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# THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS

**Libraries are a big help in hard times**



September is National Library Card Sign-up Month

**T**here are many ways to have fun in spite of the current economic situation. The public library is the best-kept secret for great family activities that won't break your budget. Forget about that old, cold image of libraries! Libraries are community centers chock-full of things to do.



**ACCESS FOR EVERYONE**  
Library cards are free for all Beaufort County residents. You don't have to be an American citizen to get one. Registration is confidential. If you do not have official photo identification, then you can present an envelope and a second item (such as a bill or rental receipt) as proof of your residential address.

**THE "PERSONAL TOUCH"**  
The library provides professional and confidential service to people of all ages, whatever their topic of interest. With a library card, users receive assistance in accessing a wide range of online databases, including the Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre (entirely in Spanish). Librarians are always available to help you with your questions. They recommend just the right kind of materials for all age levels and interests, and they will also show you many different ways to find, use and analyze information.

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
You can check out the library's DVD movie collection free of charge with your library card. What is more, you can find books and magazines in Spanish like Good Housekeeping and Reader's Digest. Teenagers enjoy library activities offered just for them; like video game competitions and checkers, chess and monopoly tournaments. Young students can participate in any activities that interest them.


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Free Wi-Fi (wireless) Internet from personal laptops is available without charge at all library branches except the small St. Helena facility. Access to the public Internet PC computers is free with your library card, and children and teens can use the library computers with the written permission of their parents. Special child-safe educational and Interactive games are available on selected computers.

Users of all ages can access the automated catalog on the library's website to search for and select materials, and check their accounts from their personal computers. Interlibrary loan, with international scope, is also free for all users whenever a book is not locally available. Visit <http://www.beaufortcountylibrary.org> to discover even more services and resources especially for the Latinos of our community.




**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**  
It is here that the libraries of Beaufort County and Latin America differ so greatly. Beaufort County's libraries offer frequent activities for children and teens: films, special programs, story hours (sometimes in Spanish) and parties. Studies show that children whose parents read to them at home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue using the library as a source of lifelong learning.

**A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR WLODEK ZARYCZYŃY**  
"Libraries belong to everyone – to children, teens and adults of all ages. As well as being a place for learning, the library is a vast resource for leisure and all other aspects of life. With a free library card, you can bring home books, DVDs, CDs and so many other kinds of information."



Libraries in the United States are vital community centers that help you find whatever you may be looking for; from health information to work and, most importantly, all of their services are free. Visit the library branch closest to your home and take advantage of National Library Card Sign-up Month. This year the Beaufort County Library System will give those who register first a small free gift of appreciation. Make the most of this opportunity to see how the library can be of help to you.

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