

LIBRARIES AND HISTORY PROGRAMS

“Say Cheese” Photo Policy

Program participants may be photographed/videotaped by the Charlotte County Community Services Department and the local media for publicity of our programs. Unless you request otherwise, you or your child’s participation in these programs will be considered permission for Charlotte County to photograph or audio/video tape you or your child for use in our publications or promotional materials, in any medium, without restrictions. Charlotte County Community Services understands some participants may object to this use. Please notify the Community Services Department at the time of your registration or participation if you object to Charlotte County using your image or your child’s image in this manner.

Englewood Charlotte Public Library

3450 N. Access Road, Englewood, FL 34224
941.681.3736

Mid-County Regional Library

2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33952
General Information: 941.613.3161
Reference: 941.613.3166
Youth Services: 941.613.3170

Port Charlotte Public Library

2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941.764.5562

Punta Gorda Charlotte Library

401 Shreve St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950
General Information/Reference: 941.833.5460
Youth Services: 941.833.5462

To register for a program please go to the Charlotte County Libraries & History Calendar of Events: https://charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/events

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

Book Discussions

Discussions are held outside the library building. See details below or contact the library for specific location.

Hooked on Books

April 1, May 6, June 3, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Free

Mid-County Regional Library (2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte)
Hooked on Books is an informal and lively book discussion group. Each month there is a different theme and participants select from the books that are provided. At the following month’s meeting, readers review their choices and make reading recommendations to the group. Check with library for the monthly theme.

Socially Distanced Book Discussion

April 21, May 19, June 16, 6 to 7 p.m.

Free

Englewood Charlotte Public Library (3450 N. Access Road, Englewood)
Come prepared to join in a socially distanced discussion of the chosen title outside the entrance of the library. Participants are responsible for obtaining their own copy of the featured book.

April 21	<i>We Were the Lucky Ones</i> by Georgia Hunter
May 19	<i>Jefferson’s Sons</i> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
June 16	<i>No Bad Deed</i> by Heather Chavez

“BYOB” Book Club

April 14, May 12, June 9, 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Free; registration required – call 941.764.5562

Port Charlotte Public Library (2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte)
Ready to talk to someone about that new book you just read? An old book you just discovered? Would you like to buddy up with someone and read a book together? Do you miss connecting with others and talking about favorite authors or plots? Then come join us for an unconventional book club! BYOB. We all read different (or the same) books, have great conversation, share thoughts, opinions and tell why the book should be next on everyone else’s library list. This program takes place outdoors in the Charlotte Cultural Center gazebo. (Enter through the Gertrude Street gate to the left of the Cultural Center entrance.)

Stories in the Shade

April 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, May 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29
11 a.m.

Free

McGuire Park (21125 McGuire Ave., Port Charlotte)
Join us for an outside storytime each week! Children ages 0-6 and their parents and/or caregivers are invited to join us for a nature themed storytime in the park. The same storytime will be presented on both Friday and Saturday, so please come on the day that works best for you. Storytime will be picnic style so you may want to bring a blanket or chair to sit on. For more details call 941.613.3167

Online, You’re First in Line! Register at CharlotteCountyFL.gov using Get Active.

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Photography Tips and Tricks: Practical Experience

April 28, May 26, June 23, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Free

Join this friendly group at a local photography hotspot to gain practical experience with your camera. Social distancing protocols will be practiced. To join the mailing list and find out where we will be taking photos, please email Spencer.Pullen@CharlotteCountyFL.gov

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Programs are posted on YouTube (<https://youtube.com/CharlotteCountyCommunityServices>) on the date listed. Programs can continue to be viewed on demand, any time after the posting date.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Music Play Patrol

Every Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Ages 1–10 years

Free

Music Play Patrol is art and movement education for children as young as 12 months old. Content includes sing-alongs, musical stories, and interactive activities that teach students how to create music with ordinary objects in their home. **New content is published every Monday and Wednesday at MusicPlayPatrol.com/dashboard.**

Storytime

Sundays and Thursdays

Ages 1–6

Free

This program, for children up to about 6 years old, is designed to improve listening and group interaction skills through stories, movement activities, music and dramatic play. A kit is available during the first week of each month with supplemental coloring and activity sheets and craft supplies for the month's storytime programs.

Fun Fridays

Ages 5–12

Free

How to Play Cat's Cradle

April 2

Chess 101

April 9 & May 7

We'll start with the basics of the game of chess and eventually focus on learning strategy in game play.

Science Lab

April 16

Marble Maze

May 21

Math Card Tricks

We explore science, engineering, math, and technology for ages 8–14 years. Visit our online event calendar for information on the topic, which will change monthly.

JF Unboxing

April 23 & May 28

Find your next great read as we unveil the new kids' books that have arrived in the library system during the month.

Kid's Craft

April 30

Animal Keychains

May 14

DIY Chalk Paint

Supplies provided first come, first served. Drive through the curbside pickup or stop in and pick up a craft kit and follow along with from home!

TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Tuesdays

Ages 13–18

Free

Teen Craft

April 6

Bubble Tea Take Home Kit

May

Dice Bags

Supplies provided first come, first served. Drive through the curbside pickup or stop in and pick up a craft kit and follow along with us from home!

Tabletop Game Night

April 13

Potato Pirates

May 11

TBA

The library staff gathers to play our favorite board games. Find new favorites to try at home!

New YA Book Unboxing

April 20 & May 18

Find your next great read as we unveil the new YA titles that have arrived during the month.

Whatcha Reading?

April 27 & May 25

Listen in as the library staff discusses all the stuff they've read that month. Get ready to grow your 'To Be Read' list!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM—"Tails and Tales" (June & July)

Our 2021 summer reading theme is Tails and Tales! Children who practice reading over the summer are better prepared for school when it begins in the fall. Complete our summer reading challenge to get a ticket to our end of summer beach party, held at Port Charlotte Beach Complex on July 31, circumstances permitting. Call 941.613.3172 for more details. All programs in June and July will tie into our Tails and Tales theme!

Page Turner Adventures

June 7–11, 14–18, 21–25 & 28–July 2

July 5–9, 12–16, 19–23 & 26–30

Ages 3–10 years

Free

Lions and Tigers and Chickens and Goats... oh, my! Every weekday in June and July, find interactive shows, animated storybooks, crafts, kid's recipes, virtual field trips, guest performers, and guest authors.

Tune in on the library website: Charlottefl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/youth/

Biome Presentations

June 7, 14, 21 & 28

July 5, 12, 19 & 26

These brief, interactive presentations will be interesting to any person who wants to know more about animals and the environments they live in. We'll also provide reading suggestions for children who want to know more!

Music Play Patrol

June 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 & 30

July 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 & 28

Ages 1–10 years

Free

Music Play Patrol is art and movement education for children as young as 12 months old. Content includes sing-alongs, musical stories, and interactive activities that teach students how to create music with ordinary objects in their home. **New content is published every Monday and Wednesday at MusicPlayPatrol.com/dashboard**

Tails and Tales Fun Fridays

Fridays

Ages 5–12

Free

Science Lab

June 11

Water Bears

We explore science, engineering, math, and technology for ages 8-14 years. Visit our online event calendar for information on the topic, which will change monthly.

Kid's Craft

June 25

Origami Bookmarks

July 2

Unicorn/Monster Slime

July 16

Pet Rocks

July 30

Fish CD

Supplies provided first come, first served. Drive through the curbside pickup or stop in and pick up a craft kit and follow along with us from home!

Farm Escape Room

July 7

This digital escape room will challenge kids to solve the puzzles and escape the farm!

Tails and Tales Teen Tuesdays

Tuesdays

Ages 13–18

Free

Teen Craft

June 8

Animal Pom Pom

June 22

Animal Print Mason Jar

July 6

TBA

July 20

Air Dry Clay Animal Magnet

Supplies provided first come, first served. Drive through the curbside pickup or stop in and pick up a craft kit and follow along with us from home!

Zoo Escape Room

June 9

This digital escape room will challenge teens to solve the puzzles and escape the zoo!

ADULT PROGRAMS**Portrait of a Local Artist**

April 1, May 8, June 1

Free

Join us for an interview with a local artist to discover their work, technique, and artistic inspiration.

Fringe Paranormal

April 6, May 3, June 1

Free

Hear the legends and phenomenon from historic to current paranormal stories from Charlotte County and throughout Florida. This group was designed to bring those together who are interested in learning more

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about the paranormal amongst like-minded peers. New content is added monthly on the 1st Tuesday of the month with accompanying video. Join the discussion at www.padlet.com/historyservices/FringeParanormal.

What's in a Name

April 12

Free

Have you ever wondered who or what the areas of Charlotte County are named after? Listen in as we discuss the interesting history behind the names of sites you pass every day, such as Kings Highway, Gasparilla Road, Murdock Circle, Virginia Avenue, and more.

Zoom Photography Tips and Tricks

April 14, May 12, June 9

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Free

Join this friendly group interested in enhancing their photographic skills. All levels of experience are welcome. Participants are encouraged to share photos, tips on how they edit photos and other techniques they are using. Our goal is to educate but most of all to have FUN! To join the mailing list and receive Zoom meeting information, please send an email to Spencer.Pullen@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

What's Cooking?

April 16, June 18

Free

Join us for a new "Farm to Table" program featuring local farmers, local restaurateurs and ordinary people who like to cook. Each program will have its own theme and viewers will experience the benefits of sustainable farming and healthy eating through our on-location filming.

What's Cooking: Zoom Audience Participation

April 23, June 25, 12 p.m.

The second part of our themed cooking program will be via Zoom. Viewers who have volunteered to be presenters will cook a dish at home based on our monthly theme. The finished dishes will be shown and discussed with our viewing audience and recipes will be shared. If you are interested in joining us, please email Tammatha.Hutton@CharlotteCountyFL.gov. The Zoom invitation will be emailed to you a half hour before the meeting.

Zoom Fiction Book Discussion

April 22, May 27, June 24

4 to 5 p.m.

Free

Join us to discuss our featured fiction title. Participants are responsible

for obtaining their own copy of the featured book. If you are interested in joining us, please email Kathleen.Harriott@CharlotteCountyFL.gov. The Zoom invitation will be emailed to you a half hour before the meeting.

April 22

The Exiles by Christina Baker Kline

May 27

TBD

June 24

TBD

Zoom Movie Discussion

May 15 & June 19, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Free

Love movies? Want to talk about something other than what you had for dinner last night? Our film discussion group might be for you! Each month we will have a theme and select a movie that first that theme. Possible themes: Fearless Females, Science Fact or Fiction, Psychological Thrillers, Early Film, Spaghetti Westerns, and/or Remakes vs. Originals. Watch the movie on Kanopy, Hoopla, DVD/BluRay before the discussion date. You will need to register for each discussion by sending an email request to Kathleen.Harriott@charlottecountyfl.gov. You will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting.

Comedy Sketch

April 19, May 17, June 21

Free

April 19: Online Reputation Litigators—This sketch depicts a law firm that helps clients with their online reputation and self-image.

May 17: Pride and Extreme Prejudice—This sketch looks at a Jane Austen novel made into a film directed by Quentin Tarantino.

June 21: The Brutality of Fashion—This sketch looks at the competitive world of fashion with two eccentric hosts.

Bike Ministry

April 20

Free

This program highlights the Edgewater Church's Bike Ministry which builds, repairs and donates free bicycles to individuals in Charlotte County.

Ode to Local Writers

April 24, May 22, June 26

Free

Join us for a reading of an excerpt from a local writers' work and learn where their inspiration comes from and the processes used to hone their craft.

Center Stage Charlotte County

April 26, May 24, June 28

Free

A profile and conversation focused on one of our prominent Charlotte County community members.

Introduction to Preserving Personal and Family Documents, Photographs and Books

May 15

Free

Join Charlotte County Libraries & History Archivist Samuel Alexander for a presentation on the fundamentals of preserving your photographs, books, letters and newspaper clippings. This presentation will cover: what preservation is, what conditions materials should be stored in, how materials should be organized, how the materials should be handled and how anyone can engage in preservation.

Spotlight on Charlotte Technical College

May 19, June 22

Free

Charlotte Technical Center's mission is to provide an effective, innovative technical education preparing students to enter, advance, and succeed in the workplace. Join us for a brief introduction to some of the programs that are offered such as Auto Repair, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Graphic Design and others.

Stars of Charlotte County

June 14

Free

A look at some of the musicians, athletes and other amazing people who live in Charlotte County.

CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**Telling Your Story: History in the Parks**

April 28, May 26, June 23

Locations/Times to be announced

Free

Charlotte County Libraries & History is bringing its history collection to you! Each month during the 2021 Centennial, a new sign will be virtually dedicated, by Program Coordinator Crystal Diff, in a Charlotte County park with images and information straight from the archives.

History Spotlight

April 7, May 5, June 2

Free

Charlotte County's Centennial is underway, and there is so much history to celebrate! This eleven-part monthly series will highlight the lives of iconic figures from across Charlotte County. Join Program Coordinator Crystal Diff as she highlights the lives of some iconic figures from Charlotte County's past.

Charlotte County Through the Decades

April 21, May 12, June 16, 11 a.m.

Free

Charlotte County's Centennial is underway, and there is so much history to celebrate! This ten-part virtual monthly series will examine the people and events that have shaped Charlotte County's history since its founding in 1921. Join Charlotte County Historian Dr. Jennifer Zobelein for:

April 21 Part 2: The 1930s

May 12 Part 3: The 1940s

June 16 Part 4: The 1950s

Charlotte County Homicide

May 10

Free

Join us for a look at some of the notorious murders that happened in Charlotte County over the last hundred years.

SAVE THE DATE**Charlotte County Libraries & History - Charlotte County History Comes Alive**

August 28

Free

Relive Charlotte County's past through live vignettes performed by community members. For more information: <https://bit.ly/live-vignette>

Charlotte County Libraries & History – An Old-Fashioned Family Picnic

October 30

Free

Join us for an old-fashioned picnic and community gathering. For more information: https://bit.ly/family_picnic

OUT AND ABOUT

These are on-going self-guided activities and/or exhibits that may be visited by the public.

Charlotte Harbor Cemetery Self-Guided Tour

Free; Dawn to dusk

Charlotte Harbor Cemetery, 4410 Church St., Port Charlotte

Enjoy a self-guided tour of Charlotte County's oldest marked cemetery. Pay your respects to some of Charlotte County's oldest pioneers while learning about their many accomplishments in our community. Self-guided tour maps are available at the main entrance sign. Please be courteous to those interred.

Historical Marker Program

Free

The Historical Marker Program is designed to preserve the history of our area's historic landmarks in educational displays for the community. You may visit the markers in person, or take a virtual tour is at: <https://charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/community-services/libraries-history/historical-markers/>

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History Quest

Free

Join the hunt for local historic treasures using geocaching and questing and earn rewards! All geocaches and quests are available online at: <https://charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/community-services/libraries-history/history-quest.shtml>

New caches and quests are continuously being added, so be sure to check for updates.

Indian Springs Cemetery Self-Guided Tour

Free; Dawn to dusk

Indian Spring Cemetery, 9500 Indian Springs Cemetery Road, Punta Gorda. Enjoy a self-guided tour of Charlotte County's second oldest marked cemetery. Pay your respects to some of Charlotte County's oldest pioneers while learning about their many accomplishments in our community. Self-guided tour maps are available at the main entrance sign. Please be courteous to those interred.

Exhibit – Punta Gorda Army Airfield

Free; free 2-hour parking

Bailey Terminal, Punta Gorda Airport, 28000 Airport Rd., Punta Gorda
This exhibit provides a glimpse into the past of the Punta Gorda Airport when it served as the Punta Gorda Army Airfield during World War II.

Exhibit: Telling Your Story

Regular library hours through December 2021

Mid-County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte

Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, 401 Shreve St., Punta Gorda

Englewood Charlotte Public Library, 3450 N Access Rd., Englewood

Free

Charlotte County is turning 100! To commemorate this historic event, Charlotte County Libraries and History presents "Telling Your Story," an exhibit that showcases a diverse array of artifacts from the county's archival collection. From a printing press to photographs to household items, "Telling Your Story" explores our county's rich history and the people that have called it home.