

Wavelength

Ritter Public Library

Winter 2007
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Making way for better service

Architects' plans for improving Ritter Public Library call for razing the old car dealership next door and adding on to the east side of the main library building.

Preliminary plans for the expansion were presented to the library's board of trustees last month.

Trustees are looking to expand services at the library. Their goals include improving meeting space for the public and adding internet-access computer stations. The library currently has eight computers available for the public.

Trustees also want to provide a larger designated area for teens and increase services for children.

Architects worked with library staff over the past several months to study program needs and space requirements in each department. They produced a plan for future expansion.

Since then, trustees have been carefully reviewing and revising the plan.

In addition, they will soon be conducting a survey of the community to help determine future needs.

"We're really going to look hard



This view of the east side of the library shows where possible expansion could take place if the old car dealership next door were razed.

at our financial resources and the needs of the community to try to come together on a vision for the future," said Jim Liljegren, president of the board.

Nearly \$2 million has already been set aside for improvements.

A previous expansion was completed 12 years ago. The bond issue voters approved to pay for that work is due to expire next year.

Trustees said they are committed to preserving as much of the

existing interior as possible. "The improvements made 12 years ago have held up well," said Director Janet Ford.

"But now that we have more property to the east, we feel it's time to move ahead."

The library purchased the one-story, concrete-block building next door in 2002.

Costly, ongoing repairs there and high heating and cooling bills have caused trustees to seek more permanent improvements.

"Trustees are committed to preserving the integrity of the building, inside and out."

Lyn Blackman, trustee



From the Director

"It's a new year, full of new programs and services at Ritter Public Library. We even have a new format for our Wavelengths newsletter.

We've decided to begin using this space to let you know about all the exciting things going on here.

Look for news about new services like Rosetta Stone, video gaming and movies. We'll inform you when new materials arrive. And we'll make sure you know about all that we already offer.

We'll even take time to explain library policies, filling you in on why and how we do things.

We hope you'll enjoy this new version of Wavelengths and we invite you to stop in and let us know what you think.

We're always looking for ways to make your great library even greater.

- Janet Ford

Playstations arrive



Playstation video games are among the new features available at your library this year.

Three gaming systems have been set up in the Children's Department. New games include Madden NFL '07, Kim Possible, Nascar '07 and Lego Star Wars II.

Start 2007 Off Right

Let this be the year you learn a language, sign up for a computer class or join a book club. You're invited to attend free programs and classes nearly every week of the year at Ritter Public Library.

Learn to surf the internet or email friends. Find out how you can help your child prepare for school, or about new changes in Medicare and tax laws. Or enjoy a costumed storyteller or magic show.

Both children and adults will find something fun and informative. And the schedule is always changing.

There are lots of ways to find out about all that's going on at Ritter:

- Stop in! Pick up a calendar, check

New program lets customers manage their own internet use

It will soon be easier for customers to use Ritter's eight internet-access computers.

New software called Smart Access Management, or SAM, lets customers themselves reserve computers for use when they want them.

They can quickly view which computers are available and which are already reserved or in use.

Customers can make a reservation online from another location, at the library or by phone.

"This will be great for both customers and staff," said Janet Ford, director. "I saw the product demonstrated several years ago. Since then, several libraries in the Clevnet group have purchased it, including Cleveland Public Library, Wadsworth, Lorain and Sandusky."

SAM will eliminate paper sign-up sheets. If a computer is available,

out our display area to see flyers about all the classes, programs and events that week. If you see something you like, take home a reminder for your refrigerator or bulletin board.

• Library Lines is our weekly column printed every Thursday in the Vermilion Photojournal. We'll tell you what's coming up, let you know about new materials that have arrived, and remind you of library services you might have forgotten.

• Our address on the web is www.ritter.lib.oh.us. You can get into the library 24/7 to access all kinds of services. Request a book, get the details about a program you're interested in, or check on your personal library account.

customers may sit down and begin their session by typing in their library card number.

If the computer is reserved at a certain time, a message will appear to let the user know how much time they have left.



SAM will automatically keep track of the length of the session, providing timely warnings before the session shuts down or the library closes.

The system is also flexible, allowing for various time limits depending on time of day and demand.

Easy-to-follow guides will be at each computer station. Library staff members will also be available to help customers get started on the new system.



RITTER PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND

Established 1999

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VERMILION, OH 44089
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The RPLEF Board of Trustees
meets three times a year.

*Donations to the
Ritter Public Library Endowment Fund
are welcome any time of the year.
All contributions are tax deductible.*

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Ritter Public Library Endowment Fund is to receive, develop and administer funds for specific and worthy purposes while providing for the library's future needs, stability and growth.

Catch up on favorite series

Even if you don't take premium cable television channels, you can still watch many of the HBO series people are talking about by requesting them from your library.

Library also owns many network series such as "24", "Seinfeld" and "Simpsons".

"Sopranos" is among the newest series to be added to Ritter's collection. Also new are "Law and Order, Criminal Intent" and "Highway to Heaven". Vintage series include "I Love Lucy", "Perry Mason",

Library feels drop in property tax

The library is just beginning to feel the effect on its budget of the closing of the Ford plant in 2005. Income from property tax collections in 2006 is down more than 60 percent.

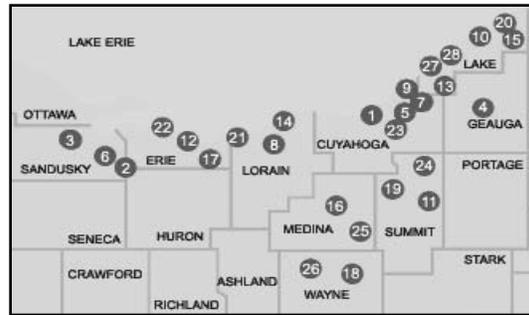
The library's share of property taxes collected in Lorain and Erie counties, which are based on values from the prior year, is just 37 percent of what was received in 2005.

The bulk of the decrease is due to the closing of the Ford plant, according to Amy Hendricks, treasurer for Vermilion Local Schools, the funding agent for the library.

In Erie County, property taxes are down because of additional exemptions in the tax laws for businesses.

Hendricks said she expects to see a decrease in real estate

"Rockford Files" and "The Andy Griffith Show".



The library systems of the Clevnet group.

And remember, the loan period for DVDs has been extended to a week at a time so customers can watch at their leisure.

If you don't see what you're looking for on the shelves here, you can also request it from another library.

Ritter customers have access to the collections of 31 different library systems across northern Ohio. Order an item and we'll call you when it comes in.

taxes too. She pointed out that the Ford plant, which had once been valued at about \$28 million, was recently sold for about \$2.5 million.

New Erie County calendar online

A new, web-based community calendar for Erie County is now available.

Visit ErieCalendar.org to find out about activities in the area, and also to enter events that your not-for-profit group would like to announce.

The site is sponsored by the Erie County Chamber of Commerce and is for county-based arts and entertainment organizations, community and non-profit groups, religious organizations, schools and government groups.

Author to speak

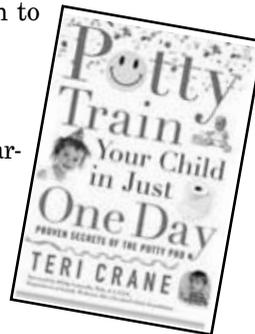
Learn training tricks for babies

Terri Crane, self-styled “potty pro”, will teach parents how to potty train their children in just one day. She’ll be making a special appearance at Ritter Public Library Saturday, Jan. 27 at 11 a.m.

Crane wrote “Potty Train Your Child in Just One Day” to provide parents with the tools and children with the

incentive to learn to use the potty almost instantly.

Crane teaches parents how to look for signs their child is ready, activate their child’s potty-



training memory muscles, create incentive through positive reinforcement, and use charts, quizzes and checklists. She’ll also share her really big secret for success – “potty parties”.

Call 967-3798 for reservations. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be served.



Marilyn Dillon, of Wakeman, and her granddaughter Elizabeth Weisenberger enjoy the “Babies and Books” story time session.

Reading aloud to children called single most important activity

Reading aloud to children has been called the single most important activity for raising good readers.

The National Institute for Literacy says parents can play a critical role in their children’s reading success.

It’s never too early to start. Stop by the Children’s Desk at Ritter to sign your child up for story time and to pick up some important tips.

Children first learn about words when they hear their parents and

grandparents talk, according to institute researchers. They begin to understand written words when they hear adults around them reading.

Reading aloud, with children participating actively, helps children see the connection between spoken and written words, the researchers say.

Children need lots of chances to learn about letters and books, and to listen to books being read aloud, studies show.

Ritter offers many opportunities for parents to develop a good foundation for reading success with their children.

Four different story time sessions are available. They begin with infants and continue through age 5.

Each session lasts about 20 minutes and can include stories, rhymes, finger play and music. Call 967-3798 for the time that’s right for your child.

Library staff can also help parents, grandparents and caregivers find information about activities they can do at home with their children to encourage reading success.

Friends host chocolate fest

February is the month for lovers – chocolate lovers, that is!

The Friends of Ritter Public Library are hosting a chocolate tasting festival Saturday, Feb. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the library.

Tickets will be sold at the door for 50¢ each. Buy a handful and use them to purchase samples of fabulous chocolate treats made by local residents. Then cast a vote for your favorite.



Anyone with a great chocolate recipe is invited to make their best dish and participate to win a ribbon. For more information, call 967-3798.

Proceeds will be used to support future library programs.

Learn a language with new software

Rosetta Stone, an online language learning program, is the newest service available at Ritter Public Library this year.

Use it at the library - or even from your home computer - to learn Spanish, Italian, German, French, Greek or Russian online.

Rosetta Stone has been adopted by government agencies and corporations, and thousands of schools

and universities around the world, offering a “total immersion” experience.



Look for the link on our website, www.ritter.lib.oh.us, and use your library card number to get started. Rosetta Stone is fully interactive.

Improve your pronunciation with the speech recognition feature. Complete a set of exercises and find out instantly how well you did. And since Rosetta Stone automatically records your progress, you can easily pick up where you left off.

If you're planning a trip to a foreign land, or if you've always wanted to learn a second language, give Rosetta Stone a try.

Get free assistance with tax returns

Get free help filling out your tax returns at the library this year.

Trained counselors will be available at the library to help prepare tax forms. The Tax-Aide Program is jointly sponsored by the IRS and AARP.

Although the program is designed for low- and medium-income people, with a special emphasis on those 60 and older, Mary McAtee, district coordinator, said you don't need to be a member of AARP to ask for help and no one will be turned away.

Appointments will be scheduled on Tuesdays and Fridays, Feb. 1 through April 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call the library at 967-3798 to sign up and to find out which documents to bring along.

Last year, 385 taxpayers were served at Ritter. McAtee said IRS-certified instructors train the all-volunteer staff, who must then pass a test.



Movie events new feature coming soon

A new feature coming to Ritter this year will be regular movie screenings. Watch for family movie nights, teen-theme events, even book-to-film discussion activities.

“We wanted to build on the success of our new foreign film club,” said Amy Trotter, in charge of adult services at Ritter. The Ritter Film Club was begun last fall and is featuring a series of award-winning foreign films.

“Our new license will allow us to add screenings of other movies like classics and children's favorites,” she said. Ritter will have access to an extensive collection from most major motion picture studios including Disney, Touchstone, Dreamworks and Miramax.

Look for scheduled movie events in Library Lines in the Photojournal or online at www.ritter.lib.oh.us.



Let us teach you Word, Excel, Email, PowerPoint

Even if you missed the computer revolution in school, it's never too late to learn to use a computer. Let your library help you.

Ritter offers an ongoing schedule of basic classes; you can begin at the very beginning and move on at your own pace.

Every month, the schedule includes classes in a range of Microsoft programs such as Word, Excel,

PowerPoint and Publisher. You can also learn to email and instant message.

Start with a beginner class, feel free to take it more than once, then move up to an advanced class when you're ready. Also watch for special classes, such as how to use clip art and make greeting cards.

If you're not comfortable in a small-group setting, call the Information Desk to ask about signing up for one-on-one lessons. Evening hours are available.

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Vermilion, OH 44089

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Holiday Closings

Presidents' Day	Feb. 19
Easter	April 8

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.

Ritter offers faxing services. Send an item, or receive it here and we'll set it aside for you. Just 10¢ per page.

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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 public is welcome to attend.