

January 2018 Monthly Update

	Central	St Cloud	BVL	Poinciana	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	25,013	13,763	8,484	15,674	18,010	166
Circulation*	23,807	26,623	10,114	14,764	17,731	452
Computer Sessions	7,606	3,457	4,929	4,256	2,173	53
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	648	1,650	n/a	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 117 Attendance: 2,088	Events: 80 Attendance: 1,631	Events: 54 Attendance: 5,240	Events: 63 Attendance: 974	Events: 40 Attendance: 724	-

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 4,210
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 81,111
- The Library held 354 events attended by 10,657 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 22,474
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered 50,289 at Hart Memorial and St. Cloud
- A total of 1,170 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 118 registered for E-cards
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,928 resulting in 19% of circulation

January 2018 Highlights

Check-It-Out Campaign

This month we launched our Check-It-Out program in partnership with the annual Kissimmee Valley Livestock Show & Fair to promote both the fun of the fair and the fun of reading! The Check-It-Out campaign rewarded every kid who checked out 5 books or more with a free child's fair ticket. We distributed over 200 tickets system-wide. To support the Check-It-Out campaign, the local 4H club brought animals into our storytime. The 4H kids had an opportunity to show off their animals from roosters to rabbits while entertaining 87 storytime attendees.

Our Haunted Library

Kissimmee Paranormal Investigators held two all-night investigations at the Hart Memorial Central Library culminating in a spooktacular January 25 program. KPI's overnight investigations, conducted in October and November 2017, captured activity with their cameras and equipment and then returned with a presentation on January 25 filled with their haunting findings. KPI presented to 34 people who witnessed firsthand the Hart Memorial Library is in fact haunted.

Wee Read Family Nights

Wee Read is an Osceola Early Learning Coalition initiative focusing on integrating literacy into all areas of development and promoting social emotional education to all ages. The goal is to increase quality of care and education and provide effective feedback. This program is a yearlong initiative designed to help educators and providers with the skills necessary to provide a rich and nurturing environment. We joined the Osceola Early Learning Coalition to provide Family Night at three community childcare centers participating in the Wee Read initiative. This was an opportunity for the staff to engage children in storytelling and provide insightful information about the importance of reading at home. We reached over 100 people through these Family Night events.

Book Give-Away Program

A recent partnership with County Human Services Department has led to a support of their Crock Pot Initiative. The Human Services Department works directly with underserved populations in the community to place them into permanent housing. Part of this initiative includes families receiving a crock-pot when they have achieved permanent housing. In an effort to encourage reading for these families, we donated boxes of books for the initiative so that families not only receive a crock-pot but also books for the entire family.

Know Your Neighbor

The Know Your Neighbor event at Nova Southern University presented an opportunity for the Library to showcase our services for Small Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations. We established several new contacts for potential partnership: Victim Services Center of Central Florida, Orange County Citizens' Commission for Children, SCORE Orlando, National Entrepreneur Center for Small Businesses, Ink Everywhere, Literacy House Orlando, Pet Alliance of Orlando, and the CFE Federal Credit Union's Marketing and Education Specialist.

American Dream Literacy Initiative

The Osceola Library System has been selected as one of 20 public libraries nationwide to receive a \$10,000 American Dream Literacy Initiative grant from the American Library Association (ALA) and Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

With the funding, we will deliver highly effective English as a Second Language (ESL) opportunities to residents offered at convenient times by certified instructors, improve access to important ESL services and resources for Spanish-speaking residents through enhanced public service and partnerships, and promote these services and resources via community and media outlets aimed at the Spanish-speaking population.

Newcomers, such as those displaced by Hurricane Maria, and long-time residents who are non-English speaking, will be able to choose from a broader array of ESL classes and opportunities to practice English during regular conversation classes and social events that are facilitated by

teachers, tutors, and volunteers. School District of Osceola County's Adult Learning Center of Osceola will provide certified teachers for conversation classes that meet strict district criteria. The Adult Literacy League will offer training classes for new volunteers desiring to teach beginner, intermediate and citizenship classes. The learning and speaking opportunities will be offered during evenings and weekends at three convenient Library locations – Hart Memorial, Poinciana, and Buenaventura Lakes.

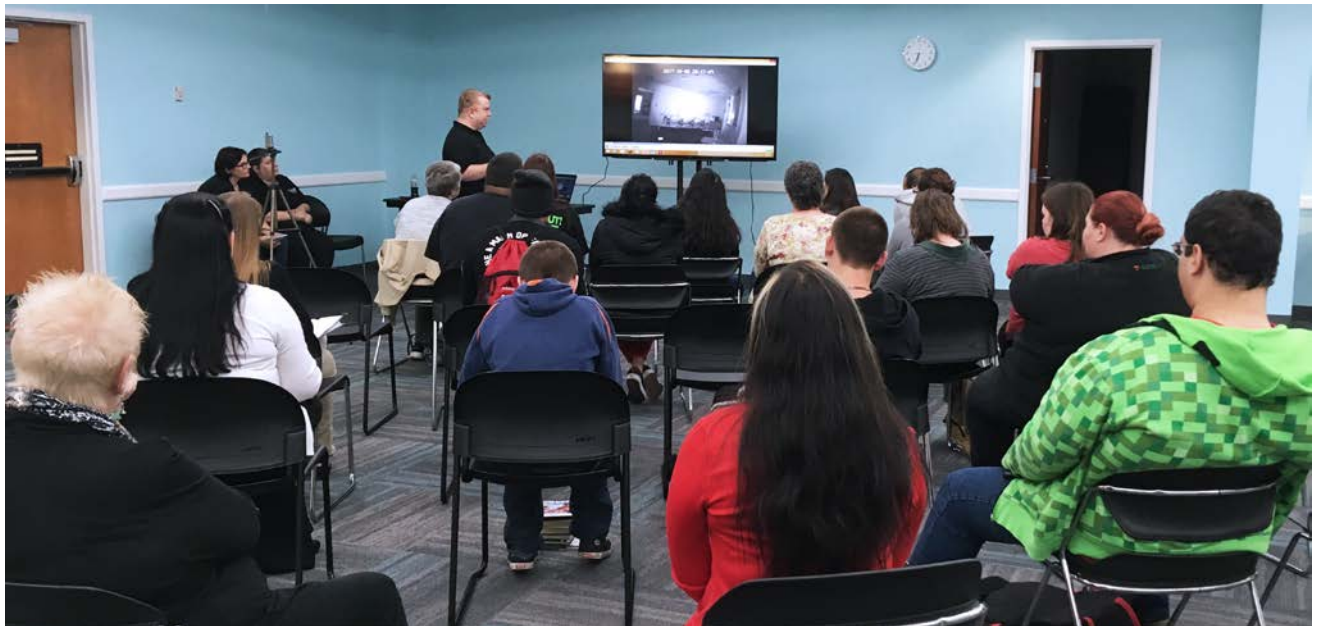
Gallery



LEFT AND BELOW:

The local **4H club** brought animals to our Jammy Jamboree storytime at the West Osceola Library to promote both the fun of the fair as well as the fun in reading.





ABOVE: Kissimmee Paranormal Investigators visit Hart Memorial Library to present their findings from their two all-night investigations held in the Library the previous October and November.

BELOW: Our outreach youth specialist, Susan, reads to children and families during **Wee Read Family Nights**.



February 2018 Monthly Update

	Central	St Cloud	BVL	Poinciana	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	24,306	14,766	8,522	15,631	19,063	134
Circulation*	22,243	23,965	9,378	14,016	16,589	249
Computer Sessions	6,968	3,660	4,840	4,597	2,178	39
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	753	1,603	n/a	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 97 Attendance: 2,012	Events: 81 Attendance: 1,915	Events: 45 Attendance: 897	Events: 52 Attendance: 1,077	Events: 44 Attendance: 2,222	-

*Does not include electronic resource circulation

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 6,011
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 82,422
- The Library held 319 events attended by 8,123 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 22,282
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered 57,664 at Hart Memorial and St. Cloud
- A total of 1,040 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 95 registered for E-cards
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 16,869 resulting in 20% of circulation

February 2018 Highlights

Celebrate Black History Month

Back in the Day with Willie Mae

Adult storyteller Willie Mae has captivated audiences at author talks for both the City of St. Cloud and the City of Kissimmee. This year we invited her to help us celebrate Black History Month with her firsthand account of what life was like as a black youth in Osceola County long ago. She shared humor and passion through her unforgettable stories with almost 90 customers after visiting multiple Libraries in the system.

African American Read-In

The City of Kissimmee and Osceola Library joined thousands of organizations across the country and around the world in participating in the 29th National African American Read-In celebrating history with a wide range of inspirational and humorous selections from African American literature read aloud. The event featured special guest readers from local government and community as well as musical selections. The Library provided 300 books to attendees, all of which were written by African American authors or were featuring an African American.

Remembering Paradise Park

The Osceola Library submitted an application for funding from the Florida Humanities Council in honor of Black History month and received \$500 to fund a visit from Lu Vickers. In 1949, when African Americans did not have access to many of the nation's recreation areas, Silver Springs owners did something no other Florida attraction did: they opened a parallel attraction called "Paradise Park for Colored People," which became one of the most popular places for African Americans to visit until it closed in 1969. Lu Vickers, author of one novel and several books on Florida history, including *Weeki Wachee*, *City of Mermaids*, and *Cypress Gardens: America's Tropical Wonderland* presented a meaningful program using vintage photographs, video, and brochures.

Orisirisi African Folklore

This is an awe-inspiring African adventure rooted in the history, culture, and traditions of Africa, inclusive of folktales, legends, and myths, spirited drumming, dance and song, children's games, lectures on special topics, and a healthy dose of the obligatory African tradition of audience participation. The nationally and internationally acclaimed performing arts and educational initiative was founded in 1985 by husband and wife team Don and Tutu Harrell, with the expressed purpose of sharing the beauty and poignancy of African life and culture.

14th Annual Ready, Set, Grow Early Educators Conference

The Library partnered with the Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County to host the 14th Annual Ready, Set, Grow Early Educators Conference. Over 300 early educators participated in an all-day conference to enhance STEAM based knowledge and expertise through several activities. The Library provided 17 interactive STEAM stations from ozobots to wigglebots for the early educators to gain hands-on experience. The Library showcased an insightful overview of how to provide STEAM programming through technology and DIY activities with basic household items like shaving cream and baking soda. After the activities, the Library provided a PowerPoint presentation filled with ideas and techniques for basic storytimes applicable for all ages. The Library then finished the day as part of the panel of speakers.

1st Annual Bridal Expo

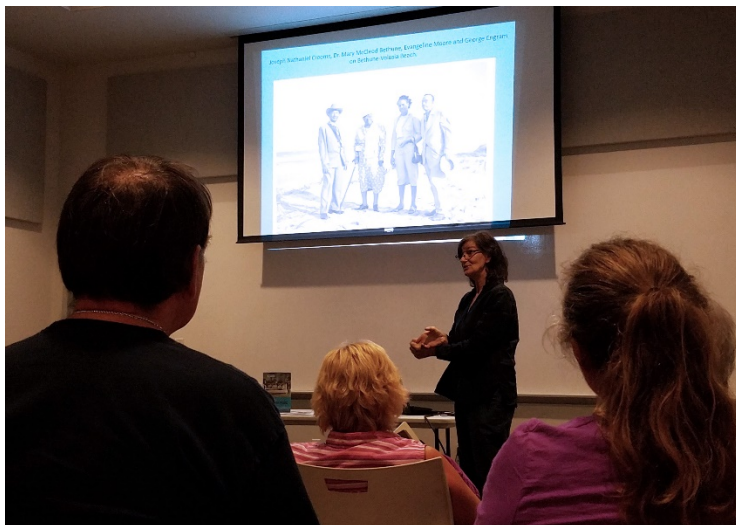
The Osceola Library hosted its first Bridal Expo partnering with local businesses to showcase the many services locally owned that help make a wedding a true success. The St. Cloud Library had 14 local businesses from bridal/tuxedo shops, bakeries, venues, DJ providers, photographers, invitations/stationary designers, health and wellness, musicians, and travel agents. The event

entertained 256 customers. In addition to the expo, we also hosted an Escape Room: Bridal Boutique Breakout. The bride needed help picking out dresses in just a few hours before the wedding. It was a race against the clock and 43 successful customers helped the bride.

Nonfiction Friends Podcast

This month saw the launch of the Nonfiction Friends bi-weekly podcast. A podcast is a digital audio file made available on the Internet for downloading to a computer or mobile device. Within the last year at least 112 million Americans have listened to podcasts and 67 million of those listen to podcasts monthly. The Library's new program capitalizes on that momentum and expands our reach to different demographics through this newer, exciting medium. *Nonfiction Friends* covers topics featured in non-fiction books and features interviews with interesting guests. Episodes are available to download on iTunes, SoundCloud and Google Play.

Gallery



LEFT: Lu Vickers, author of several books on Florida History, brought Paradise Park to life in a meaningful presentation at the West Osceola Library.

BELOW: Hundreds celebrating African American history and literature at the **29th National African American Read-In** facilitated by the Osceola Library System and the City of Kissimmee.





Master Storyteller Willie Mae shared her experiences of growing up as a black youth in Osceola County, entertaining over 20 individuals at the **(ABOVE)** St. Cloud and **(BELOW)** Buenaventura Lakes Libraries.





ABOVE: Orisirisi African Folklore brought African culture and traditions to Hart Memorial Library in a memorable performance of storytelling and songs. **BELOW:** They closed out their performance by inviting members from the audience to participate on traditional African instruments. Guests rushed to the instruments to become part of the music.





LEFT and BELOW: St. Cloud hosted our first annual Bridal Expo, which showcased 14 local businesses and services involved with stationary, venues, musicians, DJs, boutiques, bakeries, travel agents, and more.

As guests browsed the Expo, musicians and DJs alternated filling the Library with music.



March 2018 Monthly Update

	Central	St Cloud	BVL	Poinciana	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	26,729	13,973	14,991	8,627	16,885	168
Circulation*	25,516	27,811	10,957	15,311	17,879	320
Computer Sessions	7,360	3,639	4,077	4,721	1,959	57
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	879	1,725	n/a	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 91 Attendance: 2,138	Events: 60 Attendance: 1,533	Events: 40 Attendance: 667	Events: 51 Attendance: 859	Events: 35 Attendance: 666	n/a

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 9,790
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 81,373
- The Library held 277 events attended by 5,863 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 21,813
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered 40,864 at Hart Memorial and St. Cloud Library
- A total of 1,014 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 90 registered for eCards
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 18,078 resulting in 18% of circulation

March 2018 Highlights

Living Women's History

March is Women's History Month! To commemorate the incredible contributions of women throughout civilization, the Library presented "Living Women's History" with guest speakers and immersive experiences across the system. Presenters in period costume brought brave and important figures such as Corrie Ten Boom and Unsinkable Molly Brown to life, while community groups like the Society for Creative Anachronism and the Daughters of the American Revolution recreated periods of history and the stories and handicrafts of women during those times. These presentations educated 55 persons on the significant contributions of women in history.

Women's history was also a compelling topic of innovation in our children's programs. Members of the Kissimmee Girl Scouts joined the Hart Memorial Library's Edison Club for a special edition of History with an Attitude, celebrating the scientific contributions of Marie Curie and Amelia Earhart. At the West Osceola Library, school age children learned about the evolution of women's suffrage over the last 100 years through creative hands-on learning and games. St. Cloud Library featured women's history in their American Girl and Homeschool Libratory where kids learned about the role women played during WWII, and the impact scientists such as Jane Goodall and Hedy Lamarr had on the fields of anthropology and military weaponry. In all, more than 125 school age kids and tweens embarked on these educational journeys through history.

Escape Room: Wrinkle in Time

The Library offered another exciting and clever Escape Room to the delight of kids and adults alike. This month's theme featured elements from the children's fantasy book, *Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle, which is now a major motion picture in theaters. Guests entered the tesseract to rescue Dr. Murry with our very own Mrs. Whatsit guiding you through the challenges. It was great Saturday afternoon fun for 65 adventurers. Look for more Escape Room fun during the Summer Reading Club at all branches!

Egg-cellent Celebrations

Families had a hopping good time at the Buenaventura Lakes, Poinciana, and Hart Memorial Libraries hunting for eggs hidden around the Library, noshing on treats, and engaging in egg-citing activities. 245 "bunnies" hopped, skipped, and jumped at these holiday parties.

Music History Tour of the 50s and 60s

New York Blues Hall of Fame inductee Marc Black delighted music fans at the Hart Memorial and St. Cloud Libraries with his musical walk down memory lane. Marc led sing-a-longs, broke out some crowd pleasers, and performed music from his own group, The Blades of Grass, which had a 1967 Top 40 hit in the tune "Happy." Marc has performed with such luminaries as Richie Havens, Art Garfunkel, and Taj Mahal, in addition to recently being named Folk Artist of the Year. 81 fans jammed out to Marc's engaging performances.

Past Life Group Regression

The trend of unusual and innovative programming continues with a journey into your past, your deep past! St. Cloud Library hosted Mitchell Osborn, certified hypnotherapist and medium, who led 57 participants down the winding road of their past life with a group hypnosis session. Attendees learned how to fine-tune their psychic abilities and left with worksheets to continue their personal journey into the past.

DVD Checkout Allowances Increased

Starting March 1, limits on DVDs -- how many DVDs may be checked out per library card and how many may be placed on hold -- have been increased. Patrons may check out up to 50 items on a card, regardless of the type of item (book, DVD, CD, etc.). Patrons can now place up to 20 holds per library

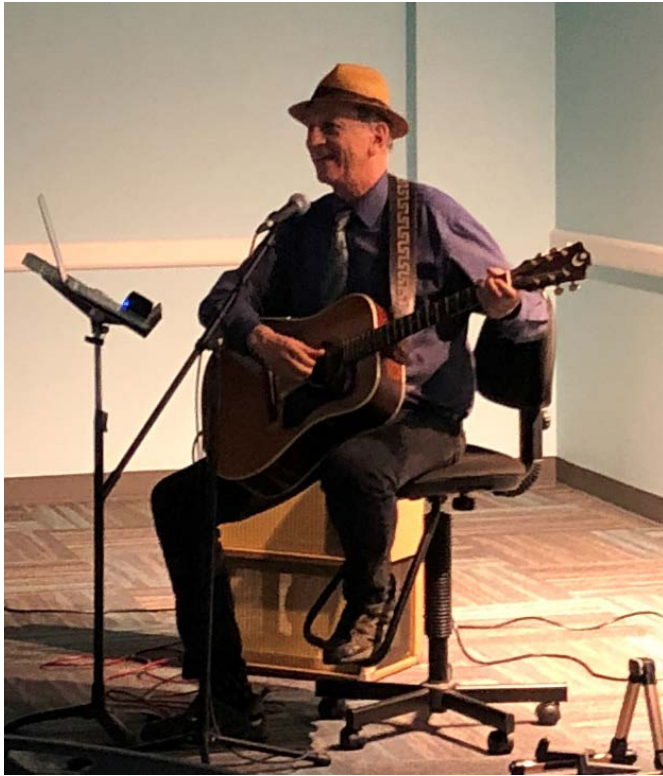
card with no restrictions on item type. This change has definitely been embraced! As a result of this policy switch, DVDs checkouts in March 2018 showed a 45% increase over this same time last year and a 20% increase over the previous month. The Library is committed to seeking out more ways to ensure that the resources patrons need and want find their way into their lives and homes.

Gallery



Actresses and community groups brought history to life in our special **Living Women's History series** at the Libraries. Actress Brooke Taylor (The Unsinkable Molly Brown **ABOVE - LEFT**), The Daughters of the American Revolution (**ABOVE - RIGHT**), The Society for Creative Anachronism (**BELOW - LEFT**), and Actress Olive Lane Horning (Corrie Ten Boom **BELOW - RIGHT**), presented incredible women in history in costume at the Poinciana, Hart Memorial, Buenaventura Lakes, and St. Cloud Libraries, respectively.





Adults and children alike were treated to a very special Saturday when **New York Blues Hall of Fame Inductee Marc Black (LEFT)** performed classic songs in a Musical History Tour at the Hart Memorial and St. Cloud Libraries.

That same day, Hart Memorial Library also hosted the **Wrinke In Time Escape Room** where families worked together to solve clues and complete challenges in order to save Dr. Murry from "It" **(BELOW – LEFT)** under the guidance of our own Mrs. Whatsit **(BELOW – RIGHT).**





March ended with **eggciting Easter celebrations** at the Buenaventura Lakes, Poinciana, and Hart Memorial Libraries. At each event, children decorated their own eggs as well as other Easter-related crafts—such as Egg Wreaths at Poinciana Library (**ABOVE**). After creating their treasures, children embarked on an epic search through the Library to collect hidden Easter eggs (**BELOW**).



April 2018

Monthly Update

	Central	St Cloud	BVL	Poinciana	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	23,201	13,356	9,025	14,031	14,333	114
Circulation*	24,426	26,698	10,021	15,976	17,486	320
Computer Sessions	6,596	3,504	4,336	3,979	1,858	25
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	874	1,497	n/a	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 74 Attendance: 1,952	Events: 86 Attendance: 2,607	Events: 43 Attendance: 1,036	Events: 54 Attendance: 929	Events: 45 Attendance: 944	n/a

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 10,038
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 74,060
- The Library held 302 events attended by 7,468 persons
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 20,298
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered 52,088 at Hart Memorial Library and St. Cloud Library
- A total of 1,014 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 93 registered for eCards
- 7,733 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 16,725 resulting in 16% of circulation

April 2018 Highlights

International Festival

On April 11 at the Buenaventura Lakes Library and April 18 at the Hart Memorial Library, an International Festival was hosted that engaged 574 people over both Libraries. The two-day event was a cultural bonanza representing many countries and traditions. Staff and volunteers showcased the pride in their cultures as they interacted with attendees over various crafts, foods, and activities. Customers enjoyed belly dancing, Native American dancers, a sampling authentic of foods from many countries, henna tattoos, and photo opportunities with famous landmarks from around the world. Hands-on crafts from countries included: China with a Chinese puppet, Denmark making a Danish

Christmas heart as an ornament, Italy with pasta necklaces using colors from their flag, Japan with origami, Russia with Babushka face buttons, and Egypt with soccer/foosball game.

This event compliments a key element associated to the American Dream Literacy Grant we recently received. This event was a cultural celebration that encouraged our language learners from throughout the community to get to know their neighbors, interacting one on one to practice language skills and improve overall community literacy.

Literary Magazine Publication and Presentation

Our first *LitMag* was published this month. Tween and Teen authors were encouraged to submit their original short stories, poems, and essays over the course of several weeks for inclusion in the magazine. Final judging was performed by local authors Peter Raymundo, Vivi Barnes, and Brandon Goode. The result was a beautiful, glossy publication featuring six winning works printed and distributed by the Library to schools, branch Libraries and online. At the LitMag Reception on April 28, the winning pieces were read aloud and the authors were congratulated by the judges and Osceola County Commissioner Cheryl Grieb with 66 people in attendance.

Arts & Crafting Programs for Adults

Arts & Crafting programs continue to be a large draw for patrons. These programs not only teach functional skills that can be passed down generations, but they also give a welcoming environment for those seeking comradery or community connections. They can be challenging for the experienced artist or crafter, or present a brand new skill that keeps the hands, eyes, and brain sharp. In April we featured several ongoing programs at multiple Libraries: Machine Sewing 101 at Hart Memorial, Acrylic Painting for Seniors at Poinciana, Crafty Crew at Buenaventura Lakes, and Let's Get Knitting at St. Cloud are just some of the classes presented with 175 attendees. St. Cloud staff has also embarked on a new partnership with the Council on Aging and the Senior Center to provide activities, crafts, and other engagement for seniors in addition to promoting Library services and resources. 18 seniors participated in the first Library outreach.

STEAM Pilot Program

The STEAM Pilot program was created by the Buenaventura Lakes Library and the Early Learning Coalition to bring hands-on STEAM activities to the Life Academy Preschool. The goal of this program was to show teachers how they could implement these types of programs into their classroom and engage students in experiential learning, and was intended to span a school year. We successfully met that goal by the last lesson in April.

The Library created lesson plans and taught topics on engineering, color science, circuitry, art, and technology. The children loved engaging with each of the lessons. Particular favorites were raising butterflies from caterpillars, making circuits with conductive play dough, and making music with bananas using makey makey. The teachers were very helpful running different stations for the children and eager to learn more STEAM activities. The preschool staff was excited at the last lesson when the Library provided a gift of some items we used in our lessons to get them started with applying STEAM in their classroom. The gift included a complete set of squishy circuits, two wiggle bots, and Lil' Engineers construction blocks set.

Walk Into History

On Saturday, April 28 we hosted the second St. Cloud History Walk. 27 participants enjoyed the one-hour history talk by local historian Mike Urell and the walk itself. The group stopped for a presentation hosted by The Women's Club and had the opportunity to visit several different locations that were not available to see when we the event was first held two years ago.

Osceola Animal Services Community Appreciation Day

The Library was invited to join the Community Appreciation Day at the Osceola County Animal Shelter. Youth staff provided a skit/storytime for the families in attendance. They also provided information about Library programs, emphasizing the upcoming Summer Reading Club, as well as signing up those interested in library cards. The event was well attended with over 500 people.

Gallery



The two-day **International Festival** held at the Buenaventura Lakes and Hart Memorial Libraries was an explosion of culture enjoyed by all ages. **TOP LEFT:** The Festival included samples of cultural dishes from around the world, including Puerto Rico, France, Cuba, China, and many more. The Festival was also the perfect opportunity for Adults and families to learn about other cultures through discussion (**TOP RIGHT**) or fun crafts (**LEFT**). *Photos taken at Buenaventura Lakes Library.*



The **International Festival** also featured live performances of dances from different cultures including Bollywood (**TOP LEFT**), Belly Dancing (**TOP RIGHT and MIDDLE**), Polynesian dance and hula, Peruvian dance, and Merengue; entertaining hundreds of guests. During the Polynesian performance at Buenaventura Lakes Library, the dancer even invited children to perform with her (**LEFT**).

Photos taken at the Hart Memorial and Buenaventura Lakes Libraries.

The **LitMag Reception** event at Hart Memorial Library celebrated the young Tween and Teen authors in our community who won the contest to be featured in our first *LitMag*.



The young authors read their winning works aloud to an audience of over 60 guests **(ABOVE)**, and our own Osceola County Commissioner Cheryl Grieb spoke a few words and took photos with the winners **(BELOW LEFT)**. Limited Edition glossy copies of the *LitMag* were printed for the winners to take home to their families **(BELOW RIGHT)**, with more copies being distributed to the other Library branches and local schools for public viewing.



May 2018
Monthly Update

	Central	St Cloud	BVL	Poinciana	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	23,201	13,456	8,502	13,975	14,893	101
Circulation*	23,669	29,083	9,596	14,549	17,611	292
Computer Sessions	6,812	2,868	3,111	4,091	1,670	35
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,098	1,597	n/a	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 74 Attendance: 1952	Events: 88 Attendance: 2811	Events: 20 Attendance: 437	Events: 53 Attendance: 897	Events: 45 Attendance: 1005	n/a

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month 10,314
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 74,031
- The Library held 269 events attended by persons 6,213
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers 18,587
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered 53,380 at Hart Memorial Library and St. Cloud Library
- A total of 968 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 96 registered for eCards
- 10,013 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 17,189 resulting in 18% of circulation

May 2018 Highlights

American Dream Literacy Initiative Update

As a learning journey made possible by the American Dream Literacy Initiative, two librarians traveled to Puerto Rico to meet with area librarians, educators, and cultural ambassadors and brought back with them a wealth of information on the reading and educational habits and interests for Puerto Ricans on the island. This will better inform our programming, outreaches, and collection building as we gather greater insight into how best to offer library services and resources to this large and growing population in Osceola County. This year, the Osceola Library System adopted a local high school library through a program sponsored by the American Library Association. Through

arrangements made by the school's media specialist, our librarians toured the San Juan campus of the University of Puerto Rico, visited a local library in Dorado, engaged school children in Loiza and spoke with many in the fields of education and libraries. Our librarians even live streamed their journey on Facebook to the delight of our social media followers. It was truly a moving and informative experience that they plan to share with the Library and local community.

Also in May, we held our first workshop to train volunteers to become teachers or tutors for English as a Second Language. The Adult Literacy League presented strategies and techniques for effective learning, and all class attendees who successfully completed the 3-hour class at the Buenaventura Lakes Library are now able to volunteer on behalf of the Adult Literacy League as a tutor or teacher.

Prime Time Wrap Up

The Prime Time Family Reading Time program, made possible by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council, held its third and last round of programming by taking the family literacy evenings "on the road." Programming was held at the Museum of Military History in west Osceola County in an effort to reach families in transitional housing on along Highway 192 who may not have access to a local library or know about library services. Over five weeks, 20 families were involved in sharing in a meal often donated by local restaurants, stories and activities by Library storytellers, presentations and contributions by support agencies such as the Osceola Angels and the School District, and offers of transportation to and from the event provided by the grant. Although the Prime Time grant is ending, the Osceola Library System is researching ways to continue providing this type of support to at-risk families along the 192 corridor. Over three Prime Time events, the Library System reached hundreds of people in an effort to improve family literacy. Surveys from participants confirmed that experiencing the gift of family-centered reading and engaging in the Prime Time program improved attitudes toward reading and learning, fostered a desire to share stories together, and that this was "the best experience ever!"

Continued STEAM Engagement

Staff was busy traveling around the county and region, exploring and promoting STEAM activities. The Library presented at the 2018 Library MakerFest sponsored by the Northeast Florida Library Network, where successful programs like Crafty Crew, Fab Lab, and Edison Club were showcased. The Osceola team networked and learned from other librarians' successful STEAM endeavors, getting inspired for what could be the next big STEAM thing!

The Fab Lab went on the road to Partin Settlement Elementary as a reward for students who participated in the 2018 Sunshine State Reader program. 61 kids worked with fun technology like squishy circuits, makey makey, and ozobots.

The Early Learning Coalition held their Ignite Steam Family Night and several Osceola team members showcased hands-on learning activities and engaged up to 250 attendees. It was also a great opportunity to plug the Summer Reading Club kicking off in June. Everyone learned something new and feedback about the Library was positive: "Loved the Osceola Library activities!", "Love the way the presenters were interacting with the kids," and "Great family activities we can do at home" were some of the takeaway comments.

Notable STEAM events and activities in May:

- 3D Printing Workshop – exploring hands-on how 3D printers work
- Homeschool Library Science Fair Exhibit – science fair projects on display from homeschool groups
- Full Steam Ahead for Homeschoolers: with a special visit by Osceola County Animal Services – STEAM activities coupled with a visit from some furry friends
- Kids Makerspace: Mommy & Me – jewelry making for the perfect Mother’s Day gift
- Starting Your Own Podcast – how-to seminar on trending topic of creating digital audio files on a variety of topics and “broadcasting” to the Internet

Coming to America

Eight Osceola High School students presented their touching stories of courage as they celebrated the publication of their book, *Coming to America*. Teacher Manuel Hernandez encouraged his students to write about their personal journeys as part of his English curriculum and the result was powerful and moving, and has achieved the feat of being the first book published by ESOL students in any high school in Florida. 35 attendees at the Hart Memorial Library enjoyed the night of stories and kinship.

Celebrating Mom

May is for celebrating “Mom”! And the Library knows how to make Mom feel special. The Hart Memorial and Poinciana Libraries held elegant tea parties for our VIPs, making memories with refreshments, crafts and, at Hart Memorial, a very special performance by the Osceola Community Orchestra’s String Ensemble. A different craft was featured at Hart Memorial’s Mommy & Me edition of Kids Makerspace where staff taught attendees how to make hand-made jewelry.

Gallery

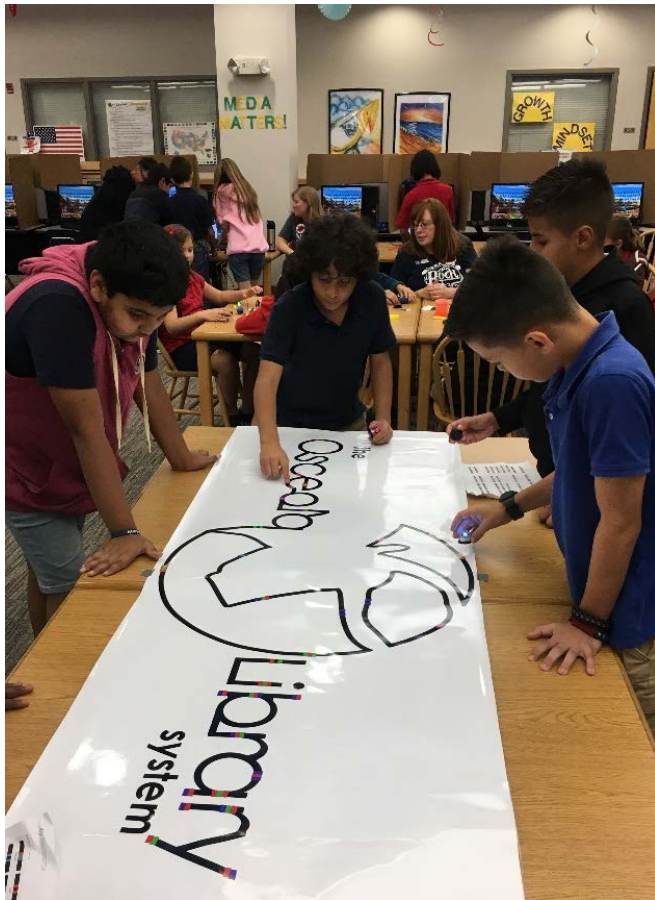
BELOW: Prime Time Family Reading Time holds its last session at the Museum of Military History, where families shared in meals and activities to promote family literacy.





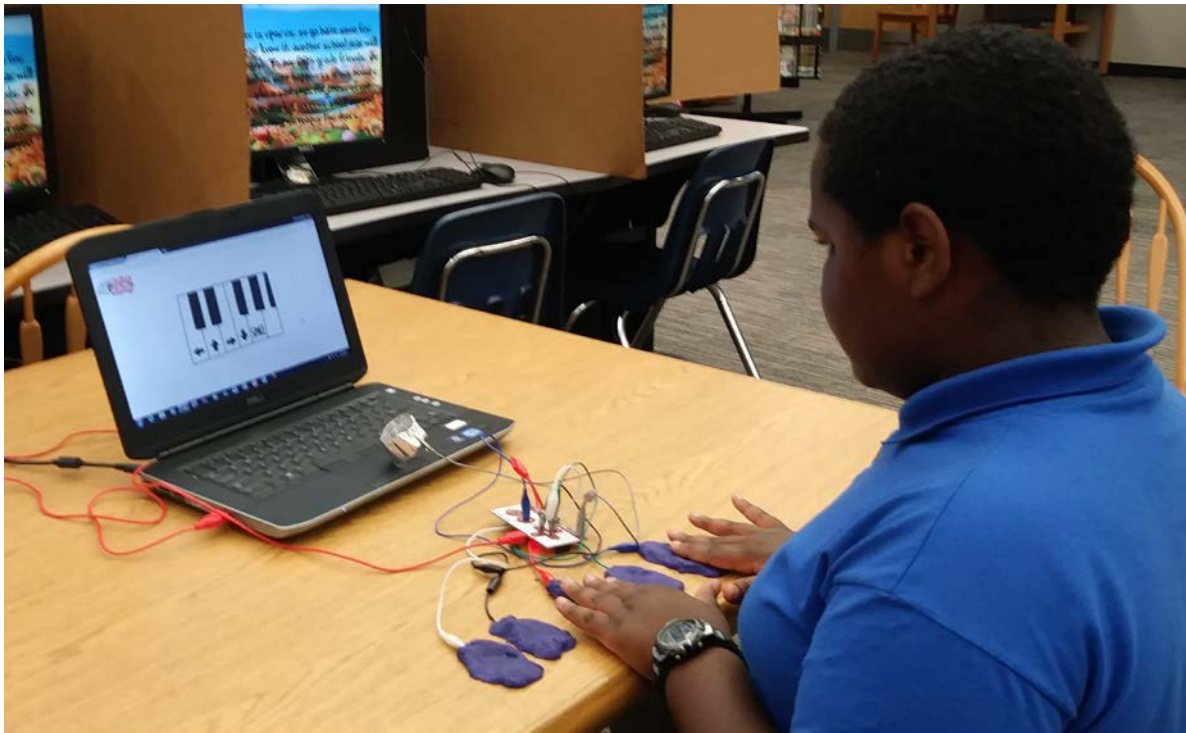
ABOVE: Candice and Dagmar, thanks to the American Dream Literacy Grant, traveled to **Puerto Rico** and met with the librarians, educators, and cultural ambassadors of the area.

As they visited different schools, such as the University of Puerto Rico (**LEFT**), and other landmarks, our librarians cataloged their journey through Facebook and Instagram to the delight of our followers.



As a reward for the participants of the 2018 Sunshine State Reader program, our Youth staff took **Fab Lab** on the road to Partin Settlement Elementary.

A total of 61 students were introduced to fun STEAM activities and technology such as ozobots (LEFT) and makey makey (BELOW).





ABOVE: The nine E.S.O.L. students from Osceola High School who shared their incredible stories of their immigration experience in a special presentation of their book, ***Coming to America***.



LEFT: Mothers were celebrated at special **“Mommy and Me”** events at the Hart Memorial and Poinciana Libraries. Children made special crafts as gifts for their mothers. *(Photo taken at Hart Memorial Library)*

June 2018 Monthly Update

	Central	St Cloud	BVL	Poinciana	West Osceola	Kenansville
Visitors	26,813	15,318	9,022	16,282	16,191	103
Circulation	26,462	31,870	10,559	15,768	18,188	274
Computer Sessions	7,000	2,751	2,879	4,000	1,730	30
AWE Computer Sessions	n/a	1,473	1,918	n/a	n/a	n/a
Programming Onsite, In-Community, and Schools	Events: 101 Attendance: 2,812	Events: 103 Attendance: 3471	Events: 52 Attendance: 1,466	Events: 77 Attendance: 1,918	Events: 47 Attendance: 1,214	n/a

***Does not include electronic resource circulation**

Other Statistics

- Electronic Resource Circulation for the month was 10,531, up 14% from 2017
- Visitors to the Libraries for the month totaled 83,729
- The Library held 380 events attended by 10,881 persons; attendance is up 23% from 2017
- Computer sessions at the networked public computers numbered 21,781
- Wi-Fi sessions numbered at Hart Memorial Library and St. Cloud Library 58,547
- A total of 1,261 persons registered for full-service Library cards and 96 registered for eCards
- 10,711 holds were placed on Library materials
- Self-Check-Outs numbered 21,112 resulting in nearly 19% of circulation
- Total circulation for June was 113,652, up 22% from 2017

June 2018 Highlights

Summer Reading Kick Off

Our two-month long Summer Reading Club kicked off in June as we encouraged kids of all ages to beat the heat, fight the summer knowledge slide, and “Rock the Library” with fantastic events and activities.

Gatorland was on hand at the Buenaventura Lakes, West Osceola, St. Cloud, and Poinciana Libraries to rock your world with some close encounters of the scaly kind. Gator Wranglers educated everyone

on Florida's fun critters and everyone had the chance to touch snakes, lizards, and even a Florida alligator. Nearly 700 kids and grownups squirmed, screamed, and smiled with these great science presentations that got everyone in the groove for learning.

STEAM Day was back and bigger than ever as Hart Memorial Library kicked off their Summer Reading Club. Nearly 500 kids and grownups worked through 11 different technology and maker-type stations using Spheros, Squishy Circuits, and Solar K'NEX, followed by a fun and interactive science presentation by Professor Christina Wilson of Super Cool Science. Outside the Library, kids ran a giant hamster wheel configured to make human-powered snow cones. Everyone who participated in events received a Minecraft keychain printed using the Library's FlashForge Finder 3D printer, which was one hand for display.

Ongoing Adult and Kid Summer Reading Programming

Creativity was out of bounds as Summer Reading for Adults and Kids took flight in June. The theme for 2018 is "Libraries Rock!" and the calendar for June was filled with engaging and informative programming that has been a big hit with our patrons.

Highlights for Adults Include:

Rockin' Summer Beginning Guitar where participants bring their own guitars for an introduction to chords, tuning, finger-picking and tab reading. This evening program at the Hart Memorial Library brought together nearly 60 strummers led by our Adult Services Librarian.

Rockin' Summer Swing and Latin Dance had participants strapping on their dancing shoes and learning the basics of swing and Latin dances, featured at the Hart Memorial and Buenaventura Lakes Library respectively. Nearly 20 attendees boogie-woogied and sambaed the night away.

Escape Room: Escape the Green Room had participants role-playing as rock stars who find themselves trapped backstage in the green room but late for a gig! Bandmates at the Poinciana, Buenaventura Lakes, and Hart Memorial Libraries worked together to solve puzzles and free themselves to get to the stage for their big show. Things took a slightly more dramatic turn at the West Osceola Library, where participants had to Escape the Phantom of the Opera's Masquerade ball and get to freedom before time ran out.

Highlights for Kids Include:

Let Us Entertain You is our "featured performer" event series of the Summer Reading Club. Some examples of these programs included school age kids being thrilled and amazed by Extreme Animals of Florida bringing the "wildlife" to the Library, sushi chefs from Benihana introducing kids to "Kabuki Sushi" with hands-on sushi-making instruction, the Actors Reaching Out troupe presenting Dr. Seuss stories through skits, and the Moogician hoofin' around with magic comedy.

Families Rock the Library brings kids together with their grownup to learn, build, and chill out with great activities like watching movies, making healthy snacks, "petting" musical instruments, "touching" big trucks, camping indoors, conserving nature with the Nature Conservancy, and learning "how to be a better you" from members of the Walt Disney Ambassador Team.

Kids Rock the Library and Storytime keeps kids connected to reading, science, and their community with experiments galore, creating and telling “twisted fairy tales,” enjoying a special visit from Medieval Times, and exploring the science of solar energy, circuits, and more!

In total, our June attendance for the Summer Reading Club approached 6,500 people across five Libraries.

ELC Award

On June 14, the Osceola Library System received an award from the Early Learning Coalition in recognition for the hard work, commitment, and dedication by Library staff for the ELC’s 14th Annual Ready Set Grow Early Educators Conference. Staff created 17 different interactive STEAM stations to create a hands-on learning experience for nearly 300 early educators, created presentations with techniques to enhance storytimes, and served as a panel of speakers for the early education conference.

Stories Fit for a Queen

In conjunction with the City of Kissimmee’s annual PrideFest celebration, the Library presented “Stories Fit for a Queen” with local drag queen Jem Stone hosting a special Saturday storytime. Topics included the importance of inclusion, being yourself, and celebrating what makes you fabulous. 45 kids and grownups danced, sang, and read along with Jem.

3D Printing Workshop

May saw the launch of our first 3D printing workshops, which have continued through June. These workshops feature the FlashForge Finder 3D printer which is a home-sized model of 3D printer available for purchase through Amazon or other retailers. Each month a new project is tackled in addition to providing time to work on individual items. A video tutorial has also been posted on the Library’s YouTube channel that provides the basics of 3D printing on the FlashForge model, from loading the filament to sending simple print jobs. Classes continue through the fall.

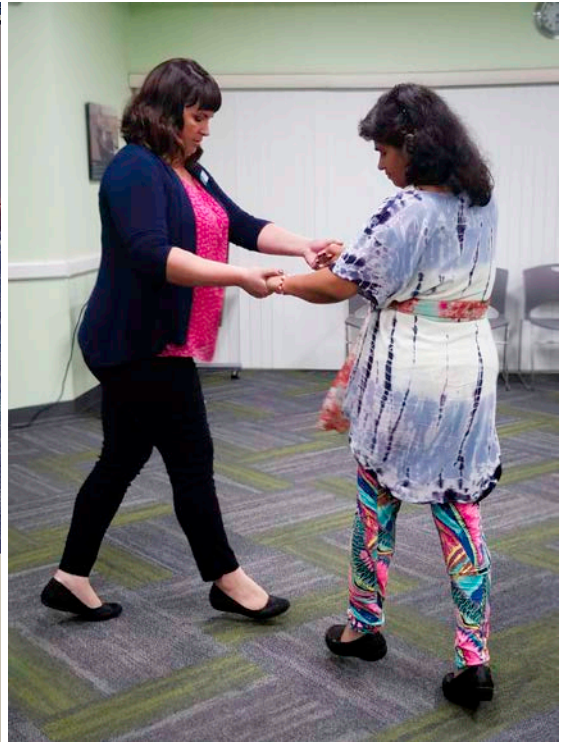
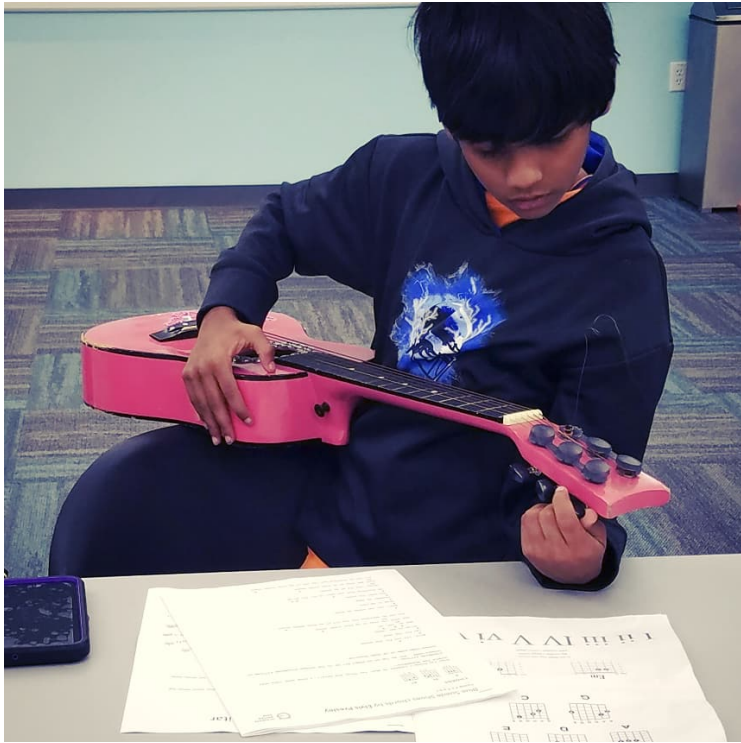
Gallery



Summer Reading kicked off at the Libraries with Gatorland and our 2nd Annual STEAM Day!

ABOVE: Kiddos got up close and personal with different reptiles thanks to Gatorland wranglers at the Buenaventura Lakes Library.

LEFT: Hundreds of families were wowed by the amazing science experiments conducted by Professor Christina Wilson of Super Cool Science at Hart Memorial Library's STEAM Day.



Adults and Families picked up new skills this Summer with Beginning Guitar (**ABOVE-LEFT**) and Swing Dance lessons (**ABOVE-RIGHT**) at Hart Memorial Library. And our touring Summer Escape Room: Escape the Green Room forced rock stars to solve puzzles to get to the stage such as this family (**BELOW**) at the Poinciana Library.





Kiddos had an adventurous June with featured performers such as Actors Reaching Out (**ABOVE**) and Extreme Animals of Florida (**BELOW-RIGHT**). They even learned new skills such as sushi-making with Benihana chefs (**BELOW-LEFT**) for a healthy and fun afternoon!





LEFT: The Osceola Library System receives an award from the Early Learning Coalition in recognition of our support to the Ready, Set, GROW conference and our continued dedication to STEAM programming.

BELOW: Hart Memorial Library hosts a special storytime, "Stories Fit for a Queen," with Drag Queen Jem Stone in conjunction with the City of Kissimmee's PrideFest Celebration. Jem read stories to families and spread the message of accepting and portraying your truest self.

