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The Newsletter of
Webster Groves Public Library, v. 2 n. 10,
June, 2007

In the Swim of Things

I went to the Webster Groves Recreation Center pool on Memorial Day. I enjoy being at public pools, where I always see so many people reading. I've been a librarian a long time, and I used to routinely approach people and ask what they were reading. It's a good way to get to know people. Now my wife kind of frowns on the practice, since – let's face it – most of the readers are women, and she doesn't take kindly to me striking up conversations with random women in bikinis.

It's a shame, because Webster Groves seems to have more readers per capita than any pool I've ever been to. Magazines, newspapers, paperbacks, even big fat hardcover books, I'd estimate at times twenty percent of everyone sitting there in the sun is reading.

What troubles me is that I recognize so few of them as patrons of the library. Often I can tell what books they're reading, and I know they could have gotten them from us. Webster Groves is a pretty big city, and I know we'll never have every citizen as a regular patron. But the library is busy all the time, and it seems like when I go to another busy place in town, especially a place where so many people are reading, I'd know some of them.

As we wind up our strategic planning process at the library, we have been tossing around likely themes for our work into the future. A theme I have considered is, *A Library for All of Webster Groves*. The idea confuses some of my co-workers. We already are the library for all of Webster Groves, right? Well, no, not when there are so many citizens who still don't come here, or citizens who go to other libraries. Our goal has to be to improve services and facilities to such a point that more and more families find reasons to come here – not just those who are close by, but those from all across town. Of course we can measure any increase in usage with statistics, but I won't be happy until I know most of the people reading at the pool.

I suspect my wife still won't want me to talk to them all.

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TRIVIA QUESTION

Last Month's Question:

When, and why, did German Shepherds become 'police dogs'?

In his book *Over There: the United States in the Great War, 1917-1918*, Byron Farwell explains that during the war, anything German was unpopular. Thus people took to calling their German Shepherds 'police dogs.'

This Month's Question:

Which actor in his first leading role was responsible for the word 'hunk,' as applied to a handsome man, entering the language?

One of Our Favorite Patrons Wins a Writing Contest

Grace Costello, a first grader (now a second grader) at Annunciation School, was one of the winners of Channel 9's Reading Rainbow Young Writer's and Illustrator's Contest. In addition to wonderful prizes, Grace will be taped reading her story, *MacKenzie the Wanna Be Fairy*, on television.

We are excited because Grace, who comes to the library regularly, got her application for the contest right in our Children's Room.

All of the winning stories are available to read at www.ketc.org. You can even print out your own copy of *MacKenzie the Wanna Be Fairy*.

Grace will also be entered to compete with other local winners at the national level, and winners in that competition will be announced later this summer. Good luck, Grace!

June in the Children's Room

Summer Reading Club 2007

Get a Clue @ Your Library

Now Through August 4th

Register in the Children's Room

Wednesday, June 6: Storytime – 10 a.m.

Wednesday, June 13: Storytime – 10 a.m.

Wednesday, June 20: Storytime – 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 23:

**Mad Science Mysteries
Revealed – 10:30 a.m.**

- Explore the mysteries of science as we make things disappear before your eyes!
- Your Mad Scientist will create chemical reactions that will blow you away!
- Become a science sleuth and learn how perceptions are not always what they seem!
- Designed to spark the imagination of children ages 4-12!



Wednesday, June 27: Storytime – 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

This Month's Most Requested Books:

1. *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Khaled Hosseini
2. *Nineteen Minutes*, Jodi Picoult
3. *The Overlook*, Michael Connelly
4. *Invisible Prey*, John Sandford
5. *6th Target*, James Patterson
6. *The Woods*, Harlan Coben
7. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, Barbara Kingsolver
8. *Obsession: an Alex Delaware novel*, Jonathan Kellerman
9. *Simple Genius*, David Baldacci
10. *Bad Luck and Trouble: a Jack Reacher novel*, Lee Child
11. *I Heard That Song Before*, Mary Higgins Clark
12. *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, Michael Chabon

Staff Favorites: June, 2007

People always ask us to make reading or viewing suggestions. They assume that since we work at a library, we have a pretty good idea of what's good and what's worth reading or watching. For the most part, they're right. Webster Groves Public Library is blessed with a staff that reads a lot, watches a lot of movies, and listens to a lot of music. So we've inaugurated this new section of the newsletter. Some of the things we recommend are new, some are old. But there's an old saying in the library world – every book is new until you've read it.

1. *When the Dancing Stopped: the real story of the Morro Castle Disaster and its deadly wake*, Brian Hicks (Adult Non-Fiction)
2. *The Yearling*, Marjorie Rawlings (Juvenile Fiction)
3. *Foyle's War* (Adult DVDs)
4. *Love in the Time of Cholera*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Adult Fiction)
5. *Stranger Than Fiction* (Adult DVD)
6. *A Dirty Job*, Christopher Moore (Adult Fiction)
7. *Under the Banner of Heaven*, Jon Krakauer (Adult Non-fiction)
8. *The Descent* (Adult DVD)
9. *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (Adult Fiction)
10. The Mary Russell Series, Laurie B. King (Adult Mysteries)

Library Hosts Volunteer Landscaping Day

On Saturday May 12 we had a volunteer landscaping day. We had to settle for quality over quantity as only three kind-hearted folks showed up to help us weed and prune and clean up our lawns in general. Thanks to those people who helped – you really made a difference. Maybe your example will inspire droves of others to pitch in next year.



Volunteer Doug Ladd gives the hostas a once-over.



Webster Groves councilmember Joan Esserman weeds the liriopse.

Would You Like to Help Us During the Heart of Webster Sidewalk Sale?

The library will sell books at a booth at the Sidewalk Sale on Saturday, June 9th. The hours are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone who'd like to help us for an hour or two is certainly welcome. It's not hard work, and it's a fun time to meet friends and neighbors from all across town. If you are interested, please call the library at 314 961-3784.



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A Member of the Municipal Library Consortium of St. Louis County