September 2019
Monthly Review

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<th>Hart</th>
<th>St Cloud</th>
<th>Poinciana</th>
<th>BVL</th>
<th>West Osceola</th>
<th>Kenansville</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>24,782</td>
<td>29,991</td>
<td>14,303</td>
<td>11,503</td>
<td>18,633</td>
<td>259</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>22,146</td>
<td>13,700</td>
<td>13,155</td>
<td>8,060</td>
<td>12,531</td>
<td>95</td>
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<td>Computer Sessions</td>
<td>5,618</td>
<td>2,503</td>
<td>3,514</td>
<td>2,756</td>
<td>1,625</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>AWE Computer Sessions</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1,182</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1,547</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programming</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Community, and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
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*Does not include electronic resource circulation

**System stats at a glance**

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 12,351, an 11% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 69,687
- The Library held 255 events attended by 5,775 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 16,047
- Wi-Fi sessions totaled 118,843 sessions
- 1,107 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 107 registered for eCards
- 10,515 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 16,599 resulting in 17% of print circulation
- Total circulation for September was 111,822, a 2% increase over 2018

**Highlights**

**Harry Potter Month**
September was the Month of Magic as the St. Cloud Library boarded the Hogwarts Express to fun, festivities, crafting, and quizzes with a series of highly successful and interactive multigenerational programs that delighted wizards and muggles alike.

The Potions and Puzzles Escape Room asked players to “brew the perfect potion in time to escape the dungeon classroom.” The St. Cloud staff transformed a meeting room with electric candles and bottles of potions so
realistically you could almost hear Snape shouting, “Potter!” The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey brought special species of owls to the “Wings of Wizardry” evening program. Those who dared played the games of “Are You Smarter than a Potterhead?” and “Potterverse Would You Rather.” And mixed with the fun was a bit of Potter-inspired learning with Book Art which transforms old books into new treasures, and UCF professor Tison Hugh’s use of Harry Potter to inspire a love of reading.

Two after hour events showcased that the Library is a place for engaging programming and that we will go the extra mile to create exciting and destination-level events for the whole family. The Yule Ball recreated this seminal event in the Harry Potter story, and guests could dance the night away and take home a keepsake photo. The Sorcerers at Sunset celebration brought wizards and muggles of all ages to the Library. There they saw Dobby sitting high above the doors guarding his socks, made their own owl or snitch, were sorted into their Houses by the Sorting Hat, practiced the care of magical creatures with Amazing Animals Inc., served detention in Professor Umbridge’s office, and so much more.

The month was speckled with many programs for old and new Harry Potter fans alike, and in total, over 1,200 attended the Potter-themed events.

**Hurricane Dorian**

The Library was closed several days at the start of the month due to Central Florida finding itself in the path of Hurricane Dorian, which was predicted to arrive as a Hurricane 4 or 5 at the time of landfall. While the area and the Libraries fortunately suffered no lasting damage, Library staff had a huge impact on Osceola County Emergency Management ability to inform citizens of critical survival information, such as the location of sandbags and the opening of shelters. The Library provides staffing and support to the Citizens Information Center (CIC), which was established by Osceola County to be the lifeline to current information for citizens seeking assistance during an emergency. Our staff was activated ahead of Hurricane Dorian and remained activated until it was determined that Dorian no longer presented a danger to the area, with staff contributing nearly 150 hours of service to the CIC, spanning over weekend, night, and holiday hours. In addition to the CIC, Library staff also serves in specialized roles in the operation of the Emergency Management during storms and other big events. All Library staff serving in Emergency roles commits to regular training and serving Osceola citizens in their time of need and we are grateful for their service.

**PrimeTime at Cameron Preserve**

We have been fortunate to receive funding from the Florida Humanities Council to continue the successful family reading program, PrimeTime. In September, the program kicked off a 6 week run at an outreach location, Cameron Preserve – a newly built affordable housing apartment complex with 100 units geared toward families with insufficient income to obtain appropriate housing in Osceola’s booming real estate market. With about 2,000 children living on the edge of homelessness in area motels, Cameron Preserve represents a bright spark of hope for many struggling families.

The PrimeTime program aims to bring these families together to bond over reading, food, fellowship, and sharing in lively discussions. Topics have included sustainability and government, and shared books have included *Duck for President* and *The Lorax*. Local restaurants donate food, community groups provide “commercials” on available services, and there is an opportunity to receive prizes at the program’s end. Additionally, a courtesy collection of youth-centered materials has been placed at Cameron Preserve to spur a love of reading outside of regular programming.
St. Cloud Library’s Month of Magic was a great display of how Library staff can transform the Library and make events/programs immersive. **LEFT:** The St. Cloud Library was transformed into Hogwarts with banners, proclamations, and more. **BELOW:** The Potions and Puzzles Escape Room looked straight out of the *Harry Potter* films.
St. Cloud Library’s Sorcerers at Sunset celebration invited families to experience all things Harry Potter with House sorting, “magical” creatures, crafts, an escape room, a scavenger hunt, photo-op areas, games, and more.

ABOVE: A child escapes from Aragog the spider in the Forbidden Forest during Sorcerers at Sunset’s Scavenger Hunt.

LEFT: Amazing Animals Inc. presented a Care of Magical Creatures class. “Students” received an up-close look at amazing animals, including pythons (much to the delight of all attending Slytherins).
PrimeTime Family Reading Time at Cameron Preserve sparked discussions between families as they bonded over reading and fellowship.

(ABOVE) Ms. Lisa and Ms. Crystal read stories to families as they enjoyed meals generously provided by local restaurants (LEFT).