



GOOD NEWS!



Read all about it

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

NOTABLE DATES

January 9

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

January 11

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

January 15

- Library Closed

January 28

- FOELCL Concert—2 pm

February 8

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

February 13

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

February 25

- FOELCL Concert—2 pm

March 12

- ELCL Board Meetings—5 pm

March 14

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

March 24

- FOELCL Concert—2 pm



2023 was a wonderful, successful year for Friends of East Lake Community Library, and 2024 promises to be another very exciting and busy year for FOELCL. That said, we need your help. As a member of FOELCL, you are the very best ambassador we have to reach out and encourage others to join you in your support of East Lake Library through Friends membership.

During National Friends of the Library week last October, FOELCL Board Members made an all out effort to recruit more

Friends members. As I stood at the door of the library welcoming patrons and asking them, "Are you a Friend of the library?", two things became apparent. Almost all quickly answered "Yes, I love East Lake Community Library!", but second, it soon became obvious few actually understood I was referring to FOELCL, the organization. We need to change that level of awareness, and who better than current Friends' members to share the message and make the plea?



As we look forward to adding on to the current construction scheduled years between then and on raising Friends and raising funds. We need more names on the mailing list; more advocates influencing government entities; more local citizens aware of library programs, initiatives, needs and news; and more people sharing this information with others.

realizing the dream of library building, with to begin in 2027, the now need to be focused

So, please, tell your friends, neighbors, family members, local business owners and managers, work associates, service providers, fellow club and church members, and any other acquaintances you may have that you are a member of Friends of East Lake Community Library because the Friends' support is vital to maintain and elevate the programs and services the library offers. Tell them tax dollars alone cannot fulfill all the library's needs or achieve the level of excellence we enjoy at ELCL. Tell them the library needs more active supporters who will act as community liaisons to local officials. Tell them their financial support is critical to realize the dream of an expanded facility with expanded services and programs. If each current Friends member can recruit just one other person this year, 2024 will indeed be exceptional!

Barbara Cole
President, FOELCL



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Did You Know



DIRECTOR'S DASHBOARD

Beyond the Stacks

The beginning of a new year appeals to me because it signifies all the possibilities to come—a fresh start and some renewed energy! 2024 is a very significant year for me personally and professionally, but also for East Lake Community Library. In November, I will be celebrating my 25th year as a PHCSA employee, serving both Palm Harbor Library and ELCL since 1999. It is also the 25th anniversary of the library building, and we are beginning to plan festivities to celebrate this milestone next fall. We also recently received an update from Pinellas County that our Penny for Pinellas project – a much-needed building expansion – is still part of the county’s plan, with the design phase slated for Fiscal Year 2026 followed by construction in FY2027-2028. It is NOT too early to begin preparing for this project with input from everyone and the start of a building fund to help offset spiraling costs. More information will be coming.

Before saying goodbye to 2023, I would like to update you on the past few months and several very successful programs and services. In October, we held our first *Taste of East Lake* to publicize many of the Community Partner businesses and organizations in the East Lake area that support the library and help to make this a vibrant community. It was also a time to celebrate two Friends’ projects made possible by annual fund drives – the outdoor book drop and the canopy for outdoor programs and events. November was a VERY busy month! It was the 2nd anniversary of the unveiling of ELCL’s passport services for which we received a perfect score from the Department of State, and we processed our 1,000th application, quite an achievement for our library! And who can forget our big fundraiser on November 10th? The second annual *Wine Not* was a successful event with an evening of wine tastings plus themed activities and raffles that netted over \$4,000 in profit for the library. And, of course, we kicked off December with a visit from that jolly old elf, Santa, who entertained dozens of families and listened to everyone’s wish list!

One of the biggest things I have learned as a library director is the ability to live in so many spaces at once and remain connected to all of them. I believe a huge part of my job is to be everything to every community member, and this kind of thinking and acting is required for me if I want to achieve that goal. Please keep giving us your ideas, complaints, suggestions and accolades. ELCL staff is committed to the best in customer service, which makes ELCL a premiere community center for East Lake. Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2024!



—Lois Eannel
ELCL Director

Focus on Foundation



By James Cuomo
ELCL Advisory Board & Foundation President

Foundation, Friends, you’re all a part of my library—so what’s the difference? Well, we have a common vision and work together to support the East Lake Community Library, but we intentionally take two different routes in doing so:

The Friends of East Lake Community Library

- Focuses on immediate projects that grow existing and create new library services.
- Raises funds through annual memberships, sales at the Book Nook, custom gift baskets and other engagements such as concerts and holiday flower sales.
- Supports ELCL’s summer reading programs, Read Box collection, Mobile Hotspots, volunteer programs and more items aligned with the library’s strategic plan.
- The Friends work with the library director and advisory board to assist with short-term objectives.

The East Lake Community Library Foundation

- Focuses on bigger projects at the library that may take years to develop.
- Raises funds from “big asks” to donors within our community, encourages planned giving and bequests and solicits additional funds through grant applications.
- Supports ELCL’s growth ambitions through building and renovation projects and development of an endowment for the library’s future needs.
- The Foundation works with the library director and advisory board to assist with long-term objectives.

The library’s expansion completed in 2018 was called Phase 1 and doubled the size of the building to create meeting spaces and room to increase collections. Despite this, you may be surprised to learn that ELCL still has the smallest library per capita served in all of Pinellas County and is one of the smallest in the state of Florida! As an increasing number of patrons return to ELCL, the need for space grows. The vision of Phase 2 is to further expand our library for additional study rooms, offices and space for community programs...but we can’t do this without you.

The ELCL Foundation supports the East Lake Community Library through funding capital improvement projects like the coming Phase 2 building expansion, with 100% of funds going directly to these projects thanks to our board of community volunteers. Whether through cash or matching grants, appreciated securities or real estate, bequest through a will or living trust, we hope you’ll consider our foundation as a way for a direct, high-impact opportunity to give back directly within your community. Learn more about the ELCL Foundation and our Library Legacy Program at <https://www.elclfoundation.org>, and let’s partner on your library legacy!

First “Taste of East Lake” shines a light on Friends’ Community Partners

New canopy and book drop are also celebrated

In October 2023, Friends of East Lake Community Library partnered with the library to hold an expo at which the local businesses and organizations that support ELCL as Community Partners could share information with members of the community and, as it turned out, network with one another. Those attending were treated to a wide range of giveaways and also enjoyed a free concert at which the recently installed outside aluminum canopy and book drop, both funded by the Friends, were officially dedicated.



Above, Linda Pinke, left, and Nia McLeod are ready to hand out treats and brochures at the Market Street Memory Care Residence table at “Taste of East Lake”. Below, members of the FOELCL Board, from left, Barbara Schultz, Jerry Griffin, Barbara Cole, Joan McCarthy and Jim McCarthy, officially dedicate the new metal canopy and book drop funded by donations to the Friends Annual Fund drives.



FOELCL Community Partners

Addington Place of East Lake
1755 East Lake Road, Tarpon Springs
727-739-2270

Clearview Math Tutoring
813-784-6063

Council of North County Neighborhoods
www.cncnpinellas.org

Dr. Maggie Davis & Associates
Pediatric Dentistry
3480 Tampa Road, Palm Harbor
727-505-8505

Dolphin Financial Group
2430 Estancia Blvd., #206, Clearwater
727-223-8454

East Lake Café
3430 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor
727-772-0707

E.K. Renovation & Handyman
3583 Wembley Way, Palm Harbor
727-366-7085/203-808-7778

Expressions Cosmetic & Family Dental
3007 Ridgeline Blvd., Unit A
Tarpon Springs, 727-787-6453

Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs
727-453-6800

Green Tech Termite & Pest Control
1395 Belcher Road, Palm Harbor
727-772-7378

The Jewelry Workshop
36175 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor
727-781-8757

Market Street Memory Care Residence
833 East Lake Road N., Tarpon Springs
727-513-6256

MMS Asset Management
3030 Starkey Blvd., #216, Trinity
727-247-3003

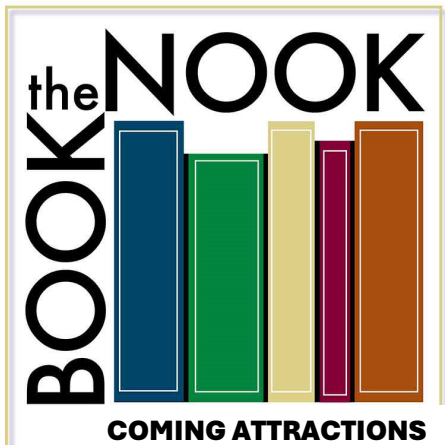
Nesting Grounds Café
4852 Ridgemoor Blvd., Palm Harbor
727-559-1574

Roman Austin Personal Injury Lawyers
1811 N Belcher Road, Ste. I-1, Clearwater
727-787-2500

Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise
www.eastlakerotary.org

United Health Care
727-741-2481

Vetture’s Restaurant & Pizzeria
36137 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor
727-787-4858



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

JANUARY SPECIAL: Dollar Days! \$1 biography, humor, craft and travel books plus 4 for \$1 DVDs. James Patterson books 50¢ & \$1.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL: Love at the Library! 50% off all women's paperback romance novels, young adult novels and biographies and family-life books.

MARCH SPECIAL: It's an Egg-stra Special Sale! Hop to the Friends Book Nook to find a favorite book then pick an egg at check out to discover an egg-stra special discount of 50¢, 75¢, \$1, \$2 or FREE! (One egg per family, please.)

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



Dear Friends of East Lake Community Library,

We would like to thank you for your generosity towards our All Together Now 2023 Summer Reading Program. Each year, our goal is to provide fun and educational programs, create lasting memories for families, and to celebrate the joy of reading. With your help, we were once again able to do that and more!

Over the summer, children would share with our department's staff members details about the books they had read each week. By doing this, the children earned "canteen cash" (our very own library money) to be used when shopping at our "book store" during the Summer Reading Finale. With the donations you had offered to us throughout this past year, we were able to put over 1000 books into the hands of our summer readers! The children and their caregivers were so excited to be able to "shop" for their books and one participant loudly exclaimed, "Wow! This is like Christmas!"

We truly appreciate your commitment to the families - and staff - at East Lake Community Library and know we would not be able to celebrate the joy of reading without your generosity!

In gratitude,
Youth Services Department

Alexandra Schuler
Colleen Sartano
Wesley Boyd
Wesley Fawell
Christina Bashore

East Lake Community Library
4125 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34685
727-773-2665 www.eastlakelibrary.org



In October, The U.S. Department of State's Office of Acceptance Facility Oversight (AFO) conducted an audit of ELCL's passport services. ELCL achieved a perfect score, one of the few facilities to do so, and received the above Certificate of Superior Achievement. ELCL is one of only three libraries in Pinellas County to offer passport services, beginning the service in December 2021. During 2023, more than 1,000 passports were executed at the library.

Christmas at East Lake Community Library



2023



Members of the Friends Board, above, from left, Joan McCarthy, Joan Lawler, Jerry Griffin, Jim McCarthy, Elaine Kirkhoff and Claudia Thomas pose with the tree they decorated with ornaments donated by library staff and volunteers to get ready for Santa's visit to the library in December. After Santa arrived, in the top center photo, Oliver Lindblom wishes everyone happy holidays, while in the top right photo, Jonah Painter gives Santa a little competition for best beard. In the lower right photo, a brave two-year-old Ayaka Scofield nestles in Santa's lap to the delight of both.

Before leaving Santa reminded everyone unwanted Christmas gifts (lotions, soaps, wine, coffees, teas, candies, nuts and other small items) would make greatly appreciated donations to the Friends for use in creating gift baskets to sell. Please drop them off at the library and THANK YOU!



Board member retires



After more than 15 years on the FOELCL Board, Barbara Schultz resigned her seat in November 2023. Barbara, shown standing above holding the newly revamped Community Partners (CP) brochure, spearheaded the CP program for the Friends, for many years, contacting local businesses and organizations to invite them to become a CP and following up to collect yearly dues and display materials to be inserted into new patron bags and a rack at the library. She is shown assisting the owners of Vettore's Restaurant and Pizzeria, Dianne Maida, left, who is holding her granddaughter Maxine, and Corey Maida, with their yearly CP registration. Barbara's contributions over the years were considerable, and she will be missed. New FOELCL Board Member Kim Lindemann will now serve as the CP contact person.

First concert to be held on January 28

The Friends of East Lake Community Library 2024 Concert Series will begin in January. Musicians who will be performing are as follows:

- 🎵 Sunday, January 28, 2024
After Five Jazz Trio
- 🎵 Sunday, February 25, 2024
St. Pete Baroque
- 🎵 Sunday, March 24, 2024
Crooner Steve Walker
- 🎵 Sunday, April 28, 2024
Violinist Cal Morris

All concerts will begin at 2 pm in the library's Community Room. A complimentary wine and cheese social will follow each of the hour-long concerts.

Tickets cost \$15 per concert, and advance purchase is advised as seating is limited.

NOW
STARRING

Personal
Approach

Friends of East Lake Community Library Community Partner

Solution-
Focused

Michelle Malacinski is the founder and president of MMS Asset Management. She graduated summa cum laude from Florida Metropolitan University with a degree in accounting. She has over 13 years of financial industry experience.



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SERVICES

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813-563-4082

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&
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mmalacinski@vanderbuiltsecurities.com

Please support and thank this Friends of ELCL Community Partner

Did you know....

- ◆ **THE LARGEST LIBRARY IN THE WORLD** is the Library of Congress which has more than 167 million items on approximately 838 miles of bookshelves, which would span roughly the distance from the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., to Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- ◆ **ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR** Susan Schuler celebrated a 10-year ELCL work anniversary in December. Be sure to congratulate her!
- ◆ **82 BOOK DONATIONS** were added to the collection at ELCL during November generating an estimated savings of \$1,000. These books helped replace damaged books or added new selections to the stacks.
- ◆ **CPR TRAINING/RECERTIFICATION** took place for ELCL staff in November. Almost all ELCL staff members are CPR certified.

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.