

Friends

of the Anoka County Library



Thank You for Your Support!

The Friends of the Anoka County Library was successful in their mission to raise funds for and increase awareness of the Anoka County Library during the past several months.

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Anoka County Library (ACL) and the generosity of the public, \$10,000 was donated to Anoka County Library in May. This money was in addition to the \$300 donated to each county library for local needs last January. The money was raised through book sales, donations, and memberships. The Friends continued fundraising efforts throughout the summer and fall with pop-up book sales at the Northtown and Rum River Libraries.

In addition to fundraising, Friends Board members volunteered at tables at various summer Anoka County events to raise awareness of the importance of libraries in connecting the community to ideas, information, and inspiration, not to mention fun! Members of the Friends helped ACL staff give away books and information about the Libraries and the Friends at the Springbrook Nature Center concert series, the Fridley 49er Days parade and the Touch-a-Truck event in Fridley (below), as well as the Fridley Fall Fest.

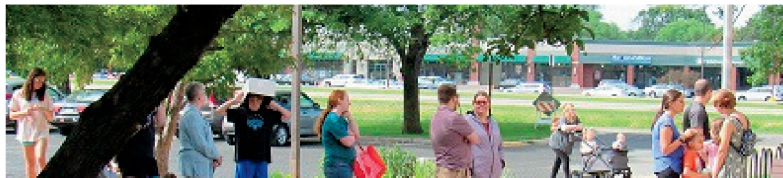


Your support helped fund:

- Book prizes for the 2659 youth that participated in Summer Adventures 2022
- The Book Club in a Bag collection. There are currently 164 book club kits with 8 copies of a title and a discussion guide. New titles are added each year with funds provided by the Friends.
- Prizes for winners of the Annual Teen Write On! Contest. We had 74 teens in grades 6-12 submit short stories for the contest this year. Winning pieces can be read here (<https://www.anokacountymn.gov/4208/Write-On-Teen-Short-Story-Contest-Winner>).
- The Reading Bridge program by funding a Reading Specialist to provide training to library staff and to create recorded training sessions for the volunteer reading mentors. Friends' funds also covered supplies, flashcards, decodable books, and literacy games to make reading practice fun and effective.
- Park Packs: Anoka County Parks provide a free entry pass and Friends' funds are used to purchase the backpack and nature discovery supplies (leaf rubbing kit, MN plant and animal identification guides, binoculars, bug viewer). We have 10 packs in the collection.

Branching Out: Rum River Library

Within our Anoka County Library system, we have many wonderful branches! This column will feature a different library with each newsletter so that you can get to know a little more about each one.



The Friends were fortunate to get to know the friendly staff of Rum River Library (above, left), as well as enjoy its beautiful surroundings, during our last book sale (above, right). Located in Anoka and built in 2000, residents in Andover, Ramsey, Nowthen, and Oak Grove, call this welcoming branch their home library. Two of the most unique features of the Rum River Library are the gorgeous stained glass window and the cornerstone saved from the original Carnegie Library in Anoka, that opened in 1904. In partnership with Rum River Art Center, rotating art installations by local artists, are another highlight you won't want to miss. Also, be sure to visit the children's area which is filled with wonderful murals!

In addition to a spacious community room that holds up to 80 people, a classroom and conference room are all available for patrons' use. Baby, toddler, and family story times, drop-in sensory playtimes, music, and dance classes are just a few of the early educational offerings for your little ones. Writing groups, STEM activities, crafts, gaming, music clubs and so much more are available for school age children and adults. Be sure to visit Rum River's online calendar for all their events! Also, check out the special collection that Rum River holds: Discover Kits! Take on a new hobby like pickleball, metal detecting, or even learning how to play the ukulele.

Along with the comfortable and inviting interior, just outside the library is the Anoka Nature Preserve. Enjoy serene trails through gorgeous prairie landscapes, walk along the Rum River or follow the trails right to downtown Anoka! We hope we've inspired you to check out yet another gem in our Anoka County system.

Giving Opportunities

Please consider supporting the Friends of the Anoka County Library through charitable giving or a Friends membership. Our 2022 Give to the Max goal is \$2500.00.

The direct link to the GiveMN.org Friends of Anoka County Library page is: <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Acl>. Each time you make a gift from Nov. 1-17, you could help the Friends win part of the \$100,000 prize pool!

You may also give through the Friends website at: <https://anokacountymn.gov/2680/Friends-of-the-Library>.



Did You Know?

Auto Renew is now available for you! As of November 1, 2022, you won't have to come into or call the library to renew your items. They will automatically be renewed 3 days before the due date. Items will be auto renewed up to 3 more times. Exceptions do apply, see the Anoka County Library web page for details or ask about it at your local branch.

The **Reading Bridge program** expanded to all branches following a pilot program at the Crooked Lake branch last year. All branches are sponsoring Reading Bridge programs. The program fosters the joy of reading and boosts literacy skills through mentorship and creative play. Grade 1-3 readers are paired with a volunteer mentor to meet at the library once a week for 8-12 weeks (depending on season) to build reading skills and confidence. Each 45 minute session includes time for the student and mentor to read together, play games and activities designed to build literacy skills, and goal setting for the week to come. 64 volunteers are mentoring students this fall. Parents should watch the Anoka County Library website for registration information in January.

Join the Friends

Your membership dues and volunteerism help assure the Anoka County Library's continued ability to offer special events and programs that enhance the library experience and enrich the lives of library users. Your active involvement will help the Anoka County Library system stimulate and inspire library patrons for many years to come.

Print and mail the form linked from the Friends home page (<https://www.anokacounty.us/2680/Friends-of-the-Library>). You may either attach a check to your form or donate via the Donation button online. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

If you are interested in expanding your participation, consider becoming a Friends' board member. It is a great way to become a leader within the local community! You can play an active role in organizing public support for the Library by developing services, activities, and programs. For more information on becoming a Friends' board member, please email the Friends at: friendsofanokacolib@gmail.com