



930 Corbindale Road
Houston, TX 77024

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TX
PERMIT #8327



NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Spring Branch-Memorial Library

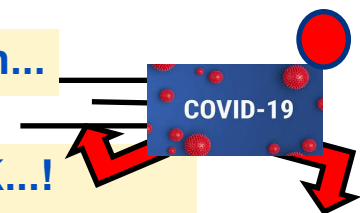
Fall 2021



We thought we had Covid on the run...



But it's B-A-A-A-C-K...!



So what's the **GOOD** news?

1. The Library remains open!

Have you been to the Library or even driven past it lately? There are always LOTS of cars in the parking lot and patrons enjoying its facilities and services. OK—Fewer people can be in the Library at one time per the county system mandate. The county authorizes 25% of total occupancy (which includes staff) can be present in the Library. It is less than were allowed a short time ago, but it IS open to 38 people at a time as of this writing.

Let's do our part to keep the Library open! Please consider wearing a mask in the Library at this time regardless of vaccination status.
—From the Newsletter Editor

2. Lobby Books is up and running!

A very limited number of volunteers are managing to keep our popular Lobby Books shelves filled with selections that have been waiting for you to add to your home library—or to give as a gift—for the nominal amount listed inside the cover. **Although we still cannot accept donated books at the Library at this time**, we still have an impressive inventory and patrons are finding books of interest. Lobby Books does provide funding for *The Friends* so we can continue to support the special needs of the Library that still arise! See page 2 for our funds at work!

3. Curbside Checkout is still a feature!

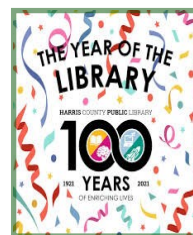
Although most of us are delighted to be able to go into the Library again, anyone can still request books online and pick them up without going in. When the request arrives, make an appointment, call the Library from the parking lot, and the librarians will deliver your order to the agreed bin. Easy and safe!

4. Of course, the Library is still offering wonderful programs for all ages though **STILL VIRTUALLY** for now—largely through Facebook!

This newsletter particularly features the dynamic programs our librarians continually produce for our younger patrons thus creating a legacy of library-lovers—our *Friends of the Future*!

Inside...

- The good news!
- Focus largely on programs for kids
- Gulf Coast Reads ahead
- Volunteer with *The Friends*
- Appreciation



Harris County Public Library celebrates 100 years!

A Musical Centennial Celebration—

[May There Always Be Us](#)

Written and illustrated by the young readers of HCPL and Jim Gill

Our Summer Reading program enrolled 75 babies, 289 kids, 36 teens and 116 adults! Readers are winners!

LIBRARY HOURS

For Curbside checkout, please call at LEAST ONE HOUR ahead to schedule pickup.

SUN	CLOSED	MON	10AM - 6PM	TUES	10AM - 6PM	WED	10AM - 6PM
		THUR	10AM - 6PM	FRI	1PM - 6PM	SAT	10AM - 5PM

Spring Branch-Memorial Library Website

www.hcpl.net/location/spring-branch-memorial-branch-library

Between newsletters, keep up with *The Friends* on our website at www.friendsofsbml.org
or email us at friends.sbm@hotmail.com



Kids are back in school, but there are still lots of engaging activities through the Library. Catch the fun on [Facebook](#) or [Discord](#)!

Indefinite dates are due to the required change from in-person activities originally planned to start in August back to all virtual programs.

FOR OUR YOUNGER PATRONS....



Baby Time—a weekly “FUN Time” on Thursdays at 10:15 am.

Story Time—still weekly on Wednesdays at 10:15 am

Kid's Corner for grades K-6 — Wednesdays from 5-5:30. The current monthly rotation includes **Read with a Furry Friend** either online or in person in the Reading Garden behind the Library (*preregistration required a week ahead*); **Write On**: a creative writing club; **Young Artists Workshop** with crafts that explore famous artists; and **Fairytale Theater**: puppet shows. **Virtual field trips** are also in the works.

AND—look into the **Little Buddy program** that promotes love of books and reading by pairing a “little buddy” with a “big buddy reader” for a weekly date to read together. Find information on registration [here](#).

FOR TEENS AND TWEENS—Teens



earn volunteer hours with the Teen Leadership Council that meets the third Thursday of each month virtually via [Discord](#).

Bakers & Makers led by one of the Teen Leadership Council members—meets third Saturday each month at 2:00. Teens and tweens will either participate in a baking or craft activity with ingredient or material kits being available for pick up at the library starting one week prior to the program date.

High School Book Club for ages 15-19 meets monthly (exact dates TBD) outdoors after school in the reading garden behind the library (limited numbers ensure social distancing). Another of the Teen Leadership Council members who chooses the book to read and discuss each month leads this group. (Once we are able to meet indoors, we will add a middle school book club as well.)

Questions? Contact [Jackie](#) at sm@hcpl.net

“This summer the teen/tween take home craft kits were very popular. Friends’ money was used to purchase the materials for each kit. These went over so well, that I hope to offer them again next summer even if we are able to host more typical summer reading programs. The parents seemed as excited about these as the older kids did and we got quite a few thank you’s for having them.” —Jackie Blackwell, Young Adult Program Librarian

Centennial Celebration crafts ahead— Monthly kits available at the Library while supplies last!

- **September—the 2000s**—Make a **Safe Stopping Smart Car**, a STEM-based activity kit for family fun AND celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a kit inspired by Pura Belpre, the first Latina librarian at New York Public Library.
- **October—2010s**—Dias de los Muertos: create a STEM activity **Bone Bridge**. Adults and teens engage with making Sugar Skull suncatchers. *More kits and fun—see Gulf Coast Reads activities just below.*
- **November—2020s**—NaNoWriMo!: use a **Storytelling kit** to encourage writing AND make a challenging STEM **Turkey Run maze** with a kit.



October 2021—The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune

Gulf Coast Reads: On the Same Page “...is an annual regional reading initiative focused on promoting the simultaneous reading or listening to a selected title by those living along the upper Texas Gulf Coast.... The ... goal is to encourage our communities to read the same title during the month of October in order to encourage readers to come together in discussions about it with neighbors, co-workers, friends and their families, as well as in classrooms and in libraries throughout the region.” —from the Gulf Coast Reads [website](#).

This fantasy novel is aimed at an adult/teen audience but even the **Kid's Corner** crew will have fun with the related craft projects and kits featuring gnomes and gardens.



Membership Application—New or Renew *(Please circle.)* We do not share any of your information with any other organizations.

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

*City, State, Zip: _____

Phone *(optional)*: _____

Email Address *(Authorizes email contact)*: _____

☐ \$10 Sponsor ☐ \$25 Leader ☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$100 Supernova ☐ Hypernova! \$_____

☐ Email newsletters only ☐ Both email and print newsletters ☐ Print newsletters only

(Including your email address authorizes email contact either regularly or as occasional interim updates.)

☐ Please note address change. ☐ I would like to volunteer with *The Friends*.

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Spring Branch-Memorial Library

Mailing address: 930 Corbindale Road, Houston, TX 77024

OR pay with PayPal on [our website](#).

* Required for new or changes only

Contributions are tax deductible.

Join us!

...and
ask a
friend
to be a
Friend!

Volunteer Opportunities...



Membership Matters

The Friends always appreciates volunteer interest as a way to support our Library! At this time, there are no occasional volunteer possibilities in the Library. However, if you enjoy writing and layout or website management or keeping up with social media or fundraising, consider joining *The Friends* Board. For more information, please email [The Friends](#). *(Click the link or see page 4.)*

Throughout this newsletter the focus has been mainly on the outstanding programs and services provided by our librarians. Although *The Friends* does not fund ALL these programs, we certainly create added value for our librarians. When the Library fully reopens, there will be more demands on “Friend-ly” funds.

Membership DOES matter as we look ahead to a happy, healthy 100% occupancy future with our traditional on-site programs. **We appreciate our members—and the Library does too!**

Links specifically mentioned and linked to sites in this newsletter:

Discord—sm@hcpl.net *(Page 2)*

Gulf Coast Reads—<http://www.gulfcoastreads.org/about> *(Page 2)*

Library's Facebook page and email address are on the Library's Home Page *(Page 4)*

Little Buddy Program—sm@hcpl.net *(Page 2)*

May There Always be Us—<https://youtube.com/NuVXFklwZ1g>

A new program sponsored by the Library— A Winter Giving Challenge for those in need

A county-wide opportunity OPEN TO ALL to make a difference in our wider community....



“Pick up a crochet kit from your branch with material to make a scarf. The kit includes yarn, instructions for the pattern, links to YouTube video tutorial for the pattern. Return the scarf to your branch and we will donate them to a local non-profit organization.” —from our Library's Facebook page. **Let's do it!**

With enduring thanks to our librarians who do so much for us and for our community!