

January 2021 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	14,787	16,684	8,015	4,629	14,307	387
Visitors	10,848	5,239	2,256	3,576	4,621	111
Computer Sessions	54,765	16,548	27,345	10,807	13,310	3,686
AWE Computer Sessions	N/A	168	N/A	186	N/A	N/A
Programming Virtual, Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 10 Attendance: 78	Events: 6 Attendance: 53	Events: 9 Attendance: 34	Events: 2 Attendance: 27	Events: 3 Attendance: 51	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

System Stats at a Glance

- Virtual Circulation totaled 22,254 checkouts or sessions, 38% increase over 2019
- Patrons used study rooms 320 times
- Staff performed 21 notary services
- 9,159 in person and virtual Reference questions were answered
- 48 volunteers donated 130 hours of service
- Staff completed 21 requests for 3D printed items
- 428 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 167 registered for eCards
- 7,904 holds were placed on Library materials
- Staff facilitated 282 Curbside Pickups
- Call Center received 3,591 phone calls
- Patrons use of checkout stations totaled 12,836 , accounting for 22% of checkout interactions
- Total circulation for January was 81,063

Highlights

New York Times and Flipster

The Osceola Library System improved its digital newspaper offerings with the additions of *The New York Times* and Flipster. Flipster provides an easy-to-use app and improved access to more diverse titles. Patrons were asked for their recommendation for an online newspaper subscription and *The New York Times* returned by patron demand replacing the *Washington Post*, now including convenient app access and the crossword via web browser.

Sidewalk Chalk Fun

The West Osceola Library created a fun sidewalk obstacle course for patrons of all ages. Staff designed the chalk challenge of walking like an elephant, following the twirling line, and counting by 10s on their way to visit the Library. Local Scholastic author and illustrator Peter Raymundo (*Third Grade Mermaid* series) and his elementary educator wife videoed themselves completing the challenge, which was posted to Facebook to encourage students and families to accept the fun challenge and post their own experiences using the hashtag #olschalk. More sidewalk challenges are planned at other branches over the next few months.

Hart Memorial Library staff worked diligently creating a beautiful sidewalk chalk experience, Four Elements Adventure, which challenged families to brave fire, water, earth, and air on an adventure quest for magical secrets. Sadly, the water element won the challenge; a weekend rainstorm washed the chalk away after only one day. Staff are determined to regroup better than before and brave the elements once more and design a new quest in the coming months.

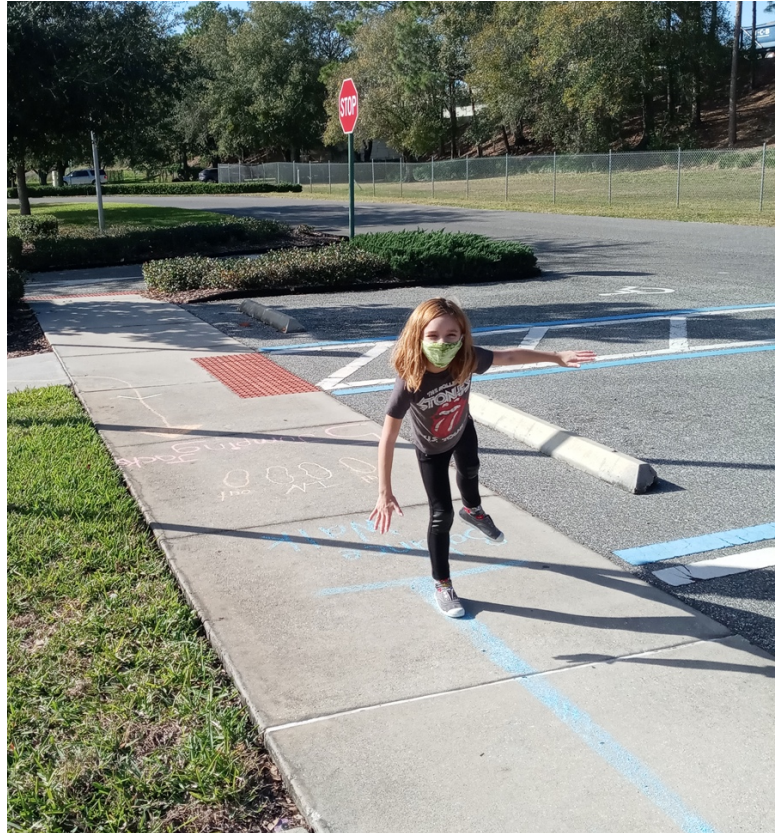
Weather Awareness Week Art Contest

In partnership with Osceola County Emergency Management, the Library launched its 2nd Severe Weather Awareness Week contest. Young artists in Kindergarten to 5th grade were encouraged to submit through the Library's BiblioBoard digital publishing website original works of art highlighting the importance of staying safe during extreme weather such as lightning, rip currents, wildfires, and hurricanes accompanied by a written safety message. The winner will be selected in February with a recognition by the Board of County Commissioners and their art will be shared by Emergency Management.

Art in Public Places

Osceola Arts and the Library continue their partnership with public exhibitions of curated works by important Florida artists, enriching the experience of Library patrons as they are exposed to new and exciting displays of artistic talent. This month exhibitions featured photographs by Laura Garza, watercolors from Emmanuel de Guzman, and paintings by Edmundo Lopez.

Gallery



The West Osceola Library launched our series of Sidewalk Chalk Challenges with their obstacle course.

ABOVE-LEFT: Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Raymundo and Scholastic author and illustrator Peter Raymundo filmed themselves completing the challenge and shared their video with us to share on social media.

LEFT and ABOVE-RIGHT: Staff and patrons took on challenges to complete the obstacle course.



Hart Memorial Library's Four Elements sidewalk challenge was a great hit, even if short-lived.

ABOVE-LEFT and ABOVE-RIGHT: Before a weekend storm washed it away, children and adults enjoyed jumping their way through the clues to solve the puzzles. **LEFT:** Staff worked hard on creating the dynamic patterns and challenges, and are looking forward to bringing the challenge back again in the future.



We partnered with Osceola County Emergency Management again to hold the Severe Weather Awareness Week Art Contest.

Students in grades K-5 submitted their works through our online publishing platform, BiblioBoard. Winners will be announced in February and their work recognized across the county!

February 2021 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	14,908	17,116	8,347	4,678	13,776	267
Visitors	11,148	5,775	2,503	4,358	5,170	101
Computer Sessions	57,618	14,095	30,812	13,048	13,783	4,076
AWE Computer Sessions	N/A	127	N/A	323	N/A	N/A
Programming Virtual, Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 6 Attendance: 26	Events: 7 Attendance: 171	Events: 10 Attendance: 58	Events: 4 Attendance: 11	Events: 4 Attendance: 187	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

System Stats at a Glance

- Virtual Circulation totaled 16,457 checkouts or sessions
- Patrons used study rooms 309 times
- Staff performed 19 notary services
- 8,368 in person and virtual Reference questions were answered
- 139 volunteers donated 149 hours of service
- Staff completed 46 requests for 3D printed items
- 318 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 118 registered for eCards
- 6,582 holds were placed on Library materials
- Staff facilitated 238 Curbside Pickups
- Call Center received 3,274 phone calls
- Patrons use of checkout stations totaled 11,804, accounting for 20% of checkout interactions
- Total circulation for February was 82,184

Highlights

Black History Month: Take and Make Success

The Library has provided Take and Make crafts along with YouTube videos for instruction as a way to continue our high quality programming but do it safely and conveniently for our patrons during the COVID-19 pandemic. February 2021 saw our most popular Take and Make to date – Wood Bead Bracelets in celebration of Black History Month. The program premiered on February 10 and by the 28th received 438 views. 93 Take and Make kits were distributed to patrons that featured beads, thread, and printed instructions for creating the beautiful traditional jewelry.

Honoring Black Achievement and Culture

In February, we highlighted the achievements, culture, and contributions of Black Americans to our community and nation. Our webpage Highlight Article focused on exploring great information on the web and in our collection to learn more about and create a deeper understanding of Black Americans' contribution to science, the arts, education, and more, and the enduring struggles for equality, justice, and freedom. Program highlights included learning about Black Inventors Around the World, following the Florida Civil Rights Trail, a presentation by Ida White who brought the story of Sojourner Truth to life, and a storytime featuring the art of Garrett Morgan who patented the 3-color stoplight.

Lit Mag

Submissions opened for our 4th annual literary magazine, Lit Mag. Young writers and artists ages 8-17 were invited to explore the theme "The Ways of Love" and submit their short stories, poems, and artwork for the possibility of publication in our print and digital magazine. The Library used BiblioBoard to accept submissions, which will allow all eligible submissions to be viewable digitally in the BiblioBoard platform. Staff will review entries for consideration, then submit to the published authors who are acting as our guest judges. These authors will select the winning entries for print and online publication in the Lit Mag. A virtual reception will be held via Zoom along with a live reading of the winning works.

Cornell Fine Arts Museum Art Kits

The Osceola Library System has become a distribution site for the Rollins College Cornell Fine Arts Museum's CFAM @ Home program. The art kits are available for pick up at the Poinciana, Hart Memorial, and West Osceola Libraries and correspond with the CFAMily Saturday videos available on the museum's YouTube channel. Osceola patrons can pick up the kits and then art and museum educators lead families through "virtual art making experiences" inspired by the Cornell collection. The Library's logo and name are featured in many media outlets such as Orlando Family Magazine, Playground Magazine and the museum's social media channels.

PBS Kids' Kindness Month

The Osceola Library System partners with local PBS affiliate WUCF to present PBS KIDS Time, a live virtual event airing one Thursday each month. February was Kindness Month and kids tuned in February 11 to explore activities focused on how to “Be My Neighbor” with Daniel Tiger. 141 people attended virtually. To promote Kindness Month, PBS provided 250 Kindness Kits to distribute across the branches. The lime green backpacks came with storytime activities stickers, magnets, postcards, and dance party drum kit to help celebrate the importance of treating all our “neighbors” with kindness.

Gallery



Celebrating Black History Month
February 2021

February is Black History Month, a time to celebrate and honor the rich, diverse culture of African Americans and the contributions they have made in American history and in their struggles to attain freedom and equality. Black History Month has its origins in 1915 when historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Dr. Woodson and the organization, now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926 and selected the week to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. In 1976, President Gerald Ford and the ASALH formally designated February as Black History Month and in 1986, Congress passed Public Law 99-244 which declared that the “observance of Black (Afro American) History Month provides opportunities for our Nation’s public schools, institutions of higher learning, and the public to gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of the many contributions of Black Americans to our country and the world”

For more information on Black History Month, please visit these sites:

- Association for the Study of African American Life and History
- Library of Congress: African American History Month
- African American History Month
 - A collaborative project of the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

Remember all Library materials and resources are available free with your Library card. If you don't have a Library card with us yet, find out how to sign up for a Library Card or eCard!

Library Programs Celebrating Black History Month

Black Authors Youth Fic

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Anti-Racism

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Black Authors Adult Fic

February was Black History Month and we celebrated with online programs and articles.

ABOVE: Our February Take and Make program was especially successful as Alejandra instructed how to make your own wooded bead bracelet. The video was viewed over 400 times before the month’s end.

LEFT: Our Highlight Article on the main page of our website compiled everything our patrons could need to celebrate and educate themselves on Black History Month. Included in the available resources were links to organizations, events, and articles covering significant events and contributions by Black Americans.



the Osceola Library
system

The Ways
of Love
Lit MAG!

2021 Literary Contest

Submit your short pieces of fiction/nonfiction/poetry/artwork for the opportunity to be published in the fourth issue of the Osceola Library's Literary Magazine.

This year's theme is *The Ways of Love*. Make our hearts melt with your tales of friendship, family bonds, secret crushes, or beautiful illustrations of what Love means to you for a chance to be on the cover of this year's magazine!

For more information visit osceolalibrary.org/litmag2021



February was also a great month for the arts thanks to our literary magazine opportunity and our partnership with Rollins College Cornell Fine Arts Museum.

ABOVE-LEFT: We accepted submissions from the young writers and artists in our community for the opportunity to be published in our annual literary magazine, Lit Mag. The announcement went up on our social media channels and was shared by the community and local schools.

ABOVE-RIGHT and LEFT: A new partnership with the Cornell Fine Arts Museum allowed our patrons access to their take-home Art Kits that accompanied their weekly online family programs. It was a great way to bring patrons to our Libraries as well as encourage children to explore art.

March 2021 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	16,763	18,059	8,792	5,621	15,811	269
Visitors	12,360	5,923	2,851	4,634	5,473	114
Computer Sessions	58,165	12,339	31,525	13,190	13,761	3,788
AWE Computer Sessions	N/A	100	N/A	283	N/A	N/A
Programming Virtual, Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 11 Attendance: 71	Events: 17 Attendance: 336	Events: 15 Attendance: 133	Events: Attendance:	Events: 10 Attendance: 254	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

System Stats at a Glance

- Virtual Circulation totaled checkouts or sessions 17,028
- Patrons used study rooms 443 times
- Staff performed 37 notary services
- in person and virtual Reference questions were answered
- 39 volunteers donated 139 hours of service
- Staff completed 34 requests for 3D printed items
- 571 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 134 registered for eCards
- 7,717 holds were placed on Library materials
- Staff facilitated 234 Curbside Pickups
- Call Center received 3,475 phone calls
- Patrons use of checkout stations totaled 15,024, accounting for 23% of checkout interactions
- Total circulation for March was 89,802

Highlights

In-Person Programming

The Osceola Library System resumed limited in-person programming in March. Rhythm, Rhyme, & Storytime debuted at the West Osceola and BVL Libraries with caps on attendance based on room size. An afternoon homeschool program also debuted at the St. Cloud Library. All programs were very well received, so much so that we had to add second programs either right after or on a following day to accommodate all who were interested. Staff were excited to see our littlest patrons back in the Library! These in person programs were accompanied by the Osceola School District's READ Bus which paid visits to most of the Libraries and is equipped with a scaled-down Pre-K classroom to engage preschoolers, toddlers, and their grownups with early literacy activities.

Book Bundles

As a fun way to encourage checkouts, Osceola Library System staff developed themed Book Bundles. The bundles consist of 5-6 items tied up and displayed creatively with props and cards announcing the theme. The bundles have proved to be a popular way to move larger numbers of books, an easy way for patrons to grab and go items of interest, and an excellent creative outlet for staff to flex their readers' advisory muscle. Topics explore adult themes (Book/movie combos, "Learn Something New!", or Staycation), teen interests (Marvel/DC or "Explore Your Backyard!") and of course, kid-centric subjects (123s, Outer Space, Fairy Tales, etc.).

In addition to grab-and-go bundles for adults and kids, the Library developed a program to encourage participation in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative. This initiative improves early literacy skills and creates a strong family bond over the shared joy of reading. In the online catalog, there are records for the type of books that align with their appropriate age level – Board books for pre-readers, Easy or Picture books for sharing with a grownup, and Beginner books for kids just starting to read on their own. When a hold is placed for a particular type of book, knowledgeable staff will pull together a fun and interesting assortment of titles, place the titles on hold and then the patron can pick up the items when they receive the notice they're ready. Once a child has read 1000 books, they can place their handprint on our Trees of Literacy hanging in the Libraries.

VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Tax Day was postponed this year until May 15, which was good news for those who needed a little extra time. Also good news was the availability of VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) at the Hart Memorial Library taking appointments on Wednesday and Saturdays through April to provide valuable free tax assistance in English and Spanish, which is especially beneficial this year with many assistance programs to navigate.

Gallery



March brought the return of in-person programming at the Libraries. Kiddos got to see their favorite Youth Team for in person Rhythm, Rhyme, & Storytimes (**ABOVE-LEFT**) and homeschoolers practiced STEAM activities at the St. Cloud Library in our Homeschool Libratory program (**ABOVE-RIGHT**).



We implemented a new program where our online catalog now includes records of book types by age group.

When a parent or child places a hold on a particular type of book, our staff gathers an assortment of titles that would best fit the request. **This new program was created to support the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative,** and to help families find the books needed for their child to reach their goal and get their handprint on our Tree of Literacy (**LEFT**).



Book bundles are now available at the Libraries!

Perfect for finding new authors or interests on the go, staff have gathered titles together that share a common theme to create Kids Book Bundles (**LEFT**) and Adult Book Bundles (**BELOW**).

The Book Bundles have been very popular already and are a great way for patrons to find more of what they'd love.



April 2021 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	15,018	16,925	7,889	5,578	13,757	255
Visitors	11,533	5,983	2,235	4,647	5,617	88
Computer Sessions	59,850	13,576	34,251	14,571	17,705	3,895
AWE Computer Sessions	N/A	146	N/A	423	N/A	N/A
Programming Virtual, Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 23 Attendance: 205	Events: 26 Attendance: 630	Events: 24 Attendance: 202	Events: 25 Attendance: 278	Events: 19 Attendance: 197	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

System Stats at a Glance

- Virtual Circulation totaled 16,405 checkouts or sessions
- Patrons used study rooms 633 times
- Staff performed 39 notary services
- 13,090 in person and 165 virtual Reference questions were answered
- 47 volunteers donated 236 hours of service
- Staff completed 34 requests for 3D printed items
- 586 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 107 registered for eCards
- 7,657 holds were placed on Library materials
- Staff facilitated 126 Curbside Pickups
- Call Center received 3,140 phone calls
- Patrons use of checkout stations totaled 14,591, accounting for 44% of in-library checkouts
- Total circulation for April was 75,827

Highlights

Full Service Hours Resume

The Osceola Library System resumed full hours of operation on Monday, April 5. The current schedule is Monday to Thursday, 9am to 9pm; Friday and Saturday, 9am to 6pm; and Sunday, 12pm to 6pm. The Kenansville Library resumed full service hours in September 2020. The Library reopened May 8, 2020, with limited hours after a 7-week closure, increasing to offer Saturday hours in September 2020, and now in April is at its pre-pandemic operating schedule. In-person programming has resumed at all Libraries, including Storytime at the Park located at the Lakefront Park in partnership with the City of Kissimmee, English as a Second Language for Beginners, regular storytimes, and computer classes in English and Spanish.

TechCentral Opening

The much-anticipated opening of the Osceola Library System's creative space, TechCentral, finally arrived on Saturday, April 17. The space features VR stations, a Mac lab, sewing studio, photography studio, video equipment, and a sound recording room all designed to support collaborative use, individual study, and Library programming focusing on introductory skill building and personal development for ages 12 and up. It is available for personal reservations by Library cardholders. Classes and workshops will be scheduled to help patrons explore their creative passions with talented and creative staff leading the way.

Storytime at the Park Launch and the Expansion of Limited In-Person Programming

The Library leaped back into in-person programming with a partnership for Storytime at the Park at the Lakefront Park. In partnership with the City of Kissimmee, children and their grownups brought their blankets and towels to bask in the spring sunshine, listening to stories and shaking their sillies out with fun movement exercises. The Ready to Work series was revived for in-person engagement, as was English as a Second Language for beginning learners, Citizenship prep, and introductory computer classes in Microsoft Word in English and Spanish. TechCentral featured workshops in Photo Editing and Photography basics.

One Book, One Community Outreach

Visitors to the Downtown St. Cloud Monthly Market were invited to immerse themselves in this year's featured One Book, One Community Program book, *Home Sweet Motel* by Chris Grabenstein. Library staff dressed as tacky tourists and invited people to take a moment to escape in our tropical photo booth. They shared information about Florida tourism and Library services offered by Osceola Library System. To promote our on-demand 3D printing, staff gave away 3D printed "old fashioned" hotel keychains embossed with the Library's logo.

Staff spoke with 250 people and issued 19 new Library cards. Fifty-four children took home a copy of *Home Sweet Motel*, compliments of the Orlando Sentinel, and a kit to create their own leis. In addition to the book, children were given a hotel room keycard, which they are able to bring to their Library branch for a chance to win a Summer Fun Pool Prize.

Girl Scouts' Library Love Patch

The Girl Scouts of Citrus Council recognized National Library Week by developing a new Patch program. The Library Love patch is designed to educate Girl Scouts about all the services and resources the local Library provides to the community. Activities to earn the Library Love patch is based on the age levels within the Girl Scouts program and includes getting a Library card, learning about the different collections and services, practicing research skills, and reading about important women through the Library's biography collection. The Library has enjoyed a wonderful partnership with the Girl Scouts in support of girls and young women finding empowerment through knowledge and service.

Lit Mag Winners' Reception

The Library feted the winners of the Lit Mag writing contest whose works appear in both a published and BiblioBoard collection. The Zoom reception featured the teen and tween winners reading their works aloud and the reception was opened by guest judges and local authors Vivi Barnes and Nina Moreno discussing how to be an effective creative writer. Before the Zoom reception began, the kids had a great dialogue about the books they have been reading and were supportive of each other's writing, giving praise in the chat box about how much they liked each other's work. Lit Mag continues to delight and surprise each year with the contributions of such talented and inspirational teens and tweens.

Gallery



ABOVE: TechCentral had its Grand Opening ceremony on April 17. LS&S CEO Todd Frager, Chief Library Officer Jennifer Giltrop, Osceola Commissioner Chairman Brandon Arrington, Osceola County Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Osceola County Commissioner Viviana Janer, and the members of the Library Advisory Board also attended the opening.



ABOVE LEFT: In-person programming slowly returns to the Libraries, beginning with a partnership with the City of Kissimmee to provide Storytime at the Park.

Staff dressed up as tourists at the One Book One Community Outreach (BELOW RIGHT) and gave out exclusive Osceola Library hotel keychains (**BELOW LEFT**) inspired by the program's chosen book, *Home Sweet Motel* by Chris Grabenstein. Children who completed an Osceola Library Hotel Room Card and brought it to their local branch were able to enter for a chance to win summer-themed prizes (**ABOVE RIGHT**).



May 2021 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	16,380	17,559	8,136	5,522	13,658	220
Visitors	12,034	6,063	2,343	4,628	6,133	119
Computer Sessions	65,400	13,770	31,811	15,418	18,134	3,438
AWE Computer Sessions	N/A	226	N/A	408	N/A	N/A
Programming Virtual, Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 39 Attendance: 364	Events:37 Attendance: 785	Events: 37 Attendance: 230	Events: 21 Attendance: 292	Events: 18 Attendance: 228	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

System Stats at a Glance

- Virtual Circulation totaled 16,956 checkouts or sessions
- Patrons used study rooms 610 times
- Staff performed 23 notary services
- 13,016 in person and 129 virtual Reference questions were answered
- 39 volunteers donated 319 hours of service
- Staff completed requests for 19 3D printed items
- 549 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 115 registered for eCards
- 6,991 holds were placed on Library materials
- Staff facilitated 92 Curbside Pickups
- Call Center received 3,200 phone calls
- Patrons use of checkout stations totaled 14,434, accounting for 44% of in-library checkouts
- Total circulation for May was 78,431

Highlights

Spot the Book

The Osceola Library System launched a countywide reading initiative called Spot the Book, similar to the One Book, One Community concept. The Library asked kids and grownups to read *City Spies* by James Ponti, featured in last year's Sunshine State Young Readers program, then answer trivia questions, attend virtual programs, and complete a scavenger hunt for a change to earn tickets toward prize drawings in conjunction with a live author chat with James Ponti on June 12. Featured programs included Spy School 101 with the International Spy Museum and a how-to magic workshop. To promote, we created a fun video and a photo series of staff and local VIPs unable to put *City Spies* down!

Partner in Education Award

Osceola School District presented the Osceola Library System an award for being an excellent Partner in Education. The Library and School District have deepened their connection through the regular scheduling of the District's READ Bus, which supports early literacy for kids 0-4, and continuing to host the in-person Learn 2 Read program, designed to teach literacy skills to parents and young children.

International Conference Presentation

Library staff presented at the Surrey (Canada) Teacher Association Conference on how to keep kids engaged in reading and on grade level during the Pandemic. Lisa Jones, West Osceola Youth Librarian, was joined by author Sarah Scheerger (Sunshine State Reader *Operation Frog Effect*) and school librarian Chardae Duffy in a presentation entitled "Keeping Kids Reading: Social-Emotional Learning in Classrooms and Libraries" to 70 virtual attendees. Lisa promoted Library resources as a pathway to improve engagement, citing services such as Book Bundles, eCards, Teen READBox, and virtual programming as lifelines to make reading accessible and fun. Lisa was invited to present at the STAC conference based on a similar presentation in February to the California School Librarian Association conference.

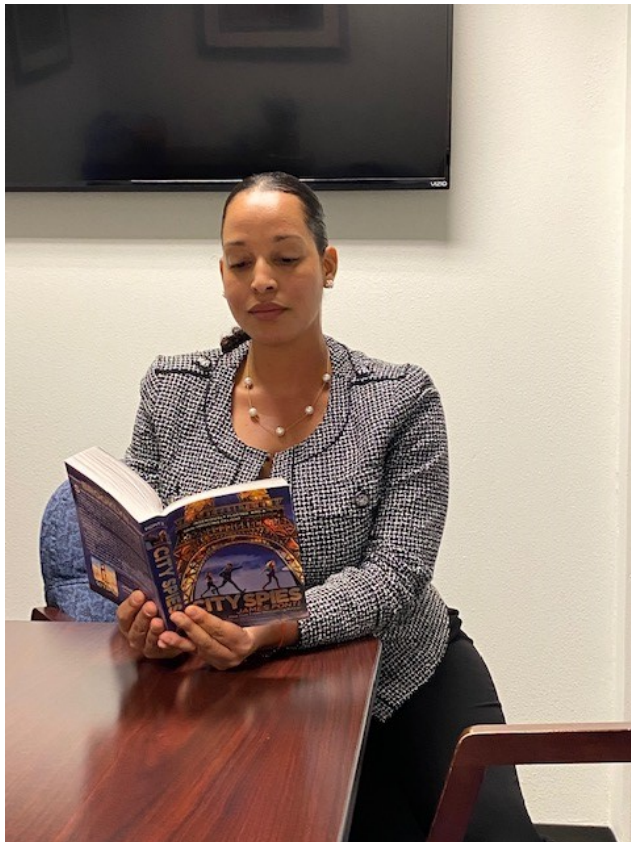
Career Online High School Launch

The Library launched the Career Online High School (COHS) program on May 17. The program offers an accredited high school diploma and career certificate for Osceola residents 19 years and older who have some high school courses completed. The program is funded through CARES Act dollars provided by Osceola County BoCC as has the necessary technology – hotspots and Chromebooks -- for any COHS student. In the first week of its launch, 9 students had already enrolled in the prerequisite review part of the COHS admission process.

Gallery

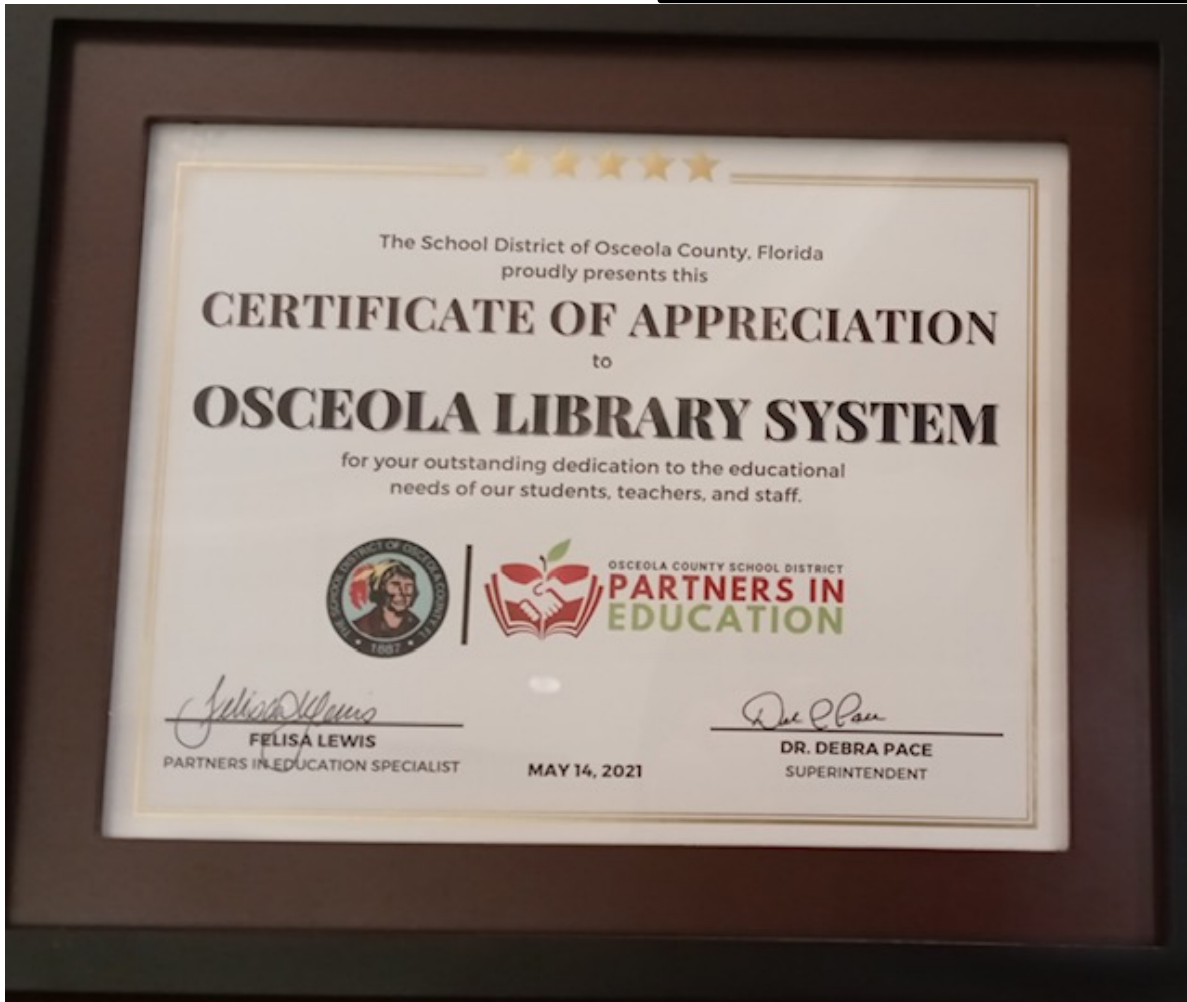


To launch our countywide reading challenge, **Spot the Book**, Library staff created a promo video and took photos of different officials in the county and local schools who also couldn't put the book down. These officials included but weren't limited to Dr. Chundra Evens, Assistant Superintendent for High School Curriculum (**ABOVE LEFT**); Community Relations staff (**ABOVE RIGHT**); Ms. Terry Castillo, School Board Member for District 1 (**BOTTOM LEFT**); and Mr. Julius Melendez, School Board Member for District 2 (**BOTTOM RIGHT**).





LEFT and BELOW: Osceola School District presented the Osceola Library System an award for being an excellent Partner in Education. Our Youth Librarian from the West Osceola Library, Lisa Jones, accepted the award on the Library's behalf.



careeronline HIGH SCHOOL



LEFT: The Library partnered again with Career Online High School (COHS) to offer patrons the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma online. The program launched May 17 and nearly immediately had 9 students working on their prerequisite requirements for the process.

June 2021 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	18,943	22,364	9,844	6,188	15,068	227
Visitors	13,093	7,886	2,607	5,245	9,433	88
Computer Sessions	58,072	14,446	30,843	13,001	13,787	4,056
AWE Computer Sessions	N/A	318	N/A	456	N/A	N/A
Programming Virtual, Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 43 Attendance: 645	Events: 56 Attendance: 918	Events: 44 Attendance: 280	Events: 27 Attendance: 435	Events: 21 Attendance: 321	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

System Stats at a Glance

- Virtual Circulation totaled 15,467 checkouts or sessions
- Patrons used study rooms 750 times and made 91 room reservations
- Staff performed 41 notary services
- 16,537 in-person and 232 virtual Reference questions were answered
- 48 volunteers donated 290 hours of service
- Staff completed 62 requests for 3D printed items
- 899 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 120 registered for eCards, a 75% increase over June 2020
- 7,721 holds were placed on Library materials
- Staff facilitated 90 Curbside Pickups
- Call Center received 3,392 phone calls
- Patrons use of checkout stations totaled 18,144, accounting for % of in-library checkouts
- Total circulation for June was 88,101, up 9% over June 2020

Highlights

Summer Learning

Summer Learning launched with events and classes for kids, families, and adults. The staff have put together a compelling line up that features something for everyone, online and in-person.

Our Youth kickoff featured a Zoom program with Wildlife Encounters of Nebraska and an introduction to the Beanstack summer learning challenge where attendance earns tickets and tickets mean prizes! Other programs included an art illustration workshop for young adults with Goliath Art Studio (61 online attendees!); several fun “readers’ theater” centered on this year’s theme of Tails and Tales featuring animal themes; and the wrap up of our Spot the Book reading program with a live James Ponti Q&A, author of City Spies. James Ponti was so thrilled with the response from our patrons that he is planning a return, in-person visit in the near future.

On the Adult side we offered more “wild” in-person adventures, such as Beginning Guitar workshops, nature exploration walks among Florida’s native plants with the Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Messy Media activities like pendulum painting and splatter art, and up close encounters with K9 working dogs. Attendees of the Beginning Guitar class were so thrilled with their experience that they left a thank you card with a bunch of positive comments about the teacher (Easah Rahman) and enthusiasm for the experience. The response to our return to in person programming has been reassuring that our patrons are looking for quality classes and events to beat the summer heat and learn something new. And our online offerings continue to engage those who enjoy programs conveniently on their time.

Regular programming such as take and makes, storytime, computer classes and English language learning, continues throughout the summer.

Book Club Kits

The Library launched Book Club Kits to check out featuring popular titles that are often part of the middle grade reading curriculum. Passing reading assessment scores for 8th graders in Osceola County have dipped three percentage points over the last two years and the Library is offering tools such as Book Club Kits to encourage reading and critical thinking and to make it as convenient as possible for kids to access the titles they enjoy. Kits feature 10 copies of a title, include helpful pointers on how to start a run a book club, and author information. The Kits check out for 3 weeks and can be placed on hold to pick up a preferred branch.

Vaccination Buses

The Florida Department of Emergency Management coordinated with the Library to schedule stops of their mobile vaccination busses at each branch ahead of planned full-service reopening of the Library. Working with partners to serve community needs, utilizing the Library’s convenient locations and resources, is one of the essential roles the Library plays in supporting a thriving and healthy Osceola. First visits were scheduled in May with follow up visits in June with an average of 20 people receiving vaccines at each stop.

Gallery



The Hart Memorial Library launched our beginning guitar workshops being a great hit for everybody.

ABOVE: Teacher (Easah Rahman) and his students having a great time while they learn.

LEFT: The Florida Department of Emergency Management at our branches offering their vaccination services.



LEFT: We launched our new book club kits encouraging reading and critical thinking.

Each Kit comes complete with ten copies of the book, discussion questions, instructions on how to perform the book club, and activities inspired by the book.