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Library Celebrates Love Your Library Month with Challenge, Food for Fines

New Braunfels, TX – The New Braunfels Public Library will be celebrating Love Your Library Month throughout the month of February with a contest encouraging community members to learn more about how much their local library has to offer.

“The New Braunfels Public Library is so much more than just books; we help you access a world of information and programming to improve your life and your community,” said New Braunfels Public Library Director Gretchen Pruett. “If you haven’t visited a public library in the last five years, it’s a very different experience than what you might remember. We want members of the New Braunfels community to come in during Love Your Library Month and fall in love with the library all over again.”

This year, library users can participate in a Love Your Library Challenge. Patrons can stop by the Help Desk for a library checkout card with 10 tasks — for example, “attend a program,” “download e-Material,” or “visit Westside Community Center” — to complete by the end of the month.

Patrons can return their completed card for a small prize and for entry in the grand-prize drawing, which will consist of a checkout-card style tote bag with surprises inside.

There will be a related social media challenge with its own prize. Participants can take a picture of their challenge checkout card in their favorite spot in town to read, then upload it to Facebook and tag the library at @nblibrary. The person whose photo has the most “likes” as of 6 p.m. on February 28th will win a Kindle Fire.

February will also see the return of the library's Food for Fines program. Library patrons have the option to reduce their library fines by \$2 per item when they bring in nonperishable food items for donation to the New Braunfels Food Bank. Needed nonperishable food items include peanut butter, cereal, tuna, beans, rice, macaroni and cheese, chili, canned stews or soups, pop-top items, canned luncheon meats, or canned or boxed full meals.

Patrons may also donate pet food for the same \$2-per-item fine reduction. Pet food donations will be given to the Humane Society of the New Braunfels Area.

Patrons without fines are also welcome to drop off food donations during the month of February, and food donations can substitute for up to two tasks in the Love Your Library Challenge.

Additionally, the library's youth services department will be celebrating the month with "I Love to Read About..." book bundles. Bundles, comprised of five to six books, will be centered around a certain theme.

"There are so many good books on the shelves, and it can be hard to find some that are just right, so we are taking the work out of it by collecting a few gems and bundling them together," said Youth Services Librarian Whitney Hasler. "You just need to find a topic that piques your interest, then you can check out the books in that carefully curated group."

New Braunfels City Council members will officially introduce the month with a proclamation at its January 28th meeting.

Many library programs, including the Love Your Library Challenge, are made possible with the support of the Friends of the New Braunfels Public Library.

For more information about Food for Fines or the library challenge, call the library at 830-221-4300.

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