Author to give St. Louis Browns presentation at Warrenton library

By Brandon Corrigan
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WARRENTON - Ed Wheatley loves baseball and he loves the St. Louis Browns.

While many seem to have forgotten about St. Louis' other Major League Baseball franchise, which arrived from Milwaukee in 1902 before departing to Baltimore and becoming the Orioles after the 1953 season, Wheatley is committed to preserving their memory.

The president of the team's history society and fan club, and co-author of the book, "St. Louis Browns: The Story of a Beloved Team," Wheatley will be giving a presentation on the Browns Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Warrenton Scenic Regional Library.

The presentation also coincides with the release of part 2 of the PBS documentary "The St. Louis Browns: The Team that Baseball Forgot," which is narrated by John Hamm and airs Aug. 10.

"They were the blue collar team of St. Louis and there was a deep passion for them here. We talk about the Chicago Cubs being lovable losers, but for a while the Browns were lovable losers. And for the people who lived through their tenure, they went through world wars, food shortages, the Great Depression and poverty and baseball was the one positive thing in their life." Wheatley plans to cover all the bases at his presentation in Warrenton, including the Browns' 1944 all-St. Louis World Series against the Cardinals at Sportsman Park, the underappreciated teams and players of the 1920s that rank among the best in baseball history and the antics of Bill Veeck, the team owner who once sent a 3-foot, 7-inch pinch hitter.