



THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER



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A monthly publication from your local library!



2024 Community Read Selection Committee

Every spring, the library and its partners (East Central College and Washington Public Library) present a Community Read to encourage everyone in the three-county area (Warren, Franklin, and Gasconade) to read and discuss the same book at the same time. The preparation for next year's Community Read is already underway, and we would like your input!

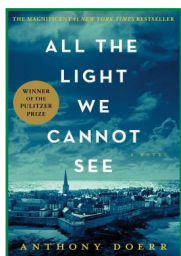
Throughout June, a Community Read Selection Committee, consisting of volunteers representing each Scenic Regional Library community and the Washington Public Library, met to propose and discuss possible book choices for next year's event. Members of the selection committee are as follows: Christy Fouch of St. Clair, Chris Raab of Warrenton, Katherine Kehoe of Hermann, Tina

Aragon of Owensville, Sarah Schroeder of Wright City, Mark Smith of Sullivan, Theresa Graham of Union, Dr. Carrie Schwierjohn of Pacific, and Maureen Coppotelli of Washington. The committee has narrowed the list of possible selections to four titles and would like public feedback before their final meeting on Wednesday, July 26. Please read the summaries below and vote for the title that you would like to see selected for our next Community Read by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/WKS5ZPZ. The survey will close at midnight Tuesday, July 25.



The Community Read Selection Committee met Wednesday, July 12 to narrow their list of books down to four titles, for the public to vote on.

Book Choices *(Continued on Next Page)*



"All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr (Historical Fiction),
Published in 2014, 531 pages

Awards: Pulitzer Prize for fiction, Audie Award for fiction, ALA Alex Award

Themes: World War II, Holocaust, gems, radios, scale models

Summary: Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel. In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

Voting is available through July 25. Vote today: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WKS5ZPZ

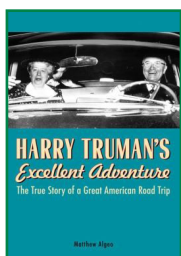


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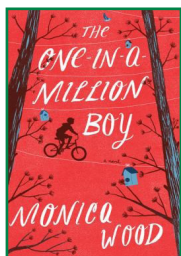
Voting is available through July 25. Vote today: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WKS5ZPZ



"Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a Great American Road Trip"
 by Matthew Algeo (History Non-Fiction), *Published in 2009, 238 pages*

Themes: Harry Truman, memoirs, cars, road trips, U.S. presidents, regional food, New York City, Broadway

Summary: On June 19, 1953, Harry Truman got up early, packed the trunk of his Chrysler New Yorker, and did something no other former president has done before or since: he hit the road. No Secret Service protection. No traveling press. Just Harry and his childhood sweetheart Bess, off to visit old friends, take in a Broadway play, celebrate their wedding anniversary in the Big Apple, and blow a bit of the money he'd just received to write his memoirs. Hopefully incognito. In this lively history, author Matthew Algeo meticulously details how Truman's plan to blend in went wonderfully awry. Fellow diners, bellhops, cabbies, squealing teenagers at a Future Homemakers of America convention, and one very by-the-book Pennsylvania state trooper all unknowingly conspired to blow his cover. Algeo revisits the Trumans' route, staying at the same hotels and eating at the same diners, and takes readers on brief detours into topics such as the postwar American auto industry, McCarthyism, the nation's highway system, and the decline of Main Street America. By the end of the 2,500-mile journey, you will have a new and heartfelt appreciation for America's last citizen-president.

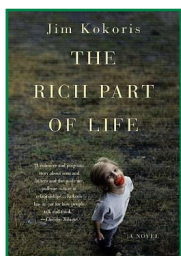


"The One-in-a-Million Boy" by Monica Wood (Contemporary Adult Fiction),
Published in 2016, 336 pages

Awards: Nautilus Award, New England Society Book Award, finalist for Book of the Year by The World magazine

Themes: Immigrants, intergenerational relationships, volunteerism, Ellis Island, family secrets

Summary: The incandescent story of a 104-year-old woman and the sweet, strange young boy assigned to help her around the house, a friendship that touches each member of the boy's unmoored family. For years, guitarist Quinn Porter has been on the road, chasing gig after gig, largely absent to his twice-ex-wife Belle and their odd, Guinness records-obsessed son. When the boy dies suddenly, Quinn seeks forgiveness for his paternal shortcomings by completing the requirements for his son's unfinished Boy Scout badge. For seven Saturdays, Quinn does yard work for Ona Vitkus, the wily 104-year-old Lithuanian immigrant the boy had visited weekly. Quinn soon discovers that the boy had talked Ona into gunning for the world record for Oldest Licensed Driver and that's the least of her secrets. Despite himself, Quinn picks up where the boy left off, forging a friendship with Ona that allows him to know the son he never understood, a boy who was always listening, always learning.



"The Rich Part of Life" by Jim Kokoris (Family Life Fiction), *Published in 2001, 336 pages*

Awards: Friends of American Writers Award for Best First Novel

Themes: Civil War, family, Greece, film making, cooking

Summary: Teddy Pappas is an eleven-year-old boy forced into maturity before his time. He lives with his younger brother and their eccentric Civil War historian father, a man more comfortable with discussing Confederate footwear than what kind of day his sons had. Their lives have been quiet for a year since the real lifeblood of their household, Teddy's mother, died in a tragic car accident. On the one-year anniversary of her death, Teddy's stoic father plays his wife's favorite lottery numbers in a tender, uncharacteristic act. When it turns out that the family holds the \$190 million winning ticket, their world is instantly transformed. Seemingly overnight, a host of colorful characters demands their attention, including Teddy's hilarious aunt and uncle, a beautiful divorcée, a desperate former soap opera star, and a menacing stranger who threatens the very core of the family. As events spiral out of control, the family struggles to discover what "the rich part of life" really is. Featuring a unique father-child bond, Jim Kokoris's moving first novel is flavored with the rich characterizations and poignant charm of early John Irving. Creating the perfect balance of humor and pathos, Kokoris takes us on an unforgettable journey through the ups and downs of this revelation of unexpected wealth.



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Staff Spotlight: Kjersti Associate Director of Business and Human Resources



How long have you worked for Scenic?
 6 years and 10 months.

Can you share a little bit about your background before you came to work at the library?

I received my Bachelor of Science in Accounting from UMSL. My background before the library was in corporate accounting, small business accounting, as well as accounting and HR for non-profits.

What is your favorite part of the job?

My favorite part of my job is meeting all new employees on their first day and welcoming them to the world of libraries.

What do you wish more people knew about the library?

All the many resources the library has to offer besides books. From our

knowledgeable staff, hotspots, STEM kits, ukuleles, the resources you can access at the library are endless.

What is your favorite book? Why?

This is a hard question to answer... I've been an avid reader for most of my life, so narrowing it down to just one book seems next to impossible. My tastes in books are also all over the place, from fantasy, horror, romance, mysteries, so that makes it even harder. Some of my favorites over the years have included *The Secret Garden*, *Little Women*, *The Stand*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Harry Potter Series*, *Under the Whispering Door*...I could go on....

Any hobbies or interests outside the library?

I love to go camping with my family, exploring nature, fishing, and hanging out by the pool. All my girls have been or still are involved in soccer, so typically you can find us at the soccer field.

Is there anything else you would like people to know about you, your role at SRL, or the library general?

I can drive and operate both a bobcat and a boat, but I don't think those are typically skills that will be needed in my position at the library. In all seriousness, my ultimate goal with working at the library is to spread awareness to what SRL provides to all residents in our communities. Come by and visit, we are happy to see you!

O'Daniel Installed as Union Rotary President

Sarah O'Daniel, the Marketing Specialist at Scenic Regional Library, was inducted as the President of the Rotary Club of Union at its induction banquet on June 21. O'Daniel has been a part of Rotary since June 2022.

Rotary is a service organization consisting of a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe.



Sarah O'Daniel, left, accepts the Rotary gavel from Tricia Seely, who served as president for from 2022-2023.

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Pacific patrons learned all about orienteering from the Missouri Department of Education. Then, they were able to test out their new skills.



All branches of Scenic Regional Library are cooling stations. This family is cooling off while enjoying some good books in Warrenton!



The Union branch talked about the importance of pollination and did a quick activity to demonstrate how bees pollinate during "STEAM Saturday".

Donor Wall Books



You can have your name, your family's name, or your business's name become a permanent part of the library in your community. The Scenic Regional Library Foundation and Friends of the Library groups have been selling donor wall "books" since construction on our new buildings began in 2016.

Due to increased costs, the donor book prices have been increased \$50. A "book" that is 8" x 1.5" will now be \$150. A 10" x 2" book is \$250; and a 9" x 3" book is \$350. Proceeds from the sale of the donor wall books are used to assist the library with the purchase of furnishings and equipment in the new facilities. All purchases are tax deductible.

Funds raised from the donor wall books have been used to purchase instruments for the children's patios, performers for library programs, displays for board books, and much more.

Scent Kits Donated for Memory Kits

The library recently received a donation of 60 scent kits from Dry Creek Bloodhounds. The scent kits will be included in the Memory Kits that the library circulates for caregivers of those experiencing memory loss. The scent kits include supplies and instructions for capturing a person's scent and storing it for use to help find them if they ever go missing. Caregivers will be able to take the scent kit from the Memory Kit and the library will replace it when the Memory Kit is returned.

Dry Creek Bloodhounds presented programs at five branches during our Community Read in March and April of this year. During the program they had the bloodhounds smell a patron, the patron hid, and then was found by the bloodhound. They explained during

the program that their bloodhounds are used all over the country to find missing persons. Partnering with Dry Creek Bloodhounds to provide scent kits in our Memory Kits seemed like a great service for our community.

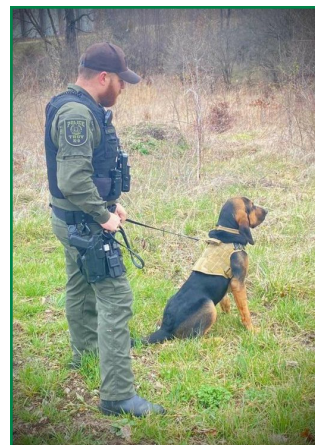


Photo taken from Dry Creek Bloodhounds Facebook page.



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Accola Named New Haven Branch Manager

Dianne Accola was recently named the New Haven Branch Manager. Accola left the corporate world and joined the team at Scenic Regional Library in 2019 and has “found her work passion” serving the public. She has held various positions with the library, including in her hometown branch as Library Assistant in Pacific, as well as Branch Coverage Supervisor. In addition to her duties as the New Haven branch manager, she will continue to coordinate the schedules of the part-time floating staff.

After spending the last few years working in all of the branches, Accola is excited to have a new branch home. In addition to working closely with the Friends of the Library, she plans to join the Chamber of Commerce and continue the library’s involvement in the community’s events and activities.



“Didgeridoo Down Under” visited all nine branches of the library to teach our young patrons about Australian animals, culture, and the didgeridoo.



The Owensville branch read books about bravery and made bravery medals during Storytime.

Art Gallery Tours at Hermann Branch

Enjoy a free guided tour of the Gallery at the Library’s Portraiture exhibit and learn about the artists and their work. All ages are welcome. Remaining tours are on Friday July 21 and Friday July 28 from 4:00pm to 4:45pm. Reserve a spot by calling Steve Campbell at 636-583-0652 ext. 101.



Lindenwood University art intern Meredith Rodgers gives a tour of the Gallery at the Library in June.



The St. Clair community enjoyed a water slide and treats at the branch as part of the Library Summer Reading Program: “All Together Now”.



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Communications Donation

Fidelity Communications recently made a donation of \$1,647 for new public internet computers at the Sullivan, New Haven, and Owensville branches. The library has used Fidelity for its telephone service in Sullivan since the branch was built in 2018. Fidelity has provided phone service at the New Haven and Owensville branches for much longer.

"Providing the public access to computers has become a core service for our library system. Scenic is thrilled to have Fidelity Communications as community partner to continue this service in our Sullivan, New Haven, and Owensville communities," said Megan Maurer, Scenic Regional's Assistant Director.



Sam McGill, Director of Field Operations at Fidelity Communications, left, and Kecia Philpot, Sullivan Branch Manager, in front of the branch's public computers.

Monthly VR Clubs Coming Soon

The library purchased eight Meta Quest 2 headsets this year. Those headsets will be used for programming in the branches and for outreach programs. Starting in August, every branch will have a monthly Virtual Reality (VR) club. At VR Club, new and experienced players can sign up for a one-hour time slot to experience new worlds. For those new to VR, we have a game called First Steps that teaches you how to explore and play in VR in a simple, directed game format.

Once you have a little experience, you can try out our assortment of games. In Walkabout Mini Golf and Golf VR, you can play golf at your own level and pace in exciting landscapes. In Wander, you can go anywhere in the world. In Hand Physics Lab, you can solve puzzles using just your hands, no controllers. You can fish, ride roller coasters, or shoot aliens. The possibilities are nearly endless.

Because each branch has a different size meeting room(s), attendance limits will vary by branch, so registration will be required. You can go to www.scenicregional.org/events

to search for the VR Club at your local branch and register.



Sullivan Branch Children's Programmer, Elizabeth Byrd doing puzzles in Hand Physics Lab.

Hermann - 1st Tuesdays 4pm-6pm
Sullivan - 1st Thursdays 4pm-6pm
Pacific - 2nd Fridays 4pm-6pm
St. Clair - 2nd Wednesdays 3pm-5pm
New Haven - 2nd Thursdays 4pm-6pm
Warrenton - 3rd Wednesdays 4pm-6pm
Owensville - 3rd Thursdays 5pm-7pm
Union - 4th Wednesdays 4pm-6pm
Wright City - last Thursdays 5pm-7pm



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 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, 2023 – September 30, 2024 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
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.