



Florida Public Library

NEWSLETTER

Madelyn Folino, Director

Florida Public Library • <http://www.rcls.org/fpl/>

4 Cohen Circle • Florida, New York 10921 • 845-651-7689

Home, At Last!

The library is open! At 10 a.m. on October 2, your hometown library opened for business in its first, real permanent home at 4 Cohen Circle.

The quest for a new library building was long and, at times, difficult. For many years, the library served the community in the cramped confines of a 60' by 15' office trailer. Many of our dreams for programs and new materials had to be deferred for lack of space.

Now, all things seem possible as we look around at our beautiful space, our new shelving and especially, the Leona Harter Children's Room – a separate and enclosed area, dedicated for children's programs and materials. The Children's Room is a colorful and welcoming place, filled with books, toys and one, soon to be two, computer workstations. On the walls, we are displaying bright artwork by the children of Golden Hill Elementary School.

Our new home has other features of which we're proud: a reference area for quiet study; a wall devoted to local history with cabinet space for changing exhibits; two computers for public use and room for more; a merged non-fiction collection which brings together juvenile, young adult and adult books with the same Dewey number; two bathrooms for the public; a conveniently located outside book return; a community bulletin board and a free telephone for patron use for those very important calls to say "Hi! I'm at the library. Can you pick me up?"

The library is fully accessible to the handicapped with a side entrance equipped with an automatic door that operates with the touch of a finger, making a visit to the library an easy outing for patrons with wheelchairs or strollers. Weather may delay the completion of the parking lot, but as always, there's lots of space available.

Arriving in our new home was the result of a superior collaboration between the Library and Village of Florida's boards of trustees, local businesses and individuals who contributed money, materials and time, our legislators who

Continued on page 2

GRAND OPENING

You're Invited!

Saturday,
October 21,
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tours,
Refreshments,
Entertainment

Sing Along
with
Bill Frye
at
1:30 p.m.

secured state funds, our staff and consultants from Ramapo Catskill Library System who researched and advised on building plans, and you – our local library lovers and taxpayers who kept reminding us through your enthusiastic attendance at our programs, your eagerness for more books and new technology, and your financial support, that Florida wanted a home for its library.

Thanks to everyone for your persistent and successful efforts. Please join us for our Grand Opening . . . we'll be at home.

Library Wins Grant

"If u cn rd ths u cn gt a gd jb" – so said an old ad for learning shorthand and it's true to this day that literacy is the best key to economic, social and intellectual growth.

The ability to read a newspaper, a book, road signs, a job application, a ballot in the voting booth, or to help your child with homework are skills that many citizens take for granted, but for some friends and neighbors, the words on this page are as difficult to decipher as that old ad.

A National Institute for Literacy survey estimated that 13% of the Town of Warwick's and 16% of Orange County's adult population has only rudimentary reading and writing skills. Our area has also seen an influx of new residents, moving from the metropolitan counties of New York which all have significantly higher rates of illiteracy.

These statistics, along with our outreach to seasonal and settled farmworkers, many of whom speak little or no English, plus our conversations with local literacy tutors about local needs, convinced us to promote literacy, not only in Florida, but in our part of Orange County.

In May, the library applied to the State Education Department for the modest amount of \$5,000 to sponsor the training of volunteer tutors for adults who cannot read. We are very pleased to report that our grant proposal was successful and we have been awarded \$7,100 (more than we asked for!) to offer tutor training, and to establish a collection of easy reading materials for adults.

Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc. of Middletown will conduct a fall training program in Basic Reading and a spring program in English as a Second Language (ESL) here at the library. We envision our new building as a meeting place for tutors and adult students from Florida, Warwick, Greenwood Lake and beyond.

If you would like to train as a tutor and help your neighbors learn to read, please call today!

BE A VOLUNTEER – BE A FRIEND BE A TUTOR

FREE Training to be a Literacy Tutor

November 2, 9, 14, 16, 21, 28

All sessions at the library – 6 - 9 p.m.

Library Wins Award

The library is on a winning streak! Last year, the Ramapo Catskill Library System established two annual awards: Trustee of the Year and Program of the Year. That first trustee award for meritorious service in 1999 went to our board president, Rebecca Stage, for her tireless efforts to secure a new building.

We are just thrilled that Florida has been recognized again, this time with the 2000 Program of the Year Award for Comenzando con Libros (Bilingual Bookstart), which we sponsored last August.

Bookstart, authored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, is a program that teaches low literacy parents of young children how to choose, use, and make books. By discussing beautiful books, whether classic or just published, parents learn that reading is fun and that books can be used to start conversations with children on values and issues.

With Comenzando con Libros, we created the first bilingual Bookstart program in New York State and working with Florida Agri-Business Child Development, introduced our target audience of farmworker parents to their first experience with books.

Because the library offered two Bookstart programs last summer (English and bilingual), we received double

the grant monies for books, toys, puppets and arts and crafts supplies. We were able to order many wonderful new or replacement titles for our picture book collection in both English and Spanish.

The Program of the Year Award was presented at the RCLS Annual Meeting at the West Point Club on October 15. A display, explaining the program, can be viewed at the library, along with the official plaque.

Making New Friends

The Friends of the Florida Public Library are looking for some new friends. The Friends are a volunteer group that supports the library with hands-on help and several fundraising projects each year. It is the Friends who run used book sales in January and May. The proceeds of these sales and other efforts have recently paid for children's programs and refreshments, the refinishing of the library's old maple tables and chairs, the purchase of a stove, refrigerator and cabinets for the staff room, and the sponsoring of our dedication and Grand Opening events.

Friends' officers this year are: President Sue Heller, Vice-President Carol Carrano, Recording Secretary Pat Switlow and Corresponding Secretary Barbara Sunkel. The Friends meet regularly on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. and they are eager to recruit NEW members for NEW projects for the NEW library.

Friends of the Library Fundraiser

Country Peddlers & Company of America are offering Pottery, Tapestry Afghans, Table Linens, Framed Prints, Baskets, Scented Candles and MORE in the Holiday Catalog

Pick up a catalog or visit the Country Peddler Display on these dates:

- Saturday, October 28, 12-3 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 1, 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 7, 6-8 p.m.

Hurry! Sale ends on November 12!

Children's Programs

- **RHYMETIME:** Stories, songs and crafts for ages 18 months – 3 years and a parent or caregiver. Wednesdays 10:00, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, 8, 15, Or Thursdays 10:00, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 9, 16
- **STORYTIME:** Stories, songs and crafts for ages 3-5 (not in kindergarten) and a parent or caregiver. Wednesdays 11:00, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, 8, 15, Or Thursdays 11:00, Oct 26 and Nov. 2, 9, 16
- **BOOKS AND BEYOND:** No registration necessary, just drop-in! Something different every week for kids in grades K-5, including storytelling, arts, crafts, cooking, computer fun. Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m. starting October 24.
- **CHESS CHALLENGE:** Chess instruction and play for young people in grades 6 – 8. No experience necessary. Thursdays, 2:30-4:00 p.m., Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 9, 16
- **GRAND OPENING:** Sing Along with Bill Frye. A special program for children and parents in the Leona Harter Children's Room. No registration necessary. Saturday, October 21, 1:30 p.m.
- **HALLOWEEN STORYTIME:** Stories of the season to thrill and chill you! Saturday, October 28 1 p.m. for pre-schoolers 1:30 p.m. for grades K-5
- **AUTUMN READALOUD:** Readers of all ages are invited to read any short selection of their choice. 5 minute maximum length. Refreshments served. Friday, November 3, 7-9 p.m.

TO REGISTER

Call the library at 651-7659 or register in person at the Circulation Desk.



Friends Membership Form

Please return to:

Florida Public Library, 4 Cohen Circle, Florida, NY 10921

Name _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

☐ Single \$5 ☐ Family \$10 ☐ Sustaining \$25 ☐ Contributing \$50 ☐ Patron \$100



Welcome!

New Library Staff

Elena Andryshak - Library Page
Maureen Anderson - Library Clerk
Maria Martinez - Library Technician
Lillian Pascarelli - Substitute Clerk
Martha Sullivan - Library Clerk
Patty Velez - Substitute Clerk

Overheard in Our Library

A conversation between a parent and 3 year old:

"Now, what do you say to the nice librarian who found this book for you?"

"I don't know. I forget."

"C'mon! You know the special word."

"Oh, all right! Thank you dot com."

What's Cooking This Fall

New books at the library include these series:

Williams-Sonoma

Asian Flavors

Chicken for Dinner

The Food Lovers Guide to:

Chocolate

Breads and Muffins

Pizza and Pasta

Vegetarian Cooking

What's Cooking:

Potatoes

Fish and Seafood

Rice and Risotto

Better Homes and Garden:

Best Bread Machine Recipes



Florida Public Library Board of Trustees

Gloria McAndrews,
President

Marie Pillmeier,
Vice-President

Shirley Coughlin,
Secretary

Kathleen Helhoski

Elmeda Shuback

Rebecca Stage

Stella Kosior,
Treasurer

Florida Public Library
4 Cohen Circle
Florida, New York 10921

Non-Profit
Org. U.S.
Postage PAID
Permit No. 3

Florida Box Holder
Florida, NY 10921

Desktop Publishing & Printing by Ramapo Catskill Library System