



CURRENTS

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Meet Brandi, GRRL's New Executive Director

Meet Brandi Canter, Great River Regional Library's new Executive Director. She stepped into her role this past October and we welcomed her with an Espresso with the Executive Director meet-and-greet event in November.

When did you get involved with the Great River Regional Library?

I started in Royalton in February of 2001, and my role was Branch Manager then. Royalton is awesome! It was my first library experience, and it was this community and that job that drew me to get my Masters in Library & Information Science (MLIS) and made me want to be a librarian.

What services (or materials/books) do you use at the library?

I love hoopla, and I love being able to stream new stuff or old stuff that I enjoyed in high school. I check out lots and lots of books. I check out as many as I can, but I can't ever read all of them! I love to checkout books about dinosaurs. The one I have now is *When the Earth Was Green* by Riley Black.

Which branch library do you use the most?

St. Cloud, because that is my neighborhood library.



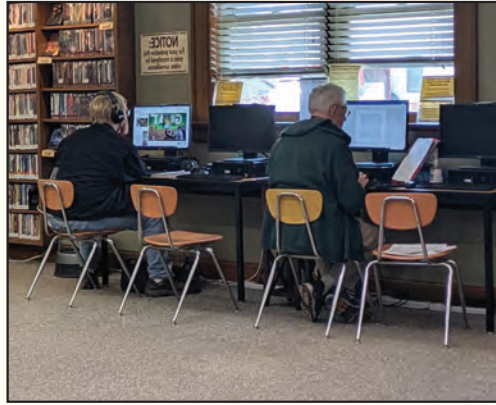
Why do you support the library through giving?

Because we do so much cool stuff! It is such a fundamental institution for the whole community! Also, because I love love love the little kids who come in and are so excited about the book they got, and the folks who need that special thing printed or copied. The library is the place where they can get that thing done. I have a passion for the ways we serve people.

What would you say to someone considering donating to the library?

No matter how big or small, every little bit helps. You get to be a part of something really magical and helpful in our communities. There are so many scary things in the world, and libraries are where good things happen all the time!

Little Falls Carnegie Library Receives Legacy Gift



The Little Falls Carnegie Library, a branch within the Great River Regional Library system, has received generous gifts totaling over \$180,000 left by Melvin and Laurine Zimmerman. Long-time Little Falls residents included the library as a beneficiary in their trust to support library equipment.

Steve Shelly, the executor of the estate and a dear friend of the Zimmermans, shared with library staff about how important Little Falls was to the couple. Melvin and Laurine lived in Little Falls their whole lives. Together, they enjoyed wildlife, deer hunting, and an overall quiet life. Steve emphasized how they wanted to give back to their community.

Since receiving the Zimmerman's bequest, the Little Falls Carnegie Library staff have begun to refresh the equipment on the main floor of the library. When entering the library space, patrons will immediately notice the more open and welcoming atmosphere,

thanks to the new computer stations. Staff

replaced computer tables and rearranged the area to declutter the space and create room for a round table displaying books for checkout. Additionally, the DVD shelves have received new lighting to enhance visibility for patrons. DVD titles are now easier to browse and more noticeable in the space. More features, such as a new book return bin, will soon be added to the library thanks to the generosity of the Zimmermans. Stop by the library to see what's new!

Including the library in your will is a way to give back to your community through your local library. Your decision will have a lasting impact and continue to preserve and enhance the library in the future. Learn more about how you can make a lasting impact at your library by talking to library staff or visiting griver.org/planned-giving.

Donor Appreciation Lunch & Tour



We hosted our annual event to thank our Connector-, Scholar-, and Visionary-level donors on Wednesday, May 28, at the St. Cloud Public Library. Attendees enjoyed Jules' Bistro catering for lunch and then had a behind-the-scenes tour of the circulation, distribution, and technical services areas of GRRL Headquarters. One attendee shared, "The behind-the-scenes tour was very enlightening! We learned so much about how books are sorted, purchased, and sent to branches." Another shared that they enjoyed "acquainting with others who also appreciate the value of the library in the community." We appreciated the opportunity to meet and chat with some of GRRL's biggest supporters!

2025 Year-End Campaign

"I wanted to share with you about a book club my 10-year-old son hosted this summer. He found the book club bag at the library and begged me to host! Between him, his siblings, and his friends, he had 11 kids all the way from 8th grade to kindergarten participate... I love that he had the opportunity to do this and made it a great summer club for all the kids, with a little help! Thanks for offering these kits." – Alayna, Elk River



Each year, numerous individuals, like Alayna's son, find inspiration at their local library. **With your generous support, Great River Regional Library is able to foster a culture of literacy.** Your contribution directly enriches the library's collection, enabling us to provide popular book club kits. These kits, as Alayna's son's experience shows, are instrumental in fostering friendships and community through shared reading experiences.

"I love my book club! I've read over 140 books in 12 years, made good friends, and enjoyed great discussions. I have also read books I wouldn't have found without the club." – Kathy, Waite Park

We love hearing stories from fellow library users about how they enjoy the materials and kits they checkout from their local library! **Make the library collection, including book club kits, vibrant for the community!**

"The book club kits [are my favorite]! Our club has been going strong for almost six years thanks to these kits!" – Carrie, St. Michael

Please consider supporting the library with your tax-deductible gift and returning the form below.



2025 Year End Campaign

Each year, we ask for library supporters to provide a tax-deductible donation to the library's year-end fundraising campaign. Your support will keep information and resources available-free of charge for Central Minnesota.

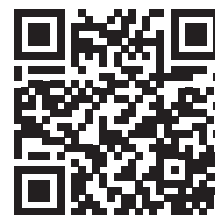
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On behalf of library users... Thank you!

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☐ Please do NOT mail a thank you letter for this gift.

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Prefer to donate online? Visit us at griver.org/support-the-library or scan the code!

If different from what is shown, please tell us how your contact info should appear, so we may correct our files. _____

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Thank you for your generosity!

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Thank You Sponsors

Great River Regional Library would like to acknowledge its generous 2025 Summer Reading Challenge sponsors. Thank you for making a difference for the children in our community. Children received fun reading incentives, attended events at their local library, and had the resources to stay on track for school during the summertime, all thanks to your sponsorship! For our 2025 challenge, across 32 branch locations, we had a record-breaking 14,041 babies, children, and teens participate! Thank you for making their summer exciting and educational.

\$1,000+ Sponsors:



\$750 Sponsors:

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- Belgrade Steel Tank Co.
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- Tom Hoffman & Kristin Vonnegut
- & anonymous donors

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