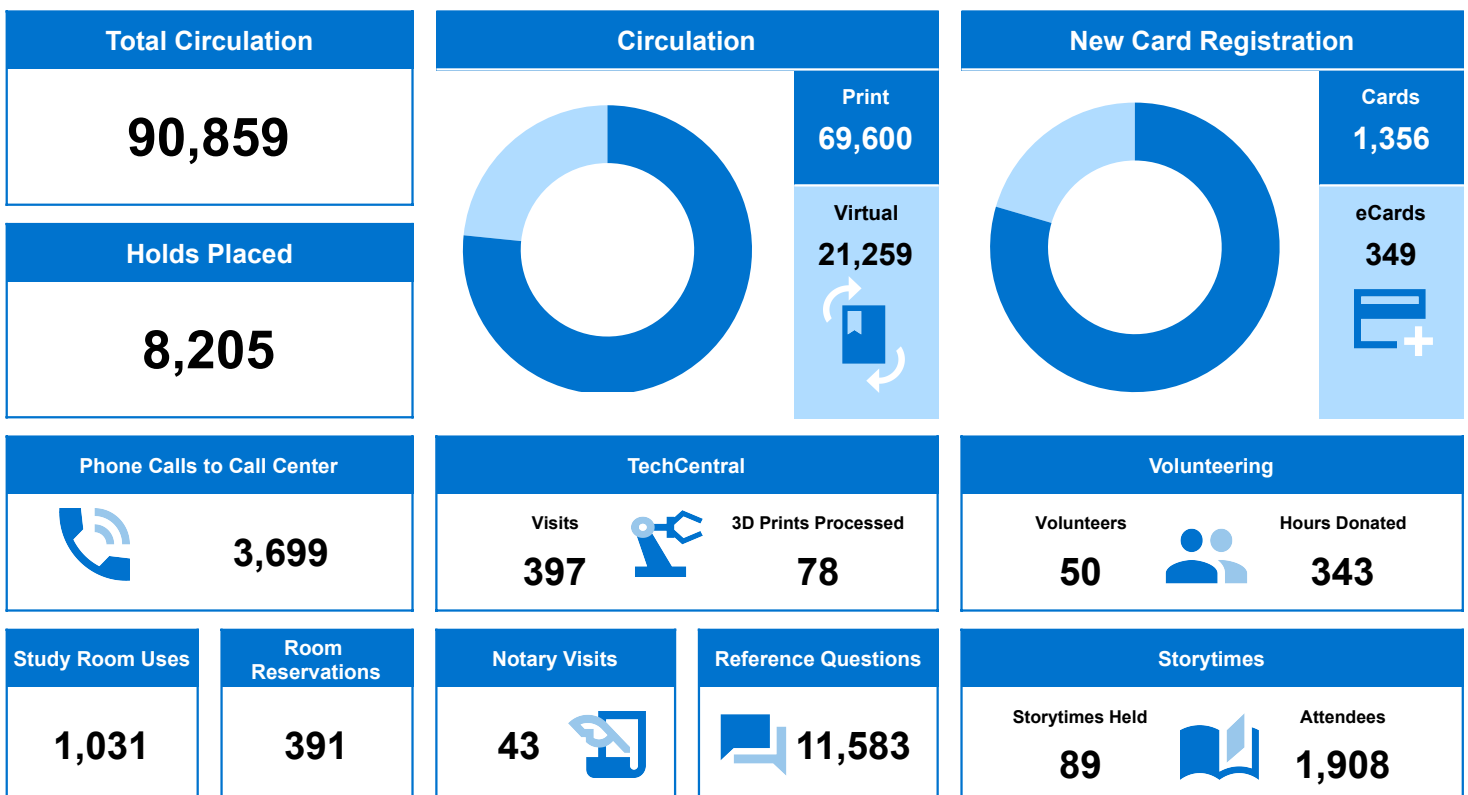


## Monthly Report January 2024

Fiscal Year Oct. 2023 - Sept. 2024

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (Including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	18,033	18,850	76,887	64 Events & Activities, 873 Participants
St. Cloud	22,737	10,827	20,744	66 Events & Activities, 1,380 Participants
Poinciana	9,219	13,968	33,934	47 Events & Activities, 1,008 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	5,040	6,100	22,045	53 Events & Activities, 1,048 Participants
West Osceola	14,091	11,885	24,932	62 Events & Activities, 1,316 Participants
Kenansville	194	92	3,478	N/A
Narccossee	157	15	N/A	N/A
Reunion	129	18	N/A	N/A

## System Stats at a Glance



## Teen programming through partnerships

The Library has entered into two new teen-oriented community partnerships that will help create a welcoming, safe space for teens to learn, share, and grow. The STEPS Foundation is bringing their Retain Your Brain and High School Survival workshops to the library. Staff will work with the group on activities such as book talks, test prep, and developing good social and emotional balance. The Rebuild Yourself nonprofit group has a similar mission. Their meetings will be held at the Hart Memorial and St. Cloud Libraries. Both groups have formed relationships with the Osceola School District and have developed a following in their current areas but are looking to the Library as a place for greater visibility. With the addition of librarians to their meetings, they're hoping to reach a new level of engagement with this vulnerable and elusive demographic.

## Thinking Money for Kids award

The Youth Services team applied for and was granted the opportunity to participate in an American Library Association financial literacy program for kids. The Thinking Money for Kids program kit contains educational materials for children 3-12, Playaway Launchpads with financial literacy content to check out, resources to help plan successful programs and virtual training. The Library will receive kits in English and Spanish. The value of each kit is \$2,000. The grant is a partnership with FINRA, which also provided a grant to the Library in 2022 to enhance our financial collection after hurricanes affected the area. An ALA press release was distributed nationally noting the Osceola Library System was one of only 300 libraries selected for this award.

## Ukulele Basics

A four-part series teaching the basics of the ukulele debuted in January. Ukuleles are a great Christmas gift and introductory instrument for budding musicians. The class was taught as part of the Library's TechCentral Makerspace and provided guided instruction in tuning, plucking, and strumming for all ages. The Library had ukuleles on hand as well as offering them to check out through the STEAM kit collection. 50 people attended this series in January.



## Other January Happenings:

**Library Card milestone:** January saw the largest amount of new library cards issued since 2019. A record 1,356 physical cards and 349 ecards were issued.

**Severe Weather Awareness Week launches:** This annual creative contest in partnership with Osceola County Emergency Management asks students to create an original work of art about Florida's sometimes severe weather. The winner will be announced in February.

**Florida Health Lunch & Learn presentation:** Library staff presented at the Department of Health's virtual staff meeting about Library services and resources. 100 people were in attendance.

**Teens Beyond Limits: Black Light Painting (below):** 18 teens gathered on a Saturday to learn a new painting technique using glow-in-the-dark paint presented by Library Associate and artist Nikki Jarrett.



**Adult Crafting at West Osceola (below):** 40 adults gathered to learn new skills and express their creativity with Crochet 101 and Tote Bag painting.



Below: The Library received a grant valued at \$2,000 from ALA and FINRA for financial literacy kits that include programming planning and tablets.



# THINKING

# MONEY

FOR

# Kids

PROGRAM KIT



APPLY BY SEPTEMBER 8!

**ALL-IN-ONE KIT  
FOR CHILDREN'S  
FINANCIAL EDUCATION  
PROGRAMMING**



American  
Library  
Association





## Monthly Report February 2024

Fiscal Year Oct. 2023 - Sept. 2024

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	18,114	18,690	77,405	77 Events & Activities, 1,336 Participants
St. Cloud	21,358	10,886	19,544	67 Events & Activities, 1,373 Participants
Poinciana	8,908	9,886	33,862	45 Events & Activities, 1,032 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	4,689	6,423	23,318	50 Events & Activities, 988 Participants
West Osceola	14,806	11,818	25,899	64 Events & Activities, 1,526 Participants
Kenansville	146	82	3,225	N/A
Narccossee	150	15	N/A	N/A
Reunion	96	15	N/A	N/A

## System Stats at a Glance

<b>Total Circulation</b> <b>87,585</b>	<b>Circulation</b> <div> <b>Print</b>  <b>68,267</b> </div> <div> <b>Virtual</b>  <b>19,318</b> </div>	<b>New Card Registration</b> <div> <b>Cards</b>  <b>1,217</b> </div> <div> <b>eCards</b>  <b>253</b> </div>
<b>Holds Placed</b> <b>6,516</b>	<b>Phone Calls to Call Center</b> <b>3,573</b>	<b>TechCentral</b> <div> <b>Visits</b>  <b>222</b> </div> <div> <b>3D Prints Processed</b>  <b>65</b> </div>
<b>Study Room Uses</b> <b>383</b>	<b>Room Reservations</b> <b>383</b>	<b>Volunteering</b> <div> <b>Volunteers</b>  <b>53</b> </div> <div> <b>Hours Donated</b>  <b>1,121</b> </div>
<b>Notary Visits</b> <b>14</b>	<b>Reference Questions</b> <b>12,171</b>	<b>Storytimes</b> <div> <b>Storytimes Held</b>  <b>84</b> </div> <div> <b>Attendees</b>  <b>2,446</b> </div>

## Tech Library receives \$4 million grant

Osceola County has been awarded a \$4 million grant from the Department of Commerce to build the Osceola County Technology Center. The “Tech Library” will be an 8,000-square-foot facility built in Commissioner Viviana Janer’s 2<sup>nd</sup> District. Janer championed the project which will feature services and resources for workforce development, technology instruction, and health resources. The Tech Library will be developed in partnership with CareerSource Central Florida, the County and State Health Department, the Library, and other local organizations. The Tech Library is scheduled to debut in 2027.

## Family Day at Narcoossee Community Center

Families gathered at the Narcoossee Community Center, home to our Narcoossee Express Locker for easy returns and pick up, for a morning full of stories and activities. Tables were set up showcasing materials used in our Sensory Playdate and Flex Your Fingers programs which use fun activities to teach preschool-age kids about fine motor skills and sensory integration. A STEAM area provided space for school-age kids to explore robotics. Library staff gave out library cards and information about programs and resources and all family members could enjoy free face painting, learning about the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, and the opportunity to create original bookmarks. The highlight of the morning was a sign-language storytime where Ms. Sharmel from the West Osceola read a book and Jorge, a Librarian Intern from the Poinciana Library, provided American Sign Language interpretation. The storytime and the entire morning was a wonderful introduction to the varied and exciting programs and services that the Library offers families and kids.

## Severe Weather Awareness winner announced

Each year, the Osceola Library System partners with Osceola County Emergency Management to present the Severe Weather Awareness contest for students in grades K through 12 that uses art as an effective communication tool to showcase how to stay and keep prepared for severe weather. The contest is run through the Library’s BiblioBoard digital publishing platform where contestants can easily upload their artistic submissions. This year’s winner was 10<sup>th</sup> grader Alejandra Blanco. Alejandra’s winning submission was entitled “Who Was In There” and depicted a house flooding with water. Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Emergency Management Director Bill Litton, and Youth Services Manager Lisa Jones presented Alejandra with the award and a print of her winning submission will hang in the offices of the Emergency Management department.

## Other February Happenings:

**Bedtime Math at West Osceola:** This program makes everyday math fun as kids problem-solve everyday problems with creative math solutions.

**KultureCity outreach:** Library staff worked with KultureCity, a leading nonprofit for sensory accessibility, to provide services at the Pro Bowl games in Orlando.

**Strategic Plan survey:** Using MySocialPinPoint, the Library's Strategic Planning process kicked off with a survey of library users and Osceola citizens. 1,767 results were received from February 1-23 which will be used to help shape goals and activities over the next few years.

**Black History Month:** Programs and in-library activities celebrated the achievements of Black Americans. Programs included "Who Was Louis Armstrong?" for school-age kids, featured authors and books presented in storytimes, and celebrations of famous artists, scientists, and figures from history.

**E.S.O.L. for Beginners:** On Tuesday nights, English-language learners gather at the Hart Memorial Library to practice their English skills. The Adult Literacy League provides a high-quality volunteer teacher that draws a crowd, and two Tuesdays in February saw 28 people attend one class, and on another Tuesday, there were 30 eager students excited to learn together. This program is part of an ongoing effort to provide English language learning opportunities at convenient hours at all Osceola Library branches, either through the Adult Literacy League or with the Library's staff.



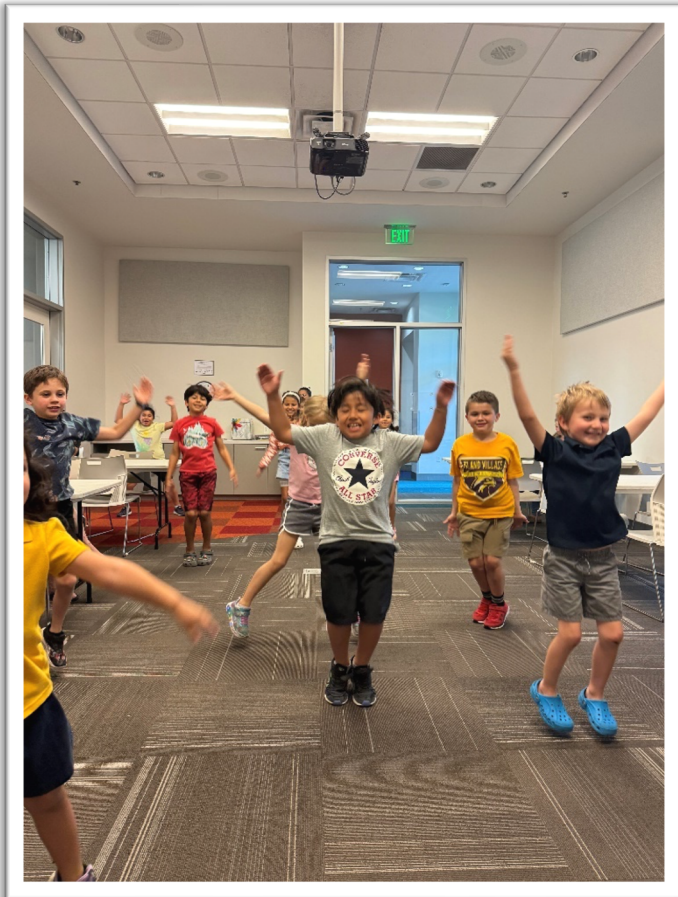




Family Day at the Narcoossee Community Center was fun for the whole family.







Above: Bedtime Math at West Osceola makes learning math fun.

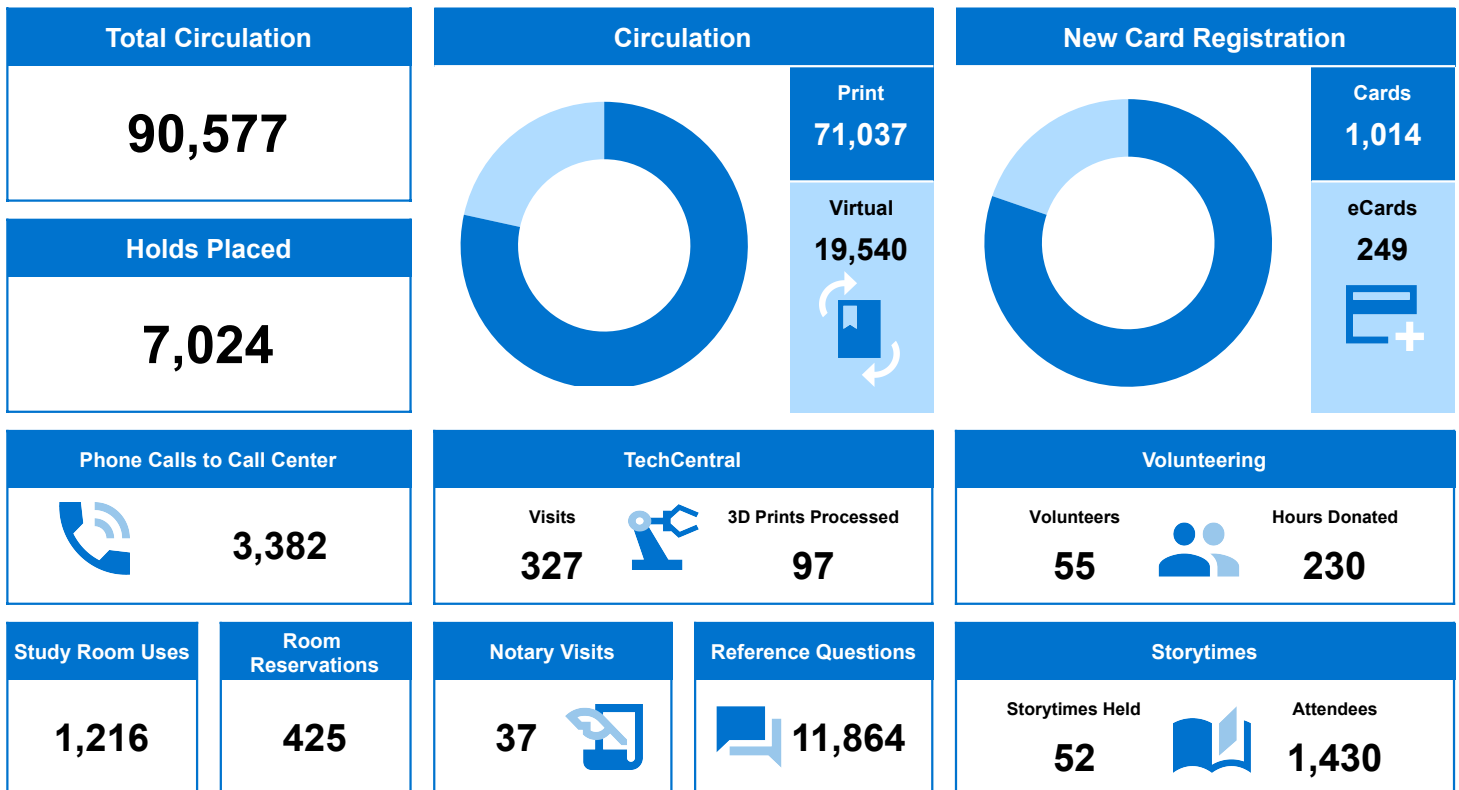
Left: Hart Memorial Library spotlighted artist Jean-Michel Basquiat during Black History Month with an interpretive painting program.

## Monthly Report March 2024

Fiscal Year Oct. 2023 - Sept. 2024

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	18,043	19,351	71,157	78 Events & Activities, 928 Participants
St. Cloud	23,358	10,886	19,544	68 Events & Activities, 1,323 Participants
Poinciana	8,996	9,298	30,046	49 Events & Activities, 839 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	5,349	6,376	21,460	50 Events & Activities, 923 Participants
West Osceola	15,027	12,455	22,147	66 Events & Activities, 1,436 Participants
Kenansville	152	119	1,748	N/A
Narccossee	181	13	N/A	N/A
Reunion	141	14	N/A	N/A

## System Stats at a Glance





## Peter Raymundo's colorful mural debuts at West Osceola Library

The West Osceola Library was gifted with a colorful mural designed and painted by bestselling children's book author and illustrator and Celebration resident, Peter Raymundo. The mural adorns a wall in the children's area and showcases a fun scene of many family-favorite children's book characters frolicking on a hill by a stream. The mural debuted to the public with a storytime led by Raymundo and Youth Services Librarian Ms. Sharmel in the open space and dozens of families snuggled among the shelves and computers to enjoy the morning's activities.



## Osceola Magic raffle encourages reading and checkouts

A new partnership with Osceola Magic encouraged patrons to read in exchange for the opportunity to put their name into a raffle for two free tickets to the new local basketball team's home games. From January to March, 574 people entered a raffle by checking out five books each – 2,870 books! The prizes were attendance at themed home games – Star Wars Night, Black History Celebration Night, and Marvel Night.



## Celebration Chess Club holds after-hours Spring Championship

After the West Osceola Library closed its doors on a Friday night, it reopened as the scene of the Celebration Chess Club's Spring Championship. 76 people attended this all-level, intergenerational chess tournament facilitated by the Orlando Chess Association and winners received trophies from facilitator Nick Perez. The Library hosts weekly Chess Club meetings and the championship allowed club attendees and local chess enthusiasts to show what they know in a friendly competition. Attendees remarked that they didn't know anything about chess before but now were excited to get started learning!





## Other March Happenings:

**Paint Night:** The Library is now hosting Paint Nights at the Buenaventura Lakes, St. Cloud, and Poinciana Libraries with West Osceola debuting the art program in the summer. Paint Nights are developed and produced by highly artistic library staff.



**Voting:** Several libraries were the site of Early or Election Day voting during the Presidential Preference Primary. In partnership with the Supervisor of Elections, the West Osceola Library was an Early Voting and Election Day location. The St. Cloud, Buenaventura Lakes, and Poinciana Libraries served as Election Day locations. Libraries will again provide voting during the upcoming General Election.

**Books & Ballet:** The Orlando Ballet brought their interactive storytime to all libraries in March. In honor of Women's History Month, representatives danced and read stories about the enchanting world of ballet. 79 people attended.

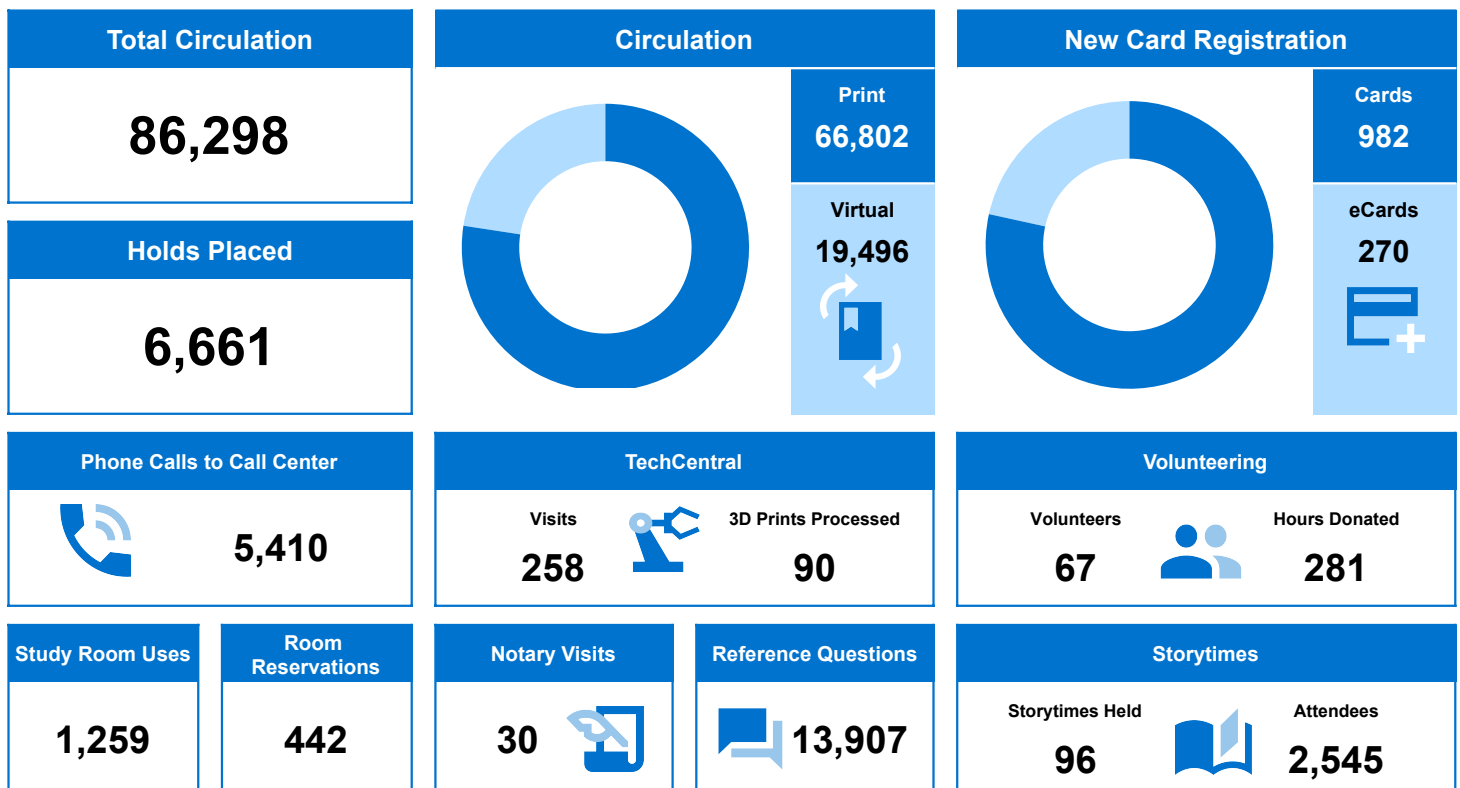


## Monthly Report April 2024

Fiscal Year Oct. 2023 - Sept. 2024

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	15,817	18,495	79,227	72 Events & Activities, 1,033 Participants
St. Cloud	23,008	11,544	23,827	81 Events & Activities, 2,522 Participants
Poinciana	8,399	10,019	31,549	57 Events & Activities, 967 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	5,155	6,640	22,829	63 Events & Activities, 1,202 Participants
West Osceola	14,049	12,879	24,816	77 Events & Activities, 2,492 Participants
Kenansville	103	62	1,794	N/A
Narccossee	170	14	N/A	N/A
Reunion	101	15	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,802</b>	<b>59,668</b>	<b>184,042</b>	<b>350 Events &amp; Activities, 8,216 Participants</b>

## System Stats at a Glance





## Gathering for Earth Day & Community Shred Event in St. Cloud



We celebrated Earth Day with two family events at the St. Cloud Library. In partnership with the City of St. Cloud, the Earth Day Celebration attracted 750 attendees. The festival-type program featured environmental exhibits, crafts, food trucks, eco-friendly presentations, face painting, free tree giveaways, bounce houses, and special appearances by Sami the Sandhill Crane and Smokey the Bear in celebration of his 80th birthday. It was a fabulous community event, resulting in 352 books being checked out and 8 new library cards created. The celebration continued the following Saturday with the Community Shred Event sponsored by the St. Cloud Friends of the Library, where 175 people lined up to have their documents shredded in this safe and environmentally friendly public service. The positive feedback included thanks on social media “to the library staff who came up with this community service!”





## Lucky Scramble Book Release Party

695 people jammed into the West Osceola Library to celebrate the release of local resident and best-selling author and illustrator Peter Raymundo's latest work, a hybrid graphic novel entitled *Lucky Scramble*, about the world of competitive speedcubing.



Raymundo brought with him Phil Yu, co-founder and CEO of The Cubicle, and Max Park, Speedcubing world champion and world record holder, to help out! The Library held a raffle for checkouts, printed *Lucky Scramble* t-shirts, and enjoyed opportunities for photos. Participants were also able to enter into a raffle for *Lucky Scramble*-themed prizes. 191 items were checked out, a 45% increase over other Tuesdays in April.



## Celebrating Eid a-Fitr!

West Osceola Library's Eid program celebrating the Muslim holiday of breaking the fast of Ramadan was a resounding success, drawing praise from attendees and sparking enthusiasm for future events. 51 people attended. Patrons expressed gratitude for the representation and sense of community fostered by the program, with many remarking that they had never experienced such programming at the library before. Families appreciated the opportunity for their children to connect with Muslim culture and traditions, and some expressed interest in helping plan future festivities. Attendees enjoyed activities such as henna art, learning about other cultures through storytime, and sharing traditional treats. One patron traveled from St. Cloud specifically for the program, highlighting the importance of diverse programming in bringing communities together. Another parent attended due to the program's focus on cultural education, recognizing its value in supplementing their children's learning. The event was praised for its inclusivity, educational value, and the sense of belonging it provided to attendees.



## Experiencing the Eclipse

On April 8, much of the United States experienced a total solar eclipse. In Florida, we experienced a 65% eclipse and celebrated the historic event by giving out over 700 solar eclipse glasses. The Library held two events to provide education and context to the occasion. Eclipse 101 at the St. Cloud Library hosted a presenter from the Central Florida Astronomical Society to delve into fascinating eclipse facts (34 people attended) and Here Comes the Sun Eclipse Viewing Party at the West Osceola Library was a highlighted event on local television for being one of the few public events happening across Central Florida at eclipse time. Kids were able to create an eclipse pinhole viewer using construction paper (14 people, plus WESH-2 news, attended). The Library's Call Center also received nearly 5,500 calls in April, an 81% increase over April 2023.

## Other Library Happenings:

Highlighting National Library Week: Social media, in-library, and staff-focused activities were planned for each day of this week that celebrates the impact and importance of libraries.

GLOW Read a Book events: This successful mixture of glow-in-the-dark activities with reading games encourages literacy across all ages. 131 people attended.

US Citizenship Workshop: 15 people received expert assistance in pursuing their US citizenship from the NALEO Educational Fund, a group that empowers Latinos to

participate in public service.



Anime After Hours: The BVL Library opened up after hours for this teen event that showcased creativity in cosplay, artistic inspiration, and reading and watching Japanese stories in manga and anime. This successful 2-hour event drew over 100 people!



## Monthly Report May 2024

Fiscal Year Oct. 2023 - Sept. 2024

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	15,145	18,892	79,381	60 Events & Activities, 729 Participants
St. Cloud	22,988	10,423	21,728	55 Events & Activities, 1,407 Participants
Poinciana	8,581	10,853	31,813	56 Events & Activities, 1,236 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	4,827	6,070	21,167	48 Events & Activities, 871 Participants
West Osceola	14,136	11,668	21,669	77 Events & Activities, 1,534 Participants
Kenansville	115	66	33,233	N/A
Narccossee	144	16	N/A	N/A
Reunion	33	9	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,969</b>	<b>57,997</b>	<b>208,991</b>	<b>350 Events &amp; Activities, 8,216 Participants</b>

## System Stats at a Glance

<b>Total Circulation</b> <b>86,548</b>	<b>Circulation</b> <div> <b>Print</b> 65,969  <b>Virtual</b> 20,482         </div>	<b>New Card Registration</b> <div> <b>Cards</b> 973  <b>eCards</b> 275         </div>
<b>Holds Placed</b> <b>6,846</b>	<b>Phone Calls to Call Center</b> <b>3,178</b>	<b>TechCentral</b> <div> <b>Visits</b> 362  <b>3D Prints Processed</b> 138         </div>
<b>Study Room Uses</b> <b>1,158</b>	<b>Room Reservations</b> <b>338</b>	<b>Volunteering</b> <div> <b>Volunteers</b> 46  <b>Hours Donated</b> 249         </div>
<b>Notary Visits</b> <b>46</b>	<b>Reference Questions</b> <b>10,782</b>	<b>Storytimes</b> <div> <b>Storytimes Held</b> 76  <b>Attendees</b> 2,347         </div>

## Comic Book and Star Wars Celebrations

Two celebrations marked Free Comic Book Day at the Osceola Library System. At the BVL Library, young Padawans and others in the Jedi Order embarked on an intergalactic adventure during May the Comics Come Forth. This Star Wars-themed event drew 24



participants who engaged in STEAM activities and a costume contest and received free comic books to take home. The Force was strong with attendees as they discovered the joy of comics and Star Wars.



The Hart Memorial Library hosted a Free Comic Book Day event that welcomed 59 attendees of all ages. Comic enthusiasts enjoyed free giveaways and engaging activities like trivia and Superhero Bingo. Both events highlighted the universal appeal of comics as a medium that bridges generations and sparks excitement for reading. Comics provide an excellent gateway for reluctant readers, reinforcing that all forms of reading are valuable.

## FLA Presentations and Award

The Library made a significant impact at this year's Florida Library Association conference in Orlando. Youth Services staff presented two compelling sessions that highlighted innovative approaches and community partnerships. One session, "Fostering Diversity in Children's Storytimes," explored how the Youth Team curated materials for programming that authentically represent Osceola County's diverse community, amplifying voices and stories from varied backgrounds outside of traditional celebrations or designated "months." Another session, "Storybook Adventures," showcased a unique collaboration between the St. Cloud Library, led by Youth Librarian Crystal Hamrick, and St. Cloud Main Street. This partnership creatively merges economic development initiatives with literacy through a story walk-style program.





Programming Coordinator Michelle Mosely received acclaim at the conference, earning the Florida Library Association's Award for Library Innovation for her Walking Library series. This innovative series integrates educational and informative community walks, guided by local partners and historians, offering engaging experiences that bring the library beyond its walls and into the heart of the community.

### Early Learning Coalition LearnHub Partnership

The Library has the opportunity to partner with the Early Learning Coalition to establish an Early LearnHub at the Hart Memorial Library. The LearnHub project from the ELC is intended to “bridge the educational gap” within the community “by integrating enriching learning experiences into community spaces.” The Hart Memorial Library will



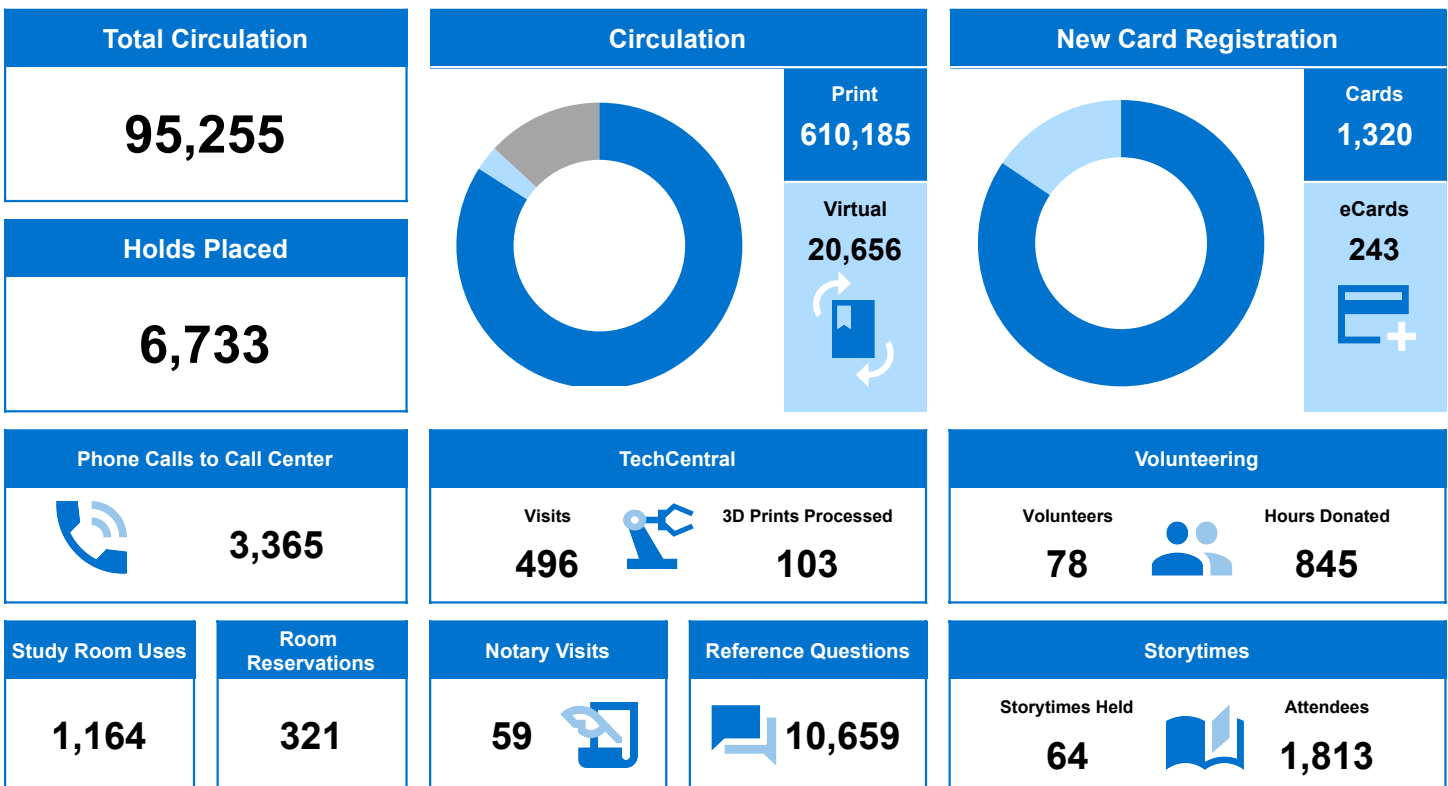
transform spaces in its children's area with Lakeshore Learning resources into STEAM activity areas for preschoolers, toddlers, and babies. This project should be completed by late summer.

## Monthly Report June 2024

Fiscal Year Oct. 2023 - Sept. 2024

Location	Print Circulation	Visitors	Computer Sessions (including WiFi)	Programming
Hart Memorial	17,815	20,033	80,755	76 Events & Activities, 1,102 Participants
St. Cloud	26,236	12,729	21,985	83 Events & Activities, 2,247 Participants
Poinciana	9,903	9,892	30,551	71 Events & Activities, 1,873 Participants
Buenaventura Lakes	5,875	6,248	20,199	71 Events & Activities, 1,764 Participants
West Osceola	14,479	10,955	22,130	73 Events & Activities, 2,093 Participants
Kenansville	116	68	3,444	N/A
Narccossee	144	16	N/A	N/A
Reunion	33	9	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,601</b>	<b>59,950</b>	<b>179,064</b>	<b>350 Events &amp; Activities, 8,216 Participants</b>

## System Stats at a Glance

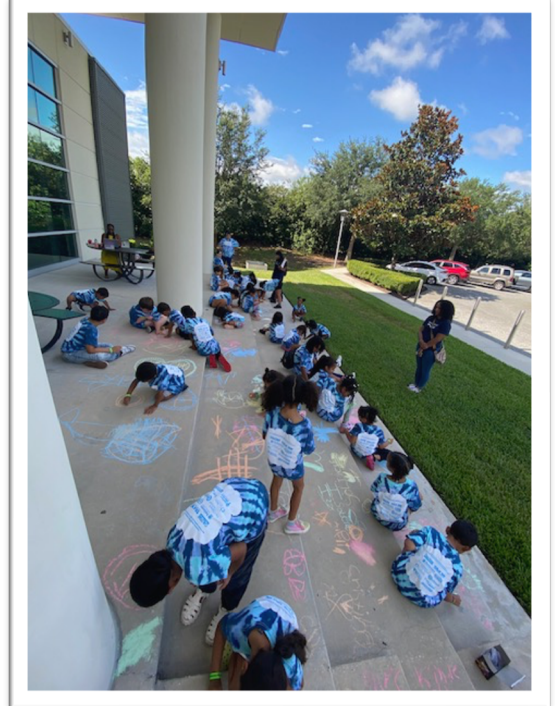
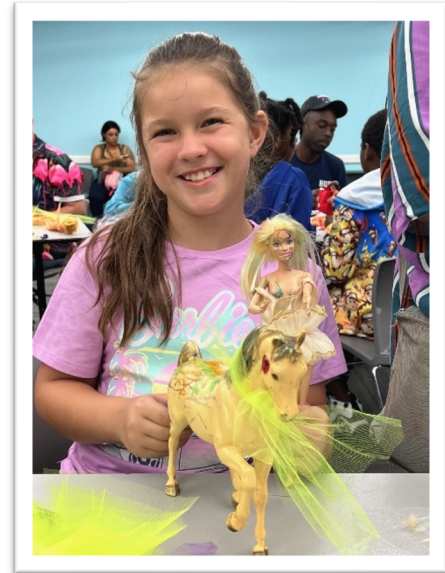


## Summer Learning festivities begin

The Library launched two months of summer programming with learning and fun. For all ages. From youth to adults, the programs, reading challenges, and exciting prizes attracted thousands of visitors to our libraries, inside and outside!



This year's theme, "Read, Renew, Repeat," focuses on conservation, recycling, animal habitats, and keeping the environment healthy. Camp iRead offers engaging presenters and activities for school-age kids and their families. Highlights included visits from Gatorland and storytellers Jimmy Vee and Peter Raymundo plus librarian-led activities like making a cardboard garden, creating chalk art, and exploring nature and wildlife. Special events like the Barbie Summer Spectacular and Foam-Palooza brought out the wild imagination in everyone. "Read, Renew, Repeat" programs featured popular activities teens love like Tie Dye, Friendship Bracelets, and Pokemon. Adults enjoyed a variety of presentations on gardening tips, chair yoga, Paint Night, nature walks, and crafts using upcycled materials.







## Library tables at PrideFest

The Library tabled at the City of Kissimmee PrideFest event held at the Kissimmee Civic Center on June 1, the first day of Pride Month. Library staff brought handouts and library merchandise but also brought the fun with a bracelet-making station that was a big hit. 102 people stopped by the Library table. PrideFest is an annual celebration of the contributions and diversity of the LGBTQIA+ community and features vendors, food, performances, and networking.

## Crafter's Fair in Celebration

The West Osceola Library hosted a successful Crafter's Fair, filling the open space of the library with vendors showcasing their talents for the community to purchase. Over 200 people attended this afternoon event.



## New text messaging system

An updated text messaging system was implemented to provide more reliable text notifications for Library patrons. Preferences for receiving text notices can be updated in the My Account section of the online catalog and if selected, notifications can be sent in Spanish instead of English. This will help make the Library more user-friendly and customizable to patron needs.

