September at the Library

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 6, 2013

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Great Falls, Montana – The following announcements are for happenings at the Great Falls Public Library in September 2013.

Closures

The Great Falls Public Library will be closed on Monday, September 2, in honor of Labor Day.

Art @ the Library

In September the Great Falls Public Library is hosting an art exhibit by Alma Winberry. Alma's art is an eclectic blend of paintings, sculptures, and unique one-of-a-kind pieces. No medium is taboo to Alma, who uses recycled material to create some of her whimsical sculptures. In an exhibit by Alma you may see fabric art, paper sculptures, pieces made of old car doors, hats, paintings, and more. With Alma every exhibit is as unique as her art.

A free art reception will be held for Alma on Thursday, September 5, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Enjoy refreshments and meet this eclectic artist.

Smartest Card

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month. It is so designated to emphasize the importance of libraries to our society and to encourage all citizens to get and use a library card. This campaign was launched by the American Library Association and the Public Library Association in 2003. The Great Falls Public Library has been actively involved in this promotion for seven years.

The Great Falls Public Library has over 28,000 cardholders, which includes citizens of Cascade County. The library staff believes that number should reflect the entire population of our area, not just 40%.

A library card is both empowering and liberating. It is free to all county residents and enables them to not only check out books at the library, but to also download audio and eBooks from home, utilize specific library services, such as access to the comprehensive online resources available, and gives a voice to individuals in our society. Along with its pragmatic uses, it is a symbol of what a library offers and represents in our society and its value to the community.

The Great Falls Public Library offers a blend of both traditional library services, such as book checkouts and information retrieval, and services once considered non-traditional that are quickly becoming part and parcel of standard library services. These run the gamut from cultural programs, and arts, educational programs, community services, advance technology made available to cardholders, and expanding children's services.

For more information on the library check online at www.greatfallslibrary.org , call 453-0349, or stop in at 301 2nd Ave. North.

Foreign and Independent Film Series

The Great Falls Public Library's Foreign and Independent Film Series begins its seventh season on Wednesday, September 4, at 7:00 pm. and Saturday, September 7, at 2:00 pm. This series is free and open to the public.

September's selection is the French award-winning film Free Men. It tells the story of an Algerian black marketer Younces who is in German-occupied Paris. When he is suspected of aiding the Muslim resistance movement, he turns to spying to avoid jail. At the same time, he forms a strong friendship with a famous Algerian singer who Younces later learns is Jewish. This discovery causes him to re-evaluate his life and to become a fully-fledged freedom fighter. This film is in French with English subtitles and does contain some violence. (2012)

The featured short is Lustig.

Films will be shown each month on the first Wednesday and the following Saturday. The series, which runs September through May, is free and open to the public. Be forewarned, some films may contain strong language or adult situations. They are not rated by MPAA but in our brochures we have tried to indicate content. Brochures are available at the library.

Community Reads Discussion

A Community Reads book discussion will be held on Thursday, September 5, at 7:00 pm, in the Montana Room of the Great Falls Public Library. Penny Hughes-Briant will facilitate this discussion. The selection is former Great Falls' resident Ruth McLaughlin's memoir Bound Like Grass.

This Community Reads program and selection was a feature of the library's adult summer reading program, Bask Under the Big Sky. Community Reads are programs developed to promote literacy and community. Members of the community read the same book selection in the same time period and get together to discuss it.

Books are available at the library for checkout until Sept. 5.

Gardens From Garbage

The Great Falls Public Library is hosting two film screenings presented by the non-profit organization Gardens from Garbage. These free film showings are free and open to the public.

Thursday, September 12, 7:00 pm
A Place at the Table

This highly acclaimed film deals with hunger in America. One in six adult Americans is "food insecure". In children that number rises to one in four. This documentary shows how hunger poses serious economic, social, and cultural implications for the United States, and that the problem can be solved once and for all, if the American public decides – as they have in the past – that making healthy food available and affordable is in everyone's best interest. The film features appearances by Jeff Bridges, with musical score by T-Bone Burnett and the Civil Wars.

Thursday, September 19, 7:00 pm
King Corn

King Corn is a humorous and touching documentary about two best friends who decide to move to Iowa to grow an acre of corn after finding out through laboratory hair analysis that their bodies are primarily made out of corn. But this is not your typical buddy picture. While it traces a year in the life of two friends, the film focuses on the history of corn in modern America and the filmmakers' relationship with the crop they've decided to grow. They learn almost every product in conventional grocery stores is ultimately derived from corn, either in the form of high fructose corn syrup or from corn-based animal feed.

The filmmakers trace the history of corn subsidies in the US, which began when the Farm Bill was changed to emphasize industrial-style monocropping. The two friends lose money on their acre but they get government subsidies for growing the corn. The film gets to the heart of the matter by revealing the farmers' frustrations. Many of them are multi-generation farmers caught up in the farm subsidy system. They realize that the current subsidies are putting an end to the more traditional farming of generations past, but they can't remove themselves from the system without losing their shirts.

Banned Book Week

The Great Falls Public Library celebrates Banned Books Week (September 22 – 28) with a unique sculpture and opening ceremony on Tuesday, September 17. This eight-foot tall mixed media sculpture, complete with torn and burned pages, is composed of 29 banned and challenged books. It will be on display at the library through October. A 2:00 pm opening ceremony on September 17 will be held, with a brief talk by two of the creators, Collin Letts, a Bozeman-based sculptor, and George Cole, an abstract artist and writer from Bozeman, and a question and answer period.

Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Typically held during the last week of September, it highlights the value of free and open access to information. Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community –- librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types –- in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.

By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship. The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted with removal or restrictions in libraries and schools. While books have been and continue to be banned, part of the Banned Books Week celebration is the fact that, in a majority of cases, the books have remained available. This happens only thanks to the efforts of librarians, teachers, students, and community members who stand up and speak out for the freedom to read.

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Supporting Documents

Press Release - September at the Library (259 KB) (PDF)

Source URL (retrieved on *07/31/2014 - 11:31pm*): http://www.greatfallsmt.net/community/september-library-0