



THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER

read, explore, grow



issue 90 | november 2020

A monthly publication from your local library!

Hermann Branch Wi-Fi Upgraded

The library recently purchased new equipment to improve the wireless Internet at the Hermann branch. The equipment included a second wireless access point for the branch. The upgrades provide better wireless Internet coverage throughout the branch. When the new Hermann branch is complete, the equipment will be relocated to the new facility.



**Scenic Regional Library
will be closed
Wednesday, November 11
for its 6th Annual
Staff Development Day.**



**Scenic Regional Library
branches will be closed
November 26-27
to celebrate the
Thanksgiving holiday.**

Looking for Holiday Gift Ideas?

Do you know someone who already has everything? You probably think that it's impossible to find a gift for them. Well, if they love to read, or love the library, we have some great holiday gift ideas for you.

The library recently launched its first line of custom merchandise and online store. The merchandise all includes a fun library- or reading-related phrase. We have t-shirts, mugs, tote bags, socks, and bookmarks. You (1) can purchase items at your local branch; (2) purchase items online and have them sent to your local branch to pick up; or (3) purchase items online and pay an additional shipping fee to have the items shipped to your home. Items can be purchased at a branch with a credit card, check, or cash. All the proceeds go toward enhancing the library's programming and other services. Visit Shop Scenic at www.scenicregional.org/shopsценic to begin shopping today!

Another great gift option for the reader or library lover in your family is a donor wall "book". You can have a person's name, or their family's name, become a permanent part of their local library branch. The Scenic Regional Library Foundation and Friends of the Library groups have beautiful donor wall "books" for sale, which are placed in the entrance hallway of a branch.

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

You can visit www.scenicregionalfoundation.org for more information, and to place your order today! The Foundation also accepts debit and credit cards for donor wall "book" purchases. All proceeds from donor wall "book" sales go to the local Friends of the Library group and are used exclusively to assist the branch. The purchases are tax deductible.





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november 2020 upcoming events

PROGRAM GUIDE

ALL BRANCHES

VIRTUAL ADULT PROGRAMS

Take & Make Fall Acorn Craft

Thursday, November 5 at 5:00 pm

Missouri's Forgotten Heroes with Ross Malone

Thursday, November 12 at 5:00 pm

Take & Make DIY Turkey Craft

Thursday, November 19 at 5:00 pm

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUBS

Hermann branch

Wednesday, November 21 at 4:30 pm

The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America
by Timothy Egan.

Union branch

Thursday, November 19 at 6:00 pm

The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller.

St. Clair branch

Thursday, November 19 at 6:00 pm

Don't Let Me Go by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

VIRTUAL KID & TEEN PROGRAMS

Kids Club

Every Monday at 4:00 pm

November 2-Papercraft Stained Glass Window

November 9-Cardboard Box Adventures

November 16-Salt Crystal Leaves

November 23-Thanksgiving Craft & Game

November 30-Mason Jar Snowglobe

Preschool Storytime

Every Tuesday at 10:00 am

Teen Programs

1st Wednesday of Month at 4:00 pm

November 4-Zoom Escape Room

Library Releases Annual Report

The library released its annual report for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, which ended June 30. The highlights of the year were the opening of the new Union branch and administrative offices in August 2019 and the library's first community-wide read in the fall of 2019.

Despite the library's closure due to coronavirus between March 18 and May 31, the library showed high usage for the year. Over 315,000 people visited the library's nine branches. In addition, the library checked out over 644,000 items during the fiscal year—485,577 physical items and 159,300 digital items, such as e-books, e-audiobooks, and digital music. Digital items represented 25% of total checkouts, and increased 22% from the prior year. The library also checked out 520 specialty items, such as binoculars, telescopes, fishing poles, and cake pans.

In 2019-2020, the library offered 405 adult programs, attended by 13,704 people, and 705 children and teen programs, attended by 25,039 people. The figures include virtual programs, which the library has offered exclusively since March 2020 due to the pandemic.

The library was awarded its first National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) federal grant in 2019 for a community-wide read event. The NEA Big Read featured programming along the themes of the dystopian novel *Station Eleven*, by Emily St. John Mandel. The two-month event included 64 programs, attended by 1,495 people. The library also distributed 1,750 copies of the book to the community and schools.

The library continues to experience high Internet usage at its branches, with 49,680 patrons using the public computers and wireless Internet being accessed 75,719 times. Patrons also searched the library's research databases, which contain information about everything from genealogy to automotive repair, over 196,000 times.

Library staff visited day cares and preschools 326 times, reading to nearly 18,000 children. The library's adult outreach also visited nursing homes and senior citizen centers 159 times, providing programming to 3,198 seniors. The library also had 102 patrons enrolled in its Books-by-Mail program for homebound people, who were sent 3,002 items. The library's 2020 summer reading program had 1,850 participants—912 children, 215 teens, and 723 adults—who read 518,630 minutes.

During the shutdown, March 18 to May 31, 143 people registered for e-cards on the library's website. When the library moved to curbside pickup between May 18 and May 31, 1,128 patrons picked up 3,034 items.

In 2019-2020, the library staff also:

- issued 6,387 new library cards
- processed 410 passports
- answered over 11,492 reference questions
- answered 11,076 technology questions

Library Director Steve Campbell presented the annual report to the Gasconade, Franklin, and Warren County Commissions in late October. The library is required by law to submit an annual report to the counties by October 31. The full report can be found at <https://scenicregional.org/about-us/library-reports/annual-report/>.

Scenic Regional Library ANNUAL REPORT



July 2019 - June 2020





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november 2020 upcoming events

With Book Sales Cancelled, Library Sells Books Online

The library's spring and fall book sales were cancelled in 2020 due to coronavirus. As a result, the library's nine branches had amassed over 1,000 boxes of sale books and were quickly approaching their storage capacity.

In early October, the books were loaded onto pallets at each branch and shipped to Thriftbooks. Thriftbooks is a nationwide company with warehouses across the country, including St. Louis. They sell the books online for libraries, and the libraries receive a percentage of the profits. In the past, the library has sent leftover books from its book sales to Thriftbooks.



Library sale books at the Pacific branch waiting for pick-up.

TAKE-A-TICKET SERVICES SCHEDULE

Owensville Branch

Wednesday, November 4

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

573-437-2188

Pacific Branch

Tuesday, November 10

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

636-257-2712

Sullivan Branch

Tuesday, November 17

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

573-468-4372

St. Clair Branch

Wednesday, November 18

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

636-629-2546

Union Branch

Wednesday, December 2

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

636-583-3224

Warrenton Branch

Wednesday, December 9

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

636-456-3321

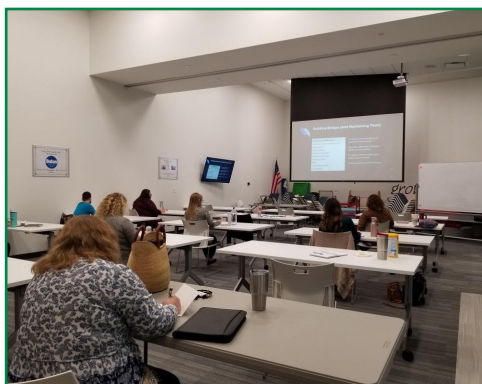
Wright City Branch

Tuesday, December 15

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

636-384-1136

Annual Library Conference Moves Online

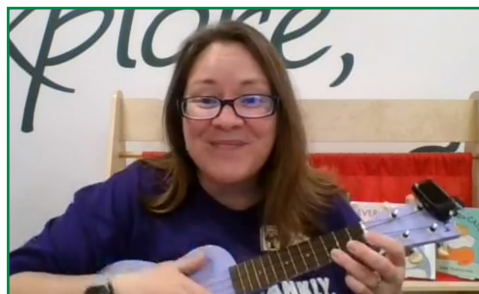


Library staff attended the Missouri Library Association's virtual conference.

Due to coronavirus, the Missouri Library Association's 2020 annual conference moved online. It was the first time that the event was not held in person since the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. The three-day virtual conference, which was attended by over 250 librarians from across Missouri, was presented on September 28, September 30, and October 2. Seventeen employees from Scenic Regional attended the event, including all nine branch managers.



Our children's programmer from New Haven virtually told us about Dia de los Muertos!



Alesia entertained our young patrons in St. Clair with the ukulele during virtual storytime.



Patrons learned how to virtually make a no-sew farmhouse pumpkin using an old flannel shirt!

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A monthly publication from your local library!



The Union branch celebrated Native American Heritage Month with a display featuring books related to the culture.



Kid's Club at Hermann featured a Virtual Halloween Parade, cake recipe, and a DIY costume!



Virtual Preschool Storytime: Halloween style! We read another Missouri Building Block Book called, Fear the Bunny.

Union Branch Provides Books to Central Elementary

The library at Central Elementary in Union was closed for the first two months of the school year as the school district interfiled books from the former Clark-Vitt Elementary library into the collection. The school district approached the library for assistance to provide books to its students. The Union branch created cards for 28 classrooms from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade, and then delivered nearly 600 books to the school within days of the request. Union branch Youth Services Programmer Johnnalee Jump and Youth Services Librarian Christy Schink, who both spearheaded the project, delivered the items on September 23.



Union branch Youth Services Programmer Johnnalee Jump (left) delivers books to Central Elementary Principal Dr. Leslie Lause (right).



Student volunteers at Central Elementary help unload library books.

Job Openings with the Adult Education & Literacy Program

East Central College (ECC) has part-time openings for a volunteer coordinator and evening Adult Education & Literacy (AEL) instructors in Sullivan, Owensville, and Montgomery City. A bachelor's degree is required along with a fingerprint background check. The salary for both positions is \$15.00 per hour.



The Volunteer Coordinator provides training and support for volunteers who work with teachers and students in the AEL program. While some activities can be completed virtually, travel to class sites in the ECC service district is required. Classes meet both morning and evening Monday through Thursday. An average of 10 hours per week is budgeted for this position, but may vary from week to week.

AEL instructors provide instruction to HiSET students in reading, writing and math. For English students, instruction includes reading, writing, listening and speaking. Instruction is provided both individually and in groups through both textbook and digital learning management systems. Students may participate both in-person and virtually due to COVID guidelines. Classes meet for three hours, twice per week.

More information online at www.eastcentral.edu/hr.

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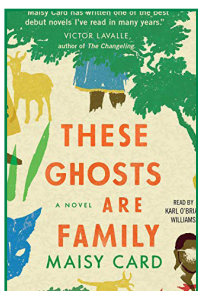


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Staff Picks



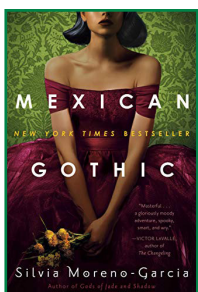
These Ghosts are Family, by Maisy Card

These Ghosts are Family by Maisy Card is advertised as fiction about a man who allows his family to think he is dead so that he can create a new life for himself. That plot would make a nice beach-read but that's not what this book is. It is a gut-punch of Jamaican plantation genealogy.

The story takes place over two-hundred years but don't let that scare you. The book has fewer than three-hundred pages. It begins in present day Harlem but as the story unfolds, people and decisions they made in the past (1960s and 1800s) take over to fill in the backstory. Each jump forward or back in time reveals more about the central characters. The Colonial plantation owner, Harold Fowler, treats his wife and the enslaved people who work his plantation with brutality. After the abolition of slavery, Harold Town springs up on the site of the old plantation which was destroyed by fire. Life in Harold Town is difficult and residents emigrate to England and America, only returning to Jamaica for funerals where they don't like being reminded of their past and the old ways of their forebears. And, yes, one man does allow his wife and children in Jamaica to think he died in an accident in London so that he can start over.

This powerful story is the first full-length book written by Maisy Card, a public librarian, who was herself born in Jamaica and raised in New York City. She says, "Writing this novel has helped me make peace with all the aspects of my family history that are unknown and unresolved."

-Reviewed by Diane, Administration



Mexican Gothic, by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

When Mexico City socialite Noemí Taboada receives a troubling letter from her cousin, she has no idea she is about to walk into an old-fashioned Gothic horror story. "You must come for me, Noemí. You have to save me," writes Catalina, new bride of a once-prosperous silver mining heir. A voracious reader, Catalina imagined herself the heroine of her own real-life Gothic romance when she moved to her husband's rotting ancestral mansion in the misty hills of rural 1950s Mexico. And a quintessential Gothic heroine indeed she becomes: the delicate damsel who succumbs to "bad air" and

swoons about ghosts living in the walls. It will take a modern woman like Noemí, who crashes into the plot with her snappy comebacks, shiny cigarette case, and nearly-completed anthropology degree, to save the day.

Silvia Moreno-Garcia's *Mexican Gothic* is deliciously self-referential, simultaneously a commentary on and a celebration of a classic genre. Noemí has no patience for dusty old novels about windswept moors and brooding Heathcliffs, but her not-so-subtle contempt for Gothic tropes leaves her blindsided when she realizes—almost too late!—that the eyes in the oil paintings might really be watching her, and the shapes moving just behind the pattern in the wallpaper might actually come for her in the night. Secrets begin to emerge, rising from the ground like the mysterious mushrooms growing in the family cemetery. But those secrets, spreading rhizomatic through the pages of this beautifully creepy novel, are more nightmarish than Noemí could ever have imagined.

-Reviewed by Erica, Administration



Local author Dan Terry joined us virtually and talked about real-life ghost stories and his experience with the supernatural.



Our own Miss Kayleigh is a celebrity! She was featured in the Warren County Record for her princess storytimes!



The New Haven branch designed a display to inspire patrons to vote!



The Pacific branch virtually taught three different techniques of Pour Painting.

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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.scenicregionallibraryfoundation.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.



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	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermann Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 8" X 1-1/2" - \$100	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 10" X 2" - \$200	
<input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 9" X 3" - \$300	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> St. Clair Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sullivan Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Union Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Warrenton Branch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wright City Branch			
		OFFICE USE ONLY	
		Date received: _____	
		Amount received: _____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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.

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		
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
PHONE NUMBER		EMAIL ADDRESS
BRANCH AFFILIATION (Please select one)		LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP
Friends of the Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Bronze – \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Silver – \$25 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the Owensville Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Ruby – \$50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the Pacific Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Gold – \$100 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the St. Clair Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Platinum – \$250 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the Sullivan Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		Diamond* – \$500 <input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of the Union Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		
Friends of the Warrenton Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		
Friends of the Wright City Branch <input type="checkbox"/>		
		*Lifetime Membership
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)		Office Use Only
Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> New Application
Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Volunteer at other events <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Received:
Volunteer at my local branch <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash
Serve on the local Friends of the Library's <input type="checkbox"/>		Amount Received:
Governing and Planning Committee <input type="checkbox"/>		

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.