

New Haven Independent News June 27, 2018

New Scenic Library Dedicated

By Craig Montgomery
Independent News Editor

In Ceremony On Saturday

A grand opening and dedication ceremony at the newly-opened New Haven branch of the Scenic Regional Library on Saturday celebrated the success of an effort that began with an election four years ago.

Speakers talked about the local library's history, dating back to 1937, and its bright future following

the completion of a new \$1.6 million facility on Douglas Street.

At 5,000 square feet, the new branch is more than triple the size of the building it replaced, an old church on Maupin Avenue.

"Anyone who ever visited the old library on Maupin knew this facility has been overdue for

decades," Scenic Regional Library Director Steve Campbell told the crowd.

"We are very, very grateful to the residents of Franklin County for supporting us and giving us the opportunity to build this new wonderful branch."

Seven existing libraries in the Scenic Regional

system have been rebuilt or expanded in the past year following the passage of a tax levy increase by voters in 2014, the first in the library district's 55-year history.

"Since we opened this branch a few weeks ago, it has been very, very busy," Campbell said. "The usage is triple or quadruple what it had been before when

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A CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING was held Saturday following a dedication ceremony at the new Scenic Regional Library branch in New Haven. Here, Scenic Regional board member Carol Bell cuts the ribbon as Chamber members, staff, Friends of the Library and dignitaries look on, including Scenic director Steve Campbell, former State Rep. Justin Alferman and Second District Commissioner Dave Hinson.

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we were in the old facility, and we're hoping the high traffic continues."

Dozens of new library cards have also been issued to local residents who previously used other Scenic Regional branches but are now staying in New Haven.

Campbell pointed out how different libraries are today and the many features they offer, like the patio seating, coffee bar, giant touchscreen for kids, Xbox One for teens and large public meeting room for community use offered at New Haven.

"This isn't your parents' or your grandparents' library," he said. "You won't be shushed here. You can even check out telescopes and fishing poles here."

He added, "You can buy a cup of coffee or tea and sit on the patio or the fireplace and read a newspaper or a book. So it's not exactly what people think of when they think of libraries."

Carol Bell, a local resident and 20-year member of the Scenic Regional board of directors, recalled the local library's history that began with the formation of the Community Library Club in 1937.

Through door-to-door canvassing and local donations, the first library

One board member stated after the election that it never would have passed without such strong support from New Haven, she said.

Bell also extended her gratitude to Agnes Meyer, who donated the 1.5-acre library site. After considering several possible sites close to Highway 100, the Douglas Street tract was chosen. Bell contacted Meyer's daughter and later talked to Agnes by phone and asked if she would be interested in selling it.

Her daughter called back a few minutes later. "She said, 'My mother wants me to tell you that New Haven was so good to us during the 25 years we had the Western Auto store there and I have always wanted to give back. She thinks a library is about the best thing that could happen there and she wants to donate the land,'" Bell recalled. "I was in total shock and couldn't believe her generosity."

Currently the New Haven branch has a collection of 15,162 items and 2,160 library patrons. In 2017, 17,748 items circulated in and out of the old facility. "I have no doubt that number will only increase in 2018," Bell said.

Another speaker, former State Rep. Justin Al

opened in a small building at Maupin and Maiden Lane in July of that year with a collection of only 200 books. The books were then rented for ten cents a week, but they became free the following year.

After 22 years as the Community Club library, the club joined other county libraries in setting up a countywide system in 1958 with a mill tax of 10 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Gasconade and Warren Counties followed suit and the Scenic Regional Library was formed in 1959.

The first New Haven library was only 638 square feet and heavily used, with space for only 7,117 books and other items.

A community effort was launched to find larger quarters, and it moved to the former Trinity Lutheran Church on Maupin in 1987. With 1,500 square feet to work with, the collection was expanded.

By 2014, New Haven and other Scenic Regional towns needed to expand or replace their facilities. The library district proposed a levy increase to build better and larger facilities and expand programs and services.

"The tax issue passed," Bell said. "I can't express strongly enough how proud I am of this community. Even though we are Scenic's smallest library, New Haven supported tax measure more than any other community in the district."

Alferman, now the legislative director for Gov. Mike Parson, recalled his first meeting with the Scenic Regional board of directors at his office in Jefferson City.

"It was actually was not a very good meeting," he recalled. "They came into my office and I said, 'In the age of Amazon, why do libraries exist?' That was just simply my own ignorance coming out and my misinformation of what an actual modern day library was."

He noted that many people think of a library as an old dusty building with books, "and I couldn't have been more wrong," Alferman said. The Scenic group invited him to visit a library and get involved in his local library to see what it really was.

"And I was blown away, by Scenic Regional Library, by the Hermann branch and old New Haven branch," he said. "I think once you get individuals into this library, they are going to be absolutely blown away and see this is not just a library. This is an economic hub for the New Haven community."

He called it an opportunity for patrons to inform themselves and read "and also just to embrace everything the modern library has to offer. This is what economic development looks like," he said. "This is a day to be happy, to celebrate and to embrace the valued asset we now have in New Haven community."

New Haven Branch

200 Douglas St., New Haven MO 63068
(573) 603-0466

July 2018

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Missouri River Mini Film Fest/The Day The River Ran Backward

Wednesday, July 11 starting at 2:30 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of eco-awareness and history. From 2:30-3:30 p.m., Missouri River Relief will show short films reflecting current environmental issues, followed by storytelling from 4-5 p.m. with Steve Otto, who will recreate the accounts of survivors of the 1811-12 New Madrid earthquakes.

Are You Ready To Rock & Read?!

Starts Monday, July 23 from at 10 a.m.

Whichever branch can keep their rocking chair going the longest wins!

ADULT PROGRAMS

Brews & Barbecue (Must be 21 yrs+)

Thursday, July 19 at 6 p.m.

A New Haven homebrewer and barbecuer will explain how to start up your own homebrewing and share barbecuing tips for the backyard grill. Free samples! Must be 21 years old to attend.

Book Club At The Branch

Wednesday, July 25 at 5 p.m.

Join us for a discussion of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Pick up a copy today!

Phantom Of The Library: Paranormal Lecture And Ghost Tour

Saturday, July 28 from 5-10 p.m.

This is a ticketed event. Fundraiser for the Friends of the Library New Haven branch. Limit 40. Hosted by Dan Terry, ghost hunter and local author discussing previous paranormal encounters. Co-hosted by Tim Clifton, ghost hunter, sensitive & extreme haunting researcher discussing his experiences. Lectures will be 1 hour for each Dan and Tim, followed by a ghost hunt in the haunted old library and old New Haven high school. Tickets are \$20/person and can be purchased at the Scenic Regional Library New Haven (200 Douglas St) or by calling (573) 603-0466.

KID PROGRAMS

Pre-School Storytime (PreK-K)

Each Tuesday at 10 a.m. and Saturday, July 21 at 10 a.m.

Kid's Club (K-5)

Every Thursday from 1-2 p.m. (July 5, 12, 19, and 26)

Summer fun for kids K-5th grade featuring books, crafts, and games. Different theme each week.

Just For Teens (6TH Grade+)

Thursday, July 5 from 3-4 p.m. "CD Weaving." Thursday, July 19 from 3-4 p.m. "Turntable Spin Art on Vinyl."

Born To Be Wild Rock'n Animals

Friday, July 20 at 10 a.m.

Live animal show! Explore the unique sounds of the animals and what they mean.

Scenic Regional Library News

The New Haven branch of the Scenic Regional Library is presenting back to back programs Wednesday, July 11, beginning at 2:30 p.m. High school campers of the 2018 Missouri River Relief Academy will host a mini-film festival in the meeting room. The short movies include two documentaries about protecting wildlife and preserving natural lands and another film which is a compilation of select Kansas City high schoolers' artistic videos. At 4 p.m. storyteller Steve Otto will present "The Day the River Ran Backward." Otto will impart the stories of individuals who survived the New Madrid

Earthquake which occurred in February 1812. Don't miss these fantastic tales about some of the strongest earthquakes recorded in American history. Please register online at <https://scenicregional.org/events/> or call the library at its new phone number 573-603-0466.

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Due to the 4th of July
Holiday,

The New Haven Independent
News will have an early deadline
for the July 4th issue.

All news items, display and
classified ads should be in no
later than Thurs., June 28 at 5:30
p.m.

We appreciate your
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line.

Have A Safe Holiday!

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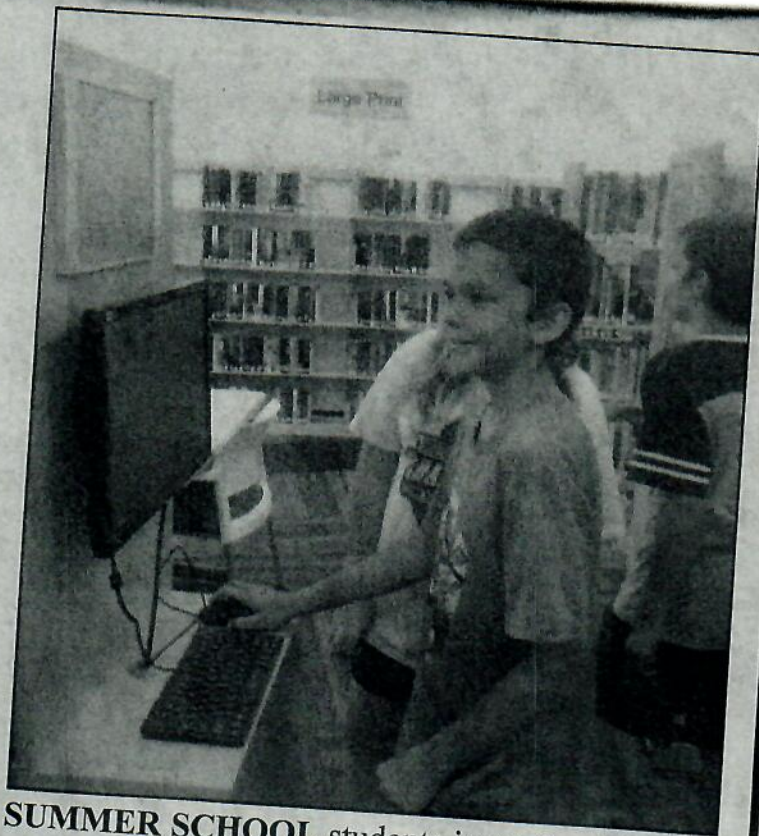


AN ART SHOW featuring the work of local artists Randy Schwentker, Tony Carosella and Alan Bell was held Sunday at the new library, hosted by the New Haven Friends of the Library. The theme was "Wood-Light-Clay."

Tony Carosella Photo



PATRONS GATHER outside the new Scenic Regional Library for Saturday's open house celebration.



SUMMER SCHOOL students in grades 6-7 visited the new library recently, browsed for books and tried out the new computer equipment.

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New Haven Independent News

Library Celebrates New B



NEW HAVEN dedicated its new Scenic Regional Library on Saturday with a ceremony and open house. In addition to speakers, including board member Carol Bell (above) and former legislator Justin Alferman (below right), the event featured free food, balloon animals, glitter tattoos and a bounce house. Below, the crowd applauds benefactor Agnes Meyer, who donated the land, as she sits in the front row with daughter Jo Ann Kuschel.





the Friday Night Gallery

ights in the big city: This year's Herrin Homecoming parade pro

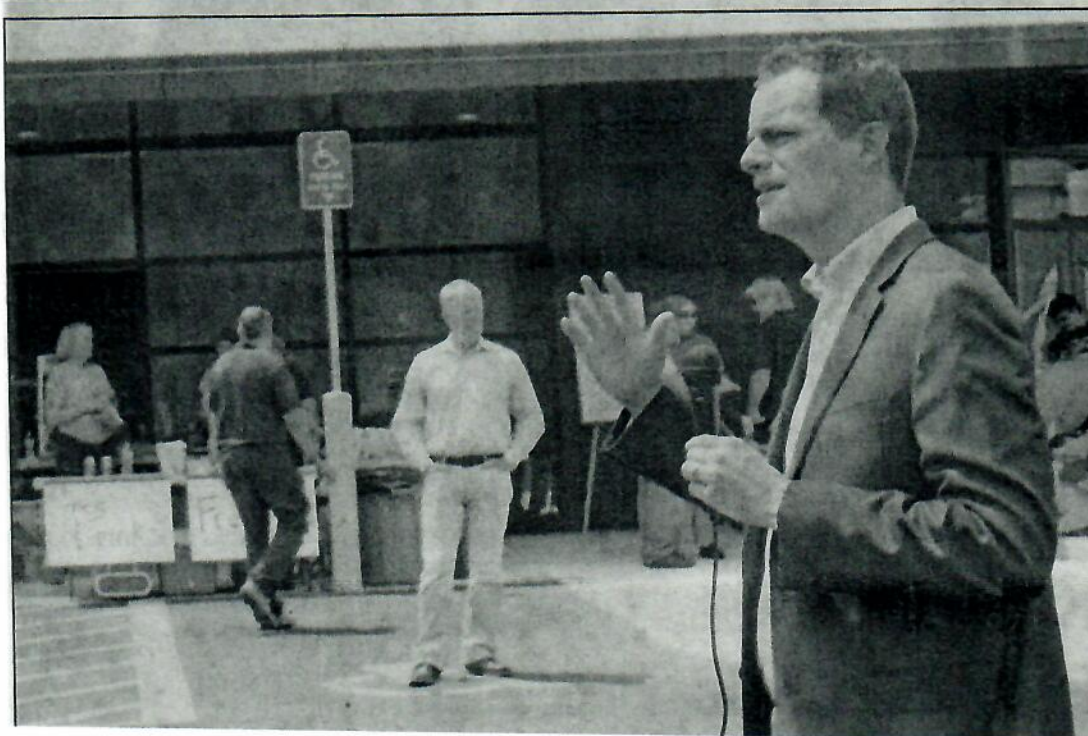
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