



THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER

read, explore, grow



issue 126 | november 2023 *A monthly publication from your local library!*

Routers and Chromebooks Discontinued December 31

The Federal grant which has funded the data costs for the routers, hotspots, and Chromebooks available for checkout at the library will expire on December 31. Throughout November and December, the devices will be removed from circulation as they are returned.

The library began offering hundreds of the devices for checkout almost two years ago. The library will continue circulating 150 wireless hotspots using library funds for the data costs, which are about \$4,460 per month. The hotspots have proven the most popular of the devices.

The library will be selling the Chromebooks, which were also funded through the grant, to the public at its book sales in November 2023 and May 2024 for \$30 each. The Chromebooks' original retail value was \$70.



Library Releases 2022-2023 Annual Report



The library has released its annual report for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, which ended June 30. Among this year's highlights was the opening of The Gallery at the Library in the Hermann branch, which saw four exhibits throughout the year: "Sense of Place," "Rivers," "Black & White & Eight Shades of Gray," and "Portraiture."

The library showed high usage throughout the year, with many increases. Over 349,000 people visited the library's nine branches; 5,879 new library cards were issued, and the number of active library users increased to 19,345. In addition, the library checked out 492,375 physical items and 188,832 digital items, such as e-books and e-audiobooks. These checkouts reflect an 8.45% and 5.24% increase from 2021-2022, respectively.

With the Teacher Assistance program, the library delivered 2,554 items to area schools, filling 147 teacher requests. The library checked out 4,872 non-traditional items such as telescopes, headphones, cake pans, microscopes, hotspots, and Chromebooks.

In 2022-2023, the library offered 644 adult programs, reaching 6,540 people, and 999 children and teen programs attended by 26,587 people. Library staff also facilitated 140 visits to 1,787 senior

citizens at nursing homes or senior centers in all three counties.

The fiscal year also saw the second annual Community Read, an event designed to encourage discussion by having as many people as possible read the same book simultaneously. The book chosen for the 2023 Community Read was *Walking with Peety* by Eric O'Grey. In addition, to involve all ages in the event, two other books were chosen for middle-grade students and children: *The Trail* by Meika Hashimoto and *Madeline Finn and the Shelter Dog* by Lisa Papp.

The library and its partners gave away 2,300 free copies of *Walking with Peety*, *The Trail*, and *Madeline Finn and the Shelter Dog* to the public and area schools. Over four weeks, the Community Read saw 70 themed programs with 1,250 attendees.

To read the full Annual Report, visit us at www.scenicregional.org/about-us/library-reports/annual-report/.



All branches of Scenic Regional Library will be closed:

Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.



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Schweissguth Memorial Funds Purchase Light Table

The Warrenton branch of Scenic Regional Library has added a light table to its children's area. The table was purchased for \$2,300 with funds from JoAnn Schweissguth's memorial fund. Ms. Schweissguth passed away on Friday, March 31. She served on the Library Board from July 2002 to October 2013 as a representative from Warren County. Ms. Schweissguth resided in Marthasville and was a special education teacher in the Warren County R-III school district for 26 years.



Wireless Printing Receives Update

The library's mobile printing service has received an update. Patrons may now visit www.scenicregional.org/wirelessprinting to upload documents to be printed at their chosen branch from their mobile device or home computer. Previously, patrons were required to be connected to the library's Wi-Fi to access mobile printing. Patrons must visit the library branch and pick up their print on the same day as uploaded.

Foundation Hosts Successful Trivia

The Scenic Regional Library Foundation hosted a successful trivia fundraiser event on October 20 at the Owensville Lions Club. The "Trick-or-Treat Trivia" event saw 75 attendees and raised over \$4,000 for the Foundation. During the event, a 50/50 raffle, various games, an adult costume contest, and a best-decorated table contest were held.

The event marked the first time the Foundation has held a fundraiser event in Owensville. Library Director Steve Campbell emceed the event. Last year, the Foundation funded "I'm a Super Summer Reader" yard signs for all children who completed the library's Summer Reading Program. The Foundation is a 501c3, and all proceeds support the library.

Thank you to the following area businesses that sponsored the event: CashSaver Cost Plus Food Outlet; Maries County Bank; White Mule Winery and Bed & Breakfast; Shelter Insurance - Kyle Meyer, Agent; El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant; America Family Insurance - Theresa Ditto, Agent; Lakeside Book Company; Maciejewski Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning; RE/MAX Exclusive Properties - Nan Belloir, Owner/Broker; Laura and Tom Hengstenberg; Hinson Tax Service; Auto Care Express; Jost Tire; Gottenstroeter Funeral Home; Grayson & Grayson LLC; and Union Eye Care.



Staff Development Day

All Scenic Regional Library locations were closed on Monday, October 9, for the library's annual staff development day. The event, held at the Union branch, utilized the library's multiple meeting rooms and children's areas throughout the day for staff to attend various breakout sessions. The sessions covered many topics, including serving patrons with disabilities, health and wellness, fire extinguisher training and fire safety, organization, yoga, and multiple other topics.



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Staff Spotlight: Zach Library Assistant, Hermann



How long have you worked for Scenic?

I have worked at Scenic for a little over one year. I started out at both New Haven and Hermann but now only work in Hermann.

Can you share a little bit about your background before you came to work at the library?

I have a Bachelor's degree in Communication from Southern New Hampshire University and have spent most of my time before Scenic taking care of developmentally disabled adults. I still do that job on the side while I work on my Master's Degree in Library Science!

What made you want to work in a library?

This job was originally a stopgap while I figured out my long-term plans, but I immediately fell in love with it and have decided to make it my career. Libraries contribute very positively to communities and provide opportunities for everyone, regardless of status in life. They are essential and important, and I want to be a part of that.

What do you wish more people knew about the library?

That programs are free and that we have so much more than just books! Newcomers are always shocked when I explain that programs are always free to the public. I think they aren't used to getting a service with no strings attached.

What is your favorite part of the job? Why?

My favorite part of this job is helping people. Sometimes, it's as simple as helping someone find a book; sometimes, it's helping them print an important document. Either way, I'm happy to provide service to the community. Libraries should be a place where anyone can go to get help; if I can be a part of that help, then I am very happy. Beyond that, it has to be the amazing people that work for Scenic. This library system is staffed by some pretty awesome people.

What are you currently reading, or what are you reading next?

Other than all of my textbooks for grad school, I am currently reading *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie. I love a good mystery.

You can only take one book to a desert island. What book, and why?

I would probably take *The Grumpy Monkey* because it is one of my four-year-old daughter Zelda's favorite books!

Any hobbies or interests outside the library?

I am both a passionate music lover and a lifelong video gamer. Both constitute an important part of my life and encompass my overall love for popular culture.

Is there anything else you would like people to know about you, your job, or your library branch?

Come and visit the art gallery at the Hermann Branch! It is absolutely worth a drive to see. Many people have worked relentlessly to put together a very high-quality exhibit. Art galleries are important cultural experiences!



Thank you so much to our wonderful Pacific Fire Protection District for visiting the branch during storytime!



Hermann patrons enjoyed a game of chess together at the branch.



Scenic Regional Library participated in the Union Boo Bash.

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A big thank you to Scenic employee Amy for coming to the Sullivan branch to talk about "Poe's life in Poetry".



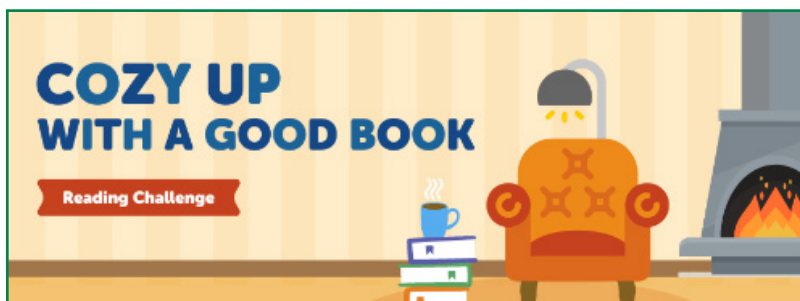
Our "Bottle of Boos" program held at the St. Clair branch was a fabulous success!



The Owensville branch enjoyed having the Gerald Elementary 3rd graders come for a tour of what the library has to offer.

Winter BINGO Program Returns

Scenic Regional Library's Winter Reading BINGO Program will return this year on December



18, lasting through January 31. All ages are encouraged to participate. To participate in the program, pick up a BINGO card at your local branch or register online. After completing a BINGO on your BINGO card diagonally, vertically, or horizontally, bring your completed card to the library and get a free book for every BINGO, up to a maximum of 5 books.

Examples of BINGO space challenges may include reading a book with a blue cover, reading the same book as someone else, using the self-check machine, enjoying a family movie night, reading a book to a pet or stuffed animal, and much more. Tasks differ between age groups. The Winter Reading Program ends on January 31, so be sure to turn in your BINGO card on or before the deadline. Patrons can also log their reading on Beanstack, an online reading tracking system. Contact your local branch or visit us online at scenicregional.org/winterbingo for more information.

Warren County Branches Hygiene Drive

Scenic Regional Library's Warrenton and Wright City branches will host a personal hygiene drive



throughout December to benefit Turning Point Advocacy Services. Turning Point has operated a domestic violence shelter in northern Warren County since 1994. The organization shelters more than 100 women and 60 children annually and provides support services to more than 500 others through community-based programs. To learn more about Turning Point Domestic Advocacy Services, visit <http://www.turningpointdvs.com>.

Turning Point is collecting the following items:

Body wash
 Bath towels
 Washcloths
 Underwear
(kids and adults' sizes)
 Hairbrushes
 Toilet paper
 Paper towels
 Twin bedding sheets



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 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" - \$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Haven Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 10" X 2" - \$250	
<input type="checkbox"/> Owensville Branch		<input type="checkbox"/> 9" X 3" - \$350	
<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 Drive
Union, MO 63084



SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024 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	
STREET ADDRESS		EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
BRANCH AFFILIATION (Please select one) Friends of the Hermann Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the New Haven Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Owensville Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Pacific Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the St. Clair Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Sullivan Branch <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"/>		LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP Bronze – \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Silver – \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby – \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Gold – \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum – \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond* – \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> *Lifetime Membership	
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply) Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at other events <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at my local branch <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the local Friends of the Library's <input type="checkbox"/> Governing and Planning Committee <input type="checkbox"/>		Office Use Only <input type="checkbox"/> New Application <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Date Received: <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 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.