

VCPL

A VOLUSIA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PUBLICATION

Pierson Branch Opens Fall Reading Challenges How-To Festival

Interview with
KIM DOLCE
Librarian II

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WWW.VOLUSIALIBRARY.ORG

VCPL

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September 13, 11 am to 3 pm at all six regional library locations.

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Hello fellow readers,

As we transition from the busy buzz of summer programming to the focused energy of fall learning, I'm thrilled to share the remarkable story of how our Volusia County community embraced its public library this past season. From June through August, something truly special happened in our branches, online, and in our communities.

This summer proved that libraries remain at the heart of community life. Day after day, families streamed through our doors seeking cool refuge from the Florida heat, students found quiet corners for summer coursework, and neighbors discovered new adventures between the pages of books. Our branches became bustling community centers where over four thousand people chose to spend part of each day, representing a significant increase in visits compared to last year.

The energy was infectious. Parents brought toddlers to storytime, teenagers gathered for creative programs, adults attended programs, and entire families participated in activities. Our spaces buzzed with conversation, learning, and connection across all age groups.

Perhaps nothing exemplifies the magic of summer reading like watching thousands of community members—children, teens, and adults alike—commit to personal reading goals. This year's summer reading challenge attracted participants in numbers that exceeded our most optimistic projections. But the real victory wasn't in the sign-ups; it was in the follow-through. Participants collectively logged tens of thousands of books, creating a mountain of shared reading experiences that will influence conversations, perspectives, and dreams for months to come.

From picture books shared at bedtime to novels devoured by the pool or at the beach, from audiobooks accompanying long car rides to e-books downloaded for vacation reading, our community proved that the appetite for stories knows no bounds. Our summer programming reached unprecedented levels of participation. Early literacy programs welcomed the youngest learners and their caregivers, creating foundational experiences that will serve these children throughout their educational journeys. Meanwhile, school-age programming provided hundreds of engaging opportunities that kept minds active and children reading during the summer school break. Teen programming flourished as we offered creative outlets and skill-building workshops that resonated with young adults.

Libraries have always been more than buildings, and this summer we proved that point emphatically. Our outreach efforts brought library services directly to community members who might not otherwise access them. From nursing homes to community centers, from summer camps to neighborhood events, our staff and volunteers extended our reach far beyond our physical locations.

While in-person visits soared, digital engagement told an equally impressive story. E-book and audiobook downloads reached remarkable heights. Whether commuting to work, exercising at the gym, or traveling for vacation, residents found ways to maintain their reading habits and access library resources around the clock.

This digital engagement represents more than convenience—it represents equity. For community members with limited transportation, busy work schedules, or mobility challenges, digital resources ensure that library benefits remain accessible regardless of circumstances.



Lucinda Colee
Library Services
Director

Your library's summer success story is really your community's success story. It's proof that when we invest in learning, literacy, and community connection, remarkable things happen. It demonstrates that libraries remain essential gathering places.

As students return to school and families settle into new routines, your library stands ready to support every educational journey, every creative project, and every moment when community members need a welcoming place to grow and learn.

Thank you for making this summer extraordinary. Your participation, enthusiasm, and support turned statistics into stories and transformed our library into the vibrant community hub it is meant to be.

Here's to carrying this summer's spirit of learning and connection into an equally remarkable fall season.

SUMMER at the LIBRARY

By the numbers



608,820

total checkouts

In a Branch 375,081

E-Content 233,739

3,267

people signed up for the summer reading challenge

1,869

kids

592

teens

806

adults

77,611 - Books logged in Reading Challenge

278,082

library visits

From June 2 to August 8 the library system averaged 4,150 visitors each day! 8.7% increase over 2024

The library offers many outreach services to our community. We offered **104 programs** to **12,367 people** this summer.

Programs

608

programs

15,424
attendees

EARLY LITERACY

803

programs

18,852
attendees

KIDS

366

programs

2,230
attendees

TEENS

472

programs

5,142
attendees

ADULTS

629

programs

9,453
attendees

ALL AGES

Did you know?



Volusia County Public Library

Visit us online!
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



New Library Location Opens in Pierson

Five Times the Space, Endless New Possibilities

Get ready to be amazed! We've transformed from a cozy 800-square-foot space into a 4,000-square-foot community hub that will revolutionize your library experience. Our team has renovated what was once the old Pierson Elementary School Media Center, creating a modern, welcoming space designed specifically for the Pierson community's needs.

What's New and Exciting?

Expanded Collections – More books, resources, and materials for readers of all ages

Dynamic Programming – Exciting events and activities for children, teens, and adults coming soon

Community Meeting Rooms – Perfect spaces for local groups or study sessions

Room to Grow – Space that allows us to better serve you and expand our offerings

Coming Soon: Playground Paradise!

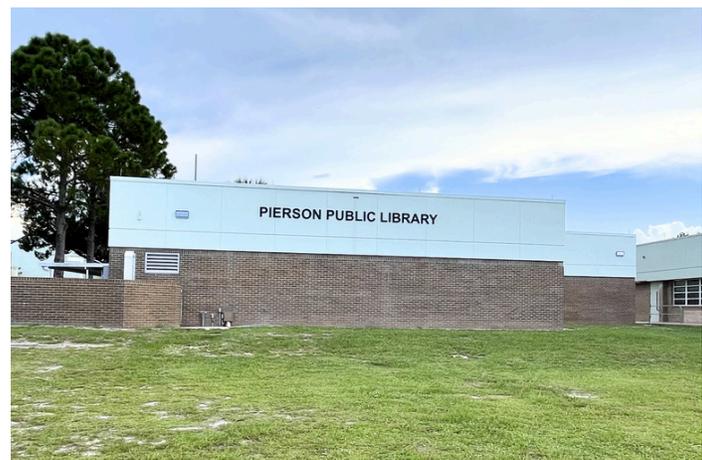
We're not stopping there! Thanks to funding from the Library Division and an ECHO grant, we're planning an amazing outdoor play yard complete with playground equipment. Your children will have even more reasons to love coming to the library!

Visit Us Today! 116 W. 1st Ave., Building 6, Pierson, FL 321280

Current Hours:

- Monday - Thursday: 10 AM - 6 PM
- Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
- **Saturday hours coming soon!**

This incredible expansion represents our continued commitment to serving Pierson through our ongoing partnership with the town. Come explore your new library – we can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new chapter!



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.

Volusia County Public Library Reading Challenges: Supporting Young Readers Every Step of the Way

Volusia County Public Library is committed to helping families grow strong, confident readers from the very beginning. With three reading challenges, children can build skills, celebrate progress, and develop a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.



🌱 **1000 Books Before Kindergarten™ (Birth–Age 6)** -This much-loved program encourages families to read aloud together, helping children build early literacy skills long before their first day of school. Every book counts – including repeat favorites and bedtime classics!



🌱 **Growing Readers Reading Challenge (Grades K–2)** - Launched in June, this challenge is already helping over 400 children strengthen their reading skills. Designed for children in grades K-2, this challenge supports sight word recognition, fluency, and comprehension through reading, writing, singing, talking, and playing.



🌱 **Raising Readers Reading Challenge (Grades 3–5)** - Launching on September 15, this challenge helps children transition from learning to read to reading to learn. By the end of grade 3, reading proficiency becomes one of the strongest predictors of long-term success. That’s why this program is designed to encourage consistent reading practice through short, engaging articles that expand vocabulary, spark curiosity, and strengthen comprehension.

🌟 **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.

👉 Register online at volusialibrary.beanstack.org or stop by your local branch to get started!

American Heart Association provides community blood pressure kits, monitors to Volusia County Public Library



Library users who visit Volusia County Public Library can borrow kits to monitor their blood pressure at home in the same way they can check out a book. Volusia County Public Library is home to the American Heart Association's first "Libraries with Heart Initiative" program in Volusia County.

Each kit includes a blood pressure monitor, American Heart Association guided materials on how to properly measure blood pressure at home, and an explanation of what those blood pressure numbers mean. The Libraries with Heart Initiative program will begin in September 2025.

ChiltonLibrary® is Volusia County Public Library's new go-to digital resource for automotive enthusiasts



ChiltonLibrary® is Volusia County Public Library's new go-to digital resource for accurate, up-to-date vehicle maintenance, repair, and service information that has been trusted by automotive professionals and enthusiasts for over 100 years.

Whether you're a DIYer or seasoned technician, ChiltonLibrary® offers 24/7 access to a powerful suite of tools and content:

- Information on most cars, trucks, vans, and SUVs from 1940 to current models
- Factory-tested service procedures and OEM-sourced repair data
- VIN Decoder for quick, accurate vehicle identification
- Step-by-step service and repair manuals
- Wiring diagrams, vacuum schematics, and system diagnostics
- Manufacturer-recommended maintenance schedules
- Warranty data and the Chilton Labor Estimating Tool to calculate real-world labor times

For automotive students, ChiltonLibrary® also provides ASE test prep quizzes and Delmar ASE Sample Tests to assess exam readiness, which makes it ideal for career and technical education programs.

Since 2022, the new user-friendly, mobile-ready (cloud-based) platform allows anywhere, anytime access while in the garage or on the go.





Top Entertainment Comes to Volusia County Public Library

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



Taylor Road Band

Come check out The Taylor Road Band for a music-filled afternoon! The Taylor Road Band will perform a mix of favorites. Genres include pop, oldies, dance, and more, performed by this local band! This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Daytona Beach Regional Library.

Date: Saturday, September 20

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Location:

Daytona Beach Regional Library Auditorium



Scan to view events calendars for all branches



Jiller Music

Celebrate music from the Divas of the 20th Century! Featuring music from Linda Ronstadt, Barbra Streisand, Whitney Houston, Carole King, Ella Fitzgerald, Natalie Cole and more!

Sponsored by Friends of Deltona Library.

Date: Sunday, September 21

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location:

Deltona Regional Library Scrub Jay Auditorium



Dave DeLuca

New Smyrna Beach Regional Library is thrilled to announce an electrifying music performance featuring tribute artist Dave DeLuca. Join us for an afternoon of nostalgia and entertainment that promises to be an unforgettable experience. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the New Smyrna Beach Library.

Date: Tuesday, September 23

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location:

New Smyrna Beach Regional Library Auditorium



The Sound: A Swing Band

Enjoy an afternoon of foot tapping fun with The Sound, a swing band with vocalist. The performance includes songs from the Big Band Era to contemporary music. This program is made possible by the Friends of the Daytona Beach Regional Library.

Date: Saturday, October 18

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location:

Daytona Beach Regional Library Auditorium



John Denver Tribute

Country roads may take you home, but Carl Bennett will take you back in time with his tribute to John Denver. Mr. Bennett, along with this old guitar, will entertain guests with his acoustic folk homage to the late, great John Denver. This music event is made possible by Friends of the New Smyrna Beach Library.

Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location:

New Smyrna Beach Regional Library Auditorium



Acuity

Business Pass

Upcoming In-person Seminar



Story Branding: How to Market Your Product Like a Pro-

Scheduled for 10/3/25 at Port Orange Regional Library at 10:00 am.

Description: Participants will learn how to create a compelling brand story that resonates with customers. This course covers message development, effective copywriting for websites and promotional materials, and building a strong, consistent brand voice. Ideal for businesses at all stages.

Free parking. To register, visit <https://acuity-business-seminar-october-2025.eventbrite.com>

We can help

- Enjoy enterprise-level data without the cost barrier.
- Unlock valuable insights without the hefty price tag.
- Access digital content from a wide range of business subject matter experts.

Here's how it works: Get your Acuity Business Pass card at the nearest Volusia County Public Library branch, familiarize yourself with Acuity and then, from the comfort of your office or home, tap into all the research and data solutions available.

Visit www.volusialibrary.org for more information.



Get Your Library Card Today!

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

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

VISIT US ONLINE
www.volusialibrary.org



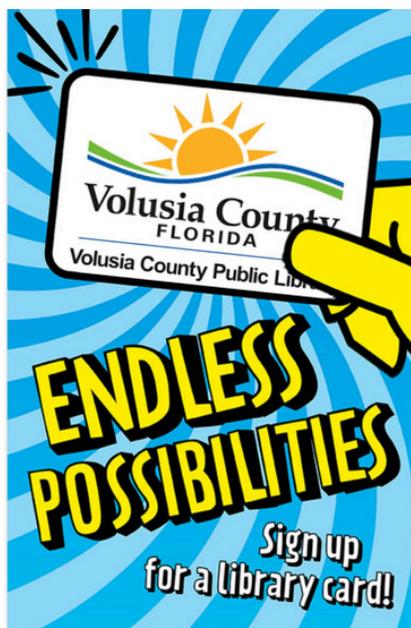
Available at **YOUR** library!

Baking Pans	Blood Pressure Machines	Hot Spot Wi-Fi Device
Free check out with your library card!		

Available for kids at **YOUR** library!

	<p>Lit Kits to Go are customizable take-home kits for children in grades 5 and under.</p>	
Free check out with your library card!		

14 branch locations - 24/7 website resources



September is Library Sign-up Month

One Card, Endless Possibilities: Celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month

This September, Volusia County Public Library invites you to celebrate National Library Card Sign-Up Month and discover how a single card can open the door to endless opportunities.

This year's theme, "One Card, Endless Possibilities," is a reminder that libraries are for everyone in the community—no matter your age, background, or goals. Whether you're diving into a new hobby, searching for your next great read, looking for a job, starting up a new business, brushing up on tech skills, or helping your child succeed in school, it all starts with a library card.

Getting a library card is free, easy, and impactful. For students, it's a key to academic success. For adults, it's a gateway to lifelong learning, local resources, personal growth, and economic success. For everyone, it's a powerful way to stay connected to your community and to the world.

At Volusia County Public Library, you can visit any of our fourteen (14) branches and use your library card to checkout more traditional library items such as books, movies, magazines, and audiobooks. But did you know that you can also use it to check out unique items such as baking pans, hotspots, learning tablets for children and teens, immersive reality books, and more?

You can also take Volusia County Public Library with you on the go as we are accessible 24/7 online at <http://volusialibrary.org>. Use your library card number online for free access to the library's eBook and eAudio collections, virtual magazine and newspaper collections, streaming media collections, and to an array of medical, legal, business, genealogy, research, and educational databases.

Stop by any Volusia County Public Library to sign up for your card today, because with a library card, the possibilities are truly endless.

Don't forget to get your child, their very own, My First Library Card!



Celebrating our Amazing Friends: A Heartfelt Thank You

National Friends of the Library Week, October 19-25, 2025

As we celebrate National Friends of the Library Week, Volusia County Public Library takes this special opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to the ten Friends of the Library groups that help make our mission possible every day.

Champions of our Community

Across our branches—from Daytona Beach to Deltona, New Smyrna Beach to Lake Helen, Port Orange to DeLand, and through Edgewater, Oak Hill, Ormond Beach, and the John H. Dickerson Heritage Library—our Friends groups show that libraries are the heart of our communities. These passionate volunteers don't just support our libraries; they help transform them into vibrant centers of learning, discovery, and connection.

Making a Difference in Three Essential Ways

Funding That Fuels Dreams- Through book sales and generous donations, our Friends groups have provided funding for programs, materials, and services. From children's storytimes to adult music programs, from summer library program performers to arts and craft supplies, from helping to purchase large print titles to e-books and e-audio books, their financial support turns possibilities into realities.

Volunteers Who Give Heart and Soul- Whether they're sorting and shelving books in the bookstore or book sale area, or organizing a book sale or plant sale, our Friends volunteers contribute thousands of hours annually. Their dedication creates a welcoming atmosphere that makes our libraries feel like home to so many community members.

Advocates Who Raise Their Voices- When libraries need champions, our Friends groups step forward. They help community members understand the vital role libraries play in education, economic development, and quality of life throughout Volusia County.

A Network of Support

Our ten Friends groups—each unique in personality but united in purpose—form an incredible network of support that spans our entire county. Together, they represent hundreds of dedicated individuals who believe in the power of libraries to change lives, strengthen communities, and preserve knowledge for future generations.

Looking Forward Together

As we celebrate this special week, we're reminded that the partnership between Volusia County Public Libraries and our Friends groups represents something special: a community that values learning, supports literacy, and invests in the future. Your contributions don't just support our libraries today—they create a legacy of knowledge and opportunity that will benefit generations to come.

Our Sincere Appreciation

To every member of our ten Friends of the Library groups, from long-time volunteers to newest supporters, please know that your contributions make a profound difference. You help us provide excellent service, expand our reach, and fulfill our mission of creating opportunities for personal growth, improving quality of life, and strengthening the community.

During National Friends of the Library Week and throughout the year, we celebrate you—our friends, our partners, and our champions. Thank you for believing in the power of libraries and for making Volusia County a better place to live, learn, and grow.

For more information about Friends of the Library groups or how you can get involved, visit a Volusia County Public Library branch near you.

We  the Friends
of the Library.

NATIONAL Friends OF Libraries WEEK
OCTOBER 19-25, 2025 AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES



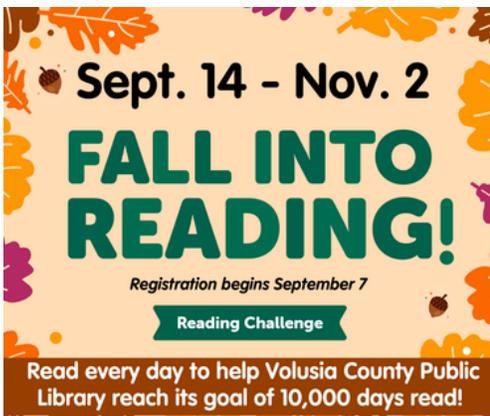
TeenTober™ is Coming This October!

Teens, it's your time to shine! This October, Volusia County Public Library is celebrating TeenTober™—a nationwide event that celebrates all the ways teens learn, grow, and create @ the library.

Throughout the month, the library will be hosting a variety of fun and free events designed just for teens in grades 6-12. Whether you're into books, tech, art, gaming, or just hanging out with friends, there's something for everyone! And, starting October 1, teens can also pick up a take-home BINGO card from any Volusia County Public Library branch to complete and return (by November 10) for small prizes.

TeenTober™ is all about the library highlighting what makes our teens so amazing! It's a chance to try something new, meet people, and make the library your own. Visit our website at [LibCal - Volusia County Public Library](#), for our full TeenTober™ line-up. Bring a friend, bring your ideas, and bring your energy—this October is for YOU.

Volusia County Public Library Offers Fall Reading Challenge



Beginning on Sunday, September 14, all Volusia County Public Library cardholders are invited to participate in the library's online Fall into Reading! reading challenge. The library's fall reading goal is a cumulative 10,000 days read, and all local readers are encouraged to join this challenge. The fall reading challenge runs through November 2.

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

Registration began Sunday, September 7, and can be accomplished online by visiting <https://volusialibrary.org> or by visiting one of Volusia County Public Library's fourteen branches.

Readers can join and participate in the challenge any time between September 14 and November 2. Registered readers can also stop by any Volusia County Public Library branch to claim a small incentive during the challenge.

For more information, visit the library's website at <https://volusialibrary.org>.

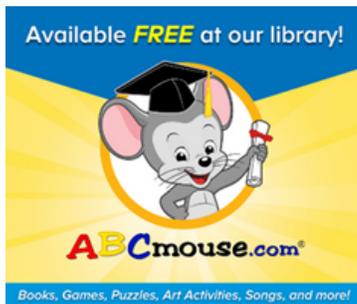


Check out a few of the digital resources available from Volusia County Public Library

“Over 25,000 courses, 10,000 movies, 55,000 audiobooks, and thousands of books and magazines.”



Scan the QR code for the database link to our website.



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

Kim Dolce

LIBRARIAN II • Library Services



Kim Dolce is a Librarian II with Volusia County Public Library. She has been with the library for 45 years and is retiring in November 2025.

VCPL: When did you start with Volusia County Public Library?

Kim: I started in October of 1980.

VCPL: And what did you do at that time?

Kim: I was a children's librarian until I transferred to Daytona Beach Regional Library, so I was working in "old" Deltona's children's and circulation sections. It was a small branch at the time. So, we all did a little bit of everything.

VCPL: How long were you at the former branch in Deltona?

Kim: I was at the Deltona location for about a year and a half. I had a chance to come to Daytona Beach Regional Library to work in the Children's area. That was in 1982.

I was in Daytona Beach from 1982 to 1984 in the children's and circulation areas and I learned a lot from doing that. It was a good move for me because other people had been doing it and knew some of the tricks and everything. So that worked out well. And then I had a chance to transfer to Port Orange Regional Library when we opened the branch from scratch in June 1984 and I was there until March 2011.

VCPL: You stayed there a very long time.

Kim: Yes, 27 years.

VCPL: Why did you leave Port Orange Regional Library?

Kim: They [Daytona Beach Regional Library] needed someone to help with the genealogy collection due to my predecessor's retirement.

VCPL: Is Daytona Beach Regional Library the only Volusia County Public Library location that offers a genealogy section?

Kim: No. DeLand Regional Library has a genealogy section and New Smyrna Beach Regional Library has a small collection but neither have a dedicated genealogy librarian.

VCPL: Genealogy seems to be your passion.



Kim: Well, children's work too. I really enjoy serving children, but genealogy is something I've done on my own since before I even came to Daytona Beach. I do like that.

VCPL: Quite a few genealogy requests come in through the website.

Kim: Library users will submit a request, and instead of saying, "Can you order this book for me?"; they'll put in a request for information about a family that used to live there. I research to see anything was in the newspaper. I'll see what I can track down. Now that the newspapers are digitized, it's much easier than it used to be.

VCPL: What did you have to do in the past?

Kim: Well, we still have the newspapers on microfilm, but, in the beginning, it was mostly obituaries that I was researching. Now it seems to have branched out. But if they wanted an obituary, they would have to give me a narrow timeframe of when this person died. They couldn't just say they died in 1940. Or they died in May of 1945 because we used to have two papers a day, and there wasn't enough time in the day to look through 60 papers - one page at a time on microfilm to try to find it. If people didn't have the death date, they could send for a FL death certificate for \$5. If they
(continued on page 17.)

(continued from page 16)

could get me the date of death, then I could look and see if it was in the newspaper. Back then, a lot of them were, because they were less expensive than today.

VCPL: When someone requests information, do you ever talk to them directly?

Kim: Sometimes I do, depending on whether they're local. Often, they might call the library. If they're local, usually I talk to them. If they're not local, usually it's via email. Now that the newspapers are digitized, I can do a keyword search and I can come up with the obituary or funeral notice quickly and email the details.

VCPL: Even the pictures of a headstone?

Kim: Yes, I can do that using a site called Find a Grave.

VCPL: Do you use Ancestry and Heritage Quest?

Kim: Heritage Quest is run by Ancestry now. Library users can use the library edition of Ancestry in the library, but not at home. Regardless of the resource, if you make your request too exact, sometimes little to nothing shows up. The broader the search term, the better.

VCPL: I guess it just depends, right?

Kim: Yes. If you're born after 1950, you're not going to be in the census until 1960. And that doesn't come out until 2032. There's a 72-year privacy law. The 1950 census came out in 2022 for public viewing.

VCPL: Who uses that information until then? Just the government?

Kim: Yes, the government can use it, and they'll publish statistics. According to the 2020 census, 95% of all households had internet or something like that. You'll see statistics, but you won't see personal information about who lived with you and what your salary was, or any other personal information. The next one will be the 1960 census, and that'll come out in 2032.

VCPL: Your primary go-to resource is Ancestry, then?

Kim: I use Ancestry a lot, yes. If someone wants to track their family, I usually start with the census and find them in 10-year increments. The federal census was taken every 10 years (with years ending in zero, starting in 1790). I start with the most recent, to see if they were around in 1950. Then, let's see who was there in 1940 and 30 and go back from there. Then you can take a person and fill in the blanks with death records or marriage records. When did this person get married, etc. That's what I tend to do - to get a little snapshot of who was where and when. Then I can fill in the blanks on particular people once I've got an idea of who they were. It's a lot of detective work...

VCPL: Do you like the research aspect the most?

Kim: Yes, it's interesting. I've always liked research.

VCPL: You mentioned that you really enjoyed children's work as well. What did you like about that?

Kim: I started in Children's Services. I liked interacting with kids, and I enjoyed reading stories to them and having them get excited about books at a young age. They enjoyed reading, and they would come to storytime on a regular basis. We would fill in with music to keep their attention. I was hosting storytime for 18-month-olds to three-year-olds most of the time, so they were just little bitty ones, but they looked forward to coming. The library became something that they always knew, which was nice.

VCPL: Storytime is more interactive these days.

Kim: It helps keep their attention. Then, when they get older and they come in to look for things for school, you can help them again on a different level. Kids seem to have an easier time once they get to school - if they've been using the library all the time.

VCPL: What changes have you seen over your 45-year career with the library?

Kim: I've seen a lot of changes over the years, of course. When I started, we used a card catalog. Now we use a computer catalog. We had books and 33 1/3 long-playing records to borrow. Then, we added cassette tapes, and that was like we were really moving up in the world. When people visit now, they're really amazed at everything we *(continued on page 18)*

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offer. And I've had people say to me, "I'm not really a reader." I always ask, "Do you like movies because we have DVDs. Do you like music? Would you like to download a book and maybe read it on a Kindle or listen to it? Do you want to learn how to do something, or do you want to do crafts or learn about your family?" There are a lot of things that we offer beyond borrowing a book and going home.

VCPL: I don't have much time to pleasure read, but I love to listen to audiobooks while traveling.

Kim: I listen to a lot of audiobooks too, because I also drive a long way to get to the Daytona branch from home. Even when I'm off and I'm out doing something else, I can listen to an audiobook - in a lot less time than it would take me to actually read it. Sometimes, by the time I come home, I'm tired. By the time I feed the cat (because nothing happens until I feed the cat), I'm tired and I don't really want to concentrate on a book. So, I listen to it. I like audiobooks and I've been listening to them from the library for many years. First on cassette, and then on CD, and now I download books from Hoopla when I can. And it's free, which is great!

VCPL: I've downloaded quite a few books from Hoopla as well.

Kim: Digital is so much easier because you don't have to carry CDs or cassettes. The books are on your device. You don't have to change a CD while you're driving. If people prefer to read, they can download eBooks to their phone, tablet, or computer. I stick with the audio because of all the driving I do.

VCPL: Audiobooks aren't reading like you traditionally think of reading.

Kim: But you're listening. You're taking in, it's still a book, right? You're taking in that knowledge. And I listen to nonfiction on a topic that I'm interested in. I can listen to biographies or historical documentaries, but not so much genealogy, although I listen to some genealogy podcasts on the phone when I'm driving. Even as a kid, I gravitated towards nonfiction. So, if it's anything that looks interesting and I can find it on audio, I'll listen to it.

VCPL: Some people are very committed to reading for pleasure, and that's great. I'm just not that type of reader.

Kim: We're not all the same. That's why we have all these different options. That's why we have all these different kinds of books, because not everybody likes the same type of book, right? Some people like history, some people don't, right? Some people like fiction, some people like biographies. There's a selection for everyone.

VCPL: When you're not serving someone doing genealogy, what other things are you doing besides that?

Kim: I work at the adult service desk, and I host or support programming by finding local speakers, or I teach classes myself.

VCPL: Have you seen any trends?

Kim: Amish fiction is very popular. Some people are very

time-period specific. There are people who like a certain author, so they'll just read books by that author. Or they like books on a certain topic or subject.

VCPL: You mentioned listening to podcasts?

Kim: Genealogy podcasts. In the car.

VCPL: Do you listen to other podcasts? Or pretty much just genealogy?

Kim: Sometimes I'll listen to true crime podcasts just to mix it up a little, but usually, genealogy. There are a bunch of different people who do them, so I get a little bit of content from different people, and that helps me to know what's available. They'll mention new things available online, or a tip for doing something a certain way. I pick up a little bit here and there. And that helps me when I'm working with people because everyone's a little different. I had a case long ago, that I thought would take me 10 minutes to find the answer to her question - instead - it took me over six months.

The case was for a woman who came in, and she said her father was born in 1918, in Natchez, Mississippi, but his parents died young, and he grew up in a Catholic boys' orphanage in Natchez. They taught him a trade. He had good things to say about the orphanage, but would never talk about his parents, who he

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knew to a certain extent until they passed away young. She didn't even know their names. She just wanted to know the names of her grandparents. I thought, "...surely, they were still alive in 1920 when the census came out. I'll just look on the census and find them, and I'll say, here they are, and she'll be on her way." Well, I couldn't find them. So that started the trail of contacting people and getting messages stating, "I don't know." After a long time, I found out the records had been moved to the Catholic Archives in Jackson, Mississippi, because they had gone to a central location. This was after a few months. I told her if she wanted to spend money (I think it was \$25), we could get the birth certificates. We tried to get a birth certificate for her father, but without the mother's name (which she didn't know), we couldn't get one. Next, we tried the Social Security office. We tried that because you're supposed to list your mother's name and your father's name. But her father had put the mother's name as "Sadie - dead." And then on the father's line, he put "James - dead." No last names!

So finally, we sent off for this record from the orphanage, and it had a different last name. He changed his name as an adult. So, I could find military records for him. I found all this other stuff for him as an adult - but nothing from beforehand in the orphanage. What he did was change his name...he ended up dropping his last name and picking another middle name... and so he went by a name different than what he grew up with. But she (the daughter)

never knew that, right? She said, "I've never heard that name anywhere! She didn't have any cousins. No aunts and uncles. She didn't know any other relatives (other than her parents) and her mother didn't know either. Once I had the original first name, I went back to the Mississippi death records and found the names listed under the original last name. She sent for the certificates in Mississippi. We got them both, and it listed the spouse, so we knew we had the right people. The parents were migrants. They were fishing on the Mississippi River for a living. The mother died in childbirth, and the father passed away, less than a year or so after that. He was a lot older than the mother. This case took me a lot of digging for a long time, but I tracked down the information for the daughter!

VCPL: What are your plans for retirement?

Kim: I would like to do some volunteering and maybe just help people - and work on my own genealogy, which I haven't done for a while. I'm going to do some volunteer work at the Historical Society down the road after I leave. That'll be fun.

(END OF INTERVIEW)



NOTE: Kim was the coordinator of the NEFLIN (Northeast Florida Information Network) genealogy group for two years and studied ASL (American Sign Language) in college - which she uses to serve the hearing impaired when they visit the library.



Saturday, September 13
11am-3pm
Free for All Ages

Learn How To:

- Propagate plants
- Research your family tree
- Give a speech
- Make stuffed french toast
- Crochet a mug rug
- Be a savvy traveler
- Read QR codes
- Decide if a smart home is right for you
- Read to a therapy dog
- Weave a bookmark
- Sew a drawstring bag
- Make a button
- Learn a new language
- Use a 3-D printer
- Get a library card

The How-To Festival for 2025 will be held on Saturday, September 13, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and held at the six regional library locations. Local experts, hobbyists and professionals will share their passions and provide interactive instructional assistance to residents at the upcoming How-to Festival. More than 50 free programs.

(Programs listed above are available at the DeLand Regional Library)

Participating branch locations:

- Daytona Beach Regional Library, 105 Jackie Robinson Parkway
- DeLand Regional Library, 130 E. Howry Ave.
- Deltona Regional Library, 2150 Eustace Ave.
- New Smyrna Beach Regional Library, 1001 S. Dixie Freeway
- Ormond Beach Regional Library, 30 S. Beach St.
- Port Orange Regional Library, 1005 City Center Circle

All festival events are free to attend, and pre-registration is not required.

For more information on each session, visit [LibCal - Volusia County Public Library](#).



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





VCPL

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Daytona Beach, FL 32124
www.volusialibrary.org