October Celebrates Friends
Libraries across the nation celebrate October as Friends of Libraries Month in full recognition of the many ways we sustain public libraries. The Board of the Friends of the Fruitville Library salutes all Friends members and their many contributions to the ongoing support of the library.

October is Membership month and we'll be asking you to renew your membership and your commitment to the community. Ask your acquaintances to consider joining you in supporting your public library. Look for Board Members in the lobby in the coming month or stop by the Friends' Bookstore to learn more ways you can help make our great library even better.

Annual Volunteer Thank You Luncheon
Celebrating Our "Palace for the People"
A Message from
Beth Cassell, President

January means Annual Meeting Time. Though we pride ourselves on having the shortest meetings on record, we always look forward to this annual in-person report to the membership.

The news was good again this year: our revenues have held steady and our reserves are adequate to sustain our commitment to the library in any unforeseen events. Most importantly we increased our budget pledge to the library for next year by 30%! That means we will support even more programs for children and adults, keep the library beautiful with plants, and provide furnishings like the beautiful new leather chairs throughout the library.

This year once again we presented an excellent program to go along with the report to the members. Sarasota County Archeologist Steve Koski, shown above, discussed the exciting new underwater finds off Manasota Key. Steve’s presentation drew a full house and an enthusiastic response. We’re already planning for next year. Let us know if you have a special request for this important event.
“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.”—Andrew Carnegie

As a spring helps water and nourish the dry land so our libraries bring nourishment to the soul and mind. As a place to connect with others of similar or dissimilar thoughts, a library offers a haven without judgment or supposition. I am so proud to be a part of a place that can inspire, educate, and entertain our community.

So much of what we do could not be accomplished without the support of our Friends of the Fruitville Library. Their efforts on our behalf allow us the luxury of bringing quality programs to our area. We are exceedingly grateful for their support and stand with them in building the “Palaces for the People” of our community. Our most humble thanks to the Friends of the Fruitville Library! Peggy Border

Meet our Librarians

Gerry Myette, Library Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator. He moved to Sarasota in 1998 from our nation’s capitol. He is a Massachusetts native, who enjoys vacations with his family on Cape Cod, and Martha’s Vineyard. Outside of libraries his interests include genealogy, old movies, tennis, and sailing.

Ariel Bazell, new Library Assistant. Currently attending SCF for a marketing degree, she had recently moved back to her home state of Florida from Hampton, GA. After graduating high school she spent 2 years at SCTI learning multimedia and graphic designing. Ariel’s favorite things are drawing, comic books, horror movies, and writing.

Jen Osterhoudt, Library Assistant. She graduated from North Carolina State University with a degree in biological sciences. She is a nature enthusiast, science geek, health and wellness aficionado, and enjoys visiting Sarasota County’s gorgeous parks and running in local athletic events. She is an avid reader and volunteers regularly at her children’s schools. Jen is excited to be part of the team and share her love for helping others and reading.
Computer Classes

Practice speaking English. Just register as an ESOL learner with the Literacy Council of Sarasota at 941-955-9421. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.

Bring your equipment or use a computer from our mobile lab. For a schedule, more information about specific classes, and to register for any of these classes stop by the Reference Desk or call (941) 861-2518.

AARP Tax Preparation Help

Help for taxpayers of all ages provided by AARP volunteers. Sign up at the door: first-come, first-served.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 am to 1 pm
March 6 through April 1

Adult Knitting and Crochet Club

All skill levels are welcome. Use our materials or bring your own. (Instructor-supplied yarns and needles or hooks remain with the instructor.)

Knitting is every Monday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Crocheting is every Wednesday from 10:15 to 12 noon. Preparations are underway for the annual sale of items with proceeds going to the Friends of Fruitville Library.
Are You a Member in Good Standing?

It’s sometimes easy to forget to renew a membership even for as important a commitment as membership in the Friends of Fruitville Library. And we know we sometimes make mistakes in our lists. So if you’re unsure if you remembered to re-up this year, just send us an email and we’ll check our records. We want to count you in when we speak to elected officials about the needs of our library.

friendsoffruitvillelibrary@yahoo.com

We depend on You!

You play a big part in our successful book sales whether you purchase books in the Friends Book Store in the library or online at foflbookstore on EBay. Donations of carefully used books are sorted first for use in the library. Extras are consigned to us for sale and proceeds benefit the library. Thank You!

MEMORIAL BRICK PATHWAY

A memorial brick can honor a loved one or commemorate a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. We offer a special discount for bricks honoring veterans.

Your memorial gift will help the Fruitville Library purchase books and media and provide special programs for adults and children. The path beautifies the first Reading Garden in the Sarasota County Library system.
Fruitville Library: Critical Social Infrastructure

A Community Center annually providing meeting space for more than 60 civic groups, associations, craft clubs, book clubs, Socrates Café, Master Gardener Plant Clinic, Early Voting Center, and AARP Tax Help.

A Cultural Center presenting enriching programs of music, dance, literature, drama, movies, and art. Programs are sponsored by the Friends of Fruitville Library and offered free of charge to patrons.

An Educational Center for all: Summer programs for school-age children, help for home schoolers, and story-time for preschoolers. Computer classes, ESL tutoring, and resources for adults. Programs and materials in the youth section for teens.

A State of the Art Library offering ebooks, music cds, movies, computer access, free wi-fi, selections for children and youth, a reading garden, a creation station, knowledgeable resource librarians... and, of course, millions of books!
Wow! Would I recommend this book? Yes, I would…to friends, my book club, my nephew Ted, who is a real estate developer, and to our Sarasota County Commissioners!

Eric Klinenberg, a professor of sociology at NYU, makes a strong argument for the crucial importance of “social infrastructure” for the well-being of our communities. His interest in the subject spiked when he analyzed the statistics relating to the devastating heat wave in Chicago in 1995 which killed over 800 people. Why would two adjacent poor neighborhoods in Chicago’s south side, have such radically different death rates? Englewood’s death rate was ten times higher than that of neighboring Auburn Gresham. Klinenberg’s meticulous research revealed that social infrastructure (places where people could form connections with others) was the key component in survival. Isolated people trying to fend for themselves experienced much lower survival rates.

Libraries are a text-book example of social infrastructure in action. Libraries are places where people of different ages, social status, and ethnicity are welcome in a shared space (a “palace for the people”). The presence of all kinds of people requires us to confront differences, an increasingly important concept in our divided society today.

The book is not only about libraries. Klinenberg also talks of the role of schools (smaller if possible), parks (for walking, playing, gardening), corner stores, churches, and synagogues, and other social spaces in strengthening our communities. This infrastructure needs our support. Eric Klinenberg suggests a way we can once again find common ground.
A blue sky, warm breeze, a rocking chair, and a good book to read make for a wonderful afternoon at the Fruitville Library. Of course, if this is the case, you will be enjoying a great time outside in the wonderful library garden. It is surprising how many regular library patrons have never visited, seen, or even know about the library reading garden located straight back from the front door. If libraries are ‘Palaces for the People’ (per author Eric Klinenberg’s recent book of that title), then our library also has its own ‘Palace Garden’!

As Mr. Klinenberg wrote, libraries are much more than just books. The reading garden is a perfect example of this. The garden complements the library itself as a community resource with equal access to all for learning, educating, discussing, meeting, and even relaxing. The garden is regularly used for a home-schooling resource, meeting place, or other local activities. It provides a beautiful natural setting featuring blooming plants, a memorial brick walkway, garden cottage with kid activities, tranquil waterfall, arched trellises, and plenty of places to sit and relax. Please come visit the palace garden and marvel at this special piece of the natural world.