

# words



Put a little  
*spring*  
in your step!



# words

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## MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Ocala, FL 34470

352-671-8551

Find the Library on

**FACEBOOK & TWITTER!**

## ON THE COVER

Sing in the shower or tiptoe through those dandelions. But don't stop there! Start at your Marion County Public Library System branch for inspiration and information—we're always happy to help! For goodness' sake, it's spring!



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words spring2021

a **word** from the director



Julie Sieg

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC  
LIBRARY SYSTEM DIRECTOR

# Spring is everywhere!

Our library staff develop such attractive and creative book displays to entice readers to pick up a new author or subject that they may otherwise overlook. These displays might celebrate a certain holiday, recognize a historical figure, offer some "tongue-in-cheek" humor or memorialize a recently deceased author. Since we have suspended these displays due to COVID concerns, I thought I might try to entice you to seek out some titles that include "spring" as part of the title. These titles run the gamut from children's beginning readers to adult Christian fiction and Florida's springs. I hope one piques your interest!

"Word Bird's **Spring** Words", by Jane Belk Moncure – *One of an excellent and extensive series of books for the beginning reader.*

"Foxfire 2: ghost stories, **spring** wild plant foods, spinning and weaving, midwifing, burial customs, corn shuckin's, wagon making and more affairs of plain living" – *Volume two of twelve that explores Appalachian life, lore, crafts and customs.*

"Venus Fly Traps and Waterwheels: **Spring** Traps of the Plant World," by Victor Gentle – *A children's non-fiction book about carnivorous plants and how they catch and digest their prey.*

"The **Spring** Cleaning Murders", by Dorothy Cannell – *The eighth title in the fourteen title, Ellie Haskell series.*

"Crafts to Make in the **Spring**," by Kathy Ross - *Presents 29 easy-to-make craft projects with springtime themes.*

"Come **Spring**: A Parable of Love and Faith," by Tim LaHaye and Gregory S. Dinallo – *A Christian fiction story set in Boston, book one of a trilogy.*

"The **Springs** of Florida," text and photographs by Doug Stamm – *Covers Florida springs and their surrounding parks.*

Julie Sieg

# PUT A LITTLE Spring IN YOUR STEP!

BY SUZANNE BROWN

**D**o you sometimes catch yourself whistling, humming, or belting out a song while cleaning your house? Perhaps you occasionally take a twirl through your garden to music only you can hear? Do you find yourself caught up in a sight you long to capture, be it through painting, photography, or prose?

Normally, if you were to ask me, I would say I do few of these things. I mean, as someone who has all the grace of a discombobulated duck and a voice to match, it's safer if I keep myself reined in. But in the spring...in the spring, anything can happen!



Even in temperate Florida, spring ripens possibilities barred by winter's chill. As soft greens and purples velvet the landscape, warmer temperatures invite me out of doors and the whole world seems to call out to join the celebration. Spring literally puts a spring in my step and a song in my heart. My poor neighbors can likely attest to hearing me \*cough\* singing while working in my yard, though fortunately, any dandelions or daisies I might tiptoe through are hidden safely behind a privacy fence.

Little wonder that spring plays host to so many creative endeavors: from March to May, we celebrate **National Craft Month, National Poetry Month, National Jazz Appreciation Month, National Dance Week, National Library Week, and National Photography Month**. Spring is the perfect time to let your artistic side out to play and find your joy!

Sing in the shower or tiptoe through those tulips. But don't stop there! Start at the library for inspiration and information—we're always happy to help! Then drop by Ocala's **First Friday Art Walk** or visit the Appleton. Find out what's happening at the Reilly. Pick up your paintbrush or camera or pen. Tell Alexa to play Vivaldi's **Spring** or pull up Copland and Graham's **Appalachian Spring** on YouTube. Revisit Tennyson's **Locksley Hall** or Wordsworth's daffodils. For goodness' sake, it's spring! 🌱

# For further inspiration:

## LOCAL

First Friday Art Walk  
[ocalafl.org/government/city-departments/recreation-parks/cultural-arts/first-friday-artwalk](https://ocalafl.org/government/city-departments/recreation-parks/cultural-arts/first-friday-artwalk)

Appleton Museum  
[appletonmuseum.org](https://appletonmuseum.org)

Reilly Arts Center  
[reillyartscenter.com](https://reillyartscenter.com)

Ocala Civic Theatre  
[ocalacivictheatre.com](https://ocalacivictheatre.com)

Marion County Public Library's Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center  
[marioncountyfl.org/departments-agencies/departments-o-z/public-library-system/library-services/databases](https://marioncountyfl.org/departments-agencies/departments-o-z/public-library-system/library-services/databases)

## MUSIC AND DANCE

Playbill Livestream Calendar  
[playbill.com/live-stream-calendar](https://playbill.com/live-stream-calendar)

The Metropolitan Opera Livestream  
[metopera.org/user-information/nightly-met-opera-streams](https://metopera.org/user-information/nightly-met-opera-streams)

American Ballet Theatre Offstage  
[abt.org/performances/abt-offstage](https://abt.org/performances/abt-offstage)

Appalachian Spring (1958)  
[youtu.be/nM5-Csl713g](https://youtu.be/nM5-Csl713g)

## POETRY

Poetry Foundation Spring Poems  
[poetryfoundation.org/collections/137291/spring-poems](https://poetryfoundation.org/collections/137291/spring-poems)

Poem Hunter Spring Poems  
[poemhunter.com/poems/spring](https://poemhunter.com/poems/spring)

How to Make a Poem  
[poetryfoundation.org/articles/147699/how-to-make-a-poem](https://poetryfoundation.org/articles/147699/how-to-make-a-poem)

## MISCELLANEOUS

Smithsonian Online  
[si.edu/learn-explore](https://si.edu/learn-explore)

Fodors Photography Tips  
[fodors.com/trip-ideas/national-parks/photography-tips](https://fodors.com/trip-ideas/national-parks/photography-tips)

## VIRTUAL TOURS

Smithsonian

American Art Museum  
[americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/past](https://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/past)

National Museum of Natural History  
[naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour](https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour)

National Air and Space Museum  
[airandspace.si.edu/online](https://airandspace.si.edu/online)

National Museum of African American History and Culture  
[nmaahc.si.edu/explore/exhibitions](https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/exhibitions)

National Museum of American History  
[americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/online](https://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/online)

National Museum of the American Indian  
[americanindian.si.edu/online-resources/exhibition-websites](https://americanindian.si.edu/online-resources/exhibition-websites)

British Museum  
[britishmuseum.withgoogle.com](https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com)

National Gallery of Art  
[artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-gallery-of-art-washington-dc?hl=en](https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-gallery-of-art-washington-dc?hl=en)

Musée d'Orsay  
[artsandculture.google.com/partner/musee-dorsay-paris?hl=en](https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/musee-dorsay-paris?hl=en)

Van Gogh Museum  
[artsandculture.google.com/partner/van-gogh-museum?hl=en](https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/van-gogh-museum?hl=en)

Museum of Modern Art  
[moma.org/calendar/groups/58](https://moma.org/calendar/groups/58)





## Friends of the Ocala Public Library Read-a-Thon Coming Soon!

**J**oin the Friends of the Ocala Public Library for the **Second Annual (Virtual) Read-A-Thon**, Saturday, April 10 on Facebook Live at [facebook.com/friendsoftheocalalibrary](https://facebook.com/friendsoftheocalalibrary).

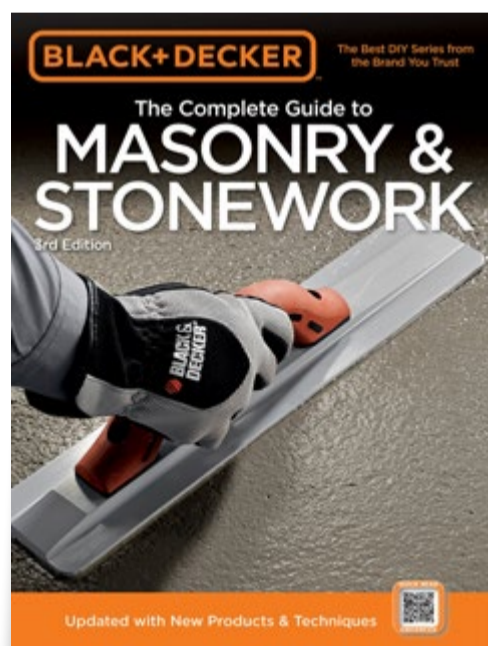
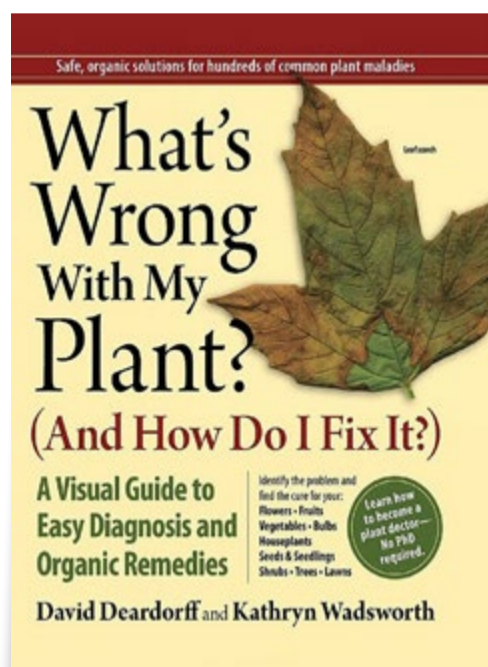
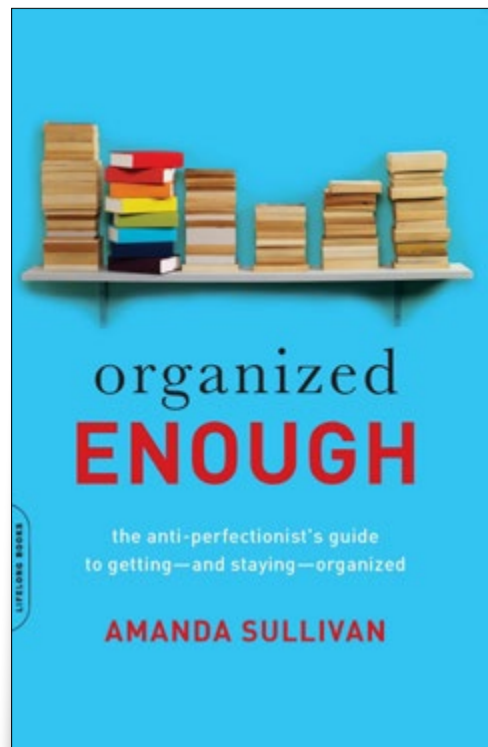
Library supporters will read from their favorite books for up to 15 minutes each throughout the day to raise funds for the library. Last year the event raised more than \$8,000.

The Friends of the Ocala Public Library Read-a-Thon is one of the many ways that the Friends help support the library. The Friends are major contributors to programs for all ages, from toddlers to seniors. They also provide the community with information on library programs through the *WORDS* magazine that is funded entirely by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library.

According to library director, Julie Sieg, “the Friends of the Ocala Public Library work tirelessly to support library programs and advocate on our behalf.”

If you'd like to support the Read-A-Thon, please visit [justgiving.com/campaign/ocalalibraryfriendsreadathon2021](https://justgiving.com/campaign/ocalalibraryfriendsreadathon2021) to find out how to get involved as a reader or through a donation or both!

Proceeds from this and other activities sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library help support the various programs and events of the Marion County Public Library System. 🌱



# Refresh, Restart, Restore

BY ASA DRAKE

Planning some spring cleaning? Ready to stretch those DIY muscles? It's easy to find a new project and room for home improvement, but be prepared before you jump into your next project.

Tidying up can be a great way to assess what projects you'd like to start this year. **"Organized Enough: The Anti-Perfectionist's Guide to Getting—and Staying—Organized"** offers practical methods to declutter when minimalism doesn't feel like a solution. As you refresh your home, take note of spaces (inside and out) that you might want to revisit.

If you're returning to an old project, it might be time to do some research. Did your fall vegetables have lackluster results? You're not alone. Sometimes it's hard to describe what's wrong in the garden. I like to refer to **"What's Wrong With My Plant?"** a visual guide to plant diseases and ailments. I'm able to match the weird bumps on my tomato vine to images in the book and immediately read what steps I should take next. Best of all, the solutions are all organic!

Have a bigger project and need some expert advice? Black & Decker's Home Improvement series is designed for ambitious beginners. Whether you're laying down pavers for an outdoor dining area or designing a fire pit, their **"Complete Guide to Masonry & Stonework"** offers step-by-step instructions and illustrations so you can prepare an outdoor space that will weather Florida's rain and sunshine. For the especially brave do-it-yourselfer, the series also offers guides to plumbing, home repair and even weekend pet projects.

Need a book right away? Our digital media collection on **Freeding** is always accessible and never has a waiting line. Freeding offers a wide variety of e-books, including those in Spanish, French, German and Portuguese. Perfect for home canning, wildflower gardening, beekeeping and even home repairs, **Freeding** offers up-to-date guides to lay the groundwork for all your spring tasks! 🌱

# Can I Play Too?

BY JENNY RANSONE

Play. The word conjures images of children laughing, running, engaging in silliness and screaming with delight. What we see when children play is pure abandon and joy. In childhood, play contributes to crucial developmental achievements such as problem solving, cooperation, hand-eye coordination, social interaction, imagination, and more. The importance of play for children is well documented. However, at some point we learn that play is no longer appropriate. Is it in school when the focus shifts from play to achievement? Is it when games become more about keeping score and winning is the focus? Perhaps it's when we begin to compare our expressions of abandon and joy to others and find ourselves lacking.

David Elkind, Ph. D. in **"The Power of Play"** states that, "Play is not a luxury but rather a crucial dynamic of healthy physical, intellectual and social-emotional development at all age levels." Play is not the sole territory of children.

Play can be defined as any activity that is engaging, enjoyable, and where the activity itself

is the object. In play, the act is as important as the outcome. Play for adults might include creating art, reading, engaging in physical activity, or participating in cooperative activities like board games or challenges. As long as the act itself is of more value than the outcome, almost anything can be playful. In fact, a simple shift in approach can infuse work with playfulness which may increase creativity and productivity. The benefits of play for adults are as significant as they are for children, if different. When adults engage in play, their stress level goes down, their mood is lifted and there is an overall positive effect on their state of being.

We can all use a little playfulness in our lives. The past year has presented challenges that we never imagined. Stress levels have soared, moods have suffered, and personal interaction has been limited. Adding a playful lilt to activities can spark joy and make even solo activities or mundane chores seem less like work. Spend some time laughing, engaging in silliness and being delighted. It will likely put a little spring in your step. 🌱





# NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK 2021

BY MICHAEL SUNIO

SOURCE: [www.ala.org/conferences/events/celebrationweeks/nationallibraryweek](http://www.ala.org/conferences/events/celebrationweeks/nationallibraryweek)

**W**hat do Queen Amidala, the Marion County Public Library System, and the American Library Association (ALA) have in common? Why, National Library Week 2021, of course!

## What is National Library Week?

National Library Week is an annual event sponsored by the ALA and libraries across the country. It happens every April and celebrates the contributions and accomplishments of libraries and librarians all over the nation, highlighting the way libraries transform and improve lives and communities. It is also the time to promote libraries and library use.

## When is it?

National Library Week will be held April 4-10, 2021.

## Why do we have it?

Back in the 1950s, the ALA and various stakeholders, concerned that Americans were reading less and less with the advent of television, radio, and movies, wanted to promote the value of libraries on a national scale. Because of their efforts, National Library Week (NLW) was born. The first National Library Week started in 1958, and the event has been held every April since then, with different themes reflecting the specific period of time. Recent history has seen the expansion of the goals of NLW to include partnering with the community through programs and outreach, promoting digital literacy, supporting intellectual freedom and campaigning for more resources for libraries.

## What's new?

Author, activist, and actress, Natalie Portman is this year's honorary chair. She played Queen Amidala in the Star Wars movie prequels and is the author of "Natalie Portman's Fables." The theme this year is, "Welcome to Your Library." According to the ALA, it "promotes the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building – and that everyone is welcome to use their services. Whether people visit in person or virtually, libraries offer opportunities for everyone to explore new worlds and become their best selves through access to technology, multimedia content, and educational programs."

## Some celebrations during National Library Week 2021

- **Tuesday, April 6: National Library Workers Day**, a day where we recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.
- **Thursday, April 8: Take Action for Libraries Day**, a day to rally advocates to support libraries.

## Want to celebrate with us?


Visit your local library for any of these amazing services: check out a book, borrow a DVD, use a computer, ask a librarian a question, or attend one of our many virtual programs.

We hope to see you there! 🌱



# spotlight

## on virtual programs

Enjoy our program offerings from the comfort of your home. From gardening to Seuss, from story times to book clubs, there is sure to be something to interest everyone. Find the programs that pique your curiosity. Call us to register, receive the invitation and join the group! As you browse our programs, look for the  and Zoom on in!



### ALL AGES

All programs require registration. Call the host library to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Blooms for Butterflies

Thursday, March 25, 3 p.m.

Host library: Marion Oaks Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2570 to register. Program also held in-person.

Bring butterflies to your garden! Master Gardener, library staff member and butterfly whisperer Sheldon Grant will show you how. Plus, enjoy a virtual tour of the Butterfly Rainforest!

 Co-sponsored by the Florida Museum of Natural History and UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

#### Vermicomposting for Beginners

Thursday, April 22, 3 p.m.

Host library: Freedom Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

Recycle naturally with worms! Master Gardener Sheldon Grant shares the benefits of composting and shows how to build a worm bin and keep it going. It's Annelida fun!

### ADULTS

All programs require registration. Call the host library to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

##### Understanding Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia

Thursday, March 11, 10:30 a.m.

Registration required. Call 800-272-3900 to register.

Speaker, Connie Storms, MS, MA, Program

#### Manager, Alzheimer's Association.

Learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, Alzheimer's disease stages and risk factors, plus current treatments and research to address symptoms.

Co-sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

#### Effective Communication Strategies

Thursday, April 8, 10:30 a.m.

Registration required. Call 800-272-3900 to register.

As people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias progress in their journey and the ability to use words is lost, families need new ways to connect. Learn how to decode verbal and behavioral messages as well as how to identify strategies to help you connect and communicate in all stages of the disease.

Co-sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

#### Community Conversation

**TOPIC: If you could travel in time, with what woman would you most like to have a conversation and why?**

March is National Women's History Month honoring the contributions of women to national, international or personal history. Our topic is full of possibilities. Join our virtual conversation at home through our host library or at any of our library sites for a casual and considerate exchange of ideas!

Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required.

For at-home participation, call 352-438-2500 to register. For in-library participation, call your local library.

#### Wonders of the World Virtual Tour

Tour the wonders of our world from the comfort of home!

Fridays, 2 p.m.

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2520 to register.

March 12 Ireland

April 9 Jerusalem

May 7 Mexico

#### Forest Writers Studio

Writers of all levels share work and encouragement.

Thursdays, 4 p.m.

March 11, April 8, May 13

Host library: Forest Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2540 to register. Program also held in-person.

#### Belleview Writers Studio

Writers of all levels share work and encouragement.

Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

March 17, April 21, May 19

Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

#### Crafternoons

Get in touch with the right side of your brain!

Wednesdays, 3 p.m.

Host library: Freedom Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

March 17 Cork Kitty Craft

April 21 Tie-Dye Face Masks



## BOOK CLUBS

Love to read? Join with others who share your enthusiasm. Attend as many clubs as you like and feed your pleasure! All programs require registration. Call the host library to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

### Monday Morning Fort McCoy Book Club

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Host library: Fort McCoy Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2560 to register. Program also held in-person.

March 1 "Turn of the Key" by Ruth Ware

April 5 "Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson

May 3 "Boys in the Boat" by Daniel Brown

### As the Page Turns Freedom Book Club

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Host library: Freedom Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

March 2 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

April 6 "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom

May 4 "Hoot" by Carl Hiaasen

### Novels at Night Ocala Book Club

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

Host library: Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

March 9 "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance

April 13 "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman

May 11 "The Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes

### Forest Readers Book Club

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Host library: Forest Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2540 to register. Program also held in-person.

March 10 "Daisy Jones & the Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid

March 24 "Two by Two" by Nicholas Sparks

April 14 "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak

April 28 "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann

May 12 "This Tender Land" by William Kent Kruegar

May 26 "Shutter Island" by Dennis Lehane

### Novels at Noon Marion Oaks Book Club

Wednesdays, noon

Host library: Marion Oaks Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2570 to register. Program also held in-person.

March 17 "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate

April 21 "The Water Dancer" by Ta-Nehisi Coates

May 19 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

### Lunch Bunch Dunnellon Book Club

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2520 to register. Program also held in-person.

Bring your bag lunch and an appetite for good books.

March 17 "The Night Circus" by Erin Morgenstern

April 14 "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

### Power Hour Belleview Book Club

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

March 23 "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

April 27 "Educated" by Tara Westover

May 25 "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Charbonnet

## TEENS

All programs require registration. Call the host library to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

### Teen Library Volunteer Summit

Teens! Need Volunteer Hours? Learn about creative and innovative volunteer opportunities through your library and the community. Hear from teens who already volunteer with us and why they love it.

Tuesday, April 6, 4:30 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

### Art at the Oaks

Express yourself!

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

Host library: Marion Oaks Public Library  
Registration required: Call 352-438-2570

March 9 Origami Bookmarks

April 13 Pop-up Cards

### MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

March 9, April 13, May 11

Host library: Freedom Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

### MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

March 16, April 20, May 18

Host library: Marion Oaks Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2570 to register.

### TRIVIAntics!

Test your knowledge on movies, pop culture and more in a friendly teen trivia competition!

Friday, April 9, 4:30 p.m.

Host library: Freedom Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

## FAMILIES

All programs require registration. Call the host library to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

### Seuss-a-Palooza...Virtually!

Celebrate reading here or there. Celebrate reading everywhere! Celebrate all things Seuss with readings, crafts, and more!

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, the Marion Education Association, and United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

Saturday, March 6, Schedule TBA

Host library: Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

### DIY Kids Crafts

Fun for the whole family!

Fridays, 3 p.m.

Host library: Freedom Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

March 12 Pom Pom Shooters

April 2 Popsicle Stick Bird Feeders

### Families Rock

Art with rocks? It's sedimentary, my dear.

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2520 to register.

## STORY TIMES

### Shake Your Sillies Out Story Time

High energy and great times abound with this perfect remedy for the 'there's nothing-to-do' blues!

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

March 6, April 3, May 1

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2520 to register.

### Story Time Adventures

A variety of stories, songs and activities for young children. Daycare centers are encouraged to participate.

March 17-April 21

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2500 to register.



## HEADQUARTERS-OCALA

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

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

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details.  
Call the host library to register.

#### Seuss-a-Palooza... Virtually!


Saturday, March 6, Schedule TBA  
Host library: Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

#### Teen Library Volunteer Summit

Tuesday, April 6, 4:30 p.m.  
Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

### ADULTS

If there is a  next to the program, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. All programs require registration. Call 352-671-8551 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Color. Connect. Converse

Mondays, 2 p.m., March 1-April 19

Express yourself through coloring and interesting conversation!

#### Community Conversation

Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m.

**Topic: It's Women's History Month! If you could travel in time, with what woman would you most like to have a conversation and why?**

Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required.

For at-home participation, call 352-438-2500 to register. For in-library participation, call 352-671-8551 to register.

#### Crafternoons

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Get in touch with the right side of your brain!

March 3 Origami  
April 7 Suncatchers  
May 5 Stamped Tea Towels

#### Write Every Day

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

Jump-start your next writing project with these generative workshops!

March 16 Drawing Inspiration from Women Writers  
April 20 Poem from A to Z

#### Changing Course

Wednesday, March 17, 2 p.m.

Have questions about digital resources for self-guided learning? We'll get you started!

#### Graphic Novel Book Club

Wednesday, April 14, 5 p.m.

Enjoy a discussion about "Saga, Vol. 1" by Brian K. Vaughan.

#### The Great Recipe Exchange

Monday, April 19, 11 a.m.

Bring a written copy of some of your treasured recipes and tips to share with fellow foodies.

### TEENS

All programs require registration. Call 352-671-8551 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

March 4, April 1, May 6

Anime and manga fans, unite!

#### Show and Sketch Teen Artist Club

Mondays, 4:30 p.m.

March 8, April 12, May 10

Share your art and learn new techniques. All skill levels welcome.

#### Find Your Joy

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Looking for something that brings joy to your life? Find a new creative outlet at this crafting series!

March 10 Chibi Cross Stitch  
April 14 Clay-mong Us Figures  
May 12 Baby Yoda-gami

#### Geekfest! Fandoms and Comic Club

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

March 24, April 28, May 26

Explore the world of pop culture and comics.

### CHILDREN

All programs require registration. Call 352-671-8551 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Fresh Air Story Time

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., March 16-April 29

Location: Veteran's Memorial Park Pavilion, 2601 E. Fort King St., Ocala.

Enjoy a variety of stories and songs under the pavilion!

Ages 5 and younger with caregiver.

#### Spring Greens

Saturday, April 17, 10:30 a.m.

Ages 5-12

Bring the family and start to grow a little something for the kitchen.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

## BELLEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. Call the host library to register.

#### Seuss-a-Palooza...Virtually!

Saturday, March 6

Schedule TBA

Host library: Headquarters-Ocala Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

#### Teen Library Volunteer Summit

Tuesday, April 6, 4:30 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

### ADULTS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

#### Community Conversation

Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m.

**Topic: It's Women's History Month! If you could travel in time, with what woman would you most like to have a conversation and why?**

#### Writer's Studio

Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

March 17, April 21, May 19

#### Power Hour Book Club

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

March 23, April 27, May 25

For book titles, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs.

### FAMILIES

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs. All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

#### Story Time Adventures

March 17-April 21

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.



WRITER'S STUDIO

## DUNNELLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

20351 Robinson Road, Dunnellon, FL 34431

352-438-2520

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

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. Call the host library to register.

#### Seuss-a-Palooza...Virtually!

Saturday, March 6, Schedule TBA

Host library: Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

#### Teen Library Volunteer Summit

Tuesday, April 6, 4:30 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required.


Call 352-438-2500

to register.



TEEN LIBRARY VOLUNTEER SUMMIT

### ADULTS

If there is a  next to the program, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2520 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Community Conversation

Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m.

**Topic: It's Women's History Month! If you could travel in time, with what woman would you most like to have a conversation and why?**

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required.

For at-home participation, call 352-438-2500 to register.

For in-library participation, call 352-438-2520 to register.

#### Wonders of the World Virtual Tour

Fridays, 2 p.m., March 12, April 9, May 7



#### Lunch Bunch Book Club

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

March 17, April 14

Program also held in-person.

For book titles, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs.

### FAMILY PROGRAMS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2520 to register.

#### Shake Your Sillyies Out Story Time

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

March 6, April 3, May 1

#### Families Rock

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

March 13 & 27, April 10 & 24

## FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

905 S. Highway 314A, Ocklawaha FL 32179

352-438-2540

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

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. Call the host library to register.

#### Seuss-a-Palooza...Virtually!

Saturday, March 6

Schedule TBA

Host library: Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

#### Teen Library Volunteer Summit

Tuesday, April 6, 4:30 p.m.


Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

Community

Conversation

### ADULTS

If there is a  next to the program, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2540 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Community Conversation

Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m.

**Topic: It's Women's History Month! If you could travel in time, with what woman would you most like to have a conversation and why?**

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required.

For at-home participation, call 352-438-2500 to register.

For in-library participation, call 352-438-2540 to register.

#### Forest Readers Book Club

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 10 & 24, April 14 & 28, May 12 & 26

Program also held in-person.

For book titles, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs.

#### Forest Writer's Studio

Thursdays, 4 p.m.

March 11, April 8, May 13

Program also held in-person.

### Wildflower Walk

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

Don your sneakers for a stroll through local flora with our own botanical enthusiast!

#### DIY Art: Book-Folding

Wednesday, April 7, 10:30 a.m.

Creative expression unbound!

### FAMILIES

All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2540 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### FUNtasmagoria!

Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Explore the world! It's FUNtastic!

March 10 Daffy Dough  
 March 17 Marbled Paper  
 March 24 Coffee Ground Fossils  
 March 31 Oceans  
 April 7 Bouncy Ball  
 April 14 Buzzing Bugs  
 April 21 Art on the Porch  
 April 28 Make Ice Cream

WILDFLOWER WALK

## FORT M<sup>c</sup>COY PUBLIC LIBRARY

14660 NE Hwy 315, Fort M<sup>c</sup>Coy, FL 32134  
352-438-2560

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

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details.  
Call the host library to register.


#### Seuss-a-Palooza... Virtually!

Saturday, March 6, Schedule TBA  
Host library: Headquarters-Ocala Public Library.  
Registration required. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

#### Teen Library Volunteer Summit

Tuesday, April 6, 4:30 p.m.  
Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

### ADULTS

If there is a  next to the program, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details.  
All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2560 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Monday Morning Book Club

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.  
March 1, April 5, May 3  
Program also held in-person  
For book titles, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs.



#### Monday Movie Matinée

Mondays, 1 p.m.  
Movies for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

March 1 "Emma"  
April 5 "The Sun is Also a Star"

#### Community Conversation

Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m.  
Topic: It's Women's History Month!  
If you could travel in time, with what woman would you most like to have a conversation and why?  
Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required.  
For at-home participation, call 352-438-2500 to register. For in-library participation, call 352-438-2560 to register.

#### Tech Help Tuesday

Tuesdays, 3 p.m.  
March 2-April 27

Bring your question or device and library staff will help find an answer.

### TEENS

All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2560 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

# YALLA!

#### YALLA Northeast!

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.  
March 9, April 13, May 11

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

### FAMILIES

All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2560 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Family Story Time

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.  
March 3-April 28

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

#### Family Games Unplugged

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.  
March 6, April 3

Don't be bored! Play board games!

#### Rock Art

Saturdays, 11 a.m.  
March 13, April 10

Paint river rocks and awaken your inner artist! Rock on!

#### Family Flicks!

Saturdays, 1 p.m.  
Films for the entire family to enjoy!  
Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.  
March 13 "The Secret Garden"  
March 20 "The War with Grandpa"  
April 17 "The Call of the Wild"

FAMILY GAMES UNPLUGGED

## FREEDOM PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details.  
Call the host library to register.

#### Seuss-a-Palooza... Virtually!

Saturday, March 6, Schedule TBA  
Host library: Headquarters-Ocala Public Library  
Registration required.  
Call 352-671-8551 to register.

#### Teen Library Volunteer Summit

Tuesday, April 6, 4:30 p.m.  
Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

### ALL AGES

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details.  
All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

#### Vermicomposting for Beginners

Thursday, April 22, 3 p.m.  
Recycle naturally with worms! Join us as Master Gardener Sheldon Grant shares the benefits of composting and how to build your own worm bin and keep it going!

### ADULTS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details.  
All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

#### Community Conversation

Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m.  
Topic: It's Women's History Month!  
If you could travel in time, with what woman would you most like to have a conversation and why?  
Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required.  
For at-home participation, call 352-438-2500 to register. For in-library participation, call 352-438-2580 to register.



#### As the Page Turns Book Club

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.  
March 2, April 6, May 4  
For book titles, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs.

#### Crafternoons

Wednesdays, 3 p.m.  
March 17, April 21

### TEENS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details.  
All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

#### MANGAlicious Teen Club!

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

#### TRIVIAntics!

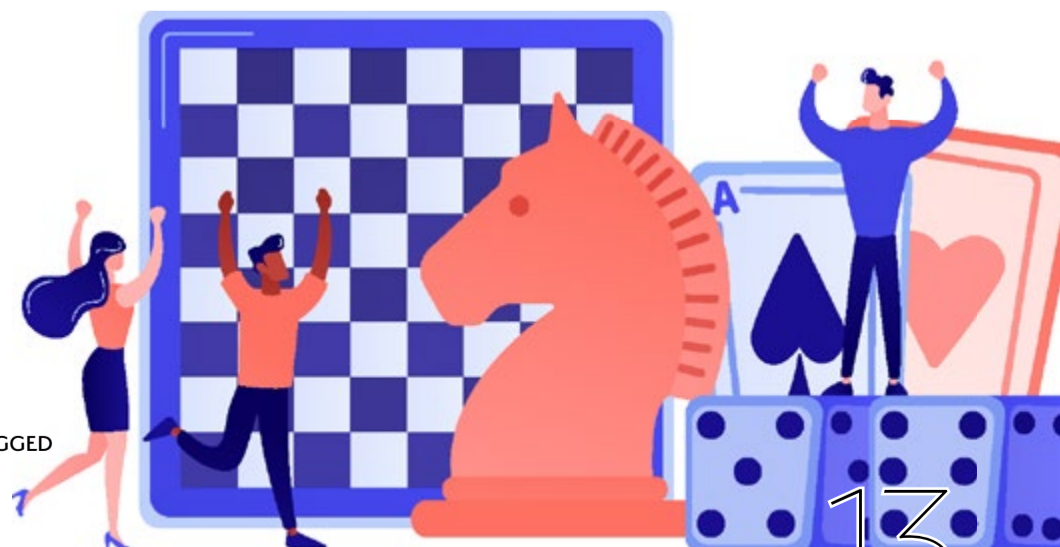
Friday, April 9, 4:30 p.m.

### FAMILIES

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details.  
All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

#### DIY Kids Crafts

Fridays, 3 p.m.  
March 12, April 2



## MARION OAKS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. Call the host library to register.

#### Seuss-a-Palooza...Virtually!

Saturday, March 6  
Schedule TBA

Host library: Headquarters-Ocala Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

#### Teen Library Volunteer Summit

Tuesday, April 6, 4:30 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required.  
Call 352-438-2500 to register.

### ALL AGES

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2570 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Blooms for Butterflies

Thursday, March 25, 3 p.m.

Registration required. Call 352-438-2570 to register.  
Program also held in-person.

Bring butterflies to your garden! Master Gardener, library staff member and butterfly whisperer Sheldon Grant will show you how. Plus, enjoy a virtual tour of the Butterfly Rainforest!

 Co-sponsored by the Florida Museum of Natural History and UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

### ADULTS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2570 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Community Conversation

Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m.

Topic: It's Women's History Month! If you could travel in time, with what woman would you most like to have a conversation and why?

Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required.  
For at-home participation, call 352-438-2500 to register. For in-library participation, call 352-438-2570 to register.

#### Novels at Noon

Wednesdays, noon

March 17, April 21, May 19

Program also held in-person.

Make new friends and talk about books!

For book titles, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs.

### TEENS & TWEENS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2570 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Art at the Oaks

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

March 9, April 13

#### MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.,

March 16, April 20, May 18

### FAMILIES

All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2570 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

### FUNtasmagoria

Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.

Explore the world through stories and activities. It's FUNtastic!

March 3 Invention Convention

March 10 Bone up on Bones

March 17 What's that Smell?

March 24 Magnificent Machines

March 31 Building Buildings

April 7 Go, Go, Go!

April 14 All Kinds of Pets

April 21 Earth Day

April 28 Won't You Be My Neighbor?

BLOOMS FOR BUTTERFLIES



SEUSS-A-PALOOZA...VIRTUALLY!



## REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

See Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. Call the host library to register.

#### Seuss-a-Palooza...Virtually!

Saturday, March 6  
Schedule TBA


Host library: Headquarters-Ocala Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

#### Teen Library Volunteer Summit

Tuesday, April 6, 4:30 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2500 to register.

### ADULTS

If there is a  next to the program, see Spotlight on Virtual Programs for details. All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2566 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Community Conversation

Tuesday, March 2, 10:30 a.m.

Topic: It's Women's History Month! If you could travel in time, with what woman would you most like to have a conversation and why?

Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required.

For at-home participation, call 352-438-2500 to register. For in-library participation, call 352-438-2566 to register.

#### Let's Talk Books

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

March 8, April 12

Make new friends and talk about books with Jim Stroup! Donuts and coffee provided.

#### Watercolors 101

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

March 17, April 21

Create something special under the trees with local artist Susan Starling. Materials provided.

### FAMILIES

All programs require registration. Call 352-438-2566 to register. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 3-April 28

A variety of stories for young children with caregivers.

# Exhibits & Displays

## Headquarters-Ocala

### MARCH

*National Girl Scout Month*  
by Girl Scouts of West Central  
Florida

### APRIL

*Stamp Collection* by Art McNeal  
MAY  
*Ocala Calligraphy Guild*

## Bellevue Public Library

### MARCH

*Spotlight Artists from All About Art*  
*Staff Dedication Misty Risko*

### APRIL

*Photography* by Kimbo Slice  
*Staff Dedication Misty Risko*

### MAY

*Staff Dedication Misty Risko*

## Dunnellon Public Library

### MARCH

*Dolly Days*

### APRIL

*Antique Beaded Bags*

### MAY

*Fun with Funko Pops*

## Forest Public Library

### MARCH

*The Art of Book Folding*  
by Erik Milton

### APRIL

*Spring Wildflower Photos*  
by Karen Dillon

### MAY

*Art from FUNtasmogoria*  
by Erik Milton and Dawna Rhods

## Freedom Public Library

### MARCH

*Wonderful World of Frogs*  
by Rebecca Melton

### APRIL

*Coin Collection* by Mark Trout

### MAY

*Star Wars* by Cesar Lopez

## Reddick Public Library

### MARCH

*Quilts* by Gwendolyn Hearn

### APRIL

*Gardening Collections*  
by David Holmes

### MAY

*Mother's Day Tea Party*  
by Reddick Patrons

## CLOSED DAYS & HOLIDAYS

### Maintenance Day

*Friday, May 7*

Headquarters-Ocala and Freedom Public libraries closed.

### Memorial Day

*Monday, May 31.* All library locations closed.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETINGS

### Friends of the Belleview Public Library

Stay up to date on the Friends of Belleview Public Library news by following them on Facebook for meeting updates and information.

*Tuesdays, 10 a.m., March 16, April 20, May 18*

[www.facebook.com/foblbooknook/](http://www.facebook.com/foblbooknook/)

### Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library

*Tuesdays, 10 a.m., March 2, April 6, May 4*

*At the Dunnellon Public Library*

### Friends of the Forest Public Library

*Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., March 17, April 21, May 19*

*At the Forest Public Library*

### Friends of the Freedom Public Library

*Mondays, 10 a.m., March 1, April 5, May 3.*

Stay up to date on the Friends of Freedom Public Library news by following them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/foflibrary](http://www.facebook.com/foflibrary) or visit their website at [www.foflibrary.org](http://www.foflibrary.org).

### Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library

*Fridays, 10 a.m., March 19, April 16, May 21*

*At the Marion Oaks Community Center.*

### Friends of the Ocala Public Library

*Thursdays, 4 p.m., March 18, April 14, May 20*

Until further notice, all meetings will be virtual.

Call 352-671-8551 for more information.

## AT YOUR SERVICE

### Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Visit [www.uscis.gov](http://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 Dunnellon Public Library at 352-438-2520 for more information and schedule.

### Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE)

Obtain free Medicare counseling through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. Contact a local SHINE counselor at 1-800-262-2243 to schedule a meeting.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK: APRIL 18-24

# Thank You!

## Marion County Public Library System Volunteers!

**E**ach year, National Volunteer Week serves as an opportunity to recognize the tremendous, positive impact volunteers have on their respective communities. Volunteer teens and adults share their time and talents in so many ways that enhance lives and extend services to those in need. The Marion County Public Library System joins this celebration of those who give so generously each and every day!

Library volunteers help shelve books, fill book requests, assist with summer reading programs, special events, and so much more. Their inspiration to serve enhances library staffs' ability to provide materials and resources to the public. Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, many public library volunteers continued to serve within the safe social distancing protocol.

Last fiscal year, 235 volunteers provided their service to all eight public library locations in Marion County.

According to the Points of Light Foundation, "National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers who lend their time, talent, voice and support to causes they care about. Their stories serve to inspire others to take action, to realize their power to make a difference, and be a force that transforms the world."

Join the Marion County Public Library System during National Volunteer Week and throughout the year as we extend a heartfelt thanks to our wonderful volunteers. Hats off to volunteers! 🍷





# Gardening Tips at Your Public Library

BY MARY MERENDA

The challenges and rewards of gardening can indeed be enormous. Regardless of the size of your garden, the amount of experience you have, and what you want to grow, there are resources and programs available at your public library to help you achieve success on all levels.

Do you have a small patio, or tiny yard? "Square Foot Gardening" by Mel Bartholomew or "Carrots Love Tomatoes; Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening" by Louise Riotte offer suggestions on the many ways you can make the most of your available space.

Is your wish to have wonderful trees and shrubs that will be a bird-friendly haven in your backyard? Then, reading "American Horticultural Society Pruning and Training," edited by Christopher Brickell, is for you.

Do you relish the idea of working with native plants? Pick up "The Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens", by Gil Nelson, or "The Water-Saving Garden" by Pam Penick. Both selections will teach you how to choose your local plants carefully and create a garden that is

Florida friendly while conserving natural resources.

As you begin your journey from planning and pruning to harvesting your garden, books offer wonderful ideas and information. Yet there are times when following an experienced teacher and having the opportunity to discuss your ideas can help you take your plans to the next level.

Programs offered by the Master Gardeners of UF/IFAS Extension Marion County are filled with research-based horticultural information to give gardeners of all levels expert information that has been tested and perfected. But, as we all know, gardening questions come up at random times, and finding the answers when they do might not always be possible. Luckily, the Master Gardeners keep regular hours at your local public library for such occasions. The "Ask a Master Gardener" sessions provide the community with the ability to visit this group of experts and get advice on individual situations.

So if you love the idea of connecting with like-minded gardeners, keep your eye on the library's calendar and attend a variety of virtual and in-person programs offering you the chance to learn more about working with nature across the seasons. 🌱



# IMAGES

Virtual story time at Belleview Public Library.

"Pete the Cat" costume at Headquarters-Ocala Public Library.

Bicycle donation at Reddick Public Library "Reindeer Romp" event.

Bicycle giveaways at Reddick Public Library "Reindeer Romp" event.

Commissioner Kathy Bryant and Heart of Florida Health Center CEO Jamie Ulmer read at "Polar Express" event.  
*Photo courtesy of Doug Engle, StarBanner*

Ring in the New Year program at Fort McCoy Public Library.



# BOOKMARKS

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE OCALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

[friendsoftheocalalibrary.org](http://friendsoftheocalalibrary.org)



## MOVIES *and more!*

Looking for something exciting to do while supporting our community? Duke Energy and the Reilly Arts Center are sponsoring monthly movie nights at Ocala's Marion Theatre. These programs will provide support for various nonprofit organizations promoting literacy in Ocala. As a nonprofit organization, the Friends of the Ocala Public Library will be hosting the following programs:

**February 18, 5:30 p.m. The Color Purple**

**April 15, 5:30 p.m. Freaky Friday**

**June 17, 5:30 p.m. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**

Tickets may be purchased online for \$5 plus tax at [reillyartscenter.com](http://reillyartscenter.com). By donating a gently used book, attendees will receive a BOGO coupon which can be redeemed at the Book Market. Due to the pandemic, Marion Theatre is limited to 60 people for each program. Masks and social distancing are encouraged.

## Quarterly Book Sales



Due to the corona virus pandemic, our Quarterly Book Sales have been temporarily suspended. Please watch for updates posted in the Book Market and online at [friendsoftheocalalibrary.org](http://friendsoftheocalalibrary.org)

In lieu of book sales, we have been donating books to county schools, veterans' groups, retirement communities, correctional institutions, and other nonprofit organizations. Don't worry; we'll have plenty of books available when our book sales resume.

## Book Market Open!

Our bountiful Book Market remains open! We have many books that can help you while away the hours during the pandemic. And at discount prices, you can't go wrong. Until further notice, our hours of operation are 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

## WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**KATHY CRILE** worked for 31 years with the City of Ocala and served the past 12 years as the Recreation and Parks Director. She graduated from Vanguard High School and the College of Central Florida and has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.



**KRISTIN KENNEDY** was a member of the BT School Script Program and Carnival. She also volunteered in New York as Schenectady Youth Hockey Fundraising director, Niskayuna PTO Fundraising Chair, Secretary and Board President.

profile

## Jamie Ulmer has a *Heart* for the Community

**H**eat of Florida Health Center (HFHC) CEO Jamie Ulmer, MA, has been in the healthcare and public health industry arena both in the private sector and in the military collectively for almost 32 years. A retired United States Army Medical Service Corp Officer, Ulmer has served multiple combat tours. While serving in the Armed Forces, he was an Executive/Operations Officer and Director of Human Resources.

Following his military career, he served as the Fort Jackson, SC Installation Public Health Administrator, and the South Carolina State Government Emergency Medical Service for Children Public Health Administrator. Prior to assuming his current position as Heart of Florida Health Center CEO, he was the Chief Operating Officer for a health center in Aiken, South Carolina.

According to Ulmer, "The healthcare field has been a lifelong passion that has culminated into many incredible and fulfilling opportunities and experiences. I believe everyone deserves high quality healthcare, and closing disparities of patients who do not have the financial means is my true calling. I have been privileged to be part of extraordinary, mission-driven, and dedicated teams that are accomplishing this vision."

Ulmer also added that HFHC and the Marion County Public Library System have a long-standing partnership and collaborate in many programs. For six years, HFHC has sponsored and participated in the library's annual "Polar Express" event as well as many other library programs throughout the county, such as programs on health and wellness. Many of these library branches correlate with HFHC's seven locations in Marion County. HFHC also participates in the library's "Born to Read" program, designed to educate parents about the importance of reading, singing, and talking with their newborns and encouraging parents to utilize library resources in the process. HFHC provides "Born to Read" bags



Courtesy of myHFHC.org / Photo by Olana Osborn

at the child's first HFHC Well-Visit appointment. Ulmer adds that, "Studies have proven that there are three things that contribute heavily to increasing a child's ability to learn; being free of medical or dental pain, healthy meals, and a parent taking the time to read to their little ones. It warms my heart when I walk through our locations and see our little patients with a toothbrush in one hand and a book in the other." 🌱