

Wavelength

Ritter Public Library
Vermilion

Fall 2007
Volume 15, Issue 2

Focusing on the future

Plans for the proposed expansion of Ritter Public Library call for tearing down the annex building next door and replacing it with a safe, energy-efficient addition to the east side of the main library building.

If voters approve a bond issue on the ballot this November, the addition would add 65 percent more space at the library. It would mean more public-access computers, more meeting space, an expanded area for teens, and more books, movies and services.

Construction would also put an end to costly repairs and high mainte-

nance expenses which are becoming a growing concern at the 75-year-old annex, formerly a car dealership.

The addition would be set back from the front of the main building about eight feet, shifting focus back to the original, pink marble entrance.

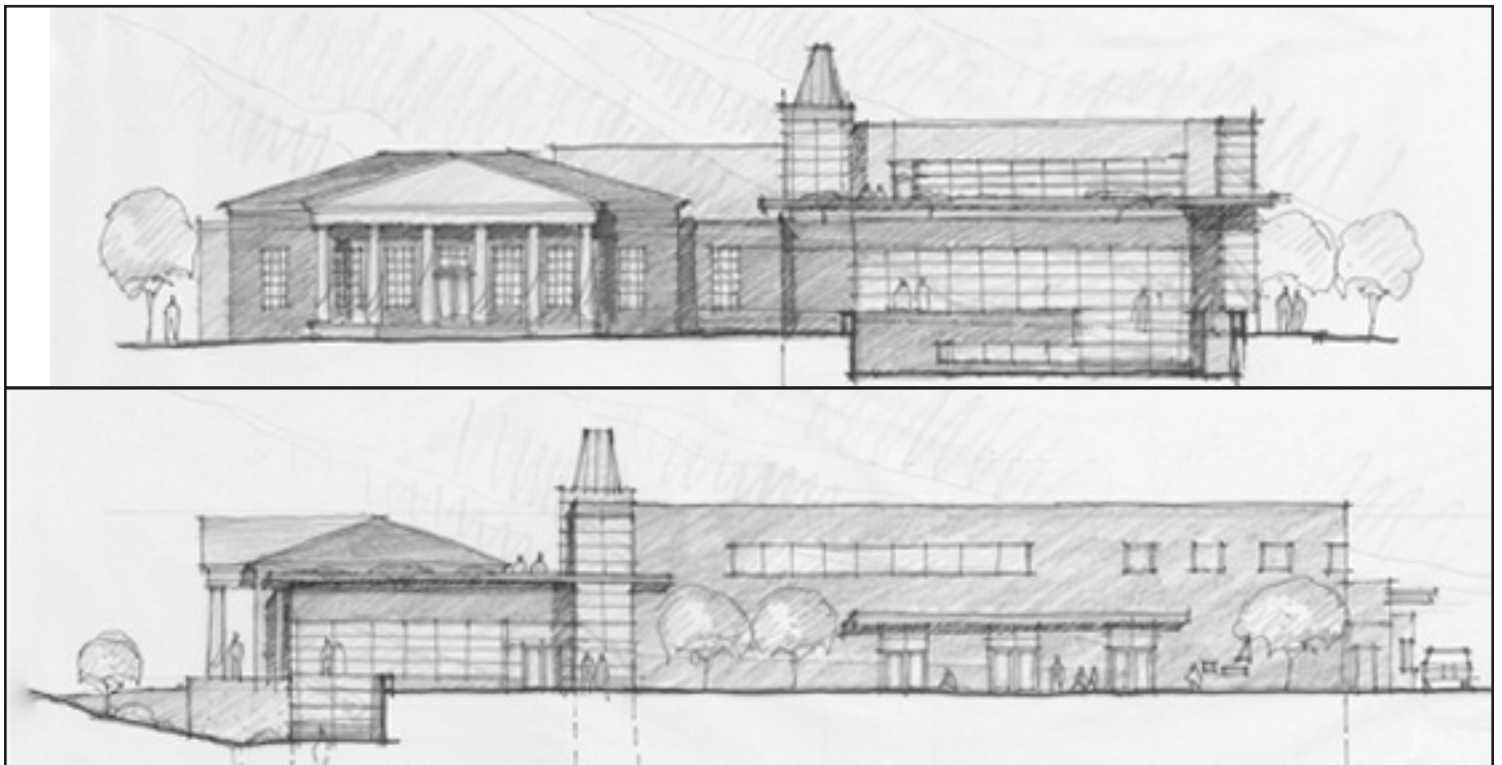
A basement level would house a new community room, equal in space to the meeting room now in the annex. A landscaped grade in front of the building would allow for windows in the basement, making natural light available there. The public would still have access to the room outside of regular library hours.

The side-view drawing below shows how the second floor would be set back even further from the first floor. It also shows a drive-up service window on Ferry Street.

The parking lot east of the addition would be enlarged, and cars could drive up to an entrance there to drop off and pick up patrons.

A landscaped walkway would lead from the east parking lot through to Ferry Street.

Trustees are committed to preserving as much of the existing interior as possible.



Plans for future will cost \$15 more

Plans for Ritter Public Library's future will cost taxpayers about \$15 more a year (per \$100,000 home value) if two issues on the November ballot are approved.

A Bond

Trustees are seeking a .5-mill bond issue to pay for construction of an addition to the main library building.

The bond will cost about the same as residents are already paying because an existing .5-mill bond, approved in 1992 for a previous expansion, is due to expire next year. The existing bond would be paid off before a new bond would take effect.

Residents are currently paying about \$14 a year (per \$100,000 home value) for the existing bond. The new bond would also cost about \$14 per year (per \$100,000 home value). The new bond would raise \$3.5 million over 28 years.

"We believe this is the right time for this project," said Jim Liljegren, president of the board of trustees. "The existing bond is being paid off early and that clears the way for taking the next step."

Ritter staff specially trained to help young readers

Staff members at Ritter Public Library are receiving special training so they can offer better early reading experiences for children.

The staff of the children's department is taking part in a statewide effort called "Ohio Ready to Read".

The Ohio Library Council is leading the effort to promote early literacy skills among Ohio's youngest citizens.

According to a national study, a child who has been read to from a young age is better prepared to learn to read.

Ritter staff recently attended a con-

A Levy

Trustees are also asking residents to replace a 1-mill continuing operating levy that was approved in 1992.

Replacing the levy means it would be collected at today's real estate values and would include all new properties within the Vermilion school district.

Residents currently pay about \$16 a year (per \$100,000 home value) for the library operating levy. If the replacement is approved, the levy will

cost residents about \$31 a year (per \$100,000 home value).

Altogether, residents have been paying about \$30 a year (per \$100,000 home value) to support Ritter Public Library.

If both issues pass in November, residents will pay a total of about \$45 a year (per \$100,000 home value), an increase of about \$15 a year (per \$100,000 home value).

Residents now pay

(per \$100,000 home value)

Bond: \$14

Operating Levy: \$16

If both issues are approved:

(per \$100,000 home value)

Bond: \$14

Operating Levy: \$31

An increase of \$15 a year

Heading south? Be sure to vote absentee

If you're leaving town soon for the coming season, don't forget to make plans to cast an absentee vote.

Registered voters can stop in at the board of elections office to request an absentee ballot. Or download a request form online, then submit it by mail. Absentee

voting begins Oct. 2 and all votes must be received by the board of elections before polls close on voting day, Tuesday, Nov. 6.

In Erie County, go to electionsonthe.net/oh/erie or call 419-627-7601. In Lorain County, go to lorainboe.erienet.net or call 244-3186.

ference in Columbus to learn techniques to enhance early literacy skills.

They will put these ideas to work when leading storytimes at Ritter and when planning other children's programs.

They'll also work to advise parents and caregivers on ways they can work with their own children. The staff will participate in other training events in the coming months.

Part of the training includes focusing on the six skills that children need to learn, starting from birth, in order to develop into good readers.

Six Skills for Early Literacy

- Print Motivation – being interested in and enjoying books
- Vocabulary – knowing the names of things
- Print Awareness – noticing print, handling a book and following words on a page
- Letter Knowledge – learning to name letters and knowing they each have a sound
- Narrative Skills – being able to describe things and tell stories
- Phonological Awareness – hearing and playing with sounds

A letter from the Endowment Board...

We, the trustees of the Ritter Public Library Endowment Fund, ask the community to join us in supporting the library's building expansion plan.

Judy Nagy, president
Debbie Baker Schwensen,
vice president
Bill Mills, treasurer
Pat Creel, secretary

Linda Ashar
Genevieve M. Clark
Karen Cornelius
Laura Roth
Judy Williams

Making a donation is now easier than ever

Honoring a friend or memorializing a loved one with a gift to the Ritter Public Library Endowment Fund is easy to do. Just fill out the form below and mail it in.

A list of all donations is available online. To view it, go to ritter.lib.oh.us and click on "About the Library". Then follow the link for Endowment.

RPL Endowment Fund Donation Form

In memory / honor of: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to Ritter Public Library Endowment Fund and mail to 5680 Liberty Ave., Vermilion, OH 44089



2007 Endowments

In memory of Gladys H. Martin,
by David Cheyfitz

In memory of Robert K. Young,
by Donald F. and Rita Blanford
In honor of Janet and Louis

Bertoni,
by Judith and Thomas Williams
In honor of Joe and Joette

McDonald,
by Judith and Thomas Williams

In memory of Robert K. Young,
by Judy Halgren and Bernie
Crowley

In memory of Carole Miller,
by Linda Ashar

In memory of Robert K. Young,
by Metta Martin

In memory of Norm Kessler
by Lela and Judy Nagy

Come Grow With Us!



Ritter's annual holiday wreath project is going to transform into a springtime event.

The Endowment Fund Board has decided to switch seasons and invites you to "Come Grow With Us". The new event will be a silent auction featuring specially decorated pots with a "literature" theme.

Just as it has done before, the board will offer the pots first to any local artists or groups interested in creating unique designs. The pots will then be sold to the public through a silent auction to be held next spring. Watch for more information after the winter holidays.

Get account info online

Get all your library account information in a weekly email with NetNotice, a service available through the Clevnet library group.

You can receive an email message that your book is in, or that something you've already checked out is overdue. You will automatically receive the information each week. You choose the day of the week you'd like to be contacted.

To sign up for NetNotice, go to ritter.lib.oh.us and click on Catalog. Then follow the link for NetNotice. Fill out the form and submit.

The Clevnet group includes 31 library systems in nine counties throughout Northern Ohio.



Put an end to telemarketing and junk mail

Stop junk mail and telemarketing phone calls from bothering you at home.

To put an end to unsolicited mail, go to www.the-dma.org to contact the Direct Marketing Association. Or send your request along with your complete name and address and \$1 check or money order payable to DMA (no cash) to Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 282, Carmel, NY 10512.

To register online for the Federal Communications Commission's national do-not-call list, go to www.donotcall.gov. To register by telephone, consumers may call 1-888-382-1222.

Special Friends book sale just for kids

A new kind of book sale, especially for children, is coming this fall.

Friends of Ritter Public Library, who put on the popular annual book sale in June, have come up with a new version just for kids. It will be Saturday, Nov. 17 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The special sale is scheduled to celebrate National Children's Book Week which is Nov. 12 to 17.

"This is the first time we've had this type of sale," said Genie Tedford, of the Friends board. "We're excited to offer it to chil-

dren, parents and caregivers, and teachers." Tedford will co-chair the event with Rachel Shattuck.

Each child who attends the sale will receive one free book. Children may purchase other books at a "special" price. Adults may also buy books.

People who would like to donate gently used children's books or videos to the sale may drop them off at the library during regular hours. Please mark them for the sale.

Vermilion residents Jackie Conry and her son Kevin look forward to the sale.



Erie County readers enjoy one book, one community

All five Erie County public libraries are joining in this year's "One Book, One Community" reading event this fall.

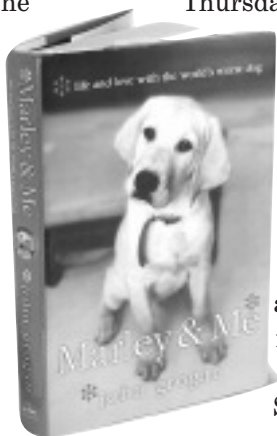
Readers from Vermilion, Bellevue, Huron, Milan-Berlin and Sandusky libraries will all be enjoying the bestseller "Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog" by John Grogan.

Since the idea was originated by the Washington Center for the Book ten years ago, communities across the country have been adopting the idea of people coming together through the reading and discussion of a common book.

"The idea is that the city that opens the same book closes it in greater harmony," says Mary McGrory, of "The Washington Post".

Both of Ritter's book clubs - Classics Plus, which meets the first Tuesday evening of the month, and

Shorelines, which meets the fourth Thursday afternoon - will be reading "Marley & Me".



Several clubs of Vermilion residents will also read it this fall.

Readers will then get a chance to meet the author at a lecture and book signing Thursday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Sandusky State Theatre.

The event is being presented by the Lange Trust of the Sandusky Library and tickets are not required.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase, or you may bring your own copy for Grogan to autograph.

Is it possible for humans to discover the key to happiness through a bigger-than-life, bad-boy dog? You'll have to read the book to find out! Request a copy by calling 967-3798 or go to ritter.lib.oh.us.

New section has help for parents

A new parenting collection at Ritter features special resources to help parents successfully face the challenges of raising children.

The new section is full of books and DVDs on topics such as child safety, potty training, sleeping solutions, and what to expect in the first year or even during puberty.

Other books can be read to a child to teach about grief or dealing with anxiety.

Parents will also find reading readiness materials including "Hooked on Phonics" and "Leap Pad."

The new parenting section is located in the children's department so parents can browse while their little ones enjoy the library.

Children will enjoy checking out educational backpacks which are loaded with hands-on materials on subjects such as fractions, magnets and inventing.

New skills mean on-the-job success

Elaine Prince stepped up to the world of computers through classes she took at Ritter Public Library.

The Vermilion resident has been employed at Vermilion schools for 18 years in the cafeteria and is currently cafeteria manager at Vermilion High School.

Despite her success, however, she knew nothing about computers. And computers were beginning to play a bigger and bigger role in her workplace.

“I knew how to turn it on and that was about it,” Prince said. She was one of the last generation of students to go through school without personal computers.

“But everything was going on to the computer at work, so I had to learn it,” she said.

When Prince was at the library last year, Jessica, one of the reference associates, told her about Ritter’s ongoing schedule of basic computer classes.

Each hands-on class is just a single



Jessica, Ritter’s reference associate, and Elaine Prince in the computer lab.

session lasting about an hour and a half. They are designed for beginners who are just getting started with computers.

“I said sign me up,” Prince said with a laugh. Her first class turned out to be a one-on-one session with Jessica. “I didn’t feel intimidated at all.”

The best part, she said, was the hand-out she got to take home

with step-by-step instructions.

Prince said the basic classes at Ritter have given her the confidence to sign up for courses at Bowling Green State University’s Firelands College. “The more I learn, the more I like doing it,” she said.

To find out more about the library’s computer classes, call 967-3798 or go to ritter.lib.oh.us.

Friends to host chili cook-off

So you think your chili recipe is the best in town? Now’s your chance to prove it!

Friends of Ritter Public Library invite you to prepare a crock pot of your favorite chili and enter their Chili Cook-Off Saturday, Oct. 27. The event will run from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Community Room at the library.

To enter, pick up an application and return it by Wednesday, Oct. 17. Recipes will be published in a cookbook that will be available for sale before Christmas. Each winning entrant will receive a free cookbook!

The public is invited to sample the entries for 50¢ a taste, then cast a vote for their favorites.



Saturday afternoon movies at Ritter

Enjoy a free movie with the whole family on Saturday afternoon at your library.

Family movies are scheduled the first Saturday of every month and are shown in the Community Room. You bring the kids, we’ll supply the popcorn!

Features so far have included “Happy Feet”, “Pink Panther” and “The Last Mimzy.”

Holiday Closings

Veteran's Day	Nov. 11
Thanksgiving	Nov. 22
Christmas	Dec. 24, 25
New Year	Dec. 31, Jan. 1

Library Hours

Monday through Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Friday and Saturday	9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	1 to 5 p.m.

Access the library 24/7

www.ritter.lib.oh.us

Request books, register for programs and more!

5680 Liberty Ave.
Vermilion, OH 44089
Dial-A-Story: 440-967-3799

440-967-3798
Fax: 440-967-5482
www.ritter.lib.oh.us

Ritter Public Library Board of Trustees

Jim Liljegren, president
Rick Van Den Bossche, vice president
Tamara Martin, corresponding
secretary
Lyn Blackman
Nancy Gibbons
Lynda Wakefield
Marie Warden

Janet L. Ford, director
M. Janet Springer, clerk-treasurer

The Ritter Public Library Board of Trustees meets the second Tuesday of every month, except August, at 7 p.m. at the library. The public is welcome to attend.

RESIDENT
Vermilion, OH 44089

ECRWSS

5680 Liberty Ave.
Vermilion, OH 44089

Ritter
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Vermilion, OH
Permit No. 4