

## Summertime Blues? Not at WCDPL!

A rock and roll staple since the late 1950s “Summertime Blues” has been recorded by the Beach Boys, the Who, Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band, the Rolling Stones, and many more well-known rockers. This favorite seasonal song laments, “Sometimes I wonder what I’m a gonna do, cause there ain’t no cure for the summertime blues.” If you find yourself wondering “what you’re a gonna do” this summer, look no further than the library. The Children’s Place’s “Build a Better World” Summer Reading Program, new resources for youth and adults, and plenty of great new books, DVDs, and magazines to check out offer library users sure-fire ways of preventing the “summertime blues.”

I’m particularly excited by two new resources, one for youth and one primarily for adults. As part of the “Build a Better World” Summer Reading Program, programs in the Children’s Place will feature its new Rigamajig building kit. The Rigamajig kit is “a collection of wooden planks, wheels, pulleys, nuts, bolts and rope designed to engage the inquisitive mind and creative spirit of children.” These materials provide children countless opportunities for collaborative play which combines imagination with invention, and places emphasis on the process of the creative act.

Thanks to a new Local History online resource, “Headlines from Home: World War I Newspaper Archive,” researchers of all ages can travel back in time to observe life in Wood County during the “war to end all wars.” The World War I Newspaper Archive makes all papers of the *Daily Sentinel-Tribune* from 1914 – 1918 available in their entirety in a digitized, fully searchable format. The archive is available from the library’s website ([wcdpl.org/content/world-war-i-newspaper-archive](http://wcdpl.org/content/world-war-i-newspaper-archive)) and may be used from home or inside the library.

WCDPL’s annual report for 2016 and its depiction of our vigorous library can offset potential blues during any season. Borrowing patterns remain strong: since 2002 borrowing has

increased 36% and use of digital items has increased 30%. Attendance at library programs is up 11%, and foot traffic into the Bowling Green facility increased by 13% over 2014. You can see the library's full annual report online at [wcdpl.org/content/annual-reports](http://wcdpl.org/content/annual-reports).

Even with the promise of summer activities for all ages, an abundance of good books, and a vibrant, growing library, the well-being of the economy remains a concern for us all. In 2016, state funding accounted for nearly 53% of WCDPL's total income. As the state's economy improves, so does its support for libraries. Yet, as state General Revenue Fund decreases, so does its support for libraries.

In July of 2015, a rallying economy allowed for an increase in library funding from 1.66% to 1.7% of the General Revenue. However, the state budget proposed by the Governor and now being considered in Columbus could see a return to the earlier funding level—1.66%. WCDPL joins other Ohio libraries and the Ohio Library Council in asking that the Ohio Legislature maintain support for libraries at its current level of 1.7% when the state budget is voted on this July.

When you see Senator Gardner or Representative Gavarone, both of whom are dedicated champions of Ohio's libraries, thank them for their support and ask that they continue to advocate for keeping Ohio's libraries strong by preserving funding for libraries at 1.7%.

So much is happening at the library—come in to get out of the heat, to enjoy a program, to find your perfect vacation read—and Beat the Summertime Blues at WCDPL!

See you at the library!  
~Michael Penrod.  
May, 2017