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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 16 no. 10 — June 2021



KIDS' EVENTS

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

Sign up online at wgpl.beanstack.org



Story Time

Garden Reads, our outdoor story time, is resuming on Tuesday, June 8, at 9:30am (weather permitting and with social distancing). Parents are encouraged to bring a blanket or towel to sit on. Other June dates for Garden Reads are June 15, 22 and 29.



Have you heard about *The Scoop*?

(For ages 2 - 18 years old)

Do you like seeing your name in print? Scan and e-mail us your originals with your name and contact information for our new WGPL youth annual e-source.

Short stories (1000 words or less), book reviews, news items, jokes, movie/TV show recommendations, family-friendly drawings—whatever your imagination comes up with!

Our fantastic Teen Advisory Group (TAG) volunteers will assist with production.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday	9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday & Saturday	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

COVID HISTORY ARCHIVE

Last month we announced that Webster Groves Public Library would be gathering information for a COVID History Archive. The idea is to keep a record of how families, businesses, churches, clubs, schools, and other local entities endured the pandemic—a resource for future generations. We have been very happy with the results to far.

Some of the input has been just what we expected: many of our local churches have their own archivists, or communications directors, who sent in pretty detailed summaries of how their congregations got along for the pandemic months.

The *Webster-Kirkwood Times*, which underwent a tumultuous year, sent in articles dealing with the paper first discontinuing its print edition and then coming back into print, remaining as a resource of news and information during these trying months.

But there have been some unexpected things. One woman, who described herself as a dancer, sent a lovely poem about experienc-

AUTHOR DEA HOOVER

On Saturday, May 22, we were pleased to host an author event, which have been rare lately. COVID-19 rules meant it was outside and that we couldn't have a presentation but it was a pleasure to meet and talk with Dea Hoover about her new book, *STL Scavenger: The Ultimate Search for St. Louis's Hidden Treasures*. Hoover is the owner of two tour companies with 15 years of experience in finding intriguing sites in our area and her enthusiasm was contagious.

Her appearance was presented by the Friends of the Library, a culmination of their Scavenger Hunt which challenged contestants to seek answers to a list of Webster

ing a year without engagement with live music, theater, or dance. Another budding poet sent an ode on the death of her neighbor from COVID-19, along with a few other poems she wrote early in the pandemic.

One man sent a message noting a trend which has been commented on more than once—that in the isolation and break from our usual daily activities, some people found time to complete long neglected projects. He brought us a copy of the journal *Nineteenth Century*, which included an article he had been meaning to finish for 40 years!

I hope everyone will keep the submissions coming. We will organize and file all these materials and make them available to anyone who wants to read or study about this important time from a personal, local perspective.

Bring in any submissions, or e-mail them to me at the address shown below. Use the subject heading COVID History Archive.

tcooper@wgpl.org

Groves related trivia questions.

Though we have had very few author appearances in the past year, with COVID restrictions easing we hope to have more in the up-



coming months. Watch this newsletter, our Facebook page, and announcements inside the Library for news.

TOP REQUESTS

1. *The Four Winds*,
by Kristin Hannah
2. *The Last Thing He Told Me*,
by Laura Dave
3. *A Gambling Man*,
by David Baldacci
4. *The Midnight Library*,
by Matt Haig
5. *Hamnet*,
by Maggie O'Farrell
6. *Sooley*,
by John Grisham
7. *Hour of the Witch*,
by Chris Bohjalian
8. *The Good Sister*,
by Sally Hepworth
9. *Ocean Prey*,
by John Sandford
10. *Project Hail Mary*,
by Andy Weir
11. *While Justice Sleeps*,
by Stacey Abrams
12. *The Rose Code*,
by Kate Quinn

REOPENING STATUS

New guidelines about masks from the CDC last month were both a relief and a source of confusion. We are happy that there is a diminished need to wear masks in many public places—but we are also a close contact, indoor space that entertains vulnerable populations such as seniors and children. For the time being, we still ask that Library visitors wear masks; we are insisting that unvaccinated visitors wear them.

This applies to children. As you know, children under the age of 12 have not been vaccinated yet, and we ask that parents bringing them to the Library have them wear masks. This is for the safety of your children as well as our own staff.

Past that, we are taking steps to move forward. We will reopen our Meeting Room in June, starting with groups of 40 people or fewer, during our current business hours, and not yet allowing refreshments. If you have such a group that needs to meet, please call 314.961.3784 and ask for Paige or Tina.

We will also resume our usual Sunday afternoon hours starting June 6. We hope to see you soon!

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, July 3 at 2 p.m.

This meeting is 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.



Growin' Up White.
by Dwight Ritter

BOOK CLUB KITS—

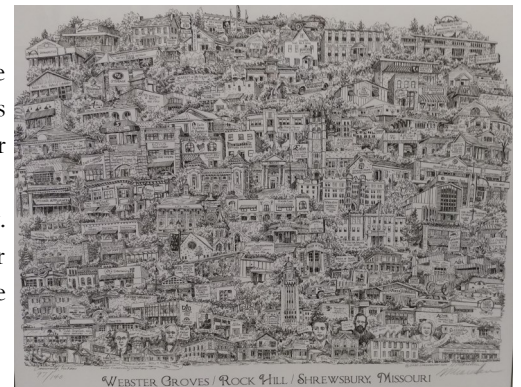
Remember that while book discussions at the Library aren't quite back to normal, we do have book club kits available for your home group. Kits include 10 copies of the book and a discussion guide, and can be checked out for 6 weeks.

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

HOMETOWN MONTAGE POSTERS FOR SALE

Last year we got in a stock of the latest hometown montage posters. You may have seen these before, fun posters depicting people, places, and things in your hometown. This one features three local communities—Webster Groves, Shrewsbury, and Rock Hill, and it's fun to pore over it, looking for the sites you know.

We meant to sell them, but during COVID-19 restrictions, we weren't handling any money. The posters are on heavy card stock, suitable for framing. The photo here does not do the poster justice, but there is one on display in the Library's foyer. Now, the 18" x 22" posters are available at \$20 apiece while the supply lasts. Just ask at our front desk.

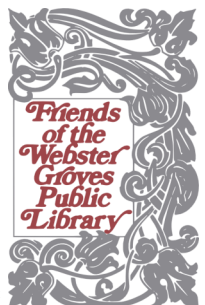


FRIENDS NEWS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Adult Scavenger Hunt! We hope you had a good time researching the questions and visiting different locations in Webster—maybe you even stopped for pizza at Dewey's or an ice cream at Serendipity! Thanks to all of our committee members: Deborah Ladd, research pro; Ann Hannan, tech guru; Sue Gold, trivia maven; Terry Pirrong, keeper of wonderful containers; and Dorothy Heltibrand, history expert!

Another thank you to Sue Gold for the summery planters at the front entrance to the Library!

The date given last month for the Friends Annual Meeting was incorrect; we will announce the date for the Annual Meeting in a future issue of Page 61.



WEBSTER GROVES
PUBLIC LIBRARY



301 E. Lockwood Ave.
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314.961.3784
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