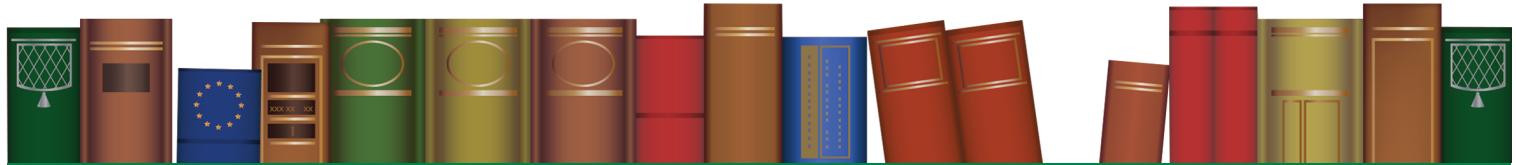




# THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER



issue 152 | january 2026

*A monthly publication from your local library!*

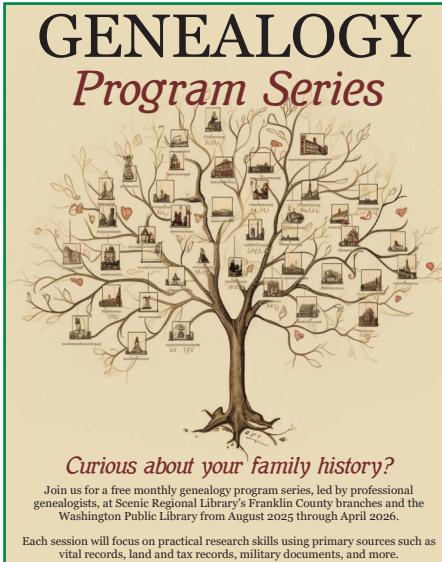
## Explore Your Roots with the Library's Genealogy Program Series

Curious about your family history? There is still time to take part in Scenic Regional Library's free monthly genealogy program series. Scenic Regional Library partnered with the Washington Public Library and the Four Rivers Genealogical Society to present this ongoing series, with several expert-led programs still scheduled through the spring of 2026.

Each session has focused on research skills using primary sources such as vital records, land and tax records, military documents, court records, and more.

The remaining programs are being held at the library's Franklin County branches and are open for registration. The series is funded by a Missouri Humanities Council grant.

Registration is required. Visit [www.scenicregional.org/genealogyseries](http://scenicregional.org/genealogyseries) for the complete program schedule and additional information about the presenters.



### Genealogy Program Series

**The Dusty Register: Researching Missouri Courthouse Records**

*Thursday, January 29, at 6pm*

*New Haven Branch*

**Exploring Probate Records to Identify Ancestors**

*Thursday, February 26, at 6pm*

*Sullivan Branch*

### What's in Grandpa's Military File?

*Thursday, March 5, at 6pm*

*Pacific Branch*

### Land Records and Title Research

*Thursday, March 19, at 6pm*

*Sullivan Branch*

### Ancestry DNA: Evaluating, Managing, and Analyzing DNA Matches

*Thursday, April 16, at 6pm*

*Union Branch*

## 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 reading-themed blanket to bundle up with. For more information, visit [bit.ly/SRLWRP25](http://bit.ly/SRLWRP25).



Scenic Regional Library branches will be closed January 1, in observance of The New Year and January 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



read, explore, grow

# THE Scenic Regional Library **NEWSLETTER**



*A monthly publication from your local library!*



*The Owensville branch staff enjoyed their holiday meal, generously donated by the Owensville Friends of the Library group, at The Rustic Garden in Bland, MO.*



*The St. Clair branch staff enjoyed their holiday meal, generously donated by the St. Clair Friends of the Library group, at The Tilted Skillet in Union.*



*Santa Frank visited the Scenic Regional Library branches and spent time with our patrons.*

## Parkinson's Kits Now Available for Checkout



*Sydney Settle, Coordinator of Programs and Community Engagement at the American Parkinson's Disease Association, left, and Megan Maurer, Assistant Director of Scenic Regional Library, pose with a Parkinson's Kit on December 17.*

**I**n partnership with the American Parkinson's Disease Association, Missouri Chapter, Scenic Regional Library will begin circulating Parkinson's Disease Kits at all nine locations. The kits include a library welcome kit letter, a "What is PD" fact sheet, a MO Chapter overview flyer, a list of Missouri exercise classes and support groups, a virtual exercise sheet, a symptom checklist, and a medications-to-avoid fact sheet. The kits are specifically designed for Missouri residents and include local resources available in and around the area.

To place a hold for a Parkinson's Kit, visit us online at [bit.ly/PDKitsSRL](http://bit.ly/PDKitsSRL).

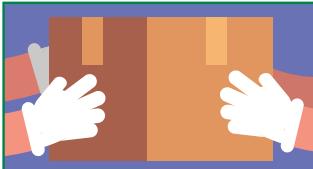
## Owensville Storywalk Updated



*& Recreation Department shared the project's cost. Scenic Regional Library will provide a new book for the StoryWalk™ each quarter.*

The StoryWalk™ promotes early literacy, physical activity, and family time together in nature. It's a fun and educational family activity that can bring joy to the community as people take a stroll and enjoy successive pages from a children's story along the path.

## Library Seeks Donations



**S**cenic 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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## Try Craft & Hobby

Do you want to try out a new hobby for the new year? If you're ready to learn something new or finally make time for creativity, Scenic Regional Library invites you to explore Craft & Hobby, the most extensive on-demand learning collection dedicated entirely to crafts and hobbies - free with your library card.

Craft & Hobby makes it easy to turn inspiration into action. With step-by-step instructional videos across 22 creative categories, you can try a brand-new hobby or build confidence in one you already love. From art and sewing to baking, woodworking, and more, classes are designed to fit into real life, letting you learn at your own pace, on your own schedule.

Whether your New Year's goal is to be more creative, pick up a relaxing pastime, or learn a practical skill, Craft & Hobby offers something for every age and interest. All content is family-friendly, accessible, and beginner-friendly. Start your next creative journey today by visiting [bit.ly/4pcb2Rw](http://bit.ly/4pcb2Rw) and clicking "Craft & Hobby."

## CRAFT & HOBBY

## Tune In to the Library on Local Radio

Catch the library on your local radio station! The library has regularly scheduled interviews on all three local radio stations each month to discuss upcoming programs and events; new and existing library services; and other information and happenings. In addition, various staff from the branches and administration appear on the programs, each approximately 20-30 minutes in length.

On the first Wednesday of each month, the library staff appears on the Diane Jones Show on KLPW 1120 AM in Union at 8:35 a.m. On the third Thursday of each month, the library staff is interviewed by Sam Scott on KTUI 1560 AM in Sullivan at 9:10 a.m. On the fourth Thursday of each month, the library staff appears on Livewire with Mike Thomas on KWRE 730 AM in Warrenton at 9:30 a.m.



*Sullivan Branch Manager Sydney Lewis and Library Director Steve Campbell on air at KTUI on November 21.*

**KLPW 1120 AM in Union:**  
First Wednesdays, 8:35 am

**KTUI 1560 AM in Sullivan:**  
Third Thursdays, 9:10 am

**KWRE 730 AM in Warrenton:**  
Fourth Thursdays, 9:30 am

## All Branches are Warming Stations

As the cold weather approaches, don't forget that all Scenic Regional Library branches are designated warming stations. Everyone is free to visit during our open hours and warm up. During the summer, all branches are also designated cooling stations.



## St. Clair Branch wins First Place in Winter Parade

Congratulations to the St. Clair branch of Scenic Regional Library, for recently winning first place with its Kiss-inspired float in St. Clair's annual Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 13. The theme of the parade was "Rockin' Down Main Street - A St. Clair Christmas."

Despite the frigid temperatures, the St. Clair branch dressed as members of the rock band Kiss and had a rocking good time!



*Elianna reached her goal of 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. Congratulations, Eliana!*



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## SCENIC SAYS!

**Christy**  
Admin



Do you have any reading goals for the New Year?

What's a book or movie with a character you adore?

What is your favorite library resource to recommend to patrons?

**Kayleigh**  
Wright City  
Branch



"Every Year I choose between 60-80 Books to read. I am doing 80 in 2026!"

"I'm reading the *Dungeon Crawler Carl* series and I LOVE Princess Donut (she's a cat)."

"Games! We have over 300 games that you can check out for when family and friends are coming over."

**Bekah**  
Pacific  
Branch



"I'm hoping to read more books by indie authors next year!"

"Book would be Rocky the Alien from *Project Hail Mary* (Soon to be a movie) AMAZE! Movie would have to be Evelyn Carnahan from *The Mummy*."

"Novelist for finding read-alike books! I use this for myself and my 12-year-old old who reads about five books a week, wonderful resource!"

**Sarah**  
Owensville  
Branch



"Yes! I'm doing a project involving "lost" women in science, so I plan to be reading much more non-fiction."

"Anne Shirley from *Anne of Green Gables* is my favorite book character! I just love her spirit!"

"I'm always recommending Libby to our patrons. It's amazing how many free e-books and e-audiobooks you can get with your library card!"

"Jo March from *Little Women* with her insatiable curiosity for life and learning shaped me into the eternal learner I am at age 60."

"Kid's Non-Fiction: You can find the answer to literally anything in books that are easy to understand, with lots of pictures!"



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## Resolve to Read Local This Year

As the new year begins, many are setting goals and looking for ways to try something new. One simple resolution is to read at least one book set close to home. Whether you enjoy romance, historical fiction, or action-packed adventure, Missouri offers stories worth exploring.

This year, consider resolving to read at least one book set right here in our state. You may discover a new favorite author, learn something unexpected about local history, or see familiar places in a whole new way.

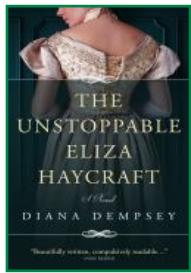
All of these titles are available through the library. Visit us online at [bit.ly/MOReads2026](https://bit.ly/MOReads2026) to place a hold and start the year with a story close to home.



**The Joplin Chronicles series**  
by *Regina Jennings*  
Genre: Historical Romance

Set in post-Civil War Missouri, *The Joplin Chronicles* series blends humor, heart, and history against the backdrop of a growing frontier town. Regina Jennings is known for creating strong, witty characters and pairing romance with well-researched historical settings.

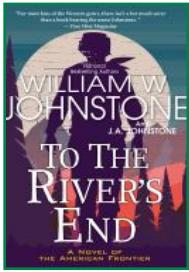
Readers who enjoy lighthearted historical fiction with engaging characters will appreciate how the series explores life, love, and community in a changing Missouri town. The setting adds charm and authenticity, making it an excellent option for readers who want a feel-good story rooted in local history.



**The Unstoppable Eliza Haycraft**  
by *Diana Dempsey*  
Genre: Historical Fiction

Based on a real Missouri woman, this novel tells the story of Eliza Haycraft, a mid-nineteenth-century entrepreneur who built a successful business despite legal and social obstacles placed on women at the time. Set in Missouri, the book highlights resilience, determination, and the fight for independence.

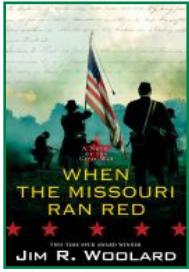
This is an excellent choice for readers who enjoy stories about overlooked historical figures and strong women. It also appeals to those interested in Missouri history and real-life stories that feel just as compelling as fiction.



**To the River's End**  
by *William W. Johnstone*  
Genre: Western Historical Fiction

Set along the Missouri River, *To the River's End* follows characters as they navigate frontier life, danger, and opportunity in a rugged landscape. The river itself plays a central role, shaping both the setting and the story.

Fans of Westerns and historical adventure will enjoy this fast-paced novel. Readers interested in Missouri's early settlement era will appreciate the vivid sense of place and the challenges faced by those who lived and traveled near the river.



**When the Missouri Ran Red**  
by *Jim R. Woolard*  
Genre: Historical Fiction

This novel centers on Missouri during the Civil War, a time when the state was deeply divided and often violent. The story captures the complexity of loyalties, the impact of war on everyday people, and the lasting effects of conflict on local communities.

Readers who enjoy serious historical fiction will find this book especially engaging. It is a strong pick for those interested in Missouri history, the Civil War, and character-driven stories grounded in real events.



## CASA Annual Fundraising Breakfast

### JUSTICE IS SERVED

CASA'S PREMIER FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

**2.7.26**

BEGINNING AT 9 AM

Hermann Hill Event Center

HERMANN, MISSOURI

**Tickets On Sale Now**

[CASAMIDEASTMO.ORG](http://CASAMIDEASTMO.ORG)



Justice is Served, the signature fundraiser for CASA of Mideast Missouri, will take place on Saturday, February 7, at the Hermann Hill Event Center in Hermann. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. - the event begins at 9 a.m. Served by our honorable judges, this delicious breakfast and dessert auction unites the community in support of area foster children. It's an inspirational event that also pays tribute to individuals who've strived to improve the lives of our most vulnerable children. Let their heartfelt stories leave you feeling inspired and full of hope! To purchase tickets, visit [casamideastmo.org](http://casamideastmo.org).



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# THE Scenic Regional Library **NEWSLETTER**



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## Gallery Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Scenic Regional Arts Council members and other volunteers gathered for a gallery appreciation dinner on Wednesday, December 10, to celebrate another successful year and their hard work and support in making The Gallery at the Library a success.

The gallery wrapped up its latest exhibit, "Landscapes: Views from the Easel," on Friday, December 19. The exhibit was The Gallery at the Library's 11th show since its opening.

The gallery's next exhibit, "Bricolage," will run from January 9 to March 20. Bricolage is the art of making something new out of what's already around you. It's about transformation - taking found, repurposed, or unexpected materials and turning them into something meaningful, beautiful, or thought-provoking. The exhibit is sponsored by The Missouri Arts Council and Village Market Cash Saver. For more information about The Gallery at the Library, visit [scenicregional.org/gallery](http://scenicregional.org/gallery).



Pg. 6

## Take Charge of the New Semester - Use the Library's Free Online Live Tutoring



A new semester brings new classes, new challenges, and new opportunities to succeed, and the library is here to help every step of the way. Brainfuse HelpNow® is Scenic Regional Library's online tutoring and learning support platform, available to students from kindergarten through college, with a library card.

Brainfuse HelpNow® offers a user-friendly experience with a wide range of academic support tools, including live online tutoring, an on-demand writing lab, and the option to submit questions and receive expert help within 24 hours. Live tutoring is available daily from 2 to 11 pm, making it easy to get help after school, in the evening, or during late-night study sessions.

Whether you are brushing up on tough subjects, polishing an essay, or looking for extra academic support as the semester gets underway, Brainfuse HelpNow® is a convenient and reliable resource, free with your library card.

To get started or learn more, visit [scenicregional.org/databases/#childrens](http://scenicregional.org/databases/#childrens) and click "Brainfuse HelpNow®".



## Teen Homeschool Group Collecting Supplies for "Stay Warm Kits"

The Teen Homeschool Group at the St. Clair Branch will host a collection drive in January to assemble "Stay Warm Kits" for those in need. The group is accepting donations of new socks, gloves, hats, scarves, and hand warmers. There will be a donation box in the branches' entryway.

During their January meeting, the group will discuss Community Service projects, learn how to start and complete the projects, package all collected supplies into kits, and decide how to distribute them.

The Teen Homeschool Group at the St. Clair branch meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 1 PM in the branch's meeting room.



### "Stay Warm Kits" Drive

- Socks
- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- Hand Warmers

**All Donations Must Be New**

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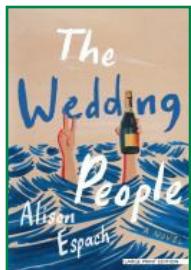
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# THE Scenic Regional Library **NEWSLETTER**



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## Top eBook and eAudiobooks

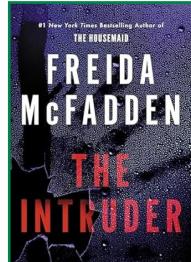


**The Wedding People**  
by Alison Espach  
(ebook)

It's a beautiful day in Newport, Rhode Island, when Phoebe Stone arrives at the grand Cornwall Inn wearing a green dress and gold heels, not a bag in sight, alone. She's immediately mistaken by everyone in the lobby for one of the wedding people, but she's actually the only guest at the Cornwall who isn't here for the big event. Phoebe is here because she's dreamed of coming for years—she hoped to shuck oysters and take sunset sails with her husband, only now she's here without him, at rock bottom, and determined to have one last decadent splurge on herself. Meanwhile, the bride has accounted for every detail and every possible disaster the weekend might yield except for, well, Phoebe and Phoebe's plan—which makes it that much more surprising when the two women can't stop confiding in each other.

In turns absurdly funny and devastatingly tender, Alison Espach's *The Wedding People* is ultimately an incredibly nuanced and resonant look at the winding paths we can take to places we never imagined—and the chance encounters it sometimes takes to reroute us.

**Genres:** Contemporary Fiction, Literary Fiction



**The Intruder**  
by Freida McFadden  
(eaudiobook)

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.

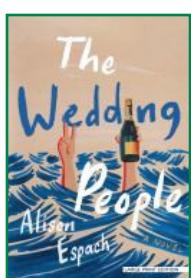
**Genres:** Thriller, Mystery, Fiction

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**Libby.**



**One by One**  
by Freida McFadden  
(ebook)

expected to spend her vacation. She thought this would be a break from the stresses of work and raising her young children. A chance to repair her damaged marriage. A week of hiking and hot tubs with two other couples friends. It sounded like heaven.

Then Claire's minivan breaks down on a lonely dirt road. With no cell reception, the group has no choice but to hike the rest of the way to their hotel. But it turns out the woods aren't as easy to navigate as they thought.

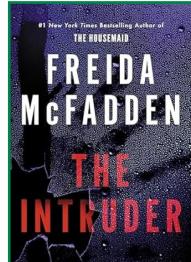
Hours later, they are lost. Hopelessly lost.

And as they navigate deeper into the woods, the members of their party are struck down mysteriously one by one. Has a wild animal been hunting them? Or is the hunter one of them?

But as more time passes, one thing becomes clear:

Only one of them will return home alive.

**Genres:** Thriller, Mystery, Fiction



**Quick Silver**  
by Callie Hart  
(eaudiobook)

From global phenomenon Callie Hart comes a highly addictive enemies-to-lovers Romantasy with razor-sharp banter, heart-stopping action, and blistering hot romance that you won't be able to put down!

**Genres:** Fantasy, Romance Fae



*Sullivan Storytime focused on creating ornaments for young patrons to take home to hang on their trees.*



*Wright City patrons had a blast painting Cardinals in the snow with Isaac Cherry while listening to Jerry play piano music in the background.*



*Guests in St. Clair enjoyed making craft projects and listening to holiday music during Christmas Craftapalooza.*



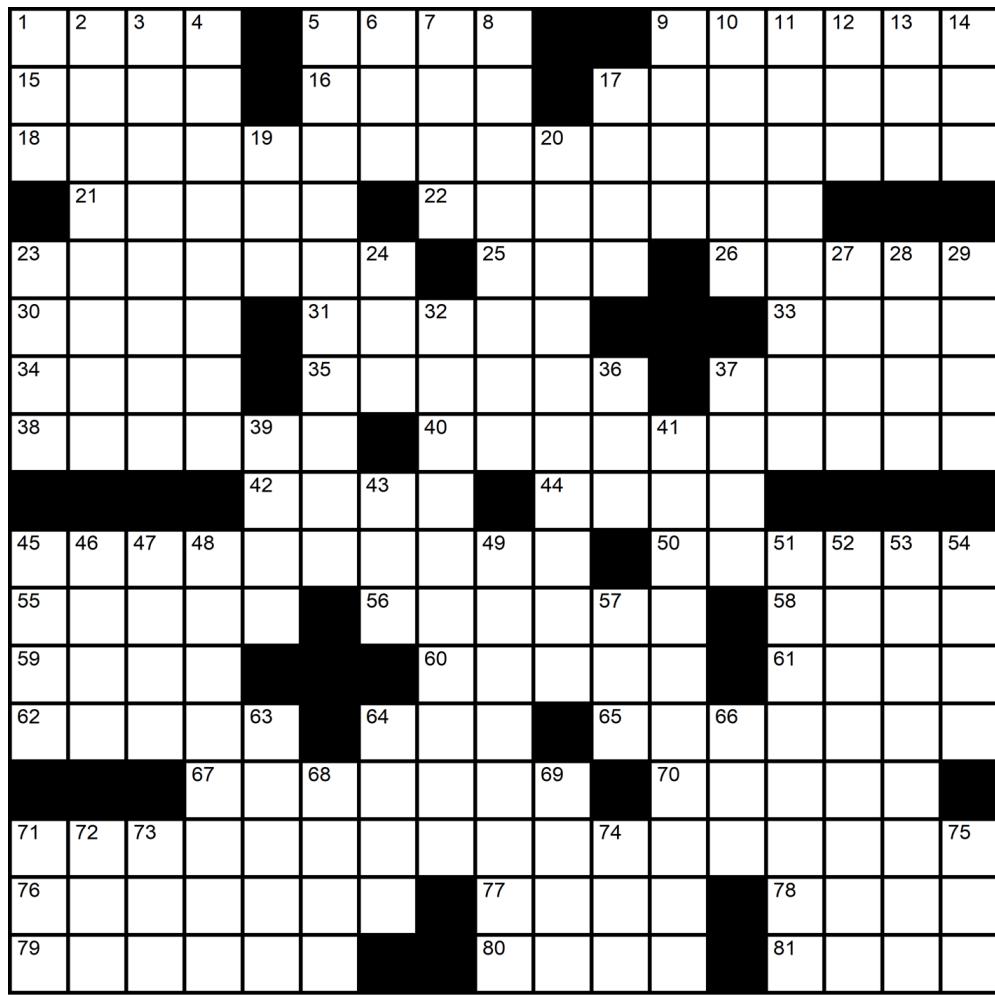
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# THE Scenic Regional Library **NEWSLETTER**



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## January Crossword Puzzle



### Down:

1. Tropical blackbird
2. Dismiss or dispatch
3. Those who break free
4. Believers in particle theory
5. Discover by chance
6. Turkish military commander
7. Destiny or inevitable outcome
8. Three-hulled vessel
9. Caffeinated soft drink
10. Join together
11. Boy who never grew up
12. Thai language
13. Anger or wrath
14. Typographical units
17. Slight coloration
19. Wet earth
20. Arctic Ocean waters
23. Author Philip
24. Managed or operated
27. Garden tool for leaves
28. Numbered musical work
29. Batters forcefully
32. Flue topper
36. Jackdaw bird
37. Rose oil
39. Not closed
41. Rut marks from wheels
43. Organ of hearing
45. Absorb or take up
46. Russian mountain range
47. Clamp down with teeth
48. Back and forth
49. Incendiary mixture
51. Establishes in position
52. Tropical soil rich in iron
53. All people without exception
54. Morning moisture drops
57. Venomous snake
63. French mustard city
64. In addition; too
66. In the style of
68. Cat, informally
69. At a great distance
71. Tree fluid; weaken
72. Large flightless bird
73. Parcel of land
74. Roadside lodging
75. Brief sleep

### Across:

1. At sea; confused
5. Handle of a knife or ax
9. Elimination match in a knockout tournament
15. Cozy home or refuge
16. Gelatinous culture medium
17. Phonograph component holding the stylus
18. Fundamental conflicts or mismatches
21. Block the flow of water
22. Issue forth from a source
23. More swift
25. Creative expression or skill
26. Mistake or miscalculation
30. Has outstanding debts
31. Mother-of-pearl
33. Father, informally
34. Sharp-tasting or acidic
35. Release one's grip
37. Fiber used for caulking ships
38. Biblical herb
40. State of being whole and undamaged
42. Verse composition
44. Strike with a sharp blow
45. Secondary renters
50. Stirred up or disturbed
55. Hunter constellation
56. Warm up again
58. Central part of a church
59. New Zealand tree
60. Leavening agent
61. Simmer slowly; worry
62. Mix together smoothly
64. Fourth month (abbr.)
65. Idle chatters
67. Graduation certificate
70. Relating to wings
71. Defense of one's own actions
76. Lovingly, in music
77. Large container for liquids
78. Sicilian volcano
79. Hoaxes or pranks
80. Sea eagles
81. Ooze gradually

### Find the answers at:

[www.scenicregional.org/crossword](http://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 1 1/2" 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.



## Scenic Regional Library Foundation Donor Wall "Book" Order Form

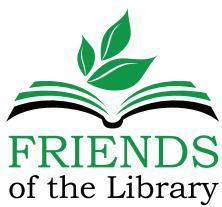
FIRST NAME		DATE
MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME	
STREET ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE ZIP CODE	
PHONE NUMBER		
EMAIL ADDRESS		
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION TO APPEAR ON BOOK		
BRANCH (Please select one)		SIZE OF BOOK
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/> New Haven 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"/> 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  
FOUNDATION



**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
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
STREET ADDRESS		EMAIL ADDRESS
		PHONE NUMBER

<b>BRANCH AFFILIATION</b> (Please select one)	<b>LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Silver - \$25</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gold - \$50</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Platinum - \$100</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Diamond* - \$500</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">*Lifetime Membership</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Up to \$10 in book sale volunteer vouchers can be applied toward any level of membership dues.</p>	<b>MEMBERSHIP GIFTS</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <u>Gold:</u>  12oz. metal  tumbler/  Koozie </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <u>Platinum:</u>  bluetooth  speaker/  wireless phone  charger </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <u>Diamond:</u>  \$150 donor  wall book </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>
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<b>WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at other events</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at my local branch</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the local Friends of the Library's</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Governing and Planning Committee</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>
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Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to:  
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*Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible.*