



For more information, contact:

Erin Sullivan, Chief Marketing and Public Relations Officer

407-835-7480

esullivan@ocls.org

This February at Orange County Library System: African American Read-in, Heart Month and Orlando Game Jam

ORLANDO, Fla. (Jan 27, 2026) In February, Orange County Library System (OCLS) goes all in on heritage, hearts and a full house of gaming enthusiasts. Join local luminaries at Orlando Public Library on Sunday, February 15, for a family-centered celebration of African American literature in poetry, story, and song in conjunction with the 36th Annual National African American Read-In. For more information, visit ocls.org/readin.

OCLS celebrates African American artists and authors throughout February with programs like [HistoryMakers](#) at South Trail, tracing the influences and impact of [Famous African American Authors](#) on Thursday, February 5, at 5:30 p.m. and exploring the life and artistry of [Jean-Michel Basquiat](#) on Thursday, February 26, at 5:30 p.m. Learn about Eatonville resident Zora Neale Hurston with [Amazing Anthropology!](#) and see if you have what it takes to dive into a culture study like she did at Southeast Branch on Friday, February 20, at 4 p.m. and Saturday, February 28, at 10:30 a.m. [Zora's Butterfly Garden](#) will teach preschoolers her history with folklore, singing, talking, playing, writing and reading at North Orange and Winter Garden branches on Thursday, February 26, at 10:30 a.m.

[Orlando Game Jam](#) and [Orlando Gaming Expo](#) return to the Melrose Center February 19-22 with a high-energy, timed video game development competition that brings together indie developers, artists, designers and creators for an unforgettable creative experience. Teams build a game from scratch, compete for cash prizes and have the chance to showcase their games at the Orlando Gaming EXPO. The EXPO on February 22 features hands-on demos, developer showcases and networking opportunities for gamers, creators and industry professionals alike. For rules and to register, visit ocls.org/gamejam.

OCLS partners with the American Heart Association and HCA Florida Healthcare in the Libraries With Heart program to provide community access to blood pressure monitoring kits. Ten OCLS locations offer blood pressure monitoring kits for checkout and during February, those locations will host healthy living programs that include demonstrations on how to use the kit. Make a heart craft with [Loving Healthy Hearts for Seniors](#) at South Creek on Tuesday, February 17, at 10:30 a.m.

Help reduce your blood pressure with [Beginner Line Dancing for Heart Health](#) and improve memory, coordination and balance too at Southwest on Friday, February 13, at 10:30 a.m. and at Chickasaw on

Monday, February 16, at 11 a.m. Continue to support healthy habits with deep breathing and chair yoga with [Find Calm: Stress Relief for Busy Days](#) at Southeast on Friday, February 27, at 4 p.m.

Orange County Library System (OCLS) is a public library system serving Orange County, Fla. With 15 public locations and a vast network of online and outreach resources, OCLS enriches lives through experiences and opportunities to learn, grow and connect. From cutting edge technology and inventive fiber arts to enriching storytimes and bestselling author events, OCLS employees bring innovation and education to more than 4 million visitors in our branches and beyond. For more information, visit ocls.org, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), or download our app available now in your app store.

GENERAL EVENTS

Chinese New Year Celebration

Orlando Public Library • Saturday, February 7 • 11 a.m.

Celebrate Chinese New Year with The Chinese School of CAACF, Inc. and explore Chinese New Year traditions. To learn more, visit orlandochineseschool.org.

Companion Planting

Chickasaw • Monday, February 2 • 10:30 a.m.

Fleet Farming will teach you how to maximize plant growth and naturally reduce pests through strategic plant pairings.

Water Wise Neighbor Program

Alafaya • Wednesday, February 4 • 4:30 p.m.

Learn how to maximize water savings. Orange County Utilities water customers are invited to participate and receive free onsite highefficiency devices, while supplies last.

Family History Fair

West Oaks • Saturday, February 7 • 10 a.m.

Kids can explore their family roots and earn a Genealogy Explorer Passport with fun activities. Meet local genealogy groups and discover great resources. Perfect for ages 6–12, with a family member present. Teens and adults will also be able to get guidance and talk with experts in the field.

Seminar in a Bottle: Office of Tenant Services

Southwest • Wednesday, February 11 • 10:15 a.m.

Learn about the Office of Tenant Services and play a game that tests public knowledge.

Yoga for Couples

Virtual • Thursday, February 12 • 7 p.m.

Join Dana and Adam for a yoga class that can have a positive effect on your relationship. Registration required.

Art Between the Stacks

South Trail • Saturday, February 14 • 2 p.m.

Explore a variety of acrylic painting techniques. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

Seniors Kick Back: Living Options

South Trail • Monday, February 16 • 10:30 a.m.

Smarter Senior Seminar Series Senior Find out what living options you have as a senior or active adult. Discuss the many possibilities of senior living choices with experts in our community. It is all about making the right move for you. Registration required.

Spice It Up: Cardamom

Hiawassee • Monday, February 16 • 4 p.m.

Dive into a new spice, taste your way through its history, culture and uses. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

Rock the Wrap: Headwrap Styling Workshop

Eatonville • Thursday, February 19 • 4:30 p.m.

Get step-by-step instructions on headwrap styling techniques. Registration required.

Job Seekers Spotlight

Fairview Shores • Monday, February 23 • Noon

Explore the resource LearningExpress Library to improve your job skills. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

LIFE on the Big Screen: Barefoot in the Park (1967) (G)

Orlando Public Library • Thursday, February 26 • 1:30 p.m.

Join Mandy Kimmer from Orange County Parks & Recreation as she shares park recommendations that are great for walking and relaxing. To register, email OfficeonAging@ocfl.net or call 407.836.7446.

YOUTH EVENTS**Preschool Artists: African American Illustrators**

South Trail • Tuesday, February 3 • 3 p.m.

Winter Garden • Tuesday, February 10 • 10:30 a.m.

Washington Park • Thursday, February 12 • 3 p.m.

South Creek • Thursday, February 19 • 10:30 a.m.

Hiawassee • Wednesday, February 25 • 3 p.m.

West Oaks • Thursday, February 26 • 11 a.m.

Let your imagination and little hands run wild with color and textures to create a masterpiece inspired by artists throughout history. Ages 3–5. Registration required.

Florida Children's Museum: Mobile Museum Library Program

Alafaya • Monday, February 2 • 10:15 a.m.

North Orange • Tuesday, February 3 • 10:30 a.m.

Winter Garden • Thursday, February 5 • 10:30 a.m.

Southwest • Friday, February 6 • 10:30 a.m.

Drop in to hear stories, explore art, use your senses and play through hands-on fun. Sponsored by Orlando Health.

Pal-entine's Day Party

Southwest • Thursday, February 5 • 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy healthy smoothies, craft friendship bracelets and create Perler bead art. Registration required.

Galactic Groove

South Creek • Saturday, February 7 • 10:30 a.m.

Get into a galactic groove with musical games that will make you move. Registration required.

OrisiRisi African Folklore

Alafaya • Monday, February 9 • 4 p.m.

Eatonville • Wednesday, February 11 • 4 p.m.

South Creek • Saturday, February 21 • 2 p.m.

West Oaks • Wednesday, February 25 • 10 a.m.

Share the beauty of African life and culture through a unique folkloric performance filled with drumming, dance and storytelling. Registration required.

I Heart Art!

Washington Park • Wednesday, February 11 • 4 p.m.

Create heart-shaped valentine crafts to surprise the special people in your life.

Teen Art Adventures: Sew In Love

South Trail • Thursday, February 12 • 4 p.m.

Hiawassee • Saturday, February 14 • 2 p.m.

Explore the world of art and create a masterpiece of your own. Registration required.

Budgeting with Excel

North Orange • Saturday, February 14 • 2 p.m.

Learn how to crunch numbers in Excel and discover the tools to build your own budget like a pro. Ages 6–12. Registration required.

High School Advisory Board: Book Club

Virtual • Tuesday, February 17 • 4 p.m.

Earn community service hours by collaborating with your peers to review books and contribute ideas for booklists and literary programs. Grades 9–12. Registration required.

Code with Minecraft: Voyage Aquatic

Alafaya • Friday, February 20 • 4 p.m.

Use code to help Alex and Steve explore the high seas. Ages 6–12. Registration required.

Teen Felt Craft

Fairview Shores • Tuesday, February 24 • 4:30 p.m.

Create your own felt photo card holder and bring in your favorite photo. Registration required.

Family Fun: Chinese PaperCutting Art

Chickasaw • Saturday, February 21 • 3 p.m.

Celebrate the Lunar New Year with a cultural craft workshop. Create your own paper design and discover the stories behind this timeless folk tradition. Registration required.

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