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‘Communities thrive @ your library’: celebrate National Library Week April 11-17 in the Sarasota County Library System

Sarasota County’s eight public libraries will celebrate National Library Week, April 11-17, with a variety of fun and educational activities and programs for all ages. This year’s theme, “Communities thrive @ your library,” celebrates the important contributions of libraries to communities throughout the nation.

Among the events offered during the week are open mike readings, demonstrations of online resources, talks by authors, music programs, children’s activities and more. At several libraries, community groups will provide information about how to get involved in their activities.

A full listing of programs is available on the library Web site, <http://sclibs.net>.

In partnership with Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT), the libraries are distributing free Ride and Read bus passes during National Library Week. The passes are available while supplies last and are valid April 11 through May 30. Bus Books, another collaborative effort of SCAT and the Sarasota County Library System, is part of the libraries’ Read it and Pass it on initiative. Books are available in crates near the bus doorways on the distinctive, multicolored hybrid SCAT buses. Under the initiative, riders are invited to take and read a book that interests them and then pass it on to a friend or neighbor. Books that appeal to adults, youths and children are available.

For an early kickoff to National Library Week, Fruitville Library is coordinating a Nature Celebration from 11-1 p.m. Saturday, April 10. Farm animals, garden crafts, nature exhibits, music and giveaways will be on display. The free program is presented by the Sarasota County 4H Club, Friends of Fruitville Library and the Master Gardeners program.

“Libraries are the heart of every community and help our communities thrive,” Libraries General Manager Sarabeth Kalajian said. “At our libraries, people of all backgrounds come together for community meetings, to do research, to find homework aids, to search for jobs, to learn new computer skills and to borrow popular books and movies in different formats. We are the social hubs for Sarasota County’s communities.”

For more information, visit any of the county's public libraries, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit the Web site, <http://sclibs.net>.

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