



July 2024

GOOD NEWS!



Read all about it

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

NOTABLE DATES

July 4

- Library Closed

July 9

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

July 11

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

August 6-9

- Library Closed

August 8

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

August 13

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

September 2

- Library Closed

September 10

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

September 12

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am



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Did You Know?



Excitement is building as we look forward to the 25th anniversary of the day East Lake Community Library first opened its doors, November 1, 1999. This fall, there will be a number of special events to commemorate and celebrate that auspicious event, and I hope everyone will participate in some way. There is no way to adequately describe the positive impact ELCL has had in the lives of area residents in its first quarter of a century, but I know without a doubt it is HUGE!

Looking back at the library's history, it is important to note that its inception can be traced back to a few years before the physical building arose and greeted its first patrons. Before there was an East Lake Community Library there was a group of ladies with a dream. Even though voters in the East Lake area rejected a proposal to create a tax-supported library in 1988 and again in 1990, the East Lake Community Council, led by Mary Anne Schmidt, formed a task force to create an East Lake Community Library, and in May 1993 the library opened in a donated vacant store front in the Shoppes of Boot Ranch thank to the tireless commitment of Mary Anne Schmidt, Judy Nobles, Marianne Wayne and Cheryl Corrente. Sheila McCloud, a retired librarian from Toronto, helped with cataloging and setting up procedure as did Estelle Riley, the Oldsmar librarian. Other members of the East Lake community joined in donating chairs, shelves, tables, a card catalog and—of course—books! The store-front library was open 42 hours a week, and two months after opening, there were 90 volunteers, adult and children's programming and shelves were stocked with over 20,000 books! Not one penny of public dollars had been spent.

The library's board was organized and ready to secure funding for the endeavor, but unfortunately they received news they would have to move locations. Again, volunteers packed up everything, and local businesses provided trucks, funding and labor to move the library to an open store front in Woodlands Square where it reopened in October 1993. Talks continued through 1994 with the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative (PPLC) and county government officials who were verbally supportive but would not find any funding to help the little Community Library. By 1995 the library board experienced

See PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, page 5



DIRECTOR'S DASHBOARD

Beyond the Stacks

Summer is here and it's not just hot dogs on the grill that are sizzling! Please remember the library offers programs, services and just a respite from the heat if you need a place to work or relax and get out of the heat and humidity. And summertime at ELCL is not just for kids—there's a plethora of programs for adults as well, including a summer reading club with weekly prizes and a variety of clubs and health and wellness programs.

In an effort to keep everyone updated, there are several important changes coming soon. Thanks to Pinellas County funding, the library's outdated lighting fixtures in the older parts of the building are being replaced by bright, energy-efficient LED panels sometime in the next few months. Because of the extensive work, **the library will be closed Tuesday, August 6 – Friday, August 9.** We will provide updates as to holds, etc., but safety is our prime concern. Another exciting addition will be the advent of **Certifix LiveScan fingerprinting services** at the library. ELCL will be the only library in Pinellas County to offer this service and the only location along the East Lake corridor in Palm Harbor. East Lake Community Library continues to be "The Little Engine That Could!"

Summer hours will continue through August 10, with early openings every day but Thursdays. **Beginning August 12, normal operating hours will resume.** Remember the 24/7 locker system and outdoor book drops are always available when the library is closed.

Looking ahead to the fall, there will be several special events to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of ELCL. These included a Roaring 20s-themed **Murder Myster Dinner fundraiser** at Wentworth Country Club on Saturday, November 2. **The BIG 25th Anniversary Celebration will be on Saturday, November 8,** with contests, activities, entertainment and, of course, a huge cake—and it's all FREE to thank community members for their years of support. Just a reminder—the deadline to enter the commemorative library card contest is July 31. Winners will receive gift cards and recognition at the 25th Anniversary Celebration and will have their design imprinted on commemorative library cards. For further information, check the ELCL website, the library newsletter or call the front desk.



Enjoy your summer and stay safe!

—Lois Eannel
ELCL Director

Focus on Foundation

By James Cuomo
ELCL Advisory
Board &
Foundation
President



This year marks a momentous milestone for our community as we commemorate the 25th anniversary of East Lake Community Library. Over the past quarter-century, ELCL has been a beacon of knowledge, a hub for community events and a sanctuary for curious minds of all ages. From children's story hours to adult learning programs, the Library has provided invaluable resources and fostered a love for reading and lifelong learning. We hope you will join us in celebrating 25 years of learning, growth and community by participating in a number of exciting 25th anniversary events this summer and fall.

Supporting the ELCL since 2007, the East Lake Community Library Foundation has helped play a part in some of the exciting developments at the Library during this time. We reflect on the growth of the Library's collections, space, services and programs that benefit the East Lake community with pride. But there's still more opportunities for even greater accomplishments ahead. We look to the future with exciting ideas and actions to enhance the Library's ability to deliver even more to our community. Stay tuned for more details over the next few months as the Library, the Foundation and the Friends of ELCL share these plans—and ways through which you can play an active part as we begin the next 25 years!

The ELCL Foundation supports the library with 100% of the funds raised going directly to projects, augmenting funding from Pinellas County. Whether through cash or matching grants, appreciated securities or real estate or bequests, remembering the ELCL Foundation in your will or living trust, we hope you'll consider the Foundation as a way for a direct, high-impact opportunity to give back within your community. Learn more at <https://www.elclfoundation.org> and create your library legacy through charitable giving!

Library and Friends share a table at Rotary Car Show



More than 400 individuals visited the information table shared by East Lake Community Library and Friends of ELCL at the Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise's Annual Cruisin' the Park Charity Car Show held in April at John Chestnut Park. The table was manned by library staff and Friends Board members and featured signup sheets for summer reading programs, a spin-the-wheel game for kids with giveaways, Friends Concert Series tickets, brochures and a wealth of other informational material about ELCL, the Friends and the ELCL Foundation. Shown above ready to greet visitors to the table are, from left, Library Assistant Alyssa Parisi, Children's Library Assistant Kaley Boyd, FOELCL Secretary Jerry Griffin and Adult Library Assistant/Outreach Coordinator Brenda DeSousa. Below, taking time off from their shift at the information table, FOELCL President Barbara Cole, left, and Director-at-Large Joan McCarthy check out one of the amazing vintage vehicles on display at the event, which attracted a greater than ever number of attendees and produced a record number of dollars to support charitable efforts in the greater East Lake community.



Welcome to FOELCL 's newest Community Partners

BLAZE PIZZA
3194 Word Way, Suite A-3
Trinity, FL 34655
727-339-1070

**KUMON MATH & READING CENTER
OF EAST LAKE**
2661 East Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-437-1900

Please support these and other FOELCL Community Partners. For a complete listing of FOELCL Community Partners, visit www.eastlakelibrary.org

Community Partner membership is available on a yearly basis. Information and an application are available at the library or online at the above website address.



ELCL

SUMMER HOURS

**MAY 28 -
AUGUST 10**

eastlakelibrary.org
(727) 773-2265

Mondays	9:30 - 6:00
Tuesdays	9:30 - 6:00
Wednesdays	9:30 - 8:00
Thursdays	12:00 - 8:00
Fridays	9:30 - 5:00
Saturdays	9:30 - 4:00

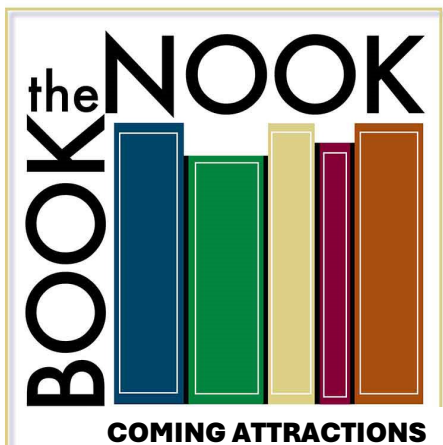
Closed Sundays!

ELCL CLOSSES AT 5 PM ON JULY 3RD, AND WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY JULY 4TH

LOCKERS AND OUTDOOR BOOK DROPS ARE STILL AVAILABLE OUTSIDE LIBRARY HOURS.

East Lake Community Library
4125 East Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34685





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

JULY SPECIAL: Summer Reading Sale—50% off children's books and puzzles. Limited Special — Get 10 children's books for \$2 July 8—13!

AUGUST SPECIAL: 50% off DVDs and adult paperback novels. Special author discounts: Cussler, Flynn, Grisham, Roberts and Steel.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL: 50% off cookbooks and books about gardening, family, health. Sports, games and religion.

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

How sweet the sound



In the spring, two new outdoor sensory panels, a xylophone (above) and a drum panel (left), were installed in the library's Children's Garden. The new features were funded through contributions from the Friends and from a Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise grant. Sensory panels are designed to provide tactile, visual or auditory stimulation. They reduce anxiety and promote interaction. "The children are certainly loving them," said ELCL Youth Services Outreach Coordinator Collen Fontana, shown with the drum panel. The plan is to hopefully purchase more sensory panels if funds become available.



- The Book Nook is looking for donations of little stuffed animals as well as gently used books & media.
- Online sales is looking for donations of items that are suitable for resale on eBay.
- Basket sales is looking for donations of soaps, hand lotions, wine, tea, coffee and other small items.

FOELCL helps library staff members achieve degrees

Two members of ELCL's staff, Valerie Rosello and Nicole Farrell, graduated in May with masters degrees in library services from University of South Florida. Their studies were funded, in part, with grants from Friends of ELCL. They join fellow staff members Lois Eannel, Susan Schuler and Denise Myerscough as certified professional librarians.

Valerie creates programming for teens and tweens at the library. She came to ELCL in February 2018 with a degree in psychology and volunteer experience at Safety Harbor Library. Since arriving, she has greatly expanded opportunities for teens in the library and online. Working at the front

desk is one of her favorite jobs at ELCL because she loves helping patrons. Valerie hopes to continue her career working with historical archives.

Nicole joined the library's staff in November 2018. She was a high school English teacher with a masters in secondary education who had been out of the workforce while she raised her children. An avid patron of ELCL, she was encouraged to apply for a part-time position that led to a full-time position in the children's department. Loving what she was doing and the "family-like" staff at ELCL didn't feel like work for Nicole so she decided to pursue her MLS. She believes in following her heart, and at



FOELCL President Barbara Cole, right, presents Nicole Farrell, left, and Valerie Rosello, center, with marbled bookends at the May Friends meeting. Both women expressed appreciation to members of the Friends for helping them achieve their MLS degrees.

ELCL she does that, fostering a love of books and learning for adults and children as head of youth services and children's librarian.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, cont. from Page 1

many changes due to frustration and families leaving the area. Founding Board Member Judy Nobles announced, "The library is not folding. That's one thing for sure."

With new board members came new ideas and determination, and by early 1996 there were 3,000 patrons. With no one getting a salary, the library had an annual budget of \$6,000 funded by donations. The first optional Friends membership dues were \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family. Frustrating for the Library Board was the fact that through taxes East Lake residents were contributing \$526,000 to the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative (PPLC), money which was distributed to other libraries in the county. After the East Lake library had existed for three years, PPLC said if the library found a permanent home perhaps it would be able to help. Also, County Commissioner Steve Seibert and State Senator Jack Latvala became committed to finding a home and funding for this grass-roots community library. And then, the little library needed to be moved again.

Though many locations were considered such as portable buildings near the East Lake Fire Department station or space in East Lake High School with access after the school day for the patrons, agreements could not be reached. So, in October 1996, volunteers packed up everything and moved the library's collection to donated storage in Oldsmar. East Lake Community Library

became "homeless" and closed for business for the time being. Subsequently, however, public advocacy became energized. Friends raised \$10,000, and county government found property on East Lake Road and funding as well as matching funds from the state. Construction began, and East Lake Community Library finally opened in its permanent home on November 1, 1999.

It is obvious from the start East Lake Community Library has been by the people and for the people. This remains true today with volunteers providing hundreds of hours each month to assist with library services and programs, with members of the Friends contributing funding and leadership, with community businesses and organizations also assisting financially and in other ways, with Library Foundation Board Members soliciting and stewarding funds to augment tax-funding and with patrons donating books, jewelry and other items for resale at the library and online. How proud the intrepid, committed early founders of ELCL must be of the outstanding and essential community resource the library has become and also how well the library continues to be supported by members of the community. They were women who refused to take "no" for an answer and who proceeded with resolve to make a community library a reality. May we always remain committed to their vision of what is possible when we band together to make dreams come true.

Barbara Cole
President, FOELCL

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Care**

Friends of East Lake Community Library

Community Partner

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Living**

Addington Place of East Lake Assisted Living Facility

- Exceptional assisted living services tailored to meet residents' needs.
- Engaging activities.



- Friendly and professional staff dedicated to ensuring a comfortable, safe and enriching environment

**Personalized
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Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
727-943-8878

www.eastlakealf.com

**Homelike
Setting**

Please support and thank this Friends of ELCL Community Partner

Did you know?....

- ♦ **ANDREW CARNEGIE** founder of U.S. Steel Corporation, was responsible for the funding and building of 2,509 libraries around the globe. 1,795 of them in the United States. It is reported that during his lifetime, Carnegie gave away more than \$350 million.
- ♦ **THE WORD LIBRARY** comes from the Latin word "liber", the term for the inner bark of trees. It was first used in written form in the 14th century.
- ♦ **NOTARY SERVICES** held are offered by East Lake Community Library at a cost of \$8 per document or "stamp". There are two notaries on staff, and it is best to call ahead to make sure one of them will be available at the desired date and time. If a verification of signature is required, so not sign the document until in the presence of the notary.

FOELCL BOARD

Barbara Cole, President
Joan Lawler, Vice President
Jerry Griffin, Secretary
Jim McCarthy, Treasurer
Marcia Giza, Director-at-Large
Elaine Kirkhoff, Director-at-Large
Kim Lindemann, Director-at-Large
Michelle Malacinski, Director-at-Large
Joan McCarthy, 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 Chair (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.