

“When the going gets tough,
the tough get a librarian.”

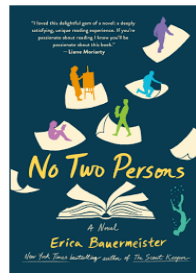
— Joan Bauer



The official monthly newsletter of Rodman Public Library

Bauermeister Excited for Visit to Alliance

One Book One Community Author to be in Carnation City March 27



It seems that *No Two Persons* was made for One Book One Community.

Author Erica Bauermeister believes so, making her visit to Alliance one that she is excited about..

“I am looking forward to seeing you all,” said Bauermeister. “What you all are doing here - reading as a community, having your different reactions, is *No Two Persons* writ large. I cannot imagine a more perfect setting to discuss this book.”

Bauermeister will address readers inside the Brush Performance Hall inside the Giese Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of the University of Mount Union at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 27.

The event is open to the public and registration is not required.

Copies of *No Two Persons* as well as her other works by Bauermeister will be available for sale that evening and the author will sign books following her remarks.

Ahead of her visit, Bauermeister answered some questions about her work and her book.

Here’s what she had to say:

Q: The title *No Two Persons* comes from the quote that “No two persons ever read the same book or saw the same picture.” When you talk to readers, are you ever surprised how they are impacted in different ways by your work?

A: As a teacher, and then as an author visiting with book clubs, I was intrigued by how differently each reader could interpret the same book. That experience taught me to see books not as words set in stone, but as springboards for discussion. *No Two Persons* has been a real discussion-starter, in part because of its topic, but also because its characters are so different from one another. One reader's favorite character can drive another person crazy, and the reactions have everything to do with where readers are in their lives when they open the cover and start reading.

By now, each character in *No Two Persons* has spoken to someone, and been taken into their heart. It has been an extraordinary experience to hear from readers about how a particular character’s story has changed their lives or helped them deal with trauma or grief. I wrote a novel about how books can touch us, and yet I am still surprised by the depth of its impact.

Q: *No Two Persons* tells the narrative of different characters that intertwine, but could stand alone as short stories. Some of your other work does the same. Can you talk about this short story cycle and how you have developed that style?

A: Looking back, I think I started writing interconnected stories because I was a mother with two kids and a full-time job. Holding a 300-page plot line in my mind was simply impossible. But I could play with stories in my head at two in the morning or while I was driving to work. And I came to love the combination of delicacy and power that you can have in short stories. They contain an entire arc in a few thousand words, and while the story tends to center on a small moment, the moment is almost always life-changing.



ERICA BAUERMEISTER



Friends of RPL to Hold Meeting, One-Day Sale

The Friends of Rodman Public Library will hold a meeting as well as a one-day book sale on Saturday, March 29.

The combined annual membership and board meeting will be held 10:30 a.m. inside the Rodman Auditorium.

Immediately following the brief meeting, a one-day book sale and bake sale will be held in the children’s program room.

During the book sale, the following categories of books will be available: hardback and paperback fiction, large print, biographies, gardening, young and older children’s books and games.

All items will be sold by donation.



Johannesen is Subject of AAPS Annual Meeting Program

Martha McClagherty will deliver the keynote address of the annual meeting of the Alliance Area Preservation Society.

The meeting will be held Monday, March 24 at 6 p.m. inside the Rodman Auditorium.

McClagherty will present “Eric Johannesen: A New Era of Trailblazers.” She will share her recent research on Johannesen, a professor of art at Mount Union for 18 years, and his journey to becoming the savior of Haines House and Ohio’s first State Preservation Officer.

Registration is required at rodmanlibrary.com.

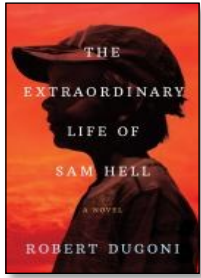
Seeds Available March 1 at RPL

Beginning March 1, various seeds, provided by StarkFresh, will be displayed at the Main Library front lobby in an wooden card catalog. Patrons may take the free seed packets of items they are interested in growing. Several varieties of vegetables and herbs are available this year as well as some fruit seeds. There are no flower seeds in 2025, however. The seeds will be available while supplies last and will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

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

BOOKS & COFFEE



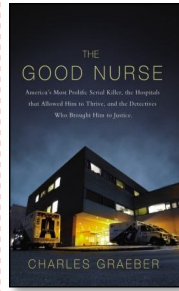
Meets every second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Branch Library.

March 10
The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell
by Robert Dugoni

April 14: *The Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larsen

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.

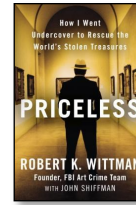
March 18
The Good Nurse: America's Most Prolific Serial Killer, the Hospitals that Allowed Him to Thrive, and the Detectives that Brought Him to Justice
by Charles Graeber

April 15: *Down the Hill* by Susan Hendricks

Call 330-821-2665, ext. 215 for information.
Registration required at rodmanlibrary.com

EVENING BOOK CLUB

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



March 24
Priceless: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures
Robert K. Wittman
With John Shiffman

April 28: *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood

Call 330-821-2665, ext. 204 for information

ONGOING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS



Cookbook Club

The Cookbook Club, a group for cooking and baking enthusiasts, meets inside the Main Auditorium on the last Tuesday each month to discuss their experience creating a recipe of their choice from a selected cookbook or from a specific theme for the month. Participants can bring in small samples of their recipes for the group to try. In March, each member of the group will create an Irish-inspired recipe from any cookbook of their choice in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Registration is required each month to participate. For more information, or to register, call 330-821-2665, ext. 210.
Tuesday, March 25 at 6 p.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. No registration is needed.



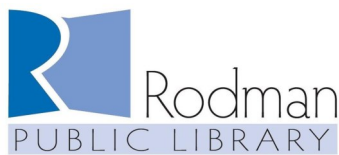
Maker Monday

Maker Monday continues inside Rodman Public Library's Main Auditorium in March when crafters will create an Easter wreath. 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 for each session. To register for Maker Monday sessions, call 330-821-2665, ext. 210 or visit Rodman Public Library's online calendar at rodmanlibrary.com.

Monday, March 17 at 6 p.m.

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.



HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-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)	

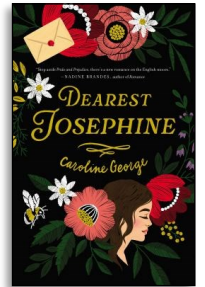
rodmanlibrary.com

MAIN LIBRARY	BRANCH LIBRARY
215 E. Broadway St.	1808 W. State St.
Alliance, Ohio 44601	Alliance, OH 44601
330.821.2665	330.821.1313

I READ YA

Meets every first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library.

March 3
Dearest Josephine
by Caroline George



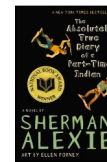
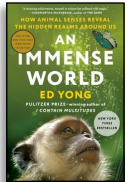
April 7: *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld

Call 330-821-2665, ext. 213 for information.
Registration required at rodmanlibrary.com

WOMEN'S MONDAY GROUP

Meets every first and third Monday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Main Library.

March 3
"A Silent World Shouts Back"
(Chapter 9) of
An Immense World
by Ed Yong



March 17:
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
by Sherman Alexie

Call 330-821-2665, ext. 204 for information.

DAR BOOK GROUP

Open to all, the club hosted by the Jane Bain Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution meets quarterly at the Main Library.



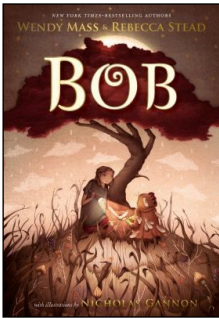
May 9
First Ladies of the Republic: Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, Dolley Madison, and the Creation of an Iconic American Role
by Jeanne E. Abrams.

Call 330-821-2665, ext. 204 for information.
Registration required at rodmanlibrary.com

Rodman **BUZZ** For Kids

Kids Book Club

Meets every third Wednesday of the month at 4:15 p.m. at the Main Library.



Next Meeting: March 19

Bob by **Wendy Mass & Rebecca Stead**

Meeting includes a brief discussion of the book, an activity, and a snack.

Registration Required

Branch Plans Dr. Seuss Day

You would not, could not, want to miss, a celebration such as this – our special salute to Dr. Seuss.

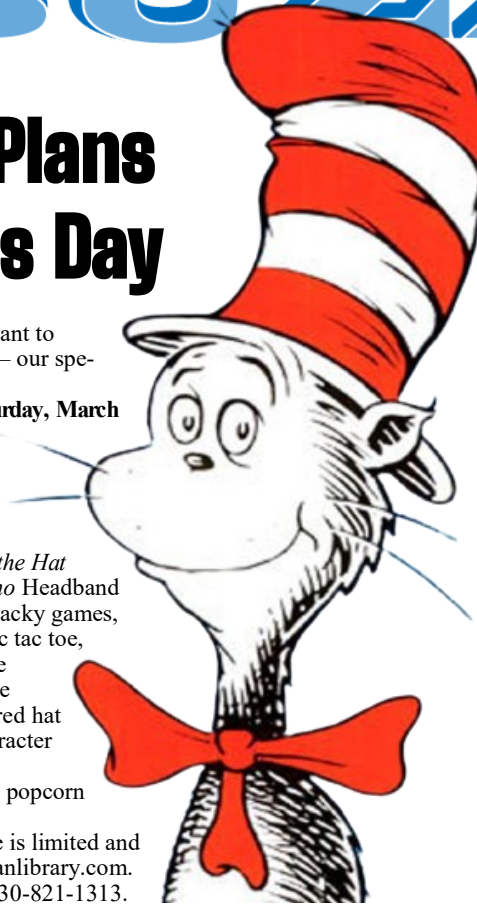
From **noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 8**, children are invited to visit Rodman Branch Library to celebrate Dr. Seuss and his wonderful books.

Kids will make Seussical crafts, such as ooblek, a *Cat in the Hat* puppet, or a *Horton Hears a Who* Headband Craft. They'll also play some wacky games, such as *Green Eggs and Ham* tic tac toe, Seuss character ring toss, Beetle battle bottle guessing game, One Fish Two Fish guessing game, red hat stacking game, and a Seuss character scavenger hunt.

A light snack of *Hop on Pop* popcorn and a drink will also be served.

All the fun is free, but space is limited and registration is required at rodmanlibrary.com.

For more information, call 330-821-1313.



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Kids Crafting

Rodman Public Library's monthly Kids Crafting program continues in March as children, ages 7-12, are invited to come to the Main Library to create a paper stained-glass kite. **Registration is required.** All materials and supplies are provided for free, thanks to the Friends of Rodman Public Library.

Thursday, March 13 at 4 p.m.



Some programs require registration at rodmanlibrary.com.

For information about Children's programming, call 330-821-2665, ext. 223.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS FOR LITTLE ONES

Wee Read

For Ages Birth - 2 years

January 20 - April 16

Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.



Includes stories, fingerplays, music and movement



Lego Lab

Lego Lab will feature an Irish theme in March when youngsters will be challenged to create their best Leprechaun trap. The program, intended for children ages 6-12, is free, thanks to Friends of Rodman Public Library. **Registration is required.** Lego Lab is held on the third Tuesday of each month **Tuesday, March 18 at 6 p.m.**





Storytime

January 22 - April 17
Wednesdays & Thursdays
6:30 P.M. & 10:30 A.M.

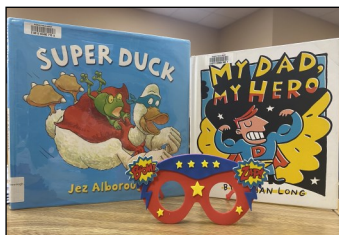
Best suited for ages 3-5
Intended to encourage lifelong readers through stories, music, movement, and activities.

No Registration Required

AT THE BRANCH

Take and Make

Starting **Saturday, March 1**, kids can stop by the Branch to pick up a superhero glasses take and make craft (while supplies last). Monthly projects are free thanks to the Friends of Rodman Library.



Hot Pots Storytime

The March Hot Pots Storytime, for children ages 2-12, will have a St. Patrick's Day theme. Participants will enjoy a story at the Branch Library and then visit Hot Pots to paint a leprechaun figurine or a shamrock dish. The cost is \$15.99 per child. Participants **must register** and make payment at hotpotspottery.com.
Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 15 at 11 a.m.



Rodman **BUZZ** For Teens

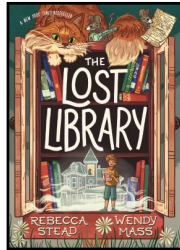
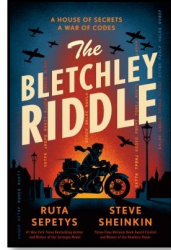
Teen Book Club Forming in April

The Teen Book Club is making a return to Rodman Public Library in April.

After taking a brief break, Jaime Gross will facilitate the club, intended for teen readers ages 12 to 18. The club will meet at 4 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

Teens are not obligated to attend each meeting. Young readers are free to pick and choose which books they read. However, registration is required to attend each session at rodmanlibrary.com.

The selections for the first three months include:



● **April 15** — *The Bletchley Riddle* by Ruda Sepetyts and Steve Sheinkin

● **May 20** — *The Lost Library* by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass

● **June 17** — *The Great Texas Dragon Race* by Kacy Ritter

For descriptions of books, visit rodmanlibrary.com/Rodman-Book-Clubs.

Call 330-821-2665, ext. 217 for information about teen programming at Rodman Library.



Teen Gaming

Area teens, ages 12-18, are invited to Rodman Public Library every other Thursday for Teen Gaming. (NOTE: In February, the Madden 25 Tournament is taking the place of the Teen Gaming session that would be held on Feb. 6). During Teen Gaming days, teens play on Xbox One, Xbox Series X, Playstation 4 & 5, Meta Quest 3, Nintendo Switch and Nintendo WiiU. Games with ratings from "E" for Everyone, up to "T" for Teen level will be offered. No registration is required.

Thursdays, March 6 & 20
3 to 5 p.m.

Mug Pie Day is March 13 at RPL

Mug Pi(e) Day – an afternoon to get creative and enjoy a sweet treat – is set for **Thursday, March 13** at Rodman Public Library.

On that day, patrons ages 10-18 are invited to come to the Main Auditorium at **3:30 p.m.** and create

their own mug, using equipment and materials from the RPL Makerspace. After creating the mug, participants will use it to create a mug pie in a microwave. Participants will be able to take their mugs home.

The program is free, thanks to support from the Friends of Rodman Public Library.

No registration is required, but supplies are limited so the program is first come, first served.

The event is being held a day ahead of Pi Day, marked each year on March 14. Pi Day celebrates the mathematical constant, approximately equal to 3.14159, which is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.

FAMILY FUN



All Ages

PG

1 HOUR, 40 MINUTES

Movie Licensing USA

FREE ADMISSION • FREE POPCORN

Saturday, March 29
1:00 p.m.

Rodman Auditorium

CHILDREN UNDER 13 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Rodman Chess Club



The Rodman Chess Club is open to patrons of all ages who have an interest in the classic board game. Come make new friends and explore the ancient game of

strategy. The club, which has no formal membership, meets at 5:30 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month. Several boards are set up in the auditorium as players mingle to find opponents to play against. Players are welcome to come and go as they please throughout the two-hour program. No registration required. For information, call 330-821-2665, ext. 216.

Wednesday, March 19
at 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Rodman Public Library's



Turn Your Ideas Into Creations



- 3-D Printed items
 - Buttons
 - Shirts
 - Cards
 - Mugs
 - More
- Materials and Supplies Sold at a Minimal Cost**

rodmanlibrary.com/content/library-makerspace

BAUERMEISTER

From Page 1

They remind me of those pictures you can find when you open the doors of an old paper advent calendar. Quick and intimate glimpses that contain everything.

When I first started writing interconnected stories, the books had strong structural centers — a cooking school and its students, a group of friends in a cancer support group. With *No Two Persons* I stepped out into more nebulous territory, keeping the characters as strangers for the most part, making the connections more gossamer. It allows the focus to be on each reader and their reaction to *Theo*, while at the same time reminding us of how intertwined we all are, even when we don't realize it. It is a more complicated structure, but I love how readers have risen to the challenge.

Q: Do you think you will ever develop any of the characters in *No Two Persons* into a full-length novel? Will you ever bring any back in future work?

A: For now, each character's arc feels completed to me, so I currently don't feel the need. But then again, I said I wouldn't write a sequel to *The School of Essential Ingredients* and I ended up doing just that, so I've learned to never say never.

Q: After reading *No Two Persons*, readers have wondered about the story of *Theo*, the fictionalized book that impacts every character in a different way. Have you ever thought about writing that book, or is that just something that you feel would be better left to the imaginations of your readers?

A: I had a choice when writing *No Two Persons* as to how much of *Theo* I would include. Excerpts? Big chunks of explanation? I've seen that done in other books, and brilliantly. But if I had done that, my readers' focus would naturally have shifted to *their* relationship with *Theo*. I wanted the focus to remain on the characters and how *Theo* changed their lives.

That said, I love how *Theo* creates a through-line in *No Two Persons*. We start with Alice writing her novel, then we follow the plot line of *Theo* as it is passed from character to character like a baton in a literary relay race, each character responding to the next chronological part of *Theo*'s story until we reach the end with Madeline. In the end, we get *Theo*'s whole arc, if not all the details.

Q: Did you always want to write?

A: Yes. But it took me a while to gain the skills and experience to be the kind of writer I wanted to be. I've always been far more interested in character than plot, and that often requires some growing up.

Q: Who were/are your favorite authors that inspire you?

A: Oh, so many. Jane Austen and E.M. Forster for their ability to show us what people aren't saying. Susan Vreeland, Sandra Cisneros, and Elizabeth Strout for teaching me about interconnected stories. Charlotte McConaghy, Toni Morrison, and Lily Brooks-Dalton for making me want to be a better wordsmith. Richard Powers for his ability to include so much information with such lyricism. Patrick Suskind and Diane Ackerman for their amazing attention to the sensory. Tillie Olsen for teaching me that you can make ordinary things extraordinary through the simple power of words.

Q: Your first novel wasn't published until you were nearly 50, but now you have a string of best-sellers. What advice would you give aspiring writers of any age?

A: The best two lessons I learned on my way to being a published author: 1) Questions make better books than answers, and 2) Your characters are more important than your ego.

Q: How do you find your inspiration and what is your process to move an idea to a finished book?

A: Some writers have a muse; I have curiosity. I visit a book club and it makes me wonder — why do we all read the same book differently? And that question, eventually, turns into a structure for a novel: one book, nine readers. Then one day, I chance upon a book about free-diving and my reaction is *why would someone want to do that?* (the fact that I am terrified of free diving makes it even more interesting to me). I research things I am curious about and the characters bloom out of what I find, becoming their own stories. Once I have a few characters, I start pulling them together, seeing their connections, developing the through lines. The process requires a fascinating balance of control and letting go.

Q: What can people expect when they come see you during your visit to Alliance?

A: I'm a pretty open book, as they say. I'm open to questions, and open to differences of opinion because I think the best education comes from examining and sharing our differences. I love the idea of *No Two Persons* starting conversations and I'm looking forward to being part of them.

ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Registration is required to attend events
at rodmanlibrary.com

“No Two Persons: A Conversation About Creating Art” with Chelsea Shar



One novel impacted the lives of ten characters in very different ways in *No Two Persons*. To explore that theme of the 2025 One Book One Community selection, Chelsea Shar, visual arts teacher at Alliance High School, will lead “No Two Persons: A Conversation About Creating Art” at **11 a.m. on Saturday, March 1** inside the Main Auditorium. The aim of the program is to be an insightful and inspiring discussion of *No Two Persons* as it delves into the complexities of creativity, artistic intention, and the profound impact art has on our lives. Participants will reflect on the characters' journeys, the book's exploration of art, and how the novel invites readers to think more deeply about the creative process.

March

1

Saturday

11 a.m.

“No Two Persons: A Novel Together” with Hagan Faye Whiteleather



Hagan Faye Whiteleather, professor of creative and critical writing at Kent State University, will lead “No Two Persons: A Novel Together,” an interactive book club experience on **Wednesday, March 12 at 7 p.m.** inside the Main Auditorium. The program will explore, among other things, the interconnected web of characters found in *No Two Persons* and the book's short story cycle.

March

12

Wednesday

7 p.m.

“The Storyteller's Story: How Audiobooks are Made” with Dan Popp



Dan Popp, a veteran voice actor based in Akron, will explain how the written words on a page become the spoken words in your ear as he discusses the process that it takes to create audiobooks, one of the services that he provides at Colors Studio, when he presents “The Storyteller's Story: How Audiobooks Are Made” at **11 a.m. on Saturday, March 15** inside the Main Auditorium.

March

15

Saturday

11 a.m.

View the 2025 Program Guide at
rodmanlibrary.com/oboc2025-programguide

Rodman Staff Spotlight



MARY ROSE BIHLER

Makerspace Specialist who has been at RPL since May 2024, but started in her current position in February.

What is your favorite part about your job?

Getting to help people. I've wanted to work in libraries since I was a teenager, specifically because I wanted to help people in a library space.

What is your favorite book?

I can't pick just one favorite, but one of my top five is *Tess of the Road* by Rachel Hartman. It's an amazing YA fantasy about healing and finding out who you are, and it takes place in a really fascinating world.

What is your favorite movie?

101 Dalmatians. It's been a favorite of mine for as long as I can remember, and I even have a tattoo inspired by it.

Who is your favorite musical artist?

I am obsessed with Twenty One Pilots and have been since I was a teenager. I've seen them in concert four times.

Are you a fan of any sports teams?

I am a big fan of the Minnesota Frost of the Professional Women's Hockey League.

Do you collect anything?

I have a small collection of Funko Pops, mostly of *Star Wars* characters. I also like collecting books, and I have a decent collection at home.

Do you have any pets?

I have a wonderful dog named Breha.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to read, crochet, and sew, usually while listening to video essays on YouTube.

LOOKING BACK



This photograph of unidentified children was published in the *Alliance Review* on Friday, February 8, 1963 as part of the "Library Brings 'Light'" article. The caption was, "Looking through the modernistic guard rail design, we perhaps see a future doctor, lawyer, or scientist receiving his first inspiration in this wonderful world of light and books. Youngsters study the printed page then watch them grow and go. The library starts them with time and opportunity."

This photo is among hundreds of items found on alliancememory.org, a collaboration between Rodman Public Library and the Alliance Historical Society, a partner of the Alliance Area 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 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



Consumer Health Complete

Consumer Health Complete offers full text journals, magazines, and reference books dealing with health, wellness, fitness, and nutrition. This resource allows users to browse medical, health-related, and drug reference books, read articles on health and fitness, and find sources for alternative health information.

You can find all 70+ databases offered by Rodman Library at rodmanlibrary.com/databases.

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

Knit Wits

Needlework Circle

Meets every second and fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at Rodman Main Library.

The RPL app puts the library at your fingertips

GET IT ON Google Play
GET IT ON the App Store

We will do your taxes **FOR FREE**

uwstark.org/vita
or call (330) 994-8482

DID YOU KNOW? The Bookmobile Department offers home delivery for patrons who are unable to get to the library.

For information, call 330-821-2665, ext. 208, or visit rodmanlibrary.com/bookmobile.

Two-Hour **Self-Defense Seminar** A FRIENDS OF RPL FUNDRAISER

Wayne Burley
Instructor

Tuesday, April 8
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Rodman Auditorium

Ages 12+

Learn how to recognize dangerous situations and tactics to use if you find yourself in one.

\$20 per person

Registration required at rodmanlibrary.com
Payment will be taken the night of the event.

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER
FRIENDS OF RODMAN LIBRARY
TUESDAY, MARCH 4 | 4-8 P.M.

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