



## Same SRP ... Yet Not

### Summer Reading Program offers a sense of normalcy in uncertain times

For the 2020 Summer Reading Program, there will be no Friday afternoon movies, no puppet shows, no guitar-plucking singers urging kids to read and no snakes to hold (much to the relief of some moms).

But there will be virtual Storytimes for kids and book discussion groups for adults, crafts and activities to do at home for both age groups and prizes to win for reading from June 1 through July 31. The coronavirus pandemic may have shortened the annual readfest's agenda, but it hasn't diminished its importance.

Libraries created summer reading programs to help stave off the "summer slide" in students' reading capabilities. With many kids being out of school locally since late March, the library wants to make it as easy as possible for kids and adults to take part in the program, library Director Michelle Mears said.

Registrations can be done online at [rhcl.org/summer](http://rhcl.org/summer) or by calling a library branch to speak to a staff member.

In-person registrations will be taken when the library branches reopen to the public on May 26.

This year's theme of "Imagine Your Story" highlights fairy tales, fables and make-believe stories.

Once they declare their reading goals, youths will receive a cloth book bag to color that contains a reading log, set of Crayons, a refrigerator magnet craft set, a fairy tale sticker set, an activity book and a library Fun Map. Everyone who signs up will be entered into prize drawings for gift baskets and three \$100 Walmart gift cards. Participants who reach their goals will earn a second entry for the drawings as well as a plastic drinking cup containing food coupons and a book coupon from the Friends of the Library bookstore, Books Revisited.

What's missing from the summer will be programs at the library branches. The weekly performers are a summer highlight, Mears said, but without being able to

# Coronavirus Changes

## Pandemic means a (temporary) new normal for library

These past eight weeks have been some of the busiest and most stressful weeks in my entire career.

Even though the library was closed for most of this time to protect our staff and visitors from COVID-19, I was still working, trying to get online training set up for staff, making sure our buildings were being taken care of, arranging for mail and package delivery, and monitoring the pandemic to be able to make the right decisions for our library. Starting up Curbside Pickup service was quickly done, and we were sorry it had to briefly pause, but we are happy now that it is going again.

The next thing we thought about was what other services or programs we could adapt for social distancing. Letting people apply for E-Cards was fairly easy, and our use of digital resources increased over 25% in just one month.

We have put Storytimes on Facebook and book discussions on Zoom and have more digital programs coming soon. Once we started using Zoom, it was a logical decision to offer free Virtual Meeting Rooms for the public on the Zoom platform.

As you'll read on Page 1 of this newsletter, we have adapted our Summer Reading Program for these unusual circumstances. We want to encourage all ages to read through the summer and have the kiddos be ready to start back to school this fall with no loss of reading skill or ability. In June, we plan to introduce another new service to support literacy and learning from a distance. In many ways, this public health crisis has inspired us to be even more creative in how we can find new ways to connect libraries and users.

Once the branches are open to the public again, you will find library staff wearing masks, and we will request but not require visitors to wear masks. There

will be limits on the number of people allowed in the building at the same time, and we will limit computer time as well. Some people may not like these limits, but we have to make the best choices possible to ensure the health and well-being of both staff and our visitors.

We believe libraries are an essential service, and we want to serve you in this temporary new normal as much as possible.

**Michelle Mears**, *Rolling Hills Library Director*  
[mmears@rhcl.org](mailto:mmears@rhcl.org)

## Other ways to reach and follow us

Text the library at **816-287-9828** using these keywords, and we'll help with your account:


**Status** for account information    **Renew all** to renew everything on your account

**Renew due** to renew overdue items    **Help** for a list of available commands  
or text anything else to start a conversation with a librarian.

 [www.goodreads.com/group/show/397463-rolling-hills-library](https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/397463-rolling-hills-library)

 [facebook.com/RollingHillsLibrary](https://facebook.com/RollingHillsLibrary)

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 [www.pinterest.com/rollinghillslib](https://www.pinterest.com/rollinghillslib)

## Browse

a quarterly publication from Rolling Hills Library that is sponsored by the Friends of Rolling Hills Library

## Rolling Hills Library

[www.rhcl.org](http://www.rhcl.org)

### Belt Branch

1904 N. Belt., St. Joseph  
816-232-5479  
HOURS: 9-8 Mon-Sat  
12-6 Sun

### Savannah Branch

514 W. Main, Savannah  
816-324-4569  
HOURS: 9-7 Mon-Fri  
9-5 Sat/12-5 Sun

### Business Office

1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph  
816-236-2106

### Bookmobile & Outreach

1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph  
816-205-7100

### Michelle Mears

Library Director

### Alan Stolfus

Browse editor

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*The board generally meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.*

## Friends of the Library

The Friends support the library through volunteer and fund-raising efforts. The Friends board meets monthly.

## Rolling Hills Library Foundation

The Foundation strives to provide financial support for large endeavors and future growth of the library by seeking substantial gifts from patrons and supportive foundations.



## Phoning It In

Parents in need of a quick diversion for their kids (think the car ride home from the doctor's office) will soon be able to call the library and pass the phone to the kids. Library staff are busy recording Telephone Tales, which are short stories, and chapter books to be called Chapter-a-Week stories for elementary students. Details will be announced soon on rhcl.org.

# Adapting to the Times

### To adjust for social distancing, library offering several new services for patrons

While the coronavirus pandemic closed the library to the public, library staff didn't stop serving library members and looking for ways to serve people who aren't members. Here are three of several new services:

## Virtual Meeting Rooms

Many people use the library's meeting rooms for business and social gatherings. Because large groups are being discouraged for now, the library is offering this digital service for groups wanting to meet online.

The free service takes advantage of the library's Zoom Pro account to offer meetings of unlimited time and for up to 300 attendees. Additional features such as polling, yes-no voting and chat controls are available to users.

Meetings must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance by sending an e-mail to [virtualrooms@rhcl.org](mailto:virtualrooms@rhcl.org) or by calling us at 205-7000. Someone in the meeting must be the host and be familiar with how Zoom works. Links to Zoom tutorials are available at [rhcl.org](http://rhcl.org) to provide some training beforehand. A library staff member will get meetings started and then bow out to let the host and attendees enjoy their event.

## Curbside Pickup

Need something to read, watch or listen to? We can get it in your hands while maintaining social distancing. This service limits your need to come inside the library for health reasons and to help busy individuals and families. We will likely continue it after the pandemic has subsided.

There are two ways to get materials. You may reserve items using your account in the library catalog at [rhcl.org](http://rhcl.org), and then calling the Belt Branch or Savannah Branch to set up a pick-up time.

Or you can call to ask a staff member for recommendations or to reserve items and then arrange a pick-up time.

When you arrive at the library, park in the designated space (look for the Curbside Pickup sign) and call to let staff know you are there. Your items will then be placed in a sack on a table outside the front door for you to retrieve.



The library is sharing its Zoom Pro digital meeting account with library users to have free face-to-face meetings with business colleagues and social groups.

## E-Cards

People without regular library cards who want to use the library's online and downloadable resources can apply for E-Cards.

Registration can be done online through the library catalog or the New Services tab on the website home page. Or you can call a library branch, text us at 287-9828 or e-mail us at [ecards@rhcl.org](mailto:ecards@rhcl.org). You will be given a library

account number and a PIN/password to start using digital resources as soon as the account is set up, which could take up to 48 hours.

If later you would want a full-service library card to check

out other types of materials, you will need to come into one of the branches to fill out an application for a new account number and show a staff member your valid picture ID.



Summer will not have in-person events at branches

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keep large crowds of kids and parents safe with social distancing, the library opted to cancel all in-person events.

“We are very disappointed that we can’t bring the performers to our communities this year,” she said. “We want kids to be safe, and we know there could be many parents who might not bring their kids to these events to keep them safe, so we had to weigh those factors and cancel the programs.”

Online events will be announced on the calendar at [rhcl.org](http://rhcl.org) and on Facebook. Some events are posted now while others will be added throughout the summer.

# Hot Day’s Relief

No need to turn on your oven to make this cool dessert

*Here’s a good kitchen project that families can do together this summer. The library also has plenty of cookbooks to consult for other easy cake recipes.*

## No-Bake Strawberry Icebox Cake

- 19-ounce box of graham crackers
- 2 pounds fresh strawberries
- 3½ cups heavy cream
- 1 banana, sliced thin
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Cream powdered sugar, vanilla and salt with heavy cream using a stand mixer. Beat until the cream mixture holds stiff peaks. Coat the bottom of a 9x13-inch pan with a thin layer of mixture.

Place a layer of five graham crackers across the center of the pan, then two more rows of five crackers, breaking them as needed to fit around the top and bot-

tom edges. Spread a thick layer of cream mixture over crackers and top with a hearty layer of strawberries.

Place crackers on top of strawberries, add cream mixture and then a layer of thinly sliced bananas. Repeat the crackers and then strawberries and cream mixture layer one more time (three layers total) reaching the top of the pan.

Refrigerate for at least four hours or overnight until the graham crackers have softened completely. Top with a few sliced strawberries or whole strawberries if desired. Serve chilled.



Information about all library programs can be found at [rhcl.org](http://rhcl.org).

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