

Highlights 2011-2012

Who needs a library when everything is on the Internet and the popularity of e-books continues to grow? Despite predictions that libraries are outmoded along with print books, library usage continues to be high and library services are more critical than ever. Recent studies have shown the positive impact that libraries have on neighborhood property values. "Library Savings Calculators" such as the one at ropl.org help demonstrate how much people save by using library services. Public libraries play an essential role in community life.

Royal Oak Public Library provides:

- Downloadable e-books
- Early literacy opportunities which help prepare young children for school
- Public Internet access and Wi-Fi
- Programs and materials that help job seekers
- Rentable meeting rooms
- Local history and genealogy resources
- Lifelong learning resources and opportunities
- Reading, viewing, and listening entertainment
- Information needed to make informed decisions regarding health and lifestyle
- Community resources and services
- Assistance in how to find and evaluate information
- Monthly e-newsletter featuring upcoming programs and services
- Copying and fax services

Some of these services are delivered in traditional formats such as library programs, print books and DVDs, while others are accessible 24/7 from home as databases, tutorials, and downloadable e-books and audiobooks.

Explore what ROPL has to offer!



Mary M. Karshner
Director

2011-2012 Royal Oak Public Library Board of Trustees

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Library Director

Mary M. Karshner



The mission of the Royal Oak Public Library is to be an informational, intellectual, cultural, and recreational resource for all people; to inspire the spirit, educate the mind, and be a center of community pride.

ropl Royal Oak
Public Library

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Royal Oak
Public Library



Photo by Rod Arroyo

Annual Report

July 1, 2011 to
June 30, 2012

Library Revenues

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Library Millage	\$2,223,086	\$2,229,742	\$2,210,507	\$2,062,222	\$2,011,806
Penal Fines	\$90,505	\$86,165	\$80,317	\$76,657	\$73,675
State Aid	\$43,140	\$39,284	\$18,161	\$29,176	\$24,124
Fines, Fees, Misc.	\$60,308	\$73,116	\$67,742	\$86,895	\$85,510
Grants/Gifts	\$3,397	\$8,696	\$9,350	\$11,362	\$78,616
Interest	\$48,985	\$19,330	\$10,190	\$7,090	\$4,448
Transfer from Fund Balance	\$60,459	\$46,767	\$0	\$0	\$1,558
Total operating revenues	\$2,529,880	\$2,503,100	\$2,396,267	\$2,273,402	\$2,279,737



A meeting of ROPL's new Kids' Book Club.

Library Expenditures

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Personnel	\$1,379,864	\$1,495,272	\$1,386,925	\$1,298,894	\$1,413,114
Books, music, video	\$258,827	\$283,739	\$234,780	\$153,333	\$161,518
Other expenses*	\$891,189	\$724,089	\$701,939	\$700,974	\$705,105
Total operating expenses	\$2,529,880	\$2,503,100	\$2,323,644	\$2,153,201	\$2,279,737

*Maintenance, services, supplies, utilities, debt service on bonds issued for 2006 renovation



Original stained glass artwork. Photo by Rod Arroyo.

Library Operating Activities

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	% Change FY 2010-11 to FY 2011-12
Visitors	481,986	618,279	653,482	651,552	640,957	-2%
Programs	435	556	539	510	515	0%
Program Attendance	13,180	17,438	16,750	16,172	15,679	0%
Reference Questions	33,760	39,908	41,700	42,741	43,790	2%
Computer Uses	97,482	77,910	65,858	64,075	74,560	16%
Lending Transactions	360,333	405,067	424,169	461,182	451,097	-2%
Card Holders	25,771	28,166	30,700	31,762	32,262	1%
Collection Size	153,499	163,176	172,773	177,803	186,885	5%



Of Interest in 2011-2012

- **Library supporters continue to donate generously to ROPL** with monetary contributions, volunteer time, and gently used books. All of this helps the library stretch its resources in these economically challenging times. A very heartfelt thank you goes out to all the donors!
- On June 23, 2012, ROPL's **Butterfly Garden** was celebrated in a dedication ceremony and new butterfly-themed artwork in the library. A student art exhibit and several programs about butterflies and butterfly gardening underscored the value of the garden as an educational and inspirational space.
- Two original stained glass artworks depicting butterflies and reproductions of E.A. Seguy's *Papillons* were installed in the library's media room overlooking the Butterfly Garden. These were made possible by The Karen Burden Memorial Fund, the John Tierney Memorial Fund and The Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library.
- **Snapshot Royal Oak 2011 - The Time Capsule Project** commemorated Royal Oak's 90th year as a city. Community members gathered outside the library on Oct. 1, 2011 to bury a time capsule containing artifacts that reflect what life in Royal Oak is like today. The library's teen group helped decide what to put into the capsule and helped collect the items. A marker indicates where the capsule is buried. It is to be dug up in 2046 when Royal Oak will be celebrating its 125th anniversary.
- Two new mosaic panels joined last year's panels in the continuing community art project created at the Chamber of Commerce's Clay, Glass and Metal Festival.
- **Downloads of e-books increased 236%** over the previous year, with ROPL cardholders downloading over 12,000 books in electronic format.

< Mayor Jim Ellison looks on as library patron helps bury the Royal Oak Time Capsule in the Butterfly Garden.