read, explore, grow

THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER

issue 162 | november 2026 *A monthly publication from your local library!*

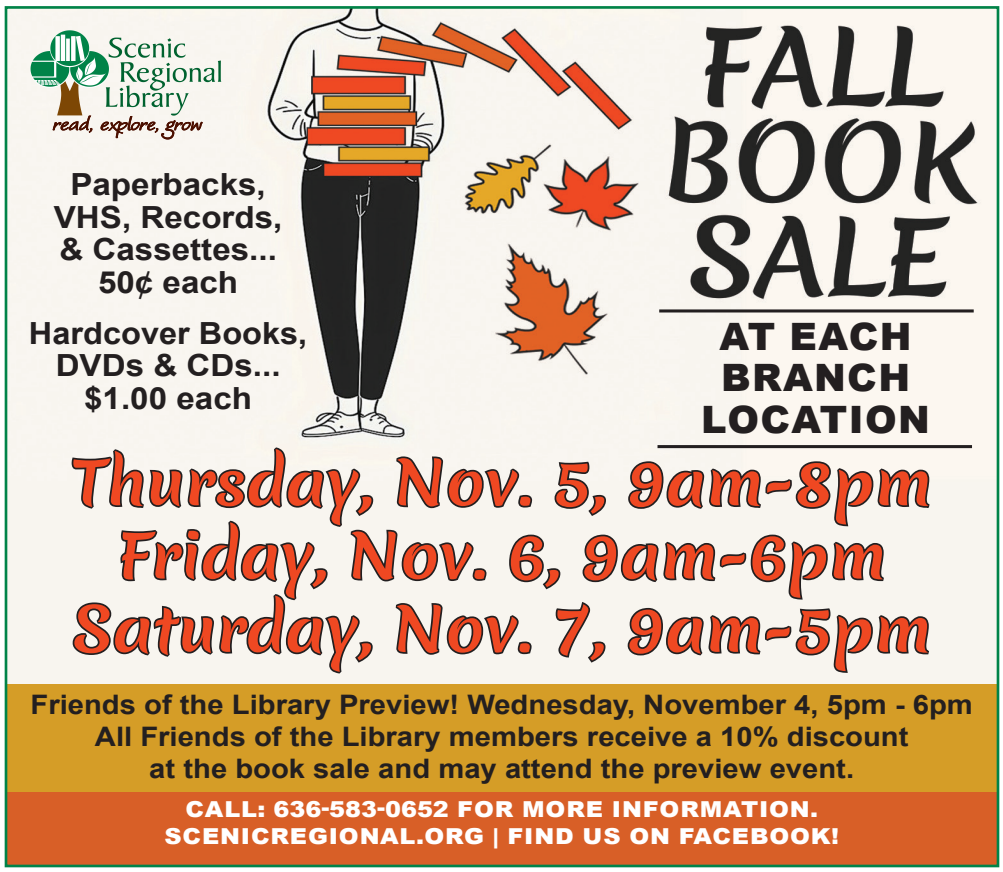
Create for a Cause: Art Fair Fundraiser at the Union Branch

Enjoy a festive evening of art, music, and refreshments at the Create for a Cause Art Fair Fundraiser on Friday, December 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Union Branch. The event is free and open to the public, with all artwork sale proceeds benefiting the Scenic Regional Library Foundation.

The fair will feature original artwork created and donated by community members using canvases provided by the library. Participants must return their completed canvases to the library by November 21, 2026.

Guests can browse and purchase the donated artwork, with selected pieces featured in a silent auction. The silent auction will also feature artwork by professional artists, including Gary Lucy, Bryan Haynes, Dan Woodward, and others. The Peace Lutheran Church Bell Choir will perform from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by the Washington High School Choir from 7 to 8 p.m.









read, explore, grow
THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER
A monthly publication from your local library!

Library Releases Annual Report



The library has released its annual report for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, which ended June 30.

The library showed high usage throughout the year. Over 335,100 people visited the library's nine branches; 6,217 new library cards were issued. In addition, the library checked out 405,127 physical items and 290,386 digital items, such as e-books and e-audiobooks.

The library checked out 5,589 non-traditional items such as telescopes, headphones, cake pans, microscopes, Toniebox Kits, and ukuleles, and added Parkinson's Kits to the collection.

In 2025-2026, the library offered 588 adult programs, reaching 10,492 people —a 25.3% increase from the previous year —and 957 children and teen programs attended by 22,852 people. Library staff also facilitated 262 visits to 5,389 senior citizens at nursing homes and senior centers in all three counties.

The fiscal year also saw the fifth annual Community Read, an event designed to encourage discussion by having as many people as possible read the same book simultaneously. The 2026 Community Read book was Speak to Me of Home by Jeanine Cummins. The library and its partners gave away 1,094 free copies to the public. Over four weeks, the Community Read saw 55 themed programs with 1,052 attendees.

Among this year's highlights were the three exhibits at The Gallery at the Library in the Hermann branch: "Landscapes: Views From the Easel," "Bricolage: Art from the Unexpected," "Rocks, Roots, and Water: Natural World Reimagines," which drew a total of 3,048 visitors to the gallery.

For the first time, the library's Summer Reading Program saw kick-off parties at all 9 branches. This year's theme, "Unearth a Story," drew over 2,500 children and parents, an increase of 67% from the previous year. A total of 2,477 people registered for the Summer Reading Program with 1,557 completions - an increase of 38% from the previous year.

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

Donated AED



Members of the Union Rotary Club presented Assistant Director Megan Maurer with an AED device for the Union branch. Every library branch now has an AED for emergencies.

Puzzle Exchange Added at Union and Owensville



Looking for your next puzzle? The Union and Owensville branches now have a Puzzle Exchange available for patrons to enjoy. Bring in a completed puzzle to swap for a new one, or browse the selection and take one home to piece together. The Wright City branch launched a Puzzle Exchange in April.

The exchange features a variety of puzzles, from smaller piece counts to more challenging designs, offering something for all ages and experience levels. Those who wish to donate are asked to ensure puzzles are complete, in good condition, and include all pieces. Donations and returns should be checked in at the service desk.

Whether looking for a relaxing activity or a new challenge, stop by the Union, Owensville, or Wright City Branch to see what puzzles are available.

read, explore, grow
THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER
A monthly publication from your local library!

Library Interviewed Monthly on Local Radio Stations



Catch the library on your local radio station! The library has regularly scheduled interviews on all three local radio stations each month to discuss upcoming programs and events; new and existing library services; and other information and happenings. In addition, various staff from the branches and administration appear on the programs, each about 20-30 minutes long.

On the first Wednesday of each month, the library staff appears on the Diane Jones Show on KLPW 1120 AM in Union at 8:35 a.m. On the third Thursday of each month, Sam Scott interviews the library staff on KTUI 1560 AM in Sullivan at 9:10 a.m. On the fourth Thursday of each month, the library staff appears on Livewire with Mike Thomas on KWRE 730 AM in Warrenton at 9:30 a.m.

92.7FM 1220AM KLPW.COM ROCK-N-AMERICANA!

KLPW 1120 AM in Union:
First Wednesdays, 8:35 AM

KTUI 1560 AM in Sullivan:
Third Thursdays, 9:10 AM

KWRE 730 AM in Warrenton:
Fourth Thursdays, 9:30 AM

Fresh Updates at the Owensville StoryWalk



The Owensville StoryWalk has a fresh look! Two new signposts bring the total to 18, a damaged sign has been replaced, and the high school's FCCLA group helped spread new mulch.

Thank you to the Friends of the Library and the Owensville Parks Department for funding the new signposts, and to the FCCLA students for their hard work!

Stop by to enjoy October's featured story, *Let's Be Bees* by Shawn Harris.

Santa Clause Is Coming to the Library!



Pacific:
December 9, 5–6:30 p.m.

Union:
December 9, 7–8 p.m.

St. Clair:
December 10, 5–6 p.m.

Sullivan:
December 10, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Wright City:
December 14, 5–6 p.m.

Warrenton:
December 14, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Hermann:
December 15, 5–6:30 p.m.

New Haven:
December 15, 7–8 p.m.

Owensville:
December 16, 5–6 p.m.

read, explore, grow
THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER
A monthly publication from your local library!

"A Christmas Carol" with a Scientific Twist



Experience A Christmas Carol in a whole new way! Time Travelers Children's Theater will retell Charles Dickens' classic holiday story through science experiments at the Warrenton branch on December 2, from 6–7 p.m.

All ages are welcome. Registration is required. Register at bit.ly/4dPFA8H.



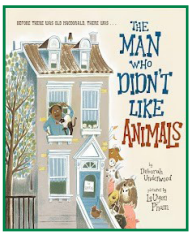
The Watercolor Techniques with Melissa program series at the Union branch has been a huge success! These fun-loving, talented ladies did such a wonderful job exploring the color wheel!

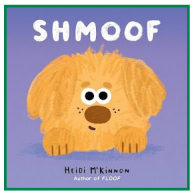
Vote for Building Block Nominees at Storytime

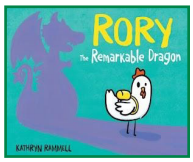
All Scenic Regional Library branches will feature this year's Building Block nominees in weekly themed Storytimes this fall. The Storytimes will culminate in a vote, where attendees can choose their favorite of the 10 books by voting on five books at a time.

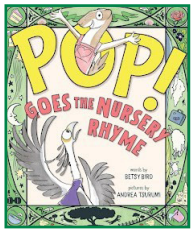
The Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award encourages reading aloud to young children and lets Missouri preschoolers choose their favorite picture book.

This year's nominees are:
The Man Who Didn't Like Animals by Deborah Underwood
Shmoof by Heidi McKinnon
Rory the Remarkable Dragon by Kathryn Rammell
Pop! Goes the Nursery Rhyme by Betsy Bird
Let's Be Bees by Shawn Harris
I Hate Everything! by Sophy Henn
Go, Go, Dodo! by Huw Lewis Jones
Every Monday Mabel by Jashar Awan
E-I-UFO: Old MacDonald Had a Farm by Zach von Zonk
Broken by X. Fang

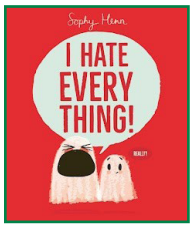


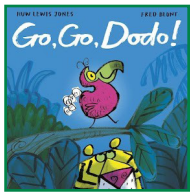


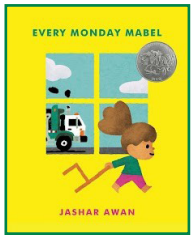


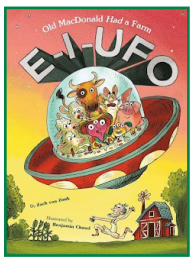


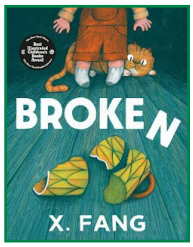












read, explore, grow
THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER
A monthly publication from your local library!

Celebrate the Holidays at Your Library!

Make the library part of your holiday traditions! Scenic Regional Library's "Holidays at Your Library!" programs offer plenty of ways to celebrate, from handmade ornaments and festive painting classes to live music, holiday movies, and more.

Whether you're looking for family fun, a creative afternoon, or a chance to unwind during the busy season, there's something to enjoy. Explore the programs below and visit us this holiday season.

Registration is required for most programs. Visit Scenic Regional Library's online calendar or contact your branch for details, registration dates, and availability.

HERMANN

- STEAM: Lantern Creation, November 23, 3:30pm
- Chilly & Cheerful: A Snowman Painting, December 2, 4:30pm
- Holiday Crafting, December 3, 3:30pm
- STEM Challenge & Movie Magic, December 21, 1:30–3pm

NEW HAVEN

- Kids Club: Winter Wonder Lab, November 13, 4pm
- A Very Merry Movie Night, December 3, 5–7:30pm
- Kids Club: Salt Dough Holiday Workshop, December 9, 4pm
- Chilly & Cheerful: A Snowman Painting, December 10, 4:30–6pm

OWENSVILLE

- Regency Tea & Trivia, December 1, 6pm
- Plastic Canvas Ornaments, December 7, 4:30pm

-Crafty Christmas with Books, December 8, 5:30–7pm

- Paper Embroidery Holiday Cards, December 14, 4:30pm

PACIFIC

- Ornament Making, December 12, 10am-12pm
- Chilly & Cheerful: A Snowman Painting, December 14, 6pm

ST. CLAIR

- Chilly & Cheerful: A Snowman Painting, December 7, 4:30pm
- Holiday Book Bingo, December 8, 6pm
- Christmas PJ Storytime, December 18, 4–5:30pm

SULLIVAN

- DIY Holiday Cards, November 12, 5:30–7:30pm
- A Christmas Evening with the Schwarzer Zither Ensemble, November 19, 6pm
- Marble Ornaments with Cassandra, December 1, 6pm
- Christmas Cupcake Decorating, December 8, 6pm

UNION

- No Sew Quilted Ornament, December 3, 6–8pm
- Holiday Star Wall Hanging, December 10, 6pm
- No Sew Quilted Ornament: Second Session, December 14, 11am–1pm
- Yarn Ornaments – Teen Program, December 15, 6pm

WARRENTON

- Merry Little Paint Night, December 1, 5:30–7pm
- Holiday Hustle Yoga, December 2, 1pm
- A Christmas Carol, December 2, 6pm
- Mistletoe & Movies: Christmas Trivia Night!, December 8, 5:30–7pm
- Celtic Christmas Concert with The Divines, December 15, 7pm
- Jingle Bell Yoga, December 16, 1pm
- Kids Club: Snow Storm in a Jar, December 17, 4pm
- The Great Wreath Dupe: Pottery Barn Inspired Winter Wreath Workshop, December 22, 5:30–7pm
- Fireside Flicks: Winter Movie Night, December 29, 5:30–7:30pm

WRIGHT CITY

- Jingle All the Way to Outer Space, December 3, 6pm
- Holiday Family Photos, December 5, 9:30–11am
- Snow Much Fun! A Winter Painting Party, December 7, 6–7:30pm
- Bedazzled Books – Holiday Edition, December 10, 6pm

read, explore, grow
THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER
A monthly publication from your local library!

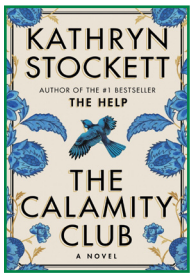
Staff Development Day

All Scenic Regional Library locations were closed Monday, October 12, for the library's annual staff development day. The library's employees attended multiple breakout sessions of their choice throughout the day. The sessions covered a wide array of topics, including customer service training, fire safety and fire extinguisher training, deaf awareness and sensitivity, cybersecurity, navigating conflict with empathy and boundaries, Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library, and more.





Top eBook and eAudiobooks

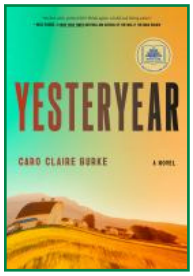


Top eBook & Audiobook

hoopla

The Calamity Club: A Novel
by Kathryn Stockett

In Depression-era Mississippi, a group of unlikely women forms a powerful friendship while facing hardship, secrets, and community expectations.

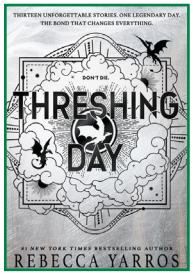


Top eBook

Libby.

Yesteryear
by Caro Claire Burke

Natalie has built a massive online following by promoting her picture-perfect "tradwife" lifestyle, filled with homemade bread, farm life, and traditional values. But when she suddenly wakes up in what appears to be the brutal reality of the 1800s, stripped of modern comforts and forced to live the life she romanticizes online, everything begins to unravel. Blending satire, psychological suspense, and social commentary, Yesteryear explores influencer culture, performance, and the gap between curated online personas and reality.



Top Audiobook

Libby.

Threshing Day
by Rebecca Yarros

Return to the world of Fourth Wing with thirteen short stories exploring familiar characters' experiences bonding with their dragons. Facing deadly rivals and unpredictable dragons, each aspiring rider must survive the trial that will change their life forever.



Patrons at the New Haven branch made spooky bookcases to kick off the Halloween season.

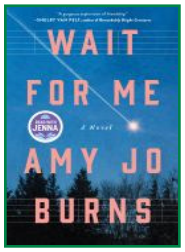


Patrons at the St. Clair branch created spooky-cute art at the Witches Paint Night Out program. Great job ladies!

read, explore, grow
THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER
A monthly publication from your local library!

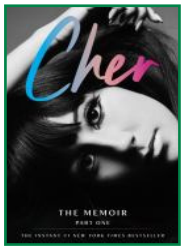
For the Record: Books for Music Lovers

Step behind the spotlight with this month's book selections! From folk singers and rising stars, to a music legend telling her own story, these books explore the ambition, secrets, and sacrifices behind the songs. All of these titles are available through the library. Visit us online at bit.ly/4ejY8Oy to place a hold.



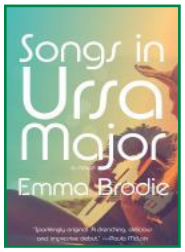
Wait for Me
by Amy Jo Burns

Folk singer Elle Harlow disappears after a career-defining performance in 1973. Nearly twenty years later, aspiring songwriter Marijohn Shaw discovers clues to Elle's fate that could change her understanding of her own family and future.



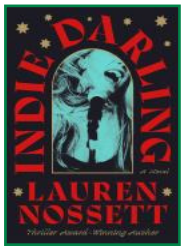
Cher: The Memoir, Part One
by Cher

Cher shares the story of her childhood, early ambitions, and rise to fame alongside Sonny Bono. With humor and candor, she explores the complicated marriage and musical partnership that brought them success before driving them apart.



Songs in Ursa Major
by Emma Brodie

When Jane Quinn's band fills in for an injured star at a 1969 folk festival, her performance launches an unexpected career—and a romance with musician Jesse Reid. As fame brings new pressures and painful secrets, Jane must decide what she is willing to sacrifice for her music.



Indie Darling
by Lauren Nossett

Nashville private investigator Kelly Williams is hired to protect indie singer Seraph from a threatening stalker. When the performer is shot onstage and her ambulance disappears, Kelly must untangle a mystery involving fame, obsession, and secrets within the music industry.



Owensville partrons did their part cleaning headstones and preserving history for generations to come.



During another Eating Smart and Moving More program at the Sullivan Branch, patrons learned how exercise with resistance bands and make a delicious skillet meal.

Staff Anniversaries



Sarah-Marketing Specialist, Administration



Stephanie-Children's Programmer, Wright City



Julie-Library Assistant, Warrenton

read, explore, grow
THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER
A monthly publication from your local library!



During Storytime at the Pacific branch, young patrons made their own crowns out of paper plates. Everyone looked so majestic!



The Hermann branch suggested a lot of spooky reads available through Libby and Hoopla in this scary-cute display.



Patrons of all ages came out to cut a rug with Elevation 466 at the K-POP Dance Showcase in St. Clair!

Winter Wear Drive to Benefit Local Schoolchildren

Scenic Regional Library's Warrenton and Wright City branches are partnering with MO AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary 180 to collect winter wear for local schoolchildren throughout November.

Donation boxes will be located in the entryways of both branches through November 30. The auxiliary will distribute the donated items to local schools, helping children stay warm during the colder months.

Toys for Tots Drive in Franklin County Branches

MARINE CORPS RESERVE
TOYS FOR TOTS

Scenic Regional Library's Franklin County branches are partnering with the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots to collect new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children ages 0-17 for the Christmas season. Donation boxes will be placed in the entryways of the branches from November 1 through December 17.

All toys collected will be distributed to children in Franklin County. Marine Toys for Tots aims to bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's economically disadvantaged children through the gift of a new toy.



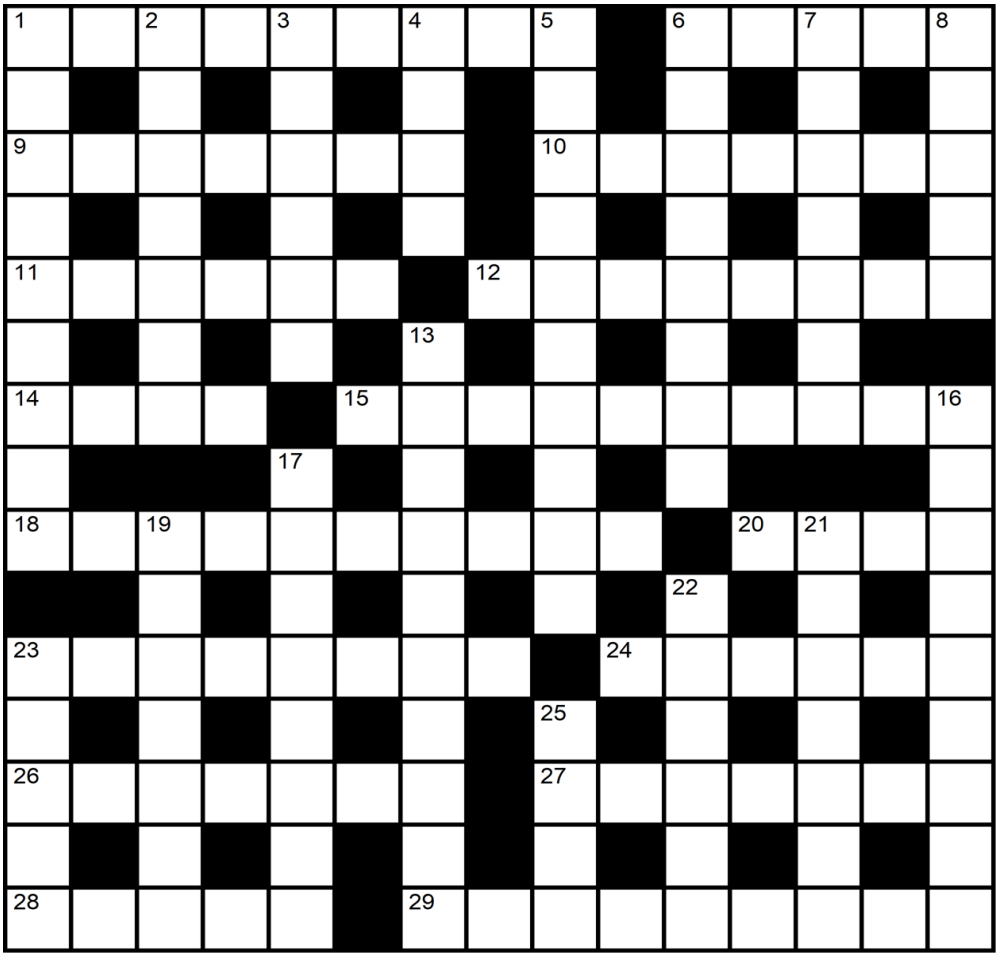
At the Union branch, young patrons painted spook-tacular Halloween decorations at the Pumpkin Painting program.



Patrons at the Wright City branch thoroughly enjoyed making spooky bookcases! All of their creations were terrifyingly cute!

read, explore, grow
THE Scenic Regional Library NEWSLETTER
A monthly publication from your local library!

November Crossword Puzzle



Across:
1 Vague or inexact
6 Buzz Aldrin's first name
9 Generous gifts
10 Radioactive element with atomic number 90
11 Cheap, showy trinket
12 Collection of clever devices
14 Loose outer garment
15 Section of a store or government
18 Romantic fling
20 Fraudulent scheme
23 Moderate or soften
24 Abduct for ransom
26 Kettledrums
27 Sweet bun served with tea
28 Sharpened
29 Oil or grease

Down:
1 Narrow-minded
2 Trouble or disturb
3 In a balanced, uniform way
4 Abbr. for a current month, in letters
5 Mercy killing
6 Make longer
7 Referee's blower
8 Local resident who opposes nearby development
13 Abstinence from one's desires
16 Clock or watch
17 Barn's surroundings
19 C or D, for example
21 Choral work with solos
22 Hindu festival of lights
23 Letter after gee
25 Knife thrust

Find the answers at:
www.scenicregional.org/crossword.



During Storytime at the New Haven branch, kiddos read books about farm life and then created farm collages to take home.



Troy Taylor scared all of these Warrenton branch patrons at the Murder by Gaslight: The Story of H.H. Holmes program!

Purchase a "Book" for the Donor Wall in Your Community's New Library

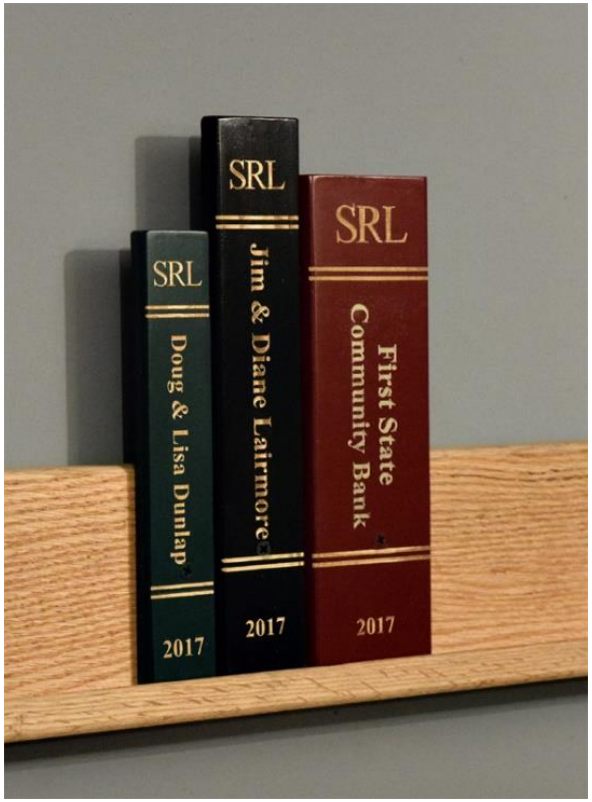
The Scenic Regional Library Foundation and Friends of the Library groups are selling donor wall "books", which will be placed in the entrance hallway of each new library building.

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.

FRIENDS of the Library

SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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)

- ☐ Hermann Branch
- ☐ New Haven Branch
- ☐ Owensville Branch
- ☐ Pacific Branch
- ☐ St. Clair Branch
- ☐ Sullivan Branch
- ☐ Union Branch
- ☐ Warrenton Branch
- ☐ Wright City Branch

SIZE OF BOOK

- ☐ 8" X 1-1/2" - $150
- ☐ 10" X 2" - $250
- ☐ 9" X 3" - $350

OFFICE USE ONLY
Date received: _____
Amount received: _____
☐ Check # _____
☐ 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

FRIENDS of the Library

SCENIC REGIONAL LIBRARY
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027 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

If this is a **family** membership:

NAME(S) OF FAMILY MEMBER(S) (SPOUSE AND/OR MINOR CHILDREN)

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)

- Hermann Branch ☐
- New Haven Branch ☐
- Owensville Branch ☐
- Pacific Branch ☐
- St. Clair Branch ☐
- Sullivan Branch ☐
- Union Branch ☐
- Warrenton Branch ☐
- Wright City Branch ☐

LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

- Individual - $15 ☐
- Family or Organization - $25 ☐
- Library Supporter - $50 ☐
- Lifetime Donor - $500 ☐
  (includes $150 voucher for donor wall book)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP? (Select all which apply)

- Volunteer at the Fall Book Sale ☐
- Volunteer at the Spring Book Sale ☐
- Volunteer at other events ☐
- Volunteer at my local branch ☐
- Serve on the local Friends of the Library's Governing and Planning Committee ☐

OFFICE USE ONLY

- ☐ New Application
- ☐ Renewal
- Date Received:
- Check #_____ ☐ 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.