

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board
September 17, 2025
Ramsey County Library – Shoreview
4560 Victoria St N Shoreview, MN 55126

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Action Items**
 - a. Approval of the September Agenda
 - b. Approval of 2025 May Meeting Minutes
 - c. Approval of 2025 July Meeting Minutes
 - d. 2025 Gift Acceptances
- III. Discussion Items**
 - a. Teen Services Update
 - b. Friends Report
 - c. Library Director's Report
- IV. Adjourn**

Library Advisory Board

Sandy Doubek
Molly Jansen
Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Chair
Alex Kovarik
Kami Miller, Vice Chair
Andrea West
Dawne Brown White

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting

May 21, 2025

Ramsey County Library – White Bear Lake

2150 2nd Street, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT: Sandy Doubek, Molly Jansen, Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Kami Miller, and Andrea West

NOT PRESENT: Dawn Brown White and Alex Kovarik

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Eide, Branch Manager; Carrie Hatler, Communication Associate; Pa Na Lor, Digital Communications Specialist; Ray Lockman, Library Deputy Director; John Louis, Communications Manager; Rose Lindsey, Director of Communications & Public Relations; Lola Ryan, Library Board Coordinator; and Pang Yang, Library Director;

CALL TO ORDER

Kirby-Stofferahn called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the May Meeting Agenda

Jansen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Doubek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of the 2025 April Meeting Minutes

Jansen made a motion to approve the April 16 meeting minutes. Doubek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Acknowledgment of the 2025 Library Donations

All donations under \$5,000.00 donated to the library come to the Library Advisory Board for acknowledgment. Donations over \$5,000.00 are accepted by the County Board on behalf of the libraries. The library had received several year-end donations, and the board reviewed and acknowledged the donations. Doubek made a motion to acknowledge the donations to the Ramsey County Libraries as presented. Jansen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Friends Report

Melissa Nykanen, Executive Director of the Ramsey County Library Friends (RCLF), provided an update to the Library Advisory Board highlighting the organization's recent contributions and upcoming initiatives. RCLF ended the year with a financial surplus, which was allocated back to the library through a grant. The group actively supported library events and staff appreciation efforts hosted a successful fundraiser featuring a local author, and held a well-attended used book sale, generating significant proceeds for library collections. Membership engagement

remains strong, with 781 members. Looking ahead, RCLF plans to continue advocacy efforts, celebrate local literacy initiatives, and organize member-focused events. The organization is also exploring opportunities to re-establish a liaison role with the Library Advisory Board. If you do not currently receive RCLF's email newsletters or mail and would like to, please contact the Friends Executive Director.

Library Communication Overview

Rose Lindsey, Director of Communications & Public Relations, introduced her team: John Louis, Communications Manager; Carrie Hatler, Communications Associate; and Pa Na Lor, Digital Communications Specialist. They provided an overview of Ramsey County Communications & Public Relations (CPR), outlining the department's services, countywide communication channels, and library-specific platforms. The presentation highlighted the communications modernization efforts for Ramsey County Library and previewed key projects planned for 2025. The goals of the presentation were to build stronger relationships, demonstrate how CPR supports the library, and share a sneak peek of creative artwork for one of the library's largest programs. Additional topics included a hyperlocal marketing approach and the library's social media strategy.

2026 Closure Calendar

Director Yang presented the draft 2026 closure calendar to the Library Board for review and discussion. Prepared by library staff, this annual calendar outlines all scheduled closures for the upcoming year, including county-designated paid holidays and additional dates when libraries will be closed.

Library Director's Report

Yang shared the May staff updates with the Library Advisory Board, highlighting Ramsey County Library continued focus on lifelong learning, digital equity, and community engagement. The Summer Learning Program launched with engaging youth activities, made possible through the efforts of dedicated staff and support from partners including MELSA, the Legacy Fund, and Ramsey County Library Friends. The library also rolled out its new app, *My RCLreads*, offering improved features for account management and event tracking. Upgrades are underway to enhance public internet access at multiple branches, including expanded Wi-Fi coverage into parking areas. Additionally, Ramsey County Library Friends contributed a generous gift supporting collections and programming for all age groups.

ADJOURN

West made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ramsey County Library Advisory Board Meeting

July 16, 2025

Ramsey County Library – New Brighton

100 10th Street NW, New Brighton, MN 55112

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT Dawne Brown White, Sandy Doubek, Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn, Alex Kovarik, Kami Miller, and Andrea West

NOT PRESENT Molly Jansen

STAFF PRESENT Julie Comine, Senior Library Assistant; Paige Fuller, Technical Services Manager; Ray Lockman, Library Deputy Director; Beth Porter, Program Specialist/Systemwide Volunteer Coordinator; Monica Stratton, Branch Manager; and Pang Yang, Library Director

CALL TO ORDER

Kirby-Stofferahn called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the July Meeting Agenda

Kirby-Stofferahn made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Doubek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Approval of the 2025 April and May Meeting Minutes

Yang announced that the minutes from the May 21 meeting were not available and will be approved at the September meeting due to the absence of Lola Ryan, Library Board Coordinator.

Collection Development

Paige Fuller, Technical Services Manager at Ramsey County Library, provided an overview of the library's material selection process, including statistics and trends related to physical and electronic materials, pricing structures, national initiatives, and the future of the library's collections. Twenty-two staff members oversee the collection, making decisions based on reviews, "hot" lists, patron suggestions, demand, and the library's commitment to racial equity. Physical books remain essential for promoting equitable literacy access and supporting early literacy development. Since 2016, circulation of e-materials has more than doubled, with demand continuing to rise. One-third of the circulation budget is allocated to e-materials. However, limited competition among e-resource providers and complex pricing structures create financial challenges.

Legislative Update

Yang provided an update for the 2025 legislative session which included request for continued support for the library construction and remodeling grant, and opposition to reductions to the Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds. Additionally, Yang brought forward a new legislative request to support limits on e-book pricing.

Library Director's Report

Yang share with the Library Advisory Board members that Ramsey County Library has a partnership with The International Institute of Minnesota to bring community workshops to the RCL-Maplewood branch. Access to free Minnesota State Park passes continues to be offered at RCL-North St. Paul and has now expanded to RCL-New Brighton. The RCL Management Team has begun their journey together with the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). Ramsey County has also hired a new HR Director. Yang congratulated Chuck Wettergren, Ramsey County Library Digital Services Manager, on his retirement with a proclamation to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners; his position has now been posted.

Meeting Cancellation

The August meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2025, at RCL-Shoreview.

ADJURN

Kirby-Stofferahn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Miller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Request for Library Board Action

Meeting Date
September 17, 2025

Action Requested
Acknowledge

Presented By
Pang Yang,
Library Director

SUBJECT:

August Donations

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Review and acknowledge donations of up to \$5000 made to the Ramsey County Libraries during the month of September:

Donor	Purpose	Branch	Amount
Friends of RCL	Book Club in a Bag		\$100.00
Anonymous	Undesignated	WB	\$17.00

Request for Library Board Action

Meeting Date
September 17, 2025

Action Requested
Information and Discussion

Presented By
Alyssa Stevenski,
Teen Services Coordinator

SUBJECT:
Teen Services Report

BACKGROUND:
Alyssa Stevenski, Teen Services Coordinator at Ramsey County Library, will attend the September Library Board meeting to present information about Teen programming at RCL.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
For information and discussion.

Teen Services Programming 2025

Programming Presentation Overview

- Teen Services Librarians
 - Alyssa Stevenski, SV
 - Devin Warner, RV
- Summer & Current Programs
 - MakerTeen
 - Gaming
 - Teen Summer Reading Program & 100 Books Before Reading Challenges
 - Book Clubs
- What's Next for the Fall of 2025 & the Start of 2026
 - Extra MakerTeen sessions during MEA week in October
 - Special fall book club options
 - History Day Hullabaloo

Teen Summer Reading Program

- 432 teens registered on Beanstack, writing 2,713 reviews
- Programs
 - MakerTeen
 - Teen Nouveau Summer Studio
 - Gaming
 - Virtual & In-Person Options
 - 2X Weekly Book Clubs
 - Review Writing & Reading Lounges
 - 2 Library After Hours for Teens programs
 - Teen Tech Camp
 - Teen Tech Thursday sessions
 - 2 Video Game Tournaments (Super Smash Brothers)

MakerTeen

- Weekly program at SV & RV
 - 529 attendees so far in 2025
- Sometimes led by a local artist for special Guest Maker sessions, like fused glass pendants or needle-felting
- Reoccurring Teen Nouveau Summer Studio at MP and some special one-time MakerTeen kits and activities



Virtual Gaming

- Weekly Dungeons and Dragons sessions on Sundays
 - Always **fully** attended by teens
 - 211 attendees in 2025
- Weekly video game sessions over Zoom, using Jackbox or free mobile games
 - 387 attendees in 2025
- With it being virtual, teens who aren't able to get a ride to the library are still able to participate. They have also been able to stay connected to their community while out-of-state and even when out of the country.



100 Books Before Programs

2024

- 100 Books Before High School
 - Active Readers: 170
 - Books Logged: 3,068
- 100 Books Before Graduation
 - Active Readers: 96
 - Books Logged: 2,235

2025*

- 100 Books Before High School
 - Active Readers: 180
 - Books Logged: 2,930
- 100 Books Before Graduation
 - Active Readers: 81
 - Books Logged: 1,154

*Note: 2025 stats are based on January-August.

Program Stats

- Teen Programs, Class Visits, and Outreach Events from January - August 2024 : 230
 - Attendance : 3,330
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- Teen Programs, Class Visits, and Outreach Events from January - August 2025 : 250
 - Attendance : 3,593

Most Popular Programs for Teens in 2025:

Shoreview: MakerTeen

Roseville: Manga & a Movie

Virtually: Dungeons & Dragons

Ramsey County & Community Partnerships in Programming

- Ramsey County Parks & Rec
 - All-Ages Pride Program
 - Teen Pride Picnic
 - Bikes & Books
- Ramsey County Public Health & The Healing Project of MN LLC
 - Messy Minds, Creative Souls (Art Therapy for Teens)
- Northeast Youth and Family Services (NYFS)
- Lions Club of Shoreview/Arden Hills
 - Peace Posters Contest
- MELSA
 - Teen Lit Con



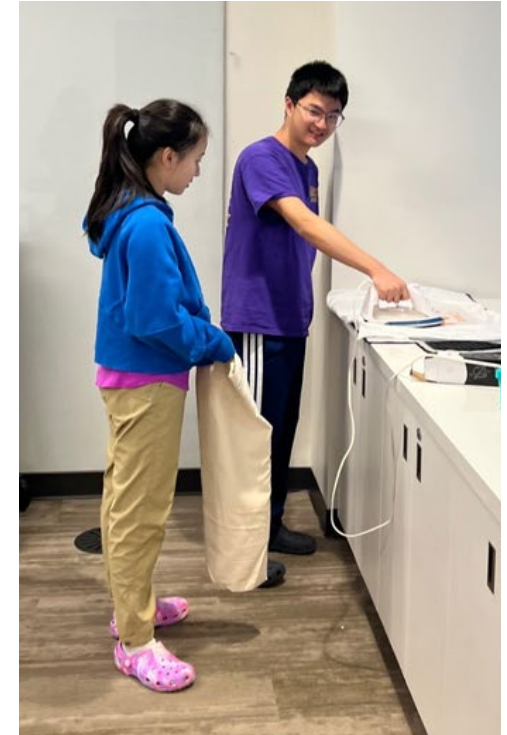
What's Next: Fall 2025 & Early 2026 Teen Programming

- MakerTeen
 - Extra MakerTeen sessions during MEA week in October
- Gaming
 - RV, SV, and virtually
 - Gaming Wednesdays & Yazeba's Bed & Breakfast continuation at SV
 - Mario Mondays at RV
 - Video game systems available in Teen Spaces at MP & WB
- Special fall book club options
- History Day Hullabaloo

Photos



Photos



Questions?

Request for Library Board Action

Meeting Date
September 17, 2025

Action Requested
Information and Discussion

Presented By
Melissa Nykanen,
Ramsey County Library
Friends Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Ramsey County Library Friends Report

BACKGROUND:

Melissa Nykanen, Executive Director of the Ramsey County Library Friends, will attend the September Library Board meeting to provide an update on recent activities and accomplishments of the Friends. This is a program, and operations update report that highlights fundraising outcomes, community engagement efforts, upcoming events, and opportunities for collaboration.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

For information and discussion.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**September 2025**

September Staff Updates:

Hired:	August McGrath, Maplewood
Promoted:	Kudjo Bosu, Technical Services Lizzy Ngov, White Bear Lake
Retired:	Kathy Sofie, Technical Services Chuck Wettergren, Digital Services Peter Wolf, Roseville

Important Dates: All Libraries will be closed on Monday, October 6, 2025, for In-Service Day.

Summer Learning Program

Throughout the summer, over 5,000 young people registered for Summer Break, Ramsey County Library's Summer Learning Program. Children aged 0-11 logged over 24,000 books, and youth aged 12-18 wrote over 2,700 reviews, with over 2,100 young people completing the program. The support of our young people in their pursuit of lifelong learning could not have been done without the creative and thoughtful children's and teen librarians that work towards *extending our welcome* at Ramsey County Library. The Summer Learning Program is made possible with major support from Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Ramsey County Library Friends, MELSA, and community partners.

Public Wi-Fi and Internet Access

Tremendous strides have been made to achieve the Library's strategic priority of *Building Resources to Create Positive Change* and advancing digital equity. Wi-Fi upgrades have been completed at the Ramsey County Library – Roseville, Shoreview, and Mounds View. The Mounds View Library also has Wi-Fi accessible in the parking lot. Ramsey County Library – New Brighton, North Saint Paul, and White Bear Lake's Wi-Fi has been prioritized to be completed this fall. Ramsey County Library – Maplewood has already experienced the Wi-Fi upgrade as a part of their renovation, with parking lot expansion to occur in early 2026 at the regional libraries.

Ramsey County Library Budget

Ramsey County and Ramsey County Library's proposed biennial budgets have been published and are available to view on the [County's Budget & Finance website](#). The proposed 2026-2027 budget advances Ramsey County's vision, mission and goals established by the Board of Commissioners and focuses on prioritizing County responsible services, operating as One Ramsey County, investing in organizational excellence, advancing partnerships, and supporting long term fiscal health. The Library's budget will be presented on September 18th at the Saint Paul City Hall – Ramsey County Courthouse in the Council Chambers, room 300. The first public hearing will occur on September 22nd, in the same room, at 5pm.

Pang Yang