



October—December 2024

GOOD NEWS!



Read all about it

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

NOTABLE DATES

October 8

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

October 10

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

November 9

- ELCL 25th Anniversary Celebration 11:30—3 pm

November 12

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

November 14

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

November 28-29

- Library Closed

December 10

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

December 12

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

December 24-25

- Library Closed



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Welcome New CPs

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25th Celebration

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Did You Know?



The following report was presented at the Friends of East Lake Community Library Annual Meeting. It looks at how well the Friends fulfilled its purpose throughout fiscal year 2024. This year I believe the Friends were able to make a real difference.

Enhancing Library Services and Facilities

In 2024, the Friends budget earmarked \$25,000 for the library's operating budget. These funds were allocated by the library director to pay for programs, books and other materials and services. Although the funds are only a small portion of the overall library operating budget, thanks to the director and staff, those funds were stretched far and had a real impact.

Friends' funds allocated for the operating budget were used for:

- Read Box books and DVDs—Popular, best-selling materials are available on a first come, first served basis only to people visiting the library. This collection allows library users to find and read a best seller without waiting on a long reserve list.
- Cloud library e-books, which make a wide range of popular titles available to library users.
- Other library online databases, plus library automation (catalog and check out systems).
- Computer hardware, including laptops for use by the public.
- Sunshine State Readers for children and teens.
- The Summer Reading Club online platform.
- Building repairs and facility improvements including, among other things, teen room bookcases and a portable air conditioning unit.
- Library programs for the public, including yoga and tai chi programs, a Women's History Month concert, a Murder Mystery Troupe and others.

Nothing enhances library services more than the effective, knowledgeable and friendly staff we have at the library. As part of the \$25,000 allocated to the library, the Friends have been funding tuition costs for two staff members. In June, the Friends celebrated the accomplishments of Nicole Farrell and

See PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, page 5



DIRECTOR'S DASHBOARD

Beyond the Stacks

This is a very exciting time for East Lake Community Library, its patrons, community partners, the staff and volunteers and all who benefit from what the library offers. This November, the library will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary at this location. We are "Looking Back...Looking Forward". It's amazing to think how much has changed—going from a small storefront at Boot Ranch to a thriving community center with programs and services that match many of the larger libraries in Pinellas County.

Please join in on Saturday, November 9, as ELCL celebrates this milestone with a full day of free events, including an Edible Book contest, musical entertainment, children's activities, giveaways, and a special presentation to unveil renderings of our vision for the Phase II Expansion slated to begin in 2026. And, of course, there will be a BIG cake!

Although this library is the community hub along the East Lake corridor, there are limitations to what can be accomplished due to a critical shortage of space. Hence, with the help of county funds, the Greater East Lake Community Library Foundation will be launching a capital campaign this fall entitled "Spreading Our Wings" to support the expansion project. A larger library will be able to meet the changing expectations of library patrons who not only use the library for educational needs, but also for social and community connections. Spaces in the new library will function in a variety of ways and engage a wide audience of patrons, from infants to seniors. The new library will be a gathering place for the community and provide resources such as materials, computers, study spaces, rentable facilities, unique services, and much more.

Please join us on this journey as we "look back and look forward"!



—Lois Eannel
ELCL Director

Focus on Foundation



By James Cuomo
ELCL Advisory Board & Foundation President

Announcing "Spreading Our Wings"

As I look toward the future of East Lake Community Library, I'm excited to share an ambitious new chapter in the journey — the launch of "Spreading Our Wings" Capital Campaign to expand the library. Over the last 25 years, ELCL has evolved, adapting to new technologies and expanding its collections and services to the community. However, as requests from the community continue to grow, so too do the demands on its resources and space.

The planned expansion project is expected to commence in late 2026 and will allow ELCL to serve its patrons even better. There will be programs that inspire learning for all ages, more room for events and reading areas. From creating additional study spaces for students to designing more areas for family activities and community meetings, this expansion will be a step forward for everyone.

East Lake Community Library Foundation is thrilled to spearhead this campaign, and we are counting on your support. The Capital Campaign will not only raise funds for the physical expansion but will also help the library to continue to provide top-quality services and resources.

Come to ELCL's 25th Anniversary Celebration on November 9 to have fun and learn more! We will be sharing more details about the plans and how you can get involved—whether through donations, volunteering or participating in special campaign events.

ELCL Foundation supports your library, and 100% of funds raised go directly to projects that augment funding from Pinellas County. Whether through cash or matching grants, real estate or appreciated securities or bequests from a will or living trust, I hope you will 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!

Friends of ELCL Holiday Shoppe

Is there someone who has made this year special for you? Someone who's earned extra thanks? Someone you just want to remember? Well, Friends of East Lake Community Library has something for everyone on your list! Check out the great gift ideas available at the library to make your holiday shopping joyful and easy peasy. And remember, gifts purchased at the library are truly gifts that keep on giving because proceeds go to support library services and programs.

Holiday Special

Friends of East Lake Community Library
2025 Concert Series

**\$50 per set of four tickets
before December 31**

Individual tickets are \$15 each

 <p>St. Pete Baroque</p> <p>Monday, January 27 7 PM</p>	 <p>Singer Ron Mitchell</p> <p>Monday, February 24 7 PM</p>	 <p>La Lucha</p> <p>Monday, March 23 7 PM</p>	 <p>The Vocalitas</p> <p>Monday, April 21 7 PM</p>
<p>East Lake Community Library 4421 East Lake Road Tampa, FL 33605 727-774-4444</p>	<p>East Lake Community Library 4421 East Lake Road Tampa, FL 33605 727-774-4444</p>	<p>East Lake Community Library 4421 East Lake Road Tampa, FL 33605 727-774-4444</p>	<p>East Lake Community Library 4421 East Lake Road Tampa, FL 33605 727-774-4444</p>



Poinsettia Sale

Stunning, healthy, locally grown plants to add color and joy to any home or business. Select from: 6.5" Red—\$10 or 10" Red—\$25

Pick up date is November 23. Order five or more and they will be delivered for free.

GIFT BASKETS

Do you need a hostess, thank you or last-minute present sure to please? Beautifully decorated baskets filled with assortments of goods and goodies and available in various sizes and price points make it a breeze to find something perfect for anyone on your holiday gift-giving list.



Here comes Santa!

Santa Claus has texted the Friends from the North Pole to say he will be making his annual visit to East Lake Community Library on **Saturday, December 7, 11 am until 2 pm**. Patrons can sign up by calling the Children's Department starting Friday, November 1, to schedule a visit with him. Times fill quickly, so reserve early for this fun family holiday event.

A picture with the jolly old elf captures the fun of the season and makes a great season's greeting in cards or on a Facebook page. For a donation to the Friends of East Lake Community Library of just \$5 per family, patrons can take their own pictures with assistance available for group photos. Elves will have an activity for children to enjoy as they wait to visit Santa or after they share their holiday wish list with him.

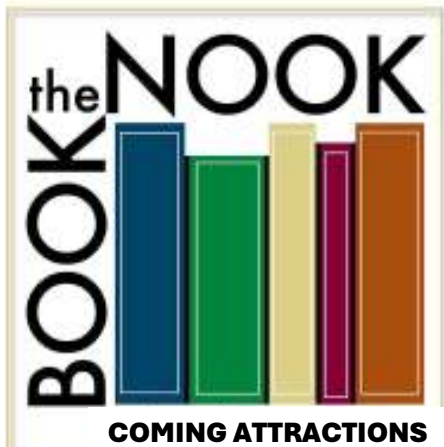


Welcome to FOELCL 's newest Community Partner

ALAN ALCUAZ, REALTOR®
RE/MAX Champions
11541 Trinity Blvd
Trinity, FL 34655
(727) 457-5412

Please support 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.



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

OCTOBER SPECIAL: Spooky good savings—50% off fall and winter holiday cookbooks and craft books. Also — draw one coupon per family to discover additional savings.

NOVEMBER SPECIAL: 50% off all holiday books, cookbooks and DVDs plus surprise sales each week.

DECEMBER SPECIAL: BOGO fiction paperback books, oversized coffee table books and children’s books and puzzles. Along with 50% off all holiday books and DVDs.

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

EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY IS TURNING 25

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024
11:30AM - 3:00PM

East Lake Community Library
4125 East Lake Road
Palm Harbor, FL 34685
(727) 773-2665

WWW.EASTLAKELIBRARY.ORG

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Community Room Events:

11:30AM - 12PM:

- Musical Entertainment

12PM - 12:45PM:

- Library Card Contest Winners
- “Looking Back...Looking Forward” with Library Director Lois Eannel
- Anniversary Cake Cutting

1PM - 2:30PM:

- Storybook Characters Photo Op

3PM:

- Edible Book Contest Winners
- Family Raffle Basket Drawing

10AM - 3PM:

Free Fun Activities Throughout the Library:

- Edible Book Contest Viewing & Voting
- Children’s Room: Scavenger Hunt, Activities, and Prizes
- 1990s Retro Teen Room: Anime Club, Retro Anime Movies, Cartoons, Candies and Fun

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.EASTLAKELIBRARY.ORG

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN, cont. from Page 1

Valerie Rosello, who were awarded their master's in library science degrees. Both were promoted to librarian positions as head of youth services and teen librarian, respectively.

In addition, Gizmos and Gadgets, an Annual Fund project of a few years ago, keeps going strong through purchases as needed to add new gizmos. This year these funds (which are separate from the \$25,000 allocation for library operations) paid for an additional 16 Mobile Hotspots that enable library patrons to take the Internet with them when they travel. Various gadgets purchased in the last few years prove the library is more than books! They include diverse items including a podcast kit, a karaoke machine, a green screen and a jewelry cleaner.

Apart from providing funding for library programs, the Friends themselves sponsored four concerts this past year: Bernie Maloney and his After Five jazz group, St Pete Baroque, with period instruments playing some recently rediscovered baroque music, Steve Walker, a versatile and talented singer and Cal Morris, a violinist with a diverse and popular repertoire.

Fostering Closer Relations Between the Library and Its Community

Newsletter

The newsletter was a positive, upbeat way to

communicate Friends' activities and encourage support of the library. In her second year as editor of the Friends' Good News! newsletter, Claudia Thomas continued to lend professional expertise to the quarterly publication. Copies were distributed via email or postal mail to members of the Friends, Library staff members, Library volunteers, Library Advisory Board Members, Library Foundation Board Members, PHCSA Board Members and Pinellas County Board members. Copies were also posted at the library and placed in new patron bags.

Community Partners

Many thanks to Kim Lindeman for taking over and greatly expanding the Community Partners program. Thanks go as well to Elaine Kirkhoff for keeping records up to date and accurate. Last year's annual CP report listed 13 businesses and organizations. This year, thanks to Kim's outreach, 24 businesses and organizations are contributing to the support of the library.

Membership

Once again, Joan Lawler has done an exceptional job keeping track of the Friends membership. Because Lifetime membership has not been offered for a few years, that category of membership is declining. However, the other membership categories are showing a steady increase.

Barbara Cole

President, FOELCL



Shown above are the members of the Friends of East Lake Community Library Board who served during the 2023-24 fiscal year. They are, seated, from left, Directors-at-Large Elaine Kirkhoff and Joan McCarthy, President Barbara Cole and Vice President Joan Lawler; and standing, from left, Directors-at-Large Claudia Thomas and Kim Lindeman, Secretary Jerry Griffin, Director-at-Large Bob Weinberg, Treasurer Jim McCarthy, PHCSA Liaison Ron Walker, Directors-at-Large Michelle Malacinski and Marcia Giza and East Lake Community Library Director Lois Eannel.

NOW
STARRING

Addresses
issues of
concern

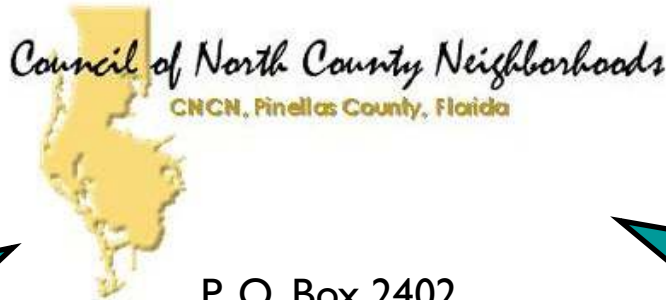
Friends of East Lake Community Library

Provides a
forum

Community Partner

Council of North County Neighborhoods

- Unites existing neighborhood organizations dedicated to improving the area
- Fosters the formation of such organizations



- Enables communication and cooperation
- Acts as advocate for the benefit of member organizations

Monthly
Town
Meetings

P. O. Box 2402
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688-2402
www.cncnpc.org

Promotes a
sense of
community

Please support and thank this Friends of ELCL Community Partner

Did you know?....

- ◆ **THE LARGEST ONE-STORY LIBRARY** in the country just might be The McAllen Public Library in McAllen Texas which is housed in a converted Walmart location. The 123,000-square foot space has a computer lab, a café and a 180-seat auditorium.
- ◆ **THE SMALLEST LIBRARY** in the world is located in a phone booth in Westbury, New York. It holds just a few dozen books and operates on the honor system.
- ◆ **FINGERPRINTING SERVICES** for state, federal, employment or volunteer requirements are now offered at East Lake Community Library, Mondays and Tuesdays, 2 pm—7 pm, and Wednesdays, 10 am—3 pm. The cost is \$35 plus government fees which vary. Appointments are required.

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
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 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.