

# Page 6 |

The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library  
Vol. 15 no. 9 — May 2020



## IMAGINE YOUR STORY

Our annual summer program will be 100% online, including registration, logging of times read, and earning raffle tickets. All raffle drawings will be virtual as well.

The purpose of doing it this way is to minimize in-person staff and patron contact. Raffle prizes are City of Webster Groves Gift Certificates that can be used at dozens of businesses in our City as we support #shoplocal during this crisis. "Imagine Your Story" is exclusively sponsored by the Friends of the Webster Groves Public Library. Prizes will be mailed to the winners following the virtual drawings.

A library card is necessary for registration, during which you will be prompted to select an age-appropriate program. Please call or email the Library through our [contact form](#) if you need to renew your card or need access to an e-card for summer reading registration purposes.

All reading types are acceptable for logging summer reading including e-books, audiobooks, watching our virtual story times etc.

## VANISHING NIGHT WEBINAR

On Saturday, May 16 at 2 p.m. we will host a webinar with Don Ficken, President of the Missouri Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). He will talk about the impact of light pollution on wildlife and ecosystems, energy waste, human health, and our night sky. An update will be provided on IDA's global effort to reduce light pollution, and initiatives underway in Missouri and the metro St. Louis area.

You can follow the Webinar live on [Facebook](#), or register to participate by clicking this [link](#).

## CORONAVIRUS 2ND EMERGENCY EDITION

The question most people probably have at this point is, When will the libraries reopen? Please understand that this is the question most on our minds—but it is tied up in several other considerations, including safety of the public and the staff and coordination with other area libraries. Nobody wants to be the only library open after a few months of people not being able to check out books.

Our planning is centered around a safe time to reopen. Working with other MLC libraries, we have laid out four basic conditions:

1. State stay at home orders have been lifted.
2. St. Louis County stay at home orders have been lifted.
3. There have been 14 days of declining infection rates in the County.
4. Sufficient masks, gloves, sanitizers, etc. are on hand to cover up to 3 weeks of safe service.

With the governor's announcement that Missouri restrictions would be relaxed, if not eliminated on May 4, the first box has been ticked.

We ordered all the protective supplies a while ago, and though the supply and delivery chain is very slow, some of it began arriving this week, so a second box is close to being checked.

The figures from the County are not looking good yet, but we're optimistic. We have to be.

When we reopen, it will be in stages. First will be the circulation-only stage. You can come in to get books and movies, but nothing else. We will be asking everyone to wear masks, to maintain safe distance from each other, to limit the number of family members who visit at a time. Even sitting and reading newspapers will be something to be decided

on only when it seems safe.

In the next stage we will open computers for public use, and other services such as using the copier, processing passports, and more.

The farthest-off stage is resuming programming such as story times and book discussion groups, and opening the Meeting Room for public use. That may be months down the line.

All of this will require patience and understanding from everyone, but we want to provide the safest environment possible for our users and our staff. I know that the Library staff is as anxious to get back to work as our patrons are to come back to the Library. Let's all hope it's soon!

*tcooper@wgpl.org*

## \$10,000 E-BOOK GRANT

The Municipal Library Consortium has received a \$10,000 grant for the purchase of more e-Books for our Overdrive service. This could not come at a better time, since during the current coronavirus closures, online resources such as e-books have become more popular than ever. We will start ordering books right away.

These funds are provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

## LIBRARY HOURS

The library is closed until further notice.