



# THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER

*read, explore, grow*



issue 139 | december 2024 *A monthly publication from your local library!*

## Winter Bingo 2025: Be a Reading Machine

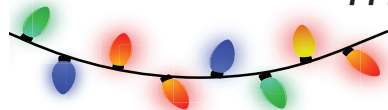


Scenic Regional Library's Winter Reading BINGO Program will return this year on January 1, lasting through February 28. All ages are encouraged to participate. To enroll in the program, pick up a BINGO card at your local branch or register online through Beanstack, an online reading tracking system. Each participant can earn up to two free books - one for a traditional bingo and one for a full card bingo.

Participants are encouraged to read and log at least 5 hours during the challenge. They can also complete activities such as attending a library program, checking out something that isn't a book, reading aloud to someone or having someone read aloud to them, or using the self-check machine.

To learn more, contact your local branch or visit us online at [scenicregional.org/winterbingo](https://scenicregional.org/winterbingo) for more information.

**Scenic Regional Library will be closed:**  
**December 24, 25, 31, and January 1, in observance of**  
**Christmas and the New Year. Happy Holidays!**



## Emergency Management Recognizes Library

The Franklin County Emergency Management Agency (FCEMA) recognized Scenic Regional Library for its service as warming and cooling centers in the communities it serves. All nine locations offer refuge from extreme temperatures during their regular operating hours.

Stephanie Norton, Deputy Director of FCEMA, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Library Director Steve Campbell, recognizing the library and each Franklin County location for their partnership with emergency management. The additional service of warming and cooling centers in the communities protects the health and well-being of Franklin County citizens in extreme temperatures that could result in illness, injury, or death.

The presentation was during the annual Friends of the Library and Foundation Board Appreciation Dinner. Norton currently serves as the President of the Scenic Regional Library Foundation Board of Directors.



*Library Director Steve Campbell, left, accepted the Certificate of Appreciation from Stephanie Norton, Deputy Director of FCEMA.*

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## Friends of the Library Appreciation Dinner

The library's annual Friends of the Library and Foundation appreciation event was held at Hagies 19 in Union on November 14. Musician Kyle Walz performed at the event. Approximately 25 Friends of the Library members were in attendance.



*Gerald Elementary 3rd grade visited the Owensville branch for a library tour and a scavenger hunt!*



*The St. Clair Homeschool Group was a blast! We used Scenic's mobile kitchen to create some tasty, jazzed-up popcorn recipes.*

## Perdew Receives Chamber Award

Lori Jane Perdew, Scenic Regional Library's Pacific branch manager, was named the 2024 Chamber Member of the Year by the Pacific Area Chamber of Commerce at their Christmas party on Wednesday, December 11. Perdew was chosen as Member of the Year for her contributions toward the Chamber and their events.



## Union Friends of the Library Contributions

In November, the Union Friends of the Library group donated colorful magnet letters to the Union branch, adding a fun, educational activity to the children's area. The group also raffled off an Amazon Fire Tablet. The raffle began at the Missouri Book Festival on September 14 and ended at the end of the Fall Book Sale on November 9.



## Fall Book Sale Breaks Record

The library's Fall Book Sale was a huge success. The much-anticipated event generated \$18,419 at the library's nine locations, making it the largest sale to date. Those who shopped the sale had their choice of books, audiobooks, CDs, and DVDs. The Friends of the Library groups managed the book sale in all nine library locations. The library has an agreement under which the Friends' groups receive their branch's book sale proceeds if they manage the event, including setting up, recruiting and scheduling volunteers, and cleaning up. The next book sale will be in the Spring.





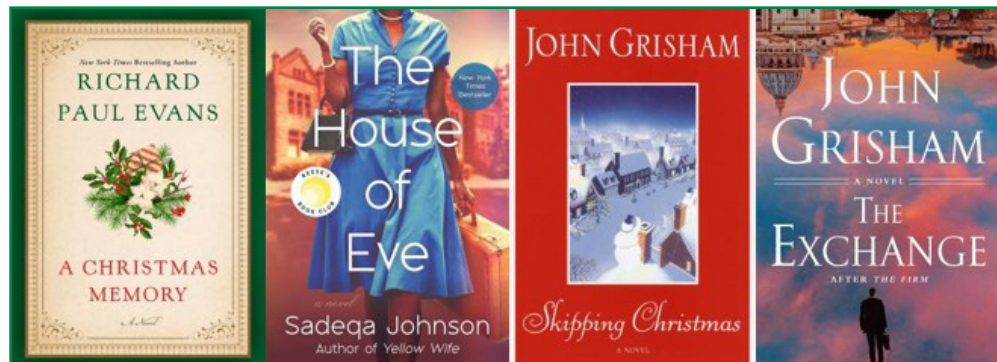
## Last Month's Most Popular Titles

**1st** – *A Christmas Memory* by Richard Paul Evans - A poignant, deeply felt novel about loss, grief, the healing power of forgiveness, and the true meaning of the holiday season. **Genres: Christmas, Holiday, Historical Fiction**

**2nd** – *The House of Eve* by Sadeqa Johnson - A daring and redemptive novel set in 1950s Philadelphia and Washington, DC, that explores what it means to be a woman and a mother, and how much one is willing to sacrifice to achieve her greatest goal. **Genres: Historical, Fiction, Romance**

**3rd (tied)** – *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham - A classic tale for modern times, *Skipping Christmas* offers a hilarious look at the charm and frenzy that have become part of our holiday tradition. **Genres: Christmas, Humor, Contemporary**

**3rd (tied)** – *The Exchange: After The Firm* by John Grisham - A high-flying international suspense in a stunning new legal thriller that marks the return of Mitch McDeere, the brilliant hero of *The Firm*. **Genres: Legal Thriller, Mystery, Suspense**



The Pacific branch hosted a super fun night of puzzle races!



Patrons created a holiday tree out of recycled books during the Wright City book tree craft program.

## MVR-III Bridge Foundation Awards Grants

The MVR-III Bridge Foundation awarded three educational grants to Meramec Valley R-III School District faculty members on Friday, November 22. Mrs. Belt from Robertsville Elementary, Ms. Fink from Alternative Programs, and Mrs. Plambeck from Zitzman Elementary received the grants.

The Bridge Foundation plays an important role in supporting the district's mission by providing resources that enhance the educational experiences of both students and faculty. Through its staff and building grant programs available in the fall and spring, the Bridge Foundation empowers educators to bring their creative ideas to life.

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The Bridge Foundation presents a \$1,000 educational grant to Ms. Megan Fink from the Alternative Programs at the Meramec Valley R-III School District.

The number of grants awarded each year is determined by available funds, highlighting the community's collective effort to advance education in the MVR-III District.

Scenic Regional Library's Associate Director, Kjersti Merseal, represents the library on the Foundation and serves on its board.



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## SCENIC SAYS!

What kind of holiday shopper are you: Black Friday? Christmas Eve? Yearlong?

What's your favorite holiday movie? (All available through the library on DVD)

What library technology service would you like more people to know about?

**Michele**  
Library Assistant,  
St. Clair



"I am definitely looking all year long."

"*Meet Me In St. Louis* because no one else can sing the song "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" quite like Judy Garland does. Then again, what can be better than Christmas in St. Louis?"

"Computer Classes."

**Sherry**  
Library Assistant,  
Pacific



"Last minute but not necessarily Christmas Eve."

"My favorite holiday movies are *The Santa Clause* movies with Tim Allen."

"I wish more patrons knew about storing their library card numbers on Missouri Evergreen."

**Devynne**  
Library Assistant  
Floater



"Definitely a last-minute shopper. I usually start Christmas shopping a few days beforehand, although this year I have been trying to get ahead of the holiday rush!"

"*Unaccompanied Minors* is my all-time favorite holiday movie! My sister and I used to watch it year-round when we were younger!"

"I would like more people to know about our wireless printing! It is really easy to use and super convenient once you get the hang of it!"

**Trisha**  
Library Assistant,  
Sullivan



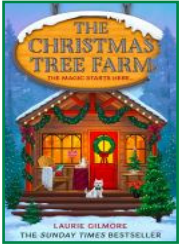
"Christmas Eve is when I do all my shopping. Unfortunately, I am a terrible procrastinator. I even place online orders on Christmas Eve. Everyone usually gets what they want, they just might have to wait a few extra days sometimes."

"My family and I watch *It's A Wonderful Life* every Christmas. *Hotdog*, it's the best Christmas movie of all time."

"I would like more people to know about our Xbox. I love seeing teens and pre-teens hanging out at the library"



## Staff Picks



### "The Christmas Tree Farm" by Laurie Gilmore

If you love Hallmark movies but would like a bit more romance added, look no further than The Christmas Tree Farm by Laurie Gilmore.

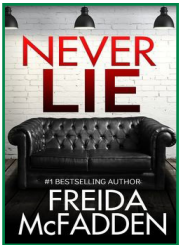
Kira North is a grumpy new owner of an old Christmas tree farm in the darling little town of Dream Harbor. One day, she stumbles upon Bennett Ellis, walking with his dogs on her newly acquired property. Bennett is on vacation in Dream Harbor and staying with his sister

while taking a break from his disastrous dating life.

Despite his determination to escape his reputation as a "fixer," Bennett can't seem to stay away from the tree farm, but stubborn Kira has a hard time accepting any of his help. Eventually, Bennett realizes Kira doesn't need all of the help he thinks she does, and Kira begins to question why she was so resistant to his offers in the first place. This book is advertised as a guaranteed "Happily Ever After," and it was the perfect way to start the Christmas season.

While this is the third in a series, I read it as a stand-alone, and you would never know the difference. This book is complete with quirky and lovable characters, small-town charm, Christmas feelings, and everything you could want from a steamy Gilmore Girls-esque Christmas story.

**-Review by Sarah, Administration**



### "Never Lie" by Freida McFadden

I've been a fan of Freida McFadden ever since I read her book The Housemaid. McFadden is a woman who only knows how to write home runs, and as such, I expect nothing but jaw-dropping twists from her. You'd think I would eventually catch on to her tricks and expect the unexpected, but nope, she gets me every time. I'm left grasping at straws till the very last page. She succeeded once again in her book Never Lie; my jaw was on the FLOOR for the whole second half of

the book. I cannot recommend giving this one a read enough, it's definitely a five-star book. In Never Lie, McFadden switches POVs all throughout in the most gravitating way. She jumps from voice to voice, starting with a young couple who have been stranded in an abandoned house. The house used to belong to a renowned psychiatrist— who happens to have disappeared, supposedly murdered, years ago. The only problem: they never found her body or her ex-boyfriend. When stuff starts moving around and the wife finds a mysterious room in the house, you begin to wonder if all is as it seems. Then, McFadden gives us the POV of said psychiatrist and her patients in the past, leaving one to wonder: did the psychiatrist ever really leave the house? Or is she still there? I was wondering how it all tied together, tossing accusations right and left, trying to figure out WHO IS THE KILLER HERE?! IS IT HIM?! OR HER?! IS SHE ACTUALLY DEAD?! By the time I thought I had it all figured out, piecing together the puzzle, McFadden's book decided to kick me while I was down and toss the aforementioned puzzle out the window. You think you know how her book is going to end? Guess again. Chances are, you're wrong— the twist at the end is one you'll never see coming until it's too late.

**-Review by Genevieve, Sullivan**

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## Turning Point Advocacy Services Collection Drive



Turning Point's domestic violence shelter in Warren County will have a collection drive in December at the Warrenton and Wright City branches of Scenic Regional Library. Turning Point is collecting items such as toilet paper, paper towels, laundry pods, 13-gallon trash bags, diapers sizes 4-6 T, feminine hygiene products, towels and washcloths, hair brushes, and packages of t-shirts, underwear, and socks, in all sizes for children and adults. The shelter often has 40+ women and children staying during the holiday season.

### Requested Donations:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Laundry pods
- 13-gallon trash bags
- Diapers sizes 4-6 T
- Feminine hygiene products
- Towels
- Washcloths
- Hair brushes
- Packages of t-shirts
- Underwear and socks  
*(all sizes for children and adults)*



## 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 – \$150
- 10" x 2" book – \$250
- 9" x 3" book – \$350

Visit [www.scenicregional.org/foundation/](http://www.scenicregional.org/foundation/) 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.**



## 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch <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		SIZE OF BOOK <input type="checkbox"/> 8" X 1-1/2" - \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> 10" X 2" - \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> 9" X 3" - \$350	
		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 Drive  
Union, MO 63084






# SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025 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 <b>your</b> information:			
FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME	
STREET ADDRESS		EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
<b>BRANCH AFFILIATION</b> (Please select one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Owensville Branch <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Pacific Branch <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>St. Clair Branch <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Sullivan Branch <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Union Branch <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Warrenton Branch <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Wright City Branch <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>	<b>LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Silver - \$25 <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Gold - \$50 <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Platinum - \$100 <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Diamond* - \$500 <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>*Lifetime Membership</li> <li>Up to \$10 in book sale volunteer vouchers can be applied toward any level of membership dues.</li> </ul>		<b>MEMBERSHIP GIFTS</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><u>Gold:</u> 21oz. metal water bottle</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><u>Platinum:</u> 20-can cooler backpack</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><u>Diamond:</u> \$150 donor wall book</p> </div> </div>
<b>WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?</b> (Select all which apply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Volunteer at other events <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Volunteer at my local branch <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Serve on the local Friends of the Library's Governing and Planning Committee <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>		<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New Application</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Date Received:</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Amount Received:</li> </ul>	

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.*