

DECEMBER  
2020

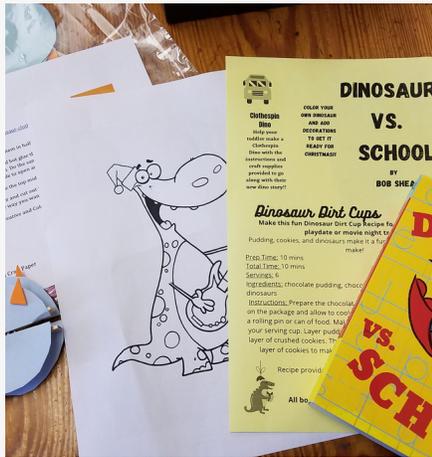
# ALBION AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER



For those who missed our online program, here are some of the photos showing the lake area then & now. Top left shows boys ice skating on the pond around 1900, and the top center photo was taken from approximately the same spot in 2020. Top right shows the rear of the house at 79 N. Main St. around 1950, & below it is a current photo. The 2 bottom left photos are from 1910 and 2020, and the bottom right photo was taken from the top of the hill, approximately where the Tractor Pull area is, looking southeast at the lake, rear of the house and old Juliet Grist Mill owned by the Thornton family. There were a couple of other lakes in Albion, also, one used for a sawmill on the east side of N. Main behind the tannery, and one in the area of West Ave., which was part of the Erie Canal, but only this lake was used for fun. Thomas J. Thornton & his wife, Ann Coates Thornton, came from Eccleshill, Bradford, in Yorkshire, England about 1847. They first lived in Fairview, then Girard, and bought the home in Albion, in 1857, only a year after Albion was officially incorporated as a borough. The house was built around 1811, and so far I've been unable to determine who lived there before the Thornton family. The couple had 11 children, and not only ran the grist mill that the lake supplied, but in 1868 built a machine shop, which was later enlarged to house a woolen mill. Thomas Thornton died in 1881, and the flour mill was then run by his son Joshua. The grist mill burned in 1888, was rebuilt, but burned again in 1911, and was abandoned. Their son William ran the woolen mill, which burned in 1906. Sometime after 1911, the property was sold to Columbus West Thompson & his wife Mary Gray Thompson. They summered here until Columbus retired in 1919, then moved here full time. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1936, along with a 25th anniversary party with their son West & his wife Rose Brace Thompson, who had married on his parents' 25th. The Thompson's other son, Thomas Graham Thompson, was killed serving his country during WW II. Columbus passed away in 1937, and Mary in 1944. In 1958, the house was sold to Reverend Donald Hennen and his wife, Charlotte. Following their deaths, their son Wayne sold the property to the current owners, Matthew and Jenny Wilczynski, in 2017. Sadly, without the mill, the pond shrank, and animals dug holes through the dike on the south shore, so the lake drained too fast for the springs feeding it. The Wilczynski's hope to find a way to restore it, & open it to the town, so who knows? Our long lost lake may be found again!

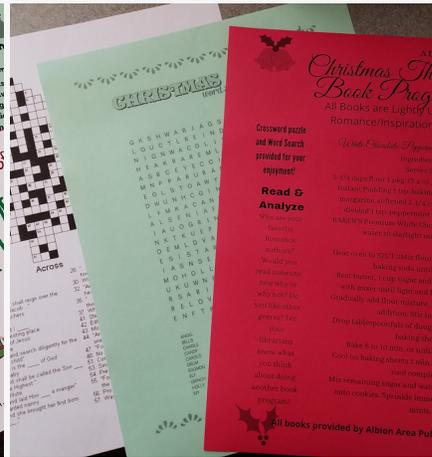




"Dinosaur vs. School" Board Book and Activities for Toddlers



"The Smallest Gift of Christmas" and Activities for Kids



Christmas Romance Themed Books and Activities for Adults

## TAKE HOME BOOK PROGRAM FOR TODDLERS, CHILDREN, & ADULTS

The Monthly CHILDREN'S TAKE-HOME BOOK PROGRAM is here again! Each bag your children receive will contain 1 free book (to keep), 1 craft with materials and instructions, 1 at-home activity suggestion, and Book Talk questions for discussions.

This month we are featuring 2 different titles for the kids books and 1 bag/mystery title for adult books. Please read the whole post and when you reserve tell us which one you are reserving for!

We are featuring the Book "The smallest Gift of Christmas" by Peter H. Reynolds. It is recommended for Ages 6-7 or Grades 1-2! We only have 9 bags to give out with this title.

**\*\*\*\* UPDATE! This title is ALL GONE!\*\*\*\***

We are also featuring the book "Dino vs. School" by Bob Shea. It is recommended for Ages 3-5 or Grades toddler- Pre-K. We have 14 bags of this title.

**\*\*\*\* UPDATE! This title is ALL GONE!\*\*\*\***

We are trying something new for this month- Adult Take Home book bags. They have either 1 hardcover or 2 softcover gently used adult Romance/Inspirational Holiday books. The bag includes a recipe of the month and two puzzles for your enjoyment with book talk questions. We have 20 of those bags.

**\*\*\*\* UPDATE! ONLY 1 LEFT!\*\*\*\***

## First Come, First Served

### Welcome to Our New Library Board Members!!

This month we've been joined by some wonderful new Library Board of Directors members from the community! We are so excited to welcome Barbara Sherman, Loren and Mollie Bennett, and Laura Rosecky to our Board! Anyone who is still interested in joining our board or our Friends of the Albion Library group should contact the library at 756-5400!

**2020 NOVEMBER-JANUARY  
VERY BEARY SNACK LIBRARY BASKET  
RAFFLE BEGINS NOVEMBER 23rd,  
DRAWING WILL BE JANUARY 30TH.**



Hand Crafted Fleece Bear, Record-A-Story Book, "If" by Frank Boylan, 4 "My Very First Winnie The Pooh" Books by Disney, Teddy Grahams, Chocolatey Chip Bear Cookies, Kodiak Cakes Bear Bites, Chocolate Crackers, Annie's Berry Patch, Bunny Fruit Snacks, Annie's Snack Mix, Little Debbie, Zebra Cake Rolls, Cheetos Paws, Pepperidge Farm Cheddar Gold Fish, Wegmans Animal Cookies, & Vanilla & Almonds Granola

Benefits The Friends of the Albion Area Public Library  
1 ticket for \$1.00 or 3 tickets for \$2.00 Name & Phone Number  
Library Art Auction winning tickets were drawn November 21st. Congratulations to the winning tickets. Winners will be announced.

### Please Bear With Us!

We are making some exciting changes here at the library, so please be patient with us! We are going to be moving the location of our public use internet computers out into the main library room, and moving our History Room into what is currently the much larger Computer Room. We will also be moving our large table with chairs into the new History Room to give researchers a more accessible and user friendly space in which to work! Obviously, this will mean a bit of shifting around of furniture and materials, so please be patient with us!