

A New Chapter for Jackson County's Libraries

By Sydney Wyer

John Faria, the new director for Jackson County's public libraries, seems to be the man behind what has the potential to be one of the best resources in the area. Raised in New York, Faria earned his degree in library science at Buffalo State University. Throughout his 20 years of service as a public librarian, he has worked in libraries across the country, traveling to states such as New York, Nevada, Texas, and now West Virginia. In July of 2017, he decided to move back to the east coast to be closer to family and friends, leading him to become the director of both the Ripley and Ravenswood libraries.

Faria and the library staff work diligently to stock the shelves with books that the

people of Jackson County enjoy. The library reaches all interest groups by providing a variety of resources such as traditional paper books and newer medias including eBooks and audio tapes. They offer courses on how to download these eBooks and the friendly staff is always willing to answer any questions that patrons may have.



Ripley The Raven is the new Jackson County Public Library Mascot

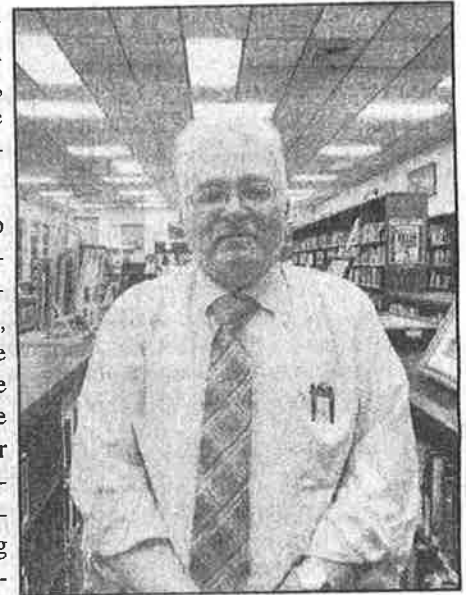
As branch manager, he and the Board of Trustees have already begun the 3-year plan to revitalize and expand the library programs. They plan to transform the Ripley library into a home for education, cultural appreciation, and community enjoyment. Faria hopes to create a stimulating environment by appealing to the interests of people of all ages

and every walk of life. There are plans to increase the number of classes and guest speakers to help educate the public on a variety of subjects such as personal finance, starting a business, health management, genealogy, and many more. Faria hopes to work on projects like a "book garden", an outdoor seating area for guests to read, relax, and reflect.

To increase public interest in these new programs, Faria is working hard to implement the latest marketing campaign tool- Ripley the Raven. As shown in the cartoon, this new mascot represents everything the library supports— education, fun, and a love of reading. You will soon be able to find Ripley the

Raven on merchandise such as bookmarks, magnets, tote bags, and t-shirts.

In order to fund these exciting new developments, Faria will be heading to the state legislature to advocate for library funding. Government funding would help finance building repairs/maintenance, expanding current programs, and completing the many projects that the library would like to complete. If you would like to help support



John Faria, Jackson County Public Library Director

these plans, you can call the Ripley library at (304) 372-5343 or the Ravenswood library at (304) 273-5343 for more information.