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"Unvalentine's Day" Lock-In for Teens Friday, Feb 14 Ferndale Library 222 E. Nine Mile Rd Registration Required (by phone) 248-546-2504 x. 694 For Ages 12-17 More info: <u>facebook.com/events/2504524966343313/</u>

Romance is Overrated: Ferndale Library Hosts Anti-Valentine's Day Event for Teens, Feb 14

FERNDALE, Mich. (January 22, 2020)-- Every time the 14th of February comes along, we all feel varying degrees of sadness if we don't have a certain sweetheart. It's gotta be twice as hard on a teenager. So in the spirit of positively affirming, self-love celebrating diversions from Valentine's Day (like Singles Awareness Day), Ferndale's Youth Services Librarians are hosting an "Unvalentine's Day" Lock-in. Teens can take over part of the library just for themselves after-hours, socializing, enjoying snacks, and doing anti-Valentine's Day activities.

This special event is just for teens, open to ages 12-17; registration can be done by phone: 248-546-2504, extension 694. The goal is to encourage teens to poke some fun at the romantic and sappy sentiments that come with every Valentine's Day and instead feel encouraged to celebrate being themselves. Along with a craft, there will be games, as well as the primary sustenance for a teenager: pizza. But that's not all, there will also be a fun chocolate fountain with several dunkable options.

Over the last year, Ferndale's Youth Services Librarians have been making particular efforts to engage teenaged library visitors in a positive and welcoming way. There was a packed house for a recent Halloween Lock-In event, where it became evident that while teens might be either more reserved or diffident toward other patrons or toward daytime activities, there's a certain spark of a fresh enthusiasm when they are invited into the library without any grown-ups around (aside from monitoring librarians, of course). This evening will be filled with games and snacks, but it carries with it a message of positivity and provides an opportunity to socialize with their peers outside of school.

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