

# SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## *Libraries and Historical Resources*

**TO:** Sarasota County Commission  
**THROUGH:** Jonathan R. Lewis, County Administrator  
**FROM:** Sarabeth Kalajian, Director, Libraries and Historical Resources  
**DATE:** February 28, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** **William H. Jervy, Jr. Venice Public Library Project Update**

This Library Project Update is the fifteenth in a series of reports to the Board of County Commissioners (Board), prepared for the February 28, 2018 Joint Meeting between the County and the City of Venice. This report is presented on the following topics:

- A. Operation of the Temporary Library Service;
- B. Construction of the New Library and;
- C. Communication and Public Outreach

**A. Operation of the Temporary Library Service:**

The temporary Venice Library at the Hamilton Building is open Monday through Saturday, for a total of 51 hours per week, including three evenings. Since opening in October 2016, more than 163,400 library visits have been recorded, for approximately 10,200 visits per month. In January 2018, a total of 12,368 visits were reported.

Library staff continues to host programs for all ages, including those offered at the library, the Venice Community Center and the Venice Art Center.

The Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County conduct tutoring services and instructor training at the library, where the organizational office is located.

**B. Construction of the New Library:**

On October 30, 2017, the Board welcomed representatives of the City of Venice, Friends of the Library, Foundation and Advisory Board members, library staff, volunteers and patrons to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new William H. Jervy, Jr. Venice Public Library.

Construction commenced on November 1, 2017, with steady progress including the completion of soil remediation, rough masonry of the exterior walls, rough framing of windows, placement of the storm water structures and curbing for the new Nokomis Avenue entrance.

**C. Communication and Public Outreach:**

Two Community Update meetings are scheduled for May 1, 2018 at the Venice Community Center: 10:30 a.m. to Noon and 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Staff continues to post information to the County website, send messages regarding the project milestones to the 400+ citizens included on the eMail distribution list, and respond to questions and comments via phone calls and inquiries submitted to the [AskLibraries@scgov.net](mailto:AskLibraries@scgov.net) site.