



April—June 2025

GOOD NEWS!



Read all about it

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY—PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

NOTABLE DATES

April 1-2

- Library Closed

April 8

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

April 10

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

April 10

- County Commissioner Brian Scott Meet & Greet—12 pm

April 27

- The Vocalitas Concert—2 pm

May 8

- FOELCL Meeting—12 pm

May 13

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

May 26

- Library Closed

May 27

- Library Summer Hours Begin

June 10

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

June 12

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am



Children's departments; a bigger Computer Lab and Business Center; and so much more!

The renderings will be revealed for public viewing at the "Spreading Our Wings" Capital Campaign Family Celebration on April 12. (See the flier on page 3 for details.) I highly encourage everyone to attend for a fun and informational day. The day will feature all things butterfly! Come see the beautiful renderings, learn more about the exciting expansion plans and find out how you can help make the Phase II expansion a reality every patron, young or old can enjoy.

Barbara Cole
President, FOELCL



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Family Celebration
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Rotary Car Show
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Did You Know?



Friends of ELCL Board members Jim McCarthy, left, and Jerry Griffin pose with a rendering of an expanded Children's Department



DIRECTOR'S DASHBOARD

Beyond the Stacks

Spring is a time for new beginnings, and this is a perfect time to announce the start of East Lake Community Library's Capital Campaign: "Spreading our Wings." On April 12, the library will be hosting a Family Celebration to unveil the vision for an expanded library – join us to see beautiful renderings and enjoy a day of themed activities: a butterfly release, interactive butterfly mural in the Children's Garden, facepainting, butterfly art raffles, art activities, scavenger hunts and much more! Members of the Friends of ELCL and Foundation Trustees will be there to answer questions and provide more information of the upcoming expansion. In the meantime, I've provided some FAQs about the campaign and the building expansion – after all, this is YOUR library!!

Why is the library expanding and renovating?

East Lake Community Library (ELCL) is one of the smallest libraries in Pinellas County, yet it serves about 75,000 residents each year. With an expanded building, this great library will meet the changing expectations of patrons who not only use the library for educational needs but also for social and community connections.

What are the goals of the capital campaign?

There is a critical need for more space to accommodate collections, programs, services, meeting rooms, casual seating, workspaces and adequate parking. In addition, the existing building cannot meet some basic requirements for safety and security issues, accessibility, energy efficiency and sustainability.

What are the key features of the new library design?

Some of the changes include a dramatic second story which architecturally blends with the existing style; an enlarged Adult Services Department with an expanded collection; a spacious new Children's Department with a separate Early Childhood Area and a Children's Program Room; a larger Community Room; and spaces for study, quiet reading and meetings.

What is the timeline for this campaign and building project?

The Campaign will coincide with the anticipated timeline for this capital project: late 2025 - 2028. Pinellas County has indicated the coming year will be the design phase, followed by two years for the construction phase.

How can I donate to the capital campaign?

Donating to the library's capital campaign is a significant philanthropic opportunity and a great investment in East Lake's future! Donations can be made through the Library Foundation's website: [elclfoundation.org](https://www.elclfoundation.org). There are numerous ways to give, including monthly payments, one-time donations, appreciated securities, donor-advised funds, IRA distributions and matching gifts. All tax-deductible gifts in any amount are greatly appreciated.



—Lois Eannel
ELCL Director

Focus on Foundation

By James Cuomo
ELCL Advisory
Board &
Foundation
President



We're excited to announce the **public launch of the "Spreading Our Wings" Capital Campaign on Saturday, April 12, 2025!** Come to the Library for a full day of fun — with art, nature and family-friendly activities. It's your first chance to learn about the **Phase 2 Expansion Project**, view early renderings and share your ideas with our Campaign Ambassadors. Help shape the future of ELCL!

During your visit take a close look around. Our most frequent request from patrons? **More space** — for books, programs and services. ELCL welcomes over **75,000 patrons a year**, doing so in the **second smallest library in Pinellas County**. Library staff has found creative ways to serve — outdoor events, pickup lockers, sharing space through our partnerships with local nonprofits among other initiatives — but to grow, the library needs more room.

Phase 1, completed in 2019, provided a true Children's Room, a Teen space and a Community Room. **Phase 2** will literally take the library to the next level with a welcoming circulation desk, an expanded Book Nook, a larger collection, adult reading areas and a **second story** to house it all! Thanks to **Penny for Pinellas funds** and two major gifts to the ELCL Foundation, we're ready to start building. But how far we go depends on you as additional funds are needed to fully realize the plan.

The ELCL Foundation supports the Library, and 100% of the funds raised go directly to long-term projects like the Phase 2 Expansion. Your contributions create a lasting legacy in the East Lake community. Visit <https://www.elclfoundation.org> today and lend your support to the Spreading Our Wings Capital Campaign!

Annual Fund Drive seeks show of support

The Friends are asking for donations in honor of the library's 25th anniversary

Whether it's 25 dimes or 25 \$100 bills, the Friends of East Lake Community Library are asking local library lovers to support its Annual Fund Drive with a tax-deductible gift of 25 somethings in honor of the library's 25th anniversary year. Anyone who has visited the library lately has seen the small plastic bags by the front desk and elsewhere in the library which donors of all ages are using to contribute to this year's Annual Fund Drive.


dimes contributed by children who want to be part of the effort, as well as checks for much larger amounts," says Joan McCarthy who is leading the drive. "Each one of them is extremely valuable as we work to not only raise money but also to show Pinellas County Commissioners that the East Lake Community is supportive of the Phase II expansion plans."

McCarthy explained that revenue from this year's Friends Annual Fund Drive, and also for the next two years, is being dedicated to

helping fund the Phase II plan to add 7,600 square feet of needed space. Pinellas County, through Pennies for Pinellas, has committed \$4.5 million to the project with another \$1 million coming from recent bequests to the East Lake Community Library Foundation. The total cost of the expansion is \$7 million, meaning there is a need to raise an additional \$1.5 million from public donations.

McCarthy reports the Annual Fund Drive is off to a good start in its first month with a bit more than \$5,500 collected from 43 donors, many of whom have not contributed in previous years.

"It is quite obvious there is lots of excitement and support for the expansion," she says, adding the campaign will continue indefinitely. "We want to keep providing the opportunity for people to get on board." And while there is no specific monetary goal for this year's drive, she adds with a smile, "Wouldn't it be great if we could raise \$25 K in honor of the library's 25th?"



Spreading Our Wings

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Schedule of Events

12 APRIL 2025 10:30AM - 3PM	EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY 4125 East Lake Road Palm Harbor, FL 34685
ALL DAY BEGINNING AT 10:30 AM	Family Butterfly Mural in the Children's Garden
ALL DAY BEGINNING AT 10:30 AM	1-Day Only Scavenger Hunt and Prizes - Children's Room
ALL DAY BEGINNING AT 11 AM	Butterfly Release & Walk-Through Butterfly Experience
11:00 AM	Rotary Club Peace Pole Dedication at Front Parking Lot
12:00 PM - 2PM	Butterfly Arts & Crafts - Community Room
12:00 PM - 2PM	Butterfly Face Painting - Community Room
3:00 PM	Drawings for Butterfly Art & Children's Butterfly Basket
ALL DAY	Framed Butterfly Art Raffle - Donated by Rose Millien
ALL DAY	Learn about ELCL's Capital Campaign from Library "Ambassadors"
ALL DAY	Exterior and Interior Renderings of the Phase II Expansion on Display

727-773-2665 (BOOK)
eastlakelibrary.org



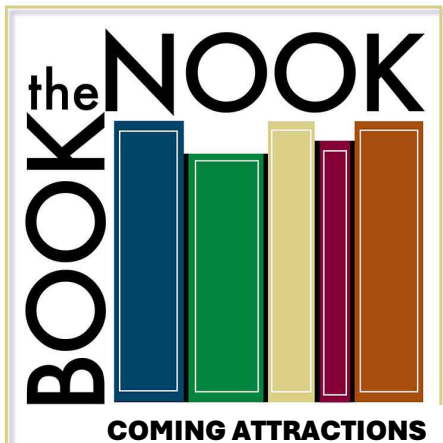
NON-PROFITS OPEN HOUSE

Volunteer Fair

Saturday, May 10
 10 am — 1 pm
 East Lake Community Library
 Community Room

Find out more about the services
 area non-profit organizations
 offer and the volunteer
 opportunities available.

Free refreshments, door prizes,
 giveaways & other surprises.



The Friends of ELCL's Book Nook, which sells used books, puzzles and other items, will be offering the following specials:

EGG-STRA SPECIAL APRIL SALE:

Pick a "must have" book from the Book Nook and then pick an egg at the front desk to determine a discount of 50¢, 75¢, \$1 or a free book!

MAY SPECIAL: 50% off female author's paperback novels and all cookbooks and children's books.

A "DUCKY" JUNE SPECIAL: Pick a rubber ducky at the front desk to discover savings of 50¢, 75¢, \$1 or a free book!

NOTE: Special savings do not apply to any gift baskets or items marked "GIFT" or "CRITTERS".



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement

James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital
13000 Bruce B. Downs
Tampa, FL 33612
VHATAMCDCE@va.gov

February 22, 2025

In Reply Refer To: 673 / 135

Friends of East Lake Community Library
4125 E Lake Rd
Palm Harbor, Florida 34685

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital (673) patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your books.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy.

As a member of the ELCL Friends, you helped make this happen! The Friends sent 150 donated books to the VA every two months.

Sincerely,

Angela Reinhardt
Acting Chief, Center for Development & Civic Engagement

18th Annual
Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise
CRUISIN' THE PARK
Charity Car Show & Community Festival
100% Proceeds Benefit The Community & Beyond

Car Registration - 9:00am-11:00am
\$20 Day Of Show / \$15 before 4/22

Over 60 Trophies Awarded

DJ & Live Entertainment

Food & Drink Available

Rain or Shine
Open to all Show Cars & Trucks

Free Spectator Parking & Admission

April 26 2025
10 am - 3 pm

John Chesnut Sr. Park, Palm Harbor FL
2200 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor, Florida 34685
www.EastLakeRotary.org info@EastLakeRotary.org

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO FOELCL'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ADDINGTON PLACE OF EASTLAKE

1755 East Lake Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
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www.cncnpinellas.org

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Palm Harbor, FL 34684
727-505-8505

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Palm Harbor, FL 34685
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Clearwater, FL 33761
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3430 East Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-772-0707

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3583 Wembley Way
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-366-7085 / 203-808-7778

EXPEDIA CRUISES

Maryellen Crowder, Travel Agent

2524 C McMullen Booth Road
Clearwater, FL 33761
727-698-3010

EXPRESSIONS COSMETIC & FAMILY DENTAL

3007 Ridgeline Blvd., Unit A
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
727-787-6453

FRIENDS OF BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

3940 Keystone Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
727-453-6800

HEALTH SOURCE OF PALM HARBOR

36157 East Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-491-2225

THE JEWELRY WORKSHOP

36175 East Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-781-8757

JOHN GEIGLE YMCA OF THE SUNCOAST

4550 Village Center Drive
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-772-9622

KUMON MATH & READING CENTER OF EAST LAKE

2661 East Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-437-1900

MARKET STREET MEMORY CARE RESIDENCE

833 East Lake Road N.
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
727-513-6256

MMS ASSET MANAGEMENT

3030 Starkey Blvd., #216
Trinity, FL 34655
727-247-3003

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Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-559-1574

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Palm Harbor, FL 34684
727-501-2828

ROMAN AUSTIN PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

1811 N. Belcher Road, Ste. I-1
Clearwater, FL 33763
727-787-2500

ROTARY CLUB OF EAST LAKE SUNRISE

www.eastlakerotary.org

VETTURE'S RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

36137 East Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-787-4858

**PLEASE SUPPORT THESE GENEROUS
FOELCL COMMUNITY PARTNERS.**

**NOW
STARRING**

Family
Owned
and
Operated

Friends of East Lake Community Library
Community Partner

Dine-in
Takeout
Delivery

Vetture's Pizzeria & Restaurant

Vetture's opened in December of 2000, and for more than 24 years it has been a Palm Harbor favorite thanks to its selection of fresh offerings and classic pizza. Count on this reliable restaurant to provide something tasty.



- Open 11 am 8:45 pm daily
- Daily Pickup Special
- Curbside Pickup
- Catering
- Credit Cards Accepted

Classic
Pizza and
Italian
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36137 East Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-945-6872
www.vettes.com

Website
and Slice
Online
Ordering

Please support and thank this Friends of ELCL Community Partner

Did you know?....

- ♦ **READING FOR AS LITTLE AS SIX MINUTES** can reduce stress by 60%, slow heart beat, ease muscle tension and alter one's state of mind. Reading reduces stress 68% more than listening to music, 100 % more than drinking a cup of tea, 300% more than going for a brisk walk and 600% more than playing a video game.
- ♦ **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN** started a lending library in 1731 in Philadelphia. It required a subscription fee of 40 shillings, which is a hefty sum in today's dollars.
- ♦ **THE HASKELL FREE LIBRARY AND OPERA HOUSE** in Derby Line, Vermont, sits directly on the border between the United States and Canada. The international border runs through the building and is marked by a thick black line taped on the floor.

FOELCL BOARD

Barbara Cole, President
Joan Lawler, Vice President
Jerry Griffin, Secretary
Jim McCarthy, Treasurer
Marcia Giza, Director-at-Large
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Kim Lindemann, Director-at-Large
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Joan McCarthy, Director-at-Large
Jim Scott, Director-at-Large
Claudia Thomas, Director-at-Large
Bob Weinberg, Director-at-Large
Lois Eannel, ELCL Director (Ex Officio)
James Cuomo, ELCL Advisory Board & Foundation President (Liaison)

The purpose of the Friends shall be to promote and enhance library services and facilities of ELCL, to foster closer relationships between the library and its community and to raise funds in support of the library, its materials and resources.