



RITTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2024



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ADVENTURE *BEGINS
AT YOUR* LIBRARY™

SUMMER READING STARTS JUNE 1ST: DETAILS INSIDE

From the director



As I write this, Ritter Public Library has completed two-thirds of our strategic planning process. Nearly 500 people answered our online survey, and a dozen community members gathered for a focus group. Recently, our Board of Trustees engaged in a half-day retreat to establish core values and a new mission statement. The next step is to establish overarching goals and action items. Lastly, we will compile all the elements into a final strategic plan.

Proving that Ohio is "The Heart of It All," over 7,000 library workers from around the country recently gathered for a national conference in Columbus. Four of us from Ritter attended in order to celebrate public libraries and what we've accomplished together. We heard from inspirational speakers and chose from over 100 educational sessions aiming to move libraries forward.

Summer is a time for everyone to read for fun! And the benefits of reading extend to talking about reading with other people. Thanks to traditional print books as well as eReaders and eAudiobooks, you can read almost anywhere at any time -- on family trips in the car, commuting to work, in a book club, at a coffee shop or on a comfy couch. And if you can't find something to read, we are here to help with suggestions for every taste and reading level.

Please check out this newsletter to discover the many adventures that await you at Ritter Public Library this summer!

Sandra Licks, Director

Science for everyone

Do you want to make an impact by participating in scientific research? Our new Citizen Science kits allow you to do just that! Citizen Science, a program by the nonprofit organization SciStarter, partners with libraries to increase awareness of and access to meaningful ways for individuals without science degrees to engage in research efforts.

Each kit contains instructions and all the tools you need to start collecting data, except for a smartphone, tablet,

or laptop to submit your findings. Current kits offered include

Exploring Biodiversity, Measuring Light in the Night, Mapping Mosquito Habitats, and Observing Pollinators. Each kit is available to borrow for two weeks at a time.

Come check out the kits, located across from the main desk near the A/V section, and make your own contribution toward scientific research!



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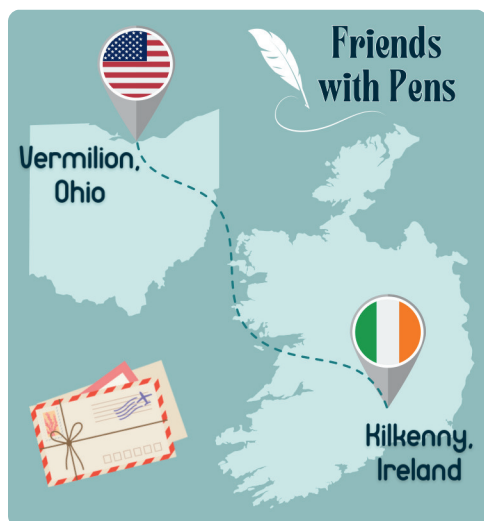
Monday - Thursday
9:30 AM - 8:30 PM
Friday & Saturday
9:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Sunday
1 PM - 5 PM

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Sunday, June 16th
Festival of the Fish
Thursday, July 4th
Independence Day

5680 Liberty Ave
Vermilion, OH 44089
440-967-3798
info@ritter.lib.oh.us
ritterpubliclibrary.org

Friends with Pens offers overseas connection



Did you have a pen pal as a kid? Did you always want one? “Friends with Pens”, a new program starting this summer, aims to bring back this

classic pasttime and forge new international friendships. Adults ages 18 and up will have the opportunity to be paired with a pen pal in Ireland!

Ritter Public Library is partnering with Kilkenny County Council Library Service in County Kilkenny, Ireland to offer this program to library users. County Kilkenny, in southeastern Ireland, is known for its scenic medieval architecture and lush riverside landscape. The library service serves around 15,000 members across its 9 branches.

Ready to meet your pen pal? Between July 1st and August 15th, sign up on our website or

in person. We will pair you with a pen pal based on your age and interests by August 31st, and you will also receive a starter kit with supplies. Write your first letter by September 3rd and drop it off at the library to be sent to your pen pal. You can expect your return letter in a few weeks. We will continue to send and receive the letters on behalf of program participants through December 13th. Those wishing to continue corresponding will be responsible for sharing contact information and coordinating details on their own with their pen pal. We look forward to seeing the friendships that unfold from this program!

Foundation supports literacy

Literacy continues to remain a central priority for the Ritter Public Library Foundation. In partnership with the library, the Foundation has funded multiple initiatives for youth in our community thanks to continued financial support from our donors.

In March, students had the opportunity to meet Elana K. Arnold, author of *A Boy Called Bat*, in person.

A variety of over 2,000 books have been purchased and distributed to every child in Vermilion Elementary School, as well as those attending preschools at Lakeview Baptist Church, YMCA, and the Developmental Nursery School at UCCC. Vermilion Pre-K and families attending library storytimes have also recently received books.

Funds granted to the library also provided a set of decodable books. The decodable books, some of which use dyslexia-



Author Elana K. Arnold visited Vermilion Elementary School

friendly font, encourage children to practice letters and their sounds.

The Ritter Public Library Foundation is deeply grateful to donors who have helped to fund these initiatives. The Foundation welcomes gifts of any size - more information can be found at the “Support us” tab on the library website.

Save the date for October 5th: plans are underway for Oktoberfest. Proceeds will fund new initiatives for the library.

**HELP US READ
500,000
MINUTES THIS SUMMER!**

Read 20 minutes a day or more and win:

10 Days of Reading: Local Treat

20 Days of Reading: Reward Bag

30 Days of Reading: Book



MORE SUMMER FUN AHEAD →

Adventure Begins at Ritter Public Library



© CSLP

The start of summer brings so many opportunities for adventure - long days spent in the sunshine, traveling, or making new memories with friends and family.

As you consider the possibilities for the months ahead, remember that Adventure Begins at Your Library! This year's summer reading program is an invitation to adventure to new places, ideas, and skills through reading and activities.

Adventure Begins at Your Library, open to all ages from baby to adult, starts June 1st and runs through July 31st. Just download the Beanstack app or visit ritter.beanstack.com to get started. Read, complete activities, and log your progress to earn rewards and ticket entries into grand prize drawings. Paper trackers will also be made available for adult participants - simply stop by the library to pick one up.

Some of this year's grand prizes include a gross science kit, make your own slime kit, LEGO Minecraft set, Amazon gift cards, and gift cards to various local businesses. You're also guaranteed certain rewards as you progress - kids can earn a local treat, reward bag, and a book prize, while adults can unlock limited edition rewards such as stickers, bookmarks, and a tote bag.

Be sure to browse through the following pages to see all of the exciting events coming this summer. Thank you to the Friends of Ritter Public Library, the State Library of Ohio, and the Library Services and Technology Act Program for sponsoring the Summer Reading program and select summer events.



Scan the QR code with the camera on your smartphone to register on Beanstack



STATE LIBRARY OF OHIO

EVENTS

Our full calendar is always available at ritterpubliclibrary.org/events

Children

Storytimes (June 4th - July 10th)

Adventure Begins at Your Library: Mondays & Tuesdays, 10 AM
Learn Through Play: Wednesdays, 10 AM

Age: Birth - 5

Enjoy themed stories, crafts and activities.



Pokémon League

Saturdays, June 15th, July 20th, Aug 17th
10 AM

Age: Grades 3 - 6

Bring your cards and handheld games to face off with fellow trainers. We'll provide crafts, activities, and movies.



Summer STEM Club

Thursdays, 6/13, 6/27, 7/11, 7/25, 8/8, 8/22
2 PM

Age: Grades K - 3

Join us for experiments all summer!



This Episode is Called: Bluey Party

Friday, June 14th
10 AM

Age: 2 and up

Wackadoo! Prepare for a real-life game of Keepy Uppy, and prep yourself for dance mode. It costs zero dollarbucks to attend. Registration is not required, but you may sign up to receive a reminder email about the event.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Monday, July 15 - Friday July 19th

Age: All ages

Drop off your favorite stuffed friend Monday - Thursday, then pick them up on Friday along with photo evidence of the mischief they got up to at the library.

Featured Kids' Events

Fire & Ice with MAD Science

Monday, June 3rd at 10 AM

Age: Pre-K and up

Get ready for the coolest and hottest show around, featuring mind-boggling experiments, explosive effects, and icy transformations.



Outback Ray's Amazing Animal Show

Friday, June 28th at 10 AM

Age: All Ages

Enjoy an interactive show with Outback Ray and his amazing animal friends.

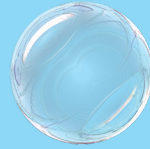


The Wonderful World of Bubbles

Friday, July 12th at 2 PM

Age: All Ages

See bubbles beyond your imagination at this indoor show with the Bubble Lady.



Magic with Michael Mage

Saturday, Aug 3rd at 11 AM

Age: Pre-K - Elementary

Enjoy family friendly illusions with Cleveland-area magician Michael Mage! Celebrate the end of Summer Reading with ice cream/popsicles following the show.



Dungeons & Dragons **RR**

Grades 4 - 7: Second Wednesdays

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Grades 8 - 12: Second Saturdays

2 PM - 4 PM

Try out the hit game filled with magic, mystery, and adventure. Characters are premade and ready to play - all experience levels welcome.



Salt to the Sea by Ruta

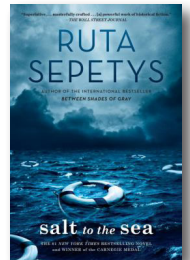
Sepetys **RR**

Book Discussion: Monday, July 29th at 2 PM

Virtual Author Visit: Monday, August 5th at 2 PM

Age: Grades 6 - 12

Pick up a copy of *Salt to the Sea* at the Children's desk starting June 1st, then join us for a book discussion and author visit. Adults are welcome to attend the discussion and author visit, but questions will be limited to those in attendance in grades 6 - 12. Please note that the author will attend virtually, while participants will meet at the library in person.



Route 66 Party

Tuesday, July 16th
3 PM

Age: Grades K - 3

We're on the open road, having fun with car-themed, cross-country games and activities! Children grades K-3 can join us as we create fizzy mixers, build our own cars, jam out to travel music, and have fun seeing the sights - all without leaving the library.



Pie-Rat Party

Friday, July 19th
10 AM

Age: Grades K - 3

Arr you ready for a pie-rat party? Or is that a pirate party? Only one way to find out! Leave the scurvy at home and scurry to the library for barrels of fun.



Fri-YAY Storytime

Fridays, 8/16, 8/23, & 8/30
2:30 PM

Age: Birth - Pre-K

Dance, play, read, sing, and learn with Mr. Collin and enjoy Fri-YAY in this special 3-week storytime series.

Tween & Teen

Teen Tuesdays

Every Tuesday in June, July, & August

10 AM - 4 PM

Age: Grades 4 - 12

Stop by the Teen room for activities each week. Games, tasting challenges, crafts, and coloring await.



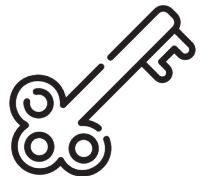
Escape Camp Half-Blood **RR**

Tuesday, August 6th

Multiple times: 10 AM, 11 AM, 2 PM, 3 PM, & 4 PM

Age: 8 and up

The Titans have taken over Camp Half-Blood, and you have 45 minutes to escape before you're trapped in Tartarus forever! Gather your friends and family and put your brain to the test in this Percy Jackson-themed escape room!



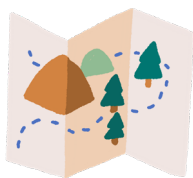
RR Registration is required. Visit ritterpubliclibrary.org/events or call 440-967-3798 to register.

Adult

Traverse Tuesdays **RR**

Tuesdays, 6/4, 7/9, & 8/6
6 PM

Explore the natural wonders of the continent from inside the library! We're bringing you a virtual adventure through a different national park each month this summer.



Stories of the Appalachian Trail **RR**

Wednesday, June 5th
6 PM

Experienced hiker Mary Mexiner will share the ups and downs of the 2,200 mile trail.



All About MyChart **RR**

Tuesday, June 11th
10 AM

Tina Sluga, Healthcare Advocate Trainer at Serving Our Seniors, will join us to review setting up and using a MyChart account as well as differences you might see using MyChart with multiple healthcare providers.



Cookies & Coloring **RR**

Wednesdays, 6/12, 7/10, & 8/21
11 AM

Feel your stress melt away as you color, chat, and snack on homemade cookies at this adults-only event.



Natural Ohio **RR**

Friday, June 14th
3 PM

Explore a variety of native wildlife and habitats found throughout Ohio with Naturalist Rachel from Lorain County Metroparks. Natural Ohio will provide a hands-on experience with natural artifacts found from around Ohio.



Crafting with Angela **RR**

Craft Free-for-all: Tuesday, June 18th at 6 PM

Wooden Bracelet: Tuesday, July 16th at 6 PM

Huichol-inspired God's Eye: Tuesday, August 20th at 6 PM
Angela will lead you through a new, fun craft each session. All materials will be provided.

Genealogy Resource Sharing

Wednesdays, 6/26, 7/24, & 8/28
6 PM

Join fellow enthusiasts to work on projects and share advice.

Board Game Night

Fourth Tuesdays
6 PM

Bring a game to share or choose from our collection. Open to all ages, though some games may be complicated for small children.

Intro to Canva **RR**

Thursday, June 27th
6 PM

Learn how to use Canva, a web-based graphic design application, by creating a photo collage poster. Bring your own laptop or tablet to class.

Canvas Bag Creation **RR**

Friday, June 28th
3 PM

Personalize your own canvas bag perfect for toting your library books. All materials will be provided.



eMedia 101 **RR**

Thursday, July 11th
7 PM

Learn about Libby and Hoopla, free library apps you can use to access eBooks, audiobooks, comics, magazines, movies, television, music, and more. Bring your smartphone, tablet, or eReader to class for hands-on learning.



Musical Memories: The Great American Songbook

Wednesday, July 17th
7 PM

Enjoy a free concert featuring Cindy Smith, classically trained vocalist and Doug Day, piano, trombone, and bass player. This concert is sponsored by the Friends of Ritter Public Library.



Adult Storytime **RR**

Thursdays, 7/18, 8/8, & 8/22
11 AM

Adults with diverse intellectual and developmental disabilities can experience the benefits of storytime, crafts, music and dance! Caregivers must remain present with adults requiring supervision.



RR Registration is required. Visit ritterpubliclibrary.org/events or call 440-967-3798 to register.

Snowman Snow Globe **RR**

Monday, July 22nd

6 PM

Get a head start on winter decor by making a fun festive snow globe. All materials will be provided.

Traveling Abroad 101 **RR**

Saturday, July 27th

3 PM

Learn tips and tricks for planning your perfect international vacation including safety protocol, travel guide and website recommendations, fun facts, and more!



Puzzle & Game Swap

Saturday, August 10th

11 AM - 1 PM

Browse through new and gently used puzzles and games to find free treasures for your collection. Drop off your puzzles and games for the swap from August 5th - 10th.

Puzzle Palooza **RR**

Saturday, August 10th

1:30 PM

Compete as a team or individual to complete a puzzle the fastest. Special prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place.

2nd Annual Author Fair

Saturday, August 31st

2 PM

Meet local authors, hear them read from their work, and purchase signed books. We are pleased to welcome even more authors to this year's event - the author lineup will be announced this June.



ADVENTURE KITS

NEW!

FOR ALL AGES

Each adventure kit is filled with themed books and bonus goodies.

Borrow & return the library items.

The extra surprises are yours to keep!

Youth kits will be available throughout the summer. New adult kits will be offered on June 1st, July 1st, and August 1st. All kits will only be available while supplies last.



Adult Book Discussion Groups

Our book discussion groups always welcome new participants. Copies of the month's selections are available for checkout at the main desk.

Brewed Awakening Book Social

Wednesdays, 6/6, 7/11, & 8/1
2:30 PM

At Brewed Awakening Vermilion
Sip on your favorite beverage while we discuss the month's selection.

June: *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

July: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

August: *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese

Shelf Indulgence Book Discussion Group

Mondays, 6/17, 7/15, & 8/19

6 PM

Do you like reading relationship fiction, romance, and historical fiction by authors on the rise? This book discussion group is for you!

June: *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman

July: *The World Played Chess* by Robert Dugoni

August: *The Life She Was Given* by Ellen Marie Wiseman

Top 100 of the Last 100 Book Discussion Group

Wednesdays, 6/26, 7/31, & 8/28
10:30 AM

Get a taste of popular reads through the decades, as we head back in time to read through the bestselling books of the last 100 years.

June (1998): *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

July (1997): *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond

August (1996): *A Game of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin

RR Registration is required. Visit ritterpubliclibrary.org/events or call 440-967-3798 to register.



RITTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

5680 Liberty Ave
Vermilion, OH 44089



The Friends of Ritter Public Library
Annual Book Sale
August 14 - 17

*Friends Members-Only Opening Day:
Wednesday 8/14*

Open to the public Thursday - Saturday

Hours and details to come later this summer



*Become a Friend
or learn more*



Stay in touch!

Follow us on social media and sign up for monthly email newsletters to be the first to find out about new events, services, and more



Scan the QR code
using the camera on
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