



# GOOD NEWS!



## Read all about it

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS OF EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

### NOTABLE DATES

#### July 4

- Library Closed

#### July 11

- ELCL Advisory Board—6 pm

#### July 13

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

#### August 8

- ELCL Advisory Board—6 pm

#### August 10

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am

#### September 4

- Library Closed

#### September 12

- ELCL Advisory Board—6 pm

#### September 14

- FOELCL Meeting—10 am



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Did You Know



Picture me celebrating! I’d like to send up a spectacular, shimmering, super salvo of starburst fireworks to let you know how thrilled and grateful I am for the community’s support of the Friends of East Lake Community Library’s (FOELCL) 2023 Annual Fund Drive. A fund-raising goal of \$10,000 seemed like a very ambitious stretch when FOELCL Board Members collectively gulped and voted to set that lofty amount as the campaign’s financial objective, making it the highest AFD goal ever! But so many of the library’s patrons had been asking for an

outdoor, drive-up book drop, and investigation revealed a quality book drop, properly installed, well-lit and efficiently serviced by staff would require every bit of the increased funding. We knew we were asking a lot, but we also knew how much community members value ELCL and how generous they have been in the past. Still, raising \$10,000 seemed a bit “out there”!

Well, we needn’t have stressed! As always, when presented with the facts and figures, members of FOELCL and other community supporters came through in stellar fashion. The AFD campaign kicked off in January, asking potential donors to “Drop Everything....Get in the Game” and make a drive-up book drop happen. “Let’s not drop the ball” encouraged the campaign promotional piece, adding “Together we can WIN BIG!” And WIN BIG we did! I’d like to thank each and every one of the donors who made the dream a reality. Each gift, whether a single dollar or thousands, kept the total raised climbing until one day in May....KABOOM! The once far-off goal was achieved! Together, these awesome library lovers made what seemed hardly possible an exciting reality, and certainly something to CELEBRATE!

And it is not just the book drop I am celebrating. Funds from last year’s AFD were dedicated to creating an outdoor event venue at the library with construction of a canopy over the concrete pad near the property’s storage shed. 2022 AFD funds were pooled with revenue from other FOELCL initiatives, and a contract for construction was signed a year ago. Cost increases, needed redesign and slow permitting have tried the Board Members’ patience, but, as of a few weeks ago, the canopy is finally in place and looks terrific. That is certainly worthy of a victory jig and another round of colorful, sparkling pyrotechnics. My heart is VERY happy!

*Barbara Cole*

President, FOELCL



# DIRECTOR'S DASHBOARD

## Beyond the Stacks

Summer is in full swing, and East Lake Community Library is the place to be! During my career as a librarian and library administrator, I have witnessed the change in public libraries from quiet spaces for reading, research and contemplation to community spaces. In the past, libraries placed more of an emphasis on quiet, but the needs of communities are different compared to a generation ago. Programs, workshops, new services and special collections such as Gizmos and Gadgets are how we meet those needs.

Unfortunately, the lack of space in our small library prevents us from also offering enough quiet areas for those who would like a respite from the noise. To patrons who have voiced concerns, about this issue, I can only offer the hope that ELCL's long-range plan comes to fruition with the addition of 3,000 square feet in 2027 as originally projected in the 2020 Penny for Pinellas sales tax program. Until then, we will strive to be the best little library we can be!

Your generosity to the Friends of ELCL Annual Fund Drive over the past two years has resulted in two new features to enhance programs and services. In June, an aluminum canopy for an outdoor venue adjacent to the library's storage shed was installed. This "Made in the Shade" outdoor venue will provide additional space for programs and workshops. In fact, we have a BIG special event planned for Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, so mark your calendars. A ribbon-cutting for the new canopy will be followed by a "Taste of East Lake" event in the Community Room where patrons can meet some Community Partners, local businesses which support the library. There will be lots of freebies and handouts for everyone! This will be followed by a FREE concert under the new canopy presented by the St. Pete Jazz Quartet. The event will also feature a second ribbon-cutting for a new outdoor book drop many patrons had been requesting. It was enabled by this year's Annual Fund Drive.

As with everyone's personal budgets, the library's expenses have skyrocketed with double-digit increases in property/liability insurance and health insurance for staff members. We face increased challenges in the next fiscal year but, as always, we will try to do more with less. Your donations are always welcome as well as your support of our fundraising endeavors.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and thank you for your support of East Lake Community Library!



—Lois Eannel  
ELCL Director

## Focus on Foundation



By James Cuomo  
ELCL Advisory Board & Foundation President

Libraries are the bedrock of knowledge, providing valuable resources and fostering a love for learning. Behind the scenes, many libraries are supported by a crucial entity known as the Library Foundation. This nonprofit organization plays a pivotal role in securing gifts and creating endowed funds to ensure the sustainability and growth of the library, while also facilitating large-scale capital projects.

The ELCL Foundation relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations and community organizations for gifts to help establish and grow endowed funds. These donations can come in various forms: cash, bequests in wills, stocks, real estate and other valuable assets. Donors contribute knowing their gifts will provide ongoing support for the library far into the future.

With each endowment fund established, the ELCL Foundation becomes a perpetual source of income for ELCL. The Foundation carefully manages the funds and utilizes a responsible investment strategy to generate returns. These returns are then distributed to the library on a regular basis, providing critical financial support for its needs.

Endowed funds also serve as a catalyst for significant capital projects. Libraries often require infrastructure upgrades, expansions or adoption of new technologies. Such endeavors can strain a library's budget, making it challenging to embark on them without external support. The ELCL Foundation, through endowed funds, can step in to provide necessary financial backing for these capital projects, ensuring the library remains a vibrant hub for knowledge and community engagement.

The ELCL Foundation supports ELCL with 100% of the funds raised going directly to projects, augmenting funding from Pinellas County. I hope you'll consider donating to the Foundation to give back to your community. Learn more at <https://www.elclfoundation.org> and create your library legacy through charitable giving!

# Annual Fund Drive reaches its goal

## Donors make drive-up drop box a reality

The Friends of East Lake Community Library Annual Fund Drive has topped the \$10,000 goal set to provide the means to purchase, install and maintain a drive-up book drop at the library.

"Many ELCL patrons have asked for a drive-up book drop they can utilize after hours or in bad weather," related Annual Fund Drive Chair Joan McCarthy. "The Annual Fund Drive \$10,000 goal was ambitious but necessary to make the drive-up book drop possible."

McCarthy reports that with sufficient funding now secured the book drop has been ordered and should be delivered sometime in July. A cement slab has been installed to serve as the book drop's base. She said if all goes well, the new book drop should be functional by August, if not before.

McCarthy said the Annual Fund Drive campaign, which carried the theme

"Drop Everything and Donate", brought in gifts from a significant number of couples, individuals and organizations.

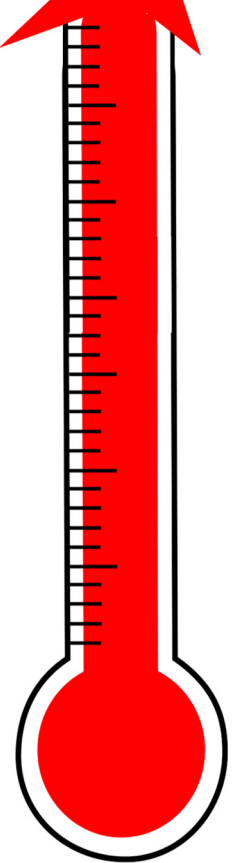
"So many wonderful people chipped in and gave what they could, and together they have made the dream of a drive-up book drop a reality," McCarthy said. "I hope all the donors feel a sense of accomplishment and know how much their generosity is appreciated. This is perfect example of what can be achieved when everyone bands together for a common goal."

McCarthy noted that even though the Annual Fund Drive campaign has now ended, tax-deductible gifts to benefit ELCL are always helpful and may be given to FOELCL or the ELCL Foundation at any time throughout the year. All donations, she said, are used to address the wish list of additional programs, projects and services the library would like to provide to benefit the community.

Friends of East Lake Community Library sincerely thank these donors to the 2023 Annual Fund Drive:

Lauren L. Angyn  
Barbara & Larry Bird  
Sharon Bressen  
Jonathan Burr  
Judith & Lawrence Burr  
Robin Chafin  
Barbara Cole  
Charles Corby  
James Cuomo  
Colleen Davis  
Diane K. DeWaters  
Patricia C. Donahue  
Lois Eannel  
Colleen Fontana  
Mary Gamlin  
Marcia Geiger  
GFTW Woman's Club  
Victoria Gilmore  
Marcia Giza  
Barbara & Jerry Griffin  
Linda Herbert  
Roger & Kathleen Johnson  
Katherine Jordan  
Joan Lawler  
Joanne Lindblom  
Mary Lippitt  
Martha Massino  
Joan & Jim McCarthy  
Beverly M. Monaghan  
Michael & Nancy Nash  
Network for Good Fund  
Keith Ryder  
Michelle & Jim Scott  
Elizabeth Schuler  
Nanette Shane  
Corrine Steinhardt  
Joseph Steiniger  
Kristin Steinwachs  
Claudia Thomas  
Doris Ullestal  
Shelby & Bertis Vleming  
Bob Weinberg  
Rita Yezzi  
10 Anonymous Donors

\$10,000



## Information, fun give aways shared at Rotary car show



In April, East Lake Community Library staff members and Friends of ELCL board members teamed up to promote the library and the Friends at the Annual East Lake Rotary Car Show. Shown manning the information table are, from left in the left photo, library staff members Valerie Rosello, Shawn Bissessar and Kaley Boyd and Friends board members Barbara Cole and Jerry Griffin. In the right photo, Friends board member Bob Weinberg, shown far right, accepts a donation from East Lake Rotary to benefit FOELCL.

## Look what's finally up!

### Community celebration planned



After frustrating delays, an aluminum canopy has been installed over the concrete pad adjacent to ELCL's storage shed, creating a long hoped for outdoor event space. Electrical outlets, ceiling fans and folding chairs in racks that can be stored in the shed will complete the project.

The canopy was paid for by FOELCL using contributions to the 2022 Annual Fund Drive and other money generated by other Friend's fund-raising initiatives. Necessary design changes, cost increases and slow permitting delayed the canopy installation.

"We'd hoped to have a spring ribbon cutting for the canopy while the weather was still mild," said FOELCL Board President Barbara Cole. "Now, with summer heat ramping up, we will have to wait until the fall to have a celebration. On the good side, however, we will be able to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new drive-up book drop at the same time."

The ribbon cuttings are planned for Saturday, October 21, and will feature a free outdoor concert by St. Pete Sax Quartet and other festivities, including food, freebies and an expo in the library's Community Room where local businesses and organizations that belong to FOELCL as Community Partners will have the opportunity to present information.

"I hope everyone will save the October 21 date and plan to attend to help celebrate the two new terrific library features made possible by community donations," Cole said. "It will be a very fun and special event!"

## Coming attractions in the Book Nook

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

**July Special:** All puzzles and children's books will be 50% off.

**Back to School Special:** July 31, August 1 & 2 bogo sale of children's and young adults' books and instructional materials. Two for 15¢, 25¢ or 50¢

**August Special:** It's hot so stay cool with 50% off CDs and adult paperback fiction.

## reminder

As of August 7, East Lake Community Library will end its summer hours and return to its original hours of operation in time for the start of the school year. The regular library hours will be:

Monday – Wednesday: 10 AM – 8 PM

Thursday: 12PM – 8 PM

Friday: 10 AM – 5 PM

Saturday: 10 AM – 4 PM

Closed Sundays

## FOELCL COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Please patronize and thank the following businesses and organizations for their support of ELCL:

Addington Place of East Lake  
Dolphin Financial Group  
East Lake Café  
Expressions Cosmetic & Family Dental  
Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve  
Green Tech Termite & Pest Control  
The Jewelry Workshop  
MMS Asset Management  
Nesting Grounds Café  
Roman Austin Personal Injury Lawyers  
Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise  
Council of North County Neighborhoods  
United Health Care

# Long-time library teen volunteer recognized

An Appreciation Breakfast was held at East Lake Community Library in April to recognize the cadre of volunteers who donated thousands of service hours to the library during the past year. One of the many people receiving awards and special citations at the event was also one of the youngest in attendance.

While the library enjoys the donated time and talent of many wonderful individuals, it would be hard to find a more dedicated library volunteer than teenager Thomas Brown, who began helping out during the summer of 2019 before starting his freshman year at Palm Harbor University High.

"My older brother Matthew had volunteered at the library, and he encouraged me to do so as well," Brown explained. "Once I started," he added, "I fell in love with it."

Brown first volunteered in the Children's Department and was

part of the Teen Tech Team. COVID caused a brief hiatus in his library service, but he was soon back, and in the spring of 2021 he began work each week as a Book Nook volunteer, learning to sort, scan and price the books and other donated items resold in the Book Nook as a fundraiser for Friends of ELCL.

Joan McCarthy, who manages the Book Nook says, "Thomas has been truly amazing. He is intelligent, capable and very reliable. In fact, I am quite sure I could simply turn the Book Nook program over to him, and he could run it very well without me."

The feeling is mutual. Thomas returns the compliments, calling Joan, "Lovely to work for and very helpful." He says, "She's always there to help you and trains you very well."

Thomas has now graduated (He was valedictorian of his high school's IB program.)



ELCL Volunteer Coordinator Mirant Vyas, left, congratulates Thomas Brown at the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast.

and will be attending University of Florida in the fall. Before leaving his ELCL volunteer duties, however, Thomas made certain, of course, to fully train his replacement.

## New policies set for library volunteers

Department of Children and Family Services now requires anyone who volunteers more than 10 hours a month at a library to undergo a background check and have fingerprints on file. Volunteer Coordinator Mirant Vyas is working to assure ELCL is compliant with the DCFS rule, beginning with the volunteers who work primarily in the children's department. The volunteer coordinator has also set a policy that all volunteers must attend mandatory quarterly meetings. Visit [www.eastlakelibrary.org/volunteer](http://www.eastlakelibrary.org/volunteer) to learn more about volunteering at ELCL.

## *Friends Board Member also recognized*

Another special award at April's Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast was presented to Friends Board Member Joan McCarthy in recognition of her more than 10 years of service as a library volunteer. In addition to serving on the Friends Board, Joan is also a member of the ELCL Advisory Board and has managed the library's Book Nook, where library patrons can purchase used books, puzzles, videos and other items, for many years.

In presenting the award, ELCL Director Lois Eannel noted that in the time Joan has been in charge of the Book Nook, she has brought in over \$10,000 in sales.



ELCL Director Lois Eannel, left, presents Joan McCarthy with an engraved crystal statue to thank her for her many years of service as a library volunteer.

"Joan McCarthy's dedication to the library and the community is incomparable," Eannel said.

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*Please support and thank this Friends of ELCL Community Partner*

## Did you know....

- ◆ **WARSAW** is the city with the biggest number of libraries per capita—11.5 libraries per 100,000 citizens. Seoul and Brussels follow close behind with 11 and 10 libraries per 100,000 inhabitants on average. The city that loaned the most books on average is Tokyo with 111.9 million book loans in just one year.
- ◆ **NEW YORK STATE** has the highest number of public libraries in the United States with 756 libraries as of 2019. This is followed by Illinois (623 public libraries), Texas (with 544) and Iowa (with 535).
- ◆ **A RECENT SURVEY SAYS** 100% of ELCL stakeholders (patrons, staff, community partners, organizations and board members) believe the library has an important role to play in the local community. 99.5% find the staff courteous, helpful and knowledgeable, and 98.9% indicated they feel welcome at the library.

## FOELCL BOARD

- Barbara Cole, President**
- Joan Lawler, Vice President**
- Jerry Griffin, Secretary**
- Jim McCarthy, Treasurer**
- Marcia Giza, Director-at-Large**
- Michelle Malacinski, Director-at-Large**
- Joan McCarthy, Director-at-Large**
- Barbara Schultz, Director-at-Large**
- Claudia Thomas, Director-at-Large**
- Bob Weinberg, Director-at-Large**
- Lois Eannel, ELCL Director (Ex Officio)**
- James Cuomo, ELCL Advisory Board Chairman (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.*