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Library Celebrates 20th Year on Common Street

New Braunfels, TX — It may be hard to believe, seeing how many locals still call the New Braunfels Public Library’s Common Street location “the new library,” but it’s been 20 years this month since the library opened their doors in 1999.

In celebration of this occasion, the library is ready to party — but not like it’s 1999, because, well, it really has been 20 years. Rather, the library will be hosting an open house on Friday, October 25th, between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and will feature refreshments, a slideshow showcasing highlights from the past two decades and other surprises.

In its 20th year alone, the library reached several milestones.

- In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the library and its branches (Westside, RIO and the Das Rec kiosk) exceeded one million total items circulated.
- In August 2019, the library began the process of adopting RFID tags, which will increase the efficiency of the check-in and check-out processes.
- In May 2019, voters said “yes” to expanding the Westside Community Center's current facility to include an 8,000+ sq. ft. full-service library as part of the City of New Braunfels 2019 Bond Program.
- In April 2019, the library and Das Rec teamed up to provide library materials in the recreation center by way of a book kiosk. A Pop-Up Library — which would allow anyone, library card or not, to read eBooks inside Das Rec — is also in the works.

“The most common question I get is ‘Are libraries really necessary in the age of the Internet?’ but all of us at the library will tell you we are busier than ever,” said Library Director Gretchen Pruett. “From movies to eBooks, from computers and printing to meeting your study buddy with a cup of coffee, New Braunfelsers are finding lots of reasons to use and to love their library. If you haven’t visited a library in the last five years, you will be amazed at all there is for you to use and to do.”

Free library cards are available to anyone who lives within the New Braunfels city limits; lives within the city’s extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ); owns property within the city; or has a New Braunfels mailing address.

For more information about the New Braunfels Public Library, the RIOmobile or the Westside Community Center contact the New Braunfels Public Library at 830-221-4300 or visit www.nbtexas.org/Library.

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