



# GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

**Wednesday, July 09, 2025**

**5:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, a Regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Area Library Board will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 5:00 PM in City Council Chambers, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

**CALL OF ROLL:**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (if anyone wishes to address the Board):

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- [1.](#) Consider approval of Library Board Meeting Minutes from 06-11-2025.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- [2.](#) E-mail from Minitex Director Maggie Snow.

**FINANCIAL REPORT & CLAIMS** (Roll Call Vote Required):

- [3.](#) Consider approval of 07-09-2025 Bill List.

**CONSENT AGENDA** (Roll Call Vote Required):

- [4.](#) Consider a resolution accepting donations to the library.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

- [5.](#) Consider closing the library Friday September 5th for RiverFest set-up.
6. Update on emergency sewer repair.
- [7.](#) Review ALS Membership Agreement
- [8.](#) Review media coverage of the GRAL funding issue.
9. Library advocacy update.
10. Library Director update.

UPDATES:

Friends

Foundation

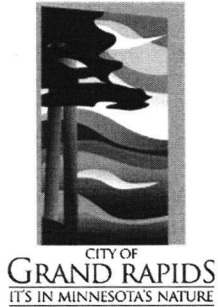
STAFF REPORTS:

[11.](#) Review library reports and statistics.

ADJOURNMENT:

NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 13, 2025, AT 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: Will Richter, Director of Library Services



## GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

5:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Area Library Board will be held in the City Council Chambers in the Grand Rapids City Hall, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, in Grand Rapids, Minnesota on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 5:00 PM.

### CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

### CALL OF ROLL:

Present: Barr, Casteel, Dobbs, King, Litchke, Martin, Richards, Teigland

Absent: Squadroni

Staff: Will Richter, Library Director

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve agenda: Richards

Second: Teigland

Result: Passed unanimously

### PUBLIC COMMENT (if anyone wishes to address the Board):

None

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approval of Minutes from the 05-14-2025 Library Board Meeting.

Motion to approve Minutes from 05-14-2025 meeting: Dobbs

Second: Casteel

Result: Passed unanimously

### COMMUNICATIONS:

None

FINANCIAL REPORT & CLAIMS (Roll Call Vote Required):

2. Consider approval of Library Bill List and review financial reports.

Motion to approve payment of Bill List: Teigland

Second: Richards

Result: Passed 8-0 via roll-call

CONSENT AGENDA (Roll Call Vote Required):

3. Consider approval of a resolution accepting donations to the library.
4. Consider a contract with Emily Lindner for a series of book club meetings.
5. Consider a contract with Emily Slaubaugh for a series of Musical Storytime programs.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda: Richards

Second: King

Result: Passed 8-0 via roll-call

REGULAR AGENDA:

6. Library Advocacy Update.

Informational

7. Review Collection Development Guidelines.

Informational

UPDATES:

Friends by Teigland – Booksale is 7/11 and 7/12 at CPC

Foundation by Barr – Next meeting is 9/16.

STAFF REPORTS:

8. Review Library Reports and Statistics.

Informational - Library Director Richter gave a summary of library reports and statistics.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 5:36 PM



NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 9, 2025, AT 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: Will Richter, Director of Library Services

DATE: 06/04/2025  
 TIME: 13:07:24  
 ID: AP443GR0.WOW

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS  
 DEPARTMENT SUMMARY REPORT

PAGE: 1

INVOICES DUE ON/BEFORE 06/11/2025

VENDOR #	NAME	AMOUNT DUE
PUBLIC LIBRARY		
0100010	5 STAR PEST CONTROL &	550.00
0118100	VESTIS GROUP INC	151.74
0201428	BAKER & TAYLOR LLC	545.61
0212124	BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	141.00
0405500	DEMCO INC	131.10
0718010	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	1,508.75
0914324	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	2,008.92
0914540	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS LL	563.90
1305203	APG MEDIA OF MINNESOTA, LLC	512.80
1309055	MIDWEST TAPE LLC	227.16
1605665	PERSONNEL DYNAMICS LLC	536.13
1901535	SANDSTROM'S INC	133.43
1920065	STAR TRIBUNE	829.30
2114356	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES	128.15
TOTAL UNPAID TO BE APPROVED IN THE SUM OF:		\$7,967.99
CHECKS ISSUED-PRIOR APPROVAL		
PRIOR APPROVAL		
0100053	AT&T MOBILITY	54.63
0113105	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	64.85
0605191	FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE	6.90
0718015	GRAND RAPIDS CITY PAYROLL	45,539.94
1209520	EMILY LINDNER	150.00
1301146	MARCO TECHNOLOGIES, LLC	129.21
1305725	METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE CO	75.52
1309199	MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	81.08
1516220	OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL #49	10,632.00
1601750	PAUL BUNYAN COMMUNICATIONS	325.13
1621130	P.U.C.	2,609.74
TOTAL PRIOR APPROVAL ALLOWED IN THE SUM OF:		\$59,669.00
TOTAL ALL DEPARTMENTS		\$67,636.99

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06  
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Statutes 465.03, states that cities may accept gifts of real or personal property, including money, and use them in accordance with the terms the donor prescribes, and

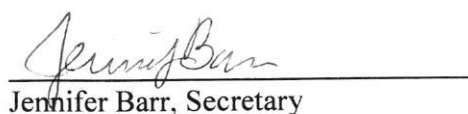
WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Library Board of the City of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota, accepts the listed donations and terms of the donors as follows:

**Grand Rapids Area Library Foundation - \$1,007.52**

Adopted this 11th day of June 2025

  
Cyndy Martin, President

  
Jennifer Barr, Secretary



5/13/2025

Emily Lindner  
23222 Old Stones Throw Road  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms. Lindner:

I am pleased that you will be leading a series of book club meetings developed for school age children. These programs will be held 6/09/2025, 7/14/2025, and 8/11/2025.

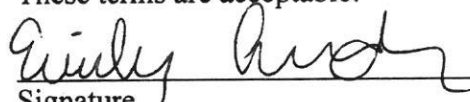
The Library will pay you \$100 for each program. This fee will include your prep time, as well as set-up, programming, and clean-up time. In addition, the Library will pay you \$50 for program materials and snacks, for a total payment of \$150 per program. Payments will be made monthly, after the programs are completed. If these arrangements are agreeable, please sign below, and return this contract to the library.


My e-mail is: [wrichter@grandrapidsmn.gov](mailto:wrichter@grandrapidsmn.gov). Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns about the arrangements for your programs.

Sincerely,

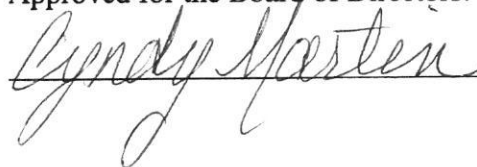
Will Richter  
Library Director

These terms are acceptable:

  
Signature

5/13/25  
  
Date

Approved for the Board of Directors:

  
Cindy Martin

June 4, 25



5/14/2025

Emily Slaubaugh  
816 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms. Slaubaugh:

I am pleased that you will be leading a series of Musical Storytimes developed for school age children. These programs will be held 6/10/2025, 6/17/2025, 6/24/2025, 7/1/2025, 7/8/2025, 7/15/2025, 7/22/2025, and 7/29/2025.

The Library will pay you \$100 for each program. This fee will include your prep time, as well as set-up, programming, and clean-up time. If these arrangements are agreeable, please sign below, and return this contract, and your signed W9 to the library.

My e-mail is: [wrichter@grandrapidsmn.gov](mailto:wrichter@grandrapidsmn.gov). Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns about the arrangements for your programs.

Sincerely,

Will Richter

Library Director

These terms are acceptable:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Slaubaugh", written over a horizontal line.

Signature

A handwritten date "5/14/25" in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date

Approved for the Board of Directors:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Hester", written over a horizontal line.

A handwritten date "June 11/25" in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

**Will Richter**

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**From:** Maggie Snow <msnow@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2025 8:59 AM  
**To:** Will Richter  
**Cc:** Matt Lee  
**Subject:** Thank You for Supporting eLibrary Minnesota

Will,

Thank you for supporting the Minnesota Library Association's legislative request for additional funding for eLibrary Minnesota. Your testimony in front of the Senate Education Finance committee made a real difference, and we appreciate the time and effort involved in making that happen, as well as the dedication to the profession that it represents.

While the \$1 million in one-time funding we received fell short of our request, this crucial investment helps prevent imminent cuts to the program and ensures continued access to essential online resources for Minnesotans across the state.

We're grateful for your time, your voice, and your commitment to equitable access to information. Your efforts helped highlight the value of eLibrary Minnesota resources and the vital role libraries play in education, workforce development, and lifelong learning.

With appreciation,

Maggie and Matt on behalf of Minitex

--

Maggie Snow, Director  
612-624-2839  
[minitex.umn.edu](mailto:minitex.umn.edu)



## DEPARTMENT SUMMARY REPORT

## PUBLIC LIBRARY

Arrowhead LibrarySystem 00015305-L	\$	68.77
B&T 2039102311-L	\$	10.98
B&T 2039110682-L	\$	65.59
B&T 2039133645-L	\$	63.89
B&T 2039146242-L	\$	12.97
Beier's Greenhouse 000056-L	\$	389.48
Black Stone 2201116-L	\$	47.00
Bunes 8205-L	\$	285.00
Ferguson 1696705-L	\$	199.00
Gartner 104979-L	\$	2,847.05
Gartner 105042-L	\$	629.00
Ingram 88389269-L	\$	11.48
Ingram 88439293-L	\$	175.75
Ingram 88445222-L	\$	19.47
Ingram 88445223-L	\$	111.36
Ingram 88480113-L	\$	50.87
Ingram 88540358-L	\$	35.00
Ingram 88540359-L	\$	293.78
Ingram 88569410-L	\$	34.59
Ingram 88613955-L	\$	158.46
Ingram 88643907-L	\$	25.79
Ingram 88659900-L	\$	212.49
Ingram 88689758-L	\$	48.99
Ingram 88716108-L	\$	404.88
Ingram 88716109-L	\$	16.91
Ingram 88716110-L	\$	33.39
Ingram 88716111-L	\$	16.38
Ingram 88716112-L	\$	232.23
Ingram 88742698-L	\$	18.59
Ingram 88742699-L	\$	492.21
Ingram 88748166-L	\$	22.17
Ingram 88802963-L	\$	46.05
Ingram 88850707-L	\$	32.56
Ingram 88850708-L	\$	16.84
Ingram 88850709-L	\$	16.84
Ingram 88850710-L	\$	733.81
Ingram 88873996-L	\$	39.43
Ingram 88873997-L	\$	13.76
Innovative 4863992-L	\$	429.24
Innovative 4865651-L	\$	12.62
Lovdahl 11452-L	\$	781.50
Midwest Tape 507284009-L	\$	169.43
Midwest Tape 507312269-L	\$	26.99

## DEPARTMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Nardini IVN00338743	\$	157.50
Northland Portables 31168-L	\$	233.00
Personnel Dynamics 54709-L	\$	127.65
Playaway 504032-L	\$	375.45
Rapids Plumbing 23695-L	\$	1,319.50
Sandstrom's 548041-L	\$	75.23
TNT 2764-L	\$	13,813.00
Tru North Electric 1573-L	\$	156.96
Unique 6140012-L	\$	46.60
Vestis 2630435701-L	\$	75.83
Vestis 2630440683-L	\$	75.83
World Book ARI0009582-L	\$	378.23

TOTAL UNPAID TO BE APPROVED IN THE SUM OF: \$ 26,187.37

## CHECKS ISSUED-PRIOR APPROVAL

## PRIOR APPROVAL

AT&T Mobility	\$	64.62
Amazon	\$	133.10
Ditty Wish Ventures	\$	200.00
Fidelity Security Life	\$	6.90
Grand Rapids Payroll	\$	46,531.63
Michelle Johnson	\$	85.40
Emily Lindner	\$	150.00
Diana Magner	\$	600.00
Marco Technologies	\$	129.21
Metropolitan Life Insurance	\$	78.08
Minnesota Revenue	\$	76.54
Operating Engineers Local	\$	10,632.00
Halley Ortenblad	\$	150.00
Madelyn Pratto	\$	150.00
Paul Bunyan Communications	\$	325.13
Waste Management	\$	291.72

TOTAL PRIOR APPROVAL ALLOWED IN THE SUM OF: \$ 59,604.33

TOTAL ALL DEPARTMENTS: \$ 85,791.70



RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07  
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Statutes 465.03, states that cities may accept gifts of real or personal property, including money, and use them in accordance with the terms the donor prescribes, and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Library Board of the City of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota, accepts the listed donations and terms of the donors as follows:

**Grand Rapids Area Library Foundation - \$169.43**

Adopted this 9th day of July 2025

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Cyndy Martin, President

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Jennifer Barr, Secretary

# GRAND RAPIDS RIVERFEST

GRAND  
RAPIDS  
MN

SEPT  
6  
2025

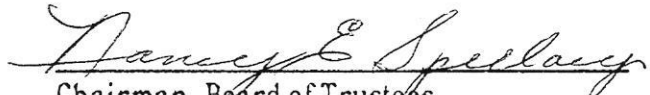



COURTNEY BARNETT · MARGO PRICE  
JEREMIE ALBINO · ALAN SPARHAWK

**AGREEMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE  
ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Grand Rapids Public Library, located in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, by initiating membership in the Arrowhead Library System, agrees to use the free services of the System, and, by so doing, agrees to extend library service without charge to all residents of the participating counties with the exception of those serviced by libraries which are not members of the System. It is further understood and agreed that other services may be contracted for as provided by the System.

This agreement, dated the 13th day of May, 1987, shall become effective on July 1, 1987, and shall be in force until a 60 day written notice of termination has been received by the Director of the Arrowhead Library System or by the Director of your library.

  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Grand Rapids Public Library

  
Chairman, Governing Board  
Arrowhead Library System

**SPECIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM  
AND THE GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY TO BE ATTACHED TO  
THE "AGREEMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP"**

**Minimum Services to be Provided by Grand Rapids Public Library**

- a. Arrowhead Library System compatible computerized catalog/circulation system, with ports to include Bovey and Coleraine on the Grand Rapids Public Library data base, by January 1, 1990.
- b. American Library Association-Master of Library Science administrator with supervisory experience.
- c. The Grand Rapids Public Library will make a reasonable attempt to achieve these goals: A basic collection of currently useful volumes, the number to be determined by the guidelines set forth by the Minnesota Public Library goals for community libraries serving populations 10,000 - 29,999. It will strive to allocate and expend annually at least 19% of its operating budget on items to be circulated or used as reference, including a proportionate share for juvenile materials. It will develop and strengthen its reference collection and provide trained reference staff.
- d. Normal hours of operation at a minimum of 40.5 hours per week summer and 49.5 hours per week winter; i.e., winter to mean "school year".
- e. Library to have minimum total interior floor space as described in Minnesota Rules 3530.2624, Subpart 1.
- f. Will observe Arrowhead Library System system-wide reciprocal borrowing practice.
- g. Will sign state-wide reciprocal borrowing agreement.

## Page 2

1. Minimum Services to be Provided by the Grand Rapids Public Library - Cont'd.
  - h. Agrees to have its computerized data base, (when available) at no extra cost to Grand Rapids Public Library, entered into a larger Arrowhead Library System or Arrowhead Library System/North Country Library Cooperative or shared member library data base, or bases, if this develops.
  - i. Will join North Country Library Cooperative.
  - j. Will actively participate in Arrowhead System Council of Library Directors and Children's Librarians Arrowhead System meetings and will actively avail itself of consultant and continuing education services.
  - k. Will include representation on behalf of the nine townships and two cities on the Grand Rapids Public Library Board, but less than 50%. Said appointees shall be residents of the service area living outside the city of Grand Rapids.
    1. Will report statistics, including use of township residents.
2. Minimum Services to be Provided to Grand Rapids Public Library by Arrowhead Library System
  - a. Interlibrary loan and reference service.
  - b. Consultant and continuing education services, free of charge.

2. Minimum Services to be Provided to Grand Rapids Public Library by Arrowhead Library System - Cont'd.

- c. Mail-a-book for homebound program; But "homebound" shall be defined as physically/medically incapable of getting to a library.
- d. Delivery and distribution service.
- e. Grand Rapids Public Library service area residents will be provided with Arrowhead Library System service area and statewide reciprocal borrowing privileges.
- f. Grand Rapids Public Library may contract with Arrowhead Library System, if it wishes, for bookmobile and mail-a-book services for the residents of its specific service area.
- g. Eligibility to apply for state and federal grants and participate in Arrowhead Library System state and federal grants.
- h. Eligibility to participate in state media circuit program.

**Page 4**

2. Minimum Services to be Provided to Grand Rapids Public Library by Arrowhead Library System - Cont'd.

The following programs are all subject to Board change or elimination, upon reasonable advance notice, on the same basis as other member libraries.

- i. Rotating video cassette, phonograph record and framed art service.
- j. Ingram Buy Back Plan.
- k. Print shop service. i.e., Grand Rapids Public Library pays materials costs.
- l. Will explore with and help member libraries facilitate cooperative computer maintenance agreements. Cross-over reimbursement payments may be used for computer maintenance costs.

3. Financing Arrangements

- a. Townships of Arbo, Bass Brook, Blackberry, Feeley, Grand Rapids, Harris, Sago, Spang and Wabana and the cities of LaPrairie and Warba shall come under the Arrowhead Library System levy for Itasca County and Arrowhead Library System shall return to Grand Rapids Public Library within seven days of its receipt from the county whatever the levy may produce in these jurisdictions. The City of Grand Rapids and these jurisdictions shall be known as the Grand Rapids service area.

3. Financing Arrangements - Cont'd.

- b. Grand Rapids will receive crossover reimbursement on borrowers who reside outside of the Grand Rapids Service area. With the understanding that (a) "borrowers" means Arrowhead Library System borrowers, and (b) The crossover program for member libraries is subject to Board revision and possible elimination.
- c. The services and crossover reimbursement to be provided to the Grand Rapids Public Library by Arrowhead Library System shall not exceed in dollar value whatever new state and federal aid the agreement generates for Arrowhead Library System.

4. Other


- a. Itasca County public libraries shall be eligible to elect two members to the Arrowhead Library System Governing Board. Itasca County commissioners shall be eligible to appoint one member to the Arrowhead Library System Governing Board.
- b. Grand Rapids will not act to expand its service area and Arrowhead Library System will take no action having the effect of reducing the Grand Rapids service area.

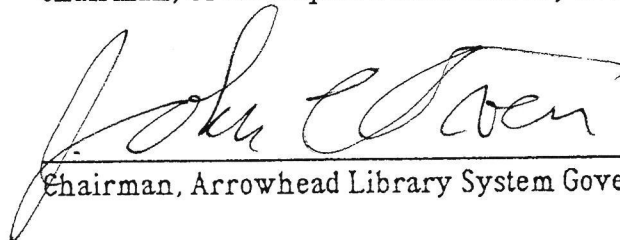


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## 4. Other - Cont'd.

- c. Terms of agreement: The same as that signed by other member libraries, plus this special agreement.
- d. The proposed agreement is conditional upon the acceptance of necessary changes in the Arrowhead Library System master contract by the boards of county commissioners of the seven counties which Arrowhead Library System services.

  
Chairman, Grand Rapids Public Library Board

  
Chairman, Arrowhead Library System Governing Board

4/14/87

Special Agreement Between the Arrowhead Library System  
and The Grand Rapids Public Library To Be Attached To  
The "Agreement for Membership"

Addendum relative to "3. Financing Arrangements," Section "a"

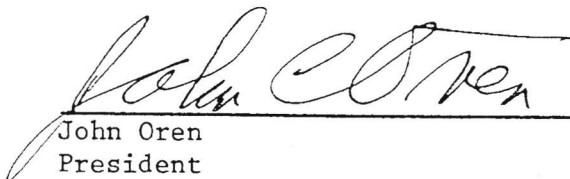
This section of the "Agreement" states that "The Townships of Arbo, Bass Brook, Blackberry, Feeley, Grand Rapids, Harris, Sago, Spang and Wabana and the cities of LaPrairie and Warba shall come under the Arrowhead Library System levy for Itasca County and the Arrowhead Library System shall return to Grand Rapids Public Library within seven days of its receipt from the county whatever the levy may produce in their jurisdictions."

The 1987 Minnesota Legislature, however, passed a law limiting county and city levies. This law affects our "Special Agreement." Now, due to the new legislation, we find that the above jurisdictions cannot come under the Arrowhead Library System county-wide mill rate during calendar 1988.

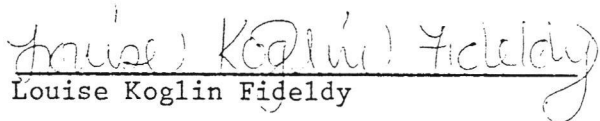
In order to solve this problem the Arrowhead Library System and the Grand Rapids Public Library do agree that they shall jointly ask the above jurisdiction to send letters to the County Auditor requesting that the same millage levy be spread on their townships and cities for public library service as is applied to the remainder of Itasca County or, the amount approved by township voters at their Spring, 1987, meetings.

When the proceeds of this levy are paid to the townships and cities, they shall remit them to the Arrowhead Library System, which, in turn, shall reallocate them to the Grand Rapids Public Library.

FOR THE ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

  
John Oren  
President

FOR THE GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

  
Louise Koglin Fideldy

Date 10-15-87

Date 6 Nov 87


[♥ Donate](#)

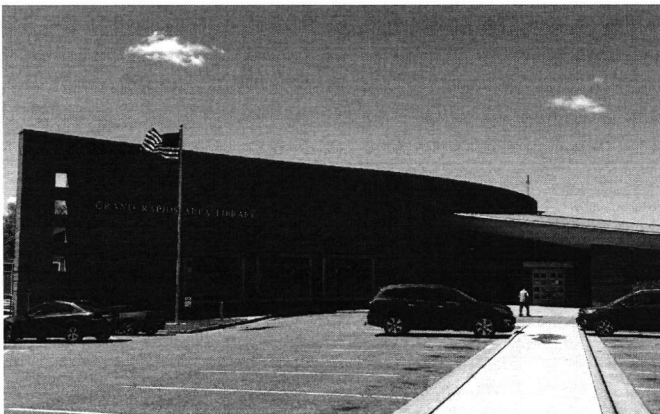
# Future of Grand Rapids library unclear as city, county talk funding

KAXE | By Megan Buffington

[Print](#)

Published May 22, 2025 at 1:12 PM CDT

LISTEN • 1:42



Megan Buffington / KAXE

The Grand Rapids Area Library on May 22, 2025.

**The Grand Rapids Area Library is the busiest in Itasca County. But the city wants a more equitable funding agreement with the county, and cuts could be on the horizon if an agreement isn't reached.**

GRAND RAPIDS — By Director of Library Services Will Richter's "back-of-the-envelope" calculations, the Grand Rapids Area Library could be open just one day a week next year.

That's if the city makes cuts to the library budget without a new funding agreement\*

Richter's early estimation is based on the worst-case scenario: Grand Rapids drops its contribution to the legal minimum, after providing far more than required for years.

"That's a very drastic cut in our overall budget, and it would have a significant impact," Richter said.

"The joint powers [agreement] is a potential solution to this issue. After we present that to the County Board, it becomes something that our elected officials can hopefully cooperate on for the benefit of residents in the county."

Richter and Grand Rapids Mayor Tasha Connelly will present a joint power agreement to the Board on May 27, asking for the county and city to shoulder an equal share of library funding.

Richter said the presentation will be informational, and the county generally crafts its budget over the summer.

"Perhaps we'll learn more at the meeting on the 27th, there would be some feedback on what their timeline for weighing this is, because certainly that would be very good information for the city council to have and community residents to have," Richter said.

A library poster asks residents to show their support by attending the Board meeting. It also highlights one of the major drivers behind the proposal: Grand Rapids residents make up 37.5% of library checkouts, but the city funds 84% of the budget.

## 'The busiest library'

Grand Rapids has been interested in more equitable funding since Richter became library director in 2019, he said.

The city can no longer afford to maintain its level of support for the library — \$750,000 in 2023. The county levied \$392,000 for libraries, but only \$140,000 of that went to GRAL. The rest went to the broader Arrowhead Library System.

After several years of examination, Richter landed on the joint powers agreement as a viable solution, based on a similar deal between Grand Marais and Cook County.

*Megan Buffington / KAXE*

Will Richter, director of library services for Grand Rapids Area Library, at the May 14, 2025, meeting of the Grand Rapids Area Library Board.

"While not exact, it seems to fit our situation well, especially when you look at the use statistics, city versus county," Richter said.

GRAL is the busiest library in the region, except Duluth. Though there are six libraries in Itasca County, 75% of transactions take place in Grand Rapids. Almost half of the library's checkouts come from county residents outside of Grand Rapids, "a long-term pattern going back decades."

Most can understand paying for what you get, Richter told the nine-member Grand Rapids Area Library Board at its May 14 meeting, and the joint powers agreement is a commonsense path to a solution.

"We got a local issue, local dollars that are funding, and as library director, I am proposing a local solution," Richter said. "So, we'll be approaching the Board in the spirit of cooperation and see where that leads to."

The city and county have had two meetings so far to discuss the topic. Itasca County commissioners Larry Hopkins and Terry Snyder urged the public to be patient at the

*Contributed / ICTV*

Itasca County Board Chair Casey Venema speaks at the Board's May 13, 2025, meeting.

"There will be a lot of discussion to come on it, and certainly, we'll reach out to the public and we want to hear from you, too," Snyder said.

"I think this has been blown way out of proportion," Board Chair Casey Venema said. "I think that there's lots of discussion that has to happen, and by no means is the county cutting anything, we never said we were, [we] never were a part of it. I think that everybody is in support of the libraries, and we have more than one in Itasca County. There's several others that are busy, too."

Richter has had productive conversations with the commissioners, who he says are engaged on the topic.

"It's the busiest library in the county. It's the busiest library across our part of the state. It does have some significance regionally."

# Grand Rapids Area Library busiest in Itasca County

GRAL is the clear leader in circulation or the number of checkouts.

Bovey   Calumet   Coleraine   Grand Rapids   Keewatin   Marble

Source: Minnesota Department of Education • Megan Buffington / KAXE  
2023 data, most recent available

\* A Flourish chart

## 'What should local support for libraries look like?'

The city/county funding mismatch is partially the result of a change to Minnesota's Maintenance of Effort rules, which determine the minimum tax dollars that have to be distributed to the library, among other things.

This amount used to increase regularly, helping the library keep up with costs and inflation. But during the 2011 legislative session, the statute changed. The Legislature chopped 10% off the 2011 requirement and froze it. The amount hasn't gone up since.

## More Local News

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Meet Butch Eggen, Crane Lake guide, historian and 'hot dog'

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Minnesota House DFL leader dead after targeted shooting; DFL senator also shot

---

Little news on Grand Rapids Area Library future; USDA says it will reverse Superior NF mining ban

---

Bemidji Heritage Preservation Commission celebrates historic Third Street

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Libraries are a county-mandated service in Minnesota, and the vast majority of funding is local, with the state also providing funding for library systems.

"We have had conversations on our legislative platform throughout the years to say, 'What does it look like to have a conversation around Maintenance of Effort, and what should local support for public libraries look like?'" said Sarah Hawkins, Minnesota Library Association legislative chair.

"Within our organization, representing libraries in all corners of the state, we need to be sure that what we are proposing is reflective of what's best for all libraries."

Hawkins and Richter said rural libraries were more affected by the change, and Hawkins said they hear about the issue more from libraries in federated systems, like Grand Rapids.

In federated systems, like the Arrowhead Library System, each library is an independent member of the system. The other library systems in Northern Minnesota — Northwest, Lake Agassiz, Kitchigami and East Central — are consolidated, meaning the local libraries are branches of the regional library.

The library association had a huge win in 2023, Hawkins said, with changes to the state library funding formula. But consolidated libraries will benefit more, because state funds are sent to library systems.

"I firmly believe that [Grand Rapids library funding] is sort of a local problem that needs to find a local solution," Hawkins said, noting the library community is happy to support GRAL and the Arrowhead system.

"As an outsider to this specific community, it seems like a good opportunity for Grand Rapids and the county to really explore a partnership to see what library service they want to provide for their community."



## CITY BUDGETS

# Rising costs force small towns into some tough spots



AARON  
BROWN  
Columnist

Compared to the average small town, Grand Rapids, Minn., is doing well. This past year, the northern city with a population just over 11,000 saw a record number of building permits.

A \$10 million, 63-unit apartment complex is springing up along the banks of the Mississippi River this summer, along with a 132-unit complex slated to begin construction next month. Regional store chain L&M Supply built a \$55 million warehouse near the airport last year, not far from where Amazon started building a delivery center last month. Two cannabis companies plan large grow operations in or near the city, pending state permitting.

And yet the town is struggling to keep its library open.

The city announced last week that if they can't negotiate a joint powers agreement with Itasca County, they would need to cut more than \$300,000 from the library budget. That would mean potentially dropping service to one or two days a week.

"We're in a boom, but we're cutting the budget," said city administrator Tom Pagel.

It's a paradox. In this, Grand Rapids is not alone. Small towns across the state are skidding past a fiscal cliff as labor costs, infrastructure burdens and expensive state mandates force tough choices.

"Cities are facing a tremendous amount of financial pressure, and they're trying to balance a lot of conflicting needs with legislation that is impacting them," said Luke Fischer, executive director of the League of Minnesota Cities.

Fischer cited the cost of anti-DEAS regulations on

and county each to contribute a nearly equal minimum amount to the library. Dating back two decades, the county has mostly stuck to the minimum while the city has paid for the inflationary growth of running the library. A

Today, 65% of library users live outside Grand Rapids city

and the potential loss of cannabis tax revenue to the state when towns are asked to enforce local cannabis regulations. But mostly, the same inflation that affects your household is hitting towns, too.

"As residential property values have risen, the tax revenue is shifting from commercial to residential, which is more pronounced in small cities," said Fischer. "Homeowners' income hasn't kept pace with resulting tax shifts, so small cities are forced to make really hard decisions about what to pay for."

My family has a special relationship with the Grand Rapids Area Library. My wife and I raised our kids in a rural township north of town. When I was a remote-working father of three elementary students, this library was the only place where we could go between school and evening activities. I used the Wi-Fi to work. My wife enjoyed a moment to update her professional blog, which aided her return to the workforce a few years later. The kids scoured the shelves with the assistance of a children's librarian who knew all their names.

Libraries are free to use, open to everyone and safe for all. Even as our media habits change, a public space dedicated to educational resources, entertainment and community gathering is vital to civic life.

Few oppose that argument. More than 200 people packed the Itasca County Boardroom on May 27 when the city proposed a joint powers agreement to county commissioners. All but one supported the proposal.

"How often do you fill up a boardroom with people who want a service and to raise their taxes to do it?" wondered Pagel.

But the fix isn't so easy.

In Grand Rapids, the problem with the library started years ago with a funding imbalance between the city and county. Itasca County has several city-run libraries, but none as large or well-used as the one in Grand Rapids. In fact, it's the busiest library north of Duluth.

State law requires the city

ers about 15% of the library budget. That's something that former Minnesota Revenue Commissioner Matthew Smith, now an adjunct public administration instructor at Hamline University, calls "municipal overburden."

He said financial conditions like these are forcing small towns to find alternatives.

"The most common strategy that you see over time, and it can be really painful, is some sharing or consolidation of services," said Smith. "The advantage is that you get economies of scale and better cost certainty, but the trade-off is some loss of local control."

One of the most expensive items in any city or county budget is law enforcement. Trained officers are in short supply, so they require higher wages and benefits than ever. That's why a lot of small towns are pairing with neighbors to create shared police forces.

This year, the south-central Minnesota towns of Winsted and Lester Prairie used a joint powers agreement to launch a shared police department. The Iron Range towns of Hoyt Lakes and Aurora formed the East Range Police Department more than a decade ago. It's also common for towns to contract with county sheriff's departments to patrol their communities.

Why not forge a similar model of cooperation for libraries? Of course, much is dependent on local political dynamics. Itasca County commissioners aren't yet sold on the notion that they should join with the Grand Rapids to equally fund the library.

"I'm an optimist," said Tasha Connelly, mayor of Grand Rapids. "I believe in cooperation and what our city and county have figured out in the past. I can't foresee people being OK with the library being open two days a week, or one day. We'll see. It's tough."

Tough times mean that communities must prioritize what's most important to them. Shared values, not the status quo, must guide our search for solutions.

aaron.brown@startribune.com

## A Big Ask during Tough Times: Grand Rapids Area Library seeks partnership with Itasca County

*Pam Dowell – Freelance  
Contributor*

The Itasca County Commissioner chambers and downstairs hallway were packed to stifling warmth, with over 300 residents attending the May 27th county board meeting to hear agenda topic number five: an operations report presented by Grand Rapids Area Library Director Wil Richter.

Grand Rapids Mayor Tasha Connelly and Richter gave a presentation to the Itasca County Board of Commissioners requesting that the county become a partner in a joint powers operational agreement for the Grand Rapids Area Library (GRAL). The imbalance in a financial struggle has been over two decades in the making since the new build riverfront library replaced the old downtown library. The new build brought added regional services, bigger spaces, more community use features, and an amazing atmosphere for public library users. It also brought bigger expenses.

Itasca County has six libraries serving as part of the Arrowhead Library System (See: alslib.info).

providing a levy tax resource to all Itasca County libraries served by the ALS. The request for a joint-power partnership was presented to the board and citizens in attendance through multiple slide presentations and fact graphics. The GRAL user numbers are 37.5% for Grand Rapids, 49% for Itasca County (non-GR residents), and 13.5% regional. The GRAL is the busiest library in NE Minnesota outside of Duluth.

The City of Grand Rapids is asking the taxpayers of Itasca County via the Itasca County Commissioner Board to consider an equitable partnership based on geographical usership. The mayor presented a letter to the commissioner board that stated Grand Rapids has "reached a critical funding juncture" where it can no longer be the majority stakeholder without drastic cuts in staff and services to the Itasca County area region. Richter provided a line-item proposed tax sheet based on market-value properties in Itasca County. A house valued at \$250,000 would be asked to support a \$11.06 increase in property taxes.

The public libraries that participate with the ALS are GRAL, Coleraine, Bovey, Marble, Keewatin, and Calumet. The Arrowhead Library System is a regional and multi-type system that facilitates cooperation between academic, public, school, and special libraries. 75% of library transactions occur at GRAL with a circulation of 168,165 (2023). The other circulations are:

Bovey – 3003

Calumet – 8,192

Coleraine – 37,891 (Coleraine also serves as the school library)

Keewatin – 3,782

Marble – 4,871

The Grand Rapids Area Library provides 52 programs with 2,141 attendees. The City of Grand Rapids pays 84% (\$830,187) of the cost of the GRAL, while Itasca County provides 16% (\$145,000). Itasca County pays into the Arrowhead Library System,

the GRAL and Itasca County would provide a formal contract that allows the two entities to collaborate and share resources to provide services or perform tasks that neither could do independently. Mayor Connelly used the Grand Rapids/Itasca County Airport and the Grand Rapids Animal Control Facility as cooperative examples of an effective joint powers arrangement.

The request is not asking for county commissioners and/or county residents to pick between area libraries or reduce any tax monies for the smaller libraries. The City is asking for the County to consider an equitable plan before it exhausts all options forcing draconian measures by drastic cuts to the largest library in the county. This is a decision that rests with the taxpayers of Itasca County and the Commissioners that represent them.

## ***Vacation Bible School at Cloverdale Mennonite Church***

16867 Creek Road, Nashwauk

**June 9-13 • 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM**

*All children ages 4-15*

**More information:**

**Connie Nisly 218-885-1588**



# The community supports the Grand Rapids Area Library

Item 8.

Over 300 residents filled the Itasca County Board Room Tuesday May 27, and spilled out to fill the entire hallway, and up the steps leading to both the front and back doors. They were there to show overwhelming support for the central role the Grand Rapids Area Library plays in the lives of children, families, individuals and seniors. Among the 52 programs offered by our area library are Children's programs, including Story Hour, Early Childhood Family Education book time, Book Clubs, STEM programs, school visits, and computer availability.

The early residents and community leaders of Itasca County recognized the value that a Library brings to the future economic and educational vitality of the area and thus began funding the Library through property taxes in 1895. That support has continued ever since. However, this funding mechanism is now out-of-balance.

The Library is facing a budget crisis, with the rising costs of books, on-line programming and staffing. There are no state or federal dollars supporting the Library. All funding is local, thus it's necessary to look at establishing ongoing, equitable local funding.

While the Library is located in the city of Grand Rapids, 65% of Library card holders live outside the city, yet County funding only provides 16% of the Library budget, with the City of Grand Rapids providing the rest. Grand Rapids Mayor Tasha Connelly proposed a Joint Powers Agreement between Grand Rapids and the County, building off existing County and City support, creating an active partnership in order to continue providing the excellent services and programming offered to all County residents.

The City of Grand Rapids is not proposing to cut the support from City taxpayers. Rather, the Library and the residents at this meeting are asking the County to step up and share in the funding of this service used by residents throughout the County. To assist the Commissioners in learning who was present and what communities/township were represented at the meeting, sign-in sheets were circulated. 299 signatures were collected! This did not even include all who were present as the sign-in sheets did not make it all the way through the room and hallways. Those who were able to sign included individuals from Arbo Township, Bigfork, Bovey, Cohasset, Coleraine, Deer River, Hill City, La Prairie, Jacobson, Keewatin, Marcel, Pengilly, Talmoon, and Warba. After the meeting, several home-schooled students expressed the importance of the library for both informational materials and as an opportunity to connect with other-home-schooled students. It was especially charming to see 6 youngsters also ask to have their names listed. Civic training at an early age.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, or did not get a chance to sign the sheet, please call your commissioner to ask them to support the programming and services our area's public library offers to all Itasca County residents.

*Kathleen Blake  
Grand Rapids, MN*

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### MEET OUR STAFF

Brett Holum, general manager | [bholum@grhr.net](mailto:bholum@grhr.net)  
Rebekah Sutherland, editor | [rsutherland@grhr.net](mailto:rsutherland@grhr.net)  
Jonathan Ryan, sports | [jryan@grandrapidsheraldreview.net](mailto:jryan@grandrapidsheraldreview.net)

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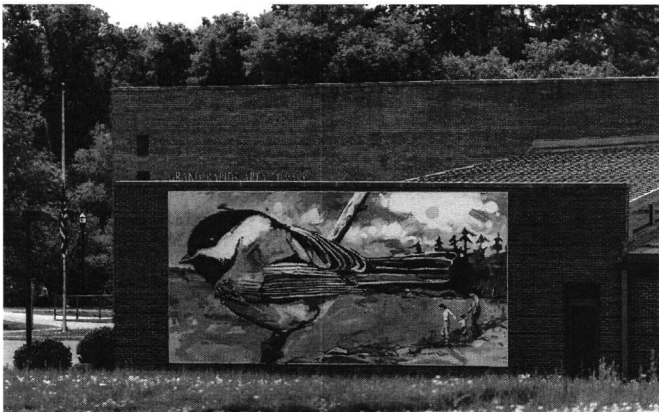
# Itasca County still exploring options for Grand Rapids library funding

KAXE | By Megan Buffington

Published June 17, 2025 at 3:21 PM CDT

Print

LISTEN • 1:47



Lorie Shaul / Special To KAXE

The Grand Rapids Area Library features a large chickadee mural on the outside.

**The city and county are still in the early stages of crafting their budgets, so the extent of cuts remains unclear.**

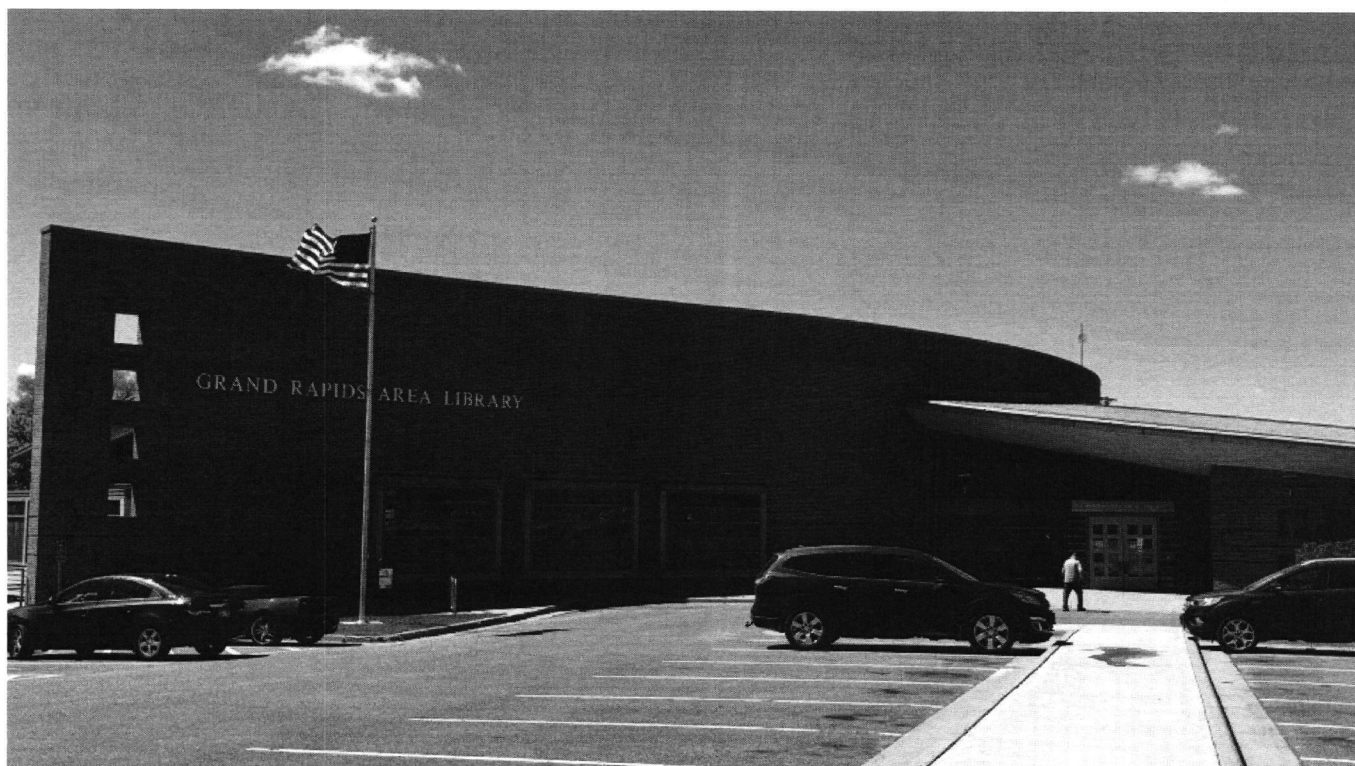
GRAND RAPIDS — There's been little news on the future of the Grand Rapids Area Library since hundreds of supporters packed the Itasca County Board Room on May 27.

The city of Grand Rapids is asking for a new funding agreement with the county that would split library funding evenly. Grand Rapids funds 84% of the library budget, but less than half of the use is from city residents

Tanika Charles - Persons To Stay

Mayor Tasha Connelly told KAXE a week after the meeting that the city hadn't yet heard from the county — but they didn't expect to. Both the city and the county are in the early stages of crafting their budgets.

The two meet at least four times a year for cooperative meetings and have talked about library funding in the past, but Connelly said with rising costs, the city decided it was time for more serious discussions. They know they'll need to cut library funding in some way.



Megan Buffington / KAXE

#### Local News

## Future of Grand Rapids library unclear as city, county talk funding

Megan Buffington, May 22, 2025

Tanika Charles - Reasons To Stay

LISTEN • 1:42

In a "worst-case scenario," library hours would be reduced to one or two days a week, she said, but the city is just starting to run projections.

"I'm very optimistic we can figure something out, even if it's gradual or if it's moving toward 50/50," Connelly said.

A dozen residents of all ages, including educators and parents, told the County Board last month about the impact of libraries on communities and the role the Grand Rapids Area Library plays in their lives. Hundreds more did not speak but attended the meeting in support of the library, with attendees spilling into the hallway due to a lack of space.

"It was a beautiful, wonderful place, and I would be so sad to see it go," said Grand Rapids resident Tara Huotari, who spoke at her daughters' insistence. "In my kids' elementaries, the librarians got taken away, and that really saddened us quite a bit. But I knew my kids were going to be okay because we have the public library, and I could take them there."

Just one person spoke in opposition to the library's cause at the May 27 meeting, but Board Chair Casey Venema, who represents northeastern Itasca County, said more opponents have reached out to him since.

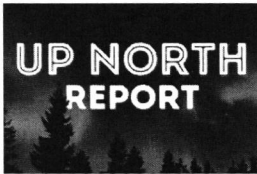
"I'm starting to hear the other side of the coin, the people outside the area that are concerned about their taxes going up," Venema said at the Board's June 10 meeting. "So, we will continue, speaking for myself, to keep digging in and figuring out what the issue is with it and what can be done."

## 'As strong as they can be'

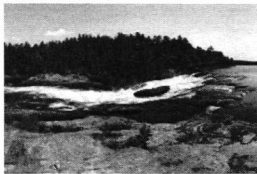
Mollie Stanford, Arrowhead Library Service director, gave an informational presentation about the regional library system to the Board at its June 10 meeting. Itasca County's six libraries are ALS members.

There was initially concern that more county funding for the Grand Rapids Area Library would come at the expense of ALS, but the county has assured that any additional funding would not come at the other libraries' expense, according to Coleraine Library





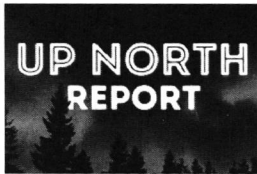
At least one tornado hits Brainerd lakes area; Jenkins Creek Fire 98% contained



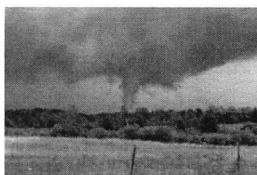
Superior NF plans fee hike for Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness



Storm brings tornadoes, heavy rainfall to Northland



Rep. Hortman leaves legacy for women in MN politics; 'No Kings' rallies draw thousands in Northern MN



At least one tornado confirmed in Brainerd lakes area

"Funding is not unlimited and tough choices have to be made," said a written statement Stanford read at the meeting. "We remain a valuable, necessary library resource for many folks who do not have the capacity to visit a public library daily, weekly, monthly, or possibly ever due to extreme barriers."

ALS operates the Bookmobile and Mail-A-Book and provides additional support to member libraries, like automation and inter-library delivery.

The Grand Rapids Area Library is the only library in Itasca County that receives direct county funding, though "direct" is still a bit misleading. All of the county's library funds are paid to Arrowhead. But the entire library levy from the Grand Rapids Area Library's service area is sent to GRAL from ALS.

The other five Itasca County libraries — Bovey, Calumet, Coleraine, Keewatin and Marble — receive support services from Arrowhead but no "direct" county funding.

before assurance from the county.

"We would like Grand Rapids to have good, strong funding sources," she said. "But we don't want that at a cost to the support the county provides to the Arrowhead Library System because we really rely on that a lot."

Mostad-Jensen said there was a touch of the "what are we, chopped liver?" sentiment. But she still spoke in support of the Grand Rapids Area Library at the May County Board meeting.

Every library in the county is unique, and they all have a role to play, she said.

"Each library in our county offers something different and something that works better for someone or is their preference," Mostad-Jensen said. "And that's why we want them all to be as strong as they can be."

She agreed that Grand Rapids is the largest library in the county and should serve a broader community because of its size. But she gets patrons who visit the library in Coleraine because Grand Rapids isn't open most evenings.

"They really should be in a place where they could do that," Mostad-Jensen said. "And we want them to be there."



Art

## Area Voices: Brass band to perform with Heartland

Tanika Charles - Persons To Stay

## June in Children's

Happy Summer everyone! It's going gangbusters around here. Some highlights:

- Page Turners book Club met. Teen Book Club was postponed until July.
- Dion handled the first two weeks of Summer ALONE in the Children's Library, while I was off handling family matters and a funeral. To do this ALONE is extraordinary, as the first two weeks of summer are traditionally our busiest weeks of the year. She handled all the crowds, answered hundreds of questions, kept the lid on things, and explained and handed out scavenger hunts by the dozen. She helped our patrons access our new programs, and answered any questions our program leaders might have. She planned and presented two story times ALONE. She was, and is, a rock star, and I am so grateful that she is here.
- Many young builders and their families have enjoyed the first three weeks of Lego Club.
- I had to reorder our Summer Reading Activity Sheets from ALS as we have almost gone through our first 1100!!
- "Explore and Create" with Diana Magner has been an incredible STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) addition to our summer programming calendar. Each week she takes the kids outside on the grounds of the library, looking at the nature that surrounds us. Then they all go back inside and interpret what they have learned through an art project. Next week is "Wet Wiggles," where they will be exploring all the critters that live in our rivers and lakes.
- Ditty Wish (Emily Slaubaugh) presents a wonderful musical story time each Tuesday. So much music! So many stories!
- We filmed Houses, Turtles, and Beaches for Online Storytime.
- Brodini the Magician wowed 139 people at his performance. Scheduled to start at one, he happily put on a preshow, starting almost an hour early! Kids, adults, and a certain Children's Librarian were flabbergasted by his illusions!
- On to July! Happy Reading!

# Monthly Report - Overview for Jun 2025

Locations on this report: Grand Rapids Area Library

## Checkout

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
1st Time	11039	8227	34	10310	7	56861	60075	-6
Phone Renewal	220	238	-8	225	-3	1269	1764	-29
Renewal	130	141	-8	154	-16	867	1162	-26
Opac Renewal	586	624	-7	658	-11	3556	3878	-9
Offline 1st Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offline Renewal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dayend Auto Renew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11975	9230	29	11347	5	62553	66879	-7

## Checkout Stock Rotation

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
1st Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phone Renewal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Renewal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opac Renewal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offline 1st Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offline Renewal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dayend Auto Renew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Checkin

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
Normal	9238	7736	19	8739	5	50872	53574	-6
Late	1560	2113	-27	1832	-15	10612	11728	-10
Offline Normal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offline Late	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10798	9849	9	10571	2	61484	65302	-6

## Requests Placed

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
Placed	1835	1389	32	1898	-4	11121	13350	-17
Total	1835	1389	32	1898	-4	11121	13350	-17

## Requests Resolved

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
Cancelled	95	73	30	129	-27	667	683	-3
Filled	2626	2412	8	2472	6	16429	18532	-12
Expired	3	1	200	2	50	19	14	35
Total	2724	2486	9	2603	4	17115	19229	-11

## Holds Resolved

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
Picked Up	1661	1363	21	1573	5	10284	11883	-14
Cancelled	6	1	500	3	100	28	10	180
Expired	111	117	-6	160	-31	690	865	-21
Total	1778	1481	20	1736	2	11002	12758	-14

## Overdues

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
1st Notice	587	765	-24	810	-28	3587	3935	-9
2nd Notice	5	2	150	9	-45	28	26	7
3rd Notice	0	1	-100	1	-100	6	4	50
4th Notice	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	150
5th Notice	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	-67
Final Notice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notice # 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notice # 8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notice # 0	177	214	-18	284	-38	1119	1263	-12
Total	769	982	-22	1104	-31	4746	5233	-10

## Borrower Delta

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
New (Manual)	107	82	30	125	-15	525	527	-1
Deleted (Manual)	7	4	75	7	0	37	47	-22
New (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deleted (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Total	114	86	32	132	-14	562	574	-3

## Bib Delta

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
New (Manual)	143	121	18	130	10	877	948	-8
Deleted (Manual)	136	156	-13	110	23	2175	1473	47
New (Batch)	32	33	-4	50	-36	195	606	-68
Deleted (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	311	310	0	290	7	3247	3027	7

## Auth Delta

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
New (Manual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deleted (Manual)	7	3	133	0	100	29	6	383
New (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deleted (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	7	3	133	0	100	29	6	383

## Item Delta

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
New (Manual)	477	442	7	359	32	2652	2919	-10
Deleted (Manual)	173	76	127	41	321	3294	2362	39
New (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deleted (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	650	518	25	400	62	5946	5281	12

## Acquisitions Activities

Description	Jun 2025	May 2025	%chg	Jun 2024	%chg	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	%chg
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Lines Ordered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Items Ordered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lines Received	340	306	11	214	58	1509	1546	-3
Items Rcvd by Ven	344	323	6	215	60	1553	1567	-1
Claims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	684	629	8	429	59	3062	3113	-2

# **Grand Rapids Area Library**

## **Reference Statistics**

**June 2025**

	<b>June</b>	<b>YTD 2025</b>
<b>Door Count</b>	<b>6,118</b>	<b>32,127</b>
<b>Reference Questions</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>939</b>
<b>Computer Help Over 5 Minutes</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Tests Proctored</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Public Computer Use: Sessions</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>1,302</b>
<b>Public Computer Use: Hours</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1,153</b>
<b>Special Computer Sessions</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>657</b>
<b>Passports Accepted</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>695</b>

# June 2025

9

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 9 np/ 11 1111 cl 1	3 5 np/ 1111 cl	4 np/ 1 1111 cl	5 10 np/ 1111 1111 cl	6 13 np/ 1111 cl	7
8	9 8 np/ 11 cl 1	10 3 np/ 1111 cl 11	11 10 np/ 1111 cl 1	12 5 np/ 1111 cl	13 8 np/ 1111 cl 1	14
15	16 11 np/ 1111 cl	17 14 np/ 1111 cl	18 13 np/ 1111 1111 cl 1	19 Closed	20 7 np/ 1111 cl 1	21
22	23 15 np/ 11 1111 cl	24 5 np/ 11 cl 1	25 13 np/ 1111 1111 cl 11	26 12 np/ 1111 cl	27 np/ 1111 cl 11	28
29	30 np/ 1111 cl 1					



# June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 181967 2	3 182281 6	4 182596 ↗	5 182889 3	6 183106 6	7 (19)
8	9 183548 5	10 183906 5	11 184272 7	12 184523 4	13 184764 5	14 (26)
15	16 185073 4	17 185394 6	18 185689 5	19 CLOSED	20 185997 5	21 (20)
22	23 186359 9	24 186775 6	25 187135 5	26 187445 5	27 187729 7	28 (32)
29	30 183085 8					(8)

# GRAL Children's Library Monthly Statistics

## June 2025

### Online Storytime

Programs: 5

Facebook plays: 1144

YouTube views: 149\*

**Total views: 1293**

### Artastic

Programs: 1

Facebook plays: 252

YouTube views: 24

**Total views: 276**

**Kits handed out: 150**

06/05	Summer Book Time	31
06/09	Page Turners	8
06/10	Ditty Wish	42
06/11	Explore & Create with Ms. Diana	20
06/12	Summer Book Time	36
06/13	Lego Club	30
06/18	Explore & Create with Ms. Diana	13
06/20	Lego Club	58
06/24	Ditty Wish	16
06/24	Brodini	139
06/25	Explore & Create with Ms. Diana	22
06/26	Summer Book Time	54
06/27	Lego Club	63

**Total Programs: 13    People: 532**

Book Times : 3                      People: 121

Library Programs: 10              People: 411

**Class Visit: 2 group    People: 198**

- West Elementary: 186
- Upward Bound: 12

**Reference Questions 2025: 807**

**Reference Questions 2024: 642**

\*The YouTube algorithm has changed shifting focus from traditional metrics to personalized user engagement and satisfaction.

# June 2025

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 No MASH 38	3 43	4 No Katie 31	5 40	6 25	7 177
8	9 52	10 36	11 51	12 29	13 21	14 189
15	16 38	17 44	18 19	19 CLOSED	20 50	21 157
22	23 51	24 53	25 59	26 48	27 47	28 258
29	30 26					

# June 2025

807

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 No MASH 38	3 43	4 No Katie 31	5 40	6 25	7 177
8	9 52	10 36	11 51	12 29	13 21	14 189
15	16 38	17 44	18 19	19 CLOSED	20 50	21 157
22	23 51	24 53	25 59	26 48	27 47	28 258
29	30 26					

## GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY: 2025 Volunteer Report

Month	Regular Volunteers		RSVP Volunteers		Library Board		Library Friends		Library Foundation		Total	Total
	# Vol	Hours	# Vol	Hours	# Vol	Hours	# Vol	Hours	# Vol	Hours	# Vol	Hours
January	27	160.75	3	90.50	7	27.00	9	85.75	2	5.00	30	251.25
February	36	157.50	4	57.25	8	28.00	8	56.25	10	14.00	40	214.75
March	30	167.75	4	70.00	8	28.00	9	70.50	1	3.00	34	237.75
April	27	149.00	4	65.25	8	28.00	6	52.00	1	3.00	31	214.25
May	35	163.25	4	94.00	9	29.00	8	89.75	8	12.00	39	257.25
June	32	174.25	5	96.75	8	28.00	8	98.50	1	4.00	37	271.00
July												0.00
August												0.00
September												0.00
October												0.00
November												0.00
December												0.00
Total		972.50		473.75		168.00		452.75		41.00	*	1,446.25