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MAGAZINE

New hobbies to try in the new year

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“We need to get a hobby.”

It might be a sport, arts and crafts, music, model-making, game-playing or simply reading or watching TV.

Now, where do we get started?

Well, the logical first step is the library. They have the knowledge about an abundance of activities stored in books, magazines, videos and in the minds of the men and women who teach classes about the things we might want to learn.

“**Stark Library** has many resources for people interested in exploring new hobbies,” said Marianna DiGiacomo, community services director. “Whether you want to research your family history, improve your technology skills or learn a new craft, Stark Library is here to help. Check us out at StarkLibrary.org, or stop in and see us at one of our convenient locations. We are happy to connect you with our resources.”

More: Stark Library CEO Mary Ellen Icaza shares recent, favorite books

DiGiacomo provided suggestions of those resources, such as the “Stark Library Maker Studio,” which “encourages hands-on learning and discovery to creators of all ages and is available for open exploration and collaboration, one-on-one appointments and maker classes.” Also of assistance is the library’s genealogy department, offering help to those who have taken up tracing family roots as a hobby.

Hobby shops are an additional resource for both the raw materials needed by hobby enthusiasts and also the advice that might be critical in getting started and sustaining interest.

Plenty of local hobby shops are in business — think of **The Hobby Stop** in Canton and **Aero Tech Hobbies** in North Canton, **Rob’s Trains** in Alliance — to assist enthusiasts in

specific interests.

More: Hobby Lobby headed to Jackson Township

“Yep,” answered Mike Guest, owner of **Wings, Wheels & Waves** at 125 Erie Street N in Massillon, when asked if his establishment could help hobbyists get started in a number of areas. “We have plastic models, radio-controlled cars, trains, electric slot cars, model rockets, paint and airbrushing supplies. We also have what are called table-top war games.”

Large stores, such as **Michaels** also have an online presence that provides assistance in addition to the materials for crafting hobbies.

“Our Michaels Makers represent some of the best minds in the Making,” notes [michaels.com/michaels-makers.html](https://www.michaels.com/michaels-makers.html). “These expert crafters, industry leaders and bloggers are here to bring you monthly projects, tips, do-it-yourself decorating and entertaining ideas and more.”

Participating in Michaels Makers activities provides positive reinforcement, notes the website.

“Each month, we challenge our Makers to design an inspirational project in response to a specific theme, trend or season. You too can participate in the monthly Michaels Makers challenges by creating a project with the monthly theme, share your photo on

Instagram ... for a chance to be featured on Michaels’ social media channels.”

More: 'Small Town Ohio' exhibit at Canton Museum of Art captures sights, moments on canvas

Such museums as **Canton Museum of Art**, **Massillon Museum** and the **Little Art Gallery** in North Canton offer classes for fledgling artists, and they also provide plenty of material in their galleries from which novices visually can obtain ideas for developing their own techniques and styles.

“Come ‘Follow Your ART’ in the new year at the Canton Museum of Art!” enthusiastically urges Max Barton, executive director and CEO of Canton Museum of Art. “Taking a class in the Museum’s School of Art — whether ceramics, oil painting, watercolor painting, textiles, metal work or more — is the perfect way to explore your creative side or learn new art forms. CMA makes it easy with professional artists and educators for every skill level and every age. Share the transformative power of art with others, and get inspired at CMA!”

That's reassuring music to a novice artist's ears.

For that matter, music just may be another hobby. Many resolutions revolve around picking up an instrument and playing.

"Probably most people would say guitar or piano, but we hear from many people who never had a chance to play in the band in school," said Jerry Pellegrino Jr., president of **Pellegrino Music & Lesson Center** at 5040 Everhard Road NW. "So they want to learn to play the clarinet, trumpet, flute or violin."

In addition to the instruments themselves, and the lessons that likely will follow, Pellegrino offers advice that might help new musicians, and other hobbyists, continue with their avocations.

"I would say it's helpful to have set good and realistic and measurable goals that have a time component with them," Pellegrino said. "Rather than just say 'I want to learn to play the guitar,' which is good, also set some goals to reach along the way."