

News Release

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Delaware Libraries Launch 2019 Statewide Summer Library Reading Program

(Dover, DE) Delaware’s First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney will kick off the statewide 2019 Summer Library Reading Program, *A Universe of Stories*, this week at two public libraries. She will be joined by special guest ventriloquist Uncle Ty-Rone the Kid’s Comedian.

The kick-off events are:

- 10:00 a.m. Friday, June 7 at the **Delmar Public Library**; and
- 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 7 at the **New Castle Public Library**.

“Promoting early literacy and school readiness is a critical part of giving all of Delaware’s children a ‘first chance’ to succeed,” said **First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney**. “The library habit is about literacy, as well as parent-child engagement and access to other services that support strong and healthy families. To support our families and a [First Chance](#) for all of our children, I encourage every Delawarean to get and use a Delaware library card.”

Delaware libraries are noted for hosting the longest running statewide public library summer reading program in the nation. Now in its 41st year, the annual Summer Library Reading Program provides early literacy programs to help children build and develop reading and language skills; teen programs that motivate teens to read and discuss literature; and programs that encourage adults to experience the joy of reading.

“Librarians help to generate a passion for reading and learning,” said **Governor John Carney**. “A healthy reading habit motivates, inspires, encourages creativity and prevents the summer slide.”

“For more than 40 years -- for generations of Delawareans -- Delaware libraries have been cultivating reading and learning passions,” said **State Librarian, Dr. Annie Norman**. “Whatever your interest, whatever your talent, the library supports it.”

Young “pre-readers” (children who can’t read yet) can get credit for books that are read to them. Throughout the summer, libraries provide a variety of fun and educational arts, cultural, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs to encourage reading and spark curiosity.

Registration for the Summer Library Reading Program is free in-person at all public libraries or [online](#). Incentive prizes are awarded based on reading and activity milestones. Delaware libraries encourage Delawareans of all ages to track their reading and learning during the summer and throughout life. A variety of tips, tools, and techniques for tracking individual interests are available on the [Unleash Inner Genius](#) guide.

The following programs for children will be presented at all public libraries throughout the state; visit the [Summer Library Reading Program](#) site for the schedule of events and additional information:

- **Space! The Cosmos for Kids** and **The Music, Bubble and Comedy Show: A Universe of Stories!** presented by Turtle Dance Music, in partnership with the Delaware Division of the Arts.
- **The Wizard of Oz** presented by Stephens Puppets, in partnership with the Delaware Division of the Arts.
- **Footsteps on the Moon** with the Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation.
- **Universe Stories (*Mousetronaut, Zoo in the Sky, and I Am Moon*)** discover the fascinating world of space with the Delaware Nature Society.

About:

Summer arts programs are supported by the [Delaware Division of Libraries](#) and, in part, by a grant from the [Delaware Division of the Arts](#), a state agency, in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](#). The Division of Arts promotes Delaware arts events on [DelawareScene.com](#)

The [Delaware Division of Libraries](#), a state agency dedicated to unleashing the potential in all Delawareans in partnership with [Delaware Libraries](#) and the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), offers free access to the online catalog ([delawarelibraries.org](#)); Wi-Fi; computers/internet; eBooks; programs/workshops; community partnerships; and more.

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