

Great River Regional Library Currents

Visit our website at www.griver.org

Job Skills Classes Well Attended

A series of six employment skills sessions was presented at all eleven Benton and Stearns County GRRL libraries this spring: Albany, Belgrade, Cold Spring, Foley, Kimball, Melrose, Paynesville, Richmond, St. Cloud, Sauk Centre and Waite Park.

The sessions were presented by the Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council (SBETC) as part of its Workforce "U" program. Each session had its own focus, including resumes, the job search, and interviews.

Sandy Miller, SBETC Outreach Services Career Planner, said the sessions were well attended. A second and even third round was added at some locations.

"We were able to encourage people to use the books and computers in the libraries, and show them the useful information in the ReferenceUSA database," Miller said. "The evaluations people did were very positive."



Brodini Comedy Magic Show Kicks Off Kids' Summer Reading

How important is summer reading? It's vital, according to an accumulation of research that began in 1978.*

Children who read in the summer do better in school. Children who don't are more likely to fall behind. The effect is cumulative, so that by the time children graduate from school they can be literally years behind those students who maintained or even improved their reading skills through participating in summer library programs.

This year's Summer Reading Program (SRP) at Great River Regional Library (GRRL) kicked off June 8 with Brodini Comedy Magic Shows. Thousands of children visited GRRL's 32 branches to watch Brodini make objects disappear and appear, turn cut pieces into solid rope, and make coins grow large with just a puff of air. Along the way he drew whoops of laughter from appreciative audiences.

The goal was to get children into the library, and 2,425 children attended the Brodini program across the region. Families were encouraged to register chil-



The Brodini Comedy Magic Show at Waite Park's Al Ringsmuth Public Library was well attended. Brodini (Graylyn Morris) became a magician by learning tricks from books he borrowed from a public library in St. Paul.

dren for the SRP. Registrations indicate that the SRP is going tremendously well, with participation increased over 2008.

* "Summer Learning and the Effects of Schooling," Heyns, Barbara, 1978. "The Role of Public Libraries in Children's Literacy Development: An Evaluation Report," Celano, Donna and Susan B. Neuman, 2001.

Find Dependable Auto Repair Information Online With Chilton Database

Before you take your toolbox and embark on a car repair, you need to know what you're doing.

Automotive repair isn't something you can figure out as you go along. Just because you've successfully replaced a battery doesn't mean you should start on your brake pads.

The good news is, Great River Regional Library (GRRL) has a resource that can give you the information you need to make a successful repair on almost any car.

The Chilton automotive database is an online service available to people in their homes through the library's web site, www.griver.org.



Chilton manuals have been a trusted source of automotive repair information for many years. The Chilton database provides online access to the same high-quality repair, maintenance and service information on the most popular cars, trucks, vans and SUVs on the road today. The database includes information on many manufacturers' models going back to the 1970s and even beyond. After completing a simple search of year, make and model, database users are provided with links to information on bulletins/recalls, maintenance and repair. The directions are clear and simple, with menus that lead to precise repair information including diagrams.

The library's website makes this useful resource available 24-hours a day. Any time day or night, automobile owners who have Internet access and a library card can use this tool to find out how to work on their vehicles and save on repair bills. Simply visit www.griver.org, click on Databases, and then click on ChiltonLibrary.com.

New Website Provides News, Updates On Library Services

The Great River Regional Library (GRRL) website looks a lot different than it used to.

The entire look of the home page has been changed to include featured events, news and services. Instead of being static, the page now has new content every week. Behind the front page, other changes have also taken place.

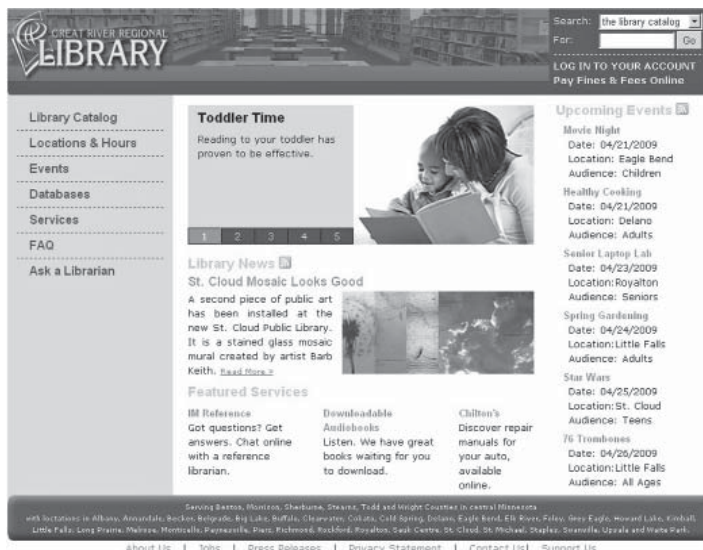
The major navigation links on the left are to Library Catalog, Locations & Hours, Events, Databases, Services, FAQ, and Ask a Librarian.

◆ The *Library Catalog* lists all of the books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks and magazines available for checkout. It's where you will find and manage your own account, make requests, renew items, keep track of when items need to be returned.

◆ *Locations and Hours* includes a page for each of the 32 GRRL branch libraries, with local hours and events, news and community links.

◆ The *Events* listings can be searched by location, event type or age group to find events for your family. You can have "Lunch With a Master Gardener" in Delano, make a "Mobile Sculpture" in Paynesville, or learn the art of "Balloon Twisting" in Rockford.

◆ All library services are listed on a *Services* page, together with links to more information. If you've ever thought of your library in terms of just books, you'll be amazed to see what your library offers. (See sidebar column at right.)



◆ *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* includes information of all kinds. If you have a question about the library and how it operates, the answer's probably here.

◆ *Ask a Librarian* is a direct link to the library's Reference staff, highly educated professional librarians who are expert at sourcing information.

Redesign and rebuilding of the website was completed by an interdisciplinary team of library staff over six months.

"It's a been a collaborative process between the Virtual Services Team, IT, Communications and Fund Development and administration," according to the library's Information Services Coordinator Joan Allen. "It's a project that's had us leaping over boundaries."

Independent Lifestyles Clients Find Library Great Place To Meet

The tools we use regularly are the ones we can put our hands on. Others are harder to find. Community resources can be the same. If you're not using them, you may not know they are there.

If circumstances change, you lose your job, experience life-changing illness or worse, you may need help finding those resources and the support they provide.

That's where Great River Regional Library is partnering with Minnesota Help Network Independent Lifestyles, Inc., a center for independent living, and the Disability Linkage line to help connect people with community resources at St. Cloud Public Library.

Independent Lifestyles, Inc. is an independent non-profit organization whose focus is assisting people with disabilities lead the fullest lives possible. The Disability Linkage Line (1-866-333-2466) is a toll-free information and referral service for people with disabilities. Their program is available through the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Department of Human Resources through the MinnesotaHelp Network.

Peer mentor staff from Disability Linkage Line & Independent Lifestyles, Inc. are available at the library the first and third Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, to provide one-on-one help to visitors.

Individual interviews can take from 15 minutes to an hour. They meet in the library's learning center, a room already equipped with laptop computers and designed for small group training or educational sessions.

"The Disability Linkage Line is a great resource, but it makes a big difference having a human person in front of you," said Danelle St. Marie, Independent Lifestyles programs and services director. "The advantage of having these meetings take place at the library is that it's a community place already. People of all kinds can feel safe and comfortable being at the library."



Amy Diederich, an Independent Lifestyles peer mentor, and Brett Young, volunteer with South Eastern Minnesota Council on Independent Living, meet with clients at the St. Cloud Public Library.

GRRL SERVICES

Collections

- Audiobooks
- Book Club Kits
- Books
- Downloadable Audiobooks
- DVDs and Videos
- E-Books
- Large-Print Books
- Magazines & Newspapers
- Music on CD
- NetLibrary Downloadable Audiobooks
- Video on DVD and VHS

Community Resources

- Art Exhibits
- Assistive Technology
- Computer Workstations
- Conference Rooms
- Copy Machines
- Hearing-Impaired Services
- Internet Workstations
- Meeting Rooms
- Study Rooms
- Tax Forms
- Test Proctoring
- Video Relay Service (VRS)
- Vision-Impaired Services
- Wireless Internet Access

Programs

- Adult Programs and Events
- Anime Clubs
- Author Talks
- Book Clubs
- Book Talks
- Children's Programs and Story Times
- Class Visits and Tours
- Presentations
- Programming
- School Visits
- Story Times
- Summer Reading Program
- Teen Programs
- Toddler Story Times
- Tours
- Winter Reading Program

Reader Resources

- "Ask a Librarian" Reference Service
- Book Club Kits
- BookNews Newsletter
- Children's Services
- Databases
- IM (Instant Message) Reference Service
- Interlibrary Loan
- Items by Request
- Online Book Clubs
- Online Resources
- Programming
- Readers Advisory
- Reference/Information Services
- Research Assistance
- Teen Services

Some services may not be available at all locations. This list and additional information available at www.griver.org/services.

Thank You, Library Supporters!

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Thank you to these generous donors who donated \$250 or more to GRRL or the 'Library Plus You' Fundraising Campaign whose gifts were received from January 1 through June 24, 2009. Their commitment to sustaining libraries helps GRRL continue to be a provider of information through all of Central Minnesota!



Matching Gift Challenge

Here is the challenge. The Morgan Family Foundation has offered to match every donation, up to \$100,000, to the "Library Plus You" Fundraising Campaign to increase our print collection and put more items on our shelves. Help us take full advantage of this generous offer with your donation **today**. Think about it – **every dollar you donate by October 31, 2009, will be matched.** This is a fantastic opportunity to support the collection of GRRL. With your support we can buy an **additional \$200,000 worth of books!** That's about 8,000 new books, available free of charge to Central Minnesotans to meet their reading and learning needs.

The average cost of one book is \$25. *How many new books will you buy?*

Yes, I'm pleased to support the "Library Plus You" Matching Gift Challenge with a gift of: \$ _____

Only monetary gifts actually received by October 31, 2009 will be matched by the Morgan Family Foundation.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____ Check one: Home Work

DONATION OPTIONS - (select one)

- My cash/check donation is enclosed in full.
- I will contribute by credit card: Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Card type _____

DONOR RECOGNITION - (select one)

I understand all contributions \$25 or more will be recognized in the GRRL Annual Report. My preference is:

- Include my name in all acknowledgements as written above. This gift is anonymous.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to Central Minnesota Community Foundation/Library Fund. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Complete this form and mail it with your donation to: Attn: Fund Development Office, Great River Regional Library, 1300 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud MN 56301. Questions? Please call the Communications and Fund Development Office at (320) 650-2532.

Brenny Transportation Delivers SRP Support



Trucking company Brenny Transportation selected the GRRL Summer Reading Program to be a beneficiary of its company picnic silent auction June 19, 2009.

Company owner Joyce Brenny said that reading and literacy are close to her heart.

"My daughter is a registered nurse now, and when she was young I always encouraged her to read," Brenny said. "I know that reading is important for young children."

Brenny is based in St. Joseph and provides transportation service across the nation. Community involvement is a component of their organizational culture. In 2008, Brenny and its staff donated more than \$15,000 to area non-profits.

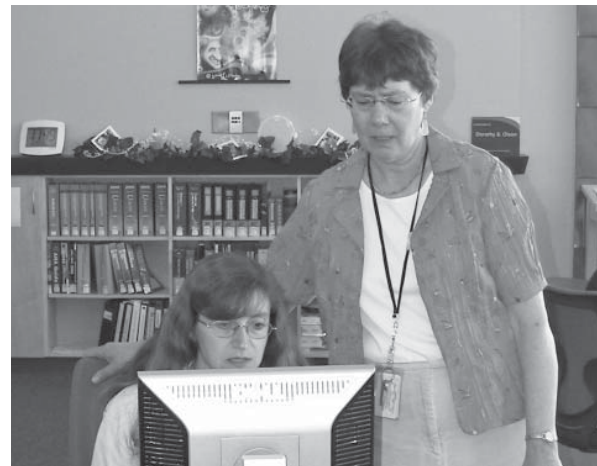
Reference Specialist & Staff Answer All Your Questions

The value of books is the information they contain, and reference librarians know which books and online sources have the most accurate, up-to-date information. They take pride in being able to field questions and quickly track down answers. Want to know who said "let loose the dogs of war," or how a pole barn is made? Ask a librarian. Even though Google has democratized the search for information, the ultimate search engine is the professional reference librarian, and that describes Trudy de Goede.

De Goede joined Great River Regional Library (GRRL) in February this year. She's based at the St. Cloud Public Library where she oversees a staff that includes six other professional librarians. Each of them has completed a Master's in Library Science (MLS) degree.

Trudy received her MLS from the University of Victoria in western Canada, where she worked at the University's MacPherson Library as an undergraduate. That experience put her on the path to a career in librarianship.

"Library science was an interesting field and I could see the career opportunities," she said. "I've never regretted it." She has worked at a legislative library, at a health science library, in an art library and also in a campus law library. Along the way she's developed areas of specialized



Reference Specialist Trudy de Goede (standing) and Associate Librarian Lisa Hill search for the answer to a reference question.

knowledge, provided reference support, managed staff and coordinated collection development, tasks vital to her current role.

St. Cloud's reference librarians provide reference support to the public at all 32 branch libraries within GRRL. They answer questions via email, in person, by phone and through an instant messaging chat line. They also assist in selecting the books, DVDs and CDs the library purchases. GRRL responded to 335,504 information requests in 2008, averaging more than 33 per hour at the St. Cloud location alone.

Plans Take Shape For Staples Library With May Groundbreaking

The City of Staples has broken ground on a new library/city office complex.

The city obtained \$420,000 matching grant funds from the Minnesota Department of Education State Library Services to aid in library construction. The total building cost is \$2,499,693. City Administrator Nate Mathews said he was not sure the project would be possible without the library funding from the state.

The library is shown in the rendering at right. City Hall is on the left. The library will expand from 2,800 sq. ft. to 4,000 sq. ft. and plans to open in February 2010.



Image courtesy of Wideseth Smith Nolting



1300 W. St. Germain St.
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-650-2500

If you have questions or comments about Great River Regional Library, or want to support libraries 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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