

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Chocolate & Spirits - Lee's Largest Chocolate Tasting Event Dec.2**

Fort Myers, FL, Nov. 10, 2016-The Lee County Library System's annual Chocolate & Spirits Festival, one of the area's favorite tasting events, will be held Friday, Dec. 2, in the Market Plaza at the [Gulf Coast Town Center](#), 9903 Gulf Coast Main St., Estero. The public is invited to sample a variety of chocolate items from 6 to 8 p.m. The [Brittany Russell Band](#) will provide live entertainment and bidding on silent auction items runs from 6 to 7:45 p.m.

"This is a festive and fun event that is always well attended," says Margie Byers, Southwest Florida Reading Festival Coordinator. "It is a great way to kick off the holiday season with luscious chocolate food and drink, live music and the holiday decorations of the Town Center. It is truly a crowd favorite."

Admission is free with a requested \$3 donation. The event is sponsored by Gulf Coast Town Center, Bar Louie and Blue Sushi. Chocolate sample and beverages tickets may be purchased at the event for \$1 each. There will also be a silent auction with dozens of items including jewelry, Busch Gardens tickets, theater tickets, hotel stays, sporting event tickets and more. Proceeds from the Chocolate & Spirits Festival will benefit the Southwest Florida Reading Festival. The festival is a free community event, scheduled for March 18, 2017, to showcase the Lee County Library System's programs and resources and promote reading and literacy. For more information visit [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org).

**ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA READING FESTIVAL**

Lee County Library System produces the Southwest Florida Reading Festival to inform the community about the resources and services available at their local Lee County libraries and to remind them these resources and services are free with a library card. The Reading Festival is free and serves all ages and a variety of cultures with presentations from best-selling authors like R.L. Stine, Janet Evanovich, Nelson DeMille, Erik Larson and more.

The Reading Festival's objectives are to promote reading and literacy; bring awareness of the library's programs and resources; foster partnerships between the Lee County Library System and the community. The Southwest Florida Reading Festival helps build a literate community and improve the local standard of living. The Southwest Florida Reading Festival helps children and teens to develop an interest in reading independently and therefore an increase in vocabulary and writing; increases family bonding and reading time; positively affects the attitude and behavior of families and the community regarding reading; develops a more educated and enriched community. For more information go to [www.ReadFest.org](http://www.ReadFest.org).