



April 2023

A word from our Director

Greetings!

Spring is in full swing. The chill is relenting and all around us we marvel at the signs of renewed life and vitality: tulips and daffodils blooming scattershot around our yards and waysides, lawns that turn lush and verdant seemingly overnight, and the dawn chorus of songbirds that wakes us (not always happily) at four in the morning with its exuberant melodies. Likewise, we see more and more of our friends and neighbors making their way outdoors,



shaking off winter's hibernation and reacquainting themselves with the picturesque towns and bountiful nature reserves of Orange County. As you're out and about, we hope you'll visit one of our library locations, where we are also abuzz with change and exciting new ventures.

A major focus area of our [Strategic Plan](#) is "Be a Library for Everyone," which continues to guide our commitment to removing barriers and increasing ease of access for all community members. In 2021, we took our first bold step in this direction by eliminating fines for overdue materials. Last year, we expanded our operational hours to include Sundays. Now we are excited to announce our next major initiative, which will offer a more seamless and satisfactory experience for library users: auto-renewals. Once this goes into effect, users will no longer need to worry about manually renewing their materials. Once your loan period expires, it will automatically renew up to two times (so long as no one else has requested the materials). This feature, which has been a goal of ours for some time, required considerable work on the technical backend to make reality. As always, we owe these ongoing improvements to our service model to the invention and dedication of library staff, as well as the support of county management and government. Auto-renewals will go into effect later this month, so be on the lookout. We'll be sure to spread the word once it goes live.

We also have some exciting programs coming up this month and beyond. Of note, we are collaborating with several community organizations to take part in the 60th anniversary celebrations of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail." I invite you to join us at the Main Library on Tuesday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. for a conversation on the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement in Hillsborough between Professors Freddie Parker (NCCU) and Patrick T. Smith (Duke). Learn more [here](#), and check out other events taking place to commemorate this anniversary throughout Orange County [here](#).

Another big event on the horizon is a reading and book signing with one of our most beloved local authors, Lee Smith. Lee's latest book (which is reported by some to be her last), [Silver Alert](#), will be published on April 18th. Our reading and signing event is scheduled for the evening of Friday, April 21st. Details are still being finalized, but keep your eye out. This event will be registration only and we anticipate a capacity crowd, so be sure to reserve your seat early.

If you're looking to take advantage of milder weather, our Main Library Youth Services librarians are taking Tuesday Storytime back outside to the Eno River Farmers' Market Pavilion for the three-month duration of spring beginning in April (Baby Lapsit will remain on-site at the library). And if you're seeking even more outdoor opportunities, you're in luck: 2023 is "Year of the Trail," a statewide celebration of North Carolina's vast network of greenways and blueways, many of which have a literary connection. Learn more [here](#), and we hope to see you on the trails.

Finally, if you're simply looking for a good book to enjoy in the sunshine, take a look at the [Reading Recommendations](#) page on our website. For years now, our librarians have made it a top priority to curate a diverse collection that represents our entire community. We have confidence we'll have the perfect book for you, but if not, just let us know. We are happy to fulfill most requests whenever possible.

Wishing you and yours a happy season,

Erin Sapienza



Creating your own story times is now easier than ever with our Storytime Bags. Available to check out, each bag holds five books on a topic, a custom-built felt/flannel board, custom felt pieces, a themed puppet, and a literacy folder to guide at home storytime instruction and activities. Available topics are [seasons](#), [explora español](#), and [oceans](#).

Storytime Bags were made possible by the Impact Through Innovation Grant through the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Reflections on the Civil Rights Movement

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "[Letter from Birmingham Jail](#)," please join us **Tuesday, April 11 from 7-8 p.m.** for a conversation between Professors Freddie Parker (NC Central University) and Patrick T. Smith (Duke).

Dr. Parker and Dr. Smith will discuss the historical context of Dr. King's letter and the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement in Hillsborough and Orange County. Presented in partnership with [Chapel Hill Public Library](#) and the [Orange County Office of Equity & Inclusion](#). Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



Dr. Freddie Parker

Dr. Patrick T. Smith



National Poetry Month

We'll be celebrating poetry all through April! On Saturday, April 15 at 2 p.m., join local poets, Dee Stribling, Paul Jones, Barbara Kenyon, and Gary Phillips, along with winners of the Teen Advisory Board's 2023 Teen Poetry contest, for an inter-generational reading of diverse works of poetry on a variety of

subjects. [Sign up](#) to share your original poem, or join us just to listen. This event will include teens/tweens and adults, so please be mindful of that fact in terms of subject matter. Space is limited.

[Register for Spring Poetry Gathering](#)



Learn about Library Tech!

Tech to Borrow: The library has Chromebooks, Kindles, and WiFi hotspots you can check out and take home. Check out an iPad loaded with educational apps for your child to use while at the Main Library.

Learning how to use Technology: The library has monthly workshops on how to use technology. You can request a 1 on 1 appointment. Check out our free online courses on the library's [DigitalLearn site](#).

Online Materials: Enjoy books, audiobooks, music, and movies from the library on your phone or computer with the [Libby](#) and [hoopla](#) apps.

Study and Meeting Rooms: Reserve a study or meeting room in the Main Library using the online event calendar.

Find all of the library's upcoming technology programs at [#Tech@OCPL](#)



Seed Share

Share health, hope, and joy throughout our communities by planting pollinator-friendly wildflowers native or naturalized to our area. Seed packs with information and instructions will be available at the Main Library each month through May. This month's plant seeds are **Scarlet Beebalm**. Very pretty and fragrant. Beware, though: these happy friends are in the mint family and will take over a space in colonies. While supply lasts.



Storytime moves back outside

Join us Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for songs and stories at the **Farmers' Market Pavilion** in downtown Hillsborough. Children from walkers to age 5 and their caregivers are invited to participate in a 25-minute interactive program that incorporates age-appropriate books, rhymes, music, and movement.

[Baby Lapsit](#) and [Cybrary Storytimes](#) remain inside.

Registration for Storytime is not required.

KIDS EXPLORE
FOR GRADES K-2

Join us at Main Library to explore stories and activities with weekly changing topics!

THURSDAYS 4-4:45PM

4/6 Be a Poet!
• write your own poems!

4/20 Earth Day!
• local wildflower seed bombs

4/27 National Library Week!
• celebrate libraries & make mini books

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Kids Explore

Join us for Kids Explore, our weekly program series for children currently in grades K-2. This month, we'll be celebrating National Poetry Month, Earth Day, and National Library Week!

Registration is required.

[Register for Kids Explore](#)

April Programs
Five Senses
(Can they be tricked?)
Grades 3-5

Tuesday, 4-4:45 pm
Large Meeting Room

Martes, 4-4:45 pm
Sala de reuniones grande

SMELL TASTE
April 4

SIGHT
April 11

TOUCH
April 18

HEARING
April 25

Register Online or
Call 919-245-2532
Space is Limited

Five Senses

Join us as we explore our five senses. We will trick our brains into thinking rough is smooth, stinky is pleasant, and more. We will also learn what parts of our brains we are tricking. This program is appropriate for children in grades 3 - 5. Registration is required.

[Register for Five Senses](#)

Lee Smith

Join us for a book signing and reading of *Silver Alert* with local author, **Lee Smith!**

Due to limited capacity, registration is required for the event. Go to orangecountync.gov/LeeSmith to sign up.

Books will be available for purchase.

Friday, April 21, 6:30-8pm

Orange County Public Library, 137 W. Margaret Lane, Hillsborough, NC

orangecountync.gov/LibraryEvents

PURPLE CROW BOOKS

Lee Smith Book Reading & Signing

Famed local author Lee Smith joins us at the Main Library for a signing and reading event to launch her latest novel, *Silver Alert* **Friday April 21 at 6:30 p.m.** Books will be available for purchase from Purple Crow Books. *Space is limited; registration required.*

[Register for Lee Smith event](#)

ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE
**CLOSED FRIDAY, APRIL 7 &
SUNDAY, APRIL 9**
IN OBSERVANCE OF
EASTER

orangecountylibrary.org

Mark your calendars:

The libraries will close in observance of Easter on Friday April 7 and Sunday April 9.

Also this month:

- 4/01 [Family LEGO Time! One-Scoop Challenge](#)
- 4/01 [Clases de la computadora en el Cybrary](#)
- 4/03 [Cybrary computer classes](#)
- 4/03 [Dementia Basics: Brain Health](#)
- 4/10 [Cedar Grove Technology Class](#)
- 4/10 [Dementia Basics: Types & Stages of Dementia](#)
- 4/12 [Cook the Book!](#)
- 4/13 [Building Buddies](#)
- 4/13 [Not a Book Club](#)
- 4/17 [Medicare 101](#)
- 4/17 [Dementia Basics: Communication](#)
- 4/21 [Page Turners Book Club](#)
- 4/23 [Neighbors Helping Neighbors](#)
- 4/24 [Dementia Basics: Preparing for the Journey Ahead](#)
- 4/25 [4th Tuesday Carrboro Book Club](#)

[Visit our calendar](#)

Orange County Public Library

919.245.2525

library@orangecountync.gov



Library Locations and Hours

Hillsborough, Main Library

137 W. Margaret Lane
Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sundays, Noon-6 p.m.

Carrboro, Cybrary

100 N. Greensboro Street
Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Closed Sundays

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