

Between the Lines

The Charlotte County Libraries & History Monthly Newsletter

In This Issue...

*Kidnapped! True crime
in our own backyard*

*This month's most
anticipated releases*

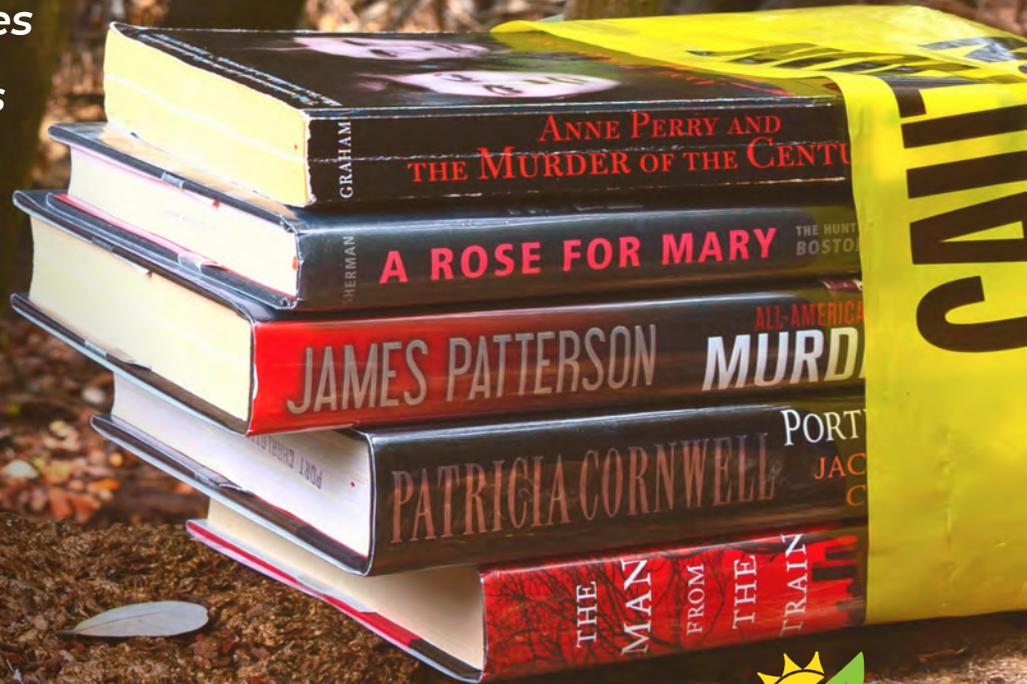
*Better than a podcast:
Three true crime stories
with a literary twist*

*Archives spotlight: Hot
off the (printing) presses*

*Three perfect popsicles
for your summer
barbecue*

*Local authors share
their best advice for
aspiring writers*

Summer staff picks

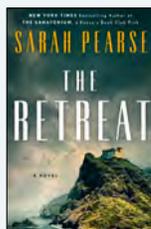


July 2022



Coming Soon to Our Collection

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



The Retreat by Sarah Pearse

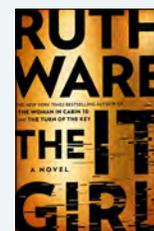
July 19

At an eco-wellness center off the coast of England, the body of a young woman is found sprawled on the rocks below the yoga pavilion—which is certainly surprising, as she wasn't a guest at the center or even supposed to have been on the island at all. A guest's subsequent drowning ratchets up everyone's anxiety, and Detective Elin Warner arrives for her second outing after her debut in the *New York Times* best-selling *The Sanatorium*, a Reese's Book Club pick.

July 12

The It Girl by Ruth Ware

When she arrived at Oxford, Hannah was quickly pulled into the circle surrounding glittery April Coutts-Cliveden, who was shockingly murdered at the end of second term. A decade later, with the Oxford porter convicted of the crime now dead in prison, Hannah is beginning to rethink April's murder—and believes that one of their friends has been hiding something.



Agent Josephine by Damien Lewis

July 12

Singer. Actress. Beauty. Spy. During WWII, Josephine Baker, the world's richest and most glamorous entertainer, was an Allied spy in occupied France. This is the story of her heroic personal resistance to Nazi Germany. Drawing on new historical material and rigorous research, the author upends the conventional story of Josephine Baker, revealing that her mark on history went far beyond the confines of the stage.

July 27

The Lost City [DVD]

Brilliant but reclusive romance novelist Loretta Sage, best known for her adventure stories featuring handsome cover model Alan, is kidnapped by an eccentric billionaire looking for the ancient lost city from her latest novel. Wanting to prove that he can be a hero in real life, Alan sets off to rescue her. Thrust into an epic jungle adventure, the unlikely pair will need to work together to survive the elements and find the city's legendary treasure before it's lost forever.



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



All library branches will be closed on **Monday, July 4** in observance of Independence Day.

Kids and teens can turn in their summer reading logs through **Saturday, July 23** to earn a ticket for the raffle or to the Pirate Party. Keep reading!

Featured Events

National Ice Cream Day - 1:00 p.m. July 16 - Port Charlotte Public Library

We decided to celebrate a day early with a giant ice cream party. Drop in for some fun crafts and activities to help us cool off in the summer sun. Learn how ice cream is made, and make your own sundaes!

Portraits by the Beach - 12:00 p.m. July 20 - Port Charlotte Beach

Learn about the Florida Highwaymen and enjoy a painting session at Port Charlotte Beach Park. You'll try basic painting techniques and create your own work of art to keep! **Register online** or at 941.764.5562.

After Hours Teen Trivia - 7:00 p.m. July 22 - Punta Gorda Charlotte Library

Can you list all of the Earth's oceans or name the fish with the longest name? Compete against your friends as you try your hand at our nautical-themed Jeopardy, play other board and card games, and of course eat some pizza! **Register online** or at 941.833.5462.

Ernest Hemingway - 1:00 p.m. July 28 - Punta Gorda Charlotte Library

Dr. Ashley Oliphant, author of *Hemingway and Bimini: The Birth of Sport Fishing at "The End of the World,"* will speak about the big-game exploits of Ernest Hemingway on the island of Bimini from 1935–1937. **Register online** or at 941.833.5461.

Be on the lookout for our traveling library

Library staff have been out and about, bringing the library to you! Our new traveling library appears in surprise locations, bringing a selection of popular books to borrow. If you don't have a library card, we'll be happy to sign you up on the spot. Just visiting Charlotte County? Thanks to the generous donations of the Friends of the Library, we even have free books you can keep. The beach, the park, the post office—you never know where you might see us, so keep an eye out!

Have a suggestion for where the library should pop up next? Email us at CharlotteCountyLibraries@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.



Printing the *Punta Gorda Herald*

Six years after Punta Gorda's founding, Robert Kirby Seward established Charlotte County's first newspaper, the *Punta Gorda Herald*. A foot-operated press produced a weekly paper that included eight pages of hand-set type and sold for five cents a copy or one dollar annually. Today we know the paper as the *Charlotte Sun*.

In 1895, a fire destroyed the original *Herald* building along with the printing press, which was too large and heavy to move. Convinced to rebuild, Seward erected a new structure on the site in 1896. The c. 1907 photograph at right shows the 1896 *Punta Gorda Herald* building. It housed both Seward's home and business. The office, press, and printing shop were located on the ground floor. Living quarters were on the second, as evidenced by the rugs or cloths hanging from the balcony. Located on Cross Street (now U.S. 41), it was demolished around 1965.



In 1901, Seward sold the *Herald* to Adrian P. Jordan, who constructed a new brick building on the southeast corner of Marion Avenue and Taylor Street. Taken around the time of the building's construction in 1913, the photograph below depicts this third home of the *Punta Gorda Herald*. Jordan sold the newspaper in 1951, sparking a series of changes in publishers, name, location, and printing schedule, which culminated in what residents know today as the *Charlotte Sun*. Although the newspaper later moved to another building on Olympia Avenue, it returned to the 1913 structure in the 1980s. Likely the oldest commercial building in the downtown historic district, it was sadly destroyed by Hurricane Charley in 2004.



At left: This cast iron printing press with foot pump may have been that used by Robert Seward after he reopened the *Herald* office in 1896. It is now on display in the archives reading room at the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library.

The book was better...

Movies based on books don't always do the books justice. Try reading these before seeing the movie, and you be the judge as to which was better!



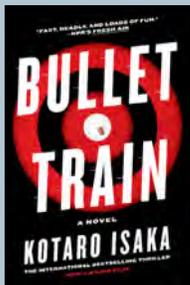
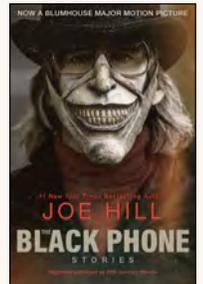
Mr. Malcolm's List by Suzanne Allain

Jeremy Malcolm is searching for a wife. He's determined to find a near-perfect woman who will meet the qualifications on his well-crafted list. Selina is thrilled when her friend invites her to London until she learns it's all part of a plot to exact revenge on Mr. Malcolm. Selina is reluctant to participate, but when Mr. Malcolm begins judging her against his unattainable standards, she decides that she has some qualifications of her own.

Movie scheduled for release on July 1 starring Freida Pinto

The Black Phone by Joe Hill

Jack Finney is thirteen, alone, and in desperate trouble, locked in a psychopath's basement. With him in his cell is an antique phone, long since disconnected, but which rings at night anyway with calls from the killer's previous victims. They are dead set on making sure that what happened to them doesn't happen to Finney. "The Black Phone" is one of 15 stories in Joe Hill's first story collection, originally published as *20th Century Ghosts*. Fun Fact: Joe Hill is the son of the king of horror, Stephen King! **Movie released on June 24 starring Ethan Hawke**



Bullet Train by Kotaro Isaka

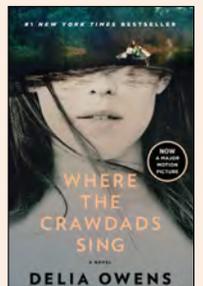
Ladybug, an unlucky assassin, is tasked with grabbing a suitcase from a bullet train from Tokyo to Morioka and exiting at the next stop, but he doesn't realize other dangerous passengers are trying to do the same.

Movie scheduled for release on August 5 starring Brad Pitt and Sandra Bullock

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

In late 1969, when Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men become intrigued by her, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

Movie scheduled for release on July 15 starring Daisy Edgar-Jones



The Lost Girls by Laurie Fox

Imagine a world in which the sole purpose of the women in the Darling family has been to entertain Peter Pan and his lost tribe. That is, until the contemporary Wendy Darling decides that she does not want to succumb to the same fate as the three generations before her. The story of a now grown-up Wendy and her ties to Peter Pan is retold in this novel based on the original fairy tale. **Movie released on June 17 starring Vanessa Redgrave and Joely Richardson**

The Barbara Mackle kidnapping: True crime in our own backyard

A local real estate heiress is buried alive for 83 hours. This time, there's a happy ending.

On December 17, 1968, one week before Christmas, Georgia's Emory University economics major Barbara Mackle is kidnapped and held underground in a fiberglass-reinforced box for more than three days. Rescued by the FBI and seemingly in good health except for a case of slight dehydration, Ms. Mackle writes a book about her trying ordeal that spawns two television movies. This amazing saga has some strong connections to Charlotte County.

Barbara's father, Robert Mackle, and his two brothers were successful land developers in Florida. In the mid-1950s the enterprising brothers buy 80,000 acres of A.C. Frizzell's ranch land. Soon the Mackles develop and market Florida homes to folks in New England and the Midwest. Frizzell's sold acreage becomes Port Charlotte.



Barbara and Robert Mackle

Meanwhile, a man named Gary Stephen Krist pursues both crime and scholarly knowledge. In and out of jail since his early teens, the highly intelligent Krist lands a job as a technician and research assistant with the Marine Science department at the University of Miami. Through this department Krist meets the vivacious, outgoing Ruth Eisemann-Schier, who is a graduate student in Marine Biology from Honduras. The two form a romantic and psychological bond and decide it would be cool to live in Europe.

Krist and Eisemann-Schier determine that a kidnapping with a hefty ransom might just be their ticket to the good life. They go to the Miami Public Library and research Florida's well-to-do. They discover that Robert Mackle is worth millions and that he has a college age daughter, Barbara.

The two soon put their plan into motion. They construct a fiberglass capsule-like box and head to Emory University where Ms. Mackle is attending school. Posing as a scholarship representative, Krist discovers that

because of a case of the Hong Kong flu, Barbara has left Emory and is staying with her mother in a Georgia motel called the Rodeway Inn. Pretending to be police officers, Krist and Eiseman-Schier burst into the room and kidnap Barbara.

They take their unconscious victim to a remote pine forest near Duluth, Georgia, and place her in the box that is equipped with an air pump, battery powered lamp, and two plastic pipes so Barbara can breathe. The brave Ms. Mackle spends the next harrowing 83 hours underground in a small space—not knowing if she will ever be rescued.

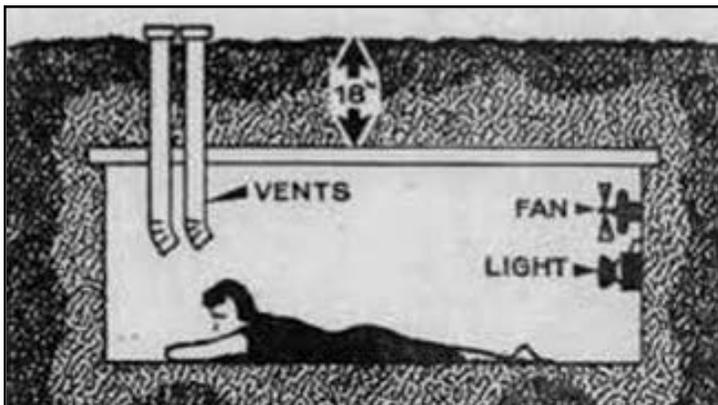
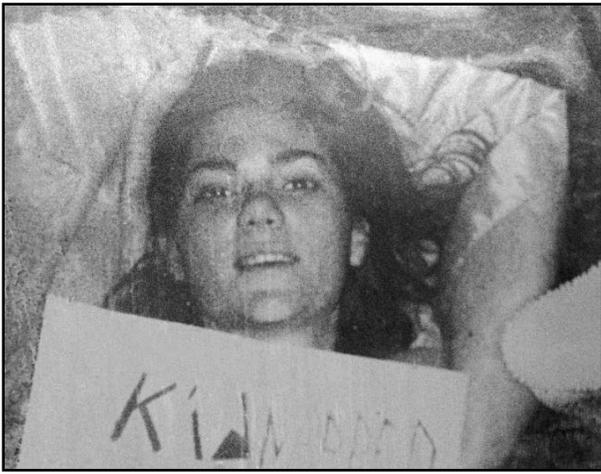


Diagram of the box with air vents, fan, and light



This photo of Mackle holding a sign reading "Kidnapped" was found on Krist's camera

"I screamed and screamed," Mackle later writes. "The sound of the dirt got farther and farther away. Finally, I couldn't hear anything above. I screamed for a long time after that."

Krist and Eisemann-Schier contact Robert Mackle and demand a ransom of \$500,000. Her father pays the ransom, though it takes two drops for the money to reach its destination.

Krist—separated from Eisemann-Schier—purchases a motorboat in West Palm Beach and maneuvers the craft through Florida's inland waterways. Somewhere close to Fort Myers, Krist discovers he is being followed and ditches his craft onto Hog Island, a swamp-infested land in

Charlotte County adjacent to El Jobean. In a few short hours Charlotte County lawmen Milton Buffington and Richard McCleod capture and cuff the hapless Krist. Three months later the authorities would apprehend Ruth Eisemann-Schier in Oklahoma.

Before absconding with the \$500,000 ransom money, Krist notifies the FBI and discloses the coordinates of Barbara Mackle's location. The FBI swoops into action and digs and digs and digs until they hear Barbara's faint voice. She makes a full recovery and, at the suggestion of President Richard Nixon, turns her terrifying ordeal into a book, *83 Hours Till Dawn*.



Kidnappers Gary Krist and Ruth Eisemann-Schier

At left: The hole in a Georgia forest where Mackle spent 3 days buried alive

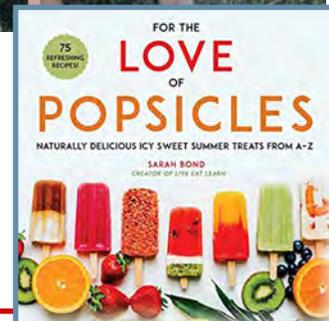


Want to learn more?

Read Mackle's story in her own words in her book **83 Hours Till Dawn**, written with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Gene Miller.



The Mid-County Regional Library is hoping to do a readers' theater reenactment of this kidnapping story sometime this December. Contact Bill MacDonald at 941.613.3192 to participate.



Try it! Perfect popsicles

We asked our staff to try recipes from Sarah Bond's *For the Love of Popsicles*. These three icy treats are the perfect addition to your summer cookout.

Watermelon Kiwi

- 1 cup watermelon, seeds removed
- 1/2 cup quartered strawberries
- 2 Tbsp honey, divided
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup coconut milk
- 2 kiwis

1. Blend together watermelon, strawberries, 1 Tbsp honey, and lemon juice. Strain to remove fibers. Stir in chocolate chips.
2. Pour evenly into molds, filling 2/3 full. Cover with lid or foil, and insert sticks. Freeze until hard, at least 4 hours.
3. Top evenly with coconut milk. Return to freezer until solid.
4. Spoon kiwi from the skin and blend with 1 Tbsp honey until smooth. Top each pop with kiwi mixture, then freeze until solid.

"I loved making these treats. They require patience but aren't too difficult—and are rather show-stopping when complete!" -Hana, Supervisor

Firecracker

- Red:** 1 cup quartered strawberries
- 1 Tbsp honey
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- White:** 2/3 cup canned coconut milk
- 1 Tbsp honey
- Blue:** 2/3 cup blueberries
- 2 Tbsp canned coconut milk
- 1 Tbsp honey
- optional: blue food coloring

1. Blend ingredients for red layer until smooth. Pour into molds. Cover tightly with foil, and insert sticks. Freeze 2 hours or until hard.
2. Combine ingredients for white layer. Pour evenly on top of red layer. Return to the freezer until solid.
3. Blend together all ingredients for blue layer until smooth. If desired, add a few drops of blue food coloring.
4. Pour evenly on top of the white layer, and return to the freezer until frozen solid.

"These were light, fresh, and fruity but not too sweet. They're easy to make; just leave yourself time for freezing each layer. The hardest part was getting them out of the mold." -Tina, I.T.

Pupsicle

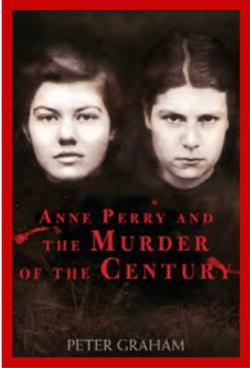
- 1 cup low-fat plain yogurt
- 1 banana
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- a dash of water
- dog treats, carrot sticks, or celery

1. Combine first four ingredients in a blender until smooth.
2. Pour into molds, leaving a little space at the top for them to expand. Depending on the shape of your mold, you may insert an edible stick such as a dog treat, carrot stick, or celery.
3. Freeze until hard, at least 4 hours. Serve to dogs, not to people.

"My dog LOVED these! It was nice to give him a treat where I knew what all the ingredients were." -Michele, Collection Development

Better than a podcast: True crime

Did you know mystery writer Anne Perry is a convicted murderer, that Ann Rule worked with Ted Bundy, or that James Ellroy's mother was murdered? Read all the stranger-than-fiction details!



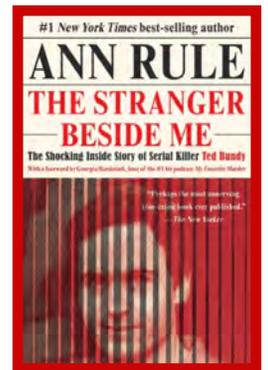
Anne Perry and the Murder of the Century by Peter Graham

On June 22, 1954, teenage friends Juliet Hulme—better known as bestselling mystery writer Anne Perry—and Pauline Parker went for a walk in a New Zealand park with Pauline's mother, Honora. Half an hour later, the girls returned alone, claiming that Pauline's mother had had an accident. But when Honora Parker was found in a pool of blood with the brick used to bludgeon her to death close at hand, Juliet and Pauline were quickly arrested and later confessed to the killing. Their motive? A plan to escape to the United States to become writers, and Honora's determination to keep them apart. Their incredible story made shocking headlines around the world and would provide the subject for Peter Jackson's Academy Award-nominated film, *Heavenly Creatures*.



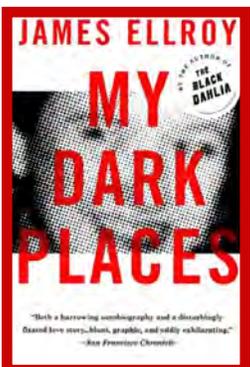
The Stranger Beside Me by Ann Rule

In 1971, while working the late shift at a Seattle crisis clinic, true-crime writer Ann Rule struck up a friendship with a sensitive, charismatic young coworker: Ted Bundy. Three years later, eight young women disappeared in seven months, and Rule began tracking a brutal mass murderer. But she had no idea that the “Ted” the police were seeking was the same Ted who had become her close friend and confidant. As she put the evidence together, a terrifying picture emerged of the man she thought she knew—his magnetic power, his bleak compulsion, his double life, and, most of all, his string of helpless victims. Bundy eventually confessed to killing at least thirty-six women across the country.



My Dark Places by James Ellroy

In 1958, Jean Ellroy was murdered, her body dumped on a roadway in a seedy L.A. suburb. Her killer was never found, and the police dismissed her as a casualty of a cheap Saturday night. James Ellroy was ten when his mother died, and he spent the next thirty-six years running from her ghost and attempting to exorcize it through crime fiction. In 1994, Ellroy quit running. He went back to L.A. to find out the truth. In *My Dark Places*, our most uncompromising crime writer, author of *The Black Dahlia* and *Widespread Panic*, tells what happened when he teamed up with a brilliant homicide cop to investigate a murder that everyone else had forgotten and to reclaim the mother he had despised, desired, but never dared to love. What ensues is an epic of loss, fixation, and redemption that is also a history of the American way of violence.



The Write Stuff: Advice from Local Authors

Do you have a story to tell? Get writing! James Abraham, author of *Century: A People's History of Charlotte County*, asks local writers to share their best advice for aspiring authors.

When Sally Simon started work on her Charlotte County trilogy, she followed a simple rule: she wrote about what she knew. Simon started in the comfort zone of a familiar environment, which made the transition from dreamer to published author easier.

Simon's novels, *Country Pride & Joy*, *Punta Gorda Dreams*, and *Punta Gorda Storms*, established her as knowledgeable

about the ebb and flow of county life from before Hurricane Charley through the recovery. Her themes—boy meets girl, hero foils unscrupulous thugs, boy makes good—are as old as the hills, but the way she weaves Charlotte County images into her work gives those old tales the freshness

of our times. By writing well about her environment, she found an authoritative and compelling voice with which to tell her love stories.

Naomi Pringle, author of two volumes in a three-part series of novels, brought her deep and congenial immersion in Jamaican culture to both *Ginga' Root Tea: An American Journey* and *Lily: Riding the Color Line*. Pringle, who lives in Port Charlotte's vibrant Caribbean community, used both her daily interactions and strong memories to create a tapestry of color and a sensual overload of smells, sounds, and tastes. Her books sound like what she's writing about, and that's no accident.

"Finding your voice takes work for seasoned writers or beginners," she says. "The goal is to develop a unique author voice based on where a

writer grew up, her education, connections with family and others, careers, and core beliefs. Then imagine that voice like a musical instrument. Listen for the rhythm of the words chosen to express thoughts."

In other words, a writer's best work is written in their key of life.



Find more books by local authors at <https://charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net/adultsread>

What's YOUR Story? Fiction writing contest continues through July 30

Ready to put this great advice into practice? We want to read your work! Our What's YOUR Story? competition continues all month. Write an original, fictional short story, play, or movie script and submit it for judging. Your story can be set in the past, developing in the present, or happening far in the future.

The contest is open to writers ages 13 and up. A panel of judges will award gift card prizes in our teen and adult divisions.

Entries should be typed, double-spaced, and limited to 1,500 words. **They must be submitted with an entry form by midnight on July 30.** Submit your story at any library branch or email it to Charles.Meyer@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.



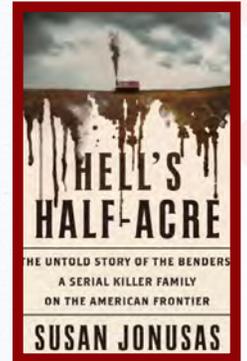
Don't miss our stand-out interview series on YouTube, *Ode to Local Writers*

Staff Picks

Hell's Half Acre: The Untold Story of the Benders by Susan Jonusas

"With the surge of true crime documentaries on Netflix and Hulu, this new non-fiction book caught my eye! The Bender family murdered people along the Osage Mission Trail in Kansas in the late 1860s. The Benders were odd, and their daughter, Kate, lured many men and attracted many other people to stay in the family's cabin, from where they just disappeared. This book was fascinating as it describes the harshness of pioneer life, the aftermath of the Civil War, the process of homesteading, and how easy it was for a person to simply vanish on the prairie."

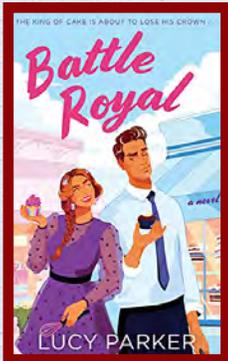
—Liz Lee, Youth Services Librarian



Battle Royal by Lucy Parker

"If you like romance, humor, and *The Great British Baking Show*, you will love this book! Sylvie and Dominic are competing to be chosen to bake a royal wedding cake while they are both judges on a baking show—a show in which Sylvie had previously been a contestant and was voted off by Dominic. They have totally different styles; hers is quirky fun, and his is cranky classic. It's a typical opposites attract scenario, but the book doesn't feel stale thanks to the witty dialogue and chemistry between the characters. It's a great beach read!"

—Michele Duddie, Collection Development Librarian



Daisy Jones and the Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid

"*Daisy Jones and the Six* captures all the drama of 70s rock and roll in this fictional tell-all. The story is brimming with humor even as it delves into the dark side of the music industry. It's a fun and breezy read that will make you wish that The Six were a real band!"

—Keaton Hackworth, Library Technician



Reader's Rave

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

"It's the story of a lifetime built around a mansion, and surprisingly it ends not as expected. It was the runner up for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for fiction."

—Vonna C., Library patron





Facebook



YouTube



Division Homepage

facebook.com/CCLibraries

youtube.com/c/charlottecountycommunityservices

charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net

Published monthly by:

Charlotte County Libraries & History

2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

941.613.3200

