Check Out the Library’s Specialty Items

For many years, thousands of libraries across the country have offered “specialty items” for checkout. These are non-traditional items include everything from lawnmowers and wireless hotspots to musical instruments and sewing machines.

Over the past four years, Scenic Regional has begun offering “specialty items” for check out, including telescopes, fishing poles, cake pans, and binoculars. These items have grown in popularity. In the past year, the library’s telescopes were checked out 139 times; fishing poles, 160 times; and cake pans, 220 times. Binoculars were only added to the collection six months ago. The library plans to add more specialty items to its collection in 2020.

Telescopes: In 2016, the Library began checking out telescopes. The program was made possible through a partnership with the St. Louis Astronomical Society and Eastern Missouri Dark Sky Observers. The Eastern Missouri Dark Sky Observers, which is located in Franklin County, provides the library with programming. They present star gazing programs each year in the spring and summer at many of the library’s branches, which include instructions on how to use the library’s telescopes when checked out. The Eastern Missouri Dark Sky Observers also perform repairs and maintenance on the telescopes. The St. Louis Astronomical Society provides the telescopes at a discounted price to the library and their members modify them for public use.

The Orion telescopes have a tabletop base and include an 8-24mm zoom lens (attached to the telescope) and a camera bag. Each telescope weighs only 14 pounds. Inside the camera bag, there is a pocket guide, laminated instruction manual, quick start guide, and a headlamp so that the materials can be read after dark. The manual allows someone who has never operated a telescope the necessary information to make their first stargazing experience a success.

Every library branch has at least one telescope available, with a second telescope available at the Sullivan, Union, and Warrenton branches. A valid library card and current and valid photo ID are required to check out a telescope. The telescopes can only be checked out on an adult’s card and the adult must be present. Telescopes can be checked out for 7 days, with no renewals. Patrons must return the telescope to the branch from which it was checked out. When a telescope is checked out, library staff will make sure everything is present and show the proper way to lift and transport the telescope. If the telescope is returned after the due date, an overdue fee of $5.00 per day will be charged. If any parts are damaged or missing, charges will be assessed.

Fishing poles: In 2016, the library began checking out fishing poles. The Missouri Department of Conservation provides fishing poles to the library so that patrons can learn about and enjoy fishing, without the expense of purchasing equipment. The library has about six fishing poles available at each branch. They can be checked out for a week. Patrons must return the fishing pole to the branch from which it was checked out. The Department of Conservation also trained library staff to teach fishing classes to the public, which the library offers at its branches in the spring and summer.

Cake pans: In 2019, the library began offering cake pans for check-out. The collection consists of nearly 100 pans throughout the library system and includes a variety of shapes, such as Darth Vader, Harry Potter, a T-Rex, a train, a Christmas tree, and a t-shirt. Each pan can be borrowed for two weeks and renewed once. Borrowing a cake pan is free, but if it is returned dirty there is a $5.00 cleaning fee. Each branch has a binder containing color photographs of all the cake pans in the library’s collection. If a particular cake pan is unavailable at a patron’s local branch, they can place a hold on it, like they would a book or DVD.

Binoculars: In 2019, the library began checking out binoculars. The Vortex Crossfire 8x42 binoculars are purchased through the St. Louis Astronomical Society and can be used for bird watching or night sky viewing. The binoculars check out in a small, hard case and include a Night Sky guide, a Backyard Bird guide, and laminated instruction manual.

Patrons are required to present their library card and an additional form of identification to check out a set of binoculars. The binoculars must be checked out on an adult card. The binoculars have a 7-day checkout period and cannot be renewed. There is also a $5 per day overdue fee for binoculars.
Self-check Use Continues to Grow

The library offers self-check systems at every branch, except New Haven and Hermann. The service has continued to grow in popularity. In January, over 27% of the Pacific branch’s checkouts were done through self-check. The figure was 25% at the Sullivan branch and 20% at the St. Clair branch. The self-check systems were obtained with a grant through the Missouri State Library. At the branches with self-check, nearly 17% of items are checked out using the systems.

While some people have expressed concern that self-check will result in library employees losing their jobs, the library has actually increased staffing at the branches over the past two years since self-check was introduced. Usage is up significantly at the library’s new facilities and self-check helps ease the increased workload. Self-check also allows library staff additional time to assist patrons in other ways, such as more outreach and programming, as well as assisting patrons on the public computers.

Owensville Branch Launches Seed Library

The Owensville branch has launched a seed library. The seed library offers a variety of vegetable seeds, as well as some flower seeds.

How does a seed library work? A gardener chooses their seeds from the library’s collection, taking home only what he or she needs in an envelope (provided by the library). The gardener plants the seeds and at the end of the growing season they collect seeds from what they have grown. Then, they bring the new seeds to the library to place in the seed library for other gardeners.

The display for the seed library contains a handout on gardening, as well as a book about seed identification and collection. There are thousands of libraries across the country which have seed libraries. The library’s Hermann branch has had a seed library for several years.

Sullivan Branch Wins Chamber Award

The Sullivan branch has won the Sullivan Area Chamber of Commerce’s Public Service Award for 2019. The Chamber awards banquet was held on Saturday, February 15, and attended by 338 people. Sullivan branch manager Kecia Philpot accepted the award on behalf of the library.

The Public Service Award is bestowed upon “an employee, volunteer, or organization of a tax or public supported entity for outstanding service above and beyond expectations.” The Sullivan branch’s nomination statement stated that the “[l]ibrary is more than just a place to check out books. They provide people with resources that you can’t find anywhere else. Whether it is for entertainment, knowledge, or just needing a safe space to go the library is a huge asset to our community.”

The first year that the new Sullivan branch facility was open, it experienced an 80% increase in usage. The branch was previously nominated for the award in 2018. The Sullivan Area Chamber of Commerce has 285 members.
Staff Spotlight: Judy Driver/Library Assistant, Bookmobile

How long have you worked for Scenic? It will be 2 years in May.

What made you want to work in a library? I like books and people.

What is your favorite part of the job? The patrons. Why? The bookmobile patrons are simply wonderful. Most have been coming for many years, and the new ones are excited about the services that we provide by coming to their town or community.

What did you find most surprising about the bookmobile once you started working on it? That I was able to drive it and be comfortable with that part of my job!

What do you wish more people knew about the bookmobile? Most of the books that we have on our shelves are very new releases, usually purchased in the last couple of years.

What are you currently reading or what are you reading next? I am currently reading What We Don’t Know by Sharon K. Souza.


Is there anything else you would like people to know about you, your job, or the bookmobile? Come see us! If you have never been on a bookmobile, or you haven’t been on since you were young, it is a great experience.
Union Branch Benefits from the WIOA

Emmilee Akers began working at the Union branch in October 2019 through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The WIOA is a joint project of the Missouri Job Center and Goodwill Industries. Participants gain valuable work experience in an established business and learn valuable tools to use in future employment. Ms. Akers assists with shelving, pulling items to fill requests, shifting collections, boxing donations, and other library tasks.

Ms. Akers salary is paid through the WIOA. A WIOA employee can work for 500 hours with the same business or organization. Ms. Akers has been working at the library 10 hours each week. The library's relationship with the WIOA has been considered highly successful and it hopes to utilize additional WIOA employees in the future.

St. Clair Branch Community Garden Dedication Event on March 21

The St. Clair branch’s Community Garden is set to officially open on March 21. The garden, which is located behind the branch, features fourteen 4’ by 8’ raised beds for vegetables and eight smaller beds for flowers and herbs. Individuals, organizations, and classrooms can “check out” a raised bed with a library card for a growing season. There will be a dedication event for the community garden on Saturday, March 21, from 10:00 to 10:30 AM. The public is welcome to attend. Speakers at the event will include Roger Bardot, President, St. Clair Farmer’s Market; Kevin LeVart, Vice President, St. Clair Branch Friends of the Library; Paula Dace, Master Gardener and Member-at-Large of the St. Clair Branch Friends of the Library Committee; and Kara Bell, Branch Manager, St. Clair Branch, Scenic Regional Library.

There are still several garden beds available for “checkout” this growing season. Contact St. Clair Branch Manager Kara Bell at 636-629-2546 for more information.
### Staff Picks

**“The Bookish Life of Nina Hill,” by Abbi Waxman**

Personally, I consider myself a bookworm. The fact that I am known for walking the halls of my high school with my nose shoved in a book (and tripping from time to time) should say enough about my reading addiction. However, at the library and at school people always ask me how I find books? I have come up with the simplest answer, when “book” or “library” is in the title, read it immediately. “The Bookish Life of Nina Hill” by Abbi Waxman is a lovely, quick, yet unforgettable read that has earned its spot in my personal collection. The only child of a single mother, Nina has her life just as she wants it: a job in a bookstore, a kick-butt trivia team, a world-class planner, and a cat named Phil. If she sometimes suspects there might be more to life than reading, she just shrugs and picks up a new book. I think Nina Hill speaks for the reader in all of us who finds an escape through other characters. While the book was very light hearted and snarky, it also had me gripping the paper wondering what happens next! If you are unsure what next to read, I promise Nina Hill can help you figure it out.

-Review by Grace, Union branch

**“Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead,” by Olga Tokarczuk**

I picked up this book after seeing it on a list of “odd books.” I wouldn’t describe it that way. NPR’s Kamil Ashahs describes the author as “a portraitist, a writer with a keen sense for sniffing out the incongruities that make a person.” If there were more space here, I would fill this review with insightful quotes from the main character. There is some brilliant writing in this book and many truths.

Janina is an elderly woman, a retired road engineer, who teaches English in the local school and takes care of summer homes when the owners are absent during winter. She believes astrology can explain everything in a person’s life. When people start dying in her small village on the Poland/Czech border, she consults her astrology charts to support her hypothesis that animals are killing people in retribution for hunting. The story is told in the first person. We can see and taste and smell the isolated cottages and lemon cakes and wood smoke. The characters want to connect with each other while maintaining their protective walls around themselves. Throughout there are quotes of William Blake, an 18th century poet and painter, who celebrated nature and freedom. Janina is helping a friend translate Blake into Polish.

The conclusion of the story may be a little too convenient but I thoroughly enjoyed this book as a window into the towers in which we hide ourselves.

-Review by Diane, Union branch
HERMANN BRANCH
Call: 573-486-2024

Please register for adult programs.

ADULT PROGRAMS
Famous Women in History
Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm
Learn about 25 historical women who shaped the world.

DIY Edible Birdhouse (RSVP)
Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 pm
Assemble a birdhouse and landscape with snacks birds will love.

KID & TEEN PROGRAMS
Storytime
Every Thursday at 10:00 am

S.T.E.A.M. Time Storytime:
Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Math!
Tuesday, March 3 at 10:00 am

Shrinky Dinks (RSVP)
Tuesday, March 3 at 3:30 pm
Enjoy a make-and-take afternoon!

KidSight
Tuesday, March 10 at 10:00 am
Saving Sight will be here for preschool vision screenings.

Chocolate Olympics (RSVP)
Tuesday, March 10 at 3:30 pm
Play chocolate games to win a chocolate prize.

Stuffed Animal Storytime
Tuesday, March 17 at 10:00 am
Your stuffed animal wants to come with you to enjoy storytime!

Monster Magic Puppet Show
Tuesday, March 24 at 3:30 pm
Monster puppets attempt to perform a dazzling magic show and the results are hilarious. All ages!

Homeschool Starts Here
Last Friday of the month at 9:00 am
Homeschool families meet here to share ideas and learn together.

NEW HAVEN BRANCH
Call: 573-237-2189

Please register for adult programs.

ADULT PROGRAMS
Women of Franklin County
Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm
Learn about the fascinating and sometimes tragic history of women in Franklin County.

Scenes of Historic Wonder in St. Louis
Thursday, March 19 at 6:00 pm
Step back in time to witness St. Louis moments that range from everyday to epic! Copies of book available for sale.

Cautious, Never Afraid
Friday, March 20 at 5:30 pm

Book Club
Wednesday, March 25 at 5:00 pm
Join us for a discussion of March by Geraldine Brooks.

KID & TEEN PROGRAMS
Pre-School Storytime
Every Tuesday at 10:00 am

Saturday, March 21 at 10:00 am

Teen Scene:
Crafting Duct Tape Wallets
Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm

Kids Club: Unplugged Challenge
Saturday, March 21 at 1:00 pm
Spend an hour with no technology while playing cards, dominoes, and board games.

Monster Magic Puppet Show
Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 pm
Monster puppets attempt to perform a dazzling magic show and the results are hilarious. All ages!

OWENSVILLE BRANCH
Call: 573-437-2188

Please register for adult programs.

ADULT PROGRAMS
Sci-Fi Club
Thursday, March 5 at 6:00 pm
Welcome all fiction fantasy fanatics! We will be discussing The Wish Granter by C.J. Redwine.

Square Foot Gardening
Tuesday, March 10 at 6 pm
Introduction to square foot gardening system.

Tea Time Travelers’ Book Club
Tuesday, March 17 at 6:30 pm
We will discuss The Monk of Mokha by Dave Eggers.

Wire Bird Feeders
Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm
Make your own wire bird feeder for your yard.

KID & TEEN PROGRAMS
Lil’ OWLs Storytime
Every Wednesday at 10:00 am
The theme for March: COLOR

Marbleized Creations (Teen Event)
Wednesday, March 11 at 4:00 pm
Make marbleized paper to use in other artistic endeavors.

Read, Build, & Play (Grades K-5th)
Wednesday, March 11 at 3:00 pm
See what you can construct from random items in your given bag.

Monster Magic Puppet Show
Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00 am
Monster puppets attempt to perform a dazzling magic show and the results are hilarious. All ages!
**PACIFIC BRANCH**
Call: 636-257-2712

Please register for adult programs.

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Mahjong and More!**
*Every Monday at 10:00 am*

**Book Club: The First Chapter**
*Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 pm*
*The Road Home* by Richard Paul Evans.

**Book Club: The Next Chapter**
*Wednesday, March 11 at 10:00 am*
*Sold on a Monday* by Kristine McMorris.

**St. Patrick’s Day Craft with Alcohol Inks (Limit 20)**
*Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm*
Decorate a candleholder just in time for St. Pat’s!

**P. O. W. Camps in Missouri**
*Thursday, March 19 at 6:00 pm*
Presented by Bill Stewart with the Washington Historical Society.

**Route 36: Way of American Genius**
*Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 pm*
Presented by Laurie Osseck.

**ST. CLAIR BRANCH**
Call: 636-629-2546

Please register for adult programs.

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Coffee & Crayons**
*Tuesday, March 3, at 6:00 pm*
Color your cares away, and enjoy some delicious snacks.

**Book Bingo**
*Monday, March 9 at 11:00 am*

**Music by Dusty Roads**
*Tuesday, March 17 at 6:00 pm*
Enjoy musical stylings of one-man-band, Dusty Roads.

**Top Reads Book Club**
*Thursday, March 19 at 6:00 pm*
*Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips.

**Between the Covers Book Club**
*Thursday, March 26 at 2:00 pm*
*Beartown* by Fredrik Backman.

**SULLIVAN BRANCH**
Call: 573-468-4372

Please register for adult programs.

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**As the Page Turns Book Club**
*Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm*
*A Week in Winter* by Maeve Binchy.

**Salad in a Jar Party**
*Tuesday, March 17 at 6:00 pm*
Learn to put together mason jar salads for easy, healthy and affordable meals.

**KID & TEEN PROGRAMS**

**Storytime (Toddlers-Kindergarten)**
*Thursdays at 10:00 am*

**Pre-School Storytime**
*Every Thursday at 11:00 am*

**Read, Build, & Play**
*1st Saturday of each month at 11:00 am*
*March 7: Legos/Duplos*

**Kids’ Book Bingo**
*Tuesday, March 10 at 4:00 pm*

**Get a Clue! (Teens)**
*Wednesday, March 25 at 3:30 pm*
Celebrate the movie’s 35th anniversary by playing & watching *Clue*.

**Monster Magic Puppet Show**
*Monday, March 23 at 3:30 pm*
Monster puppets attempt to perform a dazzling magic show and the results are hilarious. All ages!
**UNION BRANCH**  
Call: 636-583-3224

Please register for adult programs.

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**String Art for Beginners**  
Thursday, March 5 at 6:00 pm  
Bring small hammer and needle nose pliers.

**Alzheimer's Support:**  
**Effective Communication Strategies for Caregivers**  
Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm

**Hooked on Books Book Club**  
Thursday, March 19, at 6:00 pm  
*People I Want to Punch in the Throat* by Jenn Mann.

Please register for computer programs.

**COMPUTER PROGRAMS**

**MS Publisher 2019 - A Tour**  
Thursday, March 12 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

**MS Word 2019 - A Tour**  
Wednesday March 18 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**MS PowerPoint 2019 - Working with Slides**  
Tuesday, March 31 from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**KID & TEEN PROGRAMS**

**Preschool Storytime**  
Wednesday and Saturday at 10:00 am

**Dungeons and Dragons (All Ages)**  
First and Third Tuesday from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Children under 10 must be with adult.

**STEAM with Iggy Peck, Architect (RSVP)**  
Tuesday, March 10 at 4:00 pm  
STEAM-based program. (5+ yrs.)

**Family Fort Night and Stuffed Animal Sleepover (RSVP)**  
Friday, March 13 at 6:00 pm

**Monster Magic Puppet Show**  
Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 pm  
Hilarious puppet magic show. All ages!

**Reading to Rover: Therapy Dog**  
Thursday, March 26 at 5:00 pm

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**WARRENTON BRANCH**  
Call: 636-456-3321

Please register for adult programs.

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Chicks with Sticks (Crochet/Knitting)**  
Tuesdays at 1:00 pm

**Mat Pilates**  
Wednesdays at 5:00 pm

**Pound with Krissy: Fitness**  
2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm

**Genealogy Iconography & History**  
Tuesday, March 3 at 6:00 pm

**Reese’s Reads Book Club**  
Thursday, March 5 at 5:30 pm  
*The Scent Keeper* by Erica Bauermeister.

**DAR Presentation**  
Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 pm

**The All American Girls Professional Baseball League**  
Tuesday, March 17 at 6:00 pm

**Take Me Out to the Ball Game Movie Night (Limit 60)**  
Wednesday, March 18 at 5:30 pm

**Laura Ingalls Wilder (All Ages)**  
Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 pm

**A Novel Bunch Book Club**  
Wednesday, March 25 at 2:00 pm  
*The Last Ballad* by Wiley Cash.

**Wildcrafting Your Backyard**  
Tuesday, March 31 at 6:00 pm

**KID & TEEN PROGRAMS**

**Pre-School Storytime**  
Tuesdays at 10:00 am  
1st Saturday of the month at 10:00 am

**Teens Craft Night (Limit 20)**  
Monday, March 23 at 5:00 pm  
Make ping pong lights! RSVP.

**Monster Magic Puppet Show**  
Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm  
Hilarious puppet magic show. All ages!

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**WRIGHT CITY BRANCH**  
Call: 636-384-1136

Please register for adult programs.

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**AARP Tax-Aide (Appointment Required)**  
Thursday, March 5 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
AARP Tax Aide representatives will be here to assist seniors with their taxes.

**Adult Book Club**  
Monday, March 9 at 6:00 pm  
Discussing *An Elderly Lady is Up to No Good* by Helene Tursten.

**Laughter is the Best Medicine**  
Thursday, March 19 at 6:00 pm  
Join Laurie Osseck as she shares stories about famous comedians.

**Parents Only Internet Safety Program**  
Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm  
Educating adults about your children’s internet safety.

**KID & TEEN PROGRAMS**

**Storytime (Preschool-Kindergarten)**  
Wednesdays at 10:00 am

**Frozen 2 Party!**  
Saturday, March 7 at 3:00 pm  
Come watch the new Frozen movie, meet Elsa, and make a craft! Dress in your Frozen best!

**Pokemon Terrarium**  
Thursday, March 12 at 6:00 pm  
Make a habitat for your Pokemon. Supplies provided.

**Chess Club**  
3rd Wednesday of month, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Come play chess with other chess lovers. Bring your own board or use one of ours.

**Monster Magic Puppet Show**  
Thursday, March 26 at 3:30 pm  
Monster puppets attempt to perform a dazzling magic show and the results are hilarious. All ages!
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.scenicregionalfoundation.org 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.

Donor wall “books” can be purchased throughout the construction project and will be unveiled at the grand opening of each new branch library.

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Mail this form (or drop it off at your local branch) with your personal check or money order to:

Friends of the Library
251 Union Plaza Dr.
Union, MO 63084
SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021 Membership Year

All information submitted is considered confidential and will never be given or sold to any other individual, company, or organization.

FIRST NAME

DATE

MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

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 □

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)
Office Use Only

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 □

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.