

BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

TEXAS SUMMER READING PROGRAM

BY: RACHEL MCPHAIL, CITY LIBRARIAN

The 2020 Texas Summer Reading Program at the Huntsville Public Library came about a little differently than in past years. Over these past few months, the library staff have been looking at each other and asking, "How on earth will we host the reading program through a pandemic?"



After researching how other libraries have handled this dilemma, I found that many libraries had already switched to virtual summer reading programs, many even before Covid-19. Fortunately, Huntsville Public Library was able to purchase ReadSquared which has made our 2020 reading program possible.

The program started on August 6 and lasted for four weeks with a participation of 60 children and 31 adults. We felt there were several silver linings to hosting a virtual program, specifically that participants could log their reading on a smartphone, computer, or tablet without having to keep track of a piece of paper for several weeks.

What makes the software such a versatile program is how customizable it is. Basically, each participant completes the program by earning 1000 points. We had the option to set each book as being worth a particular number of points, based on age groups. Additionally, participants can complete missions to earn points. We tried to have the activities in the missions be something fun, low cost, and relatively easy to do without much hassle. For example, one of the activities was to go on a walk and write down what animals or plants were seen. In addition to educational activities like the nature walk or learning to cook a dish, we also tried to put in activities related to Huntsville such as visiting the Frank D. "Poncho" Roberts Aquatic Center in Huntsville.

One of the best parts of the ReadSquared program is the potential for the future; the library will be able to use the software year round, so be on the lookout for other fun reading programs.

1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-5472

Monday-Friday Saturday
10am-7pm 12pm-4pm

 myhuntsvillelibrary.com

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SEPTEMBER CHANGES

BY: MARY KOKOT, ADULT SERVICES
COORDINATOR

The Huntsville Public Library has changed a lot. Nearly all the adult programs that were a staple of the “olden days” are gone (at least temporarily). No more Master Gardeners, Mandarin language classes, biweekly Sittercise classes, walk-in tutoring, genealogy events – Poof! – all cancelled in seconds as soon as we heard the words, “the library is closing.” Even though we can’t bring back (for now) all the programs and events, we are keen on you getting your library books to read. “Curbside Service”, formerly a term used by fast food restaurants such as Sonic but now a restaurant necessity, is a totally new concept for libraries. It works pretty much the same but without food.



Just call in your order for your book or go online and place a hold and once you receive confirmation that it’s ready, come pick it up. When you arrive at the library, put your face mask on and ring our doorbell to let us know you’re here. Give us the last 5 digits of your library card number or your driver’s license number, and we’ll check out your items and bring them outside and place them on the table once you’ve returned to the other side of the table. We want our patrons to be safe as possible, so we’ll insist on maintaining a 6 ft. physical distance and we’ll wear our masks, too.

There’s one other service that the library has been able to bring back: it’s the Interlibrary Loan Service (ILL). If you haven’t had the opportunity to use it yet, you really should try it. ILL is a service whereby a patron of one library can borrow books that are owned by another library. With over 200 participating libraries in the ILL system, there’s always a good chance that the book Huntsville Public Library doesn’t have can be found somewhere else.

ILL is user-friendly, making it easier for you to order your book. The library’s website has a link dedicated to ILL which has simple instructions to follow and allows you to search, locate, and order the book you want—all from the comfort of your home. You will be notified by email or a phone call when your book arrives at the library. Most lending libraries will loan their books for a four to six-week period. After allowing for the time the courier service takes to pick up and deliver books, readers usually will have two to three weeks to read their book choice. Please remember entertainment DVDs, current bestsellers, and new books are not available for loan through the interlibrary loan system.

LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month is held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. The goal of this event is to remind parents and youth that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning. As students prepare to head back to school, there is one essential school supply that requires no shopping and doesn't cost a penny - it's a library card.

Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children. Studies show children who are read to in the home and who are regular library users perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

If you are interested in getting a library card, provide a photo ID and current proof of permanent address. Current in this instance means a piece of mail dated within the last 30 days addressed to the applicant, a current insurance card, or a current voter registration card. If you do not have proof of Texas residency, you will be given a PC-only card which allows for daily computer use. Since the library is closed, please call the library at 936-291-5472 or visit <https://huntsville.biblionix.com> to sign up for a library card. Click on the sign up button, fill out the form and wait for a staff member to contact you.



NEED AN IDEA FOR WHAT TO READ, WHAT'S HOT?

BY: JALPA SHAH, IT COORDINATOR

Have you ever wanted to know what new items are available in the library since the last time you browsed the shelves? Curious about what items are the most read at your library? Then the "What's Hot" section on our website is for you. Go to myhuntsvillelibrary.com homepage and click "Submit" in the box labelled "Search the Huntsville Public Library Catalog" found in the upper right hand corner. It will take you to the Huntsville Public Library Catalog home page. You will find "What's Hot" on the right side.

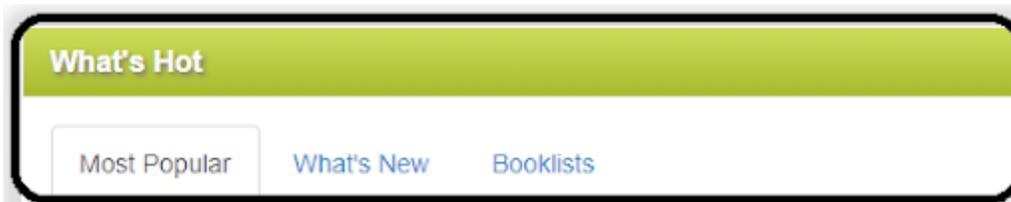


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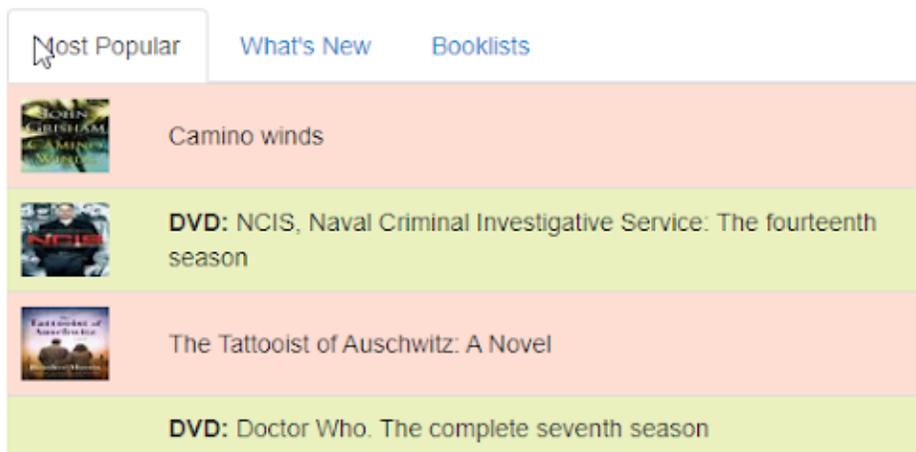
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What's Hot has three categories.

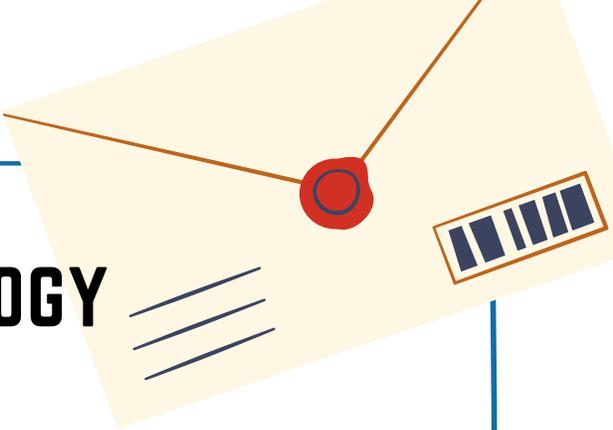


1. **Most Popular:** Curious as to what other people have recently read? Click on the "most popular" to see books, movies, and books on cd that other patrons are enjoying. Titles highlighted in pink are available for reserve only. Make sure you have logged into your library account with your card number and 4 digit PIN. If you click on the title of the item, you can also see how many people are ahead of you on the reserve list. Titles highlighted in green are available for checkout and/or reserve.



2. **What's New:** This section lists items that have recently been acquired by the library. You can limit your option by time period, either weeks or months.

3. **Booklists:** This list contains a variety of books according to subject matter such as HISD Summer Reading Lists, Homeschooling books, boredom busters, potty training, new baby books, and more.



A LETTER FROM GENEALOGY

BY: TONI HERRINGTON, GENEALOGIST

Hello fellow genealogists... I know you are all tired of this pandemic and the very unusual year we have been experiencing. One of the hardest things was the cancellation of our annual lock-in and silent auction.

As you know, we have been doing this yearly for the past several years. The money we generate from our silent auction goes directly to our genealogy room for things we want or need that the library budget does not cover. That's why this program is so important to us. At a later date, we will discuss rescheduling this event. As for the present, we have 500 items for auction and should have close to 800 by the time we have another one. This is our new goal for the remainder of the year.

If you have any questions or possibly concerns, please consult the Huntsville Public Library's website at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com and the Walker County Genealogy's website at www.wcgen.com for news and updates concerning the opening of the library to the public.

Take care and stay safe. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.