



KIDS' EVENTS

Community-Wide Scavenger Hunt!

The Library is hosting a community-wide scavenger hunt—recommended for ages 5 – 18 years of age.

- Beginning on April 1, pick up an egg from the back of the Library.
- Inside you will find the first clue and directions to our website for the remaining clues. These clues will lead you to various businesses in Webster Groves.
- Collect all the letters in the windows to solve the mystery message. Turn in completed sheet before the end of the month for a prize (while supplies last) and a chance for an Amazon Gift Card.



Submissions need to include your name, e-mail address, and the answer to the mystery message. GOOD LUCK!



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

QUASQUICENTENNIAL

Funny word, isn't it? I was wondering if there was such a word and had to look it up.

Webster Groves was incorporated as a city of the fourth class on April 2, 1896, which means we have reached our quasquicentennial, or 125th anniversary.

In better times, everyone would make a big deal of this anniversary. But in these COVID times, hardly anyone has noticed. (I had not until Tim Nix, one of our astute staff members, pointed it out.)

The City of Kirkwood reached its 125th year in 1989 and sponsored a special edition of the *Webster-Kirkwood Times* in October of that year dedicated to the commemoration. But there was also a special edition of the *Times* celebrating Kirkwood's 150th year in May 2003—just 14 years later—so perhaps those dates are fuzzier than we might expect.

But April 2, 1896 is well established as the date when the petition of Webster Groves' founders was approved by St. Louis County Court, and we became a city.

There had been other attempts over the years to incorporate the developing village into a city, but a heinous murder that took place in what is now Old Webster galvanized public sentiment, and led people to act.

After incorporation, one of the earliest acts of the mayor and city council was to hire the city's first police officer, Edward Nace, who had been employed by the St. Louis Police Department. In the following years, Officer Nace's name appears often in newspaper stories, as he worked tirelessly to clean up the mean streets of Webster Groves.

Another early decision was to forbid saloons in town, and Webster Groves remained a mostly 'dry' city for quite a while afterwards.

The history of Webster Groves has been well-documented. The Library has quite a few books, and we have prepared a brochure listing most of the titles. We hope that in this quasquicentennial year, you will take some time to read about the history of our wonderful hometown.

tcooper@wgpl.org

WEBSTER GROVES HOUSE HISTORY RESOURCES

For a long time, the Library has held microfilms of early building permits and tax records for homes in Webster Groves. People researching the age and other things about their homes came in and searched them.

A while back, we were informed by the company that makes our microfilm reader that it was at 'end of life,' meaning it was an old enough machine that they no longer supported it. It still works, and we suppose it will for a while yet. But once the ink runs out in the printer attached to it, we will no longer be able to make copies of what people find. With this in mind, our Reference Depart-

ment staff pursued digitizing all of those old records and posting them as PDFs on our Website. Now anyone working from home may search these records. We know of several people who have already located the original building permits for their homes.

If you are interested in looking at these records, go to our Website at www.wgpl.org, click on the Reference tab, then on the Webster Groves Homes tab, and select the link to [City of Webster Groves Building Permits and Property Tax Records](#). If you have any trouble, please call our Reference Department at 314.961.7277.

TOP REQUESTS

1. *The Four Winds*,
by Kristin Hannah
2. *The Midnight Library*,
by Matt Haig
3. *A Promised Land*,
by Barack Obama
4. *Dark Sky*,
by C. J. Box
5. *Anxious People*,
by Fredrik Backman
6. *Hamnet*,
by Maggie O'Farrell
7. *The Survivors*,
by Jane Harper
8. *The Vanishing Half*,
by Brit Bennett
9. *We Begin at the End*,
by Chris Whitaker
10. *The Rose Code*,
by Kate Quinn
11. *The Paris Library*,
by Janet Skeslien Charles
12. *Win*,
by Harlan Coben

CREATIVITY IN CRISIS

The coronavirus pandemic has been a challenge to the Library, nowhere more so than in our Children's Room. How to keep children reading and families engaged when you cannot hold story times or any other indoor programming?

Our Children's Room staff responded by coming up with a variety of programs, such as take-and-make crafts, Kids Cook Kitchen Kits, drive-through Trick or Treat, drive-through visit with Santa, and more.

Now this hard work and creativity has been acknowledged by the Webster Groves/Shrewsbury/Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce, which has awarded us one of its Creativity in Crisis Awards. These awards were presented to several area businesses, organizations, and non-profits that showed special creativity and effort during this trying time.

Thank you to our Children's Room staff Michelle Haffer, Katie Rahmoeller, and Caitlin DeRoy for all your great work!



BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, May 1 at 2 p.m.

This meeting will be held via Zoom. For more information, or to get the Zoom link, contact Debbie Ladd at dladd@wgpl.org.



Happiness,
by Heather Harpham

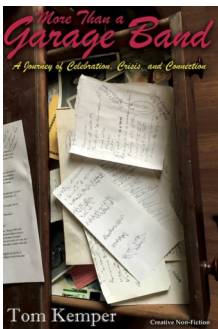


BOOK CLUB KITS—

Remember that while we can't hold book discussions at the Library, we do have book club kits available for your home group. Kits include 10 copies of the book and a discussion guide, and can be checked out for 6 weeks.

Look them up in our catalog under the title BOOK CLUB KIT.

MEET AUTHOR TOM KEMPER



April 24 at 2 p.m. author Tom Kemper will sell and sign copies of his book *More than a Garage Band*.

In the 1960s, Tom Kemper and several friends, largely from Webster Groves, formed the band the Public Service. Over the years they met and played with some of the great bands of the era while those bands were on their way up the ladder of success, including the Grateful Dead, Canned Heat, Steppenwolf, Jefferson Airplane, and Albert King. According to Kemper, the most influential people they met were Duane and Gregg Allman. Bob Lawder, the bass player for the band, has often said, 'Nobody would believe us if we told them these stories.'

Those stories are now in the book. Learn what led Michael 'Supe' Granda of the Ozark Mountain Daredevils to once remark that they were 'more than a garage band.'

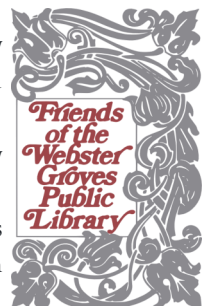
This will be an outdoor event, weather permitting. Masks and social distancing will be required.

FRIENDS NEWS

Celebrate spring and learn about Webster Groves! The Friends will host a Webster Groves Trivia/Scavenger Hunt from May 6 to May 20. You may get your clues and answer them online, or, if you'd rather use pencil and paper, you can pick up printed copies of the clues starting May 6. Friends members—keep an eye out for a postcard with more details!

We will draw from the Trivia/Scavenger Hunt entries for six Webster Bucks certificates of \$25 each and also present a copy of *STL Scavenger* as part of the author event featuring Dea Hoover on May 22.

A big thank you to all new and renewing members of the Friends for your generous support of the Library through memberships and pavers!



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