Group pursues library branch in Marthasville

Met with representatives from Scenic Regional

By Cindy Gladden
CORRESPONDENT

A committee of Marthasville-area residents committed to seeing a library in Marthasville met with the Scenic Regional Library’s Board of Directors on Oct. 19 to appeal for a local branch.

Committee members, comprised of retired educators and community leaders, believe the time has come to benefit directly from library tax dollars paid by people in a 100-square-mile area of southern Warren County.

Members of the committee say representatives from the Scenic Regional Library system encouraged area taxpayers to vote yes for a tax increase proposed in 2014, saying there was a good chance Marthasville would get its own library.

Don Deeker, retired pastor and a member of the committee, said he took that information to heart.

“Even though I probably would have voted for it anyway, I then encouraged others to vote to pass the tax. It’s time to benefit from our tax dollars,” Deeker said.

Mayor David Lange said he believes Marthasville and southern Warren County needs to be at the “top of the list” for a library branch.

“We are a growing community,” said Lange. “We are looking to get a commitment that we will get a branch.”

There are nine branches in the surrounding area serving Franklin, Gasconade and Warren counties, including locations in Hermann, New Haven, Owensville, Pacific, St. Clair, Sullivan, Union, Warrenton and Wright City.

Angie Hilbert, chairman for the committee, said they can offer a unique way to help the library system get started in Marthasville. The Rusche Park Board in Marthasville manages property given to them by the estate of Helen.
COMMUNITY LIBRARY — Residents of Marthasville are pushing to get a local branch of the Scenic Regional Library. Pictured here is a view of the interior of the library in Wright City, showing what can be offered in a smaller community. Adam Rollins photo.

LIBRARY

Diane Freese attended the meeting with the board and said Scenic Regional representatives were receptive to the request, but reported money was not available at this time, that they were “bonded out.”

The library district suggested that a library kiosk, essentially a vending machine for books, might be a good alternative that is available at this time. But committee members aren’t interested in this idea.

“A kiosk machine can’t have story time for the kids, or free Wi-Fi, or study rooms or meeting rooms,” said Mayor Lange.

“IT'S ABOUT COMMUNITY,” Hilbert said. “HAVING A LIBRARY CAN HELP MAKE OUR COMMUNITY STRONGER.”

Hilbert said they are looking for a physical library location where programs, meeting rooms, activities for children and community gatherings might be possible. She said it would be similar to a story hour program recently begun at the local Charrette Baptist Church.

“We’re not looking for a branch just for the city of Marthasville,” said Lange. “We’re looking for a branch for the whole 63357 zip code. The population of Marthasville is 1,200, but there are 5,500 people in our zip code area.”

Hilbert said the committee will continue discussing the outcome of the meeting with the library district and make plans for the next step in bringing a Scenic Regional Library branch to the Marthasville area.

Program to help low income people pay water bills — if cities sign up

By Adam Rollins

A new Missouri state program will allow city and county officials to help low-income people pay their water bills through the state, then the state notifies NECAC,” said NECAC Deputy Director Janice Robinson. "Not many

RANGERS

or homeless. We have to look very close at the area.

Homeless people are often seen as safe places where they are, but people can be transported to a safe place by rangers.

We have lots of resources now to help people,” she said. “People connected to outreach will be at the Department of Mental Health.”

Carson said that some rangers can also provide medical stabilization and offer help to individuals. People can be transported to a safe place by rangers.

Other services that the rangers offer include self-defense classes for groups who often ride the Katy, educational programs for scouts and seniors, transportation for seniors. The park service will also employ rangers who also look after naturalists, accounting hikers into it and parks.

Carson said she hopes people will report to police the up- ping activity in terms of crime to the rangers. The ranger patrols will increase patrols in parks

FACILITIES

for the early childhood program to expand the second building and to its existing location.

“This would allow us to double the capacity of our preschools,” said Carson.

“We plan as part of the pre-K expansion to move to what’s called transcendent