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NEWS, 2A

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West Akron Parade honors Juneteenth



Steven Sills holds a Juneteenth flag on June 20 as he watches the 50th anniversary of the West Akron Parade Juneteenth Edition along Copley Road in Akron. PHOTOS BY MIKE CARDEW/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

First joint event a hit with locals, officials

Patrick Williams

Akron Beacon Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Corvette owners slowly rolled their sports cars down Copley Road in West Akron, followed by dancing cheerleaders.

Representatives from Enviroscapes then threw candy out to children as they rode lawnmowers down the street. Big Mike's Towing & Recovery carried people sitting on picnic tables on the back of one of its tow trucks.

The Juneteenth Edition of the 50th Annual West Akron Parade brought out thousands of people of all ages June 20.

"We want this community to have something to celebrate," said Diana Autry, one of the parade organizers. Autry previously served as president of the Buchtel Community Learning Center PTA and as board member and president of Akron Public Schools' Board of Education.

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Done Harrison, a Buchtel girls basketball player, mugs for the camera.

Metro RTA workers set date to hold strike vote

Derek Kreider

Akron Beacon Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

The union representing Metro RTA's over 300 bus operators, vehicle maintenance workers, and clerical workers has scheduled a strike authorization vote for June 30.

If three-fifths of the union's membership vote to strike, it will allow the Transport Workers Union Local 1 leadership to walk out on Metro at a time of its choosing. The union must give Metro 10 days notice prior to a stoppage. The vote will take place at Local 1's union hall at 411 Wolf Ledges Parkway in Akron.

"My members have worked more than three years now without a raise and are furious at how they've been treated by Akron Metro management," said Local 1 President Wayne Cole in a June 18 news release. "Akron Metro has treated transit workers like second-class citizens, with disrespect and contempt. We do not want to strike but if that's what it takes to get a fair contract, we will strike. Enough is enough."

In 2025, riders took 5.6 million trips with Metro RTA. Summit County residents rely on Metro to get them back and forth to dialysis appointments, grocery stores and more.

On June 9, the union overwhelmingly rejected contract terms outlined in a report meant to bring an end to deadlocked contract negotiations with Metro. Metro's board of trustees voted to accept the report.

In a June 9 statement, the Metro RTA board said that while the fact finder's report "did not provide resolution on each proposal advanced" by the transit authority, "we believe that this report represents the conclusion of a fair process that acknowledges the complexities of the collective bargaining process."

The board's statement said that while the recommendations amount to "an approximate increase in the employee contribution for single and

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U.S. state, territory artifacts to be buried in time capsule

Project aims to help tell America's story in future

Swasti Singhai USA TODAY

"America's Time Capsule" has been officially sealed in commemoration of the United States' 250th birthday.

The 900-pound steel cylinder contains more than 200 artifacts, records and objects to tell America's story when it is opened 250 years later.

The capsule will be buried on the Fourth of July in Philadelphia as part of the hundreds of events across the county planned for America's 250th anniversary.

"Now that America's Time Capsule has been sealed, it carries with it a remarkable record of this moment in our nation's history," said Rosie Rios, chair of America250. "This moment is as much about the future as it is the past. When it is opened in 2276, future generations will see the care, pride, and optimism with which Americans marked our 250th

anniversary."

America250, the official nonpartisan commission designated by Congress to organize the July 4 celebrations, spearheaded the work to design the capsule and collect relics. All U.S. states and territories, in conjunction with numerous

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