

ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM **2025** | DECEMBER



Orange County Mayor's
**Holiday
TOY DRIVE**

Donate a new, unwrapped gift for kids and teens.
All donations support Orange County youth and family agencies.

— TWO WAYS TO GIVE —

ONLINE BY
MONDAY, DEC. 1, 2025

IN PERSON BY
MONDAY, DEC. 8, 2025

Visit ocfl.net/ToyDrive for more information.

BOOKS. MUSIC. MORE.

FRIENDS
of the ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Friends of the Library Book Store
Located inside Orlando Public Library
101 E. Central Ave., Orlando, FL 32801
friends.ocls.org

**tap
INTO YOUR
LIBRARY**

Discover a new way to experience your Orange County Library System with the OCLS app – a gateway to a world of books, music, events and more wherever you are!

Table of Contents



Join us for a special edition Second Saturday Improv Show featuring the graduating class of the Melrose Center Improv Four series. Students will perform a live, fully improvised comedy show, making up scenes and stories right in front of your eyes.

Featured Events



Hans Christian Andersen's tale of mystery and adventure comes to the stage in this musical holiday adaptation of *The Snow Queen* presented by Atlantic Coast Theatre.



Get to know some local Florida authors with a meet and greet and book signings at our Local Author Festival at Orlando Public Library.

In This Issue

- 6 LIBRARY EVENTS
- 12 GENEALOGY
- 13 WRITERS CORNER
- 14 BOOK CLUBS
- 16 LANGUAGE LEARNING
- 18 MELROSE CENTER
- 19 FIBER ARTS
- 20 SENIOR EVENTS
- 21 TECH CLASSES
- 22 COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- 23 FAMILY
- 25 EARLY LEARNING
- 30 KIDS (AGES 6–12)
- 34 TEENS (AGES 13–18)

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Crockett Bohannon
Vice President: Nicole Benjamin
Ashley Cisneros Mejia, Sharon Smoley,
Venessa M. Tomlin

Next Board of Trustees Meeting:
Orlando Public Library • Thu., Dec. 11 • 6 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Melissa Stillman
Vice President: Douglas Richards
Treasurer: Irene McNutt
Secretary: Almeda Sun
Veronica Bocco, Maria Guerrero,
Fred D. Harvey, Brandon Johnson,
Cathy Kennedy, Thomas R. Kohler, Erica Lee

Next Friends of the Library Board of Directors Meeting:

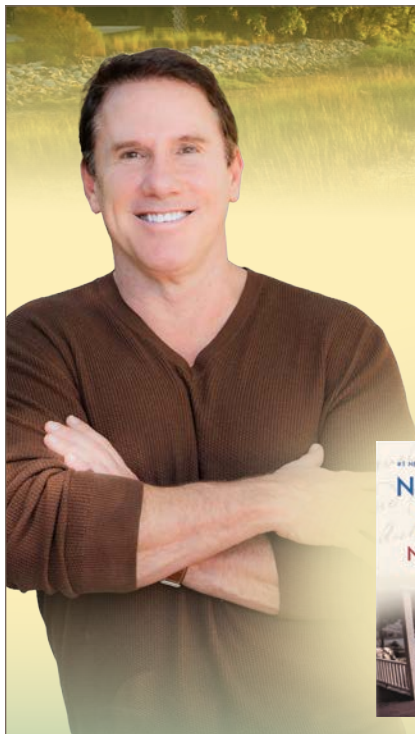
Virtual • Wed., Dec. 17 • Noon

A little gift goes a long way.
Support the Friends of the Library today!



Help us reach our year-end fundraising goal!
Your gift supports books, programs and events for our community. Thank you!



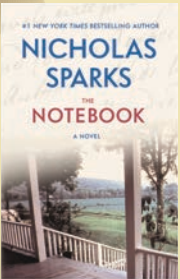


AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR
NICHOLAS SPARKS

SATURDAY, JAN. 17 | 7:30 P.M.
Dr. Phillips Center

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

ocls.org/NicholasSparks





The Best Books You May Have Missed in 2025

December is a great time to relax with a book, and book clubs, blogs, celebrities and newspapers are releasing their Best Books lists for 2025 – a fun way to find your next book. I love discovering new authors and I find as much time as I can to read. I usually listen to audiobooks on my commute and read during my vacations. With our upcoming Lillian Louise Pharr author event, I'm looking forward to listening to *Remain* by Nicholas Sparks with M. Night Shyamalan. This is way out of genre for me, but everyone needs some Nicholas Sparks at some point in their reading history. My favorite book for 2025 was *Secrets of the Flamingo Café* by Joy Wallace Dickinson, a mystery set in 1940s Orlando. If you haven't found a favorite book this year, we have some ideas for you.

As you turn the pages of this month's magazine, you'll see nearly every page includes book covers and descriptions as part of our Best Books of 2025 list. A group of 26 librarians worked to create this "OCLS Best Of" list. They reviewed items in our collection released between November 2024 and October 2025 that you may have missed, highlighting many books that may not have appeared on best seller or celebrity lists or our most checked out titles. I really enjoyed going through the selections and have added several of the titles to my own to be read list. Take a look – I hope you'll find a book that stands out to you too. And whether you

like to hold a printed book, download to an e-reader or listen to audiobooks on your commute like I do, OCLS has a book that fits your needs.

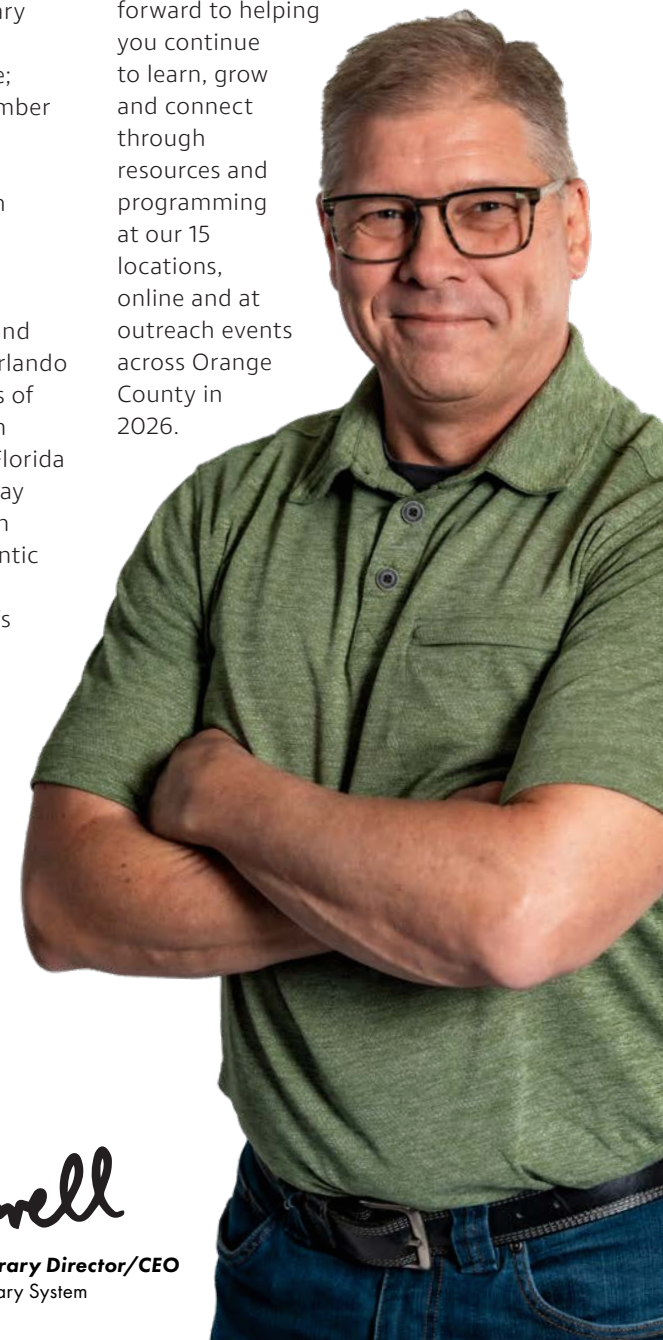
Whether you are an established author or inspired to start writing from looking at this year's best reads, OCLS has programming all month to support your goals. From writers' meetups and workshops to networking and career development, your library makes the tools to hone your skills available both in person and online; check page 13 for details. On December 14, I hope you'll come to our Local Author Festival at Orlando Public Library to meet, chat with and gain inspiration from published Florida authors across a variety of genres.

December means school is out and winter celebrations are here and Orlando Public Library will host adaptations of two holiday classics for all ages. On December 7, watch as the Central Florida Ballet brings scenes from the holiday classic *The Nutcracker* to life and on December 20, join us again as Atlantic Coast Theatre performs a musical version of Hans Christen Andersen's adventurous tale *The Snow Queen* on the Library Central stage.

Caregivers, continue the learning in December by joining us for winter-themed storytimes at every location; days and times are on page 29. If your child is a reluctant reader, join us at South Creek

Branch on December 20 and Southwest Branch on December 27 and let them read out loud to a furry friend from Hearts of Gold Therapy Dogs. We have activities for every interest to keep kids learning through the winter break; take a look on pages 30–33 for programming that works for your family.

Thank you for making OCLS part of your life in 2025. We look forward to helping you continue to learn, grow and connect through resources and programming at our 15 locations, online and at outreach events across Orange County in 2026.

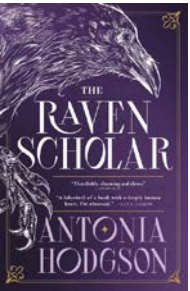


St Powell

Steve Powell, Library Director/CEO
Orange County Library System
comments@ocls.org



Best Books of 2025



The Raven Scholar
by Antonia Hodgson

From an electrifying new voice in epic fantasy comes *The Raven Scholar*, a masterfully woven and playfully inventive tale of imperial intrigue, cutthroat competition and one scholar's quest to uncover the truth.



Shield of Sparrows
by Devney Perry

In the five kingdoms of Calandra, where gods once unleashed monsters, a disillusioned princess, tired of hollow royal traditions, finds her life upended when a monster hunter and a meddlesome prince force her into marriage and a dangerous journey.



Say Everything
by Ione Skye

A Gen X icon bares all in an achingly vulnerable coming-of-age memoir about chasing fame, desire, and true love in the shadow of her famous, absent father.



Turf Alternatives

with the Florida Gardenista

Explore the many beautiful, low-maintenance and sustainable ground cover options that thrive in Florida's unique climate.

Virtual • Thu., Dec. 4 • 7 p.m.

Gift Wrapping Hacks ■

Discover fun and practical ways to wrap gifts of all shapes and sizes. Ages 18 and up.
Hiawassee • Mon., Dec. 1 • 4 p.m.

Sustainable Gifts for Plastic Consumption Reduction ■

Reduce plastic use and support local artisans and sustainable businesses with Fleet Farming.
Alafaya • Mon., Dec. 1 • 5:30 p.m.

Plant Clinic

Bring your plants and get answers from Master Gardener Volunteers from the UF/IFAS Orange County Extension Office.
Windermere • Tue., Dec. 2 • 10:30 a.m.
Winter Garden • Sat., Dec. 13 • 10:15 a.m.

Women in Science Tea Talks ■

Join us for tea and invigorating discussions on women in science. Ages 18 and up.
Orlando Public Library • Tue., Dec. 2 • 3 p.m.

Paper Mask Decorating ■

Learn about the cultural uses of masks while creating your own paper mask. Ages 18 and up.
Winter Garden • Tue., Dec. 2 • 4:30 p.m.

UV Resin Ornaments ■

Create decor out of UV resin that captures your favorite reading memories. Ages 18 and up.
Orlando Public Library • Wed., Dec. 3 • 4:30 p.m.

Holiday DIY Ornaments ■

Decorate ornaments using two different techniques. Ages 18 and up.
Fairview Shores • Wed., Dec. 3 • 5 p.m.

Tea Social Hour for Adults and Seniors ■

Listen to music, enjoy a sweet treat, relax and work on a creative art activity. Ages 18 and up.
North Orange • Wed., Dec. 3, 17 • 5 p.m.

All-Levels Yoga ■

Virtual • Wed., Dec. 3 • 7 p.m.
Windermere • Sat., Dec. 6 • 11:15 a.m.

Car Seat Safety

Certified technicians will be available to check your car seat on a first come, first served basis.
West Oaks • Thu., Dec. 4 • 10:30 a.m.



The Nutcracker

Presented by the Central Florida Ballet

Enjoy a live performance of excerpts from the classic ballet, The Nutcracker. Presented by the Central Florida Ballet. To learn more about the Central Florida Ballet, visit centralfloridaballet.com.

Orlando Public Library • Sun., Dec. 7 • 2 p.m.

Career Academy: Perfecting Your Resume ■

Elevate your job application with best practices in crafting a resume. Ages 18 and up.
Orlando Public Library • Thu., Dec. 4 • 11:30 a.m.
Virtual • Thu., Dec. 11 • 11:30 a.m.

Yoga for Adults and Seniors ■

North Orange • Thu., Dec. 4-18 • 1 p.m.

Air-Dry Clay Coasters ■

Bring your creativity to life by making DIY coasters using air-dry clay. Ages 18 and up.
South Trail • Thu., Dec. 4, 11 • 4:30 p.m.

Junk Journal ■

Welcome winter in a junk journal workshop using recycled books. Ages 18 and up.
Chickasaw • Thu., Dec. 4 • 5 p.m.
Fairview Shores • Sat., Dec. 13 • 11 a.m.

Karaoke! Jazz

Take five with the cats for a lively jam session and cozy refreshments. Ages 18 and up.
Fairview Shores • Thu., Dec. 4 • 5 p.m.

Painting With Hot Glue: Adult Craft Time ■

Create a seasonal-themed piece of art using hot glue and acrylic paint. Ages 18 and up.
Orlando Public Library • Thu., Dec. 4 • 5:30 p.m.

The History of Film Noir ■

We'll talk about the history of film noir and highlight some important films of the genre.
Orlando Public Library • Fri., Dec. 5 • Noon

Book to Film Series: Pride and Prejudice

This series focuses on books that have been made into movies.
Orlando Public Library • Fri., Dec. 5 • 2 p.m.

Easy Decoupage Greeting Cards and Gift Tags ■

Learn how to layer paper to create personalized greeting cards and gift tags. Ages 18 and up.
Southwest • Fri., Dec. 5 • 2 p.m.

Collage-O-Rama ■

Let your creativity flow with a variety of different collage activities. Ages 18 and up.
Alafaya • Fri., Dec. 5 • 4:30 p.m.

Best Books of 2025



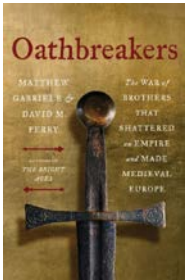
Raising Hare
by Chloe Dalton

Through trial and error, the author learns to care for a rescued newborn hare that had been chased by a dog in the English countryside, and the reader witnesses the joy at this extraordinary relationship between human and animal.



It Seemed Like a Bad Idea at the Time
by Bruce Vilanch

A go-to comedy writer for award shows and sitcoms – but also responsible for some of the worst shows put on television – reflects on what he has experienced, learned, forgotten, dismissed and embraced in decades of working in show business.



Oathbreakers
by Matthew Gabriele & David M. Perry

The story of the Carolingian Civil War, a bloody, protracted battle pitting brother against brother, father against son, that would end an empire, upend a continent and lay down the modern borders of Europe.

Best Books of 2025



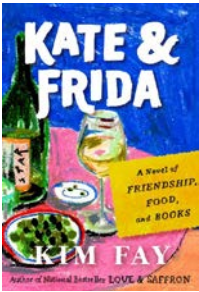
Josephine Baker's Secret War
by Hanna Diamond

Before WW2, Josephine Baker was one of the most famous performers in the world. She made her name dancing on the Parisian stage, but when war broke out she decided not to return to America. Instead, Baker turned spy for the French Secret Services.



You Deserve to Know
by Aggie Blum Thompson

When a husband is found murdered, the peaceful quiet of the cul-de-sac shatters. The seemingly idyllic world of three close-knit mom friends becomes a web of deception, betrayal and revenge.



Kate & Frida
by Kim Fay

In 1991 in Paris, Frida Rodriguez begins a long-distance friendship with Seattle bookseller Kate Fair, and through the tumultuous years of their lives, they sustain and nourish each other, learning how to embrace joy even in their darkest hours.

Unconscious But Not Unprepared

Join Jessica Daly, health literacy coordinator with AdventHealth University, as she discusses the importance of medical preparedness during emergencies.

Virtual • Wed., Dec. 10 • 6:30 p.m.

Career Prep at South Trail

Join us as we explore job and career databases. Ages 18 and up.

South Trail • Sat., Dec. 6 • 1 p.m.

Cozy Coloring

Relax with lo-fi beats and a variety of coloring pages. Ages 18 and up.

Eatonville • Sat., Dec. 6 • 1 p.m.

D&D: Newbie Campaign

Choose a character or bring your own for our beginners campaign. Ages 18 and up.

North Orange • Sat., Dec. 6 • 2 p.m.

Art Between the Stacks: Watercolor Painting Meetup

Explore painting methods to achieve astonishing results. Ages 18 and up.

South Trail • Sat., Dec. 6 • 2:30 p.m.

Puzzle Exchange at Your Library!

Join us for a puzzle exchange.

Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 6 • 2:30 p.m.

Adult Game Time

Spend a fun afternoon playing games and meeting new friends. Ages 18 and up.

Windermere • Sat., Dec. 6–27 • 3 p.m.

Sunshine State Planners

Enjoy a planner discussion and open planner project time. Bring your own supplies.

Orlando Public Library • Sun., Dec. 7 • 1:30 p.m.

Book Bingo For Adults

Join us for a fun afternoon of bingo and a chance to win free books. For ages 18 and up.

South Creek • Sun., Dec. 7 • 3:30 p.m.

Comrades and Coffee

Local veterans can meet and connect with each other, share stories and experiences.

Chickasaw • Mon., Dec. 8 • 10:30 a.m.

Art Between the Stacks: Acrylic Painting Meetup

Explore acrylic painting techniques and find your own artistic expression. Ages 18 and up.

South Trail • Mon., Dec. 8 • 2:30 p.m.

Atlantic Coast Theatre Presents: The Snow Queen

Hans Christian Andersen's tale of mystery and adventure comes to the stage in this musical holiday adaptation. Recommended for families.

Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 20 • 3 p.m.

Holiday DIY: Drink Charms

Sip in style! Craft personalized drink charms using shrink film. Ages 18 and up.

North Orange • Mon., Dec. 8 • 4:30 p.m.

Sugar Plum Fairy Scrub

Create your very own sugar scrub for the holiday season. Ages 18 and up.

Washington Park • Mon., Dec. 8 • 5 p.m.

Resin Book Page Holder: Adult Craft Time

Join us and create your very own resin book page holder. Ages 18 and up.

Orlando Public Library • Tue., Dec. 9 • 4:30 p.m.

Tai Chi Chuan

Join us for light exercises from the traditions of tai chi chuan.

Windermere • Wed., Dec. 10 • 10:30 a.m.

Book Page Necklaces

Design your own unique necklace using recycled books and jewelry pieces.

South Trail • Wed., Dec. 10 • 2 p.m.

Legal Learning Workshop: Legal Issues After Disaster

Explore the most common legal needs after a disaster including housing issues, FEMA appeals and obtaining disaster assistance.

Eatonville • Wed., Dec. 10 • 4 p.m.

Water Wise Neighbor Program

Learn how to maximize water savings for your home. Orange County Utilities water customers are invited to participate and receive free on-site high-efficiency devices, while supplies last.

North Orange • Wed., Dec. 10 • 4:30 p.m.

Watercolor Bookmarks

Learn different watercolor techniques while creating bookmarks. Ages 18 and up.

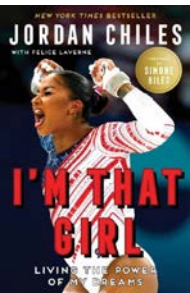
Orlando Public Library • Wed., Dec. 10 • 4:30 p.m.

Create Your Own Mosaic Tile: Folk Art

Create a mosaic tile using air-dry clay and tiles. Ages 18 and up.

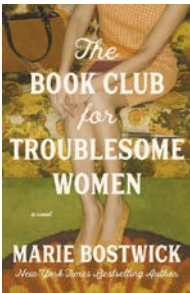
Orlando Public Library • Thu., Dec. 11 • 2:30 p.m.

Best Books of 2025



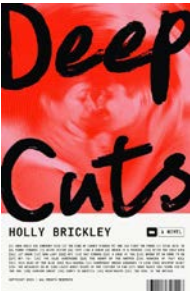
I'm That Girl
by Jordan Chiles with Felice Laverne

This memoir from the two-time Olympian gymnast chronicles her journey to the awards podium while overcoming racism, childhood trauma and setbacks, highlighting the importance of family support and the resilience of the human spirit.



The Book Club for Troublesome Women
by Marie Bostwick

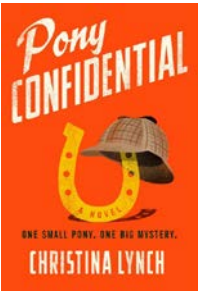
In suburban Virginia of the 1960s, Margaret Ryan forms a book club with three neighbors, discovering shared dissatisfaction with societal expectations, as the group bonds over personal struggles, feminist ideas and the transformative power of friendship.



Deep Cuts
by Holly Brickley

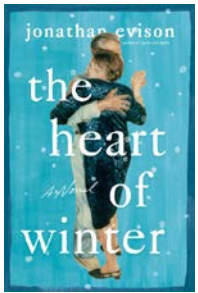
In a California bar, an opinionated New Yorker, Percy, meets songwriter Joe, sparking a creative partnership that propels him toward indie-rock stardom and challenges her to reconcile her own ambitions with their collaboration.

Best Books of 2025



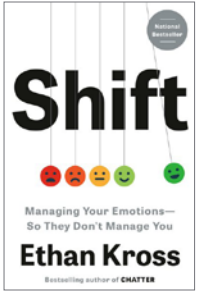
Pony Confidential
by Christina Lynch

Pony, a rebellious horse determined to reunite with his long-lost owner Penny, escapes and embarks on a cross-country journey to clear her name after she is wrongfully accused of murder.



The Heart of Winter
by Jonathan Evison

Abe Winter and Ruth Warneke's 70-year marriage faces a new crisis as Ruth's health deteriorates, prompting Abe to care for her, forcing the couple to navigate love, loss and enduring partnership in their golden years.



Shift
by Ethan Kross

A myth-busting, science-based guide that addresses the timeless question of how to manage your emotional life using tools you already possess. From the bestselling author of *Chatter*.

Trivia Bonanza: Freida McFadden

Join us for trivia on all things Freida and her books. Ages 18 and up.
South Trail • Fri., Dec. 12 • 4 p.m.

Studies in Horror: The Liminal

An exploration of liminal horror – what it is, why it affects us and why the internet is the medium for the genre. Ages 18 and up.
Orlando Public Library • Fri., Dec. 12 • 4:30 p.m.

Beginner Line Dancing

Learn beginner line dance steps to all types of music. Partners not needed. Ages 18 and up.
Southwest • Sat., Dec. 13 • 10:30 a.m.

Jane Austen Theatricals with Audience Participation

Theatrical readings from Jane Austen's works with audience participation. Ages 18 and up.
Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 13 • 2 p.m.

D&D at the Library: Meetup for Adults

Join us on our next quest. Ages 18 and up.
Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 13 • 2:30 p.m.

Book Frosting: Adults

Bring a book and frost its cover with sticker rhinestones. Ages 18 and up.
Alafaya • Sat., Dec. 13 • 3 p.m.

Jane Austen's 250th Anniversary Birthday Celebration!

An invitation to celebrate the life and literature of Jane Austen with tea and cake, of course.
Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 13 • 3 p.m.

Persona Poetry

Write from the voice of your favorite character or inanimate object. Ages 18 and up.
Alafaya • Sat., Dec. 13 • 4:30 p.m.

Mocktails & Music Through the Decades: 1980s

Listen to legendary artists while enjoying a popular "mocktail" drink. Ages 18 and up.
Orlando Public Library • Sun., Dec. 14 • 3:30 p.m.

Job Seekers Spotlight

Explore the resource LinkedIn Learning to improve your job skills. Ages 18 and up.
Fairview Shores • Mon., Dec. 15 • Noon

Stony Art Flowers

Use your imagination and hot glue to create mixed media masterpieces. Ages 18 and up.
Hiawassee • Mon., Dec. 15 • 4 p.m.

Holiday DIY: Mini Winter Hat Garland

Ages 18 and up.
North Orange • Mon., Dec. 15 • 4:30 p.m.

A World of Color and Shape

Join us for an evening of jazz and contemporary art. Ages 18 and up.
Washington Park • Mon., Dec. 15 • 5:30 p.m.

Cuisine Corner: Paneer Tikka Masala

Join culinary expert Dianne Morin as she demonstrates how to make a delicious and flavorful vegetarian dish, paneer tikka masala.
Virtual • Mon., Dec. 15 • 6:30 p.m.

Podcast Listening Club: Favorites

Share a favorite podcast from this past year's listening list. Ages 18 and up.
Dr. P. Phillips YMCA, 7000 Dr. Phillips Blvd., Orlando, FL 32819 • Mon., Dec. 15 • 6:30 p.m.

DIY Winter Canvas Painting

Follow along and create your very own winter work of art. Ages 18 and up.
West Oaks • Tue., Dec. 16 • 4:30 p.m.

DIY Handsewn Felt Birds

Create a handsewn felt bird from festive colors and threads. Ages 18 and up.
Winter Garden • Tue., Dec. 16 • 5 p.m.

Serious Builders & Gamers

See what you can build with just one scoop of LEGO or enjoy a board game. Ages 18 and up.
South Creek • Tue., Dec. 16 • 5 p.m.

Food 101: Tea

The Food 101 series examines the historical and social significance of what we eat.
Orlando Public Library • Tue., Dec. 16 • 5:30 p.m.

Cuisine Corner: Paella

Yamira Lee Johnson, head chef and founder of Breaking Bread with Mira, will show us how to make the classic Spanish rice dish paella.
Virtual • Wed., Dec. 17 • 6 p.m.

Career Academy: Interview Like a Pro

Ages 18 and up.
Orlando Public Library • Thu., Dec. 18 • 11:30 a.m.

Community Office Hours: Legal Advice and Know Your Rights

Join Florida Legal Services for Community Office Hours, supported by the Enhancing Access to Haitian Survivors Project.
South Trail • Thu., Dec. 18 • 1 p.m.



Local Author Festival

Meet and greet local authors at our Local Author Festival. Authors from a variety of genres will share their experiences and books. Each author will have books available for purchase and signing.

Orlando Public Library • Sun., Dec. 14 • 2 p.m.

Career Discovery

Learn to use a variety of library resources to discover what jobs are right for you.
Windermere • Fri., Dec. 19 • 11 a.m.

Sketching 101

Learn the basics of sketching through use of simple art techniques and observation.
Virtual • Fri., Dec. 19 • 11 a.m.

All Wrapped Up!

We'll teach you how to wrap the most picture-perfect presents. Ages 18 and up.
Washington Park • Sat., Dec. 20 • 11 a.m.

Duct Tape Ornaments

Craft a DIY light bulb-shaped ornament entirely out of duct tape. Ages 18 and up.
Alafaya • Sat., Dec. 20 • 2 p.m.

Advanced Improv: Power2Improv Workshop Series

Focuses on games that are physical, dramatic and highly interactive with the audience.
Orlando Public Library • Sun., Dec. 21 • 3 p.m.

Adult Craft & Chat: Wine Glass Snowman

Join us to decorate wine glasses as charming snowmen. Ages 18 and up.
Hiawassee • Mon., Dec. 22 • 4 p.m.

Write Cover Letters & Thank You Emails

Learn how to write professional cover letters and thank-you emails.
South Trail • Fri., Dec. 26 • 11:30 a.m.

Puzzle Swap

Please bring at least one complete puzzle for adults. Ages 18 and up.
South Creek • Sat., Dec. 27 • 11 a.m.

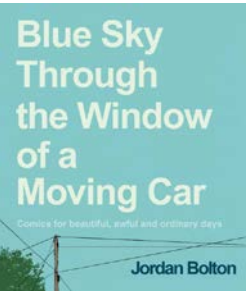
Save the Date

Health and Wellness Resource Fair

Connect with local community services. Various organizations will discuss the services they provide.

Alafaya • Sat., Jan. 10 • 11 a.m.

Best Books of 2025



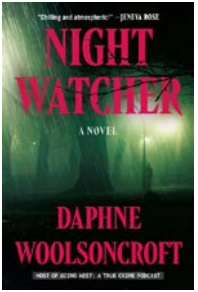
Blue Sky Through the Window of a Moving Car
by Jordon Bolton

Comics that explore universal experiences and emotions through art and poetry. Small yet powerful, and equal parts heart-breaking and heart-warming, these comics go straight to the heart of what it means to be human.



When the Wolf Comes Home
by Nat Cassidy

Nat Cassidy, author of the acclaimed horror novel *Mary*, returns with *When the Wolf Comes Home*, an unabashed, adrenaline-fueled pop horror thriller where the darkest fears can become reality.



Night Watcher
by Daphne Woolsoncroft

Nola Strate, a late-night call-in radio host in Portland, Oregon, listens to stories of hauntings and cryptic sightings for a living. But one foggy, wet evening, a caller describes an eerie scene that triggers memories of Nola's escape from a serial killer years before.

Best Books of 2025



Thirty Below
by Cassidy Randall
Draws on archival research and interviews to tell an edge-of-the-seat story about a group of climbers who had the audacity to believe that women could walk alone in extraordinary and treacherous heights.



Savvy Summers and the Sweet Potato Crimes by Sandra Jackson-Opoku
When Grandy Jaspers, the 75-year-old neighborhood womanizer, drops dead at table two of Savvy Summers’ soul food café Essie’s, she finds herself and her café swamped by bad press, so Savvy and her snooping assistant manager, Penny Lopés, take it upon themselves to find who really killed Grandy.



Godzilla's Monsterpiece Theater by Tim Scoli
Godzilla takes on his greatest foes yet – Jay Gatsby, Sherlock Holmes and the Time Machinist – in this graphic novel mash-up!

Genealogy: Discover America

Come with us on a virtual road trip as we explore one state at a time. Explore the history, the culture and most of all those precious genealogical resources that are unique to each location.

Virtual • Wed., Dec. 10 • 1 p.m.
• Tue., Dec. 30 • 1 p.m

Tuesday Tree Time
Bring your questions, your clues and your curiosity. Our genealogy specialist is here to help you grow your family tree.
West Oaks • Tue., Dec. 2, 9, 16, 30 • 2 p.m.

Beginner's Guide to Genealogy
Join us as we explore how to build a family tree from the ground up with strong roots and proven branches.
Virtual • Wed., Dec. 3 • 1 p.m.

AI: Genealogy's New Frontier
Explore the world of AI through a genealogist's eyes and be prepared for this new adventure.
West Oaks • Sat., Dec. 13 • 1 p.m.

Genealogy Brunch Bunch
Join us for a question-and-answer forum that allows you to ask questions about your genealogical challenges and roadblocks.
Virtual • Sun., Dec. 14 • 11 a.m

Sunday Afternoon Ancestors
Our monthly in-person genealogy open house is your chance to get one-on-one help from our genealogy specialist.
West Oaks • Sun., Dec. 14 • 2 p.m.

The 100k Word Threshold: Novel Lengths

How long is too long (or too short) for a traditionally published book? Literary agent Anjanette Barr will discuss standard book lengths with examples for each genre and age category.

Virtual • Mon., Dec. 29 • 7 p.m.

Writing, Revising and Selling a Memoir
Tiffany Graham Charkosky, author of *Living Proof: How Loved Defied Genetic Legacy*, and her literary agent Laurie Dennison will offer an author and agent perspective on how to write and sell a memoir.
Virtual • Mon., Dec. 1 • 7 p.m.

Play and Practice for Writers
Creative practice is essential to a writer's development. Author Sheree Greer will lead an interactive, generative workshop to help writers explore their prose.
Virtual • Tue., Dec. 2 • 7 p.m.

Networking 101 for Writers
Networking in our industry is vital to building a support system and finding opportunities. Author and filmmaker Jennie Jarvis will discuss the basics of building your professional network.
Virtual • Sat., Dec. 6 • 11 a.m.

OCLS Writer's Group
Join your fellow writers for critique, discussion and camaraderie. Writers of all genres and experience are welcome. Please attend one meeting before submitting a piece for critique.
Virtual • Sun., Dec. 7 • 4 p.m.

Career Development for Pre-Published Authors
Literary agent Paula Weiman will discuss how to best prepare for a career as an author before landing the first book deal.
Virtual • Mon., Dec. 8 • 7 p.m.

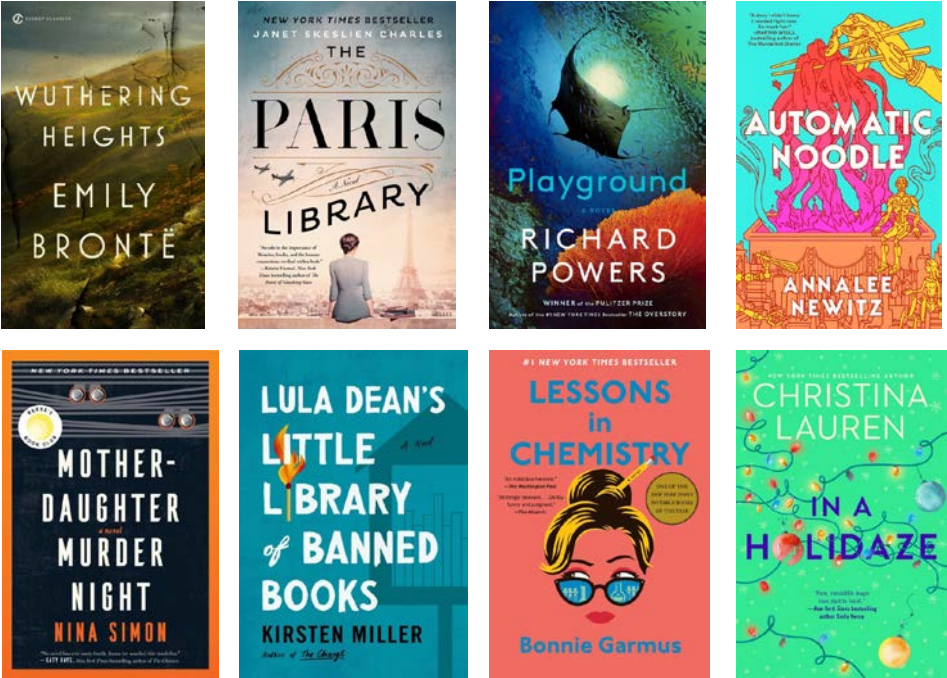
Time Management for Writers
Author and editor Alli Martin will discuss making the most of your writing time and managing your productivity.
Virtual • Tue., Dec. 9 • 7 p.m.

The Importance of Suffering in Character Growth
Author and editor Lorin Oberweger will discuss how and why to make your character suffer to effectively enhance their character arc.
Virtual • Sat., Dec. 13 • 4 p.m.

Story = Character + Plot
Author and editor Kristen Stieffel will explain how to craft a story in which the external plot takes the character on an inner transformational journey.
Virtual • Tue., Dec. 16 • 7 p.m.

Writing Workshop: Finding Your Voice
Author's voice is one of the most often noted elements in agent and editor rejections and acceptances. Author Ginny Myers Sain will discuss how to find and develop your writing voice.
Virtual • Sat., Dec. 20 • 11 a.m.

Writer's Meetup
Attend an hour-long workshop with local writers as we brainstorm ideas, discuss writing methods and give constructive feedback. Submissions must be sent ahead of time. Ages 18 and up.
Winter Garden • Sat., Dec. 27 • 4:30 p.m.



Alafaya Book Club
Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books by Kirsten Miller.
Alafaya • Thu., Dec. 4 • 5 p.m.

Y Read: Book Read Aloud
Experience the joy and camaraderie of reading aloud great literature with. Ages 18 and up.
Dr. P. Phillips YMCA, 7000 Dr. Phillips Blvd., Orlando, FL 32819 • Sat., Dec. 6–27 • 1:30 p.m.

Nature Walk Book Club
Join us for a casual walk outdoors at Shadow Bay Park followed by discussion of *Playground* by Richard Powers. Ages 18 and up.
Southwest • Mon., Dec. 8 • 10 a.m.

Central Florida Book Club
Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë. Ages 18 and up.
Fairview Shores • Tue., Dec. 9 • 10:15 a.m.

South Creek Book Club
Automatic Noodle by Annalee Newitz.
South Creek • Tue., Dec. 9 • 5:30 p.m.

Winter Garden Book Club
The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles.
Winter Garden • Thu., Dec. 11 • 6 p.m.
Virtual • Thu., Dec. 18 • 6 p.m.

Chickasaw Book Club
This group is all about enjoying good books and great company.
Chickasaw • Sat., Dec. 13 • 11 a.m.

Book Buddies
Speed date with a book to discover new reads and make book-loving friends. Ages 18 and up.
Alafaya • Mon., Dec. 15 • 5:30 p.m.

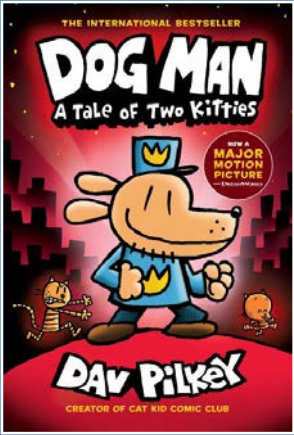
Hiawassee Book Club
Mother-Daughter Murder Night by Nina Simon.
Virtual • Mon., Dec. 15 • 7 p.m.

Southwest Book Club
Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Ages 18 and up.
Southwest • Thu., Dec. 18 • 2 p.m.
Virtual • Tue., Dec. 23 • 7 p.m.

Contemporary Romance Book Club
In a Holiday by Christina Lauren. Ages 18 and up.
Alafaya • Sat., Dec. 20 • 4 p.m.

Joy of Reading Romance
All romance book lovers welcome. No assigned book to read. Ages 18 and up.
Eatonville • Sat., Dec. 27 • 2 p.m.

Youth Book Club Reads



Kids Comic Club
Dog Man a Tale of Two Kitties by Dav Pilkey.
Winter Garden
• Tue., Dec. 9 • 4:30 p.m.



Mayor Buddy's Book Club End of Book Party
Celebrate the completion of our latest book, *Clementine Fox and the Great Island Adventure* by Leigh Luna. Ages 8–12.
Orlando Public Library
• Wed., Dec. 17 • 4 p.m.

ART EXHIBITS

ocls.org/art



Society of American Mosaic Artists Exhibit
The Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA) began as a small group of mosaic artists wanting to share their knowledge and passion for this ancient art form. After 24 years, it thrives with support from artists, fans, collectors, suppliers and educators.
Orlando Public Library • On Display Through December



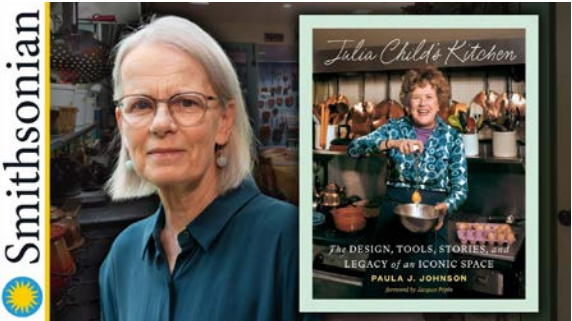
Orlando Modern Quilt Guild Exhibit
The Orlando Modern Quilt Guild is a local chapter that meets monthly for sew days, workshops and charity quilt projects. Their mission is to inspire, educate and support members in modern quilting. The guild also helps the community by making quilts and fabric projects for those in need.
Orlando Public Library • On Display Through December

MEET THE AUTHOR

ocls.org/meet-the-author



Author Talk: Sue Hincenbergs
Buckle up for a wild ride and join us as we sit down for an online chat with debut author Sue Hincenbergs to discuss her novel *The Retirement Plan*, in which murder is the name of the game.
Virtual • Tue., Dec. 2 • 2 p.m.



Author Talk: Paula J. Johnson
Join us for a conversation that's sure to warm your heart (and make your stomach rumble), as we delve into the legacy of cooking icon Julia Child.
Virtual • Tue., Dec. 9 • 2 p.m.



Drive up, Drop off

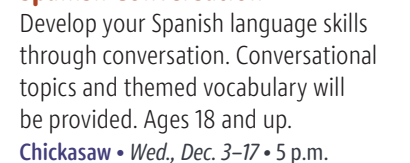
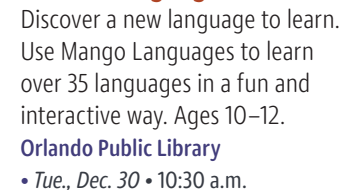
New Avalon Park Book Drop!
13001 Tanja King Blvd.



SCAN ME!
For Directions



Practice academic style writing along with more complex vocabulary.



Citizenship Inspired: 2025 Civics Test
Virtual • Tue. & Wed., Dec. 16, 17 • 3 p.m.





Second Saturday Improv: Grad Show

Join us for a special edition Second Saturday Improv Show featuring the graduating class of the Melrose Center Improv Four series. Students will perform a live, fully improvised comedy show, making up scenes and stories right in front of your very eyes. Sure to be fun for the whole family, you won't want to miss!

Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 13 • 4 p.m.



Audio Open Labs

Our Audio Learning Lab is open! Reserve your space to explore, create and collaborate with our audio production tools. Work on projects, try new techniques and let your creativity flow with instructors available for guidance.

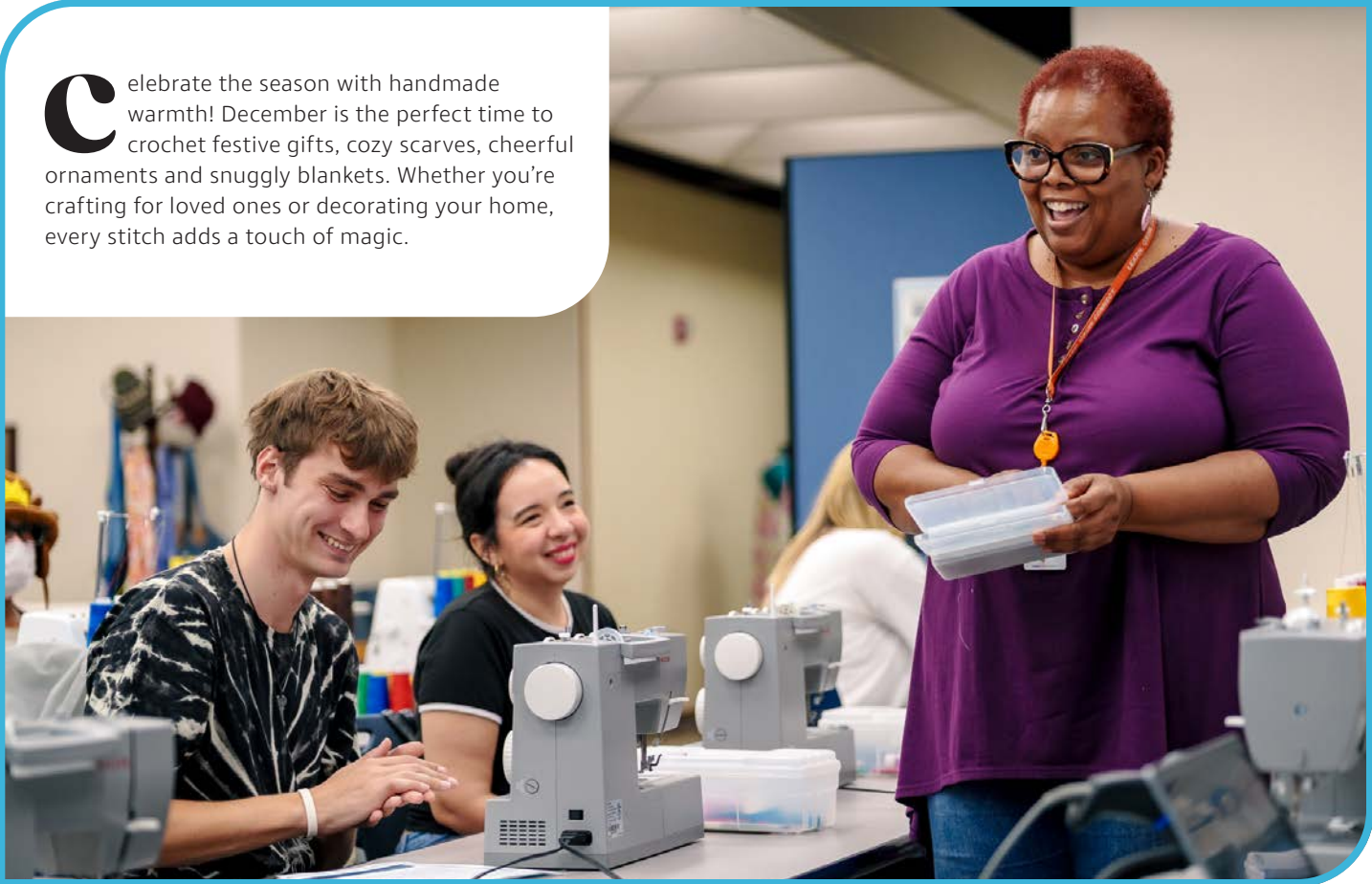
Orlando Public Library • Sun., Dec. 7 • 2 p.m.
• Sat., Dec. 20 • 2 p.m.

Editing Bay Audio Resources

NEW! Signal Routing Kit

Need practice time ahead of the Melrose Audio Studio Assessment? Reserve Editing Bay A to utilize a multi-channel interface, patchbay, microphone and iMac with Pro Tools and other digital audio workstations.

Celebrate the season with handmade warmth! December is the perfect time to crochet festive gifts, cozy scarves, cheerful ornaments and snuggly blankets. Whether you're crafting for loved ones or decorating your home, every stitch adds a touch of magic.



Meetups

Fiber Arts Meetup

Have a great time mingling while working on your craft. Bring your work in progress, yarn and tools. All levels are welcome.

Chickasaw • Tue., Dec. 2–30 • 4:30 p.m.
Alafaya • Fri., Dec. 19 • 4 p.m.

Seniors Crochet Meetup

Create lap blankets and beanies for the elderly and patients battling chemotherapy.

Chickasaw • Fri., Dec. 12, 26 • 3 p.m.
• Sat., Dec. 13, 27 • 3 p.m.

Knit & Crochet

Crochet Level 2

Level up your crocheting. Learn how to create more open fabric with new stitches.

Chickasaw • Tue., Dec. 9 • 3 p.m.

Knitting Level 1

Learn basic techniques while creating your first project, a bookmark for your favorite read.

Chickasaw • Tue., Dec. 23 • 10:30 a.m.

Knitting Level 2

Level up your knitting. Learn how to combine knit and purl stitches to create smooth fabric.

Chickasaw • Tue., Dec. 30 • 10:30 a.m.

Sewing & Embroidery

Hand Sewing Basics

Learn the basic techniques to get started, including how to make a quilter's knot, thread a needle and sew a running stitch.

Chickasaw • Thu., Dec. 4 • 10:30 a.m.

Sewing Open Lab

Bring your sewing projects. All the tools are here for you. Must bring own materials. Machine sewing skills are required.

Chickasaw • Sat., Dec. 6 • 2 p.m.

Sewing: Introduction to the Sewing Machine

Learn about sewing safety, basic sewing machine skills and stitching seams.

Hiawassee • Thu., Dec. 11 • 4 p.m.

Embroidery Level 1

Learn the basics of using a hoop and needles to create running, back and cross stitches to create a beautiful sampler.

Eatonville • Sat., Dec. 20 • 2:30 p.m.

Tapestry Crochet: Evergreen Tree

Learn how to read a grid to create a tapestry design using the single crochet stitch.

Chickasaw • Tue., Dec. 23, 30 • 3 p.m.

FEATURED BOOK



Classic Christmas Crochet
by Heidi B. Johannesen

Gorgeous Christmas decorations brimming with nostalgia, perfect for the tree, windowsills, wreaths, centerpieces and more.

From the Heart: A Crafting Workshop

LIFE Information for Elders Branching Out Series

Join Sharon Warner of YFC United, Inc. for a fun, hands-on workshop to make handmade crafts. To register, email OfficeonAging@ocfl.net or call 407.836.7446.

Windermere • *Wed., Dec. 17* • Noon



Seniors Kick Back Explore new interests, connect with others and enjoy a variety of enriching activities.
South Trail • *Mon., Dec. 1–29* • 10:30 a.m.

A World of Color and Shape Leave stress behind and join us for an evening of jazz and contemporary art.
Washington Park • *Mon., Dec. 1* • 5:30 p.m.

Rustic Wood Ornaments Create festive wood slice ornaments at this fun, hands-on painting event.
Hiawassee • *Tue., Dec. 2* • 11 a.m.

Practica Spanish Conversation for Seniors and Beyond Practica tu español. Develop your Spanish language skills through conversations.
Virtual • *Wed., Dec. 3, 17* • 4:30 p.m.

Bingo for Seniors
Winter Garden • *Thu., Dec. 4* • 11 a.m.
Alafaya • *Mon., Dec. 22* • 11 a.m.

Book Page Watercolor Art Bring out your inner artist and transform a book page into a stunning visual piece.
Windermere • *Fri., Dec. 5* • 2 p.m.

Chair Yoga for Seniors
Windermere • *Sat., Dec. 6* • 10 a.m.

Fruitful Endeavors Join us as we learn about productive perennials who are creating new standards of living well.
Orlando Public Library • *Sat., Dec. 6* • 1 p.m.

Senior DIY: Handmade Ornaments Create melted crayon ornaments for your holiday decor.
West Oaks • *Sun., Dec. 7* • 2:30 p.m.

Let’s Get Creative Get creative and explore your artistic side
South Creek • *Tue., Dec. 9* • 10:30 a.m.

Senior Snowman Cupcakes Decorate snowman cupcakes and add a little sweetness to your winter season.
Hiawassee • *Tue., Dec. 9* • 11 a.m.

Qigong Movement and Breathing Embark on a transformative journey with Jasmine Win, a modern qigong instructor.
Southwest • *Fri., Dec. 12* • 10:30 a.m.

Golden Hour Senior Series: Touring Australia Seniors gather, share and engage in new experiences as a community.
Eatonville • *Sat., Dec. 13* • 11 a.m.

Coffee and Dominoes
South Creek • *Tue., Dec. 16* • 10:30 a.m.

DIY Gifts: Vanilla Lavender Body Scrub Learn how to make a fragrant vanilla lavender body scrub.
Hiawassee • *Tue., Dec. 16* • 11 a.m.

Social Hour for Seniors Meet new friends through light conversation prompts, playful brain teasers and crosswords.
Fairview Shores • *Wed., Dec. 17* • 10:30 a.m.

LIFE Information For Elders’ End of the Year Celebration Join Orange County Office on Aging and Orange County Library System as we celebrate the LIFE Information for Elders Series and presenters. To register, email OfficeonAging@ocfl.net or call 407.836.7446.
Orlando Public Library • *Thu., Dec. 18* • 12:10 p.m.

Senior Showcase Calling all creative seniors to sing, play music, dance, perform comedy or anything in between.
Chickasaw • *Thu., Dec. 18* • 5 p.m.

Fitness Bingo Designed for seniors and adults with mobility challenges.
Southwest • *Fri., Dec. 19* • 2 p.m.

Journey to Sweden Discover Sweden through fascinating facts, delicious treats and a relaxing hands-on craft.
Hiawassee • *Tue., Dec. 23* • 11 a.m.

Cuisine Corner: New Year’s Mocktails Learn how to make simple and seasonal non-alcoholic “mocktail” drinks to bring cheer to your New Year’s celebrations.
Hiawassee • *Tue., Dec. 30* • 11 a.m.

Coding Concepts

Coding Concepts Level 1 Begin your journey into the world of coding. Learn to use the Visual Studio Code editor to write coding languages like HTML, CSS, JavaScript or even Python.
Virtual • *Tue., Dec. 2* • 5 p.m.
South Trail • *Sat., Dec. 6* • 2:15 p.m.
Orlando Public Library • *Tue., Dec. 16* • 10:30 a.m.
Eatonville • *Tue., Dec. 16* • 11:30 a.m.

Coding Concepts Level 2 Explore HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Python using Visual Studio Code. Learn the foundational, universal programming terminology to help you succeed in creating apps, games and other solutions.
Virtual • *Wed., Dec. 3* • 5 p.m.
South Trail • *Sat., Dec. 6* • 4 p.m.
Eatonville • *Wed., Dec. 17* • 11:30 a.m.
Orlando Public Library • *Wed., Dec. 17* • 10:30 a.m.



Device Advice Have a new tablet or smartphone, but not sure how to use it? Let us get you started with the basics, so you become more familiar with your personal device.
Chickasaw • *Tue., Dec. 2* • 10:30 a.m.
Eatonville • *Sat., Dec. 6* • 10:15 a.m.
Fairview • *Thu., Dec. 11 & 18* • 10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Excel Nivel 1–4 Comience a usar Excel hoy mismo. Ingrese, formatee y guarde datos en hojas de cálculo.
Chickasaw • *Lun., 1–29 de dec.* • 10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Excel Level 1 Start using Excel today. Input, format and save data in spreadsheets.
Alafaya • *Tue., Dec. 2* • 11 a.m.
Southwest • *Wed., Dec. 3* • 10:15 a.m.
Chickasaw • *Wed., Dec. 3* • 10:30 a.m.
Washington Park • *Wed., Dec. 10* • 10:15 a.m.

Microsoft Excel Level 2 Customize and organize worksheets with sheet names, color coding and more.
Southwest • *Wed., Dec. 3* • 11:30 a.m.
Alafaya • *Tue., Dec. 9* • 11 a.m.
Chickasaw • *Wed., Dec. 10* • 10:30 a.m.
Washington Park • *Wed., Dec. 10* • 11:30 a.m.

Microsoft Excel Level 3 Calculate data with basic functions SUM and AVERAGE.
Southwest • *Wed., Dec. 10* • 10:15 a.m.
Alafaya • *Tue., Dec. 16* • 11 a.m.
Chickasaw • *Wed., Dec. 17* • 10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Excel Level 4 Practice using absolute and relative references to ensure your data is calculated accurately.
Southwest • *Wed., Dec. 10* • 11:30 a.m.
Chickasaw • *Thu., Dec. 18* • 10:30 a.m.
Alafaya • *Tue., Dec. 23* • 11 a.m.

Python Programming Basics Level 1 Get started with the easy to learn Python programming language! Print quick results on your screen as you work with operators and variables. Learn how to identify and fix common errors.
Alafaya • *Fri., Dec. 5* • 1 p.m.
Orlando Public Library • *Thu., Dec. 18* • 10:30 a.m.

Python Programming Basics Level 2 Explore more Python fundamentals! Learn about Python loops, conditions and functions. Import Python modules to randomly generate numbers or to create a graphical user interface.
Alafaya • *Fri., Dec. 12* • 1 p.m.
Orlando Public Library • *Fri., Dec. 19* • 10:30 a.m.



Storytime at Orlando Executive Airport

The use of picture books, songs and told stories will encourage your child to read, talk, sing and play. Storytime lasts approximately 30 minutes. Ages 0–5.
Orlando Executive Airport, 365 Rickenbacker Drive, Orlando, FL 32803 • Tue., Dec. 2 • 10:30 a.m.

Family Storytime in Horizon West

Reading together is a wonderful way to bond and learn from one another. Bring your family together for fun stories designed for all ages.
Waterleigh Community Clubhouse, 16150 Pebble Bluff Loop, Winter Garden, FL 34787 • Wed., Dec. 3–17 • 10:30 a.m.

Storytime at Bill Frederick Park

Join us for an outdoor nature storytime hosted at Bill Frederick Park’s Education Pavilion, located near the park’s fishing dock. Small fee required to enter the park. Ages 0–12.
Bill Frederick Park, 3401 S. Hiawassee Road, Orlando, FL 32835 • Sat., Dec. 6 • 10 a.m.

Book Bike at Lake Eola

The book bike will be near the Lake Eola playground with a pop-up library and a storytime scheduled for 10:30 a.m.
Lake Eola, 512 E. Washington St., Orlando, FL 32801 • Sun., Dec. 7 • 10 a.m.

Storytime in the Garden

Join West Oaks Branch at the historical Nehrling Gardens to hear a story and complete a craft.
Nehrling Gardens, 2267 Hempel Ave., Gotha, FL 34734 • Sat., Dec. 13 • 10 a.m.

Pop-up StoryWalk at Bill Frederick Park

Join OCLS as we host a guided pop-up StoryWalk at Bill Frederick Park. As participants stroll the trail they will be directed toward the next page in the story.
Bill Frederick Park, 3401 S. Hiawassee Road, Orlando, FL 32835 • Sat., Dec. 20 • 11 a.m.

Read What You Like

NoveList makes it easy to find books that are right for you.

Here’s what you’ll find right on the homepage:

- ▶ **Books with Buzz** — Titles everyone is talking about, including celebrity book club picks
- ▶ **Curated Lists** — Your shortcut to finding the best of the best, hand-selected with care
- ▶ **Explore Titles by Story Element** — Match your mood and interests with a great book.
- ▶ **New Series Titles** — Keep up with the latest books in popular series.
- ▶ **Expert Read-alikes** — Loved a book? Find more just like it.
- ▶ **Quick Links** — Audiobooks, award winners, and other popular searches

ocls.org/novelistplus

Happy New Year!

We’re closed but kanopy is always open!

Kick off the new year with your favorite films!

DIY Gift Wrapping

Add a personal touch to your presents! Make unique wrapping paper and bows that turn any gift into something extra special.

Hiawassee • Sat., Dec. 6 • 4 p.m.

Mindful Start Family Yoga

Silly and fun yoga poses designed for kids
Winter Garden • Mon., Dec. 1, 8, 15, 29 • 10:15 a.m.
• **Mon., Dec. 1, 8, 15, 29 • 11:15 a.m.**
Southwest • Tue., Dec. 2, 9, 16, 30 • 1 p.m.
West Oaks • Wed., Dec. 3–17 • 10 a.m.
Windermere • Fri., Dec. 19 • 2 p.m.

Hola Familia

Enjoy stories, songs and rhymes in English and Spanish.
Chickasaw • Mon., Dec. 1 • 11 a.m.

Dungeons & Dragons

Join us, adventurers, on our next quest.
Windermere • Mon., Dec. 1, 15, 29 • 4:30 p.m.

Family Play & Connect

Connect with other caregivers while your little ones, ages 0–5, explore imaginary play.
Eatonville • Tue., Dec. 2–30 • 10:45 a.m.
Southeast • Tue., Dec. 2 • 11 a.m.
• **Tue., Dec. 2, 9, 16, 30 • 5:15 p.m.**
• **Mon., Dec. 15–29 • 11 a.m.**
Chickasaw • Tue., Dec. 30 • 10:30 a.m.

Read to a Therapy Dog

Read to a therapy dog to practice reading skills with an attentive furry listener.
Winter Garden • Thu., Dec. 4 • 4 p.m.

Family Ballet

Learn introductory and foundational movements and steps of ballet for any age.
Alafaya • Sat., Dec. 6 • 10:30 a.m.

Bunny Care 101

Learn all about the care of bunnies as house pets and meet some adoptable rabbits.
Chickasaw • Sat., Dec. 6 • Noon

Family Game Time

Play board games and card games with family and friends.
Alafaya • Sun., Dec. 7 • 2 p.m.

STEAM Challenge

Build a mini sled and assess its strength using multiple forms of testing.
Eatonville • Tue., Dec. 9 • 3:30 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons: A Pop Culture Adventure

Join us for dungeons and dragons inspired by your favorite fantasy lands.
Washington Park • Tue., Dec. 9, 23 • 4:30 p.m.

Library Drum Circle

Sit and play drums or hand percussion instruments. Instruments will be provided on a first come, first served basis or bring your own.
Windermere • Tue., Dec. 9 • 5:30 p.m.

Cocoa and Construction

Test your marshmallow engineering skills while drinking a hot cup of cocoa.
Washington Park • Wed., Dec. 10 • 4 p.m.
South Trail • Sat., Dec. 27 • 2 p.m.

Chess Clubs

Join us for a game of chess. All experience levels are welcome.
Fairview Shores • Tue., Dec. 2–16 • 3:30 p.m.
Windermere • Mon., Dec. 8, 22 • 4:30 p.m.
Winter Garden • Wed., Dec. 10 • 4:30 p.m.
North Orange • Thu., Dec. 11 • 5:30 p.m.
Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 13, 27 • 2:30 p.m.



New Year Celebration

Learn about new year celebrations and traditions around the world and create new year inspired crafts.

South Trail • Tue., Dec. 30 • 11:30 a.m.

Reboot Boutique
Add to your closet with new-to-you pieces with this free shopping experience with gently used clothing.
Eatonville • Thu., Dec. 11 • 4:30 p.m.

Hot Chocolate Adventure!
Betty the Yeti’s hot cocoa has gone missing. Do you have what it takes to solve the puzzles and unravel the mystery?
Fairview Shores • Fri., Dec. 12 • 4:30 p.m.

Catch ‘Em All Club
Meet Pokémon enthusiasts to battle and trade cards.
Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 13 • 10:30 a.m.

Gingerbread Build-Off
It’s time to construct the gingerbread house of your dreams.
South Creek • Sat., Dec. 13 • 2:30 p.m.
Chickasaw • Sat., Dec. 20 • 3:30 p.m.

Sensory Storytime
A welcoming storytime specially designed for kids with sensory integration challenges.
Chickasaw • Mon., Dec. 15 • 11 a.m.

Arctic Animal Exploration
Engage in fun activities that introduce animal species that live in the Arctic.
Eatonville • Tue., Dec. 16 • 3:30 p.m.

Pirates in a Circus Carol
Arg! Humbug! Follow a pirate crew as they help one another discover the spirit of the circus.
Fairview Shores • Tue., Dec. 16 • 4:30 p.m.

Bubble Playtime
Help your child develop gross-motor skills in this interactive bubble party. Ages 0–5.
Winter Garden • Wed., Dec. 17 • 11 a.m.
North Orange • Tue., Dec. 23 • 10:30 a.m.

Homeschool Makerspace Meetup
Learn skills and embrace the art of making.
Eatonville • Thu., Dec. 18 • 11:30 a.m.

Family STEM: Snowball Catapults!
Design, build and test your very own snowball catapults.
Hiawassee • Thu., Dec. 18 • 4:30 p.m.

Milk Carton Gingerbread Houses
Celebrate the season with your little one as they build their very own gingerbread house.
Winter Garden • Thu., Dec. 18 • 4:30 p.m.

Winter Chalk Art
Create your favorite designs and decorate the library sidewalks together.
Alafaya • Sat., Dec. 20 • 10:15 a.m.

ArtMazing
Unleash your inner artist and discover your creative side in this all-ages art exploration.
South Creek • Sat., Dec. 20 • 2:30 p.m.

Family Storytime
Bring your family together for fun stories that are designed for all ages.
South Creek • Sun., Dec. 21 • 2 p.m.

Ornament Painting
Paint and decorate your own ornament to take home and enjoy.
Eatonville • Mon., Dec. 22 • 1:30 p.m.

Baby’s First Winter

Develop early literacy and communication skills with a winter themed storytime.

Winter Garden • Tue., Dec. 9 • 10:30 a.m.



Baby (Ages 0–18 Months)

Mother Goose on the Loose
Build baby’s first literacy skills with songs, rhymes and stories.
Orlando Public Library • Mon., Dec. 1–29 • 10:30 a.m.
Southwest • Mon., Dec. 1–29 • 11 a.m.

Baby’s First Ornament
Enjoy a winter-themed storytime and then make a wooden thumbprint-heart ornament.
Alafaya • Thu., Dec. 11 • 10:30 a.m.

Toddler (Ages 18–36 Months)

Toddler Stories & Songs
Toddlers will explore a playful mix of songs, rhymes and stories while building early literacy skills and having fun.
Fairview Shores • Tue., Dec. 2–23 • 10:30 a.m.

Storytime Craft
Drop in before and after storytime to create a make-and-take craft. Ages 2–5.
North Orange • Wed., Dec. 3–17 • 10:30 a.m.

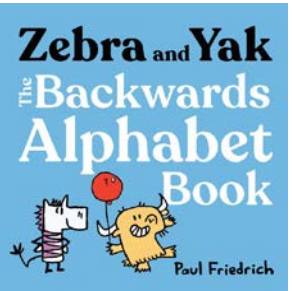
Artsy Toddler
Young children will enjoy stories, songs and exploring age-appropriate art experiences.
Orlando Public Library • Tue., Dec. 2 • 10:30 a.m.
Chickasaw • Wed., Dec. 3 • 11 a.m.
Eatonville • Fri., Dec. 5 • 10:15 a.m.
Alafaya • Wed., Dec. 10 • 10:30 a.m.

Bubble Playtime
Help your child develop gross-motor skills in this colorful and interactive bubble party.
Alafaya • Wed., Dec. 3 • 10:30 a.m.
South Creek • Thu., Dec. 4 • 10:30 a.m.

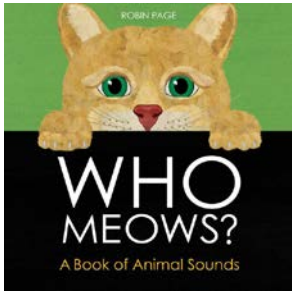
Will You Be My Friend?
Toddlers will listen to stories and participate in fun activities that promote early literacy.
Southwest • Wed., Dec. 3 • 11 a.m.

Sensory Free Play
Build motor skills, boost creativity and develop independent thinking while engaging in play.
Southeast • Thu., Dec. 4 • 10:30 a.m.

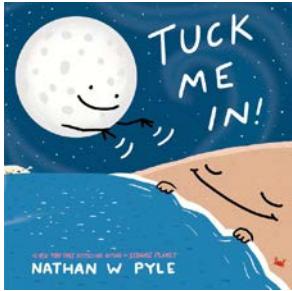
Best Books of 2025



Zebra & Yak: The Backwards Alphabet Book by Paul Friedrich
When the alphabet starts with Z instead of A, Zebra and Yak make their way through a mixed-up alphabet in search of Apple.



Who Meows? by Robin Page
A picture book that introduces young readers to animal sounds.



Tuck Me In! by Nathan W. Pyle
The Moon tries to tuck in all the beaches around the world, but when one shoreline gets covered, another goes without, leading to a humorous struggle to satisfy everyone before bedtime.

Best Books of 2025



Norman & The Smell of Adventure
by Ryan T. Higgins
Norman the porcupine leaves his best friend Mildred the tree and sets out to find an adventure, but eventually decides that the best adventures are shared.



Fix-It Familia
by Lucky Diaz & Micah Player
Chavo and his family are always there to help anyone and everyone. So when the main parade float crashes at a neighborhood fiesta, Chavo has the perfect plan to help his community.



Cats in Construction Hats
by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen & Leeza Hernandez
Six colorful cats work together to build a house with some help and mischief from rat friends, in a bouncy, rhyming picture book featuring big construction vehicles that teaches colors.

Artsy Toddler: Gingerbread Ornament

Run, run, as fast as you can to make an inspired ornament to display all year long.

West Oaks • Tue., Dec. 9 • 11 a.m.

Toddler Playground
Use unstructured play to advance physical and cognitive development and to have fun.
Southwest • Wed., Dec. 10 • 11 a.m.
South Trail • Tue., Dec. 16 • 10:30 a.m.

Wonderland of Colors
Explore the colors of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* through stories, songs and rhymes.
Chickasaw • Wed., Dec. 10 • 11 a.m.

Reach for the Moon
Become an astronaut and explore the moon with stories, songs and rhymes.
Hiawassee • Fri., Dec. 12 • 11 a.m.

Hibernation Stations
Join us for crafts and activities about animals who sleep all winter.
Orlando Public Library • Tue., Dec. 16 • 10:30 a.m.

Trap Baby & Me
Brings early childhood development to life with beats and activities.
Windermere • Tue., Dec. 16 • 10:30 a.m.
Eatonville • Fri., Dec. 19 • 10:15 a.m.

I Spy Winter
Explore a winter wonderland through a story and hands-on activities.
Chickasaw • Wed., Dec. 17 • 11 a.m.

Preschool (Ages 3–5)
Florida Children's Museum: Mobile Museum Library Program
Drop in to hear stories, explore art, use your senses and play through hands-on fun. Sponsored by Orlando Health.
Alafaya • Mon., Dec. 1 • 10:15 a.m.
North Orange • Tue., Dec. 2 • 12 p.m.
Winter Garden • Thu., Dec. 4 • 10:30 a.m.
Southwest • Fri., Dec. 5 • 10:30 a.m.

Let's Learn Letters and Numbers!
Learn the ABCs and 123s virtually through stories, songs and interactive activities.
Virtual • Mon., Dec. 1–22 • 11 a.m.

Wonders of Winter

Brr! Explore the wonders of wintertime through stories, crafts and activities.

North Orange • Mon., Dec. 15 • 10:30 a.m.

Pajama Party
Enjoy an interactive virtual storytime with book, songs, games and a craft.
Virtual • Mon., Dec. 1–22 • 7 p.m.

Mindful Play Learning: Yoga for Preschoolers
Uses yoga and imagination to teach early learners social-emotional skills, support cognitive development and enhance creativity.
Eatonville • Tue., Dec. 2, 9, 16, 30 • 10:15 a.m.
Chickasaw • Thu., Dec. 4–18 • 11 a.m.

Chilly Critters
Discover chilly animal friends and their snowy homes with fun stories, crafts and activities.
Winter Garden • Tue., Dec. 2 • 10:30 a.m.
Southwest • Wed., Dec. 17 • 11 a.m.

Discover America
Learn about different states through educational activities, stories and crafts.
Southwest • Tue., Dec. 2–30 • 11 a.m.

Shape Seekers
Embark on a shape search to identify shapes in nature and built environments.
West Oaks • Tue., Dec. 2 • 11 a.m.

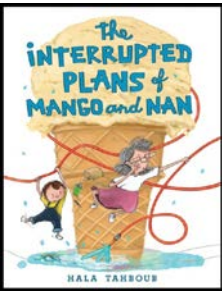
Wild Penguin Tales
Learn about penguins through adventurous books, songs and activities.
Alafaya • Tue., Dec. 2 • 11 a.m.
South Trail • Tue., Dec. 9 • 10:30 a.m.

Bilingual Storytime
Develop key early-literacy skills through music, movement and stories in English and Spanish.
Winter Garden • Wed., Dec. 3–17 • 10:30 a.m.

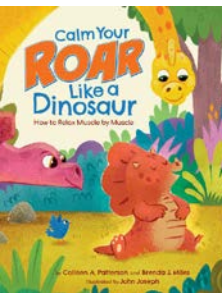
Homeschool Jr.
Listen to stories and engage in activities about basic concepts.
Windermere • Wed., Dec. 3 • 10:30 a.m.

Tiny House
Learn, grow and play with hands-on activities inspired by using objects in your garage.
Orlando Public Library • Wed., Dec. 3 • 10:30 a.m.

Best Books of 2025



The Interrupted Plans of Mango & Nan
by Hala Tahboub
When Mango and his grandmother's plans for an ice-cream outing are spoiled by a broken faucet, they devise a plan to fix the leak and get their dessert.



Calm Your Roar Like a Dinosaur
by Colleen A. Patterson, Brenda S. Miles and John Joseph
With its playful rhyme, *Calm Your Roar* presents a super fun and playful easy-to-learn skill that benefits dinos of all ages, guaranteed to turn dinosaurs into relaxosaurs, even those with the biggest roars!



Millie Fleur Saves the Night
by Christy Mandin
Millie Fleur bakes delicious moon pies and convinces the townspeople of Garden Glen to welcome the dark by visiting a fragrant moon garden and noticing beautiful night creatures.



BenAnna Band

Kids will go bananas for this high-energy musical duo that focuses on inclusion and music for all ages, abilities and identities.

- Alafaya • Sun., Dec. 21 • 2 p.m.
- South Trail • Tue., Dec. 23 • 10:30 a.m.
- Hiawassee • Fri., Dec. 26 • 11 a.m.
- Washington Park • Sat., Dec. 27 • 4 p.m.

STEAM Free Play Jr.

Build observation skills, boost creativity and develop critical thinking.

Winter Garden • Wed., Dec. 3 • 11 a.m.

Preschool Storytime

Develop early-literacy skills using picture books, songs and told stories.

Fairview Shores • Thu., Dec. 4, 11 • 11 a.m.

Little Chef: Snowman Cupcakes

Decorate your own snowman cupcake and enjoy a fun activity perfect for little hands.

Hiawassee • Fri., Dec. 5 • 11 a.m.

Little Chef: Red Light, Green Light

Red means stop, green means go! Learn about African American inventor Garrett Morgan and his creation of the traffic light through food.

Washington Park • Fri., Dec. 5 • 4 p.m.

Snowman Shuffle

Come on by for chilly snowman themed stories, songs and crafts.

Alafaya • Tue., Dec. 9 • 11 a.m.

Little Chef: Winter Cake in a Jar

Layer festive cake, sweet frosting and colorful sprinkles to make a delicious gift.

Orlando Public Library • Wed., Dec. 10 • 10:30 a.m.

Sensory Free Play

Build motor skills, boost creativity and develop independent thinking while engaging in sensory-based play.

Winter Garden • Wed., Dec. 10 • 11 a.m.

Winter Tales

Celebrate the changing of the seasons with cozy stories and a wintry craft.

South Creek • Thu., Dec. 11 • 10:30 a.m.

Little Readers

Start your child's reading journey with engaging activities focused on phonics and sight words.

Virtual • Sat., Dec. 13 • 10 a.m.

Little Chef: Build a Snowman

Build your own snowman by decorating cookies with frosting and other sweet treats.

Alafaya • Mon., Dec. 15 • 10:30 a.m.

Countdown to Winter

4-3-2-1! Winter is coming soon! Get ready for winter with fun stories, activities and crafts.

Alafaya • Tue., Dec. 16 • 11 a.m.

Oakie Doakie Puppet Storytime

Experience a winter-themed storytime with puppets and songs, as we learn about our sense of touch.

West Oaks • Tue., Dec. 16 • 11 a.m.

Cuéntame un Cuento: Time to Eat

An interactive storytime featuring books and songs in English and Spanish.

Orlando Public Library • Wed., Dec. 17 • 10:30 a.m.

Move and Play

Get ready to move and groove!

Alafaya • Wed., Dec. 17 • 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Party

Explore the magic of winter with stories, crafts, treats, music and maybe a trick or two.

Winter Garden • Wed., Dec. 17 • 2:30 p.m.

Little Chef: Gingerbread House

Teach your little one basic kitchen skills as you interact with hands-on recipes.

South Creek • Thu., Dec. 18 • 10:30 a.m.

Happy Noon Year

Make some noise and ring in the noon year! Join us for fun and games with an exciting countdown at Noon.

South Creek • Tue., Dec. 30 • 11:30 a.m.



Look, I'm a Scientist: Iceberg Animal Rescue!

Learn what happens when it gets very cold while rescuing animals from an iceberg.

Winter Garden • Thu., Dec. 18 • 10:30 a.m.

Penguin Party

Warm up with stories, math, science activities and a craft featuring some icy friends.

Fairview Shores • Thu., Dec. 18 • 11 a.m.

Little Chef: Winter Fruit Cake

Create a fun winter fruit cake while practicing layering and piping.

Winter Garden • Tue., Dec. 23 • 10:30 a.m.

Winter Craft

Join us as we create a winter-inspired craft.

South Trail • Tue., Dec. 23 • 11 a.m.

STORYTIMES

ocls.org/storytime

Tiny Tales (Ages 0-18 Months)

- South Creek • Mon. • 11:15 a.m.
- Chickasaw • Tue. • 11:15 a.m.
- North Orange • Wed. • 11:15 a.m.
- Southeast • Wed. • 11:15 a.m.
- West Oaks • Thu. • 11:15 a.m.
- Windermere • Thu. • 11:15 a.m.
- Southwest • Thu. • 11:30 a.m.
- Alafaya • Fri. • 11:15 a.m.
- Winter Garden • Fri. • 11:15 a.m.
- Orlando Public Library • Sat. • 11:30 a.m.

Toddler Time (Ages 18-36 Months)

- South Creek • Mon. • 10:45 a.m.
- Chickasaw • Tue. • 10:45 a.m.
- North Orange • Wed. • 10:45 a.m.
- Southeast • Wed. • 10:45 a.m.
- West Oaks • Thu. • 10:45 a.m.
- Windermere • Thu. • 10:45 a.m.
- Southwest • Thu. • 11:00 a.m.
- Alafaya • Fri. • 10:45 a.m.
- Winter Garden • Fri. • 10:45 a.m.
- Orlando Public Library • Sat. • 11:00 a.m.

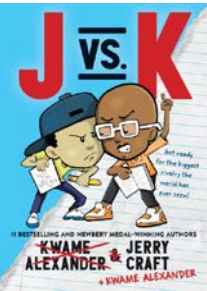
Storybook Fun (Ages 3-5)

- South Creek • Mon. • 10:15 a.m.
- Chickasaw • Tue. • 10:15 a.m.
- North Orange • Wed. • 10:15 a.m.
- Southeast • Wed. • 10:15 a.m.
- West Oaks • Thu. • 10:15 a.m.
- Windermere • Thu. • 10:15 a.m.
- Southwest • Thu. • 10:30 a.m.
- Alafaya • Fri. • 10:15 a.m.
- Winter Garden • Fri. • 10:15 a.m.
- Orlando Public Library • Sat. • 10:30 a.m.

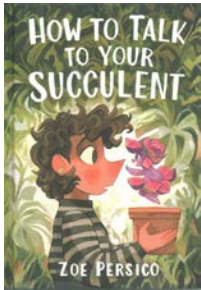
Zero to Five Storytime (Ages 0-5)

- Hiawassee • Mon. • 10:15 a.m.
- Fairview Shores • Mon. • 10:30 a.m.
- Washington Park • Tue. • 10:15 a.m.
- Eatonville • Thu. • 10:15 a.m.
- South Trail • Fri. • 10:15 a.m.

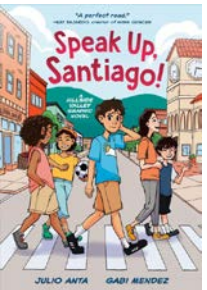
Best Books of 2025



J vs. K
by Kwame Alexander & Jerry Craft
Two 10-year-olds must decide whether they should join forces to create an unbeatable duo that is sure to win their school’s annual creative storytelling contest.



How to Talk to Your Succulent
by Zoe Persico
Adara and her dad are moving from California to Michigan after Mom’s passing and he’s bringing Mom’s succulent named Perle, whom Adara tries to care for, in a book about loneliness, mental health, empathy and openness.



Speak Up, Santiago!
by Julio Anta & Gabi Mendez
Santi is excited to spend the summer in Hillside Valley, meeting the local kids, eating his Abuela’s delicious food, exploring! There’s just one problem – Santi doesn’t speak Spanish that well and it feels like everyone he meets in Hillside does.



Winter Wondercrafting

Let it snow! Create fun, wintery art projects.

Hiawassee • Wed., Dec. 17 • 4:30 p.m.

Homeschool Meetup 
Participate in math, science, history, art and literature-based learning.
Southwest • Mon., Dec. 1–15 • 1 p.m.

LEGO Clubs
Alafaya • Mon., Dec. 1–29 • 4 p.m. 
Eatonville • Tue., Dec. 2 • 3:30 p.m. 
Windermere • Tue., Dec. 2–30 • 4:30 p.m. 
Southwest • Wed., Dec. 3–17 • 4 p.m. 
Winter Garden • Wed., Dec. 3, 17 • 4:30 p.m.
Washington Park • Thu., Dec. 4–18 • 5 p.m. 
Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 6 • 2:30 p.m. 
West Oaks • Mon., Dec. 8 • 3:30 p.m. 
Fairview Shores • Tue., Dec. 9 • 4:30 p.m. 
South Trail • Wed., Dec. 10 • 4 p.m. 
Chickasaw • Sat., Dec. 13 • 3 p.m.
South Creek • Sat., Dec. 27 • 2 p.m.

Crafternoons 
Get ready for an hour of crafting fun.
Winter Garden • Mon., Dec. 1–29 • 4:30 p.m.
West Oaks • Thu., Dec. 4–18 • 3:30 p.m.
• Mon. & Tue., Dec. 22, 23, 29, 30 • 3:30 p.m.
• Fri. & Sat., Dec. 26, 27 • 3:30 p.m.
South Trail • Fri., Dec. 11, 19 • 4:30 p.m.
Eatonville • Tue., Dec. 23 • 3:30 p.m.

Time Travel Quest: Cowboys 
Learn about the Old West and how to separate historical fact from legend.
Hiawassee • Wed., Dec. 3 • 11 a.m.

Adventures in Homeschooling 
Explore lessons and hands-on activities to inspire curiosity and learning.
Orlando Public Library • Wed., Dec. 3, 17 • 1 p.m.

Finger Knit Jewelry 
Create trendy accessories with upcycled fabric and your fingers.
Orlando Public Library • Wed., Dec. 3 • 2:30 p.m.

Head in the Clouds 
Learn about different cloud types and the science behind them using hands-on experiments.
West Oaks • Wed., Dec. 3 • 4 p.m.

Homeschool Discovery 
Discover the world around us through hands-on activities.
Eatonville • Thu., Dec. 4 • 11:30 a.m.
Windermere • Thu., Dec. 4–18 • 1 p.m.
Chickasaw • Thu., Dec. 11 • 1 p.m.

Winter Wonderland

Join us for winter themed stories and crafts to get into the spirit of colder weather.

South Creek • Sat., Dec. 6 • 10:30 a.m. 
Winter Garden • Tue., Dec. 16 • 4 p.m.
South Trail • Wed., Dec. 17 • 4 p.m. 



Masterpiece Junior: Dadaism 
Learn about it’s history and create a piece inspired by this art movement.
Orlando Public Library • Thu., Dec. 4 • 4 p.m.

Board Game Bonanza
Get together for a fun time with new and classic board games.
Southeast • Thu., Dec. 4 • 4:30 p.m.

Snack Around the World: Indonesia 
Learn about a different culture and sample the yummiest snacks it has to offer.
West Oaks • Fri., Dec. 5 • 4 p.m.

READING Paws
Improves children’s reading skills by reading to a therapy dog.
Windermere • Sat., Dec. 13 • 11:30 a.m. 

Let’s Play Nintendo Switch 
Washington Park • Sat., Dec. 6 • 11 a.m.

Homeschool Science: Breathe Deep 
Use hands-on experiments to study how and why our lungs are so important.
West Oaks • Mon., Dec. 8 • 11 a.m.

Homeschool Technology Class 
Explore the fundamentals of technology and hone your computer literacy skills.
Windermere • Tue., Dec. 9, 16 • 2 p.m.
• Fri., Dec. 12 • 10:30 a.m.

Yoga Play Lab for Kids 
Uses yoga to teach social-emotional skills and support cognitive development.
South Trail • Tue., Dec. 9 • 4 p.m.

Cocoa & Craft 
Join us for a little cocoa, a little movie and a little craft.
West Oaks • Wed., Dec. 10 • 4 p.m.

Holiday Card Workshop
Use a variety of art supplies to create unique cards for your loved ones this holiday season.
South Creek • Wed., Dec. 10 • 4:30 p.m.

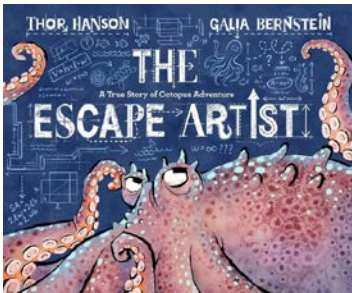
Cuisine Corner Junior: Snowman Hot Chocolate 
Get cozy as we build a snowman from sweets and enjoy it paired with a cup of hot chocolate.
Orlando Public Library • Thu., Dec. 11 • 4 p.m.

Southwest STEM 
Explore the world around us using science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
Southwest • Thu., Dec. 11 • 4:30 p.m.

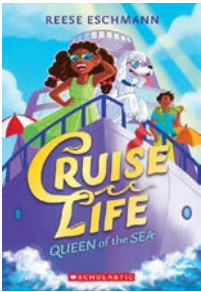
STEAM Saturday: Colors of the Solar System 
Learn all the colors of our solar system and create a beautiful work of art.
South Trail • Sat., Dec. 13 • 3 p.m.

Homeschool Art: 1940s Throwback Decor 
Learn about vintage holiday decor and create your own using upcycled paper.
West Oaks • Mon., Dec. 15 • 11 a.m.

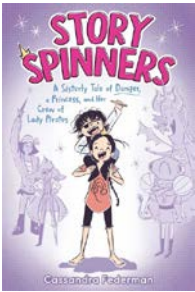
Best Books of 2025



The Escape Artist
by Thor Hanson & Galia Bernstein
The true story of Inky the octopus, who slipped out of his tank at the National Aquarium in New Zealand and into the world’s imagination.



Cruise Life: Queen of the Sea
by Reese Eschmann
Caitlin and her big brother are still getting used to shuttling between Mom’s new house and Dad’s fancy new condo after their divorce. When her dad announces that he’s gotten a new job on the fanciest, most fun, family-friendly cruise line – and he’s bringing his kids along – Caitlin has mixed feelings. For about a minute!



Story Spinners
by Cassandra Federman
Two sisters must put aside their differences to soothe their new baby sister with the best bedtime story ever, proving to their parents – and each other – that they can get along.



Homeschool Discovery: Book Adventure
Explore the writing of Katherine Applegate as we dive into the book, *The One and Only Ivan*.
South Creek • Wed., Dec. 17 • 11 a.m.

Happy Habitats
This month we’re learning about tropical rainforests.
Alafaya • Wed., Dec. 17 • 4 p.m.

Homeschool Meetup: Color Theory
Explore how colors are made and the many ways they work together through color theory.
South Trail • Thu., Dec. 18 • 1 p.m.

Aquatic WILD: Designing a Habitat
Learn about the components of a habitat and how we can build homes that support wildlife.
Orlando Public Library • Thu., Dec. 18 • 4 p.m.

Snow Much Slime!
Come chill out and create a frosty masterpiece to take home.
Hiawassee • Fri., Dec. 19 • 4:30 p.m.

Hearts of Gold Therapy Dogs
Children can improve their literacy skills by reading to a therapy dog.
South Creek • Sat., Dec. 20 • 10:30 a.m.
Southwest • Sat., Dec. 27 • 10:30 a.m.

Playdough Palooza Sensory Play Lab
Create custom playdough while engaging the senses.
Orlando Public Library • Mon., Dec. 22 • 11 a.m.

Winter Movie: Jack Frost
Enjoy a movie, snack and some hot cocoa as we watch the wintertime classic *Jack Frost*.
Hiawassee • Fri., Dec. 26 • 4:30 p.m.

Cuisine Corner Junior: Snowman Snack
Join us to transform a classic winter icon into a delicious themed snack.
Eatonville • Mon., Dec. 29 • 1:30 p.m.

LEGO Education Spike

Prime – Science & Engineering

Apply physical science concepts and the engineering design process through hands-on learning. Ages 6–12.

Orlando Public Library • Tue., Dec. 2–30 • 2:30 p.m.
• Sun., Dec. 7–28 • 3:30 p.m.

Washington Park • Tue., Dec. 2 • 4 p.m.
Fairview Shores • Thu., Dec. 4–18 • 4:45 p.m.
Alafaya • Sun., Dec. 7 • 1:30 p.m.
• Tue., Dec. 23 • 2:30 p.m.

West Oaks Tue., Dec. 16, 23 • 4:15 p.m.
Southwest • Sat., Dec. 20 • 3 p.m.
• Mon., Dec. 22 • 3 p.m.

Essentials – Great Adventures

Join us on a Great Adventure as we discover STEAM concepts, use creative problem solving and tell stories. Ages 6–12.

Orlando Public Library • Wed., Dec. 3–17 • 10:30 a.m.
• Thu., Dec. 4–18 • 10:30 a.m.

Hiawassee • Wed., Dec. 3 • 4:30 p.m.
South Trail • Mon., Dec. 8 • 4:30 p.m.
• Mon., Dec. 22 • 11 a.m.

Eatonville • Fri., Dec. 12 • 3 p.m.
• Wed., Dec. 17 • 3 p.m.

North Orange • Wed., Dec. 17 • 4 p.m.
Chickasaw • Thu., Dec. 18 • 3:30 p.m.
Windermere • Sat. & Mon., Dec. 20, 22 • Noon

LEGO Digital Designs
Build your LEGO Designs on the computer with this easy to use free software.
Orlando Public Library
Ages 13–18 • Thu., Dec. 4 • 4 p.m.
Ages 10–12 • Tue., Dec. 23 • 4 p.m.

Alafaya
Ages 6–12 • Wed., Dec. 17 • 2:30 p.m.

Windermere
Ages 6–12 • Tue., Dec. 30 • 10:30 a.m.

Make a Stop Motion Movie
Ages 10–12.
Orlando Public Library
Ages 10–12 • Thu., Dec. 4 • 4 p.m.
• Tue., Dec. 16 • 10:30 a.m.

Windermere
Ages 6–12 • Mon., Dec. 29 • 10:30 a.m.

3D Design with TinkerCad
Use Tinkercad, a free online application, to design your own custom 3D snowman.
Virtual
Ages 6–12 • Sat., Dec. 6 • 10:30 a.m.

Fairview Shores
Ages 10–12 • Tue., Dec. 9, 23 • 4:45 a.m.

Windermere
Ages 6–12 • Sat., Dec. 20 • 10:30 a.m.

Be Safe Online
Learn safety tips and good practices when using the Internet.
Orlando Public Library
Ages 6–12 • Sun., Dec. 14 • 1:30 p.m.
Ages 10–12 • Tue., Dec. 23 • 10:30 a.m.
Ages 13–18 • Sun., Dec. 28 • 1:30 p.m.

Coding Electronics with Sensors
Explore the basics of coding while you build exciting projects with Snapino. Ages 13–18.
Orlando Public Library • Mon., Dec. 15 • 4 p.m.

Create Comics
Put together cool comic drawings using Comic Life.
Orlando Public Library
Ages 6–12 • Wed., Dec. 17 • 5 p.m.

Southeast
Ages 7–9 • Sat., Dec. 20 • 3:30 p.m.

GarageBand Basics
Use GarageBand to edit, mix, add effects and share a project. Ages 13–18.
Orlando Public Library • Mon., Dec. 29 • 4 p.m.

Holiday DIY: Winter Hat Keychains

Create a mini winter hat keychain from yarn and cardboard. Perfect to keep or give as a gift.

North Orange • Thu., Dec. 18 • 4 p.m.

Let's Play D&D: Adventure Begins Board Game
Choose your character and work together to face obstacles and defeat monsters.
Orlando Public Library • Mon., Dec. 1 • 4 p.m.

Teen Chess League
Hang out, make new friends and play games of chess in a laid-back setting.
Chickasaw • Mon., Dec. 1, 15 • 4 p.m.

Homeschool Teen: Technology Class
Explore the fundamentals of technology and hone your computer literacy skills.
Windermere • Wed., Dec. 3 • 2 p.m.

Middle School Advisory Board Meeting
Earn community service hours testing out new programs and more. Grades 6–8.
Virtual • Wed., Dec. 3 • 4 p.m.

High School Advisory Board Meeting
Earn community service hours testing out new programs and more. Grades 9–12.
Virtual • Thu., Dec. 4 • 4 p.m.

Geeky Crafts
Calling all fans of everything geeky, it's time to get crafty! Create fun, fandom-inspired crafts.
Southwest • Thu., Dec. 4 • 4:30 p.m.

Teen Board Game Meetup: D&D Attack Wing
Learn this fast-paced miniature battle game set in the world of Dungeons & Dragons.
South Creek • Sat., Dec. 6 • 3 p.m.

Teen Volunteering: Teen Literary & Creative Arts Magazines
Earn community service hours with our teen literary and creative arts magazines.
Alafaya • Sat., Dec. 6 • 3 p.m.
Washington Park • Tue., Dec. 9 • 5 p.m.
West Oaks • Sat., Dec. 13 • 11 a.m.
Hiawassee • Sat., Dec. 13 • 2 p.m.
Southeast • Sat., Dec. 13 • 2 p.m.
Washington Park • Tue., Dec. 30 • 5 p.m.

Improve Your Interview Skills
Learn about the interview process and what you can do to better prepare yourself.
Orlando Public Library • Mon., Dec. 8 • 4 p.m.
• Tue., Dec. 16 • 5 p.m.

Crafty Teens
Get ready for an hour of crafting fun and snacks with friends.
West Oaks • Tue., Dec. 9 • 3:15 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons
A one-shot adventure for teens. Players of all experience levels welcome.
Fairview Shores • Wed., Dec. 10 • 2 p.m.
Windermere • Sat., Dec. 13 • 10:30 a.m.

Teen Volunteering
Earn community service hours by assembling craft kits and performing other tasks.
South Creek • Sat., Dec. 13 • 10:30 a.m.
South Trail • Sat., Dec. 13 • 11 a.m.
Hiawassee • Sat., Dec. 20 • 2 p.m.
Eatonville • Sat., Dec. 27 • 11 a.m.

Animanga Club
Share your love of anime and manga, complete with snacks and activities.
Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 13 • 2 p.m.

Book Frosting: Teens
Bedazzle a book cover with sticker rhinestones.
Alafaya • Sat., Dec. 13 • 2 p.m.

Holiday Movie and Crafts

'Tis the season to show us your ugliest holiday sweater during this holiday movie and teen craft spectacular.

Washington Park • Sat., Dec. 13 • 4 p.m.

High School Advisory Board: Book Club
Earn community service hours by reviewing books and contributing ideas for literary programs. Grades 9–12.
Virtual • Tue., Dec. 16 • 4 p.m.

Homeschool Teen: Home Ec
Learn a life skill during this teen-reserved library class.
Windermere • Wed., Dec. 17 • 2 p.m.

Beaded Jewelry
Show off your personal style and create a jewelry piece for all to see.
Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 20 • 2 p.m.

Teen Art Jam
Compete to create the best themed crafts with provided supplies.
Winter Garden • Sat., Dec. 20 • 3 p.m.

Teen Cocoa & Craft
'Tis the season for cozy crafts and cocoa! Make a simple macramé snow beanie charm.
Fairview Shores • Sat., Dec. 20 • 3 p.m.

Air-Dry Clay Crafts
Sculpt air-dry clay into your dream work of art.
South Trail • Mon., Dec. 22 • 4 p.m.

Write a Business Letter
Learn acceptable ways to write a business letter.
Orlando Public Library • Mon., Dec. 22 • 4 p.m.

LEGO Education Spike
Discover STEAM concepts, use creative problem solving and tell stories.
Windermere • Tue., Dec. 23 • Noon

Teen Art Adventures
Create a shadowbox featuring the color of the year to display and decorate your space.
Orlando Public Library • Sat., Dec. 27 • 2 p.m.

End of Year Vision Board
Reflect on the past year and set intentions for the year ahead with vision boards.
Hiawassee • Sat., Dec. 27 • 2 p.m.

Book Page Jewelry
Design your own unique necklace using recycled books and jewelry pieces.
Windermere • Tue., Dec. 30 • Noon

Best Books of 2025



Silence 1
by Yoann Vornière
Our folklore is full of monsters that come out after dark. Ever since the sun disappeared behind ominous clouds, our world has been plunged into total darkness. We're out of supplies, and the creatures outside are multiplying and hunting us down. Our only chance of survival is to hide ... in silence.



Wings of Starlight
by Allison Saff
Clarion, a warm-season fairy, sets out to defeat a monster said to be crossing from Winter into Spring, but instead finds Milori, a young guardian of the Winter Woods, with whom Clarion forms an unlikely bond to save their lands.



We Could Be Magic
by Marissa Meyer & Joelle Murray
Tabitha Laurie landed a coveted job at Sommerland, but instead of being a princess, she's working the nacho food stand, but with new friends, a new crush and magic, she may devise her own happily ever after.

Library Locations

All library locations are open Monday–Saturday

Monday–Thursday • 10 a.m.–7 p.m. | Friday–Saturday • 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Locations with Sunday Hours • 1–6 p.m. 🍌

Alafaya Branch 🍌

12000 E. Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32826

Chickasaw Branch

870 N. Chickasaw Trail
Orlando, FL 32825

Eatonville Branch

200 E. Kennedy Blvd.
Eatonville, FL 32751

Fairview Shores Branch

902 Lee Road, Suite 26
Orlando, FL 32810

Hiawasse Branch

7391 W. Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32818

North Orange Branch 🍌

1211 E. Semoran Blvd.
Apopka, FL 32703

Orlando Public Library 🍌

101 E. Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32801

South Creek Branch 🍌

1702 Deerfield Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32837

South Trail Branch

4600 S. Orange Blossom Trail
Orlando, FL 32839

Southeast Branch

5575 S. Semoran Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32822

Southwest Branch

7255 Della Drive
Orlando, FL 32819

Washington Park Branch

5151 Raleigh St., Suite A
Orlando, FL 32811

West Oaks Branch & Genealogy Center 🍌

1821 E. Silver Star Road
Ocoee, FL 34761

Windermere Branch

530 Main St.
Windermere, FL 34786

Winter Garden Branch

805 E. Plant St.
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Book Drop Locations

Fashion Square

Fashion Square Mall
3505 E. Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32803

Horizon West

Hamlin Town Center
14416 Shoreside Way
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Lake Nona

Valencia College
12350 Narcoossee Rd.
Orlando, FL 32832

Avalon Park

Tanja King Park
13001 Tanja King Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32828

Closures

Christmas / Navidad

All Locations • Wednesday & Thursday,
December 24 & 25

Todos las localidades • Miércoles y jueves,
24 y 25 de diciembre

New Year's / Año Nuevo

All Locations • Wednesday & Thursday,
December 31 & January 1

Todos las localidades • Miércoles y jueves,
31 de diciembre y 1 de enero



ORANGE COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM

LEARN. GROW. CONNECT.

Contact Us

Questline • 407-835-7323 or ocls.org/chat

Get your library questions answered.
Hablamos español.

comments@ocls.org

Share comments, questions or suggestions.

comentarios@ocls.org

Comparta comentarios, preguntas o sugerencias.



Those needing special accommodations due to a disability may arrange for assistance by contacting the location at least seven days prior to the event.

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Books & Beyond is a monthly library events and information publication sponsored by the Friends of the Orange County Library System.