

“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.”

- Sidney Sheldon

Yuma Public Library is doing just that: opening windows to the world and encouraging exploration and achievement. National Library Week is April 9-15, and the Yuma library is introducing new services to celebrate, as well as continuing to provide existing services. The theme of National Library Week is “Libraries Transform”. After visiting with a librarian from Yuma, it is clear to me that libraries transform people, as well as redefining and transforming what a library traditionally is.

In honor of National Library Week, Yuma Public Library introduced a Keurig coffee maker and popcorn machine that will now be available for use. Ashley Lynch, the youth services librarian, says that these additions are to make the library feel more like a home. They will encourage people to not only check out books, but bring their own tablet or laptop to read in a quiet environment. In addition, Yuma Public Library is doing more and more with technology. With websites like Tumblebook, Cloud Library, and Speakaboo, the library is giving free access to hundreds of e-books. Furthermore, Yuma’s library is creating more programs with STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) that reach out to kids who might not enjoy reading as much as math or science. As a result, the introduction of coffee and technology in a library bring a new meaning to the Yuma library.

Yuma Public Library is offering more and more services to people of all different ages. The “1000 Books Before Kindergarten” program helps encourage adults to read to children. In turn, children develop a value of reading. The library also coordinates programs such as storytime, mentor reading, and a two-month summer reading program for children up to the sixth grade. High school students have the opportunity to access EBSCO databases to conduct research and get homework help. Disabled adults participate in activities held at the library frequently, including movies, seasonal crafts, and of course, reading. The Yuma library also offers a free book delivery to people who aren’t able to get out of their house easily. Yuma Public Library becomes a second home to the elderly. They can come in to talk and read a book, when they find themselves missing out-of-town family. However, these services are not only for National Library Week. Yuma Public Library will always have something for everyone, regardless of the date.

As a community, Yuma is very lucky to have our library. Even though they are not required by the state to offer so many services to so many people, Yuma Public Library continues to bring in new things and run programs to enrich people’s lives. National Library Week is only the beginning.



I'm Katlyn Chapman, and I am a freshman at Yuma High School. I love to bake, play piano, and read.