

# Dedicated space welcomes teens

We know that electric blue vinyl is alluring, the throw-back 1950s diner vibe tempting, but if you're over 18, we really have to ask you to resist.



## BIBLIOFILES

JOYCE MAY

as a kind of 'third place' where teens can hang out and make connections with each other outside of home or school."

In her book *Real-World Teen Services*, author Jennifer Velásquez encourages public libraries to allow teens to have a say in how the space is used. "The active participation of teens ensures that their evolving needs and interests are being addressed and that they will play a key role in attracting peers to the library," Ms. Velásquez writes.

"When libraries set up teen spaces that look too perfect or pristine, they eliminate possible avenues for teens to explore, create and participate in immediate, spontaneous and unexpected ways."

The Georgetown Public Library encourages youth input through its teen advisory board, which meets on Thursday afternoons during the school year.

The group helped plan the teen summer reading program, which invites young people ages 12 to 18, to join in games, crafts and movies and just hang out all summer long. Gandalf and Harry Potter stand guard at the entrances, reminding patrons that they must be accompanied by a teen to hang out in the space during designated hours.

"A designated teens-only schedule will not succeed if there are no procedures in place, or existing rules are not enforced to ensure that adults or children aren't occupying the area during the time periods reserved for teens only," Ms. Velásquez says.

"If teens arrive and the

The Georgetown Public Library's teen space is for teens only all day, every day during the summer.

The roomy booths with built-in electrical plugs and wide table tops make nice work spaces and a comfy place to meet with friends over a beverage from Red Poppy Coffee Co. So, we get why adult patrons might balk when asked to move or question why any area of a public space would be limited to a certain demographic.

"The goal of the teen space is to provide a place where teens feel welcome in the library and free to be themselves," Teen Services Librarian Melissa Mote said.

"Teens are an often marginalized group, and having a dedicated space in the library just for teens sends a strong message that they are welcomed and valued members of Georgetown's community."

In a 50,000-square-foot building, we have dedicated roughly 1,400 square feet as a teen zone, counting the stacks, booths, art table and gaming area.

This dedicated space, located on our first floor, allows teens to be louder without bothering other patrons.

"The space is intended to meet the developmental needs of persons 12-18, which are very different from those we serve with the children's and adult sections of the library," Ms. Mote said.

"The Teen Space functions

### Upcoming Events

#### Kids (Ages 0-12)

Space is limited, so pick up tickets beginning an hour before each show on a first come, first served basis.

- Fun with Silly Sparkles, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 14

- Dinosaur George, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 18

- Finale with Joe McDermott, 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 24

#### Tweens (Ages 9-12)

Be sure to register in advance at the kid's desk.

- Lego Free Build, 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 11

- Goosebumps Friday the 13th Party, 1 p.m. Friday, July 13

- Austin Reptile Show, 1 p.m. Friday, July 20

- Velvet Art Posters, 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 25

- Finale — Glow in the Dark Party, 1 p.m. Friday, July 27

#### Teens (Ages 12-18)

- Freaky Sounds, 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 11

- Friday the 13th Party, 3 p.m. Friday, July 13

- Anime Marathon, 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 18

- Radical Reptiles, 3 p.m. Friday, July 20

- Candy Olympics, 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 25

- IRL Fortnite, 7 p.m. Friday, July 27

space is filled with adults and children, they will be unlikely to use the space."

During the school year, the booths are open to anyone until 2 p.m. and all patrons are welcome anytime to browse and check out materials from the stacks.

# Beat the heat with a terrarium

Summer heat drives many gardeners inside where it's cool. But that doesn't mean you can't have a bit of garden there to enjoy, too. All it takes is a few hours to build a terrarium and you'll have plants to enjoy year round. Take a look at the materials list that follows and gather what you need to get started.



## WELCOME TO MY GARDEN

Judy Marrou

1. Select a container: The container can be almost anything at all. You can choose a dish to create an open air container or a bottle to create a closed environment terrarium. Clean your terrarium using something non-toxic such as vinegar or mild soap and be sure to rinse any residues off.

2. Use a layer of coarse sand or aquarium pebbles at the bottom of the container. This allows for good drainage in the terrarium and creates an air layer as well. You can use colored fish tank rocks, pebbles, pea gravel, colored marbles or even recycled colored glass.

3. Add activated charcoal. If you are making a closed container terrarium, you should next place a layer of charcoal over the pebbles/sand layer. In a closed environment, this charcoal will filter the air and keep it fresh. It also absorbs impurities from the environment like excess salts that are usually flushed out with rain or irrigation.

4. Add a layer of coarse sphagnum moss on top. This prevents the soil in your terrarium from settling down into the pebbles. It is kind of like a filter that will allow the water to filter down but not the soil.

5. Add soil. Regular potting soil works fine. There is no need to try a fancy mix ... find one with less vermiculite or perlite in it so the deposits won't be visible in the terrarium. If you are creating a desert scene and using cactus, you may want to get potting soil specifically designed for them. You can also add sand or perlite or sphagnum moss to create your own desert and succulent plant potting soil.

can also add sand or perlite or sphagnum moss to create your own desert and succulent plant potting soil.

6. Add the plants and/or seeds. You should first spray your plants with an organic insecticide or insecticidal soap to kill any tiny bugs you may not see yet. Choose plants that require similar light, soil and moisture conditions. You want to arrange things in a way that is pleasing to the eye. You can dig small holes and move your plants around until you decide on the best arrangement. A small spoon works great. So does a chopstick or baby spoon. Try to use plants of different heights, textures and colors for best interest. There are many different plants you can use:

- Ivy
- Miniature ferns
- Carnivorous plants — pitcher plants, butterwort, sundews, Venus fly traps
- Miniature African violets
- Cactus and succulents
- Polka dot plant
- Herbs
- Pilea
- Creeping Jenny
- Miniature Orchid

7. Finishing touches: Add ornaments, elves, gnomes or



Bring your garden indoors this summer with a terrarium.

other decorations. Branches of driftwood or even polished rocks make for great added interest. You can even get fancy and add a little waterfall or stream!

8. Terrarium upkeep: Most terrariums do well with the indirect light of a north-facing window. Direct summer sun, especially with a lid on, will overheat the container and the plants will die. You shouldn't need to water very often, especially if you put a lid on overnight. Do a quick check with your finger and if it's dry, water. Be sure to remove any spent or dying plant material or blooms from your terrarium to keep it tidy and pest free. A pair of scissors and long tweezers make a great way to remove dying or dead foliage.

These miniature gardens don't last forever. You will need to refresh your planting eventually so you can enjoy it all year.

"A flower blooms for its own joy." — Oscar Wilde

References: Drawing from *The Terrarium Book* by Charles M. Evans & Roberta L. Plinar; 1973

See you next month!  
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# Marietta Mugford: Volunteer has passion for history

Continued from 1B

not commonly used. Phrases and terms from Latin make up a large part of this terminology, and reading mathematical texts — especially more advanced ones — is made easier if one is equipped with knowledge of Latin terms.

"She has been one of those people who could always be counted on and maintained an incredibly positive and supportive outlook," said her

friend and fellow Georgetown volunteer, Beverly Scott. "She has been, and is, the epitome of a person who gives back in spades. Whenever she is out and about, it is rare indeed that she is not greeted by a former student or the parents of former students. It is very clear they are glad to see her and eager to tell her how she impacted their lives."

When asked why she is so passionate about history, she replied: "Cicero said, 'To be

ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?'"

She added, "We have to have a firm grasp and knowledge of the past to keep from making the same mistakes over and over again."

Ms. Mugford is the mother of three children and has five grandchildren, the oldest of

whom just graduated from high school and is heading to Texas Tech University.

The only Republicans she has ever voted for were Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower and Georgetown's current Mayor Dale Ross, she said.

Volunteer work represents a significant financial contribution to community organizations. Grant and foundation entities assign a dollar amount for each hour of volunteer work contributed, and these

financial contributions play an important role in organizations being selected to receive grant funding.

Volunteers also help keep the doors open and allow organizations to offer programs they could never provide without folks such as Ms. Mugford, who cheerfully work for free.

Michael Walton, president of Preservation Georgetown, said, "It's hard to know how many hours Marietta has put in as a volunteer but I'm

certain it was a significant amount of hours over the course of many years."

This quote by an unknown author sheds light on the steadfast mission behind Ms. Mugford's role as a perennial volunteer: "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

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