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## Racine Public Library

75 Seventh Street  
Racine, WI 53403  
(262) 636-9217  
[RacineLibrary.info](http://RacineLibrary.info)

### Library Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Letters from the Community

### The Library, My Safe Place

A Letter from Racine Public Library Patron Stephanie Ziegler



*The Racine Public Library is celebrating 125 years. I think we can all agree what a thrilling accomplishment that is. It has changed so much in those years, and so has the way I've used the library throughout my life. While I no longer look through a card catalog to find the Dewey Decimal number of the book I'm searching for, one thing that has never changed is how much I love the library and how big an impact it has on my life.*

*I remember my mother bringing me to the library when I was a child. What an adventure those trips were to me. I devoured the*

*"Babysitters Club" series and felt so grown up when I upgraded to "Sweet Valley High." I loved the horror of R.L. Stine and the comedy of the "Calvin and Hobbes" comic books. But my all-time favorite was a well-worn, yellow-cover copy of "Matilda."*

*Sometimes we made special trips to the Bookmobile. What an amazing marvel, to have a library on wheels show up down the street! It was a nostalgic and proud moment when I toured the current Bookmobile with my nephew for his first time. There he found a few new series that have completely taken over his life. A love for reading runs deep in my family.*

*As an adult, that love of reading has never changed. But I have, and so has the way I use the library. I think that sometimes the library gets a bum rap. But for me, and a lot of others, it is a safe haven. I suffer from a disability called agoraphobia. It is defined as "a fear of places and situations that may cause panic, helplessness, or embarrassment." The library has become my safe place. A place that I never fear, always get the help I need, and truly enjoy. While I rarely browse the stacks anymore, the library offers helpful and useful services that accommodate my disability to make checking out books easier for me. And I'd like to share some of my favorite tools with you.*

*When I get recommended a book to read, I get on my phone's internet browser and log into the library's online [SHARE catalog](#). Think card catalog for the digital world. Here I can place holds on any book or DVD I desire, and the library staff will retrieve that item for me. If it's not available in Racine, the library staff will transfer it in from another library through interlibrary loan. [Interlibrary loan](#) allows lots of city libraries to work together to offer us a larger and more varied collection to choose from. If I can't find the book or DVD in the SHARE catalog, or maybe it hasn't been released yet, I fill out a [purchase request form](#) (the link to the form can be found at the bottom of the SHARE catalog pages). The library staff encourages its patrons to make requests. Every January when my online book clubs announce the year of monthly reads, the library receives tons of request forms from me, and they always deliver. When my holds become available, the library staff places them on bookshelves in the lobby for easy access and send me an email to let me know my items are ready for pickup. If I choose that I'm not up for dealing with people that day, there are self-checkout stations.*

*Requesting items, interlibrary loans, and placing holds are just some of the services the library offers to help overcome fears associated with my disability. Those are things I can do from the comfort of my couch. With disability come a lot of paperwork. I am low income and cannot afford things like a computer. The library offers computer access and free internet. I can print out forms I need to fill out, make copies, and use a fax machine to send paperwork to government agencies. This is just a small example of available services the library offers that I use in my everyday life. For an extensive list of available services, please check out the [library's website](#), or sign up for the monthly newsletter.*

*One feature of the library that I never miss is a visit to the Friends of the Library used book sale room located off the lobby. It's not limited to books. There are magazines, DVDs, audiobooks, puzzles, and sometimes a fun craft to do. Twice a year the Friends of the Library have a large used book sale. I plan my year around these sales as any true book lover would do. There are hundreds of gently used items for very low prices. But get there early, because there is always a line, and you'll find me at the front of it. I revel at being the first person through the doors and racing the other patrons to the best books. And when I walk out with bags or boxes full of books, I feel like a champion. Adding those books to my home library gives me a dopamine high that leaves me smiling for days. I am a proud member of the Friends of the Library.*

*And I truly feel like a friend of the library. When I walk through the front doors, the staff smile and call out a hearty, "Hello, Stephanie!" They stop for a chat and answer any questions I have. They*

help when I have problems, like learning to fax something in a digital world. And they don't laugh when I ask for a certificate for completing their Summer Reading Challenges (the certificates are usually for the kids). They proudly laminate me one and offer their congratulations. The library staff is a family, and they have embraced me. Never have I felt that more than during the pandemic. When the entire world shut down, the library found a way to continue to offer its services to the community. While everyone was social distancing, our bonds grew closer over the curbside pickup table. They put their health on the line to offer us books and DVDs to distract us from the outside world. They cared, and for that I am very appreciative.

I hope that they realize just how much they have impacted my life. I live my life in a constant state of fear, except for the time I spend at the library. Once a week, rain or shine, I travel downtown to a place that holds some of my most treasured memories. A place that has fueled my love of reading. A place that helps when I'm in need. A place that accommodates my disability. A place that fills me with joy. My safe place - the Racine Public Library. Congratulations on 125 years!

Stephanie Ziegler  
Racine Public Library Patron

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AUTOMOTIVE  
REPAIR MANUAL  
**GIVEAWAY**



**TWO DAYS ONLY!**  
**10AM-4PM**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 29**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**

Select automotive repair books are free!  
First come first served.  
Racine Public Library Lobby

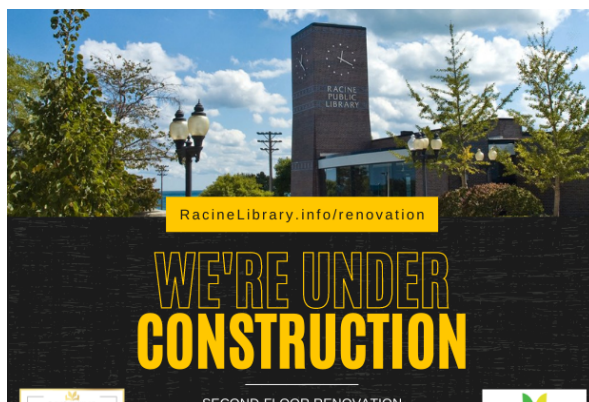
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## Construction Zone Ahead

A Letter from Executive Director Angela Zimmermann



Dear Community Members,

We are embarking upon an exciting time as we prepare the Racine Public Library for its second-floor renovation, and we could not be more thrilled. This renovation is crucial to help our current building serve us for years to come while adapting in how we bring literacy to

Racine County. Our building has of course served us well, but as Racine grows and changes, the library must follow. The library of the 2020s, in essence, must offer new technology and increasingly human-centered services. It also must be easier and more enjoyable to use. Our renovation will adapt us to these needs, better helping our community find resources, attend events, get support, study, discover, relax and collaborate.

Libraries have been undergoing this shift from collections to connections for many years. While checking out books and other items remains an important part of library services, we've noticed an increase in our patrons' requests for human services to meet their basic needs. As the library transforms, it will soon be able to accommodate requests for new meeting spaces and welcome visitors to an upgraded Innovation Lab, Teen Space and History Room. The library will be easier to reach, as well, once we add a second entrance to the downtown side of the building along Lake Avenue and a new staircase at its main entrance. The building will also become a new haven for our community's creators, offering a recording studio, better browsing for our Beyond Books collection, and more. I'm thrilled to be guiding our library through this transition. By providing new services that transform the purpose and definition of libraries, we open options for Racine and support its well-being, learning and innovation for years to come.

The next time you enter the library, you'll notice shelves and items moving to different parts of the library as we prepare to embark on full construction. This includes our second-floor computers, which will be relocated to the northwest corner of the building. We will strive to keep all services, resources and items as easy to use as possible while building is in progress. If you need assistance finding anything, our staff will be happy to help.

Our contractors will begin setting up partition walls for construction on May 5, and construction will be in full swing by May 20. Our first phase of construction will entail building our brand-new staircase, working on the new Lake Avenue entrance (including removal of the outdoor concrete where the entrance will be) and remodeling in the southeast corner of the second floor where our Business Center and flex study spaces will emerge. During this first phase, the first-floor bathrooms in our lobby will be inaccessible, so please plan to use the second-floor bathrooms instead.

You'll also see the library's team out and about in the community more often throughout our renovation. Be sure to visit us at the library parking lots for our free Spring into Summer event on May 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also coming up are our 125th Anniversary Block Party on Lake Avenue on July 16, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., as well as new additions this summer to our Library GO! fleet of mobile libraries. We can't wait to see you and show you all that we've been working on.

We'll share regular updates through our newsletter, social media channels, website and local papers so you know what to expect of your visits throughout this process, which we expect to last until early 2023. Visit [RacineLibrary.info/renovation](https://www.racinelibrary.info/renovation) to learn more.



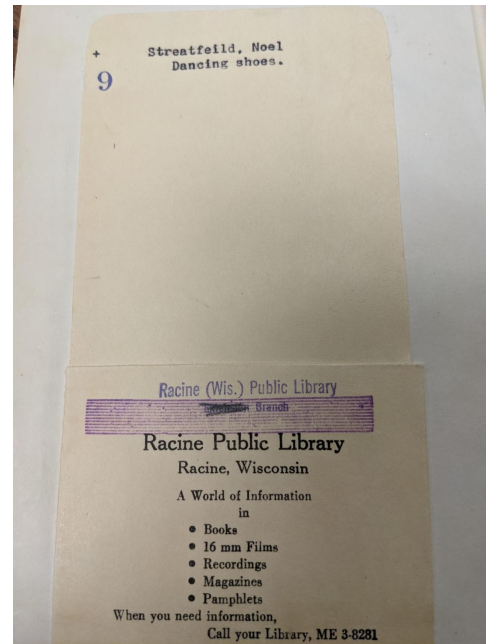
*Yours in literacy,  
Angela Zimmermann  
Executive Director  
Racine Public Library*

## Celebrating 125 Years

### Hidden in the Shelves



The library regularly weeds its collection, removing damaged items and items that haven't been checked out in years. While looking through the shelves in Youth Services, this Noel Streatfeild collection was found. Patrons have been checking these books out from the library since they were added to the collection in the early sixties! The bookplate features a five-digit phone number and the library's former promotion of 16mm film. "Dancing Shoes" was originally in the Racine branch collection. What a find!



**Read More Library History**

## Upcoming Programs

**Racine Public  
Library**

May | All Programs | 2022



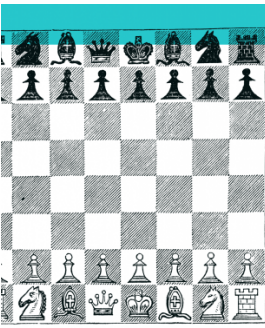
Storytimes, Programs, Resources and Events  
75 7th Street, Racine, WI, 53403  
RacineLibraryInfo | (262) 636-9217



### May Program Calendar

[Download the calendar](#) of all the programs hosted at the Racine Public Library during the month of May, or pick one up next time you stop by the library.

**View the Calendar**



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.  
ALL AGES WELCOME!  
FACILITATED BY JEFFERY GARCIA  
A MEMBER OF THE US CHESS FEDERATION

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**Senior BINGO Day**

Thursday, May 5 | 10 a.m.  
Atrium | Age 55+

It's BINGO time! Seniors come play at the library, gift card prizes!

**BINGO**

X				X
			X	
X				

**RACINE**

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The graphic features a large blue bingo card with the word 'BINGO' at the top. The card has a 7x5 grid with several squares marked with red 'X's. To the left of the card, three seniors are sitting on a blue bench, cheering with their hands raised. The background is a light blue gradient with a stylized green plant on the right. At the bottom left is the Racine Public Library logo, and at the bottom right is the library's contact information.

# MAKER MONDAY

The Innovation Lab will be open all day for you to stop in and try our 3D printers, laser engravers, virtual reality, drones and more! Stay a while and use our gaming systems.

**Monday, May 9 | 9 a.m.-7 p.m.**  
**Every Monday June-August | 9 a.m.-7 p.m.**  
**Innovation Lab - 2nd Floor**  
**All Ages**





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PUBLIC LIBRARY

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# Library Links

**New Adult DVDS**

**Contact Us**

**New Adult Fiction**

**Visit our Website**

**New Adult Non-Fiction**

**Donate to the Library**

