Library Begins Books-By-Mail Service For Homebound Residents

Scenic Regional Library will launch its new Books-by-Mail service on Oct. 1. People who cannot get to the library because of health, mobility, advanced age, or permanent or temporary incapacity will be able to have books, audiobooks on CD, music on CD, and DVDs mailed to their homes for free. They will also be able to mail the items back to the library for free. Sign up for the new service began on Aug. 21.

People who are interested in signing up for the service can visit www.scenicregional.org/booksbymailland print and complete the Books-by-Mail application packet. They can also call Books-by-Mail at 636-583-0652, ext. 114, to request the forms by mail. After-hours requests can be left on voicemail.

The application includes a form which participants must have completed by a health care professional or professional caregiver to be certified as homebound. A doctor, registered nurse, therapist, social worker, case worker, counselor, facility director and ophthalmologist or optometrist is qualified to complete the form. Rehabilitation staff and other professional hospital staff also qualify.

Once registered, participants will select materials. They can request items by title, subject, author, or type of material. Library staff will select the materials or suggest titles based on the individual's interests (mysteries, romance, westerns, biographies, history, etc.).

Participants may check out up to five items at a time and keep them for four weeks. They will receive overdue notices for anything not returned on time, but no overdue fines will be charged. Bills will be issued for lost or damaged materials.

When it's time to return the items, participants can simply remove the address label from the outside label from the outside pocket of the green mailing bag, flip it over and check that the library's label is facing out in the pocket. Then, use the zip-tie to lock the bag. There is no mailing charge. It is completely free to receive and free to return.

Only qualifying residents living in Scenic Regional Library's service area are eligible for this free service—Warren, Gasconade, and Franklin Counties, along with the portion of Sullivan located in Crawford County.

The Books-by-Mail service was set up by the library's Adult Outreach Coordinator, Laurie Osseck. The library hopes to publicize the service through area Meals on Wheels programs.