

Okaloosa County News Release

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Public Library Cooperative Celebrates 15 Years of Community Service

Okaloosa County's Public Library Cooperative turns 15 years old on October 1, 2012. The six-member network, chartered in 1997, provides free library service to all Okaloosa County residents. Founding cities of Crestview, Mary Esther and Niceville were joined by Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Valparaiso in 1999.

Financial support from the county and extensive resource sharing has enabled an efficient partnership that supports education and literacy, builds workforce skills and enhances quality of life. Library cards from any member library are honored at all member libraries. Courier service allows customers to pick up materials at the location of their choice. Libraries provide free computers and wireless Internet access, Web-based research databases, ebooks, language instruction and programs that sustain lifelong learning, as well as traditional books, audio-books, videos and periodicals.

Celebration activities, including special programs and used book sales, will be held September 27th through October 7th. Contact information for member libraries is posted at www.readokaloosa.org.

Activities include:

Robert L. F. Sikes Library, 1445 Commerce Drive in Crestview.

- Sept. 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: cookies and coffee
- Oct. 5-7, Crestview Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale will be held. Friday "preview sale" 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., **FREE to Friends** members or **\$2 admission** to the public. **No admission** Oct. 6 and 7, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Destin Library, 150 Sibert Avenue

- Sept. 29, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mini-Bazaar & eBook Fundraiser on. Items include "white elephants," photography, handmade jewelry, baked goods, used books and DVDs.

Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Parkway

- Sept. 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Book & Bake Sale

Mary Esther Library, 100 W. Hollywood Blvd.

- Sept. 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Book Sale, refreshments and door prizes.
- Sept. 29, "The Avengers," movie free showing at 1:00 p.m.

Niceville Library, 206 N. Partin Drive within the City of Niceville complex

- Sept. 27 at 6:00 p.m., technology petting zoo: explore various brands of e-reader devices and get assistance in downloading ebooks.
- Sept. 29, cookies and lemonade, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Valparaiso Library, adjacent to City Hall at 459 Valparaiso Parkway

- Oct. 1, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. baked goods and punch

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