Creative at Any Age
—AT YOUR LIBRARY
Look for Your Opportunities

I remember as a kid making figures out of clay, designing and building “forts,” building sand castles at the beach, dressing up dolls, finger-painting, imagining shapes in the clouds and making necklaces out of beads. When I say I built sand castles, anyone who has ever built a sand castle knows that there needs to be the right ratio of moisture to sand. One needs to consider how fine the beach sand is and how many large shells are mixed in. The base needs to be wider than the top, etc. I didn’t realize it at the time, but my creative, imaginative play was helping to build my creative intellect as well as my problem-solving skills.

Sometimes, as adults, we miss opportunities to be creative, but they are all around us. There isn’t always a lesson to be learned. Let’s be creative just for the fun of it! Look for your opportunities to be creative… design a tattoo, tell a story, landscape your yard, cook a gourmet meal, redecorate a room, take some photographs, preserve and paint the largest bass you ever caught (taxidermy), sculpt something out of clay, design a quilt, write a short story, decorate a cake, write some song lyrics or a melody, paint or draw, or make earrings out of beads and wire.

Opportunities to be creative can be just for fun, or maybe they can be both fun and a part of your professional development. Do you have the opportunity to design a building, develop a computer program, create an advertising campaign, make a scientific discovery, or maybe excel at creative problem solving?

Let’s encourage creative play in our children. As adults, let’s look around and explore opportunities for creativity. By offering resources and materials on each of the creative opportunities mentioned (and more), your public library can help you be creative at any age!
Mozart wrote his first composition, a Minuet and Trio in G major, when he was five years old. Portuguese filmmaker Manoel de Oliveira directed four movies after the age of 100. These two people, separated by age, have something in common. They both had the ability to be creative throughout a lifetime.

Creativity first appears in our infancy and, if encouraged, colors every aspect of our lives. It helps us to solve problems, see opportunities, keep our brains healthy, and just have fun! The key to enjoying the benefits of creativity is to recognize its lifelong importance and to take steps to encourage and stimulate the creative process.

Fortunately, one creative outlet for all ages is your Marion County Public Library System. This fall and throughout the year, your public library has resources, programs and events certain to ignite that creative spark in all lifelong learners.

Area teens, ages 13-18, will take center stage at this year’s Colossal, Reading, Entertaining, Artsy Teen Event (CREATE), Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., where creative writing, filmmaking, fine arts and performing art exhibits abound. And for fairy tale lovers, the annual Fairy Tale Festival, Saturday, Oct. 28, from 1-4 p.m., is a celebration of age-old stories that have captured the imaginations of untold generations.

Check out this issue of Words for more information about programs, events and opportunities for creative inspiration at all eight public library locations.

Next time you visit your public library, take a minute to look around. It is humming with creative energy. The 80-year-old man at the computer is learning French. The young woman studying in the reference section just had a great idea for a new business. The children reading in the children’s division corner aren’t really here—they’re at Hogwarts School of Wizardry.

Visit any of the eight Marion County Public Library System locations to ignite your sense of wonder, imagination, inspiration or ingenuity. Make your public library the outlet where you can recharge your creative batteries for a lifetime.
A Time to CREATE
BY ERIN ARNOLD

What does a world-class art museum, a top-ranking community theatre, a prestigious fine arts festival and a beloved symphony orchestra all have in common? They are all examples of how Marion County shines a spotlight on the arts and a wide range of creative community efforts.

Area teens ages 13-18 with a flair for fine art, creative writing, filmmaking and performing arts will once again find an opportunity for creative expression at the ninth annual Colossal, Reading, Entertaining, Artsy, Teen Event (CREATE), Sat. Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library. Participants can compete in any category for a chance to win cash prizes sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library.

Highlights of this year’s event include author Vivi Barnes, best known for “Paper or Plastic” and “Olivia Twisted.” Barnes will lead a writer’s workshop on character development and storyboarding. Creative writer workshop participants will receive a copy of Barnes’ book.

Local filmmaker Bronson Mosley of Day Break Studios will talk about his experiences making movies with homegrown Marion County talent and present a live demonstration on special effects makeup.

Grab a CREATE application at any Marion County Public Library location or online at library.marioncountyfl.org. Application deadline is Monday, Oct. 2.

Whether you’re a teen artist, writer, filmmaker or performer, it’s your time to shine. The spotlight is yours!

Follow the Fairy Tale Trail
to Your Public Library
BY KAREN RESCINITI

Hear ye, hear ye, the ninth annual Fairy Tale Festival commences on Saturday, Oct. 28, 1-4 p.m., at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library. The festival is a celebration of age-old stories that have captured the imaginations of untold generations. Children can return to the enchantment of once upon a time where fun can be found around every make-believe castle corner.

Attendees will be serenaded by minstrels, make royal crafts, learn to play chess, and enjoy the lively dance performances of the Greenwood Morris Dancers. Younger children can build block palaces, play a Jack in the Beanstalk alphabet game, put together a princess floor puzzle or even enact a favorite tale with puppets. Take a turn at the Knight’s Training School, the Princess Parlor or transform into a fire-breathing dragon for a memorable photo opportunity.

Ocala Civic Theatre entertainers, dressed as storybook characters, will provide a dramatic diversion. Even the library’s beloved mascot, Beary, dressed in a suit of armor, will display his valor. Royal story gardens, created by the Pioneer Garden Club of Ocala, will also delight all ages.

Bring the family, dressed in costume, and make magical memories at this year’s Fairy Tale Festival.
Ignite Your Creativity  BY DOMINA DAUGHTREY

Whether you’re looking for creative inspiration, instruction or improving your skills—the library is your key to creativity. Check out some of the library’s fabulous resources to fire up your creative juices!

Kate McDermott’s “Art of the Pie: A Practical Guide to Homemade Crusts, Fillings, and Life” is sure to inspire the baker within. This 352-page gem for beginning and experienced bakers details “tools of the trade” and provides helpful tips, such as methods of measuring ingredients and getting to know your oven. A variety of dough recipes are included, both flour based and gluten free, along with dozens of lip-smacking pie recipes—from classic apple and banana–rum–caramel–coconut to you–pick–the–seasoning meat pie. All provide easy–to–follow instructions. Heartwarming, anecdotal stories are peppered throughout the text, as well as mouthwatering photographs of McDermott’s culinary delights.

Is painting your creative outlet or would you like it to be? Grab a paintbrush and a copy of “Rock Art! Painting and Crafting with the Humble Pebble,” and get creative! Author and artist Denise Scicluna explores rock painting, “one of the oldest forms of expression by humankind.” Enjoy the 40 fun, rock art projects, presented with detailed instructions and colorful illustrations. And if you need to find homes for your colorful creations, check out “Ocala Rocks” on Facebook. Put a smile on someone’s face and inspire to create and spread happiness!

Great readers make great writers, so if writing is your craft, be sure to check out Roy Peter Clark’s “The Art of X-ray Reading: How the Secrets of 25 Great Works of Literature Will Improve Your Writing.” Simply put, X-ray reading is “seeing something more” by thinking about what’s “beneath the surface of the text.” Take a close look at passages from several pieces of great literature, including “The Great Gatsby,” “Their Eyes Were Watching God” and “Seabiscuit,” and discover the moving parts of the narrative that create effects, such as suspense, humor and pain. Each fun and engaging chapter ends with a writing lesson to aid in developing X-ray skills.

The Marion County Public Library System was honored to have First Lady Ann Scott visit the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library and read to students from the Boys and Girls Club as part of her 2017 Summer Literacy Adventure.
Paws and Pages Pet Expo
It’s All About The Happy Ending
BY KAREN M. JENSEN

For dog lovers Brian and Alina Stoothoff, the death of their beloved dog last year was devastating. Although they both remember the intense grieving process, the thought of replacing the dog was really not in the forefront of either of their minds.

Sometimes life just puts opportunities in our paths, and Alina remembers reading about the 2016 Paws and Pages Pet Expo on the library’s Facebook page. Both Alina and Brian are library supporters, and Alina felt drawn to the event because it was actually being held at the library. It couldn’t hurt to look, could it?

And so the story begins about how Copper joined the Stoothoff family. Copper, a beautiful, medium sized, spayed female dog in the care of Voices of Change Animal League, Inc. (VOCAL, www.vocalforpets.org) initially grabbed Alina’s heart. She called Brian and asked him to stop by the library on his way home from teaching a class. He became equally smitten with Copper.

According to the Stoothoffs, Copper quickly adapted to their family. “It’s debatable whether we adopted her or she rescued us,” said Brian. Copper has proven to be such a wonderful canine companion that the Stoothoffs later adopted another rescue dog, GG. Both dogs are now permanent members of the family and a bonded pair.

Brian and Alina encourage folks who are thinking about adopting at the Paws and Pages Pet Expo to make sure they are ready to adopt, have both the time and financial means, and ask lots of questions about the prospective pet. Oh, and one more thing to add to that checklist: be prepared to be loved like crazy!

“There are so many dogs needing to be saved who subsequently save their new owners in return. It’s kind of like paying it forward,” said Alina.

According to Wendy Hillyard, Marion County Animal Center Manager, “This year’s expo should be even better than last year’s effort. We are looking forward to having a wider participation from local organizations and pet–related businesses in the community.” Pet lovers will enjoy the educational resources, talk to experts and see what Marion County has to offer pets and adoptive pet parents. “Of course, the best part for us is to be able to match committed, loving people with homeless shelter pets,” said Hillyard.

The Paws and Pages Pet Expo will take place on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library.

Unleash your inner pet lover and head over to the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library for the second annual Paws & Pages Pet Expo.
All library programs are free and open to the public. Registration/tickets may be required.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Paws & Pages Pet Expo
Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala
Looking for a new best friend? Consider adopting from one of our local animal groups and bring a pet into a forever home! Local vendors and exhibitors provide information and resources for every pet owner. All pets must be leashed.

CREATE: A Colossal, Reading, Entertaining, Artsy, Teen Event
Application deadline: Monday, Oct. 2*
Event: Saturday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala
Celebrate the many talents of Marion County teens! Applaud the writing, filmmaking, artistic and performing arts talents of youth in our community. Vote for your favorites in each category. Have a snack at a food truck and maybe win a door prize! All ages are invited to attend.

*Event participation is open only to ages 13-18. Applications are available at any branch location or online at library.marioncountyfl.org.

Stories Under the Stars: Phantoms in the Fort
Saturday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Fort King Park, 3925 E. Fort King St., Ocala
Celebrate the opening of the fort at the Fort King Park with spooky stories and snacks around a fire. The darker it gets, the spookier the tales! Hear master storytellers and tell a tale of your own, all while sitting in the historical fort that makes Fort King so unique! Presented in partnership with Ocala Recreation and Parks, Fort King National Historic Landmark, and Ocala Storytelling Festival, Inc.

Fairy Tale Festival
Saturday, Oct. 28, 1-4 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala
Ages 12 and younger with caregivers.
Travel to once upon a time. Dress up as your favorite character, dance around the Maypole with the Greenwood Morris Dancers and enjoy fractured fairy tale laughs with the Ocala Civic Theatre. Let your imagination wander through the enchanted fairy gardens created by the Pioneer Garden Club of Ocala.

Fall Festival
Saturday, Oct. 28, 1-4 p.m.
Dunnellon Public Library
Celebrate fall with Paul the Magician, Woodsy the Owl, stories, games and more! Co-sponsored by United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

Trunk or Treat!
Saturday, Oct. 28, 4 p.m.
Forest Public Library
It’s the season for lots of fun with games, clowns, face painting and, of course, candy! Presented in conjunction with the Forest Community Center.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

College Applications: Not the Worst Thing Ever
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 5 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala
Saturday, Sept. 23, 2 p.m.
Dunnellon Public Library
People often describe the college admissions process as if it’s a zombie apocalypse...one wrong move and someone’s eating your brain. But it doesn’t have to be that way. Chat with college admission expert R.J. Jenkins about how to apply to college and keep your brain intact.

Storytelling Workshop With Jeremy Evans
Tuesday, Oct. 3, 4:30 p.m.
Bellevue Public Library
Tell a tale. Spin a yarn. With these great tips, you’ll be trading stories with the best of them.

I Love to Read! Who Said That?
Saturday, Oct. 14, 1 p.m.
Fort McCoy Public Library
It’s a hilarious time at the library with renowned ventriloquist Mark Wade. Co-founder of the International Ventriloquist Society and hailed as America’s foremost children’s ventriloquist, Wade is sure to delight all ages with his tongue-in-cheek (or somewhere) antics.
Miranda Madison and “The House” Honor Ella Fitzgerald
Sunday, Oct. 15, 2 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala
An intimate, family-friendly concert celebrating Ella’s unmatched talent as the first lady of jazz. Learn about Miranda Madison’s new community music project, “The House That Jazz Built.”

Meet Geronimo and Thea Stilton
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m.
Belleview Public Library
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 11 a.m.
Dunnellon Public Library
Geronimo and his sister, Thea, have come all the way from New Mouse City to visit the library! Share a hug with these adventurous children’s book characters.

Florida’s Native American Heritage
Friday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m.
Forest Public Library
Celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Experience the enchanting sounds of the Native American flute through the stories and songs of Frank Sunshadow Curtis. Explore the history, culture and geography of our area’s native groups with Natural Resource Specialist Tonee Davis from the U.S. Forest Service.

MEET THE AUTHORS

Christopher Kelly
“America Invaded: A State by State Guide to Fighting on American Soil”
Ever since inhabiting the North American continent, humans have explored, established boundaries and subsequently invaded the territory now called the United States. Kelly, former chairman of the ChyronHego Corporation, retired television executive and history aficionado, explains some of these confrontations.

Wednesday, Sept. 13, noon
Fort McCoy Public Library
(Brown Bag Luncheon)
Thursday, Sept. 14, 3:30 p.m.
Bellevue Public Library
Friday, Sept. 15, 2 p.m.
Dunnellon Public Library

Steve Burt, The Sinister Minister
“FreeK Week”
Thursday, Oct. 26, 3:30 p.m.
Belleview Public Library
Rev. Dr. Steve Burt was featured as The Sinister Minister in Connecticut Magazine after one of his many collections of weird tales and ghost stories won the Bram Stoker Award. In 2015, his novel, “FreeK Week,” set in Ocala, The Villages and Cassadaga, won the Florida Book Festival Grand Prize. Revel in seasonal spookiness with Burt’s weird tales and a few particulars about how he creates them.

Leah Oxendine
“The Rebels of Florida”
Wednesday, Oct. 11, noon
Reddick Public Library
Bring your bag lunch and enjoy meeting our young local author. In her first novel, Oxendine combines two passions—American Civil War reenacting and writing—bringing us a compelling fictional story of the Civil War. Beverage and dessert provided. Contact the library at 352-438-2566 to reserve a piece of pie!

Elisabeth Perras
“Raising Adam in the Face of Adversity”
Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2 p.m.
Dunnellon Public Library
One voice can make a difference. As the mother of a deaf and blind child, Perras was instrumental in changing Florida law to guarantee that school districts provide access to education for multi-handicapped children. Through her writing and music and accompanied by husband Bill on the guitar, she reveals the importance of overcoming life’s challenges through positive thinking.
HEADQUARTERS- OCALA
2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, FL 34470
352-671-8551
Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the
Ocala Public Library.

SPECIAL EVENTS
See Program Spotlight.

Paws & Pages Pet Expo
Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

CREATE: A Colossal, Reading, Entertaining, Artsy, Teen Event
Application deadline: Monday, Oct. 2
Event: Saturday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Note: Event participation is open only to ages 13-18. Applications are
available at any branch location or
online at library.marioncountyfl.org.

Fairy Tale Festival
Saturday, Oct. 28, 1-4 p.m.
Ages 12 and younger with caregiver.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

College Applications: Not the Worst Thing Ever
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 5 p.m.
See Program Spotlight.

Applying to College, a Guide for Families
Saturday, Sept. 16, 2 p.m.
R.J. Jenkins has been helping students
and families secure admission to
college for more than a decade.
Join him for an informal, lighthearted
discussion about effective ways to
navigate the college admissions process.

A Taste of Cross Creek
Sunday, Sept. 24, 2 p.m.
See Program Spotlight.

Miranda Madison and “The House” Honor Ella Fitzgerald
Sunday, Oct. 15, 2 p.m.
See Program Spotlight.

Fairy Garden Tour
Monday, Oct. 23-Friday, Oct. 27
It’s a land of enchantment sure to
spark imagination! View the magical
miniature gardens and enter to win a
treasured botanical beauty.
Co-sponsored by the Pioneer Garden Club of
Ocala.

Escape Room: Stranger Things
Monday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m.
Adults and teens ages 13 and older
Creep into the “upside down” to
rescue Barb. Save room for Eggos!

ADULTS

Wired Wednesdays
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Learn about computers and
databases. Space is limited.

Computers for Beginners
Sept. 6 I Turned on My Computer, Now What?
Sept. 13 Basic Keyboarding
Sept. 20 Basic Internet
Sept. 27 Basic Word

Online Potpourri
Oct. 4 Clean Up and Speed Up Your PC
Oct. 11 Beginner’s Guide to YouTube
Oct. 18 Hot Deals Online
Oct. 25 Getting Creative With Pinterest

Genealogy Help Center
Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Sept. 6 & 20, Oct. 4 & 18, Nov. 1 & 15
Genealogy gurus from the Marion
County Genealogical Society assist
with your search.

Technology Help Center
Wednesdays, 2-3:30 p.m.
Sept. 6-Oct. 25
Bring your device and drop in.

The Monday Matinée
Mondays, 2 p.m.
Movies for adults. Anyone younger
than age 13 must be accompanied
by an adult.
Sept. 11
Sept. 18
Sept. 25
Oct. 2
Oct. 16
Oct. 23

Novels at Night Book Club
Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
Enjoy a lively book discussion, treats
and coffee.
Sept. 12 “When Breath Becomes Air” by Paul Kalanithi
Oct. 10 “Mr. Mercedes” by Stephen King
Nov. 14 “Love in the Time of Cholera” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Sept. 14, Oct. 12
Express yourself through coloring and
interesting conversation.

Esmeralda’s Paper Passion: 3-D Origami
Thursday, Oct. 5, 2 p.m.
Create 3-D sculptures from origami
building blocks with artist Esmeralda
Arribas.

On the Rails in Marion County
Saturday, Oct. 7, 2 p.m.
All aboard! Explore the history of
Marion County’s railroad and learn
about the hobby of model railroading
with Neil Frisbie of the Ocala Model
Railroaders’ Historic Preservation
Society.

Journal Jumble
Sunday, Oct. 8, 2 p.m.
Create handmade journals and
scrapbooks using unusual materials
with artist Nancy Roberts.

TEENS

MANGAlicious Teen Club
Thursdays, 5 p.m.
Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2
Watch your favorite anime and
manga titles on the big screen while
enjoying Japanese snacks.

YALLA
Tuesdays, 5 p.m.
Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28
Be a part of the library experience.
Earn volunteer hours for service.

Gamers Unite
Saturday, Sept. 16, 3 p.m.
Become a teen titan and
join forces with Gamer’s Edge.

FABLAB: Freaky Friday
Friday, Oct. 13, 4:30 p.m.
Calling all triskaidekaphiles to make
13 slimy, sweet, strange and freakily
fabulous treats.
CHILDREN

Kids Code
Thursdays, 3 p.m., Sept. 7-Oct. 12
Ages 7-12. Registration required.
Learn computer programming through games. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

Tech Zone
Saturday, Sept. 23, 2 p.m.
Ages 5-12 with caregiver.
Explore technology with hands-on activities.

Innovation Station
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2 p.m.
Ages 5-12 with caregiver.
Tinker, design, and create.

Camp Read S’more
Friday, Nov. 17, 5:30-7 p.m.
Ages 5-12 with caregiver. Registration required.
“Camp-in” with a good book at your library and enjoy pizza and s’mores. Call 352-671-8551 to register.

STORY TIMES

BEAR Time
Monday-Friday, 3:30 p.m., Sept. 5-Nov. 30
Be excited about reading and hear great stories!

Family Story Time
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., Sept. 9, Nov. 18
Ages 5 and younger with caregiver.

WEEKLY STORY TIMES

Sept. 5-Oct. 26
A variety of stories, songs, and activities for children and caregivers.

Preschool Story Time
Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.
Ages 3-5.

Toddling Twos
Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Pajama Story Time
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Ages 5 and younger.

Bouncing Babies
Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.
Infants-23 months.

BELLEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY
13145 SE Highway 484, Belleview, FL 34420
352-438-2500
Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Belleview Public Library.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Storytelling Workshop
With Jeremy Evans
Tuesday, Oct. 3, 4:30 p.m.
See Program Spotlight.

Meet Geronimo and Thea Stilton
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m.
See Program Spotlight.

Escape Room: Haunted House
Tuesday, Oct. 24, 5 p.m.
Ages 10 and older.
The wicked witch has brewed a potion that will turn everyone into frightening ghouls! Unlock the remedy to save the world.

MEET THE AUTHORS

See Program Spotlight.

Christopher Kelly
"America Invaded: A State by State Guide to Fighting on American Soil"
Thursday, Sept. 14, 3:30 p.m.

Steve Burt, The Sinister Minister
"FreeK Week"
Thursday, Oct. 26, 3:30 p.m.

ADULTS

Master Gardener Plant Clinic
Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sept. 1 & 15, Oct. 6 & 20, Nov. 3 & 17
The plant doctors are in.

Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

Technology Help Center
Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m., Sept. 5-Oct. 31
Have your technology questions answered.

Tuesday Movie Matinée
Tuesdays, 1 p.m.
Movies for adults and teens. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sept. 5
Sept. 12
Sept. 19

Genealogy Help Center
Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m.
Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1
Genealogy gurus from the Marion County Genealogical Society assist with your search.

Writer’s Studio
Wednesdays, noon
Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8
Meet other writers and share experiences.

Wednesday Morning Book Club
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
Make new friends and talk about books.

Sept. 13 “Where the Red Fern Grows” by Wilson Rawls
Oct. 11 “The October List” by Jeffery Deaver
Nov. 8 “Hidden Figures” by Margot Lee Shetterly

Tuesday Evening Book Club
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Make new friends and talk about books.

Sept. 19 “Small Great Things” by Jodi Picoult
Oct. 17 “Thirteen Reasons Why” by Jay Asher
Nov. 21 “I Am Malala” by Malala Yousafzai

Afternoon Trivia
Thursday, Sept. 21, 3:30 p.m.
Get ready for adventure with this not-your-average trivia game.

Florida Native Plant Society
Mondays, 6 p.m.
Sept. 25, Oct. 30, Nov. 27
Taryn Evans and guest presenters discuss the native plant life of Florida.
YALLA South
Tuesdays, 5 p.m.
Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7
Be a part of the library experience.
Earn volunteer hours for service.

Painting With Gallery East
Tuesday, Sept. 5, 4:30 p.m.
Ages 13-17.
Discover your inner artist with Anita Anderson.

FAMILIES

Art Before Your Eyes
Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon
Sept. 1, Oct. 6
Join the artists from Gallery East.

Knotty Knitters
Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 6-Oct. 25
Learn to knit and crochet.

Structure Junction Club
Saturday, Sept. 16, 2 p.m.
Put your imagination in gear and start building!

Family Flick: “Meet the Robinsons”
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2 p.m.
Watch with the whole family. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Animis Foundation Rescue and Rehabilitation Facility
Saturday, Oct. 7, 2 p.m.
The Animis Foundation is a special organization dedicated to wildlife and domestic animal rehabilitation. Learn more about these animals and the foundation, plus meet some of the critters that call Animis home.

STORY TIMES

Sept. 5-Oct. 31
A variety of stories, songs and activities for young children with caregivers.

BEAR Time
Tuesdays 3:30 p.m.

Preschool Adventures
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Ages 3-5.

Toddler Time
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.,
Infants-age 2.

DUNNELLON PUBLIC LIBRARY
20351 Robinson Road, Dunnellon, FL 34431
352-438-2520
Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library.

SPECIAL EVENT
Fall Festival
Saturday, Oct. 28, 1-4 p.m.
Fun for the whole family.
Co-sponsored by United Way of Marion County Reading Pals. See Program Spotlight.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

College Applications:
Not the Worst Thing Ever
Saturday, Sept. 23, 2 p.m.
See Program Spotlight.

The Dulcet Tones of the Dulcimer
Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2 p.m.
Sweet sounds are in the air. The Nature Coast Dulcimer Players perform a special concert highlighting the history of the dulcimer and the details of making handcrafted instruments.

Meet Geronimo and Thea Stilton
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 11 a.m.
See Program Spotlight.

Native American Heritage Celebration
Thursday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m.
Frank Sunshadow Curtis presents a musical program in celebration of Native American Heritage Month. Bring the whole family for this tribute to Native American culture.

MEET THE AUTHOR
See Program Spotlight.

Christopher Kelly
“America Invaded: A State by State Guide to Fighting on American Soil”
Friday, Sept. 15, 2 p.m.

Elisabeth Perras
“Raising Adam in the Face of Adversity”
Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2 p.m.

ADULTS

Friday Matinée
Fridays, 1 p.m.
Movies for adults and teens. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sept. 8
Sept. 15
Sept. 22
Sept. 29
Oct. 6
Oct. 13
Oct. 20
Oct. 27

TechBoomers™ On Call
Fridays, 10 a.m.
Sept. 1-Nov. 17
Unravel the mysteries of some popular websites and applications using the tutorials of TechBoomers.com.

Master Gardener’s Plant Clinic
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7
The plant doctors are in.
Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

Technology Help Center
Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon
Sept. 7-Nov. 16
Bring your device and drop in.

Ask Your Master Gardener
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2 p.m.
Get your garden growing.
Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

Drop-In Book Club
Thursdays, 11 a.m.
Make new friends and talk about books.

Sept. 21 "Girl in the Spider’s Web" by David Lagercrantz
Oct. 19 "I Am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai
Nov. 16 "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles

Florida-Friendly Landscaping Workshop Series
Tuesdays, Oct. 3-24, 2 p.m.
Manage and maintain your home landscape and save money, time and resources in just four weeks. Attend all four sessions and receive a free...
Folded Book Art
Thursdays, 2 p.m., Oct. 19 & 26
Want to repurpose old books? This class is for you. Books provided.

Genealogy 101
Thursdays, 7 p.m., Oct. 26, Nov. 16
Stitch together your family history with genealogy enthusiast Pamela Joseph.

TEENS

YALLA West
Wednesdays, 5 p.m., Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1
Be a part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

Gamers Unite
Saturdays, 2 p.m., Sept. 16, Oct. 14
Are you up for the video game challenge?

FAMILIES

Construction Junction
Saturday, Sept. 30
2 p.m.
Put your imagination in gear and build!

STORY TIMES
Sept. 1-Oct. 27
A variety of stories, songs, and activities for children and caregivers.

Toddling Twos
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
Infants-age 2.

Preschool Adventures
Fridays, 11 a.m.
Ages 3-5.

PAWSitive Fun With Terra the Therapy Dog
Fridays, 11:30 a.m.

FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY
905 S. Highway 314A, Ocklawaha, FL 32179
352-438-2540
Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Forest Public Library.

SPECIAL EVENT
Trunk or Treat!
Saturday, Oct. 28, 4 p.m.
Experience the excitement of the season.
See Program Spotlight. Presented in conjunction with the Forest Community Center.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
A Night at the Library
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 5-7 p.m.
The Friends of the Forest Public Library are having an open house. Spend an evening of family fun at this membership drive event.

Florida’s Native American Heritage
Friday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m.
See Program Spotlight

Art on the Porch
Saturday, Nov. 18, 11 a.m.
Extend the experience of the Art Show of the Forest.

ADULTS

Technology Help Center
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
Sept. 6-Nov. 29
Bring your device and drop in.

Thursdays, 11 a.m.
Sept. 7 & 21, Oct. 12 & 26, Nov. 2 & 16
Express yourself through coloring and interesting conversation.

Forest Readers Book Club
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Make new friends and talk about books.
Sept. 13 “The Bone Tree” by Greg Iles
Sept. 27 “The Nightingale” by Kristin Hannah
Oct. 11 “The Underground Railroad” by Colson Whitehead
Oct. 25 “The Rainbow Comes and Goes” by Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt
Nov. 8 “The Woman in Cabin 10” by Ruth Ware
Nov. 29 “Wild Horses” by Dick Francis

Game On!
Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Sept. 14, Oct. 12
Are you up for a video game challenge?

Friday Cinema
Fridays, 2 p.m.
Movies for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
Sept. 15 “The Shack”
Oct. 13 “Sully”

It’s All About Birds
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.
Learn about our winged friends from the experts at the Marion County Audubon Society. Includes a nature walk.
Sept. 16 Rewards of Backyard Birding
Oct. 14 Owls and Other Raptors

Crafts for a Cause
Mondays, 10 a.m.
Sept. 18, Oct. 2 & 16, Nov. 6
Help our community! Create items for those in need.

Trivia Café Brown Bag Luncheon
Tuesdays, noon, Sept. 19, Oct. 24
Bring a sandwich and enjoy lunch with fellow trivia enthusiasts! Dessert and beverage provided. Reservations recommended.

Ask Your Master Gardener
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.
Get your garden growing.
Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.
Sept. 23 Tomatoes and Companions
Oct. 21 Fall and Winter Gardening

TEENS & TWEENS

Art Workshop
Thursdays, 4 p.m.
Sept. 21 Wearable Art
Oct. 19 CD Creations

YALLA East
Thursdays, 5 p.m., Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16
Be part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

FAMILIES

FUNtasmagoria
Wednesdays, 4 p.m.
Explore the world without leaving the library.

**Sept. 6**  Costumes to Go
**Sept. 13**  Ceremonies and Celebrations
**Sept. 20**  Folk Tale Theater
**Oct. 4**  Fractured Fairy Tales
**Oct. 11**  Talk About Talking
**Oct. 18**  Extreme Science
**Oct. 25**  Numbers and Nachos

**Saturday Matinée**
Saturdays, 2 p.m.
Watch with the whole family! Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Sept. 9**  Imagination Station Kids Club
Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.
Stories and crafts to fit the season.
**Sept. 27**  Unicron Crafts
**Nov. 1**  Minecraft Crafts

**Creepy Crafts**
Monday, Oct. 16, 2 p.m.
Spooky fun for the whole family!

**Family Flick: Nanny McPhee**
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2 p.m.
Interested in animal husbandry?
Marion County Extension Agent
Mark Bailey presents important management guidance for raising healthy and productive animals.

**FORT MCCOY PUBLIC LIBRARY**
14660 NE Highway 315, Fort McCoy, FL 32134
352-438-2560
Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Fort McCoy Public Library.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**I Scream for Ice Cream Social**
Wednesday, Sept. 20, 4 p.m.
We all scream for ice cream! Enjoy a scoop as you get the scoop on the history of ice cream with ice cream aficionado Jim Phillips. History was never so sweet.

**I Love to Read! Who Said That?**
Saturday, Oct. 14, 1 p.m.
Spend a fun-filled family afternoon with America’s foremost children’s ventriloquist, Mark Wade. See Program Spotlight.

**MEET THE AUTHOR**

**Brown Bag Luncheon**
With Christopher Kelly
"America Invaded: A State by State Guide to Fighting on American Soil"
Wednesday, Sept. 13, noon
Bring your bag lunch and hear history come to life. Beverage and dessert provided. Contact the library to reserve a piece of pie. See Program Spotlight for details.

**ADULTS**

**Technology Help Center**
Mondays, 2-4 p.m., Sept. 11-Nov. 20
Bring your device and drop in.

**FAMILIES**

**Backyard Farming**
Wednesday, Sept. 6, 4 p.m.
Interested in animal husbandry?
Marion County Extension Agent
Mark Bailey presents important management guidance for raising healthy and productive animals. Presented by UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

**Go Wild With Wildflowers**
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 4 p.m.
Learn about Florida native wildflowers with master gardener Tracy Earls. Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

**Imagination Station Kids Club**
Wednesdays, 4 p.m., Sept. 27-Oct. 18
Stories and crafts to fit the season.

**Campfire Stories**
Wednesday, Oct 25, 4 p.m.
Bring your sleeping bag, wear your pajamas and gather for some not-so-spooky stories of the season!

**FREEDOM PUBLIC LIBRARY**
5870 SW 95 St., Ocala, FL. 34476
352-438-2580
Programs are sponsored by the Friends of Freedom Public Library.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**Bat Chat**
Tuesday, Oct. 24, 3 p.m.
Get the scoop on bat basics with Shari Bliss-Clinch and the bats of the Florida Bat Conservancy. Presented by Bat Belfrys Inc. and the Florida Bat Conservancy.

**Pumpkin Painting Party**
Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2 p.m.
Enjoy the fall weather in the pumpkin patch!

**MEET THE AUTHOR**

**Kenyon Gatlin**
"Relax With Life: Applying Yoga Principles to Reduce Stress"
Monday, Oct. 23, 1 p.m. See Program Spotlight.

**ADULTS**

**Technology Help Center**
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, Sept. 6-Nov. 15
Bring your device and drop in.

**Ask Arnold! Comprehensive Computer Assistance**
Thursdays, noon-2 p.m., Sept. 7-Nov. 16
Staff and volunteers are available to help with your computer needs.

**Basic Computer Classes**
Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Learn something new. Seating is limited. Registration begins one hour before class.

**library.marioncountyfl.org**

words 13
Ask Your Master Gardener
Friday, Sept. 22, 2 p.m.
Get your garden growing.
Presented by the UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardeners, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service.

As the Page Turns Book Club
Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.
Join the club and turn the page. Everyone is welcome.
Sept. 5  “Me Before You” by Jojo Moyes
Oct. 3  “Little Bee” by Chris Cleave
Nov. 7  “The Bazaar of Bad Dreams: Stories” by Stephen King

The Tuesday Matinée
Tuesdays, 3 p.m.
Movies for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
Sept. 12
Oct. 10
Nov. 14

Mondays, 3 p.m.
Sept. 11 & 25, Oct. 16
Express yourself through coloring and interesting conversation!

TEENS
Gamers Unite
Saturdays, 3:30 p.m.
Sept. 9 & 23, Oct. 14 & 28
Are you up for the video game challenge?

YALLA Free
Thursdays, 5 p.m.
Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9
Be part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

Escape Room Challenge
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2 p.m.
Follow clues and solve puzzles to escape in time!

FAMILIES
Read to Hannah the Therapy Dog
Mondays, 3 p.m.
Sept. 11-Nov. 13
Hannah is all ears and geared up for some great stories read by you. It’s PAWsitive fun!

Family Film Fest
Tuesdays, 3 p.m.
Watch with the whole family. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
Sept. 19
Oct. 17

Typing Club
Thursdays, 4 p.m.
Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16
Be the master of the keyboard.

STORY TIMES
Sept. 6-Nov. 1
Stories, songs and activities for young children with caregivers.

BEAR Time
Mondays, 4:30 p.m.

Preschool Adventures
Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.
Ages 3-5.

Toddler Time
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
Infants-age 2.

MARION OAKS PUBLIC LIBRARY
294 Marion Oaks Lane, Ocala, FL. 34473
352-438-2570
Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library.

ADULTS
Novels at Noon
Wednesdays, noon
Make new friends and talk about books!
Sept. 20  “The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry” by Gabrielle Zevin
Oct. 18  “My Beloved World” by Sonia Sotomayor

YALLA Oaks
Wednesdays, 5 p.m.
Oct. 18, Nov. 15
Be part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

TEENS
YALLA North
Saturday, Oct. 14, 1 p.m.
Be a part of the library experience. Earn volunteer hours for service.

FAMILIES
FUNtasmagoria
Thursdays, 2:30 p.m.
Sept. 7-Nov 16
Explore the world with stories and fun-filled activities. Don’t miss the egg hatching in September.

STORY TIMES
Sept. 5-Nov 16
Stories, songs and activities for young children with caregivers.

Toddler Time
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Story Time
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.
**Exhibits & Displays**

**Headquarters-Ocala Public Library**
- **September**: Revolutionary Keepsakes by Daughters of the American Revolution
- **October**: Stamp Collecting by General Francis Marion Stamp Collectors
- **November**: Birds Over Ocala by "Cracker" Don Williams

**Belleview Public Library**
- **September**: Watercolor Paintings by Gail Bannock; Metal Jewelry by Carrie Anderson
- **October**: Quilts by the Quilting Guild
- **November**: Rugs by The Rug Hookers

**Dunnellon Public Library**
- **September**: Wood Carving by Nature Coast Carving Club
- **October**: Ceramics by Susan Jones
- **November**: Wood Carving and Ceramics by Missy Wall

**Forest Public Library**
- **September**: Old Tech by Robin Wayne and Nancy Sanders; Photographs by David Whitis
- **October**: Trunk or Treat Remembered by Nancy MacFarland
- **November**: Paintings by Robert Johnson

**Reddick Public Library**
- **September**: Colonial American Artifacts by Gary Walker
- **October**: Halloween Mementos by Reddick Patrons
- **November**: Thanksgiving Keepsakes by Reddick Patrons

**Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.**
Having trouble hearing on the telephone? FTRI provides amplified telephones free of charge to qualifying individuals through the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida. Call the nearest library for available times or contact the Center at 352-368-3788 for an appointment.

**CareerSource**
Job seeker services available. Call the library nearest you for times and locations.

**Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS)**
FDLRS offers free screenings for children birth through age 5 who may have difficulty with learning, speaking, playing, seeing, walking and hearing. Screening appointments may be held at your local library. Contact Child Find at 352-671-6051 to schedule.

**Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE)**
Obtain free Medicare counseling through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. Contact Headquarters-Ocala, Belleview, Dunnellon and Forest public libraries for times.

**AT YOUR SERVICE**

**Access Florida Assistance**
**Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m., Sept. 5-Nov. 21**
**Forest Public Library**
Help with filing for food stamp assistance, temporary cash assistance, refugee assistance and Medicaid programs.

**Immigration Services**
An official from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Orlando Field Office will be present to answer general questions. Call the nearest library for times. Customers will be seen on a first come, first serve basis. Visit http://www.uscis.gov to schedule an appointment or call USCIS for automated information and live assistance at 1-800-375-5283.

**Friends of the Library**

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<td>Book Sale</td>
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<td>Marion Oaks Public Library</td>
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<td>Ocala Public Library</td>
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<td>Birdies for Books</td>
<td>Friday, Sept. 29, 7-9 p.m.</td>
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**CLOSED DAYS AND SPECIAL DAYS**

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<td>Veterans Day</td>
<td>Friday, Nov. 10 and Saturday, Nov. 11</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Holidays</td>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 22</td>
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**Exhibits & Displays (continued)**

**Belleview Public Library**
- **September**: Watercolor Paintings by Gail Bannock; Metal Jewelry by Carrie Anderson
- **October**: Quilts by the Quilting Guild
- **November**: Rugs by The Rug Hookers

**Dunnellon Public Library**
- **September**: Wood Carving by Nature Coast Carving Club
- **October**: Ceramics by Susan Jones
- **November**: Wood Carving and Ceramics by Missy Wall

**Forest Public Library**
- **September**: Old Tech by Robin Wayne and Nancy Sanders; Photographs by David Whitis
- **October**: Trunk or Treat Remembered by Nancy MacFarland
- **November**: Paintings by Robert Johnson

**Reddick Public Library**
- **September**: Colonial American Artifacts by Gary Walker
- **October**: Halloween Mementos by Reddick Patrons
- **November**: Thanksgiving Keepsakes by Reddick Patrons
The Friends are at it again
Welcome to the 2nd annual A Night at the Library

BY DAVE SCHLENKER

One September evening last fall at the Headquarters-Ocala library, detective Sam Spade strolled the book aisles in search of clues.

Tipping his fedora to library patrons mingling amid live jazz, Spade – the character from Dashiell Hammett’s 1930 novel – kept a close eye on things. Indeed, strange things were happening.

A wizard from Hogwarts chatted with Dracula. Rapunzel greeted guests alongside Joan of Arc and beloved Western author Louis L’Amour.

There was a bit of mystery in the first annual A Night at the Library, but the solution was quite simple: This was a “friendraiser” for the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library in which literary characters came to life.

The event was hosted by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library, and it was a smashing success. Guests dined and chatted with characters from their favorite books. And the Friends – the library’s non-profit advocacy group – gained new members.

The Friends are at it again. This time, the theme is mini-golf!

On Sept. 29, the Headquarters-Ocala library will be turned into a mini-golf course for A Night at the Library: Birdies for Books.

The unique event promises to be one of fall’s premiere social gatherings in Ocala. There will be refreshments, hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction and nine holes of mini-golf in the book stacks.

Birdies for Books also will be a fun, interactive way to dig deep into Ocala’s beloved library and its many services.

A Night at the Library: Birdies for Books runs 7–9 p.m. Sept. 29, at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library, located at 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala.

Admission is $20 per person, adults only. You can visit friendsofthecocalalibrary.org to purchase tickets online or call 352-368-4591.

And one more thing: Dress code on this course is golf casual. We hope to see you there, and thanks for supporting your local library.
EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF MARION COUNTY

Building a Better Future for Our Children

BY LAUREL MATHIS

Can you guess what writing your own name, catching a ball and sharing with others have in common? That’s right, kindergarten! These tasks are just three of the many intellectual, physical, emotional and social skills young children are expected to learn before their first day of school. Unfortunately, approximately one-third of Marion County children enter kindergarten not scoring as “ready” to begin school.

The Early Learning Coalition of Marion County’s (ELCMC) mission is to help children be prepared to enter school and build a solid foundation for educational success. ELCMC currently serves approximately 2,400 children in their school readiness programs and approximately 2,000 through Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK).

ELCMC helps parents ensure that their children have the tools necessary to get ready for school. The nonprofit organization promotes early learning by providing assistance and resources to families in a variety of ways, including financial assistance for childcare, VPK and resources to help parents promote literacy at home. Anita Winter, chief operations officer, states, “We work daily connecting families to community resources that improve the quality of their lives and the lives of their children.”

Creating an awareness of the importance of early learning is another ELCMC goal. Research shows that by age 5, 90 percent of a child’s brain is developed. Children that aren’t ready for kindergarten are even more likely to fall farther behind by third grade. “When there’s a combination of both knowledgeable and interested parents and quality early learning settings, research tells us that a child’s chances of excelling in their educational endeavors are greatly enhanced,” said Winter.

For more information about the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Inc., call 352-369-2315 or visit their website at www.elc-marion.org.
Build It-Race It at Fort McCoy Public Library

Making healthy milkshakes in a bag at Forest Public Library

Professer DoDad at HQ-Ocala Public Library

Master Gardeners help build birdhouses at Reddick Public Library

Enjoying lunch at Belleview Public Library, part of the Shores Assembly of God and USDA Summer Food Service Program

Children’s crafts at Freedom Public Library
MEET THE AUTHOR:
Richard Wickliffe

Join us as we welcome author Richard Wickliffe on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 2 p.m. His novel “Storm Crashers” won the Gold Award for Best Popular Fiction in the Florida Book Awards competition in 2016. Inspired by real Florida crimes, this novel takes us with high-tech thieves who prey on wealthy areas of town, where people have evacuated because of an oncoming hurricane. All seems well until they come across a witness whom no one believes. Wickliffe’s concept for the novel was so highly regarded in Hollywood that he sold an option to 20th Century Fox.

Mr. Wickliffe’s books will be available for purchase and he will autograph copies after the program. Author programs are free and light refreshments are provided.

There will be a brief annual Friends meeting before the author program.

Birdies for Books Mini-Golf

No need to grab your clubs for this event! We’ll have them ready for you when you get here. You are cordially invited to our second annual fundraiser, A Night at the Library sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library. This year we are hosting a Birdies for Books event on Friday, Sept. 29, from 7–9 p.m. There’ll be literary-based holes of miniature golf, caddies, musicians and other entertainment.

A new addition this year will be a silent auction with many items on which to bid. This is miniature golf like you’ve never played it before!

Want to be a part of the fun and assist our library financially?

Purchase tickets for Birdies for Books for $20 each at the Book Market. You may also buy tickets online at friendsoftheocalalibrary.org or mail your check (made out to “Friends of the Ocala Public Library”) to Friends of the Library, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, 34470.

SPONSORS FOR “BIRDIES FOR BOOKS”

If you are an organization or an individual who is willing to assist the Friends with the second annual A Night at the Library, we are looking for sponsors from our community. Sponsor levels are the following:

- $1500 Tournament Sponsor
- $1000 Caddy Sponsor
- $500 Hole Sponsor
- $250 Food Cart Sponsor

Contact Josh Turner at Josh.Turner@Rasmussen.edu for more information.

BOOK SALE

Time to stock up on books as gifts for the holiday season!

Saturday, Nov. 4
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Meeting Rooms A, B and C
HQ-Ocala Public Library

Early admission for Friends members only
Friday, Nov. 3
2 to 4 p.m.

Meet the Author, Richard Wickliffe
Author of “Storm Crashers”
(After brief annual Friends meeting)
Sunday, Sept. 17, 2 p.m.
Meeting Room C
HQ-Ocala Public Library

Birdies for Books Fundraiser
$20 per person
Friday, Sept. 29, 7–9 p.m.
Keifer Calkins finds his work as the City of Ocala, Dept. of Recreation and Parks outdoor historical resources program coordinator a perfect outlet for his creativity and curiosity. His mission is to introduce people to local history and the natural environment that surrounds them.

At first glance, a background in fine arts may not seem like an obvious fit for this position. However, Calkin’s creative background has enabled him to be both unique and inspiring in his role. “Two areas that influenced my childhood were nature and the public library. The library was my home away from home,” said Calkins. “I thought these two areas were connected in a way. Exploration, knowledge, understanding the world around you, I think they really fit together.”

Calkins translates his love of learning into the creation of new, innovative programs to attract City of Ocala park visitors. He hosts unique sporting events, nature walks and tours of the new Fort King National Historic Landmark. “I think of things as a creative opportunity. That’s what gets park visitors excited. If you are engaging them and creating an experience before their eyes, that’s when it all clicks together.”

Calkins also found a way for the public library and the City of Ocala, Dept. of Parks and Recreation to work together. Library staff provided park rangers with the necessary training and materials so they could present story times to children at City of Ocala parks. “It’s been really great for rangers to connect with kids on a different level. Kids have gotten to know the rangers through a love of reading and library picture books.”

Building on this success, Calkins continues to work with the library to develop other programs. Last spring, two popular fireside storytelling programs were held on the grounds of Fort King National Historic Landmark.

“With the opening of the new fort, we wanted to do something special,” said Calkins. That something special is a three-part storytelling series called Stories Under the Stars. This fall, the fun starts at 7 p.m. on Oct. 21, when Phantoms of the Fort will host a variety of storytellers who will share spooky tales.

So what does a community-driven, inspirational guy like Calkins do in his spare time? He’s currently remodeling and refinishing a rustic cabin in the Ocala National Forest. Calkin’s enthusiasm and love of nature, reading and the arts are truly a unique combination that make him a real asset to the Marion County community.