



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2016

MEDIA CONTACT:

Linnea Sheldon

508-799-1654

lsheldon@mywpl.org

A Library Card is the Coolest Card

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library celebrates Library Card Sign-Up Month during the month of September! Stop by and get your free library card and see all the things it can do for you! For one month only, the library will also be giving out replacement library cards. If you have misplaced your library card and would like a new one just visit any branch during the month of September, and we will replace it free of charge.

Today's libraries are about more than books. They are creative educational spaces for learners from birth to high school and beyond. This annual observance occurs at the start of the school year. During this Library Card Sign-up Month, the Worcester Public Library joins with the American Library Association and public libraries nationwide to make sure that every student has the most important school supply of all – a free library card.

Librarians provide important resources to families whose children are at the earliest stages of development, by teaching parents and caregivers the components of early literacy, which help children develop the basic tools for school readiness. In 2015, the *One City, One Library* Branches held 1,760 class visits through its partnership with the Worcester Public Schools. These visits helped students access the library and the educational materials available right in their own schools.

Older students can access high-speed Internet, digital tools, and the opportunity to work with trained professionals on how to use them. Librarians provide guided training in digital media and help to grow digital literacy skills. Libraries also provide equity of

access to digital tools and media, which has become increasingly important in high-poverty areas where students are less likely to have a computer or internet access in the home. Libraries are also a training ground for students of all ages to expand their knowledge and explore creative pursuits.

Resources at the Worcester Public Library are available to anyone who has a library card. Students can turn to the library for materials, programs and knowledgeable library staff that support academic achievement, including book clubs, STEM related programs, and summer reading activities.

“Our library provides access and programs for students of all ages,” said Geoffrey Dickinson, Head Librarian. “For preschool age children we offer early literacy and storytimes to encourage school readiness, for older children and teens we supplement education with hands-on programs and fun activities, and for nontraditional students we offer language and citizenship resources, resume help, and so much more. There’s really something for everyone, and it’s all free with a library card.”

Throughout the course of the month, the library will host a number of activities, including Maker Mondays with the Learning Hub, cooking classes, a volunteer fair, cultural performances and much more.

For more information on how to sign up for a library card, visit the Worcester Public Library in person or visit the library online at mywpl.org.

For more information on Library Card Sign-Up Month please contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager at 508-799-1654 or lsheldon@worcpublib.org.

###

3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608 508.799.1655
mywpl.org [facebook.com/worcesterpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/worcesterpubliclibrary)
Worcester Public Library, A department of the City of Worcester