It can be said that nothing strikes fear in the heart of a library administrator as much as “losing” space, except perhaps budget cuts. In the last twenty years, the nature of libraries and their functions have changed dramatically, leading to speculation about how library facilities can best be reconfigured to accommodate changing use patterns; however, at East Lake Community Library, the lack of space (we’re the smallest library in the county) has really limited our ability to find areas for relaxed reading, quiet study, etc. This was made more evident with the advent of COVID since we were forced to socially distance and discourage close social engagement, i.e. programs and meetings. Removal of some furniture was required and our “small town” feel and customer service model were challenged by the addition of partitions and masks to keep everyone safe. However, there are still those smiles and helpful staff members behind the masks and we have found ways during this health crisis to create special services and collections for our community:

**HoldIt Locker System** – Just outside the front doors of the library is a beautiful new automated locker system – the first of its kind in Florida! Patrons can request that their items be placed in the lockers for easy pickup 24/7 by simply swiping their PPLC library card! Items will be kept in the lockers for 48 hours before being returned to the shelves. The beautiful graphic design on the system and the sunshade to protect users from the elements were funded by the Friends of the Library.

**Gizmos and Gadgets** – Technology is changing so quickly and sometimes the new gadgets on the market are a bit intimidating – Do I need one? Can I figure out how to use it? Is it worth the money? Not to worry – your public library has come up with the solution! Our new Gizmos and Gadgets Collection is a plethora of devices, games, and tools to help you in a variety of situations – everything from air compressors to webcams! All of the items will be visually displayed on our website and include a PDF file of any manuals or instructions; some items will also have a YouTube video of tips and techniques. Now you can preview an item before you buy it or just keep borrowing one of ours and save the money! This entire collection was made possible by the Friends Annual Fund Drive this past spring. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see added to this collection, please contact Matt Fields at our library (matt-f@eastlakelibrary.org).

**Collection Connections** – Coming in January, the library will unveil its delivery service for homebound patrons in the East Lake Fire District. This program will be available for any patron who cannot get to the library to select materials – whether this be a temporary or permanent situation. Heather Brown, our Outreach Coordinator, is presently publicizing this service and seeking applicants who wish to be participants. Deliveries/pickups will take place twice a month. If you are interested or know someone who is, please have them contact Heather at heather-b@eastlakelibrary.org. (Cont’d Page 3)
Ready to Renew or Join?

What is the Friends?
The Friends of East Lake Community Library is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that raises money through book sales and other fundraising events. Monies raised help to support materials and services not covered by library tax funds.

Who are the Friends?
East Lake Community Library is more than a library – it is a major resource center for the East Lake corridor. Library Friends are residents who love the library and enjoy the many services and events that the library provides.

Renew or Join?
To help make a difference, please consider renewing your current Friends of the Library annual membership for 2021 or becoming a new member for 2021.

What does membership in the Friends provide to its members?
For Adult, Senior and Family members, the benefits that will enrich you throughout the year include: THE GOOD NEWS (the Friends newsletter), a coupon for the Book Nook and knowledge that you are a valued and vital partner of the library.

A Friends Patron membership includes the following benefits: THE GOOD NEWS (the Friends newsletter), monthly coupons for the Book Nook and other items, acknowledgement of your support on the Friends webpage and knowledge that you are a valued and vital partner of the library.

How do you Join?
Memberships can be paid by check (payable to “FOELCL”) or credit card mailed or dropped off at the Library Circulation Desk. Payment can also be made online at www.eastlakelibrary.org/friends-membership-form.

Payments by mail: Mail the completed Membership Form below and payment to: Friends of East Lake Community Library, 4125 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34685-4128.

2020 Membership Form

Name: _______________________________ Select Your Membership Level: [ ] Senior 65+ $ 12.00
[ ] Adult $ 15.00
[ ] Family $ 30.00
[ ] Friends Patron $100.00

Address: _______________________________ City: __________ State: ____ Zip: ______

Phone: _______________________________ Email: _______________________________

Would you like to receive the newsletter by email? Yes or No

Please charge my credit/debit card:

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Name on Card: __________________________ Authorized Signature: ___________________
NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

ELECTION OF 2021 OFFICERS

Slate of Officers and Board of Directors for 2021

The Friends of East Lake Community Library will hold their annual meeting on December 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM. The meeting will be virtual as no in-person meetings may be held at the library due to COVID based restrictions on the use of the community room. If any of the Friends would care to join our annual virtual meeting, please register at the library’s online calendar for the December 10th meeting; a link will then be sent to you prior to that date. If you prefer, you may call the library to have a staff member help you register. The meeting will be held via Webex at 10 AM on December 10th. I hope you will join us.

The following Friends members have agreed to serve as officers and directors:

   Barbara Cole, President
   Joan Lawler, Vice-President
   Jerry Griffin, Secretary
   Vacant, Treasurer

The following members of the Friends will serve on the Board as Directors-at-Large: Marcia Giza, Michelle Malacinski, Joan McCarthy, Pat Salvior, Barbara Schultz and Susan Wolf.

We do have a vacancy for Board Treasurer. We are incredibly grateful that the library’s bookkeeper, Karen Fulton, is filling in on an interim basis. The position requires someone with a knowledge of basic bookkeeping. If you would be interested in helping out, please contact Barbara Cole, barbarawcole@gmail.com or one of the other board members. Thanks!

(Cont’d from Page 1) Special Services and Special Collections for our Special Patrons!

**Tools for School** – COVID had a devastating effect on families with school aged children this past year; many parents became homeschooling teachers and instructors, doing their best to help with the various subjects and curriculum. Since all in-person programs were put on hold, Youth Services and Teen Services decided to use the funds set aside for this purpose to help local families with virtual schooling. Over thirty Tools for School kits have been created by the staff to give students of all ages hands-on activities and experiences for every grade level and subject – from fractions and decimal tiles to weather stations, from reading readiness games to molecular model sets! Please check them out (literally and figuratively!) in the Children’s Room.

**Virtual Programming and “Take and Makes”** – Although in-person programs have been suspended at most libraries in the county, there is still plenty to do virtually, if you are so inclined! Check our online calendar on our website since there are many programs available for all ages. For adults, we have the Virtual Book Club, the Authors Showcase, Thrilling Tales podcasts, and special seminars by outside organizations. Children and teens have wonderful story times and interactive programs on Facebook and YouTube. And don’t forget to check the front desk for special “take and makes” for adults and families- paint with water, coloring bookmarks with a set of pencils included, and holiday treats, just to name a few.

Have a happy, healthy holiday season, stay safe, and know that your community library is here to serve you!
Need a Sprinkle of Christmas Magic?

Imagine your loved one’s face when the phone rings and the caller ID says it is Santa calling for a personal video chat! On Saturday, December 5th while he is in Florida getting ready for Christmas, Santa will be making video chat calls to East Lake Library families. Santa’s conversation will be personalized for each caller. He’s happy to talk with young and mature believers who might enjoy a sprinkle of Christmas magic this year.

Whether naughty or nice or just in need for encouragement, to be on Santa’s video chat phone list call the library [727-773-2665 extension 2] starting November 1st and register with the Children’s Department to get a time for the video chat.

Ho, ho, ho........
Michelle Malacinski joined the Friends of East Lake Community Library in January of 2019 as a Director-at-Large. Currently she also sits on the board for two other non-profits, One Community Now as well as the Diva Angels Organization. Michelle is passionate about her community and believes when we all do our part good things follow.

Born and raised in the Philadelphia area, Michelle moved to Florida in 2000 with her family. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from FMU with a BS in accounting. In 2012, she founded MMS Asset Management and has been a sole proprietor since then helping others with their retirement goals.

When asked to join the board, Michelle was elated. Seeing the hard work and dedication others put forth to help their local community library is right up her alley. The contemporary and leading-edge ideas that East Lake Community Library brings to the table enables families to come together and spend quality time while learning and having fun.

In her spare time, Michelle enjoys golfing, going on short weekend getaways with her longtime friends and enjoying the beautiful parks and beaches our state has to offer. Of course, she does enjoy our local teams: Lightning Stanley Cup, Rays in the World Series, and the Bucs in first place in the NFC south!!

On a personal note, Michelle has been blessed with two wonderful sons, Michael and Steve. When she is not busy with her boys, she enjoys walking her two fur babies, Blitzen and Chico, both of whom were rescued. Her cat, Mystery, was abandoned by a neighbor, so now there are three!
Does it seem like 2020 is never going to end? It certainly has been a year of abrupt transformations in a short amount of time, but it has also helped accelerate projects with all its twists and turns. Our library has leapt forward with enhanced online programming, brand new collections, and new ways to access materials. Despite the uncertainties, the ELCL Foundation has continued interest from our community and our sponsors in building for brighter tomorrows and continued growth. Indeed, we are grateful to be part of something bigger that unites us all!

We’re always eager to try new things, strengthen our community partnerships, and invite everyone to join us in the fun. So it is with great pleasure that we ask you to mark your calendars for 3:00 PM on February 28, 2021 – for the ELCL Foundation’s Golf Ball Drop at Tarpon Woods Golf Club! Our friends at TWGC and East Lake Fire Rescue will be part of the festivities, helping to raise funds for our favorite local charities including the East Lake Community Library. Bring the family and join us for food and fun! Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website at www.elclfoundation.org for more details – including how to purchase tickets for a chance at some great prizes.

Don’t forget to also keep your eye on our events calendar for upcoming Estate/Financial Planning events. Due to overwhelmingly positive response our local legal and financial experts continue to regularly present on important topics for your wealth and estate planning. Also, if you are or know a business owner in the East Lake area, make sure to check out our program for Corporate Community Sponsors! Go to http://bit.ly/ELCLCorpPartners to learn more and offer support to our Library. We are always eager to find ways to support those who support us.

The ELCL Foundation supports the East Lake Community Library through funding capital improvement projects, with 100% of funds going directly to these projects, thanks to our board of community volunteers. Whether through cash or matching grants, appreciated securities or real estate, or bequest through a will or living trust, we hope you’ll consider our foundation as a way for a direct, high-impact opportunity to give back directly within your community. Learn more about the Library Legacy Program at http://bit.ly/ELCL-Legacy and create your library legacy through charitable giving!

Have you been Smiling?

When you think about shopping through Amazon, please consider making your purchase through Amazon Smile. This is Amazon’s program for supporting non-profit organizations like us! You can find Amazon Smile with your browser or by going through the ELCL web page www.eastlakelibrary.org and click on the Friends tab. You will see the Amazon Smile box. Click on the “start” button to go to the Amazon Smile site to select the Friends of East Lake Community Library. You only need to sign up once. Then go directly to Amazon Smile any time you are ready to shop.