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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Library Joins Harry Potter Mania**

**July 12, 2007** – Fans are on tenterhooks awaiting the final installment of the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, and the librarians at the Stark County District Library are just as excited. In fact, the library's Plain Community Branch will open late on, July 20 at 10:00 pm, to celebrate Harry's Midnight Madness, the library's event for the release of the book on July 21. Copies of the book will be available for checkout at 12:01 am on July 21.

The Plain Community Branch, 1803 Schneider Street NE, on the Plain Community Campus, will become Hogwarts Castle on the evening of July 20, and everyone is invited to become a witch or wizard for the evening. All guests will be greeted by the Sorting Hat; the Hogwarts Howlers and master magician Tim Angeloni will entertain. Budding wizards will have an opportunity to try their hands at the magical coursework studied by Harry, Ron, and Hermione at Divination, Herbology, Transfiguration, Potions, Charms, Arithmancy, Defense Against the Dark Arts, and Care of Magical Creatures stations.

SARTA's trolley will be magically transformed into the Hogwarts Express for wizard travel, and guests are invited to celebrate Harry's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday at the outdoor "Leaky Cauldron" café with cake, celestial refreshment, and flavorful "beans." And, we'll read a portion of the first chapter of the book that evening, too.

There will be a look-alike contest, so dress as your favorite character. Three copies of the book will be awarded to look-alike winners. Then at 12:01 am on the 21<sup>st</sup>, reserved books may be picked up; those who placed their holds early and are first in line for a copy of the book will be notified by email or phone call of

its availability. A lottery drawing will give a select few attendees a chance to checkout an additional, limited number of non-reserved books.

A Harry Potter trivia contest is currently ongoing at all library locations. Patrons are encouraged to take the Harry Potter Trivia Challenge and enter to win a copy of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Completed Trivia Challenges must be submitted by July 16. From these entrants names will be drawn to award one copy of the book at each library branch and bookmobile location. The drawing will take place before Harry's Midnight Madness, and winners will be notified that they can pickup their books after midnight on July 21.

The Stark County District Library will have 175 copies of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* available to library patrons as soon as the book is released. Fifty copies will be available as Book Express, which means they are unavailable for holds or renewal, but on library shelves on a first-come, first-served basis. Plus, the library will have multiple copies in audio book format. Nine days before the release date, the library has 430 holds recorded for Harry Potter.

The Stark County District Library is one of the best 100 libraries in the United States, ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in its population category. Its Main Library, 10 Branch Libraries, and two bookmobiles and two Kidmobiles serve 143,000 library card holders. More than 1.4 million people visited the Main Library or its Branches and Bookmobiles last year. Holdings number more than 925,000 items, and annual circulation is 3.8 million items. The collection includes books, audio visual materials, and periodicals for all ages. In addition, the Library provides programs and classes for adults, teens, and children, computer and Internet access, inter-library loans, reference and genealogy services, and traveling collections on two Bookmobiles and two Kidmobiles, as well as Outreach services to shut-ins, nursing homes, and housing units. It is one of the nine largest library systems in the state of Ohio, serving 12 local school districts. For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit [www.starklibrary.org](http://www.starklibrary.org).

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