

# Wavelength

Ritter Public Library  
Vermilion, Ohio

Winter 2008  
Volume 16, Issue 1

## Upcoming events...

Mark your calendar now for these exciting events coming soon at Ritter:

- Tax Aide assistance program Tuesdays and Fridays in February and March
- Local author Dave Schwensen talks about *The Beatles* Feb. 26
- "Come Grow With Us" The Ritter Endowment Board's silent auction event March 17, April 15
- Friends' Annual Art Show April 4 - 12

## ...and don't miss

Friends' Chocolate Festival

Saturday, Feb. 9  
1 - 3 p.m.



Sample yummy chocolate treats prepared by local cooks. Then cast your vote for the next Chocolate Champion! Or pick up an entry form at the library and submit your own dish!

## Expansion project gets underway

Library trustees and staff are busy working on the next steps in Ritter's building expansion project.

Voters approved the project in November. After waiting six weeks for the results of the election to be certified, the board of trustees' first step was to agree to continue working with architects from CBLH Design of Cleveland.

CBLH developed initial drawings for the expansion, which will increase the size of the library by 65 percent by adding on the east



second building project I've been involved with for Ritter. It's fun to be able to plan the new space and see new services added." Wakefield has been a trustee for more than 20 years.

Janet Springer, Ritter's fiscal officer, has been working on the legal steps

involved in issuing bonds for the project. Voters approved the bond issue, which will generate \$3.5 million over 28 years to finance the job.

Springer is working with

*It will take about eight months for the design phase, and then about a year for construction to be completed.*

side of the main building. Trustees are working out the specifics of a contract for the rest of the work, which will include detailed designs, engineering and construction.

Other projects by CBLH include an addition to Wadsworth Public Library and a new library building in Twinsburg. The firm also assisted with an addition to Lakewood Public Library which was completed last year.

"This is exciting for me," said Trustee Lynda Wakefield, "because this is the

Amy Hendricks, treasurer for Vermilion Local Schools, which is the funding agent for the library, to interview and select a bond underwriting firm.

Director Janet Ford said it will take about eight months for the design phase, and then about a year for construction to be completed.

The annex building east of the library will be torn down to make room for the addition. However, it will be open at least through the summer.

# When you need information... Search Smart!

Isn't it frustrating to "Google" a topic only to be overwhelmed with 136,000 responses? Who's behind those websites that pop up? Someone trying to sell you something?

Learn to "search smart" by using the specialized online resources available from Ritter Public Library.

The 30 libraries of the Clevnet group, including Ritter, purchase many premium research databases worth over \$1 million. With a library card, customers can access them online, many of them from home. Go to [www.ritter.lib.oh.us](http://www.ritter.lib.oh.us) and click on Clevnet Databases.

"Anyone can put anything on a website," said Amy Trotter, head of the reference department at Ritter. "But it may or may not be true."

The databases offered through Ritter, however, have been specially selected by professional librarians. "You can trust the information you find because the content has been evaluated for accuracy before being included," Trotter said. She serves

on the Clevnet committee that reviews and selects the databases.

Reference associate Linda Ehrnschwender added, "Frequently, databases are digitized books just like you'd find in our reference sec-

## Try these databases:

- AllData Online, for comprehensive automotive diagnostic and repair information
- Consumer Health Complete, designed to support patients' information needs
- CollegeSource Online, offering thousands of full-text college catalogs

tion. The big advantage is that the information is updated all the time."

Databases also package information for the customers, compiling data in one place from lots of different sources, including encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, journals, photos, audio and video clips and more.

Trotter offers this example: "If you are researching a person," she said, "instead of going to a book for some information, and then to a magazine for a picture, and a website for something else, you could go to Biographies Plus Illustrated and find access to all of it, collected in one spot. And you can access a lot of it from home."

Ehrnschwender says genealogy searches are another good example.

"If you just Google an ancestor's name, you'll get thousands of hits – heaven only knows the quality and reliability of them.

"If you use the Ancestry.com database we offer, you'll find all kinds of information that is not available via Google."

Gale Legal Forms is another great resource, she said. "All the documents are in Word, so you can save them to your computer and fill in the blanks and you have a nice, official looking document." The site includes all Ohio legal forms, from divorce and real estate to car sales.

## From the Director



This is going to be a big year for our library. As a community, we celebrate our 50th year in this building in 2008, and we're beginning another expansion project. We'll be busy!

In 1958, the library opened its brand new building on Liberty Avenue, generously donated by George W. Ritter in memory of his parents John and Louise. Before that, Vermilion's library was housed in the brick building on Grand Street that used to be the city police department.

In 1982, the first addition was added, once again due to the generosity of George Ritter, this time in memory of his sister Allie. I had just been hired as director two months prior and the idea of overseeing an expansion was a bit overwhelming.

Then in 1992, for the first time, trustees asked for community support for another expansion. In October of 1993, we packed everything up and relocated to the board of education building on Beechview, returning in November 2004.

Now we're embarking on a new building adventure. I know there will be a lot of hard work ahead of us, but I'm excited about all the new services and materials we'll be able to offer when the dust settles.

We here at Ritter promise to keep you informed each step of the way and we hope you'll let us know if you have any ideas or concerns.

– Janet Ford

## Silent auction blooms this spring

Ritter's endowment fund board invites you to "Come Grow With Us" this spring.

The board's annual silent auction will feature specially decorated flower pots and grapevine wreaths with a "literature" theme.

Local artists or community groups are invited to take a pot or wreath home to create a unique design based on a book or an author. They will be available at the library March 17. For more information, call Debbie Baker Schwensen at 967-9843.



"We decided to hold our auction in the springtime instead of during the Christmas holiday for a change of pace," Schwensen said. "We're hoping to see Harry Potter, Peter Cottontail, or even the Beatles come alive in the designs."

The decorated pots and wreaths will be on display in the library beginning April 15. The public may then submit bids, which will be opened May 1.

The auction is a fundraiser for the library's endowment fund.

## Two kinds of tax help

There are two ways to get help with your taxes at Ritter this year.

First, take advantage of free tips from the professionals when H&R Block presents its continuing series of tax planning classes.

Or, sign up for an appointment with the Tax Aide program, sponsored by the IRS and AARP.

Trained experts from H&R Block will speak at the library Tuesday, Feb. 12 and again on Tuesday, March 11. If you have specific tax or financial questions, come prepared to have them answered.

Tax Aide appointments are available Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through April 15. The program is designed for elderly and low-income individuals but no one will be turned away. Call the library to schedule a time. And as always, tax forms are also available at Ritter.



## Ongoing schedule of classes for beginners on computer

The ongoing schedule of basic computer classes at Ritter will include beginning computer, Word, Excel and Publisher.

If you're brand new to computers, sign up for Basic Computers Monday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. Or call the library at 967-3798 to sign up for a one-on-one session with our helpful staff.

Learn to surf the web in Basic Internet Monday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.

If you already know the basics, expand your skills with Microsoft Word Thursday, Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Or learn to create spreadsheets with Excel on Monday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Creating flyers and announcements is easy when you learn Publisher Monday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m.



## Endowment Gifts

*In memory of Shirley Leahy*  
by:  
Nancy and James McClimans  
Ritter Public Library Board of Trustees

*In memory of Hilda Liljegren*  
by:  
Kathleen and Richard Arnold  
James W. Chapple  
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Frances L. Zellers

*In memory of Gladys and Harry Martin*  
by:  
Nancy and James McClimans

*from:*  
Rita T. and Donald F. Blanford

*To see a complete list of donors, or to make a donation, go to [www.ritter.lib.oh.us](http://www.ritter.lib.oh.us) and click on About the Library, then click on Endowment.*

# Kids will love new sites

Kids just learning to love books are going to love Tumblebooks and Bookflix, two new online services provided by Ritter.



along. Or they may choose to read on their own. Educational games and puzzles reinforce what they're learning.

Bookflix is a product of the Scholastic company and it pairs classic fiction with related nonfiction. Users can choose the features they like.

The Tumblebooks site takes existing picture books and adds animation, sound, music and narration to produce electronic books that children can read or have read to them.

"We're excited to offer these early literacy programs," said Marge Townsend, head of the Children's Department. Access them through the library's website – even from home or school – with a valid, up-to-date library card number. Look for the links on the Kids page.

Both interactive programs help develop early reading skills through video storybooks.

Children can enjoy narrated stories with word-by-word highlighting that encourages them to read

## Download books, music



Did you know you can download audiobooks, ebooks and even music and videos from Ritter's website?

Go to [www.ritter.lib.oh.us](http://www.ritter.lib.oh.us) and click on Catalog, then click on Digital Library to see what's available.

At home, start by downloading the free software you'll need. The links are at the bottom of the "Library On Demand" page. An easy-to-follow guided tour will take you through the steps.

If the item you want is available, you can get it immediately without even leaving home. And you never have to worry about overdue fines because there's nothing to return.

If you don't have Internet access or high-speed service at home, come in and use Ritter's new download station. And if you're not sure how it all works, stop at the Information Desk and we'll help you get started.

## Join eBay fun

You too can shop victoriously! Become part of the worldwide marketplace with eBay Power Seller Becky Locke-Gagnon at a special program at the library Tuesday, March 18.

She'll demonstrate how to put an item up for sale, plus answer questions about pricing, pictures, PayPal, shipping options and more.

Then come back on Tuesday, March 25 for an advanced class. Locke-Gagnon will talk about market research, printing your own shipping labels, pricing strategies, opening an eBay store, writing great descriptions and more.



*Linda Ehrnschwender, reference associate, demonstrates an online resource for organizing photos at a class last month.*

## Learn to digitize your genealogy

Once you've started digging into your family history, what will you do with all the information you unearth?

Watch for new classes coming this spring to learn how to use online resources to research your genealogy, and then how to put it all together on your computer.

We'll show you some tried-and-true databases, as well as updates and new sites for genealogy research.

In a special class scheduled for Thursday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m., we'll demonstrate some simple digital scrapbooking methods to enhance your project, protect originals and easily make multiple copies.

We'll also visit websites with special areas for digitally scrapbooking your old photos and documents.

Look for all the class details at [www.ritter.lib.oh.us](http://www.ritter.lib.oh.us).

# Relive the excitement of '60s Beatlemania



Relive the excitement of Beatlemania when local author Dave Schwensen talks about his newest book, “The Beatles in Cleveland,” and screens a rare film of the riotous 1966 Beatles concert at Cleveland Stadium.

The book tells the behind-the-scenes story of the two wild and out-of-control concerts that took place here in 1964 and 1966.

Both included hysterical fans rushing the stage, causing police, who were unprepared for the frenzy, to delay the shows in mid-performance and order the group off stage for their own safety.

Schwensen appears at Ritter Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. He’ll talk about writing the book, uncovering never-before-published photos of The Beatles, show the 15-minute film and sign copies.

“Fans love to come out and share their own memories,” Schwensen said of his book tour.

“At almost every signing someone will bring a scrapbook or other memorabilia. The response has been very exciting and I’ve received emails from all over, including The Beatles’ hometown of Liverpool, England. I’ve even been given newspaper clippings

fans that were there, so it’s safe to say even the most dedicated Beatles collectors haven’t seen it. I was actually at the concert in 1966 and it really brings back the excitement of that night.”

Schwensen, a graduate of Vermilion High School who lives in town with his family, previously worked as talent coordinator for The Improv Comedy Clubs in Manhattan and Los Angeles.

He is a nationally recognized comedy coach, corporate speaker and instructor at Cleveland State University. He has written two other books about the comedy

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*“Fans love to come out and share their own memories.”*

*Dave Schwensen, author*

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and photos of the concerts from over 40 years ago that I’ll show at the library.

“But the really cool part is the film, which I’ve put together from clips I found while researching the book,” he said. “Some of it is from home movies sent to me by

business. To reserve a spot for his talk, call the library at 967-3798 or sign up online at [www.ritter.lib.oh.us](http://www.ritter.lib.oh.us).

For more information about the book, or to share your own memories, visit Schwensen’s website, [beatlesincleveland.com](http://beatlesincleveland.com).

## Library can no longer offer Rosetta Stone online resource

The library is sorry to report that Rosetta Stone, the online language learning program, will no longer be available at Ritter after March.

Nearly 200 people have used the program since Ritter began offering it last year. But the company has produced a new version of Rosetta Stone, and decided to end access for public libraries.

“We’re disappointed about this,” said Janet Ford, director, “but there was nothing we could do.”

Ritter continues to offer foreign language learning CDs, and also Playaways, palm-sized digital audio players that are preloaded with language lessons.

## New limits on loans

Ritter has new limits on the number of items that can be borrowed on a single card.

Beginning this month, a customer with a valid library card may check out 50 items at a time.

Previously, a customer could borrow 99 items.

Director Janet Ford said the change is due in part to the limited space available for processing items coming in from other libraries. The 50 items customers may borrow can include any types of materials.



## Ritter Public Library Board of Trustees

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M. Janet Springer, fiscal officer

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.

For up-to-the-minute program details, see our  
**online calendar**

Even sign up online at [www.ritter.lib.oh.us](http://www.ritter.lib.oh.us)

## Holiday Closings

President's Day	Feb. 18
Easter	March 23
Memorial Day	May 26

## 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.

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Vermilion, OH 44089  
Dial-A-Story: 440-967-3799

440-967-3798  
Fax: 440-967-5482  
[www.ritter.lib.oh.us](http://www.ritter.lib.oh.us)

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