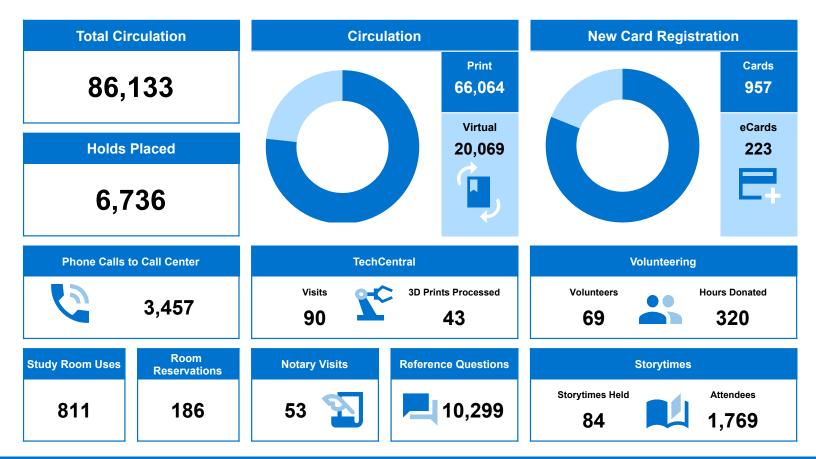
# Osceola Dibrary

### Monthly Report January 2023

Fiscal Year Oct. 2022 - Sept. 2023

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	16,326	15,659	83,184	49 Events & Activities, 619 Participants
St. Cloud	21,587	9,797	22,051	96 Events & Activities, 1,710 Participants
Poinciana	8,811	9,612	33,061	41 Events & Activities, 838 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	5,389	5,404	20,229	40 Events & Activities, 648 Participants
West Osceola	13,460	10,780	27,844	62 Events & Activities, 1,115 Participants
Kenansville	176	77	3,488	N/A
Narccossee	199	18	N/A	N/A
Reunion	116	20	N/A	N/A



#### Website redesign

The Osceola Library System launched a revamped website this month. The website features improved organization and navigation, one-click access to digital resources, greater discoverability for important information such as locations and hours, expanded meeting room information, details about the various types of library cards, helpful InfoGuides on trending subjects and an expanded Youth section. Built on the WordPress platform, the website seamlessly integrates forms, video, and digital content with an appealing and user-friendly design.

#### New digital resources

The Library added two new resources to the digital library in January. Udemy replaces LinkedIn Learning as the major platform offered for online learning. Featuring over 19,000 videos on topics ranging from management and coding to chess and music, instruction is available in English, Spanish and 10 other languages by experts from around the world. Udemy is the ticket to jumpstarting a career, refining a hobby or learning something brand new.

Sanborn Maps of Florida, a long-standing staple of print Genealogy collections, is now available in digital form through the Library. Sanborn maps "chart the growth and development of 12,000 American towns and cities" and are indispensable for local history research and genealogy as it gives a window back into a city's or town's past to see exactly what was located on each block or street. Both databases are accessible through the Library's website and free with an Osceola Library card.

#### **How-To Festival**

This one-stop-shop for learning and skill building was a fun and enriching afternoon for 77 attendees at the Hart Memorial Library. Instructional topics included Vegan Baking, Learning How to Juggle and How to Become a Foster Parent. The How-To Festival set up in a conference style with participants choosing from a variety of topics within a time slot with experts giving hands-on demonstrations on everyday life skills.



#### Study spaces at BVL Library

A renovation project at the BVL Library wrapped up in January. Five new modular spaces providing private areas for collaboration and quiet study for individuals and small groups opened to the public with positive reception. One cubicle features access to two Mac computers equipped with graphic design software. Another cubicle features sewing machines to use for personal projects or with instruction from a staff member. The rooms are available on a first-come, first-use basis.

#### **Other January events:**

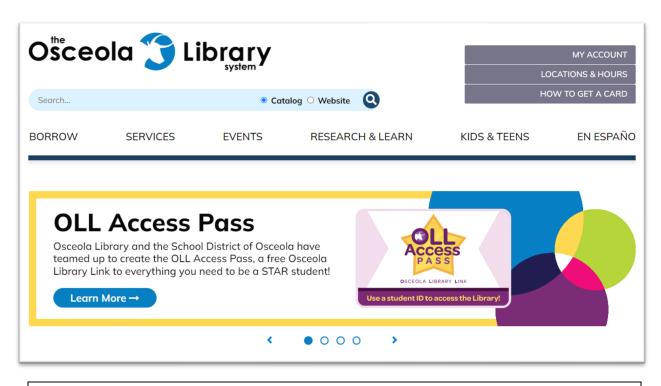
**FEMA wraps up operations:** In the wake of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, the Federal Emergency Management Agency along with the Small Business Administration and other Florida agencies set up operations at the Hart Memorial Library to delivery disaster assistance from a convenient community hub. The team concluded operations on January 5.

**MLK Unity Outreach:** The City of Kissimmee held a celebration of the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Lakefront Park and the Library joined in to provide information about Library services. 12 Library cards were issued and 110 contacts were made at this free event.

**Beginning Guitar at West Osceola:** This music instruction class went on the road to the Celebration community where 105 class participants learned the basics of picking, strumming and reading tab.

**Homeschool Libratory:** 95 homeschoolers in January found a creative haven at the St. Cloud Library in this afternoon program that explores STEAM concepts with fun activities.





**Above:** A newly redesigned website debuted in January. **Below:** Study spaces at the BVL Library include a sewing and MAC lab.







**New Year, New You!** Spend the day learning various fun and valuable skills in everyday life. Discover how to knit, apply makeup, start a podcast and more!

## 11am Saturday January 28



**Top**: Hart's How-To Festival started the New Year off with new skills. **Left:** Library staff provided info by the table-full at the MLK Unity Celebration in Kissimmee Lakefront Park. **Bottom:** The West Osceola Library enjoyed the harmonious sounds of Beginning Guitar.



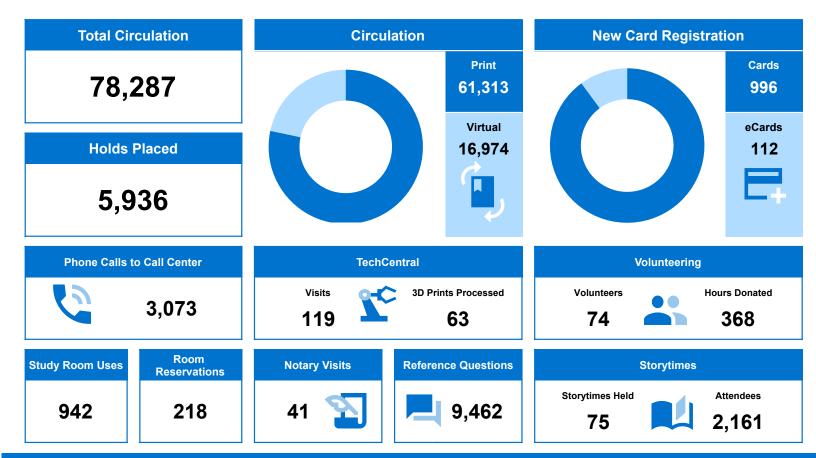


## Osceola Sibrary System

## Monthly Report February 2023

Fiscal Year Oct. 2022 - Sept. 2023

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	14,779	14,663	86,692	62 Events & Activities, 1,058 Participants
St. Cloud	20,241	10,703	24,224	62 Events & Activities, 1,456 Participants
Poinciana	8,213	9,152	35,443	44 Events & Activities, 1,071 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	4,700	5,614	23,715	37 Events & Activities, 652 Participants
West Osceola	13,192	11,146	30,870	58 Events & Activities, 1,349 Participants
Kenansville	188	112	4,023	N/A
Narccossee	167	14	N/A	N/A
Reunion	165	23	N/A	N/A



#### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual LitMag Reception

*LitMag*, the literary magazine for Osceola youth, celebrated its 6th year in publication with a reception for the winners of the writing and art contest. These creative teens and tweens have the distinction of their works published in print in a glossy professional magazine and online through the BiblioBoard digital publishing platform.

The authors and artists, selected by celebrated local authors Jan Eldridge, Isabelle Olmo (Brenda Hernandez) and Arielle Haughee for inclusion in the magazine, were invited along with their families to a reception honoring their artistic contributions with their works read aloud for everyone to enjoy. The guest authors kicked off the event with a fascinating presentation on their experiences leading up to their big break in the publishing world, exploring the topics of self-publishing, working within the big publishing business and even starting a publishing company as a way get your works out into the marketplace.

46 people attended this inspirational and celebratory reception at the Hart Memorial Library.

#### **Career Online High School Graduation**

The Library had the honor of holding a graduation ceremony for four hard-working students who completed the coursework for the Career Online High School (COHS) Program.

The meeting room turned into a graduation hall as friends and family from as far as Puerto Rico gathered to celebrate new graduates on their success in taking this major step toward a brighter future. US Representative Darren Soto recorded a message of encouragement and support for their hard work. Adult Services Manager Dagmar Lopez led the graduation ceremony and handed out Librarycreated diplomas while the COHS diplomas arrive later in the mail. New graduates received professional headshots and dressed in cap and gowns, which they kept as souvenirs of their achievement, to take photos after the

ceremony.

The Library has graduated 9 students since offering the COHS program starting in 2022.



#### **Celebrating Black History Month**

The Library is proud to highlight the important cultural contributions and historical achievements of Black Americans throughout the month of February. To explore Black History Month in greater depth, the Library created an InfoGuide, available on the website, to provide links to resources in and out of the Library's collections and developed enriching programming for adults and children.

Here are some of the events hosted across the system:

African American Read- In: This inspirational program produced annually in partnership with the City of Kissimmee features Osceola citizens reading aloud from works by African American authors.

**Step Into the Past at West Osceola & Hart Memorial:** Participants learned about the daily lives and societal conditions of Black Osceola citizens in this presentation by Osceola History.

**Celebrating Black Superheroes at Hart Memorial:** Historian Magdalena Lamarre discussed the origins and evolution of Black Superheroes in this exploration of comic book history.

**Storytimes and School-Age programs at all libraries:** Important figures or events in Black History were featured throughout regular youth programming. Examples include, West Osceola's Creativity Corner introducing artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, Poinciana's Homeschool Book Worms group reading works by prominent Black authors, such as *Wings of Fire* by Tui T. Sutherland, and St. Cloud exploring the connection between art and stories with artist and civil rights pioneer Faith Riggold and the activity, My Quilt of Me, highlighting her story quilt artwork.

#### **Other February events:**

**Friendship Memory Keepers at Buenaventura Lakes:** Artist Maria Bencosme led a group of 15 crafters in making one-of-a-kind journals to store treasured memories.

**Aging In Place series at West Osceola:** This monthly series from Senior Life Publications provides tips on how move into older age with health and community intact.

**Spanish for Beginners at Hart Memorial:** Conversational phrases and basic skills in Spanish are offered in a relaxed group setting with a certified instructor.





**Top:** *LitMag* guest judges and local authors pose with the teen and tween winners of the literary magazine contest whose works will appear online and in print.

Below: Students listen attentively as the Spanish for Beginners' instructor prepares a lesson.







**Above:** Proud COHS students prepare to graduate. **Below & Right:** Young artists learn about Faith Ringgold, interpret her story quilt in this Black History month program.





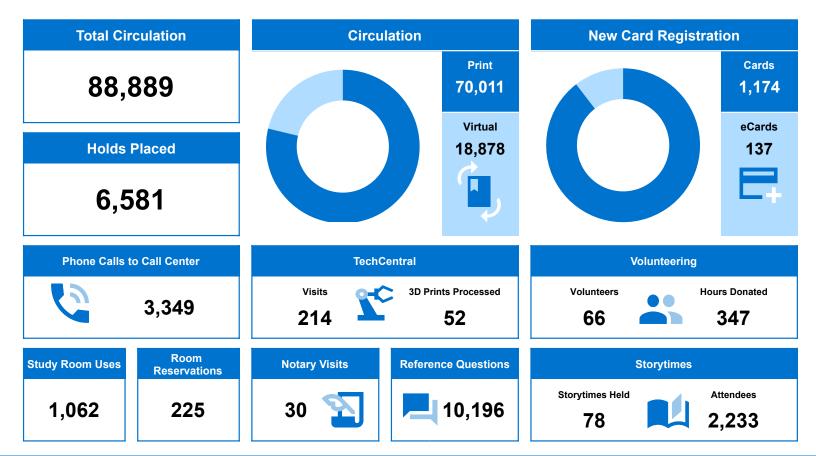


# Osceola S Library

### Monthly Report March 2023

Fiscal Year Oct. 2022 - Sept. 2023

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	17,979	14,985	72,485	68 Events & Activities, 1,585 Participants
St. Cloud	23,215	10,305	19,475	79 Events & Activities, 2,134 Participants
Poinciana	9,682	10,242	34,473	44 Events & Activities, 1,075 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	5,288	5,892	24,414	31 Events & Activities, 560 Participants
West Osceola	13,639	11,789	28,527	60 Events & Activities, 1,084 Participants
Kenansville	208	111	3,416	N/A
Narccossee	154	15	N/A	N/A
Reunion	107	16	N/A	N/A



#### **Grants and Awards Galore!**

The Library received various grants and awards this month in support of staff training, literacy programming and financial planning collections.

- The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) awarded the Library with up \$10,000 to purchase financial planning materials in print and electronic form. The grant supports areas affected by emergencies and disasters; hurricanes lan and Nicole created significant impact to the Osceola community last year and citizens found themselves needing financial support to overcome losses. The collection will be developed over coming months and promoted through our website and social media.
- The Florida Division of Library and Information Services selected the Library to participate in the Express Reads Pilot Program. The Library will receive free books short novels for adults wanting to improve their reading comprehension skills. Programs and services supporting this collection is also in the works.
- Two members of the Adult Services team received funds to attend this summer's annual American Library Association conference in Chicago. The Tampa Bay Library Consortium are providing \$2000 for the Library staff to attend.
- Three staff members attended a prestigious weeklong training exercise held at the National Emergency Management Training Center near Baltimore. They traveled as part of Osceola County Emergency Management's team as the Library offers operational support in times of disaster and year-round.
- Two staff members are prepared to present at the annual Florida Library Association conference's poster session in Daytona in May. Poster sessions are informational displays on innovative topics and the Library's selection focuses on the Walking Library series of adult educational programs.

#### Welcoming Community Leaders in Hosted Workshops

The Library welcomed community leaders in two informative workshops. For the second year, Leadership Osceola visited the Hart Memorial Library as part of Government Day. To educate on the many facets of local government, the Library provided games, tours and library cards to the Leadership cohort to emphasize that government services extend to literacy, technology, meeting rooms and free materials to checkout. 27 people attended and 15 new cards were made.



The Library hosted the Non-Profit Coalition of the Osceola Chamber of Commerce in a morning-long workshop that emphasized connecting with other non-profit agencies to share information and maximize community resources. Featured speakers included representatives from JP Morgan Chase and Osceola County Community and Housing Services.

The Hart Memorial Library is now the permanent hosting location for the Children's Cabinet, a coalition of children's advocates and professionals across Osceola County that gather to share ideas and information about best practices and impactful children's programs and services. The Cabinet noted that Library staff were "the epitome of community partnership" and gave "kudos" to the Osceola staff "for all you have done to assist the community."

#### **Celebrating Women's Achievements in History**

Each year the Library celebrates Women's History Month through engaging displays, social media posts, take home crafts and the promotion of key collections such as streaming movies or children's books. Here is a sampling of the programming offered during this important month:

**Women's History from Beyond:** Part of the Walking Library Series, visitors roamed through Mt. Peace Cemetery to learn from an historian about St. Cloud settlers buried in the town's oldest graveyard.

**Women of History:** School age children at the West Osceola Library learned all about famous women from today and long ago, like Malala and Jane Austen, using BINGO as an education tool.

**Rosie the Riveter Take & Make:** These mighty magnets exclaimed "We Can Do It!" with an iconic image of the World War II hero.

**Suffragettes No More:** Residents updated their Library card and applied to vote or changed voting information in this reminder that it's only been 103 years since the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment guaranteeing white women the right to vote and only 58 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 guaranteeing Black women the security of voting without reprisal from state laws.

**Mini-Portraits:** This month's Maker's Café at the Poinciana Library encouraged budding artists to paint portraits of famous women.





**Above:** Famous women in history inspire artistic mini-portraits. **Below:** Osceola Children's Cabinet makes Hart Library their main meeting space.









Above: The Walking Library program "Women's History from Beyond" takes adventurers on a journey through history at Mt. Peace Cemetery. Left: West Osceola kids celebrated amazing women in history in the **Creative Corner** after-school program.

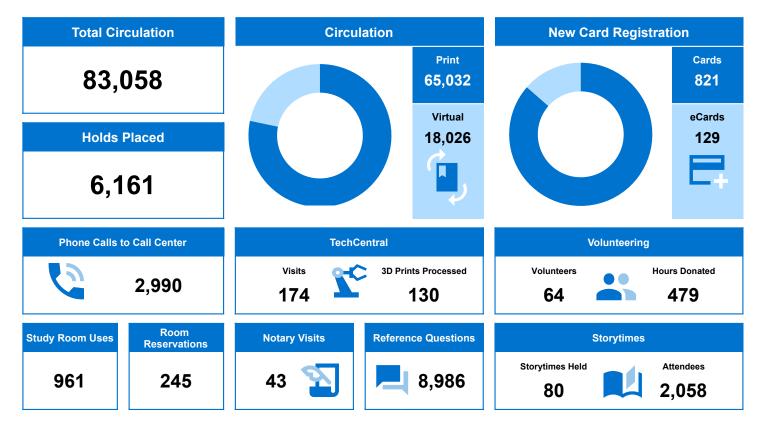




### Monthly Report April 2023

Fiscal Year Oct. 2022 - Sept. 2023

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	15,756	13,094	N/A	62 Events & Activities, 1,350 Participants
St. Cloud	22,024	9,980	N/A	73 Events & Activities, 2,518 Participants
Poinciana	9,102	9,520	N/A	50 Events & Activities, 816 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	4,763	5,204	N/A	39 Events & Activities, 739 Participants
West Osceola	13,271	12,158	N/A	47 Events & Activities, 977 Participants
Kenansville	116	85	N/A	N/A
Narccossee	191	14	N/A	N/A
Reunion	71	11	N/A	N/A



#### Earth Day Celebration

The Osceola Library System hosted Earth Day for the second year at the St. Cloud Library. 550 people attended the 4-hour family event that was produced in partnership with the City of St. Cloud. 16 new library cards were given out as well. The celebration featured a visit from the shredding truck, presentations by partner organizations, textile recycling, up-cycling crafts and exhibitors. The event took place in and outside the library where patrons enjoyed a butterfly enclosure and got up close with emergency rescue vehicles and a garbage truck.

#### GLOW Read a Book!

The Youth Services team hosted a series of inventive and fun programs called GLOW Read a Book in honor of National Library Week. The events focused on teaching reading strategies in an exciting new way through games and activities. Meeting rooms were decked out in black light decorations and literacy stations were set up around the room. Participants enjoyed SCRABBLE, sensory bins, synonym scavenger hunts, hopscotch, and a GLOW Dance party. 189 people participated across 4 libraries.

#### New Immigrants Helped with Hello Project!

The BVL Library is the new home in Osceola County for the Hello Project!, a program created by the Orlando Center for Justice. Meetings kicked off in April and will continue once a month. The program seeks to provide new immigrants with legal assistance to navigate the challenging landscape of asylum, citizenship, deportation, human trafficking, and other issues that are vital to understand as part of the immigrant experience.

#### PlayDate at SENSES Park

April is Autism Awareness Month and to highlight the importance of creating inclusive programming for children with learning and behavioral differences, the Library held an outdoor storytime at the SENSES Park in the BVL community. This playground is designed for children on the autism spectrum to play, explore and learn in a welcoming environment. 27 children and their grownups learned about regular Library events like Sensory Playdate and participated in an interactive storytime.



#### Other April Happenings:

FLOW Bus returns: DMV services were conveniently available as the FLOW bus made a stop at the Hart Memorial Library.

National Library Week: This annual celebration of the importance of libraries featured library-inspired activities like creating painted bookends and a personalized bookshelf canvas.

National Poetry Month: Poetry-inspired programming filled April's calendar with events like Blackout Poetry Art and Open Mic Night: Poetry Edition.

Recycling crafts: Earth Day was celebrated all month with creative programming teaching how to repurpose everyday items, like Button Monograms using recycled buttons and Upcycled Rugs using old bedsheets.

Sidewalk Challenge: Bunny Hop: Participants silly walked through this Easterinspired sidewalk challenge at the Poinciana Library.

Library Workers Appreciation Day: Goodies, decorations and a fun library-themed pin were part of the day's celebration for the incredible Library staff.



Above: Patrons decorated bookends in recognition of National Library Week.





Left and Right: Day-glo parties at all the libraries celebrated reading while encouraging fun with dancing, twirling and playing games.





**Above:** SENSES Park in the Buenaventura Lakes community was the site of an inclusive storytime event lead by Youth Services staff. Participants engaged in activities and games that could be enjoyed by those with sensory challenges or who are on the autism spectrum.







Above and Left: Dozens of community partners gathered at the St. Cloud Library to celebrate Earth Day with crafts, information, games, free plants, demonstrations and a visit from the garbage and shredding trucks.

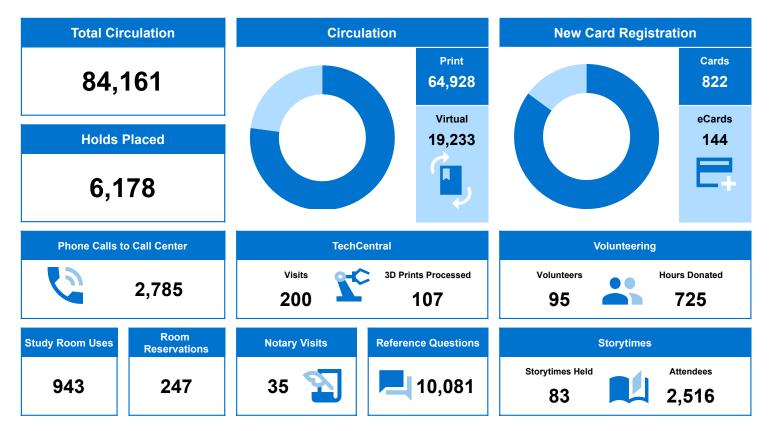


# Osceola S Library

### Monthly Report May 2023

Fiscal Year Oct. 2022 - Sept. 2023

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	15,628	13,743	72,387	62 Events & Activities, 1,429 Participants
St. Cloud	22,060	9,956	19,480	68 Events & Activities, 1,630 Participants
Poinciana	9,162	10,082	34,538	50 Events & Activities, 1,029 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	4,888	5,477	24,386	47 Events & Activities, 969 Participants
West Osceola	12,802	9,988	28,424	55 Events & Activities, 1,116 Participants
Kenansville	126	69	3,405	N/A
Narccossee	191	14	N/A	N/A
Reunion	71	11	N/A	N/A



#### HOPE Partnership at Hart Memorial Library

The Library debuted a new partnership with the HOPE Center, a local nonprofit that links unhoused and struggling individuals and families to important community, government and social services and resources. Community Specialists in the areas of employment and social services set up a welcoming space in a small meeting room and greet Library visitors who might need assistance and support. The drop in schedule is most Thursday and Friday mornings. Having such a valuable resource available reinforces the Library as a community hub where lives can be transformed through connections to information.

#### Free Comic Book Day + Crafter's Fair

The St. Cloud and Hart Memorial Libraries celebrated the annual event, Free Comic Book Day, held the first Saturday in May. The Hart Memorial Library joined the event with a popular Crafters Fair so families were able to enjoy games, hands-on activities and a costume contest with the opportunity to purchase locally made handicrafts just in time for Mother's Day. The St. Cloud Library distributed copies of comic books to library visitors. Free Comic Book Day helps to promote the notion that reading of any kind is good!

#### Florida Library Association annual conference

Several Library staff attended the annual Florida Library Association conference held in Daytona Beach. The Library was selected to present an informational poster on the popular Walking Library series and Programming Coordinator Michelle Mosely represented the Library in this event, speaking to attendees about the inventive programming she's implemented. Conference activities included attending workshops, networking, enjoying fundraising events, meeting Library industry leaders and vendors, and joining future committees to help shape the organization in the coming year. Osceola Library staff have joined the Conference Planning, Awards, Scholarships, Membership and Diversity Equity Inclusion Accessibility committees in addition to contributing to the Public Library Managers and Public Library Directors leadership groups.



#### Other May Happenings:

FLOW Bus: The Florida Licensing on Wheels bus made another stop at the Poinciana Library to help residents with their licensing needs.

One Book, One Community: In partnership with the Orlando Sentinel, *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor is brought to life through activities and a free copy of the title.

Macramé for Beginners: West Osceola patrons learned the basics of this fun craft that uses knots to create beautiful designs.

Simple Soldering: This basic electronics class taught in TechCentral provides the basics of using a soldering iron, necessary for many electronic projects.

Lost at Sea: National Maritime Day was honored at the St. Cloud Library with sea stories and nautical art.



**Above:** Kids at the St. Cloud Library create works of art inspired by the novel, *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor, 2023 selection for the One Book, One Community reading program promoted by the Orlando Sentinel.







Above and Left: Upstairs at the Hart Memorial Library was a celebration of Free Comic Book Day with games, crafts, costume contest and a make your own comic workshop. Downstairs, crafters of all kinds presented their original creations just in time for Mother's

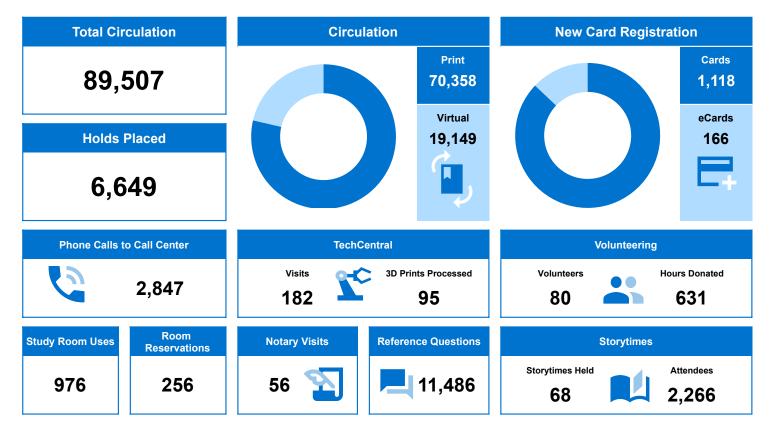


## Osceola Sibrary

### Monthly Report June 2023

Fiscal Year Oct. 2022 - Sept. 2023

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	17,205	15,325	72,930	81 Events & Activities, 1,346 Participants
St. Cloud	24,355	11,261	19,073	94 Events & Activities, 2,190 Participants
Poinciana	9,731	9,836	34,481	41 Events & Activities, 853 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	5,663	5,866	24,328	62 Events & Activities,1,425 Participants
West Osceola	13,025	10,789	28,510	64 Events & Activities, 1,255 Participants
Kenansville	165	92	3,416	N/A
Narccossee	141	14	N/A	N/A
Reunion	73	11	N/A	N/A



#### Summer Learning Kicks Off

With the universal theme of Find Your Voice, the Library kicked off another summer of fun and learning with events scheduled across the branches. Programs were enjoyed by all ages and families, but many events focused specifically on teens, adults or school age children as well. Highlights included:

Camp iRead for families, featuring a variety of different programs created by staff, including Dogman Extravaganza which celebrated the popular book character with crafts, games and trivia, Idea Builders teaching design skills using cardboard and the MakeDo construction system and STEAM Day, which lead learners science and tech activities.

Performers also dazzled attendees, featuring Iron Horse Singers and Dancers, Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre and the Go Native Music Show, among many others. Adult programs featured activities such as Backyard Birding, Tiny Art Painting, and creating Memory Keepers. Teens were encouraged to find their voice through Singing in the Stacks, Tie Dye, Senseless Cooperation and Open Mic Night, among other fun programs.

#### Pride Month Fun

The Library celebrated Pride Month with tons of opportunities for creative expression and exercises in individuality and acceptance for all ages. Adults could Paint with Pride, craft Macrame Rainbow flags and create Pride Boards to learn about LGBTQ+ history and design something original. Youth used temporary tattoos to express themselves through personal Rock Paintings. And families enjoyed Over the Rainbow Storytimes that celebrated LGBTQ+ families and community.

In the libraries, staff created displays showcasing our diverse collections and outside the Library, staff presented an information table at the City of Kissimmee PrideFest where we chatted with 240 people while giving and renewing Library cards.

#### Grant for Digital Literacy

The Library was awarded a \$6,000 grant from the Public Library Association to conduct workshops to enhance digital literacy in select communities. The Library chose nursing homes and assisted care facilities as locations for the training in order to reach an under-served population who may computer training.



#### ReadBox Debut

In the style of well-known curated box subscriptions this new innovative service where patrons tell us their reading preferences and we craft a box with "bookish goodies" and a book matching their interests. 15 people used the service in its first month.

#### ALA Poster Session

Two staff were selected to participate in a national conference's exhibition of informational posters. Dagmar Lopez and Michelle Mosely attended the American Library Association conference in Chicago after being chosen to present their poster Living History: Bringing the Old Frontier to Life in the New Frontier. The poster featured Michelle's programs such as A Day in the Life: Pioneer Women of St. Cloud and Back in the Day with Willie Mae that showcased local experts bringing their personal experiences to life in the library.





Left and Above: Michelle Mosely and Dagmar Lopez attended the annual American Library Association conference in Chicago to present their poster.





**Above:** Summer Learning kicked off with special programs by Gatorland and Go Native Music Show and a visit by SWISH, the mascot of the Osceola Magic basketball team. This year's theme is Find Your Voice!



Osceola D Library