

# Between the Lines

*The Charlotte County Libraries & History Quarterly Newsletter*

## In This Issue...

*Sweet treats and savory eats are on the menu at our popular cooking programs!*

*Oral histories are now streaming in our digital archives*

*These books will take you places! Four unique guides to Florida travel*

*Ask a Librarian: What's the most interesting question you've answered?*

*We're melting for this summer's staff picks*

Summer 2023



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
Libraries & History





# Coming Soon to Our Collection

Browse through the hundreds of items that are on order right now: [bit.ly/OnOrderItems](https://bit.ly/OnOrderItems)

July 4



## ***The Housekeepers*** by Alex Hay

Housekeeper at one of the grandest houses in Edwardian Mayfair, Mrs. King is shocked when she is inexplicably dismissed from her position. But she quickly rallies, calling on the smarts she acquired from growing up among con artists and thieves, and puts together a plan for revenge that will take place on the night of the house's eagerly anticipated costume ball.

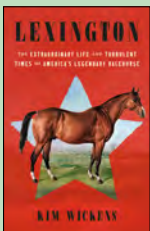
Aug 1

## ***Tom Lake*** by Ann Patchett

Gathering with her family at their Michigan orchard in spring 2020, Lara is pestered by her daughters to tell them about her long-ago romance with renowned actor Peter Duke, with whom she acted in a theater company called Tom Lake. The story leads the young women to reconsider their own lives and how they think about their mother.



July 11



## ***Lexington: The Extraordinary Life and Turbulent Times of America's Legendary Racehorse*** by Kim Wickens

*Lexington* is the powerful true story of the champion Thoroughbred racehorse who gained international fame in the tumultuous Civil War-era South and became the most successful sire in American racing history. The author transports readers back to the raucous beginning of American horse racing and introduces them to the stallion at its heart.

July 18

## ***The Last of Us: Season 1*** [DVD]

In 2003, a parasitic fungal infection ravages the planet, turning humans into violent creatures known as the Infected. Twenty years later, hardened survivor Joel is hired to smuggle fourteen-year-old Ellie out of an oppressive quarantine zone in hopes of delivering her to the rebel Fireflies. But what should be a quick job soon becomes a brutal and heartbreaking journey as they traverse the desolate U.S. while depending on each other for survival.



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

# Library Bulletin

## WRITING GROUPS

Whether you're an established writer or you're still thinking about putting pen to paper, try one of our writing programs! We're sharing tips and inspiration.

### Jump Write In - Punta Gorda Library

Second Tuesdays, 6 - 8 p.m.

Explore creative writing from poetry to prose with guided readings and exercises in this monthly group for adults.

### Fiction Writers Group - Englewood Charlotte Library

Second and Fourth Saturdays, 10:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join volunteer Tammie for a discussion about writing fiction.

### Port Charlotte Writer's Club - Port Charlotte Library

Fourth Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Published, unpublished, and would-be writers are welcome! Bring your writing if you'd like feedback from our supportive group.



## Hurricane Preparation with Charlotte County Emergency Management

As we approach peak hurricane season, join the experts to learn how to make a plan, know your risk, and be prepared for the next storm. Emergency Management will offer this important presentation at each of our library branches.

**Englewood Charlotte**  
Tuesday, July 25  
10:30 a.m.

**Port Charlotte**  
Tuesday, July 25  
3:00 p.m.

**Punta Gorda**  
Monday, July 31  
1:00 p.m.

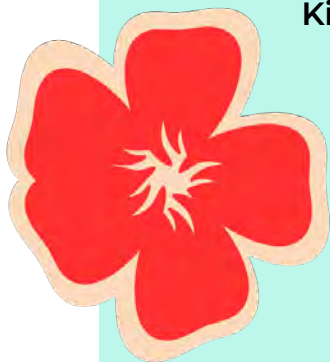
## SUMMER READING PARTY

### Kids and teens, keep reading!

Remember to bring your completed reading log to your library to claim your prize for summer reading.

You can choose either a ticket to our end-of-summer luau on July 29 or a ticket to enter to win a fabulous prize bundle.

**Reading logs are due by July 22.**



## SAVE THE DATE!

### Back-to-School Scavenger Hunt

Friday, August 4  
Englewood  
Charlotte Library



All library branches will be closed  
**Tuesday, July 4**  
and  
**Monday, September 4**  
in observance of  
Independence Day and  
Labor Day.

# Charlotte County Remembers

Charlotte County Libraries and History is looking to preserve the voices and memories of our area's past. Oral histories are now streaming in our digital archives.

History Services' Joe Guerzo has spent hours interviewing local community members and recording their life stories. These oral histories are preserved in our archives for generations to come, and now they are available to listen to on our website. We sat down with Joe to ask about the Charlotte County Oral History Program he started in 2017.

## Why is oral history important to record?

I always say oral histories are important because once a person dies, all their memories can die with them. Oral histories provide a unique perspective on a specific time and place and can keep those memories and, in some ways, can keep that person alive forever.



Joe Guerzo interviews Peg Stunkard

## What makes oral history especially valuable, as opposed to history written in a book?

These recordings offer a more personal view of history, and it is presented by a voice that actually lived in that time period. It offers a glimpse of what life was like on an everyday basis, which you can't get from just memorizing important names and dates in a history book. They say that the Great Depression started with the Wall Street Crash on October 29, 1929, but an oral history can show us what it was really like to live during those hard times. For example, we might hear how a person lost the family farm or had to sell the car just to make ends meet. You can actually feel the struggle in their voice and words.



Margaret Riggs

**How you did you decide who to interview?** We agreed that an interviewee would have to live in the county for at least 20 years, but most of them lived here much longer. I relied on several trusted local history sources to put together a list of about 15 people they thought would be interesting subjects. We also considered their age, as we knew some of them wouldn't be with us much longer. After the initial 15, the list grew by word of mouth to about 50.

**How was the conversation structured?** Before I started, I researched several oral history programs and even reached out to several of them for advice. UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz stand out as being extremely helpful. Back in 2017, there weren't as many universities with an oral history program as there are today. After that, I put together a general list of about 35 questions. Of course, it's just a guide because every interview is unique and can take you in unexpected directions. I try to follow a chronological order with my questioning. The most important thing is making the person feel comfortable enough to share with you.



**What did you do afterwards?** The post interview process involved typing up the transcripts of the interview by hand. The only editing done was if I had a question of spelling and had to call the interviewee for that information. They were saved on our hard drive as well as an external hard drive as a backup.

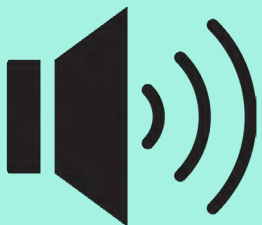
**What was rewarding about this project?** I think I found the personal connections I made with the subjects the most rewarding part of the project. These people open up their lives to you and share their most personal experiences, so you start to empathize with them. I remember interviewing a WWII vet. He was telling me the story of how his best friend died in his arms when he was only 20 years old. He was in tears by the end of it, as was I. We had to take a break, and his wife comes up to me and she's crying, too. She says, "We've been married over 60 years, and he never told me that story." You really get a feel for everyone's humanity. You realize that all of our lives are going to be filled with happy and sad memories and that makes you feel connected, just as fellow human beings.

**What did you find challenging about this project?** I think it was when my interviewees started dying. It was very sad. You can become very close to these people. Bill Crosland and I were close and kept in touch until he passed away in 2020. Once I was in on stage in Punta Gorda, and a young man recognized me. I immediately assumed he had seen my band play. But he said, "You were at my grandmother's funeral." And that was Margaret Riggs's grandson. She was very lively and was able to convey the joys and tragedies of her life. She made a profound impression on me.

**What are some of the favorite stories you heard?** There are so many, but I already mentioned a sad one, so I'll give you a happy one. It was Mike and Zoanna Broderick in 2018. Mike grew up in Punta Gorda (Charlotte High Class of 1964), and he describes this long, colorful, gallivanting life he led. He and Zoanna were high school sweethearts, but after her family moved to Ohio, they lost touch. He went on to be married a few times. I believe once was to a woman he had just met on a weekend in Vegas! But in 2005, after a lifetime of rambling, he sat down and wrote a poem for her and put it on classmates.com. It was very sweet and the last line was, "Zoanna, who are you today?" She was recently a widow when she saw it online. So, over 40 years later, they reunited and were married on July 7, 2007. He recites the poem in the recording. It always touches my heart when I hear it.



*Mike and Zoanna Broderick*



## How to listen

These stories and many more are now streaming in our online archives. Visit [charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net/oralhistory](http://charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net/oralhistory) to hear them all.

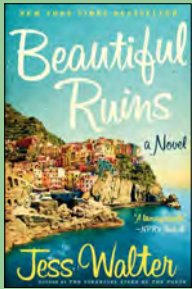
## Want to tell your story?

Joe's now collecting local experiences of Hurricane Ian. Call **941.681.3742** if you have an interesting story you'd like to share.



# Overseas Beach Reads

Traveling overseas is expensive, but getting lost in one of the books below is not. Enjoy these stories while relaxing on the world-class beaches right here in Florida.

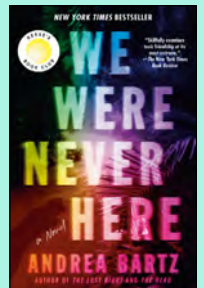


## ***Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter**

The story begins in 1962. On a rocky patch of the sun-drenched Italian coastline, a young innkeeper, chest-deep in daydreams, looks out over the incandescent waters of the Ligurian Sea and spies an apparition: a tall, thin woman, a vision in white, approaching him on a boat. She is an actress, he soon learns, an American starlet, and she is dying.

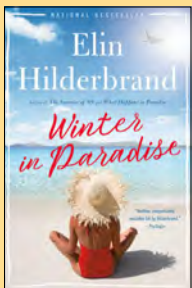
## ***We Were Never Here* by Andrea Bartz**

Emily is having the time of her life—she's in the mountains of Chile with her best friend, Kristen, on their annual trip. But on the last night there, Emily enters their suite to find a scene of blood and broken glass. Kristen says the backpacker attacked her, and she had no choice but to kill him in self-defense. The scene is horrifyingly similar to last year's trip, when another backpacker wound up dead. Emily can't believe it's happened again—can lightning really strike twice?



## ***Winter in Paradise* by Elin Hilderbrand**

Irene Steele's idyllic life is shattered when her beloved husband is found dead. Perplexingly, he was found on St. John island, a tropical paradise far removed from their suburban life. Irene flies down to the beautiful Caribbean beaches of St. John only to make another shocking discovery: her husband had a secret second family. As Irene investigates, she is plunged into a web of intrigue and deceit belied by the island's pristine white sand beaches.



## ***Something in the Water* by Catherine Steadman**

Erin is a documentary filmmaker on the brink of a professional breakthrough; Mark an investment banker with big plans. Passionately in love, they embark on a dream honeymoon to the tropical island of Bora Bora. Then, while scuba diving, they find something in the crystal blue water. Suddenly the newlyweds must make a dangerous choice: to speak out or to protect their secret. After all, if no one else knows, who would be hurt?



## ***One Italian Summer* by Rebecca Serle**

Mourning the death of the mother to whom she was incredibly close, Katy travels trepidatiously to Italy for a vacation they had planned together. There, she has a real shock: she spots her mother, alive, tanned, and decades younger, as she was when she summured in Positano before meeting Katy's father. It's a moving and unforgettable exploration of the powerful bond between mother and daughter set on the breathtaking Amalfi Coast.



# Archives Spotlight: *The Superstars*

What would happen if athletes were asked to compete in a sport other than their specialty? We found out in the 1970s when stars descended into Rotonda for *The Superstars*.

From 1973 to 1977, world-class athletes faced off in *The Superstars*, a unique televised competition. At the same time, Rotonda residents squared off against the Cavanagh Corporation over the town's future.

*The Superstars* program was the idea of Dick Button, Olympic champion skater. Button's intention was for athletes to compete outside their

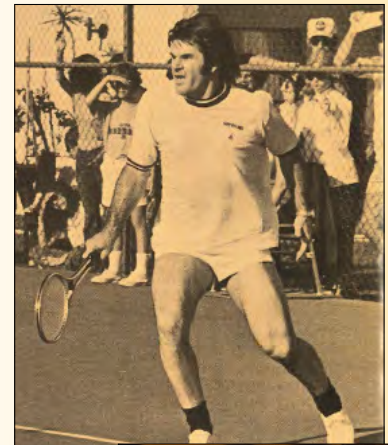
normal sports to determine the greatest all-around athlete. The program was sold to ABC. With beautiful January weather and an amenable developer, Rotonda seemed just the place to host the off-season sports competition.

For the Cavanagh Corporation, *The Superstars* was a golden opportunity. While the developer's aggressive marketing made the town look like a successful development, in reality, Cavanagh was well ahead in sales but far behind in construction. Rotonda residents were frustrated. But when

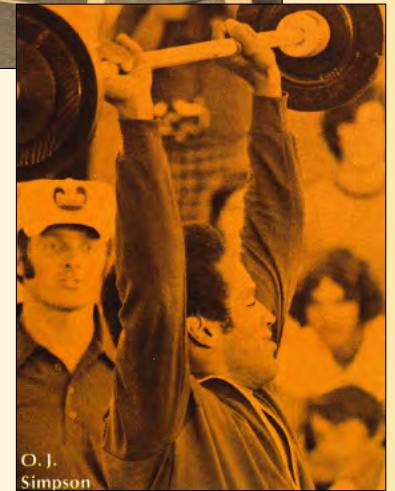
*The Superstars* came to town, residents helped to build the venue, sold concessions, and worked as ball-boys and -girls. Most saw it as a chance to get to know their neighbors, show off their community, and meet real-life stars.

The program was quite popular. Many great athletes were also great at other sports, but the opposite was also true. The athletes also failed spectacularly. Boxer Joe Frazier nearly drowned in the swimming competition and admitted later that he had never swum before!

By 1978, *The Superstars* had grown too large for Rotonda. The show moved to various locations but never found a real home. Rotonda residents continued fighting with Cavanagh and later developers. For a moment, though, the Rotonda community shone as brightly as the stars they hosted.



Pete Rose



O.J. Simpson

## Who were the stars?

The first *Superstars* included some of the biggest sports names of the time: Joe Frazier, Jean-Claude Killy, and Johnny Bench. The next year's show in 1974 included OJ Simpson and Pete Rose. (Yes, they were both famous athletes!) The first two winners were pole vaulter Bob Seagren and soccer player Kyle Rote, Jr. The women's side, added in 1975, was first won by volleyball player Mary Jo Pepler.



Kyle Rote Jr. with the Fram Trophy

See *Superstars* memorabilia on display this July at the Englewood Charlotte Public Library!





# Get the scoop! Our cooking programs are full of sweet treats and savory eats

**What's Cooking is back for our patrons in Charlotte County!** This popular cooking program initially started in 2019 but went on hiatus because of COVID-19 and Hurricane Ian. Now, it is back and taking place at the Family Services Center in Port Charlotte. We meet the first Saturday of each month in the center's commercial kitchen. Bring your appetite!



Port Charlotte Library staff members Spencer Pullen, Willard Barnhouse, and Suzanne Wardell collaborate to focus on different themes for each month. The bill of fare for the first half of the year has included beans and rice, sweet and savory pies, appetizers, desserts, breads, and brunch ideas. Suzanne's lemon squares, at left, and patron Louise Hinzmann's crêpes, below, were recent stand-out hits!

We are very excited about the program and how it has continued to grow over the past several months. Food brings people together, and this program has something to offer everyone—from the novice to the

experienced cook. Many attendees have brought their own recipes and baked goods to share with all in attendance and have even shared their cooking expertise with the group. There have been very insightful questions asked as well as helpful tips offered by attendees.

We are compiling all the recipes that are shared into a cookbook that will be given to participants at the end of the year. New attendees are always welcome! Space is limited, so register early. Finally, we want to give a huge thanks to the Friends of the Port Charlotte Library for sponsoring this event!



## Here's what attendees are saying

"Charlotte County residents are very fortunate to have What's Cooking available to us. The one-hour program offers a variety of food subjects from brunch to breads and everything between. It's casual, fun, and informative. The presenters are very approachable and open to questions and suggestions. Our library is a true gem." - **Mary V. Crapnell**



"I love your recipes that are simple to fix and delicious to taste. And I'm anxious for the recipe book." - **Jane McDaniel**

"My mom and I enjoy learning the little tips and tricks that make our work easier in the kitchen. The light-hearted informative programs end with sampling tasty treats—always a fun Saturday outing!" - **Tracy and Jutta Herman**

**Come join the fun!**



# What's ahead for What's Cooking

Family Services Center  
21500 Gibraltar Drive, Port Charlotte  
First Saturday of the month, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration is required.

- July 1 (noon - 1 p.m.): Homemade Ice Cream
- August 5: BBQ and Sides
- September 2: Chicken-Inspired Dishes
- October 7: Pizza Party
- November 4: Thanksgiving Feast
- December 2: Holiday Dishes from around the World



## Chef Warren visits Englewood

Tringali Community Center  
3460 N Access Road, Englewood

Second Wednesdays beginning September 13, 2 to 3 p.m.

Fan favorite Chef Warren returns this fall for more mouth-watering cooking demonstrations. The Chef will present cooking tips and show how to cook healthy and affordable meals for all tastes.

## Ice Cream Social

Port Charlotte Library  
Saturday, July 22, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

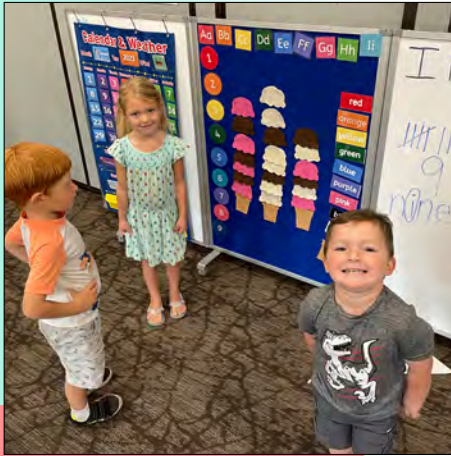
Take a break from fun in the sun, and drop into the library for a cool treat! All ages are welcome at this tasty celebration.

No registration is needed. Ice cream will be available while supplies last.



# Preschool Prep builds school readiness

For children, the library is more than just books! It's a hub for learning and discovery.



## Sign up begins August 1

Registration in this free program is very popular, so spots fill quickly. Class sizes are limited to provide personal instruction for all participants.

Find registration information at

[bit.ly/CCPreKPrep](http://bit.ly/CCPreKPrep)



Libraries play a key role in fostering essential early literacy skills. One of the ways we do this is through our free Preschool Prep program. Preschool Prep is a once-weekly program for children ages 3 and 4 designed to prepare them for entering the preschool environment.

**Who it's for** While Florida's VPK program is wonderful, many children fall just short of the age requirement for traditional preschool programs but are already exhibiting learning readiness behaviors. Other kids might be old enough for preschool but would benefit from a gentler transition away from their parents. Our youth librarians created Preschool Prep to fill the gap. Our program is designed to follow a child's natural development, giving participants the opportunity to jump-start their education rather than put their learning on hold.

**What it's like** This 6-month program is available at each library branch and runs from September through April. Each class fosters early learning skills through hands-on activities including group exercises, crafts, games, singing, and dancing. We develop academic skills like letter and number writing, counting, phonological and phonemic awareness, and how to recognize and write our names. Equally important, children learn classroom expectations, etiquette, group dynamics, how to communicate respectfully, and most importantly, that learning is fun!

Teachers, students, and parents embark on this learning adventure together. The program relies heavily



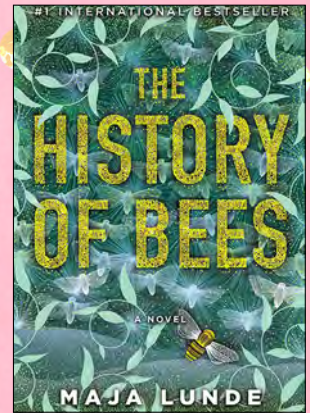
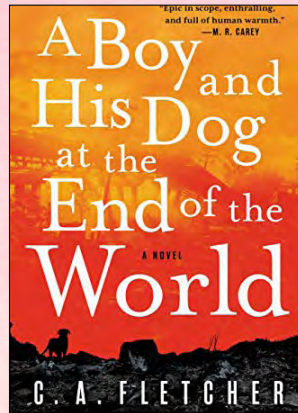
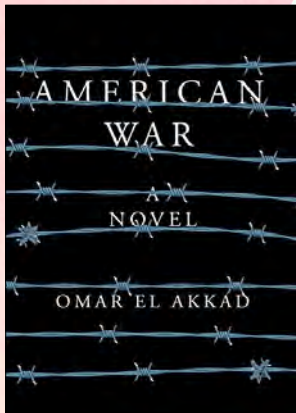
on parent commitment to keep the learning going. While we spend one hour in the classroom each week, the real work is done at home. Parents encourage their children to do homework and extension activities that feed their curiosity and bolster retention.

**Why it matters** By the end of the program, each child can recite the alphabet, count to 20, identify shapes and colors, and write their first and last names. As teachers, it is amazing to watch students who'd approached the classroom with shy reticence grow confident in their own abilities. Many parents tell us that their children have improved in speaking, listening, social skills, and reasoning abilities. We celebrate these achievements at a graduation where students receive a certificate of completion and many cheers as they begin their next chapters.



# Imagining tomorrow: Books set in the future

Feeling hopeful or fearing dystopia? Fire up the flux capacitor and we'll find out!



## ***American War* by Omar El Akkad**

Sarat is only six when the Second American Civil War breaks out in 2074. But even she knows that oil is outlawed, that Louisiana is half underwater, and that unmanned drones fill the sky. When her father is killed and her family is forced into Camp Patience for displaced persons, she begins to grow up shaped by her particular time and place. But not everyone at Camp Patience is who they claim to be. Eventually Sarat is befriended by a mysterious functionary, under whose influence she is turned into a deadly instrument of war. The decisions that she makes will have tremendous consequences not just for Sarat but for her family and her country, rippling through generations of strangers and kin alike.

## ***A Boy and His Dog at the End of the World* by C.A. Fletcher**

Griz is one of the few survivors in a world where the mysterious Gelding dramatically reduced the world's population. Griz's idyllic island life with his family is disturbed after Brand, a charming drifter, arrives by boat and provides them with an evening of stories and rare treats from across the ocean. The next morning, Griz discovers Brand has stolen Jess, one of their beloved pets. Griz, along with the family's other dog, Jip, go on a quest that takes them into the mainland of the now deserted world, where they face challenges ranging from wild animals and fever to the well-founded suspicions of other surviving wanderers. Along the way, more is revealed about this depopulated world, about Brand's origins, and even about Griz himself.

## ***The Ministry for the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson**

Established in 2025, the purpose of the new organization was simple: to advocate for the world's future generations and to protect all living creatures, present and future. It soon became known as the Ministry for the Future, and this is its story.

## ***The History of Bees* by Maja Lunde**

Three interwoven tales from 1851, 2007, and 2098 tell the story of our dependency on bees. Nineteenth-century British shopkeeper William suffers from depression but finally gets out of bed when his children inspire him to try to build a better beehive. In 2007, a beekeeper named George desperately tries to interest his more academically oriented son in the family business, even as environmental changes begin to impact its operation. In 2098, a young mother named Tao labors with her husband and everyone else in China, doing the one-time work of the now deceased bees, manually pollinating flowers.

# Ask a Librarian: What's the most interesting question you've answered?

Reference Librarian Bill shares a few stand-out queries.

Most reference questions one gets at the information service desk are routine and functional, such as "Can you help me print an e-mail document?" or "Where are the John Grisham books?" Over the course of hours, days, and years, however, some queries stand out. Here are a few of the most interesting.

**A gentleman asked me** if I could find his two adult children whom he had not spoken to in over a decade. I suggested he contact the Social Security Administration, who will notify family members if the inquirer has a Social Security number. A couple of weeks later the proud father told me he had lunched with his son who lives in Sarasota and would contact his daughter via cell phone.

**An eager college sophomore** wanted information on the history of the Tampa mafia. I just happened to know that the major crime boss for Tampa and South Florida was named Santo Trafficante. I suggested that the young lad enter Mr. Trafficante's name into the **Florida Electronic Library** database which yielded more articles on his topic than he could print out.

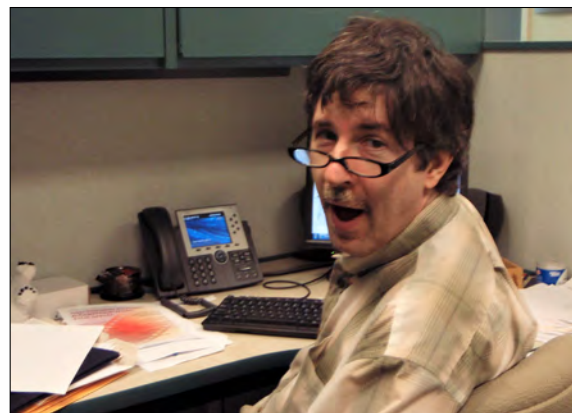
**A couple of years back I received an e-mail question** from out of state seeking the date that the original *Star Wars* movie had opened in Port Charlotte. After googling the date that the film premiered nationwide, I explored our local newspaper's microfilm and discovered that it debuted locally three or four weeks after opening nationally.



**Last November a seasonal resident** wanted to obtain a picture of a statue in a Long Island museum that she had seen in the 1980s. Using her description, I emailed the curators of various Long Island art museums and received a photograph of the statue—Walter Hancock's *Twin Naiads at Play* (pictured at left).

**Several years ago, a recent Florida transplant** wanted some Internet instruction. After covering some of the basics I asked him what he would like to search. He replied that he needed a job and needed it today. We combed through several employment sites and finally landed on Charlotte County's Human Resources' web page. The enterprising job applicant applied and is still working for the county.

These are just a few of the myriad questions we field at the reference desk. Whether routine or extraordinary, the question is always important to the person who asks it. When Google won't cut it, ask us!



**AskALibrarian.org**

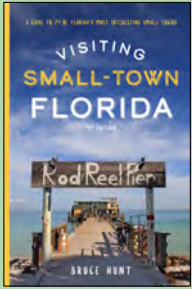
Not at the library? Get help from anywhere when you use Florida's virtual reference service. Librarians are available by text, chat, or email from 10 a.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.





# Daytripping in the Sunshine State

Looking for a fun long weekend or staycation this summer? Check out the books below for unique Florida experiences.



## *Visiting Small-Town Florida* by Bruce Hunt

This guide reveals the real, old-time Florida still to be found on the back roads of the Sunshine State, in little towns that lure you in with their quaintness and keep you there for a spell with their friendly occupants. There is an introduction with each town's history. Included are museums, galleries, antique shops, local eateries, local fishing holes, and unusual and endearing local characters.

### Highlight!

All towns included have a population of less than 10,000, so you know you will be able to enjoy the peace and quiet.

### Highlight!

Not only does this book give you a great destination, it also picks a route that will have several fun stops along the way!

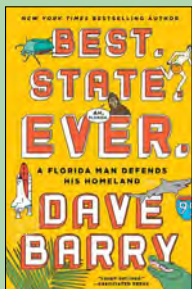
## *Florida & the South's Best Trips* by Lonely Planet

Discover the freedom of the open road with this book. This trusted travel companion features 30 amazing road trips, from 2-day escapes to 2-week adventures. Trace the iconic Appalachian Trail or explore the roots of the Blues Highway. Get to Florida and the South, and hit the road!



### Highlight!

It's a brilliantly funny exploration of the Sunshine State from the man who knows it best. It's like having a comedian along for the ride!



## *Best. State. Ever.* by Dave Barry

Join Dave Barry as he goes in hunt of the legendary Skunk Ape, hobnobs with the mermaids of Weeki Wachee Springs, and visits Cassadaga, the psychic capital of the world, to have his dog's aura read. Hitch a ride for the non-stop thrills of alligator-wrestling, the hair-raising spectacle of a clothing-optional bar in Key West, and the manly manliness of the Machine Gun Experience in Miami.

### Highlight!

This book includes a section on just Sarasota and Southwest Florida, if you want to stay closer to home.

## *The Rough Guide to Florida* by Robert Savage

This practical guide features detailed travel tips and lists of all iconic must-see sights as well as some off-the-beaten-track treasures. Find adventures in Florida's northwest coast, family activities in child-friendly places like Sanibel Island, or chilled-out breaks in popular tourist areas like the Florida Keys. The itinerary suggestions and expert picks of things to see and do will make it a perfect companion.



# Discover a Little Free Library

## Take a book. Share a book!

Have you ever been somewhere new, had some time on your hands, and just wished you had a book to read? Look around. If you spot a Little Free Library, you're in luck!

**What's a Little Free Library?** No, it's not a birdhouse—it's a library! A Little Free Library is typically a free-standing cabinet in a public place with room for around 30 books. Our favorites look like little houses; the sturdy roof helps keep out the elements. If you see one, you're invited to take a book or leave one to share.



Little Free Libraries function on the honor system, no library card required. You don't need to share a book in order to take one. To keep the fun going, try to bring a book to the same library or another one when you can.

These Little Free Libraries are popping up all over the world. There are currently more than 150,000 in 120 countries, including several locations in Charlotte County. Ours were created through a partnership between Charlotte County Libraries and History and local Boy Scout Troop 95 as part of a scout's Eagle project.

**How can I get involved?** The coolest thing about Little Free Libraries is that they're truly community projects. Perhaps you have some books you'd like to donate. It makes a difference! Millions of books worldwide have been shared through projects like these, providing access to books for people in areas that may lack a library that is within walking distance or to those that may be unable to find transportation to a library. Charlotte County library staff don't maintain the book boxes—but we love to see more free books for all!

If you'd like to see one near you, why not make it happen? Anyone can start a Little Free Library. You could build your own or purchase one that's ready to install. Visit [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org) to learn more.



## One Scout's Dream

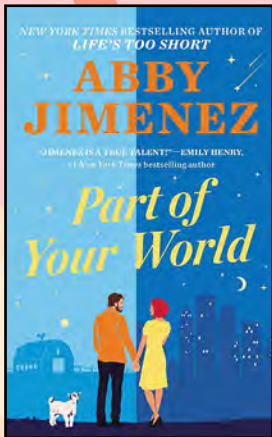
As the son of a librarian, Jared Hutton knows how important books are. When it was time for this Boy Scout to choose an Eagle project—the ambitious, community-focused endeavor undertaken to earn the highest rank in scouting—the decision was obvious. Jared organized his fellow scouts to build eight unique Little Free Libraries for our community. Stocked with books collected through a community book drive, the boxes were installed at parks and beaches around Charlotte County. Jared hopes his Little Free Libraries will enable access to books and promote reading for fun. Jared was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in June 2019.



Carmalita Park  
Franz Ross Park  
Port Charlotte Beach Park  
Rotonda Community Park  
Harold Avenue Recreation Center  
Cedar Park Environmental Center  
South County Regional Park  
Centennial Park Recreation Center



# Staff Picks



***Part of Your World***  
by Abby Jimenez

"It isn't often that a book captures romance and comedy while gracefully tackling big subjects like domestic violence and emotional abuse. Daniel, a small-town carpenter, is the perfect boyfriend for Alexis, a big city doctor. Their one-night stand turns into more despite the opposite worlds they come from. Pick this one up for a comforting, sweet love story that reads like a modern fairy tale."

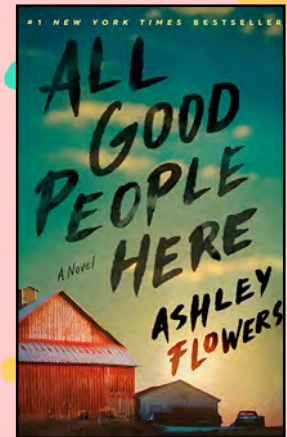
—Hana B., Librarian Supervisor



***The Measure***  
by Nikki Erlick

"If you could learn the length of your life, would you want to know? How would it change your life or the decisions you make? *The Measure* is a thought-provoking read with a story line and characters that keep you turning the page."

—Kimberly P., Library Technician

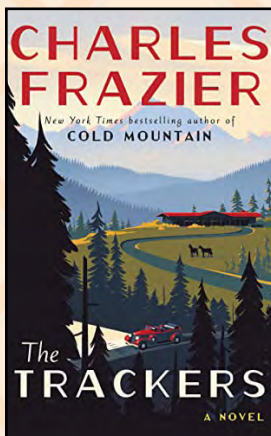


***All Good People Here***  
by Ashley Flowers

"*All Good People Here* tells the story of Margot, a journalist who is haunted by the unsolved murder of her childhood friend.

This book had the perfect amount of suspense, shock, and mystery. The character development was great; they all felt like real people. The interesting ending was unlike any other book I've read. I find myself thinking about it months after I turned the last page!"

—Melanie R., Librarian



***The Trackers*** by Charles Frazier

"I have been a fan of Charles Frazier since his debut novel *Cold Mountain* and have read all his books since then. He is a writer who is so in tune with nature that his words paint amazing tableaux for his readers. In *The Trackers*, Frazier takes readers from Wyoming to the swamps of Florida and cross country again to San Francisco in search of a runaway wife with an art masterpiece in her purse. The novel is set in 1939 at the end of the Great Depression and before World War II. The atmosphere of that time period, from descriptions of lingering poverty to the promise of the New Deal, is detailed and absorbing."

—Judy D., Library Technician





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