

July 2018 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	BVL	Poinciana	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	25,545	15,556	9,502	15,955	15,897	89
Circulation	28,875	31,657	11,011	14,204	18,758	244
Computer Sessions	6,588	2,709	2,388	3,901	1,779	27
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,569	2,044	n/a	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 96 Attendance: 2,082	Events: 88 Attendance: 3,521	Events: 47 Attendance: 2,369	Events: 54 Attendance: 1,905	Events: 45 Attendance: 1,016	n/a

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,377 up 18% from 2017
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 82,544
- The Library held 330 events attended by 10,893 persons, a 22% increase over 2017
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 21,005
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial Library and St. Cloud Library 60,903
- A total of 1,223 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 114 registered for eCards
- 10,662 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 19,624 resulting in nearly 17% of circulation
- Total circulation for July was 116,126, up 28% from 2017

July 2018 Highlights

Summer Reading in July

So many wonderful programs were planned for this month’s Summer Reading Club. Here are a few highlights:

Central Florida Community Arts showcased pieces of an orchestra for a hands-on family learning experience in their “Instrument Petting Zoo.” Examples from the brass, string, woodwind and

percussion family were available to “pet” or play. Over 100 kids and grownups tested their musical skills.

Deputies from the Osceola Sheriff’s Department brought along their good buddy Murphy the K9 dog to the Poinciana and West Osceola Libraries to discuss stranger danger and how to prevent crime in your neighborhood. More than 80 kids and grownups learned important lessons and visited with Murphy. At West Osceola, Murphy even pitched in with shelving and checking out!

The Buenaventura Lakes Library gathered together important members of the community, local health providers, and businesses for their 2nd Change 4 Life Health and Safety Fair. 55 participants received information on wellness and wellbeing, and professionals were on hand to provide free vision screening, blood pressure checks, and other healthy family opportunities.

Osceola County Government lent their amazing support for two family events. At the Poinciana Library, Road & Bridge let kids and grownups “Touch a Truck” when they rolled up in their GRADLL Excavator, and 28 kids and grownups got close and personal with this impressive machine. The Hart Memorial Library enjoyed this event in June. At the St. Cloud Library, Animal Services discussed responsible pet ownership and the importance of adoption with 94 kids and grownups, followed by the opportunity to pet a precious pup.

Summer Reading Wrap Up

Our two-month long Summer Reading Club ended in July with a rockin’ good time for adults and kids. Summer reading favorites Bucki & Gigi clowned around at all five libraries with their “Cruisin’ Into Comedy” show featuring magic, mime, physical comedy, dance, and a darling doggo named Zeus. On the adult side, the St. Cloud and Hart Memorial Libraries danced the night away at their Sock Hop Summer Wrap Up parties, sponsored in part by the Friends of the Library. Attendees dusted off their poodle skirts and letterman jackets and had a blast with dancing and themed activities. Nearly 650 kids and grownups celebrated the end of another great summer at the Library. Between programs, classes, outreaches, tours and camp activities, the Osceola Library System reached over 11,000 kids and grownups with its message of summer reading and learning rocks!

Makerbot Unveiling

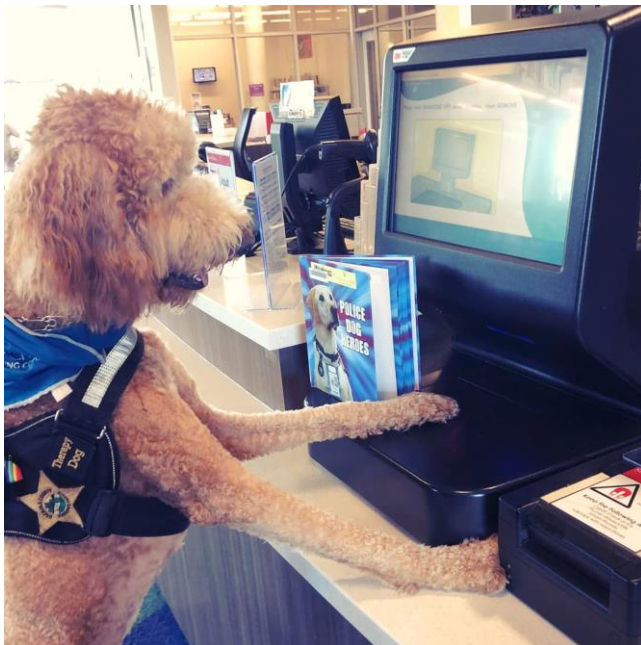
Commissioner Viviana Janer celebrated the launch of the new Makerbot Replicator+ 3D printer with patrons and staff at the Buenaventura Lakes Library. Commissioner Janer generously donated the cutting edge technology so the community could gain knowledge about and benefit from what’s new in STEAM technology. Samples of 3D-printed technology were presented to patrons as a take-away and classes are scheduled to kick off in August to teach the ins and outs of how to work with the Makerbot Replicator+.

Gallery



LEFT: Central Florida Community Arts helping a child try out a trombone at the West Osceola Library.

BELOW-LEFT AND BELOW-RIGHT: The Osceola Sheriff's Department visited the Poinciana and West Osceola Libraries with **Murphy the K9 dog**. After their presentation at the West Osceola Library, Murphy was kind enough to help us with a little bit of shelving and checkouts!





ABOVE: Families receive information about different health services in their community at Buenaventura Lakes Library's 2nd Change for Life Health and Safety Fair.

LEFT: Animal Services visits the St. Cloud Library to speak on responsible pet ownership and the importance of adoption.



LEFT: Families dress up in their '50s best and danced away the night at our Sock Hop Summer Wrap Up parties, celebrating the end of Summer Reading Club. *(Photo taken at the Hart Memorial Library)*

BELOW: Crowd favorites Bucky & Gigi and their pal, Zeus, wrap up the Kids Summer Reading Club at the Libraries. Their act featured music, mime, shenanigans, and tricks -- wowing the kiddos and ending summer with a belly full of laughs. *(Photo taken at the Buenaventura Lakes Library)*





ABOVE: Commissioner Viviana Janer unveils the Makerbot Replicator+, the new 3D printer she generously donated to the Buenaventura Lakes Library.

LEFT: Attendees at the Makerbot Replicator+ unveiling had the chance to see the 3D printer at work and take home 3D printed souvenirs.

August 2018 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	BVL	Poinciana	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	28,068	15,832	8,932	15,453	16,100	106
Circulation	27,441	29,999	9,503	8,663	17,759	220
Computer Sessions	6,983	2,858	2,995	4,215	1,767	32
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,131	1,358	n/a	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 97 Attendance: 1,547	Events: 52 Attendance: 1,207	Events: 32 Attendance: 564	Events: 51 Attendance: 465	Events: 35 Attendance: 944	Events: 1 Attendance: 5

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,043 up 25% from 2017
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 84,491
- The Library held 268 events attended by 4,728 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 21,339, an increase of 11%
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 73,287
- 1,405 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 147 registered for eCards
- 9,737 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 18,731 resulting in nearly 17% of circulation
- Total circulation for August was 110,681, up 25% from 2017

Highlights

Back to School Bashes

The Summer Reading program officially wrapped up in July, but the summer fun kept going in late July and August. Both Buenaventura Lakes and Hart Memorial Libraries celebrated the impending return to school with back pack giveaways, refreshments, stories and even a princess.

On July 30, the Buenaventura Lakes Library was the place to be as Commissioner Janer coordinated the generous distribution of 500 book bags and school supplies to parents and children. The following Friday, Commissioner Grieb presented a “royal” storytime complete with crowns and a knight from Medieval Times, after distributing over 100 backpacks and supplies to a packed children’s library. We are grateful to the commissioners for their commitment to ensuring school age children have the tools they need to be ready to learn at the start of the school year and for partnering with the Library for these back pack giveaways.

The Living Library: Diversity in Our Community

This month we kicked off our series entitled Living Library with the goal of encouraging participants to engage in conversation with others to learn more about different aspects of life in Osceola County and the diversity of its citizens, to challenge stereotypes, get informed about the community, and, most of all, practice conversational skills in a friendly and safe environment. The Living Libraries are made possible by a grant from the American Library Association and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

August’s Living Library focused on “Diversity in Our Community” and featured several prominent community members speaking about their personal experiences, how those experiences have shaped their lives and world view and in turn what impact it’s had on the growth and development of Osceola County. Guests included:

- Dr. Kausik Mukhopadhyay: a scientist originally from India and now currently a UCF faculty member who also has a joint appointment with BRIDG, representing the advanced technology aspect of our county.
- Victoria Laos: a transgender activist representing the LGBTQA community. She is an advocate and Contigo Fund Decision Maker, which helps to strengthen and support grassroots causes of the Latinx and LGBTQA community.
- Richard and Melissa: a homeless couple who are consistent patrons of the Hart Memorial Library and volunteers at Daily Bread of the Christian Service Center.
- Jeremy Lanier: representing one of our pioneer families, the Laniers. Jeremy works at Lanier's Historic Downtown Marketplace, and brought a host of memorabilia and photos representing the history of Kissimmee.
- Dayivet Velez: a student at Osceola High School and survivor of Hurricane Maria who relocated to Osceola after the storm with her family. She is a published author along with fellow Osceola High School students who contributed to the book *Coming to America* about their immigration journeys.

It was very much a moving experience for everyone involved and will hopefully be repeated in the future.

Prevención de Diabetes (Diabetes Prevention) and Physician Lecture Series

The Poinciana Library has found success with offering health-related programming presented by experts in the field. In August, they presented two series that resonated with audiences in that community: Prevención de Diabetes and Physician Lecture Series.

The Diabetes prevention program is sponsored by the Hispanic Federation and consists of weekly meeting with health sponsors and diabetes prevention specialists who help design and encourage healthy living strategies, presented in Spanish.

The Physician Lecture Series brings doctors from the Poinciana Medical Center to the Poinciana Library for Q&A sessions on heart disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and more.

Libraries are a fantastic place to bridge the knowledge gap for citizens when it comes to their health. With these informational health programs, the Library becomes a place the community can turn to for factual and timely information to enable them to take an active role in managing their health and well-being.

TBLC VIP Conference

Branch Manager Candice Casey and Youth Specialist Jonathan Robbins Leon traveled to the University of South Florida to present at the Tampa Bay Library Consortium VIP Conference which focuses on professional development for Library paraprofessionals.

Having partnered together on several multi-generational events, they gave pointers on planning programs that appeal to a range of ages. After discussing techniques for engaging kids vs. adults and sharing some of their favorite successes, they discussed how to tell when a program could work as a multi-generational event and how to tell when something works best when it's offered exclusively to one age group. It was a very well received presentation!

The Osceola Library System also sent two additional staff to attend workshops and make connections.

Gallery



RIGHT: Commissioner Viviana Janer distributes 500 book bags and supplies to children at the Buenaventura Lakes Library's Back to School Bash.

BELOW: After distributing 100 book bags and supplies to students, Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, dressed as a Queen, had the Green Knight from Medieval Times knight all the students in attendance at Hart Memorial Library's Back to School Bash.



RIGHT: Hart Memorial Library hosted the first of our **Living Library series**, focused on “Diversity in Our Community.”

Among the featured individuals was **student and author, Dayivet Velez**, (far left in the photo) sharing her experience with surviving Hurricane Maria and relocating to Osceola with her family.



September 2018 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	25,812	15,035	15,567	6,966	15,086	117
Circulation	27,218	28,708	15,022	10,433	17,058	203
Computer Sessions	6,935	4,234	3,649	4,508	1,936	43
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,216	n/a	1,464	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 100 Attendance: 1,275	Events: 65 Attendance: 1,286	Events: 73 Attendance: 1,059	Events: 43 Attendance: 776	Events: 30 Attendance: 1,013	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,105, up 31% from 2017
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 78,583 up 20% from 2017
- The Library held 311 events attended by 6,957 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 21,305, an increase of 25%
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 82,399
- 1,268 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 15 registered for eCards
- 8,462 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 19,165 resulting in nearly 17% of circulation
- Total circulation for September was 109,747, up 43% from 2017

Highlights

Accio Harry Potter Month!

Talented wizards casted the Homenum Revelio spell over the St. Cloud Library during the month of September as hundreds of muggles streamed in to enjoy Harry Potter-themed events and displays. Kicking off the festivities was the after-hours event, Sorcerers at Sunset: an Evening of Muggles & Magic, on September 1 to commemorate the start of the school year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Nearly 400 “students” played games like Quidditch Pong, enrolled in “Potions Class,” attended Care of Magical Creatures

(Hagrid and his hippogriff stayed home) with special guest Amazing Animals, and competed in the staff-conjured Harry Potter Dark Arts Dash escape room. The creativity of the St. Cloud Library staff was on full display as events continued throughout the month for all ages, reaching over 800 kids and adults engaged in a variety of Harry Potter-themed programming like Are you Smarter than a Potterhead? and Hedgwig's Heroes: the Owls of Hogwarts with the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey.

Longing for Africa

Celebration-based author Annie Schrank wrote her first memoir, *Longing for Africa: Book One: Ethiopia* about the time Jane Goodall inspired her to take her own adventurous journey as a young woman. In her presentation to 25 attendees at the West Osceola Library, Annie detailed her time spent in Ethiopia as a direct result of that inspiration – a year of civil war, a country-wide famine, and a Communist-backed military coup that toppled the 400-year-old monarchy led by Haile Selassie. Attendees enjoyed her slide show highlighting scenes from her adventures. She will be back at the West Osceola Library on November 13 at 7pm to talk about memoir-writing in general. All writers (or aspiring writers!) are encouraged to attend as Annie will embark on another safari to Africa, and sharing excerpts from her upcoming memoir, *Book Two: Kenya*.

Volunteer Fair

The Volunteer Fair is an annual event that brings together various organizations in one to highlight local places where volunteers are needed. Each year results in a different array of organizations, and different crowds of attendees. This year our organizations included For Our Future, Bookmark Buddies, Helping Paws Humane Society, CAAIRE, The Center Orlando, Snit-It Clinic, Adult Literacy League, Spay the Strays, Central Florida USO, Bishop Grady Villas, Help Now of Osceola County, and Cornerstone Hospice.

The organizations were arranged based on the minimum age required to volunteer, with cards on each table showing their age requirement. Word was sent to the local high schools about the event and shared by guidance counselors and teachers. There was also a teen summit occurring at the Civic Center next door, so many of the teens were able to attend both events, ultimately bringing in 87 attendees total.

Great Gatsby Poker Night

The Great Gatsby Poker Night was really an afternoon multi-generational affair co-hosted by the Kissimmee Paranormal Investigators. KPI happened to have a variety of equipment needed to host a poker night, as well as skilled people to teach the public, and an interest in theming it to the 1920s. They provided tables for roulette, Texas Hold 'Em, and Blackjack, as well as prizes for winners of the poker tournament that they made. The Library linked the theme to the Great Gatsby in celebration of F. Scott Fitzgerald's birthday by providing photo ops (including a guest appearance by a model A car parked outside), playing the movie for atmosphere, mocktails (non-alcoholic versions of drinks popular in the 1920's), snacks, and activities including making 1920's style headbands and bowties made from discarded books. The event was a success with 58 in attendance of all ages, many of which dressed up for the occasion.

The Living Library – Welcome Home

The Living Library series continued at the Poinciana Library in support of the American Dream Literacy Initiative’s goal of creating informative and welcoming opportunities for new learners of English to practice their skills while engaging with members of the community. The focus this time was connecting new residents with all the available services one may need to make their new home in the Poinciana community. 22 participants spoke with representatives from Access Outreach Center, Help Now of Osceola County, Osceola Sheriff’s Department, and more.

Gallery



St. Cloud Library’s Harry Potter month kickoff event, Sorcerers at Sunset, had muggles and wizards enjoying themed games and activities such as Quidditch Pong (**ABOVE-LEFT**), costume contests (**ABOVE-RIGHT**), and special presentations (**BELOW**).





Among St. Cloud Library's events in the month-long celebration of Harry Potter, the **St. Cloud Friends of the Library** sponsored the program **Hedwig's Heroes: The Owls of Hogwarts**. The **Audubon Center for Birds of Prey** brought three owls to the **Library** to educate patrons on what owl qualities the Harry Potter films or books accurately or inaccurately portrayed.

Among the owls brought into the Library were Maple the Barred Owl (**LEFT**) and Sanford the Eastern Screech Owl (**BELOW**).

Adults and children alike enjoyed the up-close encounter with the owls while the Audubon representatives shared interesting facts.





Hart Memorial Library's Great Gatsby Poker Night, co-hosted by Kissimmee Paranormal Investigations, was a 1920s themed celebration in honor of F. Scott Fitzgerald's birthday. Attendees learned how to play poker, blackjack, and other themed card games, while dressed in their best 1920s attire. A model A car was also featured outside for photo-ops.





ABOVE: Poinciana Library hosts the next installment of the Living Library series with the theme “Welcome Home.” Representatives from local organizations spoke with attendees about the different services or resources available to them to make their home in the Poinciana community.

LEFT: Local Author Annie Schrank visits the West Osceola Library to speak on the first of her memoirs, *Longing for Africa*, about her time in Ethiopia inspired by Jane Goodall.



ABOVE: Hart Memorial Library's annual Volunteer Fair featured over a dozen organizations with open positions to volunteer. 87 teens and adults spoke with organization representatives about how they can give back to their community.

October 2018 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	27,557	16,641	16,800	10,374	20,035	129
Circulation	29,649	30,742	16,272	11,927	18,604	206
Computer Sessions	7,743	3,028	4,448	3,327	1,958	47
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,361	n/a	1,481	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 94 Attendance: 1,819	Events: 54 Attendance: 1,365	Events: 70 Attendance: 1,044	Events: 61 Attendance: 1,921	Events: 40 Attendance: 1,121	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,668, up 30% from 2017
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 91,536, up 6% from 2017
- The Library held 319 events attended by 7,270 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 20,551
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 85,167
- 1,295 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 92 registered for eCards
- 9,697 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 20,432 resulting in nearly 17% of circulation
- Total circulation for September was 119,068, up 14% from 2017

Highlights

Caturday Cat Faire

Over 600 attendees celebrated all things cats at the Hart Memorial Library's Caturday Cat Faire. This unique Library event featured cats available for adoption through Spay the Strays, a nonprofit animal rescue who brought fully vaccinated, spayed/neutered, micro-chipped cats that were ready for their fur-ever homes. Aspiring cat owners or those who already owned cats (as they like to think, but we know the cats really own them) had their medical questions answered on-site by a vet from Tender Hearts Animal Hospital.

Featured guests included Mitchell Osborn, Pet Psychic and Intuitive Soul Coach, speaking about animal communication, and New York Times Bestselling Author Ali Brandon (Diane A.S. Stuckart), sharing her experience and advice on writing using an animal's voice. Cat-related games and activities enjoyed by all ages included a "Cattify Yourself" Station, face-painting, cat photo-ops, an obstacle course, a robot mouse coding game, create your own cat toys, and cat card games. Patrons also browsed vendor stations and spoke to local cat-book authors. The event closed with a Crazy Cat T-Shirt Contest and raffle prize drawings, which included tickets to Big Cat Rescue as well as staff-made cat houses.

New Services Launched

October saw the launch of three new services at the Osceola Library System. Notary service is now offered by staff at each Library. Eight notaries at all six Libraries have completed or are in the process of completing coursework and gaining certification to perform notary services. This is a free service to the community.

Patrons now have a more convenient method of paying account fees. Credit card readers have been installed at each service desk. Previously patrons could only pay by credit via the online catalog, but now patrons can use credit cards to resolve account issues while visiting the Library and checking out materials.

And the last exciting service launched in October was our new Educator Card, which gives classroom teachers in public and private schools the opportunity to take out up to 100 resources and place 50 holds for their classrooms. This is a huge bonus for schools lacking a comprehensive media center or for schools where classroom materials are limited. So far 19 educators have taken out Educator Cards.

3D Printing On Demand

The Buenaventura Lakes Library began offering access to a new technology -- 3D printing on demand -- and it has inspired an interest in design and in discovering how technology is changing how we imagine and create, encouraging customers to use their talents to bring their creations to life. The community has shown a keen interest in this new service with the Buenaventura Lakes Library now receiving daily 3D printing requests for a variety of projects, such as animals, Christmas decorations, unique characters, and even Friends of the Library badges. To promote learning and creativity with this exciting technology, the Library launched 3D Tech Tutoring sessions where patrons receive individualized training on how to use popular 3D printing software and the basics of the Makerbot Replicator+. The BVL Library is able to offer 3D printing on demand and workshops on the use of 3D printing technology due to the generous support of Commissioner Viviana Janer.

Arte Bajo la Sombrilla/Art Under the Umbrella

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month the Buenaventura Lakes Library hosted Arte Bajo la Sombrilla/Art Under the Umbrella sponsored by Tertulia Cuatro Gatos, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Spanish literature, art, music, and culture. Organized by its founder, Maria Emma Fernandez, and Tertulia's coordinator, Luisa Sanchez, the event received 250 attendees and provided an excellent opportunity to experience a variety of Hispanic cultures as seen through dance, musical performances, poetry readings, fashion, and art. Guests included Commissioner Viviana Janer, who opened the event with remarks about the Buenaventura Lakes community, local artisans such as Alberto Quintero, who generously displayed his artwork throughout the event, as well as dance performances that highlighted the culture of Venezuela, Spain, and Panama. A big thank you goes to the Tertulia Cuarto Gatos for the hard work and dedication they have devoted to the Buenaventura Lakes Library during their two-year partnership with Osceola Library System.

Adventures in BOOville (and Other Halloween Hauntings)

It was a scary good time at the Library in October! Spooktacular events throughout the month brought out all the little guys and ghouls celebrating the changing of seasons (wishful thinking!). Actors Reaching Out helped 121 kids and grownups celebrate the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein at the Monster Mash Bash! Frankenstein Jr. program presented at the St. Cloud, Buenaventura Lakes, and West Osceola Libraries. Actors Reaching Out also visited the Poinciana Library for more tricks and treats at Poinciana's annual Spooky Spectacular where 130 kids and grownups enjoyed a haunted escape room, games, and activities. Many of our regular storytimes and programs were given spine-tingling themes in honor of the season. Library staff partnered with Kissimmee Main Street and the Early Learning Coalition to provide spooky stories and book giveaways to attendees of the Boo on Broadway – Adventures in BOOville annual event. 200 kids and grownups stopped for a thrilling tale and over 1,200 books were distributed.

Gallery



Our first Caturday Cat Faire at Hart Memorial Library featured cat adoptions through Spay the Strays **(LEFT)**. Before the event's end, some of the cats had found fur-ever homes among the attendees. One of Caturday Cat Faire's speakers was New York Times Bestselling Author Ali Brandon (Diane A.S. Stuckart) **(BELOW)** who spoke on writing with an animal's voice and awarded cat-themed trivia prizes to attendees with the correct answers.





Among the **cat-themed activities** at Hart Memorial Library's Caturday Cat Faire was our Feline Frenzy obstacle course (**ABOVE**). Players of all ages became the house cat and completed typical cat duties such as knocking cans off a shelf, finding the "poo" in the litter box, and avoiding the red lasers to at last sit in the comfiest chair in the house.

Kiddos also had the opportunity to learn STEAM skills through our "Mouse Box" game (**LEFT**) where they had to program a robotic mouse to avoid the cat and find the cheese. The robot mice were a fun way for kiddos to learn about coding in a way that was easy to understand.



LEFT: 3D printed items on display at the Buenaventura Lakes Library promoting their 3D Printing on Demand service. Patrons are now able to send files to the Library for 3D printing, opening the doors for unique projects and for patrons to express their creativity. **BELOW: The Buenaventura Lakes Library hosted Arte Bajo la Sombrilla,** a celebration of Spanish art, literature, and culture. Several hand-painted umbrellas were displayed outside the Library by local artisans.





(LEFT AND BELOW) Arte Bajo la Sombrilla at the Buenaventura Lakes Library, sponsored by Tertulia Cuatro Gatos, also featured dance performances that celebrated the culture of Panama, Spain, and Venezuela.

LEFT: Dance performers dressed in the traditional attire of the country they represented. The two women dressed in pink and white on either side and the gentleman in the center represented Spain, while the two women in the center represented Venezuela.

RIGHT: Five dancers represented Panama in traditional white dresses and suits, complete with floral adornments for the women.

Other ways Hispanic culture was represented was through poetry readings, musical performances, and displayed art. 250 attendees celebrated their heritage, and shared their history, at the Library.





The Library celebrated Halloween through fun and spooky events in October. Hart Memorial Library staff represented the Osceola Library System at Boo On Broadway (LEFT), in partnership with Kissimmee Mainstreet, providing spooky stories to 200 kiddos and over 1,200 book giveaways. Meanwhile, the branches hosted themed storytimes and events for the holiday such as the Monster Mash Bash! Frankenstein Jr. program at the Buenaventura Lakes Library (BELOW).



November 2018 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	22,092	14,206	12,252	8,261	15,289	120
Circulation	26,201	27,208	14,647	10,720	16,906	243
Computer Sessions	6,027	2,347	3,294	2,696	1,920	24
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,302	n/a	1,259	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 71 Attendance: 874	Events: 43 Attendance: 1,175	Events: 31 Attendance: 264	Events: 44 Attendance: 644	Events: 27 Attendance: 476	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 11,894, up 31% from 2017
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 72,220
- The Library held 216 events attended by 3,433 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 16,308
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 78,010
- 899 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 55 registered for eCards
- 6,669 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,727 resulting in nearly 16% of circulation
- Total circulation for November was 107,809, up nearly 8% from 2017

Highlights

New Opportunities

November has bestowed upon us a bounty of positive recognition thanks to the persistence and creativity of our staff. The Library is again the recipient of the Prime Time Family Literacy grant from the Florida Humanities Council. The grant is a one-time award of \$2,000 to be spent on books and support for engaging inter-generational programming designed to encourage reading and discussion. The program should kick off in early Spring 2019 at the St. Cloud Library, facilitated by Crystal Hamrick and Lisa Jones.

Dagmar Lopez and Candice Casey will give a presentation at May's Florida Library Association conference on what they learned on their trip to Puerto Rico earlier this year. The trip was made possible by the American Dream Literacy Initiative following the major hurricane that dramatically impacted the socioeconomic future of Puerto Rico. Dagmar and Candice made the journey in an effort to learn more about the culture of library service and use on the island and determine how we can better serve an enduring Puerto Rican population in Central Florida.

Tinker Town Grand Opening

Tinker Town is open for business! The Homework/Tutoring Room at Hart Memorial Library has been converted to a STEAM room for our littlest engineers under age 5. Staff used existing furniture to repurpose the space into a bright, inviting play/learn area with building toys like Duplo, wall activities, and cozy seating to encourage grownups to stay and engage with their children as they design, build, and play. Board books were also placed in this space to connect reading with imaginative play. The room has been a hit, especially on storytime days.

Tech Table Donation from Commissioner Grieb

Commissioner Cheryl Grieb made a generous and surprise donation of two Tech Tables, child-friendly workstations that feature iPads loaded with the Osceola Reads free reading app, Footsteps2Brilliance. One table was placed at Hart Memorial Library and the other at the St. Cloud Library. The app is designed to teach the fundamentals of reading through interactive technology. The tables are great additions to our children's areas.

Fall Festivities

It was 90 degrees outside but in our minds, the leaves were turning gold and red and there was a chill in the air as we celebrated fall holidays with food, crafts, stories, and BUBBLES! Chef Caterson gave expert advice on how to not ruin Thanksgiving with dry turkey (among other things), kids and grownups gobbled up the fun at the Poinciana Library's and West Osceola Library's Turkeypalooza, and the St. Cloud Library frolicked into fall with their Fall Frolic and Crafters Fair featuring the Big Idea Bubble Show, storytelling, music and games, plus unique crafts presented by local artisans. Over 160 enjoyed their warm fall celebrations with us.

Florida Author Fest

In honor of National Novel Writing Month, the St. Cloud Library held its first Florida Author Fest, hosting over 30 local authors who set up tables to display their works. Authors conducted meet-and-greets with attendees who were able to purchase works and get them signed. As an added bonus, authors had the chance to mingle and network with other authors. A wide range of genres was represented such as Spiritual, Biography and Memoirs, Historical Fiction, Erotic Fiction, Paranormal Romance, Florida History, Reference, Children's Literature, Poetry, Teen, and authors who write en Español. The event was attended by 280 authors and literature aficionados. The focus of this event was the author meet and greet as a vehicle to establish interest and connections with authors. The St. Cloud Library is planning future author events, including breakout sessions, author panels, writing presentations/workshops, and much more.

Gallery



Hart Memorial Library's new Tinker Town opened its doors for the first time this month.

LEFT: One of the families attending the grand opening pose for a photo at the entrance.

BELOW: Tinker Town is a safe space for young engineers and their guardians to read, learn, and explore, with toys and tools for different stages of development.

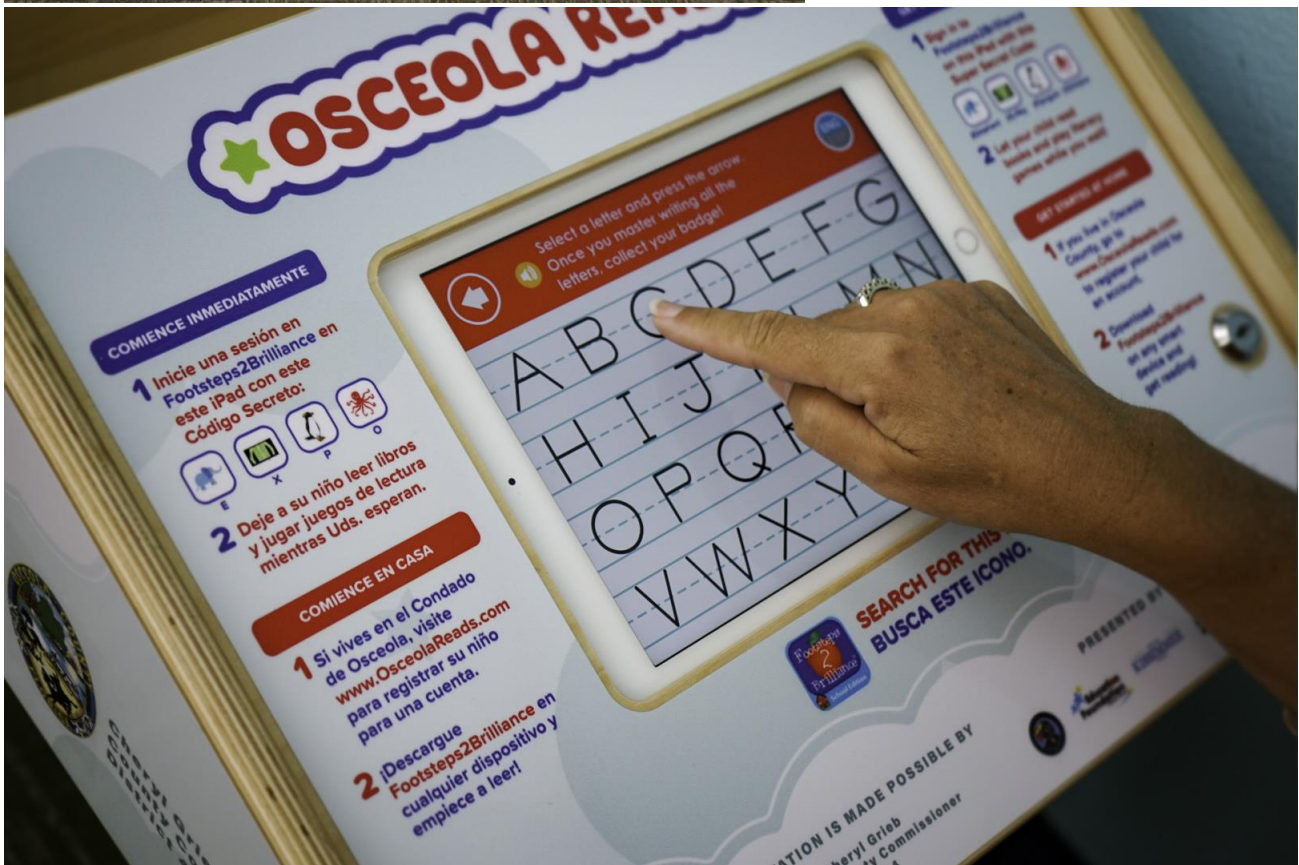




Commissioner Cheryl Grieb donates two Reading Tables, one each to the Hart Memorial and St. Cloud Libraries.

LEFT: Commissioner Cheryl Grieb commemorates the installment of Hart Memorial Library's Reading Table with a photo alongside our Director, Branch Manager, Youth Specialist, and Youth Services Manager.

BELOW: The Reading Tables, powered by Osceola Reads' Footsteps2Brilliance app, teaches children how to read and write through interactive activities. The app is accessible with previously made accounts, or by using an account created by Commissioner Grieb for Library use.





ABOVE: Award-winning author Chef Warren visited Hart Memorial Library and shared helpful tips and tricks on making a successful Thanksgiving meal, and delicious leftovers.

LEFT: Attendees enjoyed leftover turkey made on the spot and learned how a meat-based broth could make all the difference when reheating leftover dishes.



ABOVE: The St. Cloud Library's Florida Author Fest featured award-winning and local authors across genres. Visitors were able to speak to the authors one-on-one and many had their purchases signed on the spot.

LEFT: Families bonded at our Turkeypaloozas with turkey-themed stories and crafts. *(Photo taken at the Poinciana Library.)*

December 2018 Monthly Update

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	20,474	11,041	10,404	6,576	12,215	98
Circulation	24,016	24,160	13,436	10,162	16,503	266
Computer Sessions	5,642	2,089	3,086	2,325	1,768	37
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	829	n/a	933	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 70 Attendance: 927	Events: 54 Attendance: 944	Events: 33 Attendance: 329	Events: 36 Attendance: 590	Events: 29 Attendance: 440	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

*Does not include electronic resource circulation

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 35,362, up 31% from 2017
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 224,564
- The Library held 222 events attended by 3,230 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 14,947
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville and Poinciana Libraries totaled 72,872
- 585 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 78 registered for eCards
- 8,514 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 14,694 resulting in nearly 5% of circulation
- Total circulation for December was 327,291, up 7% from 2017

Highlights

December came in for a smooth landing, like a flying sleigh landing on snowy drift. As the twinkle lights came on around the community, a chill was in the air and everyone was prepping for a festive season, the Library rounded out a very successful 2018 with holiday events, grant awards, and some spiffy new wheels.

Everything is Awesome at the Jolly Holiday Parties!

It's a tradition every year and the holiday celebrations were in full swing at the Jolly Holiday parties featured at the West Osceola, Buenaventura Lakes, St. Cloud, and Poinciana Libraries. Mrs. Claus stopped by to join the festivities and tell a story as revelers sipped cocoa, played games, crafted Christmas decorations, and some

even jumped aboard the Polar (Parking Lot) Express! As an extra festive twist, each of the Jolly Holiday parties was themed to a decade or time period and the activities at each branch reflected popular traditions of that era. 169 attendees had a jolly good time. In a twist on the holiday party theme, the Hart Memorial Library celebrated the season with an Everything is Awesome: LEGO® Holiday Party. Building stations, LEGO-themed crafts, and creative games reinforced the theme that families that create and play together, “stick together.” 79 kids and grownups “clicked” with this event.

LSTA Innovation Grant

The Library was awarded the LSTA Innovation Grant by the State Library of Florida totaling nearly \$3000. Libraries across the state competed for grant funds for technology based projects. The funds will be used to purchase resources to improve our digital promotion efforts such as creating promotional film spots for social media and the website, documenting local history, delivering on demand storytime and instructional opportunities, and supporting live coverage of events. We will be purchasing a new digital camera, lighting kits, microphones, cell phone, and a cell phone stabilizer.

New Vans

The Library has new vans! Our two 2003 workhorses saw their final days in December, retiring after 15 years of crisscrossing the County and sometimes the State to get materials and people safely where they needed to go. Those vans have witnessed lots of Library history and will be auctioned off by the County’s Fleet Management department, so who knows what their next adventure will be? Plans are in the works to have the new vans customized to be a source of rolling visual promotion for the Library as they travel across the County.

Storybook Trail

The West Osceola Library created the wonderful Storybook Trail that takes kids and grownups on a journey outside the Library. Staff created a story based on Holidays Around the World and set up placards with a story placed outside the branch to be followed and read, creating an interactive literacy experience that takes advantage of West Osceola’s lovely lawn. The Storybook Trail stayed up through the month of December and at the conclusion of the program, a lucky patron won a four-pack of tickets to the Crayola Experience!

American Dream Grant Wraps Up

The American Dream Grant program had its grand finale at the Everyday English Graduation Ceremony at the Hart Memorial Library. Students who attended more than 50 hours of the English conversational classes presented by ALCO teachers were awarded Kindle Fires preloaded with all of the popular Library apps. Some of those students actually concluded with up to 70 hours! Staff and ALCO teachers were on hand to celebrate their students with signed certificates, and the afternoon rounded out with a rousing game of Pictionary and snacks.

Part of the American Dream grant was the opportunity to develop promotional materials that would address the division within some of our communities regarding how much they know or understand what the Library can do for them and their families. Advertisements at two local bus shelters have been installed. These advertisements can be currently found on Michigan Avenue near Carol Street and on Bill Beck Blvd by Gateway High School. The ads will move to various locations around the County, gaining us exposure to residents and visitors who may not know about the Library or the basic services we offer. Additionally, each branch received A-Frame signs to station outside (when the weather cooperates!), presenting a poster that enumerates our basic services. The Library will be investing in more promotional efforts that target underserved residents,

using plain language that speaks to the core of our Library's offerings, with the emphasis on all of it being FREE!

Gallery



Holiday celebrations spread cheer throughout all of our branches with our Jolly Holiday Through the Decades parties and our Everything is Awesome Lego® Holiday Party.

Some of our Jolly Holidays featured stories from the North Pole told by Mrs. Claus herself (**LEFT**), while families found out how well they “stuck” together with block-themed games and activities at the LEGO® Party (**BELOW**).

Photos taken at the Poinciana and Hart Memorial Libraries.

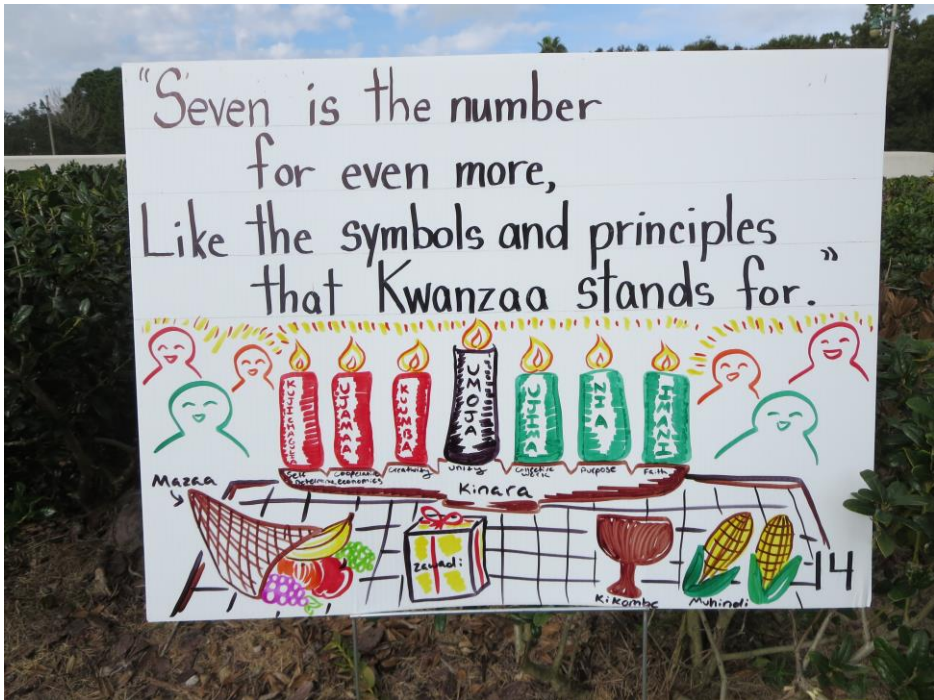




LEFT: We celebrated the arrival of **new courier vans** this month with a photo on our Instagram. Plans are in the works to have them customized as a form of visual promotion of the Library.

BELOW: The American Dream Literacy Grant wrapped up with our **Everyday English Graduation Ceremony** held at the Hart Memorial Library. Students were awarded certificates in recognition of their work, with Kindle Fires awarded to those who completed more than 50 hours.





(LEFT AND BELOW):
 Throughout the month of December, the West Osceola Library held a special Storybook Trail in the form of placards placed in the front lawn of the Library. Families picked up their Storybook Postcards inside before setting off on the trail, answering questions on their cards based on the story.

The interactive program promoted literacy and different cultures through a unique story created by staff featuring holidays around the world, such as Kwanzaa and Hanukkah **(ABOVE AND RIGHT)**.

Participants in the Storybook Trail were entered to win a 4 pack of tickets to the Crayola Experience.

