

Words

IT'S TIME TO GET
**MONEY
\$SMART**
AT YOUR LIBRARY!

FOREST
ANCE

DUNNELLON

FORT MCGOY
FREEDOM
MARION OAKS
REDDICK

HQ-OCALA

BELLEVIEW



ALSO THIS ISSUE: Profile •

Money Smart Week
April 22-29

Calendar • Book Review



words

Marion County Public Library's
Quarterly Newsmagazine

Volume 9 | Issue 1 | Spring 2017

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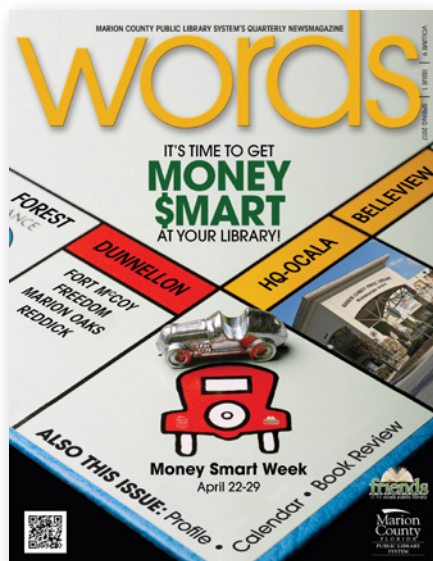
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Lynda Spence

Photos: Pat Lakin

on the cover:

With the vast resources that you can find
at your public library, it's easy to be money
smart.



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FIND THE LIBRARY ON
FACEBOOK & TWITTER!



a word FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Julie Sieg
Director, Marion County
Public Library System



Save money at your library

I met an interesting young man recently at, of all places, the Verizon store. Noticing his library card on his key ring, I commented on it. I learned that the public library had been a “life saver” to him as he raised his family as a single dad looking for work. Both he and his children used the library in very different ways. While his children were enjoying and learning from story times and other library programs, dad was able to use the public library computers to look for jobs and fill out online job applications. He said, “I don’t know what we would have done without the public library!” Today, he and his family remain regular library users.

As we celebrate both National Library Week (April 9-15) and National Money Smart Week (April 22-19), and after talking with this young dad, I am reminded how using the public library makes smart sense (cents). Maybe you are already successfully employed or maybe even retired. The public library can help you save money in a myriad of ways. Need to repair your car or fix a hot water heater? Learn how at the library. Can’t afford internet access or your own home computer? Use the public library computers or the library wi-fi. Why buy the newest best seller, e-book, current magazine or audio book when you can check it out for free at your public library? If you are considering opening your own small business, research the best location using our Demographics Now database or read what other successful business-minded individuals have to say about making a business plan or the importance of hiring the right staff. Attend free library programs rather than shopping or going to the movies.

The ways that an individual can save money using their public library are as numerous and diverse as the individuals themselves. Become money smart. Use your public library.

Julie Sieg

MONEY SMART:

Even more reason to value your library

by Kim Sawyer

Whether you are opening your first savings account or are already an investment mogul, your public library has a wealth of information to help you stay money savvy. During the week of April 22, the Marion County Public Library System will participate in Money Smart Week, a nationwide initiative to improve consumer's financial literacy. Financial literacy is important because it ensures that a person has both the knowledge and the skills to manage their money wisely. Although a 2015 National Financial Capability study found that only 30 percent of Floridians are actually financially literate, your public library can provide the resources and information to help you replenish your money smart toolbox.

The public library contains resources to develop financial literacy at every stage of life. Parents with children of all ages can browse for books that emphasize how to become money smart, such as *Smart Money Smart Kids: Raising the Next Generation to Win with Money* by Dave Ramsey. Acquaint young children with financial basics by checking out the children's DVD series, *Biz Kid\$*. From the producers of Bill Nye, *Biz Kid\$* is a fast paced video designed to make kids laugh while they learn. Teens can plan for their futures by browsing through books on scholarships, grants, and college financing. The *Occupational Outlook Hand-*



book is an important guide that helps young adults make informed decisions about career choices, including estimated salaries and projections on job growth for the future.

Learning Express Library, a learning database featured on the library website, provides free preparation for GED, college entrance, and occupational exams. Library cardholders can access practice tests, flashcards, and e-books. For those seeking employment or looking to transition to a new job, CareerSource offers a mobile resource unit that makes stops at many public library locations where job seekers receive help with resume writing, job interviews, and more. Call 352-671-8551 for CareerSource mobile resource unit library times and locations.

Want to go green and save money? Growing your own food can be healthier for both your wallet and the environment. UF/IFAS certified Master Gardeners can offer you knowledge and advice on designing and planting a garden at scheduled public library programs. For more ecofriendly and economical ideas on lowering your expenses and environmental impact, look for books on self-sufficiency, alternative energy, and sustainable living. If you're feeling crafty, search the "upcycle" on the library's Hobbies and Crafts Reference database to find a multitude of thrifty and recycled do-it-yourself projects.



Your public library saves you money by offering resource and programs for all ages and areas of interest. Stop by any location and check out magazines, DVDs, music CDs, and even children’s learning kits. Enjoy one of the many library programs. From story time to manga clubs and even knitting groups, library programs cater to a wide variety of interests and ages. Or relax at home and access e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, and our many databases from your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Glance through our **WORDS** newsmagazine and see how the library can provide you and your family with hours of **free** entertainment and information.

Curious to see just how much savings your public library usage provides? Take a look at the table below to better understand the value of the public library services you use.

LIBRARY SERVICE	TOTAL USAGE	ESTIMATED VALUE OF SERVICE	TOTAL SAVINGS
Hardcover Books Borrowed	461,357	\$27.00	\$12,456,639
Paper Back Books Borrowed	49,023	\$16.00	\$784,368
Children’s Books Borrowed	316,972	\$18.00	\$5,705,496
Audiobooks Borrowed	62,163	\$25.00	\$1,554,075
Interlibrary Loan Requests	1,099	\$30.00	\$32,970
eBooks/Audiobooks Downloaded	49,424	\$8.00	\$395,392
Magazines Borrowed	14,599	\$5.00	\$72,995
CDs Borrowed	4,740	\$10.00	\$47,163
Movies	74,605	\$4.50	\$335,722
Meeting Room Use (per hour)	6,089	\$25.00	\$152,225
Adult Programs Attended	14,293	\$15.00	\$214,395
Young Adult Programs Attended	6,661	\$12.00	\$2,544,216
Children’s Programs Attended	46,488	\$7.00	\$325,416
Computer Use	212,018	\$12.00	\$2,544,216
Database Searches	227,946	\$19.95	\$6,366,424
Reference Assistance	874,474	\$15.00	\$14,617,110
Total Savings			\$45,684,539

START SMALL. THINK BIG

by Lynda Spence, M.S.

- 1. SAVE YOUR LOOSE CHANGE.** Putting aside 50 cents a day over the course of a year helps you establish an emergency fund.
- 2. TRACK YOUR SPENDING.** Beginning on the first day of a new month, get a receipt for everything you purchase. Stack and review receipts at the end of the month, and you will clearly be able to see where your money is going.
- 3. NEVER PURCHASE** expensive items on impulse. Think over each expensive purchase for at least 24 hours.
- 4. ONE WAY TO ESTABLISH** a savings discipline is to “save” an amount equal to whatever is spent on nonessential indulgences. If you can’t afford to save the matching amount, you can’t afford the “splurge.”
- 5. TAKE THE AMOUNT** the item costs and divide it into your hourly wage. If it’s a \$50 pair of shoes and you make \$10 an hour, ask yourself, are those shoes really worth five long hours of work? It helps keep things in perspective.
- 6. AIM FOR SHORT-TERM SAVINGS GOALS,** such as setting aside \$20 a week or month, rather than long term savings goals, such as \$200 over a year. People save more successfully when they keep the short-term goal in sight.
- 7. DON'T PAY** for space you don't need. Think about more efficiently using space so you can purchase or rent less square footage.
- 8. ASSESS** your communications costs. As Internet and wireless use grows, many consumers are overpaying for unneeded communications capacity.
- 9. RESEARCH** free or inexpensive entertainment in your community. Use local newspapers and websites to learn about free or low-cost parks, museums, film showings, sports events, and other places which you and your family would enjoy.
- 10. CONSIDER DROPPING** credit insurance coverage on installment loans. Many consumers don't need credit insurance because they have sufficient assets to protect themselves in the event of death, disability, or unemployment. Terminating this coverage often reduces financing costs by three percentage points, a savings of about \$1,000 on a four-year \$20,000 installment loan.

PRACTICAL COUPONING TIPS FOR THE SMART SHOPPER

by Domina Daughtrey

According to the receipts I've been collecting for the past few months, I spend way too much money on groceries. Way. Too. Much. I have known this for a long time, but seeing it on paper made it an unpleasant reality. So, this year, in addition to remembering to take my twice-daily dose of calcium, my goal is to reduce the amount of money I spend on groceries by \$35 each week. This reduction adds up—in one year, a savings of \$1,680. Not too shabby.

After a bit of research at the library in the subject areas of personal finance, coupons, food prices and grocery shopping, I came up with a simple plan.

GO TO THE GROCERY STORE ONCE A WEEK unless absolutely necessary. Making frequent, unplanned stops to the grocery store is a surefire way to overspend. I can certainly vouch for this. How many times I've stopped at the store on my way home from work to pick up a loaf of bread and left with a cart full of groceries that I really didn't need.

CHECK THE WEEKLY FLYERS and plan meals according to what's on sale. This may take an hour or so each week, but in the end is a timesaver during the hectic work week and a money saver at the grocery store.

MAKE A LIST. Remember to have the list when going to the store. Commit to purchasing only what's on the list. Grocery lists help shoppers stay focused, organized and efficient—which reduces the allure of the many, many impulse items strategically placed throughout the store.

CLIP COUPONS. Remember to have the coupons when going to the store. Often coupons are available for items that are on sale and that I am planning on purchasing. Sometimes in addition to coupons from the Sunday newspaper (manufacturer coupons), there are store coupons for the same item—and you can use both! Using coupons in conjunction with sale items takes a bit of planning, but can be a real money saver.

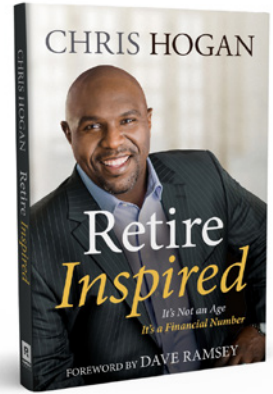
The difficulty, of course, will be sticking with the plan. But I will keep the thought of \$1,680 in the front of my mind to help keep me motivated!

If you would like to learn more about saving money at the grocery store, check out the library's Sunday, April 30 HQ-Ocala Couponing 101 program in the calendar section.



Money Smart Matters!

By Cate O'Brien



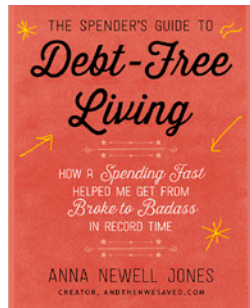
The summer of 1976 I had my first experience with budgeting. I had a job babysitting at a resort and, like most teens, was excited to have some financial freedom. My mother told me to be smart, to save some money every time I got paid and took me to our bank to open an account. Armed with a new account, I headed to work and dreamed of amassing a small fortune.

What I remember is how disappointed I was at summer's end. My savings were very far from a small fortune. I was sure I had saved my money. After I tipped the bellhops for transportation and made the "necessary" purchases needed to watch children all summer, I had to face facts: I really did not do all I could to be money smart.

With many years between me and that summer I still find myself asking what it means to be money smart.


As I began making plans for programming during Money Smart week I found myself with more questions than answers. So, off to the library collection in search of some insight on this daunting topic.

If you're starting out, your search may mean tackling a budget, controlling spending, understanding credit scores and saving for a specific purchase. **Anna Newell Jones's "The Spender's Guide to Debt-Free Living: How a Spending Fast Helped Me Get from Broke to Badass in Record Time"** is for you. Anna explains how taking control of her spiraling debt and creating financial stability became as individual as



she is and should be for you too.

However, if you're at the stage where getting money smart means taking control of a plan that allows you to shape your retirement then **Chris Hogan's "Retire Inspired: It's Not an Age, It's a Financial Number"** is great reading. Chris's approach to creating the path to retirement with the least amount of stress possible will allow anyone to leave work behind and enjoy the fruits of their labors.

But, I've learned that whatever stage you're at, being money smart is important. Make sure to come to some of the library's programs during Money Smart Week and check out the different displays for great materials to help you become being "money smart." 

Cover and page art courtesy of publisher(s) and/or author(s).



Pets Caught Reading Photo Contest Winners

Winner:
Spice, a Bearded Dragon owned by Lilianna Errico

People's Choice:
Pippi-Anna, a Pembroke Welsh Corgi owned by Michelle DeWitt





program spotlight

All library programs are free and open to the public. Registration/tickets may be required.

SPECIAL NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK CEREMONY


History Set in Stone: Commemorating the Ocala Carnegie Library

Wednesday, April 12, 2 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala

Constructed in 1916 by a grant awarded through the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ocala Free Public Library was Ocala's first permanent, physical public library. Although it was demolished in 1968 to build a larger and more accessible building, the cornerstone was saved! Join us as we place this foundation piece of our past in the grounds of today.


NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS

National Library Week, April 9-15

Take a moment to applaud the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians! Look for programs marked  and celebrate throughout the month with us!



Money Smart Week, April 22-29

Financial information and programming for all ages. It's never too late (or early) to be money smart. Look for programs marked  to discover your path to good fortune.

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 6

All library facilities, while supplies last.

Stop by your local library and grab

a free comic book courtesy of Diamond Comic Distributors and Vibranium Comics.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Belleview South Marion Community Celebration

Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Belleview Public Library

Bring the entire family for a community-wide extravaganza filled with spectacular entertainment and giveaways! Meet people from local businesses and services and get to know "The City with Small Town Charm." Co-sponsored by the Belleview/South Marion Chamber of Commerce.

10 a.m.-noon *Llama-Con!*

11 a.m.-2 p.m. *Variety Show*

11 a.m.-2 p.m. *Pet Adoptions with Marion County Animal Services*

2 p.m. *Retro Game Show: I've got a Secret*

Pages From Old Florida

Saturday, March 11, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Fort McCoy Public Library

Hooray! The Fort McCoy Public Library is 20 years old! Celebrate with refreshments, door prizes and loads of fun! Don't miss it!

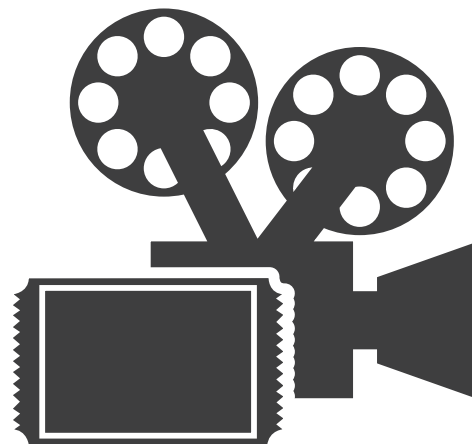
10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Children's Activities**

Noon **Local History** Hoyalene Thomas and Al Kunz discuss the history of the Fort McCoy area.

1 p.m. **Personal History** Carol Fiddia Laxton relates personal memories of Rawlings, who lived with the Fiddia family while writing "South Moon Under."

2 p.m. **Literary Legacy of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings** Anne Pierce of the Rawlings Society presents MKR's connections to "The Big Scrub" area of the Ocala National Forest and Marion County.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



Hollywood East: The Film Industry in Florida

Saturday, March 4, 2 p.m.
Forest Public Library

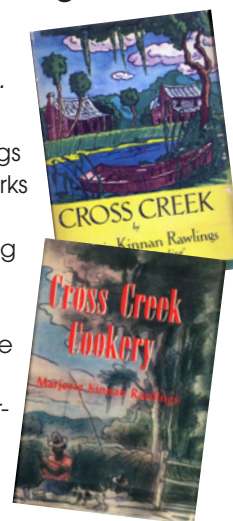
Delee Perry, owner of Perry's Swim School tells stories about her dad Newt (stunt double for Tarzan and founder of Weeki Wachee Springs) and other stars filmed in the Ocala area from the 1920s through the 1960s.

The Literary Legacy of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

Saturday, March 11, 2 p.m.
Fort McCoy Public Library

Thursday, March 16, 3:30 p.m.
Belleview Public Library

Anne Pierce of the Rawlings Society focuses on the works of Rawlings, with details of the connections to "The Big Scrub" area of the Ocala National Forest. Maps annotated by Rawlings will be featured during this celebration of the 75th anniversary of "Cross Creek" and "Cross Creek Cookery."



Presidents and Their First Ladies: Meet the Reagans

Saturday, March 25, 11 a.m.
Dunnellon Public Library

William and Sue Wills return as Ronald and Nancy Reagan. While Reagan's presidency was marked by such dramatic events as the collapse of the Soviet Union, Islamic terrorism and the Iran-Contra Affair, their love endured.

The Legacy of WWII on Today's U.S. Foreign Policy

Thursday, April 20, 3:30 p.m.
Bellevue Public Library

World-renowned military scholar and retired Air Force officer Donald Goldstein unravels the history of our current foreign policy. Dr. Goldstein has authored more than 50 articles and many notable books, including "At Dawn We Slept: The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor," which was on the *NY Times* bestseller list for 47 weeks and was first runner-up for the Pulitzer Prize of 1982.

ESPECIALLY FOR TEENS



Ready Player One: Video Game Events

Get your game on! Experience the latest games and consoles from Gamer's Edge. For ages 13-18.

March 13, 1-4 p.m., Bellevue Public Library
April 11, 4 p.m., Headquarters-Ocala

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Seuss-a-palooza! Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius! Enjoy books, games and crafts inspired by Dr. Seuss. *The Headquarters-Ocala program is co-sponsored by The Marion Education Association. All other programs are co-sponsored by United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.*

March 1, 6 p.m. Marion Oaks Public Library
March 2, 2:30 p.m. Reddick Public Library

March 3, 10:30 a.m. Forest Public Library
March 4, 10:30 a.m. Headquarters-Ocala
March 15, 11 a.m. Dunnellon Public Library
March 15, 2 p.m. Freedom Public Library

Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
McPherson Complex, 601 SE 25th Ave.
All ages welcome.

Put your imagination in gear and explore Marion County community work vehicles. Be prepared for truckloads of fun! Co-sponsored by Marion County Public Works, Marion County Fire Rescue and the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

MEET THE AUTHORS

Dot Chadwick

"God's Sweet Pickles and Promises"
March 14, 2 p.m., Dunnellon Public Library
Inspiration is everywhere! Join Chadwick as she relates the times and events that moved her to write, share and publish her poetry.

Sandra Friend and John Keatley

"The Florida Trail"
March 18, 2 p.m., Dunnellon Public Library
What starts in a swamp, stretches 1,400 miles across two time zones in Florida and goes right through Dunnellon? The Florida National Scenic Trail! Friend and Keatley offer a visual retrospective of the trail's evolution over the past half century.

Brown Bag Luncheon With J.T. Glisson

"The Creek"
April 5, noon, Reddick Public Library
As a neighbor and young friend of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, J.T. Glisson conveys a slightly different perspective of Cross Creek and its people. Bring your bag lunch, sit awhile and enjoy his colorful and poignant memories. Contact the library 352-438-2566 to reserve a piece of pie!

Michael Petellat

"The Spirit of Crystal River"
April 6, 2 p.m., Dunnellon Public Library
In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln imposed a blockade on the seceding Southern states. Into this historical setting, Petellat weaves a story of two men determined to bring sup-

plies from Cuba to the people of the Nature Coast via a boat called The Spirit. Through video and story, Petellat will show the reconstruction process of this scow by the Crystal River Boat Builders, using the skills and tools available in the 1800s.



Festa Pfannkuch (Stanley and Kym Festa)

"The Caterpillar and the Hula Hoop"
April 12, 11 a.m., Dunnellon Public Library
Meet Jacob the caterpillar, a creation of Stanley and Kym Festa, as he discovers that counting and the hula hoop can be both scary and fun! Practice does make perfect.



Cathy Salustri
"Backroads of Paradise: A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida"

In the 1930s, when interstates were non-existent, Florida's towns were places for travelers to stretch their legs and see the local sites. Many of these towns are now overlooked but still hold the mystique and wonder of old Florida. Travel with Salustri from the Florida Panhandle to the Florida Keys discovering forgotten and unknown corners of the state. It's a road trip to remember!

March 12, 2 p.m., Headquarters-Ocala
April 29, 2 p.m., Forest Public Library

Photos courtesy of publisher(s) and/or author(s).

HEADQUARTERS- OCALA

2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala FL 34470
352-671-8551

Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the
Ocala Public Library.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Seuss-a-palooza! Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

Saturday, March 4, 10:30 a.m.

Ages 5-12 with caregivers.

Co-sponsored by the Marion Education
Association. See Program Spotlight for more
locations.

Esmeralda's Paper Passion

Thursday, March 30, 2 p.m.

Teens and adults.

Shape paper into amazing, three-di-
mensional creations with artist Esmer-
alda Arribas.

Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

McPherson Complex, 601 SE 25 Ave.

All ages welcome.

Co-sponsored by Marion County Public
Works, Marion County Fire Rescue and the
Marion County Sheriff's Office. See Program
Spotlight.

History Set in Stone

Wednesday, April 12, 2 p.m.

See Program Spotlight.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Cathy Salustri

"Backroads of Paradise: A Journey
to Rediscover Old Florida"

Sunday, March 12, 2 p.m.

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

ADULTS

The Monday Matinée

Mondays, 2 p.m.

Movies for adults. Anyone younger
than age 13 must be accompanied by
an adult. Light refreshments.

March 6

March 13

March 20

March 27

April 3

April 10

April 17

April 24

Wired Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Learn about computers and databas-
es. Space is limited.

Computers for Beginners

March 8 *I Turned on My Computer, Now
What?*

March 15 *Basic Keyboarding*

March 22 *Basic Internet*

March 29 *Basic Word*

Online Potpourri

April 5 *Google Maps*

April 12 *Cloud Computing*

April 19 *Online Photo Editing*

April 26 *Are You Money Smart?*

Genealogy Help Center

Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

March 8, March 22, April 5, April 19

Genealogy gurus from the Marion
County Genealogical Society assist with
your search.

Technology Help Center

Wednesdays, 2-3:30 p.m.

March 8-May 31

Bring your device and drop in!

Novels at Night Book Club

Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Enjoy a lively book discussion, treats
and coffee.

March 14 *"The Glass Castle" by Jeanette
Walls*

April 11 *"The All-Girl Filling Station's Last
Reunion: A Novel" by Fannie
Flagg *

May 9 *"The Bluesf Eye" by Toni Morrison*

Color. Connect. Converse.

Thursdays, 2 p.m.

Express yourself through coloring and
interesting conversation.

March 16 *Jessie Driggers, Florida
Department of Health*

April 13 *Ocala Civic Theatre*

Re-examining Your Retirement

Monday, April 24, 2 p.m.

Has your retirement plan changed to
meet the times? Make the moves to
create the retirement you want with
Robert Crane from Retirement Planning
Consultants.

Buying Your First Home

Tuesday, April 25, 2 p.m.

Be prepared for your first home-buying
experience with tips from Landmark
Mortgage Planners.

What Is a Reverse Mortgage?

Wednesday, April 26, 2 p.m.

Learn all about reverse mortgages and
how they work with tips from Landmark
Mortgage Planners.

Coupons 101

Sunday, April 30, 3 p.m.

Stretch your budget with these basic
couponing tips from Carmen Viera
and Lisa Ribeiro.

TEENS

Teen Tech Mash-Up

Monday, March 6, 4 p.m.

Make a bot, try out Google VR and
create your own wearable tech.

Manga-licious! Teen Book Club

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

March 7, April 4, May 2

High-energy talks about all things
manga and anime.

YALLA!

Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

March 8, April 12, May 10

Be a part of the library experience.
Earn volunteer hours for service.

Pokémon Go Gym Mastery

Tuesday, March 28, 4 p.m.

Play Pokémon Go like a pro with play-
ing tips from 4-H agent Ashley Stewart.

Ready Player One: Video Game Event

Tuesday, April 11, 4 p.m.

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

Money Smart Teens

Tuesday, April 25, 4 p.m.

Saving for college or a car? Discover a
fun way to budget and save.

CHILDREN

Kids Code

Thursdays, 3 p.m., March 23-April 27

Ages 7-12. Registration required.

Learn computer programming through
games. Call 352- 671-8551 to register.

Let's Talk About Money

Saturday, April 29, 10:30 a.m.

Ages 5-12 with caregivers.

Craft a personal savings bank and
save those pennies! Co-sponsored by
PNC Bank.

STORY TIMES

March 18-April 30

A variety of stories and activities for children with caregivers.

Family Story Time

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 18, April 15

Ages 5 and younger.

Terrific Threes

Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Toddling Twos

Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Pajama Story Time

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Ages 5 and younger.

Bouncing Babies

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.

Infants-23 months.

BELLEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

13145 SE Highway 484, Belleview FL 34420
352-438-2500

Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Belleview Public Library.

SPECIAL EVENT

Belleview South Marion Community Celebration

Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the Belleview/South Marion Chamber of Commerce. See Program Spotlight.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Whodunnit??

Tuesday, March 7, 5 p.m.

Ages 13-18.

It's a party with a twist! Can you solve the crime? Gather for a little pizza and a whole lot of fun. Get those little gray cells working! Registration encouraged.

Little Red Riding Hood Puppet Show

Wednesday, March 15, 1 p.m.

World-renowned puppeteer Jerry Bickel and his wooden marionettes bring a classic fairy tale to life! Presented by Bits N' Pieces Puppet Theatre.

ADULTS

Writer's Studio

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

March 1, April 5, May 3

Meet other writers and share experiences.

Color. Connect. Converse.

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

March 1-May 31

Enjoy coloring and conversation.

Genealogy Help Center

Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m.

March 1, April 5, May 3

Genealogy gurus from the Marion County Genealogical Society assist with your search.

Plant Clinic

Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

March 3, April 7, May 5

The Master Gardener plant doctors are in.

Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

Tuesday Movie Matinée

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

Movies for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

March 7

March 14

March 21

March 28

April 4

April 11

April 18

April 25

Technology Help Center

Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.

March 7-May 30

Bring your device and drop in!

Wednesday Morning Book Club

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

Make new friends and talk about books!

March 8 "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson

April 12 "Saturn Run"

by John Sandford



May 10 "Big Little Lies" by Liane Moriarty

Thursday Get-Togethers

Thursdays, 3:30 p.m.

Enrich life with stimulating conversation! See Program Spotlight.

March 16 Rawlings' Literary Legacy and the Big Scrub

April 20 Legacy of WWII on Today's U.S. Foreign Policy

Tuesday Evening Book Club

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Make new friends and talk about books!

March 21 "Lottery" by Patricia Wood

April 18 "Pax" by Sara Pennypacker



May 16 "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel

Florida Native Plant Society

Mondays, 6 p.m.

March 27, April 24, May 29

Taryn Evans and guest presenters discuss native plant life in Florida.

TEENS



YALLA South!

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

March 7, April 4, May 2

Be a part of the library experience. Earn volunteer hours for service.

Ready Player One: Video Game Event

Monday, March 13, 1-4 p.m.

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

FAMILIES

Knotty Knitters

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

March 1-May 31

Learn to knit and crochet.

Art Before Your Eyes

Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon

March 3, April 7, May 5

Join the artists from Gallery East.

Family Flicks

Select dates, 10:30 a.m.

Movies for the whole family. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday, March 13

Friday, March 17

Belleview Talespinners Storytelling Club

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

March 14, April 11

Discover the magic of storytelling with tellers of all levels.

Structure Junction Club

Saturdays, 2 p.m.

March 18, April 15, May 20

Put your imagination in gear and build!

STORY TIMES

March 1-April 27

A variety of stories and activities for children with caregivers.

BEAR Time!

Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m.

Preschool Adventures

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Ages 3-5.

Toddler Time

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

Infants-age 2.

DUNNELLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

20351 Robinson Road, Dunnellon FL 34431

352-438-2520

Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the
Dunnellon Public Library.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Seuss-a-palooza! Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

Wednesday, March 15, 11 a.m.

Co-sponsored by United Way of Marion
County Reading Pals. See Program Spotlight
for other locations.

Presidents and Their First Ladies: Meet the Reagans

Saturday, March 25, 11 a.m.

See Program Spotlight.

The Nine Principles of Wellness

Tuesday, April 11, 2 p.m.

Professor Kevin Neroni from the College
of Central Florida demonstrates key life-
style practices for maintaining superior
health and wellness.

MEET THE AUTHORS

See Program Spotlight for details.

Dot Chadwick

"God's Sweet Pickles and Promises"

Tuesday, March 14, 2 p.m.

Sandra Friend and John Keatley

"The Florida Trail"

Saturday, March 18, 2 p.m.

Michael Petellat

"The Spirit of Crystal River"

Thursday, April 6, 2 p.m.

Stanley and Kym Festa

"The Caterpillar and the Hula Hoop"

Wednesday, April 12, 11 a.m.

ADULTS

Technology Help Center

Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon

March 2-April 27

Bring your device and drop in!

TechBoomers™ On Call!

Fridays, 10 a.m.

March 3-April 28

Unravel the mysteries of the most
popular and useful websites and ap-
plications using the tutorials of Tech-
Boomers.com.

Friday Matinée

Fridays, 1 p.m.

Movies for adults. Anyone younger
than age 13 must be accompanied by
an adult.

March 3

March 10

March 17

March 24

March 31

April 7

April 14

April 21

April 28

Plant Clinic

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

March 7, April 4, May 2

The Master Gardener plant doctors
are in!

Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County
Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County
Extension Service.

Drop-In Book Club

Thursdays, 11 a.m.

Make new friends and talk about
books!

March 16 "At the Water's Edge" by Sara
Gruen

April 20 "One Summer" by Bill Bryson

May 18 "Insanity City" by Dave Barry

Ask Your Master Gardener

Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

Learn gardening techniques from the
masters!

Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County
Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County
Extension Service.

March 21 Growing Herbs in Central Florida

April 18 Trees for Earth

Genealogy 101

Thursday, April 20, 6-7:30 p.m.

Stitch together your family history with
Pamela Joseph.

Money Smart Week

April 25-27, 2 p.m.

Live life smarter and more financially
sound. Joe Federico from Edward
Jones offers information and tips for
preserving your money.

April 25 10 Rules of Investing

April 26 Preparing Your Estate Plan

April 27 Tax-Free Investing: It's Not What
You Make, It's What You Keep!

TEENS

YALLA West!

Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

March 1, April 5, May 3

Be a part of the library experience.
Earn volunteer hours for service.

Game On!

Saturdays, 2 p.m.

March 4, March 18, April 8, April 22

Are you up for a video game chal-
lenge?

FAMILIES

Construction Junction

Saturdays, 2 p.m.

March 11, March 25

Put your imagination in gear and build!

Start Your Engines

Saturdays, 2 p.m.

April 1, April 15

Compete in remote control car races.

Trees for Earth Story Time

Wednesday, April 19, 11 a.m.

Replenish the earth with trees and cel-
ebrate Earth Day! Seedlings distributed
to all participants courtesy of UF/IFAS
Marion County Master Gardeners, UF/
IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

CHILDREN

PAWSitive Fun With Terra the Therapy Dog

Fridays, 11:30 a.m.

Listen to great stories and read to Terra,
our canine listener.





March 1-April 28

A variety of stories and activities for children and caregivers.

Pajama Story Time

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
March 14, March 28

Toddling Twos

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
Infants-age 2.

Preschool Adventures

Fridays, 11 a.m.
Ages 3-5.

FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

905 S. Highway 314A, Ocklawaha FL 32179
352-438-2540

Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Forest Public Library.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**Seuss-a-palooza!
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!**

Friday, March 3, 10:30 a.m.
Co-sponsored by United Way of Marion County Reading Pals. See Program Spotlight for other locations.

Hollywood East: The Film Industry in Florida

Saturday, March 4, 2 p.m.
See Program Spotlight.

Art on the Porch!

Saturday, March 11, 10:30 a.m.
Extend the experience of the Art Show of the Forest!

Irish Dancing

Thursday, March 16, 3:30 p.m.
Kick up your heels with the Hogan School of Irish Dance, North Central Florida's premier certified Irish dancing school. It's a high-energy step in the fun direction!

Go Wild With Wildflowers!

Wednesday, April 19, 4 p.m.
Forest Public Library
Join Anne MacKay and learn about Florida native wildflowers. Become a wildflower ambassador by making and sharing your very own wildflower seed eggs.
Co-sponsored by the Florida Wildflower Foundation.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Cathy Salustri

"Backroads of Paradise: A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida"

Saturday, April 29, 2 p.m.
See Program Spotlight for other locations.

ADULTS

Technology Help Center

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
March 1-April 26
Bring your device and drop in!

Color Your Way to Calm

Thursdays, 11 a.m.
March 2, March 16, April 6, April 20
Seek serenity through coloring!

It's All About Birds!

Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.
Learn about our winged friends from the experts at the Marion County Audubon Society. Includes a nature walk.

March 4 Hummingbirds
April 29 Herons and Egrets

Crafts for a Cause

Mondays, 10 a.m.
March 6, April 3, May 1
Create items for those in need.

Game On!

Tuesday, March 7, 2 p.m.
Are you up for a video game challenge?

Forest Readers Book Club

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Make new friends and talk about books!

March 8 "The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion" by Fannie Flagg
March 22 "Think Twice" by Lisa Scottoline
April 12 "The Good Earth" by Pearl S. Buck
April 26 "The Next Always" by Nora Roberts
May 10 "Reading Lolita in Tehran" by Azar Nafisi
May 24 "I've Got You Under My Skin" by Mary Higgins Clark

Friday Cinema

Fridays, 2 p.m.
Movies for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
March 10
April 14
April 28

TechBoomers™ On Call!

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m., March 14, April 18
Unravel the mysteries of the most popular and useful websites and applications using the tutorials of TechBoomers.com.

**Pioneer Life:
The Florida Cracker**

Friday, March 17, 3 p.m.
Park Ranger Monica Moore of Silver Springs State Park presents life as it was for the early settlers of Florida.

Plant Clinic

Saturday, March 18, 10:30 a.m.
The Master Gardener plant doctors are in.
Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

Hens in the Henhouse 2!

Saturday, March 18, 2 p.m.
Backyard poultry-rearing made easy with more tips from Mark Bailey, Small Farms extension agent.
Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

Voting 101

Tuesday, March 18, 10:30 a.m.
Marion County Election Center's Starley Ard takes a close look at voting in Marion County, including registration and early voting.

Trivia Café-Brown Bag Luncheon

Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.
March 23, April 27
Bring a sandwich and enjoy lunch with fellow trivia enthusiasts! Dessert and beverage provided. Call 352-438-2540 to reserve a spot!

All About Medicine

Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Mike Sever, pharmacy manager of Hospice of Marion County discusses various medications and concerns.
March 23 Herbal Medications
April 13 Medications and Food

To Your Health*Saturday, March 25, 10:30 a.m.*

Decrease the risk of colon cancer with strategies presented by Dr. Ravi Sandrapaty from 21st Century Oncology.

Family Recreation*Tuesday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.*

Discover local fun with Jason Maurer, Marion County Parks & Recreation.

Native Spring Bloomers *Tuesday, April 11, 10:30 a.m.*

Taryn Evans offers information about native flowers.

Yikes! An Audit! *Friday, April 21, 2 p.m.*

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida provides guidance about handling an IRS audit.

Yahoo! I Got a Tax Refund! *Tuesday, April 25, 10:30 a.m.*

Family & Consumer Sciences agent Lynda Spence offers tips for wise spending and saving that extra cash.

Presented by UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

TEENS & TWEENS**Kids Code!***Monday & Tuesday, 11 a.m.**March 13, March 14**Ages 7-12.*

Learn computer programming through games.

YALLA East!*Thursdays, 5 p.m., March 16, April 20, May 18*

Be a part of the library experience!

Earn volunteer hours for service.

Where's Your Money! *Thursday, April 20, 4 p.m.*

Impress your friends with a creative duct tape wallet!

FAMILIES**FUN-tasmagoria***Wednesdays, 4 p.m.*

Explore the world without leaving the library.

<i>March 1</i>	<i>Busting Myths</i>
<i>March 8</i>	<i>Behind the Scenes</i>
<i>March 22</i>	<i>Eye-Popping Illusions</i>
<i>March 29</i>	<i>Hopes and Dreams</i>
<i>April 5</i>	<i>The World of Spies</i>
<i>April 12</i>	<i>Show Me the Money</i>
<i>April 19</i>	<i>Celebrate the Earth</i>
<i>April 26</i>	<i>Crime Doesn't Pay</i>

Game Time!*Thursdays, 4 p.m., March 2, April 6*

Don't be bored! Play board games!

Imagination Station Kids Club*Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.*

Stories and crafts to fit the season.

March 15 *Wii Games and St. Patrick's Day Crafts**May 24* *Construction Zone***Spring Sing-Along: "The Sound of Music Live!"***Friday, March 24, 2 p.m.*

Fun for the whole family! Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Family Flicks*Saturdays, 2 p.m.*

Movies for the whole family! Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

*April 8**April 22***STORY TIMES***March 3-April 28*

A variety of stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.

Family Story Time*Fridays, 10:30 a.m.***BEAR Time!***Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m.*

Be excited about reading and hear great stories!

Bedtime Stories*Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.**March 9, March 23, April 13, April 27***FORT MCCOY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

14660 NE Highway 315,

Fort McCoy FL 32134

352-438-2560

Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Fort McCoy Public Library.

SPECIAL EVENT**Pages From Old Florida***Saturday, March 11, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*

See Program Spotlight.

ADULTS**Technology Help Center***Mondays, 2-4 p.m.**March 6-April 24*

Bring your device and drop in!

FAMILIES**FUN-tasmagoria!***Mondays, 4 p.m.*

Explore the world without leaving the library.

<i>March 6</i>	<i>Busting Myths</i>
<i>March 20</i>	<i>Behind the Scenes</i>
<i>March 27</i>	<i>Eye-Popping Illusions</i>
<i>April 3</i>	<i>Hopes and Dreams</i>
<i>April 10</i>	<i>The World of Spies</i>
<i>April 17</i>	<i>Show Me the Money</i>
<i>April 24</i>	<i>Celebrate the Earth</i>
<i>May 1</i>	<i>Crime Doesn't Pay</i>

Luck and Leprechauns*Monday, March 13, 4 p.m.*

A wee bit of stories, crafts and games for the Irish in everyone.

FREEDOM PUBLIC LIBRARY

5870 SW 95 St., Ocala FL 34476

352-438-2580

Programs are sponsored by the Friends of Freedom Public Library.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS**Escape Room Teen Challenge!***Tuesday, March 14, 2 p.m.**Ages 13-18.*

Follow the clues and solve the puzzles to escape in time!

Seuss-a-palooza! Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!*Wednesday, March 15, 2 p.m.*

Co-sponsored by United Way of Marion County Reading Pals. See Program Spotlight for other locations.

Money Smart *Wednesday, April 26, 2 p.m.*

Live life smarter and more financially sound with tips from the experts. Representatives from Morgan Stanley, Insight Credit Union and Thrivent Financial provide information and answer questions.

ADULTS**Technology Help Center***Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon**March 1-April 26*

Bring your device and drop in!

Ask Arnold!*Thursdays, 12-2 p.m.**March 2-April 27*

Staff and volunteers are available to help with all computer needs.

Basic Computer Classes

Thursdays, 2 p.m.

March 2-April 20

Learn something new! Seating is limited. Registration begins one hour before class.

- March 2 Introduction to Computers
- March 9 Basic Internet
- March 16 Basic Keyboarding
- March 23 Basic Word
- March 30 Basic Email
- April 6 Hobbies and Gardening Online Resources
- April 13 Travel Planning 101
- April 20 Value Line

The FIDO Project


Tuesday, March 7, 11 a.m.

Learn about a Marion County Animal Services program where prison inmates train shelter dogs to better prepare them for forever homes.

As the Page Turns Book Club

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Join the club and turn the page! Everyone is welcome!

- March 7 "Leaving Time" by Jodi Picoult
- April 4 "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi 
- May 2 "The Cuckoo's Calling" by Robert Galbraith

The Tuesday Matinée

Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

Movies for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Light refreshments.

- March 21
- April 18

Color Your Way to Calm

Tuesdays, 3 p.m., March 28, April 25

Seek serenity through coloring!

Butterflies in Marion County

Friday, April 14, noon

Learn butterfly gardening techniques from Bill McCue. Presented by UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

TEENS & TWEENS

YALLA Free!

Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

March 8, April 12, May 10

Be a part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

FAMILIES

Family Film Fest

Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.

Movie fun for the whole family! Anyone

younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

- March 8
- April 5

STORY TIMES

Stories, songs and activities for children with caregivers.

March 1-April 26

BEAR Time!

Mondays, 4:30 p.m.

Preschool Adventures

Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Ages 3-5.

Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.

Infants-age 2

MARION OAKS PUBLIC LIBRARY

294 Marion Oaks Lane, Ocala FL 34473
352-438-2570

Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Seuss-a-palooza! Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

Wednesday, March 1, 6 p.m.


Co-sponsored by United Way of Marion County Reading Pals. See Program Spotlight for other locations.

ADULTS

Novels at Noon

Wednesdays, noon

Make new friends and talk about books!

- March 15 "The Light Between Oceans" by M. L. Stedman
- April 19 "The Couple Next Door" by Shari Lapena 

TEENS

YALLA Oaks!

Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

March 8, April 5

Be a part of the library experience. Earn volunteer hours for service.

FAMILIES

FUN-tasmagoria!

Thursdays, 3 p.m.

March 2-April 27

Explore the world with stories and fun-filled activities.

REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY

15150 NW Gainesville Road, Reddick FL 32686
352-438-2566

Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Seuss-a-palooza! Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

Thursday, March 2, 2:30 p.m.

Co-sponsored by United Way of Marion County Reading Pals. See Program Spotlight for other locations.

Show Me the Money!

Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30 p.m.

March 7, March 9

Program is open to all ages though geared to ages 8-12.

Discover your money personality and learn to set smart money goals in two days! Presented by UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

Brown Bag Luncheon With J.T. Glisson

Wednesday, April 5, noon

See Program Spotlight.

ADULTS

Ask Your Master Gardener

Saturday, April 8, 11 a.m.

Learn about plants for home and yard with master gardeners Barbara Georgius and Connie Bonbrest. Presented by UF/IFAS Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

TEENS

YALLA North!

Saturdays, 2 p.m.

March 25, April 22

Be a part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

FAMILIES

Preschool Story Time

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 2-April 27

A variety of stories for young children with caregivers.

FUN-tasmagoria!

Thursdays, 2:30 p.m.

March 2-April 27

Explore the world with stories and fun-filled activities!



Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

- March** **Ukrainian Easter Eggs**
by Leanne Brulla
- April** **African Violets** by African
Violets Club of Ocala
- May** **Word Carvings**
by Roger Grabczynski

Bellevue Public Library

- March** **Wildlife Photography**
by Leroy Simon
Wood Carvings
by Roger Grabczynski
- April** **Paintings** by Robert Johnson
Stained Glass by Earl Forsyth
- May** **Stencil Paintings**
by Kim and Casey Drexel
Photographs by Jim Redding

Dunnellon Public Library

- March** **Carved Gourds**
by Glenda Damm
- April** **Fused Glass Art** by Lynn Carney
- May** **Star Wars** by Curtis Hinrichs

Forest Public Library

- March** **Photography**
by Pat Casey Duane
- April** **Florida Watercolors**
by Sandra Sanders

Reddick Public Library

- March** **Florida and Texas Fossils**
by Gary Walker
- April** **Jazz Appreciation**
by Gaynelle Hoover
- May** **John Deere Items**
by Reddick residents

AT YOUR SERVICE

Access Florida

Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m., March 7-May 30
Forest Public Library

Help with filing for food stamp assistance, temporary cash assistance, refugee assistance and Medicaid programs.

CareerSource

Job seeker services available! Call the nearest library for times and locations.

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.

Having trouble hearing on the telephone? FTRI provides amplified telephones free of charge to qualifying individuals through the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida. Call your local library for available times or contact the Center at 352-368-3788 for an appointment.

Immigration Services

An official from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Orlando Field Office will be present to answer general questions. Call the nearest library nearest you for times. Customers will be seen on a first-come-first-serve basis. Visit www.uscis.gov to schedule an appointment or call USCIS for automated information and live assistance at 1-800-375-5283.

Measure Up Marion

Programs and information that help improve the health of our community and prevent and reduce our rates of chronic disease. Call the nearest library for times and locations.

Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE)

Obtain free Medicare counseling through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. Contact Headquarters-Ocala, Bellevue, Dunnellon and Forest public libraries for times.

CLOSED DAYS AND SPECIAL DAYS

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 16

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library is closed.

Maintenance Day

Friday, May 12

Headquarters-Ocala and Freedom Public Libraries are closed for maintenance.

Memorial Day

Monday, May 29

All Marion County Public Libraries are closed.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Friends of the Bellevue Public Library

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

March 16, April 18, May 16

Book Nook Bookstore

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

March 7, April 4, May 2

Book Sale

May 30, 31

Friends of the Freedom Public Library

Mondays, 10 a.m.

March 6, April 3, May 1

Friends Book Sale

Thursday, April 20-Saturday, April 22 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friends of the Forest Public Library

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 15, April 19, May 17

Book Sale

Thursday, May 11, 4-8 p.m.

Friday, May 12-Saturday, May 13

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friends of the Fort McCoy Public Library

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 8, April 12, May 10

Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library

Fridays, 1 p.m.

March 17 (Annual Meeting), April 21, May 19

Friends of the Ocala Public Library

Thursdays, 4 p.m.

March 16, April 20, May 18

Book Sale

Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

National Volunteer Week:

Celebrating One of Our Greatest Natural Resources

By Karen M. Jensen

Stop by any of the eight Marion County Public Library System locations and more than likely you'll be served either directly or indirectly by one of the hundreds of volunteers who generously donate their time and talent. From helping with a variety of special programs and events, to teaching computer classes, to keeping the vast array of library materials organized and accessible, these volunteers greatly enhance our ability to serve the public.

April 23-29 is National Volunteer Week, a time when we honor one of our community's greatest natural resources—our volunteers. Each of the eight Marion County Public Library System locations is home to a unique and talented group of volunteers. Here are a few of their stories and highlights.

Bellevue Public Library teen volunteer Victoria Broad assists with programs and in circulation. "The Bellevue Public Library has been such a positive influence in my life and I never want to lose that," said Broad. She is so passionate about libraries that she plans to become a librarian after college. "That positive vibe is priceless, and I plan to keep passing it on," stated Broad.

Dunnellon Public Library credits its volunteer pool with helping to ensure the success of several of the library's major public events. Both the Fall Festival and the Pirates and Princess program fully engaged a group of volunteers, who managed the booths and many other tasks. Teen volunteers helped organize all of the children's



Victoria Broad

books last August and adult volunteers consistently help locate materials for the book request list each day.

Forest Public Library's enthusiastic group of volunteers is always busy keeping shelves looking tidy, especially on high-volume days. Volunteers also assist with both adult and children's programming. Volunteer Jackie Provanche, who is ready to jump in and work on any project, said "... I love coming to the library because I like meeting people and learning how to do things around the library."

A group of tech-savvy volunteers at Freedom Public Library helped create a program called "Ask Arnold." Program founder Arnold Hansen has provided computer coaching for library patrons for approximately 15 years and was later joined by Bill Torzsa and Mark Croft. They are on-site each Thursday from 12 noon-2 p.m. to answer questions about laptops, phones, software and other technology. The group recalls how technology has changed over the years. In the early "Ask Arnold" days, most questions pertained to desktop computers, but now laptops and tablets have taken over as the most popular puzzles for



Bill Torzsa and Arnold Hansen

Fiscal Year 2015-2016

NUMBER OF MARION COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
VOLUNTEER HOURS OF SERVICE

16,192

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
VOLUNTEER HOURS OF SERVICE

30,807

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

46,999

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOUR*

\$22.08/hr.

**Independent Sector*


TOTAL SAVINGS TO
MARION COUNTY

\$1,037,738

to many who call seeking assistance. She volunteers as a switchboard operator, handling a high percentage of incoming calls and directing the public to the appropriate staff or division. Jeri said, "After I retired, I knew I wanted to volunteer and give back to the community. The public library seemed like a good fit. I love interacting with patrons and staff and, of course, reading. I can't think of a better place to be."

Seven Friends of the Library groups round out the list of devoted library volunteers. Friends support their individual public libraries in a variety of ways, including the donation of book sale proceeds and other fund-raising efforts. They also are at the head of the line to lend a hand with special library programs and events as needed.

To all the hundreds of volunteers who support the public library system, the staff of the Marion County Public Library System extends its heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you!

For more on volunteering with the Marion County Public Library System or to find a Friends of the Library group near you, visit the library's website at library.marioncountyfl.org. 



Jeri Langford

the volunteers to help patrons solve.

Circulation volunteer Jeri Langford has been with the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library for several years and has become the voice of the library

All aboard the Polar Express at Headquarters-Ocala Public Library



Characters of Preschool Expo at Headquarters-Ocala Public Library



Reddick Public Library Reindeer Romp



Story time at Forest Public Library Arctic Blast



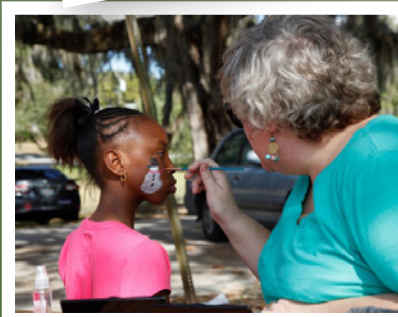
Pokemon GO at Freedom Public Library



Gentle Carousel Therapy Horse at Belleview Public Library Polar Paradise



Face-painting Fun at Reddick Public Library Reindeer Romp



Bookmarks

Friends of the Ocala Public Library's News and Notes

MEET THE AUTHOR: CATHY SALUSTRI! *Florida's Backroads of Paradise*



Join us in welcoming Cathy Salustri, author of "Backroads of Paradise: A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida," on Sunday, March 12, at 2 p.m. in Meeting Room C at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library. During her visit, she will be guiding us to many forgotten and unknown corners of Florida, away from theme parks and interstate highways. In her book she takes us to a retired carnie town, a rattlesnake cannery, nude beaches, the state's only whitewater rapids, and other natural wonders and man-made attractions. Woven into her journeys are nuggets of fascinating history. Books will be available for purchase. Our Meet the Author programs are free. Light refreshments will be served.

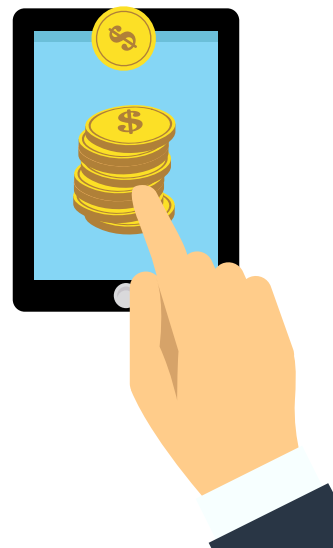


SPRING BOOK SALE

Check out the great books and bargains available at our upcoming quarterly book sale on May 6, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. You'll find books of all types and interests. Paperback books will be 25 cents each and hard cover books will be 50 cents each. **Plus, here's a bonus:** If you are a member of the Friends, you can attend the pre-sale on Friday, May 5, from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

INVEST IN YOUR LIBRARY

As we all know, the library is one of the most important places in our community, providing us with a valuable place for life-long learning. Becoming a Friend of the Library is a smart investment. As a Friend, you will be helping to benefit the community with various library programs for youngsters, teens and adults. Not only will you be helping others, there are personal benefits, including first-hand knowledge of library programming and early access to our quarterly book sales. Make the smart choice today and invest. Become a Friend of the Ocala Library. Memberships begin at \$10. Stop by the Book Market for more information or go online at www.friendsoftheocalalibrary.org.



Cathy Salustri
Author of "Backroads of Paradise:
A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida"
Sunday, March 12, at 2 p.m.
Meeting Room C, HQ-Ocala Public Library

Quarterly Book Sale
Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Meeting Rooms, HQ-Ocala Public Library
(Early admission for Friends members on Friday,
May 5, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

profiles

By Karen M. Jensen

LLynda Spence really understands the importance of good communication. As a Family and Consumer Sciences educator for Marion County UF/IFAS Extension Service, Lynda has been providing information about financial management, aging well, and other important topics to Marion County residents since 2008. Although her current position has allowed her to hone her communication skills, she credits her former life as a cosmetologist with helping her develop this skill set. As Lynda describes it, a good stylist is often a sort of confidant, one to whom trust is bestowed. And anyone who has been on the receiving end of a bad hairstyle knows just how important communication really is and what can happen when it's not part of the overall experience!

She moved from Fort Lauderdale to Gainesville in 1984 and established three hair salons, one of which she named Serendipity. According to Lynda, there was just something about that name and its reference to "fortunate happenstance" that inspired her to reach for new horizons and career challenges. She enrolled in Santa Fe Community College and then later transferred to UF where she pursued and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Family, Youth and Community Sciences. When the faculty position for a Family and Consumer



Science educator was posted at Marion County UF/IFAS Extension Service, Lynda knew it would offer her opportunities to learn, grow and share information with people in the community.

Lynda currently divides her time between providing classes and educational efforts that address financial management and aging well, with a small percentage of her time dedicated to youth development. She describes her professional goal as wanting to "make Marion County residents understand that Marion County UF/IFAS Extension Service is your actual, factual source." She hopes that as a result of attending her programs, individuals and families are able to make better, informed decisions about their well-being and develop behaviors that

build self-sufficiency.

Although life as a Family and Consumer Sciences educator may appear to be a far cry from that of a hair stylist and salon owner, Lynda knows that both require a genuine interest in helping people and an ability to build on a solid foundation of communication and trust.

For more information about Marion County UF/IFAS Extension Service programs and services, visit their website at www.marioncountyfl.org/departments-agencies/departments-a-n/extension-service/family-and-consumer-sciences. 