Celebrate National Library Card Sign-up Month

Just in time for the start of the new school year, National Library Card Sign-up Month is a way to encourage students and adults to check out what their local libraries have to offer.

This year Disney and Pixar’s “Toy Story 4” characters Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Bo Peep and friends are joining the American Library Association on an adventure to promote the value of a library card as Library Card Sign-up Month Honorary Chairs.

In their new role, they will remind the public that signing up for a library card opens a world of infinite possibilities: libraries offer resources and services that help people pursue their passions and give students the tools to succeed in school and beyond.

The Toy Story crew knows library cards help bring great stories to life. From borrowing books, movies, or music, to enjoying story time or group play, there's no end to the exciting activities you can access with a library card.

You can celebrate National Library Card Sign-up Month by visiting the Takoma Park Maryland Library for one or several of its monthly events. Some monthly programs the library offers include Preschool Time on Sept. 4, 18 and 25, that teaches concepts like shapes, counting and colors and skills like using scissors, taking turns and name writing. There’s also Petites Chansons for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups to French songs and rhymes with Madame Marie.

The library will also be holding a Books-to-Action event on Sept. 21 that teaches social justice through literature.

The library is tying the event to Banned Books Week, and there will be readings of picture books that have been challenged over the years, including The Caldecott-Medal-winning Sylvester and the Magic Pebble, In the Night Kitchen, And Tango Makes Three, and Tar Beach. The program will conclude with a craft connected to Banned Books Week. (See page 8 for more information on these events.)

“There are numerous class visits throughout the school year, at which we distribute card applications and encourage kids to get Library cards — and many do,” said library director Ellen Arnold-Robbin. “It’s a good way to bring families into the orbit of library activities.

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year.

“People living in our properties don’t just need affordable housing; they need programs and activities,” Goldman said.

MHP has a long history of creating murals in the neighborhoods properties it develops, he said, citing a series of murals that youth in MHP programs developed in Wheaton and Long Branch.

“Creativity is one of the hallmarks of all of the MHP FLOW programs, which is where the “Good Vibes” mural comes in. MHP takes a broad view of what it means to develop affordable housing, an approach articulated by its mission statement “housing people, empowering families, and strengthening neighborhoods.”

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