Library provides educational resources on racism

Over the past month, the killing of George Floyd sparked nationwide protests against police brutality and racism. The events have generated tremendous interest in books about racism, African-American history, social justice, and related topics.

The primary way to combat racism is through education. Scenic Regional Library has compiled an extensive list of resources on racism, including hundreds of books for adults, teens, and children, movies, podcasts, websites, resources for parents, and articles. On the library’s webpage, a summary is provided for each item—all of which are available in the library’s collection.

The library hopes the collection will help people learn about racism, facilitate conversations about race, help parents raise anti-racist children, and explore many other aspects of the topic.

Visit www.scenic-regional.org/antiracism-resources for the full list of resources.

Books for Adults (Non-fiction): “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race,” by Beverly Daniel Tatum. Walk into any racially mixed high school and you will see Black, White, and Latino youth clustered in their own groups. Is this self-segregation a problem to address or a coping strategy?

A renowned authority on the psychology of racism argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides.

Books for Adults (Fiction): “Americanah,” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. A young woman from Nigeria leaves behind her home and her first love to start a new life in America, only to find her dreams are not all she expected.

Books for Kids (Fiction): “All Kinds of Friends,” by Shelley Rotner. This book explores many kinds of friends children have in their lives with photographs and simple text.

Books for Kids (Non-fiction): “Let’s Talk About Race,” by Julius Lester. This book introduces the concept of race as only one component in an individual or nation’s “story.”

Books for Teens (Fiction): “All American Boys,” by Jason Reynolds. Two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

Written in tandem by two award-winning authors, this tour de force shares the alternating perspectives of Rashad and Quinn as the complications from that single violent moment, the type taken from the headlines, unfold and reverberate to highlight an unwelcome truth.

MoDOT cautions drivers during busy holiday traffic

After months of quarantine, the Fourth of July will find many hitting the road for some holiday weekend fun. While noted as one of the busiest summer holidays, it’s also one of the deadliest due to increased travel and substance-impaired drivers.

Alcohol, illegal and prescription drugs, and even some over-the-counter medicines can cause impairment. Local law enforcement will be out July 2-6 with increased efforts to prevent impaired drivers. No warnings. No excuses. If you drive impaired, you will be arrested. Don’t risk losing your independence by choosing to drive under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

There were 15 people killed and 58 seriously injured in traffic crashes in Missouri over the 2019 July Fourth holiday. Of the 73 people killed or injured, 18 were involved in a crash where there was at least one substance-impaired driver.

The 15 fatalities included three motorcyclists, one ATV occupant and 11 vehicle occupants, with 80 percent of the 11 vehicle occupants being unbuckled. Of the 58 serious injuries included two pedestrians, 11 motorcyclists and 45 vehicle occupants with 65 percent being unbuckled.