



THE GOOD NEWS

A Newsletter for the Friends of East Lake Community Library

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The Library and the Friends Make Lemonade Out of Lemons!

by Lois Eannel, Director

***"Life handed him a lemon,
As Life sometimes will do.
His friends looked on in pity,
Assuming he was through.
They came upon him later,
Reclining in the shade
In calm contentment, drinking
A glass of lemonade."***

Clarence Edwin Flynn

It has been almost one year since the pandemic began to impact our lives and our livelihoods. While the release of vaccines is cause for hope, living in suspense is still challenging, especially for organizations like libraries. As COVID 19

continues to affect every community, public libraries are constantly reinventing services, plans, and procedures to keep up with the everchanging landscape...and East Lake Community Library is no exception. As with other libraries, our staff are on the front lines trying to find ways to address urgent issues, provide essential services, and offer educational and recreational outlets in a safe environment. With the help of the Friends and an amazing staff, we have managed to take away the "sour taste" of the pandemic and offer the "sweet taste" of lemonade – an array of programs and services that have been borne out of this health crisis and the ever-changing need of our East Lake Community. As you can see in this newsletter, we've made a LOT of lemonade out of the lemons we've been given so enjoy what YOUR library has to offer!



COMMUNITY BAG PROGRAM

We will receive a \$1 donation for every \$2.50 reusable Community Bag sold at our selected Winn-Dixie location during our selected month!

Selected Organization:

Friends of East Lake
Community Library

Selected Month:

March 2021

Selected Winn-Dixie:

1360 Tampa Rd.,
Palm Harbor

Winn✓Dixie

Program runs March 1 – March 31. Simply purchase a bag for \$2.50 at the Winn-Dixie on Tampa Road in Palm Harbor and they will donate \$1 to the East Lake Community Library.

Collection Connection — Our FREE Home Delivery Service

Are you or someone you know unable to temporarily or permanently leave your home due to illness, disability, or extenuating circumstances? With many patrons forced to stay indoors due to the pandemic, we began to think of others who may be homebound for other reasons as well. Our Library's Outreach Coordinator, Heather Brown, has initiated a new service – Collection Connections – which provides a contactless home delivery service of library materials! Simply fill out an application (pick one up at the library or call to have one mailed to you) and soon you'll be receiving biweekly visits from volunteers, who will drop off a brightly colored canvas bags (purchased by the Friends) filled with your choice of books, DVDs, and audiobooks.



Tools for School — Kits to Support Learning at Home

The Tools for School kits were developed as a response to the pandemic and the move to virtual learning for many families. Since there were no longer any in-person programs, the programming budget was revised to support parents who were having to pivot to homeschooling and virtual learning. A need for hands-on manipulatives and activities to supplement the curriculum was identified. That's when the Youth Services Department and the Teen Coordinator stepped in with this new initiative – kits for students in all grades on various subjects to promote learning and reinforce concepts...and the Friends again came forward and funded the clear tote bags for this collection.



Off the Beaten Path FREE Book Bundles

Are you looking for something different to read? Not sure where to start? To help our readers and recognizing how many wonderful paperback novel donations we have received this past year, our Adult Services Librarian, Denise Meyerscough, and the FRIENDS Book Nook have partnered to create "Off the Beaten Path Book Bundles". Each small bag contains 2 books on a popular theme by different authors. A bookmark lists other authors who also write on that theme which you might like, too. Just ask at the Checkout Desk for a book bundle. It's FREE and YOURS TO KEEP!



Holiday Magic....Santa Video Chat and YA

Boxes

Since we could not do our normal holiday programming, the FRIENDS made a special arrangement with the North Pole to have Santa stop at ELCL for Video Chats coordinated by Library Assistants Danielle Zeiro and Nicole Farrell in our Children's Department. The FRIENDS Book Nook collaborated with Teen Coordinator Colleen Fontana to create FREE YA Book Boxes. Starting in December with a holiday themed box, they contain a book, a craft, a treat, and a small surprise. All Content is rated for ages 13-18. These are available in the Teen Room each month with selections available while supplies last!



Little Free Libraries

FRIENDS continue to coordinate and replenish the Little Free Libraries found throughout our community. Volunteers and an Eagle Scout have built them and continue to restock them with donated books as another way to promote reading in our community. Be sure to look for one at the fire station, the YMCA, Brooker Creek Preserve's classroom building, Lansbrook Commons and Lansbrook Park. We are always happy to work with individuals who would like to construct a Little Free Library to have it registered on the international website and supply books to keep it restocked as needed. Just let the FRIENDS know of your interest!



Read Box and Hot Spots

Funding by the FRIENDS make it possible to have the Read Box collection and portable Hot Spots for check out available to our patrons. The Read Box Collection of Best Sellers and DVDs is a popular feature at East Lake Library. New selections are announced on the library website each month! Portable Hot Spots give you the convenience of Wi-Fi anywhere you can receive a network signal. Both are available for our patrons with no holds or renewals on a 2 week checkout.



Art Gallery



ELCL is so much more than books! We now have a new art gallery available for our local arts community to publicly display their works *inside the library during library hours!* We have transformed an otherwise empty hallway into a gallery by adding a flexible hanging art wall system, beautiful halogen spotlighting and a security camera. This gallery was made possible by a generous donation from

our longtime patron and volunteer Deanna Bennett, with additional funding provided by the Friends of the East Lake Community Library. Every 2-3 months a new artist will be presented, all with their unique styles using many different mediums. Watercolor artist Joanne Baxter's beautiful pieces are on display until March 26th and are available for purchase by contacting her directly. If you know someone interested in showing their art or photography, contact Colleen Davis, Art Liaison. Applications are available at the front desk or online at www.eastlakelibrary.org.

ELCL COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center

We are sure our library is not unique in dealing with so many elderly patrons coming to our front desk frustrated by the COVID Vaccine registration system as they try to understand what they need to do to get appointments. At East Lake Community Library, we have set up a COVID Vaccination Information Station to help anyone we can with the process and the most updated information. We are careful about privacy and confidentiality but can certainly alleviate the stress for those who do not have the necessary devices or knowledge to get into the patient portal. We continually provide printed copies of the updates sent from Commissioner Eggers office and also have the COVID info updated on our website. There are also copies of the latest information regarding the various vaccines, i.e. Pfizer versus Moderna, and what side effects to expect. Although the library cannot make the appointments for patrons at this time, staff will do all that is possible to answer questions and get our residents into the system.



New FOELCL Board of Directors Voted In

At the December 2020 Annual Meeting the following Board members were voted in for 2021:

Barbara Cole, President
Joan Lawler, Vice President
Jerry Griffin, Secretary
Vacant, Treasurer

The following members of the Friends will serve on the Board of Directors: Marcia Giza, Michelle Malacinski, Joan McCarthy, Pat Salvior, Barbara Schultz and Susan Wolf.

The Friends of East Lake Community Library are looking for someone to serve as treasurer. If you could serve your library in this capacity, please contact one of the board members or leave a message with a library staff member.

Foundation News



What a difference a year makes. Last year we were just getting ready for our annual golf tournament when everything just...stopped. By the time you read this, we (hope to) have just wrapped up our Golf Ball Drop at Tarpon Woods Golf Club. Hundreds of golf balls were dropped from the air, while our spotters kept an eye on the ones closest to the pin for cash and prizes. Many thanks to our wonderful community for supporting our cause in a fun and new way. And not just supporting our cause, but also other worthy organizations like East Lake Fire Rescue and Jan Stephenson's Crossroads Foundation with whom we are sharing the proceeds from this event. Keep your eyes on our Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/elclfoundation>) for future events!

Are you a business owner in the East Lake area, or do you know someone who is? Check out our program for Corporate Community Sponsors! Existing partners continue to receive the same benefits and will have the opportunity to get more when they give more. Go to <http://bit.ly/ELCLCorpPartners> to learn more and offer support to our Library. It's a great way to get your brand in front of the community, while letting everyone know you're keeping it local.

The ELCL Foundation supports the East Lake Community Library through funding capital improvement projects, 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 Library Legacy Program at <http://bit.ly/ELCL-Legacy> 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 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.

