Find your place at THE LIBRARY

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Find Your Place

Find your place. That phrase can bring to mind many meanings; however, one that I believe is especially important is as it relates to making connections—to people, ideas, interests, etc. One of our library’s goals is to connect and it reads as follows: Citizens will find opportunities to use the public library as a community gathering place to connect with others, the library and the community through programs, meeting spaces, collaboration and partnerships.

The Marion County Public Library System is a vital community hub that provides inviting and friendly places where individuals can connect with their neighbors and the world around them. Services are free and accessible to all, supported by trained library staff who are part of our community and who work together to provide responsive, quality customer service to the public. Connecting citizens to knowledge and information is central to the Marion County Public Library System mission.

The library is a place where children, teens and adults can explore their interests, access and enjoy books and library materials, utilize free Wi-Fi and meeting rooms, search for a job, learn how to start a new business and meet new friends. Robust program attendance and meeting room use, a vibrant volunteer program, as well as seven Friends of the Library groups, offer residents opportunities to be connected with their community.

Developing strong, collaborative partnerships with area government agencies, municipalities, non-profits, health care providers, small businesses, and civic and fraternal organizations further strengthens the Marion County Public Library System’s ability to provide resources that enhance the overall quality of life for those living in the communities we serve.

By Julie Sieg,
Marion County
Public Library System
Get Ready to Read-A-Thon

BY JOE KAYS

The Friends of the Ocala Public Library are gearing up for the first Read-A-Thon event to be held on Saturday, April 25, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library lobby.

Four dozen library supporters will be raising money online between January and April, then reading from their favorite books for 15 minutes each throughout the day. Readings from such familiar authors as J.K. Rowling, Dr. Seuss, Maya Angelou, William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Ernest Hemingway, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and many more are likely to be among the favorite selections, but library staff will also have reading options from which event participants can choose.

The public is invited to join the Friends of the Ocala Public Library at the Headquarters-Ocala Public Library on April 25 to cheer on the readers and the volunteers throughout the day. There will be plenty of activities during the day, along with opportunities to learn more about all of the amazing resources public libraries provide for the community.

There are also many opportunities for local businesses to sponsor a reading session.

For anyone who wishes to read, sponsor a reader or otherwise participate, visit the Friends of the Ocala Library Facebook page or contact Joe Kays at joe.kays@yahoo.com.

Money raised by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library is used to:

- Support library programs such as Ready to Read, Fairy Tale Festival and CREATE.
- Supplement library staff training and education.
- Publish WORDS magazine.
- Sell donated books through the Book Market, online sales, and quarterly book sales.
- Sponsor visiting authors to speak about relevant current issues and discuss the writing process.
- Educate our community about services available at the public library.
- Keep the community informed of pending legislative action that may impact the Marion County Public Library System.
Everyone has a story to share and your public library wants to hear yours! Teens, ages 13-18, participating in this year’s Colossal, Reading, Entertaining, Artsy, Teen Event (CREATE), Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. at Headquarters-Ocala Public Library, will hone their skills in the creative world working with professional artists, filmmakers and writers. Learn helpful tips from local leaders in the arts about professional and educational opportunities for emerging artists and hear how others developed their skills and found communities to support their work. Present your manuscript, your canvas or your final film cut. Your public library wants to celebrate where you are now in the creative process and your plans for the future.

Teens interested in fine arts, filmmaking or writing will find their creative outlet at this year’s 11th annual CREATE. The event includes a Fine Arts show, Filmmaker’s Festival and Writer’s Workshop. Teens will have the opportunity to compete and a chance to win cash prizes, sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library.

Young adult author and journalist Arin Greenwood will deliver the keynote address and lead a writer’s workshop. CREATE participants will receive a copy of Arin’s award-winning book, “Your Robot Dog Will Die.”

Marion County teens can pick up a CREATE application at any Marion County Public Library location or online at library.marioncountyfl.org. The application deadline is Monday, March 30.

Join in the fun and share your story with your community!

Whether you’re an artist, writer, filmmaker or spectator, CREATE provides something for everyone! For more information, call 352-671-8551.
Finding A Connection
BY SUSAN REYNOLDS

In today’s fast-paced and often transient society, some individuals struggle to find meaningful connections and a sense of belonging to a community. The following titles are examples of recently published books that look at how we can connect with people and places and create memories.

In his book “Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging,” Sebastian Junger discusses the idea of tribal belonging. To quote Seth Godin, “What tribes are, is a very simple concept that goes back 50 million years. It’s about leading and connecting people and ideas. And it’s something that people have wanted forever.” In his book, Junger looks at historical groups such as early American colonists and, more recently, combat veterans and survivors of natural disasters to illustrate how powerful a small close-knit group working toward a common purpose can be. The book offers an opportunity to consider what has been lost as generations have moved from tribal needs to individual needs and how this has impacted our world.

In Eric Klinenberg’s book “Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life,” the narrative centers around community locations, sometimes referred to as third spaces—those locations that aren’t work or home but the places people choose to gather together. This social infrastructure could be a park, café, a local place of worship, or even the local public library. These places are buildings, they are “palaces for the people” that help provide an opportunity for civic engagement, community building and interaction. Research indicates that when communities invest in “social infrastructure,” their residents experience less feeling of isolation and an increase in social cohesion within their community.

For many, a favorite community place and fond memories originate from visits to a local public library. “The Library Book,” by Susan Orlean is a love letter to libraries framed against the history of the worst library fire in American history. The book details the emotional, intellectual and physical loss experienced by the community and how it dealt with the situation when the Los Angeles Public Library burned down in 1986 and more than one million books were destroyed.

Today and every day, your public library invites you to check out one or more of these titles and spend some time at any of our eight locations where you can make meaningful connections and lasting memories.
Find Your Place at the Library:
Celebrate National Library Week April 19-25

The Marion County Public Library System invites all community members to find their place at the library by exploring their passions and discovering new interests through free programs, library materials, technology and other resources.

April 19-25, 2020, is National Library Week, an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries and library staff play in transforming communities and improving lives. The public library is a place where everyone is welcome regardless of age, interests or background. From audiobooks and job-seeking resources to genealogy classes and help with do-it-yourself projects, the library has something for everyone.

“Public libraries have long served as trusted and treasured institutions where we can all come together, connect and learn alongside one another,” said Julie Sieg, director, Marion County Public Library System.

“National Library Week is a perfect time for community members to check out what’s new at their public library and pursue their interests and aspirations.”

For more information, visit the public library’s website at library.marioncountyfl.org, or call 352-671-8551 and find your place at the library!
Census 2020 Kickoff Parties
March Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.
Celebrate Census 2020! Enjoy refreshments and view a sample questionnaire. When you have received your official access code, you can file it online at any library. Stand up and be counted!
March 7  Fort McCoy Public Library
March 14  Marion Oaks Public Library and Reddick Public Library
March 21  Belleview Public Library and Freedom Public Library
March 28  Dunnellon Public Library and Forest Public Library

Community Conversations
Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life?
Come together with others for a casual and considerate exchange of ideas.
Reddick Public Library Monday, March 23, 10:30 a.m.
Freedom Public Library Wednesday, March 25, 3 p.m.
Belleview Public Library Tuesday, March 31, 10:30 a.m.
Forest Public Library Saturday, April 11, 10:30 a.m.
Dunnellon Public Library Friday, April 17, 4 p.m.
Marion Oaks Public Library Thursday, April 25, 4 p.m.

Marion County Day Community Festival
Take a moment to enjoy and explore the many services offered by Marion County government and other county organizations.
McPherson Governmental Campus, Ocala Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Seuss-a-palooza!
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!
Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius! Enjoy books, games and crafts inspired by Dr. Seuss.
All programs are co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County. Headquarters-Ocala program is co-sponsored by the Marion Education Association. All others are co-sponsored by United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.
Headquarters-Ocala Saturday, March 7, 10:30 a.m.
Dunnellon Public Library Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m.
Reddick Public Library Tuesday, March 10, 4 p.m.
Fort McCoy Public Library Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.
Freedom Public Library Friday, March 20, 3 p.m.
Marion Oaks Public Library Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.
Belleview Public Library Wednesday, March 25, 10:30 a.m.
Forest Public Library Friday, March 27, 10:30 a.m.

create
CREATE: A Colossal, Reading, Entertaining, Artsy, Teen Event!
Celebrate the many talents of Marion County teens! Applaud the writing, filmmaking and artistic talents of youth in our community. Vote for your favorites in each category. All ages are invited to attend. Participation is limited to teens, ages 13-18.
Application deadline: Monday, March 30
Event Headquarters-Ocala Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.

Kindergarten Rocks...Enroll!
Is your child starting kindergarten in the fall? Let library and school district staff assist with the online portion of enrollment. Fun activities provided for the student-to-be.
Dunnellon Public Library Monday, March 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Dunnellon Public Library Thursday, April 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Headquarters-Ocala Saturday, April 4, 2-4 p.m.

Homeschool Expo
Speak with local homeschool support groups and listen to Vicki Leist, former District 3 director and chairman of the Florida Parent-Educators Association Scholarship Foundation, as she provides an introduction to homeschooling.
Headquarters-Ocala Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Ocala Civic Theatre Presents “The Name Jar”
What’s in a name? For Unhei, recently emigrated to the U.S. from Korea, it means everything. But she soon becomes aware that adapting to her new surroundings might mean changing her name. The Education Department of the Ocala Civic Theatre presents Yangsook Choi’s charming story of cultural awareness, inclusiveness and friendship.
Ages 5-12 with caregivers.
Headquarters-Ocala Monday, March 16, 2 p.m.

Patriot Service Dogs
Bring your bag lunch and learn about the training of these animal companions serving veterans from trainer Julie Sanderson. Registration recommended.
Belleview Public Library Thursday, March 26, noon

All library programs are free and open to the public. Registration/tickets may be required.
Jane Austen Parlor Party
Explore the life and times of Jane Austen and the importance of her literary works. Parlor games will be played. Period dress is encouraged!
Presented by The Jane Austen Society of North America, North Florida Region.
Dunnellon Public Library
Saturday, April 18, 2 p.m.

Chef Warren Caterson
Award-winning cookbook author Chef Warren returns with 10 meals in 10 minutes! Rediscover the joy of cooking with delicious entrees that can be prepared quickly using items that are probably tucked away in your kitchen cabinets. Tips, hints and fun cooking tales highlight this tasty presentation.
Forest Public Library
Friday, March 27, 2 p.m.

Joe Ponds, Ph.D.
“The 600 m.o.l.: Black Helicopter Pilots in Vietnam”
Only 2 percent of army helicopter pilots in Vietnam were African-American and they struggled to attain this distinctive role. These are their stories as told by Dr. Joe Ponds, chairman of the board of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association of Florida.
Dunnellon Public Library
Saturday, March 28, 2:30 p.m.

Brown Bag Luncheon With Paula Stone Tucker
“Surviving: A Kent State Memoir”
With this personal account of the late 60s and 70s, Tucker explores themes of civil unrest, domestic violence and a young woman’s triumph in their aftermath. Registration recommended.
Call 352-438-2500.
Bellevue Public Library
Thursday, April 16, noon
Wired Wednesdays  
**Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.** 
Learn about computers and databases. Space is limited.  
**Computers for Beginners**  
March 4 | I Turned On My Computer, Now What?  
March 11 | Basic Keyboarding  
March 18 | Basic Internet  
March 25 | Basic Internet Safety  

Online Potpourri  
**April 1** | Help! I've Been Hacked  
**April 8** | Internet Rabbit Holes  
**April 15** | Puzzling Brain Games  
**April 22** | Get More From Google  

Genealogy Help Center  
**Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.**  
March 4, April 1, May 6  
Genealogy gurus from the Marion County Genealogical Society assist with your search.  

Technology Help Center  
**Wednesdays, 2-3:30 p.m.**  
March 4-May 27  
Bring your device and drop in!  

Crafternoons  
**Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.**  
Get in touch with the right side of your brain! Registration required.  
Call 352-671-8551.  
March 4 | String Art  
April 1 | Felt Eggs  
May 6 | Tie-Dye Scarves  

Novels at Night Book Club  
**Tuesdays, 6 p.m.**  
Enjoy a lively book discussion, treats and coffee.  
March 10 | “The Stranger in the Woods” by Michael Finkel  
April 14 | “The Silent Patient” by Alex Michaelides  
May 12 | “The Story of Arthur Truluv” by Elizabeth Berg  

PI-Day Celebration  
**Saturday, March 14, 2 p.m.**  
Eureka! Celebrate the constant first calculated by Archimedes. Play math-themed trivia and create your very own pi-ku. Also, hail the birth of theoretical physicist Albert Einstein. It’s a great day to be irrational!  

Feathers, Nature, Wildlife and Conservation  
**Saturday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.**  
Learn all about our winged friends from the experts at the Marion Audubon Society.  

Ride the Rails of Marion County  
**Sunday, April 19, 2 p.m.**  
All aboard! Explore the history of railroad travel and commerce in Marion County with history enthusiast and librarian Taylor Benson.  

ADULTS AND TEENS  

**Escape Rooms:** Can You Get Out?  
**Thursdays, 6 p.m.**  
Use your wits and deductive skills to solve puzzles and decipher clues!  
March 12 | The Hunt for Shady Sam  
April 9 | Trapped in the Upside Down  

Wild Nights-Wild Nights: Open Mic  
**Mondays, April 27, 5 p.m.**  
Were I with thee, wild nights should be our luxury! Party with Emily Dickinson like it’s 1849!  

TEENS  

MANGAlicious Teen Club!  
**Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.**  
March 5, April 2, May 7  
Watch favorite anime and manga titles on the big screen while enjoying Japanese snacks.  

Show and Sketch  
Teen Artist Club  
**Mondays, 4:30 p.m.**  
March 9, April 13, May 11  
Share your art and learn new techniques with others who are passionate about drawing. All skill levels welcome.  

Fab Lab: Oh Sew Magical!  
**Mondays, March 23, 4:30 p.m.**  
Make your own misfit. Learn basic hand-stitches with unicorns, gnomes and sasquatches. Reservations recommended.  

YALLA!  
**Tuesdays, 5 p.m.**  
March 24, April 28, May 26  
Be a part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.  

Geekfest! Fandoms and Comic Club  
**Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.**  
March 25, April 22, May 27  
Explore the world of pop culture and comics with fellow fans.  

Fab Lab: Visual Journaling  
**Wednesday, May 13, 4:30 p.m.**  
Celebrate National Self-Esteem Month. We’ll bring the tools; you bring your goals!  

CHILDREN  

LEGO® Engineers  
**Wednesdays, 2 p.m., March 18, April 15**  
Ages 5-12 with caregivers.  
Test your wits and creativity using mini-robots and more.  

Hello, Spring! Crafts for Kids  
**Saturday, April 11, 2 p.m.**  
Ages 5-12 with caregivers. Drop in and make something special.  

STORY TIMES  
**March 10-May 2**  
A variety of stories, songs and activities for children and caregivers.  

Preschool Story Time  
**Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m., 11 a.m.**  
Ages 3-5.  

Toddling Twos  
**Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., 11 a.m.**  
Ages 5 and younger.  

Bouncing Babies  
**Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., 11 a.m.**  
Infants-23 months.  

Family Story Time  
**Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.**  
April 4, May 2  
Ages 5 and younger.
Community Conversation
Tuesday, March 31, 10:30 a.m.
Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life?
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Census Kickoff Party
Saturday, March 21, noon-4 p.m.
Celebrate Census 2020!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

Kindergarten Rocks...Enroll!
Monday, March 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Seuss-a-palooza!
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!
Wednesday, March 25, 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.
Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

Patriot Service Dogs
Thursday, March 26, noon
See Program Spotlight.

Community Job Fair
Wednesday, April 15, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Looking for a career opportunity?
Sponsored by the City of Belleview

MEET THE AUTHOR

Paula Stone Tucker
“Surviving: A Kent State Memoir”
Thursday, April 16, noon
See Program Spotlight.

ADULTS

Technology Help Center
Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.
March 4-April 29
Bring your device and drop in.

Tale Spinners Storytelling Group
Thursdays, 3 p.m.
March 5, April 2
Practice your storytelling skills and hone the craft of telling your tale.
Presented with Ocali Storytelling Guild, Inc.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB

Wednesday Morning Book Club
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
Make new friends and talk about books.
March 11 “The Ocean at the End of the Lane” by Neil Gaiman
April 8 “Life of Pi” by Yann Martel
May 13 “The Last Runaway” by Tracy Chevalier

TUESDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB

Tuesday Evening Book Club
Tuesdays, 5 p.m.
Make new friends and talk about books.
March 17 “The Book Thief” by Markus Zusak
April 21 “Far, Far Away” by Tom McNeal
May 19 “Educated” by Tara Westover

TUESDAY MOVIE MATINEE

Tuesday Movie Matinée
Tuesdays, 1 p.m.
Movies for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
March 17
March 24
March 31
April 7
April 14
April 21
April 28

STORY TIME

March 4-April 30
A variety of stories, songs and activities for young children with caregivers.

PRESCHELADVENTURES

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

TODDLER TIME

Toddlers, 10:30 a.m.
For infants-age 2.
Community Conversation
Friday, April 17, 4 p.m.
Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life?
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Census Kickoff Party
Saturday, March 28, noon-4 p.m.
Celebrate Census 2020!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

Kindergarten Rocks...Enroll!
Thursday, April 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Seuss-a-palooza!
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!
Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m.
Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.
Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

Jane Austen Parlor Party
Saturday, April 18, 2 p.m.
Period dress is encouraged!
See Program Spotlight. Presented by The Jane Austen Society of North America, North Florida Region.

MEET THE AUTHOR
Joe Ponds, Ph.D.
“The 600 m.o.l.: Black Helicopter Pilots in Vietnam”
Saturday, March 28, 2:30 p.m.
See Program Spotlight.

ALL AGES
DIY Tuesday
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.
March 3-April 28
Make-and-take fun for the family!

Family Fun Days
Saturdays, 1 p.m.
Play together!
March 21  Win, Lose or Draw
April 11  Scrabble® Tournament

DUNNELLON PUBLIC LIBRARY
20351 Robinson Road
Dunnellon, FL 34431 • 352-438-2520
Programs made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library.

Song Farmers
Saturdays, 2 p.m.
March 28, April 25, May 30
Share a love of music with other hometown musicians. All players and listeners welcome.

ADULTS
Master Gardener’s Plant Clinic
Tuesdays, 10 a.m., March 3, April 7, May 5
The plant doctors are in!
Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

Wired Wednesdays
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Learn about computers and databases.
March 4  I Turned on My Computer, Now What?
March 11  Basic Keyboarding
March 18  Basic Internet
March 25  Basic Internet Safety
April 1  Education and Test Preparation
April 8  Career Corner—Finding That New Job!
April 15  Digital Media the Library Way!
April 22  What to Read Next

Senior Support Education Series
Thursdays, noon, March 5, April 2
Information for those who want to know more about resources available for caring for family members.
Presented by The Dunnellon Caregivers.

Friday Flicks
Fridays, 2 p.m.
Movies for adults and teens. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
March 6
March 20
April 10
April 24

The Art of Luring Fish
Mondays, 1 p.m., March 16-April 27
Catch that fish!
Presented by The Fly-Tyers Club.

Lunch Bunch Book Club
Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
Bring your bag lunch and an appetite for good books. Lemonade and cookies provided.
March 18  “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury
April 15  “The Library Book” by Susan Orlean

Circle of Support
Thursdays, noon, March 19, April 16, May 21
Join with other caregivers who provide support and understanding.

Crafty Creations
Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
Get in touch with the right side of your brain!
March 25  Sparkling Sun Catchers
April 8  Painted Rock Terrarium
April 22  Shiny Planting Pots

Novels at Night
Thursdays, 6 p.m.
Share some gothic tales fit for a spine-tingling spring eve.
March 26  “The Au Pair” by Emma Rous
April 23  “The Weight of Lies” by Emily Carpenter

TEENS
YALLA West!
Saturdays, 1 p.m., March 14, April 11
Be a part of the library experience. Earn volunteer service hours.

CHILDREN
Story Time!
Wednesdays, 11 a.m., March 4-April 29
Perk up the day with stories and songs!

FUNtasmagoria
Thursdays, 5 p.m., March 5-April 30
Explore the world through stories and activities. It’s FUNtastic!

FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY
905 S. Highway 314A
Ocklawaha, FL 32179 • 352-438-2540
Programs made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Forest Public Library.

Community Conversation
Saturday, April 11, 10:30 a.m.
Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life?
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

Yarns of Fun
Wednesdays, 10 a.m., March 18-April 29
Learn to knit or crochet. It’s a stitch!
Presented by the Needle-Nuts Craft Club.

Library Marion County FL. Words 11
SPECIAL EVENT
Census Kickoff Party
Saturday, March 28, noon-4 p.m.
Celebrate Census 2020!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Heart of Oak
Friday, March 20, 3 p.m.
It’s a touch of the Irish! Enjoy a concert of Irish and Celtic songs perfect for St. Patrick’s Day.
See Program Spotlight for more locations.
Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

Seuss-a-palooza!
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!
Friday, March 27, 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.
Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Chef Warren Caterson
Friday, March 27, 2 p.m.
Ten meals in 10 minutes? You bet! See Program Spotlight.

ADULTS

DIY Art
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Express yourself through art!
March 4 Sharpies on Tile
April 1 Painting With Sandra

Color to Calm
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.
March 5, April 2, April 30
Color your world!

Writers Studio
Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.
March 5, April 9, May 14
Writers of all levels share work and encouragement.

ADULTS

DIY Art
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Express yourself through art!
March 4 Sharpies on Tile
April 1 Painting With Sandra

Color to Calm
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.
March 5, April 2, April 30
Color your world!

Writers Studio
Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.
March 5, April 9, May 14
Writers of all levels share work and encouragement.

FAMILIES

Family Story Time
Fridays, 10:30 a.m.
March 6-April 24
Perk up the day with stories and songs!

Knights of the Chess Club
Saturdays, 3 p.m.
March 21, April 18
Learn and play chess. All levels welcome.

Imagination Station
Wednesday, April 15, 230 p.m.
Imagine, create, construct!

FORT MCCOY PUBLIC LIBRARY
14660 NE Hwy. 315, Fort McCoy, FL 32134
352-438-2560
Programs made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Fort McCoy Public Library.

SPECIAL EVENT
Census Kickoff Party
Saturday, March 7, noon-4 p.m.
Celebrate Census 2020!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Seuss-a-palooza!
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!
Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.
Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.
Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

ADULTS

Monday Morning Book Club
Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
Make some new friends and talk about books.
March 2 “Sworn to Silence” by Linda Castillo
April 6 “Before We Were Yours” by Lisa Wingate
May 4 “The Help” by Kathryn Stockett

ADULTS & TEENS

Saturday Movie Matinée
Saturdays, 1 p.m.
Movies for adults and teens. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
March 28
April 11
April 18
April 25

Forest Readers Book Club
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Make new friends and talk about books!
March 11 “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury
March 25 “Web of Evil” by J.A. Jance
April 8 “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng
April 22 “The Help” by Kathryn Stockett
May 13 “Spoken from the Heart” by Laura Bush
May 27 “Always Time to Die” by Elizabeth Lowell

Ask Your Master Gardener: Perennials
Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.
Get that garden growing!
Presented by UF/IFAS Extension Marion County.

Rock Art!
Saturdays, 4 p.m.
March 28, April 11
Paint miniature masterpieces on river rocks.

Backyard Birds of Marion County
Saturday, April 4, 10:30 a.m.
Learn about our winged friends from the experts at the Marion Audubon Society. Includes a nature walk.

Thursday Cinema: “The Help”
Thursday, April 25, 2 p.m.
Movie for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

TEENS & TWEENS

YALLA East!
Thursday, 5 p.m.
March 19, April 16, May 21
Be part of the library experience. Teens, earn volunteer service hours.

Creations!
Thursdays, 4 p.m., March 19, April 16
Create something beautiful.

Movie Time:
“Ready Player One”
Thursday, March 26, 5 p.m.
Movie for teens. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Imagination Station
Wednesday, April 15, 230 p.m.
Imagine, create, construct!

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Programs made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Fort McCoy Public Library.

SPECIAL EVENT
Census Kickoff Party
Saturday, March 7, noon-4 p.m.
Celebrate Census 2020!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Seuss-a-palooza!
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!
Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.
Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.
Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

ADULTS

Monday Morning Book Club
Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
Make some new friends and talk about books.
March 2 “Sworn to Silence” by Linda Castillo
April 6 “Before We Were Yours” by Lisa Wingate
May 4 “The Help” by Kathryn Stockett

ADULTS & TEENS

Saturday Movie Matinée
Saturdays, 1 p.m.
Movies for adults and teens. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
March 28
April 11
April 18
April 25
FAMILIES
Games Unplugged
Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
March 7, April 4
Reconnect with a favorite board game or discover a new one!

Saturday Family Flicks!
Saturdays, 1 p.m.
Movies for the entire family. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
March 7
March 21
April 4

Break-Time Movies
Mondays, 1 p.m.
Films for the entire family. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.
March 16
March 23

FREEDOM PUBLIC LIBRARY
5870 SW 95th St., Ocala, FL 34476
352-438-2580
Programs made possible by contributions from the Friends of Freedom Public Library.

Community Conversation
Wednesday, March 25, 3 p.m.
Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life?
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENT
Census Kickoff Party
Saturday, March 14, noon-4 p.m.
Celebrate Census 2020!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAM
Seuss-a-palooza!
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!
Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.
Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

ADULTS
Ask Arnold! Comprehensive Computer Assistance
Thursdays, noon-2 p.m.
March 5-May 28
Staff and volunteers assist with all tech needs.

As the Page Turns Book Club
Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.
Join the club and turn the page!
March 3 "Daisy Jones & The Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid
April 7 "The Road" by Cormac McCarthy
May 5 "If Beale Street Could Talk" by James Baldwin

Basic Internet Searching
Thursday, March 26, 6 p.m.
Learn something new!

Tuesday Matinée:
“Eat Pray Love”
Tuesday, April 14, 3 p.m.
Movie for adults. Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tech Time
Thursdays, 3 p.m.
Learn something new!
April 23 Computer Basics
April 30 Online Navigation

TEENS
YALLA Free!
Thursdays, 5 p.m., March 12, April 9, May 14
Be part of the library experience. Earn volunteer hours for service.

Gamers Unite!
Saturdays, 3 p.m., March 28, April 25
Are you up for a video game challenge?

FAMILIES
Family Flicks: “The NeverEnding Story”
Wednesday, April 15, 3 p.m.
Anyone younger than age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Family Story Time
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
March 4-April 22
Perk up the day with stories and songs!

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

Community Conversation
Thursday, April 25, 4 p.m.
Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life?
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENT
Census Kickoff Party
Saturday, March 14, noon-4 p.m.
Celebrate Census 2020!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Seuss-a-palooza!
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!
Saturday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.
Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

ADULTS
Technology Help Center
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
March 4-April 29
Bring your device and drop in!

Novels at Noon
Wednesdays, noon
Make new friends and talk about books!
March 18 “Educated” by Tara Westover
April 15 “Mangrove Lightning” by Randy Wayne White
May 20 “Memory Man” by David Baldacci

library.marioncountyfl.org
TEENS & TWEENS

Spring Into Nature
Thursdays, 4 p.m.
Work the brain with art and science.
March 12 Mason Bee Hotel
April 9 Hydroponic Jar

YALLA Oaks!
Thursdays, 5 p.m.
March 12, April 9, May 14
Be a part of the library experience. Teens, earn volunteer service hours.

MANGAlicious Teen Club!
Tuesdays, 4 p.m.
March 17, April 21, May 19
Watch favorite anime and discuss manga while enjoying Japanese snacks.

FAMILIES

FUNtasmagoria
Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.
Explore the world through stories and activities! It’s FUNtastic!
March 4 A World of Worms
March 11 Don’t Bug Me
March 18 Shark Attack!
March 25 Scales and Tales
April 1 The Joke’s on You
April 8 Bird Is the Word
April 15 Whole of a Tale
April 22 The (Big) Cat’s Meow
April 29 Monkey Business

Family Story Time
Saturdays, 1 p.m.
March 7-April 25
Perk up the day with stories and songs!

REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY
15150 NW Gainesville Road
Reddick, FL 32686 • 352-438-2566
Programs are made from contributions provided by the Friends of the Ocala Public Library.

Community Conversation
Monday, March 23, 10:30 a.m.
Topic: How has the library made a difference in your life?
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL EVENT

Census Kickoff Party
Saturday, March 14, noon-4 p.m.
Celebrate Census 2020!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Seuss-a-palooza!
Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!
Tuesday, March 10, 4 p.m.
Celebrate the imagination of a creative genius!
See Program Spotlight for more locations.
Co-sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and the United Way of Marion County Reading Pals.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Michael Calhoun Tucker
“The Crackers: The Legend of Jessie B. Tucker”
Thursday, March 19, noon
See Program Spotlight. Call 352-438-2566 to reserve a piece of pie!

ADULTS

Let’s Talk Books!
Monday, 10:30 a.m., March 9, April 13
Make new friends and talk about books with Jim Stroup! Donuts and coffee provided.

Watercolors 101
Wednesday, March 18, 1-3 p.m.
Create something special with local artist Susan Starling. Materials provided.

TEENS

YALLA North!
Saturday, April 18, 1 p.m.
Be a part of the library experience! Earn volunteer hours for service.

FAMILIES

FUNtasmagoria!
Tuesday & Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.
March 3-April 29
Explore the world with stories and fun-filled activities!

STORY TIMES

March 3-April 29
A variety of stories, songs, and activities for children and caregivers.

Toddler Time
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Story Time
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Friends of the Belleview Public Library
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
March 17, April 21, May 19

Friends of the Dunnellon Public Library
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
March 3, April 7, May 5

Friends of the Forest Public Library
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
March 3, April 7, May 5

Friends of the Marion Oaks Public Library
Fridays, 10 a.m.
March 20, April 17, May 15

Friends of the Ocala Public Library
Thursdays, 4 p.m.
March 19, April 16, May 21

Book Sale:
Friday, May 1, 2-4 p.m. Members only.
Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
AARP Tax Prep Assistance
Tax help is available at most libraries. Call your nearest library for schedule and locations.

Access Florida Assistance
Help provided with filing for various government assistance programs.
Forest Public Library
Tuesdays, 12:30-3 p.m.

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion
Job seeker services available! Call your nearest library for schedule and locations.

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
Visit www.uscis.gov or call 1-800-375-5283 to schedule an appointment at your local library with an official for the USCIS Orlando Field Office.

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System
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 ChildFind at 352-671-6051 to schedule.

GED Classes
Earn your GED at the library through Marion Technical College (MTC). It’s FREE. Call MTC at 352-671-7200 or contact the library at 352-438-2520 for more information and 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 the schedule.

BELLEVUE PUBLIC LIBRARY
March  Antique Volunteer Fire Department Gear by Clem Schryver
April  Wood Carvings by the Wood Carvers’ Club
May  Memorial Day Display by Marion County Veterans Services

DUNNELLON PUBLIC LIBRARY
March  The Irish in America by the O’Briens
April  The Wonderful World of Frogs by Rebecca Melton
May  Which Came First? by Celene Melton

HEADQUARTERS-OCALA PUBLIC LIBRARY
March  Ukrainian Eggs by Leanne Brulla
April  Photographs by Bonnie Halsell
May  Comic Books by Bearded Browncoat Comics and Games

REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY
March  Quilts by Gwendolyn Hearn
April  Remembering the Red and Gray by United Daughters of the Confederacy, Robert Bullock Chapter
May  Mother’s Day Tea Party

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

Sorry WE’RE CLOSED

LIBRARY CLOSED DAYS & HOLIDAYS
Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 12
Headquarters-Ocala location closed.

Closed
Friday, May 8
Headquarters-Ocala and Freedom locations closed.

Memorial Day
Monday, May 25
All library locations closed.

AT YOUR SERVICE
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK, APRIL 19-25
Thanks, Marion County Public Library System volunteers!
What do you get when you pair up a reading aloud initiative with Dr. Seuss’ birthday? Mega-Paloozas, of course; a Read-a-palooza and a Seuss-a-palooza! The Marion County Public Library System is once again partnering with the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and Read Aloud Fifteen Minutes to encourage families to start a tradition of reading aloud. And Dr. Seuss lovers will be excited to learn about the many programs celebrating the beloved author’s birthday during the month of March. So it’s a double home-run of reading pleasure for the family.

Why is reading aloud so important? Reading is fun. It can take the reader on an adventure, provide learning opportunities, and form bonds that will last a lifetime. Reading aloud as little as fifteen minutes each day will yield positive results by instilling a love of reading and increasing language and brain development in children. And one of the greatest benefits is that reading aloud together as a family makes it all that much more fun!

Check out this issue of WORDS calendar for dates and times when each Marion County Public Library System location will celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday with a Seuss-a-Palooza event. Celebrations will include book read-alouds, games and crafts, in partnership with United Way of Marion County Reading Pals and Marion Education Association. “Horton Hears a Who” or one of the many other famous Dr. Seuss book titles may be just the ticket to get your family reading aloud together!

Your Marion County Public Library System is dedicated to encouraging families to read aloud together fifteen minutes a day. Will you accept the challenge? Whether it’s “Green Eggs and Ham” or other delightfully engaging books, your public library staff will help you get started with book suggestions that the whole family will enjoy.
Photos and Events of the Marion County Public Library System

Reindeer Romp at Reddick Public Library

Starry Starry Night at Forest Public Library

Polar Paradise in A Galaxy Far, Far Away at Belleview Public Library

Preschool Expo at Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

Teen Photo Display at Forest Public Library

Snowball Smash at Dunnellon Public Library

Playing the dulcimer at Fort McCoy Public Library
READ-A-THON
Visit the library and be a part of a new adventure on April 25: our Read-A-Thon. We are looking for people who love to read and who want to help by raising money for the library. Participants of the Read-A-Thon will be reading live for 15 minutes each, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Join us by sponsoring a reader, being a reader, or cheering on the readers. It promises to be a fun, book-filled day! For more information, see the full article in this issue of WORDS.

BOOKS NEEDED
If you’re in the middle of spring cleaning, and you find books you know you will never read again, remember our library. Bring your gently used books to the Book Market, and give others the opportunity to enjoy them too. Books are sold in the Book Market, and all monies collected are used to subsidize library projects and activities. We encourage you to drop off your donations in the Book Market anytime during regular hours. Thank you for your generosity.

QUARTERLY BOOK SALE
Get ready for a HUMONGOUS sale! Our Quarterly Book Sale will be held on Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Meeting Rooms at Headquarters-Ocala Public Library. We will have loads of fiction books, including novels, historical fiction, and biographies. Plus, nonfiction books will be available, including books on gardening, faith, cooking, philosophy, and many more subjects. Want your kids to read more? Come to our Book Sale. We’ll have plenty to offer in children’s and teens’ reading material. You name it, we’re likely to have it at a very reasonable price — 25¢ for paperbacks and 50¢ for hard covers.

If you are a dues-paying member of the Friends of the Ocala Library, you may come early to the Book Sale, on Friday afternoon, May 1, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you aren’t a member yet, you can get information in the Book Market on becoming a member.
Florence Pritchard spent most of her life as an educator, beginning her career as a fifth grade teacher and concluding it as a college vice president. In 2012, she and her husband Doug moved to On Top of the World and within a week learned of a used book sale at the Freedom Public Library. The book sale presented a pivotal point that aligned Florence with the Friends of the Freedom Public Library which she joined, and became passionately involved with its efforts to support the local Freedom library branch. Florence’s leadership abilities were quickly recognized and she accepted the position of Freedom Friends vice president in 2013 and president in 2014.

In addition to Florence’s work with the Freedom Friends, she helped spearhead the Council of Friends, a networking effort comprised of representatives of all of the seven Marion County Public Library System Friends groups. They meet to discuss library advocacy, fund development and other issues of mutual interest.

Between the combined efforts, Florence has basically assumed a second career and had this to say about her efforts, “Yes, it’s a volunteer career, but my repayment is the opportunity to help support our public libraries. My focus is on capacity building and advocacy development for the Freedom Friends and other Friends groups that make up the Council of Friends. This means helping them understand and manage their legal responsibilities as non-profits, develop leadership succession plans, and strengthen communication efforts with the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and other community groups on behalf of the Marion County Public Library System. My six-year term as Freedom Friends president has been productive because of the truly dedicated people I’ve worked with in all these groups.”

Over the past six years, the Freedom Friends have funded the purchase of a portable computer classroom, an outside book drop, the renovation and furnishing of the staff work space, subsidized staff graduate education and library conference attendance, and helped to fund a new outdoor digital sign, all for the Freedom Public Library. The Freedom Friends are eagerly anticipating a future Freedom Public Library expansion project and the 20th anniversary celebration of their library building. Florence stated, “I will be helping the Friends implement a two-stage fundraising plan to attract community members and major donors to help furnish the expansion.”

For Florence, the most rewarding aspect of her volunteer career has been working with the people associated with the Friends groups and the Marion County Public Library System. “We share common values and dedication to knowledge and service. I am very proud to help my community by helping my library and the public library system.”