



THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER

read, explore, grow



issue 158 | july 2026

A monthly publication from your local library!

Candidate Forums Taking Place in July

Scenic Regional Library will host several Candidate Forums this July featuring local and state races. Community members are encouraged to attend, stream the events live on Facebook, and most importantly, submit questions for candidates in advance. Forums include races for Franklin County Commissioner, Franklin County Auditor, Gasconade County Commissioner, and Missouri House District 61. Scan the QR codes to submit your questions. The forums will be archived and available to watch on YouTube at a later date.

Franklin County Commissioner Candidate Forum • Union: Tuesday, July 28, 6pm

Scan the QR code to submit your questions.



Dave Schatz (Incumbent)



Shawn Noel



Ed Hillhouse



Thomas Krausch



bit.ly/4elzVSW

Franklin County Auditor Candidate Forum Union: Wednesday, July 22, 6pm

Scan the QR code to submit your questions.



Anne Barry



Rafael Madrigal



bit.ly/4cFfzr4

Missouri House of Representatives District 61 Candidate Forum Owensville: Monday, July 27, 6pm



Bruce Sassmann
(Incumbent)



John Grady

Scan the QR code to submit your questions.



Stacy Bax



bit.ly/48ikXiR

Gasconade County Commissioner Candidate Forum Hermann: Tuesday, July 21, 6pm

Scan the QR code to submit your questions.



Tim Schulte (Incumbent)



Mark Mundwiller



bit.ly/4sNHtao

Saturday, July 4
We will be closed in observance of
Independence Day
Administrative Offices will be closed
Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day



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Warren County Baby Grace Diaper & Wipes Drive



Warren County Baby Grace will host a Diaper & Wipes Drive this July at Scenic Regional Library's Warrenton and Wright City branches.

Warren County Baby Grace provides diapers, wipes, clothing, and other essential items to babies, young children, and families in need throughout the community. The organization serves expecting parents, single mothers, foster families, grandparents raising grandchildren, and families experiencing hardship or unexpected challenges. Baby Grace also connects families with local resources, encouragement, and support.

Donations of new, unopened diapers and wipes can be dropped off at either branch during regular library hours throughout July.



Miss Amy harvested quite a load of garlic using a plot in the St. Clair branch's Community Garden!



America 250 at Scenic Regional Library

Join Scenic Regional Library this July as we celebrate America's 250th anniversary with programs that bring history to life. Explore genealogy, meet historical figures, preserve family memories, enjoy music, create patriotic art, and test your knowledge of American history. All programs are intended for adults ages 18 and older, and registration is required. For more information and to register, visit scenicregional.org/america250.

250 YEARS OF AMERICAN TRIVIA

July 2, 6 p.m. – Union
 July 9, 6 p.m. – Owensville
 July 16, 6 p.m. – Sullivan
 July 23, 6 p.m. – Warrenton

FAMILY TREE 101

July 14, 6 p.m. – Sullivan

GENEALOGICAL DATABASES AS CLOSE AS YOUR LIBRARY

July 6, 6 p.m. – Pacific

GENEALOGICAL BASICS WITH THE LIBRARY

July 28, 6 p.m. – Hermann

MEET BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

July 23, 6 p.m. – Pacific

MEET BETSY ROSS

July 2, 6 p.m. – New Haven

MEET THE WASHINGTONS

July 9, 6 p.m. – Warrenton
 July 14, 6 p.m. – St. Clair

OBITUARIES UNCOVERED

July 7, 6 p.m. – New Haven

RED, WHITE & CREATE

July 9, 6 p.m. – Pacific
 July 14, 6 p.m. – Hermann

RESOURCES WITH FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

July 9, 6 p.m. – St. Clair

SCANNING YOUR FAMILY PHOTOS: PRESERVING YOUR PIECE OF AMERICA 250

July 2, 6 p.m. – Hermann
 July 16, 6 p.m. – Wright City
 July 27, 6 p.m. – Union
 July 30, 6 p.m. – Owensville

STARS, STRIPES & SONGS

July 2, 6 p.m. – Wright City



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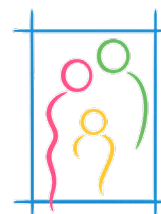
Food distribution will take place in branch parking lots from a refrigerated truck provided by Foundation for Strengthening Families at the following locations, days, and times:

- Union: Mondays, 1:30-3:30pm
- St. Clair: Tuesdays, 4-6pm
- Hermann: Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30pm
- Owensville: Wednesdays, 4:15-6:15pm
- Sullivan: Thursdays, 1:30-3:30pm

Free Breakfast and Lunch Distribution for Kids



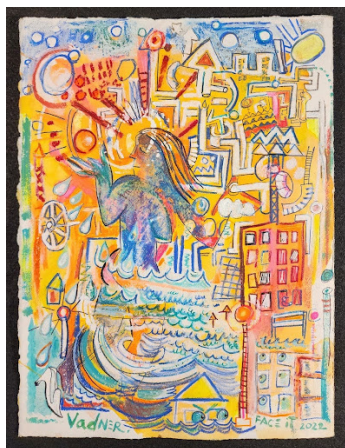
as pancakes, waffles, French toast sticks, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, tuna, fruit, vegetables, and milk.



**FOUNDATION FOR
STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**

Foundation for Strengthening Families, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based out of St. Louis, will partner with Scenic Regional Library this summer to provide free weekly meal packs for children at select branch locations from June 29 through August 17. Families will receive a week's worth of breakfasts and lunches, with items such

“Contemporary Visionaries” Show Open July 10



Andrea Vadner • “Face It”



the Library is located inside the Hermann branch.

The Gallery at the Library's newest exhibit, “Contemporary Visionaries,” will open with a reception on July 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. Experience modern art by five accomplished Missouri-based artists working in sculpture, painting, fiber, and mosaic. Exploring themes of nature, language, time, and the human experience, this exhibition showcases the depth and diversity of contemporary women's art with a unique perspective. The show will feature artists Margaret Keller, Jane Birdsall-Lander, Andrea Vadner, Luanne Rimel, and Sue Giannot. The free exhibit will be on display from July 10 to September 18. All artwork is for sale. Free and open to the public. This exhibit is sponsored by Pepsi and is funded in part by the Missouri Arts Council. The Gallery at

Memorial Tree at the St. Clair Branch

The relatives and friends of former library employee Rebecca Cokley planted a Japanese Maple tree in her memory behind the St. Clair branch in early June. Ms. Cokley worked at the St. Clair branch as a library assistant for 26 years. In addition to the tree, they purchased a memorial plaque that was placed in the ground.



From left: Mark Cokley, Evelyn Lucas, Marilyn Hunt, and Troy Cokley gathered and planted a Japanese Maple tree to honor former library employee Rebecca Cokley.

Terry Hired as Warrenton Branch Manager



Miranda Terry has been hired as the new manager of the Warrenton branch of Scenic Regional Library. She has worked at the Warrenton branch since 2024 as a library assistant.

Terry attended St. Charles Community College and has previously worked as a department manager at Von Maur Department Store and as an assistant manager at Mueller Furniture. She began her new role on May 4.

"The Trunk" visits Owensville and Hermann Branches



The Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association (CMFCAA) will bring its 38-foot mobile boutique, "The Trunk," to Scenic Regional Library's Owensville branch on Thursday, July 9, and Hermann branch on Thursday, July 16, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm

at each location.

"The Trunk" serves foster youth, adoptive families, and kinship families by providing gently used clothing, shoes, baby items, and home goods for free. CMFCAA currently operates three brick-and-mortar "The Trunk" locations in Rolla, Osage Beach, and Jefferson City, but launched the mobile boutique to better serve families in communities farther from those locations.

A formal placement letter or adoption decree is recommended for those wishing to shop at the boutique. Families may also create a profile in advance by visiting mofosteradopt.com. There are no geographic restrictions to shop with the mobile boutique.



Scenic Regional Library recently donated 75 retired books to the St. Clair Elementary Library to distribute to children, giving them access to books over the summer. Left, St. Clair Children's Programmer, Mindy Myers, delivered the books to St. Clair Elementary's Librarian, Kelly Strouse. Right, elementary school students got to pick the books that went home with them.





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Staff June Anniversaries

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



AJ-Adult Programmer,
Wright City



Melanie-Children's
Programmer, Warrenton



Patrons in Union enjoyed squeegee painting with Cherry and Jerry. Look at the beautiful artwork they took home with them!



Gigi's Traveling Farm visited the Hermann branch as part of Scenic Regional Library's Summer Reading Program *Unearth A Story*.



These amazing craftsman from Art Glass Unlimited are kind enough to share their works for displays at the Pacific branch. Visit the branch today to see their breathtaking pieces.



These young patrons rode to the Wright City branch on National Bicycle Day! We are so glad they decided to celebrate the day with us!



Jim Erwin gave a fascinating presentation about Ulysses and Julia Grant during "A Missouri Love Story" program at the Owensville branch. He also autographed copies of his book!

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This patron successfully solved all the puzzles to open the Warrenton branch's Break-In Bag to earn her vinyl sticker prize. Great Job!



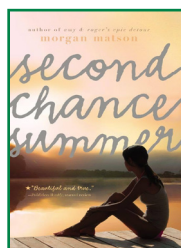
Stacy Emerson, the library's trainer, led these Union patrons on a journey to discover their MBTI® personality type during MBTI®: The Science of Personalities.



The Sullivan Kids Club created giant seek-and-find posters and these young patrons were thrilled to display their colorful artwork!

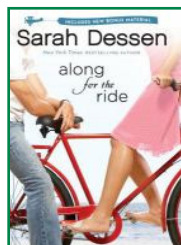
Chasing Summer: Books Filled with Sun, Growth, and Second Chances

The recent popularity of coming-of-age, summer-based novels has taken mainstream by storm, with television adaptations of beloved books like *The Summer I Turned Pretty* and *Every Summer After* captivating audiences on streaming services. Readers are once again reaching for stories that capture the magic of long summer days, first loves, and unforgettable moments that shape who we become. Whether set on a beach, at a lake house, or during one life-changing season, these books are the perfect companions for relaxing in the sunshine. To place one on hold, visit us online at bit.ly/4q7Ycmr.



Second Chance Summer
by Morgan Matson

Taylor Edwards returns to her family's lake house for what she expects to be an ordinary summer, only to reconnect with old friends, revisit past mistakes, and face difficult family realities. Heartfelt and emotional, this coming-of-age novel explores love, loss, and making the most of the time we have.



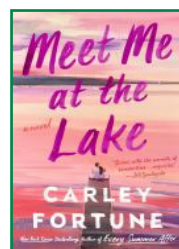
Along for the Ride
by Sarah Dessen

Auden has always been the responsible one, but a summer spent in a small beach town introduces her to late-night adventures, unexpected friendships, and the chance to experience the carefree teenage years she missed. This charming story is about self-discovery and learning to embrace new possibilities.



The Summer of Second Chances
by K.L. Walther

After a family tragedy changes everything, sixteen-year-old Olivia spends the summer at her grandmother's lake house, where she reconnects with old friends, navigates complicated family relationships, and discovers that healing often comes when it's least expected. Filled with friendship, first love, and personal growth, this heartfelt novel captures the bittersweet magic of a summer that changes everything.



Meet Me at the Lake
by Carley Fortune

A chance meeting brings Fern and Will together for a single unforgettable day, leading them to promise they'll meet again one year later. When Will never shows up, Fern moves on with her life. Years later, he unexpectedly returns, forcing them both to confront the choices, secrets, and missed opportunities that have shaped their lives. Set against the backdrop of a lakeside resort, this emotional romance explores love, loss, and the possibility of second chances.





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Scenic Regional Receives High Marks in Community Survey

**YOUR
OPINION
MATTERS!**

Scenic Regional Library received high marks from the public in an online survey conducted

throughout May. More than 10,000 survey cards were mailed or distributed to residents in Warren, Franklin, and Gasconade counties, and the survey was also promoted on social media. The library received 1,646 responses.

Overall, respondents gave the library a rating of 4.75 out of 5.0. The score was even higher, 4.86 out of 5.0, when participants were asked whether they would recommend the library to a friend or family member.

The library also scored well in several other areas. Among respondents, 96.6% agreed or strongly agreed that "the library is clean and well maintained"; 96.1% agreed or strongly agreed that "I feel safe and comfortable in the library"; and 89.3% agreed or strongly agreed that "I can usually find items I'm interested in."

The library's highest-rated category was "Staff and Service." A total of 97% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that "staff is friendly and welcoming"; 97.1% agreed or strongly agreed that "staff is knowledgeable and willing to help"; and 96.9% agreed or strongly agreed that "I can get help in a reasonable amount of time."

Staff were also praised in the open-ended responses. When asked, "What does the library do especially well?" hundreds of people described library staff as "friendly," "helpful," "great," "knowledgeable," and similar words.

"For a customer service survey, these results are really incredible," said Scenic Regional Library Director Steve Campbell. "You just don't see marks like that very often, if ever. They reinforce my belief that when people say they love the library or the library is great, what they're really saying is that they love the library staff and think the library staff is great. Our staff is great."

Among the fifteen categories respondents rated, the website received the lowest score. Even so, only 6.3% disagreed or strongly disagreed that "the library website is easy to use."

"For our worst score, I think that's still pretty good," Campbell said. "But we're in the process of redoing our whole website, so hopefully, even there, we can improve our score."

The survey also asked, "What is one thing we could do to improve your experience?" Nearly 1,200 people responded. The two biggest trends were "more audiobooks" and "noise in the children's area," with 35 comments each.

Campbell cautioned staff and the Library Board against giving too much weight to isolated comments. "We're looking for trends, and one or two comments about something isn't a trend," he said. "Thirty-five comments about noise seem like a lot, but that's out of nearly 1,200 comments. It's only three percent. And when asked whether noise levels are acceptable, over ninety percent agreed or strongly agreed."

Campbell said the library's children's areas are popular and bring many families into the library, which is a positive thing. At the same time, he said, children naturally make noise when they are playing and having fun, and staff do their best to keep it at a reasonable level. "Libraries aren't the quiet places where you can hear a pin drop like when I was a kid," he said. Regarding

audiobooks, Campbell said most comments likely referred to e-audiobooks, which make up 93.5% of audiobook usage. He said libraries often pay three or four times more than consumers for e-audiobooks, unlike print books, which libraries often buy at a discount.

The survey results did present some surprises. "We were surprised that six percent of people asked for longer hours, including Sunday hours," Campbell revealed. "We feel like we're already open a lot of hours."

The survey also indicated that, after physical materials, and e-books, and e-audiobooks, the Library of Things was the library's most popular service. For years, Scenic Regional has checked out a growing collection of items, including telescopes, microscopes, fishing poles, blood pressure cuffs, and games.

"Half of the people who responded said they attended a library program in the past year," Campbell said. "I thought programs would be higher than the Library of Things, but it's good to know."

The library had hoped more non-users would respond. Of those who completed the survey, 89.2% had used the library at least a few times in the past year.

"Non-users are still our taxpayers. We wanted to hear from them, too," Campbell said. "We may conduct another survey next year aimed just at non-users."

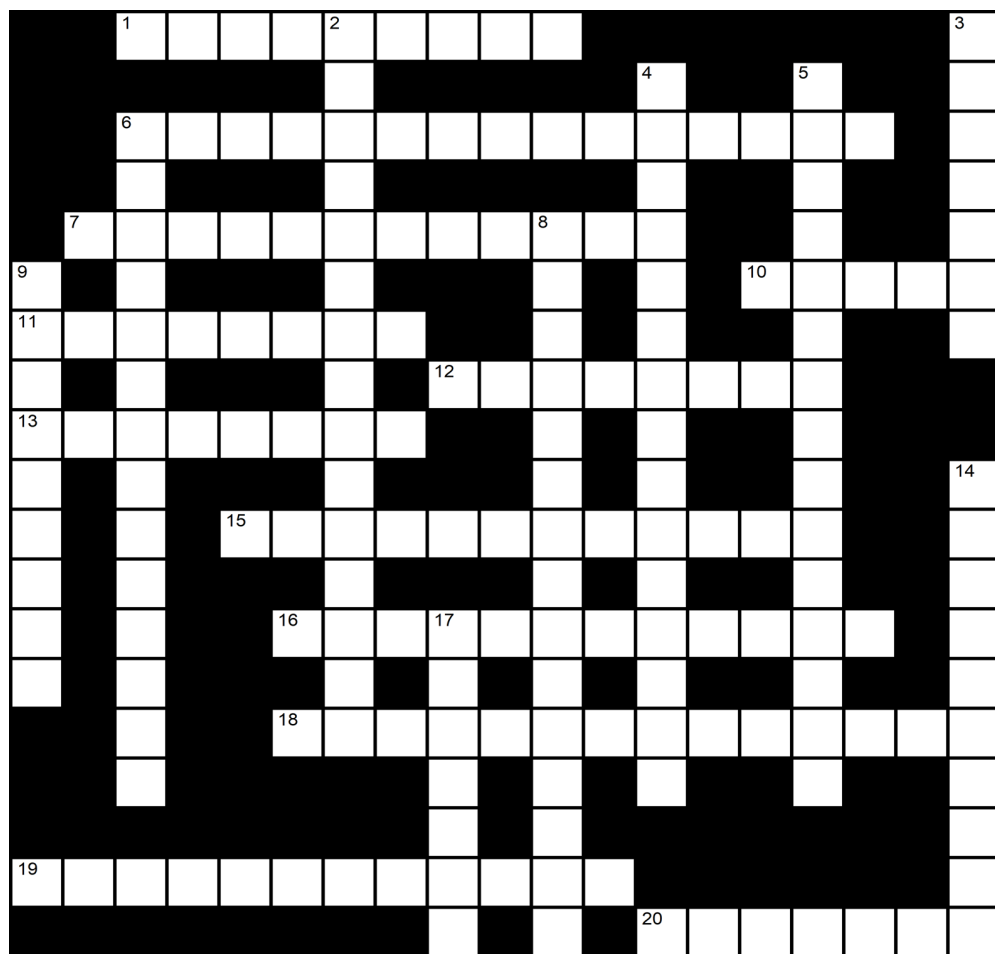
The library conducted a similar survey in 2020.



These two patrons, from Wright City (left) and Warrenton, won \$100 Gift Cards for completing the library's Community Survey last month. Thank you to all the community members who participated in the public survey and provided invaluable feedback on our library services, programs, and future priorities. Your insights are important in helping us enhance our offerings and better serve the community.

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July Crossword Puzzle



Across:

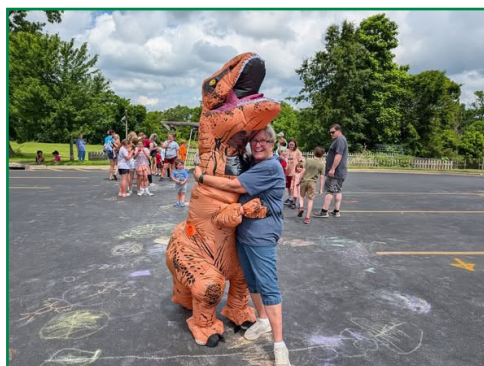
1 Extinct mammal from southern Africa, named for the Basuto region - **6** Jurassic predator whose skull was once thought to belong to a megalosaurus - **7** Feathered Cretaceous predator popularized in "Jurassic Park" - **10** Small armored dinosaur found in Queensland, Australia - **11** Town in Punjab, India, associated with a Sikh chieftainship - **12** Permian reptile known from South African fossil remains - **13** Fragmentary hadrosaur from the Cretaceous of North America - **15** Ancient city with a name meaning "city of thorns" - **16** Dome-headed dinosaur from the Campanian of Alberta - **18** Ceratopsian nicknamed the "parrot lizard" for its beak - **19** Early name for a prosauropod dinosaur, now considered a synonym - **20** Sharp-toothed theropod once thought to be among the most intelligent dinosaurs.

Down:

2 Cretaceous theropod known for its enormous claws - **3** Ankylosaur from the Late Cretaceous of Mongolia - **4** Fossil serpent known only from a single large vertebra, once thought to be a giant snake - **5** Chinese stegosaur with prominent back plates - **6** Jurassic megalosaurid known from Normandy, France - **8** Triassic prosauropod from the Elliot Formation of Lesotho - **9** Mongolian ankylosaur whose name means "beautiful one" - **14** Theropod known only from isolated serrated teeth - **17** Early prosauropod from the Triassic of South Africa, now synonymized.

Find the answers at:

www.scenicregional.org/crossword.



This patron made a new friend at the St. Clair branch's Summer Reading Program kick-off party! Be on the lookout for dinosaur-themed programs all summer long.



New Haven Kids Club displayed their creative talents by making dinosaur-themed mosaics. The completed projects were all terrifically beautiful!

We're Seeking Board Members!

What is the Franklin County Literacy Council?

The Literacy Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that helps support the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program.

We raise community awareness and help recruit students to the AEL program.

We fundraise for the program:

- We fund mandatory background checks for all AEL students (\$15 per background check).
- We award scholarships for AEL students to take their HiSET (high school equivalency exam) (\$120 per test).
- We provide some classroom supplies.

In 2025-2026, the Franklin County Literacy Council awarded 11 scholarships to adult students in the AEL program to take their HiSET exam.



What is the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program?

AEL offers free high school equivalency prep and English language classes which include basic computer training, literacy tutoring, and life-skills instruction.

There are day and evening classes in St. Clair, Sullivan, Union, and Washington.

There were 178 adult students in the AEL program in Franklin County in 2024-2025.

Why is the AEL program important?

11.6% of Franklin County residents over 25 years old do not have a high school diploma.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows high school graduates earn about \$10,000 more annually compared to those without a diploma.

Visit <https://ecaliteracy.org/fclc/> for more information about the AEL program.

Visit <https://ecaliteracy.org/volunteer/> to volunteer!





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	
☐ Hermann Branch		☐ 8" X 1-1/2" - \$150	
☐ New Haven Branch		☐ 10" X 2" - \$250	
☐ Owensville Branch		☐ 9" X 3" - \$350	
☐ Pacific Branch			
☐ St. Clair Branch			
☐ Sullivan Branch			
☐ Union Branch			
☐ Warrenton Branch			
☐ Wright City Branch			
OFFICE USE ONLY			
Date received: _____			
Amount received: _____			
☐ Check # _____			
☐ 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, 2026 – September 30, 2027 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	
If this is a family membership:			
NAME(S) OF FAMILY MEMBER(S) (SPOUSE AND/OR MINOR CHILDREN)			
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	
Hermann Branch ☐	Sullivan Branch ☐	Individual - \$15 ☐	
New Haven Branch ☐	Union Branch ☐	Family or Organization - \$25 ☐	
Owensville Branch ☐	Warrenton Branch ☐	Library Supporter - \$50 ☐	
Pacific Branch ☐	Wright City Branch ☐	Lifetime Donor - \$500 ☐	
St. Clair Branch ☐		<i>(includes \$50 voucher for donor wall book)</i>	
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)		OFFICE USE ONLY	
Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale ☐		☐ New Application	
Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale ☐		☐ Renewal	
Volunteer at other events ☐		☐ Date Received:	
Volunteer at my local branch ☐		☐ Check # _____ ☐ Cash	
Serve on the local Friends of the Library's ☐		☐ Amount Received:	
Governing and Planning Committee ☐			

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.