

Boca Raton Public Library lends out cake pans, dolls



Boca Raton Public Library manager Ann Nappa poses with cake pans and American Girl doll Addy Walker from the library's special collections. (Marci Shatzman/Forum Publishing Group)



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South Florida Sun-Sentinel

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Boca libraries add cake pans to special collections

APRIL 4, 2017

More than books is flying off the shelves since the Boca Raton Public Library added 21 cake pans to its special collections.

Think bundt, three-tier rounds, doughnut molds and themed pans such as Thomas & Friends, a football, a heart and a pirate ship that can be checked out from the Spanish River and Downtown library facilities by library cardholders.

"We just started a couple of weeks ago," said Ann Nappa, manager of library services. "We're doing things to reach out to new audiences and we've gotten a great response."

The professional-quality pans come in a heavy plastic bag for cleanliness. They can be borrowed for seven days and renewed if they're available.

"Bakers are encouraged to share photos of their completed creations with the library through social media or email," she said.

Library members can peruse the collection and put a hold on them at bit.ly/2nzWGPh or use the flip books at the front desks. They're available for checkout at the Spanish River Library, 1501 Spanish River Blvd., or can be reserved and delivered to the Downtown Library, 400 NW Second Ave. Some even come with recipes.

Nappa knows other libraries have had success lending out cake pans, so Boca isn't the first. Charles County Public Library in Maryland made the profession's *Library Journal* in 2012 with the headline: "Let Them Lend Cake Pans."

For Boca, "it was the absolute right time to do this, and we have a lot of bakers and cake decorators on the staff," Nappa said. "We knew it would be a hit for people. Cookbooks are one of our top circulating items, one of the most borrowed and we're always getting new ones so this was a perfect segue.

"It would be great for students studying culinary arts to do their homework in it."

The other special collections include American Girl dolls and Literacy Backpacks. The Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library just donated a \$565 grant to buy three more dolls and accessories, said Cyndi Bloom, Friends president.

"They now have three African-American dolls, one Hispanic, one Native American, one Jewish and one boy out of a total of 17 dolls. [It's a] very exciting program," she said.

Nappa reminds city residents they can join the library for free, but the policy remains that membership for non-residents is \$150 for one person or \$250 for an immediate family. Visit bit.ly/2nAeeuJ for membership information.

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