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# Scenic Regional Is Library of the Year

By Josh Mitchell  
Missourian Staff Writer

## ■ Award to Be Presented Oct. 1

The Scenic Regional Library was recently named the Missouri Library Association's library of the year.

"It's great to be recognized for all the work the staff has done, and the library board and everybody has done for the last 18 months or so," said Scenic Regional Library Executive Director Steve Campbell.

The passage of a tax increase, expanded services and the formation of a consolidated district all played into Scenic Regional

getting the award, Campbell said.

Scenic Regional will be presented the award Oct. 1 at the joint Kansas and Missouri Library Association annual conference in Kansas City.

The award is "recognition for hard work," said Christina Prucha, president of the Missouri Library Association, based in Valley Park.

"It's exciting for them, and they deserve it," she added.

The passage of the tax levy

increase for the Scenic Regional system was impressive, she added.

"The fact that Mr. Campbell was able to get out into the public and convince them that the services are worth it — that's impressive," Prucha said.

Consolidating the libraries in three counties — Franklin, Gasconade and Warren — into a single district will allow the library to finance construction projects, Campbell said.

The Sullivan library also will

merge with Scenic Regional in October, becoming the system's eighth branch, Campbell said.

The Washington Public Library is not part of the Scenic Regional system, which serves more than 130,000 residents between the seven branches in the three counties.

### Expanded Services

The library system has "drastically expanded services" with increased hours, outreach efforts and downloadable music and videos, Campbell said.

The library system now has someone devoted full time to adult outreach services, and she provides programs and other services to nursing homes and assisted living facilities, Campbell said.

A books-by-mail program also will be launched Oct. 1 to allow homebound residents to have materials mailed to them. The library also has expanded outreach to daycares and preschools and offers a "wide range" of computer classes to the public, he said.

Scenic Regional's budget for

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