

# Words



It's all about  
**TAILS and TALES**

The 2021 Summer Reading Program at Your Local Library!

# words

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Public Library

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a word from the director

Julie Sieg

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC  
LIBRARY SYSTEM DIRECTOR



## A Tale of Tales

Everyone loves a great tale. Whether the tales are the spoken or written word, tales of adventure, tall tales, tales of great friendship, tales of fright, romantic tales or tales of intrigue, they appeal to us in different ways. These tales make our hearts race, help us to imagine different worlds, give us food for thought, teach us and may even evoke emotions such as wonder, sadness, joy, empathy and envy. As a previous children's librarian, I especially like two categories of tales — folk tales and fairy tales. However, folk tales and fairy tales are for more than kids. Many of our folk tales and fairy tales originated, not just to entertain, but also to teach a lesson, provide an explanation for any number of circumstances in everyday life and to convey societal norms or injustices.

It is fascinating to go down the rabbit hole (another famous tale, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," by Lewis Carroll) to learn about how folk tales and fairy tales differ from each other, as well as how they are alike. Or one may learn the history and background of specific tales, what elements are needed for a tale to be either a folk tale or fairy tale and why these tales even exist. And tales can be universal. Did you know that there are many, many versions of the Cinderella fairy tale? An article from the American Library Association indicates that there are over 500 variants of the Cinderella story in Europe alone. Cinderella spans multiple cultures and multiple countries, ranging from Native American culture to Zulu, and from as far away as China to France to Cambodia. However, it is believed to have originated in China in the 9th century as *Yeh-Shen*. Take a moment to investigate and enjoy the thousands of tales your public library has to offer by searching in the library catalog under tales, fairy tales, folk tales, folklore, legends and fables. Happy Reading!

### MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Headquarters-Ocala Branch

2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470

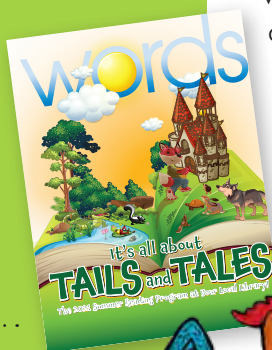
352-671-8551



Find the Library on  
**FACEBOOK**  
and **TWITTER!**

### ON THE COVER

It's all about "*Tails and Tales*" at your Marion County Public Library System, where you'll find summer reading programs for all ages.



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. WORDS newsmagazine is funded by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, Inc.

Julie Sieg



# This Little Piggy:

## *What We Learn from Our Furry Friends*

BY JEROME AZBELL

Imagine, if you will, a tiny baby stretched out across a mattress, smiling up in recognition at one of the only faces he knows. His mother reaches down to grab his toes and begins a rhyme she first heard some twenty years before. "This little piggy went to market," she begins. It's not exactly high literature, but the pressure of her hand pairs with the sound of her voice to teach the baby about his body. He is hearing language and beginning to process that it means something. That "little piggy" has, in essence, become one of his first teachers.

Animals are a key part of our shared oral and written history. Nursery rhymes, from "Three Blind Mice" to

"The Itsy-Bitsy Spider," help children along as they discover the music and sounds of language. Picture books like "Llama Llama Red Pajama" and "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" connect the sound of words and the image of them on the page to the stories that are being told. Then, when children are ready to begin reading on their own, it is often series like "Frog and Toad" or "Elephant and Piggie" that connect those letters to the words that they have been hearing for years. These animal friends, like that first "little piggy," are instrumental in bringing young children to the world of reading.

Of course, it is more than just the very young who learn from the animals in their books. School-aged

children find examples of loyalty in "Charlotte's Web" when Charlotte gives so much of her life to save her friend Wilbur. In "Black Beauty," the first-person story of a horse teaches the value of kindness and learning empathy for the world around them. They go on adventures with "Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH" or the cats of the "Warriors" series. They find morals in "Aesop's Fables," everywhere from "The Tortoise and the Hare" to "The Ants and the Grasshopper."

Older students and teenagers may read much more about real people than they do about animals, but their old guides are still there to light many paths. Some are disguised as mythical

creatures, like Buckbeak the hippogriff in **"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban"** or Saphira the dragon in **"Eragon."** These creatures describe a world that could be the products of the outer reaches of our imagination. Others lie in wait as students study ancient mythology, learning of the Nemean lion, the monkey king Sun Wukong, Anansi the spider or the serpent slithering in an ancient garden. As cultural icons, they open our minds to the people that created them and the truths and myths of the world's history.

Then, when the brief years of formal education are complete, the lifetime of learning truly begins. Here, again, animals are rarer. Yet animals still show us a simpler life in **"All Creatures Great and Small,"** or they challenge our thinking like the tiger, Richard Parker, in **"Life of Pi"** and remind us that all is not ever truly lost. Perhaps animals arrive in an old story like **"The Hound of the Baskervilles,"** calling us to the thrill of the chase and the need to hunt every clue to find the truth. On the other hand, animals also find us in newer tales like **"Marley and Me,"** reminding us of everything they've ever taught us about how to enjoy a life lived to the fullest.

In all these ways, throughout all our ages, thousands of animals are our friends and constant guides. Animals make us laugh (Mr. Toad in **"The Wind in the Willows"**). Animals make us cry (**"Old Yeller"**). Animals make us think (**"The Cat Who Tailed a Thief"**). Animals make us feel (**"Dewey"**). Animals even make us rethink our worldview (**"Animal Farm"**). From earliest rhymes to epic novels, they are quietly teaching us how to be the one thing they are not—human.

Then one day, surrounded like Christopher Robin by a lifetime of four-legged (or feathered) friends, we prepare ourselves to take the most important step in the learning process. We reach out, like that baby's mother, and take hold of the next generation's big toe. Then we can introduce it to its first teacher. "This little piggy went to market." 🐷

# Cats and Lemurs and Eagles –Oh My!

BY STACEY MOYE

**A**nimals have invaded the library! Actually, it's more common than you might think.

For instance, at the University of Bath in the United Kingdom, nesting seagulls became territorial and aggressive towards students. The arrival of Professor Yoda, an eagle-owl, sent those seagulls scattering. His twice-weekly visits discourage the gulls from nesting, keeping the campus safe from bothersome birds. This avian avenger was even issued his own honorary library card! You can spot birds in the 598 Dewey Decimal nonfiction section.

In Portugal, the Joanina Library is home to many ancient manuscripts. Were it not for a colony of pipistrelle bats residing behind the bookshelves, insects would soon eat up the pages of these irreplaceable texts. These fierce fliers emerge at night to gobble up destructive bugs before heading for the nearby hills to hunt. You can find more on bats if you hang around 599.4 at your library.

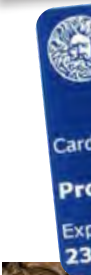
Of course, animals who love the library run the gamut. Berisades and Ivy, two ring-tailed lemurs from Duke University's Lemur Center, escaped their enclosure and trekked to the library for a rousing adventure. Swing on over to 599.8 for more tales about lemurs and other non-human primates.

And the cats — oh, the cats! Take Kuzya, who was found as a kitten by a local library in Russia. They wanted to keep him, but local laws required special documentation to allow animals to reside within a building. Determined staff worked hard to procure a cat passport — because apparently that's a thing— and now he's official.

Of course, there's the world-famous Dewey Readmore Books! This humble cat was found in a book drop and rose to fame. He received his big break when he starred on Paul Harvey's national radio program and was later featured in a Japanese documentary about cats. Read more about this famous feline in a book titled **"Dewey: The Small-town Library Cat Who Touched the World"** (call number 636.8092 MYR).

Other books about domestic cats can be *purr*-loined from 636.8.

Go wild with more stories about animals. Check out 590 in our collection for great reads like **"Swimming with Piranhas at Feeding Time: My Life Doing Dumb Stuff with Animals"** by Richard Conniff and **"How to be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals"** by Sy Montgomery. Start your own reading tale of adventure — all you need is your library card! 🐾





DEWEY

1-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World  
VICKI MYRON with Bret Witter

UNIVERSITY OF BATH  
number: 10064450  
of Yoda The Owl  
visit date: /07/2020  
Visitor



Joanina Library at University of Coimbra in Portugal



Duke University's Berisades and Ivy

# A Tale of Two (Lizard) Tails

BY KAREN DILLON

When I was a child, our house backed onto an undeveloped field with plenty of wildlife. One day I came across a beautiful, shiny, green-and-blue-spotted snake. Like most kids, I was always in the market for exotic pets, so I swooped down and grabbed it. Imagine my surprise when the “snake” broke in half and raced away, leaving me holding its detached, squirming tail!



Eastern Glass Snake. Photo by Tom Spinker.

That was my first experience with the Eastern Glass Lizard (*Ophisaurus ventralis*) also known as a “glass snake.” The glass snake has no legs and moves by slithering, but unlike a snake it has eyelids and can blink, and of course there’s that detachable tail. The tail takes up more than half the length of the lizard’s body, so getting hold of the actual animal is difficult. Losing its tail doesn’t hurt the lizard—it regenerates quickly, though it grows back brown and the glass lizard is never quite as beautiful as it was before.

Similar to the glass snake, but not related, is the Southeastern Five-Lined Skink (*Eumeces inexpectatus*). The adults are an inconspicuous brown color with white stripes, but young skinks have brilliantly blue tails that stand out like beacons against the leaves and soil. It doesn’t seem wise to

attract attention, but the blue tails are eye-catching for a reason! The detachable tail is much easier to see than the brown body, and it’s the first thing a predator attacks. The young skink simply leaves its tail behind and goes on about its life. Oddly enough, not all predators can see the color blue, so the brilliant blue tails only occur where snakes and weasels are the skinks’ main predators. Birds do not see blue very well, so in places where mostly birds prey on skinks, the skinks remain all brown and do not call attention to themselves with gaudy decoys.

Living in wild Florida, where predators are active all year around, can be a tough proposition. It takes ingenuity and a little trickery to survive, and where lizards are concerned, “tails you win!” 🌿



## A FEW FAST FACTS ABOUT TAILS

The deeply-forked tail of the Swallow-Tailed Kite allows the bird to make rapid changes of direction without having to flap its wings. The swallow-tailed kite can even fly upside-down for short periods.



Keith Belisle spends some time with Hobie, a Great Horned Owl.

# Ocala Wildlife Sanctuary Gives a Hoot

BY PAULA M<sup>C</sup>CAHON

Continuing with our theme of tales and tails this summer, here is the tale of one of our local animal rescue groups, Ocala Wildlife Sanctuary (OWLS). Keith Belisle started OWLS more than 28 years ago on the property where he was raised. To support OWLS' mission to rescue, rehab and release whenever possible, the sanctuary helps a wide variety of animals. Currently, their rescues include gopher tortoises, ducks, chickens, parrots and owls. Occasionally, they have animals that remain at the sanctuary permanently because they are unable to be released into the wild.

One of the animals that has a permanent home at the sanctuary is Hobie, a great horned owl, who is missing a portion of one of his wings due to a human-inflicted injury. As an ambassador for his species, Hobie has visited the Belleview, Freedom, Forest and Headquarters-Ocala public libraries during programs presented by OWLS. The main goal of these programs is to help teach others to be kind

to animals and to show that a disability does not have to limit what someone can do.

The group does not limit their work to wild animals. OWLS also provides education about feral cats that live in the area. At the sanctuary, the cats are regularly fed canned cat food and do not want to hunt. Some of the cats even sleep on the bird enclosures. OWLS is also dedicated to helping others in the community. Currently they are working on aquaculture projects to raise tilapia in order to provide food in the community.

For more information and additional photos, please check out the OWLS Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GivingAHoot](https://www.facebook.com/GivingAHoot). As a 501(c)(3) non profit, OWLS relies solely on donations and volunteers to remain in operation and does not receive any state or federal funding. Please contact them by phone at 352-895-0451 or email at [owls-ocalainc@hotmail.com](mailto:owls-ocalainc@hotmail.com) to schedule a tour or find out about volunteer opportunities. 🌱



## Second Annual Friends Read-A-Thon Passes \$10,000. Thanks to Our Sponsors and Readers!



### READERS

<b>Joe Kays</b>	<i>A Promised Land</i>
<b>Erin Quainton</b>	<i>I Didn't Know That and Knock Knock Jokes</i>
<b>Rhodia Berry</b>	<i>Good Night Florida &amp; Good Night Beach</i>
<b>Kathy Crile</b>	<i>Homegoing</i>
<b>Belinda Rodriguez</b>	<i>Down to the Sea with Mr. Magee</i>
<b>Ellen Prosser</b>	<i>Tangled Lies</i>
<b>Morgan Cole</b>	<i>Being Dead is No Excuse</i>
<b>John Heinbockel</b>	<i>A Perfect Day for Bananafish</i>
<b>Kristin Kennedy</b>	<i>BT the Rescue Dog</i>
<b>Bridget Kiefer</b>	<i>Find the Good</i>
<b>Chrissy Vickers</b>	<i>Heroes Wear Masks</i>
<b>Vicky Nelson</b>	<i>So Big</i>
<b>Kyle Yancey</b>	<i>Bronco and Friends: A Party to Remember</i>
<b>Toby and Leona Hunt</b>	<i>Gift of the Magi</i>
<b>Laurie Ann Truluck</b>	<i>Jamaica Lousie James</i>
<b>Bill Gladson</b>	<i>The Monkey God</i>
<b>Suzu Heinbockel</b>	<i>About a Fox and Love</i>
<b>Todd Carstenn</b>	<i>Zoom Class for the Ages</i>
<b>Charlotte Magnuson</b>	<i>You Matter</i>
<b>Julie Sieg</b>	<i>Chomp</i>

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- Roberts Real Estate — Diane Trexler
- Ruthy Young Salon
- Self Storage Center of Ocala
- Sellstate Realty — Laurie Ann Truluck

## Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library Receive Donations for Library Remodeling Efforts

BY KAREN M. JENSEN

The Marion Oaks Public Library, located in the Marion Oaks Community Center, offers a variety of information and resources within its approximately 1,300 square feet of space. Patron computers, an array of library print materials, as well as a children's area serve the interests of children, teens and adults. To better utilize the library's square footage, a renovation plan, divided into two phases, was developed. Phase one of the renovation, funded by the Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library in 2018, included new book shelves and brightly colored furniture in the children's area where families enjoy reading or playing games together.

Phase two of the library renovation plan calls for new shelving and furniture that will provide for more efficient use of floor space and increased public seating within the general library area. Volunteer tutors will have space to meet with their students. Lifelong learners of all ages will be able to access library databases, collections and computers to enhance their studies, reading enjoyment, job search efforts and more.

Last year, the Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library reached out to various business partners within their



SECO Energy's Rick Dennison presents a check for \$1,000 to the Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library.

community to help fund phase two of the library renovations. In response, SECO Energy donated \$1,000 to the effort and Marco Polo Homes contributed \$500.

Irma McNeal said this about the donations. "We want to thank SECO and Marco Polo so much for their enthusiastic support. We are so excited to help plan the future remodel of the library space."

The Marion Oaks Public Library serves its community as a lifelong learning center where children and adults can connect with one another and the world around them. The donations received will help fund the phase two renovation efforts and enhance the library's ability to provide resources and materials to the community. ♻️

# DIY Backyard Farming Projects

BY MARY MERENDA

Developing a backyard homestead with do-it-yourself projects has many rewards, including a renewed sense of self-reliance, saving money and just enjoying nature and the outdoors. Depending upon the size of your property and zoning requirements, backyard projects can range from planting a garden, fruit trees and even raising animals. With an acre or less, you can enjoy wonderful meals made from the bounty of your own backyard.

Many gardeners grow vegetables at home on a small scale to supplement their food supply. With even a small parcel of land, you can grow your own fresh produce. Grow what is best suited for your area and what you and your family like to eat. Depending upon your preference and space, your homegrown fruits and vegetables could provide a variety of delicious offerings all season long.

Backyard homestead efforts might also include raising rabbits. Begin with rabbits that are two or three months old, a buck, and two does. Learn how to hold them and care for their needs. A doe that produces five litters a year will yield 120 pounds of rabbit meat in one year. Find lots of tips for raising and caring for rabbits and animals in **"The Backyard Homestead"** by Gail Damerow.

The idea of raising backyard chickens is an increasingly popular way to explore self-sufficiency and connect with

how our food grows. Raising chickens for eggs to eat can be an enjoyable pastime for children and adults alike. Chickens offer hours of entertainment, fantastic eggs, and compost for the garden. Caring for the animals encourages you to get outside for exercise and fresh air while doing the evening chores. Learn how to care for a happy flock by reading **"Keeping Chickens"** with Ashley English. **"50 Do-It-Yourself Projects for Keeping Chickens, Chicken Coops Brooders, Runs, Swings, Dust Baths, and More,"** by Janet Garman is another excellent library resource for sustaining this chicken-raising effort.

Goats are another animal to consider raising, depending upon your space and property zoning requirements. Dairy goats are easy to handle and produce delicious milk. Meat goats cost less to maintain, and they do well on hay and graze on the property. Goats do not need elaborate housing, but they will need shelter from the sun, wind, and rain. Goats are social animals that love the company of other goats. You will need at least two to get started. Check out Temple Grandin's **"Guide to Working with Farm Animals"** as it teaches safe and humane livestock practices.

There is an abundance in living a simple life that can be enhanced by backyard homestead efforts and projects. Your Marion County Public Library System has resources to help with every stage of the process.



Photo by Erik Kanitz/freepik.com



# program spotlight



## SUMMER BREAK SPOT

### SUMMER BREAKSPOT GRAB & GO

June 1-Aug. 6

It's dinner time and it's delicious! Stop by the library sites on specified days and pick up free meals for children, ages 1-18. If children are not present, parents/guardians need to bring identification for them. Dinner is served from 5-6 p.m. at all sites, except Dunnellon. Service in Dunnellon begins at 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the USDA and provided by Shores Assembly of God.

**Mondays** Reddick Public Library

**Tuesdays** Belleview Public Library and Fort McCoy Public Library

**Thursdays** Dunnellon Public Library (4:30-5:30 p.m.) and Freedom Public Library

**Fridays** Forest Public Library and Marion Oaks Public Library

### Marion County Reads

Visit any library location, check out library materials and get a chance to win a gift card! Prize drawing will be held on Friday, July 30. One entry per library card per visit is allowed. Prize winners will be notified.

**June 1-July 23**

*All ages, all library locations.*

### Finders Keepers

*Ongoing at all library locations*

There's treasure hidden at each library location! Find one of our geocaches and take some treasure with you! View the Marion County Public Library System's geocache holdings at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) or ask a librarian about getting started. The hunt is on!



### COMIC CONNECTION: HOME EDITION

*All library locations*

Build up your comic collection before Free Comic Book Day! Visit any library location and, while supplies last, pick up a free comic and a take-and-make kit to enjoy at home.

**June 14-19** Star Wars comics and Baby Grogu bookmark kit

**July 19-24** Archie comics and Riverdale bookmark kit

### FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

**Saturday, Aug. 14**

*All library locations*

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.*



## OUR VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Enjoy our program offerings bringing tails and tales right into your home! Bring your pets and your stories to center stage. Share a cuppa or make a mobile. Pick up dinner for your kids or follow the demonstrations of the Fiery Chef and make a special summer spread for your family. There is sure to be something to interest everyone. Find the programs that pique your curiosity, call to register, receive the invitation 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.



#### Paws Up!

Thursday, June 10, 2 p.m.  
Host library: Headquarters-Ocala  
Registration required.  
Call 352-671-8551 to register.

Introduce your favorite pet to virtually everyone! Share stories and smiles as we meet the rest of the family. Call the host library to register.

## Community

### Conversation

#### Community Conversations

Topic: Share a time when an animal made a huge impact on your life.

Our topic is full of possibilities. Join our virtual conversation at home through our host library or in-person at any of our library sites for a casual and considerate exchange of ideas!

Tuesday, July 27, 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. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

#### Paws and Pages Virtual Edition

Thursdays, 2 p.m.  
Host library: Headquarters-Ocala  
Registration required.  
Call 352-671-8551 to register.

##### June 24 Meet Marion County Animal Services

Learn about pet adoption, microchips, volunteer opportunities and more!

##### July 22 DIY Pet Projects: Myths and Safety Tips

Dr. Richard Hill, Associate Professor with the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine, addresses questions about making your own pet food and more during this Q&A session.



### ADULTS

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

#### Writer's Studio

Writers of all levels share information and encouragement. Registration required. Call the host library to register.

Wednesdays, 2 p.m.  
June 2, July 7, Aug. 4  
Belleview Public Library  
Call 352-438-2500 to register.

Thursdays, 4 p.m.  
June 10, July 8, Aug. 12  
Forest Public Library  
Call 352-438-2540 to register. \*

\*This program held also in-person. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.



#### Origami Tails

Mondays, 3 p.m.  
June 7 & 21, July 12 & 26  
Host library: Dunnellon Public Library  
Registration required.  
Call 352-438-2520 to register.

Learn the art of origami and create beautiful paper tails fit for mobiles and other artistic displays!

#### Native American Astronomy: Windows to the Universe

Friday, June 11, 3 p.m.  
Host library: Headquarters-Ocala  
Registration required.  
Call 352-671-8551 to register.

Librarian Taylor Benson discusses how and why Native Americans tracked the movements of the heavens.

#### The Fiery Chef, Loring Felix

Fridays, 3 p.m., June 18, July 2 & 16  
Host library: Belleview Public Library  
Registration required.  
Call 352-438-2500 to register.

Too hot to cook? Let the Fiery Chef step virtually into your kitchen and show you how to make those summer nights sizzle!

#### Cutting the Cord? Get Streaming!

Tuesday, July 6, 3 p.m.  
Host library: Headquarters-Ocala  
Registration required.  
Call 352-671-8551 to register.

Learn the basics about cable television alternatives and streaming platforms.

#### Steeping Sagas

Wednesday, July 14, 3 p.m.  
Host library: Headquarters-Ocala  
Registration required.  
Call 352-671-8551 to register.

Put the kettle on for loose leaf tea 101. Learn about favorite tea blends and how to prepare the perfect cup! Register by July 5 at any library location to receive tea samples, courtesy of TeBella Tea Company.

## By the Light of the Silvery Moon

Tuesday, July 20, 3 p.m.

Host library: **Dunnellon Public Library**  
Registration required. Call 352-438-2520 to register. Supplies provided prior to virtual program.

Set the mood for peaceful summer nights. Create a beautiful moon mobile while listening to the myths and legends that have shaped our views of the universe.

## By the Tail!

Friday, July 30, 3 p.m.

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

Paint your very own meteor shower, tails and all!

## SPECIAL SERIES

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

### Cooks and Books

Fridays, 3 p.m.

Host library: **Bellevue Public Library**

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

With a good book in hand and good food on the table, contentment reigns. Enjoy life's pleasures

with cooking demonstrations from the Fiery Chef and author talks paired with staff-selected recipe suggestions. Yummers! Co-sponsored by the Marion County Hospital District and The Fiery Chef.

- June 18** *Fiery Chef cooking demonstration, paired with a tasty literary selection.*
- June 25** *"Beyond Power" by Connie Mann, paired with an enticing recipe.*
- July 2** *Fiery Chef cooking demonstration, paired with a tasty literary selection.*
- July 9** *"A Nervous Man Shouldn't Be Here in the First Place: The Life of Bill Baggs" by Amy Paige Condon, paired with a thrilling recipe.*
- July 16** *Fiery Chef cooking demonstration, paired with a tasty literary selection.*
- July 23** *"Plague" by Marian Rizzo, paired with an exciting recipe.*



## MEET THE AUTHORS

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

### Libby Copeland

*"The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are"*

Wednesday, June 16, 3 p.m.

Host library: **Headquarters-Ocala**

Registration required.

Call 352-671-8551 to register.

Ever participate in at-home DNA testing only to unearth a few surprises hidden in your family tree? Award-winning investigative journalist, writer, editor and 'cultural spelunker' Libby Copeland enlightens all about the world of genetic testing and its impact on our familial perceptions.

### Connie Mann

*"Beyond Power"*

Friday, June 25, 3 p.m.

Host library: **Bellevue Public Library**

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2500 to register.

Non-stop action and daring escapes crowd the pages of Book 2 of Mann's Florida Wildlife Warriors series. Will Josh Tanner, rugged officer with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, be able to help Delilah Atwood rescue her sister from their militia family? There's danger, suspense and romance everywhere. When paired with a recipe hand-selected by your library staff, your summer night will sizzle!

### Arin Greenwood

*"Your Robot Dog Will Die"*

Wednesday, June 30, 3 p.m.

Host library: **Headquarters-Ocala**

Registration required. Call 352-671-8551 to register. Each registrant will receive a personal copy of the book.

When a genetic experiment goes horribly wrong and dogs can no longer wag their tails, mass hysteria brings about the end of the species. It is then, that robot dogs are created to fill the void. Animal lovers and activists will howl at this quirky and fast-paced dystopian novel! Join the pack as YA author and journalist Arin Greenwood reads from her award-winning book.

### Amy Paige Condon

*"A Nervous Man Shouldn't Be Here in the First Place: The Life of Bill Baggs"*  
Friday, July 9, 3 p.m.

Host library: **Bellevue Public Library**

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2500 to register.

Note: the author will also appear virtually at Freedom Public Library's *As The Page Turns Book Club* on Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2:30 p.m. Call 352-438-2580 to register.

William Calhoun "Bill" Baggs was an American journalist and editor of The Miami News, living through and reporting on some of the most historically significant times of our lives. From Civil Rights and Vietnam to Castro's revolution in Cuba and Kennedy's assassination, Baggs was there. Amy Paige Condon shares her stirring biography of Bill, along with Craig Baggs, Bill's son, adding his own experiences of life with his dad and the many historically significant people who came to visit. Cook up a meal from the good old days with this staff-selected (probably from mom's tattered cookbook) recipe.

### Marian Rizzo

*"Plague"*

Friday, July 23, 3 p.m.

Host library: **Bellevue Public Library**

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2500 to register.

The CDC labels the 1918 influenza pandemic as "the most severe in recent history" with the estimation that over 500 million people (one-third of the world's population) became infected with the H1N1 virus. In a world with no vaccines and no antibiotics, the virus took hold. Rizzo provides a close-up look at the severity and humanity of the situation through the eyes and voice of Rose Gallagher and her husband, a small-town medical doctor in Sawmill, Pennsylvania. It is on his travels to Philadelphia that the true extent of the virus unfolds. The staff-selected recipe will, undoubtedly, serve as a restorative!



## 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.

### As the Page Turns Book Club

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Host library: Freedom Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2580 to register.

Make new friends and talk about books!

June 1 "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova

July 6 "The Library Book"

by Susan Orlean

Aug. 3 "A Nervous Man Shouldn't Be Here in the First Place: The Life of Bill Baggs"

by Amy Paige Condon

Note: Ms. Condon will also appear virtually at a Cooks and Books event on Friday, July 9, 3 p.m. Call the Belleview Public Library at 352-438-2500 to register.

### Monday Morning 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 at the library.

June 7 Reader's Choice

July 12 "Leaving Time" by Jodi Picoult

Aug. 2 "The War That Saved My Life" by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

### Novels at Night Book Club

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

Host library: Headquarters-Ocala

Registration required.

Call 352-671-8551 to register.

June 8 "Britt-Marie Was Here"

by Fredrik Backman

July 13 "Hello, Summer"

by Mary Kay Andrews

Aug. 10 "The Turn of the Key"

by Ruth Ware

### 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 at the library.

June 9 "Hoot" by Carl Hiaasen

June 23 "The One and Only Ivan"

by Katherine Applegate

July 14 "Eragon"

by Christopher Paolini

July 28 "My Life in Dog Years"

by Gary Paulsen

Aug. 11 "Dutch House"

by Ann Patchett

Aug. 25 "The Library Book"

by Susan Orlean

### Novels at Noon

Wednesdays, noon

Host library: Marion Oaks Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2570 to

register. Program also held in-person at the library.

June 16 "The Art of Racing in the Rain"

by Garth Stein

July 21 "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel

Aug. 18 "Dog On It: A Chet and Bernie

Mystery" by Spencer Quinn

### Lunch Bunch Book Club

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2520 to register.

June 16 "The Thirteenth Tale"

by Diane Setterfield

July 14 "Kindred" by Octavia Butler



### Power Hour Book Club

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2500 to register.

June 23 "The Secret Garden" by

Frances Hodgson Burnett

July 28 "Year One" by Nora Roberts

Aug. 25 "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed

## TEENS

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

### Best Buddy Book in a Bottle

Tuesday, June 8, 3 p.m.

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2520

to register. Supplies provided prior to virtual program.

Keep your bestie in a bottle! Create a book in a bottle inspired by your best friend!

Supplies will be available at the Dunnellon Public Library prior to the virtual program.

### MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

June 8, July 13, Aug. 10

Host library: Freedom Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2580 to register.

Anime and manga fans, unite!

### YALLA!

Thursdays, June 10 & July 15, 4 p.m.

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library.

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2520 to register.

Be a part of the library experience and earn volunteer service hours. Registration required. Call the host library to register.

### Escape Room: Saving

### Spaceship Icarus

Thursday, June 17, 4 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2500 to register.

Spaceship Icarus faces impending doom, can you save it?

## ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

### 10 Warning Signs of Dementia

Friday, June 4, 10:30 a.m.

Registration required.

Call 800-272-3900 to register.

Speaker: Kathy Lockhart, Alzheimer's Association Community Educator

If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to learn the facts. Learn about the 10 warning signs that should trigger a visit to a doctor and tips on how to begin a conversation about memory concerns.

Co-sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

### Dementia Conversations

Friday, June 18, 10:30 a.m.

Registration required.

Call 800-272-3900 to register.

Speaker: Connie Storms, Alzheimer's Association Program Manager

When someone shows signs of cognitive decline, it's time to talk. This program offers tips on how to have honest and caring conversations related to going to the doctor, making legal and financial plans and deciding when to stop driving.

Co-sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

## Mystery Theatre: There's No Place Like Home

Thursday, July 1, 4 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2500 to register.

Grab your ruby slippers and head down the yellow brick road. Can you foil the Wicked Witch's plans?

## Escape Room: Welcome to the Jungle

Thursday, July 15, 4 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2500 to register.

Exploring temple ruins never was so exciting. Will you escape unscathed?

## Mystery Theater: Lair of the Dragon

Thursday, July 22, 4 p.m.

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2500 to register.

A rampaging dragon is destroying our village. Join our quest to defeat this fiend.

## CHILDREN

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

### Family Fun Crafts

Saturdays, 3 p.m.

June 5, July 3, July 31

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library

Registration required. Call 352-438-2520 to register. Supplies provided prior to virtual program.

Sign up and pick up a kit, zoom in and have make something unique and fun!

### Extreme STEAM Team

Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

June 8-July 20

Host library: Belleview Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2500 to register.

Science, technology, engineering and math join with art to keep the mind gears turning!

June 8 *Awesome Aerodynamics!*

June 15 *Buoyancy, Booyah!*

June 22 *Mission: Microbiology!*

June 29 *Amazing Service Animals!*

July 6 *Paleontology Party!*

July 13 *Fantastic Forests!*

July 20 *Cold-Blooded Buddies!*

## The Tall, Tall, Tale of Paul Bunyan

Monday, June 28, 4 p.m.

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2520 to register.

How much do you know about Paul Bunyan? Have some fun with a trivia game about this tall tale of an American folk hero! Compete against other families and, who knows, maybe you'll win one of the prizes!

## Poké-WHO? Poké-YOU!

Friday, July 23, 4 p.m.

Packets available July 1-22

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2520 to register.

It's unofficial and hilarious when pocket monsters invade the library! Create a character worthy of catching and bring it back to the library to live in an imaginative character world! Zoom in Friday, July 23 and see how many times you were caught, hear the comments of our comical character-hunting judges, and watch the short movie inspired by your creations! Prizes for all!

## STORY TIMES



### Tales for Tots

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

June 10-July 22

Host library: Headquarters-Ocala

Registration required.

Call 352-671-8551 to register.

A variety of stories, songs and activities for ages 5 and younger. Call 352-671-8551 to register. Registration begins Monday, May 24.

### Shake Your Sillies Out

#### Story Time

Saturdays, 3 p.m.

June 19 & July 17

Host library: Dunnellon Public Library

Registration required.

Call 352-438-2520 to register.

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



# OUR IN-LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Enjoy our **Tails and Tales** program offerings at the library! Be a part of good conversations and creative inspirations. There is so much to do! Don some fancy-dress clothes and attend the **Fairy Tale Ball** or see a movie or hear a story. Plus, you can pick up dinner for the kids! What a treat! Top off your visit by checking out lots of books and entering **Marion County Reads**. We welcome your participation in these programs and look forward to seeing you. If there is a  next to the program, the program is also available virtually. See **Our Virtual Programs** for details. All programs require registration. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

## 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.

## Community Conversation

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!

**Topic: Share a time when an animal made a huge impact on your life.**

Tuesday, July 27, 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. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

## ADULTS

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

### Crafternoons

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Get in touch with the right side of your brain!

June 2 *Felt Constellation Animals*  
July 7 *Mask Extenders*  
Aug. 4 *Magazine Strip Silhouettes*

### Graphic Novel Book Club

Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

June 9 *"Something is Killing the Children, Vol. 1"* by James Tynion IV. Illustrated by Werther Del'Edera  
Aug. 11 *"They Called Us Enemy"* by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, and Steven Scott. Illustrated by Harmony Becker.

## 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.

June 3, July 1, Aug. 5

Anime and manga fans, unite! See Our Virtual Programs for other locations.

### Show and Sketch Teen Artist Club

Mondays, 4:30 p.m.

June 14, July 12, Aug. 9

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

### Geekout! Fandoms and Gaming Club

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

June 23, July 28, Aug. 25

Explore the world of fandoms through comics, movies and games.

## CHILDREN

### Tails and Tales

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

June 9-July 21

Ages 5-12 with caregivers.

Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

Stop by each Wednesday for tail-wagging crafts and activities. This come-and-go program will be open all day. No registration necessary.

## BELLEVUE 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.

### SUMMER BREAKSPOT

#### GRAB & GO

Tuesdays, 5-6 p.m.

June 1-Aug. 3

See Spotlight for other locations and times.

It's dinner time and it's delicious! Stop by the library and pick up free meals for children, ages 1-18. If children are not present, parents/guardians need to bring identification for them.

Sponsored by the USDA and provided by Shores Assembly of God.

## 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.

### SUMMER BREAKSPOT

#### GRAB & GO

Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

June 3-Aug. 5

See Spotlight for other locations and times.

It's dinner time and it's delicious! Stop by the library and pick up free meals for children, ages 1-18. If children are not present, parents/guardians need to bring identification for them.

Sponsored by the USDA and provided by Shores Assembly of God.

### Community Conversation

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!

**Topic: Share a time when an animal made a huge impact on your life.**

Tuesday, July 27, 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. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

## 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.

### SUMMER BREAKSPOT

#### GRAB & GO

Fridays, 5-6 p.m.

June 4-Aug. 6

See Spotlight for other locations and times.

It's dinner time and it's delicious! Stop by the library and pick up free meals for children, ages 1-18. If children are not present, parents/guardians need to bring identification for them.

Sponsored by the USDA and provided by Shores Assembly of God.

### Community Conversation

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!

**Topic: Share a time when an animal made a huge impact on your life.**

Tuesday, July 27, 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. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.



## ADULTS

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

### Color to Calm

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

June 3, July 1

Seek serenity through coloring!

### Forest Readers Book Club

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Program also held virtually.

Make new friends and talk about books!

June 9 "Hoot" by Carl Hiaasen

June 23 "The One and Only Ivan" by Katherine Applegate

July 14 "Eragon" by Christopher Paolini

July 28 "My Life in Dog Years" by Gary Paulsen

Aug. 11 "Dutch House" by Ann Patchett

Aug. 25 "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean

### Writers Studio

Thursdays, 4 p.m.

June 10, July 8, Aug. 12

Program also held virtually.

Writers of all levels share work and encouragement.

## 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.

### SUMMER BREAKSPOT

#### GRAB & GO

Tuesdays, 5-6 p.m.

June 1-Aug. 3

See *Spotlight* for other locations and times.

It's dinner time and it's delicious! Stop by the library and pick up free meals for children, ages 1-18. If children are not present, parents/guardians need to bring identification for them.

Sponsored by the USDA and provided by Shores Assembly of God.

### Community Conversation

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!

**Topic: Share a time when an animal made a huge impact on your life.**

Tuesday, July 27, 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. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.

### SPECIAL PROGRAM

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



### Fairy Tale Ball!

Saturday, July 31, 1 p.m.

Celebrate the end of summer at the Fairy Tale Ball! Dance, eat snacks and try to solve all the clues in our fairy tale scavenger hunt. Come as your favorite character and see if the librarian can guess who you are! Be aware! Mr. G knows lots of stories!

### ADULTS

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.

Program also held virtually.

Make some new friends and talk about books.

June 7 *Reader's Choice*

July 12 "Leaving Time" by Jodi Picoult

Aug. 2 "The War That Saved My Life" by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

### Monday Movie Matinee

Mondays, 3 p.m.

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

June 7

June 14

June 21

June 28

July 12

July 19

July 26

### Tech Help Tuesday

Tuesdays, 3-4 p.m.

June 8-Aug. 31

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 Northeast!

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

June 8, July 13, Aug. 10

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 Games Unplugged

Saturdays, 11 a.m.

June 5, July 3, Aug. 7

Don't be bored! Play board games!

### Family Flicks!

Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

Films for the entire family to enjoy! Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

June 8

June 15

June 22

June 29

July 6

July 13

July 20

July 27



### A FEW FAST FACTS ABOUT TAILS

The thresher shark's tail can be as long as its entire body. It thrashes its whip-like tail through the water to stun prey, and also uses it to propel itself out of the water so it can leap like a porpoise.

**Rock Art***Saturdays, 11 a.m.**June 12, July 10, Aug. 14*

Rock on! Awaken your inner artist while painting river rocks.

**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.*

**SUMMER BREAKSPOT****GRAB & GO***Thursdays, 5-6 p.m.**June 3-Aug. 5*

*See Spotlight for other locations and times.*

It's dinner time and it's delicious! Stop by the library and pick up free meals for children, ages 1-18. If children are not present, parents/guardians need to bring identification for them.

*Sponsored by the USDA and provided by Shores Assembly of God.*

**Community Conversation**

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!

**Topic: Share a time when an animal made a huge impact on your life.**

*Tuesday, July 27, 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. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.*

**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.*

**SUMMER BREAKSPOT****GRAB & GO***Fridays, 5-6 p.m., June 4-Aug. 6*

*See Spotlight for other locations and times.*

It's dinner time and it's delicious! Stop by the library and pick up free meals for children, ages 1-18. If children are not present, parents/guardians need to bring identification for them.

*Sponsored by the USDA and provided by Shores Assembly of God.*

**Community Conversation**

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!

**Topic: Share a time when an animal made a huge impact on your life.**

*Tuesday, July 27, 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. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.*

**ADULTS**

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

**Novels at Noon***Wednesdays, noon*

*Program also held virtually.*

Make new friends and talk about books!

*June 16 "The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein*

*July 27 "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel*

*Aug. 17 "Dog On It: A Chet and Bernie Mystery" by Spencer Quinn*

**TEENS**

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

**MANGAlicious Teen Club!***Tuesdays, 4 p.m., June 15, July 20, Aug. 17*

Anime and manga fans, unite!

**FAMILIES**

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

**Stuffed Animal Sleepover***Friday, June 25, 5 p.m.*

What do they do when left to themselves? Drop your fluffy friend off at the library for an overnight to remember. Pick up your party animal in the morning, with a full accounting of sleepy-time escapades!

**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.*

**SUMMER BREAKSPOT****GRAB & GO***Mondays, 5-6 p.m.**June 7-Aug. 2\**

*\*No BreakSpot July 5. See Spotlight for other locations and times.*

It's dinner time and it's delicious! Stop by the library and pick up free meals for children, ages 1-18. If children are not present, parents/guardians need to bring identification for them.

*Sponsored by the USDA and provided by Shores Assembly of God.*

**BreakSpot StorySpot***Mondays, 5-6 p.m.*

Treat your children to golden tales of long ago while waiting for dinner. It's a great way to feed young imaginations!

*June 7 Rapunzel**June 14 The Fisherman & His Wife**June 21 Thumbelina**June 28 Three Little Pigs**July 12 Life in Sherwood Forest**July 19 Here there be Dragons**July 26 Dragon Magic***Community Conversation**

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!

**Topic: Share a time when an animal made a huge impact on your life.**

*Tuesday, July 27, 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. Facial coverings are encouraged at all in-person programs.*

**ADULTS****Let's Talk Books***Mondays, 10:30 a.m.*

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

*See Our Virtual Programs for other locations.*

*June 14 "Two by Two" by Nicholas Sparks*



July 12 "Into the Wild" by Jon Krakauer  
 Aug. 9 Reader's Choice

## FAMILIES

### Tails & Tales!

Mondays, 1 p.m.

June 7-July 26

Explore the world of imagination.

June 7 Start from the Top

June 14 Blue Planet

June 21 Staying Grounded

June 28 No Place like Home

July 12 Life in Sherwood Forest

July 19 Here there be Dragons

July 26 Dragon Magic



## 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 and ESOL Classes

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

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

Obtain free Medicare counseling through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

Contact Headquarters-Ocala, Belleview, Dunnellon and Forest public libraries for times.

## EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

### Headquarters-Ocala

June Paintings by Jacqueline Torres de Castillo

July Ice Cream Memorabilia by Jim Phillips

Aug. Comic Books by Bearded Browncoat Comics and Games

### Belleview Public Library

June-Aug. All About Art

Staff Dedication Misty Risko

### Forest Public Library

June Postcards from Florida Memory Project

July American Independence by Jacqueline Provancher

Aug. Cut Paper Art

### Freedom Public Library

June Cardboard and Papier-Mâché Creations by Jerry Shaner

July America the Beautiful Photographs by Bonnie Halsell

Aug. Girl Scouting by Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

### Reddick Public Library

June By the Shore by Karin Harms

July Knight Display by Andrew Thouchton

Aug. Ancient Greece by Gary Walker

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

### Friends of the Belleview Public Library

No meetings June, July, Aug.

### Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library

No meetings June, July, Aug.

### Friends of the Forest Public Library

No meetings or book sales June, July, Aug.

### Friends of Freedom Public Library

Zoom Meeting – Mondays, 11 a.m., June 7, Aug. 2

### Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library

Friday, June 18, 10 a.m. No meetings July or Aug.

### Friends of the Ocala Public Library

Zoom Meeting – 4 p.m., Tuesday, June 15; Thursdays July 15, Aug. 19

## LIBRARY CLOSED DAYS & HOLIDAYS

### Independence Day Monday, July 5

All Marion County Public Library System locations closed.

### Training/Maintenance Day Friday, Aug. 13

All Marion County Public Library System locations closed.

# MAGAZINES



Friends of the Ocala Public Library/Duke Energy Event at Marion Theatre



Quilt Display at Reddick Public Library



Spring Greens program at Headquarters-Ocala Children's Services



Belleview library staff outreach at Levitt AMP event



Watercolor class at Reddick Public Library



## A FEW FAST FACTS ABOUT TAILS

The tail of an opossum is boneless. The tail muscles are so strong that they can support the opossum's full weight when hanging from a tree branch. Opossums also use their tails to grasp and carry things and as a fifth limb when they need extra stability.





# BOOKMARKS

NEWS & NOTES

FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE OCALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

## REELS AND READING FOR POWERFUL COMMUNITIES



Looking for something exciting to do while supporting our community? Duke Energy and the Reilly Arts Center are sponsoring the Reels and Reading initiative at Ocala's Marion Theatre located downtown at 50 S. Magnolia Avenue. This program will provide support for various nonprofit organizations promoting literacy in Ocala. The Friends of the Ocala Public Library will be the featured non-profit at the **June 17, 5:30 p.m.**

showing of "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." Tickets may be purchased online for \$5 plus tax at [reillyartscenter.com](http://reillyartscenter.com) or at the theater box office. By donating a gently used book, attendees will receive a BOGO coupon which can be redeemed at the Book Market. Masks and social distancing are encouraged.

## Second Annual Friends Read-A-Thon was a Success!

On April 10, twenty volunteers read selections from a variety of sources, from children's stories to classic literature and thoughtful essays. These readings were posted on the Friends page on Facebook and they were fabulous!

If you missed the April 10 virtual Read-A-Thon, you missed a wonderful event. But don't worry. It's still available online at [facebook.com/friendsoftheocalalibrary/videos](https://facebook.com/friendsoftheocalalibrary/videos)

This entertaining event also made money for our library. Donations and contributions topped \$10,000 for Library programs and other projects.

For more information about our sponsors and readers, see the "Read-A-Thon" story on page 7.



## Who are the Friends of the Ocala Public Library?

Our library is a vital part of our community. It provides opportunities for everyone to engage in the joy of life-long learning and to connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from the past and the present. Members of the Friends of the Ocala Public Library understand the importance of well-funded libraries.

They are a group of people dedicated to supporting our library. The Friends organization provides finances and assistance to the library in many ways:

- Children's summer reading
- Author programs
- Ready to Read program
- Fairy Tale Festival
- Much-needed equipment
- Special programming
- Supplementation of library staff training
- Sponsoring the quarterly WORDS newsmagazine
- Selling donated books through the Book Market, online sales, and quarterly book sales
- Educating our community about services available
- Keeping the community informed of pending legislative action that may impact the Marion County Public Library System

If you are already a member of the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, we thank you. Renewing your yearly membership is sincerely appreciated.

If you are not a member yet, please consider joining us. Perks include receiving the WORDS newsmagazine, recognition on the Friends' website, and early admission to the quarterly book sales.

To become a Friend or to renew your membership, go online to [friendsoftheocalalibrary.org](http://friendsoftheocalalibrary.org) or get an application at the Book Market.

## QUARTERLY BOOK SALES... and where you can still find books at discount prices!

The schedule for our Quarterly Book Sales is yet to be determined. Please watch for updates posted in the Book Market and online at [friendsoftheocalalibrary.org](http://friendsoftheocalalibrary.org) for the dates of upcoming Book Sales. We look forward to seeing you again at our future sales.

Remember that you can still purchase books from our Book Market, located in the lobby of the Headquarters Library. We are open from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Check out our low prices!



profile

# Dennis Thompson *and the Tale of the Gypsy Vanner Horses*

BY KAREN M. JENSEN

Sharing the story of how the Gypsy Vanner horses, with their flowing manes, tails and distinctive hair on the lower legs came to reside in Ocala, seemed to be a perfect complement to our “Tails and Tales” theme. I reached out to Gypsy Gold farm owner Dennis Thompson for an interview, and was immediately invited to take a tour of his farm. Upon arrival, I was greeted by a couple of the horses enjoying a warm spring day in their paddock. Gentle and friendly, Dennis would later refer to them as “golden retrievers with hooves.” Rio, one of the numerous parrots that reside on the property, sang a few notes from an opera as I settled into my chair to wait for the host.

Dennis Thompson is a gifted storyteller. Without referring to any script, he shared the story of his life as an animal lover. An entrepreneur at heart, he laughingly admitted to selling guppies (small tropical fish) to his childhood friends. He is also credited with the innovation of many animal products, including the first adjustable dog collars and Quick Silver animal shampoo. But it is the Gypsy Vanner horse, establishing its identity internationally, and the dedication to preserving its heritage within the Gypsy culture that has claimed his devotion for the past 25 years.

Although these compact, colorful horses had pulled Gypsy caravans across Great Britain for decades, it all began for Dennis one afternoon in 1995. He and his wife were travelling the British countryside when she spotted and commented upon a small black and white horse in a field. Following inquiries, they learned that the horse was



owned by a traveler who had other horses of similar color and confirmation he kept hidden. They met with the owner and were invited to a nearby Gypsy camp. That was the day they began a journey that would later result in the Thompsons discovering an unknown, unnamed breed of horses, importing the first 16 Gypsy Vanner Horses to North America and establishing the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society. The adventure instilled in them a commitment to help others learn more about the colorful Gypsy culture that developed and loved the magical Vanner horses.

Visit [GypsyGold.com](http://GypsyGold.com) for details about Thompson’s journey with these beautiful horses and their exciting plans for the future. Farm tours are also available to the public Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday at 10 a.m. 