

# Teens: prepare to 'Laugh Out Loud' at the library

BY LISA BARRINGER  
Special to Florida Weekly

This month, some youths will be able to get away with giggling aloud at the library.

In fact, the Lee County Library System is inviting teenagers to break their silence during Teen Read Week (Oct. 14-20). The goal is to get young adult patrons to "LOL @ your library" - this year's theme of the national teen reading initiative.

The Young Adult Library Services Association - a division of the American Library Association - instituted Teen Read Week 10 years ago to promote reading as a fun pastime for teenagers in hopes of boosting reading scores. During the special week, libraries and public schools across the nation will encourage teens to read humorous books, watch light-hearted movies or digest any form of literature that evokes laughter. Locally, there will be several opportunities for Lee County adolescents to laugh



out loud at free library programs such as "Reverse American Idol," "Butt Pillows," "Duct Tape Mania" and "Open Mic Night."

"The programs during Teen Read Week are designed to introduce our young adult patrons to teen literature in a fun way," said Voncile Williams, library program coordinator. "This is the week for teens to get in touch with their funny side and LOL at their neighborhood library."

Locations within the library system will also provide a booklist of popular paperbacks and funny fiction suggested for young adult readers.

"All of these books will appeal to teens because they are funny and involve characters and situations that are familiar to many teens," said Heather Phillips, young adult reference librarian at Lakes Regional Library in Fort Myers. "With so much pressure on teens to read for AR (Accelerated Reader) points and to read for classes, it's nice to be able to offer them books that are just fun to read. Books that might help remind them to make time to read for fun. Hopefully these titles will help them LOL."

To obtain a schedule of Teen Read Week programs within the Lee County Library System, log on to [www.lee-county.com/library](http://www.lee-county.com/library) or visit the nearest library location. ■

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**Inc. Magazine Recognizes Storm Smart in Annual 'Inc. 500' List**

Fort Myers, Fla. — Storm Smart Industries, the largest hurricane protection company in Southwest Florida, has been included by Inc. Magazine in its annual "Inc. 500" list of the fastest-growing privately held companies in America. Coming in at Number 387, Storm Smart is the highest listed hurricane protection company, as well as the only honoree, based in Fort Myers.

While Storm Smart has been experiencing triple-digit growth for the past several years, the past two years of increased storm activity have brought hurricane preparedness to the forefront of people's minds.

Brian Rist, Owner and CEO of Storm Smart Industries, states "We take great pride in how our team of more than 150 committed professionals have risen to the challenges of such tremendous growth and continue to provide our customers with first-rate products and service. I want to take this time to personally thank every member of the Storm Smart family, especially our wonderful customers who have entrusted us with the protection of their homes, and ultimately, the safety of their family's lives. We do not take that responsibility lightly and will continue to earn that trust, one customer at a time."

While Storm Smart has an extensive advertising program, the majority of sales originate from customer referrals, a fact that employees take with great pride.

Along with this year's "Inc. 500" listing, Storm Smart has also been recognized by the Lee County Economic Development Office as the Ninth Largest Manufacturing Company in Lee County, as well as receiving a "2006 Best" award from The News-Press.

*Brian Rist, President of Storm Smart Industries, has been helping residents prepare their homes against wind, rain and heat for nearly a decade. If you have any questions or need information about today's articles, please call Storm Smart Industries at 239-278-9092.*

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