Library Makes Major Changes to COVID Restrictions

At their May 18 meeting, the Library Board made several major changes to ease or eliminate their COVID-related restrictions.

- The library will no longer require patrons to wear face masks, effective May 19. Unvaccinated patrons are still encouraged to wear face masks.
- The children’s play areas will reopen on June 1, to coincide with the beginning of the library’s Summer Reading Program.
- The library will resume passport and notary services on June 1. Due to the close proximity to staff that these services involve, patrons will be required to wear a face mask to receive these services. Patrons who want assistance from library staff at the public computers will also be required to wear a face mask.
- The library will resume in-person programming for all ages beginning August 1. There will be attendance registration limits.
- Outdoor, in-person storytimes will resume beginning July 1; indoor, in-person storytimes will resume beginning August 1.
- Groups will be able to begin reserving the library’s public meeting rooms in the coming weeks for dates beginning on August 1.

The changes are due in part to the CDC new recommendations related to face masks, which were released on May 13.

The library’s temporary service hours will remain in place. The continued reduced hours will not be due to COVID, but the library’s ongoing RFID project. The library staff have been placing RFID tags in the library’s 260,000 items since mid-March. The library hopes to complete their RFID project in early- to mid-July, at which time the branches will return to their normal service hours. Once launched in September, RFID will give the library greater inventory control, more efficient workflow, and improved security.

City of Union Proclaims Franklin County the Best-Read Community

On April 12, Union Mayor Rod Tappe signed a proclamation declaring that the Greater Franklin County Area is the Best-Read Community in America after residents read 1.5 million pages in 2020. The One More Page initiative, which encourages people of all ages to read and report on their reading, was created by the Community Literacy Foundation. Read more about the 501(c)(3) foundation at https://www.communityliteracyfoundation.org/. The proclamation is on display in the Union branch’s adult reading lounge.

Pictured are members of the Community Literacy Foundation Executive Board: (left to right) Chris Stuckenschneider, Dawn Kitchell, Julie Frankenberg, Diane Disbro, and Lesley Liesman.
The Summer Reading Program for adults is back for the 19th year! The “Tails & Tales” program begins on June 1 and ends on August 14. To sign-up go to the READsquared app (available for download from our website or the app store), register, and read. If paper is preferred, stop by the branch of choice to pick-up a Challenge Form.

Patrons can select from 20 different reading challenges and 10 other challenges. Reading Challenge examples include: reading a book featured on a library display, reading a book with an animal on the cover, and reading a book of your choosing. Other Challenge examples include: trying a new recipe (check out the great cookbook selection at your local branch), writing a poem about your pet, or attending a virtual program.

Complete the program by checking off three challenges and then stop by the branch of choice to pick-up a tote bag completion prize. Also, upon finishing three challenges, participants are entered into the end-of-summer raffle for a prize of your choice; keep completing challenges throughout the summer for additional raffle entries. The end-of-summer raffle package themes include: beach, camping, coffee, and technology. For a complete list of what is included in a prize package visit www.scenicregional.org/asrc.

Page Turner Animal Adventures

We are thrilled to be partnering with Page Turner Adventures, the Emmy-Award Winning team of Jill Nadler and Kenny Mikey, known for bringing stories to life with their comedic approach at libraries, schools and theaters across the world. Page Turner Animal Adventures are geared towards children in grades K-3, and include comedy shows, crafts, recipes, children's book author interviews, guest performers, contests, games, and much more.

Unfortunately, in-person events at the library are limited this summer, but fun activities are still on our agenda. The Animal Adventures Summer Program is based on the intrepid Storyologist, Page Turner (Nadler) and Kenny, her slap-stick sidekick. Together, they transform children into Storyologists and send them on comic quests to collect, tell, and write stories. Each week this summer, viewers will journey through the “Once Upon a Time Machine” for virtual adventures based on themes such as farmyard friends, fish tales, pet pals, celebrity critters, safari stories, creepy crawlies, fantastic beasts, and swamp stories. There are five days of programming for each weekly theme which includes professionally produced shows, author interviews, virtual field trips, and arts and crafts projects. You can find these programs in the Missions on your READsquared app, or on our website at www.scenicregional.org/srp.
Library Serving as Drop-Off Location for “Pop Top” Food Drive
Help the Library Fight Hunger

Scenic Regional Library is partnering with the Franklin County Homeless Task Force to serve as a drop-off location for their “Pop Top” food drive from June 6 to 25. A box for the donations will be placed in the entryway of each of the library’s five branches in Franklin County.

People are encouraged to donate items such as fruit cups, pudding, granola or power bars, single-serving Chef-Boy-R-Dee ravioli or Spaghettios, fruit snacks, Spam, trail mix, dried fruit, peanut butter crackers, Vienna sausages, pull-tab canned goods, small cans or pouches of juice, beef jerky, bottled water, and individual size packages of chips or pretzels.

The donated items will be distributed to local organizations that work with the homeless population, as well as the little free pantries located throughout Franklin County.

For more information about the “Pop Top” food drive, visit www.fcserviceproviders.org.

CASA Seeking Volunteers for Franklin and Gasconade Counties

Franklin County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is looking for caring community members to be volunteer advocates for children in foster care in Franklin and Gasconade counties.

Working with a child’s attorney and case worker, CASAs serve as the Court’s “eyes and ears” for a foster child, speaking on their behalf and helping them through what is often a confusing and difficult time. They provide critical information to judges to help them in their decisions regarding a child. The monthly time commitment for a CASA is between 10 and 15 hours.

While no prior training is needed, volunteers are required to complete approximately 30 hours of classroom training to become a CASA; the training is 3 hours once a week for 5 weeks, plus online training between each classroom session.

The next pre-service training session begins in mid-June. Interested individuals can apply online at www.franklincountycasa.org or call the CASA office at (636) 583-4422 with questions.
1000 Books Before Kindergarten Winners

In May, four children (pictured below): Elias and Caleb, patrons at the Wright City branch; Josephine, a patron at the Hermann branch; and Kydan, a patron at the Pacific branch completed the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge. Parents can sign up for the challenge by visiting https://scenicregional.org/kids/1000-books-before-kindergarten/.

Franklin County Literacy Council Seeking Volunteers

The Franklin County Literacy Council [www.ecaliteracy.org/fclc] was recently formed to support the county’s Adult Education & Literacy (AEL) and English Language Acquisition (ELA) programs. AEL provides classroom instruction to adults who want to obtain their high school equivalency diploma. The ELA program provides classroom instruction to non-English speaking adults. In Franklin County, there are more than 7,000 adults between the ages of 18-64 that do not have a high school diploma and approximately 1,000 adults who solely speak a language other than English at home.

In the year prior to COVID, AEL provided classroom instruction to approximately 175 adult high school equivalency students in Franklin County, 40 of whom completed the HiSET exam. During the same time, ELA provided 35 adult students with English language instruction. While COVID significantly disrupted the program over the past year, classroom instruction is finally beginning to resume.

AEL classes are held at the East Central College Training Center in Union; Missouri Job Center in Washington; Tri-County Senior Center in Pacific; First Baptist Church in St. Clair; and the Ridge Church in Sullivan. ELA classes are held at the Mercy Doctor’s Building in Washington and East Central College Training Center in Union.

The Literacy Council is seeking volunteers. Volunteers will help identify and recruit adult students for the AEL and ELA programs; recruit volunteer classroom assistants; and help fundraise to provide scholarships to help adult students with the cost of the exam. The high school equivalency exam is called the HiSET (formerly the GED) and costs $98.75.

The newly-formed Franklin County group is a division of the larger East Central Area Literacy Council, which serves Franklin, Phelps, Crawford, Gasconade, and Montgomery counties. All funds raised by the Franklin County Literacy Council are designated for use in Franklin County. The East Central Area Literacy Council and county groups are a 501(c)3 tax exempt, nonprofit organization.

The Franklin County Literacy Council elected officers for 2021-2022 in April. Steve Campbell, director of the Scenic Regional Library, was elected president; Kecia Philpot, Scenic Regional’s Sullivan branch manager, vice president; Donna Jacquin, a CPA with AT&T, treasurer; and Emmilee Akers, an alumnus of the Adult Education & Literacy program, secretary. The Council’s members-at-large are AEL instructors Betsy Williams and Dr. Suzanne Shelton, and the director of Washington Public Library, Nelson Appell. Appell and Campbell were selected to serve as the group’s representatives on the East Central Area Literacy Council.

Currently, the Franklin County Literacy Council meetings are being held via Zoom on the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00 PM.

People who want more information about the Franklin County Literacy Council, or who want to volunteer, contact Alice Whalen at (636) 584-6532 or alice.whalen@eastcentral.edu.

Galen Gritts is a registered member of the Cherokee Nation and a founding member of the Alliance for Native Programming & Initiatives. Mr. Gritts joined us virtually to present “Forgotten Trunk in the Attic”: an overview of why Native folks are “invisible” to many Missourians as Missouri and many neighboring states have no extant tribes and haven’t for some time.
During Virtual Kids Club we taught our young patrons how to make toothpick spinners with a few simple supplies.

Using some ingredients from our kitchen, and sprinkling in a little science, patrons had the opportunity to virtually follow along to make some creative snacks.

Cindy Trotter, owner of Therapeutic Wellness, discussed the benefits of tea with our virtual patrons.

A virtual tour of Prairie State Park was given along with information on the less than 1% of natural prairie land that remains in Missouri.

A monthly publication from your local library!
Since last summer, all library programming has been virtual due to COVID. While many people are disappointed that they can’t enjoy the library’s great programs with other people at their local branch, there are some great benefits to virtual programs. For example, you can watch them from the comfort of your home, maybe even snuggled under a blanket. If you’re watching a virtual program and need some more coffee or tea, you can pause the recording and not miss anything. And, of course, if you miss a virtual program completely, you can just go back and watch the recording.

There are also many ways that you can experience the library’s programs. We offer programming on a variety of platforms, including Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook. You can find all of our virtual storytimes exclusively on the branch Facebook pages, while our book clubs are gathering on Zoom. To access past programs, visit our YouTube channel, where you can find playlists for kids, teens, and adults. To find a full list of all library programming visit, http://scenicregional.evanced.info/signup/Calendar.
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 – $100
- 10” x 2” book – $200
- 9” x 3” book – $300

Visit [www.scenicregional.org/foundation/](http://www.scenicregional.org/foundation/) or complete this form to place your order. The Foundation accepts debit and credit cards (online), checks, and cash (only for forms brought to the library) for donor wall “book” purchases.

Proceeds from the sale of the donor wall books are designated for the local Friends of the Library group and used to assist with the purchase of furnishings and equipment in their new building.

**Purchases are tax deductible.**

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**Scenic Regional Library Foundation**

**Donor Wall “Book” Order Form**

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**BRANCH (Please select one)**

- Hermann Branch
- New Haven Branch
- Owensville Branch
- Pacific Branch
- St. Clair Branch
- Sullivan Branch
- Union Branch
- Warrenton Branch
- Wright City Branch

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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, 2021 – September 30, 2022 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:

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**BRANCH AFFILIATION (Please select one)**

- Friends of the Hermann Branch
- Friends of the New Haven Branch
- Friends of the Owensville Branch
- Friends of the Pacific Branch
- Friends of the St. Clair Branch
- Friends of the Sullivan Branch
- Friends of the Union Branch
- Friends of the Warrenton Branch
- Friends of the Wright City Branch

**LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP**

- Bronze – $10
- Silver – $25
- Ruby – $50
- Gold – $100
- Platinum – $250
- Diamond* – $500

*Lifetime Membership

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)**

- Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale
- Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale
- Volunteer at other events
- Volunteer at my local branch
- Serve on the local Friends of the Library’s Governing and Planning Committee
- Office Use Only
  - New Application
  - Renewal
  - Date Received:
  - Check #     Cash
  - Amount Received:

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.*