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## **Why We Love our Libraries**

(ROCHESTER, NY) – The results are in - our communities love their libraries and the people who work in them! The Rochester Regional Library Council awards three Library of the Year winners and six Library All Star winners from around the region for 2022.



Libraries are nominated for Library of the Year by community members who love their library. Our 2022 Library of the Year winners in three categories are:

**RRLC Public Library of the Year: *Victor Farmington Library* – Tim Niver, Director**

**RRLC Academic Library of the Year: *University of Rochester, River Campus Libraries* – Kevin Garewal, Dean of Libraries**

**RRLC School Library of the Year: *Johanna Perrin Middle School Library* – Beth Puckett, Library Media Specialist**

The winning libraries are making a real difference in the communities they serve:

**Victor Farmington Library:** *If you're ever in a bad or sad mood, visit this library! It is warm and inviting; the staff is exceedingly friendly; and you immediately feel welcome and part of the family. It's like going to your grandma's house! Even better because you'll immediately find something to engage in - local art on the walls, interesting displays, new books, fun things to check out (like Pickleball paddles and hiking poles), and maybe a class or activity to participate in. It's definitely my happy place.*

**University of Rochester, River Campus Libraries:** *The River Campus Libraries deserve this*

recognition because they have supported and nurtured my desire to become an academic librarian during my undergrad years at the University of Rochester. My first library job was a front desk clerk at the Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation Library and they gave me a great experience. It is because they gave me an opportunity to serve the library that I wanted to become a librarian today.

**Johanna Perrin Middle School Library:** *I love the Johanna Perrin library! I have reasons! Number one, I love the decorations, and I love all the comfy furniture. Number two, there are many fun activities inside of the library, like puzzles and quizzes! Number three, there is a wide selection of different books! Number four, the staff are AMAZING!*



Library All Stars are nominated for providing outstanding service. Our 2022 Library All Star winners are:

**Janelle Deal, Elementary Library Media Specialist** at Honeoye Central School

**Stacy Lynaugh, Library Aide** at Kendall Junior/Senior High School

**Sarah Matthews, Children's Librarian** at Wadsworth Library

**Randy Meyer, User Support Specialist** at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES School Library System

**Linda Seavy, Office Manager** at Lavery Library, St. John Fisher College

**Bruce Tehan, Branch Supervisor** at Arnett Branch Library

These Library All Stars are dedicated and passionate about their work:

**Janelle Deal:** *Ms. Deal is an amazing Librarian and educator. She includes, encourages, and promotes children of all reading levels. She plans and organizes many special events for the Library throughout the year including amazing book fairs! Ms. Deal also leads a very popular fifth grade library club where students are taught the importance of keeping "their" shelves in order and making surprise book marks for younger readers to find. Add in the occasional maker space, and digital library too learning session and that makes Ms. Deal a giant Library All Star.*

**Stacy Lynaugh:** *Stacy is the Kendall Junior/Senior full time library aide. The Kendall High School only has a part time librarian. Given this fact, Stacy runs the library the entire week including helping students, updating the announcement board, covering classes, gathering resources for staff, helping with Chromebook issues, keeping the library organized, running the Parent Portal, etc. Her enthusiasm and helpful nature creates a welcoming environment for the entire staff and student body.*

**Sarah Matthews:** *Sarah began to work with the Director and Board of Trustees to further the*

*long-held goal of adding that second floor Children's Room. Sarah was an integral part of the design. The new Children's Room opened in November of 2020 offering the community a delightful new place to read, write, sing, craft, and play. Throughout her tenure at Wadsworth Library, Sarah has offered a robust schedule of programming for families ranging from traditional lapsit storytimes such as Books & Babies to intergenerational glow in the dark parties and hoola-hooping demonstrations. Her library community and her peers have greatly benefited from her dedication, service, and leadership. She encapsulates the Core Values of Librarianship and is truly deserving of this special recognition.*

**Randy Meyer:** *Randy is one of the most helpful, friendly, knowledgeable, and caring librarians. He is ALWAYS willing to help the BOCES 2 librarians and he is often contacted by other school library systems across NY for help with LibGuides and OverDrive. He always approaches things with a calm and level headed mindset. This June Randy is retiring and he will be greatly missed!*

**Linda Seavy:** *As the Office Manager for Lavery Library she continually works to make sure meetings and library events are running smoothly. But more than that, she takes the time to help individual staff members with projects throughout the year. As an example, she works to make sure all the video tutorials are captioned with grammatically correct captions, typically within 24 hours of a video being posted. By making sure these captions are added, she's a crucial part of the best practices and accessibility standards the library strives for when making digital learning objects.*

**Bruce Tehan:** *Bruce gives more than 100% in his work with and for Arnett Library and its patrons, and is unfailingly generous in everything he does. A few examples: He is at the Farmer's Market every Tuesday during the season with a variety of books for people to check out. He remembers patrons' names and listens carefully to their questions. Being around him makes everyone feel better. What a beautiful example of a life lived for others in his position as Branch Supervisor.*

Winners will be honored at the RRLC Annual Meeting on May 12th.

The RRLC Library of the Year recognition is the culmination of a celebration of libraries and library staff that begins with [National Library Week](#) in April, sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country.

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The [Rochester Regional Library Council](#) is a not-for-profit agency that helps libraries in colleges, hospitals, schools as well as public libraries, work together to bring better library services to all the people in the five-county Rochester region – Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

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