

The Bookworm

Newsletter from Friends of the Ripley Library

Volume 10 Issue 3

March 2021

Ripley Library Board:
Earl Freling, Pres.
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Karen Gunther, VP Finance
Robyn Albright, Sec.
John Hamels
Linda Lowes

Library Director:
Rhonda Thompson
Clerk: *Stephanie Feiss*

Bookworm/About Town
Editor: *Nancy McIntosh*

Friends of the Ripley
Library Welcome You

NOTE: **New Temporary** **Hours of Operation**

Monday Closed
Tuesday 10am-3pm
Wednesday 10am-3pm
Thursday 10am-3pm
Friday Closed

Saturday Closed
Sunday Closed

Ripley Public Library Budget 2022

Five years ago the taxpayers of Ripley voted to make the library a school district library. In so doing, the income of the library is tied to property taxes. In the last several years the library has seen three increases in minimum wage, rising utility costs, and three break-ins that necessitated repairs.

The tax rate for the library has not increased in all that time. This year, however, we must ask for a small increase. An additional .02 cents per thousand of the assessed value per home, will give the library much needed funds to continue to serve the community. This is an incredibly small increase, and yet it will help the library so much!

The tax money that the library collects goes to salaries, the purchase of new materials, utilities and upkeep. That our library has a budget of less than \$90,000 per year in this economy is an amazing feat in itself, and is a testament to the frugality under which it operates. The librarian and Board of Directors work hard to maintain the quality of the library services while keeping costs down.

The proposed budget for 2022 is shown in its entirety on the next page. Please take a few minutes to look at the expenditures and income. The budget will be voted on in June at the library.

PLEASE NOTE: None of the expansion/renovation costs for the library have come from your tax dollars. Everything is being paid for with grant monies and donations.



Friends of the Library Meeting:
No March meeting scheduled

Proposed 2022 Ripley Public Library Budget**Revenue**

2018/19 tax levy	\$95,000
Fund Balance	\$ 1,461
CCLS	\$ 3,040
Total Revenue	\$96,461

Comments

\$10,000 increase over 2020 (2c/thousand)
 carry over from 2020
 annual allotment

Appropriations:**Personnel**

Director	\$37,440
Head Clerk	\$31,200
Part time Clerk	\$ 0
FICA 6.2%	\$ 5,000
Workmen's Comp	\$ 1,000
Medicare 1.45%	\$ 1,136
ERS (Director) 8%	\$ 2,995
Subtotal	\$78,771

\$18/hr x 40hrs x 52 weeks, no raise in 2019
 \$15/hr x 40hrs x 52 weeks
 \$12.50 x 15hrs x 52 weeks schedule for 2022

first time contributing to director's retirement

Insurance & Utilities

Building Insurance	\$ 1,200
Heating	\$ 2,000
Electric	\$ 3,000
Trash removal	\$ 300
Water/Sewage Usage	\$ 750
Phone/Internet	\$ 960
Sewer Tax	\$ 680
Mowing	\$ 500
Snow Plowing	\$ 0
Subtotal	\$ 8,190

new construction could lower this
 new construction could lower this
 actual

Town will plow

Materials & Supplies

Office/Janitorial	\$ 2,500
Collection/Materials	\$ 5,000
Subtotal	\$ 7,500

\$1,960 local share + \$3,040 CCLS allotment

Professional Legal Fees	\$ 2,000
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Albany based attorney

Summary Appropriations

Personnel	\$78,771
Insurance/Utilities	\$ 8,190
Materials/Supplied	\$ 7,500
Professional Fees	\$ 2,000
Staff Training	\$ 0
Grand Total Appropriation	\$96,461

Grants

Hirtzel Foundation	\$ 7,500
Summer Reading	\$ 200
Special presentations	\$ 0
Movie license	\$ 500
Tech Support	\$ 1,200
Movies	\$ 300
Staff training	\$ 0
newspaper	\$ 0
Program Dir/Part Time Clerk	\$ 5,300
Total	\$ 7,500

All these items are effected by COVID-19

new position incl. benefits, as needed

Annon Grant

Collections	\$ 1,200
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programs, etc. as needed

Budget Draft	1/27/2020
Updated	12/19/2020
Approved before revision	12/19/2020
Update with #10k tax increase	1/26/2021

From the Director's Desk

By Rhonda Thompson

Can you believe it is March already! Time moves so quickly. This past year has been quite enough for all of us to deal with. It has been a year since Covid shut us down. This is the first real pandemic we have lived through and boy have we learned a lot. Here at the library we are in the middle of a huge renovation project. I can't wait to show it off to everyone. This will be a building the whole town can be proud of once it is complete. Somehow we have managed to stay open for limited use of the library, but as libraries do, we just keep plugging along and get books, movies and resources to people. Thank you to the



patrons who have supported us through this time.

Even though there is a pandemic going on and most of our resources are packed up in the storage container and elsewhere due

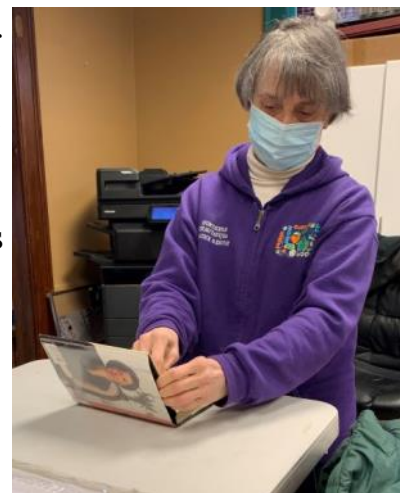
to a very giving community member, the library has remained busy behind the scenes. New books must be ordered and then they need to be covered. From there they have to be cataloged and added to the new book list. This is a list we keep here and it gets put into the Bookworm to let you know the new titles coming this month. Our faithful patrons come in to borrow items and we are holding Book Club every



month. I have the annual report to do and as well as look for grants, the board meetings to prepare for and so many other everyday duties. So there is a lot that goes on here at the library even during a time of social distance and isolation.

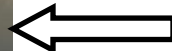
We will need to increase our annual budget this year. We did very well for five years and we have not raised it, but we have absorbed rising costs, break-ins and three minimum wage hikes. This year reality has struck and we must increase our income. The good news is this will only affect the tax rates at about .02 per thousand. There can hardly be an argument about such a small increase and it is nice to know that anything invested in libraries will carry on for years to come.

I am looking forward to getting our books back in here and our shelves set up. We are looking for volunteers to help with this. This is a huge project, just like when we moved them out, but now we need to bring them back. I will need help first setting up the bookshelves, then hauling the books and putting books on shelves. Phew! This renovating is exhausting. Hopefully when the time comes we will have folks who can help out. Please keep us in mind. Until then, I will see you at the library.



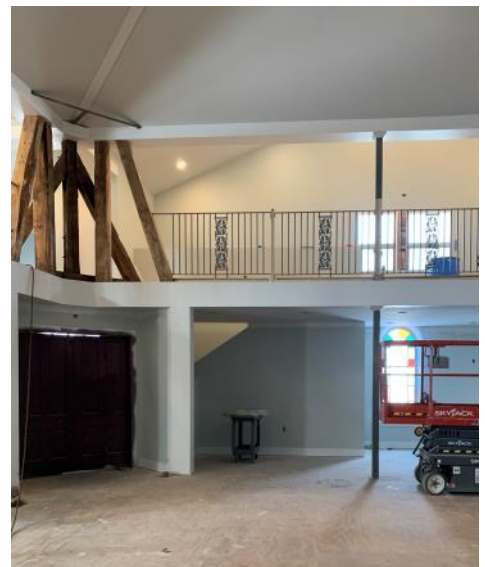
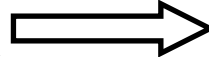
Construction Continues

It has occurred to those of us who are at the library daily, or at least several times a week, that we are not “renovating” the library; we are building an entirely NEW library! “Renovate” implies repairing and making something look new again. Our contractors are in fact changing the structure and function of our library. This new library being offered to the Ripley and area communities will not only house books, videos, and historic papers, but will provide space for student learning, a quiet reading room, a place for little ones to learn and be active, a designated area for our teens, a large screen television where videos can be viewed, programs watched, and classes taught remotely. Groups such as our sewing and quilting ladies will have designated areas for their projects, that won’t have to be stored away each time. Ripley Writers Group will have space with tables and computers to hone their skills. The library will in fact, function as a community center. We are excited about this! When Phase I construction is completed in mid-April, come visit. See what the dedicated few have done for all of you.



Detail of the wrought iron railing

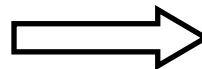
Original
exposed beams where
stained glass window
will be displayed



Wrought iron “cages”
to expose windows



Construction crew: l-r Zach, Steve, Marshall (Project Supv.), Cody, Roger (Operations Manager)



Original oak medal-
lion from which a
chandelier will hang



Launch Pads Are Available

Launch Pads are a learning tool which are available through the Chautauqua Cattaraugus Library System. These valuable items will help your child to learn, based on their age. They can be checked out by logging into the CCLS website and choosing which one you would like. These are expensive items and you will have to sign an agreement sheet that you will replace it if it becomes damaged. They are encased in a well-constructed case and is very sturdy. I would recommend them to anyone with small children.



If there is enough demand for them through the Ripley Library, we will consider buying a couple of them to have here at our home library. They are available for older learners too and have some for those who are studying for their SAT or Math Regents. If you are interested, call the Ripley Library (716-736-3913) to get information on how to check them out at the CCLS website and they will be delivered here.

Ripley Public Library Mission Statement

The mission of the Ripley Public Library is to promote life-long learning for all community residents, providing unrestricted free access to all printed and recorded material from its own collection as well as that of the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System. The Library will endeavor to create a community center that provides so much more than information for all of those who ask questions and seek answers.

Looking Good on <https://www.ripleylibrary.org>

The CCLS (Chautauqua Cattaraugus Library System) has dozens of magazines available to be downloaded from their collection. Find what you are looking for by going to the library website listed above. Then click on downloads across the top bar. Scroll down until you find magazines and simply click on the one that interests you. It's that simple!



Adventures in Politicsland

by Mary Ellen Humphrey

The World is Watching

Did you know that the first published history of the American Revolution was written by a woman?

History of the Rise, Progress and Termination of the American Revolution by Mrs. Warren was published in 1805. Mercy Otis Warren's great grandfather (John Otis) was also my great (to some number of generations) grandfather making us distant cousins. But then, going back far enough, are we not all cousins?

I first became aware of Mercy from my second cousin, Reginald Holt Humphrey, who spent his life gathering genealogical information about our family. When my foray into politics ended in 2002, I finally had time to review his vast collection, and compiled a 600 page family history.

Reg wrote this paragraph included in my book. "Mercy Otis Warren, sister of James Otis was also active in the revolutionary movement in New England. It has been said that she and her brother were the two most responsible for the revolution." I wanted to know more.

The Otis family was immersed in politics, Mercy's father being the Speaker of the Massachusetts General Court* and later Chief Justice. Her husband James Warren also served in the Mass. General Court, as did her brother James Otis, who was a renowned Boston lawyer. James Otis wrote the famous *Writs of Assistance*. We all remember from our school history books the phrase, "no taxation without representation." That was James' claim to fame.

During the revolution, many important political people lodged at the Warren's home in Barnstable, MA. She corresponded with John and Abigail Adams, George and Martha Washington, and many others involved in the struggle. And she kept meticulous notes. Her letters are archived at the Massachusetts historical society.

Mercy explained her purpose for writing the history. "I have used my pen with the liberty of one...who speaks to posterity—perhaps very far remote." Like so many historians, her noble cause was to objectively describe events for later generations...for us.

Remarkable is the fact that she was a highly educated woman who vigorously debated with those draft-

ing our new constitution. When her oratory brother James was beaten by a mob and unable to continue his efforts to incite the revolution, at the urging of her friends and family, she took up the cause.

Newspapers published her political plays. She also wrote a pamphlet that was published as *The Columbian Patriot*. She wrote anonymously because, at that time, it wasn't acceptable for women to write or to be political. After the war, a man tried to take credit for her works, but none other than John Adams defended her and set the record straight. Her influence on John Adams and others helped prompt the addition of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution.

I often think of her as we struggle through our current political challenges. She wrote her history with hope, saying "From the revolutionary spirit of the times, the vast improvements in science, arts, and agriculture, the boldness of genius that marks the age, the investigation of new theories, and the changes in the political, civil, and religious characters of men, succeeding generations have reason the expect still more astonishing exhibitions."

We could say the same today. We just sent three machines to explore Mars! What more astonishing exhibitions will we witness?

Despite partisan divisions, she was hopeful. Her optimism inspires my own. "The United States form a young republic, a confederacy which ought ever to be cemented by a union of interest and affection under the influence of those principles which obtained their independence. These have indeed, at certain periods, appeared to be in the wane; but let them never be eradicated, by the jarring interests of parties, jealousies of the sister states, or the ambition of individuals."

We are cemented by what unites us, our common interests and love of our country. At times, our hearts may grow weary and our faith in our government may wane, but never will it be eradicated. I love this sentiment. Mercy recognized that political events would sometimes discourage us, but she believed, as do I, that we are a good people. Full of potential. We are a good nation.

Her words written over two hundred years ago still ring true: "The world is now viewing America, as experimenting a new system of government, a FEDERAL REPUBLIC."

The world is still watching.

*note: General Court is what we now call The House of Representatives in most state legislatures.

The Ide(a)s of March

Nancy McIntosh

March is always an odd month for me. The little voice inside my head tells me that Spring will be here soon, time to check out the gardening catalogs and think of longer days with more sunshine. It is also the month that plays tricks on us mere mortals with lingering snowstorms and cold winds that keep us indoors longer than we anticipated.

In order to keep my spirits up I look forward to St. Patrick's Day with a traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage entrée and recall the Ides of March and Pi Day, but this year I decided to search for other momentous moments that occur in March.

Did you know that March 1st is National Pig Day or that March 3rd is If Pets Had Thumbs Day? And when was the last time you celebrated Dentist Day on March 6th. Dentists are never appreciated. You could send them a card. To show our gratitude for snacks there is National Potato Chip Day and Pi Day on March 14th and National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day on the 24th. March 26th is Live Long and Prosper Day but it is not only a day to remember Mr. Spock, but also a day to be health conscience and set goals. Although there are so many days to be celebrated this month (check them out online), my favorite one is probably I am in Control Day on March 30th. I don't see that happening any time soon but one can always hope. Enjoy this crazy month and above all Think Spring!



My Choice

By Sharon McIntosh

A Time for Heroes

by Will Bryant

In Arizona in 1923, eleven year old Jason was staying with his aunt Lexi, since his ne'er do well father had abandoned him and gone hunting for gold, adventure and money garnered from questionable antics in nefarious card games on the river.

When his father showed up to re-claim Jason, Lexi took Jason to stay with her old Uncle Hector Callard, who lived alone in the desert and was secretly working on an invention he was convinced the "agents" meant to steal.

Enter pilot and ex-soldier, Captain Maynard Galen, who landed in the desert with a load of rum ferried from Mexico, asking to stow it secretly in the shed at Hector's place.

Maynard and Jason became partners in all that transpired after this, making up codes to be used if "agents" were near or either of them was in danger. "Mesquite", with a response of "Javelina".

Through mixed messages and incorrect information, gathered from eaves dropping, everyone, mostly the bad guys, made absurdly devastating plans to steal the "diamonds" Maynard had brought from Mexico, the "gold" that was stashed in the shed and the invention that would save the world.

Whether it's the old man in the desert, the aunt who protected the young boy with a dream or the pilot who used his skill and experience to keep them safe, you will find heroes described in a tale that holds your interest.

Show Your Support

In the past The Bookworm and About Town have solicited donations from local businesses in exchange for an ad featuring that business. This year we are starting a new type of donation for businesses and individuals alike, and I am hoping you will participate.

For a monthly donation of \$5, you can have a personal message or business card printed in The Bookworm as a supporter of the Ripley Public Library, letting people know you are helping to make our local library great!

We would like to simplify things by asking you to donate either \$30 or \$60 for 6-months or 12-months, and a business card that you want printed in the newsletter. You can mail your check and business card to Ripley Library, P. O. Box 808, Ripley, NY 14775 or call the library at 716-736-3913 to arrange a time to drop off the information and donation.

Join a Board Meeting

If you are interested in virtually joining a Ripley Public Library Board meeting, please contact the director, Rhonda Thompson, 716-736-3913 with your email address and you can be sent a link to the meeting. Or you can email her at director@ripleylibrary.org Leave a message. We will return your call.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet at the library on Friday, March 5 at 11 a.m. to discuss *The Morning and the Evening* by Ken Follett.

March's book is *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden.

March Book List 2021**ADULT FICTION**

- Boyd/Deep Blue Eternity
- Covell/Atoning for Ashes
- Estleman/Brazen
- Evanovich/Fortune and Glory
- Freeman/Saint Brigid's Bones
- Granger/Death in the Mud Flat
- Grau/The Keepers of the House
- Gray/A Perfect Amish Romance
- Hampton/Kale to the Queen
- Hannah/The Four Winds
- Harmon/The Bird and the Sword
- Korkeakivi/Shining Sea
- Malladi/A House for Happy Mothers
- McMahon/The Winter People
- Miller/The Song of Achilles
- Moreno-Garcia/Mexican Gothic
- Pataki/The Accidental Empress
- Roth/Chosen Ones
- Ryan/The Women Outside My Door
- Sanderson/Rhythm of War

ADULT NON FICTION

- Chammah/Let the Lord Sort Them
- Cross/Say It Louder
- Korten/Into the Storm
- McConaughey/Greenlights
- Pripps/John Deere: Yesterday & Today
- Wade/Before the Dawn

ADULT LARGE PRINT

- Bischof/The Lady and the Lionheart
- Miller/The Philosopher's Flight
- Mosley/John Woman
- Waite/A Beautiful, Terrible Thing

Paperbacks

- Baker/Rebecca's Bouquet
- Blake/Pawprints & Predicaments
- Hooper/Hunting Fear
- Miller/The Amish Spinster's Courtship
- Ross/Herons Landing

Young Adult

- Behr/The Evolutionaries: Power Divided
- Dean/Girls on Film
- Haidji/Suicide Game

Junior Books

- Applegate/The One and Only Ivan
- Applegate/The One and Only Bob
- Green/Chemistry: Getting a Big Reaction
- Jacobs/ The Everything Kids Baseball Book
- Leaf/How to Behave and Why

Easy Readers

- Buehner/ Snowmen at Night
- Hayward/ I Can Count to Ten and Back Again
- Joyce/I Love You, Mommy
- Smith/The Wonky Donkey
- Worth/Sleepytime Ship

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.”

Walter Cronkite

Join Friends of the Library Now!

The Friends of the Ripley Library have made a huge difference in not only the library, but in the town as well. We need YOU to join us in doing something worthwhile that benefits our entire community. Membership is as simple as filling out your name, address and phone number and contributing a \$5 per year membership fee. No experience necessary, all ages are welcome. WE NEED YOU! Residency in Ripley is NOT required to be a member.



Thank you so much for your past support. We hope you will become a member and contribute to another great year.

Friends of the Ripley Library Application

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town/ZIP: _____

Phone Number: (Home) _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Dues are \$5 annually in January

Print this portion and return it to the library, or pick up a form at the library desk.

FRIENDS OF THE RIPLEY LIBRARY

Friends of the Ripley Library
P. O. Box 808
Ripley, NY 14775

Phone: 716-736-3913
Fax: 716-736-3923
<https://www.ripleylibrary.org>
Email: thebookworm14775@gmail.com

Library Calendar of Events

Email Newsletter

We rely on email to get our newsletter out. We would like to increase our list of recipients but we need your help to do so. Please tell your friends, relatives and neighbors about The Bookworm and the fun things we're doing at the library. Each month you will also receive the email, About Town. For a monthly copy, send your email address to:

thebookworm14775@gmail.com

If you would like to opt out of our mailing, please let us know at
thebookworm14775@gmail.com

***Also now available—The Bookworm and About Town on the library website <https://www.ripleylibrary.org>**

All groups and activities have been suspended until further notice. COVID-19 guidelines are in effect. **The library is now open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10a.m. until 3p.m.** We hope to see you soon!



Please note: all letters and/or emails to the Library and staff MUST be signed. Those without a signature will not be recognized. Names will be omitted, to protect privacy, if published.

Notes & Things

The list of book and movie titles available is now on the library website

<https://www.ripleylibrary.org>. The library has over 1,000 titles to choose from, with more added each month. Books can be ordered by email (clerk@ripleylibrary.org) or a phone call (716-736-3913) OR you can come browse in person, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 10a.m. til 3p.m. We appreciate your continued patronage!


The Passing of Marge Testrake

Submitted by Mo Ferree

The World is Missing One Loving Heart Today

The family of Marge Testrake would like you to know that Margie calmly passed away of natural causes on Friday, February 5, 2021. She was 88 years old. Her family was grateful to be able to be with her at the time.

Marge traveled all over with her dear husband, Roger, and as she did so, she spread her signature love the world over too. Rest in peace, lovely lady.

Earl C. Freling, D.C.
Chiropractor

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**Mary Ellen
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**Best Wishes to the Ripley Library
For a Great New Year in 2021!**



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Michael Fantauzzi, Director



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7163659602 or 7162230771
Find us on Facebook!

Sun-Sat
6am-3pm



Robyn Near Albright
Freelance Writer

Cell: 716-581-0309
Email: robynalb@gmail.com



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