

The RAAC Reporter

"Building and Strengthening Our Community Through the Arts"

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The Rosemount Area Arts Council



Introducing Member Richard Childs: Veteran, author, and recent recipient of a Quilt of Valor



On May 21, 2026, a Quilt of Valor quilt was presented to Richard "Chip" Childs to honor his service to our country.

Chip served in the Navy from 1968 to 1977 and the Air National Guard from 1987 to 1999. He served in both the Vietnam and Persian Gulf eras. In addition to his military service, Chip co-authored with another Guard Member a book entitled "The Best Care in the Air", a history of the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron he served in. In the course of his tenure in the MN Air National Guard, he was awarded two Achievement medals. Chip has also been nominated for an IPAC EVAY award and is a lifetime member of the VFW Post 9625 in Coon Rapids, MN.

The Quilt of Valor organization was founded to honor service members and veterans who have been touched by war, with a quilt. Each quilt is meant to say Thank You to the recipients for their service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation. As of May 2026, over 430,000 quilts have been awarded in the US, Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Needed

Supervisor of Theater Set Construction for August and future plays. For more information, write to Rosemountarts@gmail.com.

ArtBlast Photo Contest People's Choice Awards

The 2026 RAAC ArtBlast Photo Contest (16th year) was another success. This event is co-sponsored by the Rosemount Area Arts Council and the City of Rosemount. The contest's judge was Steve Hadeen, who gave a presentation on June 22 for contest participants, pointing out what made the photos winners. He chose ribbon winners for the seven categories in the contest. Those ribbons were on display with the winners during the week of ArtBlast at the Steeple Center, June 22-27.

Visitors to the photo display were able to vote for the People's Choice award in each category as follows:

Landscape: Rusty Fifield, *Rainbow Bridge*

Wildlife: Rusty Fifield, *Hello Supper*

Floral: Dale Perry, *White Bleeding Hearts*

Lifestyle: Brent Babcock, *Kings Beach*

Give Us Your Best Shot:

Joe Webber, *Color Wheel Droplet*

Black and White: Joe Webber, *Old Mill*

Enhanced: Rusty Fifield, *Mississippi Lightning*



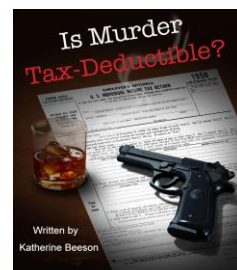
What a blast! ArtBlast 2026

Here is a review of some of the fun moments that were had from June 22-27 in Rosemount: Thank you, volunteers, for making it happen, and thanks to our community for celebrating the arts!



"Is Murder Tax Deductible?" - Second Act Players

August 13, 6 PM - August 14, 7 PM - August 15, 2 PM and 7 PM
At the Steeple Center



The play is a lively mystery set in a Milwaukee accounting office during the tax season of 1951. When a late-night meeting ends in murder, the detective on the case discovers that nothing in this office is as simple as it seems. With clever dialogue, unexpected twists, and a touch of romance, the story keeps audiences guessing right up to the final scene.

Tickets: \$16 (RAAC Members \$13)

Website Redesign Update

The new website will be unveiled mid-July. We are excited to showcase all that RAAC offers the community with an updated look. Note that during the transition, there may be a couple of days when neither website will be available.

On Display in July

In the Robert Trail Library:

"Leprechauns: Cute as a Button," an art exhibit of Rosemount Leprechaun Days button contest artwork which includes designs submitted by local students and images of completed buttons over the years. On display through July.



In the Steeple Center:

Fresh Eye Arts is a fine arts program that supports artists with a variety of disabilities. They are a service offered by MSS, a day services provider in the Twin Cities Metro area.



Artists get to explore, learn, create, show, and sell their work. They are self-driven and supported in their professional development. *Fresh Eye* provides them with high quality materials and

access to art facilities. The program is designed and supported by professional teaching artists. This painting is by Kira Elasky and stands as a sample of art on display until the end of August, Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM, and Fri. 8:30 - noon. You are invited to congratulate the artists at a reception on Thu. July 23, 6:30-8 PM.

Join us

Coffee: Wednesdays at 8 AM at Lunds & Byerlys on Pilot Knob Rd in Apple Valley, across from Target South. Meet in the dining area by the East entrance.

Board Meeting: The next meeting is on Wednesday, August 12, at 7 PM at the Steeple Center. Members are invited to attend and give input on RAAC's future events. Others interested in the organization are also welcome.

Stats

RAAC 2026 membership: 247
June volunteer hrs.: 1117 by 77 people
YTD volunteer hrs.: 4575 by 101 people

Rosemount Leprechaun Days: Parade Walkers Needed!

Saturday, July 25, 11 AM.

This fun-filled community celebration will take place in the last week of July. Calling on volunteers to promote RAAC by walking with us in the parade July 25th. Contact rosemountarts@gmail.com to volunteer.

Mitchell Hall and the Tennessee Trio:

A Tribute to Johnny Cash

Friday, September 11, 7 PM at the Steeple Center

Replicating and duplicating the forgotten era of Johnny Cash – The early years. Mitchell Hall brings a young Johnny Cash back to life with his spot-on performance. The Tennessee Trio replicates that boom-chick-a-boom sound that belonged uniquely to Johnny Cash. The band is the most complete, accurate duplication of Johnny's legacy.

Tickets: Reserved seats \$30 (RAAC Members \$25)



Country Faire: Art, Books, Music, Food

Saturday, September 19, 10 AM-4 PM at the Steeple Center

Get ready for the 10th Annual Country Faire, sponsored by RAAC and the Friends of Robert Trail Library. Artists, authors, artisan food vendors, and musicians are invited to apply for a spot to sell their high-quality art or artisanal foods, sign and sell their novels, or perform to entertain the crowds. Find registration information at RosemountArts.com/country-faire and save the date!



Membership News: New Member Special

Not a current RAAC member? Or need to renew for 2026? Over the past few years, RAAC has implemented a special membership promotion. Join RAAC or renew a lapsed membership after July 1, and the membership is good until the end of the next calendar year. That's up to 18 months for the price of 12. Encourage your friends to join RAAC, and they, too, will get this special offer.

Join or rejoin now and your membership will last through all of 2027. Remember, members may purchase two discounted tickets per individual membership and four discounted tickets for family memberships.

There are four ways to renew your membership (please update any phone number, address or email changes):

1. Mail a check to RAAC, P.O. Box 409, Rosemount, MN 55068
2. Renew in person at RAAC's Box Office at the Steeple Center. Open Mondays, 10 AM - noon, Tuesdays, 9 - 11 AM, Thursdays 1 - 3 PM.
3. Renew through the RAAC website, **Rosemountarts.com**. Click on "Membership" and use the dropdown menu to order via PayPal.
4. Pay through Venmo at "Rosemount Area Arts Council."

Any questions? Just email RAAC at RosemountArts@gmail.com.

(Note: If your membership is current for 2026, you don't need to renew until December.)

Membership Levels are the Annual Dues

Full-time Student	\$15.00	Family/Household	\$35.00
Senior (50+)	\$15.00	Friend	\$100.00
Senior Family	\$25.00	Patron	\$250.00
Individual	\$25.00	Benefactor	\$500.00

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