

# Wavelength

Ritter Public Library  
Vermilion, Ohio

Spring, 2011  
Volume 19, Issue 1

## Mark your calendar

### • **Evening at Ritter**

Fund-raiser and friend-raiser in one special evening on Saturday, March 26 at 7 pm.

### • **Tax Prep Assistance**

Get help filling out your income tax forms at your library! Call 967-3798 for an appointment with a trained specialist with the Tax-Aide program, sponsored by the AARP and the IRS, through April 15.

### • **Butterfly Gardening**

Learn what to plant to attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden at a free program Tuesday, April 26 at 7 pm.

### • **Friends Annual Book Sale**

By popular demand, the sale is being moved back to Father's Day weekend this year, to coincide with Vermilion's Fish Festival. Enjoy the fun downtown, then stop in to browse our great selection June 14 through 18.



up-to-date details  
[ritterpubliclibrary.org](http://ritterpubliclibrary.org)

## celebrating gold award!

# A special "Evening at Ritter"

Help celebrate Ritter Public Library's gold award for green building design at a special "Evening at Ritter" – an after-hours wine-and-cheese party Saturday, March 26 from 7 to 9 pm.

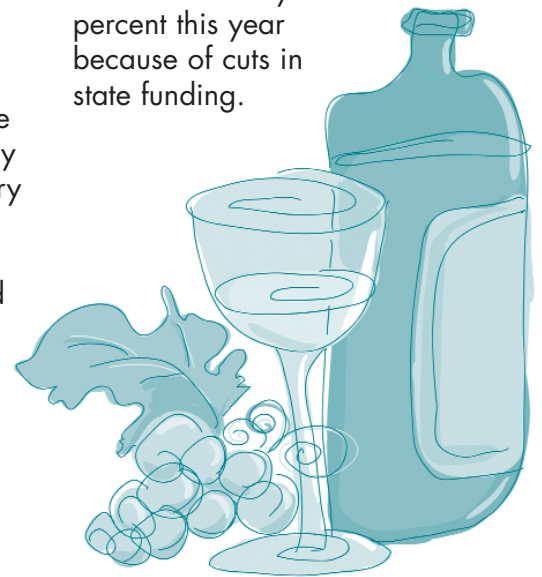
Ritter is the first public library in Ohio to earn a gold award for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for a building addition that opened last year. The U.S. Green Building Council announced the award last month.

The public is invited to celebrate the award and the one-year anniversary of the expanded building at this very special fundraiser and "friend-raiser". Tickets are \$20 each and include wine or sparkling water and sweet and savory bites from La Campagna, a family-owned restaurant in Westlake specializing in locally grown and produced foods.

A special musical treat is planned, and guests may chat with Salty

Critter aquarium experts, who will be on hand to talk and answer questions about the library's 200-gallon tank. Guests will also have a chance to purchase a Cat's Meow collectible of the expanded library building, to benefit the Friends of Ritter.

Tickets are available at the library. Proceeds from the event will go to Ritter's materials budget, which has been reduced by 30 percent this year because of cuts in state funding.



## Collectible card catalogs in silent auction

During "An Evening at Ritter" on March 26, a silent auction will be held for Ritter's three, solid-oak card catalog cabinets.

The cabinets were retired in 1992 after Ritter began using computers to access the collection digitally. The wooden catalogs were familiar to

generations of library patrons who pulled out the little drawers to tick through dozens of cards to find a certain title. Although they are a rare sight in libraries today, the cabinets have become popular as collectibles.

Ritter's cabinets are on display at the library this month.

from the director

## Working hard to maintain service

"These are both exciting times and also uncertain times for our library. We're excited to celebrate the one-year anniversary of our expanded building. But we are also anxiously anticipating the state budget which will surely include more cuts in our funding.

"In a spirit of hope, we invite all of you to join us Saturday, March 26 to help us celebrate at our special "Evening at Ritter". We hope to raise funds for our materials budget, and also raise some friends too. As we struggle with economic uncertainty, we're resolved to do everything we can to maintain the great service you've come to expect." ~ Janet Ford, director



Ford works with Trustee Nancy Gibbons on budget issues.

## Ritter cutting costs across the board as state funding falls

As state funding continues to fall, officials at Ritter are working hard to cut costs and reduce spending.

Even though the size of the building nearly doubled when an addition was opened last year, trustees have managed to reduce the library's spending by more than \$87,000 since 2008.

Cuts in every single department have added up to a reduction in spending of more than 7 percent over the past four years. Still, the cuts have not

been able to keep pace with the drastic decline in state funding, which has dropped by 23 percent since 2007. When a new two-year state budget is approved in June, officials expect it will mean even further cuts.

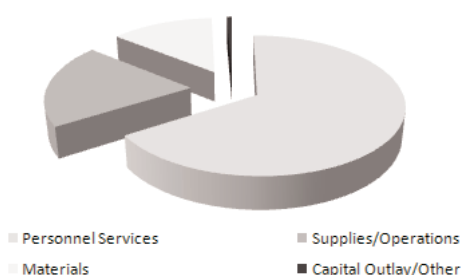
Trustee Nancy Gibbons is chairman of the library's finance committee. "These financial circumstances were brought about by state budget cuts," she said, "not library spending. We have tried hard to maintain our outstanding services while faced with

a mounting deficit."

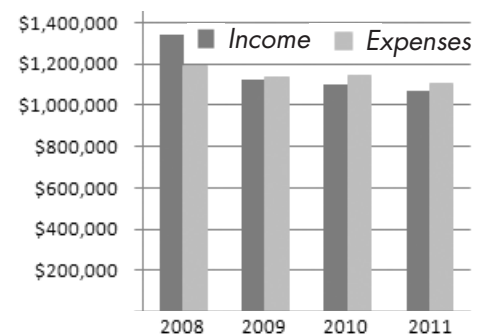
So far, trustees have been using savings to cover the budget shortfall. "For the past few years, we've been using our savings to fund the deficit," Gibbons said. "But we know we can't go on spending our savings this way. We've worked very hard to cut costs and we'll continue to find ways to reduce expenses."

The finance committee will continue to monitor the state budget process as it unfolds over the coming months.

2011 Estimated Expenditures



2011 Estimated Revenue



## In Columbus, lawmakers struggling to eliminate \$8-billion deficit

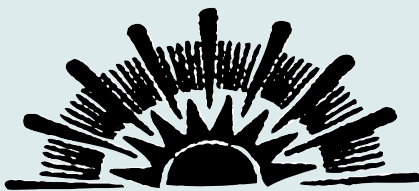
Republican Gov. John Kasich faces a projected deficit in the state budget of \$8 billion. By law, Ohio lawmakers must approve a balanced budget and that means publicly funded programs and agencies across the state are bracing for cuts that seem inevitable.

Kasich presents his budget March 15 and then it goes to the House of Representatives and then the Senate for review and debate. The state budget must be approved by June 30.

Two years ago, Ohio's last biennium budget included

cuts to the Public Library Fund that amounted to a loss of about 23 percent in funding for public libraries. An outpouring of objections from library supporters prevented even larger proposed cuts.

The Public Library Fund is a percentage of the state's total tax revenue. In 2008, it was 2.2 percent. As the economy began its downward spiral, the PLF was projected to lose 15-20 percent just based on declining state revenue. In 2009, lawmakers cut the PLF to 1.97 percent.



## Endowment Gifts

*from Rita and Donald Blanford*

*In honor of Robert Carino  
Linda Carino*

*In memory of Eleanor Masin  
Georgette and Richard Bohr  
Dorothy and Ray Butchko  
Heidi and David Hauck  
Julie and Guy Oster  
Jill and Greg Pusey  
Fred and Karen Rossi  
Judith S. Williams*

*In memory of Ruth Normando  
Nadine Breisch*

*In memory of Frank Partington  
Heidi and David Hauck*

*In memory of Grace Woods  
Heidi and David Hauck*

Memorialize a loved one or honor a friend with a donation to the Ritter Public Library Endowment Fund. The fund is dedicated to providing for the library's future needs, stability and growth. Donations to the endowment fund are permanently recognized at [ritterpubliclibrary.org](http://ritterpubliclibrary.org)

## Ritter Public Library Endowment Fund Board 2011

Judy Nagy, president  
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Karen Cornelius  
Judy Morgan  
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## New line-up of computer classes

The ongoing schedule of free, hands-on computer classes at Ritter this spring includes some basic classes, and some just for fun!

Enhance your employability by learning important new skills that could help you land that job. Or set up an email account or a Facebook page so you can keep in touch with family and friends.

This month, look for a free class on how to use the very handy "mail merge" function with Microsoft Word and Excel – great for addressing duplicate letters or creating mailing labels.

Learn to create a PowerPoint presentation, complete with pictures, text and even animation. Then, see how PowerPoint can be used to create digital slideshows of all your favorite photos.

## Helping connect our community

Your public library is your connection to your community!

Connect with your group or organization in one of the new public meeting rooms available at Ritter.

Call 967-3798 to reserve a small conference room for your next meeting. Or plan your event in the Community Room, which is large enough for more than 100 people and has a small kitchen attached.

Stay informed about news and events around town by checking out Ritter's Community Information board, located inside the main entrance. Find flyers, brochures and posters about local meetings and activities. Or post your own news or flyer from your non-profit group.

In addition, important news from public and government agencies is available here, such as application forms for the state Golden Buckeye discount program.



*Students enjoy a free, hands-on class in the new computer lab at Ritter.*

Next month, find classes on using Microsoft Word templates to make newsletters and flyers, setting up an email account with Google's gmail program, and creating your own Facebook page.

Call 967-3798 for details, pick up a monthly calendar for a complete listing, or go to the online calendar at [ritterpubliclibrary.org](http://ritterpubliclibrary.org). Click on the class to find the registration screen.



## Download to your eReader

So you've got a new digital book reader? We'll show you how to use it at a free program Tuesday, April 19 at 7 pm.

Amy Pawlowski, web applications manager for Cleveland Public Library, will demonstrate how to download popular audio and eBooks free from the Clevnet eMedia collection. Learn how to find, check out, download and transfer to your portable player.

If you have a laptop and an eReader, bring them so you can download the software. Please note that Kindles are not compatible with library products. Call 967-3798 to reserve your spot, or sign up online.



Dozens of people enjoy a free program about basic cartooning skills last month.

5680 Liberty Ave.  
Vermilion, OH 44089

440-967-3798  
Fax: 440-967-5482

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## Board of Trustees

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Janet L. Ford, director  
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The Ritter Public Library Board of Trustees meets the second Tuesday of every month, except August, at 7 pm at the library. The meetings are open to the public.

## Holiday Closings

Memorial Day, May 30

## Hours

Mon – Thurs 9:30 am – 8:30 pm  
 Fri, Sat 9:30 am – 5:30 pm  
 closed Sundays

RESIDENT  
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EGRWSS

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