

August 2021 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	17,180	21,748	9,609	5,511	14,984	199
Visitors	11,113	7,170	2,803	5,375	8,784	80
Computer Sessions	44,580	11,450	22,628	10,984	11,851	2,098
AWE Computer Sessions	N/A	316	N/A	665	N/A	N/A
Programming Virtual, Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 37 Attendance: 348	Events: 51 Attendance: 646	Events:34 Attendance: 192	Events: 26 Attendance: 136	Events:30 Attendance: 288	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

System Stats at a Glance

- Virtual Circulation totaled 75,340 checkouts or sessions, a 26% improvement over August 2020
- Patrons used study rooms 580 times and made 131 room reservations
- Staff performed 64 notary services
- 13,884 in-person and 226 virtual Reference questions were answered
- 35 volunteers donated 201 hours of service
- 852 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 153 registered for eCards, a 117% increase over August 2020
- 7,624 holds were placed on Library materials
- Staff facilitated 83 Curbside Pickups
- Call Center received 3,194 phone calls
- Patron use of checkout stations totaled 23,622, accounting for 64% of in-library checkouts
- Total circulation for August was 92,439

Highlights

LSTA grant award for “Smart” Remote Lockers

The Osceola Library System received a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant award from the State Library of Florida for \$69,137. The funds are supporting the grant project entitled “Extending Library Access in Osceola County” and will facilitate the purchase and installation of two sets of “smart” lockers on the west and east ends of Osceola County. Currently, there are no library facilities conveniently located in these growing areas of the County. Installation of the lockers is planned for two County-owned locations – Fire Station 73 in Reunion and the Narcoossee Community Center. Each location will provide Internet/network access and convenient, well-lit outdoor access to the lockers. Patrons can return checked out books, movies and CDs or securely pick up held items with a scan of their Library card. The Library will offer programming, tech help for adults, and storytime for kids and families at each location. The Library will promote the stations’ locations and how to use this new service. The Library is soliciting bids for vendors and the purchasing process will begin soon.

TALK IT UP! Life, Liberty + Libraries Programming

As part of the Life, Liberty + Libraries grant from the Florida Humanities Council and PBS Books, the Library had the opportunity to create fun and informative programs about the importance of engaging in and learning about the essential right to vote and how elections work. One in-person and one virtual program for teens was held this month. A part of the program aimed to educate kids and adults about the voting process with special guests from the Supervisor of Elections office. For the in-person event, SOE staff brought out actual voting machines so that any attendees could practice the act of voting by participating in a mock election and gain a better understanding of how the machines tabulated and reported votes. Local elected officials lent their support by sharing stories of civic involvement and encouraged teens in the online program to find their voice and get involved in the process. The programs entertained and informed 34 participants.

Digital Local History Collection in BiblioBoard

Osceola County has grown 45% over the past decade and the physical landscape has seen dramatic changes as well. As the County moves away from its rural past into a more urban and suburban future, it is important to document the people, places, and events that have shaped this County. The Library launched a Local History collection in the digital publishing platform, BiblioBoard, accessible through our website. The new collection invites the sharing of photographs that highlight Osceola County’s daily life, traditions, and vestiges of history up until 1975 when Disney had gained a major and transformative foothold in the Osceola community. Also welcome are veterans’ photos to help create a special collection honoring the bravery and sacrifice of those who served.

Stand Out Programs

Library programming staff continue to serve up an impressive array of innovative and creative offerings. Highlights include:

Tips for Professional Looking Headshots – a TechCentral program featuring partner LaVell D. Monger with RTW Photography

Online Poetry Extravaganza – a virtual program that invited poets to share their works and interact with established and renowned local poets

Comic Mania – a family program that celebrated your favorite superheroes with crafts, games, photos and face painting

C3 (Cubing Club in Celebration) – a kids program that teaches the secrets and strategies to concurring the Rubik's cube puzzle.

Spanish for Beginners – back by popular demand, this class introduces the Spanish language to English speakers and helps bridge communication divides within the community, sponsored by the St. Cloud Friends of the Library.

Gallery



Left: Supervisor of Elections staff guide teens through a mock election using real voting equipment as part of the Life, Liberties & Libraries grant.

Below: Instructor Ivonne Sanchez teaches Spanish to beginning learners at the St. Cloud Library in this Friends' sponsored evening program.





Above: Grant-funded “smart” lockers at two convenient community locations, the Reunion Fire Station on Osceola Polk Line Road and the Narcoossee Community Center located 1 mile off of Narcoossee Road, will offer material pick up and return options to growing parts of Osceola County lacking neighborhood library services.



Right: Youth Services staff summon their super powers as they set up for Comic Mania, a family program at the Hart Memorial Library where attendees created their own comics, dressed up like their favorite heroes, won at games and left with creative crafts.