It seems there is so much happening regarding our efforts to organize more of our local history. Several things happened in the past month.

The Webster Groves Historical Society loaned us several items, including bound copies of old Webster Advertiser and Webster News-Times newspapers. These augment the donation we got this summer of a nearly complete run of the Webster-Kirkwood Times.

We are in the process of organizing all these things, and that is, as you may imagine, a long process. Helping in the organization process, we recently got a new file cabinet that was given to us by the Rotary Club of Webster Groves. The Rotary is also providing us with new scanning equipment to scan and index a multitude of images and documents dealing with the history of Webster Groves.

One of the interesting things we have learned, and continue to learn, is that the thing people most hope to find is information about their own houses, and the thing we have the least information about is people’s houses. Unless your house was a famous one in Webster Groves history, there is very little reason someone would have taken photos, or written anything about it. Quite a few houses are listed in the Historical Society’s Webster Walks pamphlets, but again, if your house is not listed there, we likely can’t tell you much about it. We do have microfilms of old tax records and building permits, and these are minimally helpful in house research.

We will continue to work on compiling well indexed and searchable archives of local history, and we will also try to compile the best index we can of information about local homes. But it does seem that this will always be the hardest thing to research well in our archives.

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STORY TIME WITH HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Several weeks ago our Children’s Department was approached by a Webster Groves High School cheerleaders mom, Angelica Taylor. The girls were looking for volunteer opportunities in the community and thought the Library would be the perfect place, and we agreed!

Beginning on November 18th, students from the High School will present a monthly Saturday Story Time and Craft at the Webster Groves Public Library at 2:00 p.m. The group has expanded to not only include cheerleaders but members of the student council and other organizations within the High School. The first Webster Groves High School Story and Craft Time will have a Thanksgiving theme and all ages are welcome.

The students will remain in the Library after the story and craft for any kiddos that would enjoy some one-on-one reading time or STEM activities with a high school age friend.

The Story Times will continue through April 2018. Please check the monthly Children’s Department calendar, the Website, or this newsletter for future dates.
The Friends are holding a ‘mini’ Book Fair just in time to do your holiday shopping or for you to find those books you can escape into when the holiday chaos takes hold. The Book Fair is Friday, November 17th from 5 – 8 p.m. and Saturday, November 18th from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. You can buy books separately or fill a bag on either day. If you want a head start, come by on Friday morning to help us sort the books and get one to take home. The proceeds from the Book Fair help the Friends support library programs so we hope you will stop by during the weekend and make a purchase. For more information, please call 314.961.3784.

TOP REQUESTS

1. Little Fires Everywhere,  
   by Celeste Ng  
2. Origin,  
   by Dan Brown  
3. Y is for Yesterday,  
   by Sue Grafton  
4. The Rooster Bar,  
   by John Grisham  
5. A Gentleman in Moscow,  
   by Amor Towles  
6. What Happened,  
   by Hillary Rodham Clinton  
7. The Rules of Magic,  
   by Alice Hoffman  
8. Glass Houses,  
   by Louise Penny  
9. A Column of Fire,  
   by Ken Follett  
10. Don’t Let Go,  
   by Harlan Coben  
11. Manhattan Beach,  
   by Jennifer Egan  
12. Sing, Unburied, Sing,  
   by Jesmyn Ward

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

In October 2017, the Library began a new afterschool program called STEM Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). We make themed games and kits available for “in-library use” checkout with a valid library card, at the children’s circulation desk, for group or individual learning fun during designated times.

Activities available include Snap Circuits (adult supervision required for this activity), Spirograph, SUSPEND, Jenga, Skoolzy Straws and Q-bitz. Our November STEM Labs will be on November 15th and 29th, with kit/game checkout from 3 - 4:30 p.m. STEM Lab is for ages first grade and up.

STEM LAB PROGRAMS

Saturday, December 2 at 2 p.m.

News of the World,  
by Paulette Jiles

The Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Group Does Not Meet in December

The History through Biography Book Club Does not Meet in December

THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF STARS TO LOOK AT!

This past summer witnessed a once in a lifetime event, the Total Solar Eclipse of 2017. Everyone wanted to find a good place to view it and had to find eclipse glasses. We had a good crowd on our front lawn the day of the eclipse.

But I wonder if people have exhausted, at least for a time, their interest in things celestial?

For a few years we have had 2 telescopes to check out. For the first year they were always out, but these days, they are not quite so busy.

Stargazers know that the best time for viewing is during clear, cold winter evenings. If you haven’t yet had a chance to check out one of our telescopes, now might be the time!

FRIENDS NEWS: UPCOMING BOOK FAIR!

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