



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

READ THE ROOM! Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Wants Every Erie County Resident to Sign Up for a Library Card This September

BUFFALO, N.Y. – September 4, 2026 – This month, the 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library locations invite you to come visit in-person, online, or both - and celebrate all the benefits libraries offer our community. Nationally, September is Library Card Sign-up Month, which spotlights how a free library card saves you money, opens the door to resources and information, and provides a safe space.

“This year’s theme, *Read the Room*, is a reminder that libraries offer something for everyone—no matter your age, background, or goals,” said **Director Christine Schonhart**. “Libraries connect communities to information, inspiration, and each other. We are proud to announce that more than 1,000 special-edition golden library cards were awarded this summer to library supporters who visited each library through participation in the popular summer *Passport to Reading* campaign.”

If you live, work, or attend school in Erie County, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library encourages you to get a library card and take advantage of free all-ages programs, job fairs, makerspaces, streaming author talks, story times, book clubs, rare collections, performances, computer training, Wi-Fi, and more.

Getting a library card is free, easy, and empowering. For students, it’s key to academic success. For adults, it’s a gateway to lifelong learning. For *everyone*, it’s a fun way to stay connected to your community. A library card also unlocks great benefits across the county through the [VIP Program](#).

Library cardholders can get discounts to the University at Buffalo’s *Distinguished Speaker Series*, Just Buffalo’s *BABEL Speaker Series*, and numerous other local cultural institutions including the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Road Less Traveled Theater, Hallwalls, Penn Dixie and the Buffalo History Museum, among others.

A Summer That Proved the Demand

Passport to Reading invited patrons to visit all 37 branches this summer, with a limited-edition golden library card promised to the first 1,000 people to finish. It was a great success, with more than 1,000 golden cards distributed after participants completed every stop, many of them at branches they had never visited – experiencing community libraries across the county – and left with a fully-functional card they could use as a replacement or a keepsake.

Buffalo Library x Oxford Pennant

For Sign-Up Month, the Library has released a new line of custom merchandise produced with Oxford Pennant, the Buffalo-based pennant and flag maker. The collection is available now in the Library's online store. Now through September 14, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library cardholders can save 15% off items at the Library's online store, including the Oxford Pennant collection, using the code *ReadTheRoom*.

The partnership reflects the Library's *Profoundly Public* approach: working with local makers, cultural organizations, and businesses to bring the Library's message into daily life outside of its buildings.

How to Sign Up

Visit any of the 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library locations with a valid ID, or sign up online at www.buffalolib.org/library-cards.

Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the area, Library staff is here to help you get started.

About the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

Established in 1836, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is Buffalo's oldest cultural institution. *Profoundly Public* in all we do, the Library serves more than 2.35 million visitors annually through 37 branches and mobile services. The Library also houses over 3.2 million resources, extensive digital collections, and innovative programming. With a collection of international and national note, the Library continues to significantly impact community education, equity, and cultural enrichment. In 2025, every dollar invested returned \$4.24 in community benefits, totaling over \$131 million in annual value. To explore resources and services, visit www.BuffaloLib.org.

Media Contact

Sean Piazza
Marketing Manager
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
PiazzaS@buffalolib.org

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