



Windham Library Opens at RFC

Denise Bly



WINDHAM - The wait is finally over for the patrons of the Windham branch of the Portage County District Library. Last Thursday, the library opened to debuted its new facility after being closed for about a month. The library is now located at 9005 Wil-Vern Drive inside the Renaissance Family Center (RFC). The hours to the library have changed so please note the new hours: Monday & Friday 10:00am – 4:00pm and Tuesday – Thursday 12:00pm – 6:30 pm. The library is still waiting on internet connections for their computer lab and phone lines but all other aspects of the library are open. The staff anticipates having all services up and running with in the next two weeks. They also expect to have their same phone number as soon as the phone company releases it. Watch for the children's programs to be announced soon.



Notes from the vineyard

Amanda Conkol

Valentine's Day has come and gone and while we celebrated with wine we still have some special bottles to open. Thankfully, there is still one more holiday in February that will force us to open our special bottles.

I am really looking forward to my favorite holiday this month... Open That Bottle Night (OTBN). The concept behind OTBN is exactly why I like to celebrate this holiday - why wonder what the future holds when this holiday celebrates what the past has given us? So what is OTBN you ask? Over ten years ago the wine editors from The Wall Street Journal wrote an article stating that they receive too many letters about what to do

when that special bottle has gone bad when they finally opened the bottle. Unfortunately the answer is usually the same – dump it down the drain. After hearing about too many good wines being dumped, a holiday was started.

While the writers at The Wall Street Journal had been writing about OTBN for a number of years, OTBN was officially deemed a holiday in 2006. OTBN is celebrated on the last Saturday in February, so this year be ready to celebrate on February 26th. How many of you have a bottle of wine that you bought on a vacation hoping to catch a memory? Or how many of you received a special bottle of wine for a birthday, wedding or anniversary

gift and thought it was too precious to drink on any regular night? Why wait for that special moment to open it? What if that special moment comes and the wine has taken a turn for the worse?

I highly recommend opening that bottle on February 26, 2011. Gather a group of friends around, grab a couple of glasses and share the stories about why the wine is special. Once the wine is gone, rinse out the bottle and place it back in that special spot on the shelf again. Now you have another great memory of that wine.

Amanda is the Co-Owner of Candlelight Winery located at 11325 Center Street, Garrettsville. For more gift ideas or wine lists from the winery, please visit www.candlelightwinery.com.



Puppy Tails

Mialie T. Szymanski

*As the moon goes to bed, the sun comes up
And here we meet a sleepy pup,
Who was walking through G-ville one bright sunny day,
Then saw The Villager and decided to stay.*

Valentine's Day was almost here and Doodle Dog wanted to do something special for all of his friends, but what could a little puppy do to show everyone how much he cared? Looking around the office, Doodle Dog had an idea! He went over to a giant pile of old Villager issues waiting to be recycled and nosed around until he found the ones with the brightest and most colorful covers. The red covers from the Christmastime season and vibrant art from some summer months would help him get started – there are so many wonderful pictures each week he knew he'd found something great to use for his project. He dragged over as many issues as he could carry in his mouth and dropped them on the floor in front of the hearth for a makeshift workspace. Then he went over to the corner where all his toys were kept. Next to his favorite chewy bone was an especially pretty leaf he'd brought home last fall from the pile of leaves by the clock tower. It had now dried into an almost-perfect heart shape and Doodle Dog knew it was just right.

The newspapers were already folded but Doodle Dog added a few more creases for good measure. He carefully stepped on the folds to make a crisp edge and then placed the heart leaf up against the hinge, nudging it with his nose until it was right where he wanted it. Doodle Dog dipped the very very tip of his toe into some ink and traced around the edge of the leaf. When he was done he blew a big puff of air and the leaf flew off the paper and left a pretty heart outline on the newsprint! Now came the tricky part: with a steady paw, Doodle Dog took the point of one of his quite sharp claws and followed the curving ink lines, making the shape appear but being very careful to leave the hinge intact. He did the same thing with several of the other stacks of newspapers, leaving them folded until they were all cut. When he was all done, Doodle Dog nudged open each cut stack, giving the thin paper a little encouragement with tiny puffs of

breath. Almost magically, each one unfolded into strings and strings of pretty colorful hearts!

Depositing the scraps back into the recycling bin, Doodle Dog gathered up his creations and plopped them into a small red wagon outside the door. Sometimes pushing, sometimes pulling, the floppy-eared puppy made his way through town with the wagon and his heart-shaped valentines ready to deliver to all his special pals in the neighborhood. He had just made friends with the groundhog and decided the wooded area would be his first stop. He dragged one of the strings of hearts over to the nearest tree and stood up on his hind legs to reach up as far as he could. Tucking the end of the string into a low branch, Doodle Dog took the other end to another tree nearby. The garland dipped between the two trees and swayed gently in the wind. The forest was quiet while Doodle Dog worked but that just meant his friends would get to be surprised when they all woke up and saw his gift! Now off to his next stop...

The sweet canine Cupid made sure to leave his valentines where he knew the most creatures could see and enjoy them. Soon there were heart garlands draped across fences, hanging between streetlamp posts, and connecting the swings in the children's park - to make his young human friends smile. As he bounded along, he even dropped a few loose hearts along the trails where he knew his furry friends wandered, so they would know that they are very much loved too!

Doodle Dog had a mouthful of hearts left and he knew just the place for them. When he came back home, he put his paws up on each office chair – he couldn't reach the desks! – and placed a heart on the seat cushion. He loves his Villager family most of all!



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