



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Braunfels Public Library Celebrates Love My Library Month and Food for Fines**

**New Braunfels, Texas** - "Love My Library Month is the time of the year when we remind the community of all that a 21<sup>st</sup> century library has to offer. We've added so many great programs and services this year, with the assistance of the Friends of the New Braunfels Public Library, Inc. and the New Braunfels Public Library Foundation. February is a month for patrons to reconnect with us," said Library Director Gretchen Pruett.

For Love My Library Month the New Braunfels Public Library (NBPL) will offer patrons a chance to express their love for the library in a variety of ways. Patrons can leave messages about why they love NBPL on paper hearts in the Children's Room. These will then be displayed in the windows of the Children's Room.

Patrons will also be able to write why they love the NBPL on a large poster with the hashtag, #lovemyNBPL. As the poster fills up with comments, the library will regularly post the progress on all their social media platforms.

One last way that patrons can show their love and appreciation for the library is by entering an item (an essay, painting, poem, scrapbook page, song, etc.) describing why they love NBPL in a special contest. Entries must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the month, the best and most creative entry will win a red Amazon Fire 7 Tablet.

"To show our love for our patrons, the library will have a *Blind Date with a Book* display featuring books wrapped in Valentine's Day paper with a brief description of the book," Pruett noted. "Patrons can check out these books and unwrap them to reveal their 'date' at home. Inside each book will be a 'Rate Your Blind Date' page, so patrons can leave comments about the book or their experience. While all participants will receive an interesting book/date experience, one lucky blind-dater will also win an Amazon Fire 7 Tablet."

The popular Food for Fines is also back in February. If overdue charges are preventing anyone from using the library, this program reduces overdue fines by \$2 for every non-perishable food item received. The items will be donated to the San Antonio Area Food Bank for distribution. Non-perishable food items needed include canned goods, fruit juices, baby foods and formulas, powdered milk, cereals, pasta, rice, beans, tomato sauce, pasta sauce, peanut butter and jelly.

Patrons may also donate pet food, which will be given to the Humane Society of New Braunfels, Inc. Patrons who do not owe fines but just wish to donate items may do so at the library during February, as well.

"Food for Fines allows library patrons to restore their membership by decreasing overdue fines through food donation, while helping those less fortunate in our community," said Ms. Pruett. "It has been a successful program for us and we're happy to be able to offer it again this year."

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