

Library News | Fall 2025

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Friends of the Library Annual Meeting

You're Invited!

FOL Annual Meeting: Sunday, October 19th at 3pm

Blacksburg Public Library

We are excited to announce the guest author for our Friends of the Library annual meeting will be Megan Doney. She is a local author who teaches literature, composition and creative writing at New River Community College and is a survivor of a shooting that took place there. She was the Washington Writers' Publishing House 2024 winner of the WWPH Nonfiction Prize. *Unarmed: An American Educator's Memoir* is her first book.

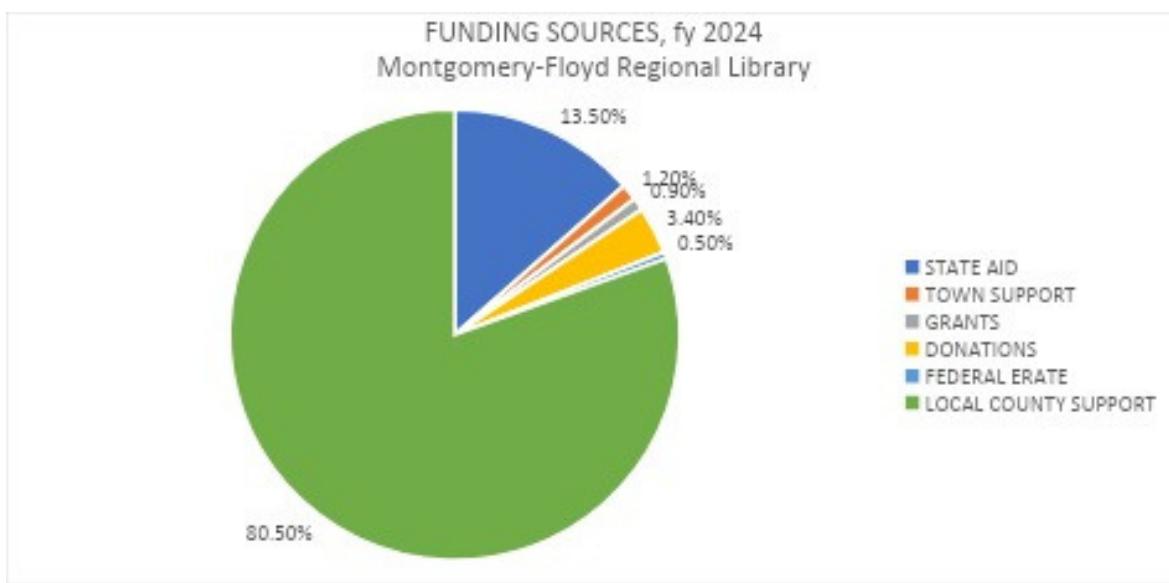


MFRL Service in Uncertain Times

As I write in September 2025, the question I hear most from library patrons and others is how the library expects to proceed through the next five years or so with the current unprecedented changes in funding from federal government sources. There is no doubt that the parts of the federal government that provide funding to library, and also to many of our community partners, have gone through changes this year. Libraries are good at weathering social and political changes, and I hope to share with you why that's so, as well as what we expect at MFRL as far as funding in the next few years.

In truth, the nature of public libraries in the United States has always been locally based. From the first public library in the U.S. started by Ben Franklin in 1731, to today, most public libraries are governed, funded and managed at local levels. The section of the Virginia Code that authorizes local governments to operate libraries is about as general as can be – it doesn't tell local jurisdictions how to operate libraries, but rather provides a framework. And it's never been a better time to be under the control of persons in the local community.

Not only is the management of libraries “quarantined” from federal government control in Virginia, but funding is as well. In the past fiscal year, 80.5% of MFRL's funds were from our two local counties, Montgomery and Floyd. State aid made up an additional 13.5% of the budget, with donations, grants and funding from towns making up most of the rest. Federal assistance through the e-rate program was only \$13,680 – about .5% of the budget.



So the changes in federal funding are not anticipated to have a direct effect on our budget in the foreseeable future – as Uncle Sam really never funded us much to begin with. The two problems that can be anticipated due to the DC changes are (1) changes in our local funding due to changing economic factors and (2) how changes in federal funding will affect our partnering institutions. I don't know that I am the one you turn to

General News Cont'd

for overall economic forecasts, but I do trust the Supervisors in Floyd and Montgomery to fund our operations as fully as their resources allow, even if times get tighter.

The current environment for federal grants and programs, however, presents serious challenges to our valued partners, from Literacy NRV to Virginia Cooperative Extension. We have already seen some partners go completely dark. Virginia's STACC program, which supplied over 50,000 free COVID test kits to MFRL for distribution, ceased operations; as did VCU's Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center. Smaller grants to Virginia Cooperative Extension, Agape Center and New River/Mt. Rogers Workforce Development Board have disrupted their abilities to work with us on programming, free fridges, resource sharing, and other activities. To say that we and others in the NRV feel a bit uncertain about how grant cuts and the economy will affect large enterprises in the NRV – including Virginia Tech – is an understatement.

So while I always like to end my articles on a positive note, I feel like the honest way to end this one is with some uncertainty. MFRL and its staff will always put our patrons and community at the center of what we do. Administration at all levels – branch, library, county – understands that to be effective, we must find a way to provide the tools and resources the folks on the front need to provide exceptional service. Local control of libraries helps us in that mission a great deal. Library staff are great at many things, but one thing they are not good at is giving up. We aren't giving up now.

Karim Khan, Library Director, MFRL

Pavilion at Jessie Peterman Memorial Library

The Pavilion at the Jessie Peterman Memorial Library will be completed in time to appreciate the fall colors in the trees surrounding this awesome outdoor space. The Floyd County Library Building Fund began fundraising for this project in October 2023. Community support has been strong from the start, and the project has received many generous donations from individuals, businesses, and local organizations. The Floyd Friends of the Library showed their support by selling t-shirts and tote bags with a lovely Pavilion design.

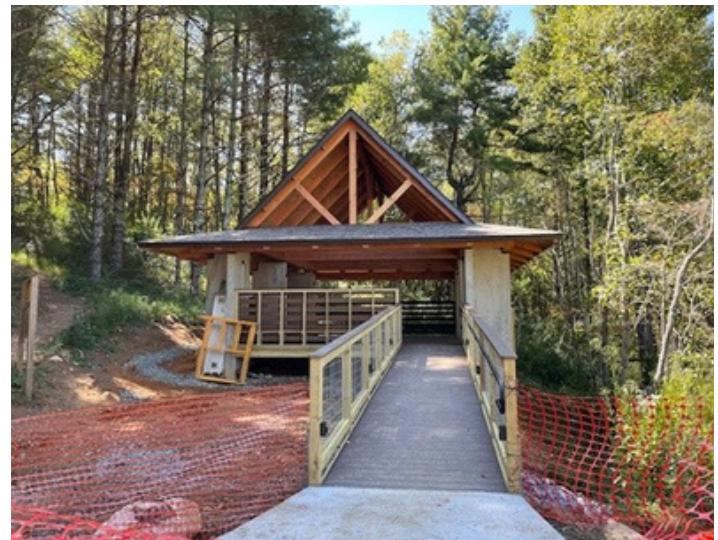


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General News Cont'd

After a ground-breaking ceremony in April, construction got under way in early June and Omnibuild General Contractors maintained a steady pace throughout the summer.

This 850 square foot structure will provide the library with an outdoor space for programming, which it never had before. It will also give the community and visitors a place to sit and enjoy nature. Nestled against the side of a hill, it looks out over a small creek and wetland area and is surrounded by a variety of trees. It will be a perfect setting for programs of all types and everything from Storytimes to concerts are being planned. Please join us for light refreshments and a ribbon cutting on the Pavilion to celebrate all the hard work of the Floyd County Library Building Fund and the generosity of our community that made this amazing addition to the library possible! The Pavilion Ribbon Cutting is Friday, October 17th at 4pm.



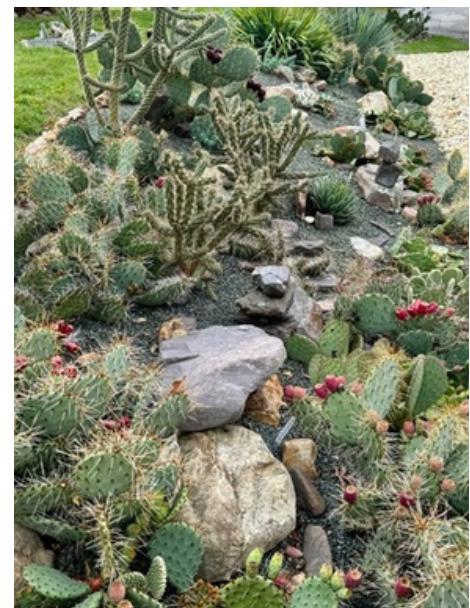
Joann Verostko, Jessie Peterman Memorial Library Branch Manager

Garden Tour Success

The 2025 Garden Tour was another huge success! Thank you to this year's garden owners: Victoria and Steve Cochran, Linda Monroe and Johnny Moore, Trent Davis, Margie Redditt, Eric Effinger, Elissa Steeves, and Wade Hazel and Tavia Pigg. And, a special shoutout to all of the musicians, artists, and volunteers that helped make the Garden Tour possible. We could not do it without you!

Planning has already started for the 2026 Garden Tour, which is set for Saturday, July 11th from 9am-4pm and will feature 6 gardens in Blacksburg. Please mark your calendars!

Judy Rea, President of Montgomery County Friends of the Library



Davis Garden

General News Cont'd



Hazel/Pigg Garden



Effinger Garden



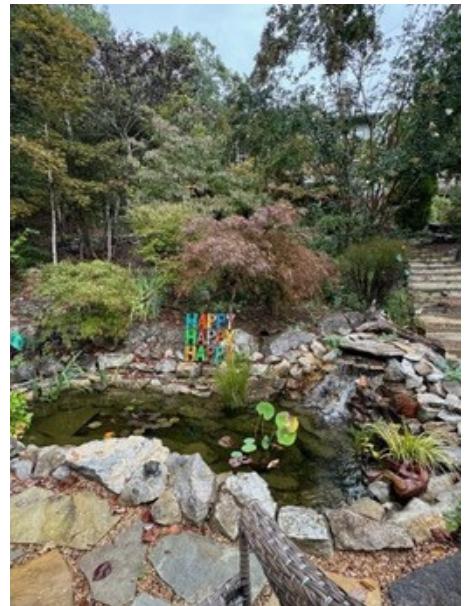
Steeves Garden



Redditt Garden



Monroe/Moore Garden

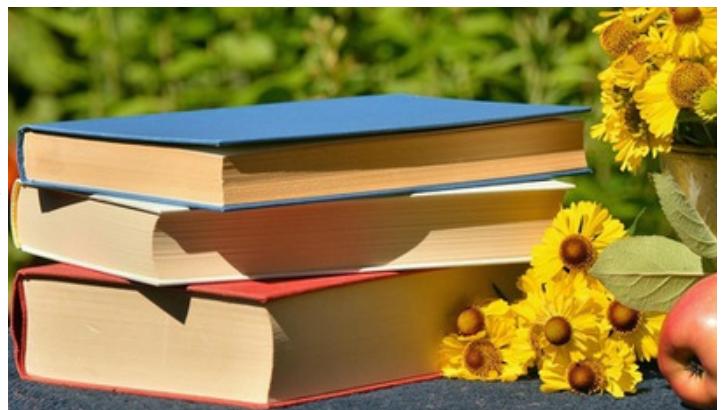


Cochran Garden

Book Sale!

Blacksburg is holding its big fall sale on Saturday, November 8th from 10am-4pm with a FOL members only sale from 9am-10am. Please come prepared with your bags, cash or checks, and you will be sure to find enough books to occupy you through the winter months.

Piper Durrell, Secretary of Montgomery County FOL



General News Cont'd

Join Friends of the MFRL and Become an Advocate for Your Local Library!

We are a nonprofit, volunteer organization comprised of book and library lovers who donate their time and funds to support our local libraries. Our Friends group funds the Summer Reading Programs, special children's programs, author talks, our annual garden tour, scholarships for library staff and needs not met in the normal operating budget.

How you can help:

- Join Friends using our membership form
- Volunteer for one of our committees
- Donate books for our book sales
- Purchase books at our big book sale events and at our continuous book sales in every library

As a member you will be able to shop early at all book sales events! Encourage others to join us and to shop at our continuous book sales!

Linda Greaver, Membership Committee for Montgomery County Friends of the Library

Calendar

 Halloween Costume & Cosplay Swap Blacksburg Sat, Oct 11th	 Spooky Nail Art Christiansburg Fri, Oct 10th	 Haunted Gingerbread Houses Meadowbrook Wed, Oct 15th	 Make Like a Tree: Letting Go with Ephemeral Art Floyd Sat, Oct 11th
 Nature of Naming with Bill Sydor Blacksburg Sun, Oct 26th	 Claytor Crafts: Pinecone Bats Christiansburg Wed, Oct 29th	 Bread Making 101 for Beginners Meadowbrook Sat, Nov 8th	 Author Talk with Paul Quigley Floyd Thurs, Oct 23rd

For more information on events, please visit the library's website at www.mfrl.org

2026 FLOYD FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

(Membership period consists of the calendar year January - December)

Name _____

Mailing Address_____

Phone

Email

Please show your support by renewing your membership to the Friends of the Library through either a single or family membership or a greater level of support.

\$10 Single \$15 Family \$25 Bronze Friend
 \$50 Silver Friend
 \$100 Gold Friend
 \$1000 Lifetime Friend
 Other donation

Make checks payable to Floyd Friends of the Library and mail with this completed form to:
Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 69, Floyd, VA 24091
Or drop it off the next time you're at the library.

Your membership helps support programming, building improvements, the summer reading program, and much much more. Please consider becoming a Friend!

We meet on a quarterly basis on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. Please call the library at 745-2947 or check the library event calendar to see if the group is meeting.

Love Your Library

become a friend

Fill out form online, then print:

2026 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership year is January-December.

Dues received October 2025–December 2025 are good through 2026

New Renewal Date

First Name Last Name

Address City

ZipCode Email

Phone

Suggested Membership Contribution:

\$15 Individual \$20 Family Donation: \$

Contributions are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to:

Friends of MFRL

(Montgomery Floyd Regional Library)

Mail to:

125 Sheltman Street

Christiansburg, VA 24073

or bring to your nearest library branch.

We need your help with Friends Activities. Check below for volunteer opportunities.

Membership Drive BookSales

Socials – bring refreshments Garden Tour

Hospitality Committee Membership Committee

At which library do you wish to volunteer?

Blacksburg Christiansburg Meadowbrook



<https://mfrlfriends.org/wp/join-us/>