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Book Sale

Are there some good books languishing on your shelves? Why not give them away for a good cause and make room for more? Members of the Norfolk Public Library Foundation are looking for good used books to sell in a fundraiser next April.

"It's the first time that we've had an event like this. The purpose is to raise money to help the library fund activities, services and materials that aren't covered in their budget," said Donald Polodna, president of the Foundation board.

Jim Curry, another member of the Foundation board, got the idea of a book sale from his father-in-law, a resident of Sioux City, Iowa, where the local library recently raised \$25,000 from its book sale. "It's the ultimate recycling program," Curry said.

All new or used books in good condition can be donated for the book sale. Adult and children's books, fiction or non-fiction, hardbound or paperback, and even magazines will be accepted.

Mike Caldararo, director of the Norfolk Public Library said that drop off boxes for the books will be placed around the community in the coming weeks including one at First National Bank and a few area churches. People can also just bring their items to the service desk at the library.

"We can give a receipt to people for their donation who estimate the value of the books they bring in and want to write off the donation as a tax deduction," Caldararo said.

The Foundation had a nice kickoff to their book drive this week when they received a donation of hundreds of books from the Royal, Nebraska library. That library recently closed and city officials there had sold some of books but gave the rest to the Norfolk Public Library.

"Like all of the books we receive, we'll go through and see if some of the books would fit into our current collection. The rest we'll sell at the book sale," Caldararo said.

The sale is set for the weekend of April 16 at the Sunset Plaza mall. The board is planning to rent a bay at the mall for the weekend and offer coffee for people as they browse through the book selection. Caldararo said the books will be sorted as much as possible into adult and children's sections, fiction and non-fiction.

"We look forward to adding new items to the library using the funds received from the sale. This might include new file cabinets, book carts, poster frames, shelves, signage. Another possibility is to invest in gaming equipment that would attract the age 10-14 demographic. We want to add materials for adult and children programming," Caldararo said.

Members of the Foundation hope the book sale can be an annual event.

"We're hoping for some good participation for a worthy cause. The library is a valuable resource to the community and we want to support it all we can," Polodna said.