

## July 2019

### Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	24,427	33,390	14,916	11,470	19,185	363
Visitors	25,881	15,610	14,466	10,480	15,669	109
Computer Sessions	6,830	2,329	3,665	3,007	1,970	27
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,731	n/a	1,740	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 70 Attendance: 2,127	Events: 68 Attendance: 1,512	Events: 63 Attendance: 1,328	Events: 53 Attendance: 2,570	Events: 44 Attendance: 951	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

**\*Does not include electronic resource circulation**

### System stats at a glance

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 12,627, an 8% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 82,215
- The Library held 298 events attended by 8,488 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 17,828
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville, BVL and Poinciana Libraries totaled 108,903
- 1,208 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 115 registered for eCards
- 9,919 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 20,020 resulting in 19% of print circulation
- Total circulation for July was 119,370, a 2.5% increase over 2018

### Highlights

#### Summer Reading Wrap Up

Summer Reading is kind of like Christmas – you plan and wait for what seems like forever for it to come and then it's over before you know it (or just in time, if you ask some!). And what an amazing summer it was. The Library hosted 816 programs across 5 Libraries and reached 25,183 people with creative events, reading

challenges, performers, passive programs, special guests, and so much more. From beginning readers through school age, tweens, teens and even adults, this summer was inter-stellar.

*Some highlights from July:*

92 teens and families took the sushi challenge at the Teen Quest/Family Quest Kabuki Sushi program provided by Benihana of Orlando. Hands-on programming gets teens out of their comfort zone and into learning new things, improving interpersonal skills and communication, and lets families interact and problem-solve together as a team.

The Florida Astronomical Society helped teens and adults uncover the question “Are we alone?” in the universe, or at the very least to think beyond the borders of Earth. And the Buehler Perpetual Trust Planetarium from Seminole State College was also on hand to challenge your knowledge of the universe and what is “beyond visible light.” Both programs stoked curiosity and with intriguing, thought-provoking discussions for our older patrons.

Magic and Mayhem brought entertainment to nearly 600 kids and families with a “choose your own adventure” program combining storytelling, magic, and comedy, with a special guest appearance by loveable sidekick, ChaChing the Amazing Bunny.

In a unique twist on the space theme, the West Osceola Library hosted an Out of This World Glow Party for 75 lucky guests as part of their Summer Reading wrap up. Those (and family) who completed at least one reading log received entrance to this exclusive “invitation only” party.

For the icing on the cake, or more appropriately, the whipped cream on the sundae, kids at the Buenaventura Lakes, Hart Memorial, and Poinciana Libraries who turned in at least one completed reading log received a ticket to another exclusive party – the Ice Cream Social. Participants made their own sweet treat while celebrating their reading accomplishments and an end to another great summer of fun and knowledge.

### **Back to School Bashes**

School sneaks up on you fast! We were just wrapping up summer and then it was already time for book bags and school supplies. Luckily, through the generous donation and coordination of County Commissioners, we were ready. Hart Memorial Library hosted the annual Back to School Bash with Commissioner Cheryl Grieb who donated 150 backpacks and supplies. This was followed by an out-of-this-world storytime with Astronaut Cheryl who read *Frog in Space* by Tedd Arnold and gave away plush frogs to delighted kids. 450 kids and grownups joined in the fun.

At the Buenaventura Lakes Library, 1000 book bags were distributed by Commissioner Viviana Janer and a wonderful team of County folks. Commissioner Janer partnered with Sheriff Russ Gibson, The Nater Foundation, and others to get kids ready for school from head to toe! Attendees had the opportunity to get a free haircut, pick up school supplies, receive a discount on a student physical, and grab a t-shirt. 1,416 kids and grownups got ready for the first day of school with Commissioner Janer and the Buenaventura Lakes Library team.

## Starry, Starry Night Paint Night

The stars were out in a full show of talent and imagination during St. Cloud Library's after hours Starry, Starry Night paint program. The Library closed as normal on July 26 and then reopened as adults gathered together with local artist Julianna Davidson to learn the secrets of Van Gogh's famous Starry Night masterpiece and how to put their own creative spin on it. With refreshments provided by the St. Cloud Friends of the Library, 57 budding artists enjoyed a magical and unique evening. Many attendees brought their little ones for fun under the stars as kids created their very own cars out of cardboard and attended a Drive-In Movie Night while their grownups painted. 23 kids enjoyed popcorn and a flick. Kudos to the staff at the St. Cloud Library for exhibiting such organizational and artistic talents and creating an occasion for cultural enrichment that is usually reserved for those who can afford this type of experience. Programming is another venue for the Library to bridge divides created by economics and lack of opportunity or access.

## Gallery



**ABOVE: Behinana visited the Hart Memorial and St. Cloud Libraries, transforming teens and families into sushi chefs with Kabuki Sushi. (Photo taken at the St. Cloud Library.)**



**ABOVE-LEFT:** Children had the opportunity to pet Cha-Ching the amazing bunny, after each Magic and Mayhem performance. *(Photo taken at Hart Memorial Library.)* **Glow Parties wrapped up the summer at the St. Cloud (ABOVE-RIGHT) and West Osceola Libraries.** Teens and families used glow sticks in the dark and shined as their own galaxies.







Families received free book bags and school supplies at our Back to School Bashes at the Hart Memorial (ABOVE) and Buenaventura Lakes Libraries (BELOW). Commissioner Cheryl Grieb presented a special storytime as Astronaut Cheryl after her giveaway (ABOVE). Commissioner Viviana Janer partnered with other organizations in the community to distribute book bags, supplies, as well as provide haircuts (BELOW).





**ABOVE:** The St. Cloud Library held a **Starry, Starry Paint Night** where adults created their own versions of Van Gogh's famous **Starry Night** painting with the help of local artist Julianna Davidson.



## August 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	25,501	31,618	14,631	10,410	18,461	308
Visitors	25,264	14,172	14,133	8,466	14,615	116
Computer Sessions	6,480	2,705	3,817	2,940	1,765	32
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,526	n/a	1,475	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 61 Attendance: 829	Events: 53 Attendance: 1,641	Events: 46 Attendance: 846	Events: 43 Attendance: 942	Events: 35 Attendance: 763	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

**\*Does not include electronic resource circulation**

### System stats at a glance

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 13,063, a 15% increase over 2018
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 76,766
- The Library held 238 events attended by 5,021 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 17,739
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial, St. Cloud, Kenansville, BVL and Poinciana Libraries totaled 114,506
- 1,243 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 117 registered for eCards
- 10,773 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 19,655 resulting in 20% of print circulation
- Total circulation for August was 113,992, a 3% increase over 2018

### Highlights

#### cloudLibrary Launch

On August 21, the Library launched a new service for eBooks and eAudio, cloudLibrary from bibliotheca. This new service offers a twist on the typical digital platform with cloudLink, a virtual lending link between all Florida libraries subscribing to cloudLibrary. If we don't have a particular title, and one of our linked libraries in the Florida consortium has it available, our patrons can check out this title and we will receive the boost to our

statistics without having to expend the extra collection funds. This is also a boon for our older or back-catalog titles as they will also be available to other Florida libraries for checkout. We will be winding down with Overdrive at the end of this year and transferring content to cloudLibrary in addition to buying new content for cloudLibrary and having the titles appear in our Polaris catalog. cloudLibrary has a very convenient to use app that makes searching and checking out a breeze, plus an option to create a virtual library card within the app that can be used for checking out at any library.

### **Wild About Reading Outreach**

The staff at the St. Cloud Library arranged an amazing outreach at Wild Florida, an Osceola-based adventure park featuring airboat rides, animal encounters, and, of course, alligators! On August 3, Wild Florida provided free park entrance to anyone presenting their Osceola Library card. Staff from the St. Cloud Library was on hand to promote Library services and resources with raffle baskets, puppet shows, giveaways based on the *Nocturnal* book series, and more. The St. Cloud Friends of the Library were also there to raffle off book bags filled with supplies, and sponsored a magician and face painter for families. Over 300 people enjoyed the festivities.

### **International Festival**

The Buenaventura Lakes Library hosted a very successful branch-wide program with its International Festival on Saturday, August 3. The branch transformed into a *Mercado* of crafts and food from all over the world. Staff adopted a country, many based on their own cultural heritage, and decked out poster boards with history, photos, and language lessons. They also featured local delicacies and fun crafts, including a sporran pouch for Scotland, cannoli and Murano glass for Italy, *tembleque* pudding and paper *coqui* for Puerto Rico, and beaded bracelets and rice for Jamaica. The space was filled with music and dance from local artists demonstrating the Hula, Colombian Cumbia, Belly Dance, and traditional Haitian music. Teen Ambassadors and the Friends of the Library were also celebrating cultures of the world. The event was sponsored in part by the Kissimmee Utility Authority and the Buenaventura Lakes Friends of the Library. This was a very successful program that connected with the Buenaventura community with attendance reaching 340 people and was also a great team effort by the staff at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.

### **Career Online High School Update**

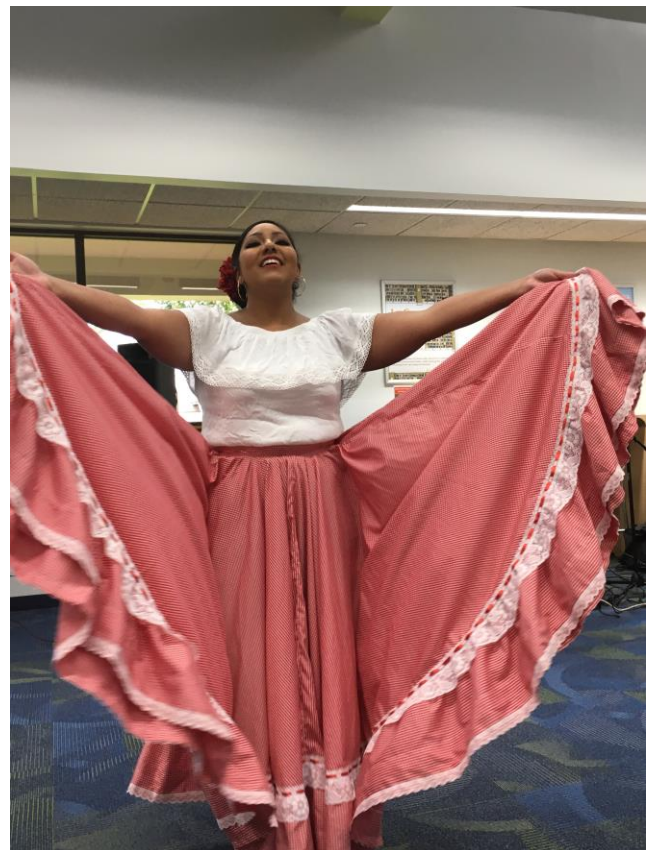
Last year, the Osceola Library System was selected by the State Library of Florida to participate in the Career Online High School program. The Library received a total of 25 scholarships to provide to Library card holders, who met very stringent requirements, a chance to participate in the no-cost-to-them program which awards full high school diplomas through virtual classes and mentorships in addition to career training. Of those 25 scholarships, we currently have 20 active students who are working toward their high school diplomas and five of those are almost finished! Some of the students who were awarded scholarships had completed most of the credits needed for graduation, but life interrupted, as it has a way of doing, and they were able to transfer those credits to the Career Online High School. Now they are well on their way to securing a diploma and starting a new chapter of their lives. In fact, our “most senior” student is 59 years old. We will have more stories to share with you about this fantastic program that represents a new and exciting area of Library service, and that will hopefully find a way to continue even though it has been struck from next year’s State of Florida budget.



## Gallery



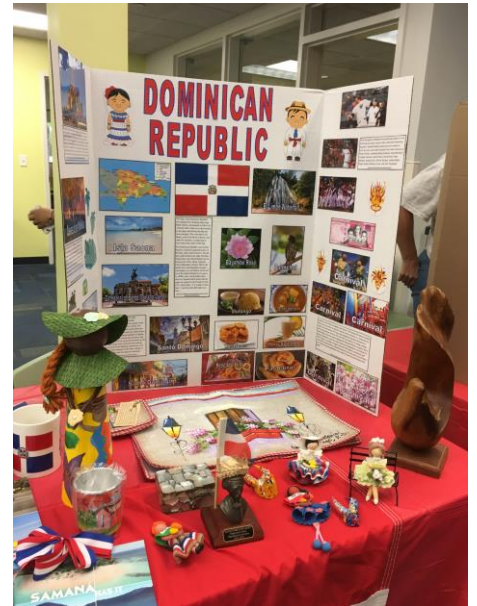
**ABOVE: Wild About Reading Outreach.** Teen Ambassadors performed a puppet show (LEFT). Winner of the book bag giveaway (RIGHT).



**ABOVE: International Festival at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.** Traditional dress and dancing livened up the Library.



**BELOW: International Festival at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.** Countries from around the world are showcased.



## September 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	24,782	29,991	14,303	11,503	18,633	259
Visitors	22,146	13,700	13,155	8,060	12,531	95
Computer Sessions	5,618	2,503	3,514	2,756	1,625	31
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,182	n/a	1,547	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 68 Attendance: 968	Events: 60 Attendance: 2,476	Events: 51 Attendance: 931	Events: 43 Attendance: 633	Events: 33 Attendance: 767	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### System stats at a glance

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

### Highlights

#### Harry Potter Month

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

The Potions and Puzzles Escape Room asked players to “brew the perfect potion in time to escape the dungeon classroom.” The St. Cloud staff transformed a meeting room with electric candles and bottles of potions so



realistically you could almost hear Snape shouting, “Potter!” The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey brought special species of owls to the “Wings of Wizardry” evening program. Those who dared played the games of “Are You Smarter than a Potterhead?” and “Potterverse Would You Rather.” And mixed with the fun was a bit of Potter-inspired learning with Book Art which transforms old books into new treasures, and UCF professor Tison Hugh’s use of Harry Potter to inspire a love of reading.

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

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

### **Hurricane Dorian**

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

### **PrimeTime at Cameron Preserve**

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

The PrimeTime program aims to bring these families together to bond over reading, food, fellowship, and sharing in lively discussions. Topics have included sustainability and government, and shared books have included *Duck for President* and *The Lorax*. Local restaurants donate food, community groups provide “commercials” on available services, and there is an opportunity to receive prizes at the program’s end. Additionally, a courtesy collection of youth-centered materials has been placed at Cameron Preserve to spur a love of reading outside of regular programming.

## Gallery



St. Cloud Library's Month of Magic was a great display of how Library staff can transform the Library and make events/programs immersive. **LEFT:** The St. Cloud Library was transformed into Hogwarts with banners, proclamations, and more. **BELOW:** The Potions and Puzzles Escape Room looked straight out of the *Harry Potter* films.





**St. Cloud Library's Sorcerers at Sunset**

**celebration** invited families to experience all things Harry Potter with House sorting, "magical" creatures, crafts, an escape room, a scavenger hunt, photo-op areas, games, and more.

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

**LEFT: Amazing Animals Inc.** presented a Care of Magical Creatures class. "Students" received an up-close look at amazing animals, including pythons (much to the delight of all attending Slytherins).





**PrimeTime Family Reading Time at Cameron Preserve** sparked discussions between families as they bonded over reading and fellowship.

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

## October 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	26,444	31,473	15,885	11,313	18,749	295
Visitors	25,999	15,006	16,416	9,742	15,904	105
Computer Sessions	62,551	28,823	38,275	18,005	24,896	1,945
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,394	n/a	1,545	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 87 Attendance: 1,688	Events: 85 Attendance: 1,581	Events: 54 Attendance: 1,200	Events: 71 Attendance: 4,588	Events: 44 Attendance: 1,322	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include electronic resource circulation

### System stats at a glance

- Virtual Circulation for the month was 12,605, an 8% increase over 2019
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 83,172
- The Library held 341 events attended by 10,379 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 17,802
- Wi-Fi sessions totaled 156,693 sessions
- 1,233 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 142 registered for eCards
- 10,278 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,340 resulting in 17% of print circulation
- Total circulation for October was 116,704 check outs

### Highlights

#### An Evening with Bob Gurr

The West Osceola Library was doused in pixie dust magic when legendary Disney Imagineer Bob Gurr thrilled audiences with tales of his time working alongside Walt Disney on some of the most iconic rides and shows the fabled parks have to offer. This was a once-in-a-lifetime, only-in-Celebration opportunity to hear Gurr speak about the more than 100 designs he created for Disneyland and Disney World, including the Monorail cars,

Haunted Mansion Doom Buggies, Autopia, and the Matterhorn Bobsleds. Over 300 people nestled into the West Osceola Library as Gurr took turns moving about the crowd to give all attendees a chance to be included in the discussion, and stayed to take photos with his fans, truly living up to his legendary status.

### **Bard in the Library**

"Pleasure and action make the hours seem short." While Othello himself may not have been present, the spirit of Shakespeare was felt mightily at the Hart Memorial Library during the Bard in the Library Shakespeare Festival. Activities and events abounded, and special guests brought to life Elizabethan England in Downtown Kissimmee. Guests attempted to free Fairy Queen Titania in a Midsummer Night Escape Room, local award-winning theater group Orlando Shakes' costume designer regaled how to replicate the fanciful and fantastic costumes used in their productions, and the Society for Creative Anachronism presented a sword fighting primer. A live staging of the children's book *Romeosaurus and Juliet Rex* delivered laughs while staff-led activity stations challenged guests to make neck ruffles from book pages, complete a scavenger hunt, slurp Shakespeare-inspired potions, and more. ("Double, Double Toil and Trouble" featured Sprite, grenadine, and purple food coloring to evoke Macbeth's witches.) Photo opportunities with images from Shakespearean times and works created by Teen Ambassadors decorated the rooms. This was a unique and dazzlingly creative example of inspired Library programming, featuring attention to detail, historical authenticity, hands-on education, and plain ol' fun, plus the benefit of community partnerships. 275 people attended this multigenerational program.

### **Hispanic Heritage Music and Art Festival**

Buenaventura Lakes Library patrons enjoyed an afternoon of arts and culture as guests were graced with dance and song performances, poetry readings, and live art creation in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Members of Tertulia's Cuatro Gatos and Cuatro Gatos para Niños delighted audiences with lively performances. Entertainment included traditional Mexican songs performed by Ameyal Mexicano Cantos en Lengua Nativa; singing by local performers Marianay Lantigua, Betty Penchano, and Areliz Perez; a poetry reading by Maribel Hernandez; and dance performances by Mariana Valerlio and Aroddiz Machado that featured Bomba y Plena, distinctive Puerto Rican music styles derived from African, Spanish and Taino cultures. Local artisans such as Jennicel Bolanos, Grace Senior Morandi, and Virginia Zambra displayed their colorful and engaging artwork throughout the Library. Bolanos even painted portraits during the event! From Peru and Venezuela to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, through local talent the many intriguing and beautiful dimensions of our local Hispanic Heritage were on stunning display through this deftly organized and artfully produced program by BVL Library staff.

### **Other Noteworthy Happenings in October:**

Annual Volunteer Fair – *Hart Memorial*

Mitchell Osborne – Past Life Regression and Basics of Tarot 101 – *St. Cloud*

Senior Expo – *Hart Memorial*

Where the Wild Things Are Costume Bash – Multiple Libraries

Crafter's Fair – *Poinciana*



## Gallery



**Legendary Disney Imagineer Bob Gurr (TOP LEFT) visited the West Osceola Library.**

**TOP RIGHT:** With over 300 attendees split into two rooms, Bob Gurr took turns with each group, sharing his stories and experiences – allowing everyone a chance to participate and ask questions.

**LEFT:** After the presentation, Gurr met with fans and signed memorabilia making the already legendary event magical.



Hart Memorial Library's Bard in the Library Shakespeare Festival brought the Elizabethan Era to nearly 300 knights and nobles.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Royalty from **The Lady of the Lakes Renaissance Faire** who donated a 4-pack of tickets as our Scavenger Hunt prize. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Nobles and gentlefolk alike made their own neck ruffles.

**BELOW:** Teams tried to save Fairy Queen Titania in our Midsummer Night Escape Room.









Special presentations brought the world of Shakespeare alive to our modern-day audience.

**LEFT:** The Society for Creative Anachronism Kingdom of Trimaris held a sword fighting demonstration as our epic finale.

**BELOW:** Orlando Shakes' costume designer explained how clothes dictated status and how these garments are recreated today.

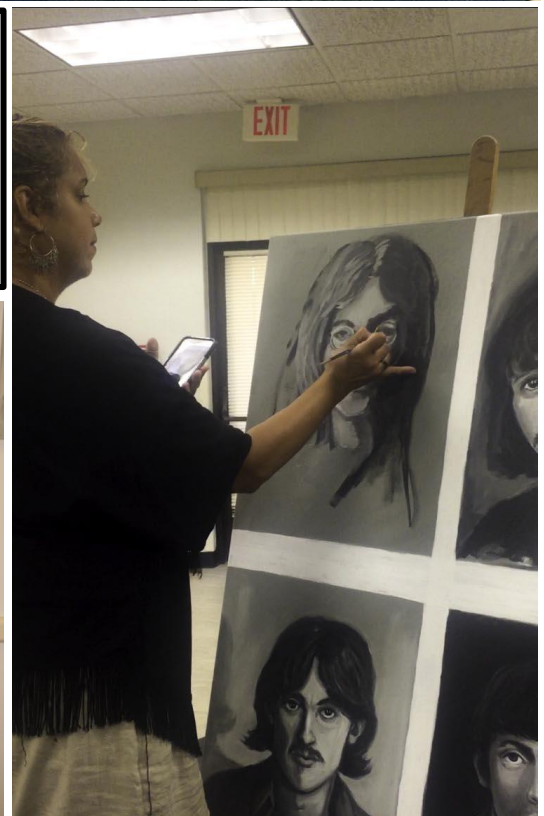
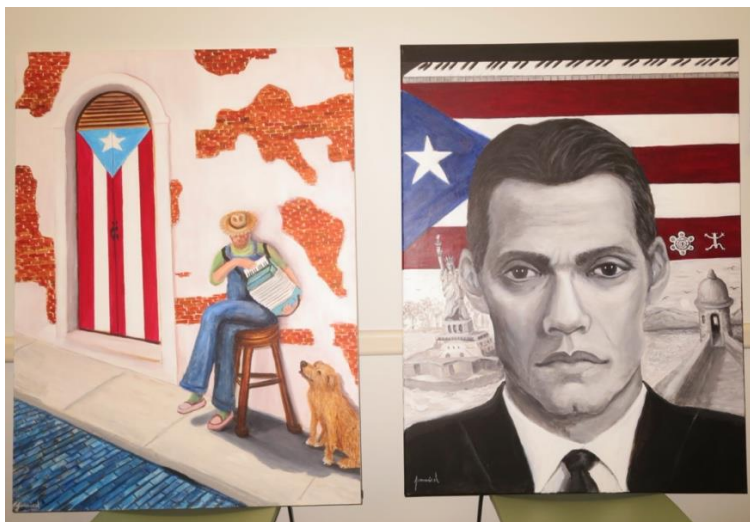






**The Buenaventura Lakes Library celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month with a Music and Art Festival.**

**ABOVE:** Included in the festivities were live dance and music performances. **BELOW:** Artwork from local Hispanic artists were displayed throughout the event. **RIGHT:** Local artist Jennicel Bolanos worked on her portraits on-site.



## November 2019

### Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	23,988	26,583	13,898	9,172	16,170	262
Visitors	21,838	12,994	13,695	7,211	14,825	117
Computer Sessions	48,202	25,610	32,785	17,602	19,559	2,155
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,302	n/a	1,061	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 68 Attendance: 980	Events: 60 Attendance: 1,896	Events: 53 Attendance: 849	Events: 56 Attendance: 669	Events: 35 Attendance: 720	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

\*Does not include virtual circulation

### System stats at a glance

- Virtual Circulation for the month was 13,233 downloads or sessions
- Visitors to the Libraries in November totaled 70,680
- The Library held 272 events attended by 5,114 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 13,651
- Wi-Fi sessions totaled sessions 132,262
- 796 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 93 registered for eCards
- 8,274 holds were placed on Library materials
- 16,878 items were checked out using the self-check stations, resulting in 19% of print circulation
- Total circulation for November was 103,246

### Highlights

#### Reading is Groovy

Using the Beanstack reading log app, we joined the nationwide early literacy program 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, which encourages families to read to their little ones in preparation for entering elementary school. To launch the new initiative, patrons were invited to a special “Ready Is Groovy” storytime, and treated to a visit from Pete the Cat as they enjoyed reading their first books together. 266 kids and grownups

participated across 5 branches. Progress toward the 1000 book goal will be tracked within Beanstack, but to give patrons a visual incentive to read, each branch received a banner with a reading tree where they can add their handprints as leaves to show how they are growing with reading.

### **Elsa's Reunion – A Frozen Escape Room**

Capitalizing on the Frozen 2 movie release, the Hart Memorial Library created a wintery wonderland where participants must solve clues to help Elsa unfreeze Anna from a Snow Witch's curse before it's too late! Like sneaking veggies into your kids' dinner, Library staff mixed great entertainment with intellectual and scientific challenges -- melt an ice heart to find a clue, perform a science experiment using instant snow, and using a tablet to open an enchanted jewelry box made from a LEGO® WeDo robotics kit. 89 people in total worked to save Anna!

### **Florida Author Fest**

Local authors gathered together at the St. Cloud Library to showcase their accomplishments and meet and engage patrons in discussions on how to become a published author and how to stay creative and inspired. Tables were set up across the Library so patrons could move between authors. Genres included history, children's stories, romance, science fiction, self-help, and mystery, with titles in both English and Spanish. Authors were able to both sell and sign their works. As patrons visited authors' tables, they completed a card that was then turned into a raffle for a gift basket. Budding authors crafted their own mini-books as well. This event was generously sponsored by the St. Cloud Friends of the Library and attended by over 400 people.

### **Art in Public Places**

Art in Public Places is an enduring partnership with Osceola Arts. This program showcases original artwork by Florida artists, providing artistic and cultural displays to engage the community and enrich the Library experience beyond traditional programming. From sculpture to oil paintings to photography and everything in between, there's enchanting and inspirational creations at your local Library waiting to be discovered!

Blanca Rosada – Buenvventura Lakes Library (through 1/2/2020)

Carolyn Davis – St. Cloud Library (through 12/31/2019)

Mike Valentine – Hart Memorial Library (through 12/31/2019)

Gisela Romero – West Osceola Library (concluded 11/30/2019, Heather Nagy currently on display)



## Gallery



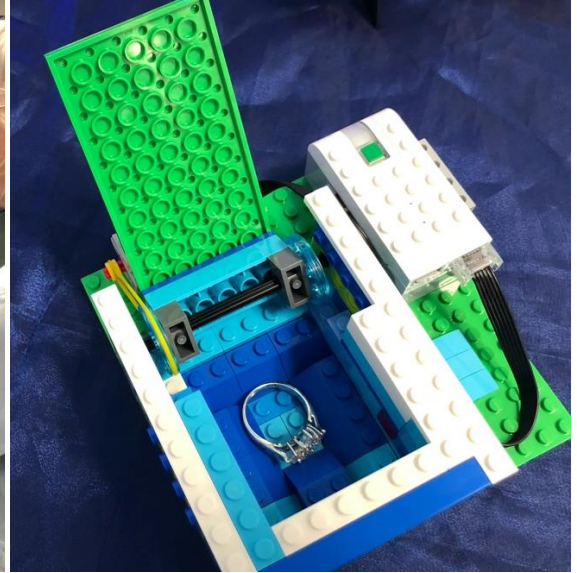
**We launched the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Initiative with a special storytime featuring Pete the Cat.**

**LEFT:** Kiddos were ecstatic to meet one of their favorite book characters. *(Photo taken at the Poinciana Library.)*

**BELOW:** Families danced along to the Cool Cat Boogie. *(Photo taken at Hart Memorial Library.)*







The Frozen Escape Room at Hart Memorial Library challenged families to solve clues with experiments and technology (**ABOVE LEFT**). The finale to solving the room involved opening a LEGO® WeDo box with a tablet to reveal the Evil Snow Witch's ring to save Anna (**ABOVE RIGHT**). If a team successfully saved Anna, they were able to take a victory photo with Queen Elsa and Princess Anna to celebrate (**BELOW**).







**The St. Cloud Library's Florida Author Fest featured over 30 local and bestselling authors.**

**LEFT** – Patrons were able to move through the rows of authors and explore different genres and ask questions on a one-on-one basis.

**BELOW** – All authors had some of their works available for purchase and even signed copies for established and new fans alike.





## December 2019 Monthly Review

	Hart	St Cloud	Poinciana	BVL	West Osceola	Kenansville
Circulation	22,805	25,377	12,935	8,574	15,862	256
Visitors	20,442	12,187	11,069	6,612	11,438	88
Computer Sessions	50,880	21,333	30,938	15,005	19,358	1,905
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	816	n/a	1,165	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 53 Attendance: 629	Events: 65 Attendance: 1,099	Events: 41 Attendance: 662	Events: 48 Attendance: 485	Events: 33 Attendance: 550	Events: n/a Attendance: n/a

**\*Does not include virtual circulation**

### System stats at a glance

- Virtual Circulation was 14,519 downloads or sessions, an increase of over 20% from last December
- Visitors to the Libraries in December totaled 61,836
- The Library held 240 events attended by 3,425 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 13,411
- Wi-Fi sessions totaled 126,008 sessions, a 73% increase from December 2018
- 740 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 112 registered for eCards, a 12% increase in total Library cards given over December 2018
- 7,889 holds were placed on Library materials
- Total circulation for December was 100,268

### Highlights

#### C<sup>3</sup> Cubing Club in Celebration

As part of the continuing drive to mix fun with STEAM education, the West Osceola Library started C<sup>3</sup> (Cubing

Club in Celebration) and it has been steadily growing in popularity since its debut in August. Club meetings occur after school each Thursday where as many as 50 participants at a time work together to get a fun brain workout while learning how to solve the master of puzzles, the Rubik's Cube. Led by a local Rubik's Cube master (he can complete it in under 18 seconds!), participants start by exploring the cube and getting basic lessons on techniques for solving the Cube, moving up to head-to-head Cube competitions when their skill level grows. Through these Cube exercises, participants can learn spatial reasoning, planning and strategy, confidence, and managing frustration, all in a friendly and supportive environment for all ages.

### **Santa's Ornament Workshop**

Even though December is his busy month, Santa took a break from working with his elves to fly in on his sleigh and enjoy a special storytime at each of the Osceola Library System branches. Everyone enjoyed cookies and holiday-themed craft stations like Snowman Caps or unique creations out of paper and string and other supplies. And Mrs. Claus even packed Santa appropriate clothes for our Florida weather – shorts and a Hawaiian shirt, of course! Nearly 450 people attended our holiday festivals. These programs are mainstays of Library programming and the community looks to their local libraries as positive sources of enrichment and fellowship during the holiday season.

Other holiday events included the gift of "A Guitar for Christmas" from Jane Rosenbohm, Guitar Extraordinaire®, at Hart Memorial Library, a delicious Christmas Cookie Recipe Exchange at the St. Cloud Library, and an insightful Winter Around the World program at the West Osceola Library.

### **More eContent Free with Your Library Card**

In addition to moving to CloudLibrary from Overdrive, we've made other significant updates to our eContent available to patrons for free with their Library card. *AtoZdatabases* is a powerful business database that provides all levels of useful data for job seekers, small business owners, market researchers, and more. *AtoZdatabases* was frequently requested to be added to our online resources, and with good reason. With resume and cover letter templates, interviewing tips, and company information, it's a job-seeker's best kept secret to land the perfect position. And savvy entrepreneurs can gather data on their competitors, create marketing strategies with household data, and understand the latest trends in buying and lifestyle interests. We also added free access to the *Washington Post*, a national newspaper of record that is consistently on the forefront of investigative journalism. With convenient links for in-house or at home use, and access to extra content such as puzzles and recipes, the *Washington Post* is another great reason to cherish your Osceola Library card.

## Gallery



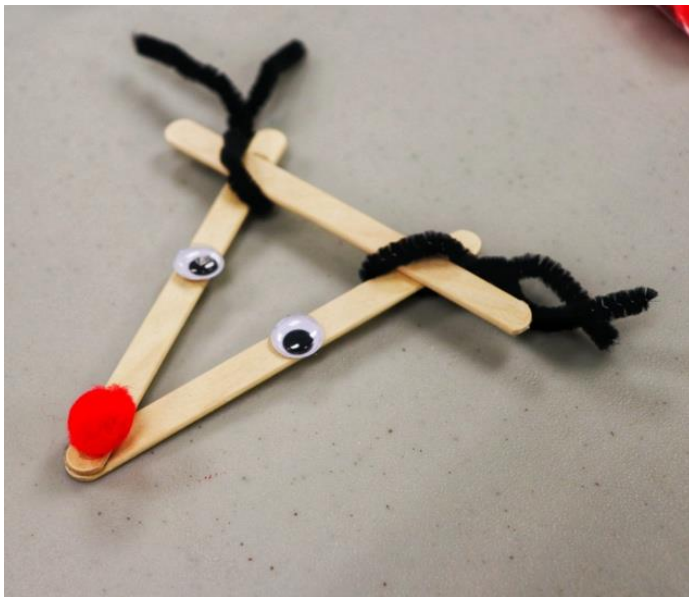
The West Osceola Library's C<sup>3</sup> Cubing Club challenges its members to solve the world's best-selling puzzle: The Rubik's Cube.

Taught by a Rubik's Cube Master (**LEFT**), members hone their skills and learn techniques to solving the cubes. Those who reach a certain level with their skills are able to represent the Club in competitions (**ABOVE**) against other Rubik's cube enthusiasts.





**Santa Claus took time off his busy schedule to visit our Libraries (ABOVE).**  
*Photo taken at Hart Memorial Library.*



Dressed in his Florida-best, Santa brought cookies, stories, and joy to the children on his Nice List before they all made ornaments to take home. Sticks and twine became Rudolphs (**LEFT**), green pom poms made Grinch Heart ornaments, and paper and scissors made memorable Santa beards and other photo-op props. *Photo taken at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.*

The one and only Jane Rosenbohm, Guitar Extraordinaire®, visited Hart Memorial Library and performed both classic Christmas songs as well as timeless songs from classic bands.

**RIGHT:** Jane spoke on her life experiences, from how she learned guitar to her teaching years to the incredible people she's met. Her stories captivated the audience just as much as her soulful playing.

**BELOW:** Jane generously raffled off a soprano ukulele to one lucky winner at the conclusion of the program, allowing this attendee to take the gift of music home for the holidays.



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