



NEWS RELEASE

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Library Customers "Go Nuts About Reading"

The Winter Reading Program (WRP) "Go Nuts About Reading" has really gone nuts this year with a 39% increase in registration at the end of the first week versus last year. Both adults and high school teens have been signing up in record numbers throughout the county. "WRP seems to have truly gained its place as a fun post-holiday activity for adults and high school teens. Customers are enthusiastically signing up to take part in the program," commented Jarrettsville Branch Manager, Linda Lupro.

In its 6th year, WRP originated at the Aberdeen branch as a pilot program where staff came up with the idea to offer an adult reading program. Building on the success of this initial program, Harford County Public Library launched a system-wide program in the winter of 2003.

The WRP begins the first Monday after the New Year and runs for 9 weeks ending this year on March 7th. When customers register they receive a free pen funded by the Friends of the Library. Adults need to read 5 books to complete and teens 3 books. Upon completion participants receive a WRP mug funded by the Library Foundation. "Library staff sees registrants' eyes light up when they catch a glimpse of the "Go Nuts About Reading" mugs that they can be awarded by completing the program," further commented Ms. Lupro. Pens and mugs are only available while supplies last.

Don't know what to read? Check out My Next Good Book on the Library's website. Here you can find book recommendations and see what others are reading.

And for those that enjoy audio books, the Library now has Playaways®, the audio book and player in one that easily fits in your pocket!

Services at the Library are free and in the current economic times, the Library is seeing an increase in usage. For the month of December circulation was up almost 20% versus last year and visits to the website www.hcplonline.info was up 63%. Borrowing books versus purchasing them, renting DVDs for free and accessing numerous resources including business databases and assistance with resume writing can all be found at Harford County Public Library.

Harford County Public Library operates eleven branches located throughout Harford County, Maryland. The library serves over 180,000 registered borrowers of all ages and has an annual circulation of over 4,000,000. The mission of Harford County Public Library is to provide access, service and information to the citizens of Harford County anytime, anywhere and to create an environment that encourages the acquisition of knowledge and the love of reading.

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Photo caption #1: "Go Nuts About Reading" 2009 Winter Reading logo.

Photo caption #2: Staff at the Aberdeen branch went nuts with a full size cut-out squirrel at their customer service desk in support of the Winter Reading Program.