

The Bookworm

Newsletter from Friends of the Ripley Library

Volume 10 Issue 4

April 2021

Ripley Library Board:
Earl Freling, Pres.
Bob McIntosh, VP
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 10am-3pm

Saturday Closed
Sunday Closed

Ripley Public Library Budget Vote

- ♦ Budget Vote to be held Tuesday, June 8th, 2021, at the library
- ♦ Vote to fill 2 Board vacancies

Please Note:

- ♦ There has been no increase in tax revenue for the library in 5 years.
- ♦ The proposed increase amount is \$0.02 per thousand of home assessed value.
- ♦ Example: \$50,000 home will pay \$1.00 in additional tax, annually, to fund the library.
- ♦ No construction costs have come from tax revenue.
- ♦ Maintenance of the building, including outside maintenance, DOES come from tax revenue.



Friends of the Library Meeting:
Saturday, April 17, 12:30pm @ Ripley Library

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

This year is moving right along whether we are ready for it or not. I am not sure if anyone has noticed, but the daffodils on the Goodrich Street side of the building are blooming so prettily.

Spring really is here and it seems so nice. We had a rather mild Winter and it seems to be an early Spring this year. We haven't had an early Spring in many years.

April is a month to help keep us busy. There is one of my favorites...April Fool's Day. I am thinking of some practical jokes to play. My family is always on a heightened awareness on that day. I have so much fun with it.

Then there is Easter. This is always a nice time with family. I love decorating eggs and preparing for the holiday.

Lastly, we have Earth Day. I really like this day and it gives us a chance to reconnect with Mother Nature and re-

member to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible. I can't wait until we can have gardening classes again. Those are so informative, useful and practical.

Here at the library, we are doing our usual things, ordering and cataloging books, although we are running out of room to put the books. I finished the annual report and now I am looking for some badly needed funds for our project. We could use the help of some volunteer grant writers to help look for funding for our project. This is such an important part of the future for our community that we must continue on. Any help in this situation would be greatly appreciated.

Here is to hoping for a delightful Spring and a fun summer. We all need something good after the last year we have just been through.

I will write to you again next month - from the library!

Grant Writers Needed!

The library is nearing the end of the monies available for the renovation project, but there is a lot left to do. If you have experience in writing grants, or know of grants available, we welcome you to become part of the team who are making this library/community center real.



Please contact Rhonda Thompson at (716) 736-3913 with suggestions or to volunteer. Help support your library without spending a dime!

Among Friends

Nancy McIntosh

Amazing things are happening at the library! Before too much longer the library will welcome everyone back to the NEW Ripley Public Library. The Friends Group has been busy making purchases that will bring a new look to the interior. You won't believe the transformation.

As we enter this new phase, we are looking for more people to get involved through volunteering, fundraisers and as always, accepting cash donations to complete the project.

The Friends play a major role in making the library something the whole town can be proud of. Wouldn't you like to be part of the excitement? Contact the library at 716-736-3913 for more details.

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.

<https://www.ripleylibrary.org>

Don't forget to check out the Ripley Public Library website for up-to-date news and photos, as well as a complete list of books available during construction. Even though the library has limited hours for now, thousands of books are still available from our library. Books from the Chautauqua—Cattaraugus Library System (CCLS) can be ordered and picked up at the Ripley Library as well.

Show Your **SUPPORT**

Would you like to show your support of the Ripley Public Library in a tangible way? For ONLY \$5 a month you can post a personal message or business card in The Bookworm, letting people know you are helping to make our library great!

It would help the bookkeeping if you donate a lump sum to cover the number of months remaining in the calendar year, i.e. \$40 for May through December. You can email a message or scan a business card and send it to: thebookworm14775@gmail.com and checks can be made out to Ripley Library, mailed to 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.

Thank you for being there for your Ripley Library!

Whaddya Want?!

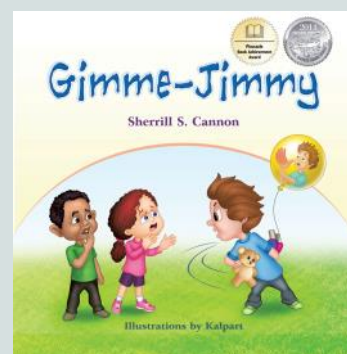
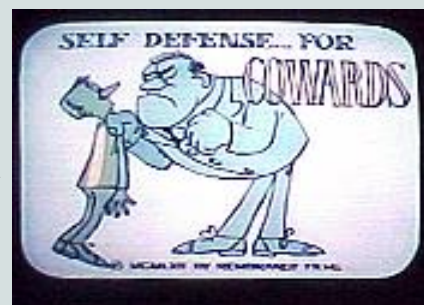
Ripley Public Library will be re-opening soon. By popular demand we plan for the return of our sewing group, knitting classes and

book club, but we will also offer many new opportunities for learning and personal growth. We would like to look into offering Ted Talks, Painting Classes, Exercises for Seniors and Zoom Workshops.

Yoga classes and perhaps a new mystery to solve every month club could be added to our programming. And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Are

you there to check out the newest books, help your children discover the wonderful world of reading by choosing their own books, or catch up on your

reading? Maybe you stop by to use the internet or trace your family's history. There are so many avenues to explore. Music, movies and local histories are all available at the library as well as all those books!



Now we would like to get some feedback from you. What changes or additions would you like at your library? What topics interest you? Self defense? Exercise class? Gaming? What would bring YOU into the Ripley library?

Send an email to thebookworm14775@gmail.com and let us know what you would like to see and do at your NEW Ripley Public Library.



The Ripley Library Quilting Ladies

Sharon McIntosh

For several years, a small number of ladies have met, sewn, talked and planned at the Ripley Library. Since Covid, we have been keeping in touch by email, sharing our projects on our site, calling one another, trading ideas, patterns and just keeping up with each other's lives. Frequently, one of the members will find a pattern that may interest the rest of the group and we all participate in rendering that pattern to suit our own likes and styles.



Sarge approves of Sharon's Strip Challenge Quilt

One of these patterns was 30 blocks in 30 days shared with us by Donna Deet. Several of the ladies took the pattern, made it their own and ended up with some interesting results. The thought, planning and execution of the idea were so different from the original picture.

In the past, this group has made and presented quilts to the pre-school in Ripley, made lap robes for nursing home residents, placemats for Meals on Wheels and several other good causes.

Last Spring, before Covid-19, we drew up a challenge for all interested members to provide 2 ½ inch strips of fabric to each of the other members. We designated what colors would be distributed on which month and gave each one free range on how to use these strips. We did have a start and finish date for this project but with the library being closed, Covid keeping us from meeting, we made up our own rules, sort of like when we get it done, we'll show you how it turned out.

The rules were pretty clear, use some of every strip, add one color of your choice, probably as a background. You could make one large project or a large number of smaller ones.



Since the total yardage of the strips equaled over 7 yards of fabric, we had a wide choice of possibilities and we took full advantage of it.



Julie's Strip Challenge

We are a group with varying levels of experience and accomplishment. Some of us have been quilting for years, had our own business, designed our patterns, tried new patterns or stuck with the tried and true or struggling to learn and finish a project, but one thing never changes, we are always glad to offer a helping hand and useful suggestion and, yes, once in a

Continued on Page 7

Quilting Ladies, continued



Sharon's 30 Blocks in 30 Days Challenge



Sue's Strip Challenge

while some constructive criticism, the operative word being, constructive. Our ultimate goals are to enjoy what we do and help each other when the need arises.

Frequently, one of us will volunteer to give a class or demonstration of a shortcut, use of a new ruler or a technique that saves time and is fun to learn. Show and Tell is always a popular segment of the get together and we all love to give a little description of how we did something or different colors we used to get the effect we wanted.

We are excited to witness the continuing restoration of the library and to hear that there will be an area designed and designated for the crafting groups, which include the sewing, knitting, crocheting, painting and other activities which were held in the library.

Meanwhile, we are always looking for new members who want to learn from us, teach us something new, or just show up to see if it would be something of interest to them.

Library Construction News

One of the last areas in Phases I and II to be stripped down and redone is the front foyer. The old lath and plaster is being removed and will be replaced with sheetrock. The original front doors, sadly, have fallen into disrepair and must be replaced. Modern glass doors will be installed soon. A projected date for completion is mid to late May! It's coming up soon!



The Friends of the Library have been busy as well, picking out new furnishings for the Reading Room. This room is a small quiet space in the old bell tower, to be furnished with quality Flex-Steel leather



chairs. We are excited about this purchase—soft leather swivel chairs, sized for even the smallest of our adults, yet comfortable for everyone. With an antique work table and historical document cabinet, this room is sure to draw patrons in to work and relax.



Adventures in Politics Land

By Mary Ellen Humphrey,
former State House and Senate Member

Conspiracy Theory – Part 1

In my second term as a State legislator, I sponsored a bill to deal with a long-term projected shortfall in the state's retirement system which covers state employees, teachers, firefighters and police. A small adjustment now would change the financial trajectory avoiding a much larger and more painful one, ten or twenty years down the road. It was logical.

The state curator worked in the gift shop and among other responsibilities, he managed tours of the State House. He caught up with me in the hallway and asked if he could discuss my proposed legislation. "You don't know the history of that bill," he said sincerely. He proceeded to tell me the true conspiracy behind the bill, assuring me I was being used by some sinister folks who wanted to take away state employee's benefits. I let him tell me his theory, and then looked him right in the eye.

"Would it surprise you to know that I alone sponsored this bill? In fact, no one has made any suggestions about it. It is simply intended to correct a problem and protect your benefit to make sure it's there when you're ready to retire."

His expression went from surprise to confusion and then suspicion. It amused me at the time, but also alerted me to the fact that people love to believe conspiracy theories. I had to wonder why.

I have my own theory about conspiracy theories. You could argue that people are bored and such fantasies add spice to dull or unhappy lives. Or there might be some curious nature about humans that makes us suspicious. But I think it might be something more. It might be FEAR.

My friend, the curator, was afraid of losing his retirement benefit. No amount of assurance would assuage those fears, and at the heart of his fear was distrust of government, even though he was himself a government employee. Then again, our country was founded in part due to distrust of Parliament. Perhaps it's in our blood, our ancestral legacy?

In 1999, a guest speaker came to the Senate and addressed us for an allotted twenty minutes. His comments gave me pause. He explained that we had gone from a government of, for and by the people, to a government of, for and by the corporations and big money special interests. Even in our state I saw the influence of donations and lobbyists on the legislative process. I mean no offense to anyone, but it did not really matter which party was in control, they leaned towards the views of business and special interests. We seemed to believe that whatever benefited business and wealth would somehow benefit regular citizens, a kind of unarticulated trickle-down worldview. When business thrives, jobs are created, and everyone prospers. It certainly sounds logical, doesn't it?

It makes me wonder however that the less government seems to be working for us, the more distrust grows, fueling conspiracy theories.

My retirement bill died on the house floor and the minor change was never implemented. Fifteen years later, both the employer and employee contributions to the retirement system were substantially increased to provide needed revenue, creating large budget shortfalls in government agencies around the state.

Next month we will explore today's epidemic of conspiracy theories.

My Choice

By Sharon McIntosh

To The Far Blue Mountains

by Louis L'Amour

Barnabas Sackett left England in 1620, a wanted man with a Queen's warrant following and threatening him every step of his life. Barnabas had found a few jewels and coins in one of the washes of the fens, where he and his family had peacefully lived for many generations. He had shown these to some and it was decided that he must have discovered or stolen King John's royal collection of gems and treasures. A bounty was placed; he was hounded and sought, eventually captured and taken to NewGate Prison.

Barnabas had many well known friends who were seafaring men and world explorers. One of them was able, through more or less acceptable resources, to assist in his escape from prison.

The tale of Barnabas Sackett's travels on sea and land are epoch and he was hunted as well as helped by some steadfast friends. He gained passage in a ship bound for Nova Scotia, by way of Iceland and from there, travelled to North Carolina.

He had been to America in the past and seen the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, which he thought of as the far blue mountains. Clearing land for the first cabin and garden patch, meeting and learning which Indians were friendly as well as those who were not, hunting for meat and gathering roots and seeds for the winter took up much time and made him more familiar with the surrounding lands.

Raising a family, protecting his home, exploring farther west, ever west, in the desire to know more of this great country makes a riveting story and shows the resourcefulness and knowledge of some of the first white families to settle the coast and inland.

Coming Soon...

Quilt Shows

Month of the Arts

Summer Reading

Painting Classes

Movies

Game Competitions

Self Improvement Classes

Cooking

Music

Research

Reading

ALL coming to your Ripley Public Library



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 Thursday, April 1st at 11 a.m. to discuss *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.

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

April Book List 2021

ADULT FICTION

Anthony/Enter the Aardvark
 Arlidge/The Doll's House
 Barry/The Fifth Petal
 Boyd/The Indigo Girl
 Cameron/A Dog's Purpose
 Clipston, Gray and Long/Amish Midwives
 Esposito/Mad
 Fuller/A Double Dose of Love
 Grissom/The Kitchen House
 Haig/The Midnight Library
 Harrington/The Life You Left
 Hartoin/The Paris Package
 Iles/The Devil's Punchbowl
 Johnson/Yellow Wife
 Kellerman/The Lost Boys
 McKeveatt/Murder at Mabel's Motel
 Miller/Plain Confession
 Neuvel/Sleeping Giants
 Patterson/The Russian
 Pilcher/The Shell Seekers
 Regan/Vanishing Girls
 Sherry/Opening Belle
 Wiseman/What She Left Behind
 Young/Cross Roads

ADULT NON FICTION

Asprey/Fast This Way
 Gupta/Keep Sharp
 Nimura/The Doctors Blackwell
 Obama/A Promised Land
 Pollak/Getting from College to Career
 Staton/Yoga Bones
 Straight/In The Country of Women
 Wohlleben/The Hidden Life of Trees

LARGE PRINT

Clayton/The Race for Paris

Dibben/Tomorrow
 Domet/The Guineveres
 Oyeyemi/What is Yours is Not Yours
 Yoerg/The Middle of Somewhere

PAPERBACKS

Arlington/Every Trick in the Book
 Blake/Something Borrowed, Something Mewed
 Bradley/Viking Warrior Rebel
 Hamilton/Death of an English Muffin
 Mentink/Treacherous Trails

YOUNG ADULT

Hathaway/Dark of the West
 Latos/Under Shifting Stars
 Reynolds/Early Departures
 Rivera/Never Look Back
 Sylvester/Running

JUNIOR BOOKS

Beaty/Attack of the Fluffy Bunnies
 Cheng/The Year of the Fortune Cookie
 Coffin/My Teacher's a Bug
 Kelley/Molly Mac: Lunch Break
 Krulik/Katie Kazoo Swictheroo: Quiet on the Set
 Tarshis/I Survived: The American Revolution, 1776

EASY READERS

Anderton/My Cute Rabbit
 Arnold/Huggly Goes to School
 Dean/Pete the Cat: Construction Destruction
 Rockwell/Fire Engines
 Shea/ The Happiest Book Ever
 Snow/You Are Brave

AUDIOBOOKS

Baldacci/The Guilty
 Cook/Cure

Libraries are a cornerstone of democracy—where information is free and equally available to everyone. People tend to take that for granted, and they don't realize what is at stake when that is put at risk.—Carla Hayden

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, Thursday and Friday 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, Friday 10a.m. til 3p.m. We appreciate your continued patronage!

Projected opening date for the library is mid to late May. Volunteers are needed to move all the shelving and books back into the library. The old men with bad backs have done their part. We need some young, healthy, strong people to help with this move!



A BIG Thank You, to the businesses and individuals on these last two pages who have made a donation to show their support of Ripley Public Library. Please let them know you saw their card in The Bookworm!

For a \$5 per month donation, you can show your support as well!



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



Pat Burdick Locke & Bill Locke



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