

Words

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S QUARTERLY NEWSMAGAZINE

VOLUME 11 | ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2019

a
UNIVERSE *of*
STORIES

AT YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUMMER READING PROGRAM



words

Marion County Public Library's
Quarterly Newsmagazine

Volume 11 | Issue 2 | Summer 2019

Marion County Public Library

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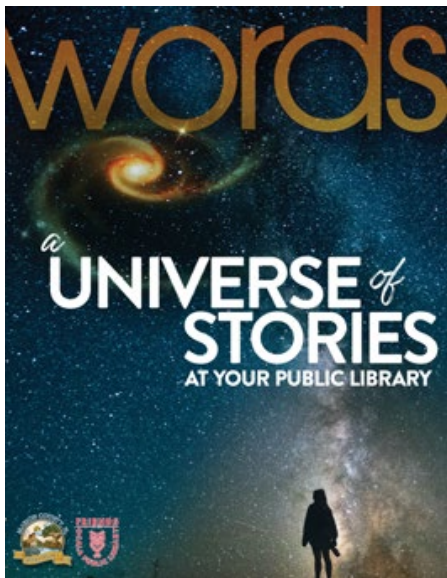
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ON THE COVER:



A world of discovery awaits at your public library this summer as a "Universe of Stories" unfolds.

Check out this issue for information about the summer reading program, summer breakspots and more!

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FACEBOOK & TWITTER!



2 words *Summer 2019*

a word FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Julie Sieg
*Director, Marion County
Public Library System*



The Potential of Sci-Fi

I love science fiction! One reason I love science fiction is because when one opens a sci-fi book, the possibilities are seemingly endless. Not only can the setting and scenery, language and physical attributes, capabilities and limitations, as well as the timeline, be anything one can imagine but the storyline can mimic any one of the many traditional genres such as mystery, western, drama or romance. Obviously I am not an author but, in my opinion, writing science fiction could be at the same time the most challenging yet the easiest type of fiction to write. Imagine how liberating it would be to have a completely blank page and be able to create whole new worlds, languages, species, etc., with limitless potential.

When I began my career 35 years ago, there was limitless potential in science fiction writings but I don't recall so many labels defining science fiction. Thirty-five years ago we seemed to simply have science fiction or sci-fi. Maybe I was just ill-informed. Today there are so many subgenres of science fiction such as biopunk (futuristic biological technology), dieselpunk (futuristic elements set during the era of diesel technology), cyberpunk (AI) and steampunk (futuristic elements set during the steam engine era). There is also apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic science fiction. These may lead up to an apocalyptic event or take place far after an event. They may be technology free or technology rich after significant time has passed from the event. Cause for an apocalyptic event ranges from war or pandemic to technological or ecological disaster. Among numerous remaining science fiction subgenres are space operas and space westerns. Did you know that "Star Wars" is considered a space opera?

One thing science fiction isn't: it's not fantasy. Much has been written about the separation between science fiction and fantasy. To quote author Orson Scott Card, "Science fiction is about what could be but isn't; fantasy is about what couldn't be."

Julie Sieg



A Universe of Children's Books

BLAST OFF AT OUR SUMMER READING PROGRAM

BY JEROME ABZELL

This summer your public library system will be reaching beyond the clouds to inspire children's imaginations. With any of the following books in hand, they'll be exploring the reaches of space, spending hours with real astronauts and maybe even discovering a few aliens. Join us for "A Universe of Stories."

THE STUFF OF STARS BY MARION DANE BAUER

Beginning at the birth of the universe and following a trail of stardust, readers discover the wonder of what lives inside them. Powered by full-page paintings, this book celebrates the connections between life on this planet and the stuff of the cosmos above.

TINY LITTLE ROCKET BY RICHARD COLLINGRIDGE

Every year a small rocket leaves Earth, with one small seat and one big mission. Beautiful illustrations give young readers an idea of just how big their universe really is as they follow this tiny rocket through space.

I LOVE YOU, MICHAEL COLLINS

BY LAUREN BARATZ-LOGSTED

Everyone in Mamie's class writes a letter to Neil Armstrong or Buzz Aldrin before the launch of Apollo 11. Mamie, though, chooses to write to Michael Collins, the only member of the crew who will stay with the ship instead of going to the moon's surface. When her family begins to fall apart around her, Mamie wonders why she, like Collins, seems to be the only one staying behind.

SEE YOU IN THE COSMOS

BY JACK CHENG

When the original Voyager probe went into space Carl Sagan suggested that it should take a Golden Record filled with sounds from Earth. Now 11-year-old Alex plans to emulate his idol and do the same. Armed with his spray-painted Golden iPod, Alex records his thoughts during a road trip to send a message to whoever might be out there to listen.

SANITY & TALLULAH

BY MOLLY BROOKS

Tallulah Vega is a preteen who loves adventure. Sanity Jones is a bit of a mad scientist. When strange power outages threaten life on the space station where they live, the two best friends go on a mission to discover the cause and save everything they love—which may or may not include an adorable three-headed science experiment.

PATH TO THE STARS: MY JOURNEY FROM GIRL SCOUT TO ROCKET SCIENTIST

BY SYLVIA ACEVEDO

A daughter of immigrants born in a time when girls rarely became engineers, Sylvia Acevedo graduated with an engineering degree from Stanford University and became a rocket scientist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA. Her story of family, loss and perseverance serves as an example to anyone who wants to reach for the sky and beyond.

EARTHRISE: APOLLO 8 AND THE PHOTO THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

BY JAMES GLADSTONE

On December 24, 1968, the three astronauts aboard Apollo 8 were completing their fourth orbit of the moon. Rising in the background they saw Earth, and the photograph they took of that moment has inspired people around the world for over 50 years.

SUMMER BREAKSPOT

USDA FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM RETURNS TO THE MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Marion County Public Library System will once again partner with Shores Assembly of God Church to provide free, hot nutritious meals, funded by the USDA Summer Food Service Program/Summer BreakSpot, to children and teens 18 and younger. The following schedule represents the Summer BreakSpot dates, times and public library locations.

Belleview Public Library

Tuesdays, noon, June 4-Aug. 6

Dunnellon Public Library

Fridays, noon, June 7-July 26

Forest Public Library

Fridays, 12:30 p.m., June 7-July 26

Freedom Public Library

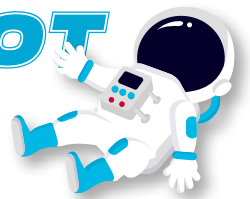
Wednesdays, noon, June 5-July 10

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., June 6-July 18 (No service July 4)

Reddick Public Library

Mondays, noon, June 3-July 22



Science Fiction:

CHOICES FOR EVERY READER BY SUSAN REYNOLDS



The public library is all about a world of discovery. Let us help you discover whole, new worlds with this year's summer reading program theme, **A Universe of Stories**. The theme offers the perfect opportunity to explore some books that can transport readers to other worlds, galaxies and even different realities.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing, but what if humankind had continued to venture to the moon? That is the setting for Andy Weir's novel **Artemis**, a fast paced thriller set in a moon-based city where, despite technological advances and wealth, corporate espionage and greed still exist. Will everyone die in Artemis or can courier-smuggler protagonist Jazz Bashara save the only home she has ever known?

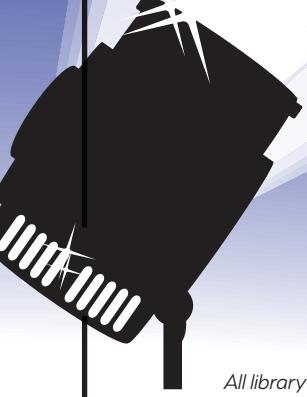
Light years away from our moon on the desert planet of Arrakis is the setting for the coming of age story of Paul Atreides or Muad'Dib in Frank Herbert's space opera classic **Dune**. Dune is the story of empires fighting for the most precious of commodities in the universe, "Spice," which is only found on Arrakis. Herbert expertly weaves political intrigue, prophetic visions and environmental conservation messages into an unforgettable

story. The story culminates with the ultimate endgame, what happens when the "spice must flow?"

Ancillary Justice, Ann Leckie's Hugo Award winning debut novel masterfully blends artificial intelligence with a military science fiction story line. What happens when a military spaceship AI is forced to commandeer a human body? A story asking what it really means to be human. Can the sum become more than just the parts? What is revenge and what is justice?

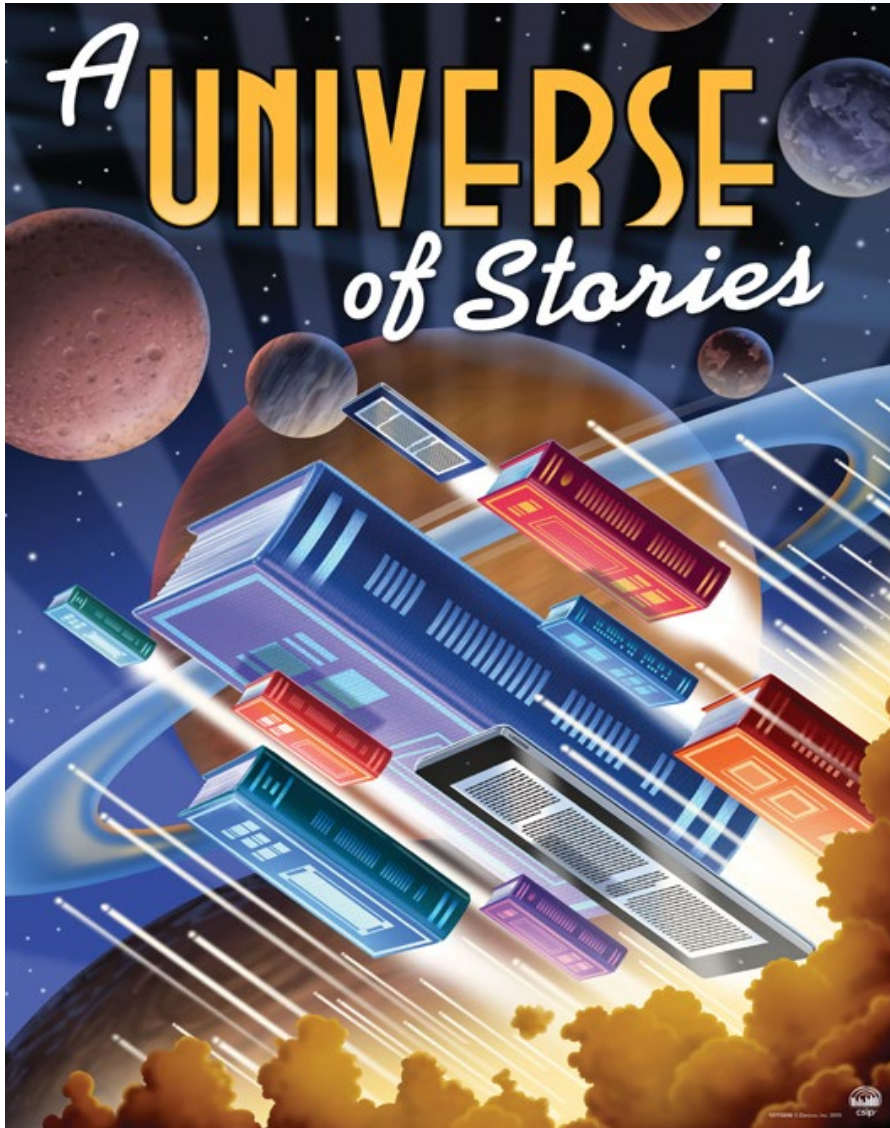
Coming back to earth with **Station Eleven**, it is the end of the world as we know it. Emily St. John Mandel's story about a pandemic apocalypse is more than a simple survival story. The book weaves an interconnected story of five individuals moving back and forward over a 15-year period. How do you create culture and meaning in a world no longer recognizable? It is the astonishing beauty in unexpected moments that lift this book from a typical apocalyptic tale to a book that will haunt you long after reading it.

A Universe of Stories awaits you at your public library! Check with one of our library staff who will help you find just the right book, whether it pertains to an alien invasion, adventure in space or a galaxy far, far away. **W**



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

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



Summer BreakSpots

Give yourself a break! Free nutritious meals are provided to children 18 years old and younger.

USDA sponsored in partnership with Shores Assembly of God Church. *No service Thursday, July 4.

Headquarters-Ocala
Thursdays, June 6-July 18, 12:30 p.m.*

Bellevue Public Library
Tuesdays, June 4-Aug. 6, noon

Dunnellon Public Library
Fridays, June 7-July 26, noon

Forest Public Library
Fridays, June 7-July 26, 12:30 p.m.

Freedom Public Library
Wednesdays, June 5-July 10, noon

Reddick Public Library
Mondays, June 3-July 22, noon

Community Conversations

Topic: It's All About Space

Where were you on July 20, 1969, when astronaut Neil Armstrong first walked on the moon? Where were you on Jan. 28, 1986, during the Challenger disaster? All are welcome to share thoughts in this open environment. Adults.

Marion Oaks Public Library
Tuesday, June 25, 11 a.m.

Headquarters-Ocala
Saturday, July 20, 11 a.m.

Dunnellon Public Library
Saturday, July 20, 1 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer Program Blast Off!

Get a head start on summer reading with stories, games and lots of fun.

Co-sponsored by Publix Super Markets, Inc.

Forest Public Library
Wednesday, June 5, 2:30 p.m.

Community Job Fair

Looking for a career opportunity? Bring your resume and meet with possible employers.

Sponsored by the City of Bellevue.

Bellevue Public Library
Wednesday, July 17, 11 a.m.-2p.m.

MARION COUNTY READS

Visit any library location, check out library materials and get a chance to win a gift certificate from Barnes & Noble. Prize drawing will be held on Friday, July 26, at the Headquarters-Ocala location. One entry per library card per visit is allowed. Prize winners will be notified.

All ages, all library locations.

Finders Keepers

There's treasure hidden at each library location! Find one of our treasure-packed geocaches and earn a chance to win a prize pack! View the Marion County Public Library System's geocache holdings at www.geocaching.com or ask a librarian about getting started. The hunt is on!

June 1-July 31
All library locations.



Pokémon Party!

Calling all Pokémon trainers! Bring your cards, toys and mobile devices to celebrate the third anniversary of Pokémon Go! Free Pokémon comics available while supplies last.

Co-sponsored by Geek Out.

*Headquarters-Ocala
Saturday, July 20, 2 p.m.*

Community Cares

Car seats, senior car checks, radio car racing, crafts and more!

Co-sponsored by the Marion County Sheriff's Dept.

*Dunnellon Public Library
Saturday, Aug. 3, noon*



Ready to Read: Zero to Three Expo

Discover services for parents and children provided by local organizations. Activities, education and fun!

For parents and caregivers of children ages birth-3 years.

*Headquarters-Ocala
Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*



SPECIAL SPEAKERS

Cheryl Floyd, Storyteller

Take a trip to Cajun country as Floyd reaches into her southern Louisiana roots to weave stories that will please your ear and ignite your imagination. *Laissez les bons temps (et les bonnes histoires) rouler!*

*Bellevue Public Library
Thursday, June 20, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

Roger Blanton

"Running through the Storm"

Local author, Roger Blanton, provides insight into his writing processes and inspirations.

*Dunnellon Public Library
Tuesday, July 9, 1 p.m.*

Jeremy Evans, Storyteller

Launch into the universe of stories.

*Bellevue Public Library
Thursday, July 25, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

Marian Rizzo

"Angela's Treasures"

Pick up a few key tips about writing from author, freelance correspondent and Pulitzer Prize nominee Marian Rizzo as she presents her novel of a woman and her daughter sorting through a lifetime of memories.

*Forest Public Library
Saturday, Aug. 3, 10:30 a.m.*

*Reddick Public Library
Friday, Aug. 9, noon. Brown Bag Luncheon*

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Explore Your Universe

Take a virtual trip visiting the celestial wonders of the cosmos with Derek Demeter, director of the Emil Buehler Planetarium at Seminole State College. Experience a hands-on display of space-related items and, if weather permits, a view through a solar telescope!

*Headquarters-Ocala
Tuesday, July 2, 2 p.m.*

*Forest Public Library
Wednesday, July 3, 2:30 p.m.*

*Bellevue Public Library
Thursday, July 18, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

Summer Scoop

We all scream for ice cream! Enjoy a scoop as you get the scoop on the history of ice cream from aficionado Jim Phillips. History was never so sweet! All ages welcome.

*Reddick Public Library
Wednesday, July 17, 2 p.m.*

*Marion Oaks Public Library
Thursday, July 18, 2 p.m.*

CHILDREN

Story Time From Space

Listen to stories read by astronauts as they float around in outer space!

Presented by the Global Space Education Foundation.

*Reddick Public Library
Tuesdays, June 4-July 23, 1 p.m.*

*Dunnellon Public Library
Wednesdays, June 5-July 31, 11 a.m.*

*Bellevue Public Library
Thursday, June 27, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*



Mark Wade, Ventriloquist

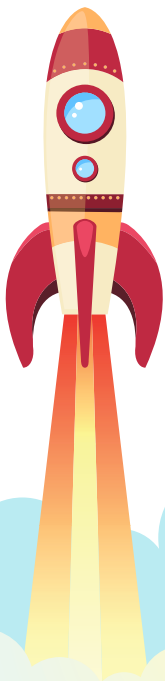
Co-founder of the International Ventriloquist Society and hailed as America's foremost children's ventriloquist, Wade is sure to delight all ages with his tongue-in-cheek antics.

*Freedom Public Library
Wednesday, June 5, 1 p.m.*

Ready Jet Go!

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing with staff from WUCF and PBS KIDS.

*Headquarters-Ocala
Tuesday, June 18, 2 p.m.
Ages 5-12 with caregivers.*



Rockets to the Rescue!

Use rocket science to solve challenges. It's a blast!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Services Marion County.

Freedom Public Library

Wednesday, June 19, 1 p.m.

Marion Oaks Public Library

Thursday, June 20, 2 p.m.

Reddick Public Library

Monday, July 8, 11 a.m.

Forest Public Library

Wednesday, July 10, 2:30 p.m.



Mercury & Sirius

Friendship makes the world go 'round and therapy horse Mercury and her best friend and canine buddy Sirius provide the warmest love on the planet.

Presented by Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses.

Bellevue Public Library

Thursday, July 11, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Headquarters-Ocala

Saturday, July 20, 2 p.m.

Ages 5-12 with caregivers.

DoDad's Lab

Be wowed by Professor DoDad as he demonstrates the science of space.

Headquarters-Ocala

Tuesday, July 16, 2 p.m.

Ages 5-12 with caregivers.

TEENS

STRANGER THINGS

Stranger Things: Waffles and Dungeons & Dragons

Celebrate the return of "Stranger Things" and enjoy Eleven's favorite snack and paint free D&D mini-figures (while supplies last).

Co-sponsored by Geek Out.

Headquarters-Ocala

Saturday, June 29, 2 p.m. Ages 13-adult.

Escape From Space Outpost 520

Can you find the clues and avoid capture by aliens?

Marion Oaks Public Library

Wednesday, July 17, 4 p.m.

ESPECIALLY FOR ADULTS

Native American Astronomy: Windows to the Universe

Librarian Taylor Benson leads a discussion of archaeoastronomy, the study of how people of the past understood the stars and the sky.

Headquarters-Ocala

Sunday, June 30, 2 p.m.

Copacabana Rhythms With Mike and Jessica Matthews

Enjoy the smooth and sultry sounds of this exceptional musical duo as you relive the vibe of 1950s Copacabana.

Dunnellon Public Library

Saturday, July 6, 4 p.m.

HEADQUARTERS-OCALA

2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

Ocala, FL 34470

352-671-8551

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

Summer BreakSpot

Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.

*June 6-July 18**

**No service July 4.*

Free meals for ages 18 and younger.

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

Community Conversation

Topic: It's All About Space

Saturday, July 20, 11 a.m. Adults.

See Program Spotlight for more information and other locations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

See Program Spotlight.

Pokémon Party!

Saturday, July 20, 2 p.m.

Ready to Read:

Zero to Three Expo

Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Parents and caregivers of children, birth-age 3.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Escape Rooms:

Out of This World

Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Ages 13-adult.

Use your wits and deductive skills to solve puzzles and decipher clues!

June 13

Lost in Space

July 11

So You Want to Work at NASA?

Make Your Own Zine

Thursday, June 20, 5 p.m.

Ages 13-adult.

Stop by and learn how to make your own zine, a do-it-yourself publication that can be made and shared by anyone. Materials provided.

Stranger Things: Waffles and Dungeons & Dragons

Saturday, June 29, 2 p.m.

Ages 13-adult.

See Program Spotlight.

Native American Astronomy: Windows to the Universe

Sunday, June 30, 2 p.m. Adults.

See Program Spotlight.

CHILDREN

Ages 5-12 with caregivers, unless noted.

Star Stories: Greek Myths

Tuesday, June 4, 2 p.m.

Make Believe Theater's Katie Adams presents constellation stories through shadow puppets.

Ready Jet Go!

Tuesday, June 18, 2 p.m.

See Program Spotlight.

Explore Your Universe With Derek Demeter

Tuesday, July 2, 2 p.m.

See Program Spotlight.

DoDad's Lab

Tuesday, July 16, 2 p.m.

See Program Spotlight.

Going Bananas in the Universe!

Wednesday, July 17, 10:30 a.m.

Infants-age 5 with caregivers.

Sing, dance, and enjoy a musical morning with Shana Banana.

Mercury & Sirius

Saturday, July 20, 2 p.m.

See Program Spotlight. Presented by Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses.

ADULTS

The Monday Matinée

Mondays, 2 p.m.

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

June 3

June 10

June 17

June 24

July 1

July 8

July 15

July 22

Wired Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Learn about computers and databases. Space is limited.

Computers for Beginners

June 5 *I Turned on My Computer, Now What?*

June 12 *Basic Keyboarding*

June 19 *Basic Internet*

June 26 *Basic Internet Safety*

Online Potpourri

July 3 *Files and Folders*

July 10 *Cloud Storage*

July 17 *E-books and E-audiobooks*

July 24 *Explore the Universe*

Genealogy Help Center

Wednesday, June 5, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

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

Technology Help Center

Wednesdays, 2-3:30 p.m.

June 5-July 31

Bring your device and drop in!

Crafternoons

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Registration required.

Get in touch with the right side of your brain! Call 352-671-8551 to register.

June 5 *Découpage With Domina*

July 3 *Galactic Pen Holders*



Novels at Night Book Club

Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Enjoy a lively book discussion, treats and coffee.

June 11 *"Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI"* by David Grann

July 9 *"Before We Were Yours"* by Lisa Wingate

Fly-Tyes

Saturday, June 22, 2 p.m.

Catch that fish with lure-making instruction from the expert fishing enthusiasts of the Dunnellon Fly-Tyers Club. Materials provided.

Our Feathered Friends

Saturday, July 13, 2 p.m.

Meet local wildlife while learning about animal rescue and rehabilitation with the Ocala Wildlife Sanctuary.

TEENS

MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

June 6, July 11

Watch favorite anime and discuss manga. Japanese snacks included.

Show and Sketch

Mondays, 4:30 p.m.

June 10, July 8

Share your talents. All skill levels welcome.

FABLAB: Space Edition

Wednesday, June 12, 5 p.m.

Create something out of this world!

YALLA!

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

June 25, July 23, Aug. 27

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

Geekfest! Fandoms and Comic Club

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

June 26, July 24

Explore pop culture and comics with fellow fans.

Ready, Set, Soar!

Wednesday, July 17, 5 p.m.

Create and race aerodynamic aircraft!

CHILDREN

A Universe of Stories

Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

Ages 5-12 with caregivers.

Explore all things outer space!

June 4 *Greek Myths*

June 11 *Astronaut Academy*

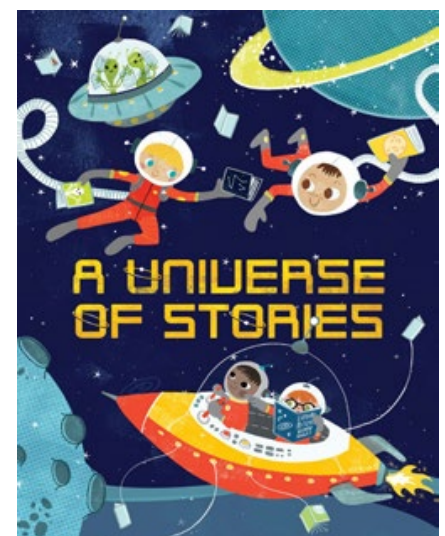
June 18 *Ready Jet Go*

June 25 *Mission to the Moon*

July 2 *Explore Your Universe*

July 9 *Alien Adventures*

July 16 *DoDad's Lab*



Astro Lab

Thursdays, 2 p.m.

June 6-July 18

Ages 5-12 with caregivers.

*No program July 4.

Build, explore and imagine!

Countdown to Code

Saturday, June 15, 2 p.m.

Ages 5-12 with caregivers.

Learn to think like a computer.

STORY TIMES

Stories, songs and activities for ages 5 and younger with caregivers.



Space Adventures

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

June 5-July 17

Saturday Stories

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.

June 8, July 13

BELLEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

13145 SE Highway 484

Belleview, FL 34420

352-438-2500

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

Summer BreakSpot

Tuesdays, noon

June 4-Aug. 6

Free meals for ages 18 and younger.

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

SPECIAL EVENT

Community Job Fair

Wednesday, July 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

See Program Spotlight. Sponsored by the City of Belleview.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS

See Program Spotlight.

Cheryl Floyd, Storyteller

Thursday, June 20, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Jeremy Evans, Storyteller

Thursday, July 25, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Program Spotlight.

Mercury and Sirius

Thursday, July 11, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Presented by Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses.



Explore Your Universe With Derek Demeter

Thursday, July 18, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

ADULTS

Tuesday Movie Matinée

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

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

June 4

June 11

June 18

June 25

July 2

July 9

July 16

July 23

July 30

Tech Help Center

Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.

June 5-July 31

Bring your device and drop in.

Master Gardener Plant Clinic

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

June 7, 21, July 5, 19, Aug. 2, 16

The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

Wednesday Morning Book Club

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

Make new friends and talk about books.

June 12

"And Then There Were None" by Agatha Christie

July 10

"Anne of Green Gables" by L.M. Montgomery

Aug. 14

"The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" by Junot Diaz

Tuesday Evening Book Club

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

Make new friends and talk about books.

June 18

"Walk Two Moons" by Sharon Creech

July 16

"The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit" by Michael Finkel

Aug. 20

"The Home for Unwanted Girls" by Joanna Goodman

Writer's Studio

Wednesdays, noon

June 19, July 17

Writers of all levels share information and encouragement.

Native Plant Society

Mondays, 6 p.m.

Guest presenters discuss native plant life in Florida.

June 24 For the Birds

July 29 Butterflies

Aug. 26 Wildlife

TEENS & TWEENS

YALLA South!

Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.

June 4, July 2, Aug. 6

Be a part of the library experience.

Teens, earn volunteer hours for service.

It's Sew Fun!

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon

June 12, 26, July 10, 24

Ages 8-18. Registration required.

Master the basics of sewing and complete simple projects with the American Sewing Guild, Lady Lake Chapter. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

Whodunit?

Tuesday, June 18, 1:30 p.m.

Can you connect the clues and solve the crime in this Lovecraft-inspired mystery theater?

MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Tuesdays

June 25, July 23, 1:30 p.m.

Aug. 27, 5:30 p.m.

Watch favorite anime and discuss manga. Japanese snacks included.

It's a Party!

Tuesday, July 30, 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy the last days of summer!

FAMILIES

Family Flicks

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

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

June 4

June 11

June 18

June 25

July 2

July 9

July 16

July 23

July 30

Knights of the Chess Club

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

June 4-July 30

Learn and play chess.

Knotty Knitters

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

June 5-July 31

Learn to knit or crochet.

A Universe of Stories

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Explore the world and beyond!

June 6 *Space Station Blast Off!*

June 13 *Arthropod Petting Zoo
With UF Department of
Entomology and Nematology*

June 20 *Cheryl Floyd, Storyteller*

June 27 *Stories From Space*

July 11 *Mercury and Sirius*

July 18 *Explore Your Universe
With Derek Demeter*

July 25 *Jeremy Evans, Storyteller*

DUNNELLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

20351 Robinson Road

Dunnellon, FL 34431

352-438-2520

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

Summer BreakSpot

Fridays, noon

June 7-July 26

Free meals for ages 18 and younger.

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

Community Conversation

Topic: It's All About Space

Saturday, July 20, 1 p.m.

Adults.

*See Program Spotlight for more
information and other locations.*

SPECIAL EVENT

Community Cares

Saturday, Aug. 3, noon

See Program Spotlight.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Out of This World Belly Dancing

Saturday, June 22, 2 p.m.

Express yourself through dance!

Presented by the Millie Blonder Dance Team.

Copacabana Rhythms With Mike and Jessica Matthews

Saturday, July 6, 4 p.m.

See Program Spotlight.

Food Lab

Friday, July 12, 1 p.m.

Grab your lab garb and explore food to the fullest.

Presented by Active Marion Project.

Escape From Dr. Puzzler!

Saturday, July 27, 1 p.m.

Trapped in the lab of an evil genius!

Can you find the clues and escape within the hour? The clock is ticking...

MEET THE AUTHOR

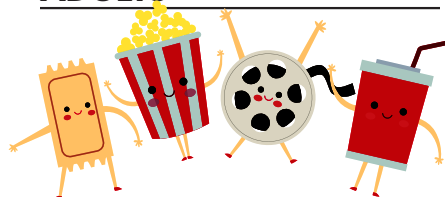
Roger Blanton

"Running through the Storm"

Tuesday, July 9, 1 p.m.

See Program Spotlight.

ADULTS



Monday Matinée

Mondays, 2 p.m.

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

June 3

June 10

June 17

June 24

July 1

July 8

July 15

July 22

July 29

Senior Support Education Series

Thursdays, noon

Educational information for seniors, caregivers or family members who want to know more about available resources.

June 6

*Senior Living Facilities
with Mark Croft*

July 18

*Savvy Caregiver Training
with Rene Horne*

Aug. 1

*Ins and Outs of Adult
Living Facilities*

Dream by Design

Thursday, June 20, 2 p.m.

Catch your out-of-this-world dreams in a dreamcatcher of your own design.

Drop-in Book Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Make new friends and talk about books.

June 19

*"The Great Alone" by
Kristen Hannah*

July 17

*"The Astronaut Wives Club:
a True Story" by Lily Koppel*

Aug. 14

*"Love Anthony" by
Lisa Genova*

Circle of Support

Thursdays, noon

June 20, Aug. 15

Share, learn and connect with others as you get to know the home care resources available in our community.

Nebula Art

Wednesday, July 24, 2 p.m.

Create a piece of art as unique as the universe!

Ask Your Master Gardener

Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

Learn gardening techniques from the masters!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County

June 18

How About That Soil?

July 16

*What Made That
Hole in the Yard?*

TEENS

YALLA West!

Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.

June 15, July 27

Be a part of the library experience and earn volunteer service hours.

Cosmic Cubeecraft

Saturday, July 6, 1 p.m.

Build and customize a space-tacular Cubeecraft character of your very own.

FAMILIES

DIY Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

June 4-July 23

Build, explore and imagine!

Story Time From Space

Wednesdays, 11 a.m., June 5-July 31

See Program Spotlight.

Family Flicks

Fridays, 10 a.m.

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

June 7

June 14

June 21

June 28

July 5
 July 12
 July 19
 July 26



Spaced-Out Science

Fridays, 1 p.m.

Science was never more fun!

- June 7 *Mini Universe on a String*
- June 14 *Create a Pet Alien*
- June 21 *Alien Toothpaste*
- June 28 *Make Moon Dirt*
- July 5 *Astronaut Puppets*
- July 12 *Food Lab With Active Marion Project*
- July 19 *UFOs*
- July 26 *Aliens!*

FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

Summer BreakSpot

Fridays, 12:30 p.m., June 7-July 26

Free meals for ages 18 and younger.

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

SPECIAL EVENT

Summer Program Blast Off!

Wednesday, June 5, 2:30 p.m.

See Program Spotlight.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Beekeeping 101

Saturday, June 1, 1 p.m.

Master Beekeeper Chappie McChesney provides a fun and factual look into what bees do for the community, what beekeepers do for bees and what we can all do to help them both.

Robots Rock!

Wednesday, June 19, 2:30 p.m.

Space-age tech presented by the Forest High School's Robotics Club. Get inspired!

Bat Chats With Bat Belfrys Inc.

Wednesday, June 26, 2:30 p.m.

Bats in the library! Shari Blissett-Clark and the Florida Bat Conservancy present information regarding the protection and preservation of our native bat populations.

Explore Your Universe With Derek Demeter

Wednesday, July 3, 2:30 p.m.

Rockets to the Rescue!

Wednesday, July 10, 2:30 p.m.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Marian Rizzo

"Angela's Treasures"

Saturday, Aug. 3, 10:30 a.m.

See Program Spotlight.

ADULTS

Rock Art!

Saturday, 4 p.m.

June 8, July 13

Paint miniature masterpieces.

Crafts for a Cause

Mondays, 10 a.m.

June 17, July 15

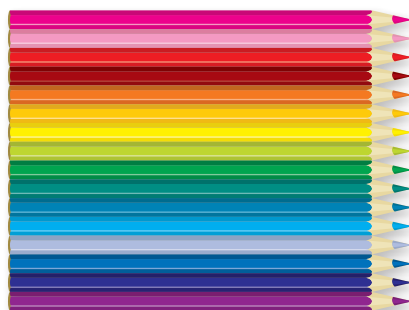
Create items for those in need.

Technology Help Center

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

June 5-July 24

Bring your device and drop in!



Forest Coloring Club

Thursdays, 11 a.m., June 6, July 11

Seek serenity through coloring!

Forest Writer's Studio

Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.

June 13, July 11, Aug. 8

Writers of all levels share work and encouragement.

Forest Readers Book Club

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Make new friends and talk about books!

- June 12 *"The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah*
- June 26 *"The Walk" by Richard Paul Evans*
- July 10 *"Heart of Darkness" by Joseph Conrad*
- July 24 *"Out of My Mind" by Sharon Draper*
- Aug. 14 *"The Whistler" by John Grisham*
- Aug. 28 *"Turtles All the Way Down" by John Green*

Ask Your Master Gardener

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.

Get your garden growing!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

- June 15 *Understanding Florida Weather*
- July 20 *Pesky Weeds and Critters*

Tuesday Flicks

Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

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

- June 18 *"Dune"*
- July 16 *"John Carter"*

DIY Art: Napkin Collages

Wednesday, July 3, 10:30 a.m.

Express yourself through art!

TEENS & TWEENS

Art Workshop

Thursdays, 4 p.m.

- June 20 *Pop Culture Cubeecraft*
- July 18 *Moon Party*

YALLA East!

Thursdays, 5 p.m.

June 20, July 18, Aug. 15

Be part of the library experience.

Teens, earn volunteer service hours.

FAMILIES

A Universe of Stories

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Explore the world and beyond!

- June 5 *Summer Program Blast Off!*
- June 12 *Moon Rock Art*
- June 19 *Robots Rock!*
- June 26 *Bat Chats With Bat Belfry's Inc.*
- July 3 *Explore Your Universe with Derek Demeter*
- July 10 *Rockets to the Rescue!*
- July 17 *Astronaut Training Camp With Active Marion Project*
- July 24 *Summer Wrap-Up!*

Summer Cinema

Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

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

June 7
June 14
June 21
June 28
July 5
July 12
July 19
July 26

FORT MCCOY PUBLIC LIBRARY

14660 NE Hwy. 315, Fort McCoy, FL 32134
352-438-2560

ADULTS

Monday Morning Book Club

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Make new friends and talk about books!

June 3 "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio
July 1 "Seaglass" by Anita Shreve

FAMILIES

A Universe of Stories!

Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

Explore the world and beyond!

June 12 Astronaut Academy
June 26 Mission to the Moon
July 10 Alien Adventures

FREEDOM PUBLIC LIBRARY

5870 SW 95th St., Ocala, FL 34476
352-438-2580

Programs are sponsored by the Friends of Freedom Public Library.

Summer BreakSpot

Wednesdays, noon

June 5-July 10

Free meals for ages 18 and younger.

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

See Program Spotlight.

Mark Wade, Ventriloquist

Wednesday, June 5, 1 p.m.

Spend a fun-filled family afternoon with America's foremost children's ventriloquist.

Rockets to the Rescue!

Wednesday, June 19, 1 p.m.

ADULTS

Ask Arnold! Comprehensive Computer Assistance

Thursdays, noon-2 p.m.

June 6-Aug. 29

Get help with all computer needs.

As the Page Turns Book Club

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Join the club and turn the page!

Everyone is welcome.

June 4 "The Alchemist" by Paolo Coelho/"The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne
July 2 "The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency" by Alexander McCall Smith
Aug. 6 "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah

The Tuesday Matinée

Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

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

June 11 "Interstellar"
July 9 "Arrival"

TEENS & TWEENS

Crafts for a Cause:

Knots of Love™

Thursdays, 1 p.m.

June 6-July 11

*No program July 4.

Warm the hearts and heads of those going through chemotherapy. All items produced will be donated to Knots of Love™.

Film Fest!

Thursdays, 2 p.m.

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

June 6

June 13

June 20

June 27

July 11

Gamers Unite!

Saturdays, 3 p.m.

June 8, 22, July 13, 27

Are you up for a video game challenge?

YALLA Free!

Thursdays, 5 p.m.

June 13, July 11, Aug. 8

Be a part of library experience! Teens, earn volunteer hours for service.

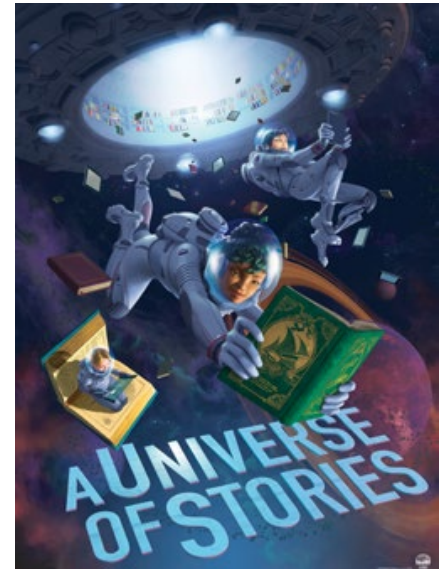
FAMILIES

Pajama Party!

Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

June 4-July 9

Make summer nights special with stories, songs and activities. Fuzzy slippers and jammies welcome!



A Universe of Stories!

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Explore the world and beyond!

June 5 Mark Wade, Ventriloquist
June 12 Solar System Exploration
June 19 Rockets to the Rescue
June 26 Trip to Mars: Touchdown Engineering Design Process
July 3 Lunar Phases
July 10 Galaxy Glow Party

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.

Community Conversation

Topic: It's All About Space.

Tuesday, June 25, 11 a.m.

Adults.

See Program Spotlight for more information and locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Program Spotlight

Rockets to the Rescue!

Thursday, June 20, 2 p.m.

Escape From Space

Outpost 520

Wednesday, July 17, 4 p.m.

Teens.

Summer Scoop

Thursday, July 18, 2 p.m.

ADULTS

Technology Help Center

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., June 5-July 31

Bring your device and drop in!

Novels at Noon

Wednesdays, noon

Make new friends and talk about books!

June 19	"The Martian: a Novel" by Andy Weir
July 17	"Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury
Aug. 21	"The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah

TEENS & TWEENS

Star Jars

Wednesday, June 19, 4 p.m.

Light the night!

YALLA Oaks!

Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

June 19, July 17, Aug. 14

Be a part of the library experience. Teens, earn volunteer service hours.

FAMILIES

June 27	Shoot for the Moon
July 11	Robot Parade
July 18	Summer Scoop With Jim Phillips
July 25	Astronaut Training Camp With Active Marion Project

REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY

15150 NW Gainesville Road Reddick, FL 32686

352-438-2566

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

Summer BreakSpot

Mondays, noon, June 3-July 22

Free meals for ages 18 and younger.

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Summer Cinema

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

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Come watch stories about space.

June 5

June 12

June 19

June 26

July 3

July 10

July 17

July 24

Rockets to the Rescue!

Monday, July 8, 11 a.m.

See Program Spotlight.

Summer Scoop With Jim Phillips

Wednesday, July 17, 2 p.m.

See Program Spotlight.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Brown Bag Luncheon With

Marian Rizzo

"Angela's Treasures"

Friday, Aug. 9, noon

See Program Spotlight.

ADULTS

Protect Your Universe:

Hurricane Preparation

Wednesday, June 5, 3 p.m.

Prepare yourself! Extension Director David Holmes has experienced four

hurricanes in Florida, including Andrew in 1992. Here are the most useful tips that all Floridians should follow to prepare for the next storm season.

TEENS

YALLA North!

Saturday, June 15, 1 p.m.

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

FAMILIES

A Universe of Stories!

Mondays, 11 a.m.

Explore the world and beyond!

June 3

Marshmallow Rockets

June 10

Astronaut Training Camp

With Active Marion Project

June 17

Straw Rockets

June 24

Defy Gravity

July 1

Lunar Phases

July 8

Rockets to the Rescue

July 15

Living in Space

July 22

Space Shuttles

Story Time From Space

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

June 4-July 23

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Access Florida Assistance

Help provided with filing for various government assistance programs.

Forest Public Library

Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion

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

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Visit www.uscis.gov or call 1-800-375-5283 to schedule an appointment at your local library with an official for the USCIS Orlando Field Office.

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System

Free screenings for children birth through age 5 who may have difficulty with learning, speaking, playing, seeing, walking and hearing. Screening appointments may be



A Universe of Stories

Thursdays, 2 p.m.

Explore the world and beyond!

June 6

A Sky Full of Stories

June 13

Take Me to Your Reader!

June 20

Rockets to the Rescue

held at your local library. Contact ChildFind at 352-671-6051 to schedule.

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI)

FTRI provides amplified telephones free of charge to qualifying individuals through the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida. Contact your local library or call the Center at 352-368-3788 for an appointment.

GED and ESOL Classes

Earn your GED or learn to speak English at the library through Marion Technical College. It's FREE. *Dunnellon Public Library, Mondays-Thursdays. Contact the Dunnellon Public Library for more information and times.*

Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE)

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

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Friends of the Belleview Public Library

*Tuesday, 10 a.m.
No meetings June–August*

Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library

*Tuesday, 10 a.m.
No meetings June–August*

Friends of the Forest Public Library

No meetings or book sales June–August

Friends of the Fort McCoy Public Library

*Wednesday, 10:30 a.m., June 12
No meetings July or August*

Friends of Freedom Public Library

Monday, 10 a.m., June 3, July 1, Aug. 5

Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library

*Friday, 10 a.m., June 21
No meetings July or August*

Friends of the Ocala Public Library

Thursday, 4 p.m., June 20, July 18, Aug. 15

Book Sale:

Saturday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 2, for Friends members only, 2–5 p.m.

LIBRARY CLOSED DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Independence Day

Thursday, July 4

All Marion County public libraries will be closed.

Maintenance Day

Friday, Aug. 2

Headquarters-Ocala and Forest public libraries will be closed to the public.

Exhibits & Displays

HEADQUARTERS-OCALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

- | | |
|--------|---|
| June | America the Beautiful: National Parks Photography
by Bonnie Halsell |
| July | Kingdom of the Sun Doll Club of Ocala |
| August | Boy Scouts of America, Marion District |

BELLEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

- | | |
|--------|--|
| June | Mustache Mugs by Lynda Allberry
Stencil Paintings by Kim and Casey Drexel |
| July | Truck Art by Ron Dankert |
| August | Paintings by Judith Kaiser
Stained Glass by Earl Forsyth |

DUNNELLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

- | | |
|--------|--|
| June | A World of Star Wars by Daniel Antonino |
| July | Animal Button Pins by Linda Coldwell |
| August | Cookies Original Porcelain Pottery by Cookie Serletic |

FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

- | | |
|--------|--|
| June | Forest Coloring Club by Nancy Sanders |
| July | American Independence by Jaqueline Provancher |
| August | Nature Photographs by Nancy MacFarland |

REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY

- | | |
|--------|---|
| June | Hurricane Preparedness by David Holmes |
| July | Water Color Art by Reddick Patrons |
| August | Native American Art by Gary Walker |

Marion Oaks Public Library Announces New Hours of Service

The Marion County Public Library System is pleased to announce new hours of service for the Marion Oaks Public Library (294 Marion Oaks Lane). Effective June 1, the Marion Oaks Public Library will be open **Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.** and **Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Check out this issue of WORDS to learn about the great line-up of programs and events happening at your Marion Oaks Public Library this summer and throughout the year!



A Universe of Encounters

IN INFORMATION SERVICES

BY SUZANNE BROWN

One quiet evening not too long ago, I was working at the Information Desk when the front doors whooshed open to admit an extraordinarily tall, blue-green creature. I immediately perked up: "Good evening, Mr. Grblx! How are you doing today?"

Mr. G. slithered over to my desk and in syncopated syllables sobbed, "How do I look? I'm so homesick, I'm literally turning blue! But then I heard that the library holds a universe of stories and I wondered, could the library help me?"

My mind whirred. What would make a Grblxite feel less homesick? As far as I knew, he was the only one of his kind on Earth. "Tell you what, let's visit the shelves and see what sounds good. How do you feel about science fiction and fantasy? We have books by authors from Isaac Asimov to Timothy Zahn, and so many in between! Maybe a copy of 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' by Douglas Adams?" I asked.

Mr. G. blubbered, "It just isn't the same. If I can't read novels written under Grblx's glorious purple sky, I'd rather stick with nonfiction."

"Nonfiction books about similar subjects are grouped together. Are you interested in stories about extraterrestrial abductions? They're right here near the beginning, in the 001.942 collection. Oh, not your style?" I replied.

Mr. Grblx shuddered self-consciously.

"Hmmm, how about books on humankind's search for extraterrestrial life? Those are over here in the 576.839s and there's even a fairly recent one titled 'The Aliens Are Coming!' by Ben Miller. That one should be funny—the author is a comedian with a PhD in physics!"

Mr. G.'s eight eyes flashed green with surprise.

"We'll hang onto that one. Let's see if we can find a few more for you. I know! Books about space and other planets! I accidentally passed them. They're right over here in the 520s." I suggested.

"I really like books with people," Mr. G. bumbled. "The space books are pretty, but no, not today. I wish that I could find something about other beings like me!"



"Well, I know we don't have any books about Grblxites, but how about other space explorers? They were brave and smart and wanted to know more about the universe, just like you! We can find books on space exploration in the 629.4s and also the biographies! Hey, you know that astronaut Scott Kelly? He spent almost a year on the space station. You can read all about it in his biography 'Endurance!' I suggested.

Mr. G. gurgled, "This is great! But I need more to keep me busy. I can't read all the time."

"With all those tentacles, I bet you're a whiz at crafts. Come over to the computer and let me show you our Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center database. Just look at this beautiful Space Crystals Quilt!" I beamed.

"It would be like snuggling in a supernova! I like it!" Mr. G. gushed.

"And you live pretty far out of town, right? Not much light pollution? How about this project that shows you how to build a home observatory?" I asked.

"Wow! I didn't know we had access to databases like this!" Mr. G. sounded giddy.

"Your library card gives you access to so many things, even from home! Online, you can access databases, books, graphic novels and magazines. I know you enjoy our book CDs, but you can even listen to audio books through a free app on your tablet or phone!" I exclaimed.

Mr. Grblx's skin was now a happy, vibrant green. He buoyantly roamed the library for a bit longer. Then, several items clutched in his tentacles, he slithered to the Circulation desk and out the door. Another satisfied library patron. **W**



Practicing archery at Belleview Public Library.



Crafts at HQ-Ocala Public Library Butterfly Festival.



Bigfoot tracks at Belleview Public Library.



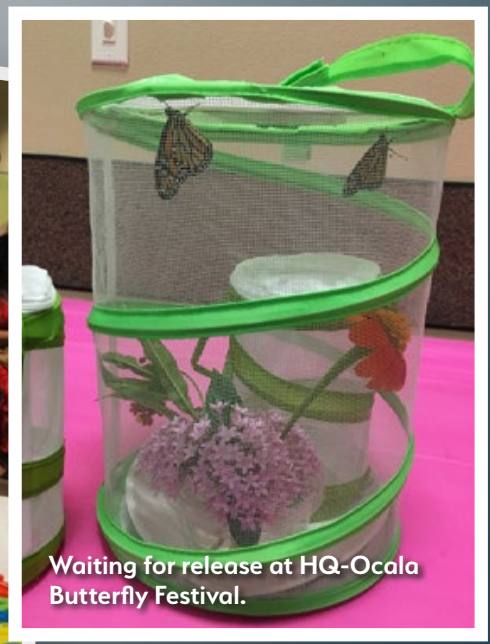
Enjoying a walk at HQ-Ocala Public Library Paws and Pages Pet Expo.



Kitten adoption at HQ-Ocala Public Library Paws and Pages Pet Expo.



Super Mario Day at HQ-Ocala Public Library.



Waiting for release at HQ-Ocala Butterfly Festival.



BOOKMARKS

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE OCALA PUBLIC LIBRARY



Marion County Memories

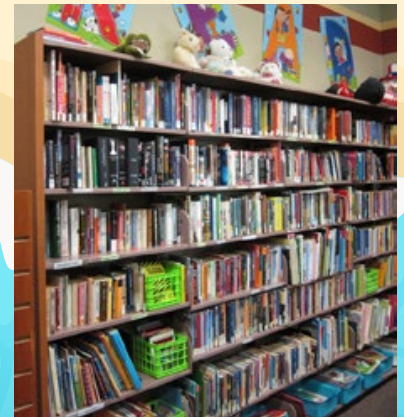
Want to share your love for Marion County with your friends and family? The booklet entitled "Memorable Marion County" is just what you are looking for! Plus, it's the perfect addition for your living room coffee table. As part of Marion County's 175th anniversary recognition efforts, the booklet was prepared to provide an overview of some of the historical milestones

that have occurred over the past 175 years. This beautiful graphically designed booklet features information pertaining to Marion County's agriculture, industry, arts, education, culture, tourism, the equine industry, and more. The research, writing, and designs for the 28-page booklet were provided by the staff of the Marion County Public Library System, and the printing was funded by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library. The booklets are available at the Book Market bookstore at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library (2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL.) for a \$2 donation.



Ah, It's Summer!

The kids are out of school, the beaches are calling us, and the free and easy days of summer are here! But all too soon, the kids are saying they're bored and have nothing to do. Bring them to the library! Check out the Book Market where you can find a wealth of children's and young adults' books at bargain prices. Your children will be entertained and, by reading, will also retain many of the skills they learned during the past school year.



WINNING READER

Congratulations to Diane Lewis, the winner of a Kindle Fire tablet in the drawing for all who renewed or began new memberships during the recent Friends' membership drive. Diane is a voracious reader and an avid library supporter. She joined the Friends of the Ocala Library as soon as she moved to Marion County in 2016.



BOOK SALE

SATURDAY, AUG. 3, 2019, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

Held in Meeting Rooms, Headquarters-Ocala Public Library
(Friends members only: Friday, Aug. 2, 2-5 p.m.)

profiles

BY SCOTT MASON

Since the beginning of time, mankind has gazed up at the sky and wondered about the vastness of space. Our inquisitive nature has led us to thoughts of creatures from other worlds and unknown galaxies. It could even be said that those imaginative ideas could create the budding interest of a future career. Derek Demeter had that interest at an early age and it became his lifelong passion.

When Derek was a boy, his father took him to the John Young Planetarium in Orlando, Florida to see a show about the planet Mars. According to Derek, that life-changing event was enough to get him “hooked on outer space.” Soon he was volunteering at the Crosby Observatory at the Orlando Science Center and was hired as an observatory technician when he was 16. In college he worked as a part-time assistant at the Emil Buehler Planetarium at Seminole State College, then, following graduation, rose through the ranks to become the director of the planetarium.

Derek also credits his love of outer space to a favorite book he had as a child. “It was a National Geographic book called ‘Our Universe,’ which offered an illustrated journey into our cosmos,” said Demeter. “The pictures and illustrations are still imbedded into my memory to this day.” As a guest speaker at many Marion County Public Library System locations, Derek has witnessed firsthand the magic of space and its impact on public library patrons. During one event at the Fort McCoy Public Library, he recalls seeing an 86-year-old man with tears in his eyes after looking through a telescope for the first time.

When asked about the importance of space exploration, Derek said, “Exploring beyond Earth to me is ironically a way to better appreciate our planet. When you learn just how vast space is and



how far away everything is from our Sun, you realize that our little blue ball in space is quite an amazing planet and that we need to be better caretakers of our world.”

Derek appreciates the world much like someone would have an appreciation for their home after a vacation to another country. It is that appreciation and wondrous curiosity instilled in him as a child that still has him looking to the skies and wondering what else may be out there among the stars just waiting for discovery! **W**