



ITTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

# CONNECTIONS

VERMILION, OHIO • WINTER 2020 / VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1

*from the director*

## Find your place at the library

It's a new year. Resolutions, new plans and a fresh perspective. What will you do with a brand new set of days to accomplish so much?

Personally, I am excited to learn. I have goals that include improving my knowledge in several areas and it's exciting to have the tools to tackle this challenge. I love downloading audiobooks through hoopla and listening in my car. I recently watched a great documentary about Winston Churchill on Kanopy that was a great follow-up after watching "The Crown". And I have several books on my desk that I borrowed through CLEVNET that I know will help with the planning process and development of the library.

Have you seen our magazine wall? Maybe now is the time to take on a new hobby. Many magazines offer insider tidbits that can get you hooked on cooking, knitting or sailing. Take time to wander upstairs and peruse a magazine or two.

**“ It's great to meet like-minded individuals. You just never know who you will meet. ”**

Do you want to meet other folks in the community? We have programs and events, book clubs and story times. It's great to meet other like-minded individuals. You just never know who you will meet at the library.

Is it time to learn a new skill? We have technology classes to teach you more about your phone, tablet or laptop. Trained staff are happy to help you learn more about a particular program or just how to post a great photo on Instagram.

Perhaps 2019 was just a bit too much and it's time to slow down. The space inside the library is lovely and can give you the room to rest and recharge. Take a break and watch the fish swim in the tank, pause at the community puzzle or enjoy a good book near the fireplace.

We love hearing from you. I am continually impressed with the projects the people of Vermilion are involved in and we want to spread the word. We have a wonderful opportunity as a community center to highlight your many interests.

Let us help you research, grow and stretch your way into a wonderful new year.

*Joy K. Walk, director*



*Local residents Nancy and Ken Bliss with Director Joy Walk in the second-floor area that will become the new local history space.*

## Gifts to benefit our community

Two generous gifts to the library will mean lasting benefits for the entire community. A brand new local history space at Ritter has been made possible by a donation from Nancy and Ken Bliss to the library's new foundation.

A bequest from the estate of Adele Kovanic has also been made to the foundation, whose mission is to ensure the library will continue as a vital community resource into the future.

The Blisses, who are local residents, are regular supporters of the library. Zack Dolyk, president of the Ritter Public Library Foundation, said their gift will fund the local history area, which will be located on the second floor. It will include computer stations for patrons working on personal projects, a book scanner, microfilm reader and other research resources.

The library's local history collection has been moved to the new space, and staff will be available there to help people use library services for their research.

Kovanic, who died in 2018, was a longtime teacher in Vermilion area schools. She also served for 75 years as organist at St. Mary Church in Vermilion.



*Adele Agnes Kovanic*



Tom Zeck, Pat Farley, Joy Walk and Judy Ryan

## Donations at work

New self-check-out stations at the customer service desk were paid for with funds generously donated by customers in honor and memory of loved ones over the years.

About a third of all check-outs at Ritter are done by customers themselves, freeing up staff to help with other transactions. The previous self-check stations were about ten years old and were past their warranted life.

Ritter's endowment fund was established in 1999 and is managed by a board of volunteers. In the past ten years, the funds have paid for furniture in the second-floor reading area and in the teen department, refurbishing the early learning room, outdoor patio furniture and a new microfilm reader.

## Focusing on teens

Teens can find a place of their own at their library. Every Wednesday after school, kids in grades 6 to 12 get together at 3:30 p.m. for games, crafts and more.

In March, a month-long poetry contest just for teens ends with a cash prize and a special performance. Watch for details at [www.ritterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.ritterpubliclibrary.org).

## You count! Ritter is here to help

2020 is a census year! Every ten years, according to the U.S. Constitution, every citizen must be counted. This will be the first year the census may be completed online. Ritter staff will be trained and ready to help people make sure they are counted.

The census determines representation in Congress and the Electoral College. It is also used to draw districts for

## SPRING FUN!

"Friends Present" is a new series of musical events at Ritter. This spring, the fun includes three concerts by various musicians on Sunday afternoons at the library. The concerts, which are free, are provided by Friends of Ritter.

### Jerry Allen, singer/songwriter

Sunday, March 8 at 2 p.m.

Allen is a veteran musician who had a recording contract with MGM Records and currently performs in clubs across northeast Ohio. He'll entertain with his guitar and also talk about writing song lyrics.

### The Amherst Community Chorus

Sunday, April 26 at 2:30 p.m.

The 80-member choir returns with its uplifting spring concert.

### The Alley Katz

Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m.

Logan Wells and Patti Ann are popular female singers who regularly perform at Vermilion's Third Thursday events.



*Shelly Innes and Sue Innes are some of the volunteers who work every week at Ritter sorting and cataloguing various pieces of local history, including photographs and memorabilia. The local history collection can be seen on the Stories of Vermilion page at [www.ritterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.ritterpubliclibrary.org).*

federal, state and county offices.

The federal government uses data from the census to decide how to spend billions of dollars. Census results are also used by researchers, businesses and other groups including libraries.

In April, every household will receive a postcard with instructions for how to respond. Anyone who needs help can contact the library.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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### 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

[www.ritterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.ritterpubliclibrary.org)

Library Closings  
Monday, Jan. 20  
*Martin Luther King Jr. Day*  
Monday, Feb. 17  
*Presidents Day*  
Monday, March 30  
*Staff training*  
Sunday, April 12  
*Easter*

# Parent center to open this spring

Parents of children with special needs will find valuable information plus training and the chance to network with others at a new resource center set to open this spring in the children's department at Ritter.

The center is being funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Education won by Melissa Wagner, career and transition specialist at Vermilion High School, and Karen Blackburn, director of pupil services.

They are working with Bethany Schmitkons, head of Ritter's youth services department, and Director Joy Walk on a plan for furniture, bookshelves, a bulletin board and materials, as well as programs, training and more.

"We wanted to have the center at the library so that it will be available in the evenings and on weekends too," Wagner said. "The materials - books, magazines and flyers - will be available for people to check out through the library."

She said parents will have a place to get together and learn about assistance available through the school, county and state for students with disabilities. Plans also include a book club that school personnel will kick off, with the goal of moving to parent-directed book studies in the future.

## Computer classes are back

Basic, hands-on computer classes are back. Get familiar with the computer so you can use programs such as online job applications and Microsoft Office.

Classes are offered in both the morning and evening so you can choose the session that best fits your schedule. Check the calendar at [www.ritterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.ritterpubliclibrary.org) for details.



Every day Ritter patrons receive dozens of books and other items they've ordered free from CLEVNET, a group of 45 library systems across Ohio that gives cardholders access to 12 million items.

# 1 Year at Ritter

## 250,000

Items circulated



including **43,000** digital items

## 56,000

Computer & wifi sessions



## 28,000

People using meeting spaces



## 9

Staffers earned Ohio Library Council certification



## 11,000 cardholders

including 814 new cards in 2019



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Vermilion, OH 44089

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## POSTAL CUSTOMER

# *Friends' annual fundraiser* **Chocolate Festival!**

Delicious chocolate treats are in store at the Friends of Ritter's annual Chocolate Festival Saturday, Feb. 1 during Vermilion's Ice-A-Fair.

The public is invited to sample delicious homemade treats for just 50 cents a taste. Then vote for your favorite and help crown the new Chocolate Champion!

The event, which is a fundraiser for the Friends, runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It often sells out so don't be late!

If you'd like to compete for the title, there's still time. Get an entry form at the library or go to [www.ritterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.ritterpubliclibrary.org). Then prepare at least four dozen, sample-size servings and bring them - ready to serve - to the library, at 5680 Liberty Ave., Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9 and 9:30 a.m.

You don't have to stay with your dish but it's more fun if you do! Not a baker? You can still volunteer that day and be part of the fun. Call Robin Felice at 440-963-0051.

The Chocolate Festival is part of Vermilion's town-wide Ice-A-Fair, which features dozens of ice sculptures lining the streets downtown and ice-carving demonstrations.

