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The Newsletter of  
Webster Groves Public Library, v. 2 n. 6,  
February, 2007

## FAHRENHEIT 451

For most of its run, I have not been a fan of the MO Reads project. I'm not fond of the idea of encouraging everyone to read the same book. If it were people who wouldn't read anything unless they were participating in the project I'd think differently, but the people who check out the designated books are almost always the same people who visit the library regularly anyway. I don't think it pulls in new readers.

Besides that, anybody who's paying much attention will have noticed that the selected books are strictly mediocre. At least the cities that originated this sort of program were selecting classic works of fiction. Once Missouri librarians decided to make it a statewide project rather than just something in St. Louis City and County, they also hit on the idea of selecting works with a Missouri connection. This strategy limits the number of books available so severely that it's hard to select something worth reading, let alone worth recommending to readers across the state.

Much more interesting is the current *Big Read* being promoted by the National Endowment for the Arts. They have selected Ray Bradbury's classic cautionary tale *Fahrenheit 451*. The book's message about the dangers of censorship in the service of political ideology is as compelling today as it ever was. During February there will be discussions, lectures and other events throughout the area.

The NEA gave several new copies of the book to the Webster Groves Public Library. I urge everyone to read the book, and to come by the library for a reader's guide and a schedule of events.

## TRIVIA QUESTION

Last Month's Question:

Why is it called 'corned beef' when there's no corn in it?

In his book **The Omnivore's Dilemma**, Michael Pollan explains that in Europe, any kind of grain could be referred to as corn – oats, barley, or even the grains of salt used to 'corn' beef.

This Month's Question:

Excluding religious texts such as the Bible or the Koran, what is the bestselling book of all time?

## A Tale of Two Cities:

**Pass Christian, Mississippi Before & After Katrina**  
Local Architect Cindy Easterling divides her time between homes in Webster Groves and Pass Christian, Mississippi. Because of her interest in the historic homes of Pass Christian, she had photographed many of them prior to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina. On Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup>, Cindy will visit the library. With words and pictures she will tell the story of how people in that town have worked to restore their homes and lives.



This event is being sponsored by the Friends of the Webster Groves Public Library, who will provide refreshments. The event is free and open to everyone. It takes place at 2 p.m. For more information please call 314 961-3784.

## February in the Children's Room

**Tuesday, Feb. 13: Storytime & Crafts with Miss Phyllis – 10 a.m.**

**Wednesday, Feb. 14: Storytime & Crafts with Miss Phyllis – 10 a.m.**

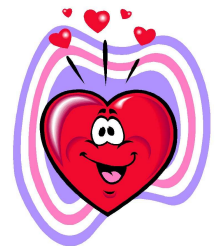
**Thursday, Feb. 15: Storytime & Crafts with Miss Phyllis – 10 a.m.**

**Wednesday, Feb. 21: Storytime & Crafts with Miss Michelle – 2 p.m.**

**Tuesday, Feb. 27: Storytime & Crafts with Miss Phyllis – 10 a.m.**

**Wednesday, Feb. 28: Storytime & Crafts with Miss Phyllis – 10 a.m.**

**Thursday, Mar. 1: Storytime & Crafts with Miss Phyllis – 10 a.m.**



## Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 am to 9 pm  
Friday and Saturday 9 am to 4:30 pm  
Sunday 2 pm to 5 pm

The library will be closed Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents' Day

## This Month's Most Requested Books:

1. *Wild Fire*, Nelson Demille
2. *Nature Girl*, Carl Hiaasen
3. *Skylight Confessions*, Alice Hoffman
4. *The Boleyn Inheritance*, Philippa Gregory
5. *Next*, Michael Crichton
6. *True Evil*, Greg Iles
7. *Cross*, James Patterson
8. *The Shape Shifter*, Tony Hillerman
9. *Stalemate*, Iris Johansen
10. *Dear John*, Nicholas Sparks
11. *Dust: a Richard Jury Mystery*, Martha Grimes
12. *Plum Lovin'*, Janet Evanovich

## Friends of the Library Book Sale Moves

The Friends of Webster Groves Public Library Book Sale, which has been held for five years in the Masonic Lodge on Lockwood, will move to a new location this April. Although the Lodge was a nice place to hold the sale, there was the problem of where to store and sort the books. They had to be sorted in one location, and moved to the Lodge just before the sale. The new

location is in a closed storefront at Crestwood Square, 9051 Watson Road – that's just behind the Applebee's Restaurant. The books are already there, and sorting will begin soon for the sale which will probably be held in late April, though a definite date has not been set. Donations may still be brought to the library anytime. For more information call 314 961-3784.

Black History Month Program  
with Storyteller Loretta Washington  
Join us Saturday February 17 at 2 p.m. when professional storyteller Loretta Washington presents *Ellen: My Childhood in the Boot Heel*. This fascinating story takes you back in time to the early 1950's, and introduces you to Ms. Washington's real great-grandmother Ellen, who was born a slave on a Tennessee

Plantation. Enjoy the true story of Ellen and other stories of life, as seen through the eyes of a child growing up in the boot heel of Missouri. This story is appropriate for children from grade 2 and up.



## TAX FORMS AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY

From now through the end of tax season you may find an assortment of state and federal tax forms at the library. You should note that the state and the federal government are distributing fewer forms to libraries. We theorize that it's the government's subtle way of encouraging more people to file online rather than using paper forms. But of course it will be a long, long time before many of us make that conversion. In the meantime, we're here to help. If the forms you need are not available at the library, we can probably find them online. Printouts cost 10 cents per page. If you're online at home, you may want to check [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to find federal tax forms, and [www.dor.mo.gov](http://www.dor.mo.gov) for state tax forms.



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