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Ginnie Graham: Councilor Anna America might kiss a pug to get kids reading



Ginnie Graham News Columnist 1 hr ago 0



Tulsa city councilor Anna America



When Tulsa City Councilor Anna America wrote a blog about cheap and free summer fun, the [Tulsa City-County Library's reading program](#) made No. 1.

America, who represents District 7, found a few other reading programs as well for her list, [found here](#).

"Summer's a great time to enjoy a book or two," she wrote in an email. "Best part is it's easy to sneak in around the other activities - bring the book to the pool, or read on the way to the swimming hole. My daughter, 15, recently found out about checking out ebooks from the library and will read on her phone or a tablet -- it's easy and free and you don't have to worry about returning them on time."

America joins other city councilors and leaders in challenging more children and youth from her district to complete the public library's summer reading program. When considering the traditional kiss-a-pig idea, she was uncertain, clearly preferring dogs over swine.

"I wouldn't know where to find a pig to kiss," she states. "If you can find me one that's easy, I'm willing to take the risk, if it helps inspire any more kids to read. If not, I am more than happy to kiss a couple of pugs!"

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Maybe a cute, little piglet from the State Fair can be found, but it's hard to pass up a hug from a pug.

America's reading habits are constant.

"I read way, way too too much -- I always have a book on my iPad while on the elliptical, and will read while writing in between appointments, while getting the oil changed and when I stop to take a break in the middle of a cleaning project or just about any time I have a few spare minutes," she wrote. "Because my life is always busy and stressed, I definitely go for fun escapism in my reading, choosing 'chick lit,' romantic suspense and humor type books."



That is completely understandable.

Once you have had to read city budgets, ordinances, policies and other municipal documents, you want something light and fun.

The last book America checked out and read from the library was "The Girl Who Knew Too Much" by Amanda Quick. Next up is a Carl Hiaasen novel she picked up at a second-hand store.

"As far as summer activities for kids -- I hope every kid in Tulsa gets the opportunity to get out and enjoy our city and state as much as their family/circumstances allow," America said. "Even if they don't have the opportunity for a family vacation, we have so many fun, low-cost things in the area, from Turkey mountain to all the free local concerts to Blue Hole swimming hole."

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News Columnist Ginnie Graham

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Ginnie is a news columnist writing about human interest and social justice issues. Phone: 918-581-8376

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