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thebookworm14775@gmail.com

Published by Ripley Public Library

(716) 736-3913

Editor: Nancy McIntosh

<https://www.ripleylibrary.org/>

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<http://www.ripley-ny.com/>

RIPLEY TOWN HALL

14 North State Street

P.O. Box 352

Ripley, NY 14775

Town Supervisor: Doug Bowen

ripleyts@fairpoint.net

Office: **716-736-2209**

Home: **716-736-4418**

RIPLEY TOWN CLERK OFFICE

Rebecca Rowe Carvallo **716-736-6881**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9 a.m. – Noon 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday Mornings 9 a.m. – Noon

Closed Wednesdays

The Town Clerk's Office is also closed during various Holidays

The Town Clerk may also be reached during her off hours at: 736-6856(H) or 736-9341(cell) Rebecca Rowe Carvallo

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Justice Vera L. Hustead

P. O. Box 573

Ripley, NY 14775

Office: **716-736-7575**

Clerk: Jodie D'Anthony **716-736-7575**

courtclerk@ripley-ny.com

Monday Evenings 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m. - Noon

& 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Traffic Court held Monday 6:00p.m.

Calendar Call Held: 2nd Thursday of each month 2:00 p.m.

TOWN ASSESSOR

P.O. Box 352

Ripley, NY 14775

716-736-4050

ripleyta@fairpoint.net

BUILDING/ZONING CODE OFFICER –Melanie Eddy

P.O. Box 2

Ripley, NY 14775

716-736-3737

ripleybz@fairpoint.net

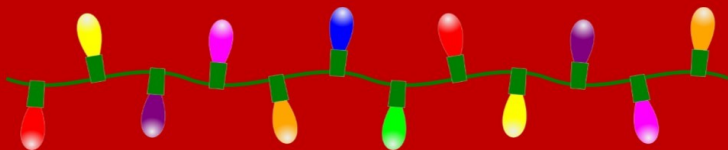
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m.-Noon & 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

RIPLEY TOWN BOARD Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Building located in the Ripley Central School 14 North State Street.

RIPLEY PLANNING BOARD

Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Offices located in the Ripley Central School on N State St The Public is welcome to attend these meetings.

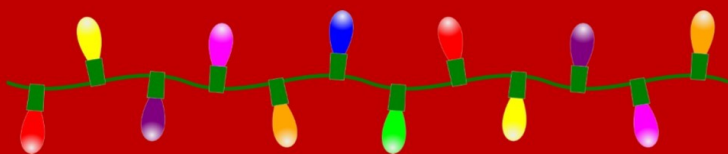
Get Lit this Christmas



Holiday Lighting Contest

Lights & Decorations must be up by December 12th

Judging will be on or after the 12th



A map will be printed with all locations. You must register to be included!

Register at Coffee on Main

Visit with Santa

At Ripley Fire Hall, South State St

December 12th at 1PM to 4PM

No professional photographer—please take your own pictures



This will be a socially distanced event

COVID 19 Rules:

- All groups are to wait in their cars in the south parking lot of the Fire Hall. All groups will be assigned a number from staff on site. This number will be used to allow each group into the hall one group at a time.
- Traffic inside hall will be one way with separate entrance and exit.
- Santa and Mrs. Claus will be distanced from visitors, so there will be no direct contact with them.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- No restrooms will be available.
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- If you or anyone in your group are not feeling well, please do not attend this event.
- A decision to cancel this event will be made early the week of the event—see Facebook page "Christmas in Ripley 2020" for info.
- Additional rules may apply and will be posted at the site.

Water/Sewer Department

10168 W. Lake Road
Ripley, NY 14775
ripleywp@fairpoint.net
Office: 716-736-6000
Cell: 716-581-3281

Highway Department

Jim Spacht, Highway Supt.
50 Ross Street
P.O. Box 506
Ripley, NY 14775
ripleyhs@fairpoint.net
Office: 716-736-3434
Cell: 716-753-6553

Dog Control Officer

Town Historian

John "Doc" Hamels

Fire Department

Emergency Call 911

Ripley Hose Company #1
P.O. Box 342

12 South State Street
Ripley, NY 14775

716-736-2001

Mark Smith, Fire Chief
716-736-2490

Ripley Hose Company #2
South Ripley Fire Hall
10268 NE-Sherman Road
Ripley, NY 14775

James Spacht, Deputy Fire Chief
716-269-4754

Police Department

Actual Emergency Call 911

Chautauqua County Sheriff's Dept.

Mayville, NY 14757
716-753-4231

Businesses, or individual supporters of the Ripley Library who donate \$5 per month will receive business card space in both publications.

Confessions of a Fire House Santa

Mark Dickey is celebrating his 25th year as the Ripley Fire House Santa. If you ask him how he got into this, he'll tell you he was forced into it. He didn't want to be Santa, but someone had to do it. It was important! Now you couldn't tear him away from his appointed rounds with the children who come to see Santa.



"When Mrs. Claus and I get off that fire truck and walk through the door, it's magic," Mark confessed. "We're like rock stars. The cheering really gets to us. (Saran Rotunda plays Mrs. Claus with Mark every year.

For some of these Ripley kids, the gifts they get from the fire house Santa is the only Christmas they'll have. When it first started twenty five years ago they got an orange and an apple, a candy cane, and a pencil. Now each child gets a hat and mittens, a book, and a bag filled with coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, perhaps a game or craft items.

At age ten or eleven, most kids "age out" of their belief in Santa. "Some kids recognize my voice," Mark said, "and one year I forgot to take off my ring and one little boy figured it out!" Santa reminds the older kids that they should let their younger siblings believe awhile longer. "They know I'm not really Santa, but they play along. It's like a good conspiracy."

Some children climb on his lap and tell him Santa isn't real. Mark invites them to touch him. "I'm real!" he tells them. One year, while playing Santa Claus at the library, he was asked if the facilities for the reindeer had been inspected lately. "Who would do those inspections?" Santa asked. "There's no land mass under the North Pole so it's in International Waters. Reindeer are my livelihood, so I take good care of them!"

In twenty five years Santa has seen the kids grow up to have children and grandchildren, and they all come to see Santa. He loves having the first Christmas photo taken with babies. By the time they turn two they are often afraid of Santa, but by three or four that fades away. The older kids and teenagers get to sit on Santa's knee, sometimes whether they want to or not. No stocking for those who refuse!

"There are two types of Santas," Mark revealed, "those that do it for the money, and those that 'get' it. I met a Santa at Chautauqua Mall once. He had the most luxurious beard I'd ever seen. He said it took him eight hours at the salon to get it looking that good! He gets it!"

Mark becomes a little emotional at times, talking about some of the kids he's seen over the years. There is one story that gets to him every year. Several years ago, as a paramedic, he answered a call where a seven year old girl had stopped breathing. "I got to the location and there was her mother, doing CPR on her little girl, literally pumping life back into her. I took over, and breathed for her until we got her to the hospital. She's a teenager now, but every year she comes to see me with her mom and little sister."

One year this little girl presented Mark with a photograph of her with a roll of Lifesavers taped to the bottom of the photo. It was three years before Mark could bring himself to put the picture on his wall and not cry.

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Town of Ripley

Town Building is now open with some restrictions

*Please wear a face mask and respect the 6ft. distancing signs.

*We encourage the use of the drop off box and Postal Service whenever possible.

*Town Meetings will still be offered through "Zoom" for those interested but do not want to attend in person.

Meetings will be held with no more than 50% capacity and face masks required.

Please call the Town Clerk's office 716-736-6881 with questions.

Town Clerk Office

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9:30a.m.-Noon & 1:15-4p.m.

Saturday 9a.m.-Noon

Code Officer

Tuesday & Thursday 9a.m.-3p.m.



19 West Main Street, Ripley, NY
Phone: 716-736-7381
www.meedersrestaurant.com

To have About Town and The Bookworm newsletters sent to you directly, send your name and email address to:
thebookworm14775@gmail.com

Ripley Trash & Recycle Days

Located near the Highway Barn on Ross Street, open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 8a.m. until noon. Ripley bags may be purchased at the Town Building. Recyclables may be dropped off on those days. Please enter via North State Street.

Confessions, continued

Asked about the saddest experience he'd had as Santa, Mark told of a little boy whose only wish for Christmas was that Santa take away his mother's pain. "What do you say in a situation like that? I told him I'd see what I could do."

This year visits with Santa will be different due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Will Santa and Mrs. Claus wear masks? "Probably not," he says. But they will be distanced from the kids. No sitting on Santa's knee this year. There will be some sort of barrier around six feet away. Only one family at a time will be allowed into the fire hall, where they can talk briefly with Santa, snap a few pictures, get their stockings and gifts, and then leave for the next family to come in.

"Even with things the way they are now," says Mark, "It's a lot of fun. I wouldn't miss it!"

Veterans Day 2020

Despite Covid-19, the Veterans Day commemoration at the Ripley Veterans Role of Honor monument took place with a properly masked and distanced crowd of approximately fifty people. Many of our local veterans took part in the ceremony, which included a 21-gun salute. Thank you to all our service members.



Front Row: Ron Wise, Don Carvello, Bob McIntosh, ??, Bob Albright, Kim Johnston, Rob Galbraith, Frank Riscili

Second Row: Jack McCutcheon, Ed Lanphere (hiding behind Don Carvello), Cliff Hubbard, Dick Mulson, Dick Hoffman, Greg Willet, James Tolbert, Dave Bower

Third Row: Dick Wade, Stan Harris, Gary Rousch, Larry Freligh, Tom Brown



L. Master Sergeant Bob McIntosh, USMC
R. Captain Rob Galbraith, Navy

THOMPSON
Collision

6345 Hamilton Rd
Ripley, NY 14775

ph. (716) 736-2277 fax (716) 736-2278

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Coffee on Main has chocolate covered cherries and peanut butter cups to order for the holidays! All hand made, in their shop. Buy local! Support your local businesses.



Sun-Sat 6am-3pm

Serving coffee, iced coffee, cappuccino, hot chocolate, doughnuts, muffins, bagels, sandwiches, and more!

25 W. Main St, Ripley, NY 716-365-9602

Advertising

The Bookworm and About Town are once again requesting a donation from our local businesses, and in return we will give you business card space in the newsletters. Due to the pandemic, advertising was suspended because many of the businesses who helped contribute to our local library were unable to open.

With things slowly returning to normal, whatever normal will be, we are once again asking for your support. The amount of donation requested, \$5, is much lower than any advertising you can buy, and our newsletters reach approximately 300 subscribers.

We thank you for your past support and look forward to working with you again.

Last minute Christmas MiniSpecial!
\$25 off session fee and free Classic 8x10 portrait
when you're photographed before December 16th.
By appointment only.
716-736-9669
New sessions only. Groups limited to 12 adults. Credit cards accepted on large orders.



Stephanie Cunningham Photography

From Desk of Post Command 2769, David Bower

- Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec 15 Bill of Rights Day
- Dec 16 Battle of the Bulge (1944)
- Dec 20 Panama Operation Just Cause (1989)
- Dec 21 First Day of Winter
- Dec 25 Christmas
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve



Always remember our men and women who are still serving in uniform and are away from their families. May they all be safe, for they are never forgotten. Be safe, and a Happy Holidays from the members of Ripley Memorial Post 2769VFW.

Ripley Food Pantry

Around the holidays people often give to the food pantries, but in truth, the need is year 'round. And now during this pandemic of Covid-19, the need is even greater. Many people have lost their jobs and rely heavily on the food donations from the Ripley Mobile Food Pantry, located monthly at the Ripley Fire Hall as well as The Ripley Food Pantry. Located at 14 N. State Street in the first entrance of the school building, the Food Pantry serves many families every month in our area. Sponsored by the Food Bank of Western New York, the pantry provides additional food supplies for those in need. The hours of operation are Tuesdays 2 -4 pm and Saturdays 10 – noon.

Substitute volunteers are needed to fill in as necessary. If interested, please stop in during open hours of operation.

Local Worship Services

- ♦ **First Baptist Church**
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ **First Presbyterian Church**
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church**
Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **South Ripley Methodist Church**
Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
- ♦ **Stateline United Methodist Church**
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Still Waters Mennonite Church**
Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ **United Methodist Church**
Adult Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
- ♦ **Victory Family Church**
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Check with your local church to determine whether services are currently being held.