



February 17, 2021

## A MESSAGE FROM

### BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR MARY JEAN JAKUBOWSKI

Dear Buffalo & Erie County Public Library patron and supporter:

I hope this finds you well and that you are staying warm on these frigid, wintry days. Here at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, we have been working hard and I am excited to share with you the following updates:

1. **OPEN FOR SERVICE:** ALL 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries are open for in-person services. View open hours for each library here: <https://buffalolib.libcal.com/>

Below are a few things you need to know before your visit:

- Properly fitting facial coverings are required to be worn correctly, by all persons over the age of two, at all times;
- Social distancing (minimum of six feet) is in effect:
  - Heavily trafficked areas have floor markers;
  - Furniture and public computers are spaced apart;
- ALL returned materials, including but not limited to books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, etc. are quarantined for a period of four days. Materials returned on time will not accrue fines/fees, but will remain on your borrower record for the quarantine period;
- NO eating/drinking is permitted;
- Hand sanitizer stations are placed throughout the library;
- Plexiglass shields are found at most service desks; and
- We encourage you to limit your stay to two hours.

Every library has its own Safety Plan. For more information, please contact your library directly.

**Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries**

**We're Open!**

**IN-PERSON AND ONLINE**  
**FREE**

**WiFi, public computers, books,  
downloadables, programs and so much more!**

**Information: [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org) 716-858-8900**

Facial covering and social distancing protocols are in effect at all locations.



- HOLD FEES ARE NOW A THING OF THE PAST:** There is no longer a charge to request an item or place an item on hold. This means you can reserve materials that are on a waiting list or order material from any library in the System and have the item/items sent to your local library at no cost. You will be notified when the item/items are available for pick-up and will have eight days to collect the item/items. In the event materials are not picked up, a per-item fee will apply. Please call 716-858-8900 with questions.



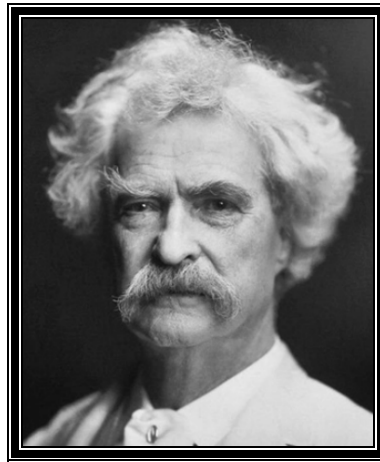
- NEW SERVICE:** We now offer a “*Library by Mail*” program. This free program was designed for Erie County residents who are temporarily or permanently homebound and unable to go to a physical library. Have questions or need a library card to participate? Give us a call at 716-858-7156.
- PROGRAMMING:** While most libraries are not yet offering in-person programming, there are hundreds of virtual programs available through our website, social media channels and via Zoom including book clubs, storytelling, family crafts, lectures, wellness classes, genealogy and technology training and much, much more! Visit the Library System website at [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org) and check out the section labeled “What’s Happening” for the latest free programs: <https://www.buffalolib.org/whats-happening>
- LIBRARY CARDS:** We have traditional library cards, eCards and a new **Student Digital Card** for those Erie County students in grades K-12 who do not already have a library card. A Student Digital Card allows students to borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks, download music and get homework help using online resources such as encyclopedias and magazine articles. Apply online here: <https://vf.buffalolib.org/vufind/OnlineSignup/Home/>
- OTHER GREAT HAPPENINGS:**



**Celebrating Black History Month** – We have programs, exhibits, books and more, including two free exhibits at the downtown Central Library, located at 1 Lafayette Square in the heart of Buffalo:

*Buffalo African-American Museum Exhibit* (main floor) through February 28, 2021; and

*2021 Black Barbie Doll Exhibit* (main floor, various locations) opens February 25 – March 13, 2021.



*Mark Twain*

**Additional free exhibits and displays at the Central Library include:**

*B is for Book: Children's Stories Through the Centuries* (second floor, Collections Gallery);

**Mark Twain Room:** *Tom Sawyer - Huck's Comrade* (main floor);

*Telling the Story: Enslavement of African People in the United States* (main floor, Rare Book Room); and

*Celebrating Erie County's Bicentennial - EC200* (main floor, Ring of Knowledge) coming in April 2021.



**Winter Reading Challenge** – Read, write and submit your entry to win great prizes including gift cards and the grand prize of a Kindle Fire HD. Running through March 5, the Winter Reading Challenge is open to children, teens, adults and classrooms. Click here for details: <http://becplny08.readsquared.com/Default.aspx?PID=1280>

**Teen Programs, Clubs and Book Discussions** – Visit <https://www.buffalolib.org/services/teens> for resources and much more information.

Your Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries have been busy finding new ways to provide the resources and services you have come to expect from your library – those that enrich, enlighten and entertain, especially during these challenging times. Your feedback is important to us. You can call us at 716-858-8900, send comments to [comments@buffalolib.org](mailto:comments@buffalolib.org), ask a question via email to: [askus@buffalolib.org](mailto:askus@buffalolib.org) or click on this website link to learn about additional library resources: <https://www.buffalolib.org/contact/contact-us>.

Thank you for using Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries! I look forward to seeing you soon at the Library!

Take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jean Jakubowski".

Mary Jean Jakubowski  
Library Director

**CONNECT WITH THE LIBRARY TODAY**

