

Between the Lines

The Charlotte County Libraries & History Quarterly Newsletter

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Staff picks you'll love

Winter 2024

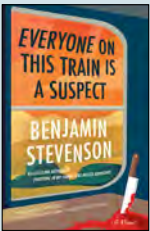


CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Libraries & History



Coming Soon to Our Collection

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



Jan 30

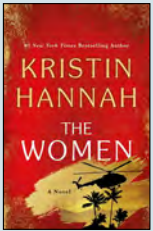
Everyone on This Train is a Suspect by Benjamin Stevenson

The Australian Mystery Writers' Society festival, held aboard a train, is a who's who of crime writing royalty. But when one of them is murdered, the authors quickly turn into detectives. They should know how to solve a crime. Of course, they should also know how to commit one. How can you find a killer when all the suspects know how to get away with murder?

Feb 06

The Women by Kristin Hannah

"Women can be heroes, too." When nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised on idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But when her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps to follow in his path.



Feb 20

Supercommunicators by Charles Duhigg

Come inside a jury room as one juror leads a starkly divided room to consensus. Join a CIA officer as he recruits a reluctant foreign agent. And sit with an accomplished surgeon as he tries to convince a cancer patient to opt for a less risky treatment. *Supercommunicators* blends deep research and captivating storytelling to reveal the layers lurking beneath every conversation.

Feb 13

Planet Earth III [DVD]

Completing the celebrated trilogy, *Planet Earth III* explores the greatest habitats on our planet and the extraordinary animals that live in them. You'll be filled with wonder at these places and animals beyond imagination. From the depths of the ocean to the most remote jungle, discover the planet's last great wild places and the astonishing strategies animals have evolved to survive.



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

Library Bulletin

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Join us for a series of performances at the Port Charlotte Library!

5 p.m. January 24: Japanese Shinto Dance Performance

6 p.m. January 25: Rita Parisi performs as Zelda Fitzgerald in *I am Zelda*

6 p.m. February 1: Peter Suarez's one-man play, *ChAMEleon*

6 p.m. February 29: Celtic Fiddle Music with Emily Ann Thompson

6 p.m. March 7: Classical Viola performed by David Pedraza



TOUR THE COOKIE HOUSE

Fridays, January 19 - March 29

Come visit the historic Cookie House at Cedar Point Environmental Park! This unique building was constructed in 1931 as part of the Bass Biological Laboratory, the first full time marine station on the Florida mainland. It's open 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Fridays.

ROYAL TEA PARTY

12 p.m. Saturday, February 17
Family Services Center

Break out your tiara! Join some of our favorite princesses for a special story time, regal refreshments, and courtly crafts.

Registration opens at noon on Saturday, January 20. Spaces fill fast!

Bookmark the event details at bit.ly/CCRoyalTea.

Volunteers and donations for the buffet are also welcome! Call 941.764.5563.



MEET THE AUTHOR!

Kids around the state are reading *The Curse on Spectacle Key*, a slightly spooky story set in the Florida Keys that's one of this year's Sunshine State Young Reader Award nominees.

Now, author Chantel Acevedo is coming to a library near you! Kids and teens won't want to miss this special opportunity to talk with the author herself.

**Englewood
Charlotte Library**
5 p.m. Jan. 30

**Punta Gorda
Charlotte Library**
4:30 p.m. Jan. 31

**Port Charlotte
Public Library**
6 p.m. Jan. 31



More events you'll love



So many cool things are happening, we couldn't fit them all on one page!

Jan
1 - 31



2024 PHOTO CONTEST

Take your best shot—and submit it to this year's amateur photo contest!

Photos should reflect this year's theme, "Adventures in Charlotte County!"

Entries may be submitted through January 31. Professional judges will award cash prizes in the youth, teen, and adult divisions, and we'll all vote for the People's Choice winner.

See full contest details at bit.ly/CCPhoto2024.

Feb
3 - 10



LEMON BAY FEST

It's a celebration of Englewood's past! Join us at the Englewood Charlotte Library.

- 3 p.m. Feb. 3: Presidents in Florida
- 11 a.m. Feb. 6: Only in Florida
- 2 p.m. Feb. 7: Englewood History
- 2 p.m. Feb. 8: Rotonda Superstars
- 2 p.m. Feb. 9: Hurricane History

2 p.m.
Feb 15



MUSIC IN FLORIDA

Join Dr. Paddy League on February 15 at the Englewood Charlotte Library for his presentation, **Golden Harvest: The Music and Traditions of the Greek Spongers of Tarpon Springs**. It's a fascinating exploration of the rich cultural history of Tarpon Springs through its music, including live performances on violin, lute, goatskin bagpipes, and songs in Greek and English.

Jan &
Feb



COMPUTER BASICS

Need to master the mouse? Ready to get on the internet? Repeat sessions and small class sizes at the Port Charlotte Library allow everyone to get individual attention.

- 4 p.m. Jan. 9: Intro to Computers
- 4 p.m. Jan. 23: Build your Computer Skills
- 4 p.m. Feb. 13: Intro to Computers
- 4 p.m. Feb. 27: Build your Computer Skills

Make connections at Memory Café

Our monthly Memory Café program is sparking conversation and building community.

Welcome to the **Memory Café** at the library! This new program is open to all but designed for those with memory issues or concerns. We offer games and activities to spark memories and inspire conversation.

Why come? Isolation and loneliness can affect all of us. This can be even more difficult as we age. The world is moving at an uncomfortable pace. We try to stay active and involved, but it is increasingly hard to keep up. We don't feel connected to our world like we used to. Add to that the unfair stigma attached to getting older, and it can feel impossible.

Take a little break from that at the Memory Café. It's a casual environment. In past sessions, for example, we've shared memories of our childhood homes and talked about our favorite holiday foods. All we aim to do is hang out, enjoy some conversation, spark a memory, and possibly learn a new thing.



What's cool about it? The Memory Café was suggested by Neil Durrant, our local history librarian. He saw a need for a program like this, but he's amazed at how it's caught on. "When I first brought up the idea of trying a Memory Café here, I barely had an idea. I had not gone far beyond 'Hey, let's do something,'" Neil says. "It turns out I was not the only one looking to 'do something.' Fellow staff members from all three branches came with ideas and enthusiasm. Our program has grown beyond what I thought it could be."

Furthermore, the program is really working. Neil explains, "When you put people together who want to engage with each other, they do. Connections are really being made. Sometimes we don't even get to the activities; we're too busy enjoying ourselves." Memory Café at the Library is offered monthly at all three library branches. Dates and times are available on our **calendar**. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please stop by. Bring a friend or family member! And let's remember—together.



New! Essential support for caregivers

If you're caring for someone with dementia or Alzheimer's, you're not alone! Learn important skills, connect with others, and take care of yourself in two new offerings from the Dubin Center.

Caregiver Support Group 10:30 a.m. Jan. 8, Jan. 12, and Feb. 15 at the Port Charlotte Library
Connect with other caregivers and individuals living with dementia when you attend the Caregiver Support Group. It's a chance for those on this journey to share in a safe, confidential environment.

Savvy Caregiver 1 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 8 through Feb. 12 at the Port Charlotte Library

Register for this 6-week course designed to help you become a more confident caregiver. You'll master the relevant knowledge and skills needed to provide care to your relative or friend living with dementia.

New Year, New You

Ready for a fresh start? Take inspiration from the characters in these feel-good novels. They're reinventing themselves, growing pains and all.

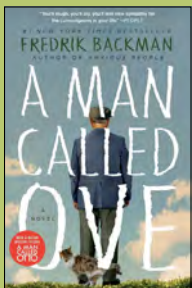
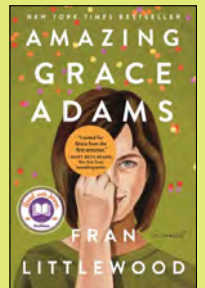


***The Bookish Life of Nina Hill* by Abbi Waxman**

Nina has her life figured out: a job in a bookstore, a kick-butt trivia team, and a cat named Phil. When the father she never knew dies, leaving behind several new family members, Nina is horrified. They all live close by! They want to meet her! She'll have to Speak. To. Strangers. Disaster! And what's more, Tom, her trivia rival, has turned out to be cute and funny. It's time for Nina to come out of her shell, but she's not sure real life can live up to fiction.

***Amazing Grace Adams* by Fran Littlewood**

At age 45, Grace Adams has been feeling stuck in life for quite some time, and now she's stuck in a monster traffic jam. Deciding that she's hit her limit, she abandons her car and starts marching across London, carrying an extravagant cake as a peace offering to her estranged 16-year-old daughter and determined to reassert herself in the world.

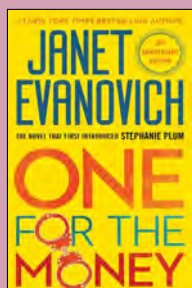
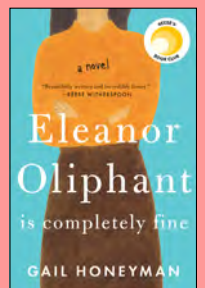


***A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman**

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when a chatty family moves in next door and accidentally flattens Ove's mailbox, it is the start of a comical tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one old man to his core.

***Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman**

Eleanor leads a highly predictable life, working at an office, eating the same meals, and spending her weekends alone. She is, as she regularly tells herself, fine. But when a chance encounter with a handsome local musician sends her reeling, Eleanor's carefully constructed world breaks open. Soon she embarks on a self-improvement program. But the real changes take place within, as she discovers the rewards that come to those who open their hearts.



***One for the Money* by Janet Evanovich**

Out of work and out of money, Stephanie blackmails her bail-bondsman cousin Vinnie into giving her a try as an apprehension agent. Stephanie knows zilch about the job, but she figures her new pal, bounty hunter Ranger, can teach her how to catch a crook. Her first assignment: track down Joe Morelli, a former cop on the run from a charge of murder one.

The New York Times Games

Looking for a new hobby in the new year? We have just the thing for you! Enjoy free access to several games from *The New York Times*. Yes, even the Crossword.



The New York Times Games have captivated solvers since the launch of the Crossword in 1942. Experts create engaging word and visual games that stimulate and keep the mind sharp. Using our link, you can have access to the Crossword, Spelling Bee, Letter Boxed, Tiles, Wordle, and more! We've compiled some tips on our favorites to get you started.

The Crossword Monday's crosswords are the easiest, and they get progressively harder throughout the week. Saturday's puzzle is actually the most difficult. Sunday's puzzle is the largest, but not necessarily the hardest.

Turn on auto check before you start if you want to know that you are putting in the correct answers. Or turn it on after your first pass to see how you did!

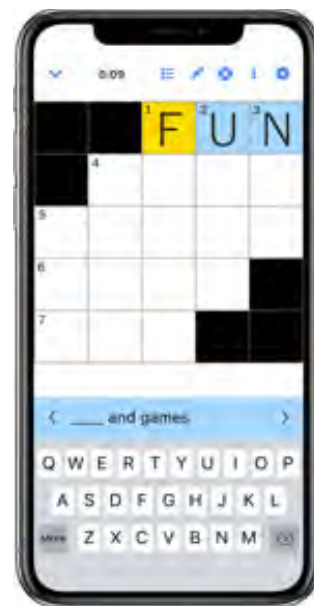
There is a new Mini Crossword every day, if you only have a few minutes or are a brand-new solver and want some practice before tackling the large puzzle.

Spelling Bee In the Spelling Bee, you have 7 letters to make as many words as you can. The catch is that there is one letter that must appear in all the words you create.

Words must be at least 4 letters. See if any of your words can be extended with suffixes like '-ed' or '-ing.'

There is a shuffle feature; use it! Looking at the letters in a different configuration can be enlightening.

Use the hints. It's not cheating, we promise. They will tell you how many words are possible with the set of given letters and how many words start with each letter.



Connections

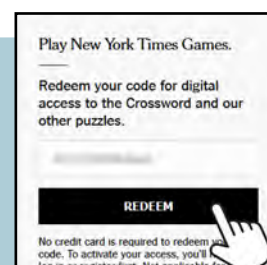
Connections Try Connections, the newest game from *The New York Times*. In this game you get a set of 16 words and must group them in fours based on—you guessed it—a connection between them. You only get four attempts, so it's a quick game to try out.

A single word might fit in more than one category, and some words have multiple meanings. Narrow it down by eliminating terms with a single definition and a clear group.

No pressure, just play Our most important tip is to have fun! You don't need to finish every puzzle or get everything correct. Just exercise your mind and enjoy the challenge.

Visit our Digital Library page for access

1. Scroll to *The New York Times* Games and click the **access code** link.
2. Click **Redeem**. You may need to sign in or create a free account.
3. Play! You can play in your browser, or **download the app** to play anywhere.



Ask a Librarian:

How can I read more in 2024?

While most librarians love to read, we don't spend our time at the library reading—we're too busy working! We asked Librarian Supervisor Hana how to read more books this year.

As a busy mom of two and full-time librarian, people are sometimes surprised when they find out that I typically read 100+ books a year. For me, reading helps me keep my sanity and is an anchor in the ups and downs of parenthood and life in general. It makes me feel like myself in times when it feels like everything is changing. Here are my tips on how to make more room for reading in your life.

Tip #1—Schedule it

It might sound silly to schedule your leisure time, but if being busy is your biggest obstacle to reading more, then creating a 30-minute slot in your daily calendar might help. Then—commit to it.

Tip #2—Make it a family affair

One of my favorite ways to add reading time to my week is to do it with a family member. If you have a child, spouse, or parent in your household, then find some time for a reading date. It might last only 10 minutes, but it can become a cherished family activity.

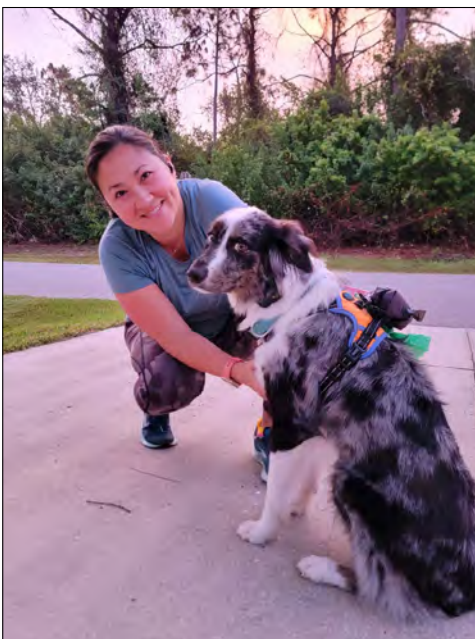


Tip #3—Put your phone far away

There is always some distraction that can be found on our phones. But if you find a spot, out of your reach, to put your phone when you read, you will be less tempted to check it.

Tip #4—Always have a book within reach

If you take a book with you whenever you leave your house, you can take advantage of unexpected free time. Waiting for your turn at the doctor's office can be a lot less annoying if you are enjoying a book you brought. This is a sneaky way to find more reading time throughout your day. Keep a book in your bag, or use the library's [Digital Library](#) and read from your phone or tablet.



Tip #5—Multitask with audiobooks

I try to minimize how much I am multitasking, but this is an area that adds SO MUCH reading time to my life. If I am walking my dog, I listen to an audiobook. If I have a commute, I listen to an audiobook. If I am folding some laundry, I listen to an audiobook. You get the idea.

Tip #6—Know what you want to read next

You don't have to have your next book ready and waiting for you as you finish one, but if you don't have anything in mind to pick

up, suddenly a week or a month might pass by without any reading because life got too busy. One of the easiest ways for me to know what I want to read next is to keep a list. I use the website [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com), but a handwritten list or notebook also works. You can also find more books to read by following book-centric websites or social media accounts. Or might I suggest the library's webpage and our service [Your Next Five Books](#)?

Tip # 7—Make it social

This tip can help because of the accountability factor. If you join a monthly book club, it will make you prioritize at least one book a month. It gives you a deadline to keep reading. Another bonus is that you will get so many other good book recommendations from the members in your group as you discuss the books you've read. There is a book discussion group at each of the Charlotte County library branches—or you could find an online group and meet virtually.

Tip # 8—Give something up

Sometimes you have to challenge yourself to find something you can give up to create a little more space for reading—that extra episode, 30 minutes of sleep, happy hour with a coworker, or phone time before bed. Everyone will be at a different place with what they can or are willing to give up for reading time, but sometimes that hard decision can create the room you need to achieve your goal.

Tip # 9—Put it down if you're not enjoying it

This one isn't about finding the time to read, but about maximizing the time you already have so that you can read more books. Put that book down if it's not working for you. Slogging through a book that is not interesting to you will take you longer to finish because you won't really care to pick it back up. Your reading time is precious, and there's no room for guilt about what you should be reading.

Tip # 10—Join a reading challenge

A reading challenge can help motivate you and keep you on track. Challenges can be based on number of books read or on prompts, or both. We strive to make our [Between the Lines Reading Challenge](#) really fun and add prompts that will give you ideas for what to read next.

If you're anything like me, you're happier when reading is a regular part of your life. I hope these strategies will help you read more in 2024!



Between the Lines Reading Challenge

12 months. 24 prompts.
Are you in?

Our annual reading challenge is back with 24 new prompts for 2024!

Match one book to each prompt to read a total of 24 books throughout the year. Let's push ourselves to read more, read differently, to try new authors and genres, and most importantly... to have fun!

You can be as creative as you like when interpreting the prompts, using any format of reading and any author or genre that fits.

Once your list is complete, bring it into any Charlotte County Library branch at any time in 2024. Everyone who completes the challenge will receive a super cool color-changing water bottle, while supplies last.

See this year's prompts at
bit.ly/BTLchallenge

Youth Services: Get your game on!

Let's play! Check out all the fun and games you can get into at the library!



Adults can play too!

The Port Charlotte Library offers two game programs specifically for adults.

Mahjong All you need to know are the basics to join the friendly game.

Musical Bingo follows traditional bingo rules, but you will have a bingo card with song titles instead of numbers.



Games, games, and more games! Our libraries have a wide variety of gaming programs, clubs, and board and video games for in-library use. These types of programs offer kids, teens, and adults a time to socialize, learn something new, and expand their horizons. We hope you will come and join the fun!

Clubs Punta Gorda Charlotte Library offers the very popular **Train 'em** and **Catch 'em Card Clubs**. Each month, we teach kids and their guardians how to play the official Pokémon Trading Card Game and trade Pokémon cards.

Join the **Bricks & Minifigs LEGO Club** at the Port Charlotte Library.

Kids (ages 7+) and teens meet every 4th Friday to engage in creative building challenges and more. Come for the fun, build your skills, and leave with good memories!

Video Games The **Gaming Group** at the Punta Gorda Library meets every Friday. Patrons of any age can play on the Nintendo Switch or X-Box One in friendly competition. We have Super Mario Smash Brothers, Mario Kart, or Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Port Charlotte Library has a Nintendo Switch that teens can play while in the library as well.

Board Games The Teen Area at the Punta Gorda Library hosts a yellow bookshelf that is full of board, card, and dice games that anyone is welcome to play while they are here. We frequently have patrons



playing Exploding Kittens, Connect 4, and rousing games of Twister. We know a Scrabble game is getting competitive when a teen asks for a dictionary to challenge a friend's word choice!

Englewood and Punta Gorda libraries offer a weekly **Chess Group**. All ages and experience levels are welcome to drop in for a game of chess!

Our program offerings are a source of memories, whether it's playing a new game or meeting a new friend. Games are a great way to make intergenerational connections. These programs are just another of the important ways we aim to engage our community and encourage the interests of youth and adults alike.

Visit our online calendar to find upcoming events.



Sunlight Mission Health Fair returns

This February 23, we're aiming to build a healthy community—together!

Library technician Kevin Payen has been pounding the pavement. No, he's not selling something. He's rallying support for the homeless, low-income, and financially at-risk in our community. Kevin and the Port Charlotte Library staff saw an opportunity to connect people in need—many of whom rely on the library for internet access, free lunch during school breaks, and more—with local organizations that can help.

The need The health impacts of poverty are great. Adults living in poverty are at a higher risk of obesity, disability, and substance abuse. Childhood poverty is linked with developmental delays, chronic illness, and nutritional deficits. Since 10% of Charlotte County residents—and 19% of our children—are experiencing poverty, these problems hit close to home. “Based on what patrons are asking from us, the information they're looking for, this is what we saw was needed in our community,” supervisor Hana Brown explains.

The vision For the team at the Port Charlotte Library, the next step was clear. The goal was to bring together, in a one-stop shop, a large number of the organizations in our community that provide real financial, food, and health assistance to those in need. The result was last year's first annual Sunlight Mission Health Fair.

A total of 29 community partners were on site to share information and on-the-spot services. For example, the Charlotte County Health Department staff offered vaccinations. Jesus Loves You Ministry brought a mobile shower and clothing donations. Easy Clippers Barbershop gave free haircuts, while CareerSource Southwest Florida offered workforce assistance. Food and funds were donated by sponsors such as Walmart, Sam's Club, and more. With live music, a cookout, and giveaways, the day was lively and fun.

Bigger and better This year, the **Sunlight Mission Health Fair** is scheduled for 10 a.m. February 23 outside the Port Charlotte Library. Library staff plan to grow the program with additional organizations and services. Last year, about 190 residents attended the fair. They also hope to reach more people in need.

“We're on a mission to help people in our community,” Kevin says, “and we want to get this information to everyone who needs it.”

Want to donate?
Call 941.764.5562.

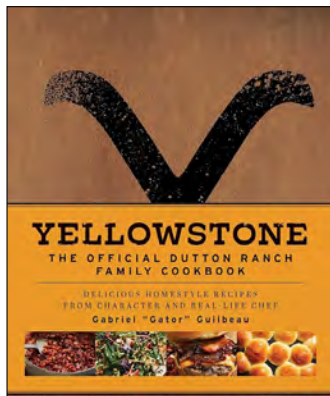


Food for Fines

This program is one of our favorite ways to give back. For each canned food item you donate, we'll waive \$1 in overdue fines. Every year, our generous patrons donate thousands of additional items—even when you don't have fines. Thank you!

Try it! A taste of TV

We tested cookbooks that take our favorite shows from screen to table.



WATCH IT In *Yellowstone*, rancher John Dutton is determined to protect his land and his legacy by any means necessary. Amid shifting alliances, lucrative business deals, and natural splendor, it's America at its best and worst.

TASTE IT Staff member Michele D. made potato corn chowder from *Yellowstone: The Official Dutton Ranch Family Cookbook*. She recommends this hearty soup, saying, "It's easy to make and perfect for a rainy day!"

Potato Corn Chowder

4 large Yukon gold potatoes,
peeled and cubed
6 Tbsp unsalted butter
1 cup chopped yellow onion

1 cup chopped green bell pepper
1 can creamed corn
1 1/2 cups chicken broth
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

Pinch of cayenne pepper
Salt and pepper
1 can evaporated milk

Bring potatoes to a boil in a large pot. Reduce to medium heat and boil for 5 minutes. Drain and set potatoes aside. In the same pot, melt the butter, then add onion and pepper. Stir until softened. Add creamed corn, broth, potatoes, parsley, cayenne, salt, and pepper. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Stir in the evaporated milk and continue to simmer until warmed through.



WATCH IT The Australian cartoon *Bluey* was created for preschoolers, but this inexhaustible six-year-old puppy has become a hit with American parents, too.

TASTE IT Get the kids cooking with *Bluey and Bingo's Fancy Restaurant Cookbook*. "This fairy bread was sweet, soft, and crunchy all at once," Claire M. reports.

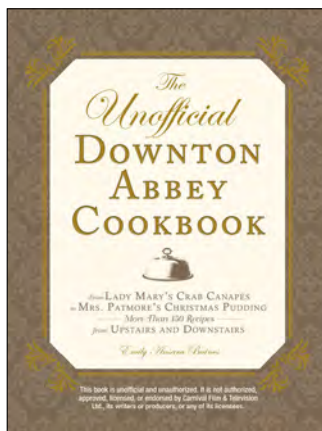


Bingo's Fairy Bread

Soft butter
Sliced bread
Round sprinkles

Spread butter evenly over a slice of bread. Chop off the crusts, then use a knife or cookie cutter to cut the bread into shapes. Press each bread shape, butter side down, into a plate full of sprinkles.





WATCH IT Set in an Edwardian country house in 1912, *Downton Abbey* portrays the lives of the Crawley family and their servants. Come for the beautiful sets and sumptuous costumes; stay for the gripping drama and dreamy romance.

TASTE IT “The chocolate crumpets from *The Unofficial Downton Abbey Cookbook* are even more decadent than you’d expect!” tester Claire M. found.

Anna Bates’s Chocolate Crumpets

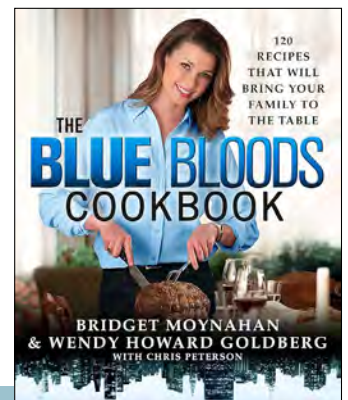
1 cup flour	3/4 cup milk
2 Tbsp cocoa	1/2 Tbsp oil
2 Tbsp sugar	1 egg
2 Tbsp brown sugar	2 tsp vanilla
2 tsp baking powder	1 1/2 cups chocolate chips
1 tsp salt	

Whisk together flour, cocoa, sugars, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl. In a small bowl, mix milk, oil, egg, and vanilla. Combine wet and dry ingredients, then add chocolate chips. Chill 30 minutes. On a nonstick skillet over medium heat, add large dollops of the mixture. When crumpets start to bubble, flip to cook the other side. Serve warm.



WATCH IT *Blue Bloods* follows a multi-generational family of cops. Police Commissioner Frank Reagan is head of both the New York City police force and the feisty Reagan family.

TASTE IT *The Blue Bloods Cookbook* offers 120 mouth-watering recipes meant to bring your family to the table. Tester Mike H. agrees. “My family thought these meatballs were tasty and filling.”



Bridget Moynahan’s Swedish Meatballs

Meatballs:

3 slices white bread	2 Tbsp minced onion
1 lb ground beef	1/8 tsp black pepper
1/4 lb ground pork	1/8 tsp allspice
1/2 cup sour cream	1 1/4 tsp kosher salt
1 large egg, beaten	3 Tbsp butter

Gravy:

2 cups beef stock
2 Tbsp flour
dash of allspice
1/2 tsp onion powder
1/2 cup sour cream

Remove bread crusts and pulse in a food processor to make bread crumbs. Combine with all meatball ingredients except butter in a large bowl. Form into meatballs. In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Brown the meatballs, turning regularly. Remove from pan and set aside. Add beef stock to the saucepan and stir to loosen any browned bits. Whisk in flour, allspice, and onion powder. Then whisk in sour cream, 1 teaspoon at a time. Return meatballs to the pan and simmer 15 minutes or until the gravy thickens. Serve over white rice.

Archives Spotlight: Fishing

People have been fishing in Charlotte Harbor for more than 8,000 years! It remains one of the most popular activities in the county. Enjoy these photos of anglers past from our digital archives.



This enhanced photo shows the Punta Gorda Fish Company building on the city wharf. The small building at left is the Rose Fish Company. In 1939, a fire destroyed the buildings of the Punta Gorda Fish Company and West Coast Fish Company (not pictured). West Coast went out of business, but the owners of the Punta Gorda Fish Company bought Rose's building, enlarged it, and kept operating.



Major Hugh Culbreth, Provost Marshall of the Punta Gorda Army Airfield and future sheriff of Hillsborough County (at left), Tom Coleman (center), and Bill Monson (at right) display a catch of snook and redfish. Mr. Monson was the president of the Punta Gorda Fish Company.



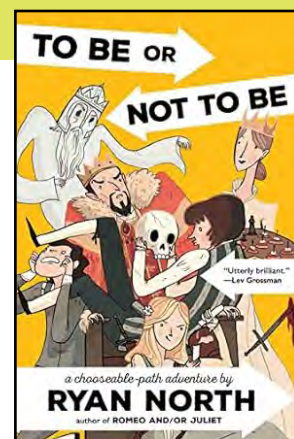
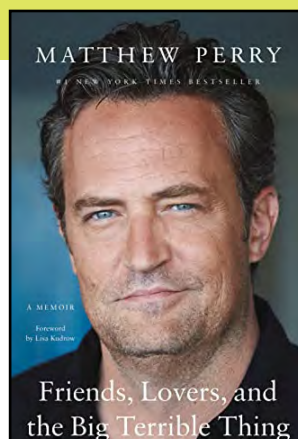
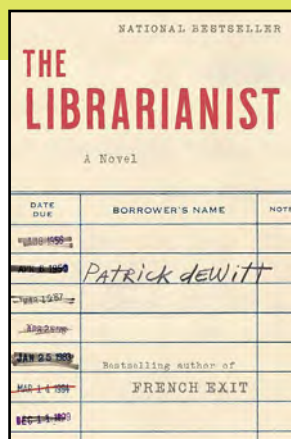
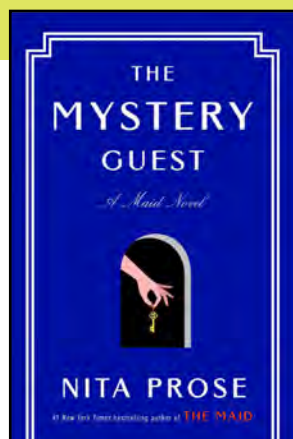
Four young anglers show off winning catches and prizes at a kids' fishing contest in Punta Gorda. The truck in the background advertises one of the sponsors, Fran and Frank's Bait House.



Opal Hessler (at left, petting Pixie, the Harrell family's dog) and Lee Harrell (with a cup of coffee by her side), enjoy a morning of fishing on the dock at Peace River Lodge in Cleveland.

Fun Fact: Former president Theodore Roosevelt came to Punta Gorda in 1917 and caught the largest devilfish (manta ray) on world record in Charlotte Harbor. He donated it to the growing American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Staff Picks



***The Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose**

"Let's book another stay at the Regency Grand Hotel with the maid Molly Gray. The highly anticipated release of *The Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose is the sequel to *The Maid*. Highly organized and master of her orderly world, Molly is faced with another death when J. D. Grimthorpe, the world-renowned mystery author, dies. Now head maid, her flair for cleaning and perfect etiquette may not be enough to help clean up the mess this guest leaves behind." —Jonathan W., *Librarian Supervisor*

***The Librarianist* by Patrick DeWitt**

"The novel's protagonist is a retired librarian who has a comfortable, solitary, and ordered existence when he decides to volunteer at a nearby senior home. What follows is a quirky but satisfying narrative of his interactions with the staff and residents and how this relates to his life experiences as a child and as a young man." —Jim R., *Library Technician*

***Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing* by Matthew Perry**

"I found this book to be a raw and honest look into the struggles Perry went through. He shows a lot of optimism for the future now that he's on the other side of his addictions. While the book bounces a lot through Perry's timeline, it's ultimately a sad read near the end." —Allison K., *Library Technician*

***To Be or Not to Be: A Chooseable Path Adventure* by Ryan North**

"This book is a hilarious interactive experience for teens and up. This chooseable path adventure allows the reader to choose their character, make ridiculous decisions, and embark on a humorous adaptation of Shakespeare's famous play *Hamlet*. To be or not to be: what will YOU choose?"

—Andrew K., *Library Technician*



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