



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Melissa Public Library Summer Reading Program Underway!

The 2011 Melissa Library Summer Reading Program, 'Dig Up a Good Book' is to encourage children and families to read for pleasure and for fun. We have been told that reading during school vacations allows children and young adults to keep up their reading skills. This is especially important for new readers and for children who have difficulty reading. Children who enjoy regular visits to a library are more likely to continue to be readers and library supporters as they go in to middle and high school and become adults. When children have the freedom to select books they want to read, they read more. Programs like our Melissa Reading Program give children many ways to enjoy library experiences. **'Dig up a good book', the Melissa Library Summer Reading Program will run for 9 weeks from June 11 – August 11, 2011. It is for ages 2-12. Reading logs and specific rules are available online at <http://www.cityofmelissa.com/departments/library/index.html> and also in the library. All logs must be in by August 15.**

On Saturday, June 11, the Melissa Library Summer Reading Program kicked off the season with Atmos Energy and the Friends of the Melissa Public Library. Atmos Energy provided hot dogs, drinks, lots of goodies and information about their 'Call 811 before you dig!' program. A special donation for 40 new library books about all kinds of digging was made! The Friends of the Melissa Public Library helped sign families up to the program and are helping provide trinkets and treasures for the successful readers each week. Over 100 children and families came out and enjoyed the morning and 240 books were checked out.

At the completion of the program, there will be an Awards ceremony for children reading 70 books (ages 2-5) and 15 books (Kindergarten- age 12) on August 20!!! Atmos Energy and the Friends of the Melissa Library are providing a special sports bag to the top readers!

As part of the Summer Reading Program, there are several ongoing events and many additional ones coming!

- **Now through August 1st, Collin County Farm Museum exhibits** are free to view in the lobby and library at the City of Melissa Building. Beginning July 5th a new exhibit 'The Home Demonstration Club' will be on display.
- **Preschool story time continues every Friday – 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**, lap babies to Kindergarten, adult must be in attendance.

- **Wednesday, June 29th at 11:00 a.m. - ‘Digging into archaeology in your Melissa backyard’**, Mr. Page Thomas and Ms. Diane Miller will be at the Melissa Library. Come see the tools that real archaeologists use to unearth actual artifacts that can be found in and around Melissa. Appropriate for ages 8-14 and an adults.
- **Wednesday, July 6th at 3:00 – 3:45 p.m.** join us at the library for ages 6-12 and adult for a visit from the **TortShack with Dr. Janet Starr Hull and her tortoises.**
- **Friday, July 8th at 10:25 - 10:45 a.m.** join us at the library for ages preschool to 5 for a visit from the **TortShack with Dr. Janet Starr Hull and her tortoises.**
- **Saturday, July 9th 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., ‘Introducing Historical Markers in Melissa and the Surrounding Areas’** - Join Ms. Diane Miller and Carole Lowe as part of the Carry-Along Collin program and learn more about the historical markers and why it is important to have them – local area sites; Highland Cemetery, Scott Barker House, St Paul’s Church, and others; Appropriate for ages 8-teens and adults (especially good for scouts!!)
- **Saturday, July 23rd from 10:00 -11:00 a.m., ‘Geo-caching our historical markers’** - Highland Cemetery, fun for the whole family! Come out and locate one of the Carry-Along Collin Historical Markers using your GPS to find sites around Melissa. Be part of the Carry-Along Collin search - Historical marker search meets High-Tech! Take a photo of yourself at the site and send to Collin County at: www.collincountytexas.gov/living/historical_com.jsp

On August 20th in addition to the Awards Ceremony for the summer’s top readers, the winners of the Friends’ Photography Contest will be announced that day and a used book sale will go from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., with a special tornado sale to follow. **Remember to keep an eye on the City of Melissa Website at www.cityofmelissa.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofmelissatx for more on this event and all the latest happenings at YOUR library!**

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The Melissa Public Library was founded in 1993 and serves the communities of Melissa, Anna, and parts of McKinney and Collin County. Hours are Monday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Thursday 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Library offers a collection of books, DVDs, and audio books. We offer free computer use and Wi-Fi access to library card holders. We are located at 3411 Barker Avenue, Melissa inside the Melissa City Hall.