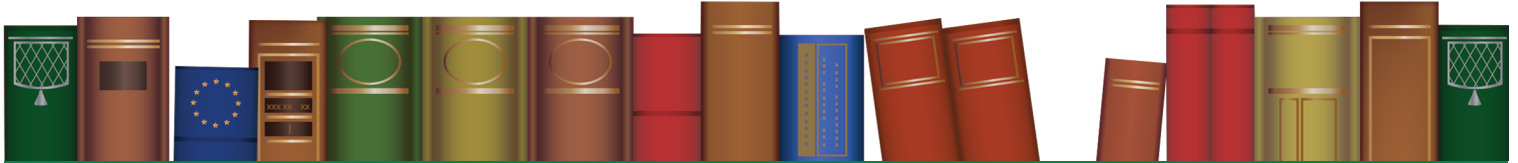




THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER

read, explore, grow



issue 160 | september 2026 *A monthly publication from your local library!*

Create Art for Library Foundation Fundraiser

Pick up a canvas, get creative, and help support the library!



Do you love creating art? Scenic Regional Library is inviting community members to get creative for a good cause with Create for a Cause, an art fundraiser benefiting the Scenic Regional Library Foundation.

Participants can pick up a free 8 x 10 canvas at any Scenic Regional Library branch beginning September 1 and transform it into an original piece of artwork using any medium. Finished artwork must be returned to the library by November 21, 2026.

All donated pieces will be available for purchase during an art fair on December 4 at the Union branch, with all proceeds benefiting the Library Foundation.

Artists of all experience levels and skill are encouraged to participate.

For more information, contact Library Director Steve Campbell at swcampbell@scenicregional.org or 636-583-0652 ext. 1001.

Route 66 Traveling Exhibit at St. Clair in September

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Route 66, the Scenic Regional Library St. Clair branch will host a traveling exhibit, *Missouri's Main Street: 100 Years on Route 66*, throughout September.

The exhibit explores Missouri's place in the national story of Route 66, highlighting the natural wonders, homegrown architecture, roadside attractions, and ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit found along the historic highway. The exhibit also examines the hardships and inequalities experienced along Route 66.

The eight-panel exhibit will be on display at the St. Clair branch throughout September during regular library hours.



**We will be closed
Monday, September 7
in observance of Labor Day**



**the
gallery**
at the library

Call for Art: Urbanscapes

The Gallery at the Library at the Hermann branch is seeking artwork for its upcoming *Urbanscapes* exhibit. Artists ages 18 and older are invited to submit works celebrating the city as living art, from weathered storefronts to glittering skylines.

The exhibit will explore the textures, rhythms, and stories of urban life. Artwork in all mediums encouraged. The deadline to submit artwork is September 25.

For more information or to submit artwork, contact Hermann Branch Manager Zach Gibson at gallery@scenicregional.org or 573-486-2024.

Expand Digital Reading Options with Libby



Scenic Regional Library patrons have access to more than 39,000 eBooks and eAudiobooks through Libby. They can also access more than 25,000 additional titles through the Municipal Library Consortium (MLC) in St. Louis.

Patrons can add MLC as a partner library in the Libby app using their Scenic Regional Library card, providing another collection to browse when searching for eBooks or eAudiobooks.

Only available MLC titles can be checked out; Scenic Regional Library patrons cannot place holds on MLC items.

Start exploring the expanded collection today! A step-by-step guide for adding MLC as a partner library is available at scenicregional.org/libbyshare.

The Municipal Library Consortium includes nine public libraries in the St. Louis area: Brentwood Public Library, Ferguson Municipal Public Library, Kirkwood Public Library, Maplewood Public Library, Richmond Heights Memorial Library, Rock Hill Public Library, University City Public Library, Valley Park Community Library, and Webster Groves Public Library.



These young patrons at the Hermann branch had a great time at the Messy Art & Yard Games program!



These patrons at the Union branch made beautiful glass gem luminaries to light up their summer nights.

Get Help Navigating Medicare at the Union Branch



Navigating Medicare can be confusing, but free help is available at the Scenic Regional Library Union branch this October. Missouri SHIP volunteers from Franklin-Jefferson Community Action Corporation will offer two programs to help community members better understand Medicare and their coverage options.

Medicare Made Clear: Understanding Your Options will be held Thursday, October 22, at 10 a.m. Participants will learn about Medicare, available coverage options, and important decisions to consider when choosing coverage.

For those who would like individualized assistance, **Medicare Enrollment Assistance: One-on-One Help** will be available Thursday, October 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Missouri SHIP volunteers will meet individually with participants to provide help with Medicare enrollment and coverage options.

Appointments are required for the October 29 one-on-one assistance. To schedule an appointment, call 636-789-2686 ext. 2052 or email cbishop@jfcac.org.

**Medicare Made Clear:
Understanding Your Options
Thursday, October 22
10am, Union**

**Medicare Enrollment
Assistance: One-on-One Help
Thursday, October 29
9am-4pm, Union**



A monthly publication from your local library!

Monthly Case Manager Visits Coming to Scenic Regional Library Branches



Scenic Regional Library is pleased to partner with Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation to offer Case Manager visits at participating branch locations on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The partnership grew out of the successful service offered by a social work graduate student earlier this year, which highlighted the growing need for social service assistance within the library's communities. Case Managers can assist individuals in finding resources related to housing, food, childcare, healthcare, employment, and

transportation.

They can also provide guidance for accessing support services such as mental health care, counseling, domestic violence resources, and substance use treatment. In addition, assistance is available for applying for benefits, including SNAP, Medicaid, unemployment, and disability, as well as replacing important documents such as IDs and birth certificates.

Case Manager visits will take place on the following dates and locations throughout 2026:

All visits 9 am-Noon

September 22 – Pacific branch

October 27 – Washington Public Library

November 24 – Sullivan branch

December 22 – New Haven branch



Time Travelers Children's Theater visited the Warrenton branch and wowed these young patrons with the Conquest of the Wild West presentation.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



Have you heard about 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten? Studies have shown that reading with your child provides a great opportunity for bonding. Experts agree that children who acquire the necessary skills early tend to perform better in school and later in life. Participating in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten can help put your child on the right track and will create lifelong memories for both of you.

The program is simple- either pick out books at home or at the library, then start reading to your pre-kindergarten-age child and keep track! Storytime books and participating in the Summer Reading Program also count toward their total. After completing

the program, your child will receive a color-your-own book bag to decorate and will be featured in the library's newsletter and social media pages. To get started, visit scenicregional.org/kids/1000-books-before-kindergarten/, or contact your local branch.



**The idea is simple.
 The rewards are priceless.**

These young patrons have officially read 1,000 books before kindergarten! Learn more about 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten at <https://scenicregional.org/kids/1000-books-before-kindergarten/>.



Sophia



Tarren



Kennedy

A monthly publication from your local library!



At the Pacific branch, Luna and Jordan from Bright Star Theatre gave a wonderful performance and taught these patrons all about different dinosaurs!



Mixed Media Monday's was a big hit at the St. Clair branch. Look at all these beautiful creations!

Voss Hired as Sullivan Branch Manager



Scenic Regional Library has hired Shea Voss as the new branch manager at the Sullivan branch. Voss has worked for the library as the Children's Programmer at the Union branch since 2022. She began her new position on August 10.

After discovering her passion for libraries, Voss returned to school and earned a bachelor's degree in General Studies from Southeast Missouri State University in May 2025. She plans to continue her education by pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science.

Outside of the library, Voss enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter, writing, and going on adventures with friends and family.

Stahlman Hired as Administrative Assistant



The library has hired Katrina Stahlman as its new Administrative Assistant. Stahlman has lived in Union for most of her life and most recently worked as the Office Manager at Good News Trucking in Washington. She began her new position on August 10.

Stahlman earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management with a minor in Psychology from Central Methodist University in 2013. She returned to CMU and earned a second bachelor's degree in Computer Science in 2019.

Her previous experience also includes positions with Ansira, the Missouri Department of Social Services, and Walgreens.

Thousands of Children Benefit from Free Summer Meals



The Free Meals for Kids program had a tremendous impact across the Scenic Regional Library district this summer, distributing more than 51,500 meals to 7,359 children. Through a partnership between Scenic Regional Library and Foundation for Strengthening Families, a St. Louis-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, free weekly meal packs were distributed at the Union, St. Clair, Hermann, Owensville, and Sullivan branches from June 29 through August 21.

Each family received a week's worth of breakfasts and lunches, with menu items such as pancakes, waffles, French toast sticks, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, tuna, fruit, vegetables, and milk.

Scenic Regional Library was grateful to partner with Foundation for Strengthening Families to help make these meals available to thousands of children and families throughout the library district.

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

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2027 Community Read Book Nominees

The 2027 Selection Committee met on August 18 at the Union branch to select the library's Community Read book. Representatives from each of the library's 14 communities nominated two titles for consideration. They will meet again on September 1 to narrow the nominees down to four finalists. Then, the public will have an opportunity to vote online for their choice between September 2 and 21.

These are this year's nominees:

The One-in-a-Million Boy by Monica Wood
 Genre/subject: Literary fiction; family fiction.

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown
 Genre/subject: Narrative nonfiction; sports.

I, Medusa by Ayana Gray
 Genre/subject: Fantasy; Greek mythology retelling; mythological fiction; historical fantasy.

The Measure by Nikki Erlick
 Genre/subject: Speculative fiction; contemporary fiction.

The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland by Jim DeFede
 Genre/subject: Narrative nonfiction; September 11 history; social history.

Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail by Ben Montgomery
 Genre/subject: Biography; outdoor/adventure; women's history.

The Little Bugler: The True Story of a Twelve-Year-Old Boy in the Civil War by William B. Style
 Genre/subject: Biography; juvenile narrative nonfiction; military history.

Where the Broken Heart Still Beats: The Story of Cynthia Ann Parker by Carolyn Meyer
 Genre/subject: Historical fiction; young adult historical fiction; American frontier history.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
 Genre/subject: Classic American literature.

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway
 Genre/subject: Classic American Literature.

We Are All Guilty Here by Karin Slaughter
 Genre/subject: Mystery; crime fiction; psychological suspense; thriller.

Keeper of Lost Children by Sadeqa Johnson
 Genre/subject: Historical fiction; women's fiction; African American historical fiction.

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
 Genre/subject: Science fiction; psychological fiction; literary fiction.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
 Genre/subject: Courtroom fiction; social-justice fiction; Classic American Literature.

Arrowood by Laura McHugh
 Genre/subject: Psychological suspense; mystery; Gothic fiction.

Other Birds by Sarah Addison Allen
 Genre/subject: Magical realism; women's fiction.

Where the Forest Meets the Stars by Glendy Vanderah
 Genre/subject: Contemporary fiction; mystery; magical realism.

A Good American by Alex George
 Genre/subject: Historical fiction; family saga; immigrant fiction.

James by Percival Everett
 Genre/subject: Literary fiction; satire; reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

Emily & Einstein by Linda Francis Lee
 Genre/subject: Women's fiction; romance; light supernatural fiction.

The Ride of Her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last-Chance Journey Across America by Elizabeth Letts
 Genre/subject: Biography; travel/adventure nonfiction; American history.

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi
 Genre/subject: Uplifting/inspirational fiction; character-driven fiction.

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans
 Genre/subject: Literary fiction; women's fiction.

A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron
 Genre/subject: Animal fiction; inspirational fiction.

The Locked Door by Freida McFadden
 Genre/subject: Psychological thriller; mystery; crime fiction.

The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey by Candice Millard
 Genre/subject: Narrative history; biography; Adventure history.

The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston
 Genre/subject: Uplifting fiction; humorous fiction.

The Tumbling Turner Sisters by Juliette Fay
 Genre/subject: Historical fiction; women's historical fiction; American vaudeville.

Still Afraid of the Dark? R.L. Stine & Read-Alikes

With East Central College bringing *Goosebumps the Musical: The Phantom of the Auditorium* to the stage this October, September is the perfect time to revisit R.L. Stine or discover what comes after *Goosebumps*. Whether you grew up checking under the bed after finishing one of Stine's books or just love horror with a little humor and nostalgia mixed in, these titles offer plenty of ways to get into the spooky spirit.

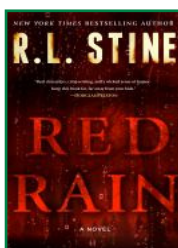
Then, see the scares come to life when East Central College presents *Goosebumps the Musical: The Phantom of the Auditorium* October 8 - 11 at the John Edson Anglin Performing Arts Center. Based on R.L. Stine's *Goosebumps* book *The Phantom of the Auditorium*, the musical follows students Brooke and Zeke as their school play takes a mysterious and spooky turn.



This young patron was up to his elbows in Storytime fun at the Sullivan branch!



Tyler, from the MU Extension, did an amazing job at the Wright City branch. The Canning Basics program was enjoyed by all!



Red Rain by R.L. Stine

Stine brings his signature page-turning style to an adult audience in *Red Rain*. After a devastating hurricane, a travel writer returns home to

Long Island with two mysterious twin boys, setting off an increasingly disturbing series of events.



My Best Friend's Exorcism by Grady Hendrix

Part supernatural horror, part dark comedy, and packed with 1980s nostalgia, *My Best Friend's*

Exorcism follows two best friends whose bond is tested when one of them begins acting very, very strangely.



The Twisted Ones by T. Kingfisher

While cleaning out her late grandmother's isolated home, a woman discovers a strange manuscript and begins noticing

increasingly unsettling things in the surrounding woods. Creepy, weird, and surprisingly funny, *The Twisted Ones* is an approachable supernatural horror story that quickly gets under your skin.



Joyland by Stephen King

A college student takes a summer job at an amusement park and becomes fascinated by the unsolved murder connected

to its haunted ride. *Joyland* combines mystery, nostalgia, coming-of-age, and the supernatural in a story with all the atmosphere of an old-fashioned carnival ghost tale.



Meddling Kids by Edgar Cantero

Think a childhood mystery-solving gang like the one from Scooby-Doo, except the kids have grown up and the monsters may have

been real after all. *Meddling Kids* mixes nostalgia, humor, mystery, and cosmic horror into a decidedly adult take on a familiar childhood adventure.



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AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary School Supplies Drive



The Scenic Regional Library Warrenton and Wright City branches will serve as collection sites for a school-supply and personal-hygiene drive organized by AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary 180 throughout September.

Community members are encouraged to donate school supplies and personal hygiene items. At the end of the collection, donated items will be delivered to local schools to help students in the community.

Donations can be dropped off at either branch through September 30. The annual drive is organized by AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary 180 of Warrenton, which serves local veterans, their families, and the community.

Wildcat Foodpack Organization Accepting Donations



The start of the Union R-XI school year also sees the start of a new year for Wildcat Foodpack Organization (WFO). The WFO provides nutritious food packs for students who may need supplemental food for the weekend. These weekly packs contain an average of 12 items and cost about \$9.50 per student. The WFO provides up to 140 of these packs each week. WFO has teams of volunteers that pack and deliver them to the schools throughout the district each week on Thursday

to go home with the students on Friday for the weekend. There are no federal funds involved in this venture; WFO relies on financial contributions from great people like you! WFO is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 143, Union, MO 63084. For additional information, contact Ken Rohrbach at ckrohrbach@att.net.

Girl Scouts Introduction at Warrenton



Interested in learning what Girl Scouts has to offer? Girls in grades K-12 and their caregivers are invited to an Introduction to Girl Scouts informational meeting on Thursday, September 10, from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. at the Scenic Regional Library Warrenton branch.

Families can learn more about Girl Scouts, meet new friends, and find out how to get connected. Girl Scouts offers opportunities for girls to explore new adventures, build skills,

make friends, and develop confidence.

Those interested in attending can register at <https://vr.girlscoutsem.org/infoGS>.

This informational meeting is presented by Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri and is not a Scenic Regional Library program.

For more information, contact Morgan Gremminger at 314-482-5779 or mgremminger@girlscoutsem.org.

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Staff Anniversaries

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



Melissa-Adult Programmer,
Union



The Hermann branch wants to thank Sue Blesi for sharing information from her book "Hanged by the Neck Until Dead: Hangings and Lynchings of Franklin County".



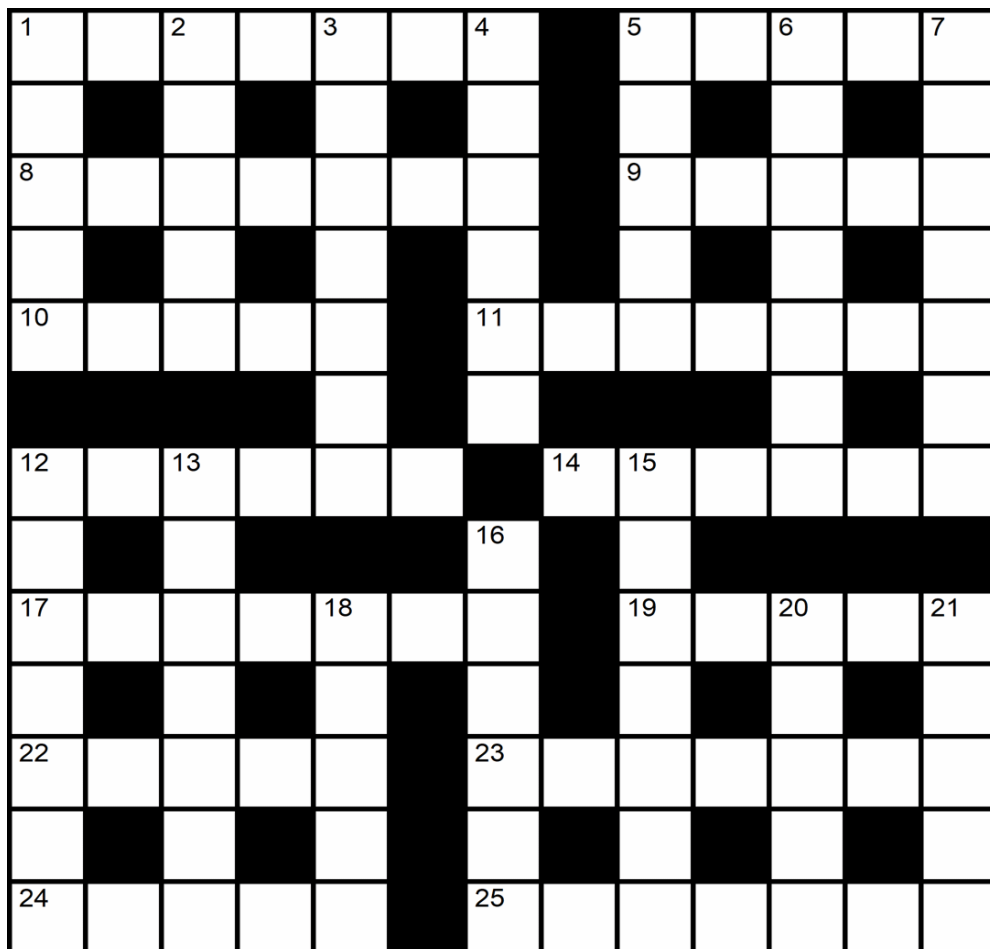
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September Crossword Puzzle



Across:

- 1 French port city on the English Channel
- 5 Eyeglasses, for short
- 8 Arranges in a row
- 9 See eye to eye
- 10 Playground slide
- 11 Make coarse
- 12 Nevertheless, in old English
- 14 Expression of delight over food
- 17 Horn of Africa nation
- 19 Chase relentlessly
- 22 Vagabond
- 23 Automated program sending junk messages
- 24 Censor a curse word
- 25 Go through

Down:

- 1 Fragrant purple bloom
- 2 Follower of a major Indian religion
- 3 Internal organs
- 4 Realm ruled by an emperor
- 5 Chaotic mishap
- 6 Worldly, not heavenly
- 7 Breastbone
- 12 Basin for laundering clothes
- 13 Drum-shaped molded dish
- 15 Not perceived by ear
- 16 Capital of the Bahamas
- 18 Drink eagerly, like a cat
- 20 Brownish earth pigment
- 21 Same as above

Find the answers at:

www.scenicregional.org/crossword

Rotary Trail Day for Seniors & Physically Disabled



The Washington Rotary Club and Washington Parks & Recreation Department will host the 22nd Annual Rotary Trail Day for seniors and individuals with physical disabilities on Thursday, September 10, at the Washington Fairgrounds and Rotary Riverfront Trail.

Activities at the fairgrounds pavilion will include bingo from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., lunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and drinks, cookies, chips, and ice cream. Valet parking will also be available.

Guests can enjoy tours of the Rotary Riverfront Trail from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those participating in the trail tours should park in the upper lot, where golf cart rides will be available.

No reservations are required. Free transportation is available within Washington city limits for those who need it. To arrange transportation, call Sharon at 314-708-5210 or Barb at 314-780-5777.



CITY OF
WASHINGTON
MISSOURI



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 ☐		(includes \$150 voucher for donor wall book)	
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.