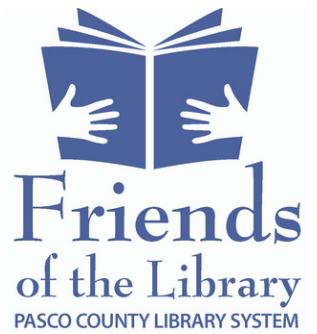




Special Summer Edition 2022

Friends Newsletter

Updates from Your Libraries



Taking the Library Outdoors!

On April 22nd, the first-ever Pasco Libraries StoryWalk® was launched at Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park! Eighteen reading stations have been installed along a 0.20-mile nature trail near the playground area of the park, allowing families, children, and people of all ages to enjoy an outdoor reading experience. Featuring the book *Armadillo Tattletale* by Helen Ketteman, the story highlights Florida wildlife through bright, engaging illustrations. It is also accompanied by interactive prompts, fun facts, and local animal photos. Pending community feedback, our hope is to switch out the story seasonally and expand the program to other county parks.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the Friends for supplying the funding for the beautiful purple paint for the posts and the vinyl covering that has been placed as weather protection over the frames of each post. A heartfelt thank you goes to all who kindly partnered with Libraries to make this project possible: the Friends of the Library, Pasco County Parks and Natural Resources, and AmeriCorps.

We hope you can take a visit to the trail soon. The StoryWalk® adventure begins on the nature trail to the back left side of the playground area—just look for the purple posts, courtesy of your generosity!

Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, 10500 Wilderness Park Blvd, New Port Richey, FL 34655.

FRIEND SPOTLIGHT

Kaitlyn Hodge



Kaitlyn is currently completing her M.A. in Library and Information Science. She moved to Pasco County a year ago from Atlanta, GA. She started working with the Friends of Centennial Park Library in October 2021 and began assisting with the Friends of Pasco County Libraries' Facebook page in January 2022.

Kaitlyn states that Libraries have given so much to her over her lifetime. Besides checking out countless books, movies, and music, she has learned amazing life skills from library programs, like learning to cook, sew, make pottery, use Adobe Photoshop, and use Microsoft Excel. She wants to make sure that her entire community receives access to the library resources that they need and enjoy. She knows that the Friends help make many of these resources possible. She originally started volunteering with the Friends as a way to build a local community for herself while fundraising for the libraries' needs. She loves knowing that by working with the Friends, she is giving back to her local community. Through her work with the Friends' social media, she can spread awareness of all the wonderful things the Friends and libraries are accomplishing.

News from the Branches

Centennial Park

Centennial Park Library celebrated their re-dedication ceremony on April 29, 2022. The celebration marked the official re-opening of the newly - remodeled branch featuring The Loft, a beautiful Makerspace Art Studio. District 3 County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey was the guest of honor.

Visit us at the library to see our new patio space, enhanced children's and teens' rooms, and our new study rooms.



Hudson

The Hudson Regional Library is ready to dive right into summer reading! The branch is decorated to match the Oceans of Possibilities theme and there is a plethora of fun activities planned for all ages. Come spend some time relaxing in our "aquarium" area, capture some fun family memories using our photo backdrops, and create some cool ocean-themed crafts. We hope you can "shell-ebrate" with us this summer!

Hugh Embry

The staff of Hugh Embry is ready to move in! We will be preparing the branch for the public with a plan to open by end of Summer. New amenities abound, including an enhanced Children's Room. Look for our new butterfly garden and art gallery coming soon. Please continue to visit us at the Dade City Senior Center on Mondays and Wednesdays 10-2:30.

Land O' Lakes

Land O' Lakes Library has been visiting the Land O' Lakes Senior Center with a different craft each month. So far, we have made succulent magnets, felt mug bookmarks, and painted rocks. We also participated in their Open House in May. We were among many local organizations that participated in this event. We gave away library swag, talked about our services and upcoming events, and helped people sign up for library cards. For the second year, Land O'Lakes Library (and other Pasco County Libraries) celebrated Earth Week by participating in the Neighborhood Forest Project. This year red maples were provided. Neighborhood Forest also provides curriculum information to "teach kids about the value and importance of urban and residential trees".

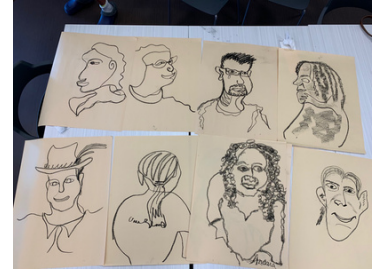
New River

The Discovery Gardens at New River Library have been the place to be for patrons of all ages! Recently the learning experiences in the gardens have been enhanced by our new Farmstand Hydroponic Gardening System. The hydroponic tower has been affectionately called "Rosie" by the staff and patrons. Rosie was given to New River through a grant from Lettuce Grow®, and the veggies from Rosie were given to the Zephyrhills Senior Center. As for our community garden, the plant beds are now ready for a new set of patrons who will be gardening on their reserved garden beds through the summer. Make *your* reservation for fall!



Starkey Ranch TLC

Shaina Buckles-Harkness, the Dali Museum's Librarian, made a special visit to Starkey Ranch TLC to give a lecture about the "Museum + Art Series: Picasso and the Allure of the South". In conjunction with this captivating lecture, our very own Program Coordinator, Jayde Archbold, led various programs from February to May resulting in Picasso - inspired masterpieces created by library patrons. Check out Starkey Ranch TLC's events calendar to sign up for exciting learning and creative experiences!



Regency Park

Ms. Bert retired from Pasco County Libraries a few months ago, but she returned to help get us ready for this year's Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Oceans of Possibilities." Readers of all ages can sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge today at bit.ly/PascoSRC2022. Visit our events calendar and sign up for cooking classes, reading challenges, and other engaging events for the whole family!



South Holiday

The Community Resource Fair is still ongoing. Visit our events calendar to find out when the next fair will be. Stop by to visit community partners like Pasco County Public Transportation, One Blood (no appointment needed to donate blood), Metropolitan Ministries and more! We are so excited to bring these resources to our community. The South Holiday staff hosts the Community Resource Fair at St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church located at 4843 Mile Stretch Dr. Holiday, FL 34690 from 10AM to 12PM. Check our calendar for upcoming dates. We hope to see you there.



Events Calendar

Click [here](#) for the latest events & programs!

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Be a Friend of the Library!**



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