



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HENRICO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERS PROGRAMS AND PRIZES FOR THE GREAT AMERICAN READ

Henrico, VA – In anticipation of *The Great American Read's* return to WCVE PBS on September 11, Henrico County Public Library is bringing film screenings, book discussions, and a reading challenge with big prizes to its nine locations.

The Great American Read premiered in May with a two-hour episode featuring authors and celebrities discussing books from a list of 100 titles representing America's favorite books. The titles are all fiction, and range in genre from classics like *The Great Gatsby* and *The Color Purple*, to popular thrillers like *Gone Girl*, and youth literature such as the *Harry Potter* series and *Charlotte's Web*. Viewers are encouraged to vote for their favorite from the list of 100, with the winner announced on a special live finale on October 23.

"WCVE PBS is excited to see so much excitement building around *The Great American Read* in our community. While over 2 million votes for America's Favorite Book have already been cast nationwide, we are pleased to partner with Henrico County Public Library to bring this series to life through their engaging local outreach efforts. The primary goal of this series is to get people reading and talking about books. HCPL is definitely making that happen," said Brynn Markham, Outreach and Communications Manager for WCVE PBS.

Henrico County Public Library, with grant support from ALA and PBS, has worked with WCVE to host film screenings, book discussions, and a reading challenge with valuable prizes for area residents. Library patrons can submit a bookmark with the names of 20 books they have read from *The Great American Read* list for a chance to win prizes of up to a \$200 value that correspond with the literary themes explored on the series, including "Heroes" (an Escape Room RVA gift certificate), and "Who Am I?" (a gift certificate to The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen). Those who submit two or more bookmarks can win a Kindle Paperwhite. A winner from each Henrico library location will receive a copy of *The Great American Read: The Book of Books*, the companion book to the PBS series.

In addition to the book challenge, patrons can vote for their favorite book from the list at special iPad voting kiosks installed in each HCPL location. Members of the public can also vote online, by hashtag, or by phone starting in September. For more information on voting, visit ideastations.org/votinghowto .

“Reading is its own reward,” said Patty Conway, Community Relations Coordinator for HCPL, “But these prizes are a fun way for people to get excited about engaging with The Great American Read, and to connect with this national conversation on books and reading.”

The Great American Read will return on Tuesday, September 11, at 8pm ET on WCVB PBS, and airs weekly through Tuesday, October 23. The opportunity to cast a vote for your favorite book ends on October 18. Learn more at ideastations.org/GreatRead.

For more information on this topic, contact Patricia Conway, Community Relations Coordinator for Henrico County Public Library, at 804-501-1906, or pconway@henricolibrary.org.

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