

WORLDS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2024



Adventure Begins at Your Library

Marion County
FLORIDA
PUBLIC LIBRARY
SYSTEM



IN THIS ISSUE: CALENDAR • BOOK REVIEW • BOOKMARKS • PROFILE

words

VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2024

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Ocala, FL 34470
352-671-8551



Find the Library
on [FACEBOOK](#),
[INSTAGRAM](#)
and [TWITTER](#)!

ON THE COVER

You'll discover worlds beyond your wildest dreams when you check out public library programs, events and materials. Let the adventures begin at your 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

Farewell, my adventurous friend

It is with great sadness that I write of the passing of Patsy Mills Marsee, retired Assistant Library Director with the Marion County Public Library System, on April 21, 2024. Patsy served our Marion County community with great distinction and professionalism, demonstrating a strong love of community, commitment to continuous quality improvement and always with a dedication to ideals such as free speech, honesty and providing equal service to all. It seems impossible to try to summarize her life and career in a few short sentences.

Patsy was a native Marion Countian and worked as a library page in her younger years. After her stint as a middle-school math teacher and pursuit of a Master's of Divinity, Patsy returned to the public library setting. During her tenure with the library, Patsy wore many hats – from librarian and branch library supervisor to division manager and assistant director. Patsy was also an integral part of many projects, such as automating library functions to designing our Belleview, Dunnellon, Forest and Headquarters libraries, to long-range planning and the never-ending process of hiring the right person for the right position. While these are projects and positions, it doesn't speak to the critical impact Patsy had on our department as she served as a mentor to others, set high standards for herself and others, took time to talk through personal and professional issues with an employee and developed departmental policy and procedures. Her touch is pervasive throughout the library system. I speak for myself in this as well. Over the past 36 years, Patsy was a mentor to me, served as an example and been my counsel. But more than this, Patsy has been my friend. Patsy leaves a legacy of library service of the highest caliber.

Patsy and her husband Darryl had many adventures as they enjoyed cruising to far-off lands, Grateful Dead concerts, Gator football, fine dining and visits to Disney World.

Julie

Adventures in Reading

BY SAMANTHA MARCUM AND DAVID FREUDENBURG

Adventure abounds at the library, where the shelves are filled with tales of daring quests, enchanted realms and mysterious encounters. The hazards are many, adrenaline runs high and the clock is ticking...read on!

Young readers brave the exciting world of the **"Magic Tree House"** series by Mary Pope Osborne, as siblings, Jack and Annie, embark upon thrilling expeditions through time and space. Experience the tension of racing against the clock to solve mysteries and uncover secrets of bygone days. Be sure to be back home before dark!

In Sarah J. Maas's **"A Court of Thorns and Roses,"** adventure takes a darker turn as protagonist Feyre navigates a treacherous faerie realm. Danger lurks around every corner, keeping readers on the edge of their seats as Feyre battles for survival and love in a world fraught with political intrigue and supernatural threats. In the Courts, nothing is as it seems and betrayal is everywhere.

Yann Martel's **"Life of Pi"** transports readers into the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean, where young Pi finds himself stranded on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger. This tale of survival is a gripping testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of unimaginable adversity.

For those seeking thrills closer to home, **"Gator Country: Deception, Danger and Alligators in the Everglades"** by Rebecca Renner takes readers on a true-crime adventure that includes everything from high-speed boat rides to dimly lit bars. Along the way, undercover wildlife officer Jeff Babauta encounters nefarious, desperate and charming characters. Through vivid storytelling and gripping narrative, Renner whisks readers through a beautiful and formidable landscape.

High-stakes investigations, enchanting magical realms and hair-raising tales of survival await. Embark on your next great adventure today, and let the pages transport you to places beyond! 🗺️

Find these tales of adventure at your Marion County Public Library System

CHILDREN

Bats at the Library by Brian Lies
The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss
Find Spot at the Library by Eric Hill
Magic Tree House series
by Mary Pope Osborne
Where the Wild Things Are
by Maurice Sendak

YOUNG ADULT

Bone graphic series by Jeff Smith
Six of Crows series by Leigh Bardugo

ADULT

A Court of Thorns and Roses
by Sarah J. Maas
Gator Country by Rebecca Renner
Life of Pi by Yann Martel
The Martian by Andy Weir
Wild by Cheryl Strayed
Wrath of Poseidon by Clive Cussler

CLASSICS

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
by Lewis Carroll
The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien
Moby Dick by Herman Melville
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea
by Jules Verne



Finders, Keepers, Adventure Seekers:

A LIBRARY GEOCACHING QUEST AWAITS YOU

BY CHANISE ENGELSMAN

Geocaching is a real-life outdoor adventure that can be played all around the world and your Marion County Public Library System invites you to check out its hidden treasures!

All nine of your Marion County Public Library System locations have treasure hidden for adventure-seekers to locate. Follow the clues to find one of the treasure-packed geocaches and claim your reward. View the geocache holdings on the Geocaching® app or ask a librarian how to start your search. The hunt is on!

Anyone and everyone can participate! All you need is the first location. You can get this by using GPS coordinates on the Geocaching® app, visiting www.geocaching.com or asking a librarian for your first clue! 🗺️

Choose Your Own Adventure: AN OCALA/MARION COUNTY EXPLORATION

BY JESSICA HELLER, OCALA/MARION COUNTY VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU

You might think you have to travel to far-flung lands to find adventure, but what if you live in a place full of natural wonder with adventure right in your backyard? Whether you are looking for something fun to do solo, with a group or as a family, Ocala/Marion County's exciting adventure options are endless.

Journey in the Sky

While most of Florida spans over flat terrain, Ocala/Marion County is home to massive limestone canyons within a vast wooded wonderland, providing the ideal setting and elevation for an unforgettable

If you are really feeling brave, your time in the sky is not limited to zip lining. Take it to another level and jump out of a plane with Central Florida Sky Diving, based out of the Marion County Airport in Dunnellon.

Trails and Beyond

If adventuring a bit closer to the ground is more your style, but you want to keep your heart pounding with excitement, hit the mountain biking trails at Santos Trails. Santos Trails offer riders of all skill levels a fun challenge through the more than 60 miles of unpaved trails. Coined an "epic ride" and named a prestigious Bronze-level

Ride Center by the International Mountain Bicycling Association, Santos Trails make for a great way to really immerse yourself into Florida's nature.

Biking is not the only way to experience the area's seemingly endless miles of trails. What better way to navigate the Horse Capital of the World® than by horseback? Ocala/Marion County has several companies that offer guided trail rides, allowing you to enjoy the fun and freedom of horseback riding while taking in the scenery. Some trail ride tours include Cactus Jack's

Trail Rides at the Cross Florida Greenway near the Florida Trail Land Bridge Trailhead; Makin' Tracks Trail Rides in the Ocala National Forest; and horseback riding along the trails at The Canyons Zip Line & Adventure Park.



experience. Adrenaline seeking adventurers can explore this part of the destination by zip line at the Canyons Zip Line & Adventure Park—adventure is even in the name! This park is located in the northern part of Ocala and features the longest, highest and fastest zips in Florida and the longest zips over water in the United States.



FOR MORE IDEAS ON THINGS TO DO IN THE AREA,



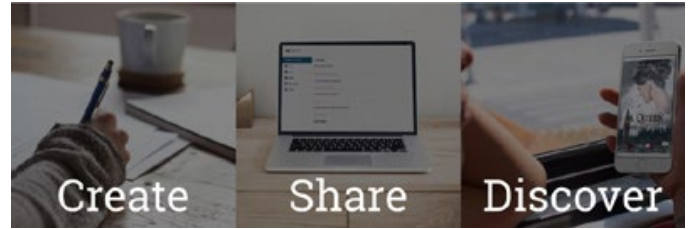
By Boat to the Springs

After a day of adventure on land, take your exploration to the water and cool off in our springs! The area truly is an outdoor playground, with the springs being the most beautiful natural pool you could imagine. Ocala/Marion County offers more than 600 lakes, rivers, and springs to explore, with the most popular springs being Rainbow Springs, Silver Springs, Juniper Springs, Silver Glen Springs, and Salt Springs. Each one features special activities that are ideal for nature lovers of all ages whether swimming, paddling and even tubing-lazy river style. Being 72°F year-round, this spring water is a great refresher for the whole family.

Zip lining, sky diving, mountain biking, horseback riding, kayaking... would you have guessed Ocala/Marion County was so full of adventure? Now you know! 🌿



VISIT OCALAMARION.COM



JPL biblioboard

and the Indie Author Project

Connecting Indie Authors, Public Libraries and Readers

The Marion County Public Library System is excited to announce new community engagement opportunities through a new suite of tools for authors! These new tools help encourage local writers and readers to **create**, **share** and **discover** unique digital content within the community.

CREATE: Local authors and writers can easily create professional-quality print and e-book files using the Pressbook Public tool, easily available to all Marion County Public Library System patrons and requires no previous design and tech knowledge.

SHARE: Local authors and writers can also share their e-books through the Indie Author Project throughout the state via the collection on the new BiblioBoard platform provided by the Marion County Public Library System.

DISCOVER: All locally-created and shared content, plus so much more, on the new BiblioBoard Library mobile and web platform. This platform provides access to local e-Book collections, historical databases, community collections, and more. Library patrons can access BiblioBoard Library on their preferred browser, tablet, or mobile device with your library card PIN. All content on BiblioBoard Library is also available with no holds, waits or checkouts, making it perfect for classrooms, book clubs, writers groups and community reads.

For more information about BiblioBoard and the Indie Author Project, visit the Marion County Public Library System website at library.marionfl.org. Follow the public library system on social media for more updates and information on this new feature. 🌿

Program Spotlight

The Adventure Begins!

MARION COUNTY READS

Visit any library location, check out library materials and get a chance to win great prizes! Prize drawings held on Friday, July 26 at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library. Winners will be notified. One entry slip allowed per library card per visit.

All ages, all library locations
June 3-July 19

FINDERS KEEPERS

There's treasure hidden at each library location. Can you find it? View the Marion County Public Library System's geocache holdings at www.geocaching.com or ask a librarian about getting started. The hunt is on!

Ongoing at all library locations.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Courtesy of Ad Council

SUMMER BREAK SPOT

FOOD AND FAMILY FUN • June 1-Aug 2

Make memories all summer long. Bring your family to one or all of these library locations, do something fun and let your kids, 18 years of age or younger, enjoy delicious BreakSpot meals.

Check out this menu of offerings!

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| TUESDAYS 10 a.m. program/ noon meal | Bellevue Public Library | Family Flicks |
| TUESDAYS 10:30 a.m. program/ noon meal | Reddick Public Library | The Adventure Begins! |
| WEDNESDAYS 10:30 a.m. program/ 11:30 a.m. meal | Fort McCoy Public Library | The Adventure Begins! |
| WEDNESDAYS 11 a.m.-4 p.m. program/ noon meal (drop-in program) | Headquarters-Ocala Public Library | The Adventure Begins! |
| THURSDAYS 3:30 p.m. program/ 5 p.m. meal | Freedom Public Library | Games on a Table |
| FRIDAYS 10:30 a.m. program/ noon meal | Dunnellon Public Library | The Adventure Begins! |
| FRIDAYS 11 a.m. program/ 12:30 p.m. meal | Forest Public Library | The Adventure Begins! |

BreakSpot meals are USDA sponsored in partnership with Shores Assembly of God.

Smokey Bear's Big Happy 80th Birthday Bash!

Celebrate ursine-style with our 80-year-old forest hero! Everyone is invited to this super shindig in honor of our octogenarian forest friend! What a way to end the summer!

**Not enough Smokey? Attend Forest Adventures with Smokey at every library location.*

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Saturday, July 27, 2 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Ready to Read Expo

Give the gift of reading to your child. Connect with local organizations for services and support with activities and giveaways for parents and children to enjoy.

For parents and children ages birth-3 years.

Saturday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala Public Library



Cooks & Books & Caribbean Rhythms!

What do you get when mix the tastes of Jamaica, the sounds of the steel pans and the stories of Afro-Caribbean culture? You get a delicious afternoon packed with the flavors and rhythms of the islands! Celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month with a fête of music, food and literature.

Co-sponsored by the Marion County Hospital District.

Friday, June 7, 3 p.m.

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library



Ruby Boddie



Chef Nigel Simms
Little Bickle Restaurant



Sean T Music Global

TOME TREKKERS: AUTHORS OF ADVENTURE

Ruby Boddie

"Mama's Hair"

Mama "Love" Grancy navigates her authentic path to self-fulfillment, engaging the world on her own terms and overcoming the inevitable clashes arising from imposed expectations. Boddie draws upon the consequential colonial history of Cuba and the religious and social traditions of wider Afro-Caribbean culture to tell a stirring story of strength and tradition.

Friday, June 7, 3 p.m.

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Connie Mann

"The Crown Conspiracy"

Will Sophie Williams, master forger and clever art thief, unravel a decades old mystery and save the throne? What about that handsome investigator who follows her every move? It's international intrigue and romance rolled into a royal adventure!

Monday, June 10, 10:30 a.m.

Ft. McCoy Public Library

Monday, June 10, 2 p.m.

Marion Oaks Public Library

Tuesday, June 11, 10:30 a.m.

Dunnellon Public Library

Tuesday, June 11, 2 p.m.

Sankofa Public Library

Wednesday, June 12, 10:30 a.m. Forest Public Library

Wednesday, June 12, 2 p.m.

Bellevue Public Library

Thursday, June 13, noon

Reddick Public Library



Alan Scott Pate

Missing Bodies: The Lost Friendship Dolls of 1927

As the leading authority on Japanese dolls and author

of "Art as Ambassador: The Japanese Friendship Dolls of 1927", Pate recounts the fascinating story behind these Ambassadors of Goodwill, dolls exchanged to build friendship and connection between two countries. Tracing the path of a gesture born out of an immigration conflict, Pate sheds light on the mystery of the fate of the 58 Torei Ningyo (Dolls of Gratitude).

Sponsored by the Kingdom of the Sun Doll Club of Ocala Florida.

Saturday, June 29, 1 p.m.

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Rick Kilby

"Florida's Healing Waters"

There is little known of the time in Florida's history when tourists poured into the state in search of good health and healing from the spring waters. Emphasizing the value of honoring and preserving the natural features of the state in the face of continual development, Kilby reminds all that Florida's water is still a life-giving treasure.

Tuesday, July 23, 3 p.m.

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

Lost in Nature

Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

Read books, take action and have fun!

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

June 6-July 26

See library location for specific date and time.

Paws & Pages: Feline Friends

Celebrate Adopt-a-Cat Month! 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 and the Brick City Cat Hospital.

Tuesday, June 11, 10:30 am

Forest Public Library

Paddling Our Peninsula with Dorsey DeMaster

Ever wonder what it would be like to circumnavigate Florida? Get the scoop and get inspired by the accounts of this 1515-mile journey by the president of the Florida Paddling Trails Association. Grab a paddle and a kayak—the water awaits!

Monday, June 17, 10:30 a.m.

Dunnellon Public Library

Snakes Alive!

What are the venomous snakes of Florida? Retired Florida Park Ranger Scott Jacob and his slithering friends will test your knowledge.

Wednesday, July 3, 2 p.m.

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library



The Good, the Bad, the Slithery:

Florida Amphibians and Reptiles

Thursday, July 11, 11:30 a.m., Sankofa Public Library

Meet creepy crawlies, slinkers and hop-arounds with **David Blackburn**, Ph.D., Curator of Amphibians & Reptiles at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida.

Arthropod Petting Zoo

Explore the fascinating world of insects and other arthropods.

Presented by the University of Florida's Department of Entomology and Nematology.

Friday, July 19, 10:30 a.m.
Dunnellon Public Library

Follow Your Imagination

Improv Adventures!

Terry LeCompte leads an interactive, "choose-your-own-adventure" quest. What will happen next? Imagine the choices!

Presented by Community Stages

Saturday, June 1, 2 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m.
Fort McCoy Public Library

Saturday, June 15, 2 p.m.
Sankofa Public Library

Saturday, June 22, 2 p.m.
Bellevue Public Library

Heroes Wanted!

Explore worlds and defeat evil monsters.

Discover the basics of turn-based, tabletop gameplay with the highly skilled Storytelling Knights. All levels of experience welcome.

Co-sponsored by the Storytelling Knights and Bearded Browncoat Comics & Games.

Saturday, June 15, noon
Dunnellon Public Library



Leap into Cosplay with Cosplay Uno

Jump into fandom fashion and bring your best costume to life! Cosplay Uno shares

masterful creations and advice that will make you a hit at your next convention! Come as you are or as your favorite character.

Saturday, June 15, 1 p.m.
Marion Oaks Public Library



The Mark Alan Comedy Magic Show

Prest-o, change-o, poofs and goofs! A sidesplitting show of acclaimed razzle-dazzle with hilarious comedian and esteemed magician Mark Alan and his adventurous travel buddy, Bixby.

Thursday, July 18, 11 a.m.
Freedom Public Library

Good Vibrations with Shana Banana

An appealing, musical morning of song, dance and fun!

For ages 5 and younger with caregivers.

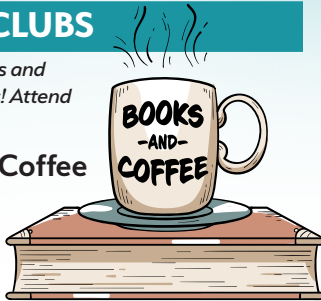
Thursday, July 25, 10:30 a.m. Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

BOOK CLUBS

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

Books and Coffee

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



June 3 "The Stars are Fire" by Anita Shreve

July 1 "The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend" by Katarina Bivald

Aug. 5 Reader's Choice

As the Page Turns

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.
Freedom Public Library

June 4 "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini

July 2 "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" by Judy Blume

Aug. 6 "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus

Let's Talk Books

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

June 10 "Zero Days" by Ruth Ware

July 8 Reader's Choice

Aug. 12 "Pirate Latitudes" by Michael Crichton

Novels at Night

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

June 11 "The Last Thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave

July 9 "Apples Never Fall" by Liane Moriarty

Aug. 13 "The Maid" by Nita Prose



Forest Readers

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Forest Public Library

June 12 "The Crown Conspiracy" by Connie Mann

June 26 "Gulliver's Travels" by Jonathan Swift

July 10 "Birthright" by Nora Roberts

July 24 "The Plot" by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Aug. 7 "A Nervous Man Shouldn't Be Here in the First Place: The Life of Bill Baggs" by Amy Paige Condon

Aug. 28 "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See

Novels at Night

Fridays, 4 p.m.
Dunnellon Public Library

June 21 "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed

July 19 "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen

Aug. 16 "Memoirs of a Geisha" by Arthur Golden

Second Story Readers

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

June 18 "The Fates and the Furies" by Lauren Groff

July 16 "The Omega Factor" by Steve Berry

Aug. 20 "The Long Fall" by Walter Mosley

Novels at Noon

Wednesdays, noon
Marion Oaks Public Library

June 19 "A Land Remembered" by Patrick D. Smith

July 17 "Camino Island" by John Grisham

Aug. 21 "The Walk" by Richard Paul Evans

Power Hour Readers

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

June 25 "Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline

July 23 "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett

Aug. 27 "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig



YOUTH BOOK CLUBS

Make new friends and talk about books!

Books & Books

Saturdays, 1 p.m. Forest Public Library
For teens.

June 8 "Howl's Moving Castle" by
Diana Wynne Jones

July 13 "Holes" by Louis Sachar

Aug. 10 "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by
Betty Smith

Books! Books! Books!

Thursdays, 4 p.m.

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

June 13, July 11, Aug. 8

Adventures in Bookland Ages 6-8.

Bookaneers Ages 9-12.

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.

SUMMER BREAK SPOT

Wednesdays, noon
June 5-July 31

Wednesdays are wonderful! Free meals
and fun times for children, 18 years of
age or younger. Drop in for a morsel
of merriment before or after lunch.

See Program Spotlight for other locations and
times.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Cooks & Books & Caribbean Rhythms

Friday, June 7, 3 p.m.

Celebrate Caribbean-American Heritage
Month with Chef Nigel Simms, Author
Ruby Boddie and musician Sean Thomas.
Bring your appetite for music, food
and books to this enticing event.

Co-sponsored by the Marion County Hospital District.



Smokey Bear's Big Happy 80th Birthday Bash

Saturday, July 27, 2 p.m.

What a way to end the summer!

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department
of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Ready to Read Expo

Saturday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

For parents and children ages birth-3 years.

Give the gift of reading to your child.

TOME TREKKERS

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Ruby Boddie

"Mama's Hair"

Friday, June 7, 3 p.m.

A stirring story of strength and tradition.

Co-sponsored by the Marion County Hospital District.

Alan Scott Pate

Missing Bodies: The Lost Friendship
Dolls of 1927

Saturday, June 29, 1 p.m.

What happened to these
Goodwill Ambassadors?

Sponsored by the Kingdom of the Sun Doll Club
of Ocala Florida.

Rick Kilby

"Florida's Healing Waters"

Tuesday, July 23, 3 p.m.

The history of our beautiful springs dives
deep into the times when restorative health
measures included "taking the waters."

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Improv Adventures!

Saturday, June 1, 2 p.m.

Imagine the possibilities!

Presented by Community Stages.

Good Vibrations with Shana Banana

Thursday, July 25, 10:30 a.m.

For ages 5 and younger with caregivers.

An appealing, musical morning
of song, dance and fun!

ADULTS

Tech Help

Wednesdays, 2-3:30 p.m., June 5-July 31

Have a technology question?

ABCs of Dementia

Thursday, July 11, 11 a.m.

Call 352-422-3663 to register.

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

I Didn't Know That!

A Community Lecture Series

Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

Feed your curious mind! Delve into
details, investigate ideas and explore
subjects with those who know.

June 18 Ice Cream Memorabilia
with Jim Phillips

June 25 Spanish Land Grants
with Taylor Benson

July 9 Meet an Olympian
with Gemma Fleming

July 23 "Florida's Healing Waters"
with Rick Kilby

Monday Matinée

Mondays, 2 p.m.

Movies for adults.

An adult must accompany
anyone younger than age 13.

July 1

July 8

July 15

July 22

The Great

Library Recipe Exchange

Tuesday, July 16, 3:30 p.m.

Ready for adventures in the kitchen?

Bring copies of your best recipe, meet
fellow foodies and discover new flavors!

Co-sponsored by the Marion County Hospital District.

BOOK CLUB

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

Novels at Night

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

June 11 "The Last Thing He Told Me" by
Laura Dave

July 9 "Apples Never Fall" by
Liane Moriarty

Aug. 13 "The Maid" by Nita Prose



TEENS

YALLA!

YALLA! Teen Club*Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.*

Young Adults Lead Library Awareness! Be a part of a talented teen team and make the library a better experience for all. Guide, participate and design innovative library programs while enjoying snacks and making friends as you earn volunteer hours for service. Y'all(a) come!

MANGAlicious!*June 6, Aug. 1***ConFAB***June 13, July 11, Aug. 8***Escape Room: Can You Get Out?***June 27, July 25***Escape Room: Can You Get Out?***Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.**For teens and adults.*

Find the clues, solve the problems and survive the challenges!

*June 27 The Mummy's Tomb**July 25 A Bookmaster Adventure!*

FAMILIES

For ages 5-12 with caregivers, unless otherwise noted.

The Adventure Begins!*Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.*

Venture in for a variety of stories, crafts and games! BreakSpot lunch served at noon.

*June 5 Mission Possible**June 12 Full Steam Ahead**June 19 Kingdom Quest**June 26 Let's Go Camping**July 3 Snakes!**(*Special presentation at 2 p.m.)**July 10 Off the Charts!**July 17 Can You Dig it?**July 24 Seas the Day***Ready-to-Read Together***Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon**June 8, July 13**For ages birth-3.*

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

Brick City Builders*Thursdays, 4 p.m.**June 20, July 18*

Can you build your way through the challenges?

The Quest for Adventure*Saturday, June 22, 2 p.m.*

Explore new realms through tabletop gameplay.

Snakes Alive!*Wednesday, July 3, 2 p.m.*

What are the venomous snakes of Florida? Retired Florida Park Ranger Scott Jacob and his slithering friends will test your knowledge.

Crafty-ventures*Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m.-noon*

Make it and take it!

Good Vibrations with Shana Banana*Thursday, July 25, 10:30 a.m.**For ages 5 and younger with caregivers.*

An appealing, musical morning of song, dance and fun!

YOUTH BOOK CLUBS

See Program Spotlight for more youth book clubs.

*Attend one or all!***Books! Books! Books!***Thursdays, 4 p.m.**June 13, July 11, Aug. 8**Adventures in Bookland Ages 6-8.**Bookaneers Ages 9-12.*

STORY TIMES

June 4-July 25

Stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.

Bouncing Babies*Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.**For ages birth-2.***Preschool Adventures***Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.**For ages 3-5.***Pajama Story Time***Thursdays, 6:15 p.m.**For all ages.*

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Games on a Table*Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.**June 4 & 18, July 2 & 16*

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

Crafternoons*Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.*

Create something wonderful.

*June 5 Photo Display Boards**July 3 Watercolor Stickers***Thread Therapy***Thursdays, 2 p.m.**June 6-July 25*

Make new friends while learning new stitches.

BELLEVUE 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.

SUMMER BREAK SPOT

*Tuesdays, noon**June 4-July 30*

Tuesdays are terrific! Free meals and fun times for children, 18 years of age or younger. Come early for the movie and stay for lunch.

See Program Spotlight for other locations and times.

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

TOME TREKKER

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Connie Mann*"The Crown Conspiracy"**Wednesday, June 12, 2 p.m.*

Adventure and a dash of romance!

Will master forger and art thief Sophie Williams unravel a decades old mystery?

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Improv Adventures!*Saturday, June 22, 2 p.m.*

Imagine the possibilities!

Presented by Community Stages.

Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear*Thursday, July 25, 10:30 a.m.*

Only you can prevent wildfires! Celebrate safety in nature with Smokey Bear.

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.



ADULTS

Tech Help

Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., June 6-July 25

Have a technology question?

Movie Matinée

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Movies for adults.

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

June 5

June 12

June 19

June 26

July 3

July 10

July 17

July 24

July 31

BOOK CLUB

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

Power Hour Readers

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

June 25 "Orphan Train" by
Christina Baker Kline

July 23 "The Vanishing Half" by
Brit Bennett

Aug. 27 "The Midnight Library" by
Matt Haig

TEENS

YALLA! Teen Club

Young Adults Lead Library Awareness!

Be a part of a talented teen team and make the library a better experience for all. Y'all(a) come!

ConFAB

Tuesdays, June 4, July 2, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 1, 4:30 p.m.

MANGAlicious!

Tuesdays, June 18, July 16, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 15, 4:30 p.m.

FAMILIES

Family Flicks

Tuesdays, 10 a.m., June 4-July 30

Movies for the whole family. Come for the fun, stay for lunch!

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



The Adventure Begins!

calendar

The Adventure Begins!

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

Venture in for a variety of stories, crafts and games!

June 6 Southeastern Guide Dogs

June 13 HydroHeroes with the City of Ocala

June 20 Creature Feature with Silver River Museum

June 27 Appleton Museum of Art

July 11 Wildlife Works LLC

July 18 Ocala Aviation Flight Training Center

July 25 Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

Science Explorers!

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m., June 26, July 24

Flex your mind with STEM-based crafts and activities.

Co-sponsored by the Spruce Creek Golf & CC Kitchen Club.

End of Summer Shindig!

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

Bid farewell to summer... adventurously! Fun and games for all!

STORY TIME

Stuffed Animal Sleepover!

Wednesday, July 10, 5 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!

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Just Another Mah-Jongg Monday!

Mondays, 1 p.m., June 3-July 29

Learn and play with other enthusiasts.

Co-sponsored by the Spruce Creek Golf & CC Kitchen Club.

Games on a Table

Tuesdays, 4 p.m., June 4-July 30

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

Co-sponsored by the Spruce Creek Golf & CC Kitchen Club.

Knights of the Chess Club

Tuesdays, 4 p.m., June 4-July 30

Learn and play chess!

Dragons in the Library!

Wednesdays, 5 p.m., June 5 & 19, July 3 & 17

Explore new realms through tabletop gameplay.

Master Gardener Plant Clinic

Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19

The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

Writer's Studio

Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.

June 12, July 10, Aug. 14

Writers of all levels share information and encouragement.

Knotty Knitters

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25

Make friends while trying out new stitches.

Crafternoons

Fridays, 4:30 p.m.

Create something wonderful.

June 14 Mixed Media Bookmarks

July 12 Perler Beads

Co-sponsored by the Spruce Creek Golf & CC Kitchen Club.

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 BREAK SPOT

Fridays, noon.

June 7-Aug. 2

Fabulous Fridays! Free meals and fun times for children, 18 years of age or younger. Come early for the program and stay for lunch!

See Program Spotlight for other locations and times.

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

TOME TREKKER

Connie Mann

"The Crown Conspiracy"

Tuesday, June 11, 10:30 a.m.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

Heroes Wanted!

Saturday, June 15, noon

Explore worlds and defeat evil monsters. Discover the basics of turn-based, tabletop gameplay with the highly skilled Storytelling Knights. All levels of experience welcome. Co-sponsored by the Storytelling Knights and Bearded Browncoat Comics & Games.

Paddling Our Peninsula

Monday, June 17, 10:30 a.m.

Dorsey DeMaster of the Florida Paddling Trails Association.

Arthropod Petting Zoo

Friday, July 19, 10:30 a.m.

Explore the fascinating world of insects and other arthropods.

Presented by the University of Florida's Department of Entomology and Nematology.

Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

Friday, July 26, 10:30 a.m.

Only you can prevent wildfires! Celebrate safety in nature with Smokey Bear.

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

ADULTS

Get Growing with Sheldon: Water and Your Garden

Monday, June 3, 11 a.m.

From rain barrels to hydroponics Master Gardener, Gardening Guru and Fount of Wisdom Sheldon Grant gets the stream of discussion flowing. He's no drip!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

Chair Yoga

Mondays, 10:30 a.m., July 8 & 22

Enjoy light and easy yoga with Michon Fabio, MC Health & Wellness Coordinator.

Gardening with the Masters

Tuesdays, 11 a.m.

June 18 *Creating a Pollinator Garden*

July 16 *House Plants*

Join the experts for wild discussions on all things green.

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

Tech Help

Tuesdays, 11 a.m.

June 4-Aug. 27

Have a technology question?

BOOK CLUB

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

Novels at Night

Fridays, 4 p.m.

June 21 "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed

July 19 "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen

Aug. 16 "Memoirs of a Geisha" by Arthur Golden

TEENS

YALLA! Teen Club

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

Young Adults Lead Library Awareness!

Be a part of a talented teen team and make the library a better experience for all. Y'all(a) come!

ConFAB

June 6, July 11, Aug. 1

MANGAlicious!

June 20, July 18, Aug. 15

FAMILIES

The Adventure Begins!

Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

Venture in for a variety of stories, crafts and games! Come for the fun, stay for lunch!



THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

June 7 *Arctic Adventures*

June 14 *Florida Adventures*

June 21 *Camping Adventures*

June 28 *Space Adventures*

July 5 *Underground Adventures*

July 12 *Ocean Adventures*

July 19 *Arthropod Petting Zoo*

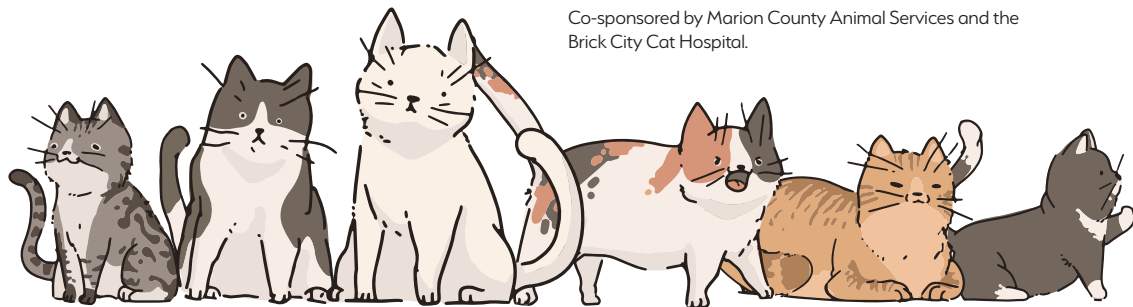
July 26 *Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear*

Mindful Mornings

Saturdays, 11 a.m., June 1, July 6

For ages 5-12 with caregivers. Registration recommended.

Develop mindfulness skills with educator Alison Whitehurst through stories, games and meditation.



STORY TIME

Family Story Time

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

Stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Master Gardener Plant Clinic

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

June 4, July 2, Aug. 6

The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

Song Farmers

Saturdays, 3 p.m., June 29, July 27, Aug. 31

Share a love of music with other hometown musicians. Players and listeners of all ages welcome!

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 BREAK SPOT

Fridays, 12:30 p.m., June 7-Aug. 2

Fabulous Fridays! Free meals and fun times for children, 18 years of age or younger. Come early for the program and stay for lunch!

See Program Spotlight for other locations and times.

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

TOME TREKKER

Connie Mann

"The Crown Conspiracy"

Wednesday, June 12, 10:30 a.m.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

Paws & Pages: Feline Friends

Tuesday, June 11, 10:30 am

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Co-sponsored by Marion County Animal Services and the Brick City Cat Hospital.



Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

Friday, July 19, 11 a.m.

Only you can prevent wildfires! Celebrate safety in nature with Smokey Bear.

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

ADULTS

Tech Help

Thursdays, 2-3 p.m., June 6-July 25

Have a technology question?

Movie Matinée: Gulliver's Travels

Wednesday, June 26, noon

Movies for adults. Bring your brown bag lunch. Drinks and desserts provided.

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

BOOK CLUB

Forest Readers

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Make new friends and talk about books!

June 12 "The Crown Conspiracy" by Connie Mann

June 26 "Gulliver's Travels" by Jonathan Swift

July 10 "Birthright" by Nora Roberts

July 24 "The Plot" by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Aug. 7 "A Nervous Man Shouldn't Be Here in the First Place: The Life of Bill Baggs" by Amy Paige Condon

Aug. 28 "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See

TEENS

YALLA! Teen Club

Thursdays, 5 p.m.

Young Adults Lead Library Awareness!

Be a part of a talented teen team and make the library a better experience for all. Y'all(a) come!

ConFAB

June 20, July 18, Aug. 15

Books & Books Teen Book Club

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

Make new friends and talk about books!

June 8 "Howl's Moving Castle" by Diana Wynne Jones

July 13 "Holes" by Louis Sachar

Aug. 10 "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith



FAMILIES

The Adventure Begins!

Fraturdays, 11 a.m.

Venture in for a variety of stories, crafts and games! Come for the fun, stay for lunch!

June 7 All Aboard!

June 14 Myths and Legends!

June 21 Cooking!

June 28 Master Artists!

July 5 Construction Junction!

July 12 Year of the Dragon!

July 19 Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear!

July 26 Amazon Bonanza!

STORY TIME

Summertime Fun time Story Time

Fraturdays, noon, June 7-July 26

Drop-in for stories, songs and activities.

Come for the fun, stay for lunch!

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Yearning for Yarn

Tuesdays, 2 p.m., June 4-July 30

Bring your own project or come to learn how to knit or crochet.

Master Gardener Plant Clinic

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

June 10, July 8, Aug. 12

The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

Rock Art! Paint On!

Saturdays, 2 p.m., June 15, July 20

Paint miniature masterpieces on rocks.

Book Folding

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., June 18, July 16

Learn the art of book folding.

Tale Spinners Storytelling Group

Thursdays, 4 p.m.

June 20, July 18, Aug. 15

Practice your storytelling skills and hone the craft of telling your tale. Beginner and advanced storytellers welcome.

Games on a Table

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

June 25, July 23

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!



FORT M^CCOY PUBLIC LIBRARY

14660 NE Highway 315,

Fort M^CCoy, FL 32134

352-438-2560

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

SUMMER BREAK SPOT

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.

June 5-July 31

Wednesdays are wonderful! Free meals and fun times for children, 18 years of age or younger. Come for program and stay for lunch and the movie!

See Program Spotlight for other locations and times.

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

TOME TREKKER

Connie Mann

"The Crown Conspiracy"

Monday, June 10, 10:30 a.m.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

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

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Improv Adventures!

Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m.

Imagine the possibilities!

Presented by Community Stages.

ADULTS

Tech Help

Tuesdays, 3 p.m., June 4-July 30

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.

June 3 "The Stars are Fire" by Anita Shreve

July 1 "The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend" by Katarina Bivaldo

Aug. 5 Reader's Choice

TEENS

YALLA! Teen Club

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

Young Adults Lead Library Awareness! Be a part of a talented teen team and make the library a better experience for all. Guide, participate and design innovative library programs while enjoying snacks and making friends as you earn volunteer hours for service. Y'all(a) come!

ConFAB

June 8, July 13, Aug. 10

FAMILIES

The Adventure Begins!

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., June 5-July 24

Venture in for a variety of stories, crafts and games! Come for the fun, stay for lunch!

Family Flicks

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., June 5-July 24

Movies for the whole family.

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

STREAM Dreams

Saturdays, 11 a.m., June 1, July 6

Science + art = fun for the whole family!

COMMUNITY BUILDER

Master Gardener Plant Clinic

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

June 11, July 9, Aug. 13

The plant doctors are in!

Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

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.

SUMMER BREAK SPOT

Thursdays, 5 p.m., June 6-Aug. 1

Thumbs up Thursdays! Free meals and fun times for children, 18 years of age or younger. Come early for the program and stay for dinner.

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

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

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

Thursday, June 13, 11 a.m.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and by Marion Soil & Water Conservation District.

Mark Alan Comedy Magic Show

Thursday, July 18, 11 a.m.

Prest-o, change-o, poofs and goofs!

ADULTS

Tech Help

Wednesdays, 3 p.m., June 5-July 31

Have a technology question?

ABCs of Dementia

Fridays, 2 p.m., June 14 & 28

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

As the Page Turns

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.

June 4 "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini

July 2 "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret" by Judy Blume

Aug. 6 "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus

TEENS

YALLA! Teen Club

Tuesdays, 5 p.m.

Young Adults Lead Library Awareness! Be a part of a talented teen team and make the library a better experience for all. Y'all(a) come!

ConFAB June 11, July 9, Aug. 13

Madcap Movie:

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"

Tuesday, July 30, 3 p.m.

Jump into an interactive cinema experience! Muggles welcome. Let's make magical movie mayhem.

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

FAMILIES

The Adventure Begins!

Thursdays, 11 a.m.

Venture in for a variety of stories, crafts and games!

June 6 Library Olympics

June 13 Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

June 20 Dog Tales With Moka

June 27 Wild Camping Adventures!

July 11 Adventures in Art

July 18 Mark Alan Comedy Magic Show

July 25 Summer End-venture Bash!

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Games on a Table

Thursdays, 3:30 p.m.

June 6-July 25

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games! Come for the fun, stay for dinner!

Chess Club

Fridays, 10:15 a.m.

June 7-July 26

Learn and play chess.

Co-sponsored by the South Ocala Chess Club.

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.

TOME TREKKER

Connie Mann

"The Crown Conspiracy"

Monday, June 10, 2 p.m.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

See Program Spotlight for more information and/or locations.

Leap into Cosplay with Cosplay Uno

Saturday, June 15, 1 p.m.

Jump into fandom fashion and bring your best costume to life.

Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

Wednesday, June 19, 4 p.m.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

ALL AGES

Taylor Party (Library Version)

Saturday, July 20, 1 p.m.

Swifties, you belong with us! Put an end to the cruel summer and shake it off with everything Tay Tay. Tour eras of reading with games, friendship bracelets and all things Taylor. Be adventurous and dress for your favorite era!



The Adventure Begins

The Adventure Begins!

Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

Begin your summer adventures here with stories, activities and fun!

- June 5 *Travel Adventures With Moka*
- June 12 *Adventures in Nature*
- June 19 *Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear*
- June 26 *Choose Your Own Adventure*
- July 3 *Mysteries With Moka*
- July 10 *Rainy Day Adventures*
- July 17 *Adventures in the Dark*
- July 24 *Adventures in Science*

TOME TREKKER

Brown Bag Luncheon with Connie Mann

Thursday, June 13, noon

Bring your bag lunch for an adventurous and novel afternoon of romance and intrigue with Captain Connie Mann. Beverage and dessert provided. Contact the library at 352-438-2566 to reserve a piece of pie!



ADVENTURE SEEKER

Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

Tuesday, July 9, 10:30 a.m.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

ADULTS

Tech Help

Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-noon, June 7-July 26

Have a technology question?

ABCs of Dementia

Wednesday, July 10, noon

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 Noon

Wednesdays, noon

- June 19 "A Land Remembered" by Patrick D. Smith
- July 17 "Camino Island" by John Grisham
- Aug. 21 "The Walk" by Richard Paul Evans

TEENS

YALLA! Teen Club

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

Young Adults Lead Library Awareness! Be a part of a talented teen team and make the library a better experience for all. Guide, participate and design innovative library programs while enjoying snacks and making friends as you earn volunteer hours for service. Y'all(a) come!

ConFAB

June 11, July 9, Aug. 13

MANGAlicious!

June 18, July 16, Aug. 20

FAMILIES

Dog Tales With Moka

Wednesdays, 4 p.m.

June 5, July 3

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



STORY TIMES

June 4-July 24

Stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.

Family Story Time

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Bouncing Babies

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

For birth-23 months.

COMMUNITY BUILDER

Writer's Studio

Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

June 4, July 2

Writers of all levels share work and encouragement.

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 BREAK SPOT

Tuesdays, noon

June 4-July 30

Tuesdays are terrific! Free meals and fun times for children, 18 years of age or younger. Come early for the program and stay for lunch.

See Program Spotlight for other locations and times.

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

ADULTS

Let's Talk Books

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Talk about books with the aficionado of phrase, Jim Stroup! Donuts and coffee provided.

- June 10 "Zero Days" by Ruth Ware
- July 8 Reader's Choice
- Aug. 12 "Pirate Latitudes" by Michael Crichton

Talking Local History with Annabelle Leitner

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Discover the fascinating history of the area.

- June 24 *Historic Marion County Photographs*
- July 22 *Historic Schools of North Marion County*

Tech Help

Tuesdays, 1 p.m., June 4-July 30

Have a technology question?

TEENS

YALLA! Teen Club

Saturdays, 1 p.m.

Young Adults Lead Library Awareness! Be a part of a talented teen team and make the library a better experience for all. Y'all(a) come!

ConFAB

June 1, July 6, Aug. 3

FAMILIES

The Adventure Begins!

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., June 4-July 23

Venture in for a variety of stories, crafts and games! Come for the fun, stay for lunch.

Family Flicks

Tuesdays, noon, June 4-July 23

Movies for the whole family. Come for the movie and have lunch too!

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

STREAM Dreams

Saturdays, 11 a.m., June 15, July 20

Science + art = fun for the whole family!

COMMUNITY BUILDER

Games on a Table

Tuesdays, 4 p.m., June 4-July 30

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

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.

TOME TREKKER

Connie Mann

"The Crown Conspiracy"

Tuesday, June 11, 2 p.m.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

ADVENTURE SEEKERS

Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

Thursday, June 6, 11:30 a.m.

See Program Spotlight for more information.

Sponsored by Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Improv Adventures!

Saturday, June 15, 2 p.m.

Imagine the possibilities!

Presented by Community Stages.

StarLab Planetarium

Thursday, June 27, 11:30 a.m.

Registration recommended.

Experience the wonder of the night sky, the solar system and even the galaxy!

Co-sponsored by the City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department.



The Good, the Bad, the Slithery: Florida Amphibians and Reptiles

Thursday, July 11, 11:30 a.m., Sankofa Public Library

Meet creepy crawlies, slinkers and hop-arounds with **David Blackburn**, Ph.D., Curator of Amphibians & Reptiles at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida.

ADULTS

Tech Help

Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., June 6-July 25

Have a technology question?

BOOK CLUB

Second Story Readers

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

June 18 "The Fates and Furies" by Lauren Groff

July 16 "The Omega Factor" by Steve Berry

Aug. 20 "The Long Fall" by Walter Mosley

TEENS

YALLA! Teen Club

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Young Adults Lead Library Awareness!

Be a part of a talented teen team and make the library a better experience for all.

Guide, participate and design innovative library programs while enjoying snacks and making friends as you earn volunteer hours for service. Y'all(a) come!

MANGALicious!

June 4, July 2, Aug. 6

ConFAB

June 18, July 16, Aug. 20

FAMILIES

Happy Feet Fitness

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., June 6-July 25

For ages 3-5 with caregivers.

Reading + exercise = fun.

Co-sponsored by City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department.

The Adventure Begins!

Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.

Venture in for a variety of stories, crafts and games!

June 6 Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear

June 13 Spy Academy

June 20 Community Helpers

June 27 StarLab Planetarium

July 11 The Good, the Bad, the Slithery: Florida Amphibians and Reptiles

July 18 Imagination Station

July 25 Summer Bash

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Games on a Table

Mondays, 4 p.m., June 3-July 29

Play classic and contemporary tabletop games!

Crochet Corner

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.

June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25

Relax and crochet. All skill levels welcome.

LIBRARY CLOSED DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Independence Day

Thursday, July 4

All library locations closed

Maintenance Day

Friday, Aug. 16

Headquarters-Ocala, Forest and Marion Oaks Library System locations closed.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Friends of the Belleview Public Library

No meetings June, July or Aug.

Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library

No meetings June, July or Aug.

Friends of the Forest Public Library

No meetings June, July or Aug.

Friends of Freedom Public Library

Mondays, 10:15 a.m., June 3, July 1, Aug. 5

Book Sale June 8 & 10 and Aug. 24 & 26

Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library

No meetings June, July & Aug.

Friends of the Ocala Public Library

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

Book Sale

Aug. 2, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Friends members only

Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Open to the public

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

June *Ice Cream Memorabilia*
by Jim Phillips

July *Country Road Quilters*

Aug. *Glassware* by Tiffany Gilbreath

Belleview Public Library

June *European Curiosities*

July *Military Memorabilia*
by Jude Alderson

Aug. *Winged Wildlife Photography*
by Leroy Simon

Dunnellon Public Library

June *Found Objects* by Summer Butler

July *Postcards* by Joseph Hart

Aug. *American Girl*
by Stephanie Galvan

Forest Public Library

June *Folded Books*
by Forest Library Community

July *JaiJai Photography*

Aug. *Hand Painted Tiles*
by Dawn Moberly

Freedom Public Library

June *Art of the Build*
by IPMS Ocala Model Builders

July *Hello Kitty* by Javen Smith

Aug. *Grandma's Sock Monkeys*
by Jennifer Wissman

Happy Birthday, Smokey Bear!

BY STEPHANIE FRAYSIER

Quick, name five famous bears. Did you say Paddington Bear? Winnie-the-Pooh? Corduroy? The Berenstain Bears? Let's not forget Smokey Bear!

Smokey Bear is a fictional bear created in 1944. He is named after NYFD firefighter "Smokey" Joe Martin, who suffered burns and blindness in a heroic 1922 rescue mission.

Smokey Bear's campaign is the longest-running public service advertising campaign in United States history. His first public appearance was a poster with him dressed in a ranger hat, pouring a bucket of water over a campfire. The poster read: "Smokey says – Care will prevent 9 out of 10 woods fires!" It was the first of many campaigns to help raise awareness about the importance of preventing wildfires.

In spring 1950, a wildfire that burned in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico. Firefighters rushed to the scene to contain the fire. While there, they heard about a bear cub near the fire line. When they found the cub, he had taken refuge in a tree. He survived but with significant burns on his paws and legs. He was airlifted to an animal hospital to treat his injuries. The firefighters, moved by his bravery, named him Smokey after the popular campaign.

Smokey's survival story soon spread nationwide. It touched the lives of the public, many of whom wrote the rangers for updates on his recovery. Once healed, he was moved to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Children wrote many letters to Smokey. In 1964, he received so many letters that the post office gave him his own zip code, 20252, and it's still in use today!

Sadly, Smokey passed away in 1976. His legacy in wildfire prevention and forest conservation lives on in the original Smokey Bear, who continues to teach people how to prevent wildfires. This year, Smokey Bear celebrates his 80th birthday, and you're invited to participate in the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge. Visit smokeybear.com/library-reading-challenge or ask library staff for assistance.

Smokey Bear will also be visiting public library branches this summer, with a special birthday party celebration on July 27, 2 p.m., at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library. There will be party games, activities, crafts and Smokey Bear himself. See the program spotlight on page 6 for more details on how to celebrate this special birthday. And remember, "Only You Can Help Prevent Wildfires".



MAGAZINES



Celebrating African American Read-In at **Sankofa Public Library**



Library Legislative Day with **Representative Chamberlin**



Library Legislative Day with **Representative Hinson**



PNC Bank donation to **Friends of Marion Oaks Public Library**



Storytime with Sassay at **Dunnellon Public Library**



Storytellers at **Marion County Days**



BOOKMARKS

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE OCALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Calling all bookworms

The Friends of the Ocala Public Library invite all readers and library lovers to participate in the **5th Annual Read-A-Thon**, as readers, fundraisers, or sponsors. Volunteers will be reading between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3, in the HQ-Ocala Public Library lobby. This year's book is Carl Hiaasen's **"Hoot"**, a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and a Newbery Honor Book winner. "Hoot" features a kid and his new bully, alligators, some burrowing owls, a renegade eco-avenger, and several extremely poisonous snakes. Welcome to Carl Hiaasen's Florida — where creatures are wild and people are wilder!

The event is the culmination of an online fundraising campaign now underway. Supporters can donate to the fundraising pages of the family and friends already participating, or they can create their own fundraising page. Donations can also be given at www.justgiving.com/campaign/ocalalibraryreadathon2024. This year's goal is \$15,000. The Friends will use this to help support library programs for patrons of all ages, continuing education for our library staff, early learning initiatives and many other library-related activities and resources. Anyone interested in participating can contact Vicky Nelson at 352-427-3963 for more info.



Thank you, PNC!

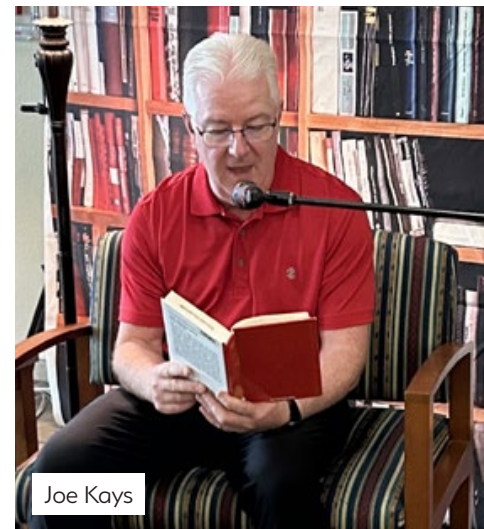
On behalf of the Marion County Public Library System, we thank **PNC Bank** for their recent donation to the Friends of the Ocala Library.

This year, the funding will be used to further enhance early literacy development resources for children provided through our libraries.



Every book is a bargain!

Our **Quarterly Book Sale** will take place for the general public on **Saturday, Aug. 3**, from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Meeting Rooms at Headquarters-Ocala. Every book is a bargain, with hard cover books at 50¢ and paperbacks at 25¢. If you are a member of the FRIENDS, you may attend the sale early on **Friday, Aug. 2**, from **1:30 - 3:30 p.m.** Want to become a member? Visit the Book Market or friendsoftheocalalibrary.org



Joe Kays

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Summer Book Sale

Friday, Aug. 2
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Friends Members Only

Saturday, Aug. 3
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

General Public

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

Read-A-Thon

Saturday, Aug 3
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Lobby,
Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

SNEAK PEEK:

A special program by Dr. Keri Watson

Picturing Paradise:

From John James Audubon
to the Florida Highwaymen

Saturday, Sept. 21

Meeting Room C,
Headquarters-Ocala
Public Library



Do you love the library?

We are looking for new members to join the Friends of the Ocala Library Board of Directors! We're a group of volunteers who are passionate about supporting our local library by raising awareness, organizing fundraisers, promoting library programs and literacy, and advocating for library services. We support Headquarters-Ocala Public Library, as well as the Fort McCoy, Reddick, and Sankofa library branches.

We are looking for people who are enthusiastic about literacy and the library, who have a variety of skills and experience to offer, and who want to make a difference in our community!

If you are interested in joining the board or would like more info, please contact the president of the Friends of the Ocala Library, Vicky Nelson, at vickylnelson82@gmail.com or call 352-427-3963.



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

profile

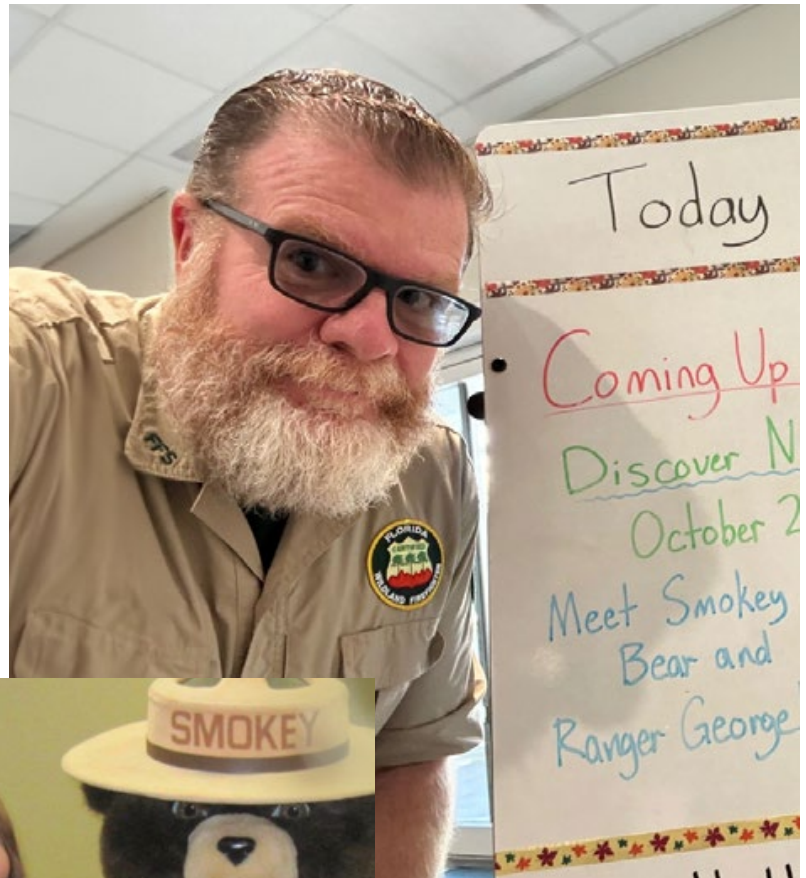
George Risko, Jr.

BY SCOTT MASON

On any given day, George Risko, Jr.'s adventurous job might begin with chainsaw training, switch to taking video footage from a helicopter, and wrap up the day facilitating a prescribed forest burn. For George, Fire Training Officer at the Florida Forest Service, it's all part of his job and any day can become an adventure. "It's a rewarding profession, building relationships and helping people... I like to serve," George states. Before starting his career in the Forest Service, he served in the United States Marine Corps, but the woods have always been his passion.

Enjoying wildlife and nature comes with many responsibilities. Some are well known like don't litter, but it's also important to come to the forest prepared with adequate supplies. George works in what's known as a "working" forest, one that is safely maintained to create a sustainable and renewable resource. As it pertains to prescribed burns, there is a misconception that these burns damage the forest or hurt animals. In reality, it's actually safe and beneficial to the ecosystem. Plants thrive following the burn and it helps preserve the forest for future generations.

Once a year, wildfire training is offered for Marion County volunteer fire departments. George describes this as, "Basically keeping our fire fighters in the neighborhoods where the wild land meets the public." On one occasion, the training included a helicopter as part of a demonstration. George was asked to shoot the video footage — from inside the helicopter! Undaunted by the task, he jumped into the chopper and took off, filming from high



Misty Risko

above the ground. According to George, "Some things are tougher than others, but it's all diverse and rewarding."

George is also an avid reader and has a difficult time narrowing down his favorite books. "There are so many, honestly it's hard to make a list of all that have positively impacted me." Some favorite books include "Extreme Ownership" by Jocko Willink, "Dare to Lead" by Brene Brown and "Young Men and Fire" by Norman Maclean. He met his late wife and former Marion County Public Library System staff, Michelle "Misty" in a bookstore, which became the greatest book journey of his life. According to George, "It seems like every great adventure I have gone on or rewarding project has started by reading a book." 📖