

Wavelength

Ritter Public Library
Vermilion, Ohio

Winter 2009
Volume 17, Issue 1



• **Storyteller and Workshop**

Brother Wolf presents an evening of storytelling for the whole family Friday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

He returns Saturday, Feb. 7 for a workshop for school-age children from 1 to 4 p.m.

• **Chocolate Festival**

The Friends of Ritter Public Library invite you to submit your best chocolate recipe in the third annual chocolate festival Saturday, Feb. 7 from 1 to 3 p.m.

• **Give a Hoot about Owls**

Meet some real live owls from the Lorain County Metro Parks raptor center at a special program Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

• **Pirates and Rumrunners**

Hear the tale of rumrunners on the Inland Seas during Prohibition Tuesday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

See Ritter's entire calendar
of events at
www.ritter.lib.oh.us

Expansion will create jobs locally

Ritter Public Library's building expansion will mean jobs for the local economy. Construction documents are complete and trustees are seeking bids for the \$4.9-million project.

"We expect to see local companies bidding and earning some of the work," said Tim Rini, construction manager. Bids are being sought for a general-trades package, plumbing, electrical, HVAC and fire protection.

Trustees will review the bids in February and hire contractors. Construction is set to begin in March.

"This is a very advantageous time to begin a project like this," Rini said, "because contractors are looking for work and prices are coming in low."

Once the bids are awarded, he said, "the first thing you'll see is the trailers and equipment moving onto

the site." He said the first job will be to underpin the existing east wall of the main library building, reinforcing it so that a new basement can be dug adjacent to it.

He said underpinning will entail a series of excavations along the existing wall. They will be filled with concrete and will eventually become part of the basement wall.

The three-level addition will add about 17,000 square feet to the library, including a new community room and more public computers.

Voters approved a bond in 2007 to raise \$3.5 million for the project. Trustees are adding funds they began saving several years ago.

Rini said he expects workers will begin digging the new basement in April. The entire job will take about a year to complete.

Ready, set, action!

Watch the construction live from Ritter's webcam!

A live-feed camera has been mounted on the library roof to capture all the action at the construction site. You can log on and watch what's going on in real time, as it happens.

Go to <http://ritcam.ritter.lib.oh.us:8080/> and click the "enter" button when the page loads.

And check out Ritter's building blog to keep up with all the news about the expansion project.



Log on to www.ritter.lib.oh.us and look for "Building Blog" on the left. We'll keep you up to date each step of the way. And don't forget, trustee meetings are open to the public.

Lending a helping hand

In tough economic times, library provides assistance

When the economy takes a downturn, people turn to their public libraries. Ritter offers resources to help people seek a brighter future and deal with the daily issues they face.

Use LearningExpress Library to improve your career outlook. This great online resource provides an interactive collection of practice tests and tutorial courses to help you succeed on academic or licensing tests, including college entrance exams and civil service tests.

You'll get immediate scoring, complete answer explanations, and an individualized analysis of your results.

Or sharpen your computer skills with tutorials for programs such as Microsoft's Word, Excel and PowerPoint, including the newest 2007 versions. Even get help with resume writing and interviewing.

Go to www.ritter.lib.oh.us and click on Clevnet Databases on the left. Then use the drop-down menu to find LearningExpress Library. Use your current library

card number to log in. You can even get access from home.

People with health concerns will find answers from Consumer Health Complete, another online resource.

"We carefully consider how to use our budget to get the most value for our patrons," said Amy Trotter, head of the reference department. "We look for the databases we think will help people quickly and easily get the information they need."

Find Consumer Health Complete in the Clevnet databases. Access is available from home.

Search by disease or condition, or browse popular sources such as the newest version of the "Complete

Guide to Prescription and Nonprescription Drugs".

If you're not able to use a computer, there are plenty of resources on the shelves at Ritter. Stop in for personal assistance from our staff, who are trained to help you find the answers you need.



"Great Courses" series: joy of lifelong learning

The "Great Courses" series of DVDs are now available at Ritter.

Enjoy the adventure of learning without the homework or exams! The Teaching Company produces these college-level courses which feature the country's finest professors from the Ivy League, Stanford, Georgetown and other leading universities.

Among the titles at Ritter are "America and the World", "Civil Liberties and the Bill of Rights", and "Religion in the Ancient World".

There's even a course for high school students called "How to Become a SuperStar Student."

from the director

January 2009

We want you to know that during the expansion, the library will be open and available. We plan to keep as many areas accessible to the public as long as possible, despite ongoing construction. In fact, construction is the theme for this year's annual summer reading program.

For a small town, your library has a variety of resources available to you. If you don't have computer access at home, come in to the library, for Internet access or for personal help from our staff.

Whether you're looking for lifelong learning, educational or employment resources, hobby or home improvement information, or simply a book or DVD, your library has something for you. The opportunities are endless.

Janet Ford

Use new online learning program to master a second language

Fans of Rosetta Stone will be happy to hear the library is purchasing a new language learning resource called TELL ME MORE® PERFORMANCE.

The online program will be available in February through Ritter's website, and users can access it from home with an up-to-date library card number.

TELL ME MORE offers dynamic interactive lessons in Spanish, French, German, Italian and English as a second language.

The award-winning program addresses all the skills critical to language learning: reading, writing,

listening, speaking, vocabulary, grammar and culture. It offers different levels of content complexity aimed at adults and adolescents.

More than 30 different types of interactive activities help users learn, and they can track their newly acquired skills with progress tests.

An audio-glossary includes up to 10,000 words classified by level and category. The Spoken Error Tracking System technology automatically detects and corrects pronunciation errors.

Whether you are a beginner or an advanced speaker, TELL ME MORE will take you to the next level.

Brother Wolf teaches the art of storytelling

Eric Wolf uses storytelling to help children imagine the magic and wonder in the natural world.

He'll be presenting a special show for the whole family Friday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the program.

As the character Brother Wolf, this charming performer says, "I help children have magical and imaginative childhoods – that's my gift." He said his storytelling helps children build meaningful relationships with the natural and human world.

After his performance Friday night, Wolf will be back on Saturday to lead a storytelling workshop for children who would like to learn the art, from 1 to 4 p.m. Call the library for more information and to sign up.



Residents use Ritter more than ever!

Computer use at the library was up nearly 50 percent in 2008 from the previous year! Circulation is up about 4 percent and use of meeting space is up 14 percent.



Endowment Gifts

In memory of Arlene Gerber

Nadine Breisch and Family
Lavonne Croll
Irene Francis
Elona Gerber
Lela and Judy Nagy

In memory of Pauline Johnson

Jean and Thomas Beach
Lou Anne Eberle
Dolores Kendrick
Jean and James Liljegren
Carol Maser
Bonnie and Gilbert Matthews
Regina Orwig
Tracey and Mike Pastor
Virginia Schnur
Faye and Tom Stahl

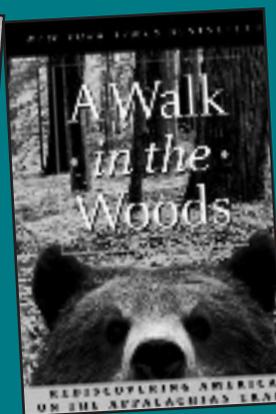
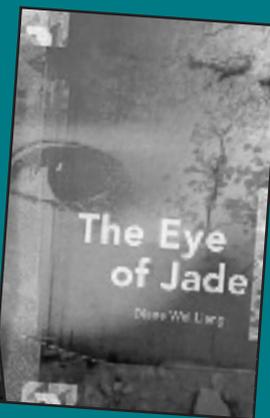
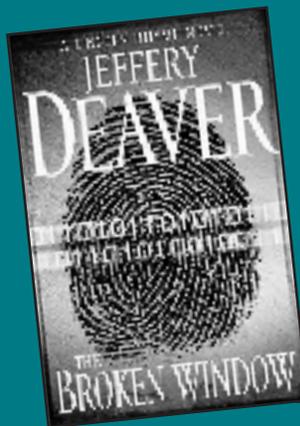
from

Rita and Donald Blanford

To see a complete list of donors, or to make a donation, go to www.ritter.lib.oh.us and click on "About the Library", then click on "Endowment".

Ritter Public Library Endowment Fund Board 2009

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vice president
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"The Broken Window" by Jeffery Deaver

"The Eye of Jade" by Diane Wei Liang

"A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson

"The Maltese Falcon" by Dashiell Hammett

What to read

Helping you find that next great book

Ruth Felix leads the book discussion groups at Ritter Public Library and she says you should never feel bad about the book you're reading.

"There's a quote I used to have hanging by my desk that says you should never apologize for your taste in reading," she said. In her work as a readers' advisor, she knows there are all kinds of opinions when it comes to books.

"Some people look down on fiction, for example," she said, "but I think fiction can offer the best of both worlds – you learn vicariously through a good story. The majority of good fiction authors do as much research as non-fiction writers."

Whether it's fiction or romance, mysteries or classics, Felix can point readers in the right direction. "When people come to me for help, they don't want me looking at a list or in a catalog. They want my opinion."

Felix holds a teaching degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and worked for more than 25 years at Elyria Public Library in the reference and readers' advisor departments.

She raised her family in Grafton and moved to Vermilion about 10 years ago with her husband Norman. She leads the afternoon book group at Ritter, which meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 1 p.m., as well as the evening club that gets together every first Tuesday at 7 p.m.



The afternoon group typically chooses books with substance, Felix said, "meaty, discussable books." For the evening group, the emphasis is on classics, although they sometimes choose a contemporary title.

Both groups are open to new members. Call the library at 967-3798 or log on to www.ritter.lib.oh to find out what they're reading next.

Browsing Online

Other great reader's resources can be found online. Check out Oprah's book club or the New York Times reading group through Ritter's website. Click on "Good Reads" on the left, then look for "Book Clubs".

Felix suggests romance readers try likesbooks.com and mystery lovers go to stopyourekillingme.com. At librarything.com, real book lovers can create a virtual library of all the titles they've read, then share that information with other readers to see who else shares their taste in books.

At your library!

Residents enjoying Ritter's services



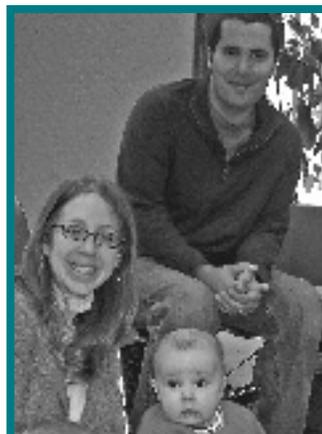
Leia Hoyman, Jessica Tucker, Audrey Stanberry, Zak Boggs and Jordan Greenaker use the public computers at the library to get online after school.



Anissa Shepherd finds materials for a class project.



Susan Davidson writes a paper on her laptop using Ritter's wireless Internet access.



Angela and Derek Kline enjoy storytime with their son Evan.



Kristie Grisez, an intervention specialist, works with students.



Brian Edwards and daughter Lydia attend a program together.



Gene Baker checks out Ritter's collection of movies.



Sophie Matheson and Abby Miller are part of the homeschoolers group that meets at Ritter.



Don't forget that Ritter has a color copier and a fax machine. Judy Williams uses these services when she gets ready to travel.

Holiday Closings

President's Day	Feb. 16
Easter	April 12
Memorial Day	May 24, 25

Board of Trustees

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

Hours

Monday–Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 Friday, Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Sunday 1–5 p.m.

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