

# Summer 2023

# Friends Newsletter

## *Updates from Your Libraries*



## Hugh Embry Returns

Great news! Hugh Embry Library in Dade City is back. The library reopened on Tuesday, May 30th to a host of loyal and new patrons. Everyone has been anticipating the reopening and is happy to be able to use their library again. The entrance is inviting and makes a lasting impression with a modern wooden ceiling and monumental clock. The enclosed spaces that we never had before are also a big hit: patrons love the two study rooms, the enclosed Children's Room, and the enclosed Teens' Room. The many windows create a pleasant interior with natural day-light. Our butterfly garden and new digital sign complete our exterior. Since our reopening, many young families are coming to sign up for library cards and for the Summer Reading program. We look forward to a grand opening rededication in September.



## FRIEND SPOTLIGHT



*Nola Branche  
Hudson*

Nola Branche has volunteered with the Hudson Friends for over 18 years. She joined the Friends board in 2005, and has served as President since 2007. Her tireless efforts have allowed the Hudson Friends to grow and thrive over the years. Her dedication and passion for the Hudson Library have supported myriad programs, including local author fairs, concerts, and hundreds of smaller events. She masterfully manages large booksales, and ensures that there is a steady flow of volunteers to help sort donations and stock the Friends area within the library. Her recent work in spearheading a new Little Free Library has helped bring the joy of reading to communities who have a hard time getting traditional library services. Nola is a core part of the Hudson Library—the community is deeply grateful for her commitment and service. Thank you, Nola!

# News from the Branches

## Centennial Park

This summer the Friends of the Centennial Park Branch Library have stepped into the spotlight! They started out their special offerings with a successful lunch & learn session "Friends Social". 23 members of the community attended and five signed up on the spot to become Friends! Our Friends have also agreed to fund a series of Chair Yoga sessions to help meet the interests of the community. Our first class had 17 attendees! Our Friends also funded a special outreach program from the Florida Aquarium: Terrestrial Ambassadors. This program will be an informal educational program geared towards families. We're looking forward to learning more about their land-capable critters!

Other than amazing programs, our Friends saw the launch of our Free Art Closet. Everyone in the community is welcome to come during the closet's open hours: every second Saturday from 10:15- 12:15 and every third Thursday from 3-5pm.

We can't wait to see what our Friends give to the community next!

## New River

The New River Library is excited for summer this year! We had an amazing first program with Bits and Pieces Puppet theater, and we had almost 290 attendees for our Friendship Week summer event. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our patrons back this year with exciting programming.

## Land O' Lakes

The Friends of the Library at Land O' Lakes have been a group of busy bees already this summer! From donating refreshments for Land O' Lakes' first Author Fair since reopening to hosting a wildly successful Young Adult Book Sale - spearheaded by the book sale manager, Audrey - during the first weekend in June, this Friends group has lavished us with their support. The support from the Friends has been returned in kind by the community, as reflected in the staggering amount of book donations from the public. The Friends of the Library at Land O' Lakes continue to support and look out for the betterment of library services.

## Hudson Regional

Summer Reading is back in full swing at the Hudson Library! With the support of our Friends, we're hosting weekly events for all ages. We're bringing Summer Reading to life with performers, crafts, storytimes, and more! In keeping with the theme of our makerspace, Studio H, we will be hosting beginner guitar lessons for teens and adults throughout the summer. Our community is very excited to be back together with us as well. We've had an amazing response from our patrons—almost 300 people attended our recent Bluey Bash. With a start like that, this summer is sure to be one to remember!

## South Holiday

The South Holiday Library is happy to have the Early Learning Coalition at the July 22nd Community Resource Fair. From 10AM-12PM we will be hosting Metropolitan Ministries, Primer Health, Mittyte P. Lock and more!

## Starkey Ranch

The Starkey Ranch Friends of the Library have been keeping busy! Our members volunteered at the Caribbean Chillers concert at Starkey Ranch on May 20th, having refreshments for the visiting patrons and cheering on the Seven Springs Middle School steel drum band, as well as setting up pop-up book sales at the Stand Down Veterans Community Event on April 23rd and the Summer Reading Kick Off Event at Starkey Ranch on June 10th. Our Book Nook is getting great turnover thanks to member Joy keeping it fresh and well stocked. Friends member Tina continuously amazes the Starkey patrons and staff with her holiday creations, whether it be Easter, Mother's Day, or Father's Day! The Starkey Friends are continuously growing and always up for the next adventure. We don't know what we would do without them.



## A New Museum Pass

Just in time for summer we are excited to share our newest Discovery Pass to the Tampa Bay History Center. This pass is good for 7 days after check out and allows for 4 guests to visit. Learn more about this pass as well as our other passes at: <https://pascolibraries.org/borrow/museum/>



## Support Your Friends

Visit our page to donate to your local library's Friends group and support all the great programs and events that your community relies on!  
<https://pascolibraries.org/support-the-library/friends-of-the-library/>