

Library closing is extended, digital resources still available

Scenic Regional Library has extended the closing of all nine of its branches until Saturday, April 25, in an effort to slow the spread of coronavirus in its communities. The library plans to reopen on Monday, April 27.

The library originally planned to reopen on

Monday, April 6.

The library encourages patrons to use its extensive collection of digital resources online from home, including thousands of e-books, e-audiobooks, digital music, streaming video, and more.

The library offers more than 500 children's picture

books digitally through a product called Tumblebooks for parents with small children. Please visit www.scenicregional.org for more information and access to these resources.

The library's wireless Internet is accessible at all branch locations in the parking lots 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no password or library card required to access the network.

The library's youth services staff are offering weekly storytimes virtually using Facebook Live (streaming video) on the branch Facebook pages.

The library is discouraging patrons from returning checked out materials while it is closed. All due dates for checked out materials have been extended until the library reopens.

In addition, cards will not expire while the library is closed — even if someone receives a notice saying that they need to renew their card. All holds on items at other branches and libraries around the state have been suspended. Once the library reopens, these holds will be filled and patrons will receive their requested items.

Socket expands fiber network

Socket is announcing the expansion of its fiber-optic broadband network in Warrenton to more than 270 area businesses.

"We're excited to bring fiber technology to Warrenton businesses," said George Pfenenger, Socket CEO and co-owner.

With speeds up to one gigabit per second or even faster, fiber-optic technology is the fastest, most reliable connection available.

Businesses can learn more about Socket services by calling 1-800-762-5383, or visiting www.socket.net.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hospice providers are more than visitors

To the Editor,

Our country and the world are facing one of the most dramatic events in our combined history. As the COVID-19 outbreak continues across the U.S., many long-term care facilities have restricted visitors' access.

While well intentioned and meant to protect residents, these bans on all visitation have left hospice providers unable to reach patients with life-limiting illnesses due to confusion about the definition of "essential service."

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) have all deemed hospice care an "essential service." Despite this, along with family members, hospice physicians, nurse practitioners, RNs,

LPNs, aides, social workers, chaplains, and bereavement specialists are being locked out of caring for the most fragile, sickest and closest-to-death individuals residing in facilities.

Hospice providers are more than visitors — they are an integral part of a patient's healthcare team. By working side by side and collaboratively with the staff of long-term care, we help facilities focus on delivering the highest quality of care to all residents, especially those requiring an even higher level of care.

Please join me in exploring facility administrators to leave their doors open to hospice personnel so we may continue caring for those who need it most at end-of-life.

Perry Farmer
CEO, Crossroads
Hospice & Palliative Care

ONLINE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

This week we asked, if you or your family are staying home because of COVID-19, how are you spending your time?

SereniTy Glass — I'm saving 15 hours a week on my commute. Grateful to be able to work at home, which is extremely productive. I also have a lot of extra time to take care of the house, kids, and myself.

Tish Wells — Yoga. Working from home. I don't mind not having to commute to St. Louis every day. My pets are confused. My house is much cleaner.

Jonathan Harman — Making masks, greeting cards, gardening, bicycling, taking care of animals, using Zoom to stay in touch with our church home group.

Neil Schnaath — Catching up on some delayed chores. It actually is nice not being gone to the job more than half the day.

Jenni Edelstein Crigger — We just moved to Warrenton in August so we have a lot of home renovations going on. Now we have time to do them!

Nichol Hahn — Cardboard Castle, fishing, chalk the driveway.

