

Check this Out

A
bright and
breezy update for our
awesome library community

Friends of the Library Ponte Vedra Beach ~ SUMMERTIME 2026 Newsletter

Big Changes, Bright Future: Children's Library Renovation Underway



Something magical is happening behind the scenes at your library.

What was once a well-loved--but well-worn--Children's Library is now a space in motion. Shelves have been cleared, colors reimagined, and construction is officially underway as of April 6. Each day brings us closer to a bright, modern Children's Library, nicknamed Children's Cove by the library staff, designed for today's young readers, explorers, and creators.

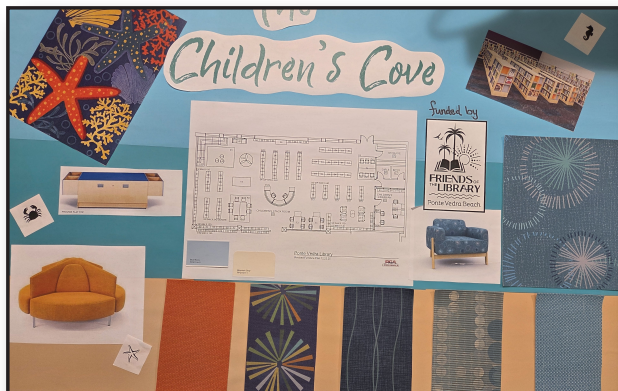


THE EXCITING NEWS?

The project is on schedule and on budget, with plans to welcome families back into the new space this summer.

From new flooring and windows to a refreshed ceiling and thoughtfully designed furnishings, every detail is coming together to create a space that inspires curiosity and connection.

And this transformation is powered by you. Thanks to our generous community we're building something truly special.



We're not quite done yet. Donations are still being accepted to help bring the finishing touches to life.



By the Numbers:

Construction Began:
April 6

Target opening:
This summer

Project Status:
On schedule & on budget

Donations:
Still being accepted



"This space is being reimagined with today's families in mind -- open, welcoming, and designed for how children learn and explore."



2026

FOL Board of Directors:

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. Marianne Stein .
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. Sharon Van Hees .
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Newsletter created by
Laura Chenore

The President's Message . . .



Dear Friends,

As we head into summer, I find myself reflecting on what a special time it has been for our library community-- and how much there is to look forward to.

Our Golden Dreams Celebration in February was a wonderful evening, with a full room of members enjoying great food, music, and the sense of connection that makes this community so special. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success. We're already beginning plans for next year, and we would love to welcome new volunteers to the event planning committee -- please contact me at president@folpvbf.org if you're interested in joining us.

I hope you received an email from the FOL with specific links to photos of the Golden Dreams Celebration and to our 2025 Annual Report. If not, please feel free to contact newsletter@folpvbf.org for that information.

We also took an important step forward in one of our most exciting projects -- the Children's Library renovation is now officially underway. It's incredibly rewarding to see this long-envisioned project begin to take shape. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the temporary Children's Library space in the Community Room. It's a creative and welcoming solution to our current space issue, and a true testament to the ingenuity and dedication of our library staff. (See related article under Youth Services Event Highlights on page 4)

Looking ahead, even with the current space limitations, the library team has put together a terrific [Summer Reading Program](#) along with a full summer calendar of activities for all ages. I hope you and your family will take advantage of everything being offered this season. (See Schedule of Programs on page 6)

We are excited to share updates on the official reopening of the Children's Library as plans are finalized. We will be sure to keep our members informed as details become available.

And finally, keep an eye out for more news from [Seymour's Bookstore](#), including a new "online pilot" initiative that will expand how we connect readers with great books while continuing to support our library.

None of this would be possible without you. Through your membership, donations, and support of Seymour's, the Friends of the Library fund the vast majority of programming and enhancements that make our library such a vibrant and essential part of our community.

Thank you for being an integral part of it.

Warm regards,

Mary

president@folpvbf.org



PVB Manager's Reflections

Kim Odom, Branch Manager,
Ponte Vedra Beach Library



**LIBRARY
CLOSINGS**

JUNETEENTH

June 19, 2026

INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4, 2026

CHANGE is EVERYWHERE!

Our physical spaces, staffing structure, and expanded collections -- it seems like we are embracing something new every season. *And change can be a very good thing.*

I invite you to stop by to meet our new staff members (See page 5). You may also notice new volunteers throughout the library -- and you will definitely see our building evolving.

As our youth room renovation continues and we begin planning for reopening, we extend our sincere thanks for your patience and understanding during this exciting transformation. This important investment in the Ponte Vedra Beach Library will create a welcoming environment for creativity, reading, and collaboration for years to come.

Much of what you'll see in the new youth space reflects feedback directly from our community. Every detail -- from cozy areas for reading to hands-on, experience-driven design elements -- has been thoughtfully planned with young learners and families in mind. Our Friends of the Library Renovation Committee, staff, and professional partners have been dedicated stewards of this shared vision.

In the meantime, we welcome you into the FOL Community Room, where a substantial book collection remains available. And for those planning ahead -- yes, Summer Reading activities will be on-site, making full use of our wonderful property.



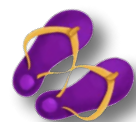
If you have any concerns, please know we will vacate the FOL Community Room in plenty of time for this summer's **voting season**.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support during this period of temporary disruptions -- limited access, occasional noise, and shifting spaces. For those who primarily use our adult areas, thank you especially for your patience and understanding.

And we haven't forgotten our **"young at heart"** community. Our Adult Services team has been busy planning and preparing engaging programs, while our Circulation Services team continues to make browsing our bookshelves easier to navigate. Be sure to explore our Staff Picks, Lucky Day, and Library of Things displays on your next visit.



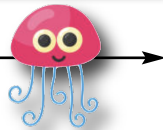
*Thank you
for sticking with us during
this exciting transition.*



At A Glance . . . Library News



Youth Services Event Highlights . . .



The Children's Cove @ PVB

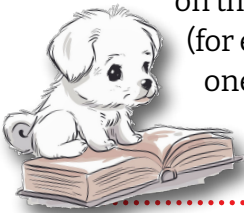


From Blueprint to Bookshelves:

From mapped-out layouts to a fully functioning Children's Cove, our temporary home is ready with greeters at the door (today it's Robyn Carr, Youth Services Librarian) to welcome families while the new Children's Library takes shape. The librarians did a fantastic job of putting this puzzle together--it was a lot of work and planning!

April marked the start of the Children's Area remodel. While construction is underway, a thoughtfully organized temporary Children's Library is open in the Friends of the Library Community Room, offering a full selection of books for browsing and checkout, along with coloring activities to keep young readers engaged. The library staff has nicknamed the area "The Children's Cove".

The library is also excited to introduce a new reading challenge for independent readers~~ the **Hang Ten Club**. Designed for children who read on their own, this challenge features a log with 10 fun categories (for example, read a book with a dog in it). Each child needs to read one book from each category and once the log is completed and returned to the Children's Department, they'll receive a certificate of completion and a prize.



Looking ahead, the Children's team is preparing for a grand celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary with this year's **Summer Reading Program, Stars, Stripes, and Stories**. The program kicks off May 30 with a Foam Party. For every five days in a week that children ages 0-18 read and track their progress, they'll earn a free book along with other incentives. These books are generously provided by the Friends of the Library of Ponte Vedra Beach.



We are grateful for the continued support of our community and the Friends of the Library, whose funding makes the Children's Area remodel and so many of our programs possible.

Adult Services Event Highlights

...

America's 250th Celebration



- ★ The library system is throwing a red, white, and blue celebration for America's 250th birthday with "**Stars, Stripes, and Stories**" as the theme! Whether you're into time-traveling with historical reenactors, getting crafty, testing your knowledge with trivia, or belting out patriotic tunes, there's a star-spangled activity for patrons of every age!



June — August 2026 Staff News



We are pleased to welcome [Ginee Luteran](#) as our new Reference Librarian. You'll find her at the Reference Desk and in the Adult stacks as she becomes familiar with our collections and services. Ginee is a recent graduate of the University of Kentucky and an alumna of Flagler College. She enjoys reading and writing sapphic fiction, playing video games, and taking her dog on long walks on the beach. A local of 20 years, Ginee is excited to join the Adult Services team and give back to the community.



The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch is also pleased to welcome [Alaina Medina](#) as our newest Library Assistant. You'll see her at the Circulation Desk and in the stacks as she becomes familiar with our processes, collections, and services. Alaina is a graduate of Flagler College and is excited to join the team. She enjoys a wide range of reading-- from fantasy to the classics--and is currently exploring works by Japanese authors.



Kudos to Youth Library Specialist [Alyce Meadows](#) on her nomination for the 2026 St. Johns County *Employee of the Year*, recognizing her outstanding customer service to young people and their caregivers. Over the past year, Alyce has earned consistent praise for making children and teens feel welcome, engaging with them meaningfully, and supporting caregivers with respect and patience. Parents frequently highlight her approachability, kindness, book knowledge, and genuine enthusiasm for guiding young readers. By learning the names and interests of regular visitors, Alyce has helped create a welcoming environment where children look forward to each library visit.



Congratulations to [Jennan Norenberg](#), Library Assistant, who recently earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in painting and drawing, along with a minor in education, from the University of North Florida. Jennan's final piece was exhibited at the UNF Lufrano Gallery in April.

We said a sad farewell to [Jane Weaver](#), one of our Youth Services Program Coordinators, in April when she left PVB to join the Youth Services team at the Hastings Branch Library. Jane did an amazing job with stories for our "littles" and music for our grown-ups.



June-August 2026 Schedule of Programs > > > > >



Liz Strach
enjoys
Art with Kasha
and also
volunteers
at Seymour's

America's 250th

Adult Programming

Guest Speaker: Learn about Norse Legends THU | June 4 | 3:00 pm | RSVP
Tech Help with David THU | June 18 & 25 | July 9 & 23 | August 20 | 10:30am-12:00 pm
Book Lovers Book Club @ 11:00 am
June 5 | 1776 by David McCullough*
*Book Club will be held offsite at Christ Church, 400 San Juan Dr, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
July 31 | **The Secret Book Society** by Madeline Martin
Color, Craft, & Connect TUE | June 9 & 23 | July 14 & 28 | August 11 & 25 | 10:00 am-1:00 pm
Wills and Advanced Directives Seminar WED | June 10 & July 22 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Cricut Crafts TUE | June 16 | 4:00 pm | RSVP
Memory Café MON | June 22, July 27, August 24 | 1:30 – 3:30 pm | RSVP
Art w/ Kasha SAT | June 28 | 2:00 pm | RSVP
Ponte Vedra Writers Group SAT | July 25 | 11:00 am
America's 250th Book Chats
TUE | June 30 | 4:00 pm | RSVP
THU | July 15 | 4:00 pm | RSVP
TUE | August 18 | 4:00 pm | RSVP
Patriotic Sing-along with River City Dulcimers SAT | August 22 | 3:00 pm | RSVP | All Ages
"Tea with Ben Franklin" Historical Reenactment Experience SUN | August 23 | 2:00 pm | RSVP | Ages 8+

Mixed Age Programs

Patriotic Sing-along with River City Dulcimers SAT | August 22 | 3:00 pm | All Ages | RSVP
"Tea with Ben Franklin" Historical Reenactment Experience SUN | August 23 | 2:00 pm | Ages 8+ | RSVP
Lego Building Competition MON | August 3 | 4:30 – 6:00 pm | Ages 7+ | RSVP
America's 250th Trivia WED | July 29 | 4:30 – 5:30 pm | Ages 10+ | RSVP

Storytimes

Due to the renovations, there will be no Storytimes in June, July and August. Storytimes will resume in September.

Youth Programming

Stars, Stripes and Stories Summer Reading Kick-Off Fun Foam Party SAT | May 30 | 10:00am
American Girl Tea Party TUE | June 2 | 10:00 am
Ducks in a Pool SAT | June 6 | 10:00 am
Americana Art in the Park TUE | June 9 | 10:00 am
Miniature Golf for Kids SAT | June 13 | 10:00 am
Westward Ho! Pioneers! TUE | June 16 | 10:00 am
Flag Prints on Canvas Bags SAT | June 20 | 10:00 am
National Parks in Bird Island Park TUE | June 23 | 10:00 am
Exploding Paint Bombs TUE | June 30 | 10:00 am
Patriotic Sand Art TUE | July 7 | 10:00 am
Fun with Bubbles TUE | July 14 | 10:00 am
Patriotic Pinwheels TUE | July 21 | 10:00 am
Summer Reading Finale! SNOW CONES SAT | July 25 | 10:00 am

STARS STRIPES and
STORIES



Teen Programming

Teen Advisory Board MON | June 8 | July 13 | 5:00 pm
Painting with Elisabeth MON | June 8 | 6:00 pm
Video Game Truck in the Parking Lot MON | June 15 | 5:30 pm
Arcade Basketball in the Parking Lot MON | June 22 | 5:30 pm
All American Picnic Snacks MON | July 6 | 5:30 pm
Tie Dye T-Shirts MON | July 13 | 6:00 pm
Teen Financial Literacy SAT | July 18 | 10:00 am – 3:00 pm | RSVP
America's 250th Trivia and Pizza Night MON | July 20 | 5:30 pm

Summer Reading

SUMMER READING KICK-OFF – CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH
SAT | MAY 30 | 10:00am



2026 Jack Morgan VolunTeen Service Award

Established in 2003, the Friends of the Library created the **Jack Morgan VolunTeen Service Award** to honor former FOL president Jack Morgan, whose leadership helped bring the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library to life.

This year's recipient, **Erika Mayerhofer** of Ponte Vedra, was presented with a \$1,500 award by FOL President Mary Gebhart. A student at Nease High School, Erika began volunteering in March 2025 and has already contributed 75 hours of service.



The Jack Morgan VolunTeen Service Award was presented by FOL president Mary Gebhart to **Erika Mayerhofer** of Ponte Vedra.



Erika worked with Robyn Carr, Youth Services Librarian (on left) and Joan Meyers, Youth Services Program Coordinator.

According to Youth Services Programs Coordinator Joan Meyers, Erika is a standout volunteer~~reliable, self-motivated, and always ready to help. She arrives each Saturday with a smile, moves seamlessly from shelf reading to shelving, and assists across departments, from children's materials to DVDs and adult collections.

Erika especially enjoyed helping with children's programs. "It boosted my creativity and helped me communicate clearly," she shared. "My time at the library also taught me about community~~seeing people of all ages come together showed me how important that connection is."

Erika's dedication, positivity, and commitment to service make her a truly deserving recipient of this year's award.



Stories, Smiles, and a Shared Love of Books

Spend a Thursday at Seymour's Bookstore and you'll quickly discover it's more than a place to buy books~~ it's a place where stories are shared, friendships are formed, and every shelf has a story behind it. Our Thursday volunteers bring a wonderful mix of experiences, passions, and personal connections to the bookstore, creating a warm and welcoming space for everyone who walks through the door.



Elisabeth moved to Ponte Vedra from Sarasota, where she volunteered at the Gulf Gate Library bookstore. So when she found herself living "just around the corner" from the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, getting involved at Seymour's felt like a natural fit.

"Volunteering has made me feel at home here in Ponte Vedra," she shares.

Elisabeth loves being surrounded by books and connecting with people who enjoy reading and sharing their

collections. One of her favorite moments was meeting a patron who spoke German and had lived in the same region she once called home~~ a small but meaningful connection.

Her reading interests include nature, historical fiction, and art. Two of her favorite books are *Cheaper by the Dozen* by Frank Gilbreth and *My First Summer in the Sierra* by John Muir.

"I like working at Seymour's~~ it gives people a chance to not only acquire books but also leave them in the hands of other book lovers. It's a friendly place where people help each other find that special book~~ at very reasonable prices!"

Meet the 4 volunteers who help make Thursdays at Seymour's so special...

After retiring in 2009, Jean found herself asking a familiar question: what's next?

A friend ~~ and fellow Seymour's volunteer ~~ had the answer.

"Volunteering at Seymour's is a great way to meet interesting people while supporting the programs of the Ponte Vedra Library."

Jean primarily shelves in the Fiction section (she's a devoted historical fiction reader), but her time at the bookstore has expanded her literary horizons.

"I've discovered so many wonderful books in non-fiction and other genres that I'll never be able to read them all!"

A strong believer in lifelong learning, Jean takes pride in Seymour's role in supporting children's programs and enriching the broader library experience.



Meet Karol Wanner



2 pm - 4 pm shift

Karol's introduction to Seymour's came unexpectedly -- during a visit to the library for early voting.

"I knew then... this is where I want to be when I retire."

With 10 years of experience running a bookstore and gift shop, Seymour's was a perfect fit.

Karol especially enjoys interacting with both children and adults. She loves watching young visitors explore the bookstore -- sometimes even turning everyday moments into learning opportunities that the parents appreciate and the children enjoy.

"When I have a cash transaction, I encourage children to help me make the exact change."

She also values the conversations that come with book donations -- hearing stories of moves, life changes, and well-loved collections finding new homes.

An avid puzzle enthusiast (and occasional "quality control tester"), Karol also enjoys historical fiction and general fiction.

One of her favorite recent reads is Theo of Golden by Allan Levi.

"It's a book about kindness and human connection -- and I highly recommend it. The world needs more Theos!"

Arden was introduced to Seymour's by her longtime friend Karol -- and quickly became part of the Thursday team.

She enjoys the people most of all -- both fellow volunteers and the patrons who come in to browse.

"I don't really have a favorite section, but I do love the beautiful coffee table books."

One of her most memorable days at Seymour's came during the local golf tournament --

The Players Championship.

A young man came in looking for a specific book -- he even had a photo of it. Though they didn't have a copy, Arden and her fellow volunteers offered to help track it down.

When she asked if he was in town for the tournament, he replied, "I'm playing in it."

That visitor? Professional golfer Max Homa.

Seymour's -- and the library -- quickly worked to locate the book and get it to him before he left town. Arden recalls how gracious he was, even making a donation to Seymour's.

In her free time, Arden enjoys audiobooks, especially fiction by authors like Elin Hilderbrand, Kristin Hannah, Julia Spencer-Fleming, and Freida McFadden.

If she could recommend one book to everyone, it would be The Wedding People by Alison Espach.

Interestingly, Arden lived behind the library for 17 years before discovering Seymour's.

"It has changed my life. The wonderful people who volunteer here have truly enriched it."

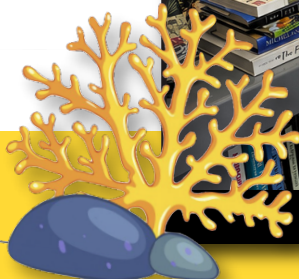
She adds, *"Seymour's benefits the entire community -- especially the children's area and library programs. If you're even thinking about volunteering, don't hesitate!"*



Meet Arden Spies



4 pm - 6 pm shift





Looking for a Specific Book or Genre?

>>> Just "Ask at Seymour's"

Many more books~~
and even vinyl~~may be waiting behind the scenes.

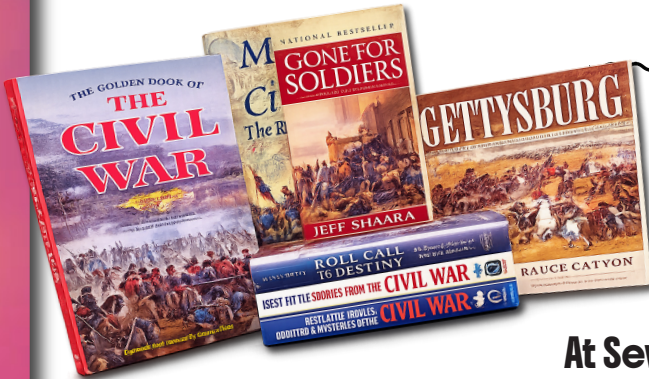
Books aren't just something people read~~
they're something people love.



Whether it's historical fiction, cookbooks, biographies, or a deep dive into a favorite topic, many readers develop a passion for a particular genre.

At Seymour's Bookstore, you'll find a wide variety of books on our shelves~~ but what you see is only part of the story.

Because of the incredible number of donations we receive, we simply can't display everything at once. Many books are sorted and organized behind the scenes, often by category.



So if you're searching for something specific~~ books on the Civil War, art, travel, or a favorite author~~ just ask one of our volunteers. We're always happy to check the sorting room to see what might be waiting for you.

At Seymour's, the shelves are just the beginning.

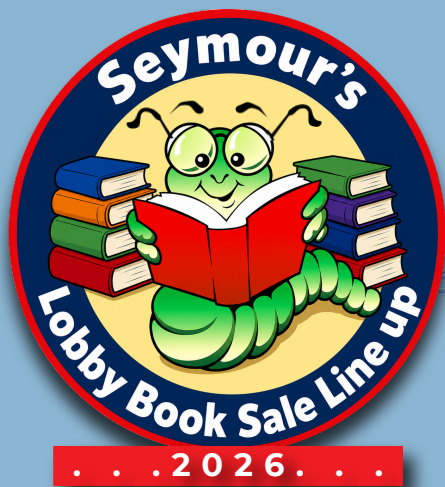
SPINNING Back into Style

Vinyl records are having a moment~~again! Music lovers of all ages are rediscovering the rich sound and hands-on experience of playing records, making vinyl one of the fastest-growing formats in music today.



We occasionally receive vinyl donations at Seymour's Bookstore. Some make it to the shelves, but there may be more tucked away~~ so if you're a crate-digger at heart, don't be shy... just ask!





Have Books to DONATE?

(Or a Hidden Treasure?)

Dates to know. Treasures to find.

Book lovers, consider this your friendly nudge from Seymour-- there's plenty more browsing ahead in 2026! We're planning three more book sales this year each one filled with fresh finds, hidden gems, and those "I can't believe I found this!" moments. Whether you're hunting for your next great read or just love the thrill of the search, these sales are always worth the visit.

Mark your calendar (and maybe bring a tote or two):
NOTE: The first Thursday of the sale (which is the first date showing for each sale), is a sneak preview reserved for FOL members.

June 25 ~ July 11
Sept 10 ~ 26
Nov 19 ~ Dec 12

A quick note: with the Children's Library renovation underway, dates may shift slightly-- so keep an eye out for updates.

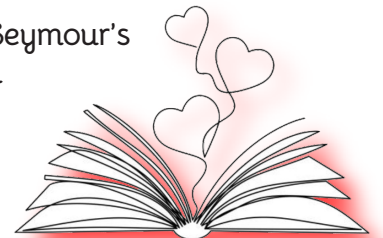
And one more tip from Seymour . . . come often. The tables change daily, and today's empty spot might be tomorrow's perfect find.



Clearing a shelf?
Finished a favorite mystery?
Ready to pass along a great read?
We're always delighted to accept your book donations-- because every book deserves a second life (and a new reader) at Seymour's!

Have a larger collection to share? Give Seymour's a call at 904-295-3202. We may even have boxes available to help you pack things up before your drop-off.

Seymour says:



"Don't let those great stories sit on the shelf-- send them my way!"

Thanks for helping us keep the shelves full and the stories flowing!



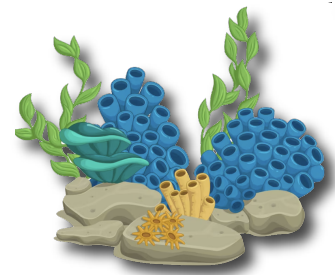
Credit Card Payment Available at Seymour's Bookstore

Seymour's Bookstore is now accepting credit card payments for all store and sale purchases. There are NO fees applied and Seymour's pays the sales tax!



Celebrating **SUPER** Stanley!

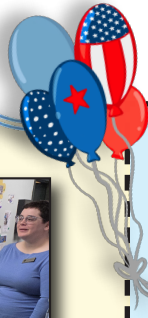
Our very own Officer Stanley Gaynor was recognized as the Gidden's Security Officer of the Month for the month of March. Officer Stanley is a quiet presence at the library who exudes professionalism and makes everyone feel secure. He's especially popular with our "littles" -- and you might just hear them call him **SUPER** Stanley!



Our Mission

is to make the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch of the St. Johns County Library System an outstanding educational, cultural, civic and recreational center for the community. This will be achieved by providing supplemental books, materials, volunteers and programs; fundraising and advocating on behalf of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. By enlisting support of all those dedicated to disseminating knowledge, we believe the community will be enhanced and enriched.

A copy of the registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352 toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



• **HELP WANTED** •

The Friends of the Library has exciting projects underway -- and we could use a few extra hands!

We're looking for volunteers with skills or experience in Excel, Word, Google Workspace, web design, and/or social media (Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor) to support:

Communications - Digital Organization - Membership

Interested? Email:

newsletter@folpvbfl.org

Help make a difference at our community library!



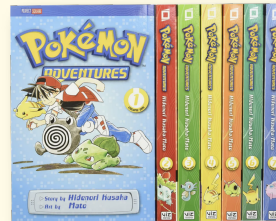
Friends of the Library recognized the Ponte Vedra Beach librarians during National Library Workers Day. Mary Gebhart, president of the FOLPVB, brought refreshments enjoyed by all.

Facts:

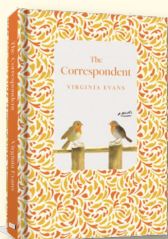
Interesting

TOP 5 **JUVENILE BOOKS** CHECKED OUT BETWEEN JAN 1 AND APR 24

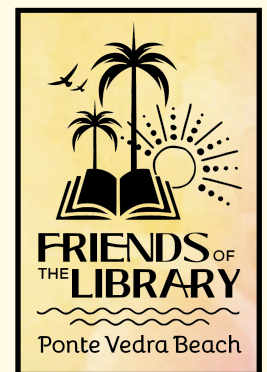
- 1> Pokemon Adventures
- 2> Disaster Squad: Wildfire Rescue
- 3> Scare School Diaries: Welcome to Scare School
- 4> Bob Books: Set 1: Beginning Readers
- 5> Mavis the Bravest



TOP 5 **ADULT BOOKS** CHECKED OUT BETWEEN JAN 1 AND APR 24



- 1> Lucky Day Book: The Correspondent by Virginia Evans
- 2> Mobile Hotspot (A Thing)
- 3> James by Percival Everett
- 4> A Land Remembered by Patrick D. Smith
- 5> Nightshade by Michael Connelly



Post Office Box 744
Ponte Vedra Beach
Florida | 32004
904-295-3202
www.FOLPVBFL.org

