

# BETWEEN THE PAGES

*Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter*

## Little Green Shelf

**By Josh Sabo, IT Services Coordinator**

Perhaps you have seen Little Free Library boxes around our community. There are several around town and even at our local parks, including the Frank D. "Poncho" Roberts Aquatics Center and Forest Hills Park. These tiny libraries give the residents of Huntsville an opportunity to share books with one another and the only cost of taking a book is simply leaving another book.

The Little Free Library has an interesting history. According to the organization's website, [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org), the program began in 2009 when Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin built a model of a one-room schoolhouse as a tribute to his mother who was a teacher. He put it on a post in his front yard and filled it with books. The response from friends and neighbors was so overwhelmingly positive that he built several more little libraries to house even more books and provided them to community members free of charge. Eventually, a youth community development leader named Rick Brooks came across these little libraries and wanted to bring the idea to a much larger audience. The two men were inspired by community sharing programs like the "take a book, leave a book" collections often found in coffee shops and community centers. They were further inspired by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who was a huge proponent and financier of public libraries. Carnegie's goal was to establish 2,508 free public libraries across the English-speaking world. He achieved this ambitious goal, which much later led Bol and Brooks to aspire to create 2,508 Little Free Libraries. Like Carnegie, the duo also surpassed their goal by their target date at the end of 2013.

In this spirit, the Huntsville Public Library has launched its Little Green Shelf (LGS) marketing outreach program! The library's vision statement is "Transforming Lives, Enriching Families, and Building Community." Since we cannot be everywhere in the community at once, our hope is that the LGS initiative will help us reach community members who are unaware of the many free services Huntsville Public Library offers. The library receives hundreds of generous donations each year and we want to share them with others. Many of these donated items are not needed in our collection but might be of interest to many people in Huntsville. This is where Little Green Shelf and our community partners come in! The library will deliver a bundle of gently used books to any interested organization.



**The first Little Free Library.**  
Via [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org).

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

Monday-Friday  
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday  
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.



[myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://myhuntsvillelibrary.com)  
[HuntsvillePublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/HuntsvillePublicLibrary)



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# Little Green Shelf, Continued From Page 1

Each book has a band around the cover as well as a bookmark inside to identify the book as part of the library's LGS program. These labels also let customers know they are allowed to read the book at the organization's location or take them home at no cost. The books need not be returned to the library nor to the Little Green Shelf from which they came. Each label has a QR code, which customers can scan with their smartphones. The QR code takes them to a quick survey on the library's web page that helps us gauge the community's interaction with Little Green Shelves in Huntsville.

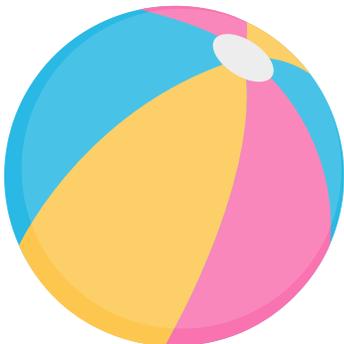
The participating organizations are recognized as well. On the inside cover of each book, the library places a label that reads, "This book was originally found on Huntsville Public Library's Little Green Shelf at \_\_\_\_\_," with the organization's name handwritten in the space. If the organization prefers to provide a stamp or pre-printed label bearing the organization's logo, we invite them to do so. As Huntsville community members take these books home and pass them along to their friends and family, each business will be recognized for its participation in the program.

We also encourage participation on social media to promote the Little Green Shelf program, as well as the businesses that participate. The page that the QR codes direct the customer to also contains links to our social media pages where they can post a photo of themselves with the book or selecting the book at the organization's location with the hashtag #LittleGreenShelf. The privacy of customers is important. No personal data or information about community members is collected or published by the library.

As for the shelf itself, it can be as simple or elaborate as the organization's needs dictate. Whether a small table with bookends or a single shelf, almost anything can work as a Little Green Shelf. The library is more than happy to provide two bookends and a sign explaining the program. Every month, a library staff member resupplies each LGS with more books. If a location's supply runs low, they can also call the library to ask for more.

By adding Little Green Shelves throughout the community and engaging in social media marketing, we hope to associate the Huntsville Public Library with a positive, forward-thinking movement to reduce, reuse, and recycle. We believe in our vision statement and strive to reach out to members of our community who may not be aware of library resources, services, and programs.

Please let the Huntsville Public Library know if your organization would like to become a community partner in our Little Green Shelf initiative. You can reach us by phone at (936) 291-5485 or by email at [jsabo@huntsvilletx.gov](mailto:jsabo@huntsvilletx.gov).



**HUNTSVILLE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Little Green  
Shelf





## Your Online Account – How to Get the Most Out of It By Mary Kokot, Reference and Adult Services

*Reserve Express*, a feature of Favorite Authors, notifies you when new books by your favorite authors are ready to go on the library shelves. Visit the library's web page at [myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://myhuntsvillelibrary.com) and log in to your library account. Then, go to *My Account* and select *Reserves/Requests*. There are three questions pertaining to your account preferences. Select the first question: "Have some favorite authors? Arrange to **receive new items** by selected authors automatically." Click on the highlighted phrase. It will take you to the *Reserve Express* page where authors are listed alphabetically by the last name. If you click an author's name, it will change to a boldface type and you will automatically be placed on the reserve list for any new books the library acquires that are written by that author. Click again and the name reverts to a normal typeface and is deselected. You will be notified of new acquisitions only when penned by the authors shown in boldface on your list. Let us know if there are other authors you wish to add to the Reserve Express selection list.

## UV Safety Month July 2021 By Carlie Chapman, Circulation Clerk



Via [www.oregoneyeconsultants.com](http://www.oregoneyeconsultants.com)

All around the world people use their sight to help them with a wide array of activities, whether it is reading a newspaper to learn what the forecast holds for the day or seeing the smiling face of a newborn child for the first time- eyesight is extremely important! When we are newborns, our vision typically begins to develop between 5 to 8 months. As we age, the lenses of our eyes slowly harden, often leading to progressive vision loss associated with cataracts. In addition, our vision regularly

falls under attack by the damaging rays of the sun when we fail to take proper precautions. This is why we must do everything in our power to protect our eyes! Indeed, learning how to prevent eye damage is a major reason July is designated as UV Safety Awareness Month.

"What does UV stand for?," you might ask. UV is an abbreviation for Ultraviolet and denotes Ultraviolet Radiation, which is a form of electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength of 10 nanometers that is invisible to the naked eye. As shown in the graphic on the following page, UV rays are very dangerous to the eyes as well as the skin. Looking directly into the sun for extended periods of time can cause macular degeneration as well as eye cancer and abnormal growths on or near the eye. Our body helps defend itself by preventing the sunlight from penetrating to the deeper layers of tissue so it can't destroy the DNA of our cells. Our skin responds to the rays by changing appearance to a darker shade. This is why we should wear sun shades and hats as well as lather on copious amounts of sunscreen often while outdoors.

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## UV Safety Month, Continued From Page 3

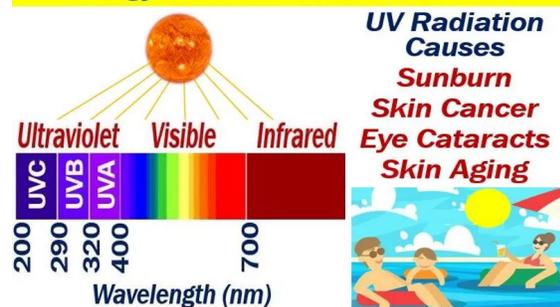
If you are looking for additional information on how to protect your skin from the sun, look no further! Huntsville Public Library has you covered. Come check out these titles on skincare: *The Beauty Geek's Guide to Skin Care: 1,000 Essential Definitions of Common Product Ingredients and Natural Beauty Skin Care: 110 Organic Formulas for a Radiant You* by Deborah Burnes. Also be sure to check out *Dodging the Toxic Bullet: How to Protect Yourself from Everyday Environmental Health Hazards* by David Boyd. However, be careful reading in the direct sunlight because the

Texas heat is no joke! Prolonged exposure also damages the books by fading the pages. This is a process known as "sunning" when the light triggers chemical changes, thus deteriorating the book. So, please remember to take care of yourself as well as the books by hanging out in the shade often and drinking plenty of water!



## Ultraviolet Radiation

Invisible rays that form part of the energy that comes from the sun.



Via [www.marketbusinessnews.com](http://www.marketbusinessnews.com)



## Minecraft Mania

By **Baillie Pretzer, Children's Coordinator**

Minecraft! Kids these days are obsessed with it. Described online as "an independent game with the most basic of graphics, there's no storyline and you won't see it advertised on TV," Minecraft is played relentlessly all over the world. Nathan Adams, developer for Mojang (the company which published Minecraft) tweeted that "nearly 1 million people were playing Minecraft at the exact same time across all platforms on Jan 9, 2015. It was also reported that this was not a peak time [for playing], so that number will probably double or triple."

So what is it exactly and why is it so popular? The game has been described as a "first-person sandbox game" or that "people create their own experience." In simpler terms, players dig holes to make blocks. You can build whatever you want with these blocks from a simple clay hut to an elaborate Taj Mahal-ian masterpiece. But it's more than just a design game! Monsters, zombies, and ghouls show up from time to time and players must either go on the offensive by building some sort of weapon to survive or hunker down in a defensive shelter.

Children and adults alike are mesmerized by the game, with many parents reporting if their kids aren't playing it, they are talking about it or watching videos of other people playing it. Part of the appeal is that there are endless opportunities in the game and zero rules. You can play on a wide variety of platforms such as a smartphone, computer, tablet, X Box, or PlayStation.

You can recreate something you know like your childhood neighborhood, build something from history, or create an entire new universe from scratch. Or, if you are tired of building, you can fight monsters.



Via [www.minecraft.net](http://www.minecraft.net)