As part of the ongoing consolidation of the Minneapolis Public and Hennepin County library systems, phone numbers for Minneapolis libraries will change to Hennepin County Library's 952-847-#### numbers this year.

On March 30, Roosevelt Library's phone number will be the first to be changed. Roosevelt's new main phone number will be 952-847-2700. Customers who dial the old phone number will automatically be forwarded to the new number.

The order of the changeover will be smallest library to largest. After Roosevelt, the order will be: Southeast, Webber Park, Northeast, Nokomis, Linden Hills, Pierre Bottineau, Washburn, Sumner, Walker, East Lake, Hosmer, Franklin, North Regional, and Central. New phone numbers will be announced as they become active.

The merger of the two library systems has provided opportunities to reduce overall operating costs and increase efficiencies by eliminating duplicate technology systems, such as the two websites, which converged into one on Jan. 1, 2009. Work on merging the two public catalogs continues and is scheduled to be completed later this year. With one phone system, customers will be able to call one number and be transferred anywhere in the 41-library system. Customers can expect to hear standardized voice messaging at the libraries and staff will be able to communicate more easily with each other.

There will be other improvements to libraries in Minneapolis as the network consolidation continues, including: black-and-white public printers will be replaced with color printers, as is standard in most Hennepin County libraries, and Roosevelt and Webber Park libraries will receive self checkout machines. Pierre Bottineau Library's self checkout machine will be replaced.

For more information: www.hclib.org