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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 16 no. 9 — May 2021



KIDS' EVENTS

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2021

This year's Summer Reading theme is **Tails & Tales**—stories and books about our many wonderful animal friends!

Dates are May 22 to August 13

Walk-up or Drive-thru Kickoff Event
Saturday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Walk up or drive through our back entrance and parking lot to receive a goodie bag containing incentives and information on how to register for the Summer Reading Program 2021, **Tails & Tales**.

Bring your furry canine friends and they will receive a doggy treat bag! Masks and social distancing are required. Quantities are limited.



LIBRARY HOURS

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

The Library will be closed Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

WEBSTER GROVES COVID HISTORY ARCHIVE

For several years one of the missions of Webster Groves Public Library has been to serve as a repository for our city's history. Cooperation with City Hall, with the Historic Preservation Commission, and with the Webster Groves Historical Society has been key in this. We have made significant strides in making much of our local history more accessible to interested readers.

As we gradually crawl out from under the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, it occurs to us that we should not lose the opportunity to gather some first-hand history about this important moment in our city's history. We are putting out this call to individuals, families, businesses, churches, organizations and clubs: if you have an interesting story to tell, if you want to share something unique or inspiring that happened to you, some way you found of coping, we want to hear about it.

Write up your story, your memory, your thoughts in a few pages (please don't overwhelm us with an entire manuscript!) and

bring it in. Or e-mail tcooper@wgpl.org. If you send an e-mail, make the subject heading COVID History Archive. We will print out and file everything we receive. Send photos if you have them, and they will be added to the archive.

Do not send anything you don't want openly shared. The archive will be available to anyone who wants to look through it. If you would like to share a story but would rather not have your name used or your family identified, please note that in your submission.

We will augment the archive by adding local news stories about the City's pandemic response.

We hope this will help people in years to come in understanding what happened during this time, how families were impacted, how individuals got along, and ways businesses found to remain in business despite necessary restrictions on their activities.

If you have any questions about this, e-mail Tom Cooper at the address below.

tcooper@wgpl.org

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ADULT SCAVENGER HUNT

In May, the Friends group is sponsoring a scavenger hunt. It runs from May 6 to May 20. The clues and entry form can be found at [this link](#). Clues will be based on Webster Groves sites and places and other trivia. All entries will be eligible to win \$25 of Webster



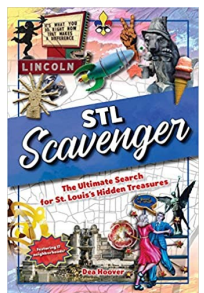
Bucks—gift certificates good at dozens of local stores.

On May 22 at 1 p.m. the Friends will host an event featuring Dea Hoover, author of *STL Scavenger*. Subtitled *The*

Ultimate Search for St. Louis's Hidden Treasures, the book uses photographs and cryptic clues to lead the reader on a tour of St. Louis. This event will be held outside on the Library's lawn. Ms. Hoover will sell and sign her

books, and answer questions about her experience writing the book.

Winners of our scavenger hunt prizes will be announced at our May 22 author event.



TOP REQUESTS

1. *The Four Winds*,
by Kristin Hannah
2. *The Midnight Library*,
by Matt Haig
3. *We Begin at the End*,
by Chris Whitaker
4. *The Rose Code*,
by Kate Quinn
5. *Klara and the Sun*,
by Kazuo Ishiguro
6. *Ocean Prey*,
by John Sandford
7. *When the Stars Go Dark*,
by Paula McLain
8. *The Good Sister*,
by Sally Hepworth
9. *Dark Sky*,
by C. J. Box
10. *The Survivors*,
by Jane Harper
11. *Good Company*,
by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
12. *Hamnet*,
by Maggie O'Farrell

TRIBUTE TO 'OLD BOB'

Last fall we lost our friend and long-time groundskeeper, Robert Langenberg, to complications of COVID-19. The staff of the Library took up a collection to have a memorial paver in his memory engraved, and the Board of Trustees took up a collection to purchase library materials in his memory.

An article in the *Webster-Kirkwood Times* stirred community interest, and we received donations from old friends of Bob's from nearby and as far away as Florida. We were touched by the outpouring of sentiment from people who fondly remembered the man who so often referred to himself as 'Old Bob.'

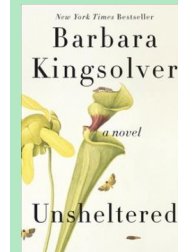
Bob was fond of music, movies, and art, mostly that which originated in the 1960s counter-culture. We tried to remain true to that interest in the items we selected.



BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, June 5 at 2 p.m.

This meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in the Library's Meeting Room. Masks required, and social distancing will be observed. For more information, contact Debbie Ladd at dladd@wgpl.org.



Unsheltered,
by Barbara Kingsolver

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 catalogue under the title BOOK CLUB KIT.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW SIGN?

Many people passing on Lockwood Avenue have noticed, and many have commented on, a new addition to the Library's front lawn—a lighted, marquee-style sign!

We have wanted to get a sign for years, since the only signage indicating that our building is Webster Groves Public Library have been two small stainless steel plaques on either side of the front door. There was nothing outside to advertise all of the many programs and activities that happen at the Library throughout the year.

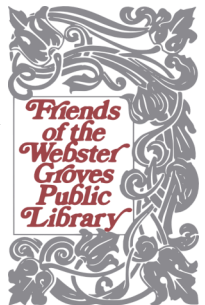
It was the Building & Grounds Committee of our Board of Trustees, chaired by trustee Bethany Curtis, which stuck to it over the past year or more and finally got this sign installed. We are very thankful for their efforts, and hope to make the best use of the sign for years to come.



FRIENDS NEWS

We hope Friends members have gotten their postcards announcing the Scavenger Hunt for grown-ups! The clues will be available May 6. You can access them at wgpl.org or open them directly on Google Forms through [this link](#). You can also pick up a printed copy of the clues at the Library.

Calendar reminder: The Friends' Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 13, and will be held outdoors at the Library.



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

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