



CONNECTIONS

VERMILION, OHIO • WINTER 2018 / VOLUME 26, ISSUE 1

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

In 1918, a library board of trustees was formed establishing Vermilion's first public library. This year, we celebrate 100 years of service that has grown from a few dozen books and nickel fines to wireless Internet and streaming videos.

See what's inside!

Our year-long, community-wide celebration is for kids and families, retirees and business owners, you and your friends. Our goal is to let everyone in Vermilion know the value of their

library. We invite each of you in to see for yourselves.

The fun kicks off with our popular Chocolate Festival Saturday, Feb. 3. It also includes an art show, a community quilt, historical displays, customer appreciation awards and a free, town-wide picnic in the park this summer with a special concert by Emily Keener.

A special anniversary gift for Vermilion

We know you cherish the unique history of our town. Our special anniversary gift to the community is access to the stories of Vermilion through a brand new page on our website. Ritter has partnered with the Vermilion Area Archival Society to collect and archive historical material including old newspapers, club ledgers, photo collections and more. Now you can look through some of this material, which is presented in captivating story collections, anytime at www.ritterpubliclibrary.org/stories-of-vermilion.



And throughout this year, enjoy our new oral history series - live interviews with longtime residents who share stories of the people and places of Vermilion. The programs will be held the second Monday of the month and will also be recorded and made available anytime on the Stories of Vermilion page online. See program details inside.

Chocolate Festival Sat, Feb. 3

Sample dozens of delicious chocolate treats at the Friends of Ritter's annual Chocolate Festival Saturday, Feb. 3 from 10 am to 1 pm during the town-wide Ice A-Fair.

Buy tickets at the door for 50 cents each. Then vote for your favorite and help name the new Chocolate Champion!

Think you've got a winning dish? To enter, call 440-963-0051 or email r felice@centurytel.net. Then bring at least four dozen, sample-size pieces, ready to serve, to the library Saturday, Feb. 3 between 9 and 9:45 am. It's fun if you stay with your dish during the event, but it isn't required.

To celebrate Ritter's centennial, the Chocolate Festival will have a "100" theme. Bakers are encouraged to use

the theme "100" to inspire their dishes or decorations. Check out the display of vintage cookbooks and sample some old-fashioned treats!



This event sells out!

Centennial list of events

February: Community quilting bees. Check calendar for dates.

March: Centennial art show opening Thursday, March 1.

April: Fine forgiveness during National Library Week April 8-14.

July: Customer Appreciation Week July 9-13 plus Ritter at the Farmers Market in Victory Park Saturday, July 14.

Picnic and concert in Victory Park Sunday, July 22 from 3 to 6 pm.

October: Open-mic night for students. Watch for date.

November: Veterans memorial program. Date to be announced.

OUR STORY: GROWING THROUGH THE YEARS

In the early 1900s, before Vermilion had a public library, townspeople could pay to belong to a “subscription” library. Membership cost \$1 a year and a few dozen books were housed on the shelves of various local stores.

This first library was sponsored by a group of devoted

women. Bessie Roscoe, wife and partner of the publisher and editor of Vermilion’s newspaper, “The Vermilion News”, was one of its first champions.

In 1902, an article in the paper encouraged people to join the library. “We can while away winter evenings to no better advantage, especially during the stormy weather, than to sit by our own fireside and read some good books.



1935



“It not only relieves our minds of the cares of the day but also brings bodily refreshment as well.

“Another feature is the cheapness. Where can we find so much good reading for so little money?”

In 1918, the Vermilion school board appointed a library board of trustees so the village could begin receiving state funds. During those first years, however, there

just wasn’t enough money to cover all the expenses, so the women scrimped on spending, held fundraisers, saved and invested.

By 1935 – despite the turmoil of the Great Depression – they were able to pay for a new, brick building, Vermilion’s first library, on Grand Street near the railroad. Today, this building is The Old Vermilion Jailhouse Bed and Breakfast.

Twenty years later, hometown son George Ritter, who had made his fortune as a lawyer in Toledo, offered to pay for a new, grander library on Liberty Avenue.

He modelled the new building on the Joseph Swift mansion south of town. He had pink marble brought up from Georgia, thinking that white marble might fade. The cornerstone was laid in 1958.

Ritter died in 1979 and in his will, he left money for construction of an addition to the library, which was completed in 1983.

His will also established a trust fund, enabling the library to purchase membership in the CLEVNET group in 1985, and which continues to be a source of funding today.

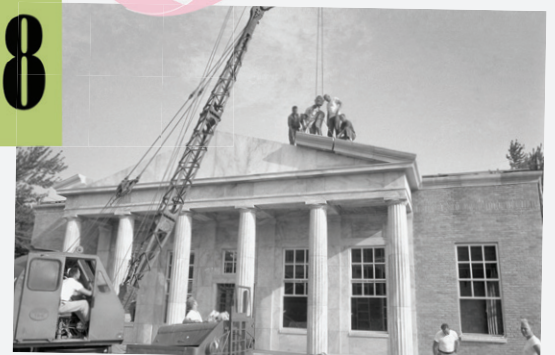
In the 1990s, the public agreed to expand the building again, to prepare for coming technology. During construction, the entire library moved to the old Valley View School for a year before re-opening in 1994.

An expansion in 2010 added a second floor and a computer lab and we became the first public library in Ohio to earn a gold award for our green building designs.

Vermilion will hear from George Ritter yet again. A sealed box was placed behind the cornerstone in 1958. In it is a letter from Ritter that was not to be opened for 100 years. In 2058, residents may open it for a final message.



1958





This winter, hear stories of Vermilion

Hear the stories of Vermilion and learn about the unique history that makes our town a great place to drop anchor.

Rich Tarrant, curator of the Vermilion History Museum, will conduct live interviews with longtime residents on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm. This oral history series will be recorded and permanently available on the new Stories of Vermilion page at www.ritterpubliclibrary.org.

On Monday, Feb. 12, Jane Smith, who has lived in Vermilion for 64 years, will reminisce about interesting places and people in Vermilion throughout the years.



She worked for Erie County Bank, Ginger's Flowers, Victorian House of Flowers and the Great Lakes Historical Society Museum. She lived over the Riddle Funeral Home for 20 years.

Rev. Glen Coleman, former pastor of the E & R Church, will talk with Tarrant

Monday, March 12 at 7 pm. Tom Moes, lifelong resident and owner of Moes Marine Service, will talk about Vermilion River history Monday, April 9 at 7 pm.

These programs are a joint project by the Vermilion Area Archival Society, the Vermilion History Museum and Ritter.

Storytimes in session

Storytimes are in session now. No need to register. Join us when it suits your family and your schedule.

Babytime, for birth through 18 months with an adult, is Wednesdays at 10:45 am.

Little Movers, for 18 months to 3 years old with an adult, is Wednesdays at 10 am.

Preschool Storytime, for 3½ to 5 years old with an adult, is Mondays at 10 am.

Family Storytime is Fridays at 10 am.

Evening Family Storytime is on alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

Quilting frame needed

To celebrate our centennial, local quilters have been working for months stitching blocks for a quilt illustrating the history of Vermilion and the library.

Residents will be invited to old-fashioned quilting bees next month to help hand-quilt it. If you have a quilting frame to lend for this project, please call 440-967-3798. Watch for dates to be announced.



GIFTS TO RITTER

Mary Callahan Jones
Donald & Rita Blandford

IN MEMORY OF
FLORENCE BROWN
Henry & Ann Frizzi
Marilu Smith

IN MEMORY OF
NANCY McCLIMANS
Nancy Zemaitis

IN MEMORY OF
NANCY TRINTER
Peter & Dana Corogin
Nancy Gregory
Lee C. Howley
Raymond & Carol Muzilla
Audrey Peterson
Janet Sharpnack
Kent & Carol TARRIER
Jane A. Weaver
Herbert & Nancy Wendt

IN MEMORY OF
VIRGINIA TURNEY
Cynthia Martin

FUTURE PLANS

A new strategic plan will guide Ritter through the next three years. Goals are to provide excellent customer service, ensure the library's financial strength and expand services into the community.

The plan grew out of a community-wide survey conducted last summer. Trustees and staff identified the goals, outlined action steps and set timelines.

As state funding continues to decline, Ritter will determine additional sources of income. Staff will also implement new strategies to provide a quality customer experience.

In addition, Ritter will develop new outreach programs to take library services outside the building and into the community.

Ritter will continue to appreciate the past while looking toward the future.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marie Warden, president
Tim Costello, vice president
Lois Arnold, secretary
Eileen Bulan
Zack Dolyk
Dan Dropko
Rick Van Den Bossche

Hours

Mon - Thurs 9:30 am - 8:30 pm
Fri - Sat 9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Sunday 1 - 5 pm

5680 Liberty Ave.
Vermilion, OH 44089
440-967-3798



“The Messenger”

In ancient times, humans looked to the flights and songs of birds to foretell the future. Today once again the birds have something to tell us.

Watch the award-winning documentary “The Messenger”, which explores our deep-seated connection to birds and warns that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own, on Wednesday, March 14 at 6 pm.

This program is co-sponsored by Ritter, the Firelands Audubon Society and the Black River Audubon Society.

GET TAX HELP

Get help filling out your tax forms from trained professionals through the Tax Aide program, sponsored by AARP and the IRS.

Appointments are available on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 am until 1:15 pm from Feb. 2 through April 3.

To schedule an appointment, call 440-967-3798.

Teen Wednesdays

Every week, teens can find something fun to do at their library. New this year is Teen Wednesdays for kids in grades 6 to 12 after school at 3:30 pm.

First Wednesday: Sync to the Steam Link for gaming fun.

Second Wednesday: Build it with LEGOs, Keva planks and more.

Third Wednesday: Teen Trivia. New subjects to test your brain each month.

Fourth Wednesday: No-bake recipes.

Fifth Wednesday: Cartoons!



Save the date!

Your whole family is invited to a free community picnic to celebrate Ritter’s centennial:

Sunday, July 22

3 to 6 pm

Victory Park

Enjoy hotdogs and hamburgers hot off the popular Lions Club grill, plus cake and ice cream. Bring your library card or sign up for one and get a centennial sticker. Then stay for a concert by American Idol contestant Emily Keener!

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