



INSIGHT

SUMMER 2026



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Akron-Summit County Public Library provides resources for learning and leisure, information services, meeting spaces, and programs for all ages that support, improve, and enrich individual, family, and community life.

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- 2 Greetings from the Executive Director
- 3 Building Our Future – Capital Repairs and Improvements Update
- 5 Summer Reading
- 7 Summer Reading Sponsors
- 8 OLC Statewide Poll Results
- 9 Reading Recommendations
- 13 The Spirit of '76 in Summit County: A Festive Fable
- 17 GeekFest
- 19 Level Up with TTRPG with your Library!
- 21 Introducing....Kaitlin Booth, Your New Deputy Director!



Michelle Alleman
Executive Director

Dear Akron-Summit County Public Library Community,

Summer at the Library is one of my favorite times of the year. When school doors close for the season, our doors open even wider—welcoming families, students, and readers of all ages into a space where curiosity thrives and learning never takes a break. We know that Summer Reading is more than a tradition; it is an essential tool for helping children maintain and strengthen their reading skills during the months away from school. Even a small amount of regular reading can prevent the “summer slide” and set students up for success when they return to the classroom in the fall.

This year, I invite everyone in our community to make reading a joyful part of their summer. Join Summer Reading by digging into a good book, uncovering hidden history, and discovering the joy that reading brings. All ages are encouraged to log their reading and activities this summer. Earn milestone incentives and ticket entries for local basket raffles and grand prizes.

Whether you’re a parent looking to keep your child engaged, a teen exploring new interests, or an adult eager for your next great read, the Library has something for you. Across Main Library and all our Branches, we are offering a full season of free programs—storytimes, workshops, performances, book discussions, learning experiences, and special events designed to spark imagination and build community. Every program is open to the public at no cost, because access to learning and enrichment should never depend on ability to pay.

Summer Reading would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors, whose support funds the program, milestone incentives, and the exciting grand prizes that motivate thousands of participants each year. We extend our sincere thanks to these partners for investing in literacy, learning, and the well being of our community.

I hope you’ll make the Library part of your summer routine. Together, we can nurture a love of reading, support lifelong learning, and ensure that every child—and every adult—has the opportunity to grow, explore, and discover something new.

Wishing you a wonderful summer of reading and discovery.

Michelle Alleman
Executive Director

Building Our Future – Capital Repairs and Improvements Update

by Michelle Alleman, Executive Director

In our previous issue of Insight, we introduced Building Our Future, the Library's multi-year, systemwide capital improvement plan made possible by Summit County voters through the bond issue approved in May 2025. This \$160 million investment—restricted exclusively to building and infrastructure projects—will modernize all 19 ASCPL locations. With most of our buildings averaging 24 years of age, these upgrades address critical needs such as aging roofs, outdated mechanical systems, accessibility improvements, and the creation of flexible, technology-ready spaces that reflect how our community uses the Library today. An overview of the plan is available at akronlibrary.org/building-our-future.

This second installment in our series highlights the progress underway as Phase 1 projects move forward.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

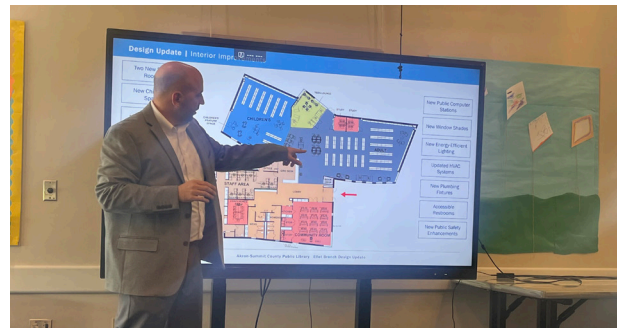
As part of our commitment to transparency and community engagement, Town Hall meetings are being held for each ASCPL location as renovation plans advance. At these sessions:

- Bostwick Design Partnership presents an overview of the design concepts for each building.
- Development Director Michael Derr shares sponsorship opportunities,

including naming rights for meeting rooms and sponsorship of youth area features.

- Branch staff highlight ongoing programs and services available during closures.

The Ellet Branch Town Hall was held on May 9, followed by the Tallmadge Branch Town Hall on May 16. The Nardon Hills Branch Town Hall will take place on August 1.



PHASE 1 BRANCH LIBRARIES

Tallmadge Branch closed on March 16 to begin major infrastructure work, including replacement of the HVAC system prior to beginning the six-month roof replacement. These essential upgrades must be completed before interior renovations begin later in the project.

Ellet Branch closed on May 9 to prepare for its roof replacement prior to interior repairs and renovations.

Nardon Hills Branch roof replacement will be able to begin prior to the planned closing on August 3 for interior repairs and renovations. Phase 1 Branch Libraries will have a stationary on-site bookmobile or book trailer for customers to pick up holds, return materials, and browse a small collection—keeping the community connected while the buildings are under construction. In addition, librarians will continue to provide programs, including storytimes and book discussions at off-site locations in the community.

LOOKING AHEAD

As additional branches enter construction phases, we will continue to share updates and timelines in future issues. Thank you for joining us as we build modern, welcoming, and resilient library spaces for our entire community.



Summer Reading

by Kelly Chaplin, Youth Services Assistant Coordinator

The benefits of reading are numerous for youth and adults. That's why Summer Reading is integral to our Library and takes place every year. This year, Summer Reading runs from June 8 until August 1. For youth, reading helps combat the "Summer Slide," that devious slippery slope to losing academic skills and knowledge between school years. Participation in Summer Reading also encourages reading to be a lifelong habit. For adults, it's a delightful way to unwind, to increase vocabulary, and to experience new perspectives. What's more, the Library is offering prizes for something that already benefits you. Join Summer Reading by digging into a good book, uncovering hidden history, and discovering the joy that reading brings. All ages are encouraged to log their reading and activities this summer to earn milestone incentives and ticket entries for local basket raffles and Grand Prizes. Simply sign up in person or on the Beanstack platform by using your browser or downloading the app for free. This allows you to track your reading and earn milestones and prizes. Just for signing up, participants receive a free cookie coupon from Acme Fresh Market and



a Paws the Library Lion vinyl sticker. After 10 days of reading, youth receive a free book, while adults will earn a Friends of the Library book sale free book coupon. After 20 days of reading, everyone will get a light-up pen with stylus. The 30-day milestone is the Summer Reading T-Shirt. This year, our design is roar-some, so you won't want to miss it! Day 40 will mean a free smoothie coupon from McDonald's, and our final milestone, day 50, will earn participants another free book for youth and another free book coupon for adults. Along the way, you'll be entered into our Grand Prize

drawings that touch on timeless community experiences and big-ticket items from our sponsors. All Grand Prize tickets must be redeemed by 5 pm on Saturday, August 1. Grand Prize drawings will be held the week of August 10. Winners will be contacted directly. But it doesn't stop there. Programming can add value to the Library especially for reluctant readers.

ASCPL families can expect Summer Reading presenter programs where we welcome special guests like Outback Ray, ArtSparks, Magician David Anthony, and many more. Babies and Toddlers have a wealth of early literacy-focused story times; Grades K to 5 can enjoy everything from Pokémon Clubs to LEGO clubs; Grades 6 to 12 can help out the Library this Summer at a variety of teen volunteer events, or hang out at everything from Dungeons & Dragons to Boba Tea programs. Adults are welcome to come out on their own to enjoy book clubs, tasty food programs, and much more.

Summer Reading Sponsors

PREMIER



PRESENTING



FIRST EDITION



WORDSMITH



SUMMER READING

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



New Research Shows Ohioans Strongly Value Libraries

New research shows overwhelming bipartisan support for Ohio's public libraries, with voters saying these services are essential to everyday life. The research, conducted by Public Opinion Strategies, examined voter attitudes toward libraries and local funding. The findings reveal overwhelming appreciation for library services and strong bipartisan agreement that libraries are worth the investment. In fact, libraries rank among the most trusted and highly-valued public services in Ohio. Learn more about the poll at olc.org.

Key findings:



90% of Ohioans say public libraries are important to their local community.



87% say they get their money's worth from library services for the taxes they pay — including 83% of Republicans, 85% of Independents and 93% of Democrats.



71% believe libraries provide many of the most basic services people rely on every day.



More than two-thirds can recall a specific time their library helped them personally.



Return on Investment:

Independent economic analysis shows that every \$1 invested in Ohio's libraries returns more than \$4 in value — generating over \$3 billion in statewide economic impact.



48.1M

Ohioans make 48.1 million library visits in a year.

251

public library systems.

7.4M

7.4 million Ohioans have library cards.

153.7M

Ohioans borrowed, downloaded or streamed public library materials 153.7 million times in a year.

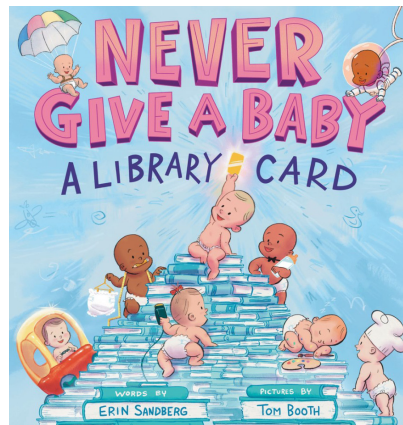
23.4M

23.4 million Wi-Fi sessions in a year.

Reading Recommendations

By Elizabeth Stefanov, Early Childhood / Intermediate Librarian

Check our print and digital catalog at akronlibrary.org for all available formats.

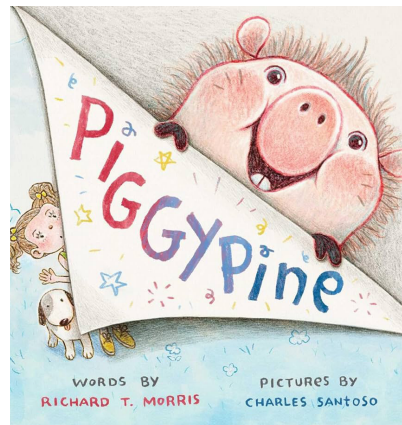


Never Give a Baby a Library Card

Picture Book

Erin Sandberg

Today is extra special for Baby. Not only is he visiting the library, but it's also time for his very own library card! But when a grouchy man overhears the news, he makes it clear he doesn't think babies should have library cards. He's worried that with the gift of a library card, a baby can grow and learn through books, accumulate a wealth of knowledge, and eventually run the world. But everyone knows it's valuable to share books with people of all ages, and that learning is an important part of life. You're never too young or old to get a library card.

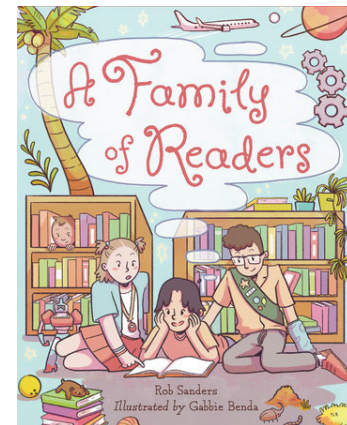


Piggypine

Picture Book

Richard T. Morris

Piggypine is part pig, part porcupine, and completely excited to be in a story. While interrupting pages in a story Piggypine isn't supposed to be in, it just wants to feel and be included. Piggypine tries everything to convince the narrator to let it join in and be a part of the book. Finally, the girl that the story is supposed to be about notices Piggypine. She introduces Piggypine to her parents, makes it her pet, and Piggypine finally gets its very own story.

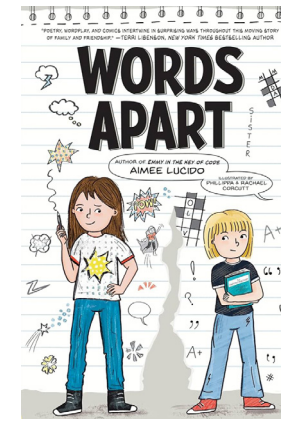


A Family of Readers

Picture Book

Rob Sanders

Who doesn't love a trip to the Library? Told through rhyming text and lots of colorful, detailed illustrations, a family visits their local library for the day. Throughout the book, we see just how many options are available at the library, and that doesn't just include books! While patrons are reading and workers are shelving, there are so many other great reasons to take a trip to the library. From story times to book clubs, and playing to meeting with friends, the library is bustling with people enjoying their time.

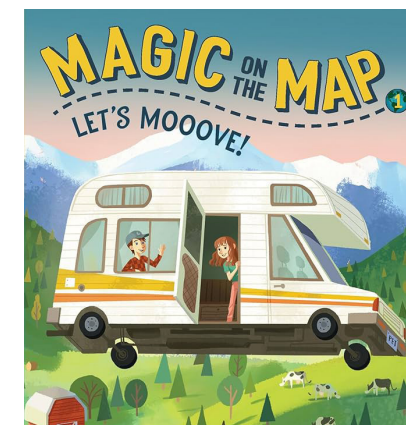


Words Apart

(3rd-6th Grades)

Aimee Lucido

Olive and Mattie might be sisters, but they are nothing alike. Though Olive is younger, she can't stop seeing, speaking, or making words. Schoolwork and words come easy to her; she creates crossword puzzles, she speaks in long, exasperating sentences, and she likes to write. Mattie struggles with words but learns through pictures she can draw and see in her mind. After being held back in school, she is in the same grade as her sister. They've always stuck together because of this, but this year they might be heading in separate directions. With troubles in school and at home, can the sisters come back together and succeed with the help of each other?



Magic on the Map

(3rd-6th Grades)

Courtney Scheinmel

Twins Finn and Molly have the whole summer to look forward to, after finishing the last day of second grade. To their surprise, they find an RV in their driveway when they get home. When Finn and Molly sneak into the RV at night to see what it looks like, they are caught off guard when the PET, Planet Earth Transporter, starts talking to them. Suddenly, the RV magically transports them to Colorado, with a note that the RV will be back once they complete some type of work. Each book in the series will take the twins and the reader on an adventure to a new state.



Just Right

(3rd-6th Grades)

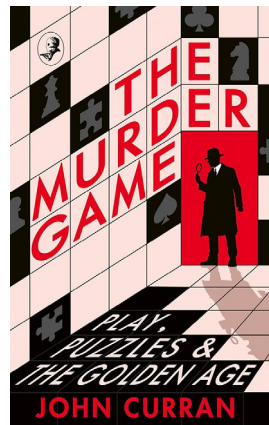
Torrey Maldonado

In his picture book debut, Maldonado provides the perfect book about father-like figures in a child's life. Toby is looking for a gift for both his father and uncle when he spots a wall of colorful socks. Though Toby is pleased with his picks, his father is visibly disappointed. Feeling sad, Toby walks to his uncle's repair shop with his gift. It's at the garage where Toby sees the love his uncle has for him proudly on display. Father figures aren't always fathers, but as long as they act like one, that's all that matters.

Reading Recommendations

By Patrick Manning, Neighborhood Services Manager

Check our print and digital catalog at akronlibrary.org for all available formats.



The Murder Game: Plays, Puzzles, & The Golden Age

John Curran

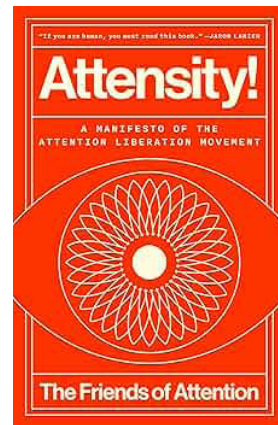
The Murder Game examines the puzzle-game dynamic between mystery writers and their readers during the Golden Age of Detective Fiction. It explores how authors constructed whodunits, bent the rules, and kept readers guessing during an era that also gave rise to crosswords, Mahjong, and Clue. A fascinating, in-depth study for anyone captivated by classic crime fiction and its lasting legacy. For anyone fascinated with the history of the mystery genre, and who thrills when reading “the game is afoot!”



The Time Has Come

Will Leitch

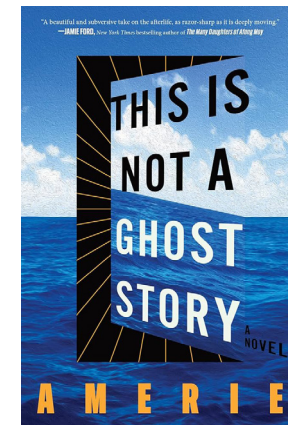
Seven strangers converge on Lindbergh's Pharmacy, a longtime Athens, Georgia store, for an evening that will upend all of their lives. Tina, a teacher, suspects something sinister is happening there and intends to intervene. Joining her, unaware of what awaits, are Karson, a lawyer; Dorothy, a widow; Daphne, a nurse; David, a musician; Jason, a contractor; and Theo, the Lindbergh heir. Each is absorbed in their own troubles, and none are prepared for what's coming. A suspenseful, character-driven story.



Attensity!: A Manifesto of the Attention Liberation Movement

The Friends of Attention

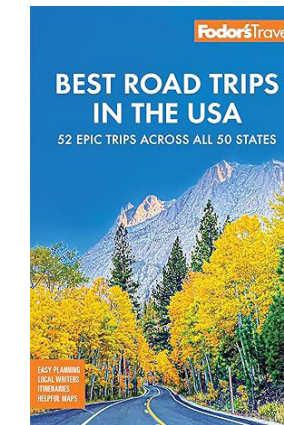
This frank call to action posits that our ability to focus is being degraded and sold by ever-present technological forces. Reducing individuality to what can be measured and marketed, these effects are causing real harm. Drawing on diverse traditions and earlier thinkers, the book urges readers to seek sanctuaries (such as the library), reclaim their own attention to the world, and collectively resist the dehumanizing forces of commercialized distraction before something irreplaceable is lost from everyday life.



This is Not a Ghost Story

Amerie

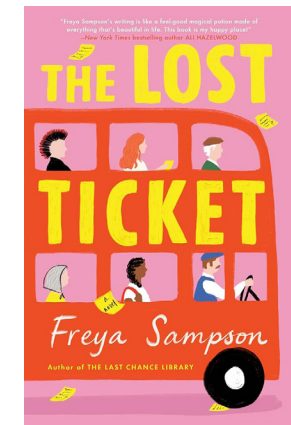
A ghost named John is forcibly expelled from his cherished Grey House by a menacing shadow and dropped into modern Los Angeles, where, oddly, the living can see him. With no memory of his past and no idea how to return home, he falls in with a psychic, a publicist, and an aspiring actress. As the unlikely group bonds, John becomes a media sensation, but the shadow's return threatens everything. A humorous, touching, and hopeful story about belonging.



Best Road Trips in the USA: 52 Epic Trip Across All 50 States

Fodor's Travel

For those heading in search of fun and adventure, here are 52 American journeys from coast to coast (Alaska and Hawaii, too). Both regional excursions and cross-country expeditions are included. A range of helpful contributors provide great local information throughout. Roadside attractions, maps, illustrations, things to see and do, itineraries, landmarks, planning tips, and organizing your trips to find the best use of time. An all-in-one travel guide to our country's spectacular sights, open roads, and iconic destinations.



The Lost Ticket

Freya Sampson

Arriving in London with her life in pieces, Libby meets Frank, a man who has spent sixty years riding the number 88 bus in search of a red-haired artist he connected with for one brief moment in the 1960s. His enduring devotion moves Libby to help find her, and together with an unlikely companion, they paper the route with posters. As Frank's dementia progresses, the search grows urgent. And this search also frees Libby's own guarded heart. A charming, uplifting novel.

The Spirit of '76 in Summit County: A Festive Fable

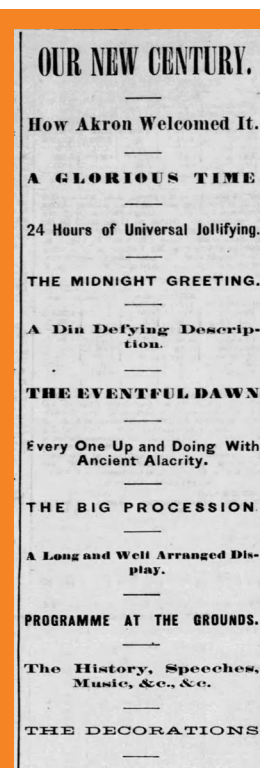
By Jane Gramlich, Librarian, Special Collections

Imagine this: You've just stepped out of a time machine, and you've landed in the public square of Akron on the fiftieth anniversary of the United States, July 4, 1826. It's been about a year since the village was established. What would you see? While the street layout has been planned and drawn, there are probably only a few small frame buildings around you. Most visible are the shanties of Irish laborers dotting the banks of the Ohio and Erie Canal. The canal's water ripples and shimmers quietly in the sunlight. It's the village's proud focal point. How are the nameless workers observing the day? What about the people whose names we know? Maybe Connecticut native Miner Spicer recited the Declaration of Independence earlier today. Possibly, Simon Perkins is visiting from Warren. Or perhaps Perkins can't make it, but his business partner, Paul Williams, will be giving a speech later.

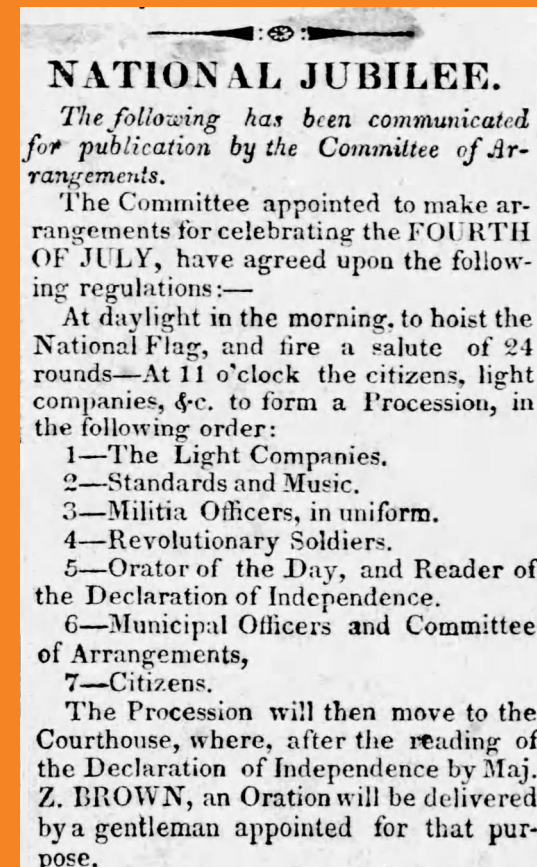
If you take a quick side trip and find yourself in the middle of Norton Township, what would be different? You might see the family in the nearest log cabin celebrating in their own humble way. On the other hand, maybe they're simply too busy tending young children, swatting mosquitoes, and looking after rapidly growing summer crops to take much notice beyond a passing thought. How do they regard this event?

It's more likely you'd have to transport yourself to Middlebury, a few miles east of Akron, for any significant revelry. With 300-400 people and several taverns, festivities were probably quite inebriating. But we don't have a record of it. The sources are scarce. We may never know exactly how the earliest settlers in Summit County observed Independence Day that anniversary year. But we do know a little about what the rest of Ohio and the rest of the country did.

In his inaugural address in March 1825, President John Quincy Adams said, "The year of Jubilee since the first formation of our Union has elapsed; that of the Declaration of our Independence is at hand." With that, 1826 became the "year of Jubilee," and in typical flowery nineteenth-century writing, the newspapers enthused about hearing "the notes of joyful preparation, to render due honors" to this first milestone. The town of



The Summit County Beacon waxed poetic about the Centennial celebrations on July 5, 1876.



National Jubilee 1826: Xenia's plans for the fiftieth anniversary of the U.S. give us some clues about how people around Akron may have observed the day. The People's Press and Impartial Expositor, June 21, 1826.

Xenia was much like Middlebury, with almost a quarter-century of existence and about 500 people. They managed to pull off a decent celebration. There was music; there were salutes, processions, orations. Middlebury may have done the same, and all those things were in store for Akron. But not yet.

Without delay, your time machine hurtles forward and deposits you downtown on July 4, 1876. Things have changed dramatically in the last five decades. Horses clop on the dirt roads. Carriages and wagons send clouds of dust flying into the warm air. The brick buildings around you – three, maybe four stories high – are festooned with small flags, evergreens, and red, white, and blue bunting. Akron's observance of the nation's Centennial is in full swing this day, and it's clear that it was planned well in advance. Someone hands you a four-page booklet called The Centennial Holiday Guide. Five thousand copies had been printed on the Akron Beacon Journal's presses the previous December, so there are plenty to go around. Advertisements, taking up half the space, indicate the city's escalating growth. Unlike fifty years earlier, the atmosphere is charged with lively anticipation, despite scattered thunderstorms dampening the proceedings. The evening is given over to "fireworks, fun, [and] frolic." At Grace Park, "brilliantly illuminated with torches, lanterns, and gas jets," the City Band plays several selections, and then an orchestra takes over to provide music for dancing that goes late into the night. All in all, it was "24 hours of universal jollifying."

The rest of the county commemorates the day in other ways. Out in Tallmadge,

The Spirit of '76 in Summit County: A Festive Fable Continued

By Jane Gramlich, Librarian, Special Collections



Innerbelt exposition 1976: Aerial photograph of the three-day Innerbelt Bicentennial Exposition in Akron. Festivities included sky divers, fireworks, parades, a hot air balloon, and many other events. Akron Beacon Journal Photograph Collection, Summit Memory.

a procession of 120 vehicles marks the occasion. The evening of July 3, Cuyahoga Falls spends “a noisy midnight” with “ringing of bells and blowing of whistles.” The next morning, several residents take a train into Akron for the day. In Peninsula, there’s a dance at Cassida’s Hall the evening before, but the Fourth passes “in a quiet manner,” with businesses closed and boys playing ball games.

Now you’re suddenly transported into the city half a century later for Independence Day 1926. The canal is quiet. The carriages are gone. The streets are paved. You see one forlorn delivery driver with a horse and cart who’s dodging the swerving, honking automobiles. “Thousands expected to spend day at beaches, or at outings arranged in the country,” reports the Beacon. You didn’t

see this kind of travel in 1876. Things are certainly looking more familiar here.

A highlight of Akron’s event schedule includes a pageant held at Perkins Woods, where “fifty-five prominent residents dressed in colonial costumes” portray the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Speeches by General Dwight Aultman and Mayor D. C. Rybold ensue, with the West High School band providing the musical backdrop.

Local parks are popular destinations. Summit Beach Park boasts “57 varieties of entertainment.” Riverview Park’s lineup is being broadcast over Akron’s radio station WADC in a “radio revue,” and both parks will have fireworks. The celebration has spread out well beyond downtown.

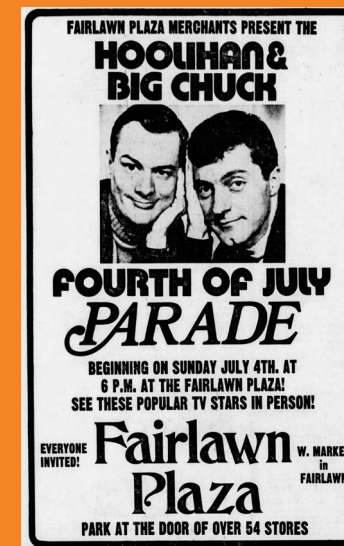
But you’re not done with your time travel yet. There’s one more excursion you want to take – to the Bicentennial events of 1976. You might have been alive at the time, but maybe your memories aren’t quite as sharp as you’d like. If you hadn’t been born yet, seeing the world your parents knew is worth the trip. You arrive on Saturday, July 3, because the festivities last all weekend. On Sunday, the weather is perfect, hitting 76 degrees at 4:30 pm. There’s a three-day exposition on the Innerbelt packed with tents and booths. Akron’s parade features more than 80 floats, and the Wallenda

Circus is in town. Parades and crowds are everywhere – Firestone Park, Portage Lakes, Barberton, and Stow. Even the Library is involved. Northfield’s parade stops briefly to present the Northfield Branch Library with a new flag donated by the Nordonia Club. The Akron Beacon Journal reports heavily on the occasion, with the July 4 edition numbering 230 pages and concluding that it was “a day of oohs and aahs.”

Coming back to your own time in 2026, you’re a bit dazzled by all the sights you’ve seen. They will leave an indelible memory. They



Summit Beach Park 1926: With no price tag attached, it’s easy to see why Summit Beach Park would have been a popular getaway. Akron Beacon Journal, July 3, 1926.



Fairlawn parade 1976: Many Summit County residents of a certain age remember the wacky comedy duo Hoolihan & Big Chuck, and perhaps some got to see them in person that year. Akron Beacon Journal, July 4, 1976.

might affect how you see your community, your nation, and your world. So much has changed; some for the better, some for the worse. But some things haven’t changed. On July 4, 2026, like those who came before us, much will be the same for the residents of Summit County. Some will kick up their heels all day and all night; others will stay quietly at home. The sound of fireworks will fill the air once again. And the same sentiments, spirit of celebration, and hope for the future will still be in their hearts.

GeekFest

By Kelly Chaplin, Youth Services Assistant Coordinator

GeekFest returns in all its geeky glory this August. Our all-fandom event offers fun for everyone, from SpongeBob-themed activities in the Children's Area to artist's panels in our meeting rooms. The public is also welcome to submit their own panel ideas on our website. Panel selections are made by Library Programming Co-Chairs, but you will be notified either way whether you've been selected.

Not only are we inviting you to run panels, but we're also inviting you to attend activities of our own creation such as our panel discussion in honor of the 40th anniversary of "Labyrinth", the Video Game Arcade, and much more. But the day's fun doesn't stop there! We'll be also joined by a wealth of presenters and performers too, and you'll see the return of the Video Game Symphony and welcome newcomers like Bricks and Mini-Figs, who will judge our LEGO® building challenge.

If you enjoy competition, do we have good news for you! GeekFest 2026 will see the greatly anticipated return of the GeekFest Art Contest. Participants must be 13 years or older to enter for a chance to win prizes. Those 12 and under will automatically be placed in the Art Celebration. All ages may



enter the Art Celebration, where we'll display (and not vote on) your art in the Library.

We also have our Cosplay Contest. This contest acts as our grand finale, starting right at 3pm. The Cosplay Contest is open to ages 13 and up, and participants may choose to enter under one of the following categories: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced, which are described on our



GeekFest webpage. We do have a Cosplay Parade option, which is not a contest but rather a celebration for all ages to dress up as their favorite character and join us onstage.

Looking for a geeky pin or crocheted Pokémon? Visit our vendor floor! On the first floor of Main Library, you can find an assortment of handmade goods by local vendors. Be sure to browse before 3 pm. Vendors will be accepting a variety of payment methods from e-payment, tap to pay, and cash (varies by vendor). Most vendors will have items for sale ranging from \$5 to \$35.

Make sure you visit our Community Partners who are spending the day with us. They will be just outside the Auditorium providing valuable information for resources right here in Akron. Also, you'll want to keep an eye out for The 501st Legion, an internationally renowned Star Wars costuming organization, who will also be making their rounds outside the Auditorium and the second floor. Stop for photo ops and an up-close view of some stunning cosplay.

A list of vendors will be posted on the GeekFest landing page and will be updated regularly leading up to the event.

The Library invites you to enjoy an affordable convention experience, where no matter what you're into, you're sure to have a great time geeking out with your fellow fans at GeekFest!

GeekFest 2026 will take place Saturday, August 8, from 10 am – 4 pm, at Main Library. All downtown Akron parking is free on the weekend. Find out more information and updated details on our splash page at akronlibrary.org/geekfest.



Level Up with TTRPG with your Library!

By Wyatt Brewer, Technology Trainer, Electronic Services



TTRPG

A Tabletop Role Play Game (TTRPG) is a story-driven improv game where a Game Master (GM) narrates and guides a group of players through an adventure. These games have experienced a recent surge in popularity. This resurgence in Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) has led a lot of new players to join the hobby. While the game can be played all in your head and with a pen and paper, you can also level up with the help of your Akron-Summit County Public Library!



TechZone@Main

Stop by the TechZone@Main, the Makerspace located on the first floor of the Main Library. The TechZone has many different machines and resources that can be used at little or no cost. There are so many things you can create there to level up your RPG playing. We've compiled a list in the next section for ideas to get you started. All TechZone machines can be used by appointment only, and anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Drop by the TechZone during Main Library open hours to check out the equipment and ask our friendly staff how to bring your project ideas to life. The staff is there to teach you how to use the machines. Bring your design to your appointment, and we'll help you create it!



TechZone Projects

3D Printer

- Dice Towers
- Tokens
- Initiative Trackers
- Spell Cast Templates

Laser Engraver

- Dice Towers
- Dice Trays
- Initiative Trackers
- Wood GM Screens
- Spell Trackers

Vinyl Printer

- Maps
- GM Screens

Button Maker

- Tokens

Sublimation

- Play Mats
- Playing Cards



Meeting Rooms

Need space to host a game? Look no further than your local Branch Library. Most Branches have meeting and community rooms that can be used for such occasions. Check out our website for booking policies, including advance booking and availability. Or contact your local Branch to learn how to reserve a room. Keep an eye on the Library's events calendar to enjoy Library-hosted gaming events! Meet new people, enjoy common interests, and play awesome games. Hosting or attending games at the Library is a friendly, low cost way to meet fellow players, share resources, and enjoy your hobby in a welcoming public space.



Check Out Materials

The Library has a comprehensive selection of D&D and other RPG materials you can borrow with your Library card. We have rulebooks and handbooks to help learn to play many different systems of RPGs, plus a ton of fiction books to spark your in-game creativity. Want a medieval atmosphere while playing? Borrow an era-appropriate music CD and embrace the aesthetic on your game night. Check out a starter game set and while you're at it, explore other Library of Things items; maybe a fondue pot for game night snacks, themed cake pans, or hang an original piece on the wall to set a scene from our Art Library.



Introducing...Kaitlin Booth, Your New Deputy Director!

By Khantal Tigner, Librarian, Special Collection



The Library has a new Deputy Director in town, and her name is Kaitlin Booth.

Booth's library career is impressive. Before serving as the Library's Collection Development Coordinator, she worked in other library systems around Northeast Ohio. During her time at Stark County Public

Library, she worked as a tech trainer, an Adult Reference Librarian, and a Youth Services Librarian. At Medina County Public Library, she was the sole librarian at her branch, doing a little bit of everything for groups of all ages. At Cuyahoga County Public Library, she selected and managed digital content in addition to manga and graphic novels.

It's safe to say that Booth is no stranger to public libraries, and her love for them is something that she can trace back to her childhood.

"I've always wanted to be a librarian," Booth said. "Ever since I received my first library card when I was six."

Booth holds both a bachelor's degree in English as well as a master's degree in library and information science, both from Kent State University. When she came to Akron-Summit County Public Library, she was thrilled to take on the role of Collection Development Coordinator.

"I liked how it [the job] was always exciting... always different," Booth said. "You get to go out to the different branches and talk with staff."

Booth also enjoyed the challenges that came with the job. Over the last year and a half, Booth has been one of the leaders in implementing both a new Integrated Library System (ILS) and a new Discovery Layer—Koha and Aspen respectively.

Migrating a library's entire collection of items from one ILS to another is no easy task, requiring months of work to make sure everything transfers accurately. "All of the staff have been great," Booth said. "Everyone is

engaged with the new ILS and has approached the new system with an open mind."

Though Booth will miss being the Collection Development Coordinator, she is excited about her new duties as Deputy Director. After working behind the scenes in the Library, she is looking forward to being more involved in Summit County's communities, particularly with Library programming for both children and adults.

As a customer of the Library, Booth enjoys attending the Pokémon Club at the Northwest Akron Branch with her family. She is also an avid reader. So far, Booth has read 22 books this year. She is a sucker for a good romance novel, despite the stigma the genre faces. "It takes real talent to write a book where the ending is obvious, but the story is still compelling," she said.

(And if you're in the market for a great romance novel, she recommends "And Now, Back to You" by B. K. Borison. You won't be disappointed!)



Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High St. Akron, OH 44326
akronlibrary.org



facebook.com/AkronLibrary



instagram.com/akronlibrary



linkedin.com/company/akronlibrary

MAIN LIBRARY

Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm
Friday: 10 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 1 pm - 5 pm

Drive-Up Window closes ten minutes early.

SPRINGFIELD-LAKEMORE BRANCH

Monday: 12 pm - 8 pm
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday: 12 pm - 6 pm
Thursday: 12 pm - 8 pm
Friday: 12 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: Closed

BRANCH HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 8 pm
Friday: 12 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: Closed

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

Sunday, May 24
Monday, May 25 Memorial Day
Saturday, July 4 Independence Day
Sunday, July 5

PHASE 1 BRANCH CLOSINGS

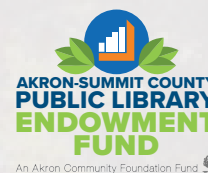
Nordonia Hills Will close on August 1, 2026 at 5 pm
Ellet Closed for Renovation
Tallmadge Closed for Renovation

LIMITED LIBRARY SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT CLOSED LOCATIONS IN THE PARKING LOT AS FOLLOWS:

Nordonia Hills Tuesdays, 3rd Saturday
Ellet Wednesdays, 2nd Saturday
Tallmadge Tuesdays, 1st Saturday



Donor support of the Library's Endowment Fund at the Akron Community Foundation helps individuals and families in our community access the essential library services, programs, and resources they need to make their lives easier and better. To donate today, scan the QR code or mail your donation to:



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