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The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 16 no. 12 — August 2021



KIDS' EVENTS

Our Tails & Tales Summer Reading Program Ends on August 13!

Prize winners will be notified beginning the following week.

Garden Reads Story Time:

Tuesday, August 10 and 17 at 9:30am

August Take & Make Craft:

Squid Wind Chime (while supplies last!)

DOGGIE DINER!

On Saturday, July 31 we had our **Doggie Diner**, featuring puppies from Stray Rescue. Nearly 100 people attended and got to hold, pet, and read to the puppies!



The Scoop. 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 biannual e-source. Produced by our fantastic Teen Advisory Group. For ages 2 - 18.

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.

MASKS OR NO MASKS

It is hard these days to balance simple concern for public safety with being overly political, mostly because everything has become overly political. Even acknowledging that there has been an ongoing public health emergency for the past year and a half can be seen as choosing sides in a political debate.

The problem for librarians has been twofold. On one hand, we are public servants, our salaries paid by taxpayers, and we should not be choosing sides in public debates. On the other hand, we are responsible to staff members who interact daily with hundreds of people, and whose safety is a top concern.

How to balance this out?

For one thing, it needs to be mentioned that libraries are headed by and staffed by several people who hold master's degrees in information science. Information is our business, our calling, our core expertise. While the debate about misinformation rages, there is often the call to listen to both sides, to give both sides equal time. This is not consistent

with our core beliefs. Our practice is to determine to the best of our ability what is the best information and present that.

Scores of times in my career, perhaps hundreds of times, I have helped people find information that was contrary to what they thought was true. Part of my assistance was helping them find information sources that were credible, objective, and non-biased. Good information is always about the source of the information. While people are sometimes discomfited when being presented with facts that contradict their beliefs, they usually acknowledge the truth.

As our county and our state swings back and forth on whether or not masks should be required to ensure public safety, we have concluded that the most reliable and disinterested sources favor the efficacy of masks. We will continue to require them as long as there seems to be a significant threat to public safety.

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MISSOURI'S BICENTENNIAL

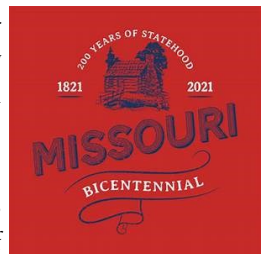
August 10, 2021 marks the bicentennial date of Missouri's statehood. A few years ago there was much talk about commemorations and celebrations. The Missouri State Library was going to sponsor summer reading themed materials. Many libraries were planning programs and events. We sought out books on Missouri history to add to our collections.

But then COVID-19 interceded, and much of that was either put on the back burner or cancelled altogether. But we can still take steps to observe this important landmark in Missouri's history.

Throughout the month of August, we will

feature on our Facebook page daily notes on events in Missouri's history, stories of people, places, and things that are either of great importance to its growth as a state, or which we simply found very interesting. We hope that these will spur you to want to read more.

To that end, we have compiled a list of books about Missouri history in the Library's collection that is available to pick up by our Circulation Desk.



TOP REQUESTS

1. *The Last Thing He Told Me*,
by Laura Dave
2. *Malibu Rising*,
by Taylor Jenkins Reid
3. *The Maidens*,
by Alex Michaelides
4. *The Other Black Girl*,
by Zakiya Dalila Harris
5. *The Paper Palace*,
by Miranda Cowley Heller
6. *Sooley*,
by John Grisham
7. *People We Meet on Vacation*,
by Emily Henry
8. *The President's Daughter*,
by Bill Clinton
9. *The Four Winds*,
by Kristin Hannah
10. *Golden Girl*,
by Elin Hilderbrand
11. *The Cellist*,
by Daniel Silva
12. *While Justice Sleeps*,
by Stacey Abrams

SARAH LORENTZ ART EXHIBIT

During the worst days of the pandemic, we were unable to feature art exhibits in our gallery. We are happy to announce that art is coming back to the Library!

Our first artist is Sarah Lorentz. She describes herself as a contemporary painter who 'creates energetic, striking compositions full of bold brushwork and electric color.'

Her works will be in the gallery throughout the month of August. There will be an opening viewing and reception on Friday, August 6 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone with an interest in art is invited.

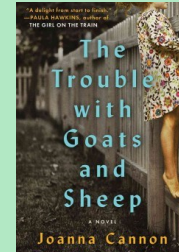
Any artists or photographers who wish to have their work considered for exhibition in the Library's gallery should ask for an application at the Circulation Desk.



BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, September 4 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.



The Trouble with Goats and Sheep,
by Joanna Cannon

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.

WINDING UP CURBSIDE SERVICE

On July 6, Webster Groves Public Library ceased offering curbside pickup as a standard service, though we are still providing it to people who need a special accommodation due to age, disability, or other reasons.

While we were providing regular curbside service, we took library materials out to over 11,000 library users' cars. Staff members who did all that walking back and forth note that it was not bad, except when the weather was very hot, or there was rain. We also faced the problem of having only two phone lines for people to call when they pulled in for service, with the resulting need to get off the phone quickly, and not spend the time needed to ensure that patrons had everything they wanted. Staff members also report that it was easier when it was *all* curbside, rather than curbside and inside checkout, which became confusing—but the uncertain threat of COVID-19 created much of that confusion.

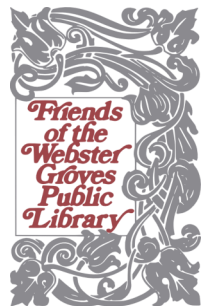
At any rate, we're all hoping there will not be any reason to return to curbside service.

FRIENDS NEWS

We hope that everyone read lots of books for the Summer Reading Program, one of the activities sponsored through Friends gifts and memberships. If you're in search of something new to read or watch, the Friends cart in the Library foyer has many gently-used books and a few CD's and DVD's.

The book sale is coming up on October 15, 16, and 17 in the Library Meeting Room—we will start sorting books at the end of August and are always looking for help. Contact Laura Wehrenberg at lwehrenberg1@gmail.com if you'd like to help with sorting or working at the book sale.

The Friends Annual meeting will be on Sunday, November 7, at 2:00 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room.



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