

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

When registration is required 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. Contact the library for specific location.

Hooked on Books

Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Free

Mid-County Regional Library

Hooked on Books is an informal and lively book discussion group. Each month has a different theme and participants select from the books provided. At the following month’s meeting, readers review their choices and make reading recommendations to the group. Monthly themes are January – Memoirs; February – Romance; March – Mayhem and Madness: books of Mystery.

Socially Distanced Book Discussion

Jan. 19, Feb. 17, March 17, 6 to 7 p.m.

Free

Englewood Charlotte Public Library

Participants are responsible for obtaining their own copy of the featured book.

Jan. 19 *Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell

Feb. 17 *The Engineer’s Wife: A Novel* by Tracy Enerson Wood

March 17 *Star Island* by Carl Hiaasen

“BYOB” Book Club

Feb. 10 & March 10th, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Free

Port Charlotte Public Library

Ready to talk to someone about that new book you just read? Do you miss connecting with others and talking about favorite authors or plots? Then come join us for an unconventional book club! BYOB—Bring your own book. We all read different books, and have great conversation, sharing thoughts, opinions and telling why the book should be next on everyone else’s library list. This is a socially distanced activity.

Page Turners Fiction Book Discussion

Feb. 25, March 25, April 22, 4 to 5 p.m.

Free

Zoom Meeting

Join us for a discussion of a featured fiction title. Participants are responsible for obtaining their own copy of the featured book. To participate and receive Zoom meeting information, please email Kathleen.harriott@charlottecountyfl.gov

Feb. 25 *The All-Girl Filling Station’s Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg

March 17 *A Woman is No Man* by Etaf Rum

April 22 *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline

LIBRARIES AND HISTORY PROGRAMS

Photography Field Practice

Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 24, 10 a.m.

Free

Join us for socially distanced field practice; locations to be provided.

Charlotte County Libraries & History - Centennial Art Show & Reception

February 27; Time TBA

Free

Mid-County Regional Library

Come to the opening and reception to view original art, by local residents, based on actual events and stories from the past hundred years of Charlotte County. Artwork will be on display through March.

For more information: https://bit.ly/art_recept

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Programs are posted on YouTube (<http://bit.ly/CCLSYoutube>) on the date listed. Programs can continue to be viewed on demand, any time after the posting date.

ALL AGES

Chess 101

Jan. 12, Feb. 12, March 9

Free

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

Tabletop Game Night

March 16

Free

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

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

First Chapter Fridays

Jan. 8, Feb. 5, March 5

First Chapter Fridays occur twice a month and feature a reading of the first chapter of a selected juvenile or young adult book. Join the library staff to get a sneak peek at what could be your next great read!

Kid's Craft

Jan. 15, March 12

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!

History in a Nutshell

Jan. 29, Feb. 26

Join your Youth Services staff as they talk about momentous occasions and people throughout American and World history.

JF Unboxing

Jan. 19, Feb. 19, March 26

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

Science Lab

March 19

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

TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Tuesdays

Ages 13–18

Free

Teen Craft

Jan. 5

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!

YA/New Book Unboxing

Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 23

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

Whatcha Reading?

Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 30

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

Nailed It

Feb. 2

Watch (and laugh) as library staff compete to recreate a craft or activity that we find on Pinterest. Could you do it better?

Pay It Forward Club

Feb. 9, March 2

This club might be for you if you want to find ways to serve your community or if you need service hours for school. We will find service projects for kids ages 11–18 to complete from their home.

ADULT PROGRAMS**How-to Festival – Community Spotlight**

Jan. 2021

Free

Each weekday during January, we feature a new 10 to 15-minute video highlighting someone in our community showing/teaching viewers how to do something. Topics include yoga, sewing, crafts, cooking and more.

Fringe Paranormal

Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 2, meets online at 6 p.m.

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 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.

Portrait of a Local Artist

Jan. 2, Feb. 4, March 4

Free

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

January: Jim Hollenbeck

February: Tina Weida

March: Laura Pickell

Comedy Sketch

Jan. 9, Feb. 15, March 22

Free

Jan. 9 *So, You Want to be a Brit*

This sketch illustrates how American anglophiles might become British. Two discerning British hosts give tips to understanding British culture.

Feb. 15 *Christopher Walken's Valentine Chocolates*

The eccentric actor and personality explains and demonstrates his bizarre box of Valentine chocolates.

March 22 *Gender and Hypnosis*

What if a woman, by use of hypnosis, could make her boyfriend only talk about subjects which interest her?

What's in a Name

Jan. 23

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.

Directors Profile: David Lynch

Feb. 1

Free

Join us for a discussion examining the life and work of American filmmaker, painter and actor, David Lynch.

Tech Tuesday

Feb. 2, & 16, March 2 & 16

Free

Join us for a series of instructional videos on how to use your Apple and Android devices as well as Windows and Apple computers.

LIBRARIES AND HISTORY PROGRAMS

National Park Series

Feb. 3, March 12 & 28

Free

Members of the National Park Service staff discuss various NPS topics.

February: Dark Skies by Matthias Schmitt, Cedar Breaks National Monument

March: National Park Service History by Brent Everitt, MBA Chief of Visitor Services, Cedar Breaks National Monument

March: -Museum Collections of the National Park Service by Brent Everitt, MBA Chief of Visitor Services, Cedar Breaks National Monument

Crafting Corner

Feb. 5, March

Free

Join us for a fun virtual craft session. Craft supplies provided via curbside pickup at their selected library location. Enjoy 10–15 minutes of fun, easy crafts to do at home.

Lemon Bay Fest

Feb. 6–13

To view the videos go to: <https://bit.ly/LBF2021>

The 19th annual Lemon Bay Fest: Englewood History with Zest! is celebrated February 6–13, 2021. This event is a weeklong celebration of Englewood's past, featuring tours a series of virtual informative Englewood history programs.

The Little Town That Unity Built by Dr. Martha Bireda. Dr. Bireda presents information about the settlement of Punta Gorda by both black and white settlers.

Weeki Wachee: City of Mermaids by Lu Vickers. Author Lu Vickers discusses the fascinating history of Weeki Wachee Springs.

Florida Stories by Carol Mahler. Storyteller Carol Mahler presents local poems and stories about our history.

Stories of Florida – Con Sabor! by Carrie Ayvar. Flowing between Spanish and English tales of Florida connecting the people and cultures with a little Latin flavor.

21st Century Cult: NXIVM and Keith Raniere

Feb. 8

Free

Examines the strange cult that mixed Hollywood celebrities, multi-level marketing, personal development seminars and sexual slavery in the late 2000s.

Florida Highwaymen

Feb. 19

Free

Discover the story of the influential African American landscape painters known as Highwaymen and their journey in creating a unique art movement in our state. Though their beginnings were wrought with hardship, they prevailed, creating iconic works of art that are now recognized world-wide.

Ode to Local Writers

Feb. 20, March 20

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.

Author Talk: Edgar Allen Poe

Feb. 22

Free

Join us for a discussion examining the life and work of American gothic short story writer and influential poet Edgar Allen Poe.

Photography Tips & Techniques

Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10, 3 p.m.

Free

Meet online to discuss different photography techniques and share your work.

Cookie House Tour

March 3

Free

Originally built in 1931 as part of the Bass Biological Laboratory, the first full-time marine station on the Florida mainland, the "Cookie House" served as John Foster Bass's personal office and laboratory. Join Program Coordinator Crystal Diff for a virtual tour of this unique historic building situated in Cedar Point Environmental Park.

Directors Profile: The Coen Brothers

March 8

Free

Join us for a discussion examining the life and work of the quirky, independent but popular filmmakers, writers and directors – Joel and Ethan Coen.

McCarthy Vs. Murrow

March 15

Free

A short, dramatic performance illustrating the historical clash between

the Wisconsin Senator who accused individuals of being communists and the CBS broadcast journalist who confronted him.

Center Stage Charlotte County

March 29

Free

A profile of a prominent Charlotte County entrepreneur, government officer, artist, or athlete.

To view previous Libraries & History virtual programs:

- Go to <http://bit.ly/CCLibraryHistoryServices>
- Click on "Programs & Services"
- Select the age group for programs you are interested in viewing

CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Charlotte County Libraries & History - Centennial Exposition

Jan. 16

Free

Join us at our Centennial Exposition showcasing historical subjects from the 1920s. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/cent-expo>

Centennial Kickoff

Jan. 26th, 9 a.m.

Free

Charlotte County is turning 100! Join Charlotte County Historian Dr. Jennifer Zoebelein for a virtual opening of Libraries and History's Centennial exhibit "Telling Your Story" and a discussion of the exciting events planned for this special year.

Telling Your Story: History in the Parks

Jan. 20, Feb. 24, March 24

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 dedicated in a Charlotte County park with images and information straight from the archives.

How Did We Get Here?

Feb. 10, 11 a.m.

Free

Charlotte County celebrates its Centennial in 2021, but how did we get here? Native American, Spanish, British, American—all have claimed or controlled the land currently within our local borders. Join Charlotte County Historian Dr. Jennifer Zoebelein for a brief but comprehensive overview of our region's long-standing and diverse history.

History Spotlight

Feb. 17, March 10

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 for:

February - Part I: Nathan DeCoster, one of Charlotte Harbor's earliest pioneers.

March - Part II: George Brown, one of Punta Gorda's first equal opportunity employers and influential businessmen.

Charlotte County Libraries & History - Centennial Art Show & Reception

Feb. 27

Free

Come and see original art, by local residents, based on actual events and stories from the past hundred years of Charlotte County. For more information visit https://bit.ly/art_recept

Charlotte County Through the Decades

March 17, 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 Zoebelein for Part I: The 1920s, which will focus on the first land boom and its many economic impacts on our area.

Digital Training with Goodwill Industries, Inc.

March 18 & 25

Free

Highlighting Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc. which, through their Port Charlotte Community Resource Center and its Digital Training services offers free computer skills assessment, training, testing and certification in computer-based and online software.

March 18: NorthStar Digital Literacy Program

The Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc.'s NorthStar Digital Literacy program serves as an assessment center helping people define their basic skills needed in order to perform tasks on computers and online to use technology in day-to-day life.

LIBRARIES AND HISTORY PROGRAMS

March 25: Career Campus

The Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Inc.'s Career Campus is a certification program with demonstrated success in both training people in computer skills and awarding industry certifications in a variety of applications for both the PC and Mac.

Charlotte County Libraries & History - Centennial Stories of Charlotte County

March 20

Free

Hear from people in our community sharing stories about their lives and experiences in Charlotte County. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/cent-story>

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

Aug. 28

Free

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

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

Oct. 30

Free

Join us for an old-fashioned picnic and community gathering. For more information visit 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 at: <https://charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/community-services/libraries-history/historical-markers/>

History Quest

Free

Join the hunt for local historic treasures using geocaching and questing and earn rewards! New caches and quests are continuously being added, so be sure to check for updates. All geocaches and quests are available online at <https://charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/community-services/libraries-history/history-quest.html>

Indian Springs Cemetery Self-Guided Tour

Free; Dawn to dusk

Indian Spring Cemetery, 9500 Indian Springs Cemetery Rd., 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 Road, 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.