In January we posted a video to our YouTube page which represents the first major step in a project we have been pursuing for a few years. We hope that many more follow.

The video, called Tracks in Time, tells the story of how trains influenced the early history of Webster Groves. (Find it by visiting our Website at wgpl.org and clicking on the YouTube logo in the Social Media sidebar.) It uses old photos, archival video, historical documents, and interviews to create an interesting and informative story of the early years in town. At last check it had been viewed over 200 times.

Making the video involved a few important partnerships. The first draft of the video was produced last summer by students from Webster Groves High School’s Chelsea Center for Experiential Learning. We also relied heavily on information and photos from our friends at the Big Bend Railroad Club and from the Museum of Transportation. And of course, no historical video about Webster Groves could be made without some input from the Webster Groves Historical Society.

We hope to do a series of such videos and have them online as a source of information and pride in our city, which has a richer history than just about any other suburban community in St. Louis County.

The next video will be a history of the Webster Groves Lions Club. They have been around since the 1920s and have greatly influenced some of our most important annual events. Not only that, but we have many old photos of the Lions Club through the years. There should also be some great interviews, considering that there are a number people in town who have been Lions for decades.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions on subjects that might make good historical videos, let us know. But remember this: the most important consideration is whether there is material. While there are boxes and books and folders of photographs and documents relating to some subjects, on others there is just nothing much. It’s surprising to some people who come in looking for photos of one thing or another and we can find nothing. For instance, we have all those photos of the Lions Club, but almost nothing about the old Kiwanis Club. Why is that? Who knows?

tcooper@wgpl.org

MARDI GRAS STORY TIME & PARADE

Yes, most of the time we ask that you be very quiet in the Library, so as not to disturb people who are reading and studying. But one day each year we just have to laisser les bon temps roulez!*

Our Story Time at 10 a.m. on February 21 will be our annual Mardi Gras Story Time. We’ll have stories about Mardi Gras and parades. Then we will all make Mardi Masks, and every child will be given some beads.

Finally everyone gets to choose a musical instrument and we march in a short parade through the Library, led by Miss Phyllis.

*Let the good times roll!
We will be helping to host the Irish American Writers & Artists on their fourth visit to St. Louis on February 24 at 7 p.m.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed Friends memberships—your renewal means that the Friends can continue to support the purchase of large print books, book club kits, special equipment like the Library’s telescopes and the summer reading programs.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Book Blitz, preview evening on Friday, May 5 and sale on Saturday, May 6. Friends of Kirkwood Public Library and the Nursery Foundation book sales will be held the same weekend. Landscaping on the south side of the Library around the flagpole is nearly complete, jointly provided by the Friends and the Bronner Family Foundation—we will make an announcement soon about honoring friends and family with dedicated pavers in the Reading Garden! We hope to see members on Feb. 24 at the Library!

**TOP REQUESTS**

1. The Whistler, by John Grisham
2. Hillbilly Elegy, by J. D. Vance
3. The Wrong Side of Goodbye, by Michael Connelly
4. A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman
5. Commonwealth, by Ann Patchett
6. A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles
7. The Dry, by Jane Harper
8. Small Great Things, by Jodi Picoult
10. The Underground Railroad, by Colson Whitehead
11. The Undoing Project, by Michael Lewis
12. Never Never, by James Patterson

**BOOK DISCUSSIONS**

**TOP REQUESTS**

1. The Whistler, by John Grisham
2. Hillbilly Elegy, by J. D. Vance
3. The Wrong Side of Goodbye, by Michael Connelly
4. A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman
5. Commonwealth, by Ann Patchett
6. A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles
7. The Dry, by Jane Harper
8. Small Great Things, by Jodi Picoult
10. The Underground Railroad, by Colson Whitehead
11. The Undoing Project, by Michael Lewis
12. Never Never, by James Patterson

**SMALL WORKS V DISPLAY IN FEBRUARY**

This month we will feature another curated art exhibit from Webster Arts. Called Small Works V, it showcases paintings, drawings, and mixed media pieces from 16 artists.

There will be an opening reception for the display from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 3. The reception is free and open to the public. It is a great opportunity to meet all of the artists and discuss their works with them.

The Webster Groves Public Library gallery is open year-round, and features different artists or arts groups every month. If you are a painter, photographer, or other visual artist and would like more information about displaying your work in the Library, please call 314.961.3784 and ask for Tom.

**FRIENDS NEWS**

We will be helping to host the Irish American Writers & Artists on their fourth visit to St. Louis on February 24 at 7 p.m. Thanks to everyone who has renewed Friends memberships—your renewal means that the Friends can continue to support the purchase of large print books, book club kits, special equipment like the Library’s telescopes and the summer reading programs.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Book Blitz, preview evening on Friday, May 5 and sale on Saturday, May 6. Friends of Kirkwood Public Library and the Nursery Foundation book sales will be held the same weekend. Landscaping on the south side of the Library around the flagpole is nearly complete, jointly provided by the Friends and the Bronner Family Foundation—we will make an announcement soon about honoring friends and family with dedicated pavers in the Reading Garden! We hope to see members on Feb. 24 at the Library!

**TOP REQUESTS**

1. The Whistler, by John Grisham
2. Hillbilly Elegy, by J. D. Vance
3. The Wrong Side of Goodbye, by Michael Connelly
4. A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman
5. Commonwealth, by Ann Patchett
6. A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles
7. The Dry, by Jane Harper
8. Small Great Things, by Jodi Picoult
10. The Underground Railroad, by Colson Whitehead
11. The Undoing Project, by Michael Lewis
12. Never Never, by James Patterson

**BOOK DISCUSSIONS**

Fridays in February. All movies are at 7 p.m.

**February 3:** *Ever After*—Drew Barrymore in a bold new take on the Cinderella story.
PG-13, 121 minutes, 1998

**February 10:** *You’ve Got Mail*—Tom Hanks & Meg Ryan in the classic love/hate movie.
PG, 119 minutes, 1998

**February 17:** *It Happened One Night*, Clark Gable & Claudette Colbert in a classic Frank Capra screwball romantic comedy.
Unrated, 105 minutes, 1938

**IAWA LITERARY SALON**

On Friday, February 24 at 7 p.m. we will host a literary salon sponsored by the Irish American Writers and Artists (IAWA). There will be poetry readings, Irish music, and refreshments.

The IAWA is a New York-based group that seeks to encourage Irish-American writers and artists and provide forums for them to share their work with a wider public. Locally, the IAWA salons are promoted by the Smurfit Stone Professorship in Irish Studies at UMSL.

**VINEGAR GIRL**

*Vinegar Girl,* by Anne Tyler

AND, because the book is described as a retelling of Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew* . . .

**THE TAMING OF THE SHREW**

*The Taming of the Shrew,* by William Shakespeare

**EILEEN**

*Eileen,* by Ottessa Moshfegh

**TUESDAY, MARCH 7 AT 6 P.M.**

**VINEGAR GIRL**

*Vinegar Girl,* by Anne Tyler

**THE TAMING OF THE SHREW**

*The Taming of the Shrew,* by William Shakespeare

**EILEEN**

*Eileen,* by Ottessa Moshfegh

**TUESDAY, MARCH 7 AT 6 P.M.**