Vista Royale Computer Club

Meeting Minutes - January 29, 2026

Here's your recap of last week's VRCC meeting — and it was a great one! Linda Briggs, President, opened the meeting by welcoming all 40 attendees. Holly and Angie from the Brackett Library were our guest speakers. Linda pointed out the "library table" in the back filled with handouts and reminded everyone that today you could get a FREE library card right on the spot. It turned out that many Vista Royale residents signed up for a library card before and after our meeting.

And a quick reminder: next week we're hosting the Museum of Art for the very first time!

Holly, the Brackett Library branch manager, shared an impressive overview of what the Indian River County Library System offers.

Some highlights:

• Free museum passes (Vero Beach Museum of Art, Environmental Learning Center, Mel Fisher Museum)

• Blood pressure kits you can borrow

• Book Club in a Bag kits

• Programs for all ages — crafts, story times, movies, bingo, music

• Chef Warren next month with a Cajun cooking demo

• A monthly newsletter you can sign up for

• Online resources like Consumer Reports, LinkedIn Learning, legal/financial tools, and Ancestry Library Edition

• Tech help appointments at every branch

• A strong genealogy department at the Main Library

• Branch specialties: Main – Genealogy, Brackett – Preservation Lab, North County – STEM Lab

Angie then introduced the Brackett Library's Preservation Lab — a self-service digitization space open to anyone with a library card. You can convert almost anything: VHS tapes, film reels, photos, negatives, slides, cassette tapes, vinyl records, scrapbooks, baby books, family Bibles, and oversized items.

The lab is "DIY with support," meaning Angie or a trained staff member helps you get started. Some transfers run in real time, so plan accordingly.

Why digitize? Old media deteriorates, equipment is disappearing, and digital files are easy to store and share. Plus, you can label everything so future generations know who's who.

Why not use Legacy Box? They charge around $30 per tape and mark up flash drives. At the Preservation Lab, your only cost is a flash drive (about $12). Note: VRCC sells flash drives for $5 in the PACH lab.

Equipment includes:

- Elgato video capture
- Wolverine reel converter
- Epson FastFoto high-speed scanner
- Epson V600 flatbed
- ScanSnap overhead scanner
- Book scanner
- Cassette-to-MP3 setup
- Large-format scanner
- Floppy disk reader
- Kodak slide scanner
- Photomyne light-pad setup

Storage tip: A 2-hour video is about 2 GB. Flash drives aren't long-term storage — move your files to a computer, external hard drive, or cloud service, and keep multiple backups for anything precious.

Appointments are available Monday & Thursday (9–5) and Tuesday & Wednesday (12–8). You get the whole space to yourself and can bring up to three helpers.

Angie shared examples of real projects: digitizing family film reels, creating life-story projects, preserving DAR scrapbooks, scanning family writings from the 1800s, and digitizing decades of travel slides. She had brochures and business cards available.

We wrapped up with our weekly gift card drawing. With 40 attendees, the winning number was 15. Congratulations to Christine G.!

Next week's meeting: **Thursday, February 5th at 9:30 a.m.,The Museum of Art** will be joining us for the first time to share their programs and talk about their exciting new addition. It's going to be a great session — hope to see you there!

Nancy Dalley, Secretary

VRCC