



Ripley Public Library
Bookworm Newsletter
September 2026

Volume 15, Issue 9

Hours of Operation

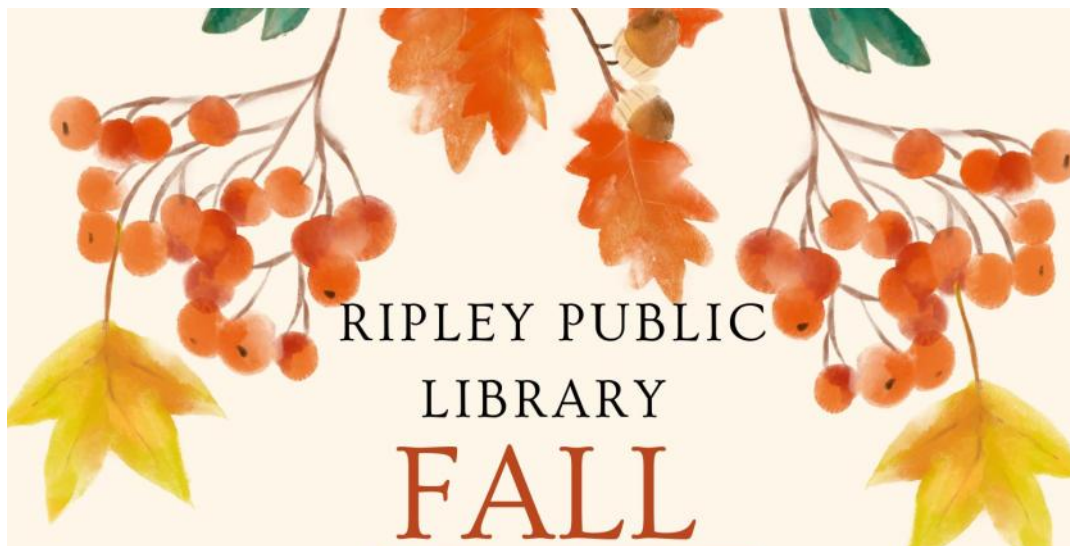
Monday 10am-5pm
Tuesday 10am-7:30pm
Wednesday 10am-5pm
Thursday 10am-7:30pm
Friday 10am-5pm
Saturday 9am-2pm

Contact Information:
64 W. Main St.
Ripley, NY 14775
716-736-3913
ripleylibrary.org

Ripley Library Board:
Tracy Reslink, Pres
Linda Probst VP Finance
Mike Johnson VP
Caroline Mulson, Sec
Lori Fisher
Shara Post

Library Director:
Molly Harvey
Asst Director:
Stephanie Feiss
Clerk: Sherry Lantz
Bookworm/About Town
Editor: Bill Near
Publisher: Robyn Albright

Best Friends Welcome You



RIPLEY PUBLIC
LIBRARY
**FALL
CRAFT**
SEPTEMBER 12TH
AT 10AM

PAINT
YOUR OWN
PUMPKINS
\$15



LIMITED
SPACE.
CALL TO
RESERVE
YOUR
SPOT!
716.736.3913



Library Board Meeting, Wednesday, September 23rd @ 6pm
Best Friends Fund Meeting: Saturday, September 19th @ 12:30pm



**Book Talk with
Mary Ellen Humphrey**

Tuesday, September 15 @ 6pm

Corresponding

With Marcia

***The American Revolution
and Other Topics***

Mercy Otis Warren published a history of the American Revolution in 1805. She corresponded with principals of the Revolution and was actively engaged in the war effort. Her letters are archived in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

This is a series of creative historical letters between Mercy and author Mary Ellen Humphrey, her distant cousin, using Mercy's own words to describe the revolution from **HER** perspective.



An Educational Tool

From the desk of the Ripley Town Historian

Doc Hamels

Nanci Haibach, Historian from North East, and I have teamed up to research the fascinating history of State Line and Northville as you know from last month's article. There have been some exciting revelations about this small intersection that go back to the early 1800s! We are looking for any information on Helon Hopper and his sons, James and William. They were very much involved in the inn and tavern business there around 1875. A little-known factoid that I uncovered is that not only was Northville part of NYS at one time, but it was previously called Washington Hollow!!! So please if any of this rings a bell in your family history please let me know at the town building or email me at hamels@fairpoint.net.

Evil Never Dies

The Halloween whodunit that screams for attention



The Ripley Library Presents a Murder Mystery – Evil Never Dies

Performed at Noble Winery, Hard-scrabble Road, Westfield on October 10th at 6p.m.

\$25 per person at Ripley Library and Noble Winery – Tickets are limited!

Did Evil-Eyed Emil return to wreak vengeance on the citizens of Reaper Junction?

Written and developed by

Jack Pachuta
Management Strategies, Inc.
PO Box 191
Cedarburg, WI 53012

262/377-7230
jack@pachuta.com
www.mysteries-on-the-net.com

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Book Club

Meets the first
Monday at
5:30pm

*When the Day
Comes*

By Gabrielle
Meyer

(Due to holi-
day meet 9/14)



A request has been made to
start a Spades
card club.

Date and time
to be deter-
mined when
there are
enough play-
ers.

Interested? Let
Stephanie at the desk know
or email thebook-
worm14775@gmail.com



WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
FRIENDS
TO JOIN OUR
TEAM!



Please consider joining us at the
Westfield Stray Cat Rescue
8494 West Route 20
Westfield, NY 14787

We need volunteers for morning & late afternoon shifts to
help with cleaning, laundry, & feeding our cats & kittens.
You'll make the lives of beautiful creatures better
and as a bonus, you'll make new friends!

716-232-4152

wscr@4loveofcats.com

Earl C. Freling, D.C.
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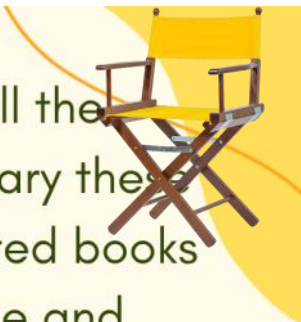
73 West Main Street
Ripley, NY 14775
716-736-6868



CHAUTAUQUA SUNRISE
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Saturday morning from 9-10 a.m. Call in
716-753-5225

Doc Hamels
Producer/Host
On Spectrum Ch 1301, 2 & 8 pm Daily
hamels@fairpoint.net
Facebook.com/Chautauquasunrise
716-223-0112



Director's Notes by Molly Harvey

As summer winds down, I look back on all the awesome things we had going on at the library these past few months. Thank you to all who donated books for our book sale, and for those who came and purchased books! We raised \$700, and could not have done that without the amazing Ripley community! Summer reading was a blast here, and as we say goodbye to our dinosaur friends we are excited for what the fall time shall bring. Be prepared for the library to be a little spooky! Kick off for fall with our upcoming fall craft here at the library on September 12th at 11am.

*See you at the
Ripley Library,
Molly Harvey*



THANK YOU!

Thank you to our wonderful library volunteers.
Special thanks to Mike Probst for updating all
of our downspouts this month!



Local History Book Review

by Michelle Henry, Research Historian

Stealing Lincoln's Body, by Thomas J. Craughwell, 2007, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge Mass.

Perhaps you have seen programs on the History channel and on PBS about the 1876 plot by a gang of counterfeiters to steal Abraham Lincoln's body. It's a true story, and it is a fascinating part of our country's history – counterfeiting was a huge problem for the federal government before and during the Civil War, and led to the creation of the Secret Service. The kidnapping plot failed, but as a result Lincoln's body was moved several times and eventually he and his family were buried under tons of cement to ensure that grave robbers would never succeed in desecrating the graves again.

So, what does a grave robbery in Illinois have to do with Chautauqua County history, you may rightfully ask? The Secret Service agent who is credited with foiling the grave robbery attempt was a man named Patrick Tyrell, an Irish immigrant who rose through police ranks to become a hero of the Chicago-area Irish community. It wasn't until one of his descendants contacted me that I realized he had a local connection. Tyrell had been a deputy sheriff here before moving to Chicago. So, I have taken license in reviewing this book as local history because a prominent character in the story worked and raised his family here.

The author, Thomas Craughwell is a descendant of Patrick Tyrell (not the same

descendant that I assisted). He still possesses the framed portrait that Robert Lincoln (son of the martyred President) presented to Tyrell in gratitude for preventing the robbery. Craughwell does an excellent job of providing the historical and political backdrop for the crime, as well as profiling the gang members who thought they could leverage Lincoln's body in exchange for the release of their imprisoned engraver (a good counterfeit engraver was hard to find and arguably one of the most important members of the operation).

The volume includes numerous illustrations and photographs of the mausoleum, the men involved from both the criminal and law enforcement sides, and Lincoln's family. The notes and bibliography are extensive – the author did an immense amount of research and pulled information from a variety of sources to tell this story and to flesh out the key characters.

As for Patrick Tyrell, legal records here and in the Midwest show a less-than-heroic side to his personal life. As a husband and father, he was much more a scoundrel than a hero. He definitely deserves credit for protecting Lincoln's body, but there was a very flawed side to him as well. But don't let that stop you from reading this book – it is an unbelievable story that just happens to be true.

From the Archives

The Ripley Library contains a wealth of information dating back to the library's humble beginnings in 1937 and prior. Each month we will reprint articles or stories about the library, including old photographs. We hope that someone, somewhere will be able to identify some of the people and places.

If you have a particular interest in something from the past, let us know. The library has a treasure trove of history. thebookworm14775@gmail.com

Abigail Adams

Many decades ago, the Ripley library had a Literary Club, in which members were asked to research and report on a topic of interest. Mary Ellen Humphrey will be giving a presentation on her book *Corresponding with Marcia*, which highlights letters written by Mercy Owen Warren, a woman intimately involved in the American Revolution. In this vein, I found a report written in September, 1987 by Shirley Mann, then librarian, regarding Abigail Adams. Here it is in part.

"Phyllis Lee Levin, writer for the *New York Times*, became interested in Abigail Adams quite by accident. In December 1969, while working on a book about American historic houses, she came across the Adams' family home of Quincy, Massachusetts. In researching, she tried to concentrate on the people who occupied these historic homes and came across the "Letters of Mrs. Adams." After having read them, she became quite committed to presenting Abigail's little-known story in her book *Abigail Adams*.

One of Abigail's greatest accomplishments in her 74 years of life was her recording of history in the form of letters to family and friends.

She had an intense interest in politics and over the years her correspondence explored every facet of an awakening nation. Her letters bring a personal touch to the events of history. Society did not encourage formal education of women. Abigail felt very deprived on that account and with her sister Mary, set out

to rectify that situation. They entered into correspondence with family and friends. This was not just for pleasure but for education and instruction.

One person Abigail credited with helping in this area was Richard Cranch. Mr. Cranch cultivated a wide range of interest. He helped her widen her knowledge of French, history, and government.

She also entered into correspondence with her cousin Isaac Smith. In 1762 Richard Cranch introduced John Adams to Abigail Smith. John was impressed by her devotion to the Crown and found her a steadfast friend. Abigail was a unique woman of vision and great ambitions. She held strong views on women's place in society. She pitied the woman who confined herself to a narrow circle of domesticity with no higher aspirations. But she also pitied the intellectual woman who could not cheerfully leave her intellectual pursuits to tend to the daily cares of a housewife. She felt strongly that they should be well balanced. John and Abigail married in October of 1764.

John had a profound influence upon Abigail's evolution from a loyal English subject to an American Patriot. This was a painful process for both of them since they both loved England and felt loyal to her. But as the events of history unfolded, they both became convinced that the only way out of Britain's oppressive rule over the colonies was complete independence.

SEPTEMBER 2026

NEW BOOK LIST

ADULT FICTION

Bannister/Five

Brunstetter/The Melody of Love

Fisher/On a Summer Tide

On a Coastal Breeze

At Lighthouse Point

Gardner/You'll Be Sorry

Hochhauser/Lady Tremaine

Johnson/The Reimagining of Thornwood House

McFadden/Dear Debbie

Pekkanen/The Women in White

Quinn/The Astral Library

Sager/The Unknown

Scottoline/This Changes Everything

Sharer/Secrets in Room Four

Shocklee/The Women of Oak Ridge

Shuler/The Nazi's Daughter

Stanfill/Singing Lessons for the Stylish Canary

Straub/American Fantasy

ADULT NONFICTION

Hobbs/Seeking Shelter

Nguyen/Saving Five

Brown/A Legacy of Labor

Wortsman/Odd Birds & Fat Cats

LARGE PRINT

Bowen/From Cradle to Grave

Chapman/An Amish Widow's New Love

Fox/Future Boy

Gelfuso/The Book of Lost Hours

Price/This Happened to Me

YOUNG ADULT

Han/to all the boys I've loved before
(Graphic Novel)

Myall/Hearts Gambit

Oda/One Piece -Vol 7-9

Ward/Mercy

JUNIOR BOOKS

Blabey/The Bad Guys

Dasgupta/Theft of the Ruby Lotus

Lloyd/Super Pancake

Martin/The Baby-sitters Club- Kristy
Great Idea

Swanson/Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie
of Doom

Toalson/My Brother Oliver

EASY READERS

Danneberg/First Day Jitters

Dyckman/Tea Party Rules

Hernandez/In My Mind

Stutzman/Tiny T. Rex and the Impossible Hug

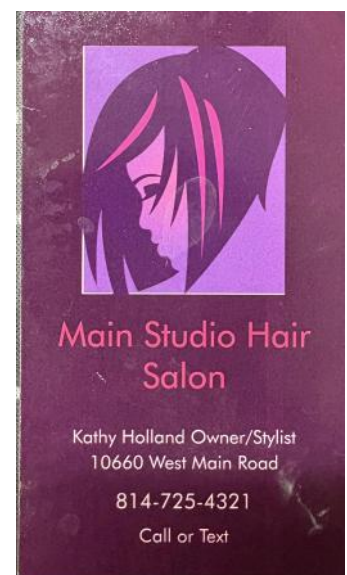
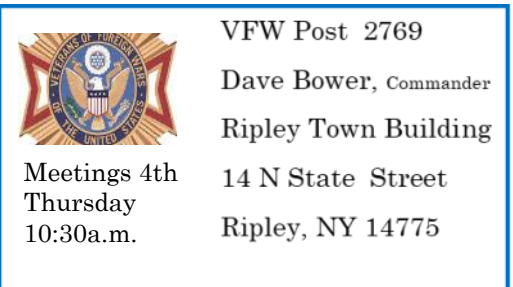
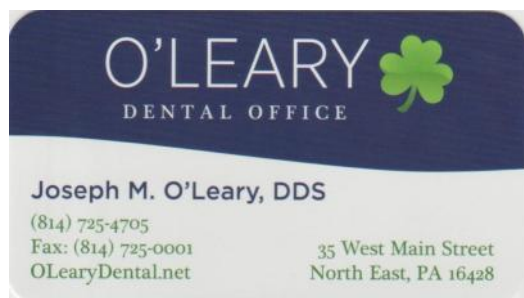
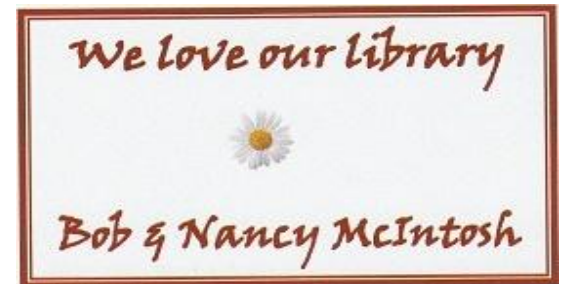
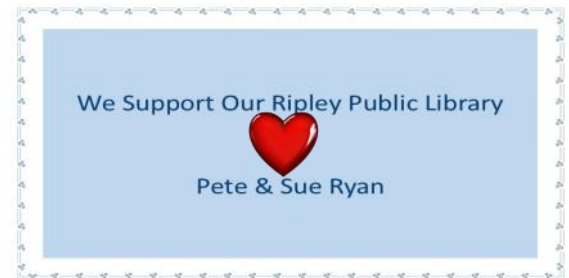
Yoon/Have You Seen My Invisible Dinosaur?

ANCESTRY.COM

You can access Ancestry.com at the Ripley Library. It's easy to set up an account and start tracing your family down through the centuries.

Your research will be saved in your Ancestry.com account, but bring a flash drive to save your information just in case.

While you're at it, we'd love it if you could donate a paper copy of your genealogy to the library. We have a cabinet dedicated to our local family histories.



Genealogies/Family Histories

If you would like to donate a copy of your family's history we would love to add it to our collection. There are more than a dozen genealogies in the reading room so far, and there's room for many, many, more!

The FREE Table

If you'd like to donate nonperishable items or personal items (like toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc.), you can put them on the FREE Table near the back door.

If you need something from the FREE Table, feel free to take it. No questions asked.

Diamond Art meets Tuesdays at 4:30 (Dot Doers)

Trial size available for free, then purchase the kits you like.



Knitting & Crochet Group meets Tuesdays at noon. All levels welcome.



Sewing Group meets Thursdays at noon. Quilters and sewers of all levels are welcome.



**Timmerman's Fruit Farm
& Market**

8352 Rt. 20 West
Westfield, NY 14787

Robyn Near Albright

With stories yet to tell

Cell : 716-581-0309

E-mail: robynalb@gmail.com



Support our Ripley community.
Together we can do so much.

Ripley Community and Heritage Fund

**The Best Friends Fund
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to be a part of the
Ripley Public Library!**

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www.johnsonwinery.com

Looking for Local Authors

We invite published (including self-published) writers to come and speak to our audience, telling us a little bit about yourself and your book. This is generally followed by a Q&A period and a book signing. Call the library and we'll set up a date. 716-736-3913

Library Cards: your passport to adventure. If you need a library card, come see us and we will help you get one. If you haven't renewed your card, we can take care of that too! Welcome to a world of adventure!



RIPLEY READERS RETREAT

The Facebook page, **Ripley Readers Retreat**, sponsored by the Ripley Library, hosts adult readers who discuss their favorite books and encourage others to try out new titles and authors.

Pop in anytime to let us know what you've read. We welcomes readers from here and there and back again.

Ripley United Methodist Church
84 West Main St, Ripley NY



Prayer Meeting
Thursday
2 pm

INNER LAKES
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Carl Swan
Chief Executive Officer

19-21 East Main Street
Westfield, NY 14787
Phone: (716) 326-3858 Ext. 117
Toll Free: (800) 388-1326
Fax: (716) 326-7550
E-mail: cswan@innerlakesfcu.org
Web: innerlakesfcu.org

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Crystal R. Schrantz
VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

P: 716.326.3145
F: 716.326.4065
crystal.schrantz@cbna.com



cbna.com

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Ripley, NY

Peaches available late July

Knight Vineyards, LLC

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www.caninerescue.org

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Hours
 Monday - Friday. 9AM - 6PM
 Saturdays 9AM - 4PM & Sundays 9AM - 2PM

North East Fruit Growers, Inc.
 The House Of Quality Service.
 2297 Klomp Rd.
 North East, PA 16428

Paul Light
 Sales Manager

Cara Webster
 Business Manager
 (814)-725-3705
nfruitgrowers@verizon.net



Lake Shore Center for the Arts

While in Westfield, we welcome you to stop by and visit Lake Shore Center for the Arts and experience what we have to offer in visual, digital and live performing arts, events and classes.

Phone: (716) 224-2135
 49 South Portage St. (upper level)
 Westfield, NY 14787
lscfta@gmail.com
<http://lakeshorecenterforthearts.com>
 Open Saturdays 12pm-3pm
 Other days by request



Brenda Fine Arts Gallery
 Lorna Penny Studio
 Innovation Studio
 Jacqueline Phillips Theater
 Bill Ross Recital Hall

Dennis & Sandy Wright



Hearts for ALS NY

"Working for the PALS"

Contact information for our representatives

Senator Chuck Schumer

322 Hart Senate Office Bldg
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 Phone (202) 224-6542

or

130 South Elmwood Ave, #606
 Buffalo, NY 14202
 Phone (716) 846-4111

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

478 Russell
 Washington, D.C. 20510
 Phone (202) 224-4451

or

Larkin At Exchange
 726 Exchange St, Suite 511
 Buffalo, NY 14210
 Phone (716) 854-9725

Congressman Nick Langworthy

422 Cannon House Office Bldg
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 Phone (202) 225-3161

or

The Fenton Building
 2-6 East Second Street
 Room 208
 Jamestown, NY 14701
 Phone (716) 488-8111

Wanted:

Lego pieces and Lego sets
We will gladly accept any
new or used Lego items to
add to our collection. Please
drop them off at the library.



Parkview Cafe
 3 E Main St
 Westfield, NY 14787
 Phone: 716-326-3600
<https://parkviewcafeandcatering.com>

Courtney Thompson
 Owner



10429 W Lake Road • Ripley, NY 14775
 (814) 282-5327
lyndon@lakeshorehydroponic.com

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All the Best

-
Bill & Pat
Locke



Need an easy way to donate to the Ripley Library? Bottle and Can Collection

The Library has a collection bin in the lobby for returnable cans and bottles. Don't throw out those water bottles and pop cans! Donate them to the library.

Please be sure all bottles and cans are empty and rinsed before you place them in the bin.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Ripley Public Library



DIY Storytime

Each month we will have a new craft and stories available. Families are welcome to do the craft, read a story, or do both!

Available as a Take & Make

Is there an activity or class you'd like to see at our library?

Community members come here to sew, knit, play cards and meet. The library would like to offer more for our residents to do. There are hundreds of classes online that we could present here on our large screen television.

Do the times of offered activities not fit your schedule? Let us know! We're here to enrich your lives.

Come visit the library!



Capt. Jeff Phillips
 100 ton Masters USCG certified

Barcelona Harbor
 Westfield, NY

(716) 753-0499

knotrightfishingcharter@gmail.com
www.knotrightfishingcharters.com



**Proud to Support the
Ripley Public Library.**

**John & Rhonda
Thompson**



Diane Bentley O'Brien



Community Table

The Ripley Public Library welcomes community groups who would like to set up a table in our lobby to promote their business or group. Examples: VFW Poppy sales, Girl Scout cookie sales, as well as distribution of pamphlets or information about your group or activity. A representative for the table must be present for items to be displayed.

Reservations must be made. There is no cost, it's just our way of giving back to the community. 716-736-3913



Ripley Public Library Is a Safe Place Location

What is a Safe Place Location? A Safe Place works with the Safe House out of Jamestown and is part of Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. This is a program for runaway or homeless youth under the age of 18. If this young person needs help, all they have to do is enter the facility displaying the yellow sign that reads SAFE PLACE. They let someone in charge know they need help.



Best Friends of the Ripley Public Library

We Need Your Help!

Ripley Library's BFF group (Best Friends Fund) is looking for more members to join us to help with fundraising and program support for our library.

Dues are just \$5 per year. All we ask is that you attend monthly meetings as often as you can, and occasionally help with fundraising events. Funds raised by BFF are used for library equipment and supplies, upgrades, Summer Reading Program, etc.

There are many things to be proud of in Ripley. Our beautiful library is one of those things. Please call 716-736-3913 for more information.

Best Friends of the Ripley Public Library

Ripley Library Best Friends Fund 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.

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.

BEST FRIENDS

Best Friends Fund of 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

<https://www.ripleylibrary.org>

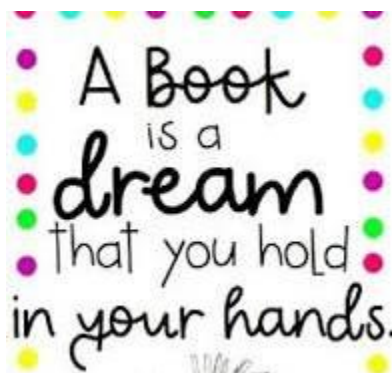
Notes & Things

Email Newsletter

We rely on email to get our newsletter out. Each month you will receive 2 emails: The Bookworm and 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 available—The Bookworm and About Town on the library website**
<https://www.ripleylibrary.org>



New Activities & Classes

Is there an activity or class you'd like to see offered at the library? Can you teach a class or give a talk about a topic? Let the library know if there is something new you'd like to add to the many programs and classes already offered. 716-736-3913

Attend a Board Meeting

Ripley Public Library Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public. Check the schedule below for times and dates.

Ripley Public Library Board of Directors Meetings for 2026



Sep 23
Oct 28

Nov 25
Dec 23

Meetings are open to the public, in person or via Zoom, and will be held at 6p.m. Dates and times subject to change.

Ripley Public Library is Open for Business

Mon. Wed. Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tue. Thu. 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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.

September 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<i>1 knitting noon; Dia- mond Art 4:30</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3 sewing noon</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>7 LABOR DAY</i>	<i>8 knitting noon; dia- mond art 4:30</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10 sewing noon</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12 Fall Craft 10</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>14 Book Club 5:30</i>	<i>15 knit- ting noon; diamond art 4:30; Book Talk 6</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17 sewing noon</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22 knit- ting noon; diamond art 4:30</i>	<i>23 Library Board Mtg 6</i>	<i>24 sewing noon</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29 knit- ting noon; diamond art 4:30</i>	<i>30</i>			