

LIBRARY

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new materials has more than doubled and weekend and evening hours have increased at all branches, he said.

Construction and Expansion

Scenic Regional is also planning to improve library facilities over the next several years.

The improvements could include either building new facilities, adding on to existing ones or acquiring buildings to convert into libraries.

"That wasn't really part of the award, but that's something big that we'll be doing here coming up over the next few years," he said.

The plan to build new libraries and expand existing ones is "good news" that "brings a smile to your face," Prucha said.

The first three libraries to receive attention will be New Haven, Owensville and Wright City, which does not currently have a branch.

Those three communities will get new libraries built from the ground up, he said.

"After that, we'll be going on to our other locations," Campbell said.

Two pieces of property, one of which is a vacant lot and the other a house, were recently purchased in St. Clair next to the existing branch. The house will be demolished, and the existing library will be expanded and more parking will be added.

Land also has been purchased next to the existing Warrenton library for parking, and the facility will be expanded.

A new library will be built from the ground up in Pacific, Campbell said, adding, "We're purchasing some property there."

The Pacific library currently rents a building that is "pretty small" for the population the branch serves, Campbell said.

"We'll be at least doubling the size of that library and giving it dedicated parking around the library," Campbell said.

In Hermann, the library rents a facility, but the land-

lord will allow the library to add a meeting room for children and adult programs and public meetings.

Land has been donated in New Haven for a new library to be built, Campbell added.

It is unclear what will be done in the case of the Union branch, Campbell said, adding that there also must be a decision on what to do with the Sullivan branch now that it will be part of Scenic Regional.

"They (Sullivan) will be joining us Oct. 1," Campbell said. "Their building is pretty old . . . and it's very small, only 3,000 square feet."

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