



For more information, contact:

Erin Sullivan, 407-835-7480

sullivan.erin@ocls.info

Winter fun at the library: a one-man Christmas classic, a holiday-themed skateboard art show, a Family Holiday Festival and more

Make the library a part of your holiday celebrations this season. During the month of December, the Orlando Public Library hosts Jingle Boards, an art exhibit showcasing the holiday season using skateboards, sculptures and photography. All are invited to the closing reception, which takes place during the Downtown Arts District's Third Thursday Gallery Hop on December 20.

The West Oaks branch invites you to the second annual Family Holiday Festival on December 1. Bring the family for some holiday activities, games, prizes and more. Get your holiday pictures taken with family and friends while enjoying light refreshments. Then on December 8 the Orlando Public Library presents A Christmas Carol starring Broadway and film actor Duffy Hudson. He will be performing the holiday classic playing all the characters himself without the use of any props or costumes. We also host a Local Author Festival on December 16 with a chance to meet authors from the community. See below for more details.

If you have any questions about the events or information shared below, feel free to contact us at 407-835-7323. Check us out online at www.ocls.info for a complete listing of library events.

World AIDS Day: A Day of Remembrance

Orlando Public Library, Albertson Room, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturday, December 1, 10–2 p.m.

Join Hope & Help in remembrance of lost family and friends. Visit the Albertson Room to view *The Age of AIDS*, a PBS documentary that follows the trials and triumphs of the AIDS epidemic. Hope & Health will also offer HIV/STI education along with no-cost HIV and Hepatitis C testing. For more information, visit hopeandhelp.org.

Family Holiday Festival

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Saturday, December 1, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Holiday cheer is here! Again! You are invited to our Second Annual Family Holiday Festival. Enjoy a day filled with fun, photos and food. Bring the whole family to have a holiday photo taken, make a holiday bracelet and enjoy holiday stories and crafts for the kids. Light refreshments will be served while you mingle and meet others. Enter to win a fantastic family prize. Registration required.

Let's Crochet! Mug Cozies – Beginner Level

Chickasaw Branch, 870 N. Chickasaw Trail

Monday, December 3, 5 p.m.

Orlando Public Library, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturday, December 8, 1 p.m.

North Orange Branch, 1211 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka

Tuesday, December 11, 10:30 a.m.

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Saturday, December 15, 1 p.m.

Keep your drink warm and your hands comfortable with a custom cozy for your favorite mug. Practice crocheting single stitch in the round while creating a personalized gift.

Cuisine Corner: Easy Holiday Meals

Washington Park Branch, 5151 Raleigh St., Suite A.

Thursday, December 6, 6 p.m.

South Creek Branch, 1702 Deerfield Blvd.

Saturday, December 15, 11 a.m.

Discover how you can make holiday meals that are delicious and nutritious. Yamira Lee Johnson, head chef and founder of Breaking Bread with Mira and certified holistic life coach, will demonstrate how to create easy holiday dishes. For more information about Breaking Bread with Mira, visit breakingbreadwithmira.com. Space is limited. Registration required. Register online at ocls.info or call 407.835.7323.

A Christmas Carol

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturday, December 8, 11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Ebenezer Scrooge, Jacob Marley, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come are characters we have come to love and welcome into our homes and hearts. Join us as Broadway and film actor Duffy Hudson, without the aid of props or costumes while playing all 30 characters, brings this magical tale to life. This show is ideal for the entire family. Don't miss this unusual take on a seasonal favorite.

Fortnite Frenzy

Herndon Branch, 4324 E. Colonial Drive

Saturday, December 8, 2 p.m.

Land at the library and battle it out with games and crafts inspired by Fortnite! Gather your mats and minis on the way over for some serious fun. Bring your laptop or mobile device to play with friends. The whole family is welcome. Registration recommended.

100 Things to Do in Orlando Before You Die

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturday, December 8, 3 p.m.

Are you missing out on some of the most interesting attractions Central Florida has to offer? The region is home to some of the world's most unique restaurants, events, attractions and activities. Jon Busdeker,

author of *100 Things to Do in Orlando Before You Die*, will discuss the best spots to have fun in the greater Orlando area. A book sale and signing will follow the presentation.

Holiday Family Photos

Orlando Public Library, Melrose Center, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Sunday, December 9, 2–5 p.m.

The holiday season is here! We would like to invite families and groups to have their holiday-themed portraits taken in the Photo Studio. Bring a USB drive to save your photos.

Nature Walk and Book Talk With Author Mike Gunter Jr.: *Tales of an Ecotourist*

Southwest Branch Library, 7255 Della Drive

Wednesday, December 12, 10:15 a.m.–Noon

Do you enjoy taking a walk and love to discuss books? Join the Southwest Branch for a casual walk followed by a lively book discussion with Mike Gunter Jr., author of *Tales of an Ecotourist*. Gunter's book showcases travel, from the hot and humid Amazon jungle to the frozen but dry Antarctic, as a simple yet spellbinding lens to better understand the complex issue of climate change. Professor Gunter is chair of the political science department and director of international affairs at Rollins College.

Comfortable clothing and shoes encouraged. Light refreshments provided. Registration required. Ages 18 and up.

Hark! The Figgy Pudding! The History of Christmas Carols

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Thursday, December 13, 6:30 p.m.

This musical program is an interactive storytelling event that uncovers the histories behind the most beloved Christmas carols and songs. What is a “carol” anyway? Who is the true love in *The Twelve Days of Christmas*? Why was the song *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* based on a tragic event? What is a “welkin” and what does it have to do with angels harking? Discover the dirty little secret behind *Deck the Halls* and so much more! Audiences will be treated to dynamic solos and several chances to sing along during this festive seasonal event.

Dickens Holiday Celebration

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Saturday, December 15, 11 a.m.

Enjoy some fun and festive holiday songs performed by the Orlando Dickens Carolers.

Local Authors Festival

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Sunday, December 16, 2–4 p.m.

Signed books make the best gifts! Meet and greet local authors at our Local Authors Festival. Authors from a variety of genres will share their experiences and books. Each author will have books available for purchase and signing.

Credit and Money Management Workshop

Southeast Branch, 5575 S. Semoran Blvd.

Monday, December 17, 6–8 p.m.

Learn the basics of credit and the fundamentals of money management in this workshop presented by Operation HOPE. Discover the skills you need for financial well-being. To learn more about your local Operation HOPE, visit operationhope.org/hopekissimmee. Registration required. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/2Nm74sf>.

Cuisine Corner: Candy Cane Crush

Orlando Public Library, Cypress Room, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Monday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.

It all started with a cane! A candy cane that is. Join Chef Farah Davids as she prepares delicious desserts using this classic treat like a no-bake candy cane cheesecake and candy cane chocolate cupcakes in a Jar. Join the fun as we celebrate this classic candy that's perfect for your next holiday hangout and will be yummy for your tummy, not just for the tree.

Genealogy Research Question Workshop and Holiday Party

West Oaks Branch, 1821 E. Silver Star Road., Ocoee

Wednesday, December 19, 6:30 p.m.

Sharpen your genealogy skills and learn about resources by sharing your research questions. Genealogy researchers, whether beginning or advanced, are invited to submit a research question. Participate in our group discussion workshop to share information on genealogy resources, research and methodology to start finding answers. Genealogy Center staff will lead the discussion and can help direct you to possible answers, resources, types of records, databases and websites. Just think: a safe haven for all those family history queries! Registration required. For more information and to submit your questions, email genealogy@ocls.info or call 407.835.7651.

Third Thursday Gallery Hop: Jingle Boards Closing Reception

Orlando Public Library, Library Central, 101 E. Central Blvd.

Thursday, December 20, 6–7:30 p.m.

Meet and interact with the featured artists of the *Jingle Boards* exhibit during the Downtown Arts District's Third Thursday Gallery Hop.

#####