

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Margie Byers A.P.R.  
Festival Coordinator  
Lee County Library System  
239-533-4826  
mbyers@leegov.com

or

Contact: Betsy Clayton, A.P.R.  
Communications Director  
Lee County Government  
239-826-4606  
bclayton@leegov.com

**Celebrity auction announced with the winner to have lunch with best-selling author Meg Cabot**

Fort Myers, FL, March 3, 2016 – The Friends of the Lakes Regional Library, in partnership with the Southwest Florida Reading Festival, invite bids in an online celebrity auction to win lunch with Meg Cabot, the New York Times best-selling author of “The Princess Diaries,” “Mediator” and “Heather Wells” series.

The lunch for three people with Cabot will begin at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 20, 2016, at The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 W. First St. in Fort Myers. The Marina is known for fresh seafood served in a fun atmosphere. Two series of autographed books are included: “The Princess Diaries” and “Mediator” series. To bid in the auction, go to [www.readfest.org/celebrityauction](http://www.readfest.org/celebrityauction). The online auction ends at 11:55 p.m. March 13.

The auction is provided by Meg Cabot, The Marina at Edison Ford and the Friends of the Lakes Regional Library. All proceeds will go to fund the Southwest Florida Reading Festival.

The Reading Festival is free and is 100 percent community supported through generous donations, sponsorships and grants. To help ensure the continuation of this free community event visit [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org) to make a secure online donation. Author information, dates of partner events, directions to the event and more, is available for your convenience at [www.readfest.org](http://www.readfest.org) or by calling 239-479-4636.

**ABOUT THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA READING FESTIVAL**

Lee County Library System produces the Southwest Florida Reading Festival to inform the community about the resources and services available at their local Lee County libraries and to remind them these resources and services are free with a library card. The Reading Festival is free and serves all ages and a variety of cultures with presentations from best-selling authors. Some of the authors who have attended in the past include: Sue Monk Kidd, Susan Mallery, R.L. Stine, Janet Evanovich, Nelson DeMille, Erik Larson, Jeff Lindsay and several hundred more.

The Reading Festival's objectives are to promote reading and literacy; bring awareness of the library's programs and resources; foster partnerships between the Lee County Library System and the community. The Reading Festival helps build a literate community and improve the local standard of living. The Reading Festival helps children and teens to develop an interest in reading independently and therefore an increase in vocabulary and writing; increases family bonding and reading time; positively affects the attitude and behavior of families and the community regarding reading; develops a more educated and enriched community. For more information go to [www.ReadFest.org](http://www.ReadFest.org)