

Westbank Community Library touted as one of the most loved

Westbank Community Library has won a spot in "Heart of the Community: The Libraries We Love," the first book to sing the praises and show the beauty of America's public libraries.

Chosen from hundreds of nominations, Westbank Community Library was noted as a powerful asset in the community. It is one of the 80 libraries selected that as a group display the full range of the diversity, potential, style, history and contributions of libraries in the United States and Canada.

Library reference publisher Berkshire Publishing Group spent four months searching for libraries that are the cherished centers of their communities. These libraries will be honored in the book, a beautiful full-color coffee table book that will be published in October 2006. Copies of the 200-page book will

be available in the Westbank and at bookstores nationwide.

The people at Berkshire Publishing Group love libraries. They're not alone. Sixty-two percent of adults in the U.S. have library cards at our 16,220 American public libraries. An impressive 70 percent of families in Westbank Library District have library cards.

Since Benjamin Franklin helped to start the first libraries, Americans have used public libraries to get the information they need to enjoy and expand their lives. In fact, 83 percent of Americans believe libraries and librarians play an essential role in our democracy and are needed now more than ever. Libraries are a cornerstone of American democracy and, by ensuring free access to information, are of vital importance as they have been for nearly 300 years.