In This Issue...

Haunted history: Charlotte County's spookiest spots

New titles hitting the shelves in October

Spooky (but not too scary!) books for kids and teens

Why we love the Friends of the Library

Try it! Turn your old book into the perfect fall decor

Staff picks of the month
Coming Soon to Our Collection

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

**Such Sharp Teeth** by Rachel Harrison
Rory has come home to help her pregnant sister when she is transformed into a werewolf, but that is just where the story begins. Life begins to look and feel different. She's unnaturally strong, with an aversion to silver—and suddenly the moon has her in its thrall. She's changing into someone else—something else, maybe even a monster. But does that mean she's putting those close to her in danger? Or is embracing the wildness inside of her the key to acceptance?

**If This Book Exists, You’re in the Wrong Universe** by Jason Pargin
You’ve just wandered into the city of Undisclosed. You don’t want to be caught dead here, because odds are you just might find yourself rising from the grave. Tourists visit to check out the unusual phenomena that hang around our town. Inter-dimensional parasites feeding on human hosts, paranormal cults worshiping demonic entities, vengeful teenage sorcerers—we’ve got it all. That’s where Dave, John, and Amy come in. They face supernatural threats so the rest of us don’t have to.

**Castle Rock Kitchen** by Theresa Carle-Sanders
An immersive culinary experience from the mouthwatering to the macabre, with gorgeous, moody photographs to transport Stephen King fans to kitchen tables, diners, and picnic blankets across Castle Rock, Derry, and other fictional towns. Recipes ranging from drinks to dessert (and every course in between) are inspired by meals and gatherings from novels and stories set in King’s Castle Rock multiverse—a darker, more gothic version of the Maine most are familiar with.

**Nope** [DVD]
Two siblings who run a California horse ranch discover something wonderful and sinister in the skies above, and the owner of an adjacent theme park tries to profit from the mysterious, otherworldly phenomenon.
Directed by Jordan Peele and starring Daniel Kaluuya and Keke Palmer.

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
Car Show & Trunk or Treat
Port Charlotte Public Library
Saturday, October 29, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Port Charlotte Library and the Florida West Coast Car Club are partnering up to host a Car Show and Trunk or Treat event. Come out and enjoy this exhibition of classic automobiles. Kids are invited to come in their Halloween costumes and start their trick or treating early. There will be raffles, food trucks, a costume contest, a bookstore sale, and trophies for 10 winning cars plus Best in Show.

For general information, please call 941.764.5562.
For car participation, please call 941.497.4995.
Admission is free for spectators and to do the Trunk or Treat—everyone is invited!

Florida History Series: Exploring Florida’s Tail
Englewood Charlotte Library
Thursday, October 13, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Join author D.L. Havlin for a presentation about ‘The Florida Keys: Things to Do & See from Pennecamp to the Conch Republic.’

Stretching from Biscayne National Park in the northeast to The Dry Tortugas National Park in the southwest, these islands comprise a paradise for sportsmen, beachgoers, camera enthusiasts, culinary connoisseurs, and just plain loafers. Learn some of the many things to see and do in this 150-plus mile chain of wonders.

For more information, contact the library at 941.681.3736.

Family Pumpkin Decorating
Punta Gorda Charlotte Library
Saturday, October 22, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

It’s pumpkin decorating time! Bring your own pumpkins to the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library and decorate with your family for this festive fall season on our back lawn.

Register online or call 941.833.5460 for more information.
Don’t miss our classic car show!
Cool cars roll into the Port Charlotte Public Library’s lot Saturday, October 29. Bring the kids for trunk or treat!

Archives Spotlight

Classic Cars
Iconic lines, galloping engines, the smell of leather and gasoline.

At left: Mabel Lewis, wearing saddle shoes, leans against the rear fender of a car. The auto is thought to be a 1939 Pontiac Deluxe belonging to Arnold “Slim” Keys. Keys was a Pontiac dealer and ace mechanic in Punta Gorda. Lewis and Keys married in 1942.

Inset: This photo shows a 1941 Charlotte County license plate. The number “53” signifies Charlotte County. The letter “D” indicates the weight of the car. (A lighter car would have no letter after the county number, while a pick-up truck would have the letters “GK.”) The number “55” is the tag issue number.

At right: Mr. and Mrs. Al Stiles stand by their 1928 Ford Roadster while Mr. and Mrs. Arvin Williams are cozy in the rumble seat. The car was on display as part of Charlotte County’s 50th anniversary celebration in April 1971.

At left: This photo shows a 1911 Ford Model T, owned by Kevin Shields, on display at a car show at Gilchrist Park in Punta Gorda in May 1992. Classic cars were on display that month in conjunction with the addition of Punta Gorda’s Smith Arcade building to the National Register of Historic Places.
Not-too-scary books for kids and teens
Welcome to October! This month Ms. Liz shares a spooky list of books for middle-grade and teen readers. These are grim and scary (but not TOO scary!) books. Read if you dare!

**KIDS**

**Scary Stories for Young Foxes** by Christian Heidicker
Featuring eight interconnected stories and sixteen hauntingly beautiful illustrations, *Scary Stories for Young Foxes* contains the kinds of adventures and thrills you love to listen to beside a campfire in the dark of night. Scare factor: 2 out of 5 ghosts.

**Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark** by Alvin Schwartz
This is a timeless collection of chillingly scary tales and legends, in which folklorist Alvin Schwartz offers up some of the most alarming tales of horror, dark revenge, and supernatural events of all time. This book series is CREEPY but good. It includes spiders and things that go bump in the night. Scare factor: 4 out of 5 ghosts.

**Scritch Scratch** by Lindsay Currie
This chilling ghost story is based on real Chicago history about a malevolent spirit, an unlucky girl, and a haunting mystery that will tie the two together. Haunted after helping her father on his ghost-themed Chicago bus tour, twelve-year-old Claire must discover what the spectral boy from the bus wants before it is too late. A creepy ghost follows you home... and the author is REALLY good at building suspense. Scare factor: 4 out of 5 ghosts.

**TEENS**

**Bone Houses** by Emily Lloyd-Jones
When risen corpses called 'bone houses' threaten Ryn’s village because of a decades-old curse, she teams up with a mapmaker named Ellis to solve the mystery of the curse and destroy the bone houses. It features Welsh folklore and skeleton zombies with a bit of gore and blood. What else could you wish for? Scare factor: 3 out of 5 ghosts.

**Bad Witch Burning** by Jessica Lewis
Sixteen-year-old Katrell uses her witchy powers to talk to the dead and escape her home life, but when she disregards the dead's warnings to stop, dark forces begin to close in—forcing Ketrell to make some hard decisions. Scare factor: 3 out of 5 ghosts.
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.

Scary Mary Sandlin

The Victorian-style home in Punta Gorda known as the Sandlin House is picturesque 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.

In 1909, 14-year-old Mary Leah Sandlin was ironing clothes on the porch using a gasoline-powered iron. Suddenly, gasoline 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 in front of the girl’s old room, toys mysteriously played with, and laundry unexpectedly 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 Manasota Key in Englewood. Relocated and restored, it’s used as an artist’s retreat today.

History tells us that the house was built in 1907 by Swedish immigrant Carl Johanson as a home for his family, including his aging mother, Anna. Anna was very religious, and the family considered her a healer. Her granddaughter recalled that Anna used folk remedies, including a bit of “sacred lead” that she would burn whenever someone in the family had gotten sick. Though it’s not clear what exactly Anna’s sacred lead was, lead amulets meant to provide protection have featured in the folk religions of many cultures.

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, dressing rooms, gasoline, and groceries to beach-goers. Dances were often held there on the weekends. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1945. A new structure was built on the 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 suggest the lady is looking for her husband, hoping to dance.

Forrest Nelson’s Phantom Bees

Port Charlotte’s Restlawn Cemetery and the Mid-County Regional Library are both located on Forrest Nelson Boulevard, land that once belonged to local landowner Forrest Nelson.

**History tells us** that Nelson, pictured at right, bought the 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 and provided access from the community of Cleveland to the eastern portions of the county to the community of Bermont. 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, last December, 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.
These baseball books are home run hits
The 2022 World Series is set to begin on October 28. Enjoy these selections while you wait for the first pitch!

**The Grandest Stage: A History of the World Series** by Tyler Kepner
The World Series is the most enduring showcase in American team sports. It’s the place where legends are made, where celebration and devastation can hinge on a fly ball off a foul pole or a grounder beneath a first baseman’s glove. Kepner delivers the ultimate history of the World Series—a vivid portrait of baseball at its finest and most intense, filled with humor, lore, analysis, and fascinating behind-the-scenes stories from 117 years of the Fall Classic.

**The Baseball 100** by Joe Posnanski
Baseball’s legends come alive in these pages, which are not merely rankings of the 100 greatest players but vibrant profiles of the game’s all-time greats. Posnanski dives into the biographies of iconic Hall of Famers, unfairly forgotten All-Stars, talents of today, and more. He doesn’t rely just on records and statistics—he lovingly retraces players’ origins, illuminates their characters, and places their accomplishments in the context of baseball’s past and present.

**True: The Four Seasons of Jackie Robinson** by Kostya Kennedy
True: The Four Seasons of Jackie Robinson is an unconventional biography, focusing on four transformative years in Robinson’s athletic and public life: 1946, his first year playing in the essentially all-white minor leagues for the Montreal Royals; 1949, when he won the Most Valuable Player Award in his third season as a Brooklyn Dodger; 1956, his final season in major league baseball; and 1972, the year of his untimely death. Through it all, Robinson remained true to the effort and the mission, true to his convictions and contradictions.

**Whispers of the Gods: Tales from Baseball’s Golden Age, told by the Men who Played it** by Peter Goldenbock
Bestselling author Peter Golenbock brings to life baseball greats from the 1940s, ‘50s, and ‘60s with Whispers of the Gods. Like the enduring classic The Glory of Their Times, this book is based on hundreds of hours of taped interviews featuring the likes of Roy Campanella, Ted Williams, Phil Rizzuto, Jim Bouton, Stan Musial, and more.
We ♥ our Friends

Whether you’ve attended a cool summer program or cozied up in a comfy chair, you’ve probably enjoyed a contribution of the Friends of the Library.

Each of our four library branches is supported by its own nonprofit Friends group. These dedicated groups raise funds through their volunteer-run bookstores, as well as with membership dues, special events, and donations.

Bringing dreams to life
The money our Friends raise is used to enrich our library programs and facilities. For instance, during our summer reading program, our Friends at Englewood and Port Charlotte provided funds to buy materials and prizes to help motivate kids to read. Friends of the Englewood Charlotte Library are sponsoring Chef Warren's Cooking Around the World program this fall. Mid-County’s Friends are looking forward to providing enhancements to the youth and makerspace areas, while kids at the Punta Gorda Library can read and learn comfortably on the furniture the Friends donated for the youth area. And if you’ve been to the beautiful Port Charlotte Public Library lately, thank the Friends! They purchased furniture as part of last summer’s renovation.

Become a Friend
You, too, can become a Friend. Applications are available at the Friends’ bookstores. Annual dues range from $5 to $10, so it’s easy to make a difference. Plus, you’ll be the first to know about upcoming events and used book sales. Donna Stogsdill, President of the Friends of the Englewood Charlotte Library, hopes you’ll consider joining. She says, “A reason to get involved is to make a difference in a child’s life by helping them to love books at an early age... It’s always important to help a child learn and grow and to help them open doors to the world.”

Volunteering at the bookstore is not required, but it can be quite rewarding. Friends of the Mid-County Regional Library enjoy the connections the bookstore helps them make with the community, and they’re glad to be able to offer affordable books to all. Lori Dudek has volunteered at the Port Charlotte Friends’ bookstore since June 2021 and sees her hard work paying off at the branch. “I am most proud of raising money by volunteering at the bookstore. All the money raised is used to help support the Port Charlotte Library’s free programs that are available to the community all year round.”

Not ready to sign up? Visit the Friends’ bookstores to find good books at great prices. The selection changes daily, so stop back often. They’ll also gladly accept most donations of used books and DVDs in good condition.

Shop the bookstores
Our Friends’ bookstores are conveniently located at the front of each library branch.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-County</td>
<td>10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday</td>
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<td>10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday</td>
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<td>Englewood</td>
<td>10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday</td>
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<td>10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port Charlotte</td>
<td>9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday</td>
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<td>*Book sale October 29!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Punta Gorda</td>
<td>10:15 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday</td>
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Try it! Turn an old book into a pumpkin

A discarded paperback makes the cutest fall decoration! Why not pick up an old book at the Friends' bookstore?

You will need:
- paper and pencil
- an old paperback book
- scissors
- orange marker or spray paint
- glue
- a bit of green ribbon
- a small stick

1. Fold a sheet of paper in half and cut out a rough pumpkin-shaped pattern. Cut while the paper is folded so your pumpkin will be symmetrical.

2. Remove the cover of your paperback book. Line up your pattern so that its folded edge is on the bound edge of the book. If the pattern is bigger than the book, trim it to fit. Trace around the pattern with a pencil.

3. Use sharp scissors to cut carefully along the line you drew. You'll probably be able to cut through about 5-6 pages at a time.
After you've cut all the way around, pull the excess parts of the pages away from the binding. They should tear off easily. Use a pencil to trace around your pumpkin-shaped pages onto the next full page.

4. Cut through a few more pages using your traced line as a guide. Be sure to cut inside your pencil line so your pumpkin doesn't get bigger! Repeat until all the pages have been cut.

5. If you're using marker, add some color on the edges, flexing the book at an angle to reach the edge of all pages. Apply a thin strip of glue at the inside edge of the last page. Carefully open the book 360 degrees, bringing the last page together with the first. Pinch firmly until the glue dries. To make sure everything is secure, add a strip of glue at the binding between the first and second pages, too.

6. Working your way around, fluff the pages apart to round out your pumpkin. Add some additional glue between pages as needed.
If using the orange spray paint, spritz your pumpkin with just a bit of color. Glue on a stick stem and a leaf of green ribbon. Perfect!
Staff Picks

**Librarian Tales**
by William Ottens

“A quick, delightful read that allows people to discover what exactly staff at a library do all day. Ottens provides charming insight into all aspects of library work. He quickly does away with the stereotypical idea of the grouchy, spinster librarian while drawing up the hectic (yet enjoyable!) way libraries actually operate. I recommend it for anyone who thinks librarians sit around all day, shushing people and reading books!”

—Allison King, Library Technician

**Hocus Pocus & the All-New Sequel**
by A.W. Jantha

“The Sanderson sisters are back and up to their old tricks. This time, they’re dealing with Poppy, the daughter of Max and Allison from the original story. Join Poppy in this magically fun Halloween adventure as she and her friends try to save Salem from the wicked Sanderson sisters. It’s the perfect story to get cozy with some warm cider and read a fun and adventurous tale of witches, magic and Halloween.”

—Tina Ranney, Senior Administrative Assistant

**The Codebreaker’s Secret**
by Sara Ackerman

“Linked by alternating time slip stories, you’re drawn between the lives of Izzy, an exceptionally skilled female codebreaker in 1943, and Lu, a magazine features writer returning home to cover the opening of a new luxury hotel in 1965. Amidst authentic historical detail, mysteries unfold surrounding the death of a famous singer washed ashore. *The Codebreaker’s Secret* is an entwined, immersive exploration replete with two of readers’ favorite spices—intrigue and espionage.”

—Charles Meyer, Library Technician

**Reader’s Rave**

**The Stand** by Stephen King

“This is the excellently crafted horror novel we’ve come to expect from King. Each character was brilliantly fleshed out, and the introduction and unveiling of events kept me riveted.”

—Joshua G., Library patron

Share your own recommendation at bit.ly/ReadersRaves