Friends of the Library Groups Form and Elect Officers

Scenic Regional Library’s local Friends of the Library groups formed and elected their 2015-2016 officers in New Haven, Warrenton, St. Clair, Hermann, and Owensville in March and April. The groups will meet again soon to plan ways to recruit new Friends’ members, publicize library services, organize fundraisers, decide how to donate the money they’ve already raised through membership dues to their local branch, and recruit volunteers to help with the library’s book sales, Summer Reading Program, and other events. The library currently has over 140 Friends of the Library members throughout the system, including local businesses.

If you are interested in working with your local branch Friends of the Library Committee, it’s not too late. You can join the Friends of the Library for as little as $10 a year and attend the local group’s next scheduled meeting. Contact your local branch manager to find out the time and date of the next Friends of the Library meeting.

The Pacific branch still needs more Friends’ members before they can officially form their group and elect officers. If you live in Pacific and would like to help, join the Friends of the Library today. A membership application can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

The Union Branch Friends of the Library will have their first meeting to officially form their group and elect officers on Tuesday, May 19, at 6 PM. Friends’ members and non-members are welcome to attend.

Scenic Regional Library Purchases Property in St. Clair

On April 20, Scenic Regional Library purchased a vacant .27 acre lot next to the St. Clair branch. The library plans to use the property for additional parking and a possible building expansion in the near future.

The library expects to announce other property acquisitions in Wright City, Owensville, Warrenton, New Haven and Pacific over the next couple months.
The Union branch has added a new training and meeting room. The library was having a difficult time finding a place to schedule staff training, public computer classes, and meetings due to the existing meeting room at the branch already being heavily booked with library programs and community group meetings. In addition, the only Internet connection in the existing meeting room is wireless and would slow down when ten laptops were connected at the same time for a training session or class.

As a result, the library decided to renovate and convert the room that was previously used by administration at the Union branch into a second meeting and training room. The room comfortably seats 10 people with laptops. All the furniture and equipment in the room is mobile—the tables can be folded, chairs stacked, and laptops packed up to clear the room for a meeting.

The new space is already being used for staff training, public computer classes, staff meetings, and some community group meetings when there is a conflict with the regular public meeting room.

Stacy Emerson, the library’s Trainer & Adult Education Instructor, in the Union branch’s new training and meeting room.

Library Awarded Third Consecutive Digitization Grant in 2015-2016

The library has been awarded its third and, most likely, final historical newspaper digitization grant in cooperation with the Missouri Historical Society. With the first two grants the library has digitized over 208,000 pages of historical newspapers on microfilm over the past two years. The newspapers from the second grant will be available online by the end of May.

Bill Miller, Sr., editor and owner of The Missourian, recently gave the library permission to digitize The Washington Citizen from 1947-1966 in the final grant. The third grant will be the smallest to date in terms of pages digitized, however, will include The Missourian from 1939-1965. The library is excited to have the content added because it believes that it will receive the heaviest use among all the newspapers in the library’s digital collection.

The only newspapers on microfilm prior to 1965 remaining in the library’s collection which have not been digitized are the Hermann Advertiser-Courier, New Haven Leader, and Meramec Valley Transcript. Unfortunately, a corporation in Tennessee owns the rights to these newspapers and will not grant the library permission to digitize the content.
Summer Reading Program Starts June 1st at All Scenic Regional Branch Locations!

Do you belong to a book discussion group that isn’t affiliated with the library? Maybe it’s a church book club or through a PEO or other group. Does your group have a difficult time finding enough copies of a title? Does your group have its members purchase the book being discussed each month? If you’ve answered “yes” to any of these questions, you should check out the library’s new book club collection.

The library has purchased a dozen copies of over 35 popular fiction and non-fiction titles for book discussion groups and the collection continues to grow each month. Even better news, the titles are available to any book discussion group for check-out; even those which don’t meet at the library. These are some of the great titles available through the collection:

- “Before You Know Kindness,” by Chris Bohjalian
- “For One More Day,” by Mitch Albom
- “Radiance of Tomorrow,” by Ishmael Beah
- “Loving Frank,” by Nancy Horan
- “The Secret Life of Bees,” by Sue Monk Kidd
- “Orphan Train,” by Christina Baker Kline
- “Messages from My Father,” by Calvin Trillin
- “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” by Rebecca Skloot

Book discussion groups can request new titles for the library to purchase for the book club collection.

Library Awarded Collection Development Grant

The Missouri State Library awarded Scenic Regional Library a $19,400 collection development grant in April. The grants were allocated to public libraries around the state this Spring using unexpended grant funds. The money will be added to the library’s new materials budget this year to purchase books, CDs and DVDs.
Hermann’s newest babysitters are now trained and ready for summer! The “Babysitters’ Clinic” program went over the basics every SUPER sitter should know.

New Haven branch participants learn how to make beautiful newspaper flowers and sparkling mason jar candle holders just in time for Earth Day!

Kids of all ages were happy to see Pete the Cat at the Owensville branch. Pete took pictures, read with children and had a lot of fun!
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Pacific branch patrons enjoy a demonstration on flower arranging. Carol Creamer showed patrons how to arrange different flowers and herbs in pots, as well as how best to fertilize and how much sun each plant needs.

This super girl is getting ready for our summer reading program! Scenic Regional Library had a booth at Family Fun Day in St. Clair to promote “Every Hero Has a Story.”

We had a wild time at the Union branch during our special program called Animal Tales! Several children were able to get a hand-on experience holding Monty the Python!
Babaloo came to Warren County branch and put on a great show full of fun and excitement. Children had the opportunity to sing, dance and play along.
All information submitted is considered confidential and will never be given or sold to any other individual, company, or organization.

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**NAME TO APPEAR ON PLAQUE** *(Ex., William & Mary Smith or The Smith Family or Franklin County Hardware)*

**BRANCH AFFILIATION (Please select one)**

- Friends of the Hermann Branch
- Friends of the Owensville Branch
- Friends of the Warrenton Branch
- Friends of the Pacific Branch
- Friends of the Union Branch
- Friends of the St. Clair Branch
- Friends of the New Haven Branch

**LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP**

- Bronze – $10
- Silver – $25
- Gold – $100
- Platinum – $250
- Diamond* – $500

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)**

- Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale (November)
- Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale (May)
- Volunteer at other events
- Volunteer at my local branch
- Serve on the local Friends of the Library’s Governing and Planning Committee

Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to: Friends of the Library, 308 Hawthorne Dr., Union, MO 63084

Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.