

MEDIA RELEASE

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[Reading with Grandpa at the library image](#)

[National Library Week graphic](#)

**Libraries strengthen their communities:
local public library wins Innovation Grant Award just in time for National Library Week**

ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FL — 4/07/19 This week, the St. Johns County Public Library System (SJCPLS) joins libraries of all types in celebrating the many ways libraries build strong communities by providing critical resources, programs and expertise.

April 7-13, 2019 is National Library Week, an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians and library workers play in transforming lives and communities. Libraries are at the heart of their cities, towns, schools and campuses. They have public spaces where people of all backgrounds can come together and connect.

SJCPLS is proud to announce this National Library Week that the library is adding a set of Oculus-Go Virtual Reality (VR) viewers to its collection of educational resources. Purchased through a State Library of Florida Innovation Grant Award, these viewers will allow the library to enhance the technological knowledge of our community through immersive VR experiences and programming.

Library programs encourage community members to meet to discuss civic issues, work together using new technologies like VR viewers, or learn alongside one another in SAT prep classes. Library staff also partner with other civic and service organizations to actively engage with the people they serve, always striving to make sure their community's core needs are being met.

"Libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas for all," said Library Director Debra Rhodes Gibson. "They also foster civic engagement by keeping people informed and aware of community events and issues."

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April.

With six full service branch libraries throughout the county, two traveling bookmobiles, and a beautiful, user-friendly website, using and supporting your library is easier than ever. To learn more about the library system, visit www.sjcpls.org.

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*The St. Johns County Public Library system serves the community by providing access to technology, facilities, collections, programs and services that help people meet our mission: **Connect, Learn, Enjoy @ Your Library**. For more information on the St. Johns County Public Library System, visit sjcpls.org.*