I’m going to sound like an old curmudgeon saying this (“Hey, you kids! Get off my lawn!”) but how we do things is changing faster and faster every year. And nowhere is that more true than our TV viewing habits. When I was a kid we had three channels – five if my baby brother held the rabbit ears just so – and now with cable we have hundreds of channels to choose from…and sort through…and pay for.

One of the most popular ways to view TV shows and movies these days is to stream them. Streaming videos has been around in one form or another for years now, but lately new streaming technology and services seem to be erupting on every side. This is great, in that it gives us even more options, more flexibility, and the potential to save money. On the other hand, the variety of offerings makes it even more challenging to sort through all the options and select the ones that suit our needs.

Streaming to a big screen requires four things: a screen (obvious, but I have to say it), an internet connection, a streaming device which “catches” the signal and transmits it to your TV, and a streaming service that provides the content. Which equipment and plans you choose will change depending on what and how much you want to watch. If you’re just starting to think about cord-cutting, a good first step is to consider what you and the other people in your household like to watch on TV. It’s not a bad idea to write it all down. This gives you several important pieces of information. For one thing, you’ll get an estimate of how many hours your family watches per week or month. This is going to determine your choice of internet plan – you’ll need one that includes enough data for all that streaming. For another, if

—continued on page 3
We are excited to announce that the Tuesday Musical Association is bringing the Escher String Quartet back to the library. Inspired by Dutch artist M.C. Escher’s interplay among individual components working together to form a whole, the Escher String Quartet is Tuesday Musical’s quartet-in-residence. In addition to its role with Tuesday Musical, Escher also serves as artists of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and as quartet-in-residence at Southern Methodist University. The quartet has performed at the BBC Proms at Cadogan Hall and is a regular guest at Wigmore Hall in London. Recent debuts include at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Berlin Konzerthaus, London’s Kings Place, Slovenian Philharmonic Hall, and Auditorium du Louvre. Known for wide stylistic interests, Escher has collaborated with violinist Joshua Bell, jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman, conductor and pianist Leon Fleisher, Latin artist Paquito D’Rivera, and performs often with Grammy award-winning guitarist Jason Vieaux.

This free library event requires tickets, which will be available at the Information Desk starting at 6 PM on Monday, January 21. There is a limit of four tickets per person. For more information, call (330) 688-3295 ext. 4. This program is cosponsored by the Tuesday Musical Association and the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library.
Cut the Cable!
—continued from page 1

several people want to watch different things at the same time, you need a service that offers multiple streams. The list also tells you what types of programming you watch, and that makes a difference too. Some things you want to watch right away — think of news programs, sports events or this week’s America’s Got Talent. Watching these programs two or three days later is a lot less useful and fun. If this is you, consider a service that offers live TV, even though it will cost more than on-demand-only services. On the other hand, binge-watching a season of Stranger Things or Doctor Who isn’t particularly time-dependent. If this is what you usually prefer, you may only need a service for on-demand viewing. And if there’s only one or two shows that really interest you, you can pick them up for around $30-40 from Amazon Instant Video, iTunes or other vendors and not subscribe to a streaming service at all. Chances are, you’ll even be able to find them on DVD at your local library.

One of the nice things about streaming is that you can try it out before you cancel your cable service, and it doesn’t cost much. You can pick up a streaming stick for $30-35 and connect it to any TV with an HDMI port (which includes virtually all flat-screen TVs). The services themselves offer a free trial period — usually seven days — so you can decide if you really like their offerings. If you keep the service, you won’t have a contract. You’ll just pay month to month and you can cancel anytime.

If you’d like some help in going over the costs and benefits of switching to a streaming service and saving money on your cable, come to the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library’s program on January 28. We’ll be talking about what equipment you need to have, defining what the buzzwords mean (what is a “fat pipe” internet connection, anyway?) and discussing some of the many streaming services you can use. Registration begins at 9 AM on December 31. Click here for more information or to register or call (330) 688-3295 ext. 4. We look forward to seeing you there!

Teen Talk
—by Christina Getrost, Teen Librarian

Cable!

Life-Size Monopoly

Teen and Tween News: Spend your holiday break on Boardwalk! Play Life-Size Monopoly at the library on Thursday, December 27.

You become the hat, the car, or the token of your choice as you play on our room-size game board. Roll giant dice, including the SPEED DIE for a faster pace, buy properties, land in jail, and do everything as in the regular game but at LIFE SIZE! Sign up with a friend to play on a team of 2 players, or you can be randomly assigned to a team and make a new friend. Prizes to the winning teams, courtesy of the Friends of the Library. There will be two games, one at 12 PM - 1:30 PM for 3rd-5th graders or “tweens,” and one at 2:30 PM - 4 PM for 6th-12th graders. Register starting December 1 at the Teen Information Desk (first floor) or by calling (330) 688-3295 ext. 4, as space is limited.

Teen Talk
—by Christina Getrost, Teen Librarian

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Learning is happening when kids use our flashcards and puzzles.

We all remember flashcards and puzzles from when we were young, and they’re still around today. They’ll always be in style because both flashcards and puzzles are fun ways to develop new skills. Flashcards have been around forever for one reason – they work! Flashcards actually create stronger neural connections in the brain and encourage recall and improve memory. But something wonderful about flashcards is that the child can practice alone or with a parent. When a child uses them by themselves, it encourages the ability to study alone. Your child builds three basic skills when doing puzzles. Puzzles develop physical skills such as small muscle movements and dexterity while they are using their hands and fingers. In addition, a child’s eyes and hands work together as they look for the pieces. Cognitive skills are used when they challenge themselves to solve the puzzle. Finally, they work on improving emotional skills like patience as they complete their work. In our Children’s Department we have a new display of flashcards and puzzles. We have flashcards for math facts, money, dinosaurs, sight words, colors, the alphabet, sign language, states, history, and more. Lately, our librarians have been recommending our BrainQuest series which open up your child’s world of knowledge and build essential skills. We also have a great selection of puzzles including giant floor puzzles, board puzzles and magnetic play sets. Once you find a puzzle or flashcard set and bring its corresponding card to the librarian, we’ll check it out for two weeks. The cards are now easier to find since they’ve been color coded by age and have icons to indicate subject matter. We still have our popular Hooked on Phonics kits located in clear backpacks in our Picture Book session. Puzzles and flashcards are a great way for your child to discover and learn. Check them out and begin learning today!
Winter Art Gallery Exhibits

December/January Gallery Exhibit featuring Dan Rowland:
“My name is Dan Rowland. I have been a photographer for over 35 years, sometimes as a professional, and sometimes not. I studied commercial photography at The University of Akron, and started working for Jim Maguire at Maguire Photographics, first as a photo assistant, and later as a studio manager. After leaving the studio, I opened my own studio and pursued more of a fine art style photography. Using an old 4x5 field camera (the type where you pull the cloth over your head so you can focus on the ground glass), I soon realized I needed to know more, and attended seminars on The Zone System, Advanced Darkroom Techniques, and Unsharp Masking for the Black and White Darkroom, taught by Howard Bond, a student of Ansel Adams. I closed the studio when the switch from film to digital happened. At the time, the film to digital conversion was $80,000 and I didn't have that money just laying around. I went back to the University, graduating in 2007 with a B.S. in Middle Level Education (grades 4-9) in math and science. These days, I am a math tutor for Akron Public Schools and a photographer on the side. Maybe someday, I will retire and shoot full time again. To see more of my work, please go to http://danrowland.smugmug.com”

February/March Gallery Exhibit featuring Jim McKinnon: “Using skills and techniques from my photography classes and independent study, I have been photographing insects and other small creatures. My career as a biology teacher has melded quite nicely with photography. Each day of the summer, I pursue my study of mini fauna with several hours spent in my backyard gardens. My photographs not only display the morphology of these insect creatures, but also the development of animals so finely adapted to their environment. The intricacies are not only interesting, but also mind provoking such as the leafhopper that looks like a leaf or the mantis that looks like a stick. Insects have been used in and as art forms since ancient time. Some of the early cave art is that of insect life. Even today they are represented in cartoons and in metal jewelry where they have their structure copied. If we look at areas such as engineering, the structure of the hexagon is used in construction due to its tremendous strength as well as the honeybee uses it for its hive. The overlapping scales found on snakes have been used to reinforce hoses to pump abrasive cement mixture. Biomimicry is a relatively new area of study and insect life is often a topic of discussion in this multiple disciplinary approach. It is my hope that the people view my images and develop a new viewpoint concerning this type of animal life. I hope they will stop and look at the flower and plant life where these creatures live their lives and enjoy this natural ever evolving type of art. To see more of my work, please go to jimmckinnon.smugmug.com”
Staff Favorites

It’s a difficult question when you ask librarians for the title of their most treasured book, but here are some of our all time favorites. How many have you read? Click book covers to link to our catalog.

Staff Favorites

In early nineteenth-century England, an orphaned young woman accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her employer who has a terrible secret.

—Evie’s Favorite

At their holiday home in Cornwall, a distant lighthouse holds a haunting attraction for the members of an Edwardian family as disillusionment, turmoil, and a world on the brink of war plague the family’s relationships.

—Kristin’s Favorite

Annie Dillard takes us through a year of on-foot explorations through her own suburban landscape, bringing anecdotes, curiosities, and insights about all she observes and experiences. Her writing is both lyrical and clinical, exploring not only the beauty, but also the violence found in the natural world.

—Sue’s Favorite

The first book of Margaret Atwood’s dystopian MaddAddam trilogy begins with Snowman, a lovelorn, starving survivor of a major extinction. In a world in which science-based corporations have recently taken mankind on an uncontrolled genetic-engineering ride, he now searches for supplies in a wasteland. Insects proliferate and pigoons and wolvogs ravage the Pleeblands, where ordinary people once lived. As he tries to piece together what has taken place, the narrative shifts to decades earlier. Atwood skillfully intertwines the complexities of human nature with the intricacies of politics and science and technology in her vision of a future world where Snowman searches for answers and tries to piece together an existence.

—Amanda’s Favorite

Toothpaste Drive

Help kids in our schools. Bring in tubes of toothpaste and toothbrushes (adult or child sized) for Bulldog Bags. Please bring your donations to the Circulation Desk. For more information, visit www.bulldogbags.org.
Staff Favorites

It’s a difficult question when you ask librarians for the title of their most treasured book, but here are some of our all time favorites. How many have you read? Click book covers to link to our catalog.

A Jack Ryan classic: A deadly serious game of hide-and-seek is on. The CIA’s brilliant young analyst, Jack Ryan, thinks he knows the reason for the sudden Red Fleet operation: the Soviets’ most valuable ship, the Red October, is attempting to defect to the United States.

—Alisha’s Favorite

The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina and quiet heroism of one man’s struggle for justice, in this Pulitzer Prize-winning classic that has been translated into more than 40 languages.

—Amy’s Favorite

Dr. Frankenstein learns the secret of imparting life to inanimate matter. To test his theories, he collects bones from the charnel-houses to construct a “human” being, and then gives it life. The creature, endowed with supernatural size and strength, is revolting to look at, and frightens all who see it. Lonely and miserable, it comes to hate its creator. The monster murders Frankenstein’s brother and his bride, and flees. The doctor pursues his creation in order to destroy it, but dies himself in the attempt.

—Nancy’s Favorite

Neil Gaiman has long been inspired by ancient mythology in creating the fantastical realms of his fiction. Now he presents his fashioning of the primeval Norse myths into a novel, which begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds, delves into the exploits of the deities, dwarves, and giants, and culminates in Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods and the rebirth of a new time and people. Gaiman stays true to the myths while vividly recreating the characters and making these long-ago myths breathe pungent life again.

—Jason’s Favorite

Fast Facts

People in 2 out of 5 households in Stow and Munroe Falls have used the library in the last year.

Want to know more? Pick up a Fast Facts Brochure in our Literature Rack by the elevator on the first floor of the library.
It’s a difficult question when you ask librarians for the title of their most treasured book, but here are some of our all time favorites. How many have you read? Click book covers to link to our catalog.

**Staff Favorites**

**LAURA INGALLS WILDER**

*Little House on the Prairie*

A family travels from the big woods of Wisconsin to a new home on the prairie, where they build a house, meet neighboring Indians, build a well, and fight a prairie fire.

—Jenn’s Favorite

**WINTER WELLNESS**

Are you tired of being dragged down by winter illness? Would you like to find a natural way to boost your immune system and ward off germs? Join us for Essential Oils: Winter Wellness on Tuesday, January 8 at 7 PM. Click [here](#) for more information and to register or call (330) 688-3295 ext. 4.

**THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD**

Although she is not very big, the Little Blue Engine agrees to try to pull a stranded train full of toys over the mountain.

—Joan’s Favorite

**BERT EASTON ELLIS**

Set in Los Angeles in the early 1980’s, Less than Zero has become a timeless classic. This coolly mesmerizing novel is a raw, powerful portrait of a lost generation who have experienced sex, drugs, and disaffection at too early an age. They live in a world shaped by casual nihilism, passivity, and too much money in a place devoid of feeling or hope.

—Lauren’s Favorite

**ERNST HEMINGWAY**

*The Sun Also Rises*

The quintessential novel of the Lost Generation, The Sun Also Rises is one of Ernest Hemingway’s masterpieces and a classic example of his spare but powerful writing style. A poignant look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-World War I generation, the novel introduces two of Hemingway’s most unforgettable characters: Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley. The story follows the flamboyant Brett and the hapless Jake as they journey from the wild nightlife of 1920s Paris to the brutal bull-fighting rings of Spain with a motley group of expatriates. It is an age of moral bankruptcy, spiritual dissolution, unrealized love, and vanishing illusions. First published in 1926, The Sun Also Rises helped to establish Hemingway as one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century.

—Jess’s Favorite
Save Money When You Know The Best Time to Buy

If one of your resolutions this year is to save money, here’s something worth investigating. In these high-tech times, you might think calendar driven consumer goods sales are behind us. Not so. Consumer Reports’ market analysts have found that deep discounts for many products are still tied to a particular month of the year. While some sales are timed to the introduction of new models, others are long-standing traditions, such as January white sales.

The convenience of browsing Consumer Reports online from home makes shopping easier than ever before. Combining this with Consumer Reports’ Best Time to Buy Calendar will help you save money and purchase better products. Visit our website: www.smpfl.org/Adults/Digital Downloads/Flipster Magazine/Consumer or click here to check out our Consumer Reports online magazines.
New & Popular

in our Children’s Department

Click book cover to advance to our catalog or to place a hold.
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?
More books every year.

Reading Resolutions
Are you making your reading resolutions yet? Ask us about our Playaway audiobook collection.

The average commuter spends 28 hours in transit every month. Listen to audiobooks on Playaway while you travel and add

24
more books
to your life every year

Playaway audiobooks
borrow like a book and play right from the device. No Wi-Fi. No downloads. No streaming. Just plug in headphones or connect to your car with an aux cord and listen on-the-go.

Check out a Playaway during our Winter Reading Program (January 2 - February 28) and ask for a free auxiliary cable. While supplies last!
MOVIE NIGHT!
Coming soon to our shelves.

Click movie cover to advance to our catalog or to place a hold. Most titles are already ordered and added to our catalog.

In 1980s Detroit, Ricky Wershe Jr. was a Street-Hustler, FBI Informant and Drug Kingpin—all before he turned 16. “White Boy Rick” Based on the true story.
1 A romance writer becomes fascinated by the owner and director of a health resort.

2 Jack Reacher explores the New England town where his father was born.

3 A decorated World War II veteran shoots and kills a pastor inside a Mississippi church.

4 Detective Renée Ballard teams up with the retired detective Harry Bosch, who is working on a cold case.

5 Difficult choices surface when Hope Anderson and Tru Walls meet in a North Carolina seaside town.

6 A man who is losing weight without getting thinner forms an unlikely alliance with his neighbors.

7 The sequel to “The Five People You Meet in Heaven” follows Annie on her heavenly journey.

8 Intertwined stories of two families who live in different centuries on the same street corner.

9 A newly divorced woman develops a friendship with the owner of a Christmas tree lot.

10 The 16th book in the NUMA Files series.

11 A television producer investigates the murder of a physician.

12 The 19th book in the No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series.

13 The lives of patients, doctors and activists intersect when a gunman holds them all hostage.

14 In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a woman becomes a murder suspect.

15 When his father is assassinated by the K.G.B., Alexander Karpenko makes an irreversible choice based on a coin toss.
Little Free Library

Thanks to the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library Bookworm Woodcarvers, we now have a Little Free Library of our very own! A Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange. These structures come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box of books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. Little Free Library book exchanges have a unique, personal touch. They inspire the love of reading, build community, and spark creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. Watch for details as we reveal the location. Installation coming soon! Many thanks to our woodworkers: Richard Ball, Roy Moser, Kenny Smith, Myron VanDerlin, and Gerald Hawkins (left to right in photograph).

Playaways & Free Auxiliary Cables

Check out a Playaway during our Winter Reading Program (January 2 - February 28) and ask for a free auxiliary cable at the front Circulation Desk. We have a limited supply, so get them while supplies last.

Fast Facts

Who uses the library?

15,364 cardholders used the library in the last year.*

*Note: Age data is unavailable for 2% of cardholders

Ages: 0-12 13-17 18-34 35-64 65+

21% 9% 18% 46%

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 2019, which will run from January 1 to February 28, 2019. 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.