



BREVARD County
Library Services

Public Information Release

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Learn Brevard County Libraries' Features

BREVARD COUNTY, Fla. -- In addition to books, public computers, wi-fi, videos, recorded books, magazines, music CDs and friendly, professional staff, each of Brevard County's 17 libraries features something special.

1. Certified genealogist at Central Brevard Library and Research Center
Michael Boonstra is certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. At the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center, he provides expert advice and assistance to experienced and beginning genealogists. Whether a genealogist has "hit a wall" or could use a new avenue to research, Michael can help them find the right path.

2. Indian River view at Eau Gallie Public Library
Patrons can bring their laptops, connect to the wi-fi, and sit by the window overlooking the Indian River Lagoon.

3. Exciting programs at Cocoa Beach Public Library
The Cocoa Beach Public Library offers the most programs, and one example of programs for adults is author talks. Bestselling authors Randy Wayne White, Tim Dorsey, Daniel Silva, James Grippando, and W.E.B. Griffin have visited in the past year -- and Stuart Woods is scheduled for September 25. Last year, the library offered 457 adult programs with 10,340 attendees, and 177 youth programs with 5,282 attendees.

4. Picasso at Melbourne Beach Public Library
This small treasure is an original Picasso donated by Mr. and Mrs. DeNike in 2002.

5. Space exploration at Merritt Island Public Library.

The Merritt Island Public Library has a great collection of space books and a number of space-themed displays, including a large photo mural of astronauts on the moon. They are adding a display of 19 poster-sized technical drawings of the Apollo spacecraft and Saturn launch vehicles, and soon will open a permanent lobby exhibit on Merritt Island's space heritage.

6. Large print at South Mainland Library

The South Mainland Library offers the second-largest collection of large-print books in the county system, with nearly 6000 large-print books available. This means more than 10% of the circulating books at South Mainland are large print.

7. Brilliant performances at DeGroot Library

The Franklin T. DeGroot Memorial Library has hosted professional portrayals of Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, Zora Neale Hurston and Golda Meir – provided with grants and support from the Friends of the Libraries of Palm Bay and Brevard Library Foundation. The next brilliant performance on September 12 at 2 pm will be storyteller and reenactor Mary Fears, who portrays African-American characters from the Civil War.

8. Grand piano for recitals at Titusville Library

Jacob Hannemann's Mason & Hamlin grand piano was donated to the Titusville Library in his memory in the late 1970's. The ivory is tickled every year by children and adults at their recitals. Eight recitals were held at the Titusville Public Library last year.

9. The Saddle that tamed the West at West Melbourne Public Library

On display at the West Melbourne Public Library is a saddle owned and used by Frank "Judge" Platt. He and his family owned most of what is now West Melbourne and a good part of Palm Bay. His daughter donated the saddle to the library since the library is on original Platt property. She recalls riding horses with her father in the 50s through the field where the library is now to check on their cattle. The Velcro on the saddle helped Judge stay upright during his later years. Along with the saddle are his bridle, bull whip (cracker whip,) and hat on display. A picture of Judge on his favorite horse using this saddle is framed, along with a thank-you note from the principal of the Meadowlane School, for making the school possible. Three other plaques show his life-long dedication to the area.

10. Magazine exchange at Suntree Viera Library

At the Suntree/Viera Public Library magazine exchange table, patrons can bring in magazines they have finished reading and take any magazine they want.

11. Turkey Creek Trail at Palm Bay Public Library

Next to the Palm Bay Library is the Turkey Creek Sanctuary with a great boardwalk through the woods. There are manatees, alligators and Florida cooters (turtles) in the creek, as well as otters and gar fish. Birds abound in the old pine canopy, including ospreys and owls.

12. Ms. Twila's Story Time at Port St. John Library

Children who attend 10:30 Friday Story Time at Port St. John Public Library bring something to share that represents the theme of the week. Ms. Twila's interactive story time for infants to 5 year olds includes finger plays to tune fine motor skills, reading aloud of books, a flannel board, a circle time of music and movement to tune gross motor skills and coloring or a simple craft. All activities are centered on a theme.

Older children enjoy STIR, a "story time for independent readers" at 3:30 pm on Wednesdays. Ms. Twila reads books aloud on a subject that the children help choose. A themed craft and a game like 4-corners or hot potato follows. At the end of the program, a name is drawn to receive a small prize. Children participate by sharing a poem or story created at home. Pre-registration is required and attendance is mandatory, as space is limited.

13. Many, many mysteries at Melbourne Library

Hardboiled or cozy, whodunits or police procedural, the Melbourne Public Library has all types of mysteries -- 7000 in all -- for all ages and tastes.

14. History comes alive at Mims Scottsmoor Library

Mims Scottsmoor Public Library offers historical programs year-round. In 2010, programs included the Titanic, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, and pre-historic Florida burial mounds. Critters, Cows and Cowboys, a photographic exploration into the wildlife and work of a Florida cattle ranch by Bob Montanaro will be held Thursday, August 19, at 6:30pm.

15. Crafty books at Cape Canaveral Public Library

For quilters who need a creative jolt, the Cape Canaveral Public Library has 15 feet of quilting books. Patrons can browse through them to find just the right design.

16. Stuff for teens at Satellite Beach Library

Teens hang out at the Satellite Beach Public Library. The Teen Advisory Group works with staff to develop teen events including summer reading contests, Teen Read Week, teen anime day, book discussion club, & crafts programs. Teens volunteer their time, running the summer reading rewards store for the younger kids, assisting the Friends of the Library with book sales and the annual garage sale. Teens put ideas for new items in a suggestion box and assist staff in researching new trends.

17. Street Lit at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

The latest African-American themed fiction, from Alice Walker to Sister Souljah, is in the collection at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

For more information about the Brevard County Library nearest you, visit www.mylibraryworld.com.

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