



BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter



Saving Turtles: World Turtle Day By Carlie Chapman, Circulation Clerk

Have you ever safely pulled your car over to the side of a back road to help a turtle cross the street? If so, you are not alone because, guess what? I have too! For those who are turtle lovers like myself, there is actually a specific day to celebrate them. May 23rd is a day when people all over the world advocate for these reptiles by educating the public. Unfortunately, the turtle population is declining rapidly with nearly all species now on the endangered list. Reasons for the dwindling population include, but are not limited to, disease as well as climate and habitat change, which is why it is more important than ever to advocate for the well-being of these creatures this year.



Another reason for the decline in population is that so many of these creatures end up severely injured or killed on roads each year. Sadly, this comes as no surprise since turtles move so slowly and vehicles move at a higher rate of speed. According to ABCNews, one study found that “turtle populations in the Northeast, Southeast and Great Lakes region suffer at least a 10 percent annual kill rate from road kills, and that some of these regions likely have up to 20 percent mortality rates due to

traffic encounters.” So, what can you do to help them? Well, the safest and best things you can do is 1) grab them by their sides 2) keep them moving in the same direction as you guide them to their destination, and 3) do not relocate them to a different area.

With this in mind, here’s a friendly word of advice: always use caution when you help turtles cross the street as it is extremely dangerous both on backroads and interstate highways. However, if you are on a backroad, chances are better that you can more easily help them to safety, just double check to make sure the roadway is completely clear. Because there are so many of these traffic related occurrences, we do not encounter turtles nearly as often



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

Monday-Friday
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
& 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Beginning May 10th:
Monday-Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
& Saturday
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

-  myhuntsvillelibrary.com
-  HuntsvillePublicLibrary
-  @huntsvillelib
-  Huntsville_Public_Library

Turtles, Continued From Page 1

may

as our grandparents did when they'd go swimming in a water hole and see one pop up every thirty minutes or so.

For the most part, everyone knows Texas rarely experiences harsh winters. However, this was not the case in 2021 when temperatures dropped well below freezing for an extended period of time. You might not think much about this for marine life, considering turtles are cold-blooded, but if it gets too cold it is bad news for the sea turtles. Because they cannot regulate their body temperature, they can become hypothermic, which causes them to be lethargic and unable to swim. If they cannot swim, they float to the surface and run the risk of stranding on shore or crashing into boats. Thankfully, the U.S. Coast Guard and volunteers came together to rescue over 300 sea turtles in and around the Texas



coast and sent them to rehabilitation centers to be assessed before releasing them back into the Gulf of Mexico. This is just another fantastic example of how one small act can create a ripple effect for endangered creatures and by doing our part we can help preserve these kinds of animals and ensure their survival for many years to come. For more information and materials about turtles or other amphibians, please visit Huntsville Public Library's website at huntsville.biblionix.com to reserve your item today or call us at (936) 291-5472 and we will be able to assist you.

HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY IS A FAMILYSEARCH AFFILIATE LIBRARY

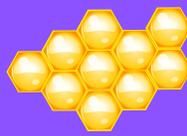
By Mary Kokot, Reference and Adult Services



As most genealogists know, FamilySearch is a nonprofit organization and website offering genealogical records, education, and software. It is operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is closely connected with the church's Family History Department. Even budding genealogists soon realize the importance of the FamilySearch website to their research.



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FamilySearch, Continued From Page 1

Previously, the FamilySearch Center in Salt Lake City, Utah would lend microfilm out to libraries so patrons researching a family tree could visit their own local or area library to view the film. Over the past two years or so, their vast microfilm collection has been digitized and is now available online. FamilySearch affiliate libraries come into play because some of the databases cannot be viewed from a home computer.

FamilySearch affiliate libraries enjoy limited-access privileges to FamilySearch databases. Affiliate libraries have some limitations and may not offer all the services of a Family History Center, which is usually staffed by volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, free to visit, and open to anyone with an interest in genealogical research. There may also be some FamilySearch Historical Records collections that are not available. However, affiliate libraries (whether public, special, or university) have access to FamilySearch's digital genealogical collections that are otherwise accessible only through a FamilySearch family history center.

FamilySearch also provides its affiliates with the latest tools and tips for genealogy reference librarians. Many libraries offer one-on-one genealogy assistance from volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



How to Recycle Your Old Phones By Jalpa Shah, IT Services Coordinator

Recently, a patron came to me asking how he should get rid of his old flip phone. He said his grandchild had gifted him with a new smartphone and he wanted to use it to monitor his steps. He knew he needed to download an application (app) on his new smartphone but did not consider himself a tech savvy person. However, he really wanted to learn how to download apps to track his health and stay in contact with his family through email, video, and online messaging.

The patron commented that it is much easier to learn technology when you grow up with it. But for others, it can be "a nightmare." This gentleman spent his whole life working in construction and was feeling lost in regards to modern technology. He wanted to know not only how to start using a new smartphone but also how to recycle his old phone for free.

Fortunately, the library offers individual technology instruction sessions. These sessions typically last one hour but patrons can request a shorter lesson as needed. If you are interested in scheduling a technology session, contact IT Coordinators, Jalpa Shah or Josh Sabo, at 936-291-5485.

Gadgets can pile up over the years, new ones come out, old ones break. You probably have a drawer full of old batteries and cables, and some old phones, laptops, and desktops lying around, which may only be growing larger if you've replaced any of your electronics over the holidays. Perhaps you keep them for sentimental reasons (I admit I hung onto my first Nokia block phone to show my kids one day) or because

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Old Phones, Continued From Page 3

you thought you might be able to use them again someday. Search your drawers, the garage, or a dark corner of your closet and you're sure to find a pile of electronics you really don't need. When it's finally time to say goodbye, there's a right way to dispose of your old gadgets. Don't throw away your old electronics, even if you've upgraded to new devices.

Here are instructions for recycling your old phone for free.

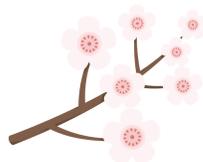
Phones and their batteries are some of the easiest electronics to recycle. Remember to transfer any data and photos on your old phone to a new phone, or otherwise save your photos before performing a factory reset. Remember to remove the SIM card, if it's still there.

Call2Recycle can refurbish the device for resale or recycle the materials for a new device. The company accepts all phones and batteries regardless of size, make, model or age.

Best Buy accepts three phones per household per day and Lowes has recycling centers at every location. Home Depot takes phones up to 11 pounds and Staples takes phones as well.

Whole Foods works with Secure the Call to get 911 emergency-only phones to senior citizens and domestic violence shelters. Just make sure you include the charger.

You can also donate your gently used phones to Cell Phones for Soldiers, which helps troops call their families at home for free. Local communities may also take donations as part of a citywide drive.



call2recycle[®]
Leading the charge for recycling.[™]

Beware the Summer Slide! By Baillie Pretzer, Children's Coordinator



Every year, libraries all across the country gear up for the Summer Reading Program and contemplate how they can make it as, if not more, exciting and engaging than previous summers. This year, we have high hopes that our Tails & Tales Summer Reading 2021 will be our most exciting yet as we have worked hard to bring together all the best aspects of programs past.

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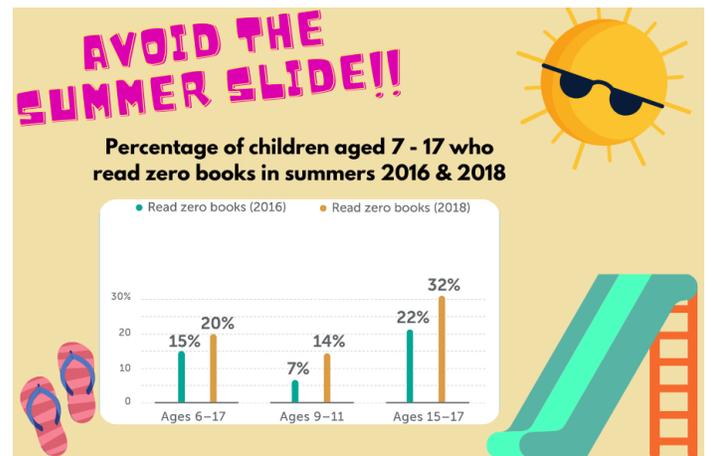
Summer Slide, Continued From Page 4

Do you know what prompted the creation of these programs or realize how long they have been part of our culture? While many people may know summer reading programs began as a way to keep school-aged children engaged during the summer months, probably very few realize they began all the way back in the 1890s! Yes, indeed! Over 100 years ago, summer reading programs began with their original focus on providing proper book care “know-how.”

Originally called “Library Leagues,” these clubs are where bookmarks were introduced and even where reading logs came to be as children were tasked with creating a short list of books they wished to share with their peers. This eventually transformed into librarians developing much more extensive book lists of their own and challenging children to read just a fraction of these lists thereby expanding the market for children’s literature. Library Leagues developed not only a concern for providing more quality literature to the youth, but also for maintaining and improving the children's literacy as they grew older.

Thus, we are brought to the modern-day where terms such as the “summer slide” now reference this exact issue, which has garnered many studies across the world. However, like many problems that arise from either a lack of communication or an abundance of miscommunication, the reading achievement gap can be traced back to an information gap. It’s not necessarily that families are ignoring the importance of reading during summer break, but that many simply are not aware of the summer slide. Parents of children who are just now becoming acquainted with the world of reading or of those who have yet to find that one book that calls out to them can be assured that summer reading programs involve a lot more than just reading!

After the extreme challenges of last year, we want Summer Reading 2021 to emphasize the joy of being part of a larger community and to remind our patrons that the library is more than just a place for reading - it’s most importantly a place where people from all walks of life can come together and discover new and old joys together.



6 BENEFITS OF SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

- Improve reading skills
- Improve self-esteem
- Improve comprehension
- Improve memory skills
- Increase desire to read
- Neutralize summer reading loss

Like many other libraries, we will be having some events and programs that children of all ages can participate in, exposing them to their local Huntsville Public Library.

What's Happening at The Huntsville Public Library

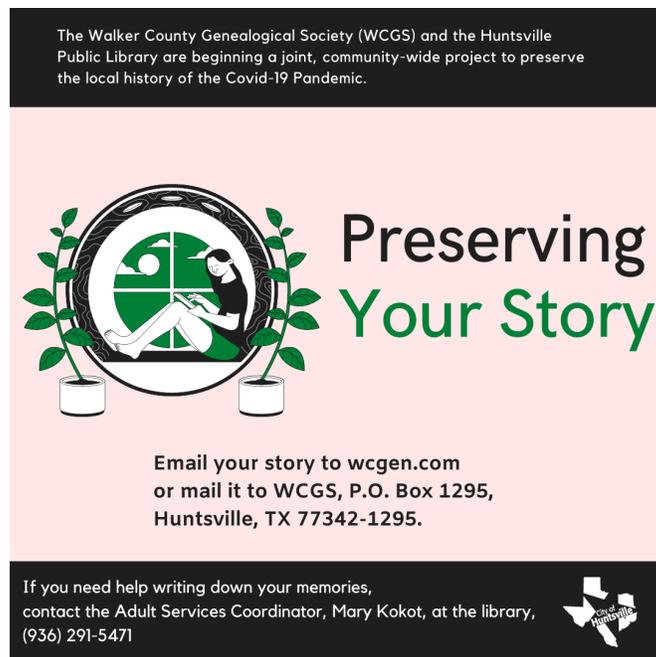



Library Reopening!

We are returning to our standard hours on **Monday, May 10**
Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
&
Saturday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The poster features a background image of library bookshelves. The text is centered on a white rectangular area with a red border. An open book icon is at the top, and a Texas state map icon is below the title.

The library is returning to standard hours on May 10th!



The Walker County Genealogical Society (WCGS) and the Huntsville Public Library are beginning a joint, community-wide project to preserve the local history of the Covid-19 Pandemic.


Preserving Your Story

Email your story to wcgen.com or mail it to WCGS, P.O. Box 1295, Huntsville, TX 77342-1295.

If you need help writing down your memories, contact the Adult Services Coordinator, Mary Kokot, at the library, (936) 291-5471



The poster has a black header with white text. The main body is light pink with a green and black illustration of a person sitting at a desk writing. The title 'Preserving Your Story' is in large green letters. The footer is black with white text and a Texas state map icon.

Send in your personal history of the Covid-19 Pandemic.



May Closures & Modified Hours

Wednesday, May 19:
Open from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
&
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The library will be closed
Saturday, May 29
&
Monday, May 31
for Memorial Day

The poster has a dark blue background with white and orange text. It features a large orange circle on the right side. The title is in large white letters at the top.

Closures and modified hours for the month of May.




Fine Forgiveness Month
JUNE 2021

Huntsville Public Library is forgiving your overdue fines during the month of June. To qualify, please contact the Library during the month of June 2021.

Charges for items that have been lost, damaged, or returned more than 30 days late are not covered under this Fine Forgiveness program.

Contact the Library for full details.



The poster has a red background with a yellow banner for the title. It includes icons of a calculator and a stack of books. The text is in white and black.

June is Fine Forgiveness Month!