



Lines & Links

Your Connection to Reading, Learning and Growing since 1963 | FALL 2020



View of the exterior of the new Bainbridge Branch.

#GCPLBuilds: New Bainbridge and Thompson Branches Near Completion

It's hard to believe it was just last October that we broke ground on our new Bainbridge and Thompson Branches. Now, one unprecedented year later, we are close to opening the doors of both buildings. Thompson is scheduled to open in mid-October, with Bainbridge following up in Late December.

We are excited to share these new buildings with our community. Keep an eye on our website (www.GeaugaLibrary.net) for updates on grand openings (virtual or otherwise) and any other construction-related news. You can also search #GCPLBuilds on social media.

Note: Our Bainbridge Branch is temporarily located in the Gardiner Center, 9421 Bainbridge Rd, Chagrin Falls, until the new building is complete.

For details on the features at each building and more pictures please see pgs. 4 - 5.



Front and side exterior of the new Thompson Branch.



Geauga County Library Foundation Distributes Free Books to Community

Imagine a group of individuals with a mission and passion to provide access to information and ideas. Then suddenly, one day, it's impossible to do that without putting the public's health in danger. When libraries closed during the Stay at Home Order, it was not only inconvenient, it was heartbreaking for our GCPL staff.

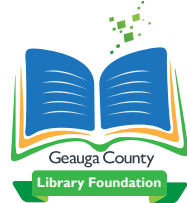
Shortly after the Stay at Home mandate was ordered, GCPL received an email from a counselor at Ravenwood Health. She had a client who was an avid reader looking for a safe way to acquire reading materials but she had no means to download a book. At that time, we were nowhere near reopening GCPL Branches to lend books. Sadly, we had to tell her that there was nothing we could do until we were allowed to safely reopen. It was especially difficult news to deliver knowing that we had thousands of donated books that had been quarantined for months at our Book Sale building on the Geauga County Fairgrounds.

"We were sitting on all these books to sell to raise money for community literacy projects when what the community needed were books," says Geauga County Library Foundation (GCLF) Executive Director Becki Gierman. "A free book distribution was the logical and right thing to do."

Gierman made a phone call to Geauga County Fair Director Paul Harris who supported the idea of a safe, contact-free book distribution at the Fairgrounds. He suggested that we hold it in conjunction with the Geauga County Hunger Task Force/United Way Food Distribution that was scheduled on Wednesday afternoons.

Claudia Toth of the Geauga County Hunger Task Force welcomed the partnership. The way she sees it, "this was a great example of how a community can come together to help people nourish their bodies and nourish their brains at the same time."

Over six weeks, GCLF volunteers distributed over 7,500 books, 300 jigsaw puzzles and 400 A/V items to Geauga County families while they picked up food boxes. "Participants were delighted and grateful," says GCLF Chair Cathy Leary. "Many shared the materials with their neighbors, parents, and kids and came back for more the next week."



Geauga Reads

Tune into Geauga Reads every Friday on our Facebook page! Community leaders from around the county will entertain and educate the whole family as they share their favorite kids' books. It's a great way to learn about our amazing local organizations that make our world a better place every day. Featured organizations include Geauga Park District, Ravenwood Health, Job and Family Services, Geauga Public Health, University Hospitals, Geauga County Sheriff's Office, and many more!

GCPL Partners with AARP and Geauga County Department on Aging to Help Seniors with Tax Assistance

Tax time is usually stressful. Compounded by a pandemic and a Stay at Home Order, it can cause a lot more stress for Geauga County seniors who rely on the help of GCPL, the AARP Foundation, and the Geauga County Department on Aging (GDA) to help them prepare and file their returns. Our library Branches typically host the free service, but we were closed. The AARP Tax Aid Program was canceled all over the country. GDA had three tax certified volunteers but ran out of laptops when their staff needed them to work from home.

The three organizations teamed up and combined resources to safely connect Geauga County residents to tax assistance. GCPL had extra laptops, connections to AARP volunteers, and contact information of people in need of the service. GDA had office space, software, and staff to coordinate appointments. AARP Foundation had access to equipment and a pool of qualified tax counselor volunteers who were ready and willing to do tax returns. Together, they were able to file an additional 53 tax returns than if GDA handled it alone.

"Our clients were happy that they saved hundreds of dollars they would have had to pay for professional tax service," said GDA Assistant Director Kathy Patrella. "Many of them recognized the AARP volunteers from doing their taxes in previous years at the library. It was nice for them to see a familiar face."

AARP Foundation volunteer tax counselor Bob Runo and his team were grateful for the opportunity to help. He is looking forward to collaborating again next year.

Support the Library by Not Attending the Stay at Home & Read Ball

You are cordially not invited to attend our first non-event fundraiser, the Stay at Home & Read Ball, on Friday, October 23. Confused?

It is unlikely that the GCLF will be able to host in-person events for some time. In order to raise money for the library, we are happy to announce our new virtual fundraiser, The Stay Home & Read Ball. Select a book, get in your comfy clothes, pour a beverage of your choice, and get lost in the pages! Support the Library by donating the money you would have spent on a night out.

Share your love for GCPL on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and tell us what you'll be reading or include a photo of what you'll be doing on your night in. Include #GCPLStayHome to be entered into a prize drawing. Donations are accepted for this cause anytime online or by mail. For more information visit GeaugaLibrary.net.

GCLF Expands Ohio Governor's Imagination Library Countywide

In a three-way partnership with the Geauga County Library Foundation, the Ohio Governor's office, and the Dollywood Foundation, the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library was launched across Geauga County on March 2, which is also Read Across America Day.

In just a few minutes, you can give your child the gift of books. Sign up any child from birth up to age five to receive a new book in the mail each month at no cost to you. Studies have shown that children with 25 books in the home are more likely to complete an additional two years of school than their peers. With Imagination Library, each enrolled child has the opportunity to receive up to 60 books by the time they turn five.



Enroll online today at www.ohioimaginationlibrary.org. Paper forms are available at GCPL Branches if necessary.

GCLF is responsible for 50% of Geauga County's costs and the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library matches those funds dollar for dollar. If you or your organization are interested in helping to fund the program in Geauga County, contact Becki Gierman at 440- 286-6811 ext. 2533 or email foundation@geaugalibrary.net.

"We have received the Blue Engine. My daughters were beyond thrilled. It was cute to see their faces when I brought them inside. Dolly has become a lot in their tiny lives. They now listen and dance to all of her kids songs and love when she reads to them on Thursdays. A few of my friends have gotten their books too. It's really a wonderful program. And I am happy to have joined."

Marie, Chardon



BAINBRIDGE
A library in progress.
Plenty of space and light
to fire the imagination.

New Buildings, New Opportunities



A view to the future: Looking at the new Bainbridge Branch from the grounds of the old Bainbridge Branch.

While state of the art in design and technological capacities, our new buildings also present us with an opportunity to offer our community new ways to engage and connect.

The new Bainbridge Branch will see increased space compared to the old building, with dedicated youth service program rooms, messy programming rooms, and a quiet reading room, in addition to the other features listed below.

The new Thompson Branch will provide greater access to the entire community, with longer service hours, more computer access, and additional program opportunities and programming space. The collection will also be expanded.

Both branches also have fireplaces and outside space dedicated to patron activities.

"We engaged our communities in the conception and design of these new buildings and hope they are as excited as we are with the soon-to-be-finished product," says GCPL Director Ed Worso. "These are beautiful, dynamic spaces that offer great space, cutting edge technology, stirring of the imagination, and, as always, a large, diverse collection of materials."



A gateway to ideas. Interior view from the new Thompson Branch.

Both branches also have fireplaces and outside space dedicated to patron activities.

Here are a few more of the features patrons can look forward to:

Bainbridge

- Large Meeting room
- Large Conference room
- Several study rooms
- Drive-up book drop
- Drive-up service window
- Maker Space

Thompson

- Large Meeting room
- Two study rooms
- Frances Spatz Leighton Reading Room
- Children's Story Time patio

Thank you, Geauga County, for your support, insight, and enthusiasm. We are thrilled to offer these new buildings and services to you. #GCPLBuilds



"Once there was a tree..." Interior view from the new Thompson Branch.



We are so excited about the open feel and light at our new Thompson Branch.



Who doesn't love to read beside the fireplace? Here is a glimpse of Thompson's.

Still Connected, Even at a Distance

While our buildings are reopened for limited in-person services, we are unable to offer programming in our buildings. We are continuing to do our best to engage with you virtually. Here are a few ways you can connect with us online:

Virtual Programming with Zoom

We've been having great success in transitioning our programming to the virtual world. Just go to www.GeaugaLibrary.net and click on "Programs" to see what we have to offer. Please include your email when registering - instructions for joining the Zoom meeting will be provided upon registration.



Kate built this beautiful fairyhouse out of a birdhouse in one of our Virtual Storytime with Craft programs.



Quinn and Collette J. built these awesome creations for our Virtual Lego Challenge.



Putting the "Book" in "Facebook"

If you haven't "liked" our Facebook page yet, now is a great time. These trying times have certainly put our staff's imaginations to the test, and they have come up with some fun and inspiring ideas.

*We now feature scheduled Facebook happenings. Many of these offer you a chance to win a GCPL swag bag! Here's what you can look forward to:

- Mondays: Babytime; Finish the Art
- Every other Tuesday: Virtual Lego Challenge
- Wednesdays: GCPL Reader's Happy Hour
- Thursdays: Trivia Time
- Fridays: Geauga Reads
- Saturdays: Two Truths and a Lie

*Subject to change

Ask Us Online

Now offering Digital services via LibAnswers

Print, scan, and fax

Assistance

Reference Assistance

Readers Advisory

100 Assistance Book Challenge

From printing to book recommendations to digital library cards and more, we are here to help from a safe, virtual distance with Ask Us Online.



Virtual Summer Reading Success

Being closed didn't stop us from connecting with our community for Summer Reading. We went virtual and sat back in awe at how many books you all read! Thank you for making Summer Reading 2020 a success. This is just one of many ways you have reminded us that we truly are all in this together.

"Tracking our boys' reading this summer and encouraging good daily habits has been a breeze with Beanstack. Peter, 7, and Walter, 4, like to earn activity badges by drawing, helping with dinner and staying off screens during the day. The checklist has become a routine, and the thought of winning a prize basket keeps them motivated."

Jamie Ward, Chardon

Curbside Pickup

Now Available at GCPL

Inspiration via GCPL

When Mobile Services visited Murray Manor for the first time since the closure, one patron was excited to show our staff the new fairy garden she created using books requested from the CLEVNET catalog. She took this knowledge and used it to beautify the communal space by the front door. What a beautiful example of GCPL's shared purpose to engage, connect, and inspire our community!



Our Digital Collection is Always Open!

Read eBooks and eMagazines or listen to eAudiobooks.

Browse the catalog, place holds, use your device as a library card, and more.

Transparent Language helps millions learn over 100 foreign languages.

Learn new skills to enhance your technology, creativity, business, and other pursuits.

Enjoy eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, movies and television shows. No holds or waits.

Creativebug offers online video arts and crafts workshops and techniques.

Our digital collection is always available! Be it eBooks, audiobooks, movies/tv, music, digital magazines, genealogy software, research databases, and much more, we've got you covered.

Letter from the Director

We at GCPL have been doing our best to adapt our services to these truly unprecedented and trying times. Things are different, including this newsletter, but at least things are continuing to the best of our abilities. We appreciate your patience and flexibility.

Construction on the new Bainbridge and Thompson Branches continues. We look forward to unveiling these new buildings in the fall (Thompson) and winter (Bainbridge). It is our hope that we can open the doors to these new buildings to you, our beloved patrons, but, as we have all learned over the last several months, we have to take a wait and see approach.

In May we introduced Curbside delivery, which continues to go well. We have adapted our Print, Scan, and Fax, Reference, Reader's Advisory, and eCard services to a virtual platform called Ask Us Online, which you can access on our website. 100 Book Challenge participants and newcomers can also do so online.

Our electronic lending through Overdrive, Libby, and Hoopla is off the charts, indicating that the public has been meeting many of their library needs through that avenue. We will keep this up and continue to add more content as we can.

While we miss the in-person camaraderie of our regular programming, we have found ways to use the Zoom platform to engage with our community, offering as many dynamic classes and programs as possible. Your participation in these events brings us great joy and enthusiasm when we need it most. May it continue.

On July 7, we moved into the next phase of our reopening, allowing patrons back into the buildings for walk-through browsing and computer access.


We have missed seeing you and look forward to the day when we can return to full-scale normalcy. In the meantime, let us all continue to do the best that we can while taking cues from federal, state, and county officials as to best practices to ensure the health and safety of Geauga County and beyond.

Thank you for continuing to connect with us. For GCPL updates, be sure to check www.GaugaLibrary.net and our social media channels.

Please stay safe.
Director Ed Worso



12701 Ravenwood Drive
Chardon, Ohio 44024



Public Library

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Chardon, Ohio
Permit No. 77

GCPL DIRECTORY

Administrative Center
12701 Ravenwood Drive
Chardon, Ohio 44024
440-286-6811

Bainbridge - Temporary location
Gardiner Center
9421 Bainbridge Road
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023
(440) 543-5611

Chardon
110 East Park Street
Chardon, Ohio 44024
(440) 285-7601

Geauga West
13455 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, Ohio 44026
(440) 729-4250

Middlefield
16167 East High Street
Middlefield, Ohio 44062
(440) 632-1961

Mobile Services
16167 East High Street
Middlefield, Ohio 44062
(440) 632-9496

Thompson
16200 Burrows Road
Thompson, Ohio 44086
(440) 298-3831

Website: GauguaLibrary.net
Email: help@gaugualibrary.net

LIBRARY HOURS FALL 2020

Bainbridge, Chardon, Geauga West, and Middlefield

Tuesday: 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
(First hour of service is reserved for high-risk populations)
Wednesday 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
(First hour of service is reserved for high-risk populations)
Thursday 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
(First hour of service is reserved for high-risk populations)
Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(First hour of service is reserved for high-risk populations)
Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thompson (Closed Fridays)
Thursday 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Administrative Center
Tuesday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Upcoming Holidays
Wed., Nov. 25 All Branches close at 5 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 26 Closed all day
Thurs., Dec. 24 Closed all day
Fri., Dec. 25 Closed all day
Thurs., Dec. 31 Closed all day
Fri., Jan. 1 Closed all day

