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September Is Library Card Sign-Up Month; Libraries Are Key To Academic Success

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Library System and all Cumberland County libraries are joining the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries nationwide for Library Card Sign-Up Month, a time to remind parents, caregivers, and students that a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning.

A library card opens a world of infinite possibilities through resources and services that give students the tools they need to succeed in school and beyond. From STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) programs and family storytimes to makerspaces and in-person or virtual homework help, libraries transform lives through education.

Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children. Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

“Our library programs serve people of all ages,” said Carolyn Blatchley, Library System executive director. “For younger children, we offer early literacy resources to help them learn to read and encourage school readiness; for teens and older learners, we provide access to technology and digital tools as well as GED and workforce development resources.”

This year, Disney and Pixar’s “Toy Story 4” characters Woody, Buzz Lightyear, and Bo Peep and friends are going on an adventure as Honorary Chairs of Library Card Sign-Up Month. In their role, they will promote the value of a library card and bring attention to the many ways libraries transform lives and communities.

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. During the month, the ALA and libraries unite in a national effort to ensure every child signs up for their own library card

The Cumberland County Library System currently serves over 107,000 registered library card holders. While anyone can visit and use public libraries, residents with a library card have access to books, movies, music, games, downloadable books and audiobooks, streaming movies, authoritative databases covering a variety of subjects, and printing from their own devices.

Member libraries of the Cumberland County Library System include: Amelia Givin Library in Mt. Holly Springs, Bosler Memorial Library in Carlisle, Cleve J Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill, Coy Public Library of Shippensburg, East Pennsboro Branch Library in Enola, John Graham Library in Newville, Joseph T. Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg, and New Cumberland Public Library. There is also an affiliated nonprofit Foundation.

The Library System provides support to its member libraries through information technology, securing library materials, older adult services, training opportunities, and administrative, fundraising, and financial services. For more information visit: www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org.

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