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NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Spring Branch-Memorial Library

Summer 2021



The Library is OPEN!

Some things—different

We are confident that all patrons will show their appreciation of the outstanding way our librarians have supported us all through these unprecedented times by honoring these changes until further updates from the County system.

According to Jennifer Finch, our branch manager, the current plan is to **allow up to 37 patrons in the library for up to one hour at a time for now. Masks, social distancing and health checks will NOT be required!** (We will keep you informed when those conditions change.) Going forward, a screen installed in the Lobby to show how many people are currently present and a staff person will be in the Lobby to manage attendance.



Another important change! The Fire Department has determined that there is not adequate space for emergency vehicles when cars park ON EITHER SIDE of the front driveway. Please honor the **new NO PARKING FIRE LANES** on BOTH sides of the front driveway and park in the main lot. **THANK YOU!**

We have a **new Library Program Specialist! Meet Miranda Guillory!**

"I am a Program Specialist with an emphasis on children's programming. I am from Pasadena, Texas. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities from the University of Houston-Downtown and a Master of Library Science degree from Texas Woman's University. I worked as a Circulation Clerk at Helen Hall Library, in League City, for almost four years. I enjoy going to concerts and photographing street art." —*Miranda Guillory*

Some things—the same

Curbside Service remains an option! We do expect that the in-person maximum number will change. Still, we expect curbside service to continue to provide a quick and easy way to pick up requested materials even after the library opens fully. It will remain a helpful way to expedite the check-out process for online requests.

And, of course, traditional favorites:



CRAFT KITS



SUMMER READING PROGRAM



FOR TWEENS AND TEENS

(VIRTUAL) STORY TIMES,
BABY TIMES AND KIDS CORNER



SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION!

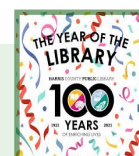
The more things change, the more they stay the same. (transl.) —Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, writer



In April alone, our Librarians

- had **1,235** Curbside Checkout interactions—an average of 52 per day!
- checked out **13,647** physical items and **22,895** Overdrive items;
- distributed more than **150** craft kits;
- had **246** Facebook views with **32** engagements;
- conducted **21** virtual programs.

Harris County Public Library celebrates 100 years!
Each month the Library system highlights a different decade.
June—the '70s July—the '80s August—the '90s



LIBRARY HOURS

For Curbside Checkout, please call at LEAST TWO HOURS 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

Please note: Any Membership updates after May 15 will appear on your Fall newsletter.



The Friends of the Spring Branch-Memorial Library
<http://www.friendsofsbml.org>

Although many programs remain **VIRTUAL**, Library fun is **ACTUAL! VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AHEAD—**

YES! There is a Summer Reading Program (SRP) for ALL AGES!

Pre-registration opened May 24. The program runs from June 7 through August 7.
Register any time at: <https://hcpl.beanstack.org/> OR just click the image!



“Why summer reading?”

- Because HCPL's Summer Reading Program is **fun for the whole family-- from babies to seniors.**
- Because kids and teens who read for pleasure during the summer have to spend less time and energy relearning lost skills when school starts.
- Because as little as ten minutes a day of reading works wonders for children's language skills.
- Because all the special, fun summer activities at the library can motivate reluctant readers.
- Because tracking the time they spend reading or the number of books they have read gives children (and ALL of us) a sense of accomplishment....” —[from the Harris County website](#) (edited and adapted)



As always, there will be prizes for each age group at the various levels with everyone getting a book for completing Level One. Other prizes, depending on age category and level, may include “rubber duckie” unicorns (for the younger readers), raffle tickets for a “Prize Pack,” custom tags or collectible Retro buttons, or a library-themed canvas tote bag.

Although the Library has reopened, all SRP and other events remain virtual on Facebook.
Follow our Library’s fantastic [Facebook page](#) for engaging events for ALL AGES.

OUR Library’s Special Programs for our youngest patrons...

Baby Time—Thursdays at 10:15 am
Storytime for all ages—
Wednesdays at 10:15 am.

Kids Corner—Mondays at 2:00 pm
(Note change in day and time!)

Age appropriate stories, activities, and crafts with
our own librarians.

Kids Corner in June—Kids will have a great time learning—play a Little Bookworms board game developed by our librarians...make playdough...crochet class for kids (Grades 3-6 (registration required))...a dog guest with dog stories....
and more fun throughout the summer.

June Crafty Kits for Kids

- Makings for their own Little Bookworms game
- A 1970s craft
- A green thumb kit (pot, soil and seeds)
- Gumball machine paper craft

While supplies last....

OUR Library’s Special Programs for our Tweens and Teens....



Teen Leadership Council—Grades 6-12. Plan, organize, and implement teen programs for the library. Create and lead those programs. Earn volunteer hours.

Take-and-Make Kits every week at curbside and the front desk.

HIGHLIGHTING— Bakers & Makers at 2 pm on Teen Discord. Both are completely led by one of our teens who created this program. Pick up ingredient kits or materials via curbside pick up or from the front desk while supplies last before 2 pm on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Then join in for the fun!

First Saturdays for Bakers—Recipe chosen by the teen leader. Mix and cook the recipe together virtually!

Third Saturdays for Makers—Craft chosen by teen leader who leads the craft while all participants make the craft together.

(Contact [Jackie](#) to register for Leadership Council and to connect with Discord.)

A LOT MORE SUMMER FUN TO COME! FOLLOW THE LIBRARY’S PROGRAMS ON FACEBOOK—AND ENJOY!



The Friends of the Spring Branch-Memorial Library
www.friendsofsbml.org

Membership Application—New or Renew
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!

The Friends supported the wider community!

The mission of *The Friends* is to promote the Spring Branch-Memorial Library by raising funds, communicating the activities and benefits of the Library to local residents and supporting the Library as a cultural and educational asset to the community.

In ordinary times, we focus on the needs and activities of our own branch. In April, we “branched out!”

Part of the Centennial Celebration plan for April included a virtual performance by the **Allen Oldies Band** with their songs and music of the ‘50s. The County System asked us to contribute with other *Friends* groups to help make this happen. After some discussion, we agreed.

What a success it was!

The **Allen Oldies Band** program had 715 views on Facebook and 170 views on YouTube! A wonderful response! And our *Friends* organization was acknowledged at the beginning of the program as a supporter of the event. We were glad to share in bringing so much fun to so many library-loving, Centennial celebrants!

Keep up with more great [Centennial](#) events on the Harris County website!

Membership Matters—

Thanks to all our members and contributors! YOU make a difference to the whole community!

Additional volunteer opportunities with *The Friends*...

The Friends board recently lost two board members due to other obligations. We have current vacancies for the positions of Membership Chair and Plant and Book Festival Chair—Plants Coordinator. (YES, we DO expect to be able to return to our ever-popular Festival in the spring!) Membership Chair probably entails 2-3 hours per month. Plants Coordinator has a quiet year except for a rush of activity in late February into late March.

If you love our Library and love plants, as Plant Coordinator, we will appreciate you! If love our Library and have a few hours a month, we will be happy for you to join us as Membership Chair! For more information, please [click](#) to email *The Friends* or see our email address on page 4..

Links specifically mentioned and linked to sites in this newsletter or helpful sites:

Register for Summer Reading Program: <https://hcpl.beanstack.org/> (Page 2)

Harris County website (Summer Reading Program info) <https://www.hcpl.net/about/summer-reading-program> (page 2)

Centennial celebrations— <https://www.hcpl.net/search/events?search=centennial> (Pages 3 and 4)

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

OverDrive for all kinds of materials—<https://www.hcpl.overdrive.com> or your Libby app for audio materials—<https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/>

Time for Teens registrations—jacqueline.blackwell@hcpl.net (Page 2)