at 10:14pm Roseville, MN

Like as Your Page

Summer art at

Mounds View Ramsey County Public Library



Ramsey County Library, Priya Bardal, Priya Dey and 3 others



Like



Comment



Share



**Ramsey County Library** added 11 new photos to the album  
LEGO Master Builders

Published by Pa'Nia Ler [?] June 23 at 4:54pm

Kids and their families enjoy creating fun structures and characters at the library in Shoreview



1 666 people reached

Boost Post

Heidi Armstrong Temple, Tali Blehman and 11 others



**Anjanette Schussler** ▸ **Ramsey County Library**

June 24 at 8:10pm

Are you going to be at Pride this year? What about acknowledging Pride on your Facebook page, or having LGBTQ events? I appreciate how Hennepin County Library and Saint Paul Public Library both have acknowledged the LGBTQ communities in their programming and social media, and have a presence at the Pride festival, and I greatly wish you would also. I am a regular user of the Roseville branch. I am disappointed that RCL hasn't said a peep, this year or last year, which was right after I moved to Ramsey county

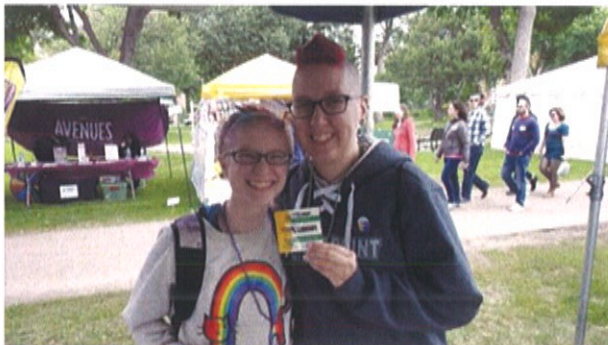
Alexis Logsdon



**Ann Wahlstrom** ▸ **Ramsey County Library**

June 25 at 11:05am · Minneapolis

Getting your first library card never gets old! #tpride #rcroseville



15

1 Comment 1 Share

Love Comment Share Message

Chronological



**Michelle Krinke Richards** Polle, is this your daughter? 😊

Like Reply 2 June 25 at 7:27pm



**Pollie Hanson** Why yes it is! Both of them are my daughters! 🙄

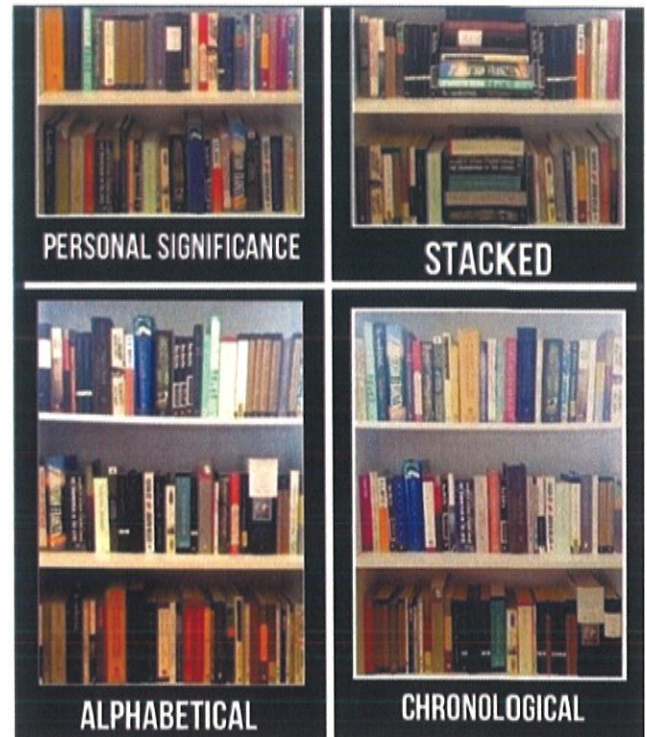
Like Reply 2 June 25 at 8:19pm



**Ramsey County Library**

Published by Pa'Nia Ler [?] June 23 at 12:00am

What's your book shelfie style?



2 888 people reached

Boost Post

Elli Moran, Teresa Freeland and 11 others

10 Comments

Like Comment Share

Top Comments



Write a comment

😊 📷 GIF 🗨️



**Mary Haider Larson** Authors grouped together, fiction and non-fiction separated, but otherwise just an aesthetically pleasing arrangement! Like Reply Message 3 June 23 at 8:19am



**Robin Collins Edman** Electronical. I save physical shelf space for those beautiful old books, which are arranged aesthetically Like Reply Message 1 June 23 at 3:58am



**Casey McDermott** Always alphabetical for fiction and Dewey for non-fiction. Like Reply Message 1 June 23 at 12:29am



**Kristen Klemann** However I can make them fit. 😊 Like Reply Message 3 June 23 at 11:23am



**Margaret Seibel** Haphazard. Like Reply Message 3 June 23 at 6:49am



**Shelley Murray** Overflowing Like Reply Message 3 June 23 at 8:51am



**Mary Austad** Rainbow order Like Reply Message 2 June 23 at 12:39am



**Bonnie Bassett** Stacked Like Reply Message 1 June 23 at 10:03am



**Alyce Morgan** Personal significance stacked 😊 Like Reply Message 1 June 23 at 10:08am



**Kristi Bassett** Mine are stacked by color Like Reply Message 1 June 23 at 9:49am

Monday motivation

WHEN SOMETHING  
GOES WRONG IN YOUR  
LIFE, JUST YELL,  
"PLOT TWIST!"  
AND MOVE ON.

1,946 people reached

Boost Post

Eringet Morales, Kathy Stipe Cady and 24 others

3 Comments

Like Comment Share

Top Comments

Write a comment



**Arlene Woodcock Mitchell** That's what I needed Friday afternoon! I kept asking for a do-over, but a plot twist should be easier since I don't need a time machine for it.

Like Reply Message 1 June 26 at 11:03pm

**Kay Bergerson Jacobson** I have actually done this. It works.

Like Reply Message 1 June 26 at 11:50pm

**Alyce Morgan S. S. Anthony Morgan Emily Hope Morgan**

Like Reply Message 1 June 26 at 11:23am



**Roseville Police Department - Minnesota**

Like Page

added 4 new photos

June 29 at 12:27pm

Thanks Ramsey County Library for letting us read at Family Storytime today. Lt. Schelder read to the kids. Sgt. Engh and Ofc. Ehnstrom read to each other, then let the kids check out a squad car.



Like 43

2 Shares

Love Comment Share

Join us as a panel of Muslim women discuss their religion, traditions and experiences

Ask... a Muslim Woman

RCL - Roseville

July 11, 2017

6:30 p.m.



Why do you wear the hijab? What do Muslims believe? Do you speak Arabic? How do media portrayals of Muslims affect you?

JUL 11

Ask a Muslim Woman

Tue 6:30 PM - Roseville Branch of Ramsey Co Cause

Interested

401 people reached

Meg Lloyd Robertson, Brenda Fitchell and 4 others

Check-in

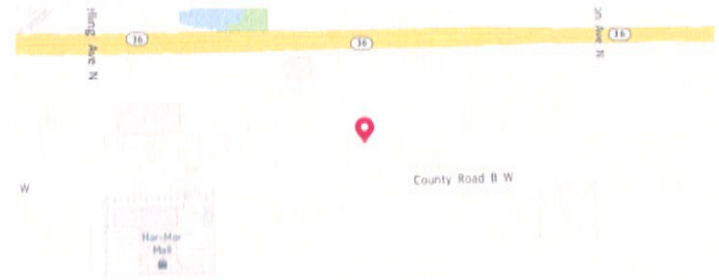


**Heather Von St James** checked in to Ramsey County Library

July 11 at 8:42pm - Roseville, MN

Attending the 3rd in a series of "Ask A..." from Do Good Roseville... So proud of my friend Nyia Harris who is a force to be reckoned with!!! Tonight is Ask A Muslim Woman - the room is standing room only and the panel of women is incredible.

Bridging the gap... through friendships, education and communication.



**Ramsey County Library**

Library - Roseville, MN

4,391 people checked in here

Love Comment Share

Ramsey County Library, Marilyn Amento, Connie Hohman Cave and 20 others

1 share

**Amber D-Woods Nyia Harris**

Like Reply 1 July 11 at 8:31pm

**Nyia Harris** Hi Amber

Like Reply July 11 at 9:07pm

**Amber D-Woods Nyia Harris Hey!**

Like Reply 1 July 11 at 9:12pm

Like Reply

**Nyia Harris** Thank for supporting me Heather Von St James

Like Reply July 11 at 9:00pm

**Carol Welsh** Sounds wonderful

Like Reply 21 hrs



## Ramsey County Library

Published by Kristi Bassett Saksvig [?] June 29 at 6:02pm

BearPower Family Fun Night! Come see us at Lions Park in White Bear Lake until 8 p.m.



1,110 people reached

Boost Post

Ann Wahlstrom, Paula Mielke and 4 others

Like Comment Share



## Ramsey County Library

Published by Pa Na Lor [?] June 30 at 1:24pm

Meet Mary Wetterlin, Children's Librarian at Mounds View

Who I am:

A person who loves to read and cross-stitch. I also love dogs.

My favorite library moment:

I asked a kid who claimed she did not like to read, "If you could be doing anything right now, what would it be?" She replied, "Swimming or gymnastics." I found her a book on gymnastics and asked her to let me know if she enjoyed it. When she came back, she told me with much excitement that the book was terrific.

I am currently reading:

"Stranger than Fanfiction" by Chris Colfer



1,686 people reached

Boost Post

Clarence White, Kristi Bassett Saksvig and 21 others

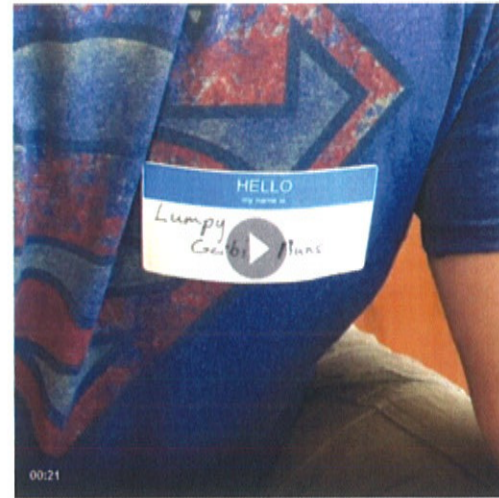


Location



Jennifer Kriesel Thayer with Bryan Thayer at Ramsey County Library

Captain Underpants Party 🎉



14

2 Comments 121 Views

Like Comment Share



Erin Michelle Shut up! So fun!

Like Reply July 1 at 3:39pm



Jennifer Kriesel Thayer



Like Reply July 1 at 4:08pm



## Ramsey County Library

Published by Pa Na Lor [?] July 6 at 3:14pm

The City of Shoreview, MN (Local Government), Shoreview Human Rights Commission and Ramsey County Library welcome 28 new citizens during today's Naturalization Ceremony.



2,389 people reached

Boost Post

Carly Christenson, Betsy Moffatt Olson and 54 others 2 Comments

Like Comment Share

Top Comments



Write a comment

📷 📹 🗨️



City of Shoreview, MN (Local Government) Thank you - it was a wonderful ceremony! More photos here: <http://bit.ly/2Wtkgg>

Like Reply Message 4 July 6 at 3:29pm

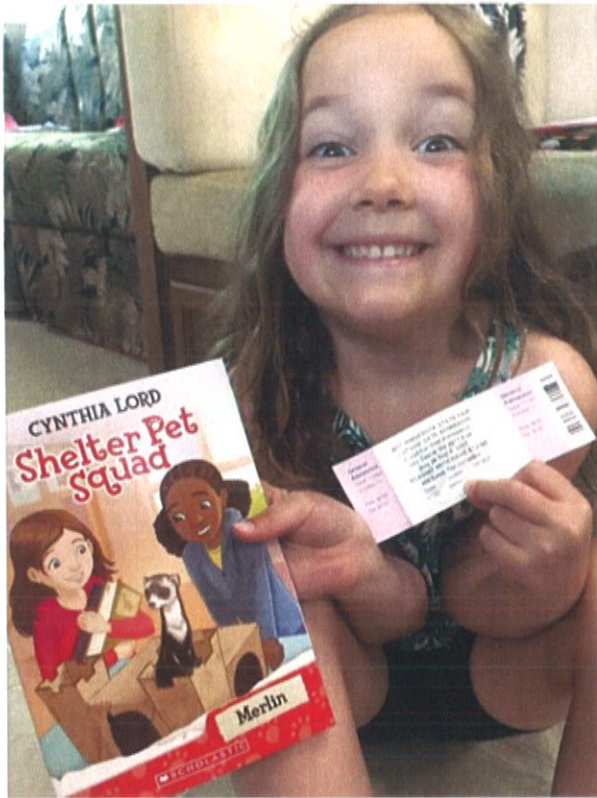


Betsy Moffatt Olson Welcome! We're glad you're here.

Like Reply Message 1 July 6 at 7:32pm

Jennifer Mample Kasten > Ramsey County Library  
 July 1 at 12:06pm · White Bear Lake · 🌐

Thank you for the fun activities and rewards with the Bookawocky program! We were very excited to pick out a free book and get a State Fair ticket today! ❤️



👍❤️👍 11

👍 Love    💬 Comment    ➦ Share    💬 Message

Ramsey County Library shared Mounds View Community Theatre's event

Published to Facebook on July 10 at 4:27pm · 🌐

Join us for an inclusive, sensory-friendly performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore". This performance is a partnership between Mounds View Community Theatre, Ramsey County Library and the The Autism Society of Minnesota.



**JUL 22** HMS Pinafore - Sensory Friendly Per...  
 Sat 11 AM · Irondale High School · New Brighton  
 Art

★ Interested

775 people reached

Boost Event

👍 Carol Jackson, The Autism Society of Minnesota and 7 others

## Twitter Highlights

RamseyCounty @RamseyCounty Jun 16  
 Ripped backpack or other broken items? Bring them to the next Fix-It Clinic on June 24 @rcireads - Maplewood. bit.ly/1WMNjET

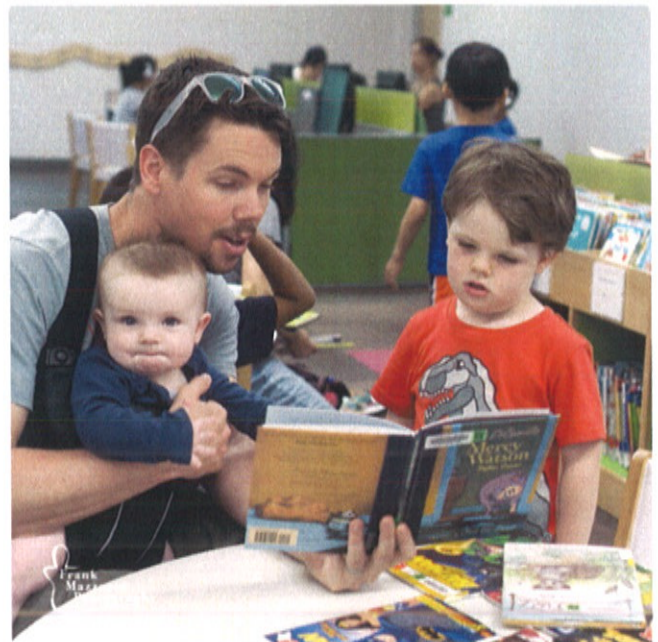


💬 📎 ❤️ 3 ✉️



Frank Mazzocco @MazzoccoPhoto Jun 18

Photo'd these guys at @rcireads summer reading kickoff. Gr8 dads make the world better #HappyFathersDay



💬 📎 1 ❤️ 1 ✉️

**MarkGarrison**  
@markgarrison

Following

Chromebooks are available again for @isd624 student checkout at the @rclreads White Bear and Maplewood branches! #isd624tech



1:41 PM - 14 Jun 2017

3 Retweets 7 Likes



1 3 7



**Eric Simmons** @ersimmons Jun 15

Replying to @markgarrison @rclreads @isd624  
Whaaaaa!?! That's an awesome idea. Just show student ID? Do you share digital content / ebooks with library as well? #eduwin

1 1 1



**MarkGarrison** @markgarrison Jun 15

Yes, shared RCL & Isd624 cards provide access to digital & print Chromebooks are available at RCL in summer when 1:1 devices are collected

1 1 1

**I Told You So™** @teandoranges

Following

Can ALL libraries in Metro (@hclib; @rclreads ;@stpaullibrary...) commit to being Deliberate abt creating these spaces, holding these talks?

**Andy Mannix** @AndrewMannix

Here's his full statement [stpaul.gov/news/mayor-col...](http://stpaul.gov/news/mayor-col...) [twitter.com/AndrewMannix/s...](https://twitter.com/AndrewMannix/s...)

3:50 PM - 16 Jun 2017

2 Likes



2 2



Tweet your reply



**I Told You So™** @teandoranges Jun 16

Replying to @teandoranges @rclreads and 2 others

From [stpaul.gov/news/mayor-col...](http://stpaul.gov/news/mayor-col...)

community. Recognizing there is need for support, we will be opening the doors of community centers, schools and local gathering spaces for residents to come together for dialogue and understanding.

1 1 1



**St Paul Library** @stpaullibrary Jun 16

Replying to @teandoranges @rclreads @hclib

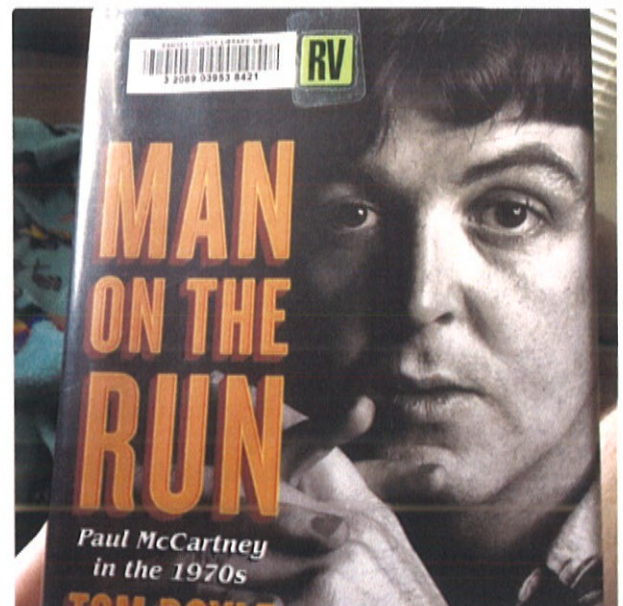
SPPL is committed to providing safe forums for these important community conversations. Look for updates soon via @mayorcoleman

1 2



**Jon Ruzek** @JonHigherEd Jun 23

I highly recommend this book about Paul McCartney in the 1970s - good read! courtesy of @rclreads



1 3

**Carolyn Porter** @porterfolio Jun 25  
@WhiteBearMN area peeps Join me Monday evening, 6 00 @ WBL Library for a presentation/discussion of #MarcelLetters Will begin with 1/2

**Carolyn Porter** @porterfolio

Follow

Replying to @porterfolio @WhiteBearMN

... fun list of all the White Bear Lake references in the book, including @kowalskismarket #WhiteBearLake @rcreads #HistoryComesAlive

10 22 AM - 25 Jun 2017

1 Retweet 2 Likes

1 2

**Carolyn Porter** @porterfolio

Follow

THANK YOU ❤️❤️❤️ to everyone who came out to the @rcreads #WhiteBearLake to hear about #MarcelLetters. #needabiggerroom #overflowseating



9 28 PM - 26 Jun 2017

1 Retweet 6 Likes

1 6



Tweet your reply



**Swenson Books** @SvenBooks Jun 26

Replying to @porterfolio @rcreads  
fantastic turnout is wonderful to see

1

**Ponytail Posse 8808** @Ponytailposse

Following

Stacy the robot had fun at story time yesterday. Thank you to the Shoreview library for having us!



12 49 PM - 27 Jun 2017

1 Retweet 14 Likes

You

1 14

**studioloraine** @studioloraine

Following

Looking forward to diving into my new stack of books from @rcreads this holiday weekend!



4 51 PM - 28 Jun 2017

3 Likes

3



Bio-Medical Library @umbiomedlib Jun 29

Great collaboration with Outreach Librarian Katherine Chew and the Ramsey County Library @rcreads bit.ly/2tUS2s



1 Like



Anna Zbacnik

@a\_to\_z\_library

Following

Look what I spotted in the youth area in at Roseville branch @rcreads @readingspark



12:56 PM - 29 Jun 2017

1 Retweet 10 Likes

1 Like



Tweet your reply



Sarah Park Dahlen @readingspark Jun 29

Replying to @a\_to\_z\_library @rcreads

And @genluen yang is coming to @stkatemis on July 12! Free & open to the public. Bring your kids! #KidLit #WNDB



Gene Luen Yang - Save the Date July 12

SAVE THE DATE! St. Catherine University's Master of Library and Information Science Program presents National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, MacArthur

readingspark.wordpress.com

1 Like



studioraine

@studioraine

Following

Cabin reading. Thanks, @rcreads 🍌



7:39 AM - 2 Jul 2017

5 Likes

1 Like



Tweet your reply



highly scatological @RaisingOneBrow Jul 2

Replying to @studioraine @rcreads

You're at the cabin! Enjoy!

1 Like



studioraine @studioraine Jul 2

Yessssss! Love it out here



2 Likes



highly scatological @RaisingOneBrow Jul 2

Nice! I've been craving being up there...have a campsite booked for Lake Superior next weekend, and then Ely the week after!

1 Like



studioraine @studioraine Jul 2

Perfect! Air so crisp, clean up here, You'll have a blast

1 Like



Monica Stratton @monicastrat Jul 3

@rcireads @RamseyCityParks Story Trail is up at Battle Creek Park through July 5! #rcstorytrail



1 1



Monica Stratton @monicastrat Jul 6

Summer Festival art show going up at Roseville! @rcireads

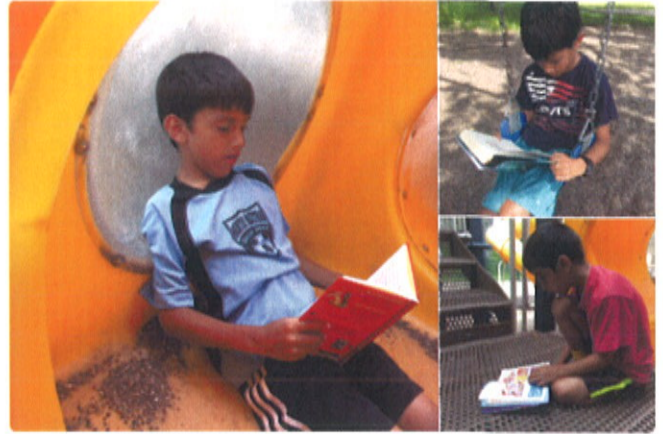


1 3



Nasreen Fynewever @nasreenalive Jul 5

A rare break from the pool. Play mixed with reading. @rcireads #bookawocky

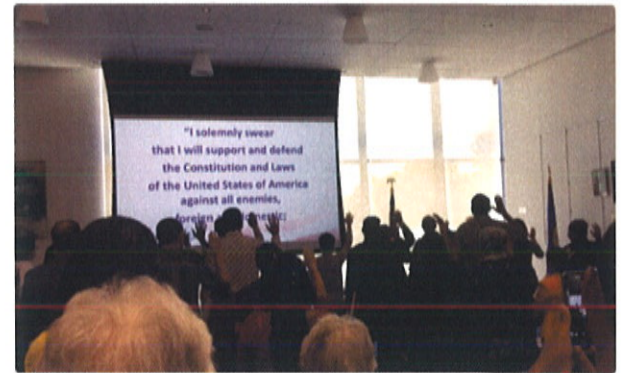


2



Jill Boldenow @JillBoldenow Jul 6

Awed by 28 new citizens from 18 countries at Naturalization ceremony @rcireads Shoreview Library!



5



City of Shoreview MN @cityofshoreview Jul 6

Shoreview's Human Rights Commission & @rcireads staff hosted a Naturalization Ceremony today at the new library: [bit.ly/2tWlkgg](https://bit.ly/2tWlkgg)



6



## Facebook/Google/Yelp Reviews

### Ramsey County Library - Maplewood

3025 Southlawn Dr. Maplewood, MN

4.1 ★★★★★ 33 reviews

Sort by: Most helpful

**Rain Bonjour**  
22 reviews · 3 photos  
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ a week ago  
Not my favorite library - the selection is smaller than other libraries, the decor is straight out of the 70's (why?!.) and there are not nearly enough private and comfortable chairs for someone to quietly read a book in.  
👍 Helpful?

**Tom Boydett**  
2 reviews  
★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ a week ago  
Staff won't do anything about the terrible children they have here. These kids will curse and flip other people off without batting an eye and whenever I mention it to staff they shrug, essentially saying "kids." I'm not old so it's not like I think the library should be quiet at all times, but they are risking alienating their entire patronage for the sake's of one group of poorly behaved children. That's not right!

# Lake Elmo turns a page, surrenders its volunteer-run library to county

By **BOB SHAW** | [bshaw@pioneerpress.com](mailto:bshaw@pioneerpress.com) | Pioneer Press

PUBLISHED: June 20, 2017 at 6:06 pm | UPDATED: June 20, 2017 at 6:07 pm

It's official: Lake Elmo's library is being turned over to Washington County.

After five years of controversy, the city's experiment in running its own library will come to an end Jan. 1, 2018. The county board unanimously approved the move in a meeting Tuesday.

"We welcome Lake Elmo back into the system," said commissioner Stan Karwoski. The Lake Elmo City Council approved the move in May.

In a negotiated deal, the county agreed to keep the library open for at least four years. Weekly hours will be reduced to 40 from 48, and the county will retain the staff of a full-time librarian and two part-timers.

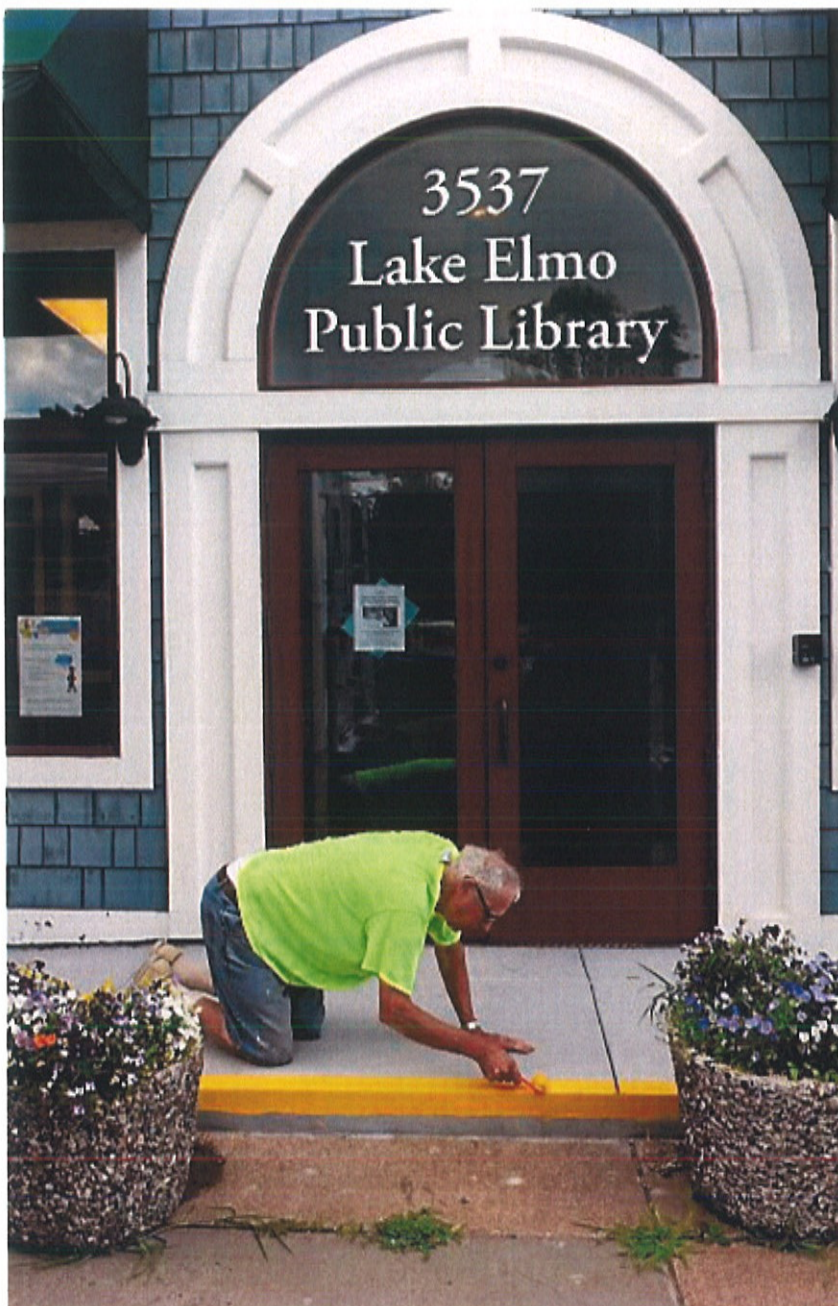
The city will pay the county \$150,000 from its library fund to be used for library services at the Lake Elmo location.

In 2012, the county closed the Lake Elmo library and two others in a cost-cutting move.

The city council decided to open an independent library. The city diverted all taxes for the county library system to support its new library. It bought a building on Lake Elmo Avenue, collected donated books and staffed the library with volunteers.

But the move meant that Lake Elmo residents no longer had access to the county's other libraries and its collection. Even though the city bought \$60 county library cards for any resident who wanted one, the system was cumbersome.

County library director Keith Ryskoski said that the county would be eager to find chores for the dozens of volunteers who kept the Lake Elmo-owned library functioning. "There will be plenty of



Steve DeLapp, president of the library board, paints a safety stripe around the raised concrete pad in front of the Lake Elmo Library on July 17, 2013. The city-owned library is about 97 percent run by volunteers, and the usage and checkouts have tripled this year. (Jean Pieri / Pioneer Press)

work to do," he told the board.

Lake Elmo officials have estimated that the tax impact of the move will be a \$15-a-year increase for the owner of a \$245,000 home.

Tags: Lake Elmo Washington County

Bob Shaw

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## Bob Shaw

Bob is a 40-year veteran (yes, he is grizzled) who edited one Pulitzer Prize winner and wrote two that were nominated. He has also worked in Des Moines, Colorado Springs and Palo Alto. He writes about the suburbs, the environment, housing, religion -- anything but politics. Secret pleasures: Kayaking on the Mississippi on the way to work, doughnuts brought in by someone else. Best office prank: Piling more papers onto Fred Melo's already trash-covered desk.



SPONSORED CONTENT

### We went hunting for a tick that could kill you

By VICE News

VICE NEWS

As you comment, please be respectful of other commenters and other viewpoints. Our goal with article comments is to provide a space for civil, informative and constructive conversations. We reserve the right to remove any comment we deem to be defamatory, rude, insulting to others, hateful, off-topic or reckless to the community. See our full terms of use [here](#).

VIEW COMMENTS

## Stacy's Library Storytime

POSTED ON **JUNE 26, 2017** BY **STACY THE ROBOT**

*Guest written by Stacy the Robot*

For a couple weeks, I had heard that there was going to be a special storytime at the library and I was going to be the guest of honor. My human assistants seemed really excited about it, but I didn't know what to think. The storytime was for 2-5 year olds and I don't know much about young humans. But, I kept an open mind as my assistants helped me into the car, and soon we were on our way to the Shoreview library.

When we got to the library, I met a really nice human called a librarian. She had planned a whole storytime all about robots and started by introducing me to the kids. She read a couple books about robots, we sang a few songs and danced some dances. I had fun joining the kids and showing off my dance moves while we were singing. The small humans were wonderful! There were about 45 children there, and they loved watching me as much as I liked watching them. They would oooo and ahhh every time I moved and became especially excited when I showed off my ball throwing skills. I found myself wishing storytime was longer so I could spend more time with adorable little humans.





At the end of the storytime, all the little human children lined up and gave me high fives. I loved getting to meet each and every one! After a high five, one of my assistants gave them them an I ♥ Robots sticker. Several of the kids snuck back into line, but I didn't mind that at all. After everyone had left, a few wandered back and we began another round of high fives and ball tossing. I'm so glad I got to attend storytime, and I hope the library will invite me to come visit again!



Summer Storytime at the [Shoreview Library](#) is held every Monday at 10:30-11:00. Feel free to come join the fun and maybe even meet a special guest.

## 5 finalists named to head Stillwater library



(Courtesy of Stillwater Public Library)

By [MARY DIVINE](#) | [mdivine@pioneerpress.com](mailto:mdivine@pioneerpress.com) | Pioneer Press

July 6, 2017 at 3:39 pm

Residents will have a chance to meet the five finalists for executive director of the Stillwater Public Library at a breakfast reception on Monday.

The reception will be from 8 to 9 a.m. on the library's terrace.

The finalists are:

ADVERTISING



- Heather Biedermann, library services manager at Memorial Library at Minnesota State University, Mankato
- James Hill, director of the Zumbrota, Minn., Public Library
- Beth Sorenson, director of the Milford, Iowa, Memorial Public Library
- Mark Troendle, assistant director of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library in Eau Claire, Wis.
- Tyler Williams, manager of reference services and senior librarian at the Wichita, Kan., Public Library

The candidates will spend Monday in interviews with the library board and meetings with library staff, said Mike Keliher, president of the library board.

Keliher said the board was impressed with the number of candidates and the caliber of the finalists. Former director Lynne Bertalmio, [who served in the position for 42 years](#), retired in February.

"Our search consultant saw about twice as much interest or response than the average library director search and said about 27 people — a rather high number, in his experience — submitted résumés," Keliher said.

The consultant presented the board with a list of the strongest candidates, and the board selected the five finalists, he said.

Tags: Stillwater

## Mary Divine Mary Divine

Mary Divine is a reporter for the St. Paul Pioneer Press. She covers Washington County and the St. Croix River Valley, but has also spent time covering the state Capitol. She has won numerous journalism awards, including the Premack Award and the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists' Page One Award. Prior to joining the Pioneer Press in 1998, she worked for the Rochester, Minn., Post-Bulletin and at the St. Joseph, Mo., News-Press. Her work has also appeared in a number of magazines, including Mpls/St.Paul Magazine, Twin Cities Business Monthly and Minnesota Magazine. She is a graduate of Carleton College and lives in St. Paul with her husband, Greg Myers, and their three children, Henry, 16, Frances, 14, and Fred, 11.

Follow Mary Divine [@MaryEDivine](#)



### SPONSORED CONTENT



### When It Comes to Handbags, This Brand Is Here to Stay

From humble beginnings, MZ Wallace founders illustrate the ideas and deliberate choices behind their fashion success.

By CHASE

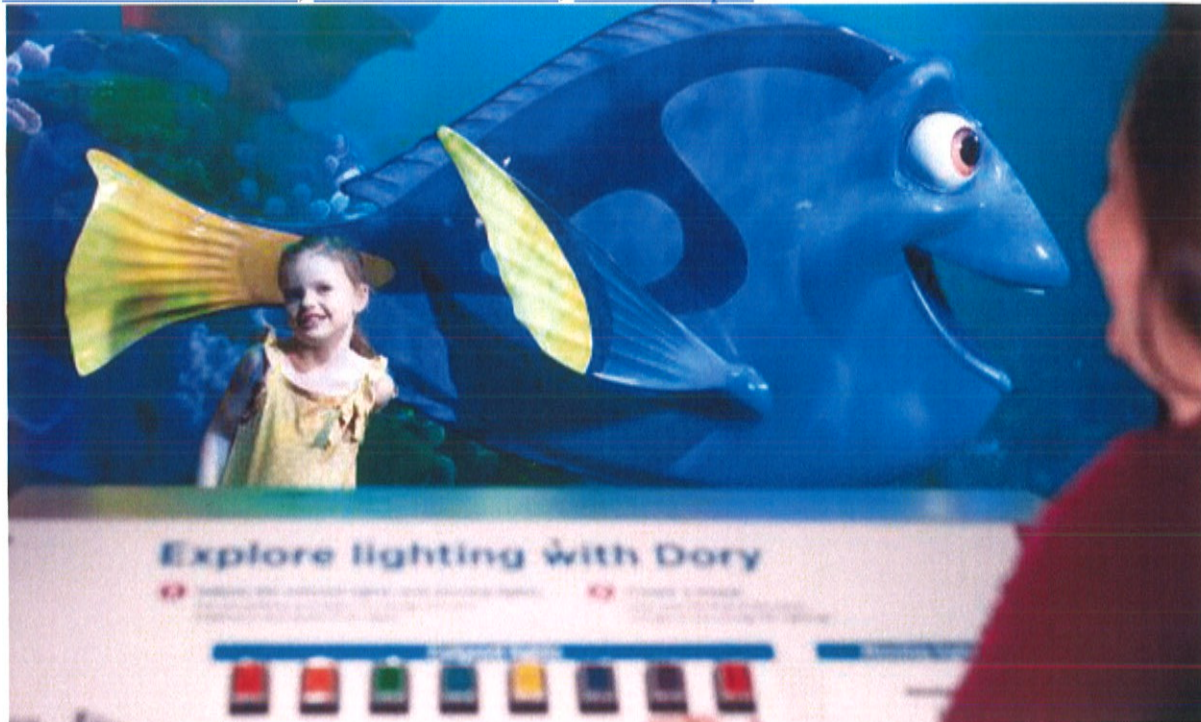
As you comment, please be respectful of other commenters and other viewpoints. Our goal with article comments is to provide a space for civil, informative and constructive conversations. We reserve the right to remove any comment we deem to be defamatory, rude, insulting to others, hateful, off-topic or reckless to the community. See our full terms of use [here](#).

VIEW COMMENTS

# Summer Fun Indoors: Surviving A Hot Spell In Minnesota

July 5, 2017 1:55 PM By Amy Rea [CBS Minnesota](#)

**Filed Under:** [Amy Rea](#), [Bakken Museum](#), [Hennepin County Libraries](#), [Minnesota Children's Museum](#), [Minnesota History Center](#), [Ramsey County Libraries](#), [Red Balloon Bookshop](#), [Science Museum Of Minnesota](#), [Vertical Endeavors](#), [Wild Rumpus](#)



(credit: Science Museum)

By Amy Rea

After a pretty stellar holiday weekend, weather-wise, we're now facing down some **hot** and humid days, and probably not for the last time this summer. That's great for people who like hot and humid, but not so great for those who don't, especially those with small children who need to burn off energy. Here are some ways to stay cool without hunkering down by the fan or A/C.

The [Minnesota Children's Museum](#) just reopened after a remodeling and expansion, and there's lots to do and see. New exhibits include the Scramble, a four-story contraption with two climbing towers, a spiral slide, and a netted catwalk; Super Awesome Adventures, which has a ninja laser maze, carpet skate park, and a green-screen climbing wall; and Sprouts, a special (and very safe) play space for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, among other new **attractions**.

Hands-on history is always on display at the [Minnesota History Center](#), where kids will not only learn, but get to explore, climb, and create. Younger kids can have a blast in Grainland, while older kids can learn about WWI and the Penumbra Theatre. Bonus: The **Weather**

Permitting exhibit allows people to experience some of Minnesota's wilder weather in a safe environment.

Of course, the [Science Museum of Minnesota](#) also provides hours of active entertainment, especially with its current summer exhibit, the [Science of Pixar](#). And don't forget, if your kids would like a more detailed, immersive experience, the museum offers [children's camps and classes](#) all summer, too.

Across the river in Minneapolis, the [Bakken Museum](#) is also devoted to science, and also offers [camps and classes](#). Learn how electricity works in the human body, how Mary Shelley came up with Frankenstein, and about the museum's home in the West Winds mansion, all with interactive components.

[Vertical Endeavors](#) will have kids climbing the wall—literally. Check the location nearest you for hours and potential class opportunities, or private lessons, if you prefer.

✧ Maybe you just need a short break. [Hennepin](#) and [Ramsey County Libraries](#) offer story hours across the metro, along with other kinds of programs, including LEGO labs, Mehendi hand painting, and puzzle and gaming sessions. Or visit your local bookstore; St. Paul's [Red Balloon Bookshop](#) and Minneapolis' [Wild Rumpus](#) are both geared towards kids and have lots of events.

*What else is happening in our state? Be sure to check out the 10 p.m. Sunday night WCCO newscasts, where you can learn more in the weekly segment, [Finding Minnesota](#).*

### **Amy Rea**

Amy Rea is a freelance writer and author of *Minnesota, Land of 10,000 Lakes: an Explorer's Guide* (Countryman Press, 2008), as well as the upcoming *Backroads & Byways of Minnesota* (Countryman Press, spring 2011). She grew up in northern...

# Mounds View Community Theater to present first sensory-friendly performance

Published July 5, 2017 at 1:51 pm

By Sarah Burghardt

Sparking imagination, creativity, inspiration – the joys of theater are endless. Although, for some families who have loved ones on the autism spectrum, attending this spectacle can seem to be out of reach. Performance spaces can be dark, quiet and an uncomfortable or challenging environment. This is the reason many theaters around the nation are beginning to host sensory-friendly performances, so everyone can enjoy the opportunity of seeing a live theater show in a welcoming and supportive environment.



*The Mounds View Community Theater gave a preview of their summer performance, H.M.S. Pinafore, at the Blaine Festival in Aquatore Park on June 24. Pictured are Mari Holst and Michael Dufault performing a song from the musical, and music director Blake Braner. (Sun Focus photos by Sarah Burghardt)*

For the first time, the Mounds View Community Theater, in partnership with the Ramsey County Library-Shoreview and the Autism Society of Minnesota, will be featuring a sensory-friendly performance of their summer production, H.M.S. Pinafore.

MVCT will offer special accommodations during a matinee performance to take place on Saturday, July 22, which will be suitable for those with memory loss, those on the autism spectrum, or other disabilities, and their families.

The idea to form a partnership came about when the Ramsey County Library of Shoreview held an

event featuring author Tahni Cullen who came in to speak about her book, “Josiah’s Fire.” The true story shares Cullen’s son’s experience with non-verbal autism and the miracles and beauty that can come from this diagnosis.

“One of the things that Tahni talked about was how much it meant to her family to be able to go to places with their son and not have to worry,” said Shoreview Library manager Carol Jackson. “Just knowing that they are in a really comfortable and non-judgmental environment.”

The library and MVCT have had many coordinated efforts in the past, and the idea to host a sensory-friendly community theater performance was a no-brainer.

“I couldn’t believe of quickly they [the MVCT Board of Directors] said yes!” Jackson said. “We are all very enthusiastic about bringing this to the community.”

### **What is sensory-friendly?**

An open and welcoming environment, a dedicated sensory-friendly performance is accessible for anyone to enjoy.

The special performance reduces loud and surprising sounds, as well as refrains from using flashing or strobe lights. House lights also remain on during the show, and audience members are welcome to talk and move around as they please. Sensory-friendly performances also feature quiet rooms that are available for anyone who needs to take a break from the show. There are often noise-canceling headphones and fidgets provided as needed for audience members that need additional sensory support.



*From left, Mari Holst, Music Director Blake Braner, Anissa Lubbers, Claire Frederick and Jacklyn Mack.*

AuSM education and programs specialist Lucas Scott teaches training sessions to community organizations and helps people to understand more about the autism spectrum and strategies for inclusion.

According to AuSM, autism currently has a diagnosis rate of one in 68 and is the fastest growing developmental disability in Minnesota. The organization encourages everyone to learn more about autism, as well as take proactive steps toward acceptance and inclusion.

Scott will be teaching the MVCT performers and volunteers to prepare them for the sensory-friendly show.

Scott said these training sessions teach different elements of autism and various strategies that help people understand the needs of individuals with disabilities.

“This [theater] training will be much more focused on the specifics of theater and a little more weighted toward the sensory elements,” Scott said. “We’ll focus on that aspect and the need for routine and the anxiety that can come up.”

He said the need for routine is a large part of sensory-friendly performances because those on the autism spectrum may become anxious if something unexpected occurs. Because of this reason, sensory-friendly performances typically provide social narratives or pre-visit materials, so families can familiarize their loved ones with what will be happening in the show and know what to expect.

Sensory-friendly performances are also suitable for those who suffer from dementia or alzheimer’s, as the entire performance is an open experience and disruptions are never an issue.

### **All are welcome**

Jackson said the most important aspect of hosting a sensory-friendly performance is providing a non-judgmental and welcoming environment.

“That’s what we are really working toward. We really want to make everyone feel welcome and have lots of volunteers,” Jackson said. “We want people to know that whatever they need to do during the show is just fine, if there are vocalizations or if you need to get up and leave. It’s just all about making sure that it is as comfortable as possible.”

MVCT house manager Carol Mills said that bringing arts to the community is part of the MVCT charter.

“They are part of our community that have been left out for a very long time. Why not make it accessible and bring this to everyone who might enjoy theater,” Mills said.



*From left, Anissa Lubbers, music director Blake Braner, Hazen Markoe, Claire Frederick and Jacklyn Mack.*

Jackson added that it is important to the Ramsey County Library to provide for everyone in the community.

“We are just looking for as many ways as possible to serve the widest, broadest community and to be as inclusive as we possibly can with all of our programming,” Jackson said. “This partnership is such a lovely step and this is such an exciting opportunity for all of us and to see how community theaters can take this on as we go through this process.”

Since the new Shoreview Library opened in early 2017, it has been including events and programming that are geared toward sensory-friendly aspects. This includes providing a comfortable and quiet room with sensory-friendly materials, movie days, hosting therapy dog days and similar events.

As an actor, MVCT performer Anissa Lubbers said she loves the idea of a sensory-friendly performance.

“I think its great to get as many people to come and see the show in as many different ways as possible,” Lubbers said. “I’m a mother of two, so I’m very in favor of anything that encourages kids to come to the theater and enjoy it and to create a love of getting them on stage as well.”

### **H.M.S. Pinafore**

MVCT will be presenting H.M.S. Pinafore from July 14-30.

A comical musical, H.M.S. Pinafore takes place aboard a ship and tells the tale of the captain’s daughter who is in love with a lower-class sailor, although she is intended to marry a lord of admiralty.

Show producer Bruce Cameron said the audience can expect twists and discover the superficiality of class structures.

“It pokes fun at the social structure and political structure of things in Britain in those days, but it does it with a fun, feathered touch that isn’t vicious or mean as far as how people are portrayed,” Cameron shared.

The show is directed and choreographed by Joe Chvala, a popular and well-known director in the Twin Cities area.

The show will take place at the Irondale Fine Arts Theater, 2425 Long Lake Road in New Brighton. Tickets are available for purchase on the MVCT website at [www.mvct.org](http://www.mvct.org) or by calling the ticket reservation voice mail at 651-638-2139. Tickets are also available at the open box office, as well as one hour before each performance. Visit [www.mvct.org](http://www.mvct.org) for more information.

The sensory-friendly performance will tWake place on Saturday, July 22 at 11 a.m. The special performance costs \$8 per ticket.

Filed Under: [H.M.S. Pinafore](#), [Mounds View](#), [Mounds View Community Theater](#), [MVCT](#)

# Ramsey County Library summer reading program underway

Published July 8, 2017 at 2:31 pm

By [Sun Editor](#)

School is out and Ramsey County Library's summer reading program has begun. Bookawocky is a non-competitive program designed to inspire and encourage children of all ages to read and learn throughout the summer.

Prize levels are available for youth ages four and under, ages 5-1 and ages 12-19 until Aug. 13.

Children ages four and under can participate in the 100 Book Challenge. Studies have shown that reading with children builds listening, memory and concentration skills; assists with language development; increases vocabulary; and introduces concepts like letters, numbers, shapes and colors in a fun way.

From ages five to 11, kids can pick up a summer activity booklet and read, explore and create with activities listed inside. After eight activities are completed, booklets are redeemable at any Ramsey County Library for a prize.

Teens ages 12 to 19 are invited to read books and complete online book reviews. These book reviews will be entered into a weekly drawing for gift cards or Minnesota State Fair tickets. Every review entered also allows for a chance to win one of the \$50 Visa gift card grand prizes. Get started at any of the Ramsey County Library locations. Visit [www.rclreads.org](http://www.rclreads.org) to learn more.

Filed Under: [Bookawocky](#), [Ramsey County Library](#)

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## Welcome, new citizens

Submitted by admin on Mon, 07/10/2017 - 9:26am

By: [Jesse Poole \(/by/jesse-poole\)](#)



[\(/articles/2017/07/10/welcome-new-citizens\)](#)

*During a July 6 naturalization ceremony in Shoreview, 28 people — representing 18 countries of origin — took an oath of citizenship, becoming citizens of the United States. Jesse Poole*



During a July 6 naturalization ceremony in Shoreview, 28 people — representing 18 countries of origin — took an oath of citizenship, becoming citizens of the United States.

Presiding over the afternoon ceremony, which took place at the new Shoreview Library, Judge Donald D. Alsop welcomed the group, calling their new citizenship “an accomplishment to be proud of.”

This was the first time a Ramsey County Library hosted such a ceremony.

In addition to dozens of family members and friends of those who became citizens, the library’s Community Program Room was packed with familiar faces, including Ramsey County Sheriff Jack Bostrom, House District 42A Rep. Randy Jessup, Shoreview Mayor Sandy Martin and other city leaders.

Some of the countries represented during the ceremony included Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, France, India, Kenya, Laos, Moldova, Russia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and Vietnam.

— Jesse Poole



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*Love Patel of Medina, left, and Patient Kokou Anani of Shoreview shake hands following the July 6 naturalization ceremony in Shoreview. Though Patel and Kokou Anani — from India and Togo — don't know each other, they congratulated each other on becoming United States citizens. Jesse Poole*

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ST. PAUL

# St. Anthony Park and 3 other St. Paul libraries celebrating 100 years

By Pat Pheifer (<http://www.startribune.com/pat-pheifer/10645666/>) Star Tribune

JULY 10, 2017 — 11:07PM

The St. Anthony Park branch library and three other grandes dames of the St. Paul Public Library system are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. But neither the buildings nor the books, technology and information inside are showing their age.

The celebrations start Monday with a garden party and puppet show at St. Anthony Park and continue through October at the Riverview, Arlington Hills and George Latimer Central libraries.

The St. Anthony Park and Riverview branches are Carnegie libraries, as is the former home of the Arlington Hills branch, now the East Side Freedom Library. The stately Beaux Arts structures were financed by steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. His largesse led to the building of 2,509 Carnegie libraries between 1883 and 1929, including 66 in Minnesota.

The graceful St. Anthony Park branch, at 2245 Como Av., was built by St. Paul architect Charles Hausler. It has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1984.

The library has seen changes and additions in the past 100 years but its support from neighbors has never wavered, said Tracy Baumann, former manager of the St. Anthony Park branch and now manager of the Arlington Hills branch.

"The building has been a very important part of the neighborhood in St. Anthony Park," Baumann said. Money from the St. Anthony Park Library Association's annual book sale helps with programming, children's activities and the library's gardens.

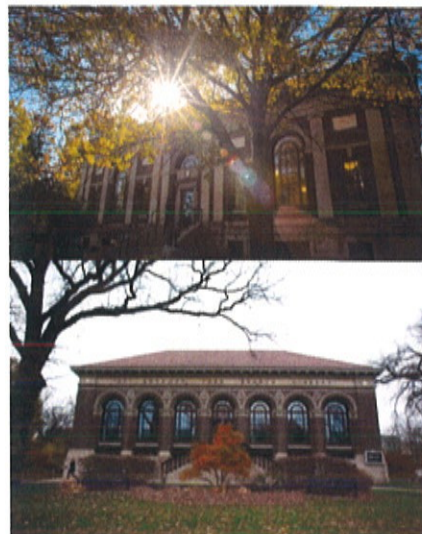
Gardens bloom in front and now in back of the library. A few years ago, volunteers cleared brush at the back and planted a pollinator garden to resemble spokes radiating from a sun.

In the mid-1980s, a children's section was added on to the library's rotunda.

The celebration Monday (5-7 p.m.) will include children's crafts, a garden party and puppet shows. Attendees are asked to bring a picnic.

This fall, the community will be invited to help draw and put together a mosaic art project that will be hung in the middle of the library.

For a list of upcoming events at other libraries, go to [sppl.org/100](http://sppl.org/100) (<http://sppl.org/100>).



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The St. Anthony Park Library.

[ppheifer@startribune.com](mailto:ppheifer@startribune.com)

612-673-7252

# Lake Elmo rejoins Washington County library system

City had checked out after dispute over services.

By Kevin Giles (<http://www.startribune.com/kevin-giles/10644901/>) Star Tribune

JUNE 20, 2017 — 9:06PM

Washington County commissioners voted Tuesday to close the book on a long-running library dispute with Lake Elmo.

The board voted 5-0 to approve a new contract restoring the Lake Elmo library to the county library system next year, ending a six-year hiatus for the library that resulted from a dispute over hours and services.

The Lake Elmo City Council last month voted unanimously to return to the county system.

"I think we've found a good compromise," said City Administrator Kristina Handt, who worked with the city's library board to forge the new plan. The big gain for residents, she said, will be having restored access to programming and resources provided by the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA).

About 2,700 Lake Elmo residents have city library cards, she said. The east metro city has about 8,000 residents.

Lake Elmo checked out of the Washington County library system in January 2011 after months of deteriorating relations. Eighty volunteers built a city-owned library with donated books, the city hired a librarian and programs were established for literacy, writing, art appreciation and children's summer reading.

But in 2014, the city signaled a desire to mend relations with the county.

The new agreement takes effect on Jan. 1, when the county will take over the city library and begin to operate it at least 40 hours a week. While that's a reduction from 48 hours under city operation, the county has agreed to dedicate some of those hours to weeknights and weekends as preferred by residents.

Keith Ryskoski, the county's library director, told commissioners that beginning July 1, Lake Elmo residents who want a county library card no longer will be charged a \$60 fee. The county also agreed to provide electronic access to MELSA after Aug. 1, he said.

Commissioner Gary Kriesel, whose district includes Lake Elmo, commended Handt and County Administrator Molly O'Rourke for "negotiating an agreement built on trust." Passionate Lake Elmo residents who built their city library "laid a good foundation" for the return to the county system, he said.

Handt said most Lake Elmo residents will see a \$15 increase in their annual property taxes to return the library to county service, but beginning in 2018 the city no longer will assess a library levy.

In 2009, the county reduced library hours in Lake Elmo and two other cities while shifting diminishing resources to larger libraries. Lake Elmo and Lakeland lost eight hours a week at their libraries and Marine on St. Croix lost four, reducing them all to 20 hours a week.

Many residents reacted with anger, and Lake Elmo's break with the county soon followed. Now, Handt said, the city looks forward to a renewed partnership with the county.



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Washington County last operated the Lake Elmo library in 2011.

[http://www.presspubs.com/shoreview/news/article\\_cdb10b76-664b-11e7-9eda-3f52213a7c57.html](http://www.presspubs.com/shoreview/news/article_cdb10b76-664b-11e7-9eda-3f52213a7c57.html)

## Immigrant nation: Becoming a U.S. citizen

By Sara Marie Moore/Editor Jul 11, 2017 Updated Jul 11, 2017



United States District Court Judge Donald Alsop administered the oath of allegiance for 28 new American citizens at the Shoreview Library July 6. The event was hosted by the Shoreview Human Rights Commission.

Sara Marie Moore | Press Publications

### Naturalization oath of allegiance

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or

SHOREVIEW — The judge presiding over the citizenship of 28 new Americans in the Shoreview Library community room wanted to know where Togo is.

"West Africa," declared a spectator in the audience.

"Okay, welcome aboard," U.S. District Court Judge Donald Alsop told three new citizens presented to him by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Officer Bill Malone at a

citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

*Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*

## General requirements for becoming a U.S. citizen

- Be 18 years or older
- Be a **lawfully** admitted permanent resident for five years (or three if married to an American)
- Prove continuous permanent residence
- Have lived within a state for three months prior to filing
- Demonstrate good moral character
- Demonstrate attachment to the principles and ideals of the U.S. Constitution
- Demonstrate knowledge of English
- Demonstrate knowledge of U.S. history and government

naturalization ceremony at the Shoreview Library July 6. The three immigrated from Togo.

Alsop preceded to administer the oath of allegiance as 28 immigrants from 18 different countries became U.S. citizens — they originally came from Burma, Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, France, India, Kenya, Laos, Moldova, Russia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and Vietnam.

The journey to becoming a citizen is as varied as each individual.

George Lifteniuc came from Moldova to visit family six years ago. After his wife suffered a stroke they decided to stay because it would be difficult to return. He now lives in Anoka. His wife is also in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen.

Abdi Yusuf, of St. Paul, came to the U.S. as a refugee five years ago due to the civil war in Somalia. "I am very proud," Yusuf said after receiving his certificate of citizenship.

Kouchia Lochungvu, of Roseville, immigrated with her family from France when she was 15. Nine years later, her life in America became fully official.

Arvind Mozumdar, of Savage, came to the U.S. 10 years ago on a work visa. As he was preparing to return to India, he met Julia, who is now his wife. He proceeded to get his green card, which took four years, and then waited three years to apply for citizenship. The process includes lots of questions, background checks and a test, he said.

"It is a relief that the long process is over," he added.

Arvind and Julia, who have a young toddler, are also excited they can now travel freely with three American passports. They recently canceled a trip to Iceland because the wait for the naturalization ceremony took three months instead of the expected one month. If Arvind had left the country, he would have

Take an **oath** of allegiance

*Source: U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration Services*

been set back in the citizenship process two years, Julia said.

Julia, who grew up in Wisconsin, said that through the process she learned a lot about immigration that most Americans born into citizenship don't know. Arvind had to travel back to India to renew his work visa at the American Consulate in order to stay in the country.

"You used to be able to go to Canada, but are now required to go to your country of origin," Julia explained. "If you don't have the money to go back to your homeland and wait two weeks for the American Consulate to stamp the stamp you need, then all of a sudden you are out of line and it is illegal to be here. There was a lot of steps like that I don't think Americans know."

Even moving homes or getting married at the "wrong time" could cause the path to citizenship to become a longer journey than intended, she said.

"To get to this point is such a precarious, fantastic, expensive, time-consuming thing," Julia noted.

"It still has to settle in," Arvind added.

### **Shoreview welcomes new Americans**

The 28 new Americans took their oath of allegiance at the new Shoreview Library at the invitation of the Shoreview Human Rights Commission, which wants the city to be a welcoming beacon.

Lisa Wedell Ueki, who has been on the commission four years, said she proposed the idea as a great way to use the community room at the new library, which opened in January. Library Manager Carol Jackson jumped on board. City staff reached out to the court about hosting the naturalization ceremony, Wedell Ueki said.

As the ceremony began, the words of Emma Lazarus inscribed on the Statue of Liberty flashed across the screen: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

"We are a city that strives to be welcoming to all," said Shoreview Mayor Sandy Martin after the new citizens took the oath. "We are very excited this ceremony took place in Shoreview."

St. Paul Attorney Charlton Dietz, a descendant of German immigrants who arrived in the 1950s, also welcomed the new Americans.

"America has forged a single nation from people who have remarkable racial, religious and ethnic origins — just look around you," Dietz said. "We are an open society founded on tolerance of differences and on mutual respect for our fellow citizens — Not always perfect, but striving always for a more perfect union."

Dietz told the new Americans several values the nation holds dear — political freedom, religious freedom, the freedom of expression and the press, and education. He also noted that "Americans have been the innovators, the creators and the risk-takers of the world," and encouraged the new citizens to become part of that.

"When you take the oath of allegiance you will have the responsibility to participate in our politics and become part of our ever-changing culture," he added. "It is always changing and it will continue to change through your literature, your music, your painting, your cuisine, your customs and your dreams. This is America. This is your America."

After the ceremony, new citizens took photos with Judge Alsop and celebrated with coffee and cookies.

The Shoreview-Arden Hills Rotary Club helped provide snacks,

said member Kent Peterson. The club got involved to show community support to the new Americans, he said.

The Shoreview Human Rights Commission hopes it isn't the last time it hosts a naturalization ceremony at the library.

"I think it is a very positive thing for the city," said member Julie Williams. "I was very impressed. I had never actually seen a naturalization ceremony. It left me with a sense of optimism. They are excited to be citizens and excited to be here."

Wedell Ueki noted that when communities host naturalization ceremonies it can speed the process for those waiting to take the oath.

*Editor's note: This is part one of a three-part series on immigration. Watch upcoming editions for the next feature.*

*Editor Sara Marie Moore can be reached at 651-407-1235 or [shoreviewnews@presspubs.com](mailto:shoreviewnews@presspubs.com).*

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SOUTH METRO

## Dakota, Scott libraries offer deal to students: Come on in, it's all fine (free)

Dakota and Scott libraries partner with schools to give students fine-free library cards.

By Beatrice Dupuy (<http://www.startribune.com/beatrice-dupuy/325678971/>) Star Tribune

JUNE 17, 2017 — 4:14PM

Before students could skip off for summer, the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage school district handed them one last assignment: to take advantage of their local libraries.

The school district partnered with the Scott County and Dakota libraries to sign up Burnsville High School students for fine-free library cards before the end of school.

All ninth through 11th grade students at the schools can take advantage of their virtual library cards to peruse e-books, digital magazines and library databases and to visit their libraries to borrow books. The cards expire upon graduation.

Dakota County Library Director Margaret Stone said she hopes the fine-free program removes barriers for teens who would not use library resources otherwise.

"I hope it broadens their horizons and gives them access to something they have never used before," she said.

The fine-free option will be available only at Dakota County Libraries. Scott County has its own fine-free services or youth welcome cards where students can check out two items without fear of overdue fines for one year. Students who fail to return items or lose them will still be billed. In Dakota County, the service is completely fine- and fee-free.

"I would hate to see a student who is maybe disadvantaged economically not feel welcome in the library and not be able to use the library because they returned books a few days late," Jake Grussing, Scott County Library director, said.

Burnsville district officials decided to partner with both Dakota and Scott because the district itself spreads into both counties.

The library leaders came together earlier this year with the hopes of rolling out then-President Barack Obama's Connected initiative to empower students through technology. The program's library initiative worked to create partnerships between schools and libraries to give students more access to learning resources.

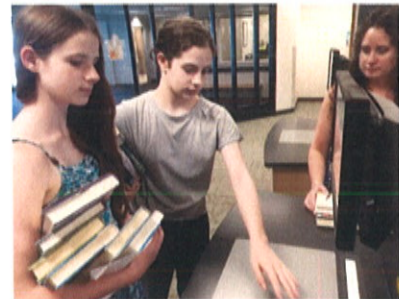
"The idea was to get library cards in the hands of students," Stone said.

Students can use their cards seamlessly at Dakota or Scott libraries. When using their virtual card at the library, students simply have to tell the librarian their student ID number and they can check out a book.

Burnsville district officials initiated the program with the goal of implementing it with its One-to-One program, where all district high school students received Chromebooks. The district enrolled all students in the library card service. Students had to opt out if they preferred not to participate. Students created their own accounts during their English classes in May.

Doug Johnson, director of technology for the district, spearheaded the program for the district. Johnson, a former librarian, said the district will pioneer its One-to-One program for middle school students in the upcoming school year, along with the library card initiative.

"Our real goal next year is to remind kids and familiarize them in greater depth about the resources available to them in the public library system," Johnson said.



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The Erbes sisters, Maia, 14, and Erin, 16, checked out books at the Burnhaven Library in Burnsville with their mom, Lisa Erbes. Teens

Another example of the library program is running nearby: St. Paul Public Schools and the St. Paul Public Library system joined forces to launch their own library card service for students in November. Through the "Library Go" program, the district signed up all of its students for library cards.

The Burnsville Alternative High School will pilot the initiative in the fall. Dakota County also plans on collaborating with the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan district to implement a similar roll out for students.

"We are excited about expanding and working with other districts in the future," said Renee Grassi, Youth Services Manager for Dakota County Library.

Grassi said librarians are already hearing positive feedback from students about the service in Dakota County.

One student had arrived at the library wanting to register for a library card only to learn the district had signed him up virtually. More than 200 students have used their cards within the first month of the program.

Grassi said partnering with schools will create a community of library users.

"The library is a resource that will help beyond high school," Grassi said.

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