

WHY SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY?

- 1. Your Library Spurs Economic Investment:** Studies indicate that libraries are crucial to the economic development in your community. The Library is a key contact when people are looking for information about Yoakum. The Friends of the Library has many business members, which means their names are printed in the annual spring luncheon programs as sponsors; are on display in the library as a FOL member; and information is shared via the Friends of the Library Facebook page. Individuals are also provided information by library staff when people come in looking for certain places to shop, eat, and/or enjoy themselves; etc. This means locals and visitors are investing in and building the economy in your community.
- 2. Your Library Helps People Find Jobs:** There are nine public access computers available with free resources to assist people in building their resumes and applying for employment. FREE databases are also available to assist in boosting their education and job skills. Gaining employment not only assists them in becoming a valuable contributor in society, but gives them an income of which they can reinvest in your community; again, helping build the economy.
- 3. Your Library Offers FREE Internet and Wi-Fi that provides FREE access to many tools:** The nine public access computers have FREE internet available for fulfilling one's educational, professional, and recreational needs. Each are equipped with efficient software and programs to assist in meeting their immediate demand, which includes: Microsoft Office, Adobe Reader, access to their email, FREE ABCMouse for early learners, homework help through Learning Express Library, a resume builder and computer training through Job Accelerator, legal forms, Chilton Auto Manuals, genealogy research through Heritage Quest, access to tons of magazines, journals, and articles, access to free eBooks through eRead Texas and Biblioboard, and more! FREE Wi-Fi is available 24 hours a day whether one is a patron of the library or not.
- 4. FREE Library Cards:** Dewitt and Lavaca County residents may obtain a FREE library card with proper documentation. This gives each person listed on the account FREE access to ALL library services. Out of county cards are available for \$5/month or \$25/year, which gives these individuals the same FREE access.
- 5. Tons of FREE Programs and Services for ALL:** Your library offers all programs & services FREE of charge to anyone with a library card. Items for checkout include: books in print, on audio, and eBooks; movies; educational resources; board games for in-house use; Osmo learning tools and iPads for in-house use; maker/STEM kits for in-house use; story time to go kits for ages 2-8; craft kits for ages 2 through senior citizens; and 3D pens for ages 13 & up for in-house checkout.
FREE programs include Dr. Seuss Day, the huge summer reading and entertainment program held for 8-9 weeks each June and July which includes many incentive prizes, magic shows, live animal programs, puppet shows, plays, water days, story hours, science programs, and so much more to encourage reading; pre-teen and teen programs; Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration in September, Halloween Spooktacular, the Annual Christmas Celebration and Open House, monthly visits from DeWitt County Special Education Coop special needs students; monthly craft/activity programs for senior citizens, monthly bingo for senior citizens; author visits, and more.
- 6. Your Library is a Historical Site Registered with the Texas Historical Commission:** The Carl and Mary Welhausen Library was renovated in 1988-1991, opened at its current location in April, 1991, and named a historic site in 1993. Continuing to give in benefit of this treasure in your community helps retain the historical significance Yoakum has in history. In addition, the genealogy and local history section provides a great deal of information on Yoakum and many descendants in the area.
- 7. Your Library is MORE than just a place to house books:** though books and reading is a priority of most libraries, the library has become more of a "community activity center" (as most have), offering a relaxing environment upstairs for adults to enjoy reading, studying, or doing research; a children's area which includes kid-size furniture, a pretend kitchen, learning walls, building blocks, a train table, and puzzles; and an inviting teen section packed with tons of books, audiobooks, graphic novels, mangas, comic books, charging ports located in the study bar and booth and lounging furniture perfect for hanging out with their friends, doing homework, listening to music, and/or using their laptop or other portable devices.
- 8. YOUR LIBRARY HAS A PROUD STAFF AND BOARDS DEDICATED TO ENSURING THE NEEDS OF ALL INDIVIDUALS ARE MET!**