

# worolds



**LEAP  
INTO THE  
NEW  
YEAR!**

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Julie Sieg

PUBLISHERS

The Friends of the  
Ocala Public Library

EDITOR

Karen M. Jensen  
[karen.jensen@marionfl.org](mailto:karen.jensen@marionfl.org)

WRITERS

Hannah Hirst William Moye  
Rebecca Koontz Jessica Parsons  
Pat Lakin Michael Sunio  
Scott Mason Heather Webb

IMAGES

Pat Lakin [freepik.com](http://freepik.com)  
[pexels.com](http://pexels.com) [vecteezy.com](http://vecteezy.com)

## MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Headquarters-Ocala Branch  
2720 E Silver Springs Blvd.  
Ocala, FL 34470

352-671-8551



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

## ON THE COVER

Leap Into The New Year  
at your public library.

**READ. LEARN. CONNECT.**  
At Your Public Library.



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.

a word from the director



Julie Sieg

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC  
LIBRARY SYSTEM DIRECTOR



## Leaps and Bounds, Above and Beyond

**W**e all know who they are. There are those very special people in this world who, when needed, leap into action! Our library system and community benefit from the efforts of both library volunteers and Friends of the Library volunteers.

Each year, these special volunteers contribute thousands and thousands of hours to make our community a better place to live, work and play. We also benefit from the efforts of a few "unofficial volunteers," who work outside the volunteer framework. With this in mind, I am taking an opportunity, and leaping into the deep end, to recognize one unofficial volunteer, Mary.

Mary wants no recognition or accolades for the hundreds of dollars and thousands of hours she has donated to help make a single, annual library event a success. The event I speak of is the **Reddick Reindeer Romp**. On a Saturday, every December since 2015, hundreds of individuals come together to enjoy free food, good music, community information, a chance to win a new bicycle and say "hi" to Santa. And parents, they have the opportunity to select free gifts for their children. These gifts are made possible because of the efforts of Mary.

Throughout the year, Mary works quietly, tirelessly and with the utmost commitment to garner toys, books, games, dolls, sporting equipment and anything else she knows children will enjoy. Since its inception, Mary has sought donations and great deals from various resources. Each year, hundreds of items are divided by age/interest, so parents can more easily make their selections. Then, parents are able to wrap the items they've selected, because Mary has also secured holiday wrapping paper. While parents are inside the Reddick Public Library, selecting and wrapping gifts, children are outside enjoying food and fun, as well as selecting books to give to their parents. Everyone leaves happy and thankful that there will be something under the tree!

And, we are thankful for Mary. What a gift!

*Julie Sieg*



# THE THE JANUS JANUS EFFECT EFFECT

BY WILLIAM MOYE

"Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?" The familiar words of "Auld Lang Syne" are sung at New Year's when the month of January presents itself as a door through which we pass, looking back on the old and ahead to the new.

In fact, January gets its name from the Roman god Janus — referenced as the god of doors and gates. Janus is also depicted as a deity with two faces — one facing behind and one facing ahead.

The duality of this mythological deity with the two faces also prompted the use of a descriptive term, "Janus word," meaning a word that has two opposites or nearly opposite meanings. Examples

of Janus words and phrases include, "hold up," meaning to lend support or to impede progress and "cleave," meaning to separate or to adhere.

But there are other references to the Janus duality. For example, there are Janus cats that have two faces on one body. Janus particles are microparticles that have two distinct faces with different properties. And there is a "Janus effect" referenced in the business world, where executives review what has occurred in the *past* to more aptly make informed decisions for the *future*. There's also a Marvel superhero named Janus who could make a duplicate of himself. And,

a ruthless villain with burns on half of his face led the sinister Janus Syndicate in Bond movies and novels.

The Romans also saw Janus as the mediator between all dualities such as life and death; war and peace; and beginnings and endings. We've all no doubt heard the phrase "everything in moderation." Moderation is about striking a balance between two opposing outcomes and forging a path that is just the right blend.

When that New Year's Eve ball drops, consider the Janus effect as a reminder to reference what was learned in past, look ahead to the future and always cleave to living and learning in the present. 🍷



# Eclipse Tips

BY HEATHER WEBB

## 2024

is a Leap Year, a year which contains one extra day, but it is also unique for another reason. On April 8, a total eclipse will be visible all the way from Dallas, Texas to Caribou, Maine. While Florida will not be in the path of totality (the line where the total eclipse will be visible), a partial eclipse will still be visible here. Viewing one safely can be a bit tricky, though, especially if you plan on traveling to the path of totality. Here are some tips and tricks for staying safe and making some bright memories.

### Location:

Do you want to travel to the path of totality? Consider travel time and the

likelihood that there might be some heavy traffic, especially right off of the major highways. It's a good idea to call ahead for overnight accommodations. Finding a safe spot, free from hazards is a must. This could be in a yard or at a local park – be aware of traffic and others who will be stopping to view the eclipse.

### Tools:

It is vital to have proper eye protection when viewing the eclipse. This could include special eclipse glasses or handheld solar viewers. If you want to buy yours, do not delay; they often sell out as the eclipse nears. You can also build your own pinhole projector to indirectly view the eclipse. Remember that sunglasses

will not be enough to protect your eyes, and permanent damage is possible without the proper equipment.

### Memories:

Regardless of your solar eclipse plans, be sure to take some time to document the fun and excitement. Make note of the sounds that the animals make during the eclipse (crickets are known to start chirping during an eclipse), and pay attention to the other unique experiences of your viewing adventure. It will definitely be something special to look back on.

Do you want to know more about this coming phenomenon or have some questions? NASA has all the necessary information to get you started, or check in with your local library for more information. Happy Solar Viewing. 🌞

# LEAP INTO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: Old and New

BY JESSICA PARSONS

Rediscover your inner child in the New Year. Whether it's visiting old friends or finding something new, reading children's books as an adult provides people with a chance to explore worlds full of childlike wonder from a fresh perspective.

Once again stroll through the 100 Acre Wood and visit a particular "silly old bear"<sup>1</sup> or stride through the majestic halls and green Quidditch fields of Hogwarts as owls fly through the air.<sup>2</sup> Solve mysteries in your little blue coupe with your trusty friends<sup>3</sup>, or pay twenty five cents for a certain young detective to solve your problems, answers will be at the end of the book.<sup>4</sup> Then again, maybe decide your own fate and "**Choose Your Own Adventure.**"<sup>5</sup> Your old friends have been waiting for you to come back, and they are on the library shelves. Reclaim that sense of innocence by delving back into the stories that made your childhood special and embrace the nostalgia of less complicated times.

Maybe you would rather find something new? Explore diverse worlds and characters and let your imagination run free.



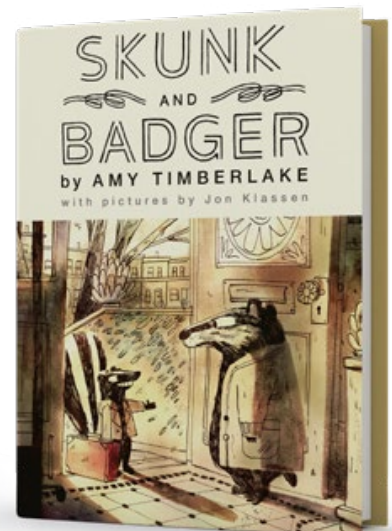
Escape the London blitz and experience the country for the first time in Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's "**The War That Saved My Life.**" Are you longing for adventure? Sail the seas with Sai as she embarks on a journey to map the unknowable and chases dragons in Christina Soontornvat's "**The Last Mapmaker.**" Have you ever had a bad roommate? Sympathize with Badger as he deals with an irritating and unwanted house guest in Amy Timberlake's "**Skunk and Badger.**"

Wonderful new children's authors are arriving at the library every day waiting to be discovered.



Just ask your local librarian for recommendations, and you will leave with a stack of brand new titles.

Children's books are not just for children. Those of all ages will find humor, adventure, truth and magic within these stories. Looking back at what you once loved or discovering something new at a more advanced age allows you to connect to these worlds and characters in a more profound way. With the patience, wisdom and knowledge that maturity brings comes a greater appreciation for good storytelling and the magic of the written word. 🌿





# LEAPING FROM THE PAGE INTO OUR HEARTS

BY REBECCA KOONTZ

**T**here are many distinctive characters that elicit a warm feeling when we think of them, from Peter Rabbit to Spider-Man. What do they all have in common? They leap!

For many of us, one of the first memorable leaping characters from our childhood was Peter Rabbit. Did you know that little bunny has been hopping around for over 100 years? Beatrix Potter first released **"The Tales of Peter Rabbit"** in 1904, and that energetic cottontail has been a favorite in many homes ever since. There are lots of memorable quotes from this famous bunny, but the one that has always stuck with me is, "Even the smallest one can change the world." For generations, this quote has likely inspired people of all ages to shoot for the stars and follow their hearts.

As we grow older, we may put some of our childhood favorites behind and find new interests. For many, this new interest is comic books! A fan favorite has always been the friendly neighborhood Spider-Man. Spider-Man leaps and soars throughout New York City and, in the Miles Morales version of Spiderman, he

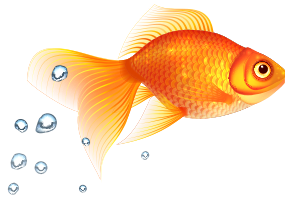
even hops through time. What has always made Spider-Man appealing to the masses is that anyone can be behind the mask. The open-ended nature of his character makes it so relatable, and thus he finds a special place in the hearts of all age groups.

As adults, we look back fondly at these leaping characters from our favorite books. But, it doesn't stop because we've grown up. A person that has leaped into all of our hearts, is none other than the Olympic gymnast Simone Biles. During her time as an Olympic gymnast she has become a household name and has won our hearts, as well as many gold medals! Simone has made leaps and bounds for the gymnastic world and is currently the most decorated gymnast in history. Simone details her experiences in her 2016 memoir **"Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance."**

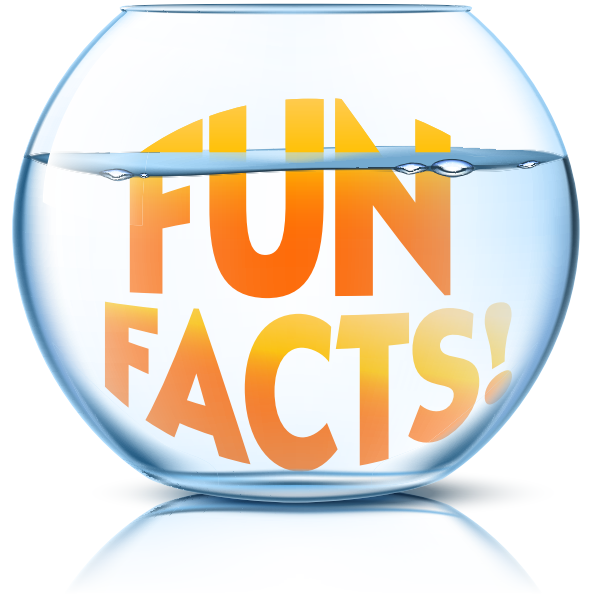
As the New Year approaches, let's take a moment to reflect upon all the characters that have leaped and jumped into our lives. From the pages of books, they now have gained a special place in our hearts. 🌱



PNC's Bank Grants for Great Hours program is another way that employees can give back through their volunteer efforts. Individuals and teams of employees can earn up to \$3,000 in grants for qualified early education centers. In Marion County, PNC Bank employees are recognized for donating an additional \$3,000 to the Friends of the Ocala Public Library on behalf of the Marion County Public Library System this year.



into the  
New Year  
with these



BY HANNAH HIRST AND MICHAEL SUNIO

**A**s we step into 2024, we welcome a New Year, as well as celebrate the arrival of a leap year. Leap years are a fascinating phenomenon that occur every four years\*, providing an extra day in the month of February. Let's leap into some captivating facts and traditions to mark this special occasion.

### \*NOT EVERY FOUR YEARS IS A LEAP YEAR

Contrary to popular belief, leap years don't occur every four years precisely. Our calendar year is approximately 365.2422 days long, slightly longer than 365 days. To address this discrepancy, we round it down to 365 days. This rounding creates a challenge over time, causing the seasons to drift out of sync with the months. Without leap years, we'd eventually experience summer in November and fall in March.

To rectify this, we follow a rule: If a year is divisible by 100 but not by 400, it's not a leap year. For example, 2000 and 2400 are leap years because they adhere to this rule. Conversely, 2100 is not a leap year because it's divisible by 100 but not by 400. This rule ensures that our calendar remains in harmony with the Earth's orbit, preventing the seasons from straying from their expected positions.

### LEAPLINGS

If you were born on February 29, congratulations! You belong to an exclusive group of approximately 5 million people worldwide known as "leaplings." The odds of being born on Leap Day stand at roughly 1 in 1,461. Leaplings technically celebrate

their birthdays only once every four years, making them a part of a unique and elite group. Notable leaplings include actress and singer Dinah Shore, motivational speaker Tony Robbins and hip-hop artist Ja Rule.

### LEAP YEAR SUPERSTITIONS

According to Peter Moore, of UK-based travel magazine "Wanderlust," leap years are considered unlucky for marriage and other important life events in some cultures. People often avoid planning weddings or making major life decisions during leap years. In Scotland, they are even considered unlucky years to raise livestock in.

### LEAP YEARS ON SCREEN

Leap years have made appearances in both films and television, often serving as a backdrop for plot twists and romantic gestures. Series such as "30 Rock" and "Parks and Recreation" have featured episodes set on Leap Day. Similarly, films like the 2010 romantic comedy "Leap Year" have explored the unconventional customs associated with leap years, including the tradition of women proposing to men. 🍷

REFERENCES: Craddock, B. (2020, February 27). The Science of Leap Year. National Air and Space Museum. Retrieved October 11, 2023, from https://www.nasa.gov/content/leap-year-traditions-from-around-the-world/.  
Wanderlust Magazine. Retrieved October 11, 2023, from https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/leap-year-traditions-from-around-the-world/.  
Twenty-nine time. (1996). U.S. News & World Report. 120(5). 16. Which years are leap years and can you have leap seconds? (n.d.). Royal Museums Greenwich. Retrieved October 11, 2023, from https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/which-years-are-leap-years-can-you-have-leap-seconds

# program spotlight

## SEASONAL TREATS

### Arctic Blast

Have a cool day of stories, games and delicious arctic treats with book giveaways from United Way's ReadingPals. Co-sponsored by Publix Supermarkets.

*Saturday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m.*  
Forest Public Library

### Polar Express

Don your pajamas and hop aboard "The Polar Express" for a fun-filled night of stories, crafts and more based on the classic Van Allsburg title.

Co-sponsored by Heart of Florida Health Center.

*Wednesday, Dec. 6, 5:30 p.m.*  
Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

### Polar Paradise: Under the Big Top

Bright lights and pure delight! It's time for the greatest show around...polar style!

Co-sponsored by United Way's ReadingPals.

*Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m.*  
Bellevue Public Library

### "There's No Business, Like Snow Business!"

As if they hadn't enough to do, the elves decided to put on a play and invite everyone to the dress rehearsal! Singing, dancing and holiday hilarity abound in this stage production by kids for kids.

Presented by Community Stages.

*Sunday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.*  
Sankofa Public Library

### Reindeer Romp

Festive, frosty, in-person fun has begun! Join in all the reindeer games, romp to the music and take home amazing giveaways and prizes!

*Saturday, Dec. 16, noon-2 p.m.*  
Reddick Public Library

### Snow Festival!

Let it snow! Bundle up and celebrate the New Year with some chilly, snow-filled fun!

*Saturday, Dec. 30, noon*  
Dunnellon Public Library

## SPECIAL EVENT

### Preschool Expo

Being a parent isn't easy, but it sure is fun! Connect with local organizations for services and support with activities, stories and giveaways for parents and children to enjoy.

*Saturday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*  
Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

## MEET THE AUTHOR



### Sandra Poucher

#### "Wildlife of Florida's Springs"

Freshwater springs provide sustenance to an abundance

of wild, marine and insect life. Discover the commonly and not-so-commonly encountered "critters" living in and near Florida's springs.

*Thursday, Feb. 8, 3 p.m.*  
Headquarters-Ocala Public Library



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FLORIDA HUMANITIES AND THE FRIENDS OF THE Ocala LIBRARY PRESENT

## FLORIDA TALKS



### Magdalena Lamarre

#### "Southern Road to Freedom: Florida's Underground Railroad"

Established in the late 17th century in central Florida, the nation's first Underground Railroad was a beacon of freedom for runaway slaves. Discover

Florida's early history as a Spanish territory, the escape routes used by runaway slaves and the black communities they established before the abolition of slavery in the United States.

*Saturday, Feb. 3, 11 a.m.* Sankofa Public Library



This Florida Talks program was sponsored in part by Florida Humanities with funds from the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities or the aforementioned entities.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

Celebrate a rich heritage of literature, film, music and art at the 34th National African American Read-In. Readers, performers and listeners of all ages welcome! Take part in any or all of the events.

*Monday, Feb. 5, 11:30 a.m.*  
Fort McCoy Public Library

*Tuesday, Feb. 6, 3:30 p.m.*  
Freedom Public Library

*Saturday, Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m.*  
Reddick Public Library

*Wednesday, Feb. 14, 11 a.m.*  
Forest Public Library

*Monday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.*  
Bellevue Public Library

*Monday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.*  
Dunnellon Public Library

*Monday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.*  
Sankofa Public Library

*Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1 p.m.*  
Marion Oaks Public Library



## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### It's Taylor Time!

Catch a glimpse of the world and the skies through the eyes of our own librarian and Renaissance man, Taylor Benson. He knows a lot about a lot!

**Headquarters-Ocala Public Library**

Friday, Jan. 5, 3 p.m.  
Skywatching

Friday, Feb. 16, 3 p.m.  
Historic Places of Marion County

**Marion Oaks Public Library**

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 10:30 a.m.

The Springs of Marion County

### Get Growing With Sheldon

The library's own zealous plantsman Sheldon Grant dishes the dirt on spring propagation and cultivation techniques that will help you sow much. When there is a Master Gardener in our midst, we leaf with enjoyment!

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2 p.m.  
**Marion Oaks Public Library**

Monday, Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m.

**Dunnellon Public Library**

Friday, Feb. 9, 4 p.m.  
**Headquarters-Ocala Public Library**



### Dublin in Song and Story

Folk singer and humorist Tom O'Carroll spins the tales and sings the songs of the enchanting Emerald Isle. Lively Irish culture at its finest.

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 11 a.m.  
**Freedom Public Library**

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 3 p.m.  
**Dunnellon Public Library**

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 3 p.m.  
**Headquarters-Ocala Public Library**

Thursday, Feb. 15, 3 p.m.  
**Bellevue Public Library**



### Sinatra & Friends Tribute

Mark Raisch brings the copacetic sounds of past crooners to the stage. It's a tribute not to be missed!

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2 p.m.

**Headquarters-Ocala Public Library**



Are you into movies? You are now, with this highly interactive cinema experience! Sing and bark along with your favorite animated characters. An adult must accompany anyone younger than age 13.

"Frozen"  
Wednesday, Jan. 10, 4 p.m.  
**Marion Oaks Public Library**

"101 Dalmatians"  
Saturday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m.  
**Headquarters-Ocala Public Library**

## BOOK CLUBS

Make new friends and talk about books!  
Attend one or all!

### Books and Coffee

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.  
**Fort McCoy Public Library**

Dec. 4 "The Personal Librarian"  
by Marie Benedict

Jan. 8 "Zero Days" by Ruth Ware

Feb. 5 "The Interruption of  
Everything" by Terry McMillan

### As the Page Turns

Tuesdays, 2:30 pm.  
**Freedom Public Library**

Dec. 5 "Skipping Christmas"  
by John Grisham

Jan. 2 Reader's Choice

Feb. 6 "An American Marriage"  
by Tayari Jones

### Let's Talk Books

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.  
**Reddick Public Library**

Jan. 8 "The Guernsey Literary and  
Potato Peel Pie Society"  
by Mary Ann Shaffer &  
Annie Barrows

Feb. 12 "The Wife Between Us"  
by Greer Hendricks &  
Sarah Pekkanen

### Second Story Readers

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.  
**Sankofa Public Library**

Dec. 19 "Fuzz" by Mary Roach

Jan. 16 "Murder at the Vicarage"  
by Agatha Christie

Feb. 20 "The Girl in the Castle"  
by James Patterson

### Novels at Night

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.  
**Headquarters-Ocala Public Library**

Dec. 12 "The Readers of Broken  
Wheel Recommend"  
by Katarina Bivald

Jan. 9 "The Stars Are Fire"  
by Anita Shreve

Feb. 13 "The Boston Girl"  
by Anita Diamant

### Forest Readers

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.  
**Forest Public Library**

Dec. 13 "The Mistletoe Promise"  
by Richard Paul Evans

Jan. 10 "Varina" by Charles Frazier

Jan. 24 "The Paris Apartment"  
by Lucy Foley

Feb. 14 "Real Men Knit"  
by Kwana Jackson

Feb. 28 "Their Eyes Were Watching  
God" by Zora Neale Hurston

### Novels at Noon

Wednesdays, noon  
**Marion Oaks Public Library**

Dec. 20 Reader's Choice

Jan. 17 "The Therapist" by B. A. Paris

Feb. 21 "March: Book One"  
by John Lewis

### Novels at Night

Fridays, 4 p.m.  
**Dunnellon Public Library**

Dec. 15 "The Invisible Life of Addie  
LaRue" by V.E. Schwab

Jan. 19 "The Stranger in the Woods:  
The Extraordinary Story of the  
Last True Hermit"  
by Michael Finkel

Feb. 23 "Nickel Boys"  
by Colson Whitehead

### Power Hour Readers

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.  
**Bellevue Public Library**

Dec. 26 "Walk Two Moons"  
by Sharon Creech

Jan. 23 "Memory Man"  
by David Baldacci

Feb. 27 "Nature Girl" by Carl Hiassen

**YOUTH BOOK CLUBS**

Make new friends and talk about books!

**Books! Books! Books!**

Thursdays, 4 p.m.

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Jan. 11, Feb. 8

*Adventures in Bookland* Ages 6-8.

*Bookaneers* Ages 9-12.

**Books & Books**

Saturdays, 1 p.m. Forest Public Library

For teens.

Jan. 13 "The Poet X"

by Elizabeth Acevedo

Feb. 10 "The Book Thief"

by Markus Zusak

**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.

**SEASONAL TREAT****Polar Express**

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 5:30 p.m.

All aboard for a magical night of imagination and wonder.

Co-sponsored by Heart of Florida Health Center.

See Program Spotlight for more seasonal treats.

**SPECIAL EVENT****Preschool Expo**

Saturday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Activities and information for parents and children, ages 3-5.

See Program Spotlight.

**MEET THE AUTHOR****Sandra Poucher**

"Wildlife of Florida's Springs"

Thursday, Feb. 8, 3 p.m.

Leaping lizards! What are all of those "critters" found around Florida's springs?

See Program Spotlight.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

See Program Spotlight for more programs.

**It's Taylor Time!**

Fridays, 3 p.m.

What is our intrepid librarian Taylor Benson talking about now?

Jan. 5 Skywatching

Feb. 23 *Historic Places of Marion County*

**Get Growing With Sheldon**

Friday, Feb. 9, 4 p.m.

Dig into spring gardening with our very own Master Gardener!

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

**Sinatra & Friends Tribute**

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2 p.m.

Swoon and swing to the smooth stylings of Mark Raisch.

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

**Dublin in Song and Story**

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 3 p.m.

Tom O'Carroll returns with the tales and tunes from the land of Éire. Don't miss the fun!

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

**ALL AGES****Paws & Pages: Feline Friends**

Saturday, Feb. 10, 1 p.m.

Fancy cats? Learn best care practices from the experts while enjoying purr-fect tales and a-mews-ments. Adoptions available after the program. Meow!

Co-sponsored by Marion County Animal Services.

**Madcap Movie: "101 Dalmatians"**

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m.

Bark along in this interactive cinema experience! An adult must accompany anyone younger than age 13.

See Program Spotlight for more Madcap offerings.

**ADULTS****Tech Help**

Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

Jan. 3-Feb. 28

Have a technology question?

**Crafternoons**

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Create something wonderful.

Jan. 3 Pom-pom Birds

Feb. 7 Watercolor Bookmarks with Naajiyya Miller

**Thread Therapy**

Thursdays, 2 p.m.

Jan. 4-Feb. 29

Make new friends while learning new stitches.

**Movie Matinée**

Mondays, 2 p.m.

Movies for adults. An adult must accompany anyone younger than age 13.

Jan. 8

Jan. 22

Jan. 29

Feb. 5

Feb. 12

**Winter Dioramas**

Thursday, Jan. 18, 5 p.m.

Registration recommended.

Craft a miniature seasonal scene from life or literature!

**What All This Streaming About?**

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 3 p.m.

Navigate cable television alternatives and streaming platform basics with featured tips from "Cord Cutting for Dummies" and other helpful library resources.

**The ABCs of Dementia**

Thursday, Feb. 15, 11 a.m.

Call 352-422-3663 to register.

Understand the basics of the varied forms of dementia and techniques for becoming a better care partner with Debbie Selsavage, president of Coping with Dementia LLC.

**BOOK CLUB**

See Program Spotlight for more book clubs.

Attend one or all!

**Novels at Night**

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

Dec. 12 "The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend" by Katarina Bivald

Jan. 9 "The Stars Are Fire" by Anita Shreve

Feb. 13 "The Boston Girl" by Anita Diamant

**TEENS****MANGAlicious Teen Club!**

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1

Anime and manga fans, unite!

**YALLA!**

Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1

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

**Mystery Theater:****Cold as the Dickens**

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 4 p.m.

Teens and adults.

Help solve this bone-chilling mystery set in the haunted Devonshire Manor.

**Escape Room**

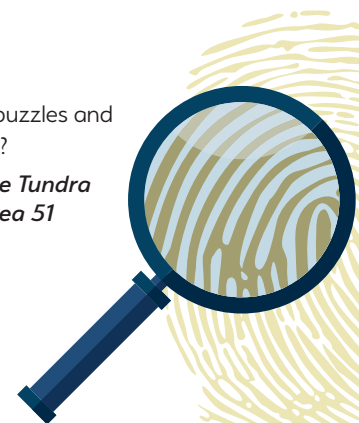
Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

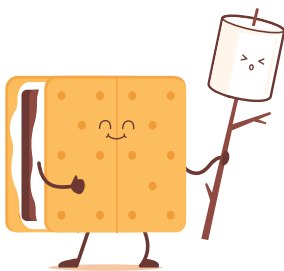
Teens and adults.

Can you solve these puzzles and survive the adventure?

Jan. 25 *Survive the Tundra*

Feb. 22 *Escape Area 51*





## FAMILIES

### Camp Read S'more

Friday, Jan. 12, 5:30-7 p.m.  
For ages 5-12 with caregivers.

Registration required and opens Jan 2.  
Call 352-671-8551.

"Camp-in" after hours with a good book and snacks. The s'more, the s'merrier!

### Ready-to-Read Together

Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon  
Jan. 13, Feb. 10  
For ages birth-3.

Make a playdate with your child and talk, sing and read together.

### Master the Arts

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 16-30

For ages 8-12 with caregivers.

Find new ways to see the world through art, and create your own masterpiece!

### Brick City Builders

Thursdays, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 18, Feb. 15

For ages 8-12 with caregivers.

Can you build your way through the challenges?

### Kids Code!

Tuesdays, 4 p.m., Feb. 13-27  
For ages 8-12.

Registration required and opens Feb. 2.  
Call 352-671-8551.

Learn the language of code through computer programming.

## YOUTH BOOK CLUB

### Books! Books! Books!

Thursdays, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 11, Feb. 8

Make new friends and talk about books!

*Adventures in Bookland* Ages 6-8.  
*Bookaneers* Ages 9-12.

## STORY TIMES

Jan. 9-Feb. 29  
Stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.

*Bouncing Babies*

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.  
Birth-23 months.

## Toddling Twos

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

## Preschool Adventures

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.  
Ages 3-5.

## Pajama Story Time

Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.

# BELLEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### African American Read-In

Monday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.

Celebrate a rich heritage in literature, film, music and art with your friends and neighbors. Readers, performers and listeners of all ages welcome!

Co-sponsored by the Santos Historical Committee, Inc. See Program Spotlight for more locations.

## SEASONAL TREAT

### Polar Paradise: Under the Big Top

Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m.

Behold the circus! Performers, games, prizes and more.

See Program Spotlight for other seasonal treats.

## SPECIAL PROGRAM

### Dublin in Song and Story

Thursday, Feb. 15, 3 p.m.

Tom O'Carroll returns with the tales and tunes from the land of Éire.

Don't miss the fun!

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

## ALL AGES

### Games on a Table

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 2-Feb. 27

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

### Knights of the Chess Club

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 2-Feb. 27

Learn and play chess!

### Knotty Knitters

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.  
Jan. 11, 25 & Feb. 8, 22

Make friends while trying out new stitches.



## Crafternoons

Fridays, 4:30 p.m.

Create something wonderful.

Jan. 12 *Rock Painting*

Feb. 9 *Papercraft Valentines*

## Dragons in the Library!

Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

Jan. 17, Feb. 21

Explore new realms through tabletop gameplay.

## ADULTS

### Master Gardener Plant Clinic

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

Dec. 1, 15 & Jan. 5, 19 & Feb. 2

The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

### Tech Help

Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.

Jan. 4-Feb. 29

Have a technology question?

### Just Another Mah-Jongg Monday!

Mondays, 1 p.m.

Jan. 8-Feb. 26

Learn and play with other enthusiasts.

### Movie Matinée

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

Movies for adults. An adult must accompany anyone younger than age 13.

Jan. 9

Feb. 13

### Writer's Studio

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Jan. 10, Feb. 14

Writers of all levels share information and encouragement.

## BOOK CLUB

See Program Spotlight for more book clubs.  
Attend one or all!

### Power Hour Readers

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 26 *"Walk Two Moons"*  
by Sharon Creech

Jan. 23 *"Memory Man"*  
by David Baldacci

Feb. 27 *"Nature Girl"* by Carl Hiassen

## TEENS

### YALLA!

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1

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

**MANGAlicious Teen Club***Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.**Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15*

Anime and manga fans, unite!

**Mystery Theater:  
Five Nights of Fright***Wednesday, Jan. 31, 4:30 p.m.*

Congratulations! You've been hired as a new security guard for a haunted pizza parlor. What could possibly happen?

**FAMILIES****Science Explorers!***Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m., Jan. 24, Feb. 28*

Flex your mind with STEM-based activities.

**Stuffed Animal Sleepover!***Wednesday, Feb. 7, 5:30 p.m.*

There's mischief in the night when the stuffed animals have a sleepover! Bring your special friend for bedtime stories and snacks, tuck it in tight, and say goodnight. Come back the next day to pick up your fluffy friend, and discover the naughtiness of the night!

**STORY TIMES***Jan. 3-Feb. 29*

Stories, songs and activities for children with caregivers.

**Preschool Adventures***Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.*

For ages 3-5.

**Toddler Time***Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.*

For infants-2 years.

**DUNNELLO  
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.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH****African American Read-In***Monday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.*

Celebrate a rich heritage in literature, film, music and art. Readers, performers and listeners of all ages welcome!

Co-sponsored by the 360 Walking Club of Dunnellon and the Concerned Citizens for Chatmire, Inc.

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

**SEASONAL TREAT****Snow Festival!***Saturday, Dec. 30, noon*

Roll into the New Year with a snowball or two. It will be snow much fun!

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

See Program Spotlight for more special programs.

**Get Growing With Sheldon***Monday, Feb. 5, 10:30 a.m.*

Dig into spring gardening with our very own Master Gardener!

**Dublin in Song and Story***Tuesday, Feb. 13, 3 p.m.*

Tom O'Carroll returns with the tales and tunes from the land of Éire.

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

**ADULTS****Master Gardener Plant Clinic***Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Feb. 6*

The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

**Tech Help***Tuesdays, 11 a.m., Jan. 2-Feb. 27*

Have a technology question?

**Yarn Lovers***Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Jan. 3-Feb. 28*

Make new friends while learning some new stitches!

**Learning Lab***Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m.*

Build your brain.

*Jan. 9 Libby**Feb. 13 Pronunciator***Movie Matinée: Whodunit?***Fridays, 2 p.m.*

Movies for adults. An adult must accompany anyone younger than age 13.

*Jan. 12**Jan. 26**Feb. 9**Feb. 23***BOOK CLUB**

See Program Spotlight for more book clubs. Attend one or all!

**Novels at Night***Fridays, 4 p.m.**Dec. 15 "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue" by V.E. Schwab**Jan. 19 "The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit" by Michael Finkel**Feb. 23 "Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead***TEENS****MANGAlicious Teen Club***Mondays, 4:30 p.m.**Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12*

Anime and manga fans unite!

**YALLA!***Tuesdays, 4 p.m.**Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20*

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

**Whodunit? Malevolence at the Miskatonic University Library***Friday, Feb. 2, 4 p.m.*

Thwart disaster! Connect the clues and save the world in this Lovecraftian mystery theater.

**FAMILIES****STREAM Dreams***Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.**Jan. 4, Feb. 1*

Science + art = fun for the whole family!

**STORY TIME****Family Story Time***Wednesdays, 11 a.m.**Jan. 3-Feb. 28*

Stories, songs and activities for children with caregivers.

**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.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH****African American Read-In***Wednesday, Feb. 14, 11 a.m.*

Celebrate a rich heritage in literature, film, music and art with your friends and

neighbors. Readers, performers and listeners of all ages welcome!

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

### Special Showing: "Their Eyes Were Watching God"

Feb. 28, noon

A classic cinema experience to celebrate Black History Month! An adult must accompany anyone younger than age 13.

### SEASONAL TREAT

#### Arctic Blast

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m.

Breeze in, chill out and party on!

Co-sponsored by Publix Supermarkets. See Program Spotlight for details.

### ALL AGES

#### Yearning for Yarn

Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

Jan. 2-Feb. 27

Make new friends while learning new stitches.

#### Games on a Table

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 23, Feb. 27

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

#### Book Folding 101

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 6, 13

Learn the art of book folding.

### ADULTS

#### Master Gardener Plant Clinic

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

Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12

The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

#### Tech Help

Thursdays, 2 p.m.

Jan. 4-Feb. 29

Have a technology question?

#### Writer's Studio

Thursdays, 4 p.m.

Jan. 11, Feb. 8

Writers of all levels share work and encouragement.

#### Movie Matinée

Fridays, 3 p.m.

Movies for adults. An adult must accompany anyone younger than age 13.

Jan. 19

Feb. 23

### Health Matters:

#### Paging Dr. Internet

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 4 p.m.

Discover authoritative health resources with our own medical maven, Librarian Paula McCahon, who holds a Level II certificate in Consumer Health Information Specialization through the Medical Library Association and the National Library of Medicine. Knowledge is power!

### BOOK CLUB

See Program Spotlight for more book clubs.

Attend one or all!

#### Forest Readers

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 13 "The Mistletoe Promise"

by Richard Paul Evans

Jan. 10 "Varina" by Charles Frazier

Jan. 24 "The Paris Apartment"

by Lucy Foley

Feb. 14 "Real Men Knit"

by Kwana Jackson

Feb. 28 "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston

### TEENS

#### MANGAlicious Teen Club

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15

Anime and manga fans, unite!

#### YALLA!

Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15

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

### YOUTH BOOK CLUB

#### Books & Books

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

Make new friends and talk about books!

Jan. 13 "The Poet X" by

Elizabeth Acevedo

Feb. 10 "The Book Thief" by

Markus Zusak

### FAMILIES

#### STREAM Dreams

Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.

Jan. 10-Feb. 21

Science + art = fun for the whole family!

#### Rock Art! Paint On!

Saturdays, 2 p.m.

Jan. 20, Feb. 17

Paint miniature masterpieces on rocks.

### Leap into Action!

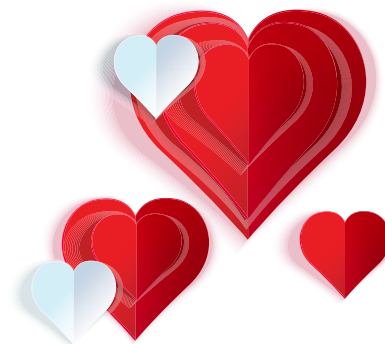
Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

Leap into action and learn about these exciting jobs!

Jan. 24 *Woody Owl*

Feb. 28 *Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses*

calendar



### Valentine's Day Creations

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2 p.m.

Make something special for a special someone.

### STORY TIME

#### Family Story Time

Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 5-Feb 23

Stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers

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

14660 NE Highway 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

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#### African American Read-In

Monday, Feb. 5, 11:30 a.m.

Celebrate a rich heritage in literature, film, music and art with your friends and neighbors. Readers, performers and listeners of all ages welcome!

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

### ADULTS

#### Master Gardener Plant Clinic

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

Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13

The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

**Tech Help**

Tuesdays, 3 p.m., Jan. 2-Feb. 27

Have a technology question?

**BOOK CLUB**

See Program Spotlight for more book clubs.  
Attend one or all!

**Books and Coffee**

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 4 "The Personal Librarian"  
by Marie Benedict

Jan. 8 "Zero Days" by Ruth Ware

Feb. 5 "The Interruption of  
Everything" by Terry McMillan

**TEENS****YALLA!**

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10

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

**FAMILIES****STREAM Dreams**

Saturdays, 11 a.m.

Jan. 6, Feb. 3

Science + art = fun for the whole family!

**STORY TIME****Family Story Time**

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 3-Feb. 28

Stories, songs and activities for children  
and caregivers.

**FREEDOM  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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

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

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH****African American Read-In**

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 3:30 p.m.

Celebrate a rich heritage in literature,  
film, music and art with your friends and  
neighbors. Readers, performers and listeners  
of all ages welcome!

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

**SPECIAL PROGRAM****Dublin in Song and Story**

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 11 a.m.

Tom O'Carroll returns with the tales and tunes  
from the land of Éire. Don't miss the fun!

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

**ADULTS****Tech Help**

Wednesdays, 3 p.m., Jan. 3-Feb. 28

Have a technology question?

**ABCs of Dementia**

Thursday, Jan. 18, 11 a.m.

Call 352-422-3663 to register.

Understand the basics of the varied forms  
of dementia and techniques for becoming a  
better care partner with Debbie Selsavage,  
president of Coping with Dementia LLC.

**Health Matters:  
Paging Dr. Internet**

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 11 a.m.

Discover authoritative health resources with  
our own medical maven, Librarian Paula  
McCahon, who holds a Level II certificate in  
Consumer Health Information Specialization  
through the Medical Library Association and  
the National Library of Medicine. Knowledge  
is power!

**What's All This Streaming About?**

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m.

Navigate cable television alternatives and  
streaming platform basics with featured tips  
from "Cord Cutting for Dummies" and other  
helpful library resources.

**BOOK CLUB**

See Program Spotlight for more book clubs.  
Attend one or all!

**As the Page Turns**

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.

Dec. 5 "Skipping Christmas"  
by John Grisham

Jan. 2 Reader's Choice

Feb. 6 "An American Marriage"  
by Tayari Jones

**TEENS****YALLA!**

Thursdays, 5 p.m.

Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8

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

**FAMILIES****Dog Tales with Moka**

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

Jan. 16, Feb. 20

Hi, I'm Moka. Won't you  
read to me? Please? (woof!)

**Leap Day Party**

Thursday, Feb. 29, 5 p.m.

A TOADally fun time! Hop on in for stories  
and crafts.

**STORY TIME****Family Story Time**

Wednesdays, 11 a.m., Jan. 10-Feb. 28

Stories, songs and activities for children  
and caregivers.

**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.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH****African American Read-In**

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1 p.m.

Celebrate a rich heritage in literature,  
film, music and art with your friends and  
neighbors. Readers, performers and listeners  
of all ages welcome!

See Program Spotlight for more locations.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

See Program Spotlight for more  
special programs.

**It's Taylor Time!**

The Springs of Marion County

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 10:30 a.m.

Explore local springs with nature enthusiast  
and librarian Taylor Benson.

**Get Growing with Sheldon**

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2 p.m.

Dig into spring gardening with our very own  
Master Gardener!

**ADULTS****Tech Help**

Fridays, 10:30 a.m., Jan. 5-Feb. 23

Have a technology question?

**BOOK CLUB**

See Program Spotlight for more book clubs.  
Attend one or all!

**Novels at Noon**

Wednesdays, noon

Dec. 20 Reader's Choice

Jan. 17 "The Therapist"  
by B. A. Paris

Feb. 21 "March: Book One"  
by John Lewis



## TEENS

### YALLA!

Saturdays, noon  
Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10

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

### MANGAlicious Teen Club!

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.  
Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20

Anime and manga fans, unite!

## FAMILIES

### Dog Tales with Moka

Wednesdays, 4 p.m., Jan. 3, Feb. 7  
Hi, I'm Moka. Won't you read to me?  
Please? (woof!)

### Madcap Movie: "Frozen"

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 4 p.m.  
Let it go and sing along in this interactive cinema experience! An adult must accompany anyone younger than age 13. See Program Spotlight for more Madcap offerings.

### FUNtasmagoria

Wednesdays, 4 p.m.  
Explore the world through science, stories and activities! It's FUNtastic!

Jan. 17 *Wow! It's Wildlife!*  
Jan. 24 *Spineless*  
Jan. 31 *Seashells by the Seashore*  
Feb. 14 *Don't Bug Me*  
Feb. 21 *Fantastic Fish*  
Feb. 28 *Slithery Snakes*

## STORY TIME

### Family Story Time

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., Jan. 2-Feb. 27  
Stories, songs and activities for children with caregivers.

## 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.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### African American Read-In

Saturday, Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m.  
Celebrate a rich heritage in literature, film, music and art with your friends and neighbors. Readers, performers and listeners of all ages welcome!  
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

## SEASONAL TREAT

### Reindeer Romp

Saturday, Dec. 16,  
noon-2 p.m.

Celebrate the magic of the season with games, giveaways and fun!



## ALL AGES



### Games on a Table

Tuesdays, 4 p.m., Jan. 2- Feb. 27  
Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

## ADULTS

### Tech Help

Tuesdays, 1 p.m., Jan. 2-Feb. 27  
Have a technology question?

### Talking Local History

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.  
Discover the fascinating history of the area with Annabelle Leitner.

Jan. 22 *Community of Central*  
Feb. 26 *Paper Town of Leroy*

## BOOK CLUB

See Program Spotlight for more book clubs. Attend one or all!

### Let's Talk Books

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.  
Talk about books with the aficionado of phrase, Jim Stroup! Donuts and coffee provided.

Jan. 8 *"The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society"*  
by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows  
Feb. 12 *"The Wife Between Us"*  
by Greer Hendricks & Sarah Pekkanen

## TEENS

### YALLA!

Saturdays, 1 p.m.  
Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3

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

## FAMILIES

### Family Flicks

Saturdays, 1 p.m.  
Movies for the whole family. An adult must accompany anyone younger than age 13.  
Jan. 13  
Feb. 10

## STORY TIMES

Jan. 2-Feb. 28  
Stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.

### Toddler Time

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

### Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

## SANKOFA PUBLIC LIBRARY

1821 NW 21st Ave., Ocala, FL 34475  
352-438-2550

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

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### Florida Talks: Magdalena Lamarre

"Southern Road to Freedom:  
Florida's Underground Railroad"  
Saturday, Feb. 3, 11 a.m.

Experience the thrilling story of the nation's first Underground Railroad through Florida Humanities speaker.

See Program Spotlight for more details.

### African American Read-In

Monday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.  
Celebrate a rich heritage in literature, film, music and art with your friends and neighbors. Readers, performers and listeners of all ages welcome!  
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

## SEASONAL TREAT

### "There's No Business, Like Snow Business!"

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.

A merry, musical holiday performance. Pure Pandemonium!

Presented by Community Stages. See Program Spotlight for details.





## ALL AGES

### Games on a Table

*Mondays, 4 p.m.*

*Jan. 8-Feb. 26*

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

### Crochet Corner

*Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.*

*Jan. 11, 25 & Feb. 8, 22*

Relax and crochet. All skill levels welcome.

## ADULTS

### Tech Help

*Thursday, 2 p.m.*

*Jan. 4-Feb. 29*

Have a technology question?

## BOOK CLUB

*See Program Spotlight for more book clubs. Attend one or all!*

### Second Story Readers

*Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.*

*Dec. 19 "Fuzz" by Mary Roach*

*Jan. 16 "Murder at the Vicarage" by Agatha Christie*

*Feb. 20 "The Girl in the Castle" by James Patterson*

## TEENS

### MANGAlicious Teen Club

*Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.*

*Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13*

Anime and manga fans unite!

### YALLA!

*Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.*

*Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21*

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

## FAMILIES

### Happy Feet Fitness

*Thursdays, 10 a.m.*

*Dec. 7-Feb. 29*

*For ages 3-5 with caregivers.*

Reading + exercise = fun.

Presented with the City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department.

## STORY TIME

### Family Story Time

*Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.*

*Jan. 3-Feb. 28*

Stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.





## CLOSED DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

### Christmas Day

*Monday, Dec. 25*

All Marion County Public Library System locations closed.

### New Year's Day

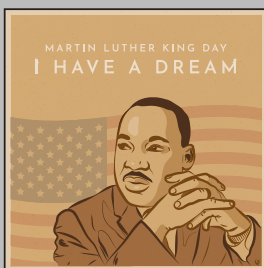
*Monday, Jan. 1*

All Marion County Public Library System locations closed.

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

*Monday, Jan. 15*

All library locations closed.



## AT YOUR SERVICE

### CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion

Job seeker services available! Call your nearest library for schedule and locations.

### Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Visit [www.uscis.gov](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.

### The Department of Health Mobile Unit

Providing services such as immunizations and other preventative healthcare needs and WIC appointments. For more information on services offered on specific dates, call 352-644-2627.

### Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System

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

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

### Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library

*10 a.m., First Tuesday of each month  
Dec. 5, Jan. 2, Feb. 6*

### Friends of the Belleview Public Library

*10 a.m., Third Tuesday of each month  
Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20*

### Friends of the Forest Public Library

*10:30 a.m., Third Wednesday of each month  
Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21*

#### Book Sale

*Friday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.*

### Friends of the Freedom Public Library

*Monday, Dec. 4, 10:15 a.m.  
Tuesday, Jan. 2, 10:15 a.m.  
Monday, Feb. 5, 10:15 a.m.*

#### Book Sale

*Saturday, Dec. 9 & Monday, Dec. 11,  
Friday, Feb. 9 & Saturday, Feb. 10*

### Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library

*10 a.m., Third Friday of each month  
No meeting in Dec.  
Jan. 19, Feb. 16*

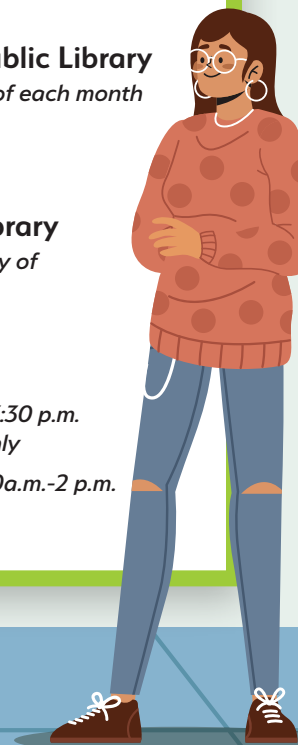
### Friends of the Ocala Public Library

*4 p.m., Third Thursday of each month  
No meeting in Dec.  
Jan. 18, Feb. 15*

#### Book Sale

*Friday, Dec. 1, 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Friends members only*

*Saturday, Dec. 2, 10a.m.-2 p.m.  
General public*





# MAGAZINES



Rosie Russo receives Supervisor of Excellence Award  
(L to R: Lee Schwartz, Rosie Russo, Julie Sieg)



Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horse  
visits **Sankofa Public Library**



Spooky storytelling team at **Phantoms of the Fort** event



Linda Schuyler at **Phantoms of the Fort** event



Heroes Wanted at **HQ-Ocala Public Library**





# BOOKMARKS

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE OCALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

## MEET THE HISTORIAN:



## Magdalena Lamarre

### "Southern Road to Freedom: Florida's Underground Railroad"

Join us as we welcome Magdalena Lamarre, retired Full Professor of History and Sociology at Miami-Dade College. She will be discussing the nation's first Underground Railroad, which was in Florida and served as a beacon of freedom for runaway slaves from the American South.

Established in the 17th century and existing before the better-known Northern

Underground Railroad, Florida's Underground Railroad allowed enslaved Africans to gain their freedom by escaping and earning their asylum in Spanish Florida. During this presentation we will learn about Florida's early history as a Spanish territory, the escape routes used by the runaway slaves, and the black communities they established before the abolition of slavery in the United States.

Lamarre's presentation is scheduled for **11 a.m. on Feb. 3** at the **Sankofa Public Library** at the Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place, 1821 NW 21st Ave., Ocala, FL.



Florida Talks programs are sponsored in part by Florida Humanities with funds from the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in these programs do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities or the aforementioned entities.



## WINTER BOOK SALE

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way to our next Book Sale! It promises to be full of wonderful books for holiday gift-giving. At 25 cents for paperbacks and 50 cents for hard covers, you'll get some of the best bargains around!

**Friday, Dec. 1  
1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
FRIENDS MEMBERS ONLY

**Saturday, Dec. 2  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
GENERAL PUBLIC

## Welcome to Our New Board Member and Officers

Hellena Smejda, who was the treasurer for two homeowner associations in Ocala, is our newest Board member. She has been a member and volunteer to our Friends group since 2006. With a diverse background in leadership, marketing, advertising and public relations, she will make an excellent addition to our Board. Welcome, Hellena! We look forward to working with you. Congratulations to the new officers of the Friends of the Ocala Library for the coming year. We know you'll do a great job!



Hellena Smejda  
BOARD MEMBER



Vicky Nelson  
PRESIDENT



Martha Cromwell  
VICE PRES./ SECRETARY



Barbara West  
TREASURER



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Winter Book Sale

**Friday, Dec. 1, 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

FRIENDS MEMBERS ONLY

**Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

GENERAL PUBLIC

Meeting Rooms A, B and C, HQ-Ocala Public Library

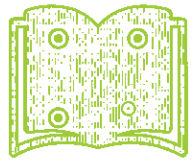
#### MEET THE HISTORIAN:

### Magdalena Lamarre

"Southern Road to Freedom: Florida's Underground Railroad"

**Feb. 3, 11 a.m.**  
**Sankofa Public Library**

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place  
1821 NW 21st Ave., Ocala, FL



Scan this QR code and check out the digital edition of WORDS.

profile

# Josh Wagg

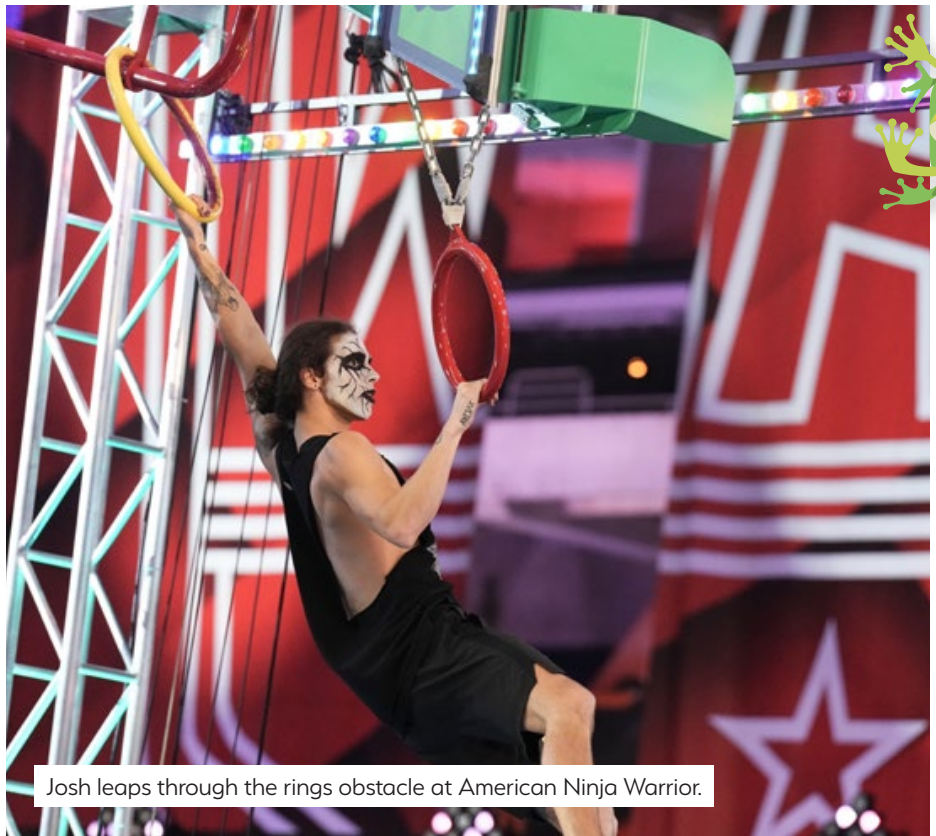
BY SCOTT MASON

**T**rying something new can be challenging. Questions run through one's mind like *how do I get started or will I be any good at it?* These questions can often hamper our ability to venture into exciting and unfamiliar territory. Josh Wagg didn't let those doubts deter him as he leapt into becoming an American Ninja Warrior!

Born in Ocala and now managing the F45 training gym in Orlando, it may be surprising to learn that Josh was not an athletic kid. Josh says, "I tried a lot of sports in school but nothing stuck." He became a fan of the original Japanese version of Ninja Warrior and then the American version. He recalls watching it with his father and older sister. During one performance, his father commented that Josh would be pretty good at that, and Josh agreed. Josh failed his first two tryouts. But, after meeting previous American Ninja Warrior contestant and future friend R.J. Roman, he tried again. The third time was the charm.

According to Josh, his first American Ninja Warrior experience was terrifying, as there were so many people involved in the production. To cope with this, he became like a "horse with blinders that didn't focus on anyone else." This technique helped build Josh's confidence in tackling the many obstacles on the course. It's not easy getting on TV, so on his first run he thought, "What can separate me from everybody else." Wearing a heavy metal t-shirt and black and white face paint did the trick!

As a child, Josh's mother introduced him to authors Stephen King, H.P. Lovecraft and Edgar Allen Poe. It was Poe's "**The Black Cat**"



Josh leaps through the rings obstacle at American Ninja Warrior.

that was the spark for Josh to create worlds with words and music. While living in Colorado, he would visit his local library and check out music CDs. Albums with overarching stories and themes from artists like Tool, Norma Jean and Iron Maiden shaped his musical interests. For Josh, "it's more like storytelling", and he now creates his own stories through music with his band **Tone Deaf Jesus**.

His advice about taking those first steps for any challenge is, "consistency will always be your best friend and will get you further than genetics." Josh is currently training for the 16th season of American Ninja Warrior, as well as training children and adults to compete. An athlete, a musician and a coach, Josh has accomplished a lot in his 27 years, and all it took was that first giant leap! 🌱