

words



Carl Hiaasen

GIVES A 'HOOT' IN OCALA



Snapshot:
A Day in The Life of
Marion County's Libraries

Telling Your
Library Story
PART II

- Events
- Book Review
- Profile

words

Marion County Public Library's
Quarterly Newsmagazine

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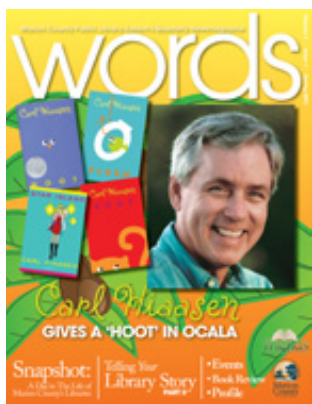
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on the cover:

Carl Haasen is coming to Ocala.
See Calendar Programs
Spotlight for details
Photo by Tim Chapman



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2 words Spring 2011

a word FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Julie Sieg • Director, Marion
County Public Library System



How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...

In this issue of WORDS, you will read about the first *Snapshot: A Day in the Life of the Marion County Public Library System* event which occurred on January 29.

Snapshot was a state-wide project designed to collect information, including photos, illustrating the many and varied ways in which our public libraries are used. It also offered our patrons and the public an opportunity to tell us how they feel about their public library. Over 600 patrons willingly and joyfully shared their comments about the Marion County Public Library System, and what it means to have access to its services.

One of our Belleview users wrote, "On our tight budget having access to free books helps fill a need for me and my kids. Kids Programs for toddlers, tweens & teens provide safe learning activities & crafts. We LOVE Toddler Time!!"

The project coincided with February's *Love Your Library* month, when we asked library users to pen their favorite reasons why they love their public library. Again, the response has been overwhelming as evidenced by the heart-shaped note cards written by patrons that now adorn our library windows.

A sampling of comments includes: "I have loved them all my life. I started reading when I was very young and am now 81," "I love my library because they are my best friends," "It's free," "It's Awesome," "I love to learn," "I can read for free" (this was repeated over and over again) and "I love to read."

In these challenging economic times, the outpouring of appreciation and support for our public libraries is a reminder to all of us who work here that what we do does make a difference, in the lives of children and adults in Marion County, across Florida and this nation.

Julie Sieg

Did You Know?

Did you know that the library carries federal tax forms?

SNAPSHOT:



A day in the life of Marion County's Public Libraries

By Michelle Risko

On January 29th, the Marion County Public Library System posed for **Snapshot: A Day in the Life of Marion County's Public Libraries**. Created by the American Library Association, Snapshot: A Day in the Life of Libraries is part of a nationwide program designed to showcase what goes on in dynamic, modern libraries.

Why is it important to publicize what really happens in libraries these days? According to the Florida Library Association, which organized Florida's participation in the Snapshot project, nearly 89 million people visit Florida's public libraries every year, compared to approximately 67 million people who visit Florida's famous theme parks. Public libraries are utilized now more than ever before and the Snapshot project was a way to showcase the importance of public libraries.

What if a comparable list of statistics could be compiled for libraries across Florida for one day? How many patrons checked out books? How many individuals used library computers? How many programs were attended by children...by teens... by adults?

Vanguard High School senior Andrew Kays coordinated Marion County's Public Library System's Snapshot Day. Kays, 17, used Facebook to recruit forty-two volunteers to staff five Marion County Public Library branches. Volunteers spoke to library visitors about Snapshot day, offered surveys for patrons to describe their use of the library, and took photos. The information collected by Kays and his volun-



Vanguard High School senior Andrew Kays coordinated Marion County's Public Library System's Snapshot Day

“My library is like my **best friend!**”

~ An avid reader from Belleview

teers, together with other statistics, has been provided to the Florida Library Association.

From some of the 550 surveys collected, it's clear that Marion County's portion of those 89 million Florida library users do love their libraries. "I'm proud to show visitors this wonderful place," stated one Dunnellon Public Library patron. Another avid reader in Belleview says, "My library is like my best friend. I am also honored by the fact that my granddaughter shares my love of books. She is a regular customer."

The coordination of Snapshot: A

Day in the Life of Marion County's Public Libraries will serve as Andrew Kays' final project in achieving Eagle Scout status. "As an Eagle Scout project, it was a fantastic opportunity to see what happens at the library; all the ways it's utilized by the community, and how the community and sponsors (like Clear Channel) were so willing to participate in this event," said Kays. For the Marion County Public Library System, Snapshot is further evidence of the needs met by libraries and of the loss our communities would suffer without them. **W**



YOUR LIBRARY

Wisdom of the Past,
 Witness to the Present,
 Window to the Future

By Lucy Beebe Tobias

Reddick, a town in Northwest Marion County, has a population of approximately 669. But as the home of the Reddick Public Library, small numbers have never diminished a large interest in books. Jim Stroup (below), the mayor of Reddick, previous library volunteer and staff member for five years, straightens up the big, stuffed bear in the children's room at the Reddick Public Library and puts a book in its paws to make the bear a reading model for kids. They



get the message. Preschoolers, many from Head Start, are regulars at storytime. Children's librarian, Linda Brooke, comes from the Headquarters-Ocala Library once a week to

present storytimes to preschool children. "I like the community here, the people I see every week, their involvement in their community," says Linda.

The Reddick Public Library officially opened as a branch of the Marion County Public Library on October 1, 1988. In 1993, the library moved to its current home, a building that used to be the agricultural facility for the old Reddick School. There are now over 19,000 books in the collection, not including paperbacks.

Today, the bank of four public access computers next to the checkout counter stays busy pretty much all the time. Visitors check e-mail and stay in touch with families, update their resumes, and search for jobs. A couple comes into the library with a bag of books, all mysteries, to return.

Just how important is reading in this small community? One of Lee Fanelli, former Reddick Public Library supervisor's favorite stories is pictured above. It is an exact copy of a writing Matthew Roland typed on

No one ever dremd that her
 First
 Vowj wood also be her last. On
 The
 Nit of aprl 14 1912 the psnr
 Liner rms titnck struk a isburg
 In the north atintik. Within
 Mins
 Wtr bgan poring in too her
 Lower deck. With les than three
 Awrs
 Her prpeirs started too ris owt of
 The wtar. With onle, 1500 left on
 Bord ther was
 Litl hope of esap. Soon the
 Bigst
 Ship the world has ever sen wod
 Plung too the botm of the oshin.

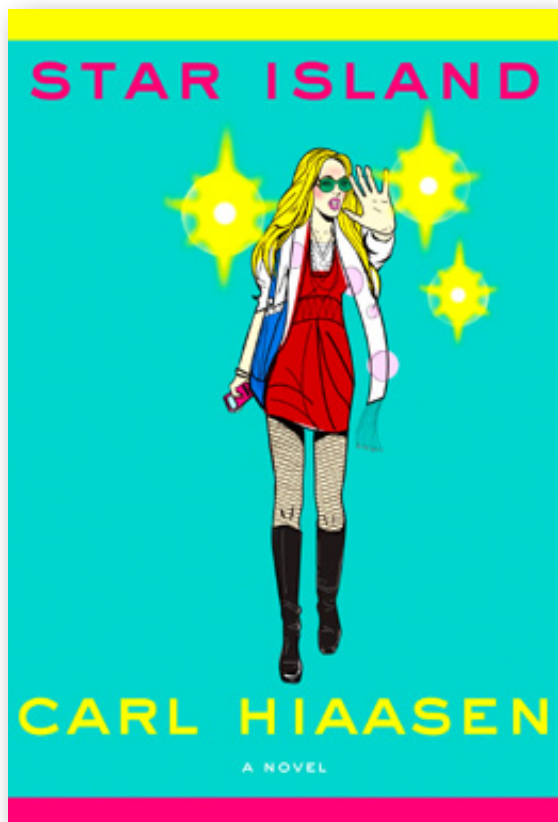
a classroom computer when he was in kindergarten in 1989. His teacher at Reddick-Collier Elementary, Miss Sharon, brought her classes regularly to the Library programs where they handled and read books, talked about fiction vs. non-fiction and often let each child check out a book.

One day they read about the Titanic. Matt's excitement and fascination could hardly be contained; he could not read but listened to every book,

continued on page 14

Cozy Up with a Good Book!

Reviewed By Linda Porter



Carl is coming! Get in the mood for Carl Hiaasen's April 16th appearance in Marion County by reading his latest novel, *Star Island*.

Cherry Pye, a twentysomething has-been, lacks the talent needed to restart her flagging singing career. Cherry's life is one long series of bad choices—especially those involving illegal substances.

Her manager/parents have hired an actress to appear as their daughter when Cherry is too drugged out to appear in public or is in yet another round of rehab. The hook is that Cherry doesn't know about Ann DeLuisa, her body double, and her manipulative parents don't want her to find out.

When Ann is mistakenly kidnapped by Bang Abbott, a deranged paparazzo with unsavory plans for Cherry, she appeals for help to Skink, the homeless, former Florida governor familiar from earlier Hiaasen novels. Ann is beginning to think that what she really needs to be rescued from is her career as Cherry's body double.

Full of wickedly witty humor, Hiaasen uses his dazzling storytelling skills in *Star Island* to cheerfully skewer corrupt developers, aggressive paparazzi, and the absurdity of pop culture, all under the baking Florida sun. Outrageously entertaining! **W**

digging deeper



◀ Carl Hiaasen is known for his long-running and incisive column in *The Miami Herald*. Want to learn more about what Hiaasen thinks is important? Read his columns online by using *NewsBank*, a database of full-text newspaper articles available through the Library's website at <http://library.marioncountyfl.org>.



Learn more about Florida's political culture by reading Buddy Mackay's 2010 book, *How Florida Happened: the Political Education of Buddy Mackay*, an insightful look at the evolution of how things work in our state.

David R. Colburn, author of *From Yellow Dog Democrats to Red State Republicans: Florida and its Politics since 1940*, also offers an in-depth view of recent Florida history.

programs spotlight



Photo by Jim Chapman

Give a Hoot for Hiaasen: A Meet-the-Author program for youth in grades 4-12*

Southeastern Livestock Pavilion Auditorium

Saturday, April 16, Doors open at 2 p.m. and close at 2:45 p.m. (Author will speak at 3 p.m.)

Admission: Free

*A child may be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

Enjoy an afternoon with noted author and columnist Carl Hiaasen as he speaks about his books, *Hoot*, *Flush*, and *Scat*. Prior to Mr. Hiaasen's talk, there will be a special presentation about owls from the Ocala Wildlife Sanctuary. Program is free but seating is limited and will be available on a first come/first served basis. Books will be available for purchase and autograph. Call the Headquarters - Ocala library at (352) 671-8551 for more information.

An Evening with Carl Hiaasen

College of Central Florida, Klein Center
Saturday, April 16, 7 p.m.

Audience: Adults

Tickets: \$25, available until sold out

Carl Hiaasen's works crackle with the wit of old Florida as he takes environmental jabs at the concrete of the new. Enjoy one of Florida's rarest treasures. Books will be available for purchase and autograph. Visit www.friendsoftheocalalibrary.org or see the Bookmarks page of this issue for ticket information.

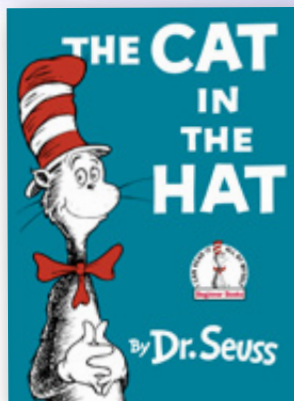
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss

Do we like him here and there? Yes, we like him everywhere! Join in the fun as we honor the birthday

of Theodor Seuss Geisel, one of the most beloved authors of all time. See program details under specific branch headings.

Headquarters - Ocala
Saturday, March 5, 10-12 noon
Program co-sponsored by the Marion Education Association

Marion Oaks Public Library
Saturday, March 5, 2-3 p.m.
Refreshments provided by The Friends of Marion Oaks Library



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Belleview Public Library
Tuesday, March 8, 5-6:30 p.m.
Music Mash-Up!

Freedom Public Library
Wednesday, March 9, 2 p.m.
Mix & Mash!

Headquarters - Ocala
Saturday, March 12, 12 Noon
Guitar Hero Tournament

Celebrate Poetry! Come to a Poetry Party!

It's a party and you are invited to make merry as we celebrate National Poetry Month. Share, experience and enjoy the pleasures of poetry. All ages welcome. See program details under specific branch headings.

Headquarters - Ocala
Sunday, April 3, 2 p.m.

Freedom Public Library
Monday, April 4, 2 p.m.

Rockin' into Kindergarten and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

Is your child entering Kindergarten in September? Is your 4 year old ready for VPK? Come to the library and register your child for school and for a library card! Meet with a librarian to discuss books and aids that will help your child be ready for school. Representatives from The Early Learning Coalition and the Marion County Public Schools will be on hand to register your youngster. Free giveaways! Child IDs will be done by the Masons of the 15th Masonic District in Ocala.

Dunnellon Public Library
Thursday, April 7, 5-7 p.m.

Belleview Public Library
Monday, April 11, 5-7 p.m.



It's a MashUp! Get Connected @ Your Library

Teen Tech Week 2011
March 6-12

Teen Tech Week is a national initiative for teens, encouraging use of library resources to express their creativity. Join in on the fun! See program details under specific branch headings.

HEADQUARTERS-OCALA

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

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Meet Carl Hiaasen!

Saturday, April 16

There are separate programs for youth & adults.
Please see "Program Spotlight" for more information.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

It's a Poetry Party! A Celebration of National Poetry Month!

Sunday, April 3, 2 p.m.

Share, experience, and enjoy the pleasures of poetry during National Poetry Month with poet Lena Lewin and Poetry Ocala. Bring your favorite poetry and listen to others. All ears welcome!
See "Program Spotlight" for other library locations.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

English Conversation*

Tuesdays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

March 1-June 7

Practice your English with others in an informal, fun class. Everyone is welcome.

Earn Your GED on the GED Bus*

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11 a.m.

March 1-June 7

It's never too late to get your GED.

ESOL Class*

Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

March 2-June 8

Learn English at the library. Program is free and open to the public.

**Classes are not held on school holidays.*

Co-sponsored by CTAE/ Marion County School Board.

Wired Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 2-April 20

Learn about computers and databases in these classes for adults. Space is limited.

Genealogy 101: A Beginner's Primer

March 2 **Where Do I Start?** An Overview of the U.S. Census, Public Records, and Cyndi's List

March 9 **Help! I'm Stuck!** Making Your Way through Genealogical Internet Sites

March 16 **Genealogy CSI:** How to Plan the Next Step in Your Investigation

March 23 **Save Your Cash:** Useful Non-Profit Sites

March 30 **How Do I Stop?** Goal-Oriented Genealogy

Computers for Beginners Series: An Introduction to Computers

April 6 **I Turned on My Computer, Now What?**

April 13 **Finding It!** (Intro to the Internet)

April 20 **Get Connected!** (Intro to E-Mail)

Freedom Public Library

Tuesday, April 26, 5-7 p.m.

Headquarters - Ocala

Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Author! Author! A Children's Book Week Celebration

Available at all library facilities

May 2 - 8

All ages welcome.

Want to write a story with your favorite author? Now is your chance! Come to any branch of the Marion County Public Library System and pick up a StoryStarter - written by some of the most remarkable authors of our day. Finish a story and drop it off at the library. It's just that simple. You will receive a bookmark for submitting your story and have the opportunity to have your name entered in a drawing for a book. You might even be asked to present your story at a future storytime! WOW!

AARP Tax-Aides

AARP Tax-Aide is the Nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service assisting low-to-middle income taxpayers with routine tax returns. Call your local library for information about times and requirements.

Holidays and Special Days

Easter

Sunday, April 24

Headquarters - Ocala closed.

Maintenance Day

Friday, May 6

Headquarters - Ocala, Freedom, Fort McCoy, and Reddick libraries closed for maintenance. All other library facilities open.

Memorial Day

Monday, May 30

All libraries closed.

The Monday Matinee

Mondays, 2 p.m.

March 7–April 25

Movies for adults and teens 13+

Refreshments will be served.

Co-sponsored by Golden Flake and Moreno's Uptown Grill

March 7

March 14

March 21

March 28

April 4

April 11

April 18

April 25

Friends of the Ocala Public Library Monthly Board Meeting

Third Thursdays, 1 p.m.

March 17, April 21, and

May 22 (Annual Meeting)

The Friday Variety Hour

Fourth Fridays, 1:30 p.m.

Fridays are fun days for adults!

March 25

Scherenschnitte (German Paper Cutting) Crafts and Demonstration, presented By Janet Maidment

April 22

Crafts for a Cause: Warm Up America! Bring in your scrap yarn, and join us in knitting and crocheting an afghan for a local charity.

Master Gardener Series: Planning for Your Summer Lawn

Saturday, April 9, 2 p.m.

Learn gardening techniques from the Masters!

Presented by the Marion County Master Gardeners, Marion County Extension Services/ University of Florida, IFAS

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Manga-liscious! Teen Book Club

First Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

March 1 & April 5

Join us for high-energy talks about all things manga and anime.

Chill on Fridays

Fourth Fridays, 4 p.m.

Chill at the library with a variety of fun activities.

March 25

It's Movie Time: Coraline

April 22

Crafts for a Cause:

Warm up America!

Bring in your scrap yarn and join us in knitting and crocheting an afghan for a local charity.

Let the Games Begin! Guitar Hero Tournament

Saturday, March 12, 12 noon

Are you up for the challenge? Are your fingers limber? Test your GH skills against others and have loads of fun. Registration begins at 12 noon. See 'Program Spotlight' section for Teen Tech Week programs at other branch libraries.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

All of the programs are sponsored, either in whole or part, by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library.

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss

Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. – Noon

See Program Spotlight for other locations.

Wacky Wednesdays

Selected Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

Early release day amusements for grades K - 6

March 9

Spring into the Library for Crafts

May 4

Make & Take for Mom

Spring Break Fun

Tuesday, March 15, 2 p.m.

Get your game on! Virtual games and board games – it's all fun!

Thursday, March 17, 2 p.m.

It's St. Patrick's Day! Wear your green and join us for the comical Irish Disney film, "Darby O'Gill and the Little People."

Preschool Club

Saturdays, 2 p.m.

March 26, April 2, April 23

Calling all 3 to 5 year olds and their caregivers! Enjoy fun-filled activities and games designed to boost early reading skills.

Spectacular Sundays: Tween Time

Selected Sundays, 2 p.m.

Loads of fun for grades 4- 6.

Registration required

March 27

Tween Chef

Create your own menu, eat the goodies, and vie for the prize of Library Iron Chef. Test your culinary skills but beware of the secret ingredient!

May 1

Myth Testers

Do you have what it takes to be a Myth Tester? Come and test your skills against some cool mysteries of science.

Down on the Farm with 4H!

Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Old MacDonald had a farm – at the library! Join the barnyard fun complete with farm animals and lots of activities! You'll even sing a few of your favorite songs and hear a story or two. Gather up those little ones and mosey on over!

Movie Time: Hoot – A Super Saturday Special

Saturday, April 9, 2 p.m.

Based on the award-winning book by Carl Hiaasen, *Hoot* will be enjoyed by environmentalists of all ages! See "Program Spotlight" for information about Carl Hiaasen's visit to Ocala on April 16.

Children's Book Week Celebration, May 2 - 8

Finish a story started by some of today's most fascinating writers.

See "Program Spotlight" for details.

STORYTIMES

S.U.R.F.'S UP!

Monday – Friday, 3:30 p.m.

March 1 – May 31

It's Super Ultimate Reading Fun time! Join the Children's library staff in the Children's Program Room for a couple of good books and a poem.

Terrific Three's Storytime

Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.

March 22 – April 26

A variety of picture book stories, flannel boards, action songs, and finger plays followed by an activity. Program is limited to 25 children accompanied by caregivers.

Fabulous 4's & 5's Storytime

Tuesdays, 1:15 p.m.

March 22 – April 26

A variety of stories, finger plays, flannel boards, music and rhythm activities followed by an activity. For children and their caregivers.

Family Storytime

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

March 22 – April 26

A variety of stories, action rhymes and songs followed by an activity. For children and their caregivers.

Toddlin' Two's Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

March 23 – April 27

A variety of stories, action rhymes and songs followed by an activity. Program is limited to 20 children accompanied by caregivers.

Bouncin' Babies Storytime

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.

March 24 – April 28

A variety of stories, songs, rhymes, and finger plays for babies 0 – 23 months with a caregiver. Program is limited to 15 children accompanied by caregivers.

BELLEVUE PUBLIC LIBRARY

13145 SE Hwy. 484, Belleview

352-438-2500

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Meet Carl Hiaasen!

Saturday, April 16

There are separate programs for youth & adults.

Please see "Program Spotlight" for more information.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Tuesday Movie Matinee

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

March 1 – April 26

Enjoy great movies for adults.

March 1

March 8

March 15

March 22

March 29

April 5

April 12

April 19

April 26

Basic Computer Classes

Wednesdays or Thursdays, 1 p.m.

Computer classes designed for the person with limited or no computer experience.

Tickets are required and will be distributed starting at 12:30 p.m.

on the day of each class. Seating is limited to 10 participants.

March 2

Basic Email

March 9

Internet Searching & Printing

March 16

Introduction to the Computer

March 23

Mouse Play

March 30

Basic Internet

April 6

Basic Email

April 13

Internet Searching & Printing

Job Market 101

Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Computer classes to help with your job search.

April 20

Job Searching

April 27

Creating a Resume

Master Gardener Series

First Thursdays 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Learn gardening techniques from the Masters!

March 3

Your Florida Lawn

April 7

Garden Pests and Diseases

May 5

Citrus Gardening

Presented by the Marion County Master Gardeners, Marion County Extension Services/ University of Florida, IFAS

Friends of the Belleview

Public Library

Monthly Meeting

Third Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

March 15, April 19, May 17

New members are always welcome!

Meetings held at The Book Nook,

6007 SE Earp Rd, Belleview, Fl

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Get Crafty @ Your Library!

Crafts & Fun for Teens

Tuesdays, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

March 8

Teen Tech Week's Music Mash-Up!

Make your own music mixes using free software and free sounds!

March 22

Photo Fun! Create your own photo masterpiece using free software!

April 5

Sweets and Treats
Learn to make sweet and easy treats!

April 19

Get Ready for Earth Day!

Make a seeded paper bookmark and use it to mark your place in your favorite read or plant it in the garden to grow some wildflowers!

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Family Flix

Selected Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

March 9

May 4

Family Game Time

Thursdays, 3 p.m.

March 3 – April 21

Family fun with board and card games.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Programs for children in grades K – 6 and their parents & caregivers.

Art Class: Sidewalk Chalk Art

Saturday, March 12, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Draw fun stuff and get down & dirty with chalk! No Registration required.

Presented by the Art Club of Belleview.

Supplies provided by the Friends of Belleview Public Library.

Construction Zone

Saturday, March 26, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Calling all budding architects and builders! Try your hand at building with Legos, Lincoln Logs, and more!

Art Class

Saturday, April 9, 1 - 2 p.m.

Put on your creative hat and your imagination pants and have a great time with the Art Club of Belleview. Registration required. Space is limited. Supplies provided by the Friends of Belleview Public Library.

Children's Book Week Celebration, May 2 - 8

Finish a story started by some of today's most fascinating writers. See Program Spotlight for details.

Smokey Bear and the Forest Rangers

Saturday, May 21, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Experience extreme forest firefighting equipment and learn how to prevent forest fires! Program will be held if fire conditions permit.

Presented by the Florida Division of Forestry

STORYTIMES**Surf's Up! It's Super Ultimate Reading Fun Time!***Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m.**March 1 – April 26*

Hang ten (minutes & toes) for a couple of good books and a poem. Catch the Reading Wave!

Toddler Story Time*Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.**March 3 – April 28*

Bounce, romp and read! Enjoy a variety of stories, fingerplays, flannelboards and music for ages 18 months – 3 years accompanied by caregivers. The program is limited to 20 children.

Preschool Story Time*Fridays, 10:30 a.m.**March 4 – April 29*

Storytime is fun time with stories, poems, songs and crafts for ages 3-5 years.

Baby Storytime with Music*Second & Fourth Wednesdays, 11 a.m.**March 9 & 23, April 13 & 27*

Follow the bouncing baby! Stories, songs, rhymes, and fingerplays for babies up to 18 months accompanied by caregivers. Program is limited to 15 children.

**DUNNELLO
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

20351 Robinson Road, Dunnellon
352-438-2520

SPECIAL PROGRAM**Meet Carl Hiaasen!***Saturday, April 16*

There are separate programs for youth & adults.

Please see "Program Spotlight" for more information.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**Friday Movie Matinee***First Fridays, 1 p.m.*

Enjoy great movies for adults.

*March 4**April 1**May 6***Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library Monthly Meeting***First Tuesdays, 10 a.m.**March 1, April 5, May 3*

New members are always welcome!

The Drop-In Book Club*Fourth Wednesdays, 11 a.m.*

Read the book and then join us for a discussion.

*March 23 Run by Ann Patchett**April 20 The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein**May 18 Life Sentence by Laura Lippman***Master Gardener Series***Third Tuesdays, 2 p.m.*

Learn gardening techniques from the Masters!

*March 15 Garden Pests**April 19 Plants for Summer Gardening*

Presented by the Marion County Master Gardeners, Marion County Extension Services/ University of Florida, IFAS

Basic Computer Classes

Call 438-2524 for dates and times.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS**Teen Gaming Afternoon***Saturday, April 23, 3 p.m.*

Calling all gamers! Show off your xBox360 and Wii Sports skills!

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN (AGES 5-12)**Science Exploration***Second Thursdays, 4 p.m.**March 10 & April 14*

Discover the wonders of science through action-packed experiments. Registration required

LEGO® Creative Constructions*Thursday, March 17, 2 p.m.*

Put on your hard hat and join us in the Lego Construction Zone!

Children's Book Week Celebration, May 2 - 8

Finish a story started by some of today's most fascinating writers. See Program Spotlight for details.

Stick Figure Story Writing*Wednesday, May 18, 4 p.m.*

Create your very own short comic

story with the StoryStarter written by Mo Willems and provided by the Children's Book Council.

STORYTIMES**Toddler Storytime***Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.**March 2 – May 11*

Enjoy a variety of books, fingerplays, flannel boards and music for ages 2-3 year olds accompanied by caregivers.

Preschool Storytime*Fridays, 10:30 a.m.**March 4 – May 13*

Reading is fun! Enjoy books, fingerplays, flannel boards and music for ages 4-5 accompanied by caregivers.

Baby Songs and Nursery Rhymes*Fourth Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.**March 22 & April 26*

Songs, rhymes, books and more for infants up to 12 months accompanied by caregivers.

**FOREST
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

905 S. County Road 314A, Ocklawaha
352-438-2540

SPECIAL PROGRAM**Meet Carl Hiaasen!***Saturday, April 16*

There are separate programs for youth & adults.

Please see "Program Spotlight" for more information.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**Earn Your GED on the GED Bus****Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2 p.m.**March 1–June 7*

It's never too late to get your GED.

**Classes are not held on school holidays. Co-sponsored by CTAE/ Marion County School Board.*

Nine Principles to Achieve a Florida Friendly Yard*Wednesday, March 9, 10:30 a.m.*

Follow these easy steps to accomplishing the Florida yard of your dreams.

Presented by Kathleen Patterson of the Florida Yards and Neighborhood Homeowner Program, UF Dept. of Environmental Horticulture, IFAS

The Wednesday Matinee

Selected Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Forest Public Library

March 16

March 30

April 13

April 27

May 11

May 25

Basic Computer Classes

Call library for information.

Friends of the Forest Public Library Monthly Meeting

Second Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 9, April 13, May 11

New members are always welcome!

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Stories & Stuff:

Children's Book Club

Thursdays, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

March 3 - May 26* No program on March 17

Books, crafts, snacks and lots of chat... What, my friends, could be better than that?
Grades K - 3.

Friday Favorites:

Tween Book Club

Fridays, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

March 4 - May 27 * No program on March 18

Like to read? Bring your favorite books to share and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon! Light refreshments provided.
Grades 4-6.

Kids' Club

Selected Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4 p.m.

March 9 & May 4

Crafts, games & fun! Assorted activities and diversions on early release days.
Preschool - grade 6.

Children's Book Week Celebration, May 2 - 8

Finish a story started by some of today's most fascinating writers. See Program Spotlight for details.

STORYTIMES

Family Storytime

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 1 - May 31* No program on March 15

A variety of stories, action rhymes, music and art for all ages.

FORT M^cCOY PUBLIC LIBRARY

14660 NE Hwy 315, Fort McCoy

352-438-2560

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Meet Carl Hiaasen!

Saturday, April 16

There are separate programs for youth & adults.

Please see "Program Spotlight" for more information.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

The Friends of the Fort McCoy Public Library Monthly Meeting

Second Thursdays, 10 a.m.

March 10, April 14, May 12

New members are always welcome!

PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Fort McCoy Open House

Time: TBA

Come and see the new renovations at the Fort McCoy Public Library.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.

March 2 - 30* No program on March 16

Storytime is fun time with a variety of stories, fingerplays, flannel boards, music and art for 3-5 year olds.

Children's Book Week Celebration, May 2 - 8

Finish a story started by some of today's most fascinating writers. See Program Spotlight for details.

FREEDOM PUBLIC LIBRARY

5870 SW 95th Street, Ocala

352-438-2580

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Meet Carl Hiaasen!

Saturday, April 16

There are separate programs for youth & adults.

Please see "Program Spotlight" for more information.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Poetry Party! National Poetry Month Celebration

Monday, April 20, 2 p.m.

Read, recite, write, and relish! Poetry for everybody.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Master Gardener Series

Second Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

Learn gardening techniques from the Masters!

March 8 Garden Pests

April 12 Planting for Summer and Lawns

Presented by the Marion County Master Gardeners, Marion County Extension Services/ University of Florida. IFAS

Ask Arnold! Comprehensive Computer Assistance

Thursdays, 12 - 2 p.m.

Friendly volunteer assistance is available for all your computer needs, including laptops and wireless access. No appointment necessary.

Basic Computer Classes

Thursdays, 2 p.m.

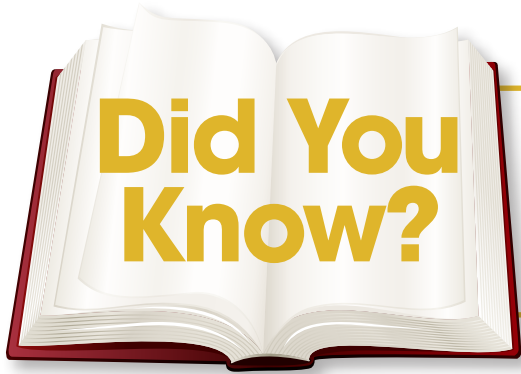
Computer classes designed for the person with limited or no computer experience. Tickets are required and will be distributed starting at 1 p.m. on the day of each class. Seating is limited to 10 participants.

March 24, April 21 Basics for Beginners

March 3, March 31, April 29 How to Search

March 10, April 7, May 5 Sign up for Email

March 17, April 14, May 12 Using Email



Did you know that the library's children's departments have suggested book lists for every grade, including preschool.

Friends of Freedom Public Library Monthly Meeting

Third Mondays, 10 a.m.

March 21, April 18, May 16

New members are always welcome!

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Plugged and Unplugged! Early Release Relief for Students at Loose Ends

Wednesdays at 2 pm.

March 9 **Teen Tech Week:**
Mix & Mash!

March 16 **Spring Break Break:**
Art Attack - A shared experience in public art for children of all ages.

May 4 **Children's Book Week:**
Fiction Factory! A hands-on writing experience for children of all ages!

Children's Book Week Celebration, May 2 - 8

Finish a story started by some of today's most fascinating writers.

See Program Spotlight for details.

STORYTIMES

Baby and Toddler Storytime

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 3 - April 26

Stories, music, art, and creative play for ages 0 - 2 and their caregivers.

Preschool Storytime

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

March 3 - April 28

Books, music, art, and playtime for ages 3 - 5 and their caregivers.

MARION OAKS PUBLIC LIBRARY

294 Marion Oaks Lane, Ocala

352-438-2570

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Meet Carl Hiasen!

Saturday, April 16

There are separate programs for youth & adults.

Please see "Program Spotlight" for more information.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Master Gardener Series

Selected Saturdays, 2 p.m.

Learn gardening techniques from the Masters!

March 26 **Garden Pests**

April 16 **Planting for Summer and Lawns**

Presented by the Marion County Master Gardeners, Marion County Extension Services/ University of Florida, IFAS

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

March 4 - May 27

Storytime is fun time with a variety of stories, finger plays, flannel boards, music and art for ages 3 - 5 and their grownups.

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss

Saturday, March 5, 2 - 3 p.m.

Program will be held in the Arts & Crafts Room. Come early, seating is limited.

Refreshments served by The Friends of Library. See Program Spotlight for other locations.

Children's Book Week Celebration, May 2 - 8

Finish a story started by some of today's most fascinating writers. *See Program Spotlight for details.*

REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY

15150 NW Gainesville Rd., Reddick

352-438-2566

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Meet Carl Hiasen!

Saturday, April 16

There are separate programs for youth & adults.

Please see "Program Spotlight" for more information.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Brown Bag Luncheon: Topic TBA

Tuesday, April 12, 12 Noon

Feed your mind and your body! Bring your lunch and enjoy a program sure to delight. Delicious dessert provided. Reservations required.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Children's Book Week Celebration, May 2 - 8

Finish a story started by some of today's most fascinating writers. *See Program Spotlight for details.*

Library Snapshot Day



* for more images, visit the library web site at library.marioncountyfl.org

5 Fun Facts Quiz Answers: 1-C; 2-D; 3-H; 4-J; 5-O

continued from page 4

studying the pictures, borrowing everything on the subject "Titanic." His mother checked some books out for him several times as well.

His teacher brought the paper he typed to the library staff where it was lovingly kept ever since, proving that libraries not only offer research resources to students for graduate credit, but also awaken interests, encourage imagination, and reap satisfaction for little people, too.

Happiest ending for this memory would be that Matt Roland is now a novelist and his teacher earned her Library Science degree. But, the way the world works is that Matt graduated from University of Florida and is now in Law School and the teacher is now Dr. Sharon Hildebrand, teaching an education class at the University of Florida.

Both are Library advocates and pleasure readers. **W**

Tell Us Your Library Story

Do you have a favorite library story? How has the library made a difference in your life? Share with us your personal story about how you have benefitted from using your public library. Has the library enabled you to search for a job, enjoy storytime with your family, learn basic computer skills, or save money? Or are there other library experiences that you would like to share? If so, we'd like to hear from you. It's simple.

Stop by any of the eight Marion County Public Library locations and visit our "Tell Us Your Library Story" display for more details. Fill out a "Tell Us Your Library Story" card or talk to any of our library staff members. Or, you may also contact our Community Liaison, Karen Jensen, at **352-368-4507**, send her an e-mail at karen.jensen@marioncountyfl.org or write to us at: **Marion County Public Library System, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL. 34470, Attn: Karen Jensen**

take the



FUN FACTS QUIZ

By Michelle Risko

Ever wonder how busy Marion County libraries are? Traditional ideas about libraries may have you believing the library is a serious place, quiet as a tomb, and no fun. On the contrary, the library is a very active place. Can you guess how many of your friends and neighbors visited Marion County Public Libraries last year, and what kinds of activities they discovered at the library?



Last year, librarians at the Marion County Public Library System answered _____ questions.

- a. 3,451,101
- b. 51,762
- c. 1,179,810



Circulation staff registered _____ new library card holders.

- d. 16,377
- e. 557
- f. 30,546



The library offered 294 computer classes, which were attended by _____ people.

- g. 615
- h. 2,364
- i. 11,843



Public computers were used _____ times.

- j. 332,706
- k. 3,254,896
- l. 10,724



Meeting rooms hosted _____ meetings with 46,621 persons in attendance.

- m. 4001
- n. 25,651
- o. 2,218

Check your answers on page 13

Bookmarks

Friends of the Ocala Public Library's News and Notes



Florida Cowboys: Keepers of the Last Frontier

Renowned photojournalist **Carlton Ward, Jr.** will discuss his book *Florida Cowboys: Keepers of the Last Frontier*, share some of his stunning photographs, and speak about preserving Florida wilderness on Sunday, May 22nd, at 2:00 p.m.

With Mr. Ward, an eighth-generation Floridian, we will "visit a Florida where sunburn is the result of honest hard work."

This will be our annual meeting, but is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served, and Mr. Ward will sell and autograph his books. You can see more of his photographs of the Gulf of Mexico, on display at the **Appleton Museum of Art** through March 20.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK WITH CARL HIASSEN

Nationally-known author and columnist **Carl Hiasen** will speak in the Klein Center at the College of Central Florida on Saturday, April 16, under the auspices of The Marion County Public Library System and The Friends of the Ocala Public Library. His visit is timed to coincide with National Library Week.



photo by Jim Chapman

Tickets for the event will cost \$25 per person and will be sold at the Headquarters-Ocala Library on Silver Springs Blvd. Members of the Friends of the Ocala Library will be able to purchase a maximum of two tickets March 7 through March 12 in the lobby from 10-12 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. weekdays and 10-12 p.m. on Saturday. Cash or

checks will be accepted; sorry, no credit cards. Those interested in joining The Friends may download the application on our Web site.

Any remaining tickets will be sold at the same location and times beginning March 14. Check the Web site for availability. Please call 873-8574 with questions.

Seats, except for sponsors and benefactors, will be unreserved. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and Mr. Hiasen will speak at 7 p.m. Books will be available for purchase and Mr. Hiasen will sign them after his talk (limit one book per person).

On behalf of the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, Inc. and the Marion County Library System, we thank these sponsors who made possible our events with Carl Hiasen.



Individual Sponsors

- Norm and Margaret Anderson
- Dr. & Mrs. R. Asokan
- Mr. & Mrs. Douglas P. Cone and Family
- Chick & Sara Dassance
- Barbara Fitos
- Martha & Stan Hanson
- Mary Brent Kraus
- Susan H. Peters
- Dr. & Mrs. William Trice

Mark Your Calendar

Apr. 16, 2011: Carl Hiasen

2 PM: Event for students, Livestock Pavilion Auditorium (doors close at 2:45)
7 PM: Event for adults, Klein Center at College of Central Florida

May 7, 2011, 10AM-4PM: Quarterly Book Sale

Held in Meeting Rooms, Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

May 22, 2011, 2PM:

Florida Cowboys: Keepers of the Last Frontier with **Carlton Ward, Jr.**
This event is free, open to the public, and held in Meeting Room C, Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Visit Our Web Site @ www.friendsoftheocalalibrary.org • Please Renew Your Friends Membership

profiles

LINDA WATSON

By Ken Tipper

Back in 1977, Library Systems Supervisor Linda Watson learned from her mother that there was a part-time job opening at the Ocala Public Library.

Linda, Ocala-born and a graduate of Vanguard High School, successfully applied for the job and started work shelving and repairing books. The job became permanent a year later, and led to a 34-year career, during which Linda progressed through the ranks as cataloguing assistant, inter-library loans department, supervisor of technical services systems, and administrator of Integrated Library systems.

Appointed Library Systems Supervisor in 1993, Linda has witnessed many changes in the way the library serves the community, the most dramatic being the introduction of public access computers.

“The Gates Foundation had given us 100 computers for use in the main library and branches, and the public response to the program was immediate and enthusiastic,” said Linda. “We had to learn how to allot time spots in order to make it fair to all, since our early users were reluctant to leave their computer space.” A glance into



the public computer room at the main library on any day of the week will confirm that all the computers are being used, with patrons awaiting their turn.

There are 202 computers distributed throughout the Marion County Public Library System for public use, and 156 computers for staff system-wide.

Away from the office, Linda is very involved with her two grandsons, Cayden (7), and Gavin (4), whose father, Chad, tragically lost his wife and their mother at the age of 26.

Linda is currently teaching Cayden how to ride a trail bike on the Santos Trail. Linda also runs five miles three times a week, and in 2008 ran the 26.3-mile Disney Marathon, a feat she does not want to repeat. She also ran in the 2006 Disney Half Marathon. Oh, and she also works out at the Compass Gym regularly.

“I really enjoy what I do every day, which makes my job so much easier. And the fact that my bosses have confidence in me makes it even more enjoyable,” said Linda. **W**