I was at Kind Soap Company yesterday, which is next door to Yucandu Art Studio in Old Webster. Jean Scholtes created the company as a side project, hoping to find safer soaps for her family to use. She sold her products first at the Webster Groves Farmers Market, then opened a small shop in Old Orchard before moving to this larger store. I think this is a great Webster Groves story, as are the stories of Yucandu, Serendipity Homemade Ice Cream, Tropical Moose Shaved Ice, and many other companies that grew up in our town.

All of these companies, and several others, are sponsors of our Summer Reading Program.

We get major sponsorship from the St. Louis Cardinals every year, as well as from our own Friends of the Library, who fund a large part of the annual reading clubs. But these sponsorships by local companies mean so much to us, for the actual premiums they offer participants in our reading programs as well as the community spirit they show. I urge everyone to visit these vendors, and while you’re there, thank them for their sponsorship of Library activities.

tcooper@wgpl.org

**HISTORY OF WEBSTER GROVES PARKS**

For the third year in a row, we will have a local history display in our gallery during the month of July. This year’s display will feature the history of our local parks.

We worked with the Parks Department and City Hall to locate archival photos, and combed through decades of newspapers, newsletters, local history books and other sources to compile a history of the 19 named parks in Webster Groves.

From the earliest parks, like Larson, Ruhe, and the Plant Nature Preserve, to the post-war creation of Memorial Park and Blackburn Park, to the two great expansions of our park system in the 1960s and 1970s, there is a story to tell about almost every park in town.

As always, the display will premier during the Community Days Parade the morning of the 4th of July, and will remain up for the whole month.
The Friends of Webster Groves Public Library will hold their annual meeting on Friday, June 23rd from 5 to 6:30 p.m. All members of the Friends are invited to attend, to get to know other Friends and enjoy good company, food, and drink. As usual, the business portion of the meeting—which includes election of officers for the upcoming year—will be kept short. The event will be held outdoors, and there will be a dedication of the Library’s new Reading Garden area, which the Friends helped to finance.

In 2014 the Library was contacted by Eric and Hallie Bronner, Webster Groves residents who help to administer the Dr. Bronner’s Family Foundation. They wanted to donate a portion of the Foundation’s annual charitable funds to improve the landscaping around the Library. That landscaping has been installed in three successive phases over the past few years. The Bronner Foundation money paid for part of it, but that money was augmented by large infusions of cash from the Friends of the Library.

The foundation plantings around the building, the Reading Garden at the southeast corner of the building, and the flagpole area are all new, and enhance the overall look of our Library.

The Friends are also starting a program to allow Library patrons to buy pavers in the new landscaped areas and have them engraved as memorials to loved ones. To discuss buying a memorial paver, e-mail friends@wgpl.org.

TOP REQUESTS

1. A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles
2. The Fix, by David Baldacci
3. Anything Is Possible, by Elizabeth Strout
4. Come Sundown, by Nora Roberts
5. Golden Prey, by John Sandford
6. 16th Seduction, by James Patterson
7. Into the Water, by Paula Hawkins
8. Killers of the Flower Moon, by David Grann
9. The Handmaid’s Tale, by Margaret Atwood
10. One Perfect Lie, by Lisa Scottoline
11. The Women in the Castle, by Jessica Shattuck
12. Hillbilly Elegy, by J. D. Vance

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, July 1 at 2 p.m.

Wicked: the Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West, by Gregory Maguire

Tuesday, July 11 at 6 p.m.

Harvest: a novel, by Jim Crace

AUTHOR KEVIN KILLEEN

The author of Try to Kiss a Girl, Never Hug a Nun, and Snow Globes and Hand Grenades will introduce and sign copies of his brand new book Most Improved Sophomore Saturday, June 10 at 2 p.m.

For more information please call 314.961.3784.

Copies of the book will be sold at the event by

WEBSTER GROVES PUBLIC LIBRARY
301 E. Lockwood Ave.
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314.961.3784
www.wgpl.org