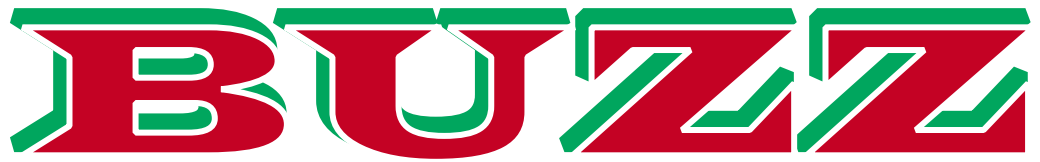


"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."

— Aristotle



The official newsletter of Rodman Public Library

Bookmobile Driver Jeff Kennedy Plans Retirement



Jeff Kennedy, a member of the RPL Bookmobile staff, will retire at the end of the year.

Jeff Kennedy is no stranger to hard work.

The U.S. Marine Corps veteran has worked at numerous factory jobs – press operator, driving a tow motor, and more. For a short time, he worked at a cleaners. He rebuilt starters and alternators for a while. For about a year, he worked maintenance at a manufacturing facility. He even worked in a retail setting for a while and was offered a management position, but that didn't quite suit him.

"I consider myself a blue collar kind of guy," said Kennedy, a Rodman Public Library bookmobile driver who will retire at the end of 2023. "I like to do my work and then enjoy the

rest of my day."

Kennedy says that he may have been employed by libraries for the past 16 years, but he never felt like what he was asked to do was work.

"It's hard to call it work when you enjoy it so much," smiled Kennedy. "I guess you can call it enjoyable work. It's not back-breaking like some of the jobs that I have had. And my wife always says that I am a people person, so this kind of work has been perfect for me."

See **KENNEDY** on Page 5

You're Invited Grinchmas Who-liday

OPEN
HOUSE
DEC. 9

Children of all ages and size,
Are invited to a Grinchmas celebration,
From 11 to 2 on December 9,
An open house Who-liday Whobilation.
Kids will smile and have lots of laughs,
As they stroll from station to station,
Playing games and making crafts,
And for this there is no registration.

At 2 p.m., on the big screen,
Will glow *The Grinch* from 2018.
The interactive movie will be complete,
Thanks to Friends of RPL and a bag of treats.
But you must register to take part in this fun,
On our website at rodmanlibrary.com.
Of course, all ages are welcome to attend,
but children under 13
must be accompanied,
at all times, by an adult friend.

And in keeping with our Whoville theme,
Look for Grinch-inspired putt-putt
all day on December 22 & 23.



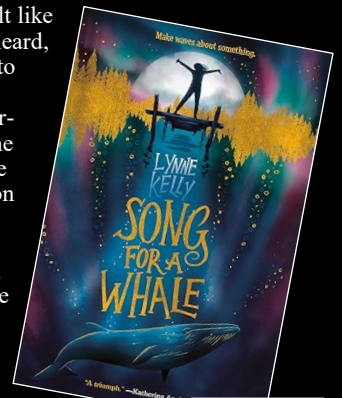
Song for a Whale is 2024 OBOC selection

If you've ever felt like you weren't being heard, then you can relate to Iris.

Iris is the 12-year-old protagonist in the 2024 One Book One Community selection – *Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly.

Iris is a technical genius, but being the only deaf girl in her school, people don't always recognize her for her intelligence and she often feels like no one is listening to her.

When she hears about Blue 55, a whale whose song is so off-pitch that he is unable to communicate with other whales, Iris believes she understands how he must feel. She becomes obsessed with creating a song just for him so that he will know that he is not alone and she's willing to break a few rules to reach him 3,000 miles away.



***Song for a Whale*
by Lynne Kelly is
the One Book One
Community selection
for 2024.**

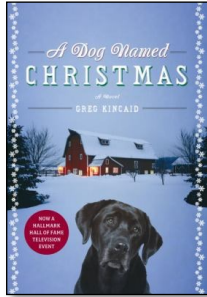


See **OBOC** on Page 5

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

For a look at future Book Club selections, visit rodmanlibrary.com/Rodman-Book-Clubs

BOOKS & COFFEE

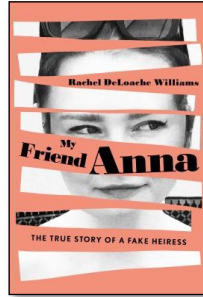


Meets every second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Branch Library.

December 4
A Dog Named Christmas
Gregory D. Kincaid

Call 330-821-1313 for information.

TRUE CRIME JUNKIES

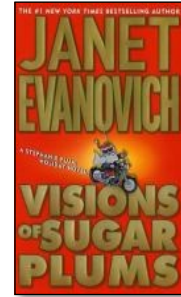


Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library.

December 19
My Friend Anna: The True Story of a Fake Heiress
Rachel DeLoache Williams

Call 330-821-2665, ext. 215 for information.
Registration Required

RPL EVENING BOOK CLUB



Meets every fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Main Library.

December 18
Visions of Sugar Plums
Janet Evanovich

Call 330-821-2665 for information.



Happy Holidays!

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Closing at 4 p.m. on December 23

Closed December 24 - 26

Closed December 31 & January 1

Visit us 24/7 at rodmanlibrary.com

ONGOING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AT RPL

Alliance Vinyl Club

Open to all music lovers, Alliance Vinyl Club meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Main Library. Supported by Friends of Rodman Public Library, AVC provides the opportunity to listen to music, hang out, and make new friends. Those attending are encouraged to bring some of their favorite records to share a selection or two with others. Although it is called a club, there is no formal membership and no registration is required to attend the program. For more information about Alliance Vinyl Club, call 330-821-2665, ext. 216.

Wednesday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m.



Maker Monday

Maker Monday crafters will decorate a wooden Christmas tree when they meet in December in Rodman Public Library's Main Auditorium. Maker Monday is an in-person craft program for adults that is held monthly on select Mondays.

All materials are provided free of charge, thanks to Friends of Rodman Library, but space is limited and registration is required at rodmanlibrary.com.

For information, call 330-821-2665, ext. 210.
Monday, December 11 at 6 p.m.



Registration is required or some programs at rodmanlibrary.com

Want to help support RPL?
Join the Friends of Rodman Library
By calling 330-821-2665
or by visiting any of the service desks.
\$5 for an individual membership.
\$25 for a patron membership.

Writers' Alliance

Writers' Alliance, a group for those who like to create with words and share their work with others, meets every fourth Monday of the month at RPL. All are welcome to the group, facilitated by John Milan. No registration is required. For information, call Milan at 330-581-1437. (NOTE: No meeting will be held in December due to the Christmas holiday.)

Monday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Knit Wits

The Knit Wits, a circle for needleworkers of all types and skill levels, meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Main Library. (NOTE: The group will not meet on the fourth Monday in December in honor of the Christmas holiday.)

Monday, December 11 at 10 a.m.

TECH Time Thursday

A librarian is on hand each Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Main Library Information Center to answer basic questions about your electronic devices, including laptop computers, iPhones, Android phones, and tablets. No registration is needed. For information, call 330-821-2665, ext. 217.

Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon



HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday through Wednesday: 10 a.m. — 8 p.m.
Thursday & Friday: 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Sunday:
Main Library — Closed
Branch Library — 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
(October through April only)

rodmanlibrary.com

MAIN LIBRARY

215 E. Broadway St.
Alliance, Ohio 44601
330.821.2665

BRANCH LIBRARY

1808 W. State St.
Alliance, OH 44601
330.821.1313

KENNEDY

From Page 1

Kennedy studied auto mechanics at Canton Timken High School. However, when he graduated, the job market was bleak, so he set his sights on the military, joining the Marines because he liked the uniform more than the one worn by members of the Air Force.

His aptitude tests placed him in a program where instead of being a grunt, he was selected to be a radio operator. That allowed him to travel the world, spending time in both Europe and Asia during his four-year service from 1976-80.

"I always sort of just fell into the right situations," said Kennedy as he reflected back on his working life. "I bounced around from job to job when I first left the Marines. I was always looking for a better opportunity and waiting for the right one to come along."

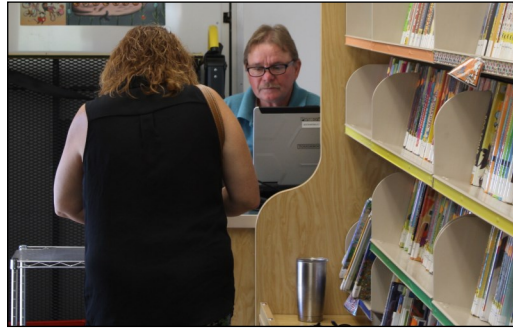
Even after he fell into a good situation at Collins & Aikman, an automotive supplies manufacturer, he liked the challenge of learning and performing different tasks, so he would "switch it up" every once in a while.

And when a neighbor that worked at the Stark County Library told him about a part-time job driving the bookmobile in 2006, he jumped at that opportunity. After working his shift at the factory from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., he would drive a bookmobile to community stops from 5 to 8 p.m.

Soon after he took that part-time position, Collins & Aikman shut down. Luckily, Stark County Library had a full-time opening for a bookmobile driver at the same time, so Kennedy slid right into that spot.

"Like I said, I always sort of fell into the right situations," said Kennedy, who eventually joined the staff at Rodman Public Library in August 2021.

Now, after more than 40 years of punching a time clock, the right situation for Kennedy is spending more time with his wife, Barb; his daughters, Brandi and Abby; and his grandchildren, Coleman, Charlotte, Isaac, Nathan,



Jeff Kennedy checks out a book for a patron on board the RPL Bookmobile during a stop at the opening day of the 2022 Alliance Farmers' Market.

and Tyler.

He says he is sure to spend a good deal of time doing the things he enjoys, such as fishing and hunting with his son-in-law and good friend, Matt. He also plans on spending more time in his garden and canning the bounty that it provides.

"I think the biggest adjustment will be getting out of a routine," said Kennedy. "And finding other things to do. You can't always be fishing or in the garden, so I will have to find some other things to keep me busy, and I am sure I will. I am looking forward to having that free time, though. That will be nice."

Kennedy said he will always look at his time driving bookmobiles, and especially at Rodman Public Library, with fondness.

"It's been a good job," he reflected. "It's been a great job really. I have enjoyed going to the schools and being with the students. I have so many good memories of helping them find books and trying to understand all their stories they would share. That was always so much fun. And I liked being able to help teachers get the books they needed for their lessons."

Kennedy said he will also miss his RPL co-workers.

"People have been great here," said Kennedy. "It really is a team thing here, and I have enjoyed working with everybody. Hopefully everybody has enjoyed working with me, too."

OBOC

From Page 1

Kelly, a sign language interpreter, won the 2020 Schneider Family Book Award for *Song for a Whale*, which was also named one of the best books of the year by New York Public Library.

Copies of the book will be available for sale at Rodman Library and the Branch later this month at a cost of \$8.99 plus tax.

Programs and a date for a visit by the author will be announced in January.

All Ages

PG-13 2 Hours, 34 Minutes
Movie Licensing USA.

FREE ADMISSION • FREE POPCORN

Tuesday, December 5
5:15 p.m.
Rodman Auditorium

CHILDREN UNDER 13 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

All Ages

PG 1 Hour, 39 Minutes
Movie Licensing USA.

FREE ADMISSION • FREE POPCORN

Wednesday, December 20
5:30 p.m.
Rodman Auditorium

CHILDREN UNDER 13 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

FRIENDS OF RPL FUNDRAISER

CHRISTMAS POST CARDS

ON SALE AT MAIN LIBRARY

Available in **20 cards per pack**
three varieties:

- Religious
- Winter
- Traditional

\$2 per pack

See Circulation Desk Staff to purchase

POST CARD

Postcard stamps available at the Post Office.

Rodman

Staff Spotlight



**ERIC
TAGGART**

Director/Fiscal Officer at
Rodman Library
since February 2018.

What is your favorite part about your job?

I really enjoy working with the staff here at the library. They are very passionate about providing our community with the best library service possible. I feel fortunate to be part of such a dedicated group of people.

What is your favorite book or author?

My favorite book is *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, but my favorite author is Jess Walter. I studied 20th century American Literature in college, and I also really like William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway.

What is your favorite color?

Blue

What is your favorite TV show or movie?

My two favorite movies are *The Natural* with Robert Redford and *The Apostle* with Robert Duvall

Who is your favorite musical artist?

Ben Folds - and I also like The Beatles.

Who is your favorite actor?

Gene Hackman, Robert Duvall, and Robert DeNiro are my favorite actors.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to read (big surprise), play golf, watch movies, British TV shows and classic TV shows (like *The Rockford Files* and *Seinfeld*) and spend time with my wife, Laura (my best friend), and my children — Liam, Sylvie, and Theo. They are my favorite people.

If you could visit anywhere, where would it be?

When I was very young, I got to visit the village in France where my grandmother grew up, and I would love to go there again.

Who was the biggest influence in your life?

My grandparents — especially both of my grandfathers. Even though they have been gone for some time, I still think of them every day.

What was your first car?

1982 Buick Regal — silver/navy two-tone with white wall tires and velvet upholstery. It was an old man's car if ever there was one, and slid all over the place in the snow.

LOOKING BACK



An unidentified male grocer stands in the center of an unidentified grocery store in this photo taken from the John B. Irwin collection of Alliance Businesses from approximately 1900-1910. The date could possibly be December 1903 based on the calendar hanging on the left wall and the streamer decorations hanging down to the light fixture. Display cases are on both sides of the store. A poster on the left side of the store announces free dishes which are displayed below it. Two display cases for Ohio Baking Company's Bread & Crackers are in the center of the store. Boxes of soap products and canned goods line the walls. This picture is one of hundreds of photos that can be found on alliancememory.org, a collaboration between Rodman Public Library and the Alliance Historical Society, a proud partner of the Alliance Preservation Society and the Castle Crusaders in preserving Alliance's history. Alliance Memory offers a view of history through photographs, personal recollections, and documents. To access RPL's online local history and genealogy resources, visit rodmanlibrary.com/genealogy. For information about how Rodman Library can connect you to local history, call 330-821-2665, ext. 217.

FEATURED DATABASE



Creativebug

Are you looking for some artistic projects over the holidays, or have a desire to learn a new creative skill?

If so, Creativebug may be just what you need.

One of more than 70 databases available on the RPL website, Creativebug gives users access to more than 1,000 video art and craft classes taught by design experts and artists. The videos will teach patrons how to paint, draw, sew, knit, bake, and design — all for free with a valid RPL card.

You can find all databases offered by RPL at rodmanlibrary.com/databases.

For information or help accessing any of RPL's free databases, call 330-821-2665, ext. 217.

ON THE ROAD



Visit the RPL Bookmobile
at First Friday in downtown Alliance
on December 1.
Storytime is held at 6:30 p.m.

The RPL app puts the library at your fingertips

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

Get an email version of **The Buzz**
libraryaware.com/3618/Subscribers/Subscribe