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Morgan Family Foundation Grant

The Morgan Family Foundation recently showed their support of library services by donating \$50,000 to the St. Cloud Public Library capital campaign, and providing a matching grant of \$100,000 for donations made before November, 2009.

Capital campaign funds have already been used to expand the materials collection and add computers in the library.

Donations to the library and matching grant can be made online under "Library Plus You" at www.griver.org or by contacting Diane Vosen, GRRL Coordinator of Communications and Fund Development, at 320-650-2532.

Senior Computer Classes Bring Older Adults Up To Speed

GRRL provides free computer and Internet access at each of its 32 locations. In 2009, it is also offering a special computer class at each branch library to assist seniors to get online with the Internet community.

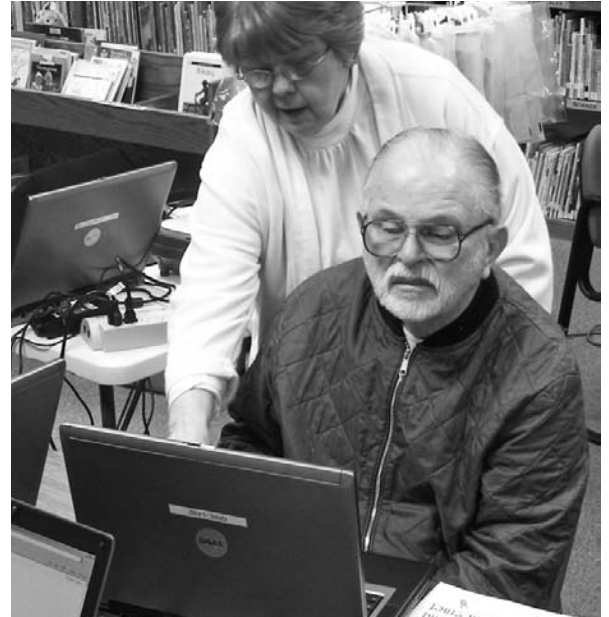
Computers are now integral to much of life. Want to get the best travel deals? Want a map to that clinic in the Cities? Need tax information? Go online.

Teens and twenty-somethings have grown up with the computer as a familiar tool. Many seniors are less comfortable with computer technology.

GRRL's new senior computer lab provides instruction designed for computer novices. The class begins with the mouse, the keyboard and the desktop, moving at an easy pace with personal assistance from trained staff.

The classes are being taught in a mobile lab equipped with laptop computers for ten students. Funding for the mobile lab was provided by a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant, administered through the State of Minnesota. Staffing for the senior classes is provided by GRRL.

The first class was presented at the Upsala Public Library. The lab filled with ten seniors who enjoyed the challenges of getting directions from Mapquest and visiting the library's online catalog.



Joan Allen, Information Services Coordinator, provided individual instruction as class members surfed the Internet.

"We were recently given a computer and I've never used one before, so this was very helpful," said Dennis Notch, who took the class.

Participants are also given a homework assignment that will take them back to use the library computers for follow-up exercises and continued learning.

To find the class nearest to you, check the events listing on the GRRL web site, www.griver.org.

GRRL Board Names New Officers and Members

In January 2009, the GRRL Board of Trustees announced its membership for 2009 including new members and officers. Vince Schaefer, County Commissioner for Stearns County, will continue to serve as president. Bernard Burke, appointed citizen for Wright County, was elected vice president. Jan Bensen, appointed citizen for Sherburne County, was elected treasurer. Louise Kuester, appointed citizen for Sherburne County, was elected secretary.



Vince Schaefer

Membership of the 15-person Board is apportioned according to county population. Board members include County Commissioners and citizen representatives.

Benton County

Spencer Buerkle, County Commissioner (new member)

Morrison County

Richard Collins, County Commissioner (new member)

Sherburne County

Jan Bensen, appointed citizen, Treasurer

Louise Kuester, appointed citizen, Secretary

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Stearns County

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Robert Hare, appointed citizen

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Vince Schaefer, County Commissioner, President

Todd County

Gerry Ruda, County Commissioner (new member)

Wright County

Bernard Burke, appointed citizen, Vice President

Earl Dierks, appointed citizen

Michael Messina, appointed citizen

Pat Sawatzke, County Commissioner



Jail Inmate Sends Thanks

The Morrison County Jail has an institutional borrowing card that allows prisoners to use library services. A representative from the jail uses the card to borrow materials on behalf of inmates, and the institution is responsible for their return. An inmate recently sent this letter to the Little Falls Carnegie Library:

“Thank you so very much!!! for all of your selfless generosity.

Thank you for the effort and time you have committed to the book program here at the jail.

“With your efforts we find an escape into stories and worlds outside of these walls. We gain knowledge in things and subjects we failed to explore when we had the chance.

We begin, continue or finish education. The benefits are numerous, however, none as big as We Change For The Better! The miracle does not stop with us. Our families, children, friends, employers and even strangers are affected by the positive effects of your efforts.”

New Magazines for 2009 Expand Offerings Across Region

GRRL has added 47 new magazines in 2009 to please readers with a variety of passions and interests. The library now offers approximately 400 periodical titles including newspapers and magazines.

Magazines check out just like books. They are available as a browsing collection on the shelf and listed in the catalog (the online listing of all the library materials available for public use across the region). The main difference is that the most recent issue of a magazine is kept in a binder at its home library. As soon as a new issue arrives, the past issue becomes available to everyone throughout GRRL. Past and current issues can be reserved on the online reservation system catalog in exactly the same way that other library materials are reserved. If a magazine is in the library in its “back issues” box, patrons may check it out along with books or other selections.

Three titles have been added specially for children: Ask (general interest), Dig (archaeology), and Wild Animal Baby (nature).

Many more have been added for adults. Here’s the list of new magazines for adults: American Angler, Beadwork, Best Life, Body & Soul, Bookmarks, Bowhunting World, Clean Eating, Cloth Paper Scissors, Creative Knitting, Diabetes Forecast, Dwell, Everyday Food, Fast Company, Fine Cooking, Food and Wine, Golf Magazine, Guideposts, Gun Dog, Horse & Rider, MacLean’s, Martha Stewart Weddings, Maximum Fitness, Men’s Fitness, Mental Floss, Metro, New England Journal of Medicine, Organize, Out, Petersen’s Hunting, Practical Homeschooling, Quick and Easy Painting, Radar, Readymade, Scientific American Mind, Scrapbooks Etc., Shonen Jump, Shopsmart, Skeptical Inquirer, Tai Chi, The Week, Tikkun, Women’s Health, Wondertime, and Yoga Journal.

Individuals are invited to recommend additional magazines either by speaking directly with their librarian or by completing the online title request at www.griver.org/titlereq.html.

New Pierz Library Location More Than Three Times Size of Old

The year began with the Pierz Public Library moved in to a new, spacious location on Main Street, close to the town center, that gives Branch Manager Bev Gold the opportunity to improve service in ways she’s been imagining for years.

Gold has been at Pierz Public Library for 26 years. In recent years she lobbied hard to mobilize support within the community for a larger location. Now that she’s got it, she’s thrilled. The new building has a sizeable children’s area, an additional Internet station, a space for teens, and plenty of shelving to spread out the library’s collection.

At 3,200 sq. ft., the new location is more than three times the size of the previous one. In earlier days the building was home to The Star, a 300-seat, one-screen cinema.

A local library supporter is making and donating a custom circulation desk that Gold values at close to \$12,000. Other changes are being planned for the exterior.

“We’re going to have an awning made with the library logo on it, so we’ll be more



Pierz Branch Manager Bev Gold prepared for the Grand Opening ribbon cutting while Pierz Mayor Toby Egan (far left) and GRRL Director Kirsty Smith look on.

visible,” she said. Additional improvements may have to wait. The city is planning to resurface Main Street. That will affect the sidewalk and paved area in front of the library.

Gold is still getting organized. But she’s got a gleam in her eye and a smile on her face, and you know she’s going to make her new library a busy, busy place.

National Library Week April 12-18 Celebrates Libraries and Librarians

Libraries across the country will celebrate libraries and librarians during National Library Week, April 12-18, 2009. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate. The theme for 2009 is “Worlds connect @ your library.” Libraries bring together people of different ages, different income levels, different cultures and different opinions in one place where they can be equal, with equal access to information and resources. Within National Library Week, National Library Workers Day will be celebrated Tuesday, April 14, and Support Teen Literature Day will be celebrated Thursday, April 16. GRRL encourages all readers and supporters of libraries to visit their local library and celebrate by reading a book - for pleasure!

Thank You, Library Supporters!

Library Plus You Legacy Donors for the new St. Cloud Public Library

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Thank you to these generous donors who donated \$250 or more to GRRL and to the 'Library Plus You' Fundraising Campaign in 2008. Their commitment to sustaining libraries helps GRRL continue to be a provider of information through all of Central Minnesota!

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St. Cloud Reading Room Society, GFWC St. Cloud
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Wal-Mart Supercenter #4253, Sauk Centre
Carol and Paul Wellen, Sartell
Pat Welter and Patrick Henry, Waite Park
Wilber Brewer Trust Fund, St. Cloud
Pat and Bob Witte, St. Cloud
Zonta Club of St. Cloud Area, St. Cloud
Special thanks to all of our Friends of the Library organizations for their support.

St. Michael and Staples Receive Building Grants

Congratulations to the cities of St. Michael and Staples. Proposals from these two GRRL communities for Public Library Accessibility and Construction grants have been approved by Alice Seagren, Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner.

St. Michael will receive a matching grant of \$400,000, and Staples will receive a matching grant of \$420,000. The grant process was competitive with \$1.5 million available and applications totaling \$4.5 million. The St. Michael project is part of a combination private and public land development. The Staples project is for a municipal building including City Hall and the library. In both cases, state funds may be used only for the library part of the project.

Big Lake's New Library Adds Program & Work Rooms

The Big Lake community enjoyed the Grand Opening of the Big Lake Public Library at its new location on Saturday, Jan. 24. The Big Lake Friends of the Library laid out a spread of refreshments, and costumed characters added to the air of festivity.

GRRL Director Kirsty Smith said the value a community puts on its citizens is reflected in how they support their libraries, and the new, 7,000 sq. ft. library showed that Big Lake values its citizens highly.

The new building has a large programming room, as well as a staff work room and supply area. It had none of those at the previous location, yet it also had a very active programming schedule.

District 16 State Senator Lisa Fobbe was in the crowd. "This is my first library Grand Opening," she said. "It's an exciting day. It's wonderful to see the results of the collaboration between the township and the city. In this economy, libraries are especially important to their communities."

The theme of collaboration was repeated throughout the day. Big Lake Township paid one-third of the cost of renovating the building for library use, with the City of Big Lake paying the additional two-thirds. GRRL provides all the technology, staff, books, and other materials.



Maribella, the Fairy Godmother, entertained in the new Big Lake Public Library's programming room. In 2008, this library provided 125 programs for adults and children.

CD Reorganization Planned to Enhance Library User Experience

Music CDs are being reorganized at GRRL libraries so that library users will have an easier time finding the music they want.

The main organizing system that most libraries use is the Dewey Decimal System. It's been a great way to organize books since 1876. It broadly classifies them into subject areas, then subdivides them into narrower areas, with the end result that books on similar topics are placed next to each other. Unfortunately, says Mic Golden, GRRL's Collection Development Coordinator, Dewey hasn't proven flexible for music. "It just hasn't been as useful for staff or for patrons," she said. The range of Dewey numbers designated for music is so narrow that it isn't possible to clearly differentiate genres. For that reason, GRRL staff have decided to create a new label for music CDs and

provide an opportunity for reorganizing the collection.

The new label will list the genre, such as Rock or Blues, instead of the Dewey number. This will be great for patrons looking for their favorite type of music. The label will have three lines at most.

- 1) Genre
- 2) The first three letters of the artist's last name
- 3) The title only if not clearly legible on the CD booklet

Staff decided to categorize music using 20 genres. The new genres will be: Bluegrass, Blues, Children, Country, Folk, Holiday, Instrumental, Jazz, Miscellaneous, New Age, Opera, Orchestral, Pop, R&B, Rap, Religious, Rock, Soundtracks, Vocal, World Music. Each branch library will decide whether to shelve CDs alphabetically, by the performer, or in genre categories.

The music collection changes will be phased in throughout the year.

If you have questions or comments about Great River Regional Library, or want to support library and access to information, please call Diane Vosen, Communications and Fund Development Coordinator, at (320) 650-2532. Mailing information can also be updated by calling this number.

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