

January 2019 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	25,787	26,500	14,652	10,708	18,189	360
Visitors	24,489	14,227	13,194	8,337	15,331	134
Computer Sessions	6,449	2,699	3,823	2,945	2,248	54
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,177	n/a	4,361	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 74 Attendance: 878	Events: 63 Attendance: 1,302	Events: 59 Attendance: 869	Events: 58 Attendance: 1,113	Events: 34 Attendance: 600	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 13,344, up 21% from 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 75,712
- The Library held 288 events attended by 4,762 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 18,218
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 1,058 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 98 registered for eCards
- 11,126 holds were placed on Library materials, up 20% from 2018
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 19,119 resulting in nearly 24% of circulation
- Total circulation for January was 94,964

Highlights

Everyday English Continuation

The Everyday English program in 2018 was a resounding success, in providing convenient access to high quality English conversation classes, solidifying a positive relationship with partners, gaining a deeper understanding of the diverse needs of our citizens, and creating new avenues to promote the Library. The Library did apply for a second year of the American Dream Literacy Initiative, and although we were not selected to participate, we were given a generous surprise from the Adult Learning Center of Osceola (ALCO).

In 2018, ALCO supported our Everyday English classes with School District instructors funded by the grant. Even though the classes were open to the general public, ALCO-enrolled students were given increased access to classes offered in the evening and on the weekend and the opportunity to gain lab hours to satisfy ALCO

class requirements. Perceiving the value of this access to their students and the impact to the community at large, the School Board voted in January to provide the Library with District-certified teachers to continue the Everyday English classes through the end of 2019. We are now offering Everyday English conversational classes at four libraries, Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Buenaventura Lakes, and Poinciana, with the generosity and commitment of our partners at the Adult Learning Center of Osceola. Forging partnerships that create dynamic opportunities for education, self-improvement, and professional development is a cornerstone of our strategic goals so many thanks are given to ALCO and the School District for this support.

Girl Scout / West Osceola Collaboration

The Girl Scouts in Celebration have forged a remarkable partnership with the West Osceola Library in support of creative programming open to all school-age children. These programs, collaborations between the Youth Librarian and Girl Scout troop leaders, have enabled Girl Scouts to earn patches and badges, but have also brought the high quality of Girl Scout-level programs to the general public. In 2018, some noteworthy programs were Think Like an Engineer, Women's Suffrage: the 100th Anniversary, and Pinwheels for Peace. So far 19 programs aimed at earning patches and 3 programs aimed at badges have been held.

On January 28, the Girl Scout Troop 85 presented a one of a kind, hand-designed and -constructed structure to be used in conjunction with the West Osceola Library's escape rooms. The structure can be put up and taken apart in minutes to create portable walls. Additionally, they generously presented the West Osceola Library with a check for \$150 to be used in support of their next Library project, a butterfly garden! The Girl Scouts were so enthusiastic about their gift to the Library that they talked their troop leader into increasing the donation over the troop leader's suggestion.

The butterfly garden is being planned as a multi-troop service project with at least four Girl Scout troops invited to take part in the preparation and planting. The troops are working with a Master Gardener to ensure proper irrigation, plant selection, and maintenance are followed, and will be using their engineering skills to plan and build an obelisk that will be placed in the garden.

Online Engagement and Marketing Update

In addition to tracking traditional statistics like door counts and checkouts, the Library also tracks our online engagement through a quarterly report of "Library Platform Statistics." The Graphics and Social Media team monitor all of our social media and web-based engagement tools such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, YouTube, the Newsletter, and Podcast so that we can have our finger on the pulse of opinion and community interactions, and understand how and when best to reach our patrons. Some quick statistics: The newsletter gained 1,409 subscribers, Twitter gained 30 followers, and Facebook added 71 followers during the last quarter of 2018.

The Library uses web-based resources to develop diverse and creative pathways to reach patrons and pique their unique interest in Library resources and services. Our podcast, *Nonfiction Friends*, celebrated in January its 50th episode. The podcast, which launched in early 2018, had 1,666 listens just within the last quarter of 2018, reaching people in over 50 countries, and is an example of how the Library is embracing all avenues to get us into the homes and hearts of our patrons.

The Library has formed a relationship with *Osceola Woman* magazine, found free in medical centers, businesses and restaurants, where we contribute content about Library services and resources and then the magazine is made available for free in our libraries. We received positive feedback on our first submitted article and look forward to many more contributions in the future!

Youth Services Intern

A wonderful new opportunity for those interested in the field of library service launched this January. The Youth Specialist Service Learning Program provides an opportunity for previous Teen Ambassadors or Library Volunteers who are now 18 or older to gain on-the-job experience and knowledge of the library profession, potentially for college credit. Participants must be enrolled in college or recently graduated with an eye toward a career in libraries, particularly the youth services field. Service Learning opportunities include meeting with Collection Services staff to gain an understanding of how library collections are developed and managed and shadowing programs from start to finish. The Youth Specialist Service Learning Program culminates in the creation and implementation of an original library program. We currently have one bright and enthusiastic intern who met another of the initial requirements – completing 100 hours as a Library Volunteer/Teen Ambassador – and we are looking forward to opening this internship opportunity to more volunteers or Teen Ambassadors in the future.

Career Online High School (COHS) Update

Progressing quietly behind the scenes is this fantastic program where the Library is able to provide scholarships to adult library card holders/Osceola residents 19 or older who wish to graduate high school but for whom life and circumstances have not always aligned to enable them to do so in a traditional timeframe. The Library was initially awarded 5 scholarships from the State Library of Florida to hand out to applicants who have met rigorous criteria and deadlines. But demand has been so great and the need so high in this community that we have successfully granted 7 scholarships and have dozens of people working their way through the process to potentially be awarded the 8 additional scholarships we have been provided. This program is exciting because it aligns with our Library's overreaching goal to transform people's lives with the convenient and free access to knowledge. The stories told by those applying for the COHS scholarships are both harrowing and uplifting, and getting the chance to share in their personal journey and support them on their path to creating a better future for themselves and their families is what library service is all about. We hope to share some of their stories with the community through videos and testimonials once we have the equipment supplied by the LSTA Innovation Grant we've recently been awarded.

Gallery




LEFT: Our Library podcast, *Nonfiction Friends*, celebrated 50 episodes as well as their one-year anniversary. *Nonfiction Friends* has listeners from over 50 countries and their episodes have accumulated nearly two thousand listens this last quarter alone.

For the 50th episode, our hosts, Josh and Rebecca, asked their listeners for feedback of what their favorite episode or moments were on the podcast. Fans shared their answers on social media, recounting even episodes as far back as when the podcast first began (**BELOW**).



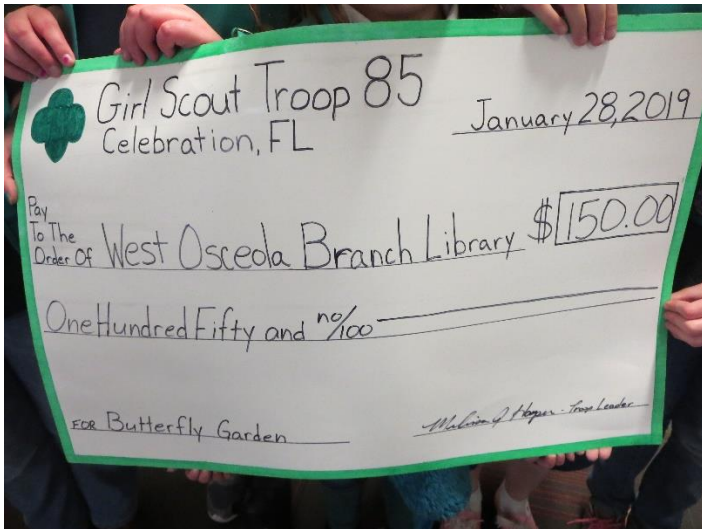
We enjoy connecting with our patrons through social media platforms and using web-based resources to pique interest in Library resources, services, or events. As our following on social media grows, so does the support from not only organizations and patrons, but authors as well (**BELOW**).

 **Sunshine Rodgers** 🇺🇸 recommends Osceola Library System.
9 hrs · 🌐

I was one of the participatory authors for the Florida Author Fest located in the St. Cloud library and I was blown away by how fantastic this location was! Teresa Batchelder was a joy to be around and I thank this library for setting up such an amazing event for local authors and for the community! The St. Cloud library had an amazing selection of books and DVDs, a great children's section upstairs and incredible group of people working there. It was such a positive experience visiting with this library that offers so much to the St. Cloud area!



In January, we launched our new Youth Specialist Service Learning Program which provides previous Teen Ambassadors or Library Volunteers a chance to gain on-the-job experience and knowledge of library professions as an intern. Our current intern at Hart Memorial Library (**LEFT** with Youth Specialist, Jonathan) also completed 100 hours as a Library Volunteer.



The Girl Scout Troop 85 in Celebration presented the West Osceola Library with two generous gifts.

The first gift (**ABOVE**) was a hand-designed structure that creates removable walls perfect for use for the Library's Escape Rooms.

The second gift presented was a check dedicated to an upcoming Butterfly Garden project (**LEFT**), which will be built and maintained by multiple Girl Scout Troops and Master Gardeners.

February 2019 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	24,181	26,292	13,502	9,491	17,033	231
Visitors	25,693	14,201	13,340	8,656	15,999	110
Computer Sessions	6,984	2,606	3,981	3,021	2,290	31
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,123	n/a	1,352	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 87 Attendance: 1,760	Events: 72 Attendance: 1,217	Events: 62 Attendance: 1,057	Events: 63 Attendance: 925	Events: 36 Attendance: 926	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

*Does not include electronic resource circulation

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,671
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 77,999
- The Library held 320 events attended by 5,885 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 18,913
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 89,912
- 1,057 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 81 registered for eCards
- 9,345 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,245 resulting in 19% of print circulation
- Total circulation for February was 102,401, an increase of 10% over 2018

Highlights

Black History Month

The Osceola Library System celebrated Black History Month with programs, displays, partner events, and youth activities to commemorate the wealth of artistic, scientific, literary, and societal contributions of African Americans to the culture and history of the United States. Nearly 200 people attended informative and engaging programs, including:

- **Black History Month Movie Matinee** – patrons at the Hart Memorial and St. Cloud Libraries enjoyed thought-provoking cinema, including *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* and *What Happened, Miss Simone?*

- **Creativity Corner** – West Osceola children created story quilts in recognition of artist Faith Ringgold.
- **OrisiRisi African Folklore** – Storytelling and folklore told with spirited drumming and dancing wowed audiences at the St. Cloud, Hart Memorial, and Poinciana Libraries.
- **Serve Up Some Soul** – The Buenaventura Lakes and Hart Memorial Libraries took a journey through African-American cuisine with Chef Shantell.
- **African Mancala** – St. Cloud patrons played one of the oldest games in recorded culture, considered the National Game of Africa.
- **Yes We Did! Author Talk with Jeffrey White** – Local author Jeffrey White explored the historical and cultural achievements of prominent African Americans in his insightful presentation at the St. Cloud Library.
- **African American Read In** – An annual event in partnership with the City of Kissimmee, the Read In celebrates Black achievement and contributions through the reading of inspirational and historical passages by special guests.

Osceola Literacy Extravaganza

The School District of Osceola holds the Battle of the Books each year and this year, the Library spiced up the annual event with programming and workshops to create OLÉ! Osceola Literacy Extravaganza. The Library hosted the final rounds of the Battle of the Books and provided exciting and engaging programming to connect students with their love of reading. The Banned Books Guessing Game where participants guessed a book by description and the reason it was banned, Blind Date with a Book, and DIY Zines where students could create their own zine to be housed at the Library were all major hits with the multi-generational crowd. At the end of the event, well-known Florida authors, including Peter Raymundo, James Ponti, and Fred Koehler, gave away copies of their books to students attending OLÉ. This successful partner event with the School District drew nearly 500 attendees.

ALCO Outreach

Library staff worked with Adult Learning Center Osceola staff to develop an open house type of event to provide ALCO students with an orientation to Library services and electronic resources, including a Library Card Drive on Tuesday, February 5. The event was developed to reach as many ALCO students as possible so faculty was encouraged to bring their English as a Second Language classes to the Career Center on the ALCO campus throughout the day. Three sessions were scheduled to accommodate morning, afternoon, and evening students. In total, 10 classes were able to participate in the event and 163 Library cards were issued. Students and teachers were excited with all the programs and resources the Library offers, showing specific interest in Mango Languages. An instructor was overheard telling her students that they were dedicating part of their next session to practice how to use their recently acquired Library card to access the Library website and databases.

Voices of Silence

Every Monday morning, the Buenaventura Lakes Library is host to advocacy group Voices of Silence as they create interactive educational and social experiences for young adults with autism and other intellectual disabilities. Attendees work with caregivers and parents to learn new skills and reinforce old ones, while gaining needed social interaction and confidence for independence. Topics include cooking, math, sign language, and art. This program is one of the many ways the Library is essential to those for whom accessing library services and resources is challenging, and reaffirming that the Library is a welcoming and enriching place for all to gather.

Gallery



We celebrated Black History Month with a wide range of programs and events commemorating the historical and cultural contributions of African Americans.

LEFT: Adults learn how to make soul food through an instructive demonstration by **Chef Shantell**. *(Photo taken at the Hart Memorial Library)*

BELOW-LEFT: Children at West Osceola Library learned about the African-American painter Faith Ringgold and made their own story quilts in a style inspired by hers.

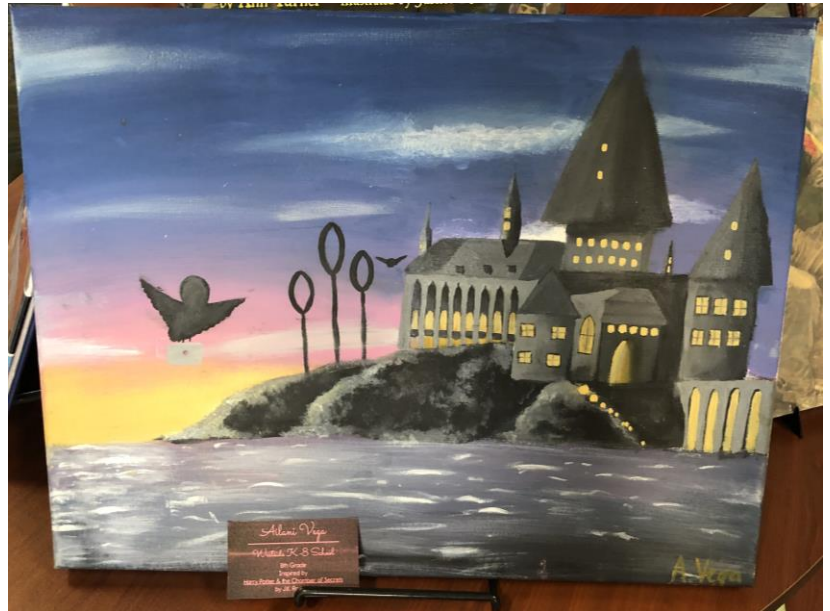
BELOW-RIGHT: **OrisiRisi African Folklore** shared stories from Africa along accompanied by spirited drumming. *(Photo taken at the St. Cloud Library)*





The School District of Osceola's OLÉ! Osceola Literacy Extravaganza was held at Hart Memorial Library. The event featured programming and workshops that celebrated the love of books and the worlds they create.

ABOVE and RIGHT: Students from all over Osceola County created sculptures, paintings, and other works of art inspired by their favorite book or book series.





Nearly 500 attendees enjoyed a variety of activities and events at OLÉ, such as the popular **Banned Books Game (LEFT)** and the final round of the **Battle of the Books (BELOW)**.

ABOVE: An author panel featured well-known Florida authors including Peter Raymundo, James Ponti, and Fred Koehler sharing their writing experience and answering questions from the attendees.



March 2019 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	25,881	29,626	13,987	10,708	17,798	231
Visitors	26,559	14,380	12,999	8,744	15,966	110
Computer Sessions	7,305	2,634	3,527	2,833	2,202	31
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,253	n/a	1,486	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 77 Attendance: 1,039	Events: 73 Attendance: 1,421	Events: 47 Attendance: 693	Events: 57 Attendance: 833	Events: 32 Attendance: 650	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

*Does not include electronic resource circulation

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,818
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 78,798
- The Library held 286 events attended by 4,636 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 18,551
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 88,890
- 834 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 83 registered for eCards
- 10,009 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 18,706 resulting in 19% of print circulation
- Total circulation for March was 110,099, up 1.5% over 2018

Highlights

Butterfly Garden

Plant it and they will come! This was the notion behind the project initiated by the Girl Scouts troops in the Celebration area – to design, plant, and maintain a Butterfly Garden on the grounds of the West Osceola Library. Both Girl Scouts and West Osceola Library patrons worked wonderfully together with Master Gardeners from Osceola County Extension Services. Each child participated in choosing a plant, digging holes, planting, mulching, making a butterfly puddler, and anything else that needed to be done. Funds donated by the Girl Scouts were used to purchase garden supplies. 29 budding gardeners helped with the afternoon project in addition to learning about what a Master Gardener does and why the plants and prep were

necessary to attract butterflies to the garden. The Butterfly Garden will surely beautify and delight patrons at the West Osceola Library for years to come.

Business Builders Junior Camp

The mini-camp held over Spring Break drew inspiration from a university-based curriculum created to promote youth entrepreneurship, critical thinking, and real world problem solving. 15 kids at the Hart Memorial Library brainstormed original business concepts before writing business plans, calculating startup costs, and creating a model or prototype. The Osceola Friends of the Library and local business Hangar Thirty 08 donated lunches for the kids, while the owner of Candyland Designs Co. supported the program with cupcakes and prizes and served as a judge at the final presentation. The kids came up with some really exciting ideas, but 11-year-old Aniyah's pitch for a custom pancake truck wowed the judges and took top prize.

Primetime Kick Off

PrimeTime kicked off for the fourth time at the St. Cloud Library on Monday, March 25. This grant-funded, multi-week program is designed to improve family literacy through fellowship, food and staff-led discussions of a different theme each week. Themes for this edition of PrimeTime will focus on important topics as Civics, Citizenship, Freedom, and Equality. The first edition concentrated on Government and brought together 47 people, 22 adults and 25 kids, to share in reading *Duck for President* and participate in a discussion about fairness in elections, doing chores, and choosing the title of your autobiography. Participants throughout weeks will enjoy food donated by local restaurants, prizes from entertainment or themed businesses, and presentations from community groups. Those who follow the program week by week will leave full not only from great food and fellowship, but with knowledge and a desire to learn and read more with their family at home or in the Library.

Cowboy Storytime and Cattle Drive Outreach

Rodeo contestants from the RAM National Circuit Finals were tellin' tall tales to toddlers and kiddin' around with the kiddos at the Buenaventura Lakes, West Osceola, and St. Cloud Libraries. "Saddle Up for Cowboy Storytime" featured special guests reading stories, demonstrating roping techniques, and even having the little ones get in on the lasso action as they roped a wild chair. 170 children and their grownups had a darn tootin' good time.

The Library was invited by Lanier's Antiques in downtown Kissimmee to have a table outside their store during the RAM NCFR Cattle Drive, which featured community leaders and local cowboys leading horses and cows down Broadway to kick off the RAM National Circuit Finals. An estimated 50 people stopped at our table to grab coloring sheets, get a library card, and review historical books.

Women's History Month

Through film, art, and their own voices, the amazing stories and achievements of women were celebrated this month with over 100 participants. These notable programs celebrated the power and influence of women in culture and history. A Day in the Life: Pioneer Women of St. Cloud, presented by the Women's Club of St. Cloud, and Their Voices Were Heard, about early settlers of St. Cloud, civic groups and their social causes, presented by local historian Larisa Roderick, were both featured at the St. Cloud Library. Through the Hart Memorial Library's film series, Empowering Films, viewers explored women's achievements and struggles. And women's impact on the art world was explored by art historian Jerryan Ramos Hernandez at the Buenaventura Lakes Library, and through the contributions of artist Georgia O'Keefe at West Osceola Library.

Gallery



West Osceola Library's new Butterfly Garden was built by 29 budding gardeners made of Girl Scouts troops in the Celebration area, Library patrons, and Master Gardeners from Osceola County Extension Services.

Each child chose a task to help complete the afternoon project **(ABOVE)**.

The completed Butterfly Garden **(LEFT)** will surely delight patrons and butterflies!



Hart Memorial Library held their first mini-camp during Spring Break, the Business Builders Junior Camp (ABOVE). The Camp promoted youth entrepreneurship, critical thinking, and real world problem solving by challenging campers to create original business concepts, plans, and models or prototypes.

11-year-old Anyah's claimed the top prize with her pitch for a custom pancake truck named Party Pancakes (LEFT).



ABOVE-LEFT: Kiddos have a rootin' tootin' time with Cowboys from the RAM National Circuit Finals as they learned how to lasso a chair. *(Photo taken at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.)*

ABOVE-RIGHT: Osceola Library was represented by Sue at the RAM NCFR Cattle Drive in Downtown Kissimmee where we offered themed coloring pages, Library Card sign ups, and historical books. *(Photo taken by Jeremy Lanier of Lanier's Antiques.)*



Women's History Month was celebrated with films, art, and special presentations including St. Cloud Library's A Day in the Life: Pioneer Women of St. Cloud program presented by the Women's Club of St. Cloud **(ABOVE)**. Attendees learned about the different roles and occupations women had in those times such as Innkeeper **(BELOW)**, Nurse, Housewife, Teacher, and more.



April 2019
Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	23,515	28,148	14,098	10,202	17,459	183
Visitors	25,165	15,351	14,446	9,271	15,411	89
Computer Sessions	6,811	2,898	3,719	2,794	2,024	29
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,205	n/a	888	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 77 Attendance: 1,241	Events: 69 Attendance: 2,402	Events: 63 Attendance: 1,073	Events: 62 Attendance: 1,009	Events: 38 Attendance: 805	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

*Does not include electronic resource circulation

Highlights

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,637, a 12% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 79,733, a nearly 8% increase from 2018
- The Library held 309 events attended by 6,530 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 18,275
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville, BVL and Poinciana Libraries totaled 104,581
- 1,018 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 83 registered for eCards
- 9,350 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,274 resulting in 19% of print circulation
- Total circulation for April was 105,232

Highlights

Birthday and Food for Fees

The Osceola Library System celebrated 30 years of service during the month of April. From 1969 to 1989, the Orange County Library System was paid annually to extend services to Osceola County. So although we've actually existed as a "system" for 50 years, our official birthday is commemorated April 1, 1989, as the date we began offering independent library services and focusing on the unique needs of our dynamic and growing community. In acknowledgement of the best decade ever, the Library embraced its inner Duran Duran with a 1980s-themed limited-edition Library card, storytimes, puzzles and challenges, and unique video featuring

branch staff in their stylish Dynasty/Saved By the Bell duds celebrating the best of '80s culture. At the April 1 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners presented the Library with a plaque commemorating our service milestone and staff was in attendance as Commissioner Peggy Choudhry read the proclamation aloud and April 1, 2019, was officially declared as Osceola Library System's 30th Anniversary. It was a most excellent birthday month!

During National Library Week (April 7-13), the Library revived the Food for Fees program. Patrons donated food items, each valued at a \$1, to pay down their overdue fees. The Library partnered with the Osceola County Food Angels, a local nonprofit group who collected the donated food items to give to Osceola School District children in need. During the Food for Fees week, nearly 2,000 items were donated for this amazing cause and patrons were able to clear their accounts of fees while giving back to the community – a win/win!

Local Authors Fair

The West Osceola Library hosted a Local Author's Fair on a lovely Saturday afternoon. 22 local authors attended, including Annie Schrank, who presented a compelling author talk in November at the West Osceola and whose first book, *Longing for Africa*, was reviewed by none other than Dr. Jane Goodall. Well-known authors Debbie Viguié, Jan Eldridge, and Peter Raymundo were the keynote speakers, sharing with the audience their process of being traditionally published as Adult, YA, and Juvenile authors, respectively. With topics ranging from religion to vampire romance, there was large variety of genres for all 65 attendees to choose from as they visited each author's table for a chat and signed copies of their books.

One Book, One Community

In partnership with the *Orlando Sentinel* and its "Reading by Nine" initiative, the Library participated in the One Book, One Community reading program. The program's goal is to hook kids on reading at a crucial age where kids begin to read to learn rather than learn to read. This year's selection is a classic and favorite, *Charlotte's Web*. The Sentinel provided copies of the book to give away. To reinforce the themes of the story and to immerse readers in active learning, Library staff provided discussion points and activities that provided more contexts and a deeper connection to the timeless characters and moving plot. Each branch participated in the program and engaged nearly 200 kids and grownups. *Charlotte's Web* will make appearances in programming until the end of May. Ms. Crystal and the St. Cloud Library's program were featured in the April 14 edition of the *Orlando Sentinel*. Check it out! <https://bit.ly/2JupVij>

International Festival

The Poinciana Library took a trip around the world at their International Festival. Countries were represented through food, crafts, music, and dance and the experience helped to inform attendees of the daily life, culture, and history significant to those countries. Puerto Rico, Denmark, France, and Cuba were some of the nations with a presence at the Festival. Bollywood, Bellydance, and Polynesian dancers entertained while 130 kids and grownups noshed on homemade flan, arroz con gandules, marzipan, and brie tarts. If you missed this Festival, the Buenaventura Lakes Library will be hosting an International Festival in August.

Gallery



We celebrated our 30th Birthday throughout the month of April with a special edition Library Card design (**LEFT**), Birthday storytimes (**BELOW**), puzzles, and challenges. (Storytime photo taken at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.)

We also commemorated our 30 years of service with an '80s-themed video that was uploaded to our YouTube and Facebook pages.





22 authors attended our Local Authors Fair at the West Osceola Library (ABOVE). Patrons had the unique opportunity to speak one-on-one with published and bestselling authors and have their questions answered by those who've done it all before. The event closed with our Keynote Speakers, Debbie Viguié, Jan Eldredge, and Peter Raymundo **(BELOW)**, speaking on their own writing processes and their experience in getting published.





In partnership with the *Orlando Sentinel*, we hosted the One Book, One Community program at our Libraries.

This year's book was the classic by E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*. The programs inspired themed crafts such as Wilbur bookmarks and flying spiders such as those made at the West Osceola Library (**LEFT**), and themed storytimes at the St. Cloud Library (**ABOVE**).



Patrons traveled around the world within the walls of the Poinciana Library thanks to our International Festival.

Each table represented a different country with traditional foods and crafts as well as a look into the country's history and culture through displays, attire, and conversation with staff **(BELOW)**.

The Festival also featured live dance performances including hula **(LEFT)** set to both traditional music as well as recognizable favorites such as songs from the Disney film, *Lilo & Stitch*.



May 2019
Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	22,973	28,762	12,806	9,620	17,709	299
Visitors	25,165	13,707	12,959	8,494	16,129	112
Computer Sessions	6,811	2,603	3,334	2,806	2,017	22
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,069	n/a	1,275	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 77 Attendance: 1241	Events: 61 Attendance: 2,802	Events: 53 Attendance: 698	Events: 55 Attendance: 893	Events: 46 Attendance: 1,026	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

*Does not include electronic resource circulation

Highlights

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 12,697, a 19% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 77,020, a 4% increase from 2018
- The Library held 284 events attended by 7,129 persons, a 15% increase in attendance over 2018
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 17,269
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville, BVL and Poinciana Libraries totaled 99,971
- 908 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 90 registered for eCards
- 9,638 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,810 resulting in 20% of print circulation
- Total circulation for May was 104,776

Highlights

Lit Mag Reception & Writing with YA Chicks

Youth writers were celebrated for their contributions to the annual production of the Osceola Library System's *Lit Mag*. In a reception attended by nearly 50 adults and kids, the winners of the author-judged prize of publication in the library-printed special magazine read aloud their works of poetry and prose, and were feted by their friends and families for their achievements. Both teens and tweens were represented in the *Lit Mag*, and their stories belie their age and experience, as they delve into subjects like isolation and identity with

complex character analysis and well-formed dialogue. Their talent is truly a gift and the *Lit Mag* is an amazing creative outlet for them to be featured and recognized.

Prior to the Lit Mag Reception, best-selling authors and *Lit Mag* judges Vivi Barnes, Christina Farley, and Amy Christine Parker provided a primer on how to create memorable characters with the budding writers in attendance asking great questions of these Florida-based young adult authors.

Free Comic Book Day

May the 4th be with you! The first Saturday of May each year is Free Comic Day, a world-wide event that began in 2002 as a way to introduce new readers to comic books and has been embraced by libraries to show that all reading is good, especially for those reluctant readers for whom the visual stimulation of comics encourages interest. At the St. Cloud and Hart Memorial Libraries, staff distributed about 2,500 free comic books to over 800 people in addition to giving out buttons, stickers, and great conversation about comic books! The comic books were provided free to the Library by the comic book industry upon request, plus additional comic books the Library had received in presenting the Fan Faire comic-con events in past years were also distributed. In a lead up to the event, staff at the Hart Memorial Library created an art challenge for children to draw their own version of a superhero and the art was displayed in Hart Memorial's lobby.

Drones to the Rescue!

The St. Cloud and Buenaventura Lakes Libraries were abuzz with the sights and sounds of drones. This fun and functional technology display was made possible by the Citizen Science GIS team from the University of Central Florida. Participants were challenged to learn about how natural disasters can be mapped and tracked with drones and were given the chance to pilot the drones to complete tasks. 85 children and grown-ups enjoyed the adventure!

Mother's Day Special Programming

Mothers were on everyone's mind as we celebrated this Very Important Person through family programming. Regular storytime was Mom-themed, including Great Beginnings storytime at Poinciana and West Osceola Libraries, Baby & Me storytime at the Buenaventura Lakes and West Osceola Libraries, and Rhythm, Rhyme and Storytime at St. Cloud Library. A special Hats Off to Mother's Day celebration at the St. Cloud Library featured excerpts from Osceola Arts' spring play, *Cinderella*, and a fancy hat craft to wear with Mom while noshing on cupcakes. 179 children and grown-ups honored Mom at the Library.

Peter Raymundo Toddler Room Reveal

The toddler room at the St. Cloud Library reopened with a splash as local children's author and illustrator Peter Raymundo debuted a fun and festive mural inspired by his Scholastic book series, *Third Grade Mermaid*. The room, renamed the A-B-Sea Adventures room, features bright paintings of Peter Raymundo's book characters including a mustachioed starfish, colorful coral, and Cora, the third grade mermaid herself. Parents and toddlers enjoyed playing with wall-mounted toys and gazing at the crocheted jellyfish hanging from the ceiling. The room was even featured in a write up by the Osceola News Gazette! Big thanks to Peter Raymundo for being a great partner to the Osceola Library System.

Gallery



Our second publication of *Lit Mag* featured talented writers of ages 9-17.

At the **Lit Mag Reception** at the Hart Memorial Library, the 2019 **Lit Mag** Winners (**ABOVE**) were able to meet with the bestselling authors who served as judges in the contest (**LEFT**), as well as learn which judge selected their work as a winner.



The Hart Memorial (ABOVE) and St. Cloud (LEFT) Libraries were honored to be official cites for Free Comic Book Day 2019.

Families of avid readers and reluctant readers alike found common ground with free comic books featuring popular franchises such as *Star Wars*, *Striker Force 7*, *Stranger Things*, *Lady Mechanika*, *Street Fighter*, and more.



Leading up to Free Comic Book Day 2019, Hart Memorial Library created a display inviting kids to draw their own superheroes (LEFT). Some of the creations featured traditional powers such as flight and super strength, while others embraced unconventional powers such as toxic spit. The display both encouraged the imagination of the participating children as well as increased their excitement for the upcoming distribution of free comics and, by extension, reading.

BELOW: The Citizen Science GIS team from the University of Central Florida visited both the Buenaventura Lakes and St. Cloud Libraries to demonstrate how drones come to the rescue in natural disasters.

After the presentation, attending families had the opportunity to jump into the virtual pilot seat of the mini-drones, and fly them through an obstacle course to complete tasks. *(Photo taken at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.)*





As a special treat in honor of Mother's Day, Osceola Arts performed excerpts of their spring play, *Cinderella*, for moms and their kids at the St. Cloud Library (ABOVE). Other Mother's Day events at the Libraries included themed storytimes and crafts such as flower portraits for mom (BELOW). (Photo taken at the St. Cloud Library.)





Scholastic author and illustrator, Peter Raymundo (LEFT), painted murals onto the walls of the St. Cloud Library's toddler room, transforming it to our newly-named A-B-Sea Adventures Room.

At the grand unveiling of the finished room, families stepped into another world under the sea, complete with crocheted jellyfish "floating" above their heads (ABOVE-LEFT).

Each family that attended the reopening were able to take home one of the hand-made jellyfish as a special keepsake of the event (ABOVE-RIGHT).



The murals feature characters from author/illustrator Peter Raymundo's books, such as Cora and friends from *The Third Grade Mermaid* (ABOVE), and Edgar the Jellyfish from his newest release *I am NOT a Fish!* (BELOW).



June 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	25,606	32,599	15,016	10,639	19,252	246
Visitors	26,234	15,094	14,533	8,998	16,504	106
Computer Sessions	6,624	2,607	3,656	2,591	1,684	24
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,616	n/a	1,275	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 76 Attendance: 1,911	Events: 67 Attendance: 2,113	Events: 64 Attendance: 1,647	Events: 61 Attendance: 1,016	Events: 53 Attendance: 1,377	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

*Does not include electronic resource circulation

System stats at a glance

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 12,644, a 20% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 81,469
- The Library held 321 events attended by 8,064 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 17,186
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville, BVL and Poinciana Libraries totaled 110,183
- 1,307 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 89 registered for eCards
- 10,835 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 21,905 resulting in 21% of print circulation
- Total circulation for June was 116,002

Highlights

STEAM Day: Summer Reading Blastoff

The temperature's climbing, school is out, and that can only mean one thing – it's Summer Reading time! The theme is A Universe of Stories, and given it's the 50th anniversary of the Apollo program and the historic Moon landing that changed the direction of humankind's history, this year's Summer Reading will be out of this world!

Families, kids, and grownups gathered at the West Osceola Library to blast off into a great summer with our 3rd STEAM Day featuring all kinds of gizmos and gadgets to spark imagination. Stations were set up across the Library to demonstrate the importance of learning and understanding science, technology, engineering, arts, and math and how ingenuity in these areas can power a brighter future. After exploring all the cool hands-on stations, everyone enjoyed an “explosive” Super Cool Science demo by Professor Christina Wilson. Also celebrated at STEAM Day was the book release of favorite local author Peter Raymundo’s *I Am NOT A Fish!* 350 budding scientists and readers with their grownups joined us for a (inter)stellar kickoff.

The space theme provides the spark for programming this summer, as we continue with events aimed at igniting curiosity and engagement across all age groups. “Space” inspired an impressive array of unique programs such as Space Jam: A Canning Demo, Galaxy Globes, University of the Universe, and Searching Beyond the Stars, giving adults compelling reasons to visit their local Libraries for fun and thought-provoking classes. Kids and their grownups had their June covered with dozens of storytimes, “Out of This World” entertainers, and interactive experiences, including visits from DoDad’s Lab, Osceola Arts, and the Central Florida Astronomical Society.

The Library had a very special opportunity to partner with WUCF, one of our local PBS affiliates, and Central Florida PBS, to present A Summer of Space PBS Kids Time storytime. The Hart Memorial and Poinciana Libraries were visited by some favorite PBS characters to read stories, make crafts, take funny photos, and just get excited about all things space, which is such an enduring part of Central Florida’s history and culture. Also in partnership with PBS, the Library hosted preview screenings of the Summer of Space: PBS Documentary Series premiering on PBS channels this summer.

In June, nearly 4,000 people enjoyed the beginning of the 2019 Summer Reading Club and there’s still a great big Universe of Stories to explore in July!

Pride Month Celebrations

For the third year in a row, the Osceola Library System has celebrated Pride Month, each year adding a new dimension of focus to bring awareness to this important aspect of community connection. Pride Month is an international cultural event celebrated in June in part as an acknowledgment of the Stonewall Uprising in June 1969, and brings awareness to an important human rights issue. This year we featured book displays, art, social media conversations, and passive programming as a way to demonstrate the Library is a safe and welcoming space for all Osceola residents and visitors.

We debuted a new passive program called the Ally Pledge, inspired by inclusion campaigns geared toward creating a pathway for “allies” to show their support for LGBTQ+ people in the school environment. The Ally Pledge featured posters in the Buenaventura Lakes and Hart Memorial Libraries where those wishing to make the Ally Pledge could sign their name. Rainbow flag buttons were also available for staff to wear during the month if they chose.

The Library partnered with the City of Kissimmee to celebrate PrideFest Kissimmee, an annual festival with live music, vendors, and more festivities, all to raise awareness of the cultural and historical contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. The Library staffed a successful outreach table at PrideFest, signing up new members, gaining an additional nearly 100 social media followers, and engaging with close to 300 people about Library

services and resources. To promote Pride Month, the Nonfiction Friends podcast broadcast live from PrideFest and over the course of the month of June featured discussions on famous LGBTQ+ persons and resources available in the Library and the community, among other topics.

A special month-long art exhibit by staff member Mindy Miles at the Buenaventura Lakes Library celebrated the LGBTQ+ community with colorful, rainbow-inspired art and quotes of positivity and encouragement, which received supportive responses on social media.

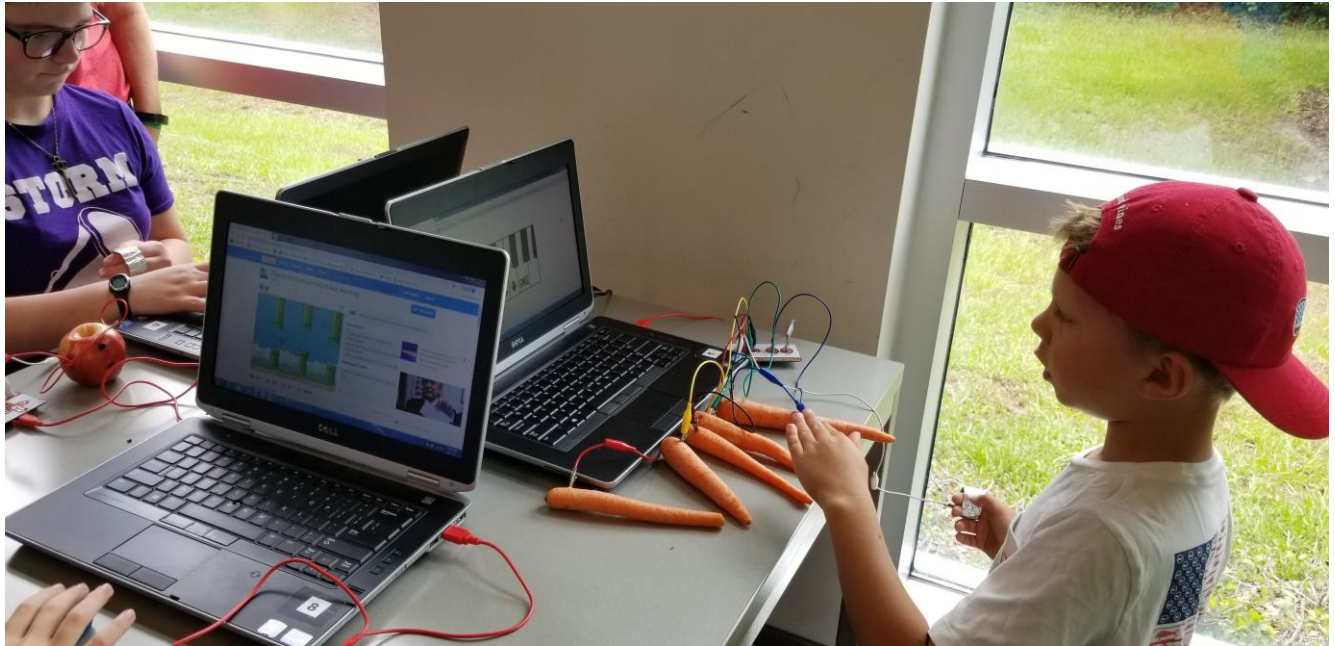
Rise Up! Book Club Debut

A new book club launched for teens ages 13-18. Beyond a traditional book club, the staff-led group focuses on diversity and the unique challenges faced by teens finding their own way through a rapidly changing universe of culture and identity. The program happens the second and fourth Friday at 4pm at the Hart Memorial Library, giving the teens a chance to hang out and share before leaping off into their weekend. Books for Rise Up! are chosen for their teen-appropriate themes of social issues, mental illness, and other topics that teens see in the world today that can be polarizing, defining, or somewhere in between. By giving the teen's space and great literature, important conversations are sparked, thoughts are shared, and hopefully empathetic thinkers and prolific readers emerge. Rise Up! is off to a great start, with nearly 30 participants so far.

Gallery



Our Summer Reading programs launched with our 3rd Annual STEAM Day at the West Osceola Library which hosted 350 budding scientists and their families (ABOVE). Included in the event's activities was the book release celebration for *I Am NOT a Fish!* by local author Peter Raymundo (standing center).



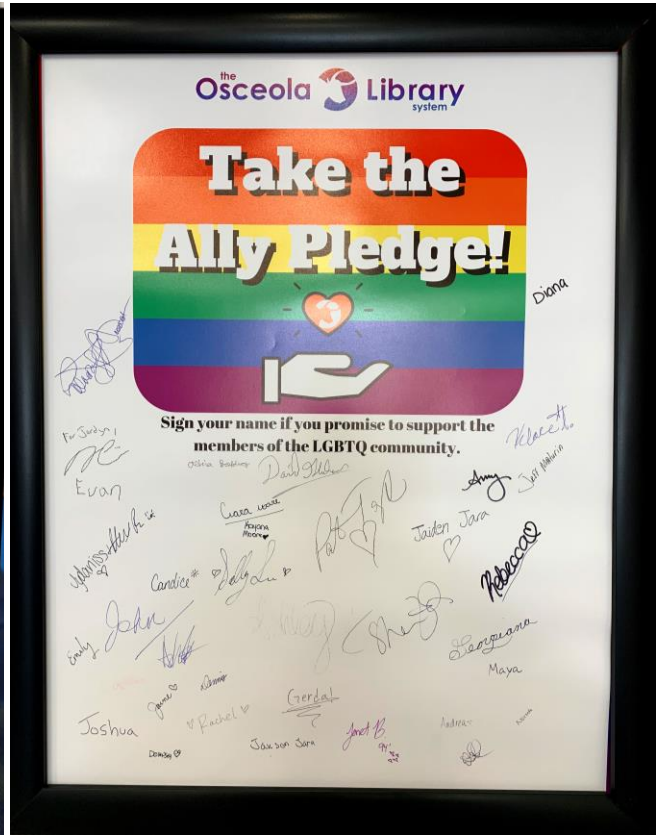
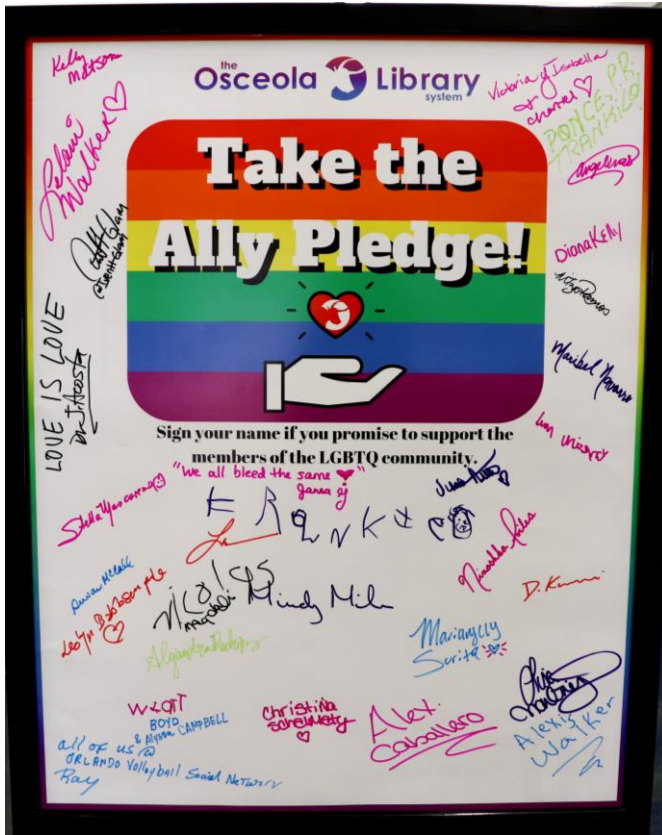
Families explored hands-on stations that incorporated Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. The Makey Makey station, for example, taught kids about circuitry by using carrots or fruits, alligator clips, and tinfoil to open and close a circuit to create music on the computer **(ABOVE)**. Afterward, Professor Christina Wilson of Super Cool Science gave an exciting presentation that proved how amazing science could be **(BELOW)**.





Keeping with the Summer theme of A Universe of Stories, **adults and children participated in space-themed programs across the Libraries.** WUCF presented PBS Kids Time where kids made their own “moon shoes” and space masks **(ABOVE – LEFT)**. Adults made their own planetary lights at the St. Cloud Library in their Galaxy Globes program **(ABOVE – RIGHT)**. And performers such as DoDad’s Lab taught families about our solar system through experiments, songs, and dance **(BELOW)**. *(PBS Kids Time and DoDad’s Lab photos were taken at the Hart Memorial Library.)*





ABOVE: This year's Pride Month celebration was the debut of our Ally Pledge program where visitors and staff at the Buenaventura Lakes (ABOVE – LEFT) and Hart Memorial Libraries (ABOVE – RIGHT) were able to sign their names as a visual symbol of their promise to support members of the LGBTQ+ community. We also partnered with the City of Kissimmee to celebrate PrideFest Kissimmee (LEFT) where we connected hundreds to Library services.



Our Pride Month celebration also featured an art exhibit by staff member Mindy Miles at the Buenaventura Lakes Library (ABOVE). The exhibit incorporated flags, quotes, and symbols in support of the LGBTQ+ community and was on display for the entirety of the month. LEFT: Hart Memorial Library debuted their new Teen Diversity Club, Rise Up! The book club focuses on titles centered on important themes such as social issues, mental health, identity, and others that teens may face or are currently facing in their life, while simultaneously providing a safe space for teens to discuss issues important to them.