

‘All Together Now’ program rolls on at Ripon Public Library

Ripon Public Library announced its August lineup of events and offerings for all ages.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library and other donors, programming is always free.

Events for everyone

➤ **Family Movie Time:** Enjoy a family-friendly movie on the big screen with complimentary popcorn Thursdays through Aug. 24 at 2 p.m. See Ripon Public Library’s website for titles, movie descriptions, and ratings.

For teens and adults

➤ **Game night:** Calling all strategists, team players and those who like to test their luck, enjoy an evening of tabletop board games Wednesday, Aug. 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. Staff will be on hand to teach and guide players through a variety of entertaining and easy-to-learn games with no experience necessary.

August features award-winning Dixit, Pictures and Canvas. The goal of the games is to give the perfect clue so most, but not all, players guess the right surreal image card.

Can’t make it? This recurring ages 16 and up event will be held in the Silver Creek Room the third Wednesday of each month.

For adults

➤ **Bug Tussel Tech Help for Seniors:** Bug Tussel will teach seniors how to use their phone, computer or tablet to see their doctor without leaving their home. Attendees also will learn how to access their e-chart, pay their bills and schedule appointments. Individuals should bring their smartphone, tablet or laptop for hands-on practice.

➤ **Love Your Library:** Drop in at the Ripon Senior Activity Center for tech help or relax and listen to a good story Friday, Aug. 18 from 1 to 2 p.m. Attendees may enjoy chatting with library staff, who welcome ideas and questions.

Continuing engagement for everyone

➤ **Community Reading Challenge:** Every time individuals check out reading materials, they get a sticker to put on the goal poster. Once the poster is complete, the Friends of the Ripon Public Library will contribute \$500 toward development of onsite libraries at the Ripon Children’s Learning Center, Ripon Boys & Girls Club and the Ripon Senior Activity Center.

➤ **Read for Chamber Bucks:** Whether individuals read a little or a lot, they can win prizes. Interested participants should see staff to register, then each time they check out reading material staff log their participation. Children without library cards may be

registered on a caregiver’s account. Challenge runs through Aug. 31. The goal is to check out reading materials three of four weeks each month. Participants who reach the goal are automatically entered into prize drawings for \$10 Chamber certificates, with 15 winners per month.

➤ **Community Puzzles:** Puzzle sheets, available at the library, lead to Ripon locations hosting letter clues. Find all the letters and unscramble to make a phrase that reflects the history of Ripon. Turn in solved puzzle to be entered into a drawing for Chamber Bucks. The final monthly puzzle was released July 31. This quest is made possible with support from the Ripon Historical Society and local businesses.

➤ **The Kindness Tree:** Individuals may enjoy the Kindness Tree that graces the library’s entrance windows. This artwork by Carissa Rivara Sorensen provides an opportunity to share messages of kindness and support with others. People may read others’ messages and add their own,

For kids and families

➤ **Check out a museum pass:** Come checkout a family pass providing free entrance to the Children’s Museum of Fond du Lac and Sheboygan’s Above & Beyond Children’s Museum.

The mission of these organizations is to support childhood development utilizing innovative exhibits and programs that engage children, their caregivers, and the community in lifelong learning through play.

➤ **Stay cool in the Romper Room:** Physical activity and human connections are important for healthy, happy human beings, and the Romper Room is designed to facilitate both.

Focusing on active play, the room features trikes, foot-to-floor vehicles, a balance bike, tunnels, tumbling mats, balance beams and more. The Romper Room is most engaging for ages 2 to 6 years, though older kids are welcome. The Romper Room is open during regular library hours. Drop-ins are welcome.

➤ **Drop-in Activity Table:** Enjoy coloring and activity sheets, board games and toys daily in the children’s department.

➤ **Storytime:** Storytime is on hiatus in August and resumes in September. Did you know kids in motion can listen and learn? Keep reading, singing, writing, and playing with young ones, even while they are on the move.

Events are at the Ripon Public Library, 120 Jefferson St., except when an alternate location is listed. Visit the library’s website or follow Ripon Public Library on Facebook and Instagram for detailed information and the latest library news on programs and resources, or call a librarian at 920-748-6160.

Now & Then in Ripon ...

Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society

Ripon bank involved in ‘Unsolved Mysteries’ case

Mysteries have fascinated people of all ages for generations. Mystery stories, books, novels and newspaper articles profile mysteries everywhere.

One unsolved mystery took place in Ripon and was featured in the first season of the NBC television series “Unsolved Mysteries” (1987-1997).

Episode No. 16, which aired Feb. 15, 1989, claimed that at one of Ripon’s local banks, George J. Stein opened a savings account on Nov. 12, 1926, for the amount of \$120 (the equivalent of \$2,605.78 today).

Stein’s name is still unconfirmed as he may have been an imposter who opened multiple savings accounts in Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. He listed no Social Security numbers and did not leave a home address. Between 1936 and 1952, he had opened dozens of bank accounts primarily at savings and loans and never returned to claim or collect the money that in 1989 totaled \$130,000 with interest.

Another mystery surrounding Stein’s deposits is that they were started in 1926 and continued throughout America’s Great Depression, the worst economic downturn in the history of the world, which took place between 1929 and 1939.

For one of his deposits made in Indianapolis, Stein placed a real address on the account, which led to a manufacturer of hats, gloves and apparel accessories.

From this connection, a



“UNSOLVED MYSTERIES” AIRED from 1987 to 1997. Ripon was featured in a 1989 episode.

physical description of Stein was obtained matching a traveling salesman whose name was “Ralph Barnett.”

Barnett’s sales territory included the Midwest, matching locations where Stein’s bank accounts had been opened.

One theory is that Stein, possibly also known as “Barnett,” perhaps died while traveling for his job in sales as no money was ever withdrawn from any of the bank accounts.

A researcher believed that Stein may have held sinister motives. It was discovered that Stein had once written a return address on one of his deposit envelopes along with the name “Ed Fay.”

While looking through newspapers, an article stated a man named Ed Fay had robbed a post office in Superior, Wis. as part of a gang. In October 1903, Fay and his gang stole over \$15,000 (the equivalent of over \$500,000 today) in stamps and cash from the post office.

Fay was arrested shortly after the robbery, but escaped

from jail in 1904 and was never seen again. Research discovered Fay’s age could be the approximate age of Stein and that Fay may have changed his name to cover-up crimes, but still access his bank account money.

The television segment stated that for anyone to collect Stein’s money, heirs, descendants or relatives must first prove that they are related and produce written examples that match Stein’s known handwriting.

Although several possible heirs have come forward, none could prove their relationship to Stein as required to obtain access to the untouched bank accounts.

The Ripon Historical Society is the oldest continually operating historical society in Wisconsin. It is open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information follow us at Facebook/riponhistory or www.riponhistory.org.

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