

Between the Lines

The Charlotte County Libraries & History Official Newsletter

In This Issue...

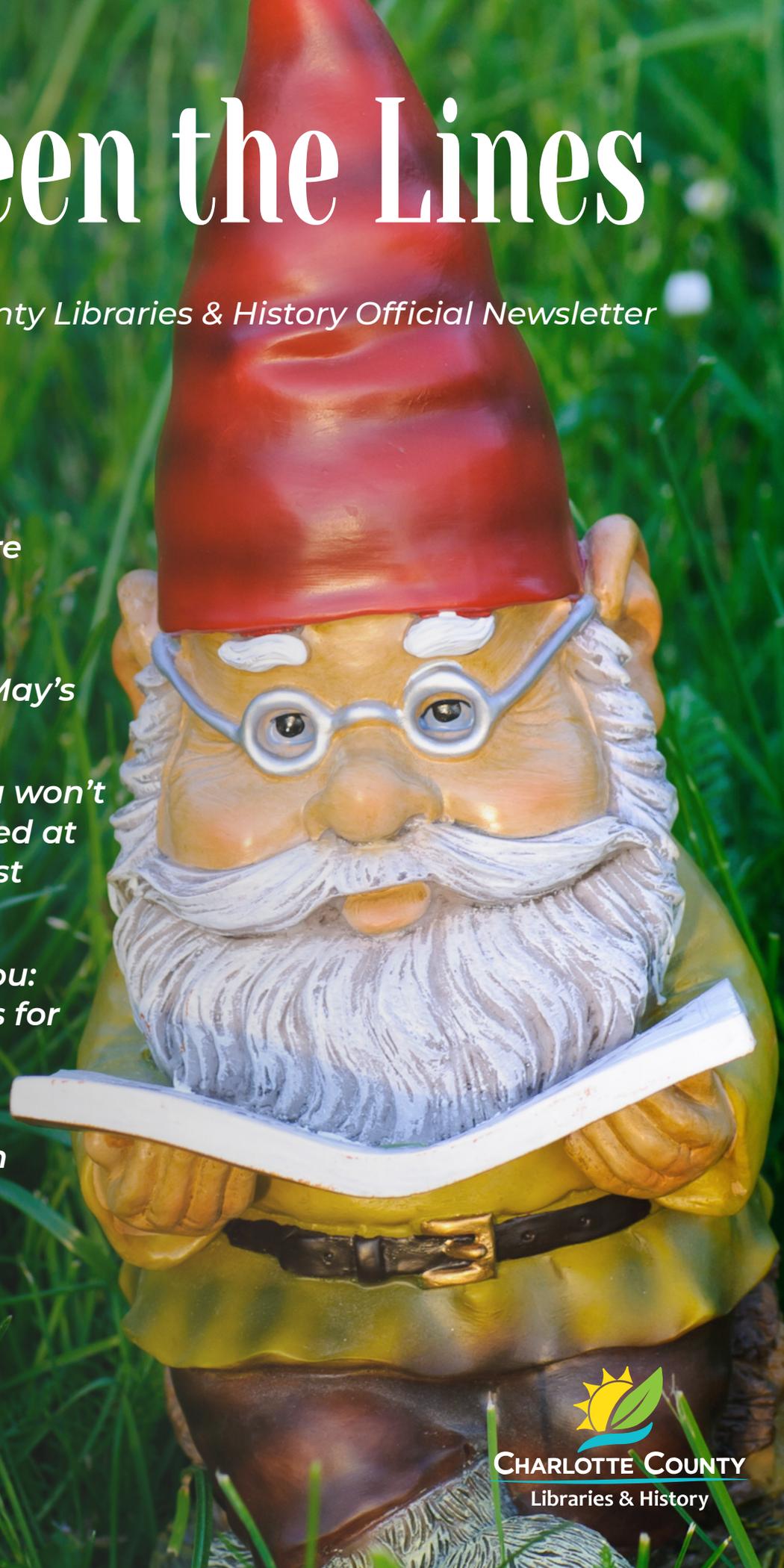
Plant whisperers share top tips for Florida-Friendly gardening

Get a sneak peek at May's biggest new releases

Baseball disaster! You won't believe what happened at Charlotte County's first spring training

May the 4th be with you: Fresh Star Wars reads for fans old and new

Archives Spotlight: Port Charlotte Garden Club Scrapbook



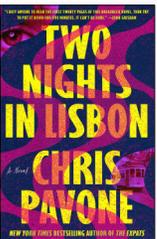
May 2022



Coming Soon to Our Collection

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

May 24



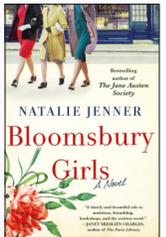
Two Nights in Lisbon by Chris Pavone

Ariel wakes up in Lisbon, alone. Her husband is gone—no warning, no note, not answering his phone. Something is wrong. She starts with hotel security, then the police, then the American embassy, at each confronting questions she can't fully answer: What exactly is John doing in Lisbon? Who would want to harm him? The clock is ticking. Ariel is increasingly frustrated and desperate, and the one person who can help is the one person she least wants to ask.

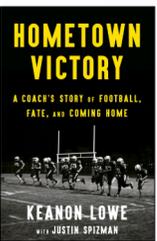
May 17

Bloomsbury Girls by Natalie Jenner

Bloomsbury Books is an old-fashioned new and rare book store that has persisted and resisted change for a hundred years, run by men and guided by the general manager's fifty-one unbreakable rules. But in 1950, the world is changing, especially the world of books and publishing, and at Bloomsbury Books, the girls in the shop have plans.



May 10



Hometown Victory: A Coach's Story of Football, Fate, and Coming Home by Keanon Lowe

The Blindside meets *Friday Night Lights* in Keanon Lowe's *Hometown Victory*. It's the true story of an NFL coach who returns home after losing a friend to opioids to coach a team of struggling high school kids on a 23-game losing streak. After two years, he pushed them to become conference champions, mentoring countless players along the way.

May 10

Uncharted [DVD]

Street-smart Nathan Drake is recruited by seasoned treasure hunter Victor "Sully" Sullivan to recover a fortune amassed by Ferdinand Magellan and lost 500 years ago by the House of Moncada. If Nate and Sully can decipher the clues and solve one of the world's oldest mysteries, they stand to find \$5 billion in treasure and perhaps even Nate's long-lost brother... but only if they can learn to work together.



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

Featured Events

Free Comic Book Day - 12:00 p.m. May 7

Come celebrate comic books, superheroes, anime, and all things make believe at the Mid-County Regional Library. We'll have free comic books, drawing lessons, crafts, trivia, performers, and more fun for all ages. Call 941.613.3160 for more information.

Safe Online Shopping - 1:00 p.m. May 13

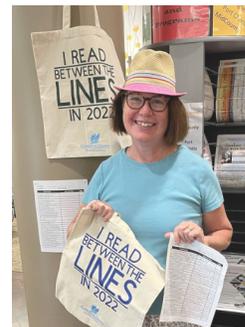
Bring your device to the Port Charlotte Library for this hands-on tech tutorial. We'll cover tips and tricks that can help you avoid scams and shop online more confidently. Register online or call 941.764.5562 to sign up.

Family May Mystery! - 4:30 p.m. May 25

Bring the family to the Punta Gorda Library to try your hand at decoding age-old codes, solving puzzles, and exploring all things cryptology. A representative from the Sheriff's Office will be on site to talk real-life crime solving. You can even be fingerprinted! For still more mystery fun, feel free to dress up as your favorite detective or *Scooby-Doo* character. Call 941.833.5462 for more details.

2022 Reading Challenge

Wow! A few of our patrons have already completed the 2022 Between the Lines Reading Challenge. Want to read differently this year? We're reading 24 books in 2022. Join us at bit.ly/BTLchallenge2022



Save the date

Let's dive into Summer Reading! Pick up your reading log, brag tag necklace, and other goodies at any kick-off location. Enjoy water games, live music, sea crafts, and more at our Englewood Library and McGuire Park events!



Friday, June 3
Englewood Library

Saturday, June 4
McGuire Park
Punta Gorda Library

Books delivered to homebound patrons in new pilot program

At the library, our mission is to connect Charlotte County to great library materials. We know that many of our residents can't drive to visit the library in person due to illness, disability, or other extenuating circumstances. That's why we're so excited about our newest outreach program—home delivery service! In its pilot stage, this program is now open to residents in the Port Charlotte Library's service area. If you qualify, library staff will bring books, audiobooks, and movies to your home each month. You may request specific titles, or we can pick out items according to your interests. To apply for the program, or for more information, contact the Port Charlotte Library at 941.764.5562.

Archives Spotlight: Port Charlotte Garden Club

The Port Charlotte Garden Club was founded on October 24, 1957 with 28 charter members. Today the club's members number more than 100!



A Parkway Patio

... is being installed above by Albert Oligny and Loyd Pool in the county-owned parkways section between Easy Street and Fordham Waterway. Below, Mrs. Roy Gray waters newly-planted flowers and shrubs in the parkway area.



Making it their mission to beautify Port Charlotte, one of the Garden Club's early projects was to improve the landscaping of a parkway at the intersection of US 41 and Easy Street South. The Charlotte County government had previously attempted to beautify the site with palm trees; that project's failure led the Port Charlotte Garden Club to volunteer to work on the parkway. At left, members install a parkway patio and water newly-planted flowers and shrubs.

The Port Charlotte Garden Club frequently collaborated with General Development Corporation (GDC). One such collaboration was the Garden Club's "Yard of the Month" competition, co-sponsored by GDC. The competition was held in the newspaper for nearly two years starting in 1965. Below are the winners from September 1965.

The September 1972 clipping at right details another joint effort. Wanting their hostesses to be able to answer visitors' questions about the flora of Port Charlotte, GDC asked Mrs. Edward Ots, a member of the Garden Club, to educate them about local trees, shrubs, and flowers.



Yard of Month Winners

... Mr. and Mrs. Leo Manzenberger of 765 Conroid Drive, Port Charlotte, were selected this month by the Port Charlotte Garden Club. The Manzenbergers will display the plaque awarded for the remainder of the month in their yard and will receive a silver bowl from GDC as a memento of this honor.



MRS. EDWARD OTS

Garden Member Aids GDC

In late September, Port Charlotte Garden Club was asked to cooperate with General Development Corporation in a program designed to help their hostesses learn more about the flora of the Port Charlotte Area.

Mrs. Edward Ots, a member of Port Charlotte Garden Club, who is very knowledgeable on this subject, represented Port Charlotte Garden Club in the program. She rode about the area with small groups of hostesses and explained to them the botanical and common names of the various trees, shrubs, and flowers grown in and around Port Charlotte. Twelve hostesses were participants in the program.

Visitors to the General Development Welcome Center in Port Charlotte, and particularly people who visit from the northern states for the first time, ask questions about the colorful and often exotic growth. They are interested in knowing the names of the plants, and something more about them, as well as to admire their beauty.

Visit our **online archives** to view the Port Charlotte Garden Club scrapbooks from 1957-1985. The contents include meeting agendas, annual reports, programs from flower shows and workshops, and numerous newspaper clippings and photographs.



MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU

A long time ago in a galaxy far far away...



*Canon

Star Wars: Dooku Jedi Lost by Cavan Scott

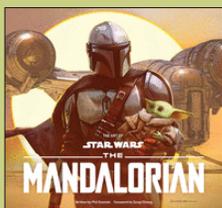
Darth Tyranus, Count of Serenno, leader of the Separatists. A red saber, unsheathed in the dark. But who was he before he became the right hand of the Sith? As Dooku courts a new apprentice, the hidden truth of the Sith Lord's past begins to come to light.

Rogue One: a Star Wars Story by Alexander Freed

As the shadows of the Empire loom ever larger across the galaxy, so do deeply troubling rumors. The Rebellion has learned of a sinister Imperial plot. Deep in Empire-dominated space, a machine of unimaginable destructive power is nearing completion. It's a weapon too terrifying to contemplate...



*Canon



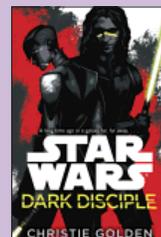
Behind the scenes of *Canon

The Art of Star Wars: The Mandalorian by Phil Szostak

The Art of Star Wars: The Mandalorian follows the adventures of galactic gunslinger Din Djarin and the Child ("Baby Yoda") as they traverse the outer systems of the galaxy and evade remnants of the Empire. Filled with concept art, sketches, and interviews with key cast, crew, and creatives, this is a must-read for fans of the the show!

Star Wars: Dark Disciple by Christie Golden

The Jedi Council pairs brash Jedi Knight Quinlan Vos with infamous one-time Sith acolyte Asajj Ventress to hunt the man responsible for so many atrocities—Count Dooku himself.



*Canon



The *Star Wars* universe is HUGE and can be intimidating. Let Baby Yoda guide you!

- **You can start anywhere you like!** However, many story arcs are written in trilogy formats, so make sure you're not starting on a "Book 2" or "Book 3."
- **Canon vs. Legends**—This one is loaded, but the quick guide is that "legends" are stories written before the Disney takeover that may not be true within the "canon" storylines. "Canon" are post-Disney, official *Star Wars* lore. Both are good, but not all are "official."

Top Tips for Florida-Friendly Gardening

The plant whisperers at Charlotte County Extension Services have provided their best tips for beginning Florida gardeners, and we suggest books to help you get started on your garden!

Are you new to gardening in Florida? If so, you have probably started to realize it's a different ballgame down here than it is up north. But please don't be discouraged – it's not as difficult as you may think, it's just different. Whether you are planting a landscape bed, a container garden, spring flowers, or growing vegetables, there are a set of “rules” to help you become a successful Florida



Coreopsis, Florida's state wildflower
credit Sara Weber UF/IFAS

gardener and be more environmentally friendly at the same time! **Florida-Friendly Landscaping™** is an unbiased, scientific, research-based program designed by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. It consists of nine principles that, when tied together, promote an environmentally friendly way to garden and landscape. It will help you save time and money as well!



Monarch butterfly on firebush
credit Sara Weber UF/IFAS

Right Plant, Right Place – Achieving a healthy, low-maintenance home landscape starts with putting the right plant in the right place. Select plants that match your site's soil, light, water, and climatic conditions. Be sure you're buying the correct plants for your zone as well; here in Charlotte County, we are in USDA planting zones 9b (inland) and 10a (coastal). Choose a diversity of plants. Your site will be less prone to pests and diseases, and you'll provide a more diverse wildlife habitat with seasonal interest.

Water Efficiently – Water your lawn only when it needs it. You'll know it's time when footprints stay in the lawn, leaf blades fold in half, and the lawn takes on a blue-green hue. Grouping plants with similar water needs will make it easier to give your plants the correct amount of water. Water in the early morning to prevent drops from sitting on the foliage overnight. An efficient irrigation system conserves water and helps to ensure that fertilizer and other pollution doesn't flow into bodies of water.

Fertilize Appropriately – Proper fertilization enhances growth, increases flowering or fruiting, corrects nutritional deficiencies, and enhances the plant's appearance. Improper fertilization can damage plants and the environment. Not every plant needs fertilizer – know what nutrients your plants need before you buy. Don't use combination products like “weed and feed.” These contain both fertilizer and pesticides, and the broad application of a pesticide is not Florida-Friendly. Always read the product's label to determine its content. Never fertilize within 10 feet of any water body, and don't fertilize new turf for 30-60 days after planting.

Mulch – Mulch helps retain soil moisture, protects plants, and inhibits weed growth. As it breaks down, it also adds nutrients to the soil. We recommend pine bark, pine straw, fallen leaves, melaleuca, mixed hardwood, eucalyptus, or utility mulch. Use alternative or recycled mulches whenever available. Avoid cypress mulch; it's often harvested unsustainably. Keep mulch 12"-18" away from the base of trees and 1"-2" from shrubs.

Attract Wildlife – Your garden will be part of our local ecosystem, so make it count! Select plants with seeds, fruit, foliage, flowers, or berries that provide food for local fauna. Supply sources of water, such as a rain garden or bird bath. Or try planting host and nectar plants for butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators.

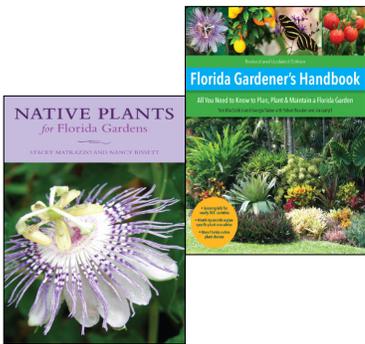
Manage Yard Pests Responsibly – To prevent disease and insect outbreaks, select pest-resistant plants and put them in suitable locations. If problems do arise, start with non-toxic treatments; remove the affected leaves or pick the insects off by hand. If you must use a pesticide, don't blanket spray! Spot treat the affected area.

Recycle Yard Waste – Decomposing organic matter releases nutrients back to the soil in a form that plants can easily use. Using yard waste for composting is a sustainable way of creating organic fertilizer. For instance, leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing so they don't enter the storm drain.

Reduce Storm Water Runoff – Fertilizers, pesticides, debris, and eroded soil carried in storm water can wreak havoc on our water quality. Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ seeks to retain and use as much of the rainfall and irrigation water that lands on our home landscapes as possible.

Protect the Waterfront – Florida boasts over 10,000 miles of rivers and streams, about 7,800 lakes, more than 700 freshwater springs, and the nation's second-longest coastline. Provide a low-maintenance zone of at least 10 feet around the water body. No grass clippings, pesticides, fertilizer, or irrigation water should be applied in this zone. Protect and plant Florida-Friendly shoreline plants.

Find more information on the UF/IFAS Extension FFL Program Website (<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu>)



We suggest checking out these books:

- Florida Gardener's Handbook* by Tom MacCubbin
- Native Plants for Florida Gardens* by Stacey Matrazzo
- Florida's Best Fruiting Plants* by Charles Boning
- Your Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening* by Jaret Daniels



Gardening at the library

Visit Mid-County's atrium garden!

The atrium at the Mid-County Regional Library is in the early stages of becoming a beautiful, sustainable garden! We currently have tomatoes, peppers, dragon fruit, honeydew melon, papaya, and a lovely, fragrant herb garden with basil, rosemary, oregano, thyme, spearmint, and parsley.



Our garden has been fortunate in being helped along by patrons who are amateur gardeners and have donated wonderful plants and succulents. Some have even given their time to plant, weed, and water. This is a project we hope will "grow" over the years. Soon, we will be planting sunflowers for a nice blast of color, and there are many other long-range plans in the works. If you are interested in helping or donating to our garden, please speak with a member of our staff.



Have a gardening question? Master Gardeners are available at the library to answer your questions on gardening, tree and shrub care, lawn care, and household pests. Bring a plant or a photo for specific help.

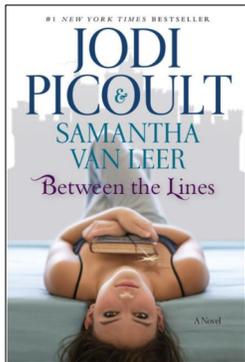
Mid-County - Thursdays 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Englewood - Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Or call the Plant Lifeline at 941.764.4340
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1:00 p.m.-4:00p.m.

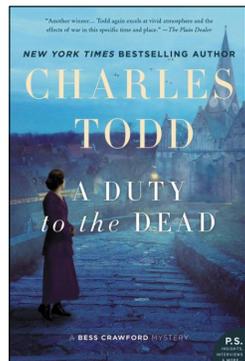
Mother-Child Writing Teams



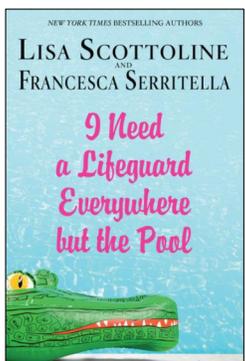
May 8th is Mother's Day, when we take the time to celebrate all the important maternal figures in our lives. Some of our favorite writers have authored books with their children. We've highlighted a few of these duos below!



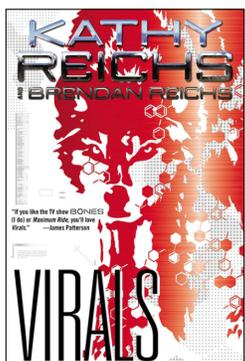
Jodi Picoult and Samantha van Leer ♦ This mother-daughter duo wrote the young adult novel *Between the Lines* and its sequel *Off the Page* together. Filled with romance, adventure, and humor, the magic jumps off the page (literally) in a story you'll never forget. In fact, the team proved so successful that there is a *Between the Lines* musical in the works, set to premiere in New York in June!



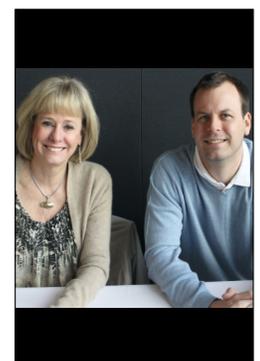
Caroline and Charles Todd ♦ Did you know the bestselling author Charles Todd is actually a mother-son writing team? Together they have written over 30 mysteries including the popular Ian Rutledge and Bess Crawford series that both take place after World War I in England. Sadly, Caroline passed away in August. *A Game of Fear* was their last novel together.



Lisa Scottoline and Francesca Serritella ♦ This mother and daughter have teamed up to write a series of hilarious essay collections, including *I Need a Lifeguard Everywhere but the Pool* and *I've Got Sand in All the Wrong Places*. The duo is incredibly relatable, calling their series *Amazing Adventures of an Ordinary Woman*. Serritella has now begun to publish fiction solo, just like her mom, starting with 2020's *The Ghosts of Harvard*.



Kathy and Brendan Reichs ♦ While most know Kathy Reichs for her popular *Bones* series about forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan, she has also collaborated with her son on a young adult series. The series *Virals* focuses on Tory Brennan, Temperance's grandniece, with a sci-fi twist.



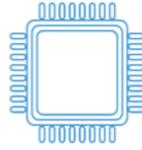
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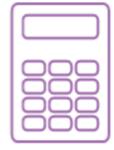
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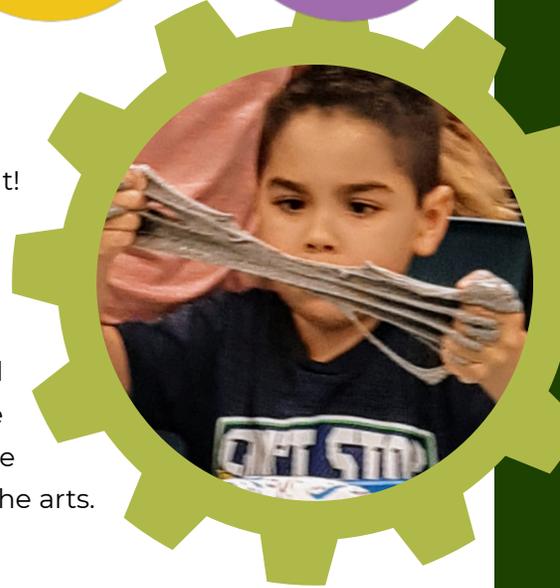
MATH



Charlotte County kids are exploring science, technology, engineering, art, and math at the library.

If your children haven't been to our STEAM program, they're missing out! Each month, kids get to try a handful of crafty, messy, and just plain cool activities for a full hour of STEAM learning.

Why STEAM? You've probably heard that STEM education is more important than ever. It prepares the next generation for successful careers in our world of ever-advancing science and technology. The addition of the "A" in STEAM reminds us that the technical disciplines are at their best when inspired by the creativity of the arts. Most importantly, kids love it!



WOW-tastic experiments Whether we're studying the wonder of water or the magic of magnets, kids are always amazed at the wild ways our world works. For instance, we've engineered marshmallow igloos, discovered how salt lowers the freezing point of ice cream, and learned about the science of adhesion while making sticky ice cubes. We demonstrated capillary action with our water-walking rainbows and even made a tiny cloud inside a bottle. And did you know that it's possible to magnetize slime? Our hands-on explorations have been so much fun that kids don't even realize they're learning.

Join the fun! Our STEAM program continues all year at each of our four branches. In May, we're exploring color and flowers. Activities vary by location.

Port Charlotte - Wednesday, May 11th - 941.764.5562

Englewood - Friday, May 13th - 941.681.3736

Punta Gorda - Friday, May 13th - 941.833.5460

Mid-County - Friday, May 20th - 941.613.3166

Please register each child individually.



Charlotte County's Disastrous First Spring Training

Break out the peanuts and cracker jack for America's national pastime!



As the 2022 Major League Baseball season is in full swing, it is a good time to reflect on the rich history of baseball in Florida. This history dates to the nineteenth century when Abner Doubleday, a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, was stationed at Fort Dallas on the Miami River during the Third Seminole War. Doubleday was long believed to have invented the game of baseball. In reality, he was a soldier, known for his military career during the Civil War, where he served at places like Fort Sumter, Antietam, and Gettysburg. While baseball's true origin likely doesn't lie with Doubleday, Floridians have been fans ever since.

Here in Charlotte County, we've just finished another spring training season with the Tampa Bay Rays. The Rays have hosted spring training games at Charlotte Sports Park since 2009. Prior to that, the Texas Rangers called Port Charlotte their spring training home from 1987 to 2003. But did you know that the area's first attempt at hosting a professional team's spring games took place almost 100 years ago? In 1926, the Baltimore Orioles, under legendary manager Jack Dunn, were a powerhouse of the International League. They had won seven straight pennants from 1919–1925 and were at the height of their popularity when Punta Gorda lured them to Florida, promising \$5,000 in guaranteed money (\$75,000 in today's money). They spent another \$25,000 on advertising (\$365,000 today). The city also paid for and constructed a baseball park at the end of Carmalita Street, now Carmalita Park. The grandstand was painted green and could seat 1,000 people, and the center field fence was a whopping 600 feet from home plate. That's quite a distance! Today, the deepest outfield in the major leagues, the Kansas City Royals' Kauffman Stadium, is 410 feet.

Things went awry from the start. The Orioles were set to arrive on February 22, 1926, but their train was delayed, and the welcome parade had to be canceled. On Opening Day, the victory party at the Charlotte Bay Hotel was spoiled when the Orioles lost to the Philadelphia Athletics, 5–3. Overall, Baltimore played fourteen games here and had a record of 5–9. With Punta Gorda's small population (3,000), investors counted on tourists to help fill the park, but this never happened, and the venture proved a financial disaster. Gate receipts failed to meet expenses, and the stockholders lost their investments. The losses were covered on a bank note by five local businessmen, one of whom, R. Chester Blount, lost his home as a result. The collapse of the 1920s Florida land boom and the onset of the Great Depression prevented the men who pledged the bank note from making payments. Eventually, the loan was settled by the bank, who took just twenty cents on the dollar. Charlotte County's first attempt at hosting spring training thus came to an inglorious end, not to be tried again for another five decades.

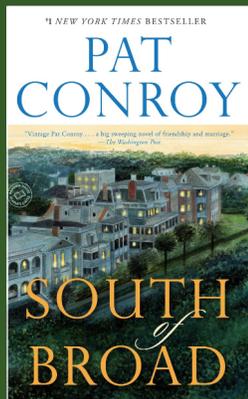
Today, Little League games are played at Carmalita Park, where visitors can learn about our county's baseball history by reading the **"Telling Your Story"** sign. Find more historic photos like this one in our **online archives**.



A baseball game at Gill Street and Virginia Avenue in Punta Gorda ca. 1933

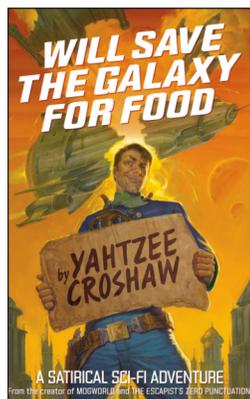
Staff Picks

Reader's Rave



South of Broad by Pat Conroy ♦ “This book is not only a story about unlikely friendships and the culture of Charleston, South Carolina but also chronicles the change in perspective starting in 1969. I graduated from high school in 1961 and could identify with many aspects of the story. I also lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay area in the ‘70s and recall the tragedy of AIDS. Pat Conroy does a masterful job weaving together the characters’ lives and the history of the time.”

*Katherine S.,
Library patron*



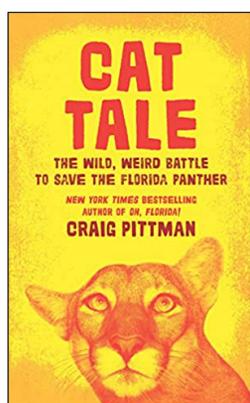
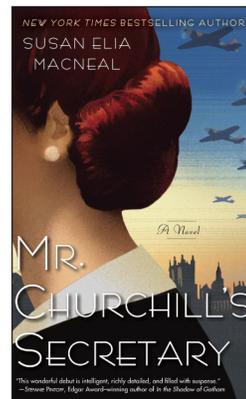
and creative characters that you’ll love to hate, this vividly imaginative universe will quickly draw you in.”

— *Mason Croy-Godsey, Library Technician*

Will Save the Galaxy for Food by Yahtzee Croshaw ♦ “Will Save the Galaxy for Food is a fun, satirical sci-fi journey set in the distant future, where the “Golden Age” of star-piloting has come and gone, made obsolete by the creation of teleportation. We follow a down-on-his luck, jaded ex-starpilot who gets caught up in an interstellar dispute and is forced to flee the solar system. As a fan of sci-fi, I loved how the author plays on so many of the genre’s tropes while still making it feel like the natural progression of the story line. With an engaging story, witty writing style,

Mr. Churchill’s Secretary by Susan Elia MacNeal ♦ “If you enjoy reading books with strong women protagonists, the *Maggie Hope* series is for you! The first book is *Mr. Churchill’s Secretary*. Maggie is an American living in London just as Winston Churchill is sworn in. She wants to help with the war effort, but due to her sex, she is assigned a role as a typist at #10 Downing Street. There are so many different and well-plotted points in this book including romance, intrigue, spies, and code. I don’t want to give anything more away, but note, Maggie does not remain in the general typing pool for long.”

— *Jenn Ginn, Library Technician*



you’ll cheer when the hard-working biologists and wildlife officials finally see success. This is an intriguing and suspenseful read that was both an education and a pleasure.”

— *Hana Brown, Librarian Supervisor*

Cat Tale: The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther by Craig Pittman ♦ “Pittman has written a detailed and humorous account of the solitary and elusive Florida panther, which very nearly went extinct in the mid-1990s when it was estimated that only 30 panthers remained. Pittman writes with authority thanks to dozens of interviews with uniquely Floridian humans who have had a hand in bringing this animal back from the brink. You’ll be flabbergasted by the stories of scientific rivalries, court cases, habitat loss and political mischief, and

Send your rave review to CharlotteCountyLibraries@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.
Your recommendation may be featured in a future issue!





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2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

941.613.3200

