

Cold Spring Patron Wins iPad & Cover



Karla Smetana from Cold Spring received an Apple iPad and iPad cover as the grand prize winner in Great River Regional Library's National Library Card Sign-Up month promotion.

The iPad and cover were provided by the Friends of the St. Cloud Public Library.

Library patrons who renewed their cardholder status or registered for a library card for the first time in September were eligible for the prize drawing. Also eligible were patrons who referred a new patron. The library registered 1,458 new cardholders during the month.

Among other things, the iPad can be used to download eBooks and eAudiobooks from the GRRL Digital Library.

Strategic Planning Process Under Way To Determine Region's Future Needs, Services

What should Great River Regional Library be doing three, six or nine years from now? No doubt the library will still have books, DVDs and CDs on the shelf and be providing information access via digital technologies. But the entire book publishing industry is uncertain about its future, and libraries now function in a dynamic environment influenced by technological innovation. Do library programs and the library collection need a new direction? Are public needs changing, and how can the library prepare itself to meet those needs?

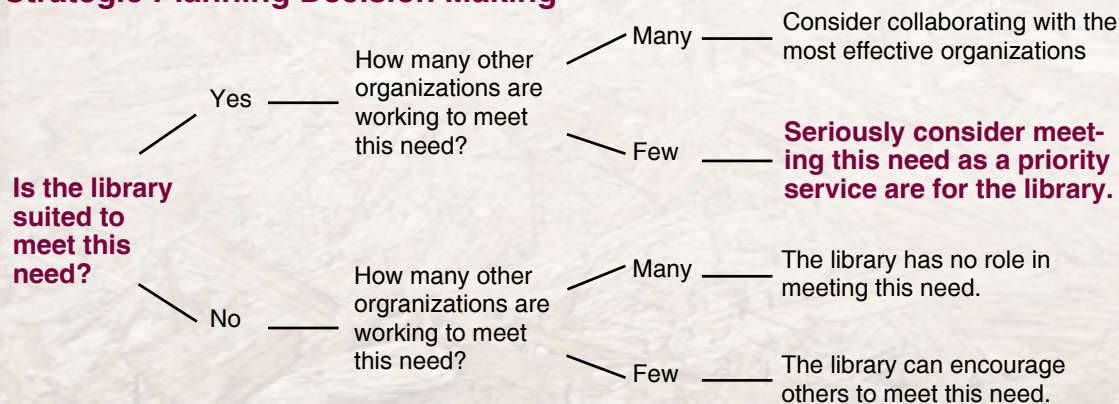
To answer those questions the library's administration has initiated a strategic planning process. Staff and community leaders have been conducting SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis meetings to help the administration get a broad view of how the library can address community needs. Information from those meetings is helping the library's management team determine what direction the library should take in future years. The result will be a new strategic plan that aligns public need and public services in the best way possible.

"Meeting the changing needs of the community is of utmost importance for the future of the library, and this is our time to get it right," said GRRL Director Kirsty Smith.

The current strategic plan covers 2010-2012. It includes initiatives such as the Every Child Read to Read program, the implementation of a proactive 'weeding' process of outdated material, and an evaluation of using radio frequency identification technology to replace item barcodes, all of which were completed. The new strategic plan will probably include similar concrete goals. The process is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.



Strategic Planning Decision Making





Learn A New Language @ The Library With

pronunciator:

With more than 2 million lessons in over 3,000 language courses and 45,000 hours of MP3 files for learning on the go, Pronunciator provides flexible, easy to use learning for 60 languages free of charge to GRRL patrons.

The new language learning option for library patrons simplifies the learning process. Course modules begin with vocabulary words, progress through simple sentences, and eventually immerse the learner in a virtual conversation mode. All of it is self-paced.

To begin language learning with Pronunciator, visit the GRRL website and take these simple steps: Click on Databases, click on Pronunciator, then follow the on-screen directions requiring an email address and library card number. Pronunciator will provide a student name and password for log in.

To upload successfully, Pronunciator requires a web browser with JavaScript enabled, and Flash version 10.0 or greater.

Pronunciator is the brainchild of librarian and entrepreneur Robert Savage, a publishing industry professional whose resume is sprinkled with international assignments. He launched his language learning service just over a year ago after two years of development involving nearly 1,000 people across more than 60 countries.

New Coordinator Leading Collection Development



Jake Grussing is enjoying his new role as Great River Regional Library's collection development coordinator following the retirement of 30-year GRRL employee and former coordinator, Mic Golden.

Golden delayed her retirement to provide training and ensure a smooth transition between her leadership and Grussing's. The position oversees selection and purchasing of all books, CDs, DVDs, databases and electronic resources. In addition, Grussing makes decisions about the addition or deletion of formats from the collection and the withdrawal of old and outdated materials. He oversees the Technical Services department that repackages, labels and catalogs new items; supervises the Distribution department responsible for shipping items to and from the 32 GRRL locations; and supervises the interlibrary loan service.

A book Grussing recently read and recommends is "Telegraph Avenue" by Michael Chabon, a novel praised in Esquire magazine as "A genuinely moving story about race and class, parenting and marriage...."

Leap Into Reading Hopper Makes Friends Region-Wide

Hopper the frog has been traveling around the Great River Regional Library region, making friends wherever he goes. He's a plush and stylish superstar.

Hopper's cousin Read-It was adopted by the Minnesota Department of Education (DoE) as a mascot for a statewide "Leap Into Reading" early childhood literacy initiative. Read-it has joined Education Commissioner Dr. Brenda Cassellius on travels to schools and education organizations around the state to promote early childhood reading.

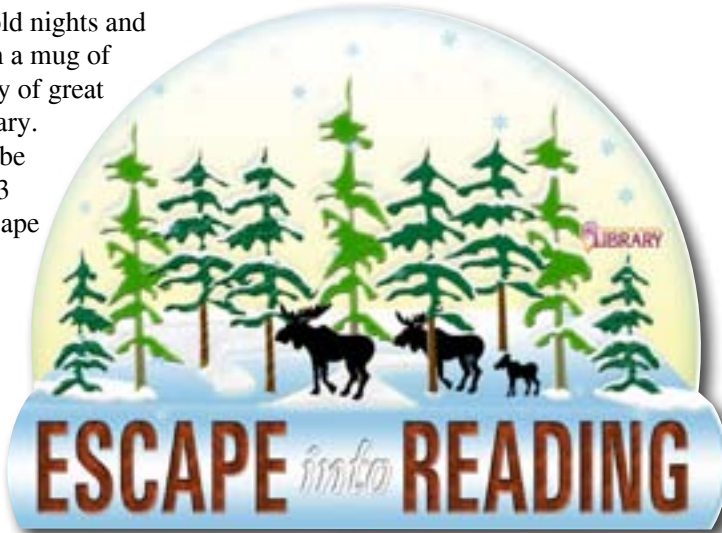
The DoE provided Minnesota's regional library systems with frogs so they could partner in the fun. Each of the 32 GRRL locations will present a froggy reading program this year. Some locations bring real live frogs and amphibians in the library, or stage frog races, and all have frog stories. The point is to attract children and make their storytime at the library learning fun.



Escape Into Reading This Winter

One way to make the most of cold nights and snowy days is to hunker down with a mug of cocoa, a fleece blanket and a supply of great books and magazines from the library.

This winter, library patrons will be encouraged to do that with the 2013 Winter Reading Program titled Escape into Reading. The program takes place January 2 - February 28. Just like last year, the program will include incentives, fun, and games to keep the interest level high. Check your local library's events listing for author talks, book clubs and other activities to make winter reading fun at the library.



Teen Website Brings Resources Together



Teens now have a new place to get their information needs met on the Great River Regional Library website: griver.org/teens. The new teen website went live on Oct. 15 after being in development for several months.

Info - provides numerous web links for health and relationship issues, college and careers and scholarships.

Help - includes reference connections with library staff, the Britannica Library Edition reference center and links to student resource websites to help them with papers and study assignments.

Stuff - recommends books, music and movies.

Fun - events, games, and podcasts of interest to teens, including a Trivia Clue of the Day and Comic Creator, an online tool for making your own comics and graphic novels.

Legacy Funds Bring Ballet To GRRL Branches



Legacy funds from the State of Minnesota continue to provide exceptional programming at Great River Regional Library.

In April, 2013, fourth to sixth grade students from at least 19 schools will be bused to the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud for performances of "Peter and the Wolf" by the Stroia Ballet.

This rare opportunity for students to see a ballet includes an introduction to ballet and narration so children can follow along easily. Bus and performance fees will be paid with money from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

The Stroia Ballet Studio was founded in Little Falls by Romanian Carlos Cornel Stroia. He made his professional debut at the age of 14 with the Vienna State Opera, and performed in many countries before emigrating to the United States.

Great River Regional Library's annual fund-raising appeal is underway. Your support and tax-deductible donation will help keep information and resources available and free of charge. Visit griver.org/support-library to make an online donation.

Support 2012 Annual Appeal With Donation to GRRL

Name : _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

My/our donation, payable to GRRL: \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Please include name in donor recognition as above. This gift is anonymous.

This gift is: In Memory of : _____

In Honor of _____

Send an acknowledgement letter of this tribute gift to:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Office use only:

Pstm. _____

Amt. _____

Ck # _____

Init. _____

Have Fun Holiday Shopping For Family At The Great River Store

The seasons have changed and the selection of items available at the Great River Store has expanded. Men's polo shirts, ladies' fitness pants, scoop tees, and infant beanies are joined by toddler hoodies, men's and ladies' jackets and comforting fleece available in time for the holidays.

All of the items carry the GRRL logo so you can show your support for library services in Central Minnesota.

Items chosen for the Great River Store are selected to be affordable, well made and attractive. A small portion of the proceeds goes directly to GRRL.

Visit the store today for shopping at the library. Look for the Services/Store link on the library's home page, griver.org.

Have an item you would like to see available? Let us know by sending us your suggestions on the store link. New items will be added periodically.



Large Fleece Blanket

North American made. Generous sized blanket. Matching serged edge. 100% spun polyester anti-pill fleece 8 oz. Seven colors. \$31

Toddler Full Zip Hoodie

Plush, brushed interior ensured this hoodie is soft on skin. 7.5 oz, 80/20 cotton/poly fleece. Contrast jersey hood lining. Rib knit cuffs and waistband. Colors: black/grey heather, grey heather/navy, light pink/white, red/grey heather, military camo/olive, navy/grey heather. \$21



Ladies' Jacket

Two-way stretch. Zippered pockets. Coverseam construction for comfort. Two-way front zipper. Chin guard. Easy care. 87% polyester/13% spandex jersey, 9.7 oz. Only \$51 (2X \$56)

Would-Be City Administrators Give Libraries High Priority



An informal Minnesota State Fair survey placed libraries near the top of the public service priority list for visitors to the Cities Matter booth in the Education Building.

For the third year in a row, State Fair attendees visiting the booth had the opportunity to be a "city bean counter." Each person was given a six-bean budget with a goal of deciding how to "spend" their beans among eight different city services. They were permitted to allocate all of their beans to a single service or to divide them any way they wished. Through playing the game, visitors got a better understanding of the budgeting decisions city officials are required to make. Here are the results from the 2012 State Fair.

- Clean Water: 6,186 beans
- Libraries: 5,480 beans
- Police: 5,184 beans
- Fire: 4,768 beans
- Parks & Rec: 4,473 beans
- Streets & Sidewalks: 4,438 beans
- Senior Services: 4,159 beans
- Sewers & Garbage: 4,065 beans

Save a Tree: Get Your Currents By Email

This Currents newsletter is available to library supporters requesting it via email. To reduce costs, save trees and, of course, protect our environment we encourage as many supporters as possible to consider taking full advantage of this by switching to the electronic .pdf version. Please contact Julie Henne at currents@grrl.lib.mn.us if you would like to receive the newsletter by email or have any questions or comments. As always, the newsletter is produced just for our library supporters. We thank you warmly for your support, and if you have any suggestions we would love to hear from you.



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