

## January 2019 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	25,787	26,500	14,652	10,708	18,189	360
Visitors	24,489	14,227	13,194	8,337	15,331	134
Computer Sessions	6,449	2,699	3,823	2,945	2,248	54
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,177	n/a	4,361	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 74 Attendance: 878	Events: 63 Attendance: 1,302	Events: 59 Attendance: 869	Events: 58 Attendance: 1,113	Events: 34 Attendance: 600	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 13,344, up 21% from 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 75,712
- The Library held 288 events attended by 4,762 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 18,218
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 1,058 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 98 registered for eCards
- 11,126 holds were placed on Library materials, up 20% from 2018
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 19,119 resulting in nearly 24% of circulation
- Total circulation for January was 94,964

### Highlights

#### Everyday English Continuation

The Everyday English program in 2018 was a resounding success, in providing convenient access to high quality English conversation classes, solidifying a positive relationship with partners, gaining a deeper understanding of the diverse needs of our citizens, and creating new avenues to promote the Library. The Library did apply for a second year of the American Dream Literacy Initiative, and although we were not selected to participate, we were given a generous surprise from the Adult Learning Center of Osceola (ALCO).

In 2018, ALCO supported our Everyday English classes with School District instructors funded by the grant. Even though the classes were open to the general public, ALCO-enrolled students were given increased access to classes offered in the evening and on the weekend and the opportunity to gain lab hours to satisfy ALCO

class requirements. Perceiving the value of this access to their students and the impact to the community at large, the School Board voted in January to provide the Library with District-certified teachers to continue the Everyday English classes through the end of 2019. We are now offering Everyday English conversational classes at four libraries, Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Buenaventura Lakes, and Poinciana, with the generosity and commitment of our partners at the Adult Learning Center of Osceola. Forging partnerships that create dynamic opportunities for education, self-improvement, and professional development is a cornerstone of our strategic goals so many thanks are given to ALCO and the School District for this support.

### **Girl Scout / West Osceola Collaboration**

The Girl Scouts in Celebration have forged a remarkable partnership with the West Osceola Library in support of creative programming open to all school-age children. These programs, collaborations between the Youth Librarian and Girl Scout troop leaders, have enabled Girl Scouts to earn patches and badges, but have also brought the high quality of Girl Scout-level programs to the general public. In 2018, some noteworthy programs were Think Like an Engineer, Women's Suffrage: the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and Pinwheels for Peace. So far 19 programs aimed at earning patches and 3 programs aimed at badges have been held.

On January 28, the Girl Scout Troop 85 presented a one of a kind, hand-designed and -constructed structure to be used in conjunction with the West Osceola Library's escape rooms. The structure can be put up and taken apart in minutes to create portable walls. Additionally, they generously presented the West Osceola Library with a check for \$150 to be used in support of their next Library project, a butterfly garden! The Girl Scouts were so enthusiastic about their gift to the Library that they talked their troop leader into increasing the donation over the troop leader's suggestion.

The butterfly garden is being planned as a multi-troop service project with at least four Girl Scout troops invited to take part in the preparation and planting. The troops are working with a Master Gardener to ensure proper irrigation, plant selection, and maintenance are followed, and will be using their engineering skills to plan and build an obelisk that will be placed in the garden.

### **Online Engagement and Marketing Update**

In addition to tracking traditional statistics like door counts and checkouts, the Library also tracks our online engagement through a quarterly report of "Library Platform Statistics." The Graphics and Social Media team monitor all of our social media and web-based engagement tools such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, YouTube, the Newsletter, and Podcast so that we can have our finger on the pulse of opinion and community interactions, and understand how and when best to reach our patrons. Some quick statistics: The newsletter gained 1,409 subscribers, Twitter gained 30 followers, and Facebook added 71 followers during the last quarter of 2018.

The Library uses web-based resources to develop diverse and creative pathways to reach patrons and pique their unique interest in Library resources and services. Our podcast, *Nonfiction Friends*, celebrated in January its 50<sup>th</sup> episode. The podcast, which launched in early 2018, had 1,666 listens just within the last quarter of 2018, reaching people in over 50 countries, and is an example of how the Library is embracing all avenues to get us into the homes and hearts of our patrons.

The Library has formed a relationship with *Osceola Woman* magazine, found free in medical centers, businesses and restaurants, where we contribute content about Library services and resources and then the magazine is made available for free in our libraries. We received positive feedback on our first submitted article and look forward to many more contributions in the future!

## Youth Services Intern

A wonderful new opportunity for those interested in the field of library service launched this January. The Youth Specialist Service Learning Program provides an opportunity for previous Teen Ambassadors or Library Volunteers who are now 18 or older to gain on-the-job experience and knowledge of the library profession, potentially for college credit. Participants must be enrolled in college or recently graduated with an eye toward a career in libraries, particularly the youth services field. Service Learning opportunities include meeting with Collection Services staff to gain an understanding of how library collections are developed and managed and shadowing programs from start to finish. The Youth Specialist Service Learning Program culminates in the creation and implementation of an original library program. We currently have one bright and enthusiastic intern who met another of the initial requirements – completing 100 hours as a Library Volunteer/Teen Ambassador – and we are looking forward to opening this internship opportunity to more volunteers or Teen Ambassadors in the future.

## Career Online High School (COHS) Update

Progressing quietly behind the scenes is this fantastic program where the Library is able to provide scholarships to adult library card holders/Osceola residents 19 or older who wish to graduate high school but for whom life and circumstances have not always aligned to enable them to do so in a traditional timeframe. The Library was initially awarded 5 scholarships from the State Library of Florida to hand out to applicants who have met rigorous criteria and deadlines. But demand has been so great and the need so high in this community that we have successfully granted 7 scholarships and have dozens of people working their way through the process to potentially be awarded the 8 additional scholarships we have been provided. This program is exciting because it aligns with our Library's overreaching goal to transform people's lives with the convenient and free access to knowledge. The stories told by those applying for the COHS scholarships are both harrowing and uplifting, and getting the chance to share in their personal journey and support them on their path to creating a better future for themselves and their families is what library service is all about. We hope to share some of their stories with the community through videos and testimonials once we have the equipment supplied by the LSTA Innovation Grant we've recently been awarded.

## Gallery

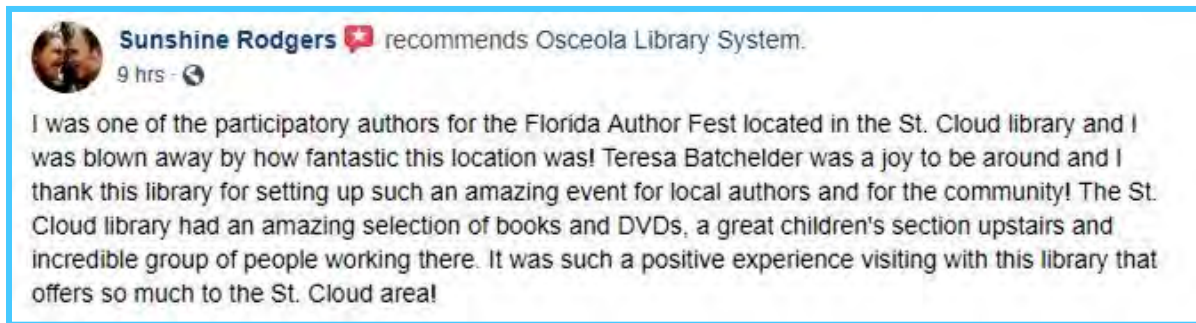


**LEFT: Our Library podcast, *Nonfiction Friends*, celebrated 50 episodes as well as their one-year anniversary. *Nonfiction Friends* has listeners from over 50 countries and their episodes have accumulated nearly two thousand listens this last quarter alone.**

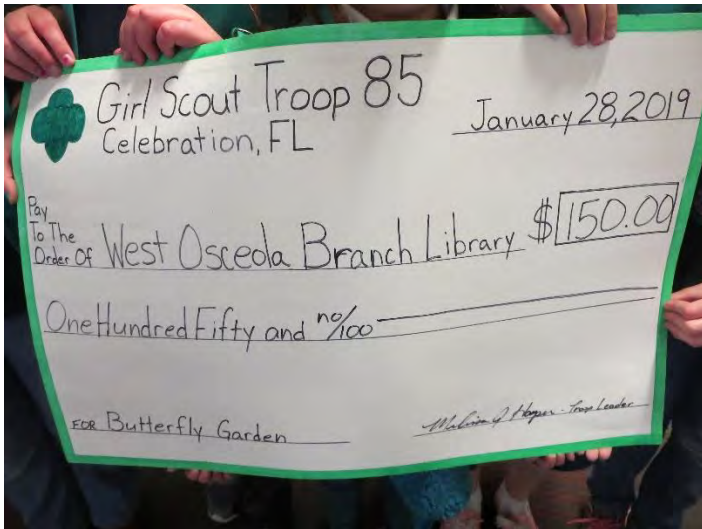
For the 50<sup>th</sup> episode, our hosts, Josh and Rebecca, asked their listeners for feedback of what their favorite episode or moments were on the podcast. Fans shared their answers on social media, recounting even episodes as far back as when the podcast first began (**BELOW**).



**We enjoy connecting with our patrons through social media platforms** and using web-based resources to pique interest in Library resources, services, or events. As our following on social media grows, so does the support from not only organizations and patrons, but authors as well (**BELOW**).



**In January, we launched our new Youth Specialist Service Learning Program** which provides previous Teen Ambassadors or Library Volunteers a chance to gain on-the-job experience and knowledge of library professions as an intern. Our current intern at Hart Memorial Library (**LEFT** with Youth Specialist, Jonathan) also completed 100 hours as a Library Volunteer.



**The Girl Scout Troop 85 in Celebration presented the West Osceola Library with two generous gifts.**

The first gift (**ABOVE**) was a hand-designed structure that creates removable walls perfect for use for the Library's Escape Rooms.

The second gift presented was a check dedicated to an upcoming Butterfly Garden project (**LEFT**), which will be built and maintained by multiple Girl Scout Troops and Master Gardeners.

## February 2019 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	24,181	26,292	13,502	9,491	17,033	231
Visitors	25,693	14,201	13,340	8,656	15,999	110
Computer Sessions	6,984	2,606	3,981	3,021	2,290	31
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,123	n/a	1,352	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 87 Attendance: 1,760	Events: 72 Attendance: 1,217	Events: 62 Attendance: 1,057	Events: 63 Attendance: 925	Events: 36 Attendance: 926	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,671
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 77,999
- The Library held 320 events attended by 5,885 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 18,913
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 89,912
- 1,057 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 81 registered for eCards
- 9,345 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,245 resulting in 19% of print circulation
- Total circulation for February was 102,401, an increase of 10% over 2018

### Highlights

#### Black History Month

The Osceola Library System celebrated Black History Month with programs, displays, partner events, and youth activities to commemorate the wealth of artistic, scientific, literary, and societal contributions of African Americans to the culture and history of the United States. Nearly 200 people attended informative and engaging programs, including:

- **Black History Month Movie Matinee** – patrons at the Hart Memorial and St. Cloud Libraries enjoyed thought-provoking cinema, including *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* and *What Happened, Miss Simone?*

- **Creativity Corner** – West Osceola children created story quilts in recognition of artist Faith Ringgold.
- **OrisiRisi African Folklore** – Storytelling and folklore told with spirited drumming and dancing wowed audiences at the St. Cloud, Hart Memorial, and Poinciana Libraries.
- **Serve Up Some Soul** – The Buenaventura Lakes and Hart Memorial Libraries took a journey through African-American cuisine with Chef Shantell.
- **African Mancala** – St. Cloud patrons played one of the oldest games in recorded culture, considered the National Game of Africa.
- **Yes We Did! Author Talk with Jeffrey White** – Local author Jeffrey White explored the historical and cultural achievements of prominent African Americans in his insightful presentation at the St. Cloud Library.
- **African American Read In** – An annual event in partnership with the City of Kissimmee, the Read In celebrates Black achievement and contributions through the reading of inspirational and historical passages by special guests.

### **Osceola Literacy Extravaganza**

The School District of Osceola holds the Battle of the Books each year and this year, the Library spiced up the annual event with programming and workshops to create OLÉ! Osceola Literacy Extravaganza. The Library hosted the final rounds of the Battle of the Books and provided exciting and engaging programming to connect students with their love of reading. The Banned Books Guessing Game where participants guessed a book by description and the reason it was banned, Blind Date with a Book, and DIY Zines where students could create their own zine to be housed at the Library were all major hits with the multi-generational crowd. At the end of the event, well-known Florida authors, including Peter Raymundo, James Ponti, and Fred Koehler, gave away copies of their books to students attending OLÉ. This successful partner event with the School District drew nearly 500 attendees.

### **ALCO Outreach**

Library staff worked with Adult Learning Center Osceola staff to develop an open house type of event to provide ALCO students with an orientation to Library services and electronic resources, including a Library Card Drive on Tuesday, February 5. The event was developed to reach as many ALCO students as possible so faculty was encouraged to bring their English as a Second Language classes to the Career Center on the ALCO campus throughout the day. Three sessions were scheduled to accommodate morning, afternoon, and evening students. In total, 10 classes were able to participate in the event and 163 Library cards were issued. Students and teachers were excited with all the programs and resources the Library offers, showing specific interest in Mango Languages. An instructor was overheard telling her students that they were dedicating part of their next session to practice how to use their recently acquired Library card to access the Library website and databases.

### **Voices of Silence**

Every Monday morning, the Buenaventura Lakes Library is host to advocacy group Voices of Silence as they create interactive educational and social experiences for young adults with autism and other intellectual disabilities. Attendees work with caregivers and parents to learn new skills and reinforce old ones, while gaining needed social interaction and confidence for independence. Topics include cooking, math, sign language, and art. This program is one of the many ways the Library is essential to those for whom accessing library services and resources is challenging, and reaffirming that the Library is a welcoming and enriching place for all to gather.

## Gallery



We celebrated Black History Month with a wide range of programs and events commemorating the historical and cultural contributions of African Americans.

**LEFT:** Adults learn how to make soul food through an instructive demonstration by **Chef Shantell**. (Photo taken at the Hart Memorial Library)

**BELOW-LEFT:** Children at West Osceola Library learned about the African-American painter Faith Ringgold and made their own story quilts in a style inspired by hers.

**BELOW-RIGHT:** **OrisiRisi African Folklore** shared stories from Africa along accompanied by spirited drumming. (Photo taken at the St. Cloud Library)







**The School District of Osceola's OLÉ! Osceola Literacy Extravaganza was held at Hart Memorial Library.** The event featured programming and workshops that celebrated the love of books and the worlds they create.

**ABOVE and RIGHT:** Students from all over Osceola County created sculptures, paintings, and other works of art inspired by their favorite book or book series.





Nearly 500 attendees enjoyed a variety of activities and events at OLÉ, such as the popular **Banned Books Game (LEFT)** and the final round of the **Battle of the Books (BELOW)**.

**ABOVE:** An author panel featured well-known Florida authors including Peter Raymundo, James Ponti, and Fred Koehler sharing their writing experience and answering questions from the attendees.



## March 2019 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	25,881	29,626	13,987	10,708	17,798	231
Visitors	26,559	14,380	12,999	8,744	15,966	110
Computer Sessions	7,305	2,634	3,527	2,833	2,202	31
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,253	n/a	1,486	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 77 Attendance: 1,039	Events: 73 Attendance: 1,421	Events: 47 Attendance: 693	Events: 57 Attendance: 833	Events: 32 Attendance: 650	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,818
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 78,798
- The Library held 286 events attended by 4,636 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 18,551
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 88,890
- 834 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 83 registered for eCards
- 10,009 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 18,706 resulting in 19% of print circulation
- Total circulation for March was 110,099, up 1.5% over 2018

### Highlights

#### Butterfly Garden

Plant it and they will come! This was the notion behind the project initiated by the Girl Scouts troops in the Celebration area – to design, plant, and maintain a Butterfly Garden on the grounds of the West Osceola Library. Both Girl Scouts and West Osceola Library patrons worked wonderfully together with Master Gardeners from Osceola County Extension Services. Each child participated in choosing a plant, digging holes, planting, mulching, making a butterfly puddler, and anything else that needed to be done. Funds donated by the Girl Scouts were used to purchase garden supplies. 29 budding gardeners helped with the afternoon project in addition to learning about what a Master Gardener does and why the plants and prep were

necessary to attract butterflies to the garden. The Butterfly Garden will surely beautify and delight patrons at the West Osceola Library for years to come.

### **Business Builders Junior Camp**

The mini-camp held over Spring Break drew inspiration from a university-based curriculum created to promote youth entrepreneurship, critical thinking, and real world problem solving. 15 kids at the Hart Memorial Library brainstormed original business concepts before writing business plans, calculating startup costs, and creating a model or prototype. The Osceola Friends of the Library and local business Hangar Thirty 08 donated lunches for the kids, while the owner of Candyland Designs Co. supported the program with cupcakes and prizes and served as a judge at the final presentation. The kids came up with some really exciting ideas, but 11-year-old Aniyah's pitch for a custom pancake truck wowed the judges and took top prize.

### **Primetime Kick Off**

PrimeTime kicked off for the fourth time at the St. Cloud Library on Monday, March 25. This grant-funded, multi-week program is designed to improve family literacy through fellowship, food and staff-led discussions of a different theme each week. Themes for this edition of PrimeTime will focus on important topics as Civics, Citizenship, Freedom, and Equality. The first edition concentrated on Government and brought together 47 people, 22 adults and 25 kids, to share in reading *Duck for President* and participate in a discussion about fairness in elections, doing chores, and choosing the title of your autobiography. Participants throughout weeks will enjoy food donated by local restaurants, prizes from entertainment or themed businesses, and presentations from community groups. Those who follow the program week by week will leave full not only from great food and fellowship, but with knowledge and a desire to learn and read more with their family at home or in the Library.

### **Cowboy Storytime and Cattle Drive Outreach**

Rodeo contestants from the RAM National Circuit Finals were tellin' tall tales to toddlers and kiddin' around with the kiddos at the Buenaventura Lakes, West Osceola, and St. Cloud Libraries. "Saddle Up for Cowboy Storytime" featured special guests reading stories, demonstrating roping techniques, and even having the little ones get in on the lasso action as they roped a wild chair. 170 children and their grownups had a darn tootin' good time.

The Library was invited by Lanier's Antiques in downtown Kissimmee to have a table outside their store during the RAM NCFR Cattle Drive, which featured community leaders and local cowboys leading horses and cows down Broadway to kick off the RAM National Circuit Finals. An estimated 50 people stopped at our table to grab coloring sheets, get a library card, and review historical books.

### **Women's History Month**

Through film, art, and their own voices, the amazing stories and achievements of women were celebrated this month with over 100 participants. These notable programs celebrated the power and influence of women in culture and history. A Day in the Life: Pioneer Women of St. Cloud, presented by the Women's Club of St. Cloud, and Their Voices Were Heard, about early settlers of St. Cloud, civic groups and their social causes, presented by local historian Larisa Roderick, were both featured at the St. Cloud Library. Through the Hart Memorial Library's film series, Empowering Films, viewers explored women's achievements and struggles. And women's impact on the art world was explored by art historian Jerryan Ramos Hernandez at the Buenaventura Lakes Library, and through the contributions of artist Georgia O'Keefe at West Osceola Library.

## Gallery



**West Osceola Library's new Butterfly Garden** was built by 29 budding gardeners made of Girl Scouts troops in the Celebration area, Library patrons, and Master Gardeners from Osceola County Extension Services.

Each child chose a task to help complete the afternoon project **(ABOVE)**.

The completed Butterfly Garden **(LEFT)** will surely delight patrons and butterflies!



Hart Memorial Library held their first mini-camp during Spring Break, the Business Builders Junior Camp (ABOVE). The Camp promoted youth entrepreneurship, critical thinking, and real world problem solving by challenging campers to create original business concepts, plans, and models or prototypes.

11-year-old Anyah's claimed the top prize with her pitch for a custom pancake truck named Party Pancakes (LEFT).



**ABOVE-LEFT:** Kiddos have a rootin' tootin' time with Cowboys from the RAM National Circuit Finals as they learned how to lasso a chair. *(Photo taken at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.)*

**ABOVE-RIGHT:** Osceola Library was represented by Sue at the RAM NCFR Cattle Drive in Downtown Kissimmee where we offered themed coloring pages, Library Card sign ups, and historical books. *(Photo taken by Jeremy Lanier of Lanier's Antiques.)*



**Women's History Month was celebrated with films, art, and special presentations** including St. Cloud Library's A Day in the Life: Pioneer Women of St. Cloud program presented by the Women's Club of St. Cloud **(ABOVE)**. Attendees learned about the different roles and occupations women had in those times such as Innkeeper **(BELOW)**, Nurse, Housewife, Teacher, and more.





April 2019  
Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	23,515	28,148	14,098	10,202	17,459	183
Visitors	25,165	15,351	14,446	9,271	15,411	89
Computer Sessions	6,811	2,898	3,719	2,794	2,024	29
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,205	n/a	888	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 77 Attendance: 1,241	Events: 69 Attendance: 2,402	Events: 63 Attendance: 1,073	Events: 62 Attendance: 1,009	Events: 38 Attendance: 805	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

**Highlights**

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,637, a 12% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 79,733, a nearly 8% increase from 2018
- The Library held 309 events attended by 6,530 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 18,275
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville, BVL and Poinciana Libraries totaled 104,581
- 1,018 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 83 registered for eCards
- 9,350 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,274 resulting in 19% of print circulation
- Total circulation for April was 105,232

**Highlights**

**Birthday and Food for Fees**

The Osceola Library System celebrated 30 years of service during the month of April. From 1969 to 1989, the Orange County Library System was paid annually to extend services to Osceola County. So although we’ve actually existed as a “system” for 50 years, our official birthday is commemorated April 1, 1989, as the date we began offering independent library services and focusing on the unique needs of our dynamic and growing community. In acknowledgement of the best decade ever, the Library embraced its inner Duran Duran with a 1980s-themed limited-edition Library card, storytimes, puzzles and challenges, and unique video featuring

branch staff in their stylish Dynasty/Saved By the Bell duds celebrating the best of '80s culture. At the April 1 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners presented the Library with a plaque commemorating our service milestone and staff was in attendance as Commissioner Peggy Choudhry read the proclamation aloud and April 1, 2019, was officially declared as Osceola Library System's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was a most excellent birthday month!

During National Library Week (April 7-13), the Library revived the Food for Fees program. Patrons donated food items, each valued at a \$1, to pay down their overdue fees. The Library partnered with the Osceola County Food Angels, a local nonprofit group who collected the donated food items to give to Osceola School District children in need. During the Food for Fees week, nearly 2,000 items were donated for this amazing cause and patrons were able to clear their accounts of fees while giving back to the community – a win/win!

### **Local Authors Fair**

The West Osceola Library hosted a Local Author's Fair on a lovely Saturday afternoon. 22 local authors attended, including Annie Schrank, who presented a compelling author talk in November at the West Osceola and whose first book, *Longing for Africa*, was reviewed by none other than Dr. Jane Goodall. Well-known authors Debbie Viguié, Jan Eldridge, and Peter Raymundo were the keynote speakers, sharing with the audience their process of being traditionally published as Adult, YA, and Juvenile authors, respectively. With topics ranging from religion to vampire romance, there was large variety of genres for all 65 attendees to choose from as they visited each author's table for a chat and signed copies of their books.

### **One Book, One Community**

In partnership with the *Orlando Sentinel* and its "Reading by Nine" initiative, the Library participated in the One Book, One Community reading program. The program's goal is to hook kids on reading at a crucial age where kids begin to read to learn rather than learn to read. This year's selection is a classic and favorite, *Charlotte's Web*. The Sentinel provided copies of the book to give away. To reinforce the themes of the story and to immerse readers in active learning, Library staff provided discussion points and activities that provided more contexts and a deeper connection to the timeless characters and moving plot. Each branch participated in the program and engaged nearly 200 kids and grownups. *Charlotte's Web* will make appearances in programming until the end of May. Ms. Crystal and the St. Cloud Library's program were featured in the April 14 edition of the *Orlando Sentinel*. Check it out! <https://bit.ly/2JupVij>

### **International Festival**

The Poinciana Library took a trip around the world at their International Festival. Countries were represented through food, crafts, music, and dance and the experience helped to inform attendees of the daily life, culture, and history significant to those countries. Puerto Rico, Denmark, France, and Cuba were some of the nations with a presence at the Festival. Bollywood, Bellydance, and Polynesian dancers entertained while 130 kids and grownups noshed on homemade flan, arroz con gandules, marzipan, and brie tarts. If you missed this Festival, the Buenaventura Lakes Library will be hosting an International Festival in August.

## Gallery



We celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday throughout the month of April with a special edition Library Card design (**LEFT**), Birthday storytimes (**BELOW**), puzzles, and challenges. (Storytime photo taken at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.)

We also commemorated our 30 years of service with an '80s-themed video that was uploaded to our YouTube and Facebook pages.





**22 authors attended our Local Authors Fair at the West Osceola Library (ABOVE).** Patrons had the unique opportunity to speak one-on-one with published and bestselling authors and have their questions answered by those who've done it all before. The event closed with our Keynote Speakers, Debbie Viguié, Jan Eldredge, and Peter Raymundo **(BELOW)**, speaking on their own writing processes and their experience in getting published.





In partnership with the *Orlando Sentinel*, we hosted the One Book, One Community program at our Libraries.

This year's book was the classic by E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*. The programs inspired themed crafts such as Wilbur bookmarks and flying spiders such as those made at the West Osceola Library (**LEFT**), and themed storytimes at the St. Cloud Library (**ABOVE**).



Patrons traveled around the world within the walls of the Poinciana Library thanks to our International Festival.

Each table represented a different country with traditional foods and crafts as well as a look into the country's history and culture through displays, attire, and conversation with staff (**BELOW**).

The Festival also featured live dance performances including hula (**LEFT**) set to both traditional music as well as recognizable favorites such as songs from the Disney film, *Lilo & Stitch*.



May 2019  
Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	22,973	28,762	12,806	9,620	17,709	299
Visitors	25,165	13,707	12,959	8,494	16,129	112
Computer Sessions	6,811	2,603	3,334	2,806	2,017	22
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,069	n/a	1,275	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 77 Attendance: 1241	Events: 61 Attendance: 2,802	Events: 53 Attendance: 698	Events: 55 Attendance: 893	Events: 46 Attendance: 1,026	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### Highlights

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 12,697, a 19% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 77,020, a 4% increase from 2018
- The Library held 284 events attended by 7,129 persons, a 15% increase in attendance over 2018
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 17,269
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville, BVL and Poinciana Libraries totaled 99,971
- 908 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 90 registered for eCards
- 9,638 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,810 resulting in 20% of print circulation
- Total circulation for May was 104,776

### Highlights

#### Lit Mag Reception & Writing with YA Chicks

Youth writers were celebrated for their contributions to the annual production of the Osceola Library System's *Lit Mag*. In a reception attended by nearly 50 adults and kids, the winners of the author-judged prize of publication in the library-printed special magazine read aloud their works of poetry and prose, and were feted by their friends and families for their achievements. Both teens and tweens were represented in the *Lit Mag*, and their stories belie their age and experience, as they delve into subjects like isolation and identity with

complex character analysis and well-formed dialogue. Their talent is truly a gift and the *Lit Mag* is an amazing creative outlet for them to be featured and recognized.

Prior to the Lit Mag Reception, best-selling authors and *Lit Mag* judges Vivi Barnes, Christina Farley, and Amy Christine Parker provided a primer on how to create memorable characters with the budding writers in attendance asking great questions of these Florida-based young adult authors.

### **Free Comic Book Day**

May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you! The first Saturday of May each year is Free Comic Day, a world-wide event that began in 2002 as a way to introduce new readers to comic books and has been embraced by libraries to show that all reading is good, especially for those reluctant readers for whom the visual stimulation of comics encourages interest. At the St. Cloud and Hart Memorial Libraries, staff distributed about 2,500 free comic books to over 800 people in addition to giving out buttons, stickers, and great conversation about comic books! The comic books were provided free to the Library by the comic book industry upon request, plus additional comic books the Library had received in presenting the Fan Faire comic-con events in past years were also distributed. In a lead up to the event, staff at the Hart Memorial Library created an art challenge for children to draw their own version of a superhero and the art was displayed in Hart Memorial's lobby.

### **Drones to the Rescue!**

The St. Cloud and Buenaventura Lakes Libraries were abuzz with the sights and sounds of drones. This fun and functional technology display was made possible by the Citizen Science GIS team from the University of Central Florida. Participants were challenged to learn about how natural disasters can be mapped and tracked with drones and were given the chance to pilot the drones to complete tasks. 85 children and grown-ups enjoyed the adventure!

### **Mother's Day Special Programming**

Mothers were on everyone's mind as we celebrated this Very Important Person through family programming. Regular storytime was Mom-themed, including Great Beginnings storytime at Poinciana and West Osceola Libraries, Baby & Me storytime at the Buenaventura Lakes and West Osceola Libraries, and Rhythm, Rhyme and Storytime at St. Cloud Library. A special Hats Off to Mother's Day celebration at the St. Cloud Library featured excerpts from Osceola Arts' spring play, *Cinderella*, and a fancy hat craft to wear with Mom while noshing on cupcakes. 179 children and grown-ups honored Mom at the Library.

### **Peter Raymundo Toddler Room Reveal**

The toddler room at the St. Cloud Library reopened with a splash as local children's author and illustrator Peter Raymundo debuted a fun and festive mural inspired by his Scholastic book series, *Third Grade Mermaid*. The room, renamed the A-B-Sea Adventures room, features bright paintings of Peter Raymundo's book characters including a mustachioed starfish, colorful coral, and Cora, the third grade mermaid herself. Parents and toddlers enjoyed playing with wall-mounted toys and gazing at the crocheted jellyfish hanging from the ceiling. The room was even featured in a write up by the Osceola News Gazette! Big thanks to Peter Raymundo for being a great partner to the Osceola Library System.



## Gallery



Our second publication of *Lit Mag* featured talented writers of ages 9-17.

At the **Lit Mag Reception** at the Hart Memorial Library, the 2019 **Lit Mag** Winners (**ABOVE**) were able to meet with the bestselling authors who served as judges in the contest (**LEFT**), as well as learn which judge selected their work as a winner.



**The Hart Memorial (ABOVE) and St. Cloud (LEFT) Libraries were honored to be official cites for Free Comic Book Day 2019.**

Families of avid readers and reluctant readers alike found common ground with free comic books featuring popular franchises such as *Star Wars*, *Striker Force 7*, *Stranger Things*, *Lady Mechanika*, *Street Fighter*, and more.



**Leading up to Free Comic Book Day 2019, Hart Memorial Library created a display inviting kids to draw their own superheroes (LEFT).** Some of the creations featured traditional powers such as flight and super strength, while others embraced unconventional powers such as toxic spit. The display both encouraged the imagination of the participating children as well as increased their excitement for the upcoming distribution of free comics and, by extension, reading.

**BELOW: The Citizen Science GIS team from the University of Central Florida visited both the Buenaventura Lakes and St. Cloud Libraries to demonstrate how drones come to the rescue in natural disasters.**

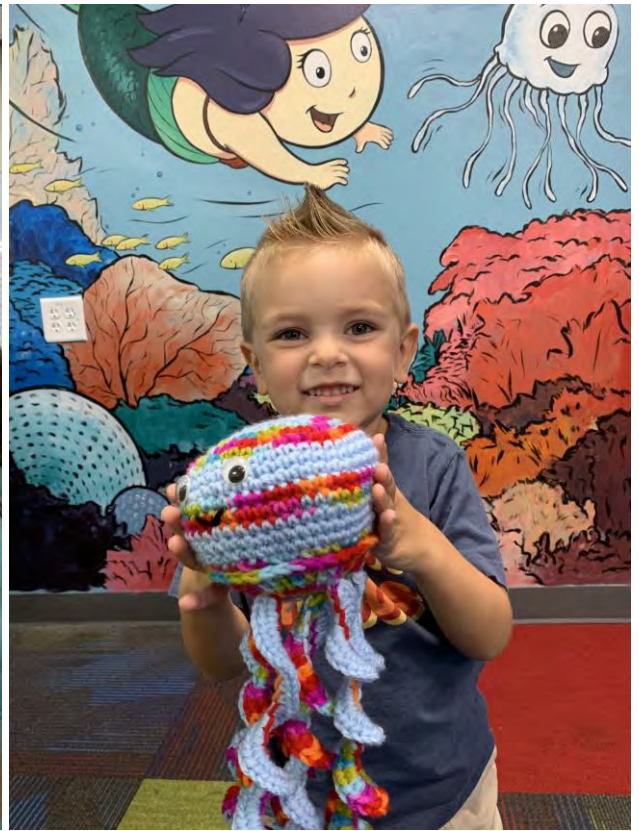
After the presentation, attending families had the opportunity to jump into the virtual pilot seat of the mini-drones, and fly them through an obstacle course to complete tasks. *(Photo taken at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.)*





As a special treat in honor of Mother's Day, Osceola Arts performed excerpts of their spring play, *Cinderella*, for moms and their kids at the St. Cloud Library (ABOVE). Other Mother's Day events at the Libraries included themed storytimes and crafts such as flower portraits for mom (BELOW). (Photo taken at the St. Cloud Library.)





Scholastic author and illustrator, Peter Raymundo (LEFT), painted murals onto the walls of the St. Cloud Library's toddler room, transforming it to our newly-named A-B-Sea Adventures Room.

At the grand unveiling of the finished room, families stepped into another world under the sea, complete with crocheted jellyfish "floating" above their heads (ABOVE-LEFT).

Each family that attended the reopening were able to take home one of the hand-made jellyfish as a special keepsake of the event (ABOVE-RIGHT).



The murals feature characters from author/illustrator Peter Raymundo's books, such as Cora and friends from *The Third Grade Mermaid* (ABOVE), and Edgar the Jellyfish from his newest release *I am NOT a Fish!* (BELOW).



## June 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	25,606	32,599	15,016	10,639	19,252	246
Visitors	26,234	15,094	14,533	8,998	16,504	106
Computer Sessions	6,624	2,607	3,656	2,591	1,684	24
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,616	n/a	1,275	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 76 Attendance: 1,911	Events: 67 Attendance: 2,113	Events: 64 Attendance: 1,647	Events: 61 Attendance: 1,016	Events: 53 Attendance: 1,377	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### System stats at a glance

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 12,644, a 20% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 81,469
- The Library held 321 events attended by 8,064 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 17,186
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville, BVL and Poinciana Libraries totaled 110,183
- 1,307 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 89 registered for eCards
- 10,835 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 21,905 resulting in 21% of print circulation
- Total circulation for June was 116,002

### Highlights

#### STEAM Day: Summer Reading Blastoff

The temperature's climbing, school is out, and that can only mean one thing – it's Summer Reading time! The theme is A Universe of Stories, and given it's the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo program and the historic Moon landing that changed the direction of humankind's history, this year's Summer Reading will be out of this world!

Families, kids, and grownups gathered at the West Osceola Library to blast off into a great summer with our 3<sup>rd</sup> STEAM Day featuring all kinds of gizmos and gadgets to spark imagination. Stations were set up across the Library to demonstrate the importance of learning and understanding science, technology, engineering, arts, and math and how ingenuity in these areas can power a brighter future. After exploring all the cool hands-on stations, everyone enjoyed an “explosive” Super Cool Science demo by Professor Christina Wilson. Also celebrated at STEAM Day was the book release of favorite local author Peter Raymundo’s *I Am NOT A Fish!* 350 budding scientists and readers with their grownups joined us for a (inter)stellar kickoff.

The space theme provides the spark for programming this summer, as we continue with events aimed at igniting curiosity and engagement across all age groups. “Space” inspired an impressive array of unique programs such as Space Jam: A Canning Demo, Galaxy Globes, University of the Universe, and Searching Beyond the Stars, giving adults compelling reasons to visit their local Libraries for fun and thought-provoking classes. Kids and their grownups had their June covered with dozens of storytimes, “Out of This World” entertainers, and interactive experiences, including visits from DoDad’s Lab, Osceola Arts, and the Central Florida Astronomical Society.

The Library had a very special opportunity to partner with WUCF, one of our local PBS affiliates, and Central Florida PBS, to present A Summer of Space PBS Kids Time storytime. The Hart Memorial and Poinciana Libraries were visited by some favorite PBS characters to read stories, make crafts, take funny photos, and just get excited about all things space, which is such an enduring part of Central Florida’s history and culture. Also in partnership with PBS, the Library hosted preview screenings of the Summer of Space: PBS Documentary Series premiering on PBS channels this summer.

In June, nearly 4,000 people enjoyed the beginning of the 2019 Summer Reading Club and there’s still a great big Universe of Stories to explore in July!

### **Pride Month Celebrations**

For the third year in a row, the Osceola Library System has celebrated Pride Month, each year adding a new dimension of focus to bring awareness to this important aspect of community connection. Pride Month is an international cultural event celebrated in June in part as an acknowledgment of the Stonewall Uprising in June 1969, and brings awareness to an important human rights issue. This year we featured book displays, art, social media conversations, and passive programming as a way to demonstrate the Library is a safe and welcoming space for all Osceola residents and visitors.

We debuted a new passive program called the Ally Pledge, inspired by inclusion campaigns geared toward creating a pathway for “allies” to show their support for LGBTQ+ people in the school environment. The Ally Pledge featured posters in the Buenaventura Lakes and Hart Memorial Libraries where those wishing to make the Ally Pledge could sign their name. Rainbow flag buttons were also available for staff to wear during the month if they chose.

The Library partnered with the City of Kissimmee to celebrate PrideFest Kissimmee, an annual festival with live music, vendors, and more festivities, all to raise awareness of the cultural and historical contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. The Library staffed a successful outreach table at PrideFest, signing up new members, gaining an additional nearly 100 social media followers, and engaging with close to 300 people about Library



services and resources. To promote Pride Month, the Nonfiction Friends podcast broadcast live from PrideFest and over the course of the month of June featured discussions on famous LGBTQ+ persons and resources available in the Library and the community, among other topics.

A special month-long art exhibit by staff member Mindy Miles at the Buenaventura Lakes Library celebrated the LGBTQ+ community with colorful, rainbow-inspired art and quotes of positivity and encouragement, which received supportive responses on social media.

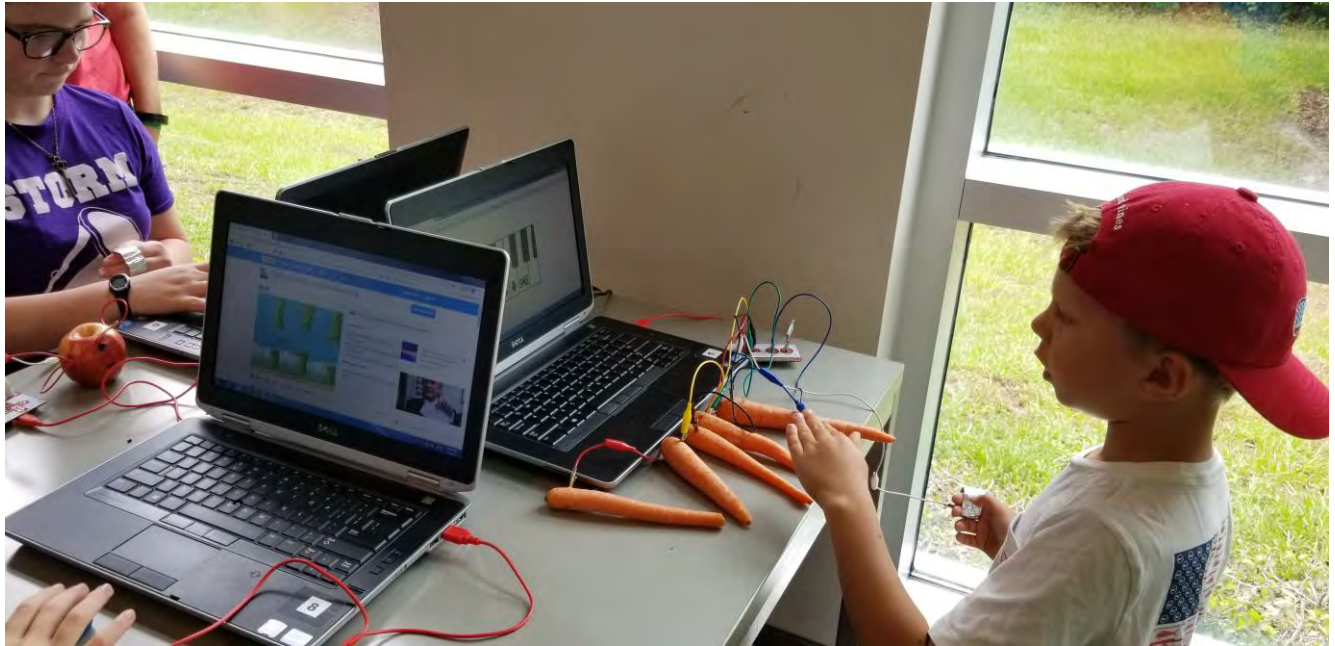
### Rise Up! Book Club Debut

A new book club launched for teens ages 13-18. Beyond a traditional book club, the staff-led group focuses on diversity and the unique challenges faced by teens finding their own way through a rapidly changing universe of culture and identity. The program happens the second and fourth Friday at 4pm at the Hart Memorial Library, giving the teens a chance to hang out and share before leaping off into their weekend. Books for Rise Up! are chosen for their teen-appropriate themes of social issues, mental illness, and other topics that teens see in the world today that can be polarizing, defining, or somewhere in between. By giving the teen's space and great literature, important conversations are sparked, thoughts are shared, and hopefully empathetic thinkers and prolific readers emerge. Rise Up! is off to a great start, with nearly 30 participants so far.

### Gallery



**Our Summer Reading programs launched with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual STEAM Day at the West Osceola Library which hosted 350 budding scientists and their families (ABOVE).** Included in the event's activities was the book release celebration for *I Am NOT a Fish!* by local author Peter Raymundo (standing center).



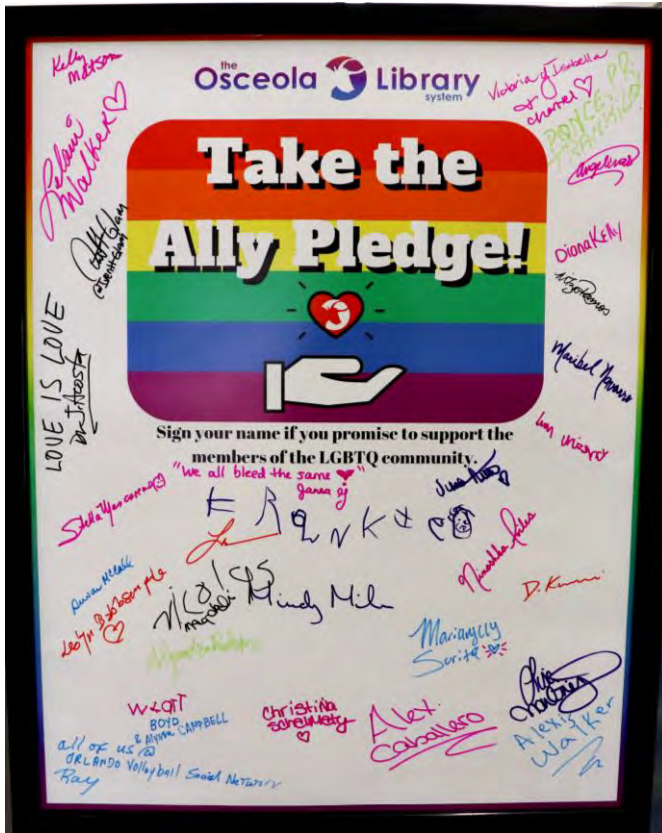
Families explored hands-on stations that incorporated Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. The Makey Makey station, for example, taught kids about circuitry by using carrots or fruits, alligator clips, and tinfoil to open and close a circuit to create music on the computer (**ABOVE**). Afterward, Professor Christina Wilson of Super Cool Science gave an exciting presentation that proved how amazing science could be (**BELOW**).





Keeping with the Summer theme of A Universe of Stories, **adults and children participated in space-themed programs across the Libraries.** WUCF presented PBS Kids Time where kids made their own “moon shoes” and space masks **(ABOVE – LEFT)**. Adults made their own planetary lights at the St. Cloud Library in their Galaxy Globes program **(ABOVE – RIGHT)**. And performers such as DoDad’s Lab taught families about our solar system through experiments, songs, and dance **(BELOW)**. *(PBS Kids Time and DoDad’s Lab photos were taken at the Hart Memorial Library.)*





**ABOVE:** This year's Pride Month celebration was the debut of our Ally Pledge program where visitors and staff at the Buenaventura Lakes (ABOVE – LEFT) and Hart Memorial Libraries (ABOVE – RIGHT) were able to sign their names as a visual symbol of their promise to support members of the LGBTQ+ community. We also partnered with the City of Kissimmee to celebrate PrideFest Kissimmee (LEFT) where we connected hundreds to Library services.



Our Pride Month celebration also featured an art exhibit by staff member Mindy Miles at the Buenaventura Lakes Library (ABOVE). The exhibit incorporated flags, quotes, and symbols in support of the LGBTQ+ community and was on display for the entirety of the month. LEFT: Hart Memorial Library debuted their new Teen Diversity Club, Rise Up! The book club focuses on titles centered on important themes such as social issues, mental health, identity, and others that teens may face or are currently facing in their life, while simultaneously providing a safe space for teens to discuss issues important to them.

## July 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	24,427	33,390	14,916	11,470	19,185	363
Visitors	25,881	15,610	14,466	10,480	15,669	109
Computer Sessions	6,830	2,329	3,665	3,007	1,970	27
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,731	n/a	1,740	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 70 Attendance: 2,127	Events: 68 Attendance: 1,512	Events: 63 Attendance: 1,328	Events: 53 Attendance: 2,570	Events: 44 Attendance: 951	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### System stats at a glance

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 12,627, an 8% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 82,215
- The Library held 298 events attended by 8,488 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 17,828
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville, BVL and Poinciana Libraries totaled 108,903
- 1,208 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 115 registered for eCards
- 9,919 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 20,020 resulting in 19% of print circulation
- Total circulation for July was 119,370, a 2.5% increase over 2018

### Highlights

#### Summer Reading Wrap Up

Summer Reading is kind of like Christmas – you plan and wait for what seems like forever for it to come and then it’s over before you know it (or just in time, if you ask some!). And what an amazing summer it was. The Library hosted 816 programs across 5 Libraries and reached 25,183 people with creative events, reading

challenges, performers, passive programs, special guests, and so much more. From beginning readers through school age, tweens, teens and even adults, this summer was inter-stellar.

*Some highlights from July:*

92 teens and families took the sushi challenge at the Teen Quest/Family Quest Kabuki Sushi program provided by Benihana of Orlando. Hands-on programming gets teens out of their comfort zone and into learning new things, improving interpersonal skills and communication, and lets families interact and problem-solve together as a team.

The Florida Astronomical Society helped teens and adults uncover the question “Are we alone?” in the universe, or at the very least to think beyond the borders of Earth. And the Buehler Perpetual Trust Planetarium from Seminole State College was also on hand to challenge your knowledge of the universe and what is “beyond visible light.” Both programs stoked curiosity and with intriguing, thought-provoking discussions for our older patrons.

Magic and Mayhem brought entertainment to nearly 600 kids and families with a “choose your own adventure” program combining storytelling, magic, and comedy, with a special guest appearance by loveable sidekick, ChaChing the Amazing Bunny.

In a unique twist on the space theme, the West Osceola Library hosted an Out of This World Glow Party for 75 lucky guests as part of their Summer Reading wrap up. Those (and family) who completed at least one reading log received entrance to this exclusive “invitation only” party.

For the icing on the cake, or more appropriately, the whipped cream on the sundae, kids at the Buenaventura Lakes, Hart Memorial, and Poinciana Libraries who turned in at least one completed reading log received a ticket to another exclusive party – the Ice Cream Social. Participants made their own sweet treat while celebrating their reading accomplishments and an end to another great summer of fun and knowledge.

### **Back to School Bashes**

School sneaks up on you fast! We were just wrapping up summer and then it was already time for book bags and school supplies. Luckily, through the generous donation and coordination of County Commissioners, we were ready. Hart Memorial Library hosted the annual Back to School Bash with Commissioner Cheryl Grieb who donated 150 backpacks and supplies. This was followed by an out-of-this-world storytime with Astronaut Cheryl who read *Frog in Space* by Tedd Arnold and gave away plush frogs to delighted kids. 450 kids and grownups joined in the fun.

At the Buenaventura Lakes Library, 1000 book bags were distributed by Commissioner Viviana Janer and a wonderful team of County folks. Commissioner Janer partnered with Sheriff Russ Gibson, The Nater Foundation, and others to get kids ready for school from head to toe! Attendees had the opportunity to get a free haircut, pick up school supplies, receive a discount on a student physical, and grab a t-shirt. 1,416 kids and grownups got ready for the first day of school with Commissioner Janer and the Buenaventura Lakes Library team.

## Starry, Starry Night Paint Night

The stars were out in a full show of talent and imagination during St. Cloud Library's after hours Starry, Starry Night paint program. The Library closed as normal on July 26 and then reopened as a adults gathered together with local artist Julianna Davidson to learn the secrets of Van Gogh's famous Starry Night masterpiece and how to put their own creative spin on it. With refreshments provided by the St. Cloud Friends of the Library, 57 budding artists enjoyed a magical and unique evening. Many attendees brought their little ones for fun under the stars as kids created their very own cars out of cardboard and attended a Drive-In Movie Night while their grownups painted. 23 kids enjoyed popcorn and a flick. Kudos to the staff at the St. Cloud Library for exhibiting such organizational and artistic talents and creating an occasion for cultural enrichment that is usually reserved for those who can afford this type of experience. Programming is another venue for the Library to bridge divides created by economics and lack of opportunity or access.

## Gallery



**ABOVE: Behinana visited the Hart Memorial and St. Cloud Libraries, transforming teens and families into sushi chefs with Kabuki Sushi. (Photo taken at the St. Cloud Library.)**





**ABOVE-LEFT:** Children had the opportunity to pet Cha-Ching the amazing bunny, after each Magic and Mayhem performance. (Photo taken at Hart Memorial Library.) **Glow Parties wrapped up the summer at the St. Cloud (ABOVE-RIGHT) and West Osceola Libraries.** Teens and families used glow sticks in the dark and shined as their own galaxies.





Families received free book bags and school supplies at our Back to School Bashes at the Hart Memorial (ABOVE) and Buenaventura Lakes Libraries (BELOW). Commissioner Cheryl Grieb presented a special storytime as Astronaut Cheryl after her giveaway (ABOVE). Commissioner Viviana Janer partnered with other organizations in the community to distribute book bags, supplies, as well as provide haircuts (BELOW).





**ABOVE:** The St. Cloud Library held a **Starry, Starry Paint Night** where adults created their own versions of Van Gogh's famous **Starry Night** painting with the help of local artist Julianna Davidson.

## August 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	25,501	31,618	14,631	10,410	18,461	308
Visitors	25,264	14,172	14,133	8,466	14,615	116
Computer Sessions	6,480	2,705	3,817	2,940	1,765	32
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,526	n/a	1,475	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 61 Attendance: 829	Events: 53 Attendance: 1,641	Events: 46 Attendance: 846	Events: 43 Attendance: 942	Events: 35 Attendance: 763	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### System stats at a glance

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 13,063, a 15% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 76,766
- The Library held 238 events attended by 5,021 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 17,739
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville, BVL and Poinciana Libraries totaled 114,506
- 1,243 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 117 registered for eCards
- 10,773 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 19,655 resulting in 20% of print circulation
- Total circulation for August was 113,992, a 3% increase over 2018

### Highlights

#### cloudLibrary Launch

On August 21, the Library launched a new service for eBooks and eAudio, cloudLibrary from bibliotheca. This new service offers a twist on the typical digital platform with cloudLink, a virtual lending link between all Florida libraries subscribing to cloudLibrary. If we don't have a particular title, and one of our linked libraries in the Florida consortium has it available, our patrons can check out this title and we will receive the boost to our

statistics without having to expend the extra collection funds. This is also a boon for our older or back-catalog titles as they will also be available to other Florida libraries for checkout. We will be winding down with Overdrive at the end of this year and transferring content to cloudLibrary in addition to buying new content for cloudLibrary and having the titles appear in our Polaris catalog. cloudLibrary has a very convenient to use app that makes searching and checking out a breeze, plus an option to create a virtual library card within the app that can be used for checking out at any library.

### **Wild About Reading Outreach**

The staff at the St. Cloud Library arranged an amazing outreach at Wild Florida, an Osceola-based adventure park featuring airboat rides, animal encounters, and, of course, alligators! On August 3, Wild Florida provided free park entrance to anyone presenting their Osceola Library card. Staff from the St. Cloud Library was on hand to promote Library services and resources with raffle baskets, puppet shows, giveaways based on the *Nocturnal* book series, and more. The St. Cloud Friends of the Library were also there to raffle off book bags filled with supplies, and sponsored a magician and face painter for families. Over 300 people enjoyed the festivities.

### **International Festival**

The Buenaventura Lakes Library hosted a very successful branch-wide program with its International Festival on Saturday, August 3. The branch transformed into a *Mercado* of crafts and food from all over the world. Staff adopted a country, many based on their own cultural heritage, and decked out poster boards with history, photos, and language lessons. They also featured local delicacies and fun crafts, including a sporran pouch for Scotland, cannoli and Murano glass for Italy, *tembleque* pudding and paper *coqui* for Puerto Rico, and beaded bracelets and rice for Jamaica. The space was filled with music and dance from local artists demonstrating the Hula, Colombian Cumbia, Belly Dance, and traditional Haitian music. Teen Ambassadors and the Friends of the Library were also celebrating cultures of the world. The event was sponsored in part by the Kissimmee Utility Authority and the Buenaventura Lakes Friends of the Library. This was a very successful program that connected with the Buenaventura community with attendance reaching 340 people and was also a great team effort by the staff at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.

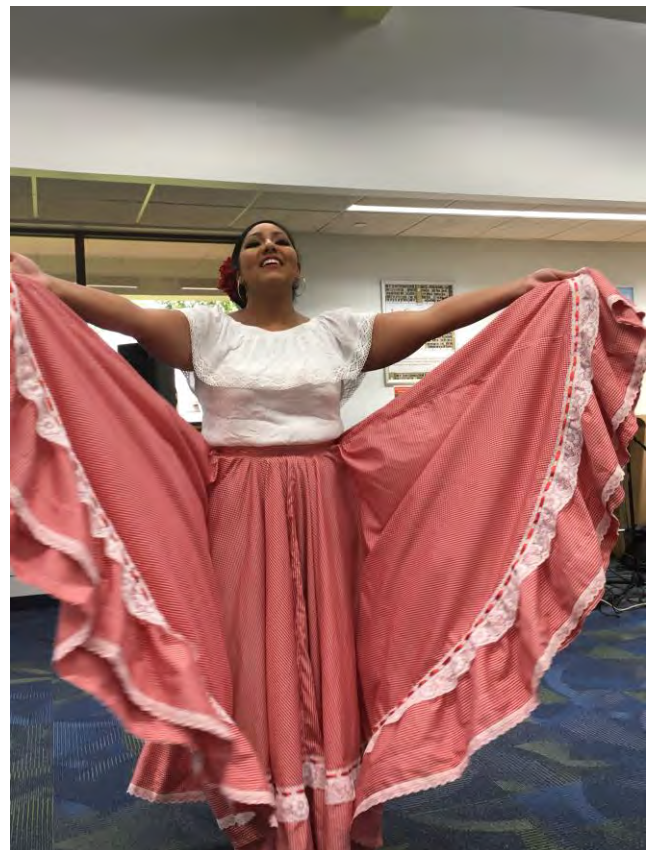
### **Career Online High School Update**

Last year, the Osceola Library System was selected by the State Library of Florida to participate in the Career Online High School program. The Library received a total of 25 scholarships to provide to Library card holders, who met very stringent requirements, a chance to participate in the no-cost-to-them program which awards full high school diplomas through virtual classes and mentorships in addition to career training. Of those 25 scholarships, we currently have 20 active students who are working toward their high school diplomas and five of those are almost finished! Some of the students who were awarded scholarships had completed most of the credits needed for graduation, but life interrupted, as it has a way of doing, and they were able to transfer those credits to the Career Online High School. Now they are well on their way to securing a diploma and starting a new chapter of their lives. In fact, our "most senior" student is 59 years old. We will have more stories to share with you about this fantastic program that represents a new and exciting area of Library service, and that will hopefully find a way to continue even though it has been struck from next year's State of Florida budget.

## Gallery



**ABOVE: Wild About Reading Outreach.** Teen Ambassadors performed a puppet show (LEFT). Winner of the book bag giveaway (RIGHT).



**ABOVE: International Festival at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.** Traditional dress and dancing livened up the Library.

**BELOW: International Festival at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.** Countries from around the world are showcased.



## September 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	24,782	29,991	14,303	11,503	18,633	259
Visitors	22,146	13,700	13,155	8,060	12,531	95
Computer Sessions	5,618	2,503	3,514	2,756	1,625	31
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,182	n/a	1,547	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 68 Attendance: 968	Events: 60 Attendance: 2,476	Events: 51 Attendance: 931	Events: 43 Attendance: 633	Events: 33 Attendance: 767	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### System stats at a glance

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 12,351, an 11% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 69,687
- The Library held 255 events attended by 5,775 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 16,047
- Wi-Fi sessions totaled 118,843 sessions
- 1,107 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 107 registered for eCards
- 10,515 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 16,599 resulting in 17% of print circulation
- Total circulation for September was 111,822, a 2% increase over 2018

### Highlights

#### Harry Potter Month

September was the Month of Magic as the St. Cloud Library boarded the Hogwarts Express to fun, festivities, crafting, and quizzes with a series of highly successful and interactive multigenerational programs that delighted wizards and muggles alike.

The Potions and Puzzles Escape Room asked players to “brew the perfect potion in time to escape the dungeon classroom.” The St. Cloud staff transformed a meeting room with electric candles and bottles of potions so



realistically you could almost hear Snape shouting, "Potter!" The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey brought special species of owls to the "Wings of Wizardry" evening program. Those who dared played the games of "Are You Smarter than a Potterhead?" and "Potterverse Would You Rather." And mixed with the fun was a bit of Potter-inspired learning with Book Art which transforms old books into new treasures, and UCF professor Tison Hugh's use of Harry Potter to inspire a love of reading.

Two after hour events showcased that the Library is a place for engaging programming and that we will go the extra mile to create exciting and destination-level events for the whole family. The Yule Ball recreated this seminal event in the Harry Potter story, and guests could dance the night away and take home a keepsake photo. The Sorcerers at Sunset celebration brought wizards and muggles of all ages to the Library. There they saw Dobby sitting high above the doors guarding his socks, made their own owl or snitch, were sorted into their Houses by the Sorting Hat, practiced the care of magical creatures with Amazing Animals Inc., served detention in Professor Umbridge's office, and so much more.

The month was speckled with many programs for old and new Harry Potter fans alike, and in total, over 1,200 attended the Potter-themed events.

### **Hurricane Dorian**

The Library was closed several days at the start of the month due to Central Florida finding itself in the path of Hurricane Dorian, which was predicted to arrive as a Hurricane 4 or 5 at the time of landfall. While the area and the Libraries fortunately suffered no lasting damage, Library staff had a huge impact on Osceola County Emergency Management ability to inform citizens of critical survival information, such as the location of sandbags and the opening of shelters. The Library provides staffing and support to the Citizens Information Center (CIC), which was established by Osceola County to be the lifeline to current information for citizens seeking assistance during an emergency. Our staff was activated ahead of Hurricane Dorian and remained activated until it was determined that Dorian no longer presented a danger to the area, with staff contributing nearly 150 hours of service to the CIC, spanning over weekend, night, and holiday hours. In addition to the CIC, Library staff also serves in specialized roles in the operation of the Emergency Management during storms and other big events. All Library staff serving in Emergency roles commits to regular training and serving Osceola citizens in their time of need and we are grateful for their service.

### **PrimeTime at Cameron Preserve**

We have been fortunate to receive funding from the Florida Humanities Council to continue the successful family reading program, PrimeTime. In September, the program kicked off a 6 week run at an outreach location, Cameron Preserve – a newly built affordable housing apartment complex with 100 units geared toward families with insufficient income to obtain appropriate housing in Osceola's booming real estate market. With about 2,000 children living on the edge of homelessness in area motels, Cameron Preserve represents a bright spark of hope for many struggling families.

The PrimeTime program aims to bring these families together to bond over reading, food, fellowship, and sharing in lively discussions. Topics have included sustainability and government, and shared books have included *Duck for President* and *The Lorax*. Local restaurants donate food, community groups provide "commercials" on available services, and there is an opportunity to receive prizes at the program's end. Additionally, a courtesy collection of youth-centered materials has been placed at Cameron Preserve to spur a love of reading outside of regular programming.

## Gallery



**St. Cloud Library's Month of Magic** was a great display of how Library staff can transform the Library and make events/programs immersive. **LEFT:** The St. Cloud Library was transformed into Hogwarts with banners, proclamations, and more. **BELOW:** The Potions and Puzzles Escape Room looked straight out of the *Harry Potter* films.





**St. Cloud Library's Sorcerers at Sunset**

**celebration** invited families to experience all things Harry Potter with House sorting, "magical" creatures, crafts, an escape room, a scavenger hunt, photo-op areas, games, and more.

**ABOVE:** A child escapes from Aragog the spider in the Forbidden Forest during Sorcerers at Sunset's Scavenger Hunt.

**LEFT:** **Amazing Animals Inc.** presented a Care of Magical Creatures class. "Students" received an up-close look at amazing animals, including pythons (much to the delight of all attending Slytherins).



**PrimeTime Family Reading Time at Cameron Preserve** sparked discussions between families as they bonded over reading and fellowship.

**(ABOVE)** Ms. Lisa and Ms. Crystal read stories to families as they enjoyed meals generously provided by local restaurants **(LEFT)**.

## October 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	26,444	31,473	15,885	11,313	18,749	295
Visitors	25,999	15,006	16,416	9,742	15,904	105
Computer Sessions	62,551	28,823	38,275	18,005	24,896	1,945
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,394	n/a	1,545	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 87 Attendance: 1,688	Events: 85 Attendance: 1,581	Events: 54 Attendance: 1,200	Events: 71 Attendance: 4,588	Events: 44 Attendance: 1,322	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### System stats at a glance

- Virtual Circulation for the month was 12,605, an 8% increase over 2019
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 83,172
- The Library held 341 events attended by 10,379 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 17,802
- Wi-Fi sessions totaled 156,693 sessions
- 1,233 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 142 registered for eCards
- 10,278 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,340 resulting in 17% of print circulation
- Total circulation for October was 116,704 check outs

### Highlights

#### An Evening with Bob Gurr

The West Osceola Library was doused in pixie dust magic when legendary Disney Imagineer Bob Gurr thrilled audiences with tales of his time working alongside Walt Disney on some of the most iconic rides and shows the fabled parks have to offer. This was a once-in-a-lifetime, only-in-Celebration opportunity to hear Gurr speak about the more than 100 designs he created for Disneyland and Disney World, including the Monorail cars,

Haunted Mansion Doom Buggies, Autopia, and the Matterhorn Bobsleds. Over 300 people nestled into the West Osceola Library as Gurr took turns moving about the crowd to give all attendees a chance to be included in the discussion, and stayed to take photos with his fans, truly living up to his legendary status.

### **Bard in the Library**

"Pleasure and action make the hours seem short." While Othello himself may not have been present, the spirit of Shakespeare was felt mightily at the Hart Memorial Library during the Bard in the Library Shakespeare Festival. Activities and events abounded, and special guests brought to life Elizabethan England in Downtown Kissimmee. Guests attempted to free Fairy Queen Titania in a Midsummer Night Escape Room, local award-winning theater group Orlando Shakes' costume designer regaled how to replicate the fanciful and fantastic costumes used in their productions, and the Society for Creative Anachronism presented a sword fighting primer. A live staging of the children's book *Romeosaurus and Juliet Rex* delivered laughs while staff-led activity stations challenged guests to make neck ruffles from book pages, complete a scavenger hunt, slurp Shakespeare-inspired potions, and more. ("Double, Double Toil and Trouble" featured Sprite, grenadine, and purple food coloring to evoke Macbeth's witches.) Photo opportunities with images from Shakespearean times and works created by Teen Ambassadors decorated the rooms. This was a unique and dazzlingly creative example of inspired Library programming, featuring attention to detail, historical authenticity, hands-on education, and plain ol' fun, plus the benefit of community partnerships. 275 people attended this multigenerational program.

### **Hispanic Heritage Music and Art Festival**

Buenaventura Lakes Library patrons enjoyed an afternoon of arts and culture as guests were graced with dance and song performances, poetry readings, and live art creation in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Members of Tertulia's Cuatro Gatos and Cuatro Gatos para Niños delighted audiences with lively performances. Entertainment included traditional Mexican songs performed by Ameyal Mexicano Cantos en Lengua Nativa; singing by local performers Marianay Lantigua, Betty Penchano, and Areliz Perez; a poetry reading by Maribel Hernandez; and dance performances by Mariana Valerlio and Aroddiz Machado that featured Bomba y Plena, distinctive Puerto Rican music styles derived from African, Spanish and Taino cultures. Local artisans such as Jennicel Bolanos, Grace Senior Morandi, and Virginia Zambra displayed their colorful and engaging artwork throughout the Library. Bolanos even painted portraits during the event! From Peru and Venezuela to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, through local talent the many intriguing and beautiful dimensions of our local Hispanic Heritage were on stunning display through this deftly organized and artfully produced program by BVL Library staff.

### **Other Noteworthy Happenings in October:**

Annual Volunteer Fair – *Hart Memorial*

Mitchell Osborne – Past Life Regression and Basics of Tarot 101 – *St. Cloud*

Senior Expo – *Hart Memorial*

Where the Wild Things Are Costume Bash – Multiple Libraries

Crafter's Fair – *Poinciana*

## Gallery



**Legendary Disney Imagineer Bob Gurr (TOP LEFT) visited the West Osceola Library.**

**TOP RIGHT:** With over 300 attendees split into two rooms, Bob Gurr took turns with each group, sharing his stories and experiences – allowing everyone a chance to participate and ask questions.

**LEFT:** After the presentation, Gurr met with fans and signed memorabilia making the already legendary event magical.



**Hart Memorial Library's Bard in the Library Shakespeare Festival brought the Elizabethan Era to nearly 300 knights and nobles.**

**ABOVE LEFT:** Royalty from **The Lady of the Lakes Renaissance Faire** who donated a 4-pack of tickets as our Scavenger Hunt prize. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Nobles and gentlefolk alike made their own neck ruffles.

**BELOW:** Teams tried to save Fairy Queen Titania in our Midsummer Night Escape Room.







Special presentations brought the world of Shakespeare alive to our modern-day audience.

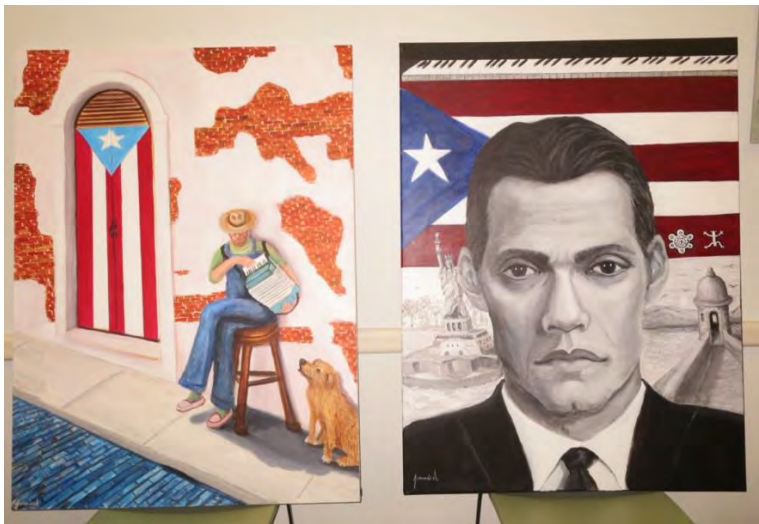
**LEFT: The Society for Creative Anachronism Kingdom of Trimaris** held a sword fighting demonstration as our epic finale.

**BELOW: Orlando Shakes' costume designer** explained how clothes dictated status and how these garments are recreated today.





**The Buenaventura Lakes Library celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month with a Music and Art Festival.** **ABOVE:** Included in the festivities were live dance and music performances. **BELOW:** Artwork from local Hispanic artists were displayed throughout the event. **RIGHT:** Local artist Jennicel Bolanos worked on her portraits on-site.



## November 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	23,988	26,583	13,898	9,172	16,170	262
Visitors	21,838	12,994	13,695	7,211	14,825	117
Computer Sessions	48,202	25,610	32,785	17,602	19,559	2,155
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,302	n/a	1,061	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 68 Attendance: 980	Events: 60 Attendance: 1,896	Events: 53 Attendance: 849	Events: 56 Attendance: 669	Events: 35 Attendance: 720	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include virtual circulation

### System stats at a glance

- Virtual Circulation for the month was 13,233 downloads or sessions
- Visitors to the Libraries in November totaled 70,680
- The Library held 272 events attended by 5,114 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 13,651
- Wi-Fi sessions totaled sessions 132,262
- 796 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 93 registered for eCards
- 8,274 holds were placed on Library materials
- 16,878 items were checked out using the self-check stations, resulting in 19% of print circulation
- Total circulation for November was 103,246

### Highlights

#### Reading is Groovy

Using the Beanstack reading log app, we joined the nationwide early literacy program 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, which encourages families to read to their little ones in preparation for entering elementary school. To launch the new initiative, patrons were invited to a special “Ready Is Groovy” storytime, and treated to a visit from Pete the Cat as they enjoyed reading their first books together. 266 kids and grownups

participated across 5 branches. Progress toward the 1000 book goal will be tracked within Beanstack, but to give patrons a visual incentive to read, each branch received a banner with a reading tree where they can add their handprints as leaves to show how they are growing with reading.

### **Elsa's Reunion – A Frozen Escape Room**

Capitalizing on the Frozen 2 movie release, the Hart Memorial Library created a wintery wonderland where participants must solve clues to help Elsa unfreeze Anna from a Snow Witch's curse before it's too late! Like sneaking veggies into your kids' dinner, Library staff mixed great entertainment with intellectual and scientific challenges -- melt an ice heart to find a clue, perform a science experiment using instant snow, and using a tablet to open an enchanted jewelry box made from a LEGO® WeDo robotics kit. 89 people in total worked to save Anna!

### **Florida Author Fest**

Local authors gathered together at the St. Cloud Library to showcase their accomplishments and meet and engage patrons in discussions on how to become a published author and how to stay creative and inspired. Tables were set up across the Library so patrons could move between authors. Genres included history, children's stories, romance, science fiction, self-help, and mystery, with titles in both English and Spanish. Authors were able to both sell and sign their works. As patrons visited authors' tables, they completed a card that was then turned into a raffle for a gift basket. Budding authors crafted their own mini-books as well. This event was generously sponsored by the St. Cloud Friends of the Library and attended by over 400 people.

### **Art in Public Places**

Art in Public Places is an enduring partnership with Osceola Arts. This program showcases original artwork by Florida artists, providing artistic and cultural displays to engage the community and enrich the Library experience beyond traditional programming. From sculpture to oil paintings to photography and everything in between, there's enchanting and inspirational creations at your local Library waiting to be discovered!

Blanca Rosada – Buenaventura Lakes Library (through 1/2/2020)

Carolyn Davis – St. Cloud Library (through 12/31/2019)

Mike Valentine – Hart Memorial Library (through 12/31/2019)

Gisela Romero – West Osceola Library (concluded 11/30/2019, Heather Nagy currently on display)

## Gallery

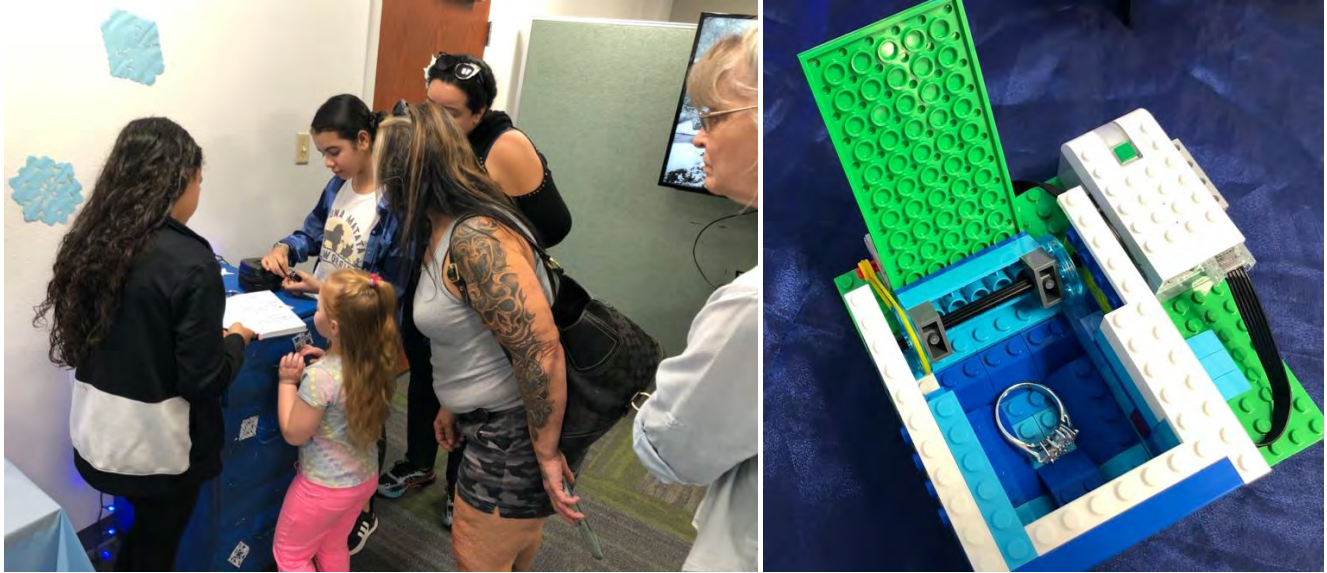


**We launched the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Initiative with a special storytime featuring Pete the Cat.**

**LEFT:** Kiddos were ecstatic to meet one of their favorite book characters. *(Photo taken at the Poinciana Library.)*

**BELOW:** Families danced along to the Cool Cat Boogie. *(Photo taken at Hart Memorial Library.)*





The Frozen Escape Room at Hart Memorial Library challenged families to solve clues with experiments and technology (ABOVE LEFT). The finale to solving the room involved opening a LEGO® WeDo box with a tablet to reveal the Evil Snow Witch's ring to save Anna (ABOVE RIGHT). If a team successfully saved Anna, they were able to take a victory photo with Queen Elsa and Princess Anna to celebrate (BELOW).





**The St. Cloud Library's Florida Author Fest featured over 30 local and bestselling authors.**

**LEFT** – Patrons were able to move through the rows of authors and explore different genres and ask questions on a one-on-one basis.

**BELOW** – All authors had some of their works available for purchase and even signed copies for established and new fans alike.





## December 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	22,805	25,377	12,935	8,574	15,862	256
Visitors	20,442	12,187	11,069	6,612	11,438	88
Computer Sessions	50,880	21,333	30,938	15,005	19,358	1,905
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	816	n/a	1,165	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 53 Attendance: 629	Events: 65 Attendance: 1,099	Events: 41 Attendance: 662	Events: 48 Attendance: 485	Events: 33 Attendance: 550	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

**\*Does not include virtual circulation**

### System stats at a glance

- Virtual Circulation was 14,519 downloads or sessions, an increase of over 20% from last December
- Visitors to the Libraries in December totaled 61,836
- The Library held 240 events attended by 3,425 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 13,411
- Wi-Fi sessions totaled 126,008 sessions, a 73% increase from December 2018
- 740 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 112 registered for eCards, a 12% increase in total Library cards given over December 2018
- 7,889 holds were placed on Library materials
- Total circulation for December was 100,268

### Highlights

#### C<sup>3</sup> Cubing Club in Celebration

As part of the continuing drive to mix fun with STEAM education, the West Osceola Library started C<sup>3</sup> (Cubing

Club in Celebration) and it has been steadily growing in popularity since its debut in August. Club meetings occur after school each Thursday where as many as 50 participants at a time work together to get a fun brain workout while learning how to solve the master of puzzles, the Rubik's Cube. Led by a local Rubik's Cube master (he can complete it in under 18 seconds!), participants start by exploring the cube and getting basic lessons on techniques for solving the Cube, moving up to head-to-head Cube competitions when their skill level grows. Through these Cube exercises, participants can learn spatial reasoning, planning and strategy, confidence, and managing frustration, all in a friendly and supportive environment for all ages.

### **Santa's Ornament Workshop**

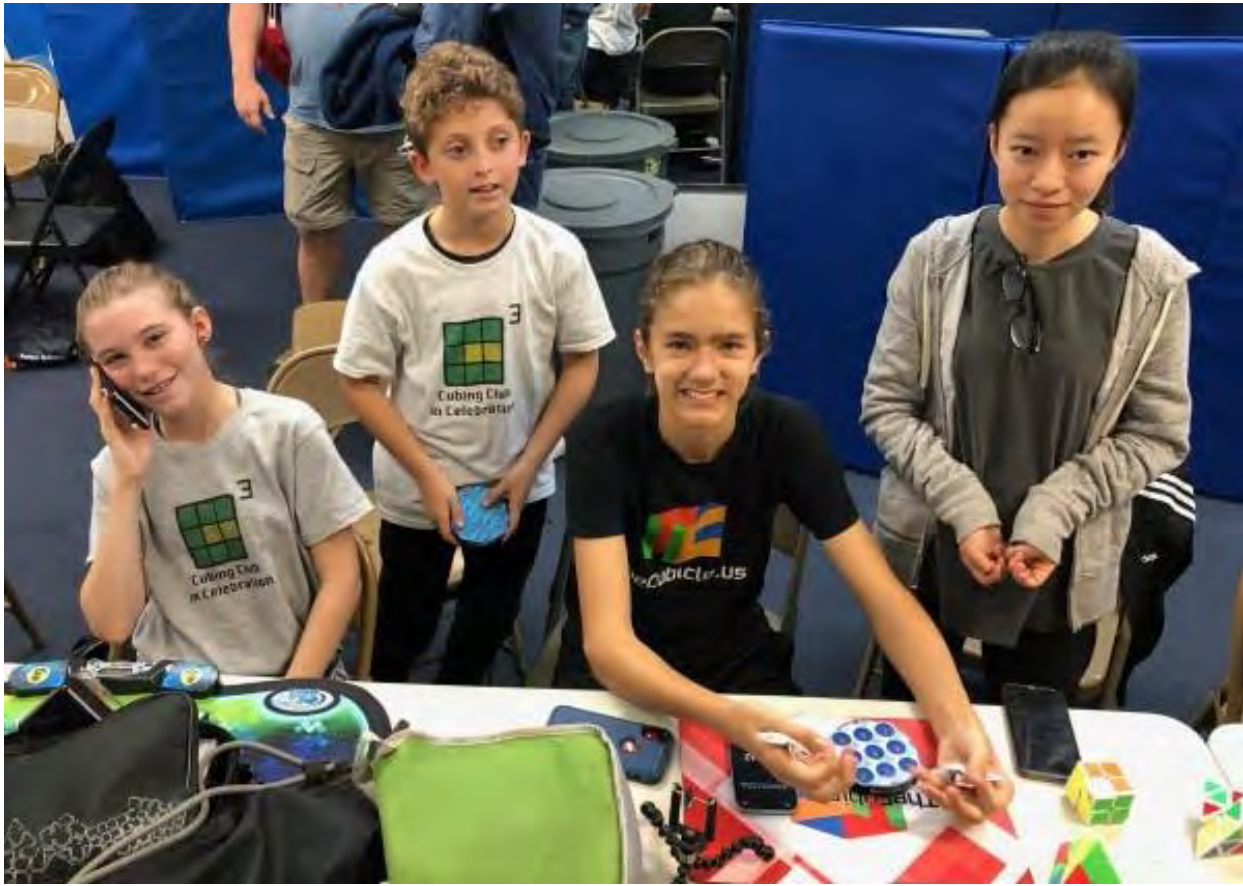
Even though December is his busy month, Santa took a break from working with his elves to fly in on his sleigh and enjoy a special storytime at each of the Osceola Library System branches. Everyone enjoyed cookies and holiday-themed craft stations like Snowman Caps or unique creations out of paper and string and other supplies. And Mrs. Claus even packed Santa appropriate clothes for our Florida weather – shorts and a Hawaiian shirt, of course! Nearly 450 people attended our holiday festivals. These programs are mainstays of Library programming and the community looks to their local libraries as positive sources of enrichment and fellowship during the holiday season.

Other holiday events included the gift of "A Guitar for Christmas" from Jane Rosenbohm, Guitar Extraordinaire®, at Hart Memorial Library, a delicious Christmas Cookie Recipe Exchange at the St. Cloud Library, and an insightful Winter Around the World program at the West Osceola Library.

### **More eContent Free with Your Library Card**

In addition to moving to CloudLibrary from Overdrive, we've made other significant updates to our eContent available to patrons for free with their Library card. *AtoZdatabases* is a powerful business database that provides all levels of useful data for job seekers, small business owners, market researchers, and more. *AtoZdatabases* was frequently requested to be added to our online resources, and with good reason. With resume and cover letter templates, interviewing tips, and company information, it's a job-seeker's best kept secret to land the perfect position. And savvy entrepreneurs can gather data on their competitors, create marketing strategies with household data, and understand the latest trends in buying and lifestyle interests. We also added free access to the *Washington Post*, a national newspaper of record that is consistently on the forefront of investigative journalism. With convenient links for in-house or at home use, and access to extra content such as puzzles and recipes, the *Washington Post* is another great reason to cherish your Osceola Library card.

## Gallery

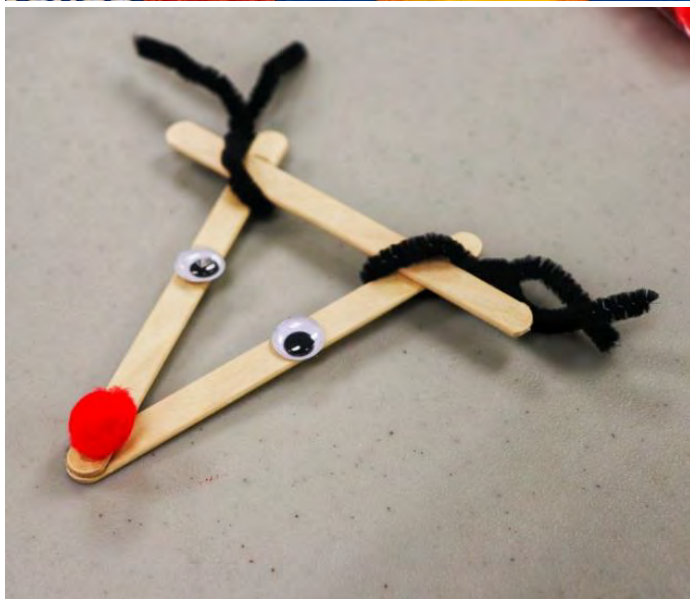


The West Osceola Library's C<sup>3</sup> Cubing Club challenges its members to solve the world's best-selling puzzle: The Rubik's Cube.

Taught by a Rubik's Cube Master (LEFT), members hone their skills and learn techniques to solving the cubes. Those who reach a certain level with their skills are able to represent the Club in competitions (ABOVE) against other Rubik's cube enthusiasts.



**Santa Claus took time off his busy schedule to visit our Libraries (ABOVE).**  
*Photo taken at Hart Memorial Library.*



Dressed in his Florida-best, Santa brought cookies, stories, and joy to the children on his Nice List before they all made ornaments to take home. Sticks and twine became Rudolphs (**LEFT**), green pom poms made Grinch Heart ornaments, and paper and scissors made memorable Santa beards and other photo-op props. *Photo taken at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.*

The one and only Jane Rosenbohm, Guitar Extraordinaire®, visited Hart Memorial Library and performed both classic Christmas songs as well as timeless songs from classic bands.

**RIGHT:** Jane spoke on her life experiences, from how she learned guitar to her teaching years to the incredible people she's met. Her stories captivated the audience just as much as her soulful playing.

**BELOW:** Jane generously raffled off a soprano ukulele to one lucky winner at the conclusion of the program, allowing this attendee to take the gift of music home for the holidays.



**AtoZ** **FREE:**

- Business Profiles
- People Look-up
- Mailing Lists & Sales Leads
- Job Search, Résumé & Cover Letter Templates
- Background & Criminal Search

• databases •



Find our new databases,  
**AtoZdatabases** and **The Washington Post** on our  
website:  
[osceolalibrary.org/databases](https://osceolalibrary.org/databases)