

Shelf Life

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM



NEW MATERIALS AT DPLS

New bestsellers include "Heartstopper 6," "Helpless," and "Love You More."

To get a complete list of our new materials delivered right to your inbox each month, visit wowbrary.org.



SEE OUR JULY
CALENDAR OF
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

GET THE DETAILS ON THE
SUMMER READING
CHALLENGE!

EXPLORE 'TRUE CRIME
ON THE GREAT LAKES'

UNCOVER HIDDEN
HISTORY WITH
DEFIANCE SOIL & WATER

DRIVE-IN MOVIE PASS
AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT!

DPL PRESENTS: TRUE CRIME ON THE GREAT LAKES

The Great Lakes region is known for its maritime history, but it is also known for the many crimes and tragedies there that remain unsolved, leaving victims without justice for decades.

Join Christopher Gillcrist, Director Emeritus of the National Museum of the Great Lakes, at Defiance Public Library on July 16 from 5:30-6:30PM, for a historical journey detailing events such as the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, the burning of the Noronic, the Torso Murderer of Cleveland, and the Eastland Disaster of 1915. Gillcrist will highlight new interpretations and investigations.

This program is free & open to all adults, sponsored by the Friends of Defiance Public Library. No registration is needed.



UNCOVERING HIDDEN HISTORIES AT DEFIANCE LIBRARY



Archaeologists are like detectives: They dig for clues from the past and try to solve mysteries.

On July 22 at 3PM, visit Defiance Public Library, where we'll be joined by Wendy Baker of the Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District as we dig up some artifacts to help us learn about the Hopewell People — indigenous Ohio people who lived about 2,000 years ago.

What artifacts will we find to help us discover more about this unique civilization? Head down to the Summer Reading Tent on the Fort Grounds to find out!

This free program is geared to children and families, and no registration is needed.

UNEARTH A STORY! SUMMER READING CHALLENGE UNDERWAY

Defiance Public Library System's 2026 Summer Reading Challenge for all ages continues through July 25 at the Defiance, Sherwood, and Johnson Memorial (Hicksville) libraries.

This year's theme, "Unearth a Story," focuses on dinosaurs, paleontology, and archaeology, and is designed to spark curiosity and exploration. The theme promotes digging into history, science, and literature, covering topics like rocks, fossils, family heritage, and local history.

All are invited to read along with DPLS for a chance to win prizes. In addition, join us for a wide assortment of free family activities at the libraries (listed at defiancelibrary.org/calendar).

All ages can register to participate in the challenge now at defiancelibrary.beanstack.org. Children from birth to grade 6 can also participate by filling out a paper reading/activity log, available for pickup at all 3 DPLS library locations.

For complete challenge information, including activity ideas, information about prizes, and more, visit defiancelibrary.org/summer, stop into one of your Defiance County libraries, or call 419-782-1456. Happy reading!



A LOOK AT WHAT'S TO COME...

DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S



GRADUATION CELEBRATION!

August 11, 2026

10:30-11:30AM

Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St.

Celebrate the recent grads of our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program with a special ceremony & storytime!

You do not need to have completed the program to attend, and no registration is needed.

SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY!

LILY CREEK FARMS' 'TEAM LILY' WILL VISIT AT 11AM!

WATER WAR

AUG 3

with the Hicksville Fire Department

5:00-6:30PM

**at Hicksville Community Park
598 N. Bryan St.**

It's kids VS. firemen in a water gun war! Bring your own squirt gun & we provide safety glasses.

Prepare to get soaked by the fire truck deck gun!

**Geared to school-aged kids
No registration**



Breastfeeding 101

with Melinda Kuhlman of the Defiance County Health Department

AUGUST 6

5:30-6:30PM

DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Get off to a good start with breastfeeding! We'll discuss how to get a great latch, how to have a good milk supply, and how to know that your baby is getting enough milk.



PLUS, GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE WIC PROGRAM!

**OPEN TO ALL ADULTS
NO REGISTRATION IS NEEDED**



A, Boom Boom, C!

STORYSHARE WITH



JOIN US AS WE PLAY WITH THE ALPHABET THROUGH STORIES, SONGS & EVEN A SPECIAL PUPPET FRIEND.

CONTINUE THE FUN AFTER WITH A BUS TOUR!

**AUG. 4
11:00AM**

DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY



**Geared to ages 3-K
No registration**

In other news...

A DVD/VHS player is now available to check out from the DPLS Library of Things! To see what else is available, visit defiancelibrary.org, access the catalog (Using the Library > Catalogs) then click the "Library of Things" button at the top of the page.

The Defiance Public Library System Board of Trustees will hold its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 29, beginning at 5PM at Defiance Public Library. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A new book is waiting for you at the Bronson Park Storywalk: The Peddler of Puddles, by Beth Ferry & Tom Lichtenheld. Read along with us during Storywalk Storytime on July 22 at 11AM.



New to the Museum/Attraction Pass Program! Enjoy the timeless charm of a classic outdoor movie experience at Field of Dreams Drive-In Theater in Liberty Center! Use your library card to check out a pass that admits one carload of movie-goers for free! (Pass must be picked up at Defiance Public Library.)

Read details & see other available passes at defiancelibrary.org/pass

<http://>



DEFIANCELIBRARY.ORG



Defiance Public Library
320 Fort Street
Defiance, Ohio 43512
419-782-1456

Johnson Memorial Library
116 W High Street
Hicksville, Ohio 43526
419-542-6200

Sherwood Branch Library
117 N Harrison Street
Sherwood, Ohio 43556
419-899-4343