



# THE GOOD NEWS

## A Newsletter for the Friends of East Lake Community Library

March 2022



### Beyond the Book Stacks!

by Lois Eannel, Director

As we “March” into spring, there is certainly rebirth and renewal at East Lake Community Library after several years of “semi-hibernation.” We are looking forward to new projects and services as we plan and implement our Technology Plan and a new Long-Range Strategic Plan. But, before I get ahead of myself, I would like YOUR input for the upcoming budget year (October 2022 – September 2023). As you may know, we have been very successful in bringing innovative services to our community – the 24/7 Locker System, the Collection Connections Service for our homebound patrons, our Passport Acceptance Facility, and the ever-popular Gizmos and Gadgets Collection. But we must be missing something! Please e-mail me or fill out the survey forms at the front desk when you are in the library.

Although we have tried to keep Sunday hours for the past few months, it has become increasingly apparent that our small staff is stretched to the limit and unable to maintain the level of service necessary for our patrons. There are only four libraries in Pinellas County that are open on Sundays, all with much larger staffs. I feel it is more important to give our patrons the same level of service they should expect and deserve from Monday – Saturday and forego the Sunday hours for now. We will certainly re-examine our situation in the fall. The good news is we now have our 24/7 Locker System; and, the Countryside Branch of the Clearwater Library does have

Sunday hours available, if the need arises.

### Beginning in April, our hours will be as follows:

<b>Monday – Wednesday</b>	<b>10 AM – 8 PM</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>12 PM – 8 PM</b>
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>10 AM – 5 PM</b>
<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>10 AM – 4 PM</b>
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>Closed</b>

As we open up the library to more programs and outside groups, we have been examining the possibility of making better use of our outdoor spaces. This is especially important in light of how small our library is and the limited public space we have. This past year saw the creation of the outdoor pavilion known as the Tech Deck on the side of the Community Room. In 2022, with the help of Pinellas County funding, we are replacing the old wooden sheds across the driveway with one large aluminum shed that will be climate-controlled to protect our equipment, donations, and other items that we have no room to store in the library. Once that is complete, the Friends of the Library are raising funds to add on a permanent shade structure or canopy on the cement slab for special events, outdoor programming, or for use by community groups and organizations. We are hoping to have all of this in place by early 2023. Unfortunately, materials are backordered for months but we are starting the ordering process as soon as we receive approval from the Board of County Commissioners.

Enjoy our beautiful Florida weather before the heat and humidity return – or you can always cool off at the library!

## 2022 Annual Fund Don't Hesitate – Donate!

The East Lake Community Library's 2022 Annual Fund has a goal of raising **\$10,000** by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The funds raised will combine with Friends existing funds and monies from county funding to create a year-round covered outdoor special events venue.

Our deteriorating wooden sheds will be replaced with one larger, durable shed with electric. Annual Fund money will be used to provide for a durable permanent canopy to compliment the shed. This will provide an outdoor covered venue where we can hold a wide variety of large and small group programs for every age level, concerts, meetings, and special events throughout the year. **BUT WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

You are among the over 5,000 patrons who frequent our library each month – checking out materials around the clock with our Outdoor Locker System, attending free library programs for adults and children, using the computers and printers, and connecting to WiFi at our Tech Deck or inside the library. Now you can get passport photos and we can process new passports at ELCL. We continue strive to expand opportunities that best serve our community of patrons.

**YOU CAN MAKE THIS ANNUAL FUND A SUCCESS!** If 400 patrons gave \$25 to the Annual Fund we would reach our goal. Of course, we would appreciate and gratefully accept donations of any amount!

### PLEASE DON'T HESITATE – DONATE!

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**Mail** this form with your donation to:

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

**Bring** this form and your donation to the ELCL Front Desk

**Go Online** to [www.eastlakelibrary.org](http://www.eastlakelibrary.org) and click on "Annual Fund Drive" (PayPal button)

I support the vision of ELCL with a donation of:

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$200

Payment information:

Check enclosed payable to: FOELCL Annual Fund

Credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover—Please no prepaid credit cards)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
CVV

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Friends of East Lake Community Library is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law.

## Meet Your 2022 Board of Directors of Friends of East Lake Community Library

These Friends members will serve as officers and directors for the October 1, 2021—September 30, 2022 fiscal year:

(L to R) Front Row

Barbara Schultz, Director at - large; Susan Wolf, Director at-large;

Second row: Lois Eannel, Library Director; Pat Salvior, Director at-large; Joan Lawler, Vice President; Barbara Cole, President; Joan McCarthy, Director at-large; Claudia Thomas, Director at-large;

Back row: Marcia Giza, Director at-large; Jerry Griffin, Secretary, Jim McCarthy, Treasurer.

Missing from the picture : Michelle Malacinski, Director at-large



**2022  
East Lake  
Community  
Library  
Concert  
Series**

**"Always Hitting The Right Notes."**

### Library Concert Series

Let there be music! The popular East Lake Library Community Concert Series has two remaining concerts planned for 2022. Each concert will take place the last Sunday of the month, beginning at 2 pm, in the East Lake Library Community Room. A complimentary wine and cheese reception will follow each performance, allowing those attending to mingle with the musicians and fellow community members.

The 2022 Concert Series schedule is as follows:

- Sunday, March 27 — *Carlo Lovasco* will sing country; saddle up for an enjoyable musical ride.
- Sunday, April 24 — *Meriggaire String Quartet* will collaborate on timeless classical favorites.

Sponsored by the Friends of Eastlake Community Library, the Community Concert Series is designed to provide quality musical performances close to home at a very affordable cost. Priced at just *\$10 per event*, tickets are sure to sell quickly, so those with an interest in attending are advised to buy their seats as soon as possible. Tickets for all concerts are available at the library and at the door of each concert if space is available. Proceeds will benefit the library. The concerts will take place even though the library may be closed.



## What's a **Gizmo** or a **Gadget**?

Though the 2020 Annual Fund drive was cut short by the pandemic, we raised \$8,875. We discussed ideas which would support our library's strategic plan "to enrich and inspire our community through new and expanded programs, technology, and services." With those funds, the **Gizmos and Gadgets** collection was created. The collection consists of 37 different items which patrons and staff expressed an interest in using or learning more about but did not necessarily want or need to own. Each comes in a case with directions and staff is available to answer any questions, too. We have a



name a few of the items

portable air compressor, a standing mixer, a portable scanner, PlayStation 5, Nintendo Switch and Xbox controllers, a VHS-To-Digital converter, GoPro, folding wagon with big wheels, a beach tent, CD player and outdoor games – cornhole, croquet, bocce ball, just to



You can find out more about to the ELCL website. **CLICK** and **Gadgets**. **CLICK** on it available for check out.



the collection by going on My ELCL and you will see Gizmos and there you will see all the items **CLICK** on the item you are interested in, availability and get more detail. Items

are available for a 14-day loan period. Patrons must be at least 16 years old with a Pinellas library card in good standing. Borrowers must sign an agreement acknowledging financial responsibility for lost or damaged items. New items continue to be added, so share your ideas with the staff for consideration.



## **YOU can help make BEAUTIFUL Baskets!**



Have you seen or purchased one of those **BEAUTIFUL** baskets near the main desk at ELCL? Then you know how eclectic they can be! Our creative basket designer takes donations brought in by patrons and designs baskets for each season and many different themes. What does she need? She uses small items or knick-knacks in your home that you no longer use; small gifts you get that you cannot use; BOGO offerings. Items such as: shower gels, fragrant soaps and lotions, kitchen towel sets (holiday and those with cute sayings), garden flags, unique coffee mugs or wine glasses, specialty coffee or tea or chocolates/candies, gift cards, cute holiday decorator items, small garden accessories, wire ribbon, and **WINE** (large and small bottles). Unused greeting cards/envelopes are also appreciated.



## Corporate Community Sponsor—

### Vettore's Restaurant & Pizzeria

About twelve years ago, the Friends of East Lake Community Library developed the Corporate Community Sponsorship

Program. For an annual tax-deductible contribution of \$100, a company's marketing materials are prominently displayed in our Community Resources Center at the front entrance of the library. In addition, their company's information is on our website, given to all new library card patrons and put on the bookmarks we distribute.

One sponsor who has been with us for over 6 years is Vettore's Restaurant and Pizzeria. They are located in the Ridgemoor Publix Shopping Plaza at: 36137 East Lake Road (34685).

It is a favorite amongst locals and has been since opening its doors over 20 years ago. They are known for their delicious pizzas, mouth-watering classic Italian cuisine, affordable prices, and family atmosphere.

Vettore's owners Rick and Dianne Maida have taken their values for quality family time, good food and hospitality, and turned a small restaurant into a real community staple. Everyone who works there is dedicated to bringing the community together, serving patrons with respect and providing a gathering locale for the area.

Rick and Dianne moved to the East Lake area in 1991 and are originally from New York. Rick's mom and dad are both from Italy and many of the recipes served at Vettore's have been in the family for generations.

They like the library because it provides materials, services and programs for all ages. The Maidas continue to be a Corporate Community Sponsor because they like having their promotional material on display in the library, on our website, and included in the new patron bags given to all new card holders. It is a good way to let people new to the area and the library know about their restaurant. Please support our sponsors.

**Note: After this article was written we learned that Rick Maida passed away on February 28. The Friends want to express our condolences to his family.**



## Are YOU Following FOELCL??

Have you found us on Facebook? We are **Friends of East Lake Community Library.**

Yes, we have a page! Along with

- East Lake Community Library
- East Lake Community Library Foundation
- East Lake Community Library Teens
- East Lake Library Kids

If you follow us, you have learned about upcoming concerts, Book Nook special monthly sales, beautiful baskets for sale, and other special events we sponsor.

If you do not follow us yet, then go to Facebook and click on the thumbs up button to "Like Us" and become part of our FOELCL community.



**Sunday, March 13**







## Foundation News

As the ELCL's Strategic Plan 2019-2022 enters its final year, we look back on the efforts done in the current period and what is left to accomplish. Certainly, the opening of the Library's Community Room expansion in early 2019 was a great start! Further work to add more parking, provide cultural and social opportunities, strengthen community programs, and develop new relationships are being achieved. Even the turbulence created by things we couldn't have planned for (like Covid) gave us opportunities to think creatively, partner together, and provide more: 24/7 lockers to pick-up materials, a regularly stocked community food pantry, home delivery services for patrons with mobility restrictions, and passport services—just to name a few.

Looking ahead to development of the next multi-year ELCL Strategic Plan, the Library, Friends, and Foundation all look towards what we can continue to achieve together. Many times we are constrained not by the library staff's ability to host events and develop new programs, but by the space available in our facility. As activities return to normal levels, we continue to work on increasing our usable space inside - and outside - to support events with the East Lake community. You can help in two meaningful ways:

- 1) Later this year, keep an eye out in the library for opportunities to provide input on the materials, programs, and activities you hope to have available to you here in our East Lake community. This input goes directly into our planning activities, especially towards those items that take several years to fully develop.
- 2) Support your library through charitable giving to the Friends of East Lake Community Library 2022 Annual Fund and the East Lake Community Library Foundation. Both groups are key to the continued growth and success of the ELCL.

The ELCL Foundation supports the Library through funding capital improvement projects. 100% of the funds we raise go directly to these projects to augment the funding that comes from Pinellas County. Having a secured funding path allows our library to fulfill its mission to be the community and cultural center for the entire East Lake area. Whether through cash or matching grants, appreciated securities or real estate, or 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 at <https://www.elclfoundation.org> and create *your* library legacy through charitable giving!



## Have you been Smiling?



When you think about shopping through Amazon, please consider making your purchase through Amazon Smile. This is Amazon's program for supporting non-profit organizations like us! You can find Amazon Smile with your browser or by going through the ELCL web page [www.eastlakelibrary.org](http://www.eastlakelibrary.org) and click on the Friends tab. You will see the Amazon Smile box.

Click on the "start" button to go to the Amazon Smile site to select the Friends of East Lake Community Library. You only need to sign up once. Then go directly to Amazon Smile any time you are ready to shop.

