



Wapakoneta, Ohio

FIRST ON THE MOON

June 2019

Available for immediate release

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firstonthemoon.org * [#firstonthemoon](https://twitter.com/firstonthemoon) * [First On The Moon on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/firstonthemoon)

Planning for the 50th Anniversary Celebration began almost three years ago when a number of stakeholders from throughout the Wapakoneta community came together to outline plans to commemorate this significant anniversary observation.

The celebration kicked off in a big way on October 12, 2018 with a gala to celebrate the “First Man” movie premiere held in downtown Wapakoneta and has continued with programs and concerts and special events, all commemorating and celebrating Wapakoneta’s connection to Astronaut Neil Armstrong and the space industry.

These events have been leading up to the 10-day expanded Summer Moon Festival, a collaboration among the 2019 Anniversary Celebration Committee, the Wapakoneta Area Chamber of Commerce and the Armstrong Air and Space Museum. Starting with a balloon rally on July 12 and continuing to a group “wink at the moon” on July 21, the festival has events sure to appeal to local residents and visitors alike.

July 12 & 13

Hot Air Balloon Rally

The Auglaize County Fairgrounds will be the site of a 50th Anniversary Celebration Hot Air Balloon Rally. Balloon launches on July 12 and July 13 at 6:30 p.m. and a Night Glow event at 8:45 p.m. on July 13—they resemble giant Chinese lanterns.

July 13

Premiere of WBGU Neil Armstrong Documentary

Our regional PBS station will premiere its *First Steps: First on the Moon*, the story of Neil Armstrong’s youth in Auglaize County at the Wapakoneta Performing Arts Center — 3 p.m.

July 14

50th Anniversary Parade & Sunday Picnic

After Neil Armstrong's historic steps on the moon the community of Wapakoneta celebrated his return to Earth with a parade in his honor. Join us as the community celebrates the 50th anniversary with another parade in Mr. Armstrong's honor. The parade will begin at 3 p.m. at the Auglaize County Fairgrounds and end in the historic downtown.

After the parade you are invited to enjoy a concert by the *Sounds of Summer: A Beach Boys Tribute* and picnic dinner at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum.

July 15

60s Day at the Wapakoneta WaterPark

Grab your bathing suit and join us at the Wapakoneta WaterPark for a day of 1960s-themed fun. There will be a presentation about the Apollo 11 mission as well as special activities for all those attending.

Wapakoneta by Moonlight

Join us in downtown Wapakoneta from 9 p.m. to midnight for live music, late night dining, flashlight tours of historic buildings, hundreds of luminarias, and more. Downtown Wapakoneta will glow in the moonlight.

July 16

Launch Day at Armstrong Air & Space Museum

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Saturn V launch of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum with model rocket workshops and launches—a big day of fun and learning.

Back to the 60s Dinner at St. Paul United Church of Christ

Enjoy a delicious meal of 1960s-recipe foods at the Armstrong family's home church at 6 p.m.; reservations are required.

Chris Hart, first person interpreter of Neil Armstrong, will make a presentation at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Reservations are not required for Hart's program; it is open to the public.

Miss Summer Moon Festival Pageant—Wapakoneta High School Performing Arts Center

The Miss Summer Moon Scholarship Pageant provides an evening of entertainment showcasing local students from Wapakoneta High School—7:30 to 9 p.m.

July 19

The World's Largest MoonPie

The Chattanooga Bakery is creating the World's Largest MoonPie —50 lbs. and 40" in diameter. It will be displayed in Downtown Wapakoneta. The

official “eating” will take place on July 19 at 7:30 p.m.

July 17-20

Downtown Wapakoneta

Historic Downtown Wapakoneta comes alive as the streets are closed for four days and nights of celebration. It’s about honoring the past while living in the present. For more than 25 years people from near and far have come together for this street party; in 2019 we’ve planned the biggest festival yet. Here are some of the highlights. For a full schedule of events, be sure to check www.summermoonfestival.com.

- * **Carnival Games & Attractions**
- * **Live Music—15 free concerts on two stages**
- * **Beer Garden**
- * **Food Trucks**
- * **Vintage Car Show**
- * **Antique Tractor Show**
- * **Local Shops & Restaurants**
- * **Fishing Derby**
- * **Bed Races**
- * **Wiener Dog Racing**
- * **River Boating**
- * **Boutique & Homemade Goods Market**
- * **World’s Largest MoonPie**

July 19-21

Armstrong Air & Space Museum

Continue the celebration at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum, built to honor Wapakoneta’s own Neil Armstrong and other Ohioans involved in space exploration. The museum has a remarkable collection of items related to Mr. Armstrong, including his Gemini VIII capsule. It also has a selection of interactive exhibits, simulators, and an informative film in its Astro Theater. Festivities on the museum grounds include a 5k and 10k **Run to the Moon** that includes visiting NASA astronauts, space inflatables, interactive science experiments, rocket launches, and more. Shuttle service between the museum and downtown activities will be available. Visit www.armstrongmuseum.org for the full schedule of events.

- * **Run to the Moon 1k & 5k AND 1 Mile Fun Run**
- * **Visiting NASA Astronauts**
- * **Star Wars Characters**
- * **NASA Astronaut Presentations**
- * **Interactive Science Experiments**
- * **Rocket Launches**
- * **Games, Attractions, Food Stands**

***July 19—Live NASA broadcast from the museum on the NASA Channel—
Noon to 3 p.m.***

July 21

**Grand Finale — *Wink at the Moon* Concert
at the Armstrong Air & Space Museum**

Bring the 10 days of celebration to a close by joining the community at our “Wink at the Moon” closing event. Enjoy the music of the Lima Area Concert Band starting at 7 p.m., plus a few special 50th Anniversary surprises. When the concert ends, join us, as suggested by Mrs. Armstrong at her husband’s passing in 2012, in giving Mr. Armstrong a little wink at the moon.