

Library News | Winter 2026

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



Friends Support: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

What is the best time of year? Some would vote for summer, and on a frigid January day like today, spring feels like a strong contender. There's even a song insisting the holidays hold the title. But for the library, the answer comes down to two possibilities: the joy and bustle of Summer Reading—or my own favorite day of all: the day the Friends write their annual donation check. It may not be as catchy a name as “Arbor Day,” but it is a tremendously important day for what it allows the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library to accomplish throughout the year.



Thumbnail from a “Gardening in Winter” program at the Blacksburg Library happening Saturday, February 7th.

(continued on page 2)

General News Cont'd

Each November, we prepare a budget that outlines for our governmental funders—Montgomery County, Floyd County, the towns, and the state—how we intend to use our funds for the upcoming fiscal year (July–June). These dollars support library materials and computer systems; staff compensation; the technology that powers our catalog and checkout systems; gas for the courier van and mobile library; and a long list of other operational needs. With this support, we pursue our mission: to welcome all people to spaces, services, and resources that empower individuals and our community to thrive. We know that providing access to materials—and the tools to find and enjoy them—is central to why patrons rely on us, whether for learning and growth or simply for a healthy, entertaining break from life’s demands.

But as Friends of the Library, you know that our branches also offer programs, exhibits, artwork, and a sense of welcome and comfort beyond the basics. When we submit our budget to Montgomery and Floyd counties, very little of those “extras” appear. For programming, we turn to the Friends. And we could not ask for better supporters.

Consider what your contributions made possible:

- In Fiscal Year 2025, the Friends funded 503 library programs.
- 11,064 people attended those programs.
- The Friends also supported more than 1,000 self-directed activities, enjoyed by over 12,000 patrons—including craft kits, puzzles and coloring, and Christiansburg Library’s StoryWalk.

Your annual donation pays for everything from children’s Summer Reading performers to Music on the Lawn to Chair Yoga. You support more than a dozen book clubs, sensory programs, and music therapy programs for patrons with cognitive, developmental, and intellectual disabilities. You help bring in “crowd-pleasers” like visits from Mill Mountain Zoo. You fund our movie-licensing agreement. And whenever a program needs supplies, food, or snacks—the Friend’s funding makes it happen.

I’m old enough to remember when library programming meant children’s storytime and not much else. Today, programs are a powerful way to expand our community’s intellectual, cultural, and social lives. While they don’t replace books—after all, no one stays up until 1 a.m. to finish a library program—I’m incredibly proud of the creativity, relevance, and dedication our programming staff bring to their work. It’s no coincidence that MFRL has earned recognition from the Virginia Association of Counties for initiatives like Family Reads and the Sensory Museum program—both supported in part by the Friends.

So for me, the most wonderful time of the year is the moment we request and receive funding from the Friends. Because your generosity makes one of the very best things about the library possible—day after day, all year long.

Karim Khan, MFRL Library Director

General News Cont'd

2025 Garden Tour Sales and Attendance

Our last issue reported that the 2025 Garden Tour was a big success, and nothing says it like the numbers.

Library staff and garden greeters sold tickets for a total of \$8,260. Thank you to the library staff and all the greeters!

Our generous donors contributed \$2,650 to cover garden tour expenses of \$2,368 with \$282 to spare. Thank you to all our donors!

The Friends of the Library will pass the total revenue, \$8,541, to the library system.

And what drew all those visitors to the gardens? The garden owners, the musicians and the artists!

Many thanks to all.

Ellen Hall, Garden Tour Committee

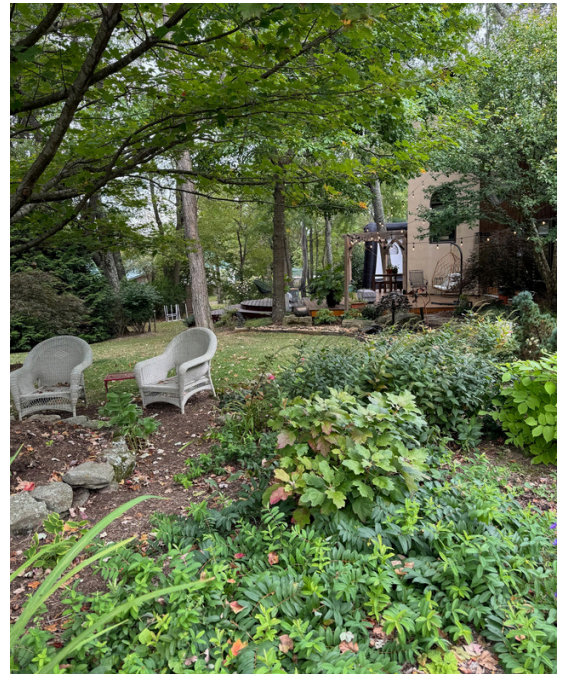


Photo of Reddit Garden

FOL Board: Seeking New Members to Serve on Board

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you are all healthy and happy!

On behalf of the board, I want to thank you for all the hard work you have done in 2025 for the Friends of the Library. Your volunteer hours enable the FOL to provide all the MFRL libraries with the funds needed to support ALL the children's programming in every library as well as many of the teen and adult programming events.



Whether you are working at a library organizing, pricing and shelving the book donations, or helping with the numerous jobs to make the garden tour run so beautifully, or you donate books, or help with hospitality, or membership, or Serve on the Board (Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair, Garden Tour Representatives, Library Sales Chairs), your hard work does not go unnoticed. Thank you. You are so appreciated.

(continued on page 4)

General News Cont'd

The FOL Board is currently seeking four dedicated individuals to serve on the board as Vice President, Secretary, Membership chair, and Newsletter Editor.

The position of Vice President is to support the President, attend board meetings, and helps with some special events. The position of Secretary is to maintain a record of the board meetings and to inform the board of upcoming meetings.

The Membership chair needs to be familiar with either Mail Chimp or Excel. The chair keeps accurate records of the new and renewing members and runs a monthly report to share with the board at the meetings. The chair also communicates to members when renewals are due. The current chair will be happy to provide training.

The Newsletter Editor needs to be familiar with Canva, Publisher, or Adobe Creative Suite. The position of Newsletter Editor is to create a quarterly newsletter from submitted articles and photos. In addition to creating the newsletter, the Newsletter Editor also attends board meetings. The current Newsletter Editor will be happy to share past newsletters.

All our volunteers play a vital role in shaping the future of our organization. I hope many of you have an interest in becoming more involved. If interested in one of the above positions, please contact me at mfrlfriends@google.com. Below is a Board meeting schedule. All are welcome to attend.

Wishing you a great year ahead!

FOL Board Meeting Schedule 2026

March 17, Blacksburg, 3pm

April 21, Meadowbrook, 3pm

May 19, Christiansburg, 3pm

June 16, Blacksburg, 3pm

September 15, Meadowbrook, 3pm

Sunday, October 18, Blacksburg, time TBD
(Annual Meeting and Author Talk)

November 17, Christiansburg, 3pm

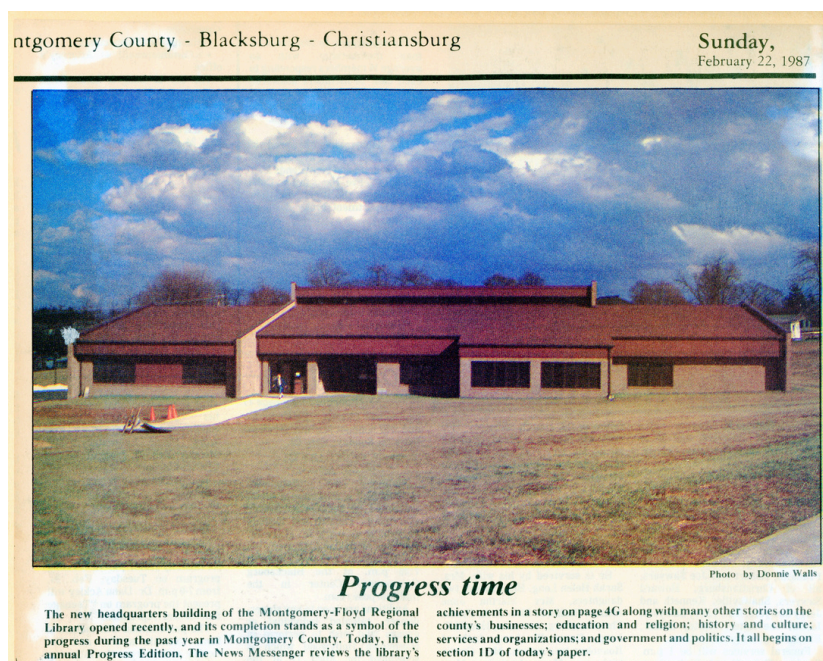
Judy Rea, FOL Board President
mfrlfriends@google.com

Branch Updates

Christiansburg | The Christiansburg Library is excited to announce that 2026 marks the 40th anniversary of our current library location. After outgrowing the old church building on the corner of Radford Road and Depot Street, where we had been located since 1977, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library secured funding from the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, federal grants, and the Friends of the Library to build a new Christiansburg Library on Sheltman Street. The new Christiansburg Library (originally known as the Headquarters Library) opened its doors in 1986 and provided over 15,000 square feet of space for collections and programming for Christiansburg and the surrounding community. To celebrate 40 years in this building, we will have programs all year long, including a special 40 Things for 40 Years Beanstack challenge and an All Ages Birthday Bash on September 12th. Visit our special anniversary website at www.mfrl.org/anniversary.php to see photos of the groundbreaking and construction.

This anniversary comes at an auspicious time as Montgomery County has earmarked over \$16 million to renovate and expand the Christiansburg Library within the next 5 years. We have once again outgrown our facilities and we are very excited for this opportunity. As with the previous capital improvement, this will require a partnership between Montgomery County funding and community support. To kick off our Christiansburg Capital Campaign, we have 40th anniversary commemorative merchandise available online. Twenty-five percent of all sales will go to the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Foundation to be used for renovation needs. If you are interested in more information about our 40th Anniversary or in contributing directly to the Christiansburg Capital Campaign, please reach out to Salena Sullivan at ssullivan@mfrl.org.

Salena Sullivan, Branch Manager



Branch Updates Cont'd



Digitized photos and newspaper article from the 1986 construction of the Christiansburg Library.

Meadowbrook | The Meadowbrook Public Library is deeply grateful for the continued support of the Friends of the Library. Thanks to your generosity, our winter programs were a wonderful success.

This season, we were delighted to welcome a special visit from the Grinch, complete with fun crafts, sweet treats, and photo opportunities that created lasting memories for families. Our Polar Express Craft Party was another favorite, offering a cozy afternoon of themed crafts and hot cocoa that patrons enjoyed.

As we look ahead, we are already busy planning for an exciting spring. Our Prom Dress Giveaway Weekend will take place over two weekends in March and April, welcoming students to stop in and select a free dress for their special night. Spring also marks the beginning of Meadowbrook Library's 20th Anniversary celebration. We will be hosting special events throughout the year, starting with our Spring Book Fair, where attendees will receive Meadowbrook Money to use toward book purchases.

In addition, we will launch our yearlong reading program, Read Along with Meadowbrook: Celebrating 20 Years. Participants will enjoy a new theme each month—read for six months and earn a free book, or complete all twelve months to receive a special prize.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We truly couldn't do it without you!

Jessica Tabor, Branch Manager

Calendar

Learn to Sew: Machine 101

Blacksburg

Thurs, Feb 12th

Free Income Tax Prep with VITA

Christiansburg

Thurs, Feb 5th

Game Night!

Meadowbrook

Thurs, Feb 5th

Adult Bilingual Art Hour

Floyd

Sun, Feb 1st

Galentine's Day Party (for Adults)

Blacksburg

Fri, Feb 13th

Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow – A Celebration of Black Excellence

Christiansburg

Sat, Feb 7th

Adult Coloring Book Chat

Meadowbrook

Wed, Feb 25th

Attracting Birds with Healthy Food

Floyd

Sat, Feb 7th

For more information on events, please visit the library's website at www.mfirl.org and find the “Calendars” tab.

Friends of the Library Two-Day Book Sale



Stock up on books (plus DVDs and CDs) at our two-day book sale at the Meadowbrook Library!

Fill a paper grocery bag (provided) for \$5. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library.

Friday, February 6: 10:00AM-5:00PM

Saturday, February 7: 10:00AM-3:00PM

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

Love 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

Zip Code

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

Book Sales

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/>