

VCPL

A VOLUSIA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PUBLICATION

Interview with
Ray Lennard

Librarian II
Ormond Beach
Regional Library

National Hobby Month
Winter Reading Challenges
Upcoming Events

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WWW.VOLUSIALIBRARY.ORG



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New Year, New You: Volusia County Public Library is Here to Help

As we welcome a fresh new year, many of us find ourselves reflecting on our goals and aspirations. Whether you're dreaming of starting a new hobby, cultivating a beautiful garden, learning new skills, or improving your health and wellness, I have wonderful news for you: your Volusia County Public Library is ready to support every step of your journey.

Your public library is a community hub for transformation, learning, and growth. Let me share how we can help you turn those New Year's resolutions into reality.

Discover a New Hobby

Have you been curious about painting, photography, knitting, or woodworking? Our extensive collection includes how-to books, instructional DVDs, and digital resources through platforms like Craft & Hobby, Crafts via hoopla, and LinkedIn Learning. We also host regular craft workshops and maker programs where you can try new skills hands-on with staff guidance. Check our monthly program calendar for upcoming sessions on everything from painting to book folding.

Start Your Garden and Prepare for Spring

January is the perfect time to plan your garden for spring planting! Visit our gardening section to find information on Florida-specific gardening, seed starting, composting, and sustainable practices. We offer seed library programs at select branches where you can pickup seeds to start your garden. Join our garden programs to connect with fellow green thumbs and learn from Master Gardeners.

Learn Something New

Whether you want to learn a foreign language, master computer skills, explore history, or understand finances, we have the resources you need. Our digital learning platforms include Mango Languages for language learning, LinkedIn Learning for professional development, Brainfuse adult learner section, and visit our online tutorials to learn how to use our many digital resources. Attend free technology classes to improve your digital literacy or join book discussion groups to expand your literary knowledge. Our library staff are always available to help you navigate your learning journey.

Health, Exercise, and Wellness

Supporting your health and wellness goals is important to us. Browse our extensive health and nutrition collection featuring cookbooks, diet guides, and wellness resources. Check out our exercise DVDs and streaming content through platforms like Kanopy. Many of our branches host wellness workshops to get you started and we offer health information literacy programs to help you make informed decisions about your well-being.

Programs and Services to Support You

Here are just some of the ways we can help:

- Free Wi-Fi and computer access at all locations
- One-on-one research assistance and personalized reading recommendations
- Access to thousands of books, e-books, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs
- Meeting room spaces for study groups and clubs
- Maker spaces with 3D printers and creative technology
- Weekly and monthly programs for all ages and interests

Let's Make This Year Amazing Together

Your library card is more than just access to books—it's your key to unlimited possibilities for personal growth and community connection. Whatever your resolution, we're here to provide the resources, guidance, and encouragement you need to succeed.

Stop by any of our Volusia County library branches, explore our website at volusialibrary.org, or give us a call to learn more about our programs and services. Our dedicated staff members are eager to help you discover everything your library has to offer.

Here's to a year of learning, growing, and achieving your goals—together with your library!



Lucinda Colee
Library Services
Director and
VCPL Editor



Volusia County Public Library Fiscal Year 2025 Use Statistics



01
LIBRARY VISITS
1,334,322



03
LIBRARY PROGRAMS
9,853



05
REFERENCE TRANSACTIONS
443,769



07
WIFI USE SESSIONS
306,270



09
NEW LIBRARY CARDS ISSUED
17,800



02
ITEMS BORROWED
2,920,522



04
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE
186,826



06
ONLINE LEARNING SESSIONS
424,853



08
PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTER USE SESSIONS
195,456



10
TOTAL LIBRARY CARD HOLDERS
372,230

VISIT
WWW.VOLUSIALIBRARY.ORG

- Over 80 databases
- Hundreds of in-branch events
- Hundreds of printed magazines
- Over 25,000 training programs
- Thousands of eBooks
- Thousands of audiobooks
- Thousands of printed books
- Thousands of digital magazines
- Thousands of digital newspapers
- Professional librarians
- Specialty children's librarians
- Specialty teen librarians
- Mobile print services
- Acuity Business Pass
- Pay online services
- Social Workers
- Genealogy resources
- Meeting Rooms
- Outreach Programs
- Book Clubs

Volusia County Public Library
Library Support Center
1290 Indian Lake Road
Daytona Beach, FL 32124
(386) 248-1745
vcplinfo@volusia.org
www.volusialibrary.org

Branch locations:
Daytona Beach Regional
John H. Dickerson, Daytona Beach
Hope Place, Daytona Beach
Ormond Beach Regional
Port Orange Regional
New Smyrna Beach Regional
Edgewater Public Library
Oak Hill Public Library
DeLand Regional
Deltona Regional
DeBary Public Library
Pierson Public Library
Orange City Public Library
Lake Helen Public Library



Port Orange Regional Library

Port Orange Regional Library is located at:

1005 City Center Circle
Port Orange, FL 32129
(386) 322-5152

Hours:

Mon - Thu: 9 am - 7 pm

Fri - Sat: 9 am - 5 pm

Sun: 12 - 5 pm

(Holiday hours will vary)

One of the busier library branches in Volusia County, offering programs for adults, teens, and children, ranging from computer learning workshops, to S.T.R.E.A.M. sessions for children, teens, to Storytimes for children.

Visit www.volusialibrary.org to see all the events and sessions available at all Volusia County branches by clicking on the Events Calendar tab.



Magazines & Newspapers



Featured



The New York Times
1 Apr 2025



South China Morning Post
1 Apr 2025



The Economist (North America)
29 Mar 2025



La Republica (Colombia)
1 Apr 2025



USA TODAY US Edition
1 Apr 2025



PressReader is the best place to read thousands of newspapers and magazines from around the globe. Get access to more than 7,500 (English and foreign languages) of the world's top publications such as Rolling Stone, PCWorld, Modern Dog, Hola, Hockey News, Style at Home, Tabletop Gaming, Highlights High Five, and many more, as soon as they're available on shelves.



Scan the QR code for the magazine & newspaper link to our website.



Access your favorite digital magazines using Flipster from EBSCO Information Services. Flipster is a next-generation magazine service that allows people to browse digital versions of the latest issues of popular magazines.

- Browse magazines by category as well as perform searches for specific periodicals.
- Zoom in and out for better readability.
- Apps are available for Android and Apple devices for offline reading anytime, anywhere.
- Flipster is Kindle Fire compatible.

New Year, New Reads—Delivered to You

Make reading and listening to books part of your New Year routine with recommendations from Volusia County Public Library—delivered straight to your inbox. Our free electronic newsletters help readers of all ages discover great books without the guesswork, whether you're reading for yourself or supporting a growing reader at home.

You can subscribe to one or more newsletters. Options include:

- Adult Reading Recommendations – genre-based suggestions tailored to your interests
- Volusia Reads Stories – reading recommendations for families with young children
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten™ – book ideas for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers
- Growing Readers – reading recommendations for children in grades K–2
- Raising Readers: S.T.R.E.A.M. – nonfiction picks focused on science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math for grades 3–5



Each month, these free email newsletters make it easy to find books that support learning at every stage, from early literacy through adult reading interests. Subscribe to one or more lists, adjust your preferences anytime, and let the library help you stay connected to what's worth reading next.

✨ **Why It Matters** - Daily reading builds language skills, promotes brain development, and prepares children for school and lifelong success. Whether your child is just starting with first words, gaining fluency, or developing the skills to learn across subjects, Volusia County Public Library has a program to support their journey. Starter kits for all three challenges are available now at every library branch.

Subscribe here: <https://libraryaware.com/2320/Subscribers/Subscribe>

<https://libraryaware.com/1028/Subscribers/Subscribe>



GALE PRESENTS

GetSetUp

Why It's a Great Time to Start Something New!

The start of a new year naturally inspires reflection, renewal, and fresh motivation. It's a moment when many of us look ahead, set meaningful goals, and chart out practical steps toward positive change—whether that's improving health, learning new skills, or launching a new project. While any day can be a fresh start, the New Year gives us a “clean slate” that makes new beginnings feel exciting and achievable. This year, Volusia County Public Library is offering a powerful new tool to support your journey: GetSetUp.

What is GetSetUp?

GetSetUp is an easy-to-use online learning platform designed especially for adults 55+—though learners of any age are welcome. It connects people through live classes, on-demand courses, and short, engaging videos that spark curiosity and build confidence.

Subjects include:

- Art & Creativity
- Cooking & Nutrition
- Fitness
- Health & Wellness
- Lifestyle
- Money
- Technology
- Travel
- Work & Jobs



As the U.S. population ages—with an estimated 23% of Americans projected to be over 65 by 2050—public libraries are expanding resources to support lifelong learning. GetSetUp helps meet that need by offering a robust, rotating catalog of up to 300 classes at any time, with new topics added monthly. Let Volusia County Public Library help you reach your 2026 goals. Whether you're writing new chapters, shedding old habits, or building better ones, GetSetUp is here to help you grow, explore, and thrive in the year ahead. A Volusia County Public Library card is required for remote access. To create an account, you can do so one of three ways: connecting with a Facebook account, email address, or phone number (that must be able to receive text messages). https://link.gale.com/apps/GSU?u=22417_vcpl



Top Entertainment Comes to Volusia County Public Library

**Solo artists,
bands, and more
perform free for
visitors.**



The Paisley Moon Trio

The Paisley Moon Trio performs music of the '60s, '70s, and '80s, from love songs to protest anthems. Genres include pop, coffeehouse, folk, and fiddle. You'll enjoy a danceable, romantic, and delightful musical experience during this performance. This event is made possible by Friends of Port Orange Regional Library.

Date: Thursday, January 15

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Location:

Port Orange Regional Library
Auditorium



Scan to view events calendars
for all branches



Two of a Kind

Don't miss Two of a Kind, a duet show bringing a personal touch to their performances, featuring a unique blend of Motown songs with a jazz flavor, original compositions, and a heartfelt tribute to the Spinners. This program is sponsored by Friends of Daytona Beach Regional Library.

Date: Saturday, January 17

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location:

Daytona Beach Regional Library
Auditorium



The Taylor Road Band

Showcased hit songs include "I Saw Her Standing There", "Sung, Sung, Blue", "Sounds of Silence", "Mustang Sally", and many more!

Sponsored by Volusia County Public Library and Friends of Deltona Library

Date: Sunday, January 18

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location:

Deltona Regional Library Auditorium



Classical Guitarist: Peter Fletcher

American classical guitarist, Peter Fletcher, performs over 100 concerts a year and his recordings have been critically acclaimed. New Smyrna Beach Regional Library is honored to be his first concert of his Florida tour. Don't miss the opportunity to hear this nationally accomplished artist.

This event is made possible by Friends of New Smyrna Beach Library.

Date: Monday, January 26

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location:

New Smyrna Beach Regional Library
Auditorium



The Sound

Enjoy an afternoon of foot-tapping fun with The Sound, a swing band with a vocalist. The performance includes songs from the Big Band Era to contemporary music.

This program is sponsored by Friends of Daytona Beach Regional Library.

Date: Saturday, February 21

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location:

Daytona Beach Regional Library Auditorium



Acuity
Business Pass
In-Person Seminar

Side Hustles That Work!

Add thousands to your income without a major financial or time investment

This seminar explores side hustle opportunities that many people overlook when trying to add to their income to their main source of income, their job. Turning hobbies into revenue streams and passive income mailbox money. Starting small and building to a full-time career, or keeping it small and using the extra income for that new vehicle or vacation. The possibilities are endless. Come find out what they are and how they can work for you.

Friday, January 16, 2026 - 10:00 am

Ormond Beach Regional Library
30 S Beach St
Ormond Beach , FL 32174



Register



Volusia County Public Library
www.volusialibrary.org



No cost to attend
Free parking
Acuity Business Pass
Cards issued on site.



Get Your Library Card Today!

OPEN YOUR EYES TO A WORLD OF WONDER, RESOURCES, AND EDUCATION.

Residents, visit your local branch and get your FREE library card.

VISIT US ONLINE
www.volusialibrary.org



Available at **YOUR** library!

Baking Pans

Blood Pressure Machines

Hot Spot Wi-Fi Device



Free check out with your library card!

Available for kids at **YOUR** library!

lr books

Virtual Reality Books



Lit Kit to Go



Lit Kits to Go are customizable take-home kits for children in grades 5 and under.

launchpad

THE PRE-LOADED LEARNING TABLET

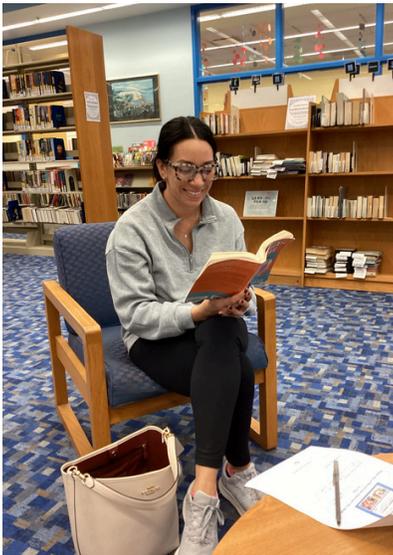


Free check out with your library card!

14 branch locations - 24/7 website resources

Library Shelfie Day is January 28

Calling all book lovers to share your favorite books and library shelves in a fun way. We encourage you to take a selfie with your most beloved library shelf showcasing the books that stand out. Snap a shelfie and share it with us at <https://www.facebook.com/volusialibrary/>



TOP 10 MOST POPULAR

Circulating Books in 2025



The Women- From master storyteller Kristin Hannah, worldwide bestselling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Four Winds*, *The Women* is the story of a generation, of epic love, profound loss and enduring friendship. It is both an intimate portrait of a woman coming of age in a dangerous time and a story of a nation - and a world - divided by war.

Camino Ghosts- The true story is about Dark Isle, a sliver of a barrier island not far off the North Florida coast. It was settled by freed slaves three hundred years ago, and their descendants lived there until 1955, when the last one was forced to leave. That last descendant is Lovely Jackson, elderly now, who loves her birthplace and its remarkable history. But now Tidal Breeze, a huge, ruthless corporate developer, wants to build a resort and casino on the island, which Lovely knows, deep down, is rightfully hers.

Counting Miracles- #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER * From the acclaimed author of *The Longest Ride* and *The Notebook* comes an emotional, powerful novel about wondering if we can change--or even make our peace with--the path we've taken."Sparks is superb at what he does. The setting is postcard-perfect. The characters are immensely likable.

Now or Never- INSTANT #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER The latest Stephanie Plum novel from #1 New York Times bestseller and "the most popular mystery writer alive" (*The New York Times*) Janet Evanovich. She said yes to Morelli. She said yes to Ranger. Now Stephanie Plum has two fiancés and no idea what to do about it.

Think Twice- A man presumed dead is suddenly wanted for murder in this thriller of secrets, lies, and dangerous conspiracies that threaten to cover up the truth.

Volusia County Public Library Offers Winter Reading Challenge



Jan. 18 - Mar. 1
Registration begins January 11

WINTER OLYMPICS

Reading Challenge

Read every day to help Volusia County Public Library reach its goal of 15,000 days read!

Beginning on Sunday, January 18, all Volusia County Public Library cardholders are invited to participate in the library's online Winter Olympics Reading Challenge! The library's winter reading goal is a cumulative 15,000 days read, and all local readers are encouraged to join this challenge. The winter reading challenge runs through March 1.

Readers can log their reading achievements in the library's reading platform, Beanstack, to earn virtual badges and entries into a prize drawing in November.

Registration began January 11, and can be accomplished online by visiting www.volusialibrary.org or by visiting one of Volusia County Public Library's fourteen branches.



From First Words to First Chapters: Growing Readers Across Volusia County

As we begin 2026, Volusia County Public Library is celebrating the tremendous impact of its children's reading challenges, and the role families play in building strong readers from the very start. Together, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten™, Growing Readers, and Raising Readers support literacy development from birth through fifth grade—helping children grow skills that support school success and lifelong learning.



Now in its eleventh year, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten™ encourages families to read aloud 1,000 books before a child enters kindergarten. Since the program began, families have logged 631,190 books, with 3,500 registered participants, and 2,238 active readers strengthening early literacy through shared reading.



For children in kindergarten through second grade, our Growing Readers Reading Challenge builds on that foundation by encouraging consistent reading alongside activities such as talking, singing, writing, play, and sight-word practice. To date, 805 children have registered, recording 10,126 days read.



Our newest addition, Raising Readers Reading Challenge, supports children in grades three through five as they transition from learning to read – to - reading to learn. With a focus on nonfiction and informational reading, the challenge helps build vocabulary, comprehension, and reading stamina. The program currently includes 179 registered participants, 46 active readers, and 10 completed challenges.

All three challenges are free and flexible. Families may register for these reading challenges and receive a free starter kit at any Volusia County Public Library branch. They can track their reading progress online at volusialibrary.beanstack.org. As they participate, children will earn milestone badges, prizes, certificates, and completion trophies along their literacy journey. As families set goals for the new year, Volusia County Public Library remains committed to supporting education, literacy, and learning at every stage. Learn more at www.volusialibrary.org.

Check out a few of the digital resources available from Volusia County Public Library

“Over 25,000 courses ([LinkedIn Learning](#)), 30,000 movies, ([Kanopy](#)), 390,000 audiobooks ([hoopla](#) & [Libby](#)), hundreds of thousands of books and one hundred magazines ([Flipster](#) & [PressReader](#)).”

[Databases](#)

[Downloads](#)



ABCMouse learning activities consist of books, educational games, puzzles, art activities, poems, songs, music videos, and more for ages 2-8. An added bonus with ABCmouse Home Access for Libraries is the inclusion of the Assessment Center that creates customized lessons that are targeted to help a child improve in specific skill areas identified by the assessments.



World Book Online is a suite of resources designed to captivate and engage users of all grade levels. Modules include Early Learning (Grades PreK+), Kids (K+), Student (5+), Advanced (9+), and a Spanish language version for younger users.



Scholastic Teachables is an online resource providing a vast collection of ready-to-use, printable educational materials for PreK-6, including lesson plans, activity sheets, and leveled mini-books, which are created and vetted by Scholastic teachers and specialists to support teachers, parents, and the homeschooling community.



Brainfuse is an online tutoring service that connects students with expert tutors through a web-based platform. Founded in 1999, it has provided over 3 million virtual tutoring sessions to students across various subjects, including math, science, and languages. Brainfuse partners with libraries, school districts, and higher education institutions to enhance learning experiences and offers services such as live tutoring, homework help, and test preparation. The platform is designed to be user-friendly, allowing students to access expert support anytime and anywhere.



Magazines can be entertaining as well as educational. The Flipster category of **‘Family & kids’** contains many titles for younger readers such as: Highlights, Ranger Rick, Ranger Rick Jr., Cricket, Cricket Babybug, Cricket Ladybug, National Geographic Kids, All About History, and All About Space.

Interview
Ray Lennard

Volusia County Public Library
Ormond Beach Regional Library
Librarian II, Adult Services



VCPL: Ray, when did you begin working for Volusia County Public Library? And what did you do before working for the library?

Ray: It was July of 2020. I was hired here for Ormond Beach’s branch as an adult services librarian. Before that, I was a curator of a Victorian house museum in Hudson, Michigan [William G. Thompson House Museum]. And I had done that for about twelve (12) years. After Mr. Thompson passed away, I was hired to convert his private estate into a museum...setting up tours, taking care of the garden, and bringing the property back to life. Before that was Jackson District Library in Michigan... part of my day was working their reference desk and then the other half was working with homebound library patrons: selecting materials and shipping them out and getting them back. And, right out of high school, I started working at a Lenawee County Library in Michigan as a

student worker. And I went to college and thought, ‘you know, libraries, this is a pretty good job, I’ll get a library degree.’ So, I went to the University of Michigan and got my library degree there. Too, I thought, ‘I want to do museums.’ And it was just a certificate add-on to get the archives program at that point. And so, I started volunteering at the local historical society doing research and tax records, filing photographs, etc. Some exhibit stuff, but not a lot. In addition, because of my interest in museums, I was elected to the board of directors for the county museum where I served for about 20 years.

VCPL: Have you thought about doing or being involved with a local museum?

Ray: No, not really. I still do a lot of historical research for the library between library users and giving local history presentations to senior living communities.

VCPL: My first introduction to you was through a Recipe and Reads Culinary Lab presentation. How did you get involved in hosting that series here at Ormond Beach Regional branch? And are you a cook or a chef?

Ray: If we go back to my museum background, what is interesting is if you ask someone, “Do you want to go visit a historic house museum?” Many people might

say “I don’t know if I want to tour an old house.” But you can hook people with food. So, there, we hosted Teas. And we did a lot of historical cooking through living history presentations, anywhere from War of 1812 era up through World War II. Everybody loves food. And you can give that historical experience through food. You can help take someone from what we like to eat today and show its ancestral roots. And people are more engaged with that than with maybe memorizing dates. And I worked very closely with a couple of restaurants and restaurateurs in southeastern lower Michigan. So, I had that experience in my back pocket when I started here. And so, my arrival just coincided with the library’s new culinary lab series. It is a good fit because one of the library’s targeted purposes with Recipe and Reads Culinary Labs, is to engage with the ‘culture and history of food.’ And even now, with it being the 250th birthday of America, I am researching food that built America for upcoming programs. That could look like Mark Twain’s favorite food, what supermarkets looked like in the fifties and sixties, or even prepping food to make space travel possible.

VCPL: What do you like to do outside of the library?

(continued on page 19)



Ray with fellow staff member Jamie Graveling

(continued from page 18)

Ray: Well, you're going to get the typical library and answer. I like to read. I enjoy that. I like to travel. I like to go to the beach, so Volusia County is a good spot for that. Historical research too.

VCPL: You seem to be very happy in your position.

Ray: Yes, I enjoy it. It is something different every day and that's what I really like. I come to work and help the public. One day I'm hosting a program here at the library. On another, I am presenting in the community. On still another, I am restocking our Books on the Fly collection in the business center at Daytona Beach International Airport.

VCPL: Talk a little bit more about Books on the Fly, please.

Ray: Volusia County Public Library's Books on the Fly program, as I just mentioned, is a program where we stock books in the business center at the airport. And anybody travelling through the airport can take one or two. From there - they can read it, take it with them, leave it wherever they want to, keep it as a treasured memento, pass it on to somebody else, etc. Too, there's a hotspot area so travelers can check out digital magazines and books as well. And there are even children's books stocked in the New Mothers' room. About every six weeks or so, I visit to restock. Now with the recent addition of new flights recently, it's become even more popular! When I do restock at the collections, there are almost always travelers in the business center who inevitably ask what I'm doing. So, we'll talk

about the library, and if airport staff are there, they'll talk about the airport. And so, it's a great opportunity to interact with residents in a different setting and get to talk about the impact of libraries – even when traveling. The airport team is supportive of it too. I've heard them say, "Hey, you know, as long as you're in here, there's books - kids' books, adult books, teen books, to take as you fly."

VCPL: Are there other programs beyond Recipes and Reads Culinary Labs and Books on the Fly that have your heart?

Ray: I get to offer a lot of outreaches in the community. Nearly every month I get to visit various community organizations. And I can try to offer nearly whatever they'd like for a presentation. So, an organization may ask for a presentation on Alcatraz for their residents. I can do that. Otherwise, I really enjoy researching local history, and I can offer tailored presentations on these more local topics. Right now, I'm working on a project about photographer William Gardner, who had a building in downtown Daytona Beach around the 1900s. He took a lot of local photos, a lot of Florida photos, but is probably better known for his photos of Mackinac Island [Michigan], because he had a studio there. He was your typical seasonal visitor - he would spend his summer in Michigan; he'd get cold and would winter here in Daytona Beach.

VCPL: Ray, what else would you like to share?

Ray: It's great that our library system has so much local community support to be invited so many places to share or host programs. Very much so too is the incredible community support offered by our local Friends of the Library groups that support the efforts, programs, and projects of our different branches. So, I want to be sure say "Thank You" to our Friends of the Library and, of course, to all those folks that come in and use us every day, every week. It is great that we've got so many experts that work for the County in other divisions. We've had mosquito control, veterans' services, and waste management [and others] all come to the library and talk about what they do and how they serve residents too. It's nice to be able to be part of that connection.





“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.” Cicero

Volusia County Public Library could not agree more!

With the ringing in of a new year, many of us are looking for fresh start - healthier habits, meaningful hobbies, or ways to reconnect with nature. Volusia County Public Library’s Seed Library offers a sustainable way to cultivate all three. Whether you want to grow your own herbs or vegetables, start a pollinator-friendly garden, or rewild your lawn, spring planting season in Florida is the perfect time to begin.

What are Seed Libraries?

Seed Libraries are community-driven initiatives where public libraries offer a sampling of seeds - vegetables, herbs, or pollinator plants - to grow at home. The goal is to support sustainable gardening practices, strengthen local food supplies, and help residents make environmentally friendly choices. By offering commercially sourced or expert-inspected seeds, Volusia County Public Library helps ensure plants will be safe for our region and free from invasive species.

Get Started with free Seeds from Volusia County Public Library’s Seed Library Now!

Spring arrives early in Florida, making this an ideal time to start planting. Warm temperatures, longer days, and fertile growing conditions make late winter and early spring prime months for herbs, fruits, vegetables, and flowering plants. Seasonal seeds are free for use at home at select branches (while supplies last). Some locations also offer plant clinics, gardening presentations, as well as rotating displays on hydroponics, garden upcycling, and food scrap gardens.



A Seed Library is currently available at Ormond Beach Regional Library, Daytona Beach Regional Library, New Smyrna Beach Regional Library, DeLand Regional Library, Deltona Regional Library, DeBary Public Library, Pierson Public Library, and Lake Helen Public Library. Volusia County Public Library recognizes and appreciates the local support and sponsorship from various Friends of the Library organizations, garden clubs, non-profit organizations, and small businesses for its Seed Library program.

For more information, visit [Seed Library | Volusia County Public Library](https://www.vcpd.org/seed-library).

Celebrate Kindness This February at Volusia County Public Library

This February, Volusia County Public Library is celebrating National Kindness Month with a series of special “Be My Neighbor – Kindness” Storytimes at library branches across the county. Through stories, activities, and playful discovery, these programs support early literacy while encouraging kindness, cooperation, and community awareness for young children and their families.

Be My Neighbor – Kindness Storytime Schedule

John H. Dickerson Heritage Library, 411 S. Keech Street

- Monday, February 9 at 11 a.m., Pre-K Storytime

Ormond Beach Regional Library, 30 S. Beach Street

- Tuesday, February 10 at 10 a.m., Ready to Learn PreK Storytime

Port Orange Regional Library, 1005 City Center Circle

- Tuesday, February 10 at 10 a.m., Storytime in the Park

Lake Helen Public Library, 221 N. Euclid Avenue

- Tuesday, February 10 at 11 a.m., Toddler Time

Edgewater Public Library, 103 W. Indian River Boulevard

- Wednesday, February 11 at 10 a.m., Family Tales

Deltona Regional Library, 2150 Eustace Avenue

- Wednesday, February 11 at 10 a.m., Ready to Learn Pre-K Storytime

DeBary Public Library, 200 N. Charles R. Beall Boulevard

- Wednesday, February 11 at 10:15 a.m., Ready to Learn Pre-K Storytime

Daytona Beach Regional Library, 105 Jackie Robinson Parkway

- Wednesday, February 11 at 11 a.m., Toddler Time

DeLand Regional Library, 130 E. Howry Avenue

- Wednesday, February 11 at 11 a.m., La Hora del Cuento:
Bilingual Storytime

Hope Place Public Library, 1310 Wright Street

- Tuesday, February 17 at 10:30 a.m., Family Tales

Pierson Public Library, 116 W. 1st Avenue, Building 6

- Wednesday, February 18 at 11 a.m., Family Tales

New Smyrna Beach Regional Library, 1001 S. Dixie Freeway

- Thursday, February 19 at 5:30 p.m., Twilight Tales

These Storytimes are part of a broader, community-wide focus on kindness and being a good neighbor. As an extension of this effort, Volusia County Public Library staff have been invited to participate in WUCF’s annual Be My Neighbor Day Celebration in Orlando on February 21, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Loch Haven Park for this family-friendly event. Visit wucf.org/BMND for more information.

www.volusialibrary.org



Volusia County Public Library Branches

Daytona Beach Regional Library

105 Jackie Robinson Parkway
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 257-6036

Hope Place Public Library

1310 Wright St
Daytona Beach, FL 32117
(386) 258-4027

John H Dickerson Heritage Library

411 S Keech St
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 239-6478

Ormond Beach Regional Library

30 S Beach St
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
(386) 676-4191

Edgewater Public Library

103 W Indian River Blvd
Edgewater, FL 32132
(386) 424-2916

New Smyrna Beach Regional Library

1001 S Dixie Freeway
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
(386) 424-2910

Oak Hill Public Library

125 E Halifax Ave
Oak Hill, FL 32759
(386) 345-5510

Port Orange Regional Library

1005 City Center Circle
Port Orange, FL 32129
(386) 322-5152

DeBary Public Library

200 N Charles R Beall Blvd
DeBary, FL 32713
(386) 668-3835

DeLand Regional Library

130 E Howry Ave
DeLand, FL 32724
(386) 822-6430

Lake Helen Public Library

221 N Euclid Ave
Lake Helen, FL 32744
(386) 228-1152

Orange City Public Library

148 Albertus Way
Orange City, FL 32763
(386) 775-5270

Pierson Public Library

116 W 1st Ave., Building 6
Pierson, FL 32180
(386) 749-6930

Deltona Regional Library

2150 Eustace Ave
Deltona, FL 32725
(386) 789-7207
Osteen (407) 328-4912





Your Library. America's Story. 250 Years of History.

By Amy Cantley

As the nation approaches the semiquincentennial of the founding of the United States, Volusia County Public Library will participate in America250 programming throughout 2026. This national commemoration, supported locally through America250 Florida, invites communities to reflect on the country's history, culture, and shared civic journey through learning, storytelling, and access to information.

Volusia County Public Library will highlight the nation's diverse history through engaging programs and experiences, including historical reenactors; special Recipes and Reads Culinary Labs featuring presidents' favorite dishes; hands-on crafts; musical performances; and educational lectures—both in-person and online.

Library users can also take part in a special, yearlong adult reading challenge hosted via the Beanstack platform. Participants are encouraged to explore fiction, nonfiction, magazines, newspapers, and more in print, audio, or digital formats. The library offers a wide variety of resources to support readers, including in-branch collections, digital magazines and newspapers through PressReader, NewsBank, and Flipster, and ebooks and audiobooks via hoopla. The goal is to discover materials connected to each of the 50 states, offering a fun and educational way to enjoy the library's offerings anywhere. All resources are free to Volusia County residents with a library card. For more information about the library's physical collection, visit [CARL•Connect Discovery](#). For virtual collections, visit [Download | Volusia County Public Library](#).

Join Volusia County Public Library as we celebrate America's founding, deepen our understanding of U.S. history, and discover something new in 2026.

Stay up to date on all programs and events by checking the library's virtual calendar: <https://volusialibrary.libcal.com/>.

Port Orange Regional Library



VCPL

Library Support Center
1290 Indian Lake Road
Daytona Beach, FL 32124
www.volusialibrary.org