

# Between the Lines

*The Charlotte County Libraries & History Quarterly Newsletter*

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Fall 2023

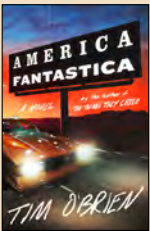


**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
Libraries & History





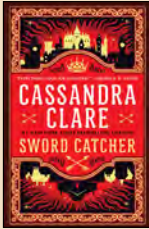
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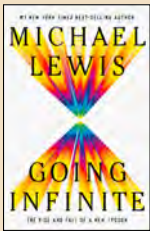
Oct 24

**America Fantastica** by Tim O'Brien  
In August 2019, discredited journalist Boyd Halverson walks into the Community National Bank in Northern California and steals \$81,000 at gunpoint, then brings teller Angie Bing along on an extended ride. Along the way, they're chased by hitmen, angry lovers, an heiress, a billionaire, and assorted others as Boyd seeks vengeance for the wrongs one man did him.

Oct 10



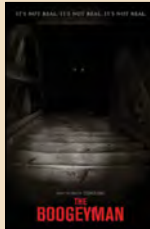
**Sword Catcher** by Cassandra Clare  
Kel is an orphan, stolen from the life he knew to become the Sword Catcher—the body double of a royal heir. Lin is one of the Ashkar, a community with magical abilities. After a failed assassination attempt brings them together, the two outcasts find themselves caught in a web of forbidden love, dangerous magic, and dark secrets in this first installment of a new fantasy series.



Oct 03

**Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon** by Michael Lewis  
Sam Bankman-Fried wasn't just rich. Before turning thirty he'd become the world's youngest billionaire, making a fortune in the crypto frenzy. CEOs, celebrities, and world leaders vied for his time. Then it all fell apart. Who was this Gatsby of the crypto world? Lewis sets out to answer this question, taking readers into the mind of Bankman-Fried, whose rise and fall offers an education in high-frequency trading, cryptocurrencies, philanthropy, bankruptcy, and the justice system.

Oct 10



**The Boogeyman** [DVD]  
Still reeling from the heartbreaking death of their mother, a teenage girl and her younger sister find themselves hounded by a sadistic presence in their house and struggle to get their grieving father to pay attention before it's too late.

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



# Library Bulletin

## Charlotte County Eco Fair

Saturday, November 4

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tringali Community Center



**Join us for a fun-filled day at the Charlotte County Eco Fair!**

Learn about current environmental issues and new ways we can all make a difference in curbing climate change. The event will include a variety of local organizations that are working toward a more sustainable future for Charlotte County. Learn about alternative energies, endangered species, the threat to our local waters, native landscaping, and how to grow your own food.



## Florida's Got Soul!

Thursday, November 9

2 - 3 p.m.

Englewood Charlotte Library

Award-winning author John Capouya reveals the rich but under-appreciated musical heritage of the Sunshine State. Don't miss the classic soul music and vintage photographs of this lively presentation.

## Guitar Style Celebration Concert Series at the Port Charlotte Library

### Flamenco by Gladius

Thursday, October 5

7 - 8 p.m.

Award-winning virtuoso guitarist Gladius fuses Spanish flamenco with rock and other musical styles.



### Jazz Guitar by Steve Rand

Thursday, October 12

6 - 7 p.m.

Steve has played and arranged for jazz bands and recording sessions throughout the country.

## HORROR WRITERS ASSOCIATION PANEL DISCUSSION

Monday, October 16

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Punta Gorda

Charlotte Library

It's spooky season, the perfect time for a deep dive into horror writing!

Join us for a panel discussion with authors from the Florida Southwest chapter of the Horror Writers Association. The discussion will cover aspects of how to get started writing horror and dark literature.

Whether you're a genre aficionado or ready to craft your own creepy tale, you won't want to miss this event!



# Introducing our new website

Our library website now has a bold new look—and lots of fresh features to try!

Did you visit our library website last month? If so, you've probably noticed our new look! Here are some of the improvements we've made.

Visit us online at  
[charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net](http://charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net)

**Mobile-friendly** The site is now fully responsive, with versions optimized for phone, tablet, and desktop. Text is more readable, and buttons are usable at every screen size.

**Branch at a glance** Our new branch locations pages are designed to show you all the things you need to know about your local library branch. Find contact information, available technology, upcoming events, and even new books that have just arrived at each location.

**Book a meeting room** Each library branch has meeting spaces available to rent for your group's events. Now, see when each room is available and request to book using our online system.

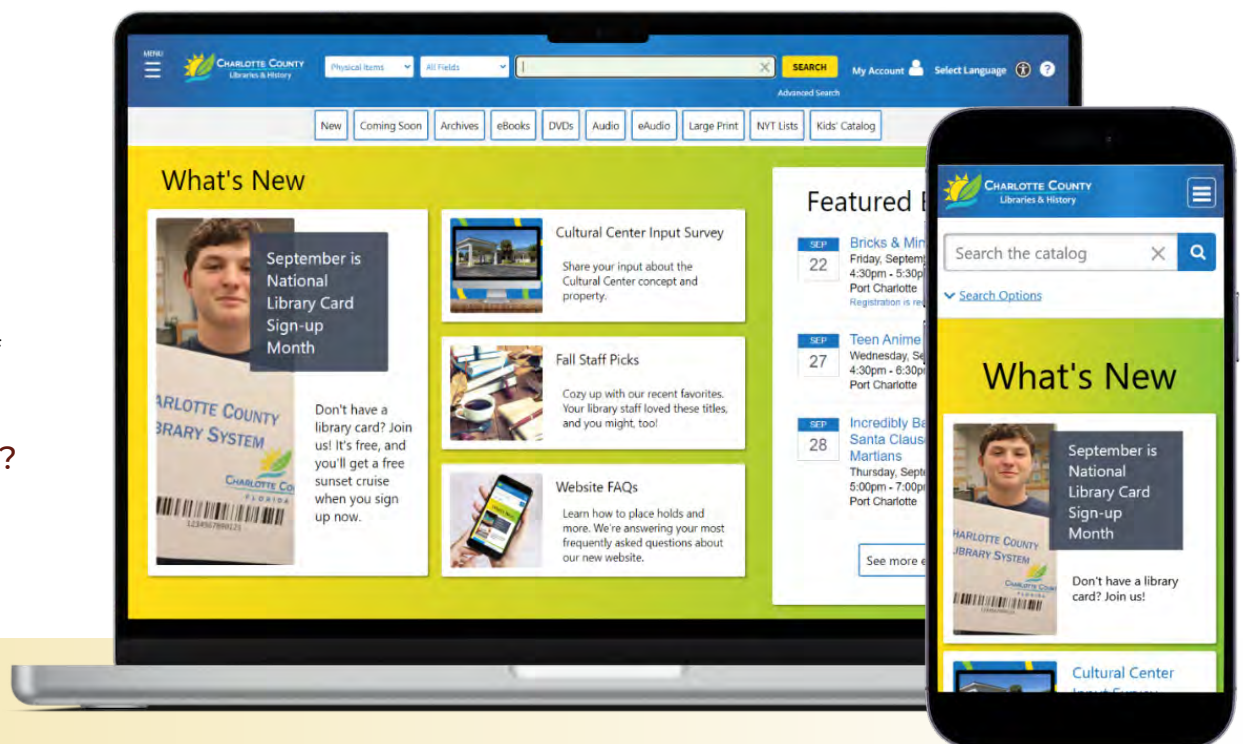
**Featured events** There's always something happening at the library! Our new calendar feed highlights the biggest upcoming events so you can stay in the loop.

**Information you need** Want to know how many books you can borrow at once, or how long you'll be able to keep those DVDs? Wondering how we decide what books to buy for our collection, or what happens to the donations in our Food for Fines program? All this information and more can be found under **Using the Library**.

**Simplified navigation** We've reorganized—and we're hoping to make it easier to find what you're looking for. On a computer, use the **My Account** menu to login, view your checkouts, and edit your lists. Click on the hamburger menu at the top left to see website content.

If you're using the mobile site, start from the hamburger menu on the top right to see both sets of options.

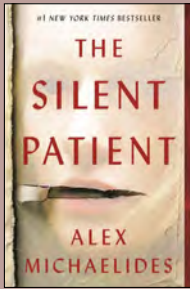
**Having trouble?** Use the **Report a website problem** link in our footer.





# Mysteries with shocking twists

Do you always figure out the ending of a mystery before the big reveal? We've selected some of our favorite books with twists you won't see coming!

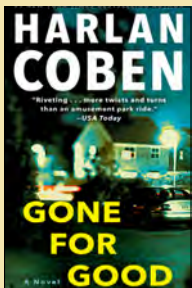
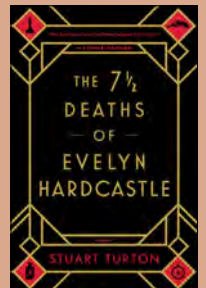


## ***The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides**

Psychotherapist Theo Faber is obsessed with the case of Alicia Berenson, an artist convicted of murdering her husband. Ever since she was found standing over his body, splattered with blood, she's remained silent. When the judge sentences her to Grove Psychiatric Hospital instead of prison, Theo struggles to connect with mute Alicia, secretly conducting his own investigation into her past and wrestling with his own psychological demons along the way.

## ***The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Turton**

The rules of Blackheath: Evelyn Hardcastle will be murdered at 11:00 p.m. There are eight days and eight witnesses for you to inhabit. You will only escape when you tell us the name of the killer. Understood? Then let's begin. Every day Evelyn Hardcastle will die. Every day until Aiden Bishop can identify her killer and break the cycle. But every time the day begins again, Aiden wakes up in the body of a different guest. And some of his hosts are more helpful than others.

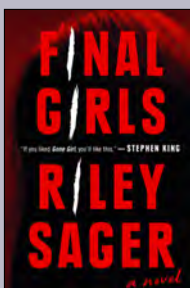
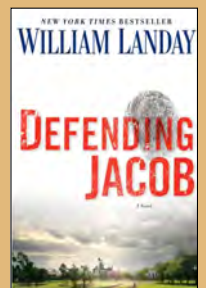


## ***Gone for Good* by Harlan Coben**

On the day of his mother's funeral, Will Klein discovers a photograph proving that his brother, Ken, is alive. Eleven years earlier, Ken's girlfriend was found strangled, and Ken's blood was found at the murder scene. Will never heard from Ken after that night, and his family and the police assumed that he was dead. Now Will's own girlfriend, Sheila, has also vanished. Will's efforts to find both Sheila and Ken open a terrifying Pandora's box.

## ***Defending Jacob* by William Landay**

Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney for two decades. He is respected, admired in the courtroom, and happy with his wife, Laurie, and their teenage son, Jacob. Then Andy's quiet suburb is stunned by a shocking crime: a young boy is stabbed to death in a leafy park. And an even greater shock: The accused is Andy's own son—shy, awkward, mysterious Jacob.



## ***The Final Girls* by Riley Sager**

Ten years ago, college student Quincy Carpenter went on vacation with five friends and came back alone, the only survivor of a horror movie-scale massacre. In an instant, she became a member of a club no one wants to belong to—a group of similar survivors known in the press as the Final Girls. Now, Quincy is doing well. That is, until Lisa, the first Final Girl, is found dead in her bathtub and Sam, the second, appears on Quincy's doorstep.



# Ask an Archivist:

## How do you make a scrapbook that will last?

Photos, letters, articles, and other mementos are cherished items that you want to save. Our archivist has given some helpful tips about preserving these memories.

Scrapbooking is a fun, creative way to compile our experiences. To preserve scrapbooks for future generations, it's important to choose materials with care and to handle our books properly.

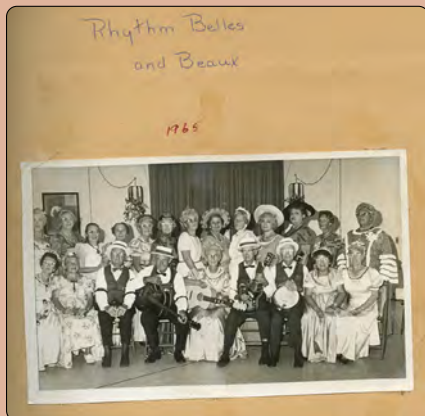
**Binding** To hold your scrapbook together, use post binding with spacers or stubs instead of laced or sewn binding. Post binding is sturdy and allows room for your scrapbook to expand.

**Paper** For best results, pages should be lignin-free, which won't become yellow and brittle over time. Plastic sleeves and overlays should be either polyethylene or polypropylene for durability. Avoid self-adhesive or "magnetic" pages.

**Items** Materials displayed in a scrapbook are known as ephemera. With photographs and newspaper clippings, it's best to use duplicates instead while storing originals in a sheltered location. This prevents harm to the original photographs and keeps newspaper clippings from transferring ink that might damage other materials. For materials that can't be copied, you may wish to intersperse blank sheets as a buffer between pages. You can also encapsulate ephemera in either paper envelopes or polyethylene sleeves.

**Adhesive** Once you've selected your paper supports and binding, you're ready to attach your items. Wheatstarch pastes, polyvinyl acetate (PVA), or water-moistenable gummed linen tape are all good adhesives. You can also use non-adhesive attachment methods such as polyethylene photo corners. Only use plastic pins, clips, and staples when necessary as they exert damaging pressures. Avoid metal attachments altogether.

**Handling and Storage** Handle scrapbooks in a clean area with clean hands, with no food or drinks nearby. Don't force books to lie open completely flat. Hold books open so leaves on both sides lie without much of a curve or a wave. Support the entire leaf when turning pages. Store scrapbooks flat in a relatively dry area at room temperature. If possible, house scrapbooks in well-fitting preservation boxes. This keeps out light, dust, and pests. Lastly, keep scrapbooks away from radiators and vents, as well as areas prone to leaks.



### ***Visit the Charlotte County digital archives to view the **Belles and Beaux Scrapbook (1965-1971)*****

This scrapbook, from the Mabel Lewis Keys Estate, contains photos and newspaper clippings documenting performances by the Rhythm Belles and Beaux, a popular group of multi-talented senior entertainers sponsored by the Rebekah Lodge. The Belles and Beaux (several of whom were retired musicians) referred to themselves as a "kitchen band" because they often used household items as instruments. They performed at many local events and venues but also traveled around the state, giving variety shows at veterans' homes and other senior facilities.





## Youth Services

# Teens can volunteer at the library

It's a great way to build your resume, learn new skills, and give back to our community.

Are you a Charlotte County teen looking for a fun and rewarding community-based volunteering opportunity? Teens ages fourteen and up are invited to volunteer at the library, working with youth and families to receive volunteer hours for school credit. If you have not had the opportunity to visit our three fantastic Charlotte County library branches, come and check us out!

**How you'll help** Teen volunteers can come into the Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte or Englewood Charlotte Library to help out the Youth Librarians in the Children and Teen departments. Depending on your interests and the needs of the library, you might spend time sorting and shelving books, cutting out shapes for an upcoming craft program, or leading a station at a kids' event.

For example, teen volunteers at the Englewood Charlotte Library were a wonderful help during the summer reading program by preparing crafts and activities for little ones and school-aged children. We all celebrated with craft stations, music, and movement at the summer reading wrap up party in July.

**Why you'll love it** The library is a great place to have flexible volunteer hours and learn something new in this exciting leadership role. Teens will build their knowledge of the library system with shelving and organizing. You could also be a positive role model for younger kids when you help with our STEAM program, crafts, and events going on throughout the year.

Education and literacy are critical in our community, so we want our libraries to be as fun and welcoming as possible. Teens play a very important role in helping make our libraries a positive environment and a creative space for parents, guardians, and children. Volunteering in your community can help boost your self-confidence and in turn help others to branch out and try new things in the library setting. And of course, it looks pretty good on a college application!

**How to sign up** Hours can be easily scheduled between our three expert Youth Librarians: Miss Ashley at Port Charlotte Library, Miss Liz at Punta Gorda, and Miss Holly at Englewood Charlotte. If you are interested in volunteering at your local library, drop in and fill out an application today.

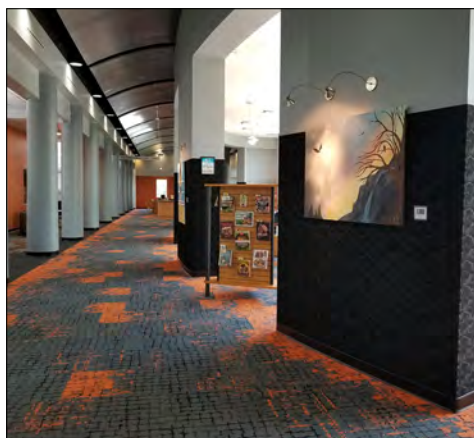
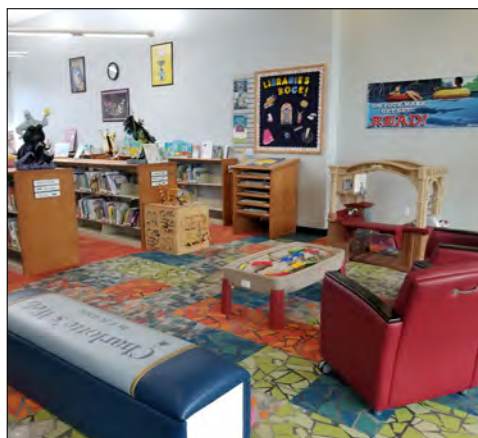


# What's happening at Mid-County

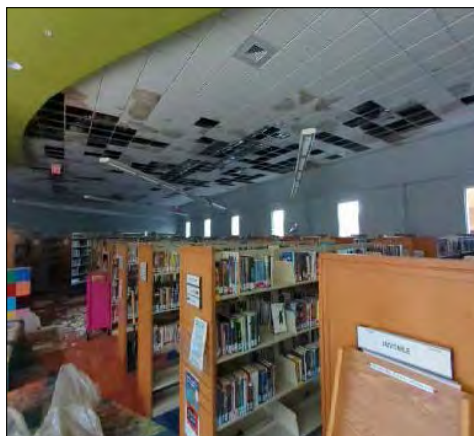
Recovery is a long road. One year after Ian, we're still moving forward.

Like so many of our community's homes and businesses, our main library was ravaged in last year's hurricane. Here's where things stand.

**Before the storm** Mid-County Regional Library on Forrest Nelson Blvd. had been Charlotte County's flagship library since the building's opening in 2005. Our largest and busiest branch, the library housed more than 100,000 items, offered a variety of in-demand meeting spaces, and was home to many popular programs—a true hub for community life.



**What happened** When Hurricane Ian made landfall on September 28, 2022, its category 4 winds damaged the library's roof and all of the building's air-conditioning units. Torrential rains poured in through the resulting holes. No area of the building was unscathed. Ceiling tiles caved in, covering the shelves and floor with a layer of debris. Flooring, ductwork, insulation, and drywall were soaked. Mold grew quickly. Furniture was ruined. Over 40,000 library books and A/V items were lost. The library's children's collection, nonfiction materials, and large print books were especially hard-hit. The building's facade remained largely intact, concealing the devastation within.





**After the storm** As soon as it was safe to do so, mitigation efforts began. Carpet, drywall, and ceilings were torn out throughout the building. Any books that were deemed salvageable were cleaned, inventoried, packed, and shipped. They are now being held in a climate-controlled storage facility in Orlando. Computers and makerspace equipment were largely usable and have been redistributed to other library branches. All flooring and significant portions of drywall and carpet were torn out. All furniture and shelving were removed.

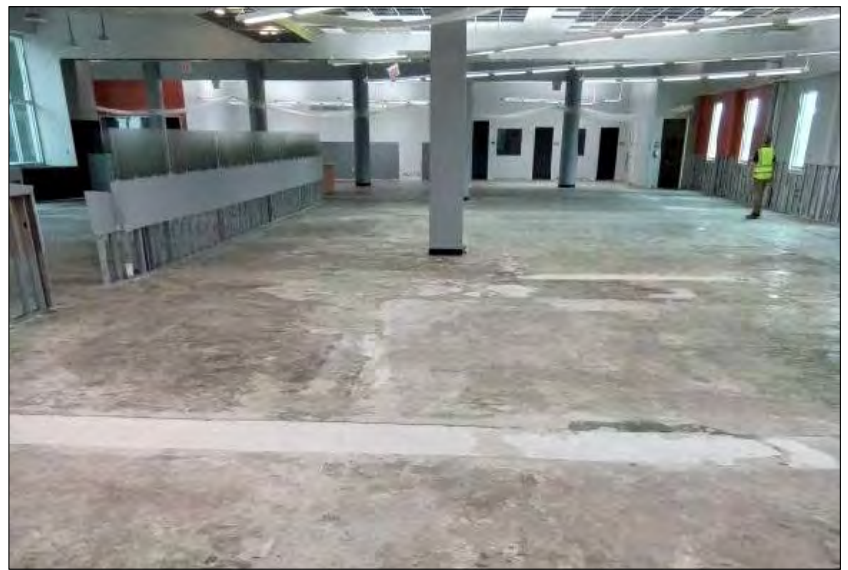
In the months that followed, county staff worked extensively with insurance and independent consultants to determine whether the library building itself could be saved.

With Mid-County out of commission indefinitely, library staff have done our best to provide interim services. We set up WiFi and laptop stations to help residents get online in the aftermath of the storm. We've added days and extended hours across our existing locations, provided curbside holds service at Centennial Park Recreation Center, and brought materials to county parks in our traveling library. More residents are now receiving books through our homebound delivery service.

As we continued to wait for news, we were grateful to hear from so many of you about the difference this library has made in your lives. You've discovered the joy of reading, learned life skills, and built a community in this place.

**What's ahead** Now that a comprehensive survey of the structural condition of the building has been completed, the Charlotte County Commissioners are moving in the direction of repairing the library. To follow the process and progress, tune into Board of County Commissioners meetings online on the county government's Facebook page.

You can also view recordings, agendas, and minutes from past meetings at [charlottecountyfl.gov/agendas](http://charlottecountyfl.gov/agendas) or send comments to [assistant@charlottecountyfl.gov](mailto:assistant@charlottecountyfl.gov).







# 13 things we did NOT expect to find in the library's book drop

## You used WHAT as a bookmark?

**Outgoing mail.** The book drop is blue, but the mail carrier won't check here.

**Your cell phone.** We got it back to you! I guess it was on top of the pile of books you were returning.

**A set of car keys,** never claimed. Did you make it home okay?

**A single shoe.** What?

**Food For Fines,** with a note saying that one box of Cheez-Its was not meant for Food For Fines but was accidentally dropped in there, too. It was Sunday, so no one was here to give it back to you.

**Completed election ballots.** We tried to get these to the right place for you, but honestly, this does not bode well for the future of democracy.

**A scratch-off lottery ticket,** unused. Yes, we scratched it. No, we didn't win.

**Foreign money, Monopoly money, and North Pole bucks.** Santa did not want them back. We asked.

**A dirty diaper.** If this was on purpose, it was just plain mean. I'm hoping you mistook the book drop for a trash can. That would also explain:

**A cup of coffee,** spilled. Goodbye, books.

**A slice of bacon,** uncooked, marking your page. \*Silent screaming\*

**Cotton swabs, tissues, floss picks, and band-aids,** mostly unused. Thank goodness!

**So, so many actual bookmarks.** But we were expecting those, I guess. A selection of these are pictured at left.

## Surprises in the stacks

We stumble upon happy things among the books, too! An anonymous patron left this crocheted cutie for a future reader to find.





# This season's coziest Hallmark movies

It's that time of year! Snuggle up with a blanket and a steaming mug of hot chocolate to enjoy these cozy movies.



## *Love, Fall, and Order*

When Claire goes home to save her dad's annual Fall Fest on her family's pumpkin farm, sparks fly with an old rival, the opposing lawyer she now faces in court.

## *Eight Gifts of Hanukkah*

An anonymous suitor sends optometrist Sara a gift for each night of Hanukkah. On her journey to find her secret admirer, she learns her one true love might be someone she never expected.

## *A Gingerbread Romance*

Taylor's firm enters her in a contest in to design and build life sized gingerbread houses. But when their backer backs out, Taylor stumbles into a local bakery and meets Adam.

## *Sense, Sensibility, and Snowmen*

The film centers on Christmas enthusiast party planners Ella and her sister, Marianne, who clash with their client, Edward, who is a not-so-jolly toy company CEO.

## *Christmas at Pemberley Manor*

As Christmas approaches, Elizabeth Bennett, an event planner, is sent to a quaint, small town to organize their holiday festival. When she arrives, she finds William Darcy, a billionaire lacking in the holiday spirit, in the process of selling the charming estate she hoped to use as a venue. Determined to make her event a success, Elizabeth persuades the reluctant Darcy to let her hold the festival on the historic estate.

## Can't get enough of Hallmark movies?

Stream for free with your library card! This Hoopla BingePass gives you unlimited access to the entire Hallmark Movies Now on-demand library for seven days. Enjoy exclusive Hallmark Originals, along with 1,500+ hours of ad-free content from Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Movies & Mysteries.

*Hoopla can only be accessed by Charlotte County residents.*





# Haunted history

Who doesn't love a good ghost story? These local sites are full of fascinating history, and—according to legend—they just might be haunted.

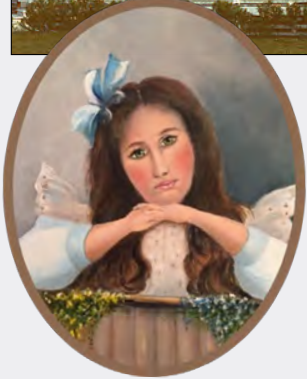
*A version of this story was originally published in the October 2022 issue of Between the Lines.*



## Scary Mary Sandlin

The Victorian-style home in Punta Gorda known as the Sandlin House is iconic with its gingerbread trim and white picket fence.

**History tells us** that in 1888, James and Mary Sandlin were the first couple to be married in the city of Punta Gorda. The Sandlins were prominent—James became mayor of Punta Gorda—but plagued with tragedy. Their first child died at just three days old. Five more children were born, but young Felix Sandlin died of tuberculosis at age 11, and James himself died in 1903.



Mary Leah Sandlin as imagined by artist Christiane Belle, 2021.

In 1909, 14-year-old Mary Leah Sandlin was ironing clothes on the porch using a gasoline-powered iron. Suddenly, gas spewed from the appliance, igniting and engulfing Mary in flames. Neighbors put out the flames, but Mary died soon after.



**According to legend**, Mary's ghost remains in the Sandlin House. Former residents of the home claim the child spirit is friendly, not frightening. They report incidents like footsteps in the hallway near the girl's old room, toys mysteriously played with, and laundry strangely strewn about.

## Haunting at the Hermitage

The Hermitage, so-called because the land it stands on was purchased from a man called "the hermit of Palm Ridge," is one of the oldest buildings on Englewood's Manasota Key. It's now an artist's retreat.

**History tells us** that the house was built in 1907 by Swedish immigrant Carl Johanson as a home for his family. Carl's aging mother, Anna, was very religious, and the family considered her a healer. Anna used folk remedies, including a bit of "sacred lead" that she would burn when someone in the family was ill. Though it's not clear what exactly this sacred object was, protective lead amulets have featured in many folk religions of the world.

**According to legend**, Anna's spirit returned to the Hermitage after her death. The family heard windows opening and closing on their own, which stopped after they buried Anna's sacred lead in the backyard. Future residents of the house, however, also claimed to hear windows opening and slamming shut in empty rooms. One witness believed a chair would topple over on its own in the middle of the night, knocked about as Anna searched for her sacred lead.







## The Lady in White

Englewood Beach was once known as Chadwick Beach, named after brothers Clay and Steve Chadwick who first developed the area.

**History tells us** that their beach pavilion, pictured at left, was the first structure built on the site. When breaking ground, workers found human remains—possibly the remains of African slaves or a native burial site. Despite this discovery, construction continued. The pavilion offered showers, gasoline, and groceries to beach-goers.

Dances were often held there on the weekends. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1945, but a new structure was built on the same site and serves to this day.

**According to legend**, a lady in white wanders the beach at night. She is said to be Camilla Chadwick, Clay's second wife who died in 1969. Stories say the lady is looking for her husband, hoping to dance.

## Forrest Nelson's Phantom Bees

Port Charlotte's Restlawn Cemetery is located on Forrest Nelson Boulevard, land that once belonged to local landowner Forrest Nelson.

**History tells us** that Nelson, pictured at right, bought this homestead of 180 acres in Murdock in 1930. He was a successful horticulturalist, raising orchids, roses, ornamental shrubs, and vegetables. He also kept bees.

**According to legend**, the land was also once the site of Port Charlotte's first-ever house, really just a shack, where an anonymous farmer once murdered his wife. The shack is said to have been located at the edge of what is now Restlawn Cemetery. On occasion, area residents have reported being surrounded by the sound of swarms of bees. These phantom bees, however, are nowhere to be seen.



## A Hitchhiking Ghost

Why did half a ghost cross Bermont Road? He'd come back from the other side.

**History tells us** that Bermont Road was one of Charlotte County's earliest roadways. It is depicted on a 1934 highway map. It is still in use today as a paved 2-lane road. The intersection of Bermont and State Road 31 has been the site of numerous accidents, many fatal. In fact, tired of seeing so many horrific crashes, resident Richard Abrams paid to put up signs warning, "Deadly intersection ahead!"

**According to legend**, on dark nights, an apparition might appear at the intersection. Rumored to be a half-bodied hitchhiker,

the ghostly figure is said to be seen standing by the road as if wanting a driver to stop. Others report stopping their vehicles, believing they'd just hit someone, only to find nothing there.



# Try it! Make a book page acorn

These crafted cuties are the season's perfect bookish decor.

## You will need...

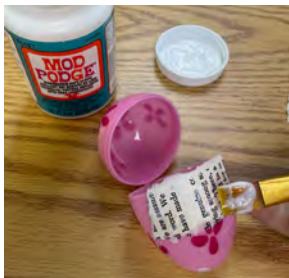
An old book	Hot glue gun
A plastic Easter egg	Twine
Mod Podge	Paintbrush



**1.** Remove a page from an old book. Tear the page into rough squares, about an inch wide each. You'll need 10-20 pieces.



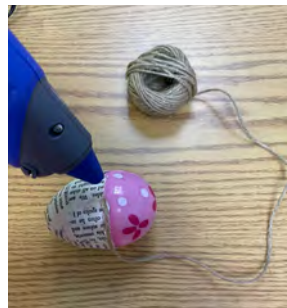
**2.** Separate the two halves of the plastic egg. Apply a thin layer of Mod Podge to the outside of the large, pointy half of the egg using your paintbrush.



**3.** Wrap a square of book page around the egg. Apply an additional coat of Mod Podge on top, making sure the paper is thoroughly wet.



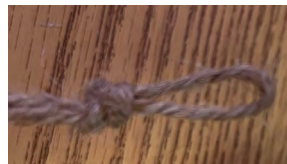
**4.** Continue to layer on strips of book page until the bottom of the egg is entirely covered. Vary the direction of the strips to make sure all gaps are filled. Close the egg and let dry.



**5.** Once the Modge Podge has completely dried, warm up the hot glue gun. Apply a thin strip of hot glue, about an inch long, overlapping the top edge of the book page strips.



**6.** Carefully press twine into the hot glue. Use the tip of a pencil to press the twine into the glue to avoid burns and stringy mess. Continue to glue the twine in short sections spiraling up to the top of the egg.



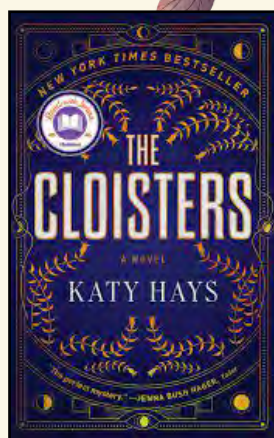
**7.** When you reach the top, tie a loop in the working end of the twine. Glue this to the top of the egg to form your acorn's stem.



**8.** Wrap and glue a second layer of twine to fill in any gaps where the plastic egg is visible. Then admire your adorable acorn!



# Staff Picks



## ***The Cloisters*** by Katy Hays

"Katy Hays' debut novel *The Cloisters* allows the reader inside the surreal and magical Cloisters Museum and gardens. Given the chance of a lifetime, Ann Stitwell joins a small group of esteemed academics researching medieval tarot cards that were once thought lost. The group soon finds that the ancient deck will change all of their fates forever."

—Elizabeth B., Library Technician



## ***Bored and Brilliant*** by Manoush Zomorodi

"Do you ever feel like your phone is taking over your brain? *Bored and Brilliant* issues a terrifying challenge: unplug and get bored. It's packed with scientific studies, funny anecdotes, and the comfort of knowing we aren't alone in our struggles. Read it, try the challenge, and discover the advantages of doing nothing!"

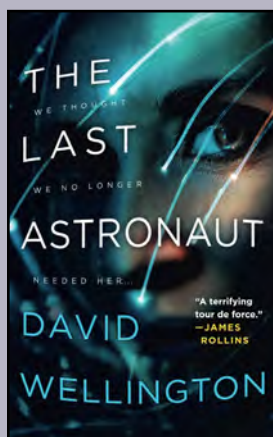
—Ashley G., Youth Librarian



## ***Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*** by Jesse Q. Sutanto

"This book is both utterly ridiculous and completely charming. When a little old lady finds a corpse on the floor of her tea house, she naturally has no choice but to investigate—even if that means swiping evidence, befriending her suspects, and a bit of light matchmaking."

—Claire M., Technical Services



## Reader's Rave

### ***The Last Astronaut*** by David Wellington

"When a mysterious vessel enters the Solar system on a collision course for Earth, who better to send to make first contact than the woman responsible for ending the Mars missions? Eager for redemption, Sally Jansen heads a team bound for the strange object, determined to learn why it's headed toward our planet, what the aliens want, and most importantly, how to stop it from destroying all life on Earth."

—Anne S., Library patron





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