

REGISTRATION for the Summer Reading Program is up with the opening of the new library. Here, Hayden Munzert signs up with Branch Manager Rachel Terbrock during a kickoff event Saturday.

Library Features Modern Look, High-Tech Gadgets, More Space

By Craig Montgomery
Independent News Editor

New Branch Opens To Public

About 50 people who turned out for a Friends of the Library pre-opening tour of the new Scenic Regional New Haven branch saw a state-of-the-art facility unlike the libraries of the past.

The Tuesday evening tour was the first public viewing of the new 5,000-square-foot library on Douglas Street, which

replaces a 1,500-square-foot facility in a former church building on Maupin Avenue.

Designed by JEMA Architects in St. Louis, the new library has a contemporary look and feel, the latest technology, two outdoor patios and everything from a well-equipped kids area to a coffee bar.

Scenic Regional Direc-

tor Steve Campbell, who led two groups through the building that night, said some library district patrons find it a little too modern.

"But libraries are different than people used to think of them in the past," he said. "We think it's better to have it look new."

The origins of the new building date back to 2014.

when the Scenic Regional Library District proposed a 10-cent tax levy increase to voters to address deficiencies in library buildings in New Haven, Sullivan, St. Clair and other locations by building larger facilities and offering more services.

Voters approved the measure and planning began on replacing or expanding libraries in sev-

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Library Opening

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en communities in three counties served by Scenic Regional.

All seven projects were awarded to Wright Construction of St. Peters last August.

Locally, the Friends of the Library was active in fundraising and benefactor Agnes Meyer donated a 1.5 acre tract on Douglas for the new library to be built on.

The Friends group raises money for children's games, programming, extra equipment and is now working toward hanging wall graphics representative of New Haven at the new library.

Agnes Meyer, now 95, attended the pre-opening tour with several members of her family and was introduced to the crowd.

Before the first tour, Campbell pointed out the drive-up book drop, then took the first group inside for a look at the large meeting room.

"The building is designed in a way to let groups use the meeting room when the library is closed," he explained. "People that reserved the room can still come in with a key." Restrooms are located nearby.

Another nearby feature is the Donor Wall, where businesses and individuals can buy mock books engraved with their names. Digital signage is provided on five TVs located throughout the library.

"People can see our pro-

ganizations. Energy efficient LED lighting is used throughout the building and the restrooms are equipped with motion sensors to turn lights on and off, thanks to a rebate from Ameren.

The meeting room will be used by the library for story time and programs, both adult and children's, and also be used by community groups at no charge. A projector is built into the ceiling. A laptop can be plugged into the wall and project its screen image onto a large screen that drops from the ceiling.

There's also a TV screen that can be used for Xbox games from a mobile console that can be wheeled into the meeting room.

A laptop can also project onto the TV screen. Power and data are available from floor-mounted outlets and data ports.

"So you don't have to use the wireless Internet," Campbell said. "For secure classes we can plug directly into the network and set up, I believe, up to 12 laptops in this room to teach computer classes."

The room, named for Agnes Meyer, also can be used for library book sales. It's equipped with a kitchenette for use in conjunction with meetings and other events.

Through the door into the main part of the library is the Kids Area.

It features cubbies for kids to climb into and read, a Lego table with

Campbell said. "It'll be changed out so kids can play in there. We also have a bank and a restaurant."

Outside on the children's patio is a nine-foot outdoor magnet board with tubes to move around and balls to slide through it.

The Teen Area is color-coordinated with local school colors, plus tables and chairs and power for plugging in and charging laptops and other devices.

The collection of books is also a little larger.

"We moved books over from the old library, and had some more space," Campbell said. "We did transfer about 400 more items from other branches to fill in the gaps. Things are spaced out a lot nicer, and we have room for displays. The collection is presented a lot better."

There's also a large outdoor patio for adults, a gas fireplace, and comfortable chairs for reading. Power outlets are nearby. A new telescope and fishing poles are available for check-out. The Missouri Conservation Department provides the poles to libraries

throughout the state.

Six desktop computers are available to patrons, with privacy screens between each one. All are equipped with Microsoft Office and have Internet access. Free wireless Internet is offered throughout the library.

"We have a much stronger wireless signal here so will be a lot better than it was before," Campbell told visitors. "There's also a café over here where people can buy a K-cup with eight different flavors of coffee."

The single-serving K-cups are used in the Keurig coffee machine. "So for a dollar, someone can buy coffee, sit on the patio or in front of the fireplace or sit at the computer and read," he said.

Just inside the front door are the service desk, branch manager's office and an employee break room.

A few things remain to be done. "The collection is pretty much in place, the computers are working, but there still a few odds and ends to take care of," Campbell said.

ALIVE Holding Annual Cell Phone Drive At Library

ALIVE is holding its annual Cell Phone Drive during June and July. The deadline is July 31.

The group will be collecting old cell phones, even bag phones. Individuals should remove all of their personal information before donating the phones.

There is a box located at the New Haven Library where you can leave your old phones.

If you would like a donation acknowledgement, please include your name and address.

grams scrolling through on digital signage," he said. "It's a way to draw attention to it, not waste paper and make it larger."

Near the entrance is a water bottle filler and a community bulletin board for non-profit or-

read, a Lego table with interchangeable tops for Tinker Toys and trains, an interchangeable station for play acting and a 55-inch touch screen tablet that ten different fingers can touch at one time.

"The play station, right now it's a grocery store,"

include your name and address.

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Library Sets Records For Opening Day

Opening day arrived last Tuesday for the new Scenic Regional Library in New Haven, and it didn't disappoint.

Staff members conservatively estimate 165 people came through the front door on the first day. "That's three to four times a normal day for us," said Branch Manager Rachel Terbrock. "That's exciting."

The staff also signed up 43 people for Summer Reading Program and issued library cards to 11 new users.

"We had 37 kids and adults at Story Time which is a record," Terbrock said. Typical attendance at the old building was around five.

"I think the most we've had is eight or ten," Terbrock said. "That just goes to show you the space and the location make a huge difference."

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Another 31 showed up for a kids music show Tuesday night featuring, Super Stolie, an acoustic musician from Chicago who did six shows for Scenic Regional Tuesday and Wednesday.

The meeting room also got some use, with a group of local teachers holding a discussion group there.

"It was an exciting day," she said. "We worked hard. It was a busy day, but it was a good feeling. It was well received. We had great comments."

A few New Haven residents commented that they had been using the Washington Library to work from or just relax and hang out.

"And now they have a place where they don't have to leave town," Terbrock said. "They can do their business here. That's a big plus."

The Kids Area drew the most foot traffic. "The kid had a lot of fun, both inside and outside, playing with all the new gadgets and looking at books," she

said.

Another new addition, an Orion StarBlast Reflector telescope, arrived and was checked out by a patron on the first day.

Terbrock said at least a dozen teenagers came in, normally a hard group for libraries to reach.

"They were just looking around, gawking, and they said, 'This place is so modern and fun.' I said, 'Make sure you come back.' They said, 'We'll definitely be back in.' So that was a nice thing," she said.

More than 50 people turned out for a "sneak peek" tour for Friends of the Library members last Monday night.

"That's great," she said. "I know there's been a lot of hard work and commitment going into this," she said.

"It's nice to see things come to fruition and the excitement in the community, not just about now but for generations to come. This is going to be a neat place for New Haven residents."

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LIBRARY LAND DONOR AGNES MEYER at land members of her family gather in the parking lot before the pre-opening tour of the new library last week. From left are Jo Ann Kuschell, William Weible, Gerry Urban and Agnes Meyer.



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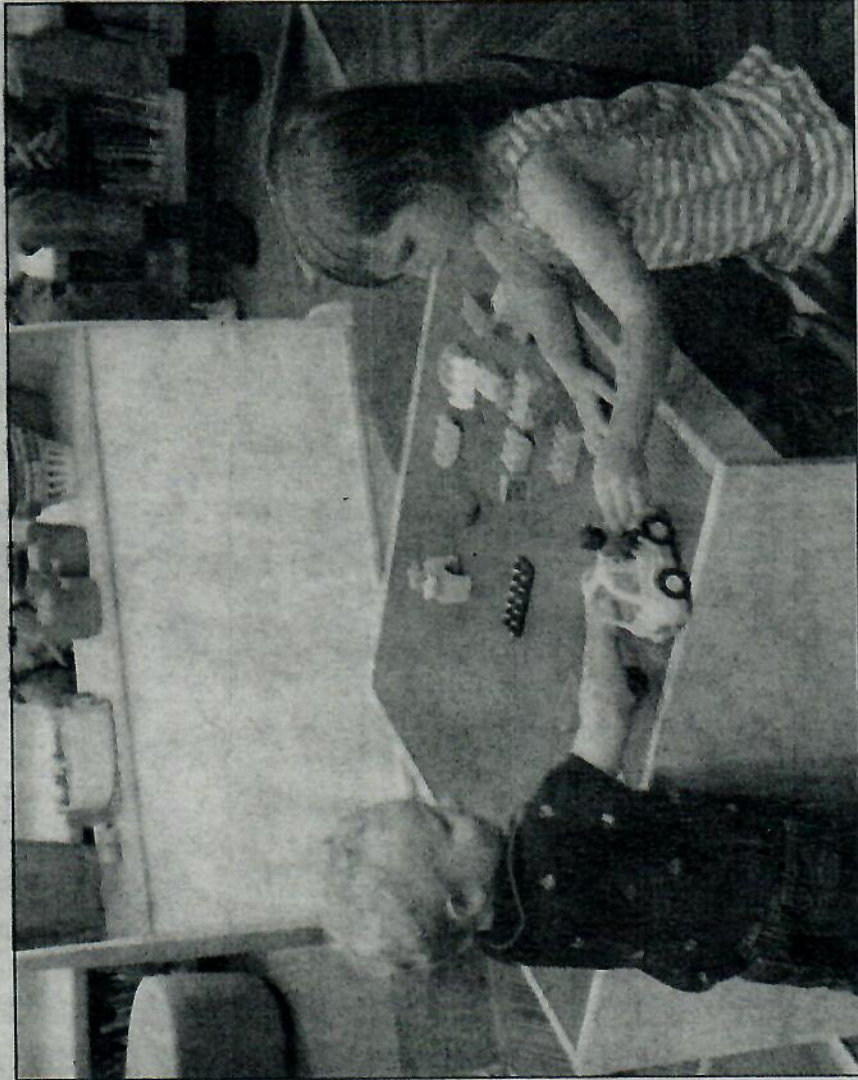


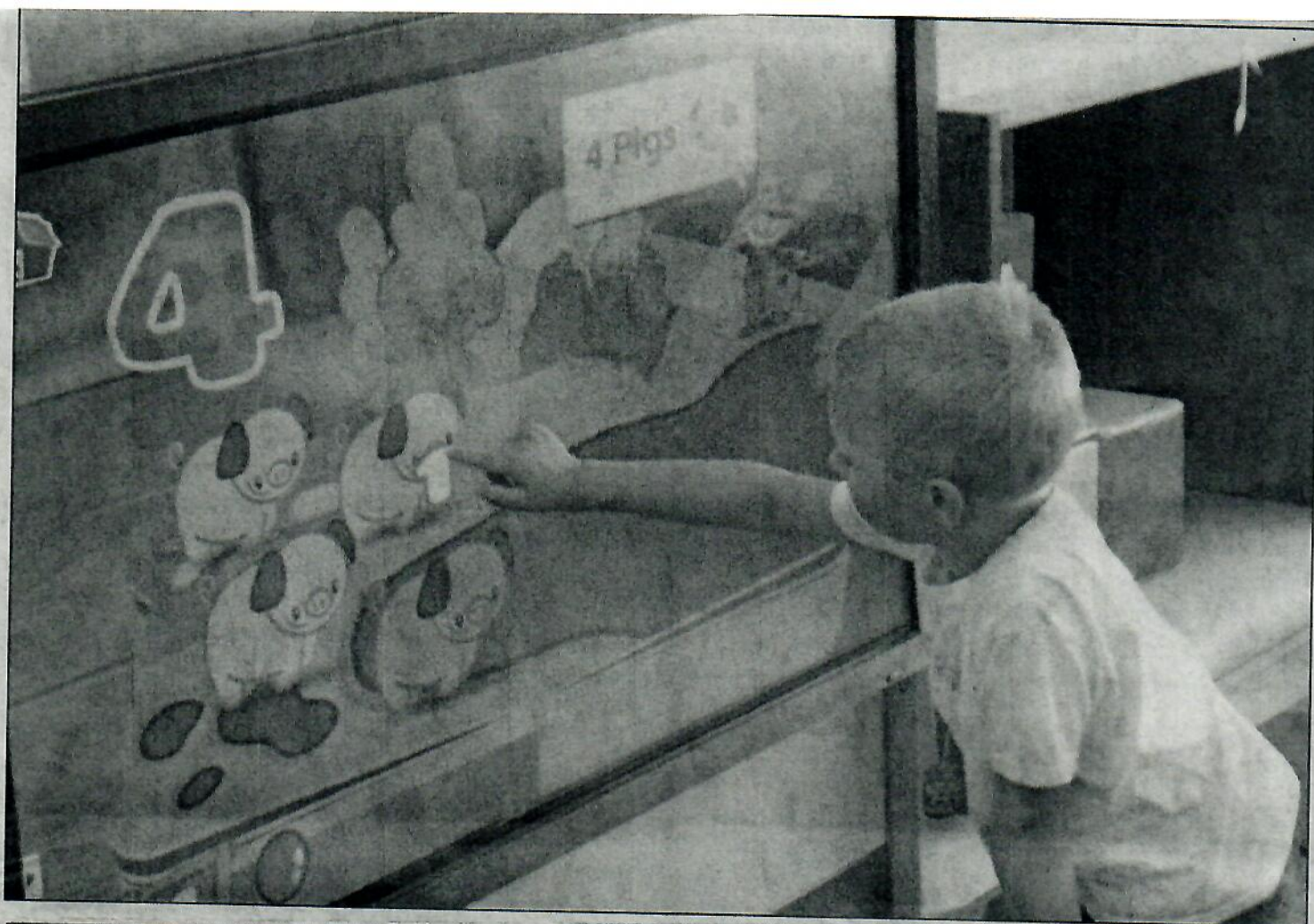
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY members greet potential donors attending a silent auction held Thursday for naming rights to various areas of the the new library. Here, Carol Bell talks to Carol Martin about the new facility.



COFFEE AND TEA are available at the new library for \$1 from the Keurig coffee machine.

ary Features Space For Kids Activities





THE NEW SCENIC REGIONAL Library branch in New Haven features many activities for children along with more space for books and programming. At top left, the books near the teen area get a look from library-goers on Saturday. At top right, kids try out the Lego table during the pre-opening tour. Above, Logan Scheer touches the 55-inch touch screen tablet to play a game. At left, benefactor Agnes Meyer is shown at the door to the meeting room bearing her name, which also has an Xbox station for teenagers. At lower left, children do some play

children do some play
acting at the grocery
store in the Kids Area.



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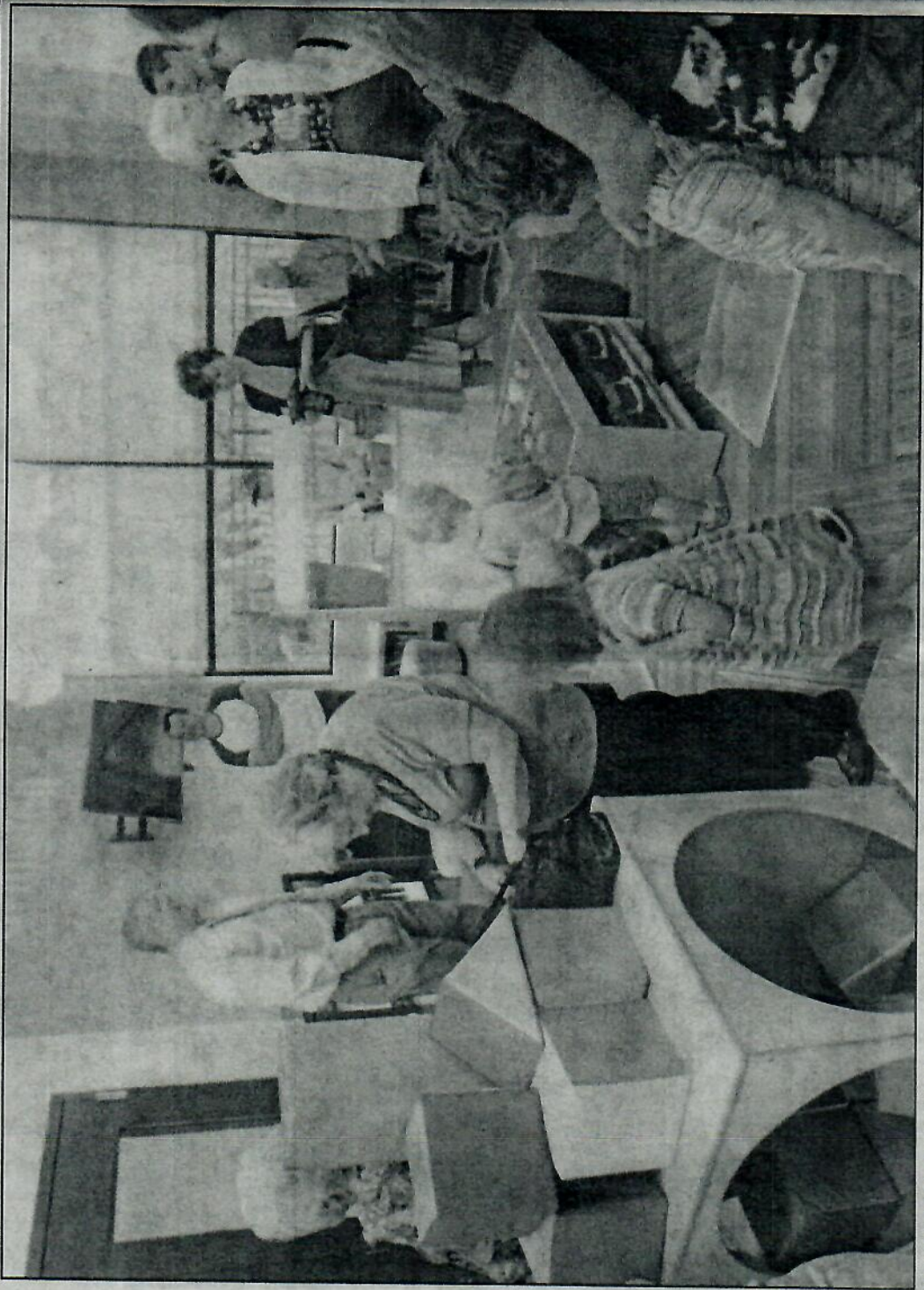


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THE KIDS AREA was popular with visitors of all ages at a pre-opening tour of the new Scenic Regional Library in New Haven last week. Here, Scenic Regional Director Steve Campbell explains the Lego table, large touch screen and other attractions for children.