



THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER

read, explore, grow



issue 91 | december 2020 *A monthly publication from your local library!*

Library Board Approves Mask Requirement for Patrons

The Scenic Regional Library Board of Trustees voted unanimously (13-0) at their November 17 meeting to require all patrons to wear face masks in their facilities. The new policy will be effective beginning Friday, November 20. The library will offer a disposable face mask to patrons without one. The mask requirement will apply to anyone over the age of 2, per CDC guidelines, and include the library patios. Patrons who are unable to wear a mask due to medical reasons can use the library's "contactless" curbside service.

The decision was based on staff input, dramatically-rising new COVID cases, and soaring positive testing rate in the area. The library recently conducted a staff survey and 74% of front-line employees responded that they would like to see the library require face masks and were willing to enforce the new policy. When the same survey was conducted in August, only 50% of the staff wanted the library to require the public to wear masks at the time.

Since reopening in June, the library strongly encouraged patrons to wear masks in its buildings to protect staff and other visitors. However, only about half of library patrons have been wearing masks. Library staff have been required to wear face masks since the library reopened on June 1.

Many public libraries and national retail chains in the state have been implementing mask requirements in recent months to protect their front-line employees and other customers. The Washington Public Library has required visitors to wear face masks since June.

Library Temporarily Reduces Service Hours Due to Staffing Shortages

Due to staffing shortages related to illnesses, COVID-19, and quarantines, all Scenic Regional Library branches will have new, reduced service hours beginning Monday, November 30. The new hours at all locations will be:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays - 10 AM-6 PM

Tuesdays and Thursdays - 11 AM-7 PM

Saturdays, 10 AM-3 PM

The changes will temporarily reduce the library's service hours from between 57 and 61 hours a week at each location to 45 hours. The library trimmed hours which historically have been their lower-traffic times.

The library hopes that the reduction of service hours will help reduce the number of times that branches will need to be completely shut down in the coming months due to staffing shortages from illness and quarantines.

The new service hours will not alter the library's protocol when an employee at a branch tests positive for COVID-19. When a library employee tests positive for coronavirus, the branch is closed temporarily and other staff at the location are asked to quarantine. The closures also guarantee that enough time has passed for the virus, which can remain alive on surfaces for several days, to die.

In the past two months, the library has had six employees test positive for COVID-19 and dozens of other employees quarantined due to exposure either at work or outside of work.

The new service hours will not result in any library staff having their hours reduced or layoffs. The new service hours will allow the library to cover fewer service hours with the same amount of staff, which will provide a buffer against staff call-ins due to illness and quarantines.

The Library Board will revisit these new service hours at their regular meetings each month, beginning in January.

New Service Hours at All Locations

**Mondays, Wednesdays &
Fridays - 10am-6pm**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays -
11am-7pm**

Saturdays, 10am-3pm

All Scenic Regional Library
branches
will be closed
December 24, 25, 31,
& January 1,
in observance of Christmas
& The New Year.



A monthly publication from your local library!

Library Pauses Passport and Notary Services Due to COVID

Due to the dramatic increases in new COVID cases and the testing positivity rate in the area, the library paused passport services, notary service, and take-a-ticket training (one-on-one computer help) beginning November 17, until further notice. The library administration made the decision with the belief that the close proximity between staff and patrons required to perform the services poses an unnecessary health risk to those involved.



The St. Clair branch hosted a virtual Take & Make Turkey Craft just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Using cardstock and cellophane sheets provided at all branches, kids were able to make their own stained glass windows.

Library Sees Big Demand for Wireless Hotspots

The Library continues to offer mobile hotspots for checkout at all branches. The purpose of the mobile hotspots is to provide free wireless Internet at home for people to use with their laptop or mobile device. People can use the Internet access for a wide range of needs, from telehealth (doctor's appointments) and virtual meetings to distance learning and emailing.

The devices check out for 2 weeks, with no renewals allowed. Patrons can place a hold or request on a hotspot if they're all checked out. A single hotspot can provide Internet access for up to 15 devices at one time. The carrier is T-Mobile.

The library began checking out mobile hotspots in late August. Within the first two weeks, all 42 devices were checked out and there was a waiting list of 16 people. The library added 30 more mobile hotspots over the next two months to meet the demand. The vast majority of the devices continue to be checked out.

The library received funds through two CARES Act grants to fund 54 of its 72 mobile hotspots. While there is no cost to the library for the actual devices, the data costs are \$30 per month for each device. The library will continue to offer all the devices for checkout after the grant funding ends in 2021.



Library Continues to Offer "Contactless" Curbside Service

Since reopening in June, the library has offered "contactless" curbside service. Patrons can call or email their local branch whenever the library is open and have items pulled from the shelves or placed on hold. When the patron arrives at the library and parks in the space designated for curbside service, they call the branch and staff will bring the items to their vehicle. In order to eliminate contact between staff and patrons, staff will either place the items in the patron's trunk, or on the back seat of their car. The patrons are being directed not to exit their vehicle during the delivery process.



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december 2020 upcoming events

New Haven Patron Jack Hereford Passes Away

New Haven patron Jack Hereford passed away on October 31, 2020. He was 88. Mr. Hereford frequently requested books about aeronautics and other scientific topics at the library. He presented a program at the New Haven branch in 2017 for the solar eclipse.

His family asked that donations be made to the New Haven branch in lieu of flowers. "Dad always loved reading and going to the library – something he instilled in his family as well," explained his daughter Amy.

In 1959, Mr. Hereford chased an eclipse over the Canary Islands (off the coast of Africa) for about 7 minutes in the rear cockpit of a U.S. Air Force F-101B Voodoo supersonic jet. Twenty-seven at the time, he took thousands of photographs with a high-tech system that he assembled for McDonnell Aircraft. Mr. Hereford has at least two registered patents: the electrical pulse generator for remote reading meter and the rotary electromagnetic actuator.

Mr. Hereford will be missed by the library staff.



Visit the Library's YouTube Channel for Virtual Programming

In March, when the coronavirus pandemic struck, the library moved all of its programming to a virtual format. In October, the library launched a YouTube channel to archive all of its virtual programming (except for storytimes, due to copyright issues). Currently, the channel features videos of 62 past programs. With YouTube, the programs are easy to search; program videos are categorized as adult, children, and teen. The channel can be found at www.youtube.com/scenicregionallibrary.



Subscribe to the library's YouTube channel for its latest virtual programs:

www.youtube.com/scenicregionallibrary

PROGRAM GUIDE ALL BRANCHES

VIRTUAL ADULT PROGRAMS

Donna Mowery Bat Lady!

Thursday, December 3 at 5:00 pm

Virtual Deutschheim Tour

Thursday, December 10 at 5:00 pm

Take & Make Holiday Scrapbook

Thursday, December 17 at 5:00 pm

Virtual Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 22 at 5:00 pm

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUBS

Warrenton branch

Thursday, December 3 at 5:30 pm

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes.

St. Clair branch

Thursday, December 17 at 6:00 pm

Seven Days of Us by Francesca Hornak.

Union branch

Thursday, December 17 at 6:00 pm

The Optimist's Daughter by Eudora Welty.

VIRTUAL KID & TEEN PROGRAMS

Kids Club

Every Monday at 4:00 pm

December 7-Family Night Ornaments

December 14-Tis the Season Snowflakes

December 21-Play Dough Candy Cane

December 28-New Years Eve Craft & Countdown

Preschool Storytime

Hermann

Every Tuesday at 10:00 am

Last Monday of Month at 7:00 pm

New Haven

Every Tuesday at 10:00 am

3rd Saturday of month at 10:00 am

Owensville

Every Wednesday at 10:00 am

Pacific

Every Thursday at 10:00 am

Every Monday at 7:30pm

St. Clair

Every Thursday at 11:00 am

Sullivan

Every Tuesday at 10:00 am

Union

Every Wednesday at 10:00 am

Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Warrenton

Every Tuesday at 10:00 am

1st Saturday of Month at 10:00 am

Wright City

Every Wednesday at 10:00 am

Teen Programs

1st Wednesday of Month at 4:00 pm

December 2-Christmas Traditions

Around the World

A Virtual Visit with Santa

Thursday, December 10, 6-8pm

Friday December 11, 3:30-5pm



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Miss Sheri from the Owensville branch gave our young patrons some ideas for making your own cardboard box adventures.



Ross Malone gave a virtual presentation about several people from Missouri that should be remembered as heroes.



Patrons had the opportunity to follow a virtual step-by-step project to learn to make acorns from Dollar Store items.

“1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” Proves Popular

Since the library launched the program in September, 142 children and parents have signed up for the “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” challenge. The free program encourages parents to read 1,000 books with their children before they start kindergarten.

“1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” <https://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org> is a national non-profit organization that promotes the literacy program, which has been adopted by thousands of public libraries across the country.

Scenic Regional launched the program due to all the benefits from a parent reading with their child. Studies have shown that a parent reading with their child provides a great opportunity for bonding. Reading together is also fun and creates life-long memories, whether they are reading books they own, picking them out on a visit to the library, or downloading them onto an e-reader device. Experts agree that children who learn the necessary skills early do better in school and later in life. Participating in “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” can help put a child on the right track.

While reading 1,000 books may sound like a daunting task, it's much easier than one may think. If a parent and child read just one book a night, they will read 365 books in a year. In two years, the number will grow to 730. In the third year, they will surpass the goal at 1,095 books. Considering that most children start kindergarten at age 5 or 6, they have more than enough time to complete the challenge.

Parents can either visit their local Scenic Regional Library branch and pick up a reading log, or go to <https://scenicregional.org/1000-books-before-kindergarten/> and register online. Each time 100 books are read the parent and child can stop by their local branch to pick up a sticker for that page in their reading log.

After reading 1,000 books, a child will receive a “color-your-own” bookbag that they can decorate to proudly carry their library books. The parent and child will also be featured in the library's newsletter and social media pages. Best of all, they will feel the pride of accomplishment of reaching this goal together.



Virtual Pajama Storytime in Union's theme was Compassion for Others.



Kids Club taught children how to make salt crystal leaves with the help of an adult.

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Purchase a "Book" for the Donor Wall in Your Community's New Library

The Scenic Regional Library Foundation and Friends of the Library groups are selling donor wall "books", which will be placed in the entrance hallway of each new library building.

You can have your name, your family's name, or your business's name become a permanent part of the new library in your community. Donor wall "books" can also serve as a beautiful and long-lasting memorial for a loved one.

The cost of a donor wall "book" is based on the size of the book:

- 8" x 1½" book – \$100
- 10" x 2" book – \$200
- 9" x 3" book – \$300

Visit www.scenicregionallibraryfoundation.org or complete this form to place your order. The Foundation accepts debit and credit cards (online), checks, and cash (only for forms brought to the library) for donor wall "book" purchases.

Proceeds from the sale of the donor wall books are designated for the local Friends of the Library group and used to assist with the purchase of furnishings and equipment in their new building.

Purchases are tax deductible.

Donor wall "books" can be purchased throughout the construction project and will be unveiled at the grand opening of each new branch library.



Scenic Regional Library Foundation Donor Wall "Book" Order Form

FIRST NAME		DATE	
MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME		
STREET ADDRESS			
CITY			
STATE	ZIP CODE		
PHONE NUMBER			
EMAIL ADDRESS			
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION TO APPEAR ON BOOK			
BRANCH (Please select one)		SIZE OF BOOK	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermann Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 8" X 1-1/2" - \$100	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 10" X 2" - \$200	
<input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 9" X 3" - \$300	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> St. Clair Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sullivan Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Union Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Warrenton Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wright City Branch			
OFFICE USE ONLY			
Date received: _____			
Amount received: _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash			

Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to:

Friends of the Library
251 Union Plaza Dr.
Union, MO 63084



SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021 Membership Year

All information submitted is considered confidential and will never be given or sold to any other individual, company, or organization.

If this membership is for you, please provide your information; if this membership is a gift for someone else, please provide their information:		
FIRST NAME		MIDDLE INITIAL
LAST NAME		
STREET ADDRESS		CITY
STATE		ZIP CODE
PHONE NUMBER		EMAIL ADDRESS
If this membership is a gift for someone else, please provide your information:		
FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME
PHONE NUMBER		EMAIL ADDRESS
BRANCH AFFILIATION (Please select one)		LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP
Friends of the Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Bronze – \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Silver – \$25 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the Owensville Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Ruby – \$50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the Pacific Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Gold – \$100 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the St. Clair Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Platinum – \$250 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the Sullivan Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Diamond* – \$500 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the Union Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		
Friends of the Warrenton Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		
Friends of the Wright City Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		
		*Lifetime Membership
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)		Office Use Only
Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> New Application
Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Volunteer at other events <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Received:
Volunteer at my local branch <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash
Serve on the local Friends of the Library's <input type="checkbox"/>		Amount Received:
Governing and Planning Committee <input type="checkbox"/>		

Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to:

Friends of the Library, 251 Union Plaza Dr., Union, MO 63084

Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.