



July 1, 2020

**A MESSAGE FROM BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR MARY JEAN JAKUBOWSKI**

Dear Buffalo & Erie County Public Library patron and supporter:

As we head into the month of July, I am pleased to announce that by Monday, July 6, nearly all Buffalo & Erie County Public Library buildings will be open in some capacity providing services to our communities! (The Lake Shore Branch Library in Hamburg remains closed for construction.)

Here's what you need to know:

1. Library hours may be reduced. Please visit the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System website at: [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org) or call your library directly for details.
2. ALL staff and patrons (over the age of two) are required to wear a facial covering when in the library.
3. ALL libraries are following social distancing protocols inside our buildings with limited seating and floor markers demonstrating 6' distances in spaces where patrons may gather.
4. For the safety of everyone, returned materials (books, DVDs, CDs, etc.) are being placed in quarantine for a minimum of 72 hours before placement on library shelves. You may see returned items remaining on your library card account. For the safety of our staff, discharge of returned materials will occur following quarantine. No overdue fines will be accrued during the quarantine period if the items are returned before, or on, their due date.
5. Our libraries are following strict cleaning and disinfecting guidelines as per the CDC.
6. Protective shields have been placed at customer service stations.
7. Patrons have access to hand sanitizer and tissues.
8. Meeting rooms will remain closed for an undetermined period.

I am very pleased to tell you that beginning today, July 1, we are offering our "holds/requests" service. Through your online "My Account," you can place a hold on library materials including new materials and/or those with a waiting list. Hold fees vary depending upon the material type (book vs. DVD) and adult vs. child. Our sincerest thanks to those who have been patiently waiting to retrieve your requested materials that were being held since before libraries were closed back in March. We have now made items on hold available for pickup.

Borrowing periods have returned to our standard borrowing periods for all materials. Click here for details: <https://www.buffalolib.org/library-cards-borrowing-information/borrower-information#Borrowing%20Limits>.



It is officially summer and that means libraries are rolling out plenty of Summer Reading fun! *Imagine Your Story* is the inspiring theme this year and readers of all ages are encouraged to dream BIG, believe in themselves and create their own story.

Reading over the summer months can significantly reduce *Summer Slide* – a term meaning the learning loss experienced when school is out of session. Libraries can help families instill a love of reading – so please ask us for assistance in finding the right book or eBook for the young people in your life.

Details about the exciting Summer Reading Contest for children, teens and adults, with prizes ranging from Kindle Fire HD devices to gift certificates and tote bags can be found here: <http://becplny08.readsquared.com/>.



Traditionally, Summer Reading programs are held in our libraries with dozens of activities for children and families. This year our programs are virtual, engaging and FUN! See the calendar here: <https://www.buffalolib.org/whats-happening>.



Our annual *Read Down Your Fines* program for children ages 16 and under is back AND has been extended to run through December 31, 2020. *Read Down Your Fines* is a fun way for children to erase library overdue fines. For every 15 minutes of reading, at least \$1 in fines will be removed. Older children can read to younger children and they can each get fines erased from their library card accounts. Reading can take place anywhere – at home, at the library, at a park, inside or out! Here are all of the details: <https://www.buffalolib.org/kids/books-read-down-your-fines>

The *Play Down Your Fines* sports equipment borrowing program is currently on hold. It is expected to resume again later this year at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library.

Due to the *Novel Coronavirus* and the gathering restrictions pertaining to it, our popular teen reading competition *Battle of the Books* has been cancelled. We look forward to hosting this exciting family-friendly competition for students entering grades 6 – 9 next summer. Visit our website for year-round teen activities, a teen blog and recommended reading for teens here: <https://www.buffalolib.org/services/teens>.



Cookbook clubs, origami making, Dungeons & Dragons games, book discussion groups, health and wellness talks, genealogy programs, LEGO creations, family art, short story times, reading with dogs, checkers matches, job fairs and a lot more – all of our virtual programming can be found on our libraries' Facebook, YouTube and/or Twitter pages. More details here: <https://buffalolib.libcal.com/calendar/events/?cid=12898&t=d&d=0000-00-00&cal=12898&inc=0>.

**Need to ask the Library a question?**

**Call:** 716-858-8900 Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Or, call your local library directly.

**Email questions to:** [askus@buffalolib.org](mailto:askus@buffalolib.org).



I know I speak for our staff and Board of Trustees when I say we miss you and can't wait to see you soon at the Library! Click here to see our open hours: <https://buffalolib.libcal.com/>. Have a happy and healthy Independence Day weekend!

*Mary Jean*

Mary Jean Jakubowski  
Library Director

*CONNECT WITH THE LIBRARY TODAY*

