



THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER

read, explore, grow



issue 151 | december 2025 *A monthly publication from your local library!*

Bundle Up With Books - Winter Reading Challenge



Winter Reading Program is back! From January 1 to February 28, all ages are encouraged to sign up on Beanstack and/or pick up a bookmark reading log at their local branch to take part in this year's challenge of reading 300 minutes. Upon completion, participants will receive a free book and be entered into a drawing for a blanket to bundle up with. For more information, visit bit.ly/SRLWRP25.

Friends of the Library Appreciation Dinner

The library's annual Friends of the Library and Foundation appreciation event was held at The Creek in Washington on November 13. Over 30 Friends of the Library committee members and officers attended. All of the groups were represented at the event.



The New Haven Friends of the Library Group.

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



Fall Book Sale Huge Success

The library's Fall Book Sale was a huge success. The much-anticipated event generated \$17,931 across the library's nine locations, making it the second-largest sale to date, after the fall 2024 book sale. It was the largest-ever book sale at the Wright City, Hermann, and Sullivan branches.

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 held in the Spring.



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Thank you to all the organizations and emergency service professionals that came out to our Hermann Community Services Fair!



New Haven Homeschool Group got busy making mini hand pies.



We had so much fun at our Busted Canvas craft program on Thursday night in Owensville!

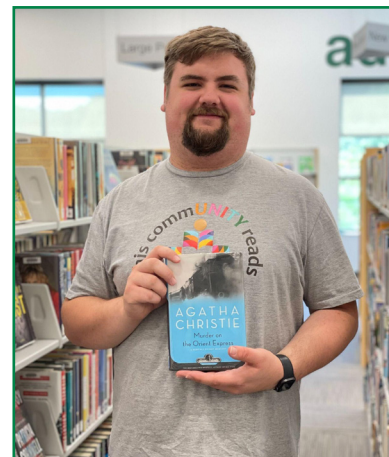
Richards Hired as Adult Program Coordinator



The library has hired Tiffany Richards as its Adult Program Coordinator, a new position. Her new role oversees larger system-wide programs such as Community Read, Adult Summer Reading Program, Adult Winter Reading Program, and other system-wide programming, while also supporting programmers at the branches. Richards has been with the library since 2023, when she was hired as Hermann's branch manager.

Previously, Richards worked as an Assistant Branch Manager at St. Louis County Library and a Branch Manager at Anoka County Library in Minnesota. She has a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She began her new position on October 27.

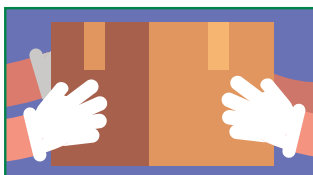
Gibson Hired as Hermann Branch Manager



The library has hired Zach Gibson as the new branch manager at the Hermann branch. Gibson has worked for the library since 2022 as a library assistant at the Hermann branch.

Gibson grew up in Union and is passionate about connecting community members to local resources and services. He anticipates completing his master's degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Missouri in Columbia in May 2026.

Library Seeks Donations



Scenic Regional Library is always accepting donations of gently-used books, DVDs, music CDs, and books on CD! Most donations will be sold at our semi-annual book sale. Have a lot? Call ahead of time, and we will help you carry them in! Contact your local branch for more details.



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Friends of the Library Donates Gift Cards for Holiday Dinners

Each library branch's Friends of the Library group donated a \$31 gift card for each employee at their branch for a holiday dinner to show their appreciation for all the hard work the library staff does for their communities. The Library Foundation agreed to do the same for each employee in the library's administration. The gift cards are for local restaurants.



The staff at the Sullivan branch enjoyed their holiday meal at Muddy Banks Brewing Company in Sullivan.

Check Out a Cake Pan for the Holidays!



With the holidays approaching, don't forget the library has specialty cake pans available for checkout! With 150+ designs, there is truly something for everyone. The library began offering cake pans in 2019. The collection consists of various shapes, such as multiple holiday-themed pans, Darth Vader, Harry Potter, a T. rex, a train, a Christmas tree, and a T-shirt. Each pan can be borrowed for two weeks and renewed once. Borrowing a cake pan is free, but if it is returned dirty, a \$5.00

cleaning fee will apply. If a particular cake pan is unavailable at a patron's local branch, they can place a hold on it, like they would a book or DVD. To view the entire collection or to put a pan on hold, visit us online at scenicregional.org/cakepans.

Let's Stay Together Collection Drive

Let's Stay Together Pets will hold a collection drive at the Sullivan,



St. Clair, and Union branches in December. They will be collecting donations of dog and cat food and pet supplies.

Let's Stay Together Pets is a small, growing nonprofit organization dedicated to helping pets stay with their families during challenging times. Their community-supported pet food pantry and local resource network help make sure no one has to face the heartbreak of giving up a pet. For more information, visit letsstaytogetherpets.org.

Staff December Anniversaries

Thank you for being such an *important* piece of our puzzle!



Tracy, Library Assistant, Pacific



Sweet Honey visited the Pacific branch and listened to all these kiddos read, plus soaked up all their love.



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The Sullivan branch had a Wicked-ly good time hosting their Movie Night for patrons.



Awesome job to the Union patrons that sewed an infinity scarf!



All branches of Scenic Regional Library had their first round of voting for our Missouri Building Block nominee titles. Kids all over Missouri get to vote on their favorite stories, which is so exciting!



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
 SERVICES

Community Read Grant



*Jeannine Cummins,
 Scenic Regional's
 2026 Community Read
 Author.*



The library was awarded a \$5,000 Presenter Grant through the Missouri State Library for its 2026 Community Read author visit. The author is Jeanine Cummins, who wrote the bestseller, "American Dirt," as well as the

Community Read book, "Speak to Me of Home." Collection Development Manager Paul Schroeder wrote the grant.

The library has already purchased 1,450 copies of the book, which will be distributed by the library, East Central College, and the Washington Public Library in late March 2026. The grant will cover the author's entire speaker fee. Also, the Scenic Regional Library Foundation has agreed to pay for the author's travel expenses. Cummins' visit is tentatively scheduled for April 30, 2026.

This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Server Grant

The library was awarded a \$4,855.85 grant from the Missouri State Library for a new Dell PowerEdge server to replace a 2017 server. The server hosts our two virtual servers for QuickBooks and Windows Server Update Services. It's also a redundant server, which allows the library to get back up and running if either of the two servers goes down. The library's other current server was purchased in 2022. The library's IT Manager, Denise Edwards, wrote the grant.

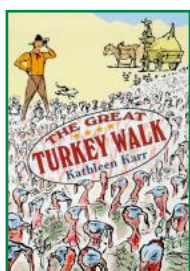
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Family Time Reads: Classic & New Favorites for Winter Break

Winter break is the perfect time to slow down, savor quiet moments, and share stories as a family. Whether you're reading aloud together or each choosing your own adventure, these books - some timeless classics, some exciting new releases - offer warmth, imagination, and plenty to talk about on chilly December days. To enjoy one of the wonderful picks below, visit our online catalog at bit.ly/44nLOTx.



The Great Turkey Walk
by Kathleen Karr
(1998)

A beloved historical adventure that still charms young readers today. When 15-year-old Simon Green heads west in 1860

to walk a flock of turkeys from Missouri to Denver, he finds more friendship, mishap, and heart than he bargained for. With humor, history, and a big-hearted hero, this is a fantastic read-aloud that spans generations.

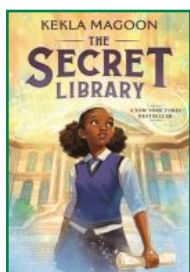
books make wonderful shared winter reading.



The Wild Robot
by Peter Brown (2016)

A modern classic in the making. When a robot named Roz finds herself stranded on a wilderness island, she must learn to adapt, survive, and eventually become

part of the animal community. A thoughtful, tender story about identity, nature, and connection, it's perfect for sparking family conversations.



The Secret Library
by Kekla Magoon

Perfect for fans of magical adventures, this recent release follows Dally, a girl who discovers a secret library where books can transport her into other worlds. Filled

with imagination, bravery, and book-loving joy, it's a new favorite that invites families to dream together.



The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
by L. Frank Baum
(Illustrated by Robert Ingpen)

With *Wicked* now enchanting audiences on the big screen, it's the perfect time to revisit the original

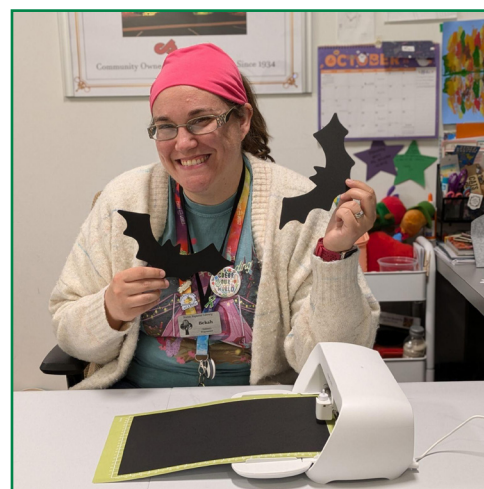
story that started it all. Robert Ingpen's beautifully detailed illustrations bring Baum's classic tale to life, following Dorothy, Toto, and their unforgettable friends down the yellow brick road. This edition is perfect for family read-alouds, capturing the magic, adventure, and timeless charm of Oz while letting readers see the world that inspired witches, wizards, and the Emerald City for generations.



The Land of Stories Series
by Chris Colfer

This bestselling series remains a family favorite for good reason. Twins Alex and Conner tumble into a realm where fairy tales come to life—complete

with daring quests, magical creatures, and heartwarming humor. Whether you're rediscovering it or starting fresh, these



Thank you to the Pacific Friends of the Library for purchasing a new Cricut for the branch. Children's programmer Bekah has already put it to good use!

Pacific Cookies from Santa Drive



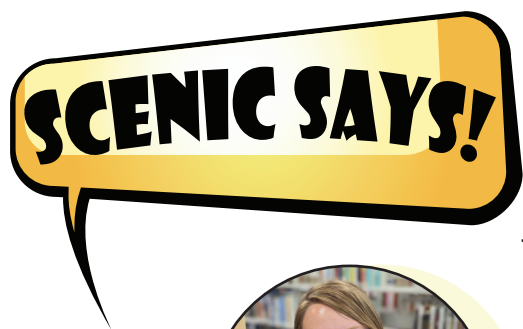
Four Rivers Progressive Coalition will have a collection drive at the Pacific branch

of Scenic Regional Library throughout December. They will be collecting store-bought cookies for food pantries in Franklin County so families can have a special treat for the holidays.





A monthly publication from your local library!



What's a small thing
 you're especially
 grateful for this
 year?

What book, movie,
 or show feels like a
 warm blanket on a
 chilly day?

What's your favorite
 oddly satisfying
 library task?

Macee
 Admin



"It's not necessarily small
 but I'm SO grateful to have
 bought my first house this
 year!"

"*The Lord of the Rings*,
 the movie trilogy. They
 have to be the extended
 versions too!"

"I love shelving. "A place
 for everything, and
 everything in its place.""

Shea
 Union
 Branch



"All of the new people that
 have been brought into
 my life!"

"*The House in the
 Cerulean Sea* by T. J.
 Klune."

"Filling empty display slots
 on the end of our stacks.
 It's very satisfying!"

Diane
 New Haven
 Branch



"I am glad that I can put
 on walking shoes, head
 out the door, and walk
 around town. Walks
 refresh my body and my
 mind."

"My new favorite feel-good
 movie is "Spirited" with
 Ryan Reynolds and Will
 Ferrell."

"Programming temporary
 RFID tags for items
 borrowed from other
 libraries is a satisfying
 task. It is the last task in a
 long string of cooperation
 between libraries to make
 materials available to
 patrons."

Mindy
 St. Clair
 Branch



"Milkweed seeds! My Girl
 Scout troop has been
 very fortunate to receive
 donated milkweed seeds
 to plant pollinator gardens
 to support Monarch
 butterflies."

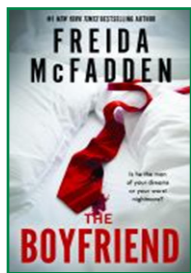
"*The Lord of the Rings:
 Fellowship of the Ring.*"

"Helping patrons with book
 recommendations. It's like
 creating shopping lists for
 others, but it's free!"



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Last Month's Most Popular Titles

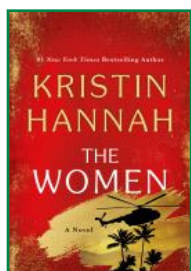


1st place (Tied)

The Boyfriend
by Freida McFadden

She's looking for the perfect man. He's looking for the perfect victim.

Genres: Thriller, Mystery, Fiction



1st place (Tied)

The Women
by Kristin Hannah

The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's

way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, The Women is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.

Genres: Historical Fiction, War, Strong Women



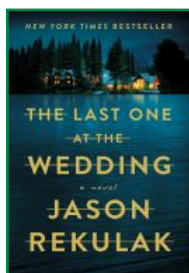
3rd place

The Housemaid is Watching
by Freida McFadden

From New York Times, USA Today, and Wall Street Journal bestselling author Freida McFadden

comes the next installment of the unbelievably twisty, tension-packed, and globally bestselling Housemaid series. This book can be enjoyed as a standalone read, and once you start, it will have you up all night racing through the pages until the final explosive twist.

Genres: Thriller, Mystery, Fiction



4th place

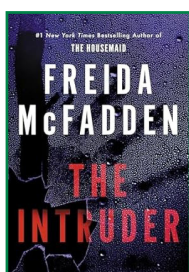
The Last One at the Wedding
by Jason Rekulak

A breathtaking work of suspense about a father trying to save his daughter from a life-altering decision

that will put everything he loves on the line. An edge-of-your-seat thriller that delves deep into the heart of one family, The Last One at the Wedding is a work of brilliant suspense from a true modern master.

Genres: Thriller, Mystery Fiction

hoopla & Libby.



The Intruder
by Freida McFadden

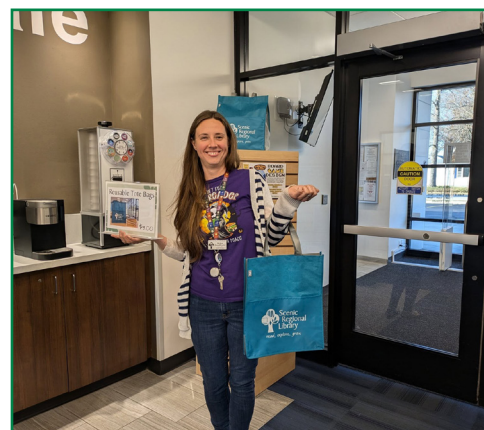
Casey's cabin in the wilderness is not built for a hurricane. Her roof shakes, the lights flicker, and the tree outside her front door sways ominously in the wind. But she's a lot

more worried about the girl she discovers lurking outside her kitchen window. She's young. She's alone. And she's covered in blood.

Genres: Thriller, Mystery, Fiction



Teens in Union made edible graham cracker houses to take home in time for the holidays!



We now have totes available for purchase at all branch locations. Only \$3.00 each!

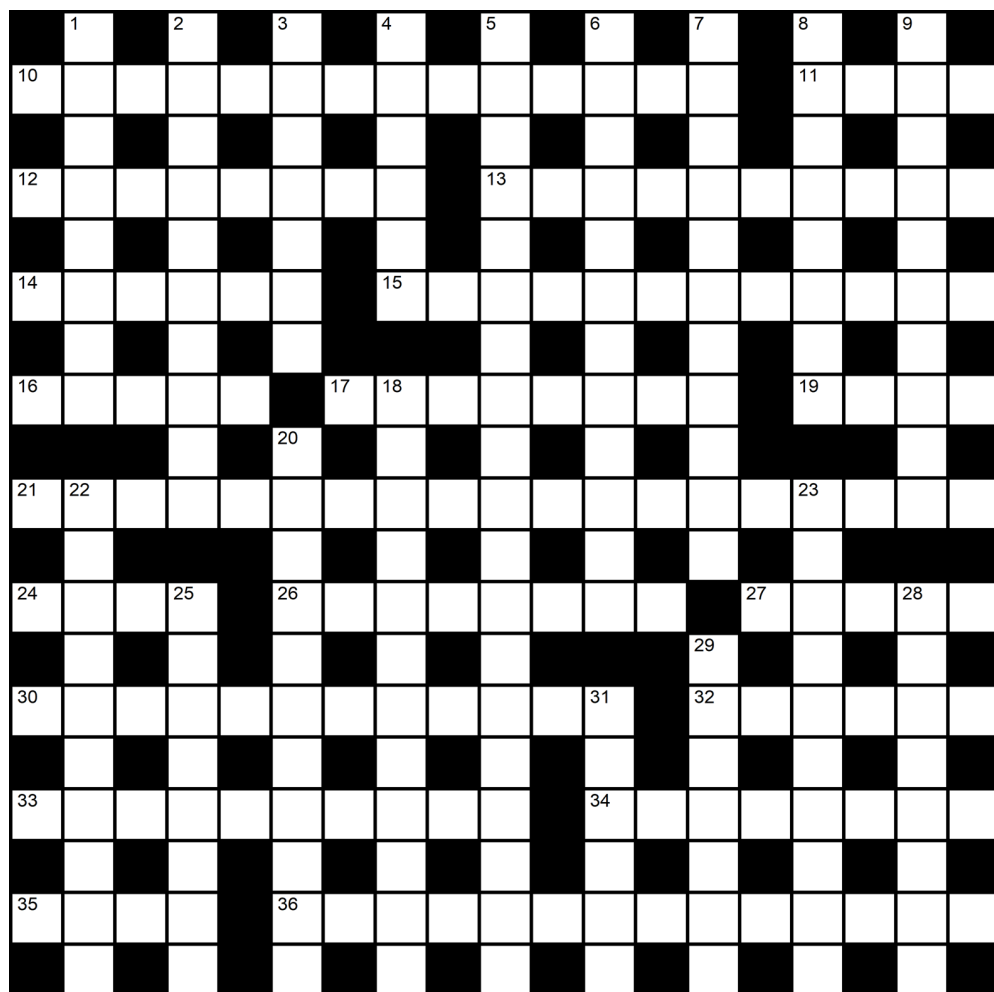


Congratulations to this young Warrenton patron on his first library card!



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December Crossword Puzzle



Across:

10 Ancient past beyond memory or record - **11** Similar or related in nature - **12** Moving in a wavelike motion - **13** Lack of skill or competence - **14** Connect or fasten to something - **15** Leadership position of a committee or board - **16** Small, round, and glittering, like certain eyes - **17** Tropical insects that travel in massive raiding columns - **19** Yielding easily to pressure or touch - **21** Sport played with feet and a round ball - **24** Small unit of linear measurement - **26** Eternal flames of damnation - **27** Drooping or hanging loosely - **30** Perfect example or purest form - **32** Stay hidden or out of sight - **33** Intense eagerness or interest - **34** Cause to become abnormally thin - **35** Nitrogen compound found in mammalian waste - **36** Scientists who study the seas.

Down:

1 Brief evocative scene or description - **2** Vigor and initiative - **3** Ability to understand another's feelings - **4** Relating to digestion - **5** Isolation of a prisoner in a single cell - **6** Electronic bank-to-bank money transmission - **7** Speech sound made by closing the vocal folds - **8** Religious ceremonies of initiation with water - **9** Showing contempt or scorn - **18** Venomous serpents with segmented tail noisemakers - **20** Carrying powerful electrical current - **22** Involving much bloodshed - **23** Vehicle lamp that signals stopping - **25** Loyal subordinate, especially of a villain - **28** Helpful deed or favor - **29** Spanish fortress or palace - **31** Capacity for doing work or producing power.

Find the answers at: www.scenicregional.org/crossword.



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/ 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



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" - \$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 10" X 2" - \$250	
<input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 9" X 3" - \$350	
<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 Drive
Union, MO 63084




SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026 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																							
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BRANCH AFFILIATION (Please select one) <table border="0"> <tr><td>Hermann Branch</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>New Haven Branch</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Owensville Branch</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Pacific Branch</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>St. Clair Branch</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Sullivan Branch</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Union Branch</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Warrenton Branch</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Wright City Branch</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </table>	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP Silver - \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Gold - \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum - \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond* - \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> *Lifetime Membership Up to \$10 in book sale volunteer vouchers can be applied toward any level of membership dues.	MEMBERSHIP GIFTS <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">    </div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Gold:</u> 12oz. metal tumbler/ Koozie </td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Platinum:</u> bluetooth speaker/ wireless phone charger </td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Diamond:</u> \$150 donor wall book </td> </tr> </table>		<u>Gold:</u> 12oz. metal tumbler/ Koozie	<u>Platinum:</u> bluetooth speaker/ wireless phone charger	<u>Diamond:</u> \$150 donor wall book	
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WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply) <table border="0"> <tr><td>Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Volunteer at other events</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Volunteer at my local branch</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Serve on the local Friends of the Library's</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Governing and Planning Committee</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </table>		Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer at other events	<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer at my local branch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on the local Friends of the Library's	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governing and Planning Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	OFFICE USE ONLY <table border="0"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>New Application</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Renewal</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Date Received:</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Amount Received:</td></tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/>	New Application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date Received:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount Received:
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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.