

Between the Lines

The Charlotte County Libraries & History Monthly Newsletter

In This Issue...

*Host a holiday book swap
this season*

*December's most
anticipated new releases*

*Fireside listens: 4 cozy
audiobooks for the family*

*Archives spotlight: We're
making holiday recipes
from 1974*

*No fines? You can still help
us feed the hungry*

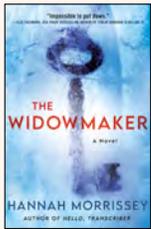
Staff picks you'll love

December 2022



Coming Soon to Our Collection

Browse through the hundreds of items that are on order right now: bit.ly/OnOrderItems



Dec 6

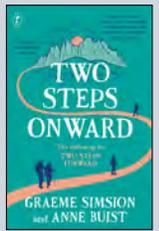
The Widowmaker by Hannah Morrissey

Back home in crime-ridden, grime-filled Black Harbor, WI, struggling photographer Morgan Mori is snapping shots at the glittery-rich Reynolds family’s holiday party when she witnesses a murder that could hold clues to the long-ago disappearance of family patriarch Clive Reynolds. And more clues could come from her own shadowy past.

Dec 6

Two Steps Onward by Graeme Simsion

Bestselling husband-and-wife writing team Graeme Simsion and Anne Buist return with another smart, romantic adventure set on another of Europe’s incredible pilgrimages. *Two Steps Onward* is the wise and witty follow-up to *Two Steps Forward*. It’s about helping the people you love and knowing when to let go, figuring out what you really want in life, and seizing your chances before it’s too late.



Dec 6

Elizabeth Taylor: The Grit & Glamour of an Icon by Kate Andersen Brower

Elizabeth Taylor captures this intelligent, empathetic, tenacious, volatile, and complex woman as never before, from her rise to massive fame at age twelve in *National Velvet* to becoming the first to negotiate a million-dollar salary for a film, from her eight marriages and enduring love affair with Richard Burton to her lifelong battle with addiction. Here is a fascinating and complete portrait worthy of the legendary star and her legacy.

Dec 13

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile [DVD]

When the Primm family moves to New York City, their son Josh struggles to adapt to his new school and friends. That changes when he discovers Lyle—a singing crocodile who loves baths, caviar and great music—living in the attic of his new home. The two become fast friends, but when Lyle’s existence is threatened by an evil neighbor, the Primms must band together with Lyle’s charismatic owner to show the world that family can come from the most unexpected places.



Join the wait list! Although on-order items are not yet available for checkout, you can still place holds on them.

charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net

Library Bulletin



Let it Snow!

Saturday, Dec. 17, 11 a.m.

Dress for a mess and come celebrate the season with crafts and activities the whole family will enjoy at the **Family Services Center** at 21500 Gibraltar Drive! Please register each child separately. Ages 3-12.



Teen Gingerbread Houses

Friday, Dec. 16, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Ring in the holiday season and make delicious gingerbread houses at the **Englewood Charlotte Library**. Receive your own gingerbread kit and design a unique structure that's a treat for the eyes and the stomach! Call 941.681.3736 to register.



Holiday Plants: A Life Beyond the Holidays

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Whether decorating with or gifting plants, use care tips to extend the enjoyment beyond the holidays. Join the Master Gardeners at the **Punta Gorda Charlotte Library** to learn more about these plants.



Noon Years Countdown

Saturday, Dec. 31, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Count down the end of the year in this Noon Year celebration at the **Punta Gorda Charlotte Library**! Plan your resolutions and say goodbye to the last noon of the year with snacks, photos, and crafts.

In observance of the holidays, all library locations will be closed
Friday, December 24 through Monday, December 26
and again Sunday, January 1 and Monday, January 2.

No items will be due between December 23 and January 2.

BETWEEN THE
LINES
2022 READING CHALLENGE

There's still time to complete the 2022 Between the Lines Reading Challenge!

Bring your completed list to any of our libraries before January 1 to claim your prize.



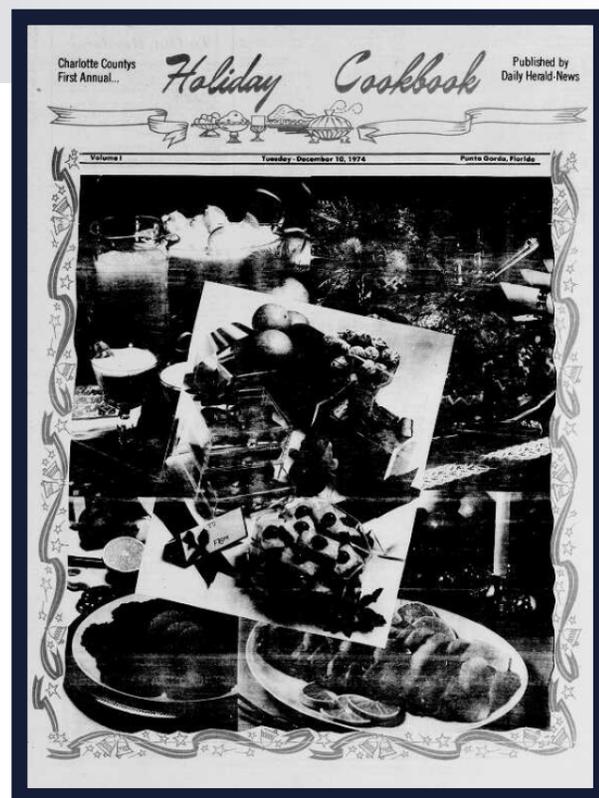
Thank you for participating in our first reading challenge!



New year, new prompts...
Check out our January issue for the 2023 challenge!

Archives Spotlight

There's nothing like an old newspaper to transport you back in time! The *Daily Herald-News* published an annual *Holiday Cookbook* full of recipes submitted by the community. We tried a couple of entries from the December 10, 1974 edition.



CHERRY TORTE
16 graham crackers
1-3 c. butter
½ c. sugar
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese
½ c. sugar
2 eggs
1 can (1 lb. 6 oz.) cherry pie filling



Crush graham crackers. Melt butter in 8" square cake pan. Add crumbs and ½ c. sugar and mix well. Pat mixture firmly on bottom of pan.

Bring cream cheese to room temperature and beat until smooth - add ½ c. sugar gradually. Add eggs, one at a time, beating hard after each addition. Beat until mixture is very smooth. Pour over crumbs and bake 25 min. in 325 degree oven.

When cool - spoon cherry pie filling over top and chill for at least three hours. Serves eight.

Note: Blueberry pie filling is equally delicious.

This is fruit-pie filling - not canned fruit.

Mrs. E.J. Monnier
Punta Gorda

The picture does not do justice to this dessert! It was delicious and easy to make. I was surprised at how great the graham cracker crust came out. The cherry was excellent, but I think this would work well with any pie filling flavor. It was a little messy to cut and serve, but so good!



These cornflake wreaths were easy and oh-so-delicious. They taste a lot like a Rice Krispie treat—but elevated for the holiday season. We made ours cookie-sized and decorated with red mini M&Ms for a festive burst of chocolatey flavor.

HOLIDAY WREATH
30 marshmallows
1 tsp. vanilla
3 1-3 cups corn flakes
½ cup butter
2 tsp. green food color

Combine marshmallows, butter, vanilla and food coloring in top of double boiler. Heat over water until marshmallows and butter are melted, stirring frequently. Gradually stir in cornflakes. Drop from teaspoon onto waxed paper. With hands shape into 9" wreath. If you wish - decorate with red candied cherries and silver dragees.

Edna Micheletta
Port Charlotte

Find the rest of the *Holiday Cookbook* and more historic newspaper content when you use your library card to access Newspaper Archive! Visit bit.ly/NewsArchiveCC to log in.

A Midnight Clear: Books for Stargazers

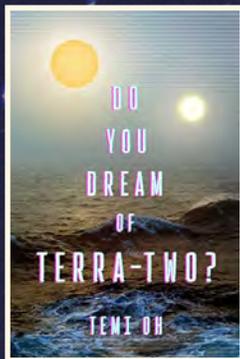
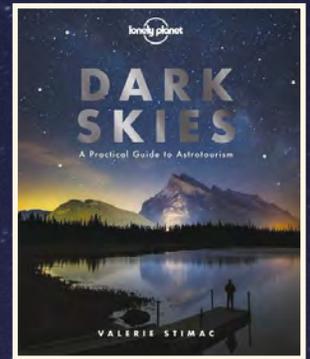
December's short days and cool nights are an amateur astronomer's paradise. Pick up one of these books to explore constellations or dream of distant worlds.



The Martian by Andy Weir

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills—and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit—he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next.

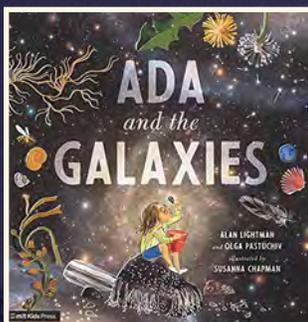
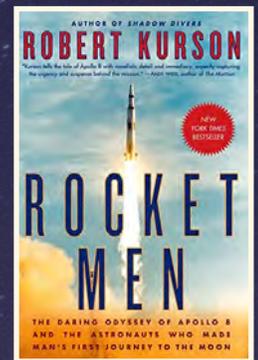
Dark Skies: A practical guide to astrotourism by Valerie Stimac
Witnessing the sweep of the Milky Way, the remains of comets burning up in our atmosphere, or the shimmering aurora, we better understand the universe and our place in it.



Do you dream of Terra-Two? by Temi Oh

When an Earth-like planet is discovered, a team of six teens, along with three veteran astronauts, embark on a twenty-year trip to set up a planet for human colonization—but find that space is more deadly than they ever could have imagined.

Rocket Men: The daring odyssey of Apollo 8 and the astronauts who made man's first journey to the Moon by Robert Kurson
In this real-life thriller, Kurson reveals the epic dangers involved and the singular bravery it took to leave Earth for the first time—and arrive at a new world.



Ada and the Galaxies by Alan P. Lightman and Olga Pastuchiv
Perfect for young stargazers! By day, Ada tracks osprey in the trees, paddles a kayak, and hunts for shells. But she's most in her element when the sun goes down and the stars blink to life.

How to host a holiday book swap

Why not give this year's gift exchange a new twist? Instead of the usual gifts, guests bring a favorite book to trade in a white elephant-style game.

Invite your readers

First decide on your guest list. A group of about 10-20 book-loving adults works well. You may wish to plan a little differently if you're inviting a larger group or throwing a family party with kids.

Share these instructions

Let your guests know how to participate in the swap:

1. Buy a new copy of a favorite book that you think others would also enjoy. A gently used book is fine, too. Just make sure it's in a condition that you'd be happy to receive as a gift.
2. Wrap the book in gift wrap.
3. On the outside of your gift, write a note telling what you loved about the book. Don't give away the title or author!



Modifications: For a large or rowdy group, skip the note—you'll struggle to read them all. For a family group with kids, consider a separate kids' book swap. Each young guest can be assigned another child to shop for based on the recipient's age and interests.

At the party

Prepare a gift table where your guests can deposit their books when they arrive. Allow some time for mingling, eating, and introductions. When it's time to begin the swap, gather everyone in a circle and explain the rules. Choose who will go first. For a larger group, you may prefer to draw numbers instead. We used the rules below. Feel free to substitute your favorite white elephant tradition.



Swap rules

1. On your turn, you can choose to either open a wrapped book or steal one that has already been opened. (If you're first, don't worry—you'll have a chance to steal at the end.)
2. If opening a new book, read the note aloud. It's fun to try to guess what the book might be before it is opened!
3. Once a book has been stolen, it is "locked." It can't be stolen again.
4. If the book you're holding is stolen, you can choose whether to steal a different book or open a new one.
5. When all the books have been opened, whoever went first can decide to keep the book they're holding or to steal any book that hasn't been locked.

That's it! Eat, drink, and be merry with your fellow bookworms. If all goes well, the book you come home with won't be a book you'd have picked out for yourself—but you just might love it!

Deck the halls

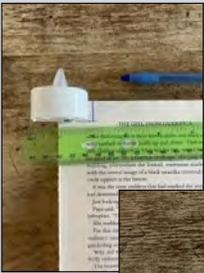
Your book swap will be lit with charm when you fold an old book into this elegant candle centerpiece.

You will need:

- an old book
- utility knife
- ruler
- pencil
- battery-powered tea light—no fire, please!
- glue
- a festive ribbon
- bits of greenery, decorative berries, or a lightweight ornament



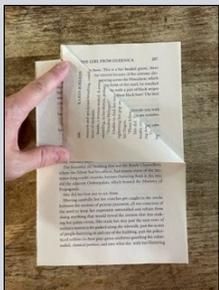
1. Use a utility knife to remove the cover from your book. If you're using a hardcover book, you'll also need to remove the spine.



2. With the book closed, line up the center of your tea light at the top of the book's spine. Mark an area half the width and height of your tea light.

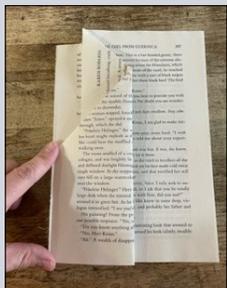


Using the ruler as a guide for your knife, cut out this rectangle. Keep slicing until you've cut through all the pages. When you're finished, the tea light should fit snugly into the space.



3. Fold the first page back so that its top edge aligns with the vertical edge of your candle slot.

Crease firmly. Press down with the ruler for a sharper edge.



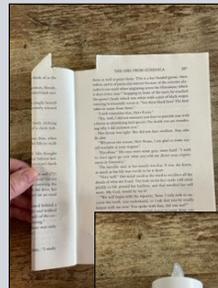
4. Fold the page back again so that its outside edge aligns vertically with the book's spine. Make sure the page's bottom edge also lines up with the bottom of the book.

Crease firmly.



5. Fold this same page back a third time, bringing the edge you creased in step 4 over again to align vertically with the book's spine.

Crease firmly.



6. Pull the page gently to the side. Repeat steps 3 - 5 with each subsequent page.

Work your way through the book until your tea light is well-supported.

The more pages you fold, the sturdier your pillar will be. When you're satisfied, remove any remaining pages and discard them.



7. Add a bit of glue between the first and last pages of the book. Place the tea light on top.

Tie or glue ribbon around your pillar, then attach any other

festive additions you'd like. Let the glue dry.

Turn on the tea light to illuminate your table with book-ish charm.

Perfect!



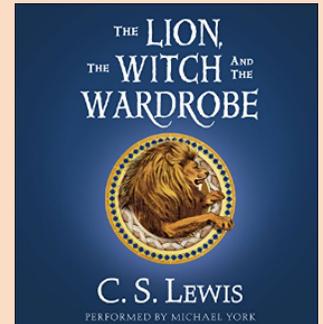
Fireside Listening

Gather the family around the fire and give these books a listen. Even if you've read it before, listening with the family is a whole new experience.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

by C.S. Lewis (performed by Michael York)

The only thing better than exploring Narnia with your children is having Michael York do it with you. With his precise but lively British accent, he eases listeners into the mysterious world hidden behind the wardrobe. With flawless accuracy York seems to sense the very timbre of the White Witch's horrible voice and the anguish of the kind faun, Mr. Tumnus. York gives to each an unforgettable vocal characterization that will surely live in our children's memories.



Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

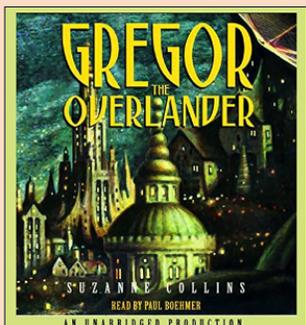
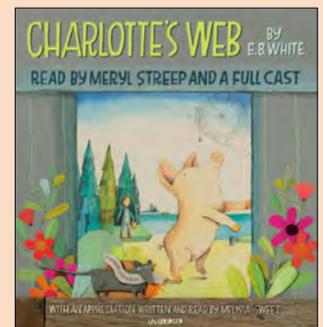
by J.K. Rowling (performed by Jim Dale)

Jim Dale, with his fully voiced reading, brings the world of wizards to life in ways unimagined even by those who have read and re-read the book. The accents are sure, the inflections perfectly suit the characters, and some of Rowling's particularly inventive bits become clearer. Sometimes poignant, often funny, Dale's interpretation of this enchanted other world is the consummate family-listening experience.

Charlotte's Web

by E.B. White (performed by Meryl Streep and a full cast)

Meryl Streep and a stellar cast take us to the barnyard. She draws the listener in with a smooth, consistent delivery and unobtrusive interjections highlighting the emotions of the dialogue. Every portrayal of every character bursts with personality. January LaVoy's Charlotte is thoughtful and patient. Kirby Heyborne takes Wilbur through a range of emotions as he goes from immature self-pity to the confidence of a true friend. And all the rest of the characters make the barnyard an inviting place to spend the day.



Gregor the Overlander

by Suzanne Collins (performed by Paul Boehmer)

When Gregor's sister falls through a grate in the laundry room, he follows to rescue her and lands in an Underland populated with humans, giant spiders, bats, cockroaches, and rats. Gregor accepts the role of Warrior in the hope of eventually making his way back home. Paul Boehmer's interpretation has just the right mix of suspense, mystery, and adventure to keep all listeners engaged.



Reviews courtesy of AudioFile

What's happening at Mid-County?

Our regional library on Forrest Nelson Blvd. has been unable to reopen.



Mid-County Regional Library on Forrest Nelson Blvd. received extensive damage from Hurricane Ian. Consequently, it will be closed for an indeterminate amount of time.

Books and other materials housed at Mid-County were packed up and taken away in climate-controlled containers. The restoration company is in the process of determining how much of the collection can be saved.

On the good news front, Mid-County Library staff are working at our three other branches that are open for business. For those of you who live in the center of the county, Port Charlotte Public Library (just 2.3 miles away from Mid-County Library, on the former Cultural Center campus) is open seven days a week from 10 am – 6 pm. Book drops are open for returns, and all library services are available inside.

Please remember to visit our other branches when you travel to the other parts of the county. Full library services are available at all sites.

Port Charlotte Public Library
2280 Aaron St.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Punta Gorda Charlotte Library
401 Shreve St.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Englewood Charlotte Library
3450 North Access Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

Check out our new podcast!

The Community Services Connection Podcast is the brand new, official podcast for Charlotte County's Community Services Department.

Community Services Public Relations Manager Breanna Benevenga dives deep into the divisions within Community Services: Recreation & Pools, Libraries & History, Parks & Natural Resources, and the UF/IFAS extension office of Charlotte County. Hear what's new so you can Get Up, Get Out, and Get Active! The first episodes of the podcast feature two of our fabulous librarians.

Episode 1: Interview with Librarian Supervisor Hana Brown

In this episode, Breanna and Hana discuss how libraries are evolving into much more than just a home for books. Libraries have become a space for community engagement, events, and innovative education.

Episode 2: Interview with Youth Librarian Elizabeth Lee

It's the most wonderful time of the year! In this episode, Youth Services Librarian Elizabeth Lee and Breanna highlight what's on the horizon for the holidays.



Listen at spoti.fi/3VmgrXF

Food for Fines feeds thousands

Local food pantries depend on donations through the library's Food for Fines program to feed hungry families in our community. Can you help?



If we're being honest, we kind of hate library fines—and we'd bet you hate them, too. In a perfect world, all books would be returned on time. None would be lost, and there'd be no need for any charges. But while fines are no fun, we love the Food for Fines program!

How it works Most overdue library items incur a fine of \$0.25 a day. If you lose an item, you'll be charged its replacement cost. Both types of fines can be waived when you donate non-perishable food items through our Food for Fines program. We'll waive \$1.00 in fines

for each non-expired, non-perishable canned good, dry food, or toiletry item you donate. If you've only paid \$0.49 for a can of chili, you're getting a great deal.

How it helps Donating to the program is also a great way to give back to our community. Last year, Charlotte County library patrons donated 27,845 food items, and we waived \$17,634.70 in fines. This means almost 40% of donations—over 10,000 additional items—were donated even when not needed to pay fines. Thank you!

Our food pantry partners see the difference these donations make in the lives of hungry families in our community. These volunteers work tirelessly to keep the pantries open despite limited resources. External funding was cut during the pandemic, but the number of hungry families only grew. The need is still greater following Hurricane Ian. That's why Food for Fines makes such an impact. According to Glenna at Edgewater Church's food pantry, "The library has kept us going through Covid and beyond. I don't know what we would do without the library."



How to give While we haven't resumed collecting overdue fines following Hurricane Ian, we're still collecting food. Can you give? Since we can't collect items at Mid-County, we've been sending far less than usual. Non-perishable food like canned goods, dry pasta, and cereal are always needed. Unopened toiletries and pet supplies are also appreciated. Bring donations to the desk at the Punta Gorda, Englewood, or Port Charlotte libraries. You can also donate directly to the organizations below.

Our partners



Edgewater Church
19190 Cochran Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
941.624.3039



St. Vincent de Paul Sacred Heart
25200 Airport Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941.575.0767

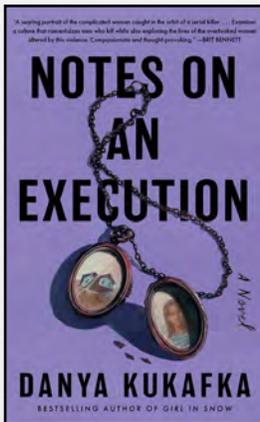


Englewood Helping Hand
700 E. Dearborn St.
Englewood, FL 34223
941.474.5864



First Presbyterian Church Port Charlotte
2230 Harriet St.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941.625.5045

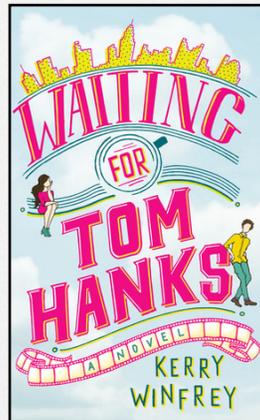
Staff Picks



Notes on an Execution by Danya Kukafka

“Did you ever wonder how life would be different if you made different choices? That is the basis of a multi-universe theory authored by Ansel, the novel’s serial killer and main character. This is not the typical crime novel but rather a thought-provoking story as the author introduces us to the various women whose lives have been shaped by the heinous acts of a madman. I was left to wonder how would their lives have been different if they had never met him.”

–Chris G., Library technician



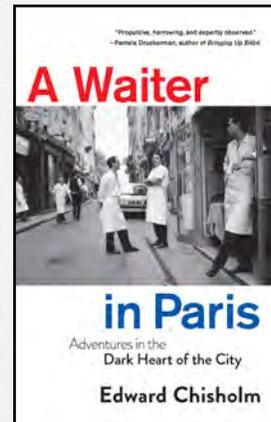
Waiting for Tom Hanks by Kerry Winfrey

“Our heroine dreams of meeting a man as wonderful as a character played by Tom Hanks in a classic rom-com.

On her first day at a new job on a movie set, she spills coffee on the film’s handsome star. Is the plot incredibly predictable? Yes. Do we care?

Nope! Reading this novel was like curling up with your favorite Hallmark movie on a rainy day. You already know how it ends, but there’s nothing quite so cozy.”

–Claire M., Technical services

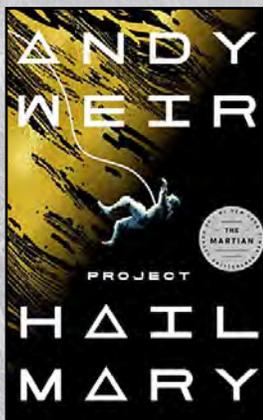


A Waiter in Paris by Edward Chisholm

“Paris, France—long a magnet and dream for writers, designers, musicians and students, the

City of Light can also be a challenging and brutal place to eke out a living. Chisholm’s memoir chronicles the struggles of food service workers in the world’s most romantic city. Deprived of sleep, food and self-respect, these heroes forge on—hoping to improve their meager reality with a generous tip or a promotion from a less than sympathetic manager, while serving some of the planet’s best food.”

–Bill M., Librarian



Reader’s Rave

Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir

“It was amazing because of how loose ends are tied together and the story is told beautifully. I don’t usually read long books, but this was outstanding. 10/10.”

–Joseph, Library patron

Share your own recommendation at bit.ly/ReadersRaves



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facebook.com/CCLibraries



YouTube

youtube.com/c/charlottecountycommunityservices

charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net



Division Homepage

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941.613.3200



Tarantula Nebula, photographed by the James Webb Space Telescope. Photo courtesy of NASA and STScI.