



MEDIA RELEASE

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SUMMER READING FUN @ BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Free, Family-Friendly Programs to Keep Kids Reading During the Summer Months

Summer is almost here, and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries want you to take a walk on the wild side with this year's Summer Reading **Tails and Tales** activities. Now through the end of August, everyone is encouraged to visit their local public library to learn about and explore the marvels of the natural world through books, virtual and in-library programs, outdoor activities, online reading challenges and crafts for all ages. The 37 local libraries and the *Library on Wheels* Bookmobile are open and ready to shine the light on a variety of resources and programs including family-friendly reading contests, book clubs, pet programs, teen reading competitions, computer coding, DIY crafts, comedy shows, outdoor games, yoga, concerts and more!

"Libraries are here to help prevent what is commonly known as the 'summer slide'," said Library System Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "Because traditional classroom learning has changed over the last year, it is now more important than ever for parents to encourage year-round reading. Plus, Library staff are available to help select age-appropriate reading and learning materials."

Highlights of the free **Tails and Tales** programming at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries include:

Tails and Tales Summer Reading Challenge: Children, teens and adults who read a book, write a short review and post it online on the Library's Summer Reading Challenge page are entered to win prizes including a Kindle Fire HD 10 Tablet. The Challenge runs through Friday, August 13. Click here for details: <http://becplny08.readsquared.com/>

Read Down Your Fines: Children ages 16 and under are able to read down their fines. For every 15 documented minutes of reading, a child earns one Library Buck toward reducing overdue fines. Once a summer-only program, this opportunity has been extended and is now available year-round.

Take & Make Activities: While in-person programs may still be limited in some libraries this summer, many are offering inspiring and creative Do-It-Yourself (DIY) craft and learning kits that can be picked up and assembled at home! Activities vary by library, while supplies last.

Maker Camp Learning Kits: The downtown Buffalo Central Library and Buffalo Branch Libraries will offer STEM activity kits with additional "how to" programming posted on the Library's Facebook and YouTube sites during select weeks in July and August. Projects such as making instant snow, designing your own zoo, experimenting with clay circuits and

growing your own herb garden will be featured. Target audience is children ages 8 – 12. Maker Camp is generously funded by National Grid.

Battle of the Books. This popular team trivia competition for youth entering grades 6 through 9 is back as a virtual event (with a special, one-year-only extension to grade 10!) Contact a participating library (Amherst, Boston, Central, Clarence, Elma, Grand Island, Lancaster, Newstead, North Park or Orchard Park) to join a team. Registration closes Friday, July 9, but may end earlier if teams reach capacity. Battles will take place virtually between July 30 and August 3, with the winner announced on [the Central Library's Facebook page](#) on Saturday, August 7 at 12 noon.

The ***Library on Wheels Bookmobile*** will be on the road this summer, providing an additional way to borrow and return materials, access free Wi-Fi and more. Check out its scheduled stops [here](#).

Catch us at the ***Buffalo Waterfront (Canalside)*** twice each week! Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from June 29 – August 24 when we feature a different Summer Reading theme. Attendees can sign up for a library card or pick up take & make crafts. On Wednesdays from June 23 – August 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the Library is partnering with Every Person Influences Children (EPIC) for “Storytime at Canalside: A Bicentennial Celebration” focusing on celebrating the 200 year history of Erie County, with special guest readers and weekly themes. Capacity is limited and advance registration is required by emailing EPIC at: TabacchiA@epicforchildren.org.

Youth Sports Equipment Lending and ***Play Down Your Fines***. Soccer, lacrosse, basketball, tennis and other outdoor activity kits are available for borrowing at the following libraries: Isaiás González-Soto Branch, Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch, Elaine M. Panty Branch and the downtown Central Library in Buffalo; the Anna Reinstein Memorial Library in Cheektowaga; Lackawanna Public Library; Newstead Public Library; and the Town of Collins Public Library. Youth sports lending and *Play Down Your Fines* (offering removal of all fines and fees for children when they borrow the sports kits) is in partnership with the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, the Penguin Random House Library Award and the Dolce Firm, Attorneys at Law.

Mayor Byron Brown's Reading Rules! 20th anniversary summer reading challenge. Learn more about this reading initiative for children and teens [here](#).

The 2021 Summer Reading programs are funded, in part, by Rich Products Corporation, National Grid, WNY Family Magazine, The Buffalo News, and Greyline Outdoor Advertising.

Free library cards are available in all libraries, and applications can be downloaded from the System website at: www.BuffaloLib.org. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian with identification to obtain a card. Students can also apply online for the new [student digital library card](#), which can be used to borrow eBooks, music and to use online resources.

For more information about Summer Reading activities and social distancing protocols, visit any Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, call 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org. Follow the Library on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), [Flickr](#), [TikTok](#) and check out [All Booked Up](#), the Library's podcast on SoundCloud.

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Below is a sample of the FREE Summer Reading Tales and Tales Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Programs

- Alden Ewell Free Library** – Checkers Library TV, weekly on Facebook
- Angola Public Library** – Outdoor Summer Crafts, July 13
- Audubon Library (Amherst)** – Summer Raffle, through the end of July
- Aurora Town Public Library** – I Red it at the Library! Community Art Project, July 8
- Boston Free Library** – Summer Outdoor Concert: The Panfil Brothers, August 26
- Central Downtown Library (Buffalo)** – Outdoor Sensory Stay ‘n’ Play, August 21
- Clarence Public Library** – Kidding Around Yoga with Donna Baia, June 18
- Clearfield Branch (Amherst)** – Summer Raffle, through the end of July
- Town of Collins Public Library** – Story Art, June 24
- Concord Public Library** – Wildlife Studies with Earth Spirit, July 17
- Crane Branch (Buffalo)** – Fun, free activities, all summer long!
- Dudley Branch (Buffalo)** – Take & Make Sensory Programming, Saturdays
- East Clinton Branch (Buffalo)** – Crafts to Go, daily
- Eden Library** – Virtual Coding Club, daily
- Eggertsville–Snyder Branch (Amherst)** – Summer Raffle, through the end of July
- Elaine M. Panty Branch (Buffalo)** – Circus Arts, July 17
- Elma Public Library** – Summer Kickoff Concert with Glenn Colton, June 24
- Grand Island Memorial Library** – Family Yoga, July 29
- Hamburg Public Library** – Virtual In Jest Comedy Show, June 19
- Isaías González-Soto Branch (Buffalo)** – Nickel City Reptiles & Exotics, July 24
- Kenilworth Branch (Tonawanda)** – Craft & Carry: Color Magic Postcard, daily in June
- Kenmore Branch (Tonawanda)** – LEGO Club: Bricks to Go, daily
- Lackawanna Public Library** – Toddler Time, Tuesdays
- Lake Shore Public Library (Hamburg)** – Fun, free activities, all summer long!
- Lancaster Public Library** – STEM Kits: Alka-Seltzer Rockets, daily
- Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch (Buffalo)** – Talk on the Wild Side with Hawk Creek, July 24
- Marilla Free Library** – Fun, free activities, all summer long!
- Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch (Buffalo)** – Take & Make Activities, daily
- Newstead Public Library** – Peace in the Park: Kidding Around Yoga, June 21
- North Collins Public Library** – Virtual Crafts Program, Mondays
- North Park Branch (Buffalo)** – Circus for All with Benjamin Berry, July 17
- Orchard Park Public Library** – Outdoor Family Storytime, Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Anna Reinstein Memorial Library (Cheektowaga)** – Take and Make Crafts, daily
- Julia Boyer Reinstein Library (Cheektowaga)** – Take and Make Crafts, daily
- City of Tonawanda Public Library** – Beach Party Bash, August 9
- West Seneca Public Library** – Virtual Storytime, Tuesdays in June
- Williamsville Branch (Amherst)** – Summer Raffle, through the end of July

Programs are subject to change; please call your library to confirm details.