



IN THIS ISSUE: CALENDAR . BOOK REVIEW . PROFILE

words

Marion County Public Library's Quarterly Newsmagazine

Volume 12 | Issue 1 | Spring 2020

Marion County Public Library

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Publisher: The Friends of The

Ocala Public Library

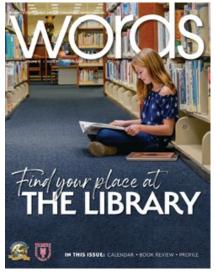
Editor: **Karen M. Jensen** Writers: **Erin Arnold,**

Faith Clements, Asa Drake, Joe Kays, Pat Lakin, Scott Mason,

Susan Reynolds

Photos: John Jernigan, Pat Lakin

ON THE COVER:



The public library has something for everyone to find their place. Celebrate the valuable role libraries and library staff play in transforming communities and improving lives.

Photo: John Jernigan • Model: Addison Inman

The Marion County Public Library System is a department of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and is funded by them through general funds. The WORDS newsmagazine is funded by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, Inc.

FIND THE LIBRARY ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER!





Q WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR





Find Your Place

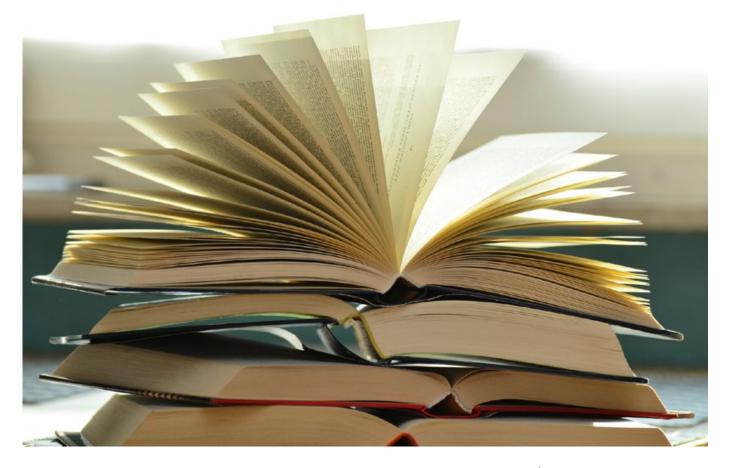
Find your place. That phrase can bring to mind many meanings; however, one that I believe is especially important is as it relates to making connections—to people, ideas, interests, etc. One of our library's goals is to connect and it reads as follows: Citizens will find opportunities to use the public library as a community gathering place to connect with others, the library and the community through programs, meeting spaces, collaboration and partnerships.

The Marion County Public Library System is a vital community hub that provides inviting and friendly places where individuals can connect with their neighbors and the world around them. Services are free and accessible to all, supported by trained library staff who are part of our community and who work together to provide responsive, quality customer service to the public. Connecting citizens to knowledge and information is central to the Marion County Public Library System mission.

The library is a place where children, teens and adults can explore their interests, access and enjoy books and library materials, utilize free Wi-Fi and meeting rooms, search for a job, learn how to start a new business and meet new friends. Robust program attendance and meeting room use, a vibrant volunteer program, as well as seven Friends of the Library groups, offer residents opportunities to be connected with their community.

Developing strong, collaborative partnerships with area government agencies, municipalities, non-profits, health care providers, small businesses, and civic and fraternal organizations further strengthens the Marion County Public Library System's ability to provide resources that enhance the overall quality of life for those living in the communities we serve.

Julie Sieg



Get Ready to Read-A-Thon

BY JOE KAYS

he Friends of the Ocala Public Library are gearing up for the first Read-A-Thon event to be held on Saturday, April 25, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library lobby.

Four dozen library supporters will be raising money online between January and April, then reading from their favorite books for 15 minutes each throughout the day. Readings from such familiar authors as J.K. Rowling, Dr. Seuss, Maya Angelou, William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Ernest Hemingway, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and many more are likely to be among the favorite selections, but library staff will also have reading options from which event participants can choose.

The public is invited to join the Friends of the Ocala Public Library at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library on April 25 to cheer on the readers and the volunteers throughout the day. There will be plenty of activities during the day, along with opportunities to learn more about all of the amazing resources public libraries provide for the community.

There are also many opportunities for local businesses to sponsor a reading session.

For anyone who wishes to read, sponsor a reader or otherwise participate, visit the Friends of the Ocala Library Facebook page or contact Joe Kays at *joe.kays@yahoo.com.*

Money raised by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library is used to:

- Support library programs such as Ready to Read, Fairy Tale Festival and CREATE.
- Supplement library staff training and education.
- Publish WORDS magazine.
- Sell donated books through the Book Market, online sales, and quarterly book sales.
- Sponsor visiting authors to speak about relevant current issues and discuss the writing process.
- Educate our community about services available at the public library.
- Keep the community informed of pending legislative action that may impact the Marion County Public Library System.

OPEN CALL FOR TEEN ARTISTS:

An Invitation to

GREATE

BY ERIN ARNOLD & ASA DRAKE



veryone has a story to share and your public library wants to hear yours! Teens, ages 13-18, participating in this year's Colossal, Reading, Entertaining, Artsy, Teen Event (CREATE), **Saturday**, **April 18, 10 a.m. at Headquarters-Ocala Public Library**, will hone their skills in the creative world working with professional artists, filmmakers and writers. Learn helpful tips from local leaders in the arts about professional and educational opportunities for emerging artists and hear how others developed their skills and found communities to support their work. Present your manuscript, your canvas or your final film cut. Your public library wants to celebrate where you are now in the creative process and your plans for the future.

Teens interested in fine arts, filmmaking or writing will find their creative outlet at this year's 11th annual CREATE. The event includes a Fine Arts show, Filmmaker's Festival and Writer's Workshop. Teens will have the opportunity to compete and a chance to win cash prizes, sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library.

Young adult author and journalist Arin Greenwood will deliver the keynote address and lead a writer's workshop. CREATE participants will receive a copy of Arin's award-winning book, "Your Robot Dog Will Die."

Marion County teens can pick up a CREATE application at any Marion County Public Library location or online at *library.marioncountyfl.org*. The application deadline is **Monday, March 30**.

Join in the fun and share your story with your community!

Whether you're an artist, writer, filmmaker or spectator, CREATE provides something for everyone! For more information, call 352-671-8551.

Finding A Connection

BY SUSAN REYNOLDS

n today's fast-paced and often transient society, some individuals struggle to find meaningful connections and a sense of belonging to a community. The following titles are examples of recently published books that look at how we can connect with people and places and create memories.

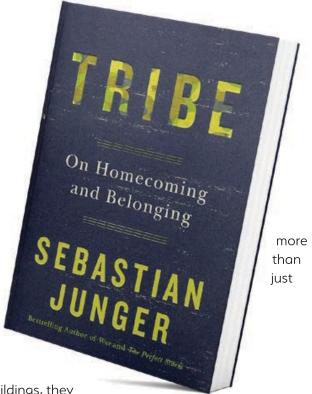
In his book "Tribe: On Homecoming and **Belonging,"** Sebastian Junger discusses the idea of tribal belonging. To quote Seth Godin, "What tribes are, is a very simple concept that goes back 50 million years. It's about leading and connecting people and ideas. And it's something that people have wanted forever." In his book, Junger looks at historical groups such as early American colonists and, more recently, combat veterans and survivors of natural disasters to illustrate how powerful a small close-knit group working toward a common purpose can be. The book offers an opportunity to consider what has been lost as generations have moved from tribal needs to individual needs and how this has impacted our world.

In Eric Klinenberg's book "Palaces for

the People: How Social

Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life," the narrative centers around community locations, sometimes referred to as third spaces—those locations that aren't work or home but the places people choose to gather together.

This social infrastructure could be a park, café, a local place of worship, or even the local public library. These places are



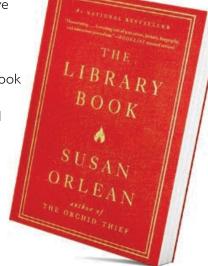
buildings, they are "palaces

for the people" that help provide an opportunity for civic engagement, community building and interaction. Research indicates that when communities invest in "social infrastructure," their residents experience less feeling of isolation and an increase in social cohesion within their community.

For many, a favorite community place and fond memories originate from visits to a local public

library. "The Library Book," by Susan Orlean is a love letter to libraries framed against the history of the worst library fire in American history. The book details the emotional, intellectual and physical loss experienced by the community and how it dealt with the situation when the Los Angeles Public Library burned down in 1986 and more than one million books

were destroyed.



Today and every day, your public library invites you to check out one or more of these titles and spend some time at any of our eight locations where you can make meaningful connections and lasting memories. W



Find Your Place at the Library:

Celebrate National Library Week April 19-25

he Marion County Public Library System invites all community members to find their place at the library by exploring their passions and discovering new interests through free programs, library materials, technology and other resources.

April 19-25, 2020, is National Library Week, an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries and library staff play in transforming communities and improving lives. The public library is a place where everyone is welcome regardless of age, interests or background. From audiobooks and job-seeking resources to genealogy classes and help

with do-it-yourself projects, the library has something for everyone.

"Public libraries have long served as trusted and treasured institutions where we can all come together, connect and learn alongside one another," said Julie Sieg, director, Marion County Public Library System. "National Library Week is a perfect time for community members to check out what's new at their public library and pursue their interests and aspirations."

For more information, visit the public library's website at library.marioncountyfl.org, or call 352-671-8551 and find your place at the library! $\overline{\mathbf{W}}$



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

Census 2020 Kickoff Parties

March Saturdays, noon-4 p.m. Celebrate Census 2020! Enjoy refreshments and view a sample questionnaire. When you have received your official access code, you can file it online at any library. Stand up and be counted!

March 7 Fort McCoy Public Library March 14 Marion Oaks Public Library

and Reddick Public Library

March 21 Belleview Public Library and Freedom Public Library

March 28 Dunnellon Public Library and Forest Public Library



Community Conversations

Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life? Come together with others for a casual and considerate exchange of ideas. Reddick Public Library Monday, March 23, 10:30 a.m. Freedom Public Library Wednesday, March 25, 3 p.m. Belleview Public Library Tuesday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. Forest Public Library Saturday, April 11, 10:30 a.m. Dunnellon Public Library Friday, April 17, 4 p.m. Marion Oaks Public Library

Thursday, April 23, 4 p.m.

Marion County Day Community Festival

Take a moment to enjoy and explore the many services offered by Marion County government and other county organizations.

McPherson Governmental Campus, Ocala Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius! Enjoy books,

games and crafts inspired by Dr. Seuss.

All programs are co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County. Headquarters-Ocala program is co-sponsored by the Marion Education Association. All others are co-sponsored by United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

Headquarters-Ocala Saturday, March 7, 10:30 a.m. Dunnellon Public Library Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m. Reddick Public Library Tuesday, March 10, 4 p.m. Fort McCov Public Library Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m. Freedom Public Library Friday, March 20, 3 p.m. Marion Oaks Public Library Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. Belleview Public Library Wednesday, March 25, 10:30 a.m. Forest Public Library

Friday, March 27, 10:30 a.m.

CREATE: A Colossal, Reading, **Entertaining, Artsy, Teen Event!**

Celebrate the many talents of Marion County teens! Applaud the writing, filmmaking and artistic talents of youth in our community. Vote for your favorites in each category. All ages are invited to attend. Participation is limited to teens, ages 13-18. Application deadline: Monday, March 30

Event: Headquarters-Ocala Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.



Kindergarten Rocks...Enroll!

Is your child starting kindergarten in the fall? Let library and school district staff assist with the online portion of enrollment. Fun activities provided for the student-to-be. Belleview Public Library Monday, March 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Dunnellon Public Library Thursday, April 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Headquarters-Ocala Saturday, April 4, 2-4 p.m.

Homeschool Expo

Speak with local homeschool support groups and listen to Vicki Leist, former District 3 director and chairman of the Florida Parent-Educators Association Scholarship Foundation, as she provides an introduction to homeschooling. Headquarters-Ocala Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Ocala Civic Theatre Presents "The Name Jar"

What's in a name? For Unhei, recently emigrated to the U.S. from Korea, it means everything. But she soon becomes aware that adapting to her new surroundings might mean changing her name. The Education Department of the Ocala Civic Theatre presents Yangsook Choi's charming story of cultural awareness, inclusiveness and friendship. Ages 5-12 with caregivers. Headauarters-Ocala

Monday, March 16, 2 p.m.

Patriot Service Dogs

Bring your bag lunch and learn about the training of these animal companions serving veterans from trainer Julie Sanderson. Registration recommended. Belleview Public Library Thursday, March 26, noon



A 19th-century engraving of Jane Austen, likely derived from a portrait by her sister, Cassandra Austen, c. 1810. Image courtesy of Brittanica.com

Jane Austen Parlor Party

Explore the life and times of Jane Austen and the importance of her literary works. Parlor games will be played. Period dress is encouraged! Presented by The Jane Austen Society of North America, North Florida Region. Dunnellon Public Library Saturday, April 18, 2 p.m.



Free Comic Book Day

Stop by your local library and grab a free comic book while supplies last. Courtesy of Diamond Comic Distributors and Bearded Browncoat Comics and Games All library locations (except Headquarters-Ocala) Saturday, May 2 Headquarters-Ocala, Sunday, May 3

Free Comic Book Day After

It's time for comic lovers, cosplayers and geeks to party with free comics, POP! toy trading and gaming! In celebration of Free Comic Book Day, comics will be distributed while supplies last. Courtesy of Diamond Comic Distributors and Bearded Browncoat Comics and Games. Headauarters-Ocala Sunday, May 3, 1-3 p.m.

MEET THE AUTHORS

Brown Bag Luncheon With Michael Calhoun Tucker

"The Crackers: The Legend of Jessie B. Tucker"

Bring your bag lunch and enjoy a "tell-all" of the adventures of Tucker's extended family, who fled Georgia

during the Civil War and headed south into a wild and uninhabited Florida. Beverage and dessert provided. Contact the library at 352-438-2566 to reserve a piece of pie! Reddick Public Library Thursday, March 19, noon



Chef Warren Caterson

Award-winning cookbook author Chef Warren returns with 10 meals in 10 minutes! Rediscover the joy of cooking with delicious entrees that can be prepared quickly using items that are probably tucked away in your kitchen cabinets. Tips, hints and fun cooking tales highlight this tasty presentation. Forest Public Library Friday, March 27, 2 p.m.

Joe Ponds, Ph.D.

"The 600 m.o.l.: Black Helicopter Pilots in Vietnam" Only 2 percent of army helicopter pilots in Vietnam were African-American and they struggled to attain this distinctive role. These are their stories as told by Dr. Joe Ponds, chairman of the board of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association of Florida. Dunnellon Public Library Saturday, March 28, 2:30 p.m.

Brown Bag Luncheon With Paula Stone Tucker

"Surviving: A Kent State Memoir" With this personal account of the late 60s and 70s, Tucker explores themes of civil unrest, domestic violence and a young woman's triumph in their aftermath. Registration recommended. Call 352-438-2500.

Belleview Public Library Thursday, April 16, noon

HEADQUARTERS-

SPECIAL EVENTS

See Program Spotlight.

CREATE: A Colossal, Reading, **Entertaining, Artsy, Teen Event!**

Application deadline (ages 13-18) Monday, March 30

Event: Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.

Kindergarten Rocks...Enroll!

Saturday, April 4, 2-4 p.m. See Program Spotlight for more locations.

Homeschool Expo

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Free Comic Book Day After

Sunday, May 3, 1-3 p.m. See Program Spotlight.

Cat Café: Kitten Edition

Saturday, May 23, 2 p.m.

Stop by our café for light refreshments and feline friendship from adorable and adoptable kitties!

Presented with Marion County Animal Services.

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

Saturday, March 7, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!

See Program Spotlight for other locations. Sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the Marion Education Association

Ocala Civic Theatre Presents "The Name Jar"

Monday, March 16, 2 p.m. Ages 5-12 with caregivers. See Program Spotlight.

ADULTS

The Monday Matinée

Mondays, 2 p.m.

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

March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

March 30

April 6

April 13

April 20





Wired Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Learn about computers and databases. Space is limited.

Computers for Beginners

March 4 I Turned on My Computer,

Now What?

March 11 Basic Keyboarding March 18 Basic Internet March 25 Basic Internet Safety

Online Potpourri

April 1 Help! I've Been Hacked Internet Rabbit Holes April 8 April 15 Puzzling Brain Games April 22 Get More From Google

Genealogy Help Center

Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m. March 4, April 1, May 6 Genealogy gurus from the Marion County Genealogical Society assist with your search.

Technology Help Center

Wednesdays, 2-3:30 p.m. March 4-May 27 Bring your device and drop in!

Crafternoons

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Get in touch with the right side of your brain! Registration required.

Call 352-671-8551.

March 4 String Art April 1 Felt Eggs May 6 Tie-Dye Scarves

Novels at Night Book Club

Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

Enjoy a lively book discussion, treats and coffee.

March 10 "The Stranger in the

Woods" by Michael Finkel

"The Silent Patient" by April 14

Alex Michaelides

"The Story of Arthur Truluv" May 12

by Elizabeth Berg

π -Day Celebration

Saturday, March 14, 2 p.m. Eureka! Celebrate the constant first calculated by Archimedes. Play maththemed trivia and create your very own pi-ku. Also, hail the birth of theoretical physicist Albert Einstein. It's a great day to be irrational!

Feathers, Nature, Wildlife and Conservation

Saturday, March 28, 10:30 a.m. Learn all about our winged friends from the experts at the Marion Audubon Society.



Ride the Rails of Marion County

Sunday, April 19, 2 p.m.

All aboard! Explore the history of railroad travel and commerce in Marion County with history enthusiast and librarian Taylor Benson.

ADULTS AND TEENS

Escape Rooms: Can You Get Out?

Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Use your wits and deductive skills to solve puzzles and decipher clues! March 12 The Hunt for Shady Sam April 9 Trapped in the Upside Down

Wild Nights-Wild Nights: Open Mic

Monday, April 27, 5 p.m.

Were I with thee, wild nights should be our luxury! Party with Emily Dickinson like it's 1849!

TEENS

MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. March 5, April 2, May 7

Watch favorite anime and manga titles on the big screen while enjoying Japanese snacks.

Show and Sketch Teen Artist Club

Mondays, 4:30 p.m. March 9, April 13, May 11

Share your art and learn new techniques with others who are passionate about drawing. All skill levels welcome.

Fab Lab: Oh Sew Magical!

Monday, March 23, 4:30 p.m. Make your own misfit. Learn basic hand-stiches with unicorns, gnomes and sasquatches. Reservations recommended.

YALLA!

Tuesdays, 5 p.m. March 24, April 28, May 26 Be a part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

Geekfest! Fandoms and Comic Club

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m. March 25, April 22, May 27 Explore the world of pop culture and comics with fellow fans.

Fab Lab: Visual Journaling

Wednesday, May 13, 4:30 p.m. Celebrate National Self-Esteem Month. We'll bring the tools; you bring your goals!

CHILDREN LEGO®

Wednesdays, 2 p.m., March 18, April 15 Ages 5-12 with

Engineers

careaivers.

Tinker, design, and create!

All Hands on Tech

Tuesdays, 4 p.m., March 24-April 7 Ages 8-12 with caregivers. Test your wits and creativity using minirobots and more.

Hello, Spring! Crafts for Kids

Saturday, April 11, 2 p.m. Ages 5-12 with caregivers. Drop in and make something special.

STORY TIMES

March 10-May 2

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

Preschool Story Time

Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m., 11 a.m. Ages 3-5.

Toddling Twos

Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., 11 a.m.

Pajama Story Time

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Ages 5 and younger.

Bouncing Babies

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., 11 a.m. Infants-23 months.

Family Story Time

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. April 4, May 2 Ages 5 and younger.



BELLEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

13145 SE Highway 484 Belleview, FL 34420 • 352-438-2500 Programs made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Belleview Public Library.

Community Conversation

Tuesday, March 31, 10:30 a.m.
Topic: How has the library made
a difference in your life?
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Census Kickoff Party

Saturday, March 21, noon-4 p.m. Celebrate Census 2020! See Program Spotlight for more locations.

Kindergarten Rocks...Enroll!

Monday, March 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m. See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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

Wednesday, March 25, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!

See Program Spotlight for more locations. Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

Patriot Service Dogs

Thursday, March 26, noon See Program Spotlight.

Community Job Fair

Wednesday, April 15, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Looking for a career opportunity? Sponsored by the City of Belleview.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Paula Stone Tucker

"Surviving: A Kent State Memoir"

Thursday, April 16, noon See Program Spotlight.

ADULTS

Technology Help Center

Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m. March 4-April 29 Bring your device and drop in.

Tale Spinners Storytelling Group

Thursdays, 3 p.m. March 5, April 2

Practice your storytelling skills and hone the craft of telling your tale.

Presented with Ocali Storytelling Guild, Inc.

Master Gardener Plant Clinic

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

March 6, 20, April 3, 17, May 1, 15

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.

March 11 "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" by Neil Gaiman

April 8 "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel May 13 "The Last Runaway"

by Tracy Chevalier



Tuesday Evening Book Club

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

Make new friends and talk about books.

March 17 "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak

April 21 "Far, Far Away" by Tom McNeal May 19 "Educated" by Tara Westover

Tuesday Movie Matinée

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

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

March 17 March 24

March 31

April 7

April 14 April 21

April 28



Writer's Studio

Wednesdays, noon March 18, April 15, May 20 Writers of all levels share information and encouragement.

Native Plant Society

Mondays, 6 p.m., March 30, April 27 Deborah Curry and guest presenters discuss native plant life in Florida.

TEENS & TWEENS

YALLA South!

Tuesdays, 5 p.m., March 3, April 7, May 5 Be a part of the library experience. Teens, earn volunteer hours for service.

MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.

March 24, April 28, May 26

Watch favorite anime and discuss manga while enjoying Japanese snacks.

FAMILIES

Just Another Mah-Jongg Monday!

Mondays, 1 p.m., March 2-April 27 Learn and play!

Knights of the Chess Club

Tuesdays, 4 p.m., March 3-April 28 Learn and play chess!

Games on a Table

*Tuesdays, 4 p.m., March 3-April 28*Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

Knotty Knitters

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m., March 4-April 29 Learn to knit or crochet.



March 4-April 30

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

Preschool Adventures

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. For ages 3-5.

Toddler Time

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. For infants-age 2.

DUNNELLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

20351 Robinson Road

Dunnellon, FL 34431 • 352-438-2520

Programs made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library.

Community Conversation

Friday, April 17, 4 p.m.

Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life?

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Census Kickoff Party

Saturday, March 28, noon-4 p.m. Celebrate Census 2020!

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

Kindergarten Rocks...Enroll!

Thursday, April 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m. See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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

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See Program Spotlight for more locations. Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

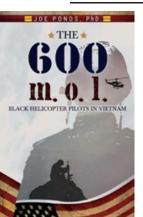
Jane Austen Parlor Party

Saturday, April 18, 2 p.m.

Period dress is encouraged!

See Program Spotlight. Presented by The Jane Austen Society of North America, North Florida Region.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Joe Ponds, Ph.D.

"The 600 m.o.l.: Black Helicopter Pilots in Vietnam" Saturday, March

28, 2:30 p.m. See Program Spotlight.

ALL AGES

DIY Tuesday

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. March 3-April 28 Make-and-take fun for the family!

Family Fun Days

Saturdays, 1 p.m. Play together!

March 21 Win, Lose or Draw April 11 Scrabble® Tournament

Song Farmers

Saturdays, 2 p.m. March 28, April 25, May 30

Share a love of music with other hometown musicians. All players and listeners welcome.

ADULTS

Master Gardener's Plant Clinic

Tuesdays, 10 a.m., March 3, April 7, May 5, The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

Wired Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Learn about computers and databases.

I Turned on My Computer,

Now What?

Basic Keyboarding March 11 March 18 Basic Internet

March 25 Basic Internet Safety April 1

Education and Test Preparation

April 8 Career Corner—Finding

That New Job!

April 15 Digital Media the Library Way!

April 22 What to Read Next

Senior Support Education Series

Thursdays, noon, March 5, April 2 Information for those who want to know more about resources available for caring for family members.

Presented by The Dunnellon Caregivers.

Friday Flicks

Fridays, 2 p.m.

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

March 6

March 20

April 10

April 24

The Art of Luring Fish

Mondays, 1 p.m., March 16-April 27 Catch that fish!

Presented by The Fly-Tyers Club.



Wednesdays, 10 a.m., March 18-April 29 Learn to knit or crochet. It's a stitch! Presented by the Needle-Nuts Craft Club.

Lunch Bunch Book Club

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Bring your bag lunch and an appetite for good books. Lemonade and cookies provided.

March 18 "Fahrenheit 451" by

Ray Bradbury

"The Library Book" April 15

by Susan Orlean

Circle of Support

Thursdays, noon, March 19, April 16, May 21 Join with other caregivers who provide support and understanding.

Crafty Creations

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Get in touch with the right side of your

brain!

March 25 Sparkling Sun Catchers April 8 Painted Rock Terrarium April 22 Shiny Planting Pots

Novels at Night

Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Share some gothic tales fit for a spine-

tingling spring eve.

March 26 "The Au Pair" by Emma Rous

April 23 "The Weight of Lies"

by Emily Carpenter

TEENS

YALLA West!

Saturdays, 1 p.m., March 14, April 11 Be a part of the library experience. Earn volunteer service hours.

CHILDREN

Story Time!

Wednesdays, 11 a.m., March 4-April 29 Perk up the day with stories and songs!

FUNtasmagoria

Thursdays, 5 p.m., March 5-April 30 Explore the world through stories and activities. It's FUNtastic!

FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

905 S. Highway 314A Ocklawaha, FL 32179 • 352-438-2540 the Friends of the Forest Public Library.

Community Conversation

Saturday, April 11, 10:30 a.m.

Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life?

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENT

Census Kickoff Party

Saturday, March 28, noon-4 p.m. Celebrate Census 2020! See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Heart of Oak

Friday, March 20, 3 p.m. It's a touch of the Irish! Enjoy a concert of Irish and Celtic songs perfect for St. Patrick's Day.

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

Friday, March 27, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!

See Program Spotlight for more locations. Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

MEET THE AUTHOR



Chef Warren Caterson

Friday, March 27, 2 p.m. Ten meals in 10 minutes? You bet! See Program Spotlight.

ADULTS

DIY Art

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Express yourself through art! March 4 Sharpies on Tile April 1 Painting With Sandra

Color to Calm

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. March 5, April 2, April 30 Color your world!

Writers Studio

Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. March 5, April 9, May 14 Writers of all levels share work and encouragement.



Forest Readers Book Club

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Make new friends and talk about books!

March 11 "Fahrenheit 451" by

Ray Bradbury

March 25 "Web of Evil" by J.A. Jance April 8

"Little Fires Everywhere"

by Celeste Na

"The Help" by Kathryn Stockett April 22

May 13 "Spoken from the Heart"

by Laura Bush

"Always Time to Die" May 27

by Elizabeth Lowell

Ask Your Master Gardener: Perennials

Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. Get that garden growing! Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

Rock Art!

Saturdays, 4 p.m. March 28, April 11 Paint miniature masterpieces on river rocks.



Backyard Birds of Marion County

Saturday, April 4, 10:30 a.m. Learn about our winged friends from the experts at the Marion Audubon Society. Includes a nature walk.

Thursday Cinema: "The Help"

Thursday, April 23, 2 p.m.

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

TEENS & TWEENS

YALLA East!

Thursdays, 5 p.m. March 19, April 16, May 21

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

Creations!

Thursdays, 4 p.m., March 19, April 16 Create something beautiful.

Movie Time:

"Ready Player One"

Thursday, March 26, 5 p.m. Movie for teens. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

FAMILIES

Family Story Time

Fridays, 10:30 a.m. March 6-April 24

Perk up the day with stories and songs!

Knights of the Chess Club

Saturdays, 3 p.m.

March 21, April 18

Learn and play chess. All levels welcome.

Imagination Station

Wednesday, April 15, 2:30 p.m. Imagine, create, construct!

FORT MCCOY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Programs made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Fort McCoy Public Library.

SPECIAL EVENT

Census Kickoff Party

Saturday, March 7, noon-4 p.m. Celebrate Census 2020! See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

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

Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.

Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!

See Program Spotlight for more locations. Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

ADULTS

Monday Morning Book Club

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Make some new friends and talk about books.

March 2 "Sworn to Silence"

by Linda Castillo

"Before We Were Yours" April 6

by Lisa Wingate

"The Help" by Kathryn Stockett May 4

ADULTS & TEENS

Saturday Movie Matinée

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

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

March 28

April 11

April 18

April 25

FAMILIES

Games Unplugged

Saturday, 10:30 a.m. March 7, April 4

Reconnect with a favorite board game or discover a new one!

Saturday Family Flicks!

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

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

March 14 March 21 April 4

March 23



Break-Time Movies

Mondays, 1 p.m.
Films for the entire family. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
March 16

FREEDOM PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Programs made possible by contributions from the Friends of Freedom Public Library.

Community Conversation

Wednesday, March 25, 3 p.m.
Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life?
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENT

Census Kickoff Party

Saturday, March 21, noon-4 p.m.
Celebrate Census 2020!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

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

Friday, March 20, 3 p.m.
Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!

See Program Spotlight for more locations. Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

ADULTS



Ask Arnold! Comprehensive Computer Assistance

Thursdays, noon-2 p.m.

March 5-May 28

Staff and volunteers assist with all tech needs.

As the Page Turns Book Club

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Join the club and turn the page!

March 3 "Daisy Jones & The Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid

April 7 "The Road" by Cormac

McCarthy

May 5 "If Beale Street Could

Talk" by James Baldwin

Basic Internet Searching

Thursday, March 26, 6 p.m. Learn something new!

Tuesday Matinée: "Eat Pray Love"

Tuesday, April 14, 3 p.m. Movie for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tech Time

Thursdays, 3 p.m.
Learn something new!
April 23 Computer Basics
April 30 Online Navigation

TEENS

YALLA Free!

Thursdays, 5 p.m, March 12, April 9, May 14 Be part of the library experience. Earn volunteer hours for service.



Gamers Unite!

Saturdays, 3 p.m., March 28, April 25 Are you up for a video game challenge?

FAMILIES

Family Flicks: "The NeverEnding Story"

Wednesday, April 15, 3 p.m. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Family Story Time

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. March 4-April 22 Perk up the day with stories and songs!

MARION OAKS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Programs made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library.

Community Conversation

Thursday, April 23, 4 p.m.
Topic: How has the library made
a difference in your life?
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENT

Census Kickoff Party

Saturday, March 14, noon-4 p.m. Celebrate Census 2020! See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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

Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!

See Program Spotlight for more locations. Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

ADULTS

Technology Help Center

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. March 4-April 29 Bring your device and drop in!



Novels at Noon

Wednesdays, noon

Make new friends and talk about books!

March 18 "Educated" by Tara Westover
April 15 "Mangrove Lightning" by

Randy Wayne White

May 20 "Memory Man" by David Baldacci

TEENS & TWEENS

Spring Into Nature

Thursdays, 4 p.m.

Work the brain with art and science.

March 12 Mason Bee Hotel April 9 Hydroponic Jar

YALLA Oaks!

Thursdays, 5 p.m.

March 12, April 9, May 14

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

MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

March 17, April 21, May 19

Watch favorite anime and discuss manga while enjoying Japanese snacks.

FAMILIES

FUNtasmagoria

Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.

Explore the world through stories and

activities! It's FUNtastic!

March 4 A World of Worms

March 11 Don't Bug Me March 18 Shark Attack!

March 25 Scales and Tales
April 1 The Joke's on You
April 8 Bird Is the Word
April 15 Whale of a Tale

April 22 The (Big) Cat's Meow April 29 Monkey Business

Family Story Time

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

March 7-April 25

Perk up the day with stories and songs!

REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Reddick, FL 32686 • 352-438-2566

Programs are made from contributions providea by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library

Community Conversation

Monday, March 23, 10:30 a.m. Topic: How has the library made

a difference in your life?

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENT

Census Kickoff Party

Saturday, March 14, noon-4 p.m. Celebrate Census 2020! See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

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

Tuesday, March 10, 4 p.m.

Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!

See Program Spotlight for more locations. Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Michael Calhoun Tucker

"The Crackers: The Legend

of Jessie B. Tucker"

Thursday, March 19, noon See Program Spotlight. Call 352-438-2566 to reserve a piece of pie!

ADULTS

Let's Talk Books!

Monday, 10:30 a.m., March 9, April 13 Make new friends and talk about books with Jim Stroup! Donuts and coffee provided.

Watercolors 101

Wednesday, March 18, 1-3 p.m. Create something special with local artist Susan Starling. Materials provided.

TEENS

YALLA North!

Saturday, April 18, 1 p.m.

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

FAMILIES

FUNtasmagoria!

Tuesday & Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. March 3-April 29

Explore the world with stories and funfilled activities!



STORY TIMES

March 3-April 29

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

Toddler Time

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Friends of the Belleview Public Library

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. March 17, April 21, May 19

Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. March 3, April 7, May 5

Friends of the Forest Public Library

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. March 18, April 15, May 20

Book Sale:

Thursday, May 7, 4-8 p.m. Friday, May 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friends of Freedom Public Library

Mondays, 10 a.m. March 2, April 6, May 4

Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library

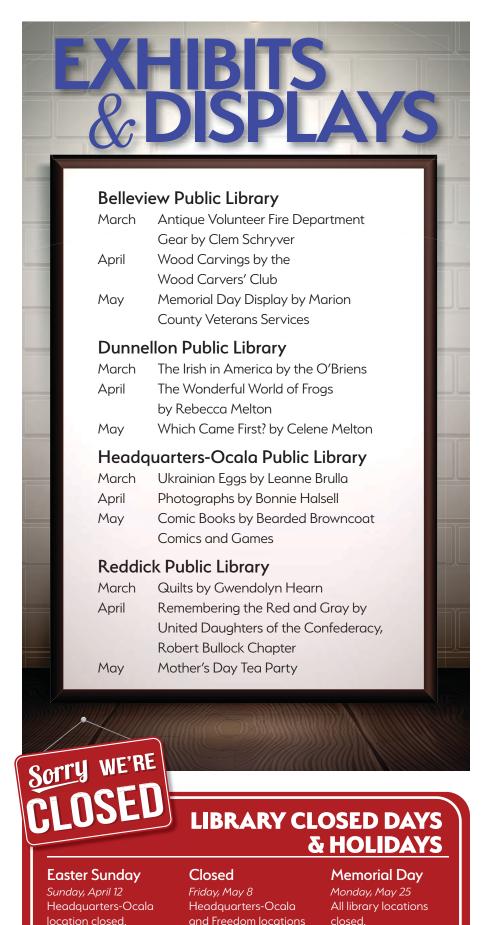
Fridays, 10 a.m. March 20, April 17, May 15

Friends of the Ocala Public Library

Thursdays, 4 p.m. March 19, April 16, May 21

Book Sale:

Friday, May 1, 2-5 p.m. Members only. Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



closed.

AT YOUR SERVICE

AARP Tax Prep Assistance

Tax help is available at most libraries. Call your nearest library for schedule and locations.

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 your nearest library for schedule 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

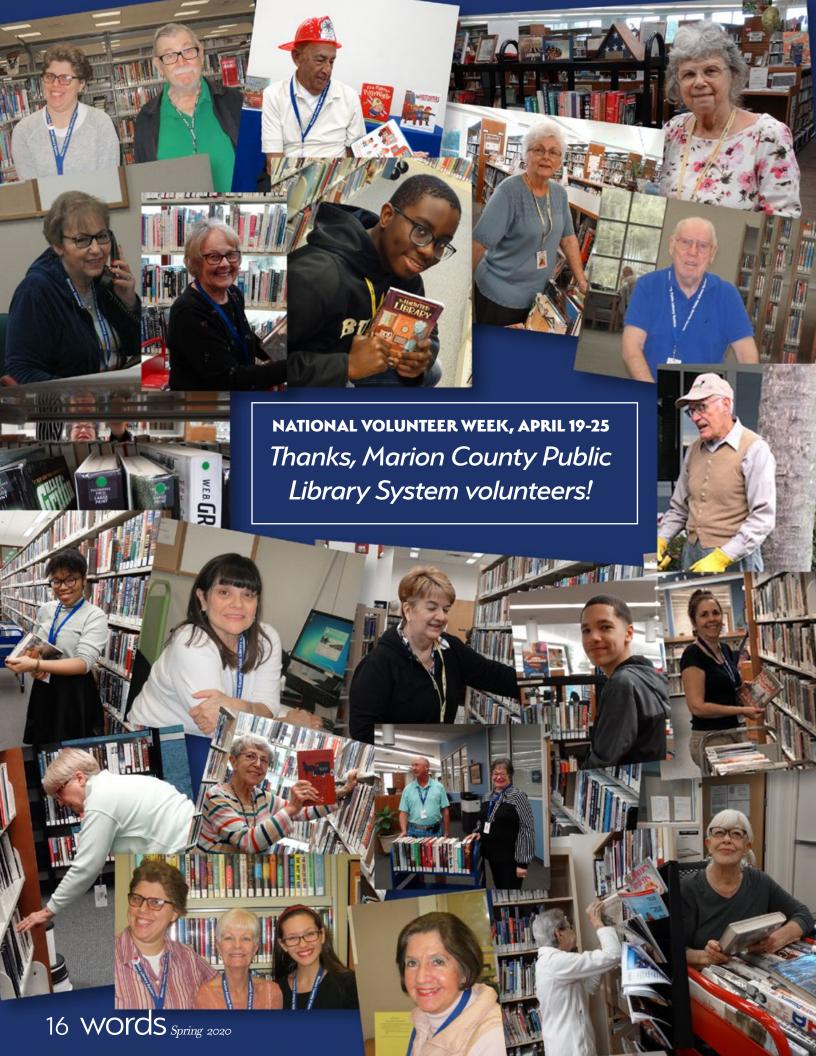
Free screenings for children birth through age 5 who may have difficulty with learning, speaking, playing, seeing, walking and hearing. Screening appointments may be held at your local library. Contact ChildFind at 352-671-6051 to schedule.

GED Classes

Earn your GED at the library through Marion Technical College (MTC). It's FREE. Call MTC at 352-671-7200 or contact the library at 352-438-2520 for more information and schedule. Dunnellon Public Library, Mondays-Thursdays.

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 the schedule.



IT'S A FEGAL PALOOZA!

BY FAITH CLEMENTS

hat do you get when you pair up a reading aloud initiative with Dr. Seuss' birthday? Mega-Paloozas, of course; a Read-a-palooza and a Seuss-a-palooza! The Marion County Public Library System is once again partnering with the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and Read Aloud Fifteen Minutes to encourage families to start a tradition of reading aloud. And Dr. Seuss lovers will be excited to learn about the many programs celebrating the beloved author's birthday during the month of March. So it's a double home-run of reading pleasure for the family.

Why is reading aloud so important? Reading is fun. It can take the reader on an adventure, provide learning opportunities, and form bonds that will last a lifetime. Reading aloud as little as fifteen minutes each day will yield positive results by instilling a love of reading and increasing language and brain development in children. And one of the greatest

benefits is that reading aloud together as a family makes it all that much more fun!

Check out this issue of *WORDS* calendar for dates and times when each Marion County Public Library System location will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday with a Seuss-a-Palooza event. Celebrations will include book read-alouds, games and crafts, in partnership with United Way of Marion County Reading Pals and Marion Education Association. "Horton Hears a Who" or one of the many other famous Dr. Seuss book titles may be just the ticket to get your family reading aloud together!

Your Marion County Public Library System is dedicated to encouraging families to read aloud together fifteen minutes a day. Will you accept the challenge? Whether it's "Green Eggs and Ham" or other delightfully engaging books, your public library staff will help you get started with book suggestions that the whole family will enjoy.





BOOKMARKS

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE OCALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

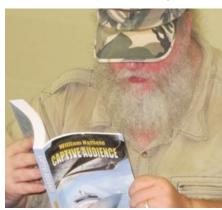
BOOKS NEEDED



If you're in the middle of spring cleaning, and you find books you know you will never read again, remember our library. Bring your gently used books to the Book Market, and give others the opportunity to enjoy them too. Books are sold in the Book Market, and all monies collected are used to subsidize library projects and activities. We encourage you to drop off your donations in the Book Market anytime during regular hours. Thank you for your generosity.

READ-A-THON

Visit the library and be a part of a new adventure on April 25: our Read-A-Thon. We are looking for people who love to read and who want to help by raising money for the library. Participants of the Read-A-Thon will be reading live for 15 minutes each, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Join us by sponsoring a reader, being a reader, or cheering on the readers. It promises to be a fun, book-filled day! For more information, see the full article in this issue of *WORDS*.





Get ready for a HUMONGOUS sale! Our Quarterly Book Sale will be held on Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Meeting Rooms at Headquarters-Ocala Public Library: We will have loads of fiction books, including novels, historical fiction, and biographies. Plus, nonfiction books will be available, including books on gardening, faith, cooking, philosophy, and many more subjects. Want your kids to read more? Come to our Book Sale. We'll have plenty to offer in children's and teens' reading material. You name it, we're likely to have it at a very reasonable price — 25ϕ for paperbacks and 50ϕ for hard covers.

If you are a dues-paying member of the Friends of the Ocala Library, you may come early to the Book Sale, on Friday afternoon, May 1, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. If you aren't a member yet, you can get information in the Book Market on becoming a member.



READ-A-THON

Saturday, April 25 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Participants will be reading in 15-minute intervals, helping to raise funds for library programs.

QUARTERLY BOOK SALE

Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Held in Meeting Rooms, Headquarters-Ocala Public Library (Friends members only: Friday, May 1, 2 - 5 p.m.)

Marion County Public Library System

2720 East Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, Florida 34470

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DIOTIES BY SCOTT MAN

lorence Pritchard spent most of her life as an educator, beginning her career as a fifth grade teacher and concluding it as a college vice president. In 2012, she and her husband Doug moved to On Top of the World and within a week learned of a used book sale at the Freedom Public Library. The book sale presented a pivotal point that aligned Florence with the Friends of the Freedom Public Library which she joined, and became passionately involved with its efforts to support the local Freedom library branch. Florence's leadership abilities were quickly recognized and she accepted the position of Freedom Friends vice president in 2013 and president in 2014.

In addition to Florence's work with the Freedom Friends, she helped spearhead the Council of Friends, a networking effort comprised of representatives of all of the seven Marion County Public Library System Friends groups. They meet to discuss library advocacy, fund development and other issues of mutual interest.

Between the combined efforts. Florence has basically assumed a second career and had this to say about her efforts, "Yes, it's a volunteer career, but my repayment is the opportunity to help support our public libraries. My focus is on capacity building and advocacy development for the Freedom Friends and other Friends groups that make up the Council of Friends. This means helping them understand and manage their legal responsibilities as non-profits, develop leadership succession plans, and strengthen communication efforts with the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and other community groups on behalf of the Marion County Public Library System. My six-year term as Freedom Friends president has been productive because of the truly dedicated people I've worked with in all these groups."

Over the past six years, the Freedom Friends have



funded the purchase of a portable computer classroom, an outside book drop, the renovation and furnishing of the staff work space, subsidized staff graduate education and library conference attendance, and helped to fund a new outdoor digital sign, all for the Freedom Public Library. The Freedom Friends are eagerly anticipating a future Freedom Public Library expansion project and the 20th anniversary celebration of their library building. Florence stated, "I will be helping the Friends implement a two-stage fundraising plan to attract community members and major donors to help furnish the expansion."

For Florence, the most rewarding aspect of her volunteer career has been working with the people associated with the Friends groups and the Marion County Public Library System. "We share common values and dedication to knowledge and service. I am very proud to help my community by helping my library and the public library system." W