Winter can be long and dreary, but Valentine’s Day will be here before you know it! Send a little valentine...why do you love the library? Valentines can be deposited in our collection box at the library or sent to prgroup@smfpl.org. We’ll share your best messages on social media, and post them by Spike’s tank in the Children’s Department.
The new year brings a season of changes for our FinePRINT newsletter. As we transition from a monthly newsletter to a seasonal newsletter which will be released four times a year, we want to be sure that you remain connected to our upcoming programs and events. Many of our programs require registration. Click on the links below to view programs, read descriptions and to register. We also offer monthly upcoming events brochures which are available in the literature rack at the library.

January Events
February Events
March Events

Click to link!
After 20 years of service, Jim Williams, Information Services Associate, prepares for retirement by sharing some of his favorite music.
Graphic Novels: More than Superheroes

by Gretchen Quinn, Information Services Librarian

You may be surprised to learn that graphic novels have become one of the fastest growing publishing formats at all levels of print publishing. Publication and sales of graphic novels have been steadily on the rise over the past two decades. Libraries, including our own, have embraced these popular novels as part of our collection.

So, what exactly is a graphic novel? A graphic novel uses comics instead of prose to tell a story. The term might be deceiving since a graphic novel is not always a novel. It can be fiction, nonfiction, memoir, or anthology. Of course there are superhero stories, but there are also mysteries, romances, dramas, thrillers, science fiction, and biographies.

Our library offers graphic novels for readers of all ages — whether you’re an adult, kid, teen, or somewhere in between! The popularity spans all ages because of the visual element. The artwork in a graphic novel is as important (if not more important) as the words on the page. The art itself tells the story. We all know that TV and movies are extremely popular — but librarians and publishers are noticing an increased demand for visual literature as well.

Graphic novels are diverse. They are humorous or serious. They are reality or fantasy. There is something for everyone in graphic novels. Check out the catalog to see what comics and graphic novels are available in print and electronic formats.

Jess Alloggia, Assistant Head of Information Services (R), is also a reader of graphic novels. Two of her favorites from 2017 are Paper Girls (Vols. 1 - 3) by Brian K. Vaughan and Fetch: How a Bad Dog Brought Me Home by Nicole J. Georges.
Meet Ruth Drew, One of Our Many Volunteers!

by Lisa Maruna, Marketing & PR Coordinator

Ruth yearned to share her love for kids, dogs, and reading. In 2009, she approached our former children’s librarian, Betsy Adams, with the desire to open up the Bow Wow Book Buddies program to all children, not just struggling readers. The goal was, and still is, to provide children of all abilities an opportunity to read to a dog in a relaxed and encouraging environment. Since that time, we have had teams of 3-4 dogs visiting with children about twice a month ever since. This past summer we increased our visits to once a week and have grown to having 10 teams on our roster and average 5 dogs each week.

Ruth is a retired third grade Stow City School teacher. She began training her Shih Tzu, Ernie, at All Breed Training Club in Akron in 2009. Ernie had passed the Canine Good Citizen test and moving on to agility classes with flying colors. Ruth had then learned about therapy dogs and went to a facility in Solon so that Ernie could be evaluated. They passed the TDI test and began visiting nursing homes and a Hattie Larlham group home.

We asked Ruth to share some of her favorite memories from Bow Wow Book Buddies. Here’s what she had to say: “We have received such gratitude from children and parents over the years. Parents have brought their children to practice reading skills, but also to help them overcome fears, deal with grief over the loss of their pet, ask question when they are thinking of adding a dog to their family, but most importantly to have fun reading. We enjoy those kids who become our regulars and return from week to week. Our dogs have “groupies,” children who bond with a dog and return many times to read to their favorite dog.

When children read to the dogs, they’re given a bookmark with a picture of the dog and some facts about him or her. Some kids try to collect them all! I was substitute teaching at a school in Stow and was telling the kids that they could come to the library and read to dogs on Sundays. After the children left, a teacher’s aide asked me which dog was mine. When I replied, “Ernie”, the aide exclaimed, “We have Ernie’s picture on our refrigerator!”

A parent once told me that she could not get her son to read a book all summer. She was obviously pleased when her son read two picture books to Oliver in just 15 minutes!

One time, a young girl in a wheelchair was waiting for her sister to finish reading. No one was signed up for Ernie, so Ruth brought Ernie over to meet her and offered to let her hold him in her lap. No, she wanted him to sit on her feet. Ruth was shocked Ernie sat on her feet and the footrests of that wheelchair for the rest of the 15 minute time slot. That behavior isn’t trained. The dog just knows or senses what is needed and does it. The girl left with a big smile on her face. These are the stories that keep us coming back.”

Never been to one of these sessions? We welcome you to join us! Our next Bow Wow Book Buddies will be held at 1:30 PM on Sunday, January 7, 2018. Click here for details.
MOVIE NIGHT!

Coming soon to our shelves.

“AN ANIMATED MASTERPIECE”
“AWE-INSPIRING” “EXHILARATING”

Loving Vincent

MOVIE NIGHT!

MOVIE

THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER

A QUESTION OF FAITH

Click movie cover to advance to our catalog or to place a hold. Most titles have been ordered and added to our catalog.
Looking for a Good Book?

Ever wonder what our librarians are reading during their leisure time after the library closes? Our staff members are serious consumers of books—some reading hundreds of titles in a year! In celebration of the start of a brand new year, we are releasing the Information Department’s favorite books from 2017. But keep in mind that this is just a sampling from their long list of tantalizing titles!
— BEST Books continued
Art Gallery Exhibits

**January Exhibit:** Longtime Stow resident and Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library patron Care Hanson specializes in acrylic on canvas and other explorative art play, creating mixed media collages in cereal box pieces and altered art journals from books she finds at the Friends of the Library Book Sales.

Care earned a Fine Arts degree from Bowling Green State University in 1980, but she paused her art career to raise her three daughters and work full time at a staffing firm. After retiring in 2013, she began to create art daily and to attend artists retreats in Oregon and New Mexico. As she celebrates her 60th birthday in January, she is grateful to have the time and space in her life to fully immerse herself in creative expression and encourages others to not be afraid to tap into their own creative spirit and to try no matter one’s age, background, or training. She believes that art is more about the act of creating than the product.

As part of the Akron Art Prize, her work has been exhibited at the Summit Artspace, Zeber-Martell Studio, and Peg's Gallery at the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation. Her work has also been chosen for the juried Fresh Art show.

Care's paintings are intuitive, layered, and eclectic explorations. She often finds inspiration from daily trail hikes and family heirloom photographs. She signs her name when the piece ‘rings true’ and suggests a story, inviting viewers to pick up a thread and spin the tale further. She can be reached at chantolyn@gmail.com and followed on @carehanson on Instagram.

—Care Hanson

Other upcoming exhibits include Rachel Smith’s sculptural jewelry and metals in February and Roy Mowls’s paintings in March.

—Roy Mowl

—Rachel Smith
The New York Times

Best Sellers

Hardcover Fiction

1. A professor goes on a perilous quest with a museum director.

2. Students at a law school hope to expose the banker who runs it.

3. Detective Cross takes on a case even though he faces murder charges.

4. Jack Reacher stumbles upon a large criminal enterprise.

5. Jessica Reel and Will Robie fight a dangerous adversary in Colorado.

6. A Manhattan family moves into a mansion and encounters the ghosts of its original inhabitants.

7. President Jack Ryan seeks to identify forces escalating the tensions between China and the United States.

8. When a homeless man is murdered, the bounty hunter searches for the killer.

9. A small-time smuggler living in a lunar colony schemes a challenging heist.

10. While he investigates the murder of two pharmacists, an old case comes back to haunt Harry Bosch.

11. Humanity faces a new Desolation with the return of the Voidbringers.

12. Women who fall asleep become shrouded in mysterious cocoons while the men battle one another.

13. An artist upends a quiet town outside Cleveland.

14. Lovers find themselves on opposite sides of a conflict while Queen Elizabeth fights to maintain her throne.

15. Seventeen short stories, each incorporating a typewriter, by the Academy Award-winning actor.

Click on the image to go to our catalog and place a hold, or borrow from SearchOhio. Click here to see the entire New York Times Best Sellers list.
Staff Transitions are Never Easy!

Although we are sad to say goodbye to our Local History Librarian, Beth Daugherty, we are excited that Information Services Librarian, Gretchen Quinn, will be taking over!

Gretchen has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Xavier University and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Kent State University. During her time at Kent State, she specialized in Museum Studies and has a special interest in genealogy and local history. She also serves as a Board of Trustee for the Brimfield Historical Society and Kelso House Museum.

In December, we said farewell to Amelia Newberry who worked as a shelver since 2013. She has been a patron at our library for the past 18 years and will remain a dedicated member of the Friends of the Library. You may be surprised to learn that Amelia collects things that have to do with trains. Steam engines, diesels, she loves it all! We’ll miss you, Amelia, and hope to see you around the library often!

Adult Winter Reading Challenge

Adults 18 and over can join in the winter reading fun at the library by reading and logging books during the Adult Winter Reading Challenge 2018, which will run from January 1 to February 28, 2018.

You can register at smfpl.beanstack.org anytime and read and log at least one book per week beginning January 1 to be eligible for weekly random drawings of gift cards. To be eligible for the grand prize gift card drawing at the conclusion of the program, you must log at least five books. Prizes are courtesy of the Friends of the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library.

If you registered at smfpl.beanstack.org last summer for Adult Summer Reading, no need to register again! Just start reading your favorite books and log them in.

For help getting registered or for more details, stop in or call the Adult Information Desk.