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**Broward County Commission Libraries Division Announces
New Chess Club at Pompano Beach Library**

BROWARD COUNTY, FL – The new “Pompano Chess Club” will have its first meeting on Saturday, February 9 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Pompano Beach Branch Library located at 1213 East Atlantic Blvd. The club is open to all ages, especially the very young.

The group will have regular weekly meetings every Friday at 2:30 p.m. starting February 15.

There will be chess instruction and practice for all levels of ability from novice to master. A

Chess tournament will be held at the Pompano Beach Branch Library in the fall.

Pompano Beach Branch Library is forming the chess club in response to research which indicates that chess is beneficial to the mental health of all ages. Those who participate in the ancient art of chess show a significant advancement of mental agility in spatial, numerical and administrative abilities. Researchers also say that chess and other brain-focused activities can prevent the onset of dementia-related illness including Alzheimer's disease. According to a study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, participants, who practiced one of these activities at least once a week, reduced the risk of dementia by seven percent.

Chess instruction programs and practice matches will be offered for free. The Pompano Beach Branch Library is located at 1213 East Atlantic Blvd. in Pompano Beach. Information on the Chess Club can be obtained by calling Anita Magnotta at 954-786-2181.

The award-winning Broward County Libraries Division, founded in 1974, provides essential quality-of-life community service as well as outstanding customer service throughout Broward County. The Library consists of 37 branches that provide three million items and more than 2,000 computers for public use, and after-school literacy, youth, and teen programs. Its website, www.broward.org/library, includes free online reference and information databases in addition to access about library services, locations, and events that customers access on average 300,000 times a month. The Broward County Library is the ninth-largest library system in the United States, serving more than nine million walk-in customers annually.

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