

New Digs

Books Revisited moves three doors down to larger storefront / Page 3

Tech Classes

Need tech help? In-person classes are on the calendar again / Page 6

Chocolate Combo

Two cake mixes blend together to make one delicious dessert / Page 8

Need to Create

Craft classes provide adults time to explore and be part of a group

When library staff start planning for a program, they're never sure how many people will attend. Topics they think will be of interest to many people sometimes only bring a small crowd. Other times, they will be surprised by larger-than-expected turnouts.

But they always plan for adult art classes to be full.

Libraries are no longer just repositories for reading materials but have become community centers where civic clubs use meeting rooms, neighbors come over for the free wi-fi and adults want in on the crafting fun that traditionally has been child's play.

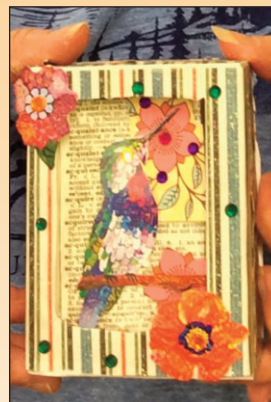
So why offer craft classes for adults? One reason is to promote the library's collection of craft books and the online resource Creativebug, says Belt Branch manager Kelly Morris, who leads some of the painting classes. Another reason is to provide patrons with opportunities to grow.

"It gives people a chance to try something that they might not try on their own," she said. "We have the (crafting) materials, so it's a good way to introduce something new to them without a lot of expense."

Tiffany Osborn is one of those adults who didn't have a creative bent until she discovered the library's adult craft classes. Now she's a regular.



On July 22, a class of seven adults made mixed-media hummingbird boxes at a crafts class in the Belt Branch CreateSpace. Tiffany Osborn (below left) takes part in many of the adult art and craft classes and likes seeing how other people personalize the projects. Debbie Archer created the box on the bottom right.



"I very much enjoy them," she said. "It's relaxing and it's a good way to be creative with someone leading them."

When the pandemic forced the library to suspend in-person programs, Osborn planned to do her own weekly projects with her daughter, Avery. They had one session. "It's kind

of hard to do it at home even with good intentions," she said.

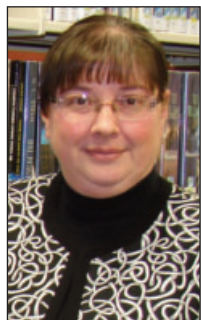
This past July when the library offered its first in-person adult class in more than a year, Osborn was happy to be there. She had not worked with

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Getting Creative

Our craft programs are designed to be artistic and practical

One of the trendy things to do in libraries is to set up makerspaces, complete with 3-D printers. Using computers and 3-D modeling software, you can produce items made from plastic filament. Libraries charge a fee per foot of plastic cord used in the machine, and it takes hours for even the smallest thing to print. Many users find this exciting, but the reality is always more complicated than that. The software is not very intuitive and needs staff intervention to help print. Because the process takes so long, some people lose interest before their item is finished.



Michelle Mears

Rolling Hills
Library Director
mmears@rhcl.org

Instead of walking that cutting edge of technology, what we have done at Rolling Hills Library is focus our energies on creative activities that are both artistic and practical. Our programs are about meaningful skills and individual empowerment.

Among the craft programs we've offered are sewing classes that use sewing machines. You might not think of the sewing machine as an artistic tool, but for generations it has been both a practical and creative piece of standard equipment in American homes. These days, how many young people have even seen a sewing machine, let alone had a chance to operate one?

Our mixed media craft programs let people see how they can take supplies some may consider to be trash and turn them into treasure, while family and adult painting nights are a chance for everyone to get in touch with their inner child. Needle arts like crochet and knitting are both a creative outlet and a productive skill, making blankets, sweaters, and scarves that look great and serve a purpose.

One of our meeting rooms at the Belt Branch is called the CreateSpace. We wanted a room where we could have all of our supplies handy for programs with all ages, including computer classes, painting classes, and traditional crafting. When we had to move some spaces around for the Bookmobile office, we realized how important it was to continue the CreateSpace and renovated two storage rooms into a place for these type of programs. In the Savannah Branch Meeting Room, we have a cooking demonstration cart with a tilting mirror that makes it easier for the audience to see what is happening on the cooktop, and a full wall of storage cabinets for craft supplies.

We are all shapers, makers, and creators. We want to have an effect on our environment, surrounding ourselves with beautiful and useful objects made with our own hands. We want to look back and remember while we also move forward and grow in both skill and emotion.

Let us know what you want to learn next so we can help make it happen.

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.



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Browse

a quarterly publication from
Rolling Hills Library that is
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Rolling Hills Library

Rolling Hills Library

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

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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.



Coffee Time

Mokaska Coffee Company owner Andy Montee highlights the history of this local small batch coffee roaster and explains the process of crafting a great cup of joe. Some sample sips will be served, too. **11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, Belt Branch**

Moving Daze

Relocating the bookstore presented many challenges ... and a happy outcome

The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.

– writer Alan Watts

By Hans Bremer

Books Revisited manager & library volunteer coordinator

Just a few months ago, I was the manager of a quaintly tiny donation bookstore. I thought my shop and staff were free from Covid-19, healing from the recent loss of adored volunteer Linda Sapp and continuing to post adequate sales numbers for the Friends of Rolling Hills Library. Most of this was accurate, but an exponential conversion was just three doors down.

Unbeknownst to me, our storage issues at Books Revisited had been part of numerous conversations. It was no secret our donations had slipped out our side door and invaded the library's Tech Services department. The need for larger environs had been addressed countless times, but a logical solution hadn't presented itself.

Enter library Director Michelle Mears. After a session of the library's Board of Directors, my phone's text bell rang. Glancing at my phone over dinner, I paused. *What would you think about moving the store to the ARC space?* I took a rather gargantuan gulp of sweet tea and finished reading: *You literally would have no backstock, it would all be out.*

My stomach did somersaults. My wife was watching me with alarm. I cleared my throat and said, *I think my boss just informed me that I'm moving. The shop is moving.*

Moving a household is tedious, laborious and relatively immediate. You buy a house or sign a lease. You borrow a truck or rent a U-Haul. You call in relatives or a few enormous favors. You pick a weekend, and you move. Moving a business, a bookstore in particular, takes a somewhat larger "to-do" list. Paint must be selected. Carpet may need changing. Services contracted. Planning is an absolute must, and the actual back-bruising effort of hauling merchandise is well down the list of necessary acts to perform.

In appearance, it seemed easy. Tear down some shelves. Box a few thousand books. Use furniture dollies to roll



With the help of co-workers, his family and Friends of the Library members, Books Revisited manager Hans Bremer (left) turned an empty storefront into the new home of the used book store.

them 60 yards (just three doors!) down a commercial strip. Seems relatively simple, doesn't it? Oh, how naive I was.

I'm writing this after the bulk of these efforts are complete.

I can chuckle at the weeks of sweat equity required of me, my family, my bosses, co-workers and an extraordinary group of volunteers who have always kept our store clicking along. The current store is a wonderful testament to everyone I've mentioned. Subtract co-worker Martin Canchola's smashed finger, my pup's forlorn glare as I left for work on another of *her* Sundays and the residual mess that marks our last location, and you could say it was all worth it.

In fact, community support of Books Revisited has been startlingly high since we reopened July 6. The annual meeting for the Friends of the Rolling Hills Library took place in-store July 15, and our first library program, Music & Musings, relocated to our store Aug. 9.

If any of this is an indicator of days to come, and I truly believe it is, Books Revisited will reward our efforts (and patrons) for years to come.

The summer featured several programs about the natural world. Among those were (left to right) Dr. Julie Jedlicka of Missouri Western talking about backyard birds, beekeeper Jacqueline Janorschke sharing with kids and adults the importance of bees, Brandon Draper of the group Drum Safari introducing kids to drum rhythms of different animals, the Henry Dooley Zoo of Omaha showing off a Madagascar blond hognose snake and Savannah kids being fascinated by a llama in the petting zoo provided by Orrick Acres.



This dump truck from Kenworth MHC of St. Joseph made a big impression at Touch-a-Truck on July 27 in the Belt Branch parking lot.



With the help from an eager volunteer, Nitro Joe lit up the Savannah Branch on June 21 with his show that debunked

Kids were tickled by magician Adam White's humorous antics when he entertained them June 28 in the Upper Story.





magic tricks. This flame was created by dry coffee creamer being blown over a burning candle.



The library teamed with the Missouri Department of Conservation to offer four outdoor programs at its regional office on the Missouri Western campus. The programs included a trail hike, separate sessions about snakes and bugs and a chance to go fishing at the department's Everyday Pond.

By the numbers

1,983 kids, teens and adults signed up for the summer program.

883 completed the challenge.

12,480 books were read in all!

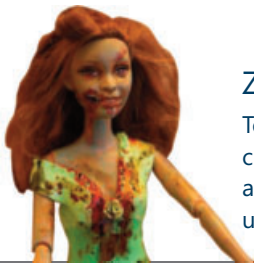


Families enjoyed the humorous original songs sung by Brian and Terri Kinder on July 12 in the Belt Branch Upper Story.



Mike Horner of Mesner Puppets brought out smiles in kids and adults on June 14 in the Upper Story.





Zombie Barbies

Teens! Get rid of Barbie's glamour and aim for ghoulish and ghastly in this crafting session for ages 12-18! All materials provided in this class led by art teacher Emily Walkup and library staff. Register at events.rhcl.org/events under the class date. **10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, Belt Branch**

If you need support navigating the digital world, library programs offer a ...

Helping Hand

Technology and computer classes are back at Rolling Hills Library starting in September.

In the last year and a half, more and more of what we do every day has moved online because of the pandemic. For some, this has been an opportunity to learn new things, but for others it's a major stumbling block. Talking to friends, family and co-workers often meant

learning how to use Zoom, Facetime or other social media outlets. Borrowing e-books and downloading audiobooks were more popular than ever, and streaming services were suddenly the place to go for TV shows and movies.

Many people had to learn how to get along in a digital world they had never dealt with before, and, for the most part, help was hard to find. We at the library had to cut back on in-person services, including one-on-one appointments and computer and technology classes.

This summer, though, brought back a little bit of normalcy. One-on-one appointments were available again, and I began drop-in help sessions at the Belt and



The library will be offering in-person tech classes again this fall to help people learn more about computers and their digital devices.

Savannah branches. Most summer programs focused on the kids, but with the fall things look to be settling back into familiar patterns with tech classes for adults.

With the long pause in classes, we are going back to basics: how to use computers and smartphones, Facebook and Google and how to get the most out of the library's electronic resources.

Classes will be held weekly, either at the Belt or Savannah branches. If you can't make a class at one location, it will be offered in a different week at the other branch.

All classes require registration, which can be done by calling the library or going to our website calendar at events.rhcl.org/events. For classes that require a computer, you can use a library computer or bring your own. For smartphone classes, participants must bring their own devices. I'll continue to offer one-on-one appointments for tech help, and you can sign up for those under the Technology header in the menu bar at rhcl.org.

— Bridgid Reeves, technical services librarian

- Unfinished Business by J.A. Jance
- Drown Her Sorrows by Melinda Leigh
- Bone Rattle by Marc Cameron
- Beneath Missouri

New Mysteries @ the Library

- Stars by Carol Dean Jones
- The Granite Coast Murders by

- Jean-Luc Bannalec
- Death With a Double Edge by Anne Perry
- The Consequences of Fear by Jacqueline Winspear
- Before She Disappeared by Lisa Gardner
- The Diva Serves Forbidden Fruit by Krista Davis

- Spin by Patricia Daniels Cornwell
- Ink and Shadows by Ellery Adams
- Hush-Hush by Stuart Woods
- The Lost Boys by Faye Kellerman
- Hope, Faith and a Corpse by Laura Jensen Walker
- The Dark Heart of Florence by Tasha Alexander
- Killer Content by Olivia Blacke



2nd Act Players

Robidoux Resident Theatre's drama program for seniors will entertain you with short performances in two sessions for adults. Sign up in advance at events.rhcl.org/events by date.

10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, Belt Branch Upper Story

In-person craft classes starting up again

From Page 1

mixed media before, so she was learning something new and also back in a group setting.

"It's nice being with other people and being able to look at what other people do," Osborn said. "No two people's projects look the same. Everyone puts their own little spin on it."

Library assistant Angie Holmes also didn't consider herself a creative person until she took a library class. Now she leads many of the classes.

"Libraries today have a lot of social interaction. It's a place to come and hang and learn something that you can do at home and with others," she said.

Craft classes aren't just for kids. "Adults shouldn't be left out – they enjoy doing crafts themselves," Holmes said.

The library is easing back into in-person classes this fall with a reduced number of classes. The Savannah Branch is offering Sunday knitting and crocheting classes and a Drop-In Craft Day on Friday, Sept. 17, for all ages to



Before the pandemic put a stop to in-person programs, kids made shoe-box aquariums in January 2020 at the Savannah Branch.

create throughout the day.

The Belt Branch will have an all-ages painting class for youths and adults on Thursday, Sept. 30, followed by an adult painting class on Friday, Oct. 8. A family art night to create a mixed-media project on Thursday, Sept. 16, will give children ages 6-11 and their parents another chance to create. Several other craft classes for youths are planned, and information about all pro-

grams is available in the events calendar at rhcl.org.

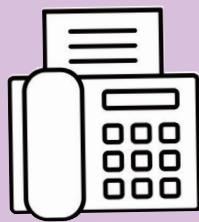
Attendance is limited in most of the programs and requires advance registrations as a way to control crowd size. "We're still very much in the pandemic, and we kept that in mind with our fall programming," Morris said.

The library has hundreds of craft books on its shelves and e-books available to check out. Crafters also can find inspiration using Creativebug, a collection of arts and crafts video tutorials on the library website under the Technology/Online Learning menu bar tab. The site offers classes in such areas as baking, painting, quilting, jewelry and knitting and provides users with a community of crafters to learn from.



Virtual Meeting Rooms

When you can't meet in person, you can have FREE meetings with up to 300 people by using the library's Zoom Pro system. Information available at rhcl.org/virtual-rooms.



Just the Fax

The Belt and Savannah branches now offer public fax service. \$1 to send the first page and 50 cents per extra pages. 10 cents per page to receive.



STAR Program

Our **Services to Adult Readers** Program provides homebound adults who can't visit the library due to age, illness, disability or transportation challenges with library materials by mail or in-person delivery. Call us at 205-7100 for more information or to sign up.

More e-books on their way to libraries

Rolling Hills Library and St. Joseph Public Library are working together to order \$30,000 worth of new e-books and e-audiobooks for the 19 libraries of the regional Grand River Digital Library Consortium.

The consortium was formed in 2016 by the Grand River Library Conference to order more bestselling books for its patrons to use through the Axis 360 software platform. Grand River represents small and medium-sized libraries north of Interstate 70 in Missouri.

The consortium received American Rescue Plan Act funds from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Missouri State Library, which is a division of the Secretary of State Office.

Chocolate Delight

Take two cake mixes, add a few simple ingredients and enjoy

Here's a treat the kids would like finding when they get home from school – and parents would like to find when they get home from work.

Chocolate fudge brownie cake

- 1 box chocolate cake mix (such as Betty Crocker's chocolate fudge 15.25 oz.)
- 1 box fudge brownie mix (such as Duncan Hines decadent brownies 17.6 oz.)
- 4 eggs
- 1½ cups water
- 1 cup oil
- 1 can chocolate fudge frosting

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and lightly flour a Bundt pan (I use Baker's Joy spray).

In a large bowl, mix together cake mix,

brownie mix, eggs, oil and water until blended.

Pour into a Bundt pan and bake 50-55 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

NOTE: Do not use the ingredients on the brownie mix and cake mix boxes. Only use what is listed above.

Let cake sit for 15 minutes before turning it out onto a cooling rack. When cake is completely cooled transfer it to a serving plate.

In a small bowl, melt half can of frosting in the microwave for 30-45 seconds until you're able to drizzle it over the cake.



Information about all library programs can be found at rhcl.org.

Comment Form: "This morning I was thinking of all the things I am grateful for and I thought of the bookmobile and the joy it brings my children."

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