

## Book Lovers Generate Record-Breaking Sale

People still love books and bargains. The success of the recent Friends of the Citrus County Library System (FOCCLS) Spring Book Sale provides ample proof of that. The Friends Spring Book Sale just completed raised \$42,183 for Citrus County libraries, a sum that surpasses all previous FOCCLS sale records. That brings the grand total for the eight years of book sales to \$382,183.

On the opening day of the sale, eager book worms crowded the Citrus County Auditorium searching for bargains and treasures. Those crowd scenes were repeated each day of the sale. Over 1500 shoppers turned out during the five day fundraiser that benefits Central Ridge, Coastal, Lakes Region libraries and the Citrus County Library System in general.



Gloria P. and her mother Amber read together at the recent Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale.

Bargain hunters bought quality books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles and games at discount prices. Most astonishing was the final event, Tuesday's \$3 a bag day, when hundreds of patrons filled their Publix bags with \$4200 worth of merchandise. That's 1400 bags in five hours.

In addition to helping our libraries, book sale shoppers supported childhood literacy by donating \$781 for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library project which provides a book a month to all registered Citrus County children from birth to age five. The Friends also contributed boxes of books to Operation Paperback for American troops overseas.

Revenue from these semi-annual sales helps our libraries purchase new books, print and audio, periodicals and other materials, acquisitions that would not be possible without the support of the Friends' fundraising. In these economically distressed times, that support is even more essential.

These sales are mammoth undertakings which owe their success to many groups and community organizations. The Friends are especially grateful to the *Citrus County Chronicle*, the Rotary Club of Inverness, Citrus High School Air Force JROTC students, the staff of the Citrus County Auditorium, WYKE, Citrus County library staff members, Citrus County Schools, Publix Supermarkets and the Inverness Wal-Mart Super Center.

This sale, like those of the previous seven years, depends on the hard work and devotion of the FOCCLS volunteers, 144 of whom worked the sale and a core of about 20 Friends who labor year round at the Book House located in the Historic Hernando Community School, sorting, pricing and packing books for the sales. Last and most importantly, we salute the people of Citrus County. It is you who make these fundraisers possible through your generous contributions of quality books and your patronage of the sales. Thank you Citrus County! We ask for your continued support. Demonstrate your love of the libraries by becoming a Friend. Drop by your local library for a membership application. For \$5 a year, you'll be adding your voice for literacy and a bright future for our community. And please continue to "read, return and recycle" your reading materials by dropping them off at your local library. We look forward to seeing you at the fall sale, Oct 2-6.

*Lynne Boele is president of the Friends of the Citrus County Library System.*