

# City Library's Big Read Program Begins

## ■ Special Presentation Monday

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Since being awarded an NEA Big Read grant, the Washington Public Library has been gearing up for a six-week programming period all of which starts Monday, Sept. 30.

A presentation titled "Fire, Pestilence and Death" will be given starting at 6:30 p.m. in conjunction with the book "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel.

The \$15,000 Big Read grant was awarded to Scenic Regional Library, which is partnering with the city library, East Central College, East Central Area Literacy Council and the Scenic Regional Library Foundation.

The goal of the Big Read program is to engage the community in reading the same book. Part of the preparation for the programming included a book giveaway at the beginning of this month. More than 1,800 copies had been purchased for the area.

The giveaway took place at all Scenic Regional Library

branches and the Washington Public Library.

The city library distributed 125 books to area high schools, 38 books to the Washington Public Library's book clubs and 75 books were given away at the main circulation desk.

"We ran out in a day and a half here," said Nelson Appell, interim library director.

The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in partnership with Arts Midwest.

"It is fantastic that we got that many books in the public's hands," said Katie Dieckhaus, library board president.

The 2014 novel "Station Eleven" takes place in the Great Lakes region after a flu pandemic has devastated the world, killing most of the population. It won the Arthur C. Clarke Award, given for the best science fiction novel, in 2015.

"If you have not read this book yet, please read it," said

Diane Lick, board member.

The programming, centered around the book, will continue through Tuesday, Nov. 5. The author will conclude the program with a visit to the John Edson Anglin Performing Arts Center at ECC.

During the six-week period, 77 free programs will be offered through Gasconade, Franklin and Warren counties. Area high schools also are taking part by agreeing to incorporate the book into their senior English classes curriculum.

Scenic Regional Friends of the Library groups in Union, St. Clair, Warrenton, Pacific and Owensville purchased 750 copies for those classes.

An additional 1,000 paperback copies were purchased by Scenic Regional Library for the high schools and the public. Those copies were available at Neighborhood Reads, Washington.

For more information on the program, visit [www.scenicregional.org/bigread](http://www.scenicregional.org/bigread).

# Union Library Hosting Many Events in October

October will be all about the NEA Big Read event at the Scenic Regional Library's Union branch.

The NEA Big Read's goal is to get as many people as possible in the library's communities to read and discuss a book. This year the book is "Station Eleven," by Emily St. John Mandel. The NEA Big Read programming kicked off in late September.

Scenic Regional Library and its partners will host book discussions and adult and family programs along the themes of "Station Eleven" throughout October and early November. The programs include escape rooms, survival tactics, seed collecting, primitive basketry, music, acting, and more.

## October Programs

Preschool story time will continue throughout the month of October. The sessions will be Wednesdays at 10 a.m. The story time will repeat Saturdays, also at 10 a.m. The event features stories, songs and crafts for the youngest library patrons.

An escape room and game night are scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m.

This night will feature an escape room designed around the theme of "Station Eleven" for teens and adults. Following the escape room, participants will be able to play "Pandemic," an apocalyptic board game where players must work together to stop the spread of diseases to help save the world.

Bard in a Box will be Thursday, Oct. 10, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is an interactive workshop presented by St. Louis Shakespeare for all ages. The event features a professional actor transforming participants into a royal court of Renaissance England with colorful costumes, props, and scripts, and then has them stage a scene.

The Hooked on Books club will meet Thursday, Oct. 17, at 6 p.m. This month the club will be discussing "Station Eleven."

A class called Basic Survival Skills will be presented by survival skills instructor George Crawford. The hands-on program for all ages will be held outside and teach participants skills such as creating cordage, building a fire, making simple cutting edges, and creating equipment for primitive fishing. The event will be Monday, Oct. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

The library will host Book Bingo Thursday, Oct. 24, at 11 a.m. Every winner takes home a free book. On the same day, the library will host Reading to Rover at 5 p.m. Visitors will be able to read to therapy dogs.

The month will end Tuesday, Oct. 29, with an event on primitive basketry. Local basket maker Doris Malone will teach participants primitive basketry techniques, including how to strip bark from trees to create baskets. The program will be for teens and adults.