On April 27, Missouri Governor Mike Parson announced the first phase of the “Show Me Strong Recovery” plan. The plan outlines how Missouri will gradually begin to reopen economic and social activity beginning Monday, May 4. During phase one of the plan people may begin returning to economic and social activities but must still follow social distancing requirements, including maintaining six feet of space between individuals. Phase one will end on Sunday, May 31.

The library will remain closed to the public throughout phase one. However, beginning on Monday, May 18, the library will begin offering curbside service at all branches. The schedule for curbside service will be:

Curbside Service Hours*
Monday – 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Tuesday – 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Wednesday – 1:00 to 5:00 PM
Thursday – 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Friday – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Saturday – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

*Curbside service will not be available on Monday, May 25, due to Memorial Day.

With curbside service, patrons will be able to call their local branch and arrange to pick up holds or items. Further details about curbside service are still being decided. The information will be sent to patrons in an email blast and on social media prior to the launch date.

Most library staff will report to work on May 16—the day after Missouri’s state of emergency ends—and begin to check-in and shelve thousands of items returned during the closure. These returned items have already been quarantined on tables in each branch’s meeting room for several weeks. Staff will also need to check-in and process thousands of interlibrary loan items which have been stored by the statewide courier in a warehouse in St. Louis. The items will also need to be quarantined at the library for at least 72 hours before being handled by staff or checked out to patrons.

The library decided not to reopen during phase one of the Governor’s plan for several reasons. Coronavirus presents many unique challenges for public libraries. Unlike groceries and other items people purchase at stores, which people bring home once and use, the same library item circulates to multiple people. While not the primary way that coronavirus is transmitted, it can remain alive on surfaces for at least 72 hours. As a result, every item returned or received in the courier from other libraries must be quarantined for three days. Like community centers, schools, and other public places, scientific studies have deemed libraries medium- to high-risk environments for the transmission of coronavirus.

In addition, social distancing guidelines will make it impossible to assist patrons on the public computers or, due to their proximity, for the library to even have every computer available for use. Due to the difficulty in keeping toys and games in the library’s children areas disinfected, these items will need to be placed in storage. With schools closed, these areas could experience heavy use and potentially create a high-risk situation for transmission of the virus. The library does not want this high volume of traffic and usage to contribute to spreading the virus.

Staffing presents another issue for the library. Over one-quarter of the library’s staff is either over the age of 60 or have health conditions which could make them vulnerable to complications from coronavirus. Due to the inability of these employees to return to work initially due to their physicians’ recommendations, it would be very difficult for the library to operate with its regular hours.

Scenic Regional is in the process of purchasing protective gear and equipment for staff, such as face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer.

Library programs and public meetings will be canceled at all branches for at least six weeks after the library reopens—possibly longer. The library will need to use the meeting room space to quarantine returned items. In addition, the library wants to continue practicing social distancing for a time period after reopening.

- All checked out items will not be due until June 15.
- Library cards will not expire until July 31.
- All Library Programs, Meeting Room Use, and Outreach Canceled until July 15.
- Please do not return items while the library is closed.
Branches Continue to Present Virtual Storytimes

While the library has been closed, the children’s programmers have continued presenting their branch’s weekly storytimes online using Facebook Live! on their branch Facebook pages. The online events drew hundreds of views at each location from when they began on March 18. During the fifteen- to twenty-minute streaming videos, the presenters read several picture books, demonstrate a craft, sing songs, and give parents literacy tips. The videos are archived on the branch Facebook pages and can be viewed afterwards, too. When Governor Parson issued a stay-at-home order on April 9, the library’s youth services programmers began broadcasting their virtual storytimes from their homes using library laptops.

Many Free Resources Available for People Struggling During the Pandemic

During the coronavirus pandemic, millions of Americans have been forced to stay at home. While the effort has slowed the spread of the virus, it has also resulted in a spike in domestic violence, suicide, depression, and other issues. Over the past weeks, the library has been publicizing free resources available to people who are experiencing these issues. The library strongly encourages people to call these hotlines for help during this difficult time:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT
National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or live chat at www.thelpline.org
Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
1-888-666-1911
Alternatives to Living in Violent Environments (ALIVE) (Franklin and Gasconade Counties)
1-800-941-9144 or 636-583-5700 Crisis Line
Turning Point Shelter and Supportive Services (Warren County) Hotline (24/7): 1-888-873-7233
Children’s Division Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline is a toll-free telephone line which is answered seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: 1-800-392-3738

MENTAL HEALTH
Missouri Department of Mental Health Access Crisis Intervention (ACI) Provides access to services for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis: Compass Health Crisis Line 1-800-833-3915
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8255

OTHER RESOURCES
United Way 2-1-1
If you need help - for anything from day care to rental assistance to counseling to vocational training - your local 2-1-1 is here. Dial 2-1-1* to speak to a trained professional 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you are using a cell phone dial 1-800-427-4626. Your phone call is confidential and free.

CORONAVIRUS
Missouri Coronavirus Information Hotline
1-877-435-8411

UNEMPLOYMENT
Unemployment Claim Phone Number
To file for MO unemployment benefits over the phone, call 1-800-320-2519.
To file online, visit https://www.mo.gov/work/unemployment/

St. Clair branch youth services programmer Alesia Cullen broadcasts a virtual storytime from the library prior to the Governor’s stay-at-home order on April 9.

Sullivan branch youth services programmer Elizabeth Byrd broadcasts a virtual storytime from her home.
Staff Spotlight: Christy
Youth and Outreach Services Librarian

How long have you worked for Scenic? It will be 17 years in June. 
Have you held any other positions at Scenic? No. My title has changed a few times and what I do has evolved but fundamentally the same job. 
What made you want to work in a library? I worked in a library in college and my senior year they asked me to go on to get my Masters in Library Science then come back to work for them. I did, because I really didn’t have any other plans. So I kind of accidentally fell into this career. But it was the best decision I ever made. 
What is your favorite part of the job? I love planning storytimes, thinking intentionally about everything we do in storytime to give kids the pre-literacy skills they need to get ready for kindergarten and be lifelong readers. 
What are you currently reading? Rotters by Daniel Kraus. I am planning the Young Adult Breakfast for the Missouri Library Association Annual Conference in October and he is going to be our speaker. 
What is your favorite book? Why? I have loved comics and graphic novels since I was a kid. The only books I own and have re-read over and over are a set of graphic novels called Elfquest. I still go back and re-read the eight book original series occasionally. During the library’s closure because of the coronavirus outbreak, what library resource(s) are you most enjoying? I am using Hoopla a LOT! They have a ton of comics and I am enjoying finding new ones to read. I recently read all of the Locke & Key comics before watching the Netflix series. 
Parents with young children are at home with their little ones now more than ever because pre-schools and libraries are closed and friends and families aren’t getting together for play dates. What digital library resources do you recommend to parents and caregivers during this time to help meet the social and developmental needs of their preschool aged children? Definitely TumbleBook Library. They have hundreds of picture books that you can read with your child, plus videos and games that go along with the books. We also have ABC Mouse for even more educational fun. 
Please tell us about the library’s virtual storytimes. Since we aren’t open and can’t meet in groups, we didn’t want our storytime families to miss out on this great weekly opportunity. So all nine of our branches are doing Facebook Live storytimes at their regular day and time. Facebook Live storytimes include picture books, songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and craft ideas that you can do with stuff you have lying around at home. You can find all of the dates and times at https://scenicregional.org/kids/storytime/. Is there anything else you would like people to know about you, your role at SRL, or the library in general? If you have friends who haven’t visited the library in a long time, tell them to visit again. The library is constantly changing to meet the needs of our communities, so chances are they will find something they need or want at the library.

Adult Programmers Present Virtual Programs

In early April, the library’s adult programmers began presenting virtual adult programs from their homes. The five-to ten-minute videos are available on the branch Facebook pages (and YouTube) and demonstrate a fun craft to help people stay busy during the quarantine. The crafts have included everything from making planters out of two-liter bottles and no-sew t-shirt shopping bags to sewing your own protective face mask. These short virtual programs are another way that the library is continuing to provide the public with services during the closure.

The St. Clair branch adult programmer Jacquie Oermann demonstrates how to make a craft on the branch Facebook page.
A monthly publication from your local library!

St. Clair Branch Named Organization of the Year

The St. Clair branch has been named the 2019 Organization of the Year by the St. Clair Area Chamber of Commerce for its contributions and service to the community. The branch has been nominated for the award for the past three consecutive years, with this year being their first win. The 49th annual Celebrate St. Clair Banquet, where the branch staff would be presented the honor, was scheduled for March 28; however, the event has been postponed indefinitely due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The St. Clair branch staff include manager Kara Bell, youth services programmer Alesia Cullen, adult programmer Jacquie Oermann, and library assistants Marilee Krier, Jessy Pranger, and Emma Steinkiste. When the library reopens, please don’t forget to congratulate the staff on this tremendous honor. Unfortunately, a photograph of the staff is unavailable due to the library’s closure.

Staff Picks


I’d never heard of Williams Syndrome before reading this book. Sometimes called “cocktail party syndrome,” it’s a rare disorder in which the absence of just twenty-six genes results in a mystifying lack of social inhibitions. People with Williams know no strangers. They are chatty, charming, and full of unconditional love.

For the socially awkward among us, this may sound like more of an asset than a disorder; the ideal human condition, even. But Latson beautifully documents the challenges faced by those whose social exuberance is often the very thing that makes it difficult to forge genuine connections.

Preteen Eli loves industrial floor scrubbers, Pirates of the Caribbean (Spanish-dubbed version), and bear-hugging everyone he meets. But he struggles to find friendship.

Turns out, charging at strangers in hotel lobbies while yelling “I LIKE YOUR SHIRT” is not the best way to win people over, as Eli painfully learns (and relearns.)

I love immersion journalism, and this book is a great example of the genre’s strengths. I’m fascinated by the art of crafting nonfiction that reads like a novel while maintaining journalistic integrity. How is a journalist able to report, with accuracy, not only what her subject is saying but also feeling? Latson does a superb job rendering Gayle, Eli’s mother, who wrestles with the darker aspects of her son’s disability: the heart defects that accompany the genetic abnormality, and the abuse and cruelty Eli, as an unconditionally trusting human, risks encountering daily.

This was an emotionally challenging—but in the end, affirming—read.

-Review by Erica in Administration

“Uglies,” by Scott Westerfeld (from “Uglies” series)

I read this Young Adult (YA) series when I was in middle school and decided to revisit it after reading Scott Westerfeld’s new book, “Impostors” which ties back to the world created in the Uglies series.

After her life-long friend, Peris, turns 16 and goes to live in New Pretty Town as a new Pretty, Tally has to come to terms with being alone. That’s when she meets Shay, another Ugly who is the last of her friends’ group to be turned Pretty also. Together, they create a friendship that Shay feels is secure enough to share with Tally a dangerous secret. There is a civilization outside of their world where there is no operation at 16 and hard work is the only way to survive. The Smoke exists for Uglies who have no desire to become Pretties and lose all ability to think for themselves and Shay’s friends had run away months before to join it, so the old stories goes. Shay desperately wants her new friend to join her in traveling to the Smoke, but Tally has no interest in leaving her world for something that may not actually exist outside of the imaginations of generations of Uglies.

As with most YA novels, Tally begins her journey shallow and self-centered, but eventually, through unique trials, learns that her world is not what she’s been told that it is. I would recommend this series for any young person who may be struggling with their self-identity.

-Review by Johnnalee at the Union branch
**Staff Picks**

**“The Season: A Social History of the Debutante,”** by Kristen Richardson

“The Season” explores the role of the debutante commencing with the intriguingly adept female of the Elizabethan era through the early American daughter of society’s elite to the modern day “celebutante”. Young ladies presented at the court of Elizabeth I served as intermediaries between the queen and her courtiers in order to form beneficial social and political alliances, not unlike political advisors of today. Eighteenth century London saw the official “coming out” of debutantes by privileged families to control the union of young men and women and thus preserve their aristocratic fortunes and social status. Upper class American families of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries adopted debuts as a means to maintain their wealth and prominence through ensuing marriage partnerships. “The Season” describes the debutante system against the backdrop of the Industrial Era, Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Great Depression and within African American society. The author tells stories of past debutantes, prominent patrons, and contemporary debutantes who use the ritual to promote their personal brand. While fans of The Crown may puzzle over the mix-up between Britain’s George V and George VI, I appreciated the author’s unique perspective of history through the context of the debutante tradition, notwithstanding its incongruence with today’s values and movements. I was intrigued to read of the Veiled Prophet Fair and Ball, St. Louis’ controversy-ridden debutante presentation largely reinvented as Fair St. Louis.

-Review by Cheryl at the Warrenton Branch

**“Leaving Buddha: a Tibetan Monk’s Encounter with the Living God,”** by Tenzin Lahkpa

I read “Leaving Buddha: a Tibetan Monk’s Encounter with the Living God,” by Tenzin Lahkpa with Eugene Bach. Both writers are using pseudonyms due to the fear of persecution by the Chinese government. It is the true story of Tenzin’s life, first being raised in poverty in a small Tibetan village, and then at the age of fifteen being given to a local Buddhist temple where he becomes a monk. Thus begins Tenzin’s decades long quest for full enlightenment through studying the Buddhist teachings. This quest will take him throughout Tibet, Nepal, India (where he is able to study with the Dalai Lama who is in enforced exile), and finally back to his local village and then to Chengdu, China. In all of his time searching for enlightenment, Tenzin becomes learned but not happy. It is through a chance encounter with a cousin in India that Tenzin first hears of Christianity. He hungers to learn more, but it is forbidden. When he is hospitalized for tuberculosis, his doctor is a Christian from Sweden who smuggles him pamphlets and a Bible written in Chinese. Tenzin has a complete religious transformation and undergoes great physical suffering for proclaiming his belief in Jesus’s teachings.

What I most enjoyed was the book’s beginning and ending. I felt the middle was bogged down in explanation of Buddhist and Hindu religious policies and tenets. The book was most enjoyable, to me, when it focused on Tenzin’s life experiences.

-Review by Amy at the Union Branch

---

**Parents Can Access Digital Picture Books While Library Closed**

While the library is closed, parents still have free access to the TumbleBook Library deluxe collection for children in grades K-3. The collection includes more than 550 titles of animated talking picture books, books in English, French and Spanish, read-alongs, non-fiction books, and National Geographic Videos. TumbleBook Library provides unlimited viewings, so multiple children can read the same book at the same time. The books are streamed through the web page, not downloaded, and the audio can be turned on or off so that children can practice reading. TumbleBook Library can be used at home by patrons with their library cards.

Visit https://scenicregional.org/kids/tumblebook on the library’s website to access the TumbleBook Library.
Have any of you worked on any craft projects during the quarantine? Below are some projects patrons have been working on from home to pass the time.

Need Help with Your Kids’ Homework While School is Closed? The Library Can Help! Free Online Tutoring Available to Students, Grades K-12

Millions of parents across the country have been forced into the role of teacher during the coronavirus pandemic. Parents who are struggling to help their children complete their assignments have access to an amazing, free resource through the library. Tutor.com provides on-demand, one-to-one tutoring in an online classroom for students in kindergarten through college in over 60 academic subjects.

Tutors are available online every day from 2:00 PM to midnight. These certified online tutors will help your student work through math problems, edit their papers, and navigate many other academic challenges without having to leave home. To access the service, students should visit www.scenicregional.org, and then click on Homework Help under the Kids or Teens tab. A library card will be required.

Check out our latest virtual programming and storytimes on your branch facebook page!

Spring Book Sale Canceled

The library’s spring book sale, scheduled for May 14-16, has been canceled. The event will not be re-scheduled. The fall book sale may be held earlier than usual. Due to the closure, the branches have not been weeding items from the collection nor accepting donations; as a result, some do not have enough items on hand for a spring sale. In addition, once the library reopens, the branch meeting rooms will be used to quarantine returned items and interlibrary loan (from the courier) for at least a week.

The book sales are held every May and November as fundraisers for the branch Friends of the Library groups. The sales are organized and staffed by Friends members and other volunteers. All proceeds from the book sales are designated for the local Friends groups.
Library’s Digital Resources Still Available During Closure

While the library is closed, patrons continue to have access to tens of thousands of digital resources, such as e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, streaming video, and digital and streaming music. These can be checked out and downloaded for free with a library card and viewed or listened to on a Smartphone, tablet, desktop, and laptop. Step-by-step help guides on accessing these resources are available at https://scenicregional.org/virtual-library/download-stream. The library’s digital titles can also be searched through its online catalog.

**cloudLibrary.** cloudLibrary provides the library’s core digital collection with over 7,100 e-books and 3,400 eAudiobooks. cloudLibrary offers a browsing feature which allows users to create your own custom library and powerful search filters which allow users to only view available titles and browse by category. The platform is not compatible with MP3 players or Kindle Paperwhites.

**Overdrive.** OverDrive provides library users with thousands of eBooks and eAudiobooks for download. eAudiobooks can be played on MP3 players, iPods, iPads, Nooks, Kindles, and Smartphones. Apps are available for Android and iOS devices, including Overdrive’s “one-step checkout” app called Libby.

**Hoopla.** Access thousands of digital video, music and audiobook titles. All content is available streaming; some content is available to download for offline viewing, via the hoopla app. Patrons never have to place a request and wait for a title to be available.

**rb digital.** rb digital provides simultaneous access to more than 5,000 adult eAudiobooks titles and 1,500 children and young adult eAudiobook titles. As a result, patrons never have to place a request and wait for a title to be available. 50 new titles are added to the OneClickDigital collection each quarter.

**Freegal.** Freegal offers access to about 9 million songs, including Sony Music’s catalog of legendary artists, and over 15,000 music videos. In total the collection is comprised of music from over 28,000 labels with music that originates in over 100 countries. There is no software to download, and there are no digital rights management (DRM) restrictions.

**Rb digital magazines.** Download digital versions of more than 3,500 magazines, including Cosmopolitan, ESPN, GQ, Rolling Stone, and Harper’s Bazaar. Please note that magazines can be downloaded onto mobile devices such as tablets, smartphones, and some eReaders. However, they can only be streamed on a pc or laptop.

Melissa, Adult Programmer of the Union branch, did a virtual program demonstrating how to sew a mask from scratch to help others during the pandemic. The video is still available to view on the Union Facebook page for Scenic Regional Library.
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If this membership is for you, please provide your information; if this membership is a gift for someone else, please provide their information:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRST NAME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAST NAME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STREET ADDRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHONE NUMBER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If this membership is a gift for someone else, please provide your information:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRST NAME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHONE NUMBER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRANCH AFFILIATION (Please select one)</th>
<th>LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Hermann Branch</td>
<td>Bronze – $10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the New Haven Branch</td>
<td>Silver – $25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Owensville Branch</td>
<td>Ruby – $50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Pacific Branch</td>
<td>Gold – $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the St. Clair Branch</td>
<td>Platinum – $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Sullivan Branch</td>
<td>Diamond* – $500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Union Branch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Warrenton Branch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Wright City Branch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Lifetime Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)</th>
<th>Office Use Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale</td>
<td>New Application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale</td>
<td>Renewal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer at other events</td>
<td>Date Received:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer at my local branch</td>
<td>□ Check #_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serve on the local Friends of the Library’s Governing and Planning Committee</td>
<td>□ Cash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.*